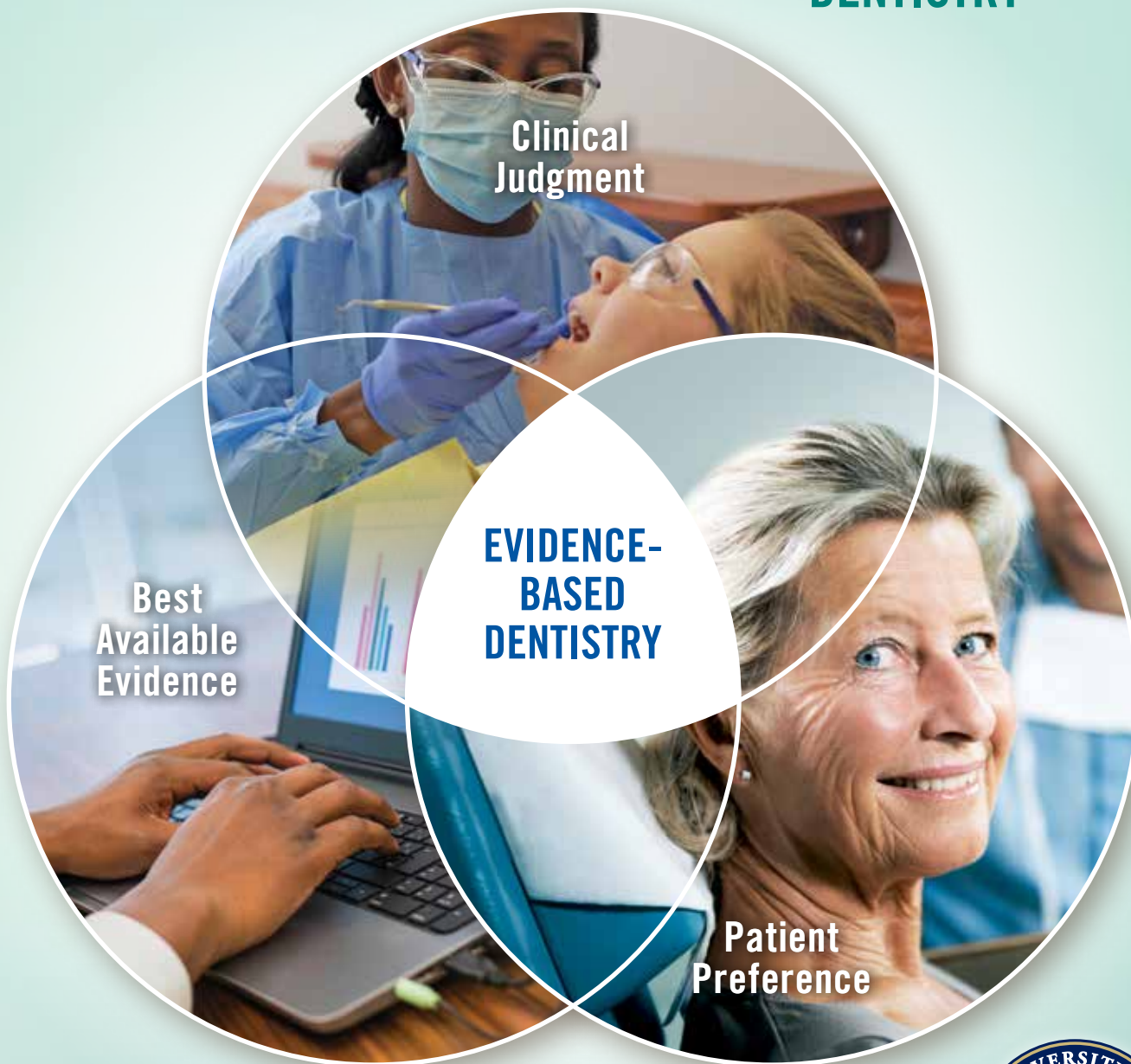


# PITT DENTAL MEDICINE

Summer 2015

LEADING THE  
CHARGE IN  
EVIDENCE-BASED  
DENTISTRY



IN THIS ISSUE



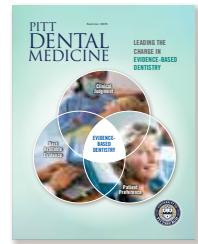
**4**  
**THE EVOLUTION OF EVIDENCE-BASED DENTISTRY (EBD)**  
Dr. Robert Weyant details how EBD is improving dental treatment.



**9**  
**HIGHLIGHTING STAFF**  
We celebrate our staff members and the many contributions they make each day.



**26**  
**15TH ANNUAL DEAN'S SCHOLARSHIP BALL**  
This annual event honors alumni and supports students.



**On the cover:**  
At the intersection of clinical expertise, a careful review of evidence published in current publications, and the patient's wants and needs sits evidence-based dentistry, the current best practice in the field of dentistry. Dr. Robert Weyant helps you understand how this treatment method can improve your patient outcomes and make you a better dentist.

From the Dean	3
Leading the Charge in Evidence-Based Dentistry	4
Whatever It Takes: Highlighting Staff	9
15th Annual Research Symposium	14
Message from the Dental Alumni Association President and Vice President, Dental Hygiene	18
2015 Dental Hygiene Alumni Spring Luncheon	19
2015 T.F. Bowser Memorial Lecture	20
White Coat Ceremony 2015	22
Homecoming 2015	24
15th Annual Dean's Scholarship Ball	26
Alumni Events Calendar	32
In Memoriam	33
Faculty and Staff News	34
Student News	39
Diploma Ceremony 2015	48

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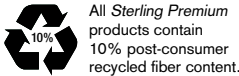
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FROM THE DEAN



Thomas W. Braun

Each year at this time, we have the privilege and responsibility of sending our graduates out to do what they have been preparing for during the last several years. They will commence their professional lives.

The academic and clinical instruction provided at the School of Dental Medicine is merely a springboard to the future. With an ever-expanding knowledge base, technological advances, and changes in health care delivery, the very best thing that we can do as educators is to teach our students to be students throughout their professional careers. Lifelong learning is essential to dealing with the delivery of contemporary care, whether that care is provided today or 20 years from today. For that learning to be relevant and meaningful, it must be based on the best available evidence. Reduced to its simplest form, the scientific method trumps empirical or experiential knowledge.

Evidence, the product of the scientific method, will be directing dental care in everything from caries management to genetic counseling.

One of the nation's experts in evidence-based dentistry will describe in this issue how this type of dentistry is being implemented in the curriculum at the School of Dental Medicine. It's a big stretch for those of us trained during the "this works in my hands" era to understand the notion of providing care based on the best available evidence, especially when that might be contrary to what we were taught.

This issue of *Pitt Dental Medicine* will highlight evidence-based dentistry as well as many of the other activities that have been part of this extraordinary spring. It is my sincere hope that you are able to enjoy the accomplishments of the school and the state of education here.

Sincerely,

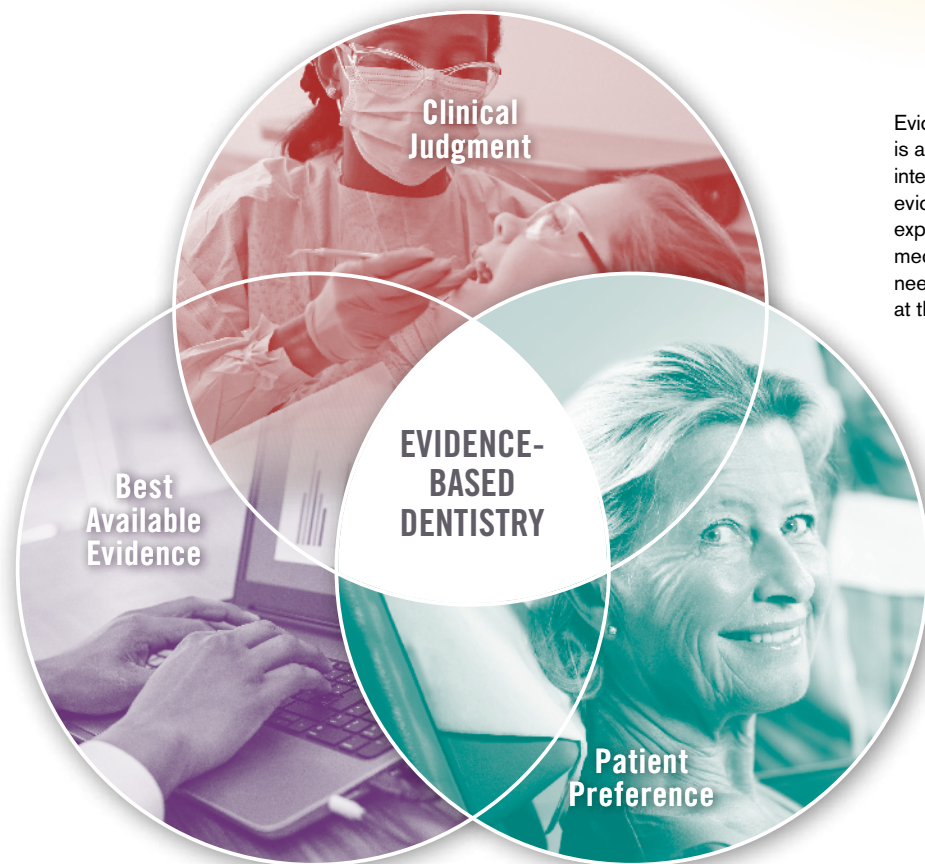
Thomas W. Braun  
(DMD '73, PhD '77)  
Professor and Dean,  
University of Pittsburgh  
School of Dental Medicine

“WITH AN EVER-EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE BASE, TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES, AND CHANGES IN HEALTH CARE DELIVERY, THE VERY BEST THING THAT WE CAN DO AS EDUCATORS IS TO TEACH OUR STUDENTS TO BE STUDENTS THROUGHOUT THEIR PROFESSIONAL CAREERS.”



# LEADING THE CHARGE IN EVIDENCE-BASED DENTISTRY

BY B. ROSE HUBER



Evidence-based dentistry (EBD) is an approach to oral health care integrating clinically relevant scientific evidence, the provider's clinical expertise, and the patient's oral/medical condition and treatment needs and preferences, to arrive at the best treatment for the patient.

A sports injury, a fall, or a head-on collision are just some of the ways that a dental injury can occur. Even a seemingly minor bump into a coffee table can introduce significant dental casualties.

While traumatic at any age, early dental destruction can have lifelong consequences. And, at one point in time, it would have meant months or years of recovery or even the complete loss of a tooth.

Not anymore.

In the 1990s, research brought forth a new solution for dental damage: mineral trioxide aggregate (MTA). Triggering the body's production of dentin, MTA is biocompatible and heals wounded sites in a matter of days. Soon after its advent, it quickly became a best standard of care.



Dr. Robert J. Weyant

Now, researchers are building upon that scientific evidence and have determined a way to regenerate the tissue surrounding immature teeth. By creating a repopulating matrix inside a tooth, "dead teeth" can now regenerate and continue to grow.

This example is one of many illustrating the evolution of dentistry over a few short decades. It also is emblematic of the importance of adopting new techniques based on scientific evidence, a practice formally known as evidence-based dentistry (EBD), which has become a best practice in dentistry.

In some cases, former dental techniques may be outdated or better solutions may now exist. That is why taking an evidence-based approach to dentistry is key. Used around the world, EBD is a scientific approach that pushes clinicians to think critically about evidence and use only the best evidence to make treatment decisions. The overall goal of EBD is to provide care that results in the best possible patient health outcomes.

While clinicians may already incorporate some evidence into their practices, EBD takes it a step further. The EBD approach shows dentists how to efficiently become familiar with the relevant research

on a topic and then how to evaluate that evidence based on its quality. By understanding the quality of evidence on a given topic, the dentist is provided with a rationale for how to select a treatment that has the best chance of delivering the desired patient outcomes.

This approach is especially important in a field like dentistry, in which many clinicians work independently, leaving them isolated from the changing field. That's why the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine has incorporated EBD into its curriculum—to prepare future practitioners.

Leading the charge is Dr. Robert Weyant, professor, chair of the Department of Dental Public Health, and associate dean for dental public health and community outreach. For more than 15 years, Dr. Weyant, who also directs Pitt's Center for Oral Health Research in Appalachia, has been working on what he calls the "EBD pipeline." His goal is to provide clinicians with the skills to incorporate EBD into their practices.

"Medical studies show it can take up to 17 years for new ideas to be implemented into routine practice, and that's a big problem," Dr. Weyant says. "You have people suffering from not receiving the care they need. That's why we're educating students now. We are working to give students the skills they need to identify high-quality evidence, evaluate it, and see what will work best for their patients."

But how does one determine what is high-quality research? And where does one look for relevant studies?

"High-quality evidence tends to be scientific research that provides the least biased look at what is happening clinically," Dr. Weyant says. "Low-quality evidence, on the other hand, may be filled with biases

or may work in one scenario but not another. It takes practice to distinguish between the two, but with a little training, it can become easier."

While this approach helps to ensure that clinicians provide the best form of care, there is another motivation, according to Dr. Weyant. With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act has come a "pay-for-performance" strategy in which reimbursement depends on provider performance outcomes. This practice will likely make its way into dentistry within the next five to 10 years.

"Dental benefit payers will soon be saying to dentists, 'This is the type of care that we want to see,' as they know what treatments tend to deliver the best patient outcomes. Clinicians who deliver the best evidence-based care will be financially rewarded under these systems," Dr. Weyant says. "Dentists who have training in EBD will appreciate that as a solid way of getting the best care for their patients."

For those without formal training, existing resources can help. In fact, most clinicians already use evidence in their practice to make treatment decisions. What is needed, Dr. Weyant says, is a solid filter for sorting through different levels of evidence.

One way to learn about EBD is through professional development. Dentists in most states are required to complete continuing education courses. Therefore, clinicians could actively seek out courses that incorporate EBD into the curriculum.

"If you spend time and money learning, it would be wise to choose courses that will result in improving patient outcomes," Dr. Weyant says. "Look at the course and ask yourself, 'How well is the foundation built on high-quality evidence?'"

*(continued on page 6)*



High-quality research also is now more readily available online, especially through access to academic journals and professional Web sites like that of the American Dental Association (ADA). These Web sites are important sources of high-quality evidence and can provide clinicians with up-to-date findings.

“A lot of this isn’t necessarily just about dentistry; it’s about how you value, understand, and interpret science,” Dr. Weyant says. “To know the best care, you need to be somewhat proactive in looking at what evidence is out there, what works, and what doesn’t. If you incorporate this into your thinking and into your practice, you will become a better dentist.”

#### PITT: BUILDING A CURRICULUM

In addition to the research he conducts, Dr. Weyant—who recently was awarded the inaugural ADA/American Association for Dental Research Evidence-Based Dentistry Faculty Award—teaches a course on EBD. The course encourages first-year students to think critically about scientific evidence, a skill set they eventually can use in their own practices.

In his lectures, Dr. Weyant uses a technique called Process-Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning. This teaching method lets students explore real-world scenarios and compare the most current evidence with previous standards of care. In the class, students are encouraged to ask clinical questions and search databases for resources. In the end, the process provides students with the tools they need to differentiate between high- and low-quality evidence.

This type of learning was especially beneficial for first-year dental student Sammy Gueringer, who is fascinated by problem solving.

As an undergraduate, Mr. Gueringer took a ceramics studio class and became interested in the feedback cycle. There was fluidity in the creation process, he says, as the clay could be modified as needed when unexpected flaws arose.

He likens this process to treating broken, decayed, or missing teeth with restorative materials. Such a procedure requires a keen curiosity in the transformative process—something Mr. Gueringer says he explored in Dr. Weyant’s class.

“Dr. Weyant challenged us to cultivate a disposition for inquiry that includes curiosity, self-assessment, skepticism, and openness. Throughout the course, he taught us how to find the best available evidence and determine its validity and relevance for our future patients. This is especially important when dealing with clinical problems I haven’t encountered before,” Mr. Gueringer says.

Megan C. Ross, another first-year dental student, feels confident that she will use this approach in her future career as a dentist. The course prepared her to think critically in a number of dental scenarios.

“You can find evidence to support any claim, but you must be able to identify what types of evidence are considered highest level,” Ms. Ross says. “Thanks to this class, I know how to find appropriate answers to clinically based questions to formulate individualized patient treatment plans.”

Incorporating this type of learning early on in the curriculum is purposeful. It prepares students for the rigorous work of the School of Dental Medicine’s student clinic, where students provide comprehensive care to a diverse patient population. In this setting, students are required to use the best scientific evidence available to meet patient needs.

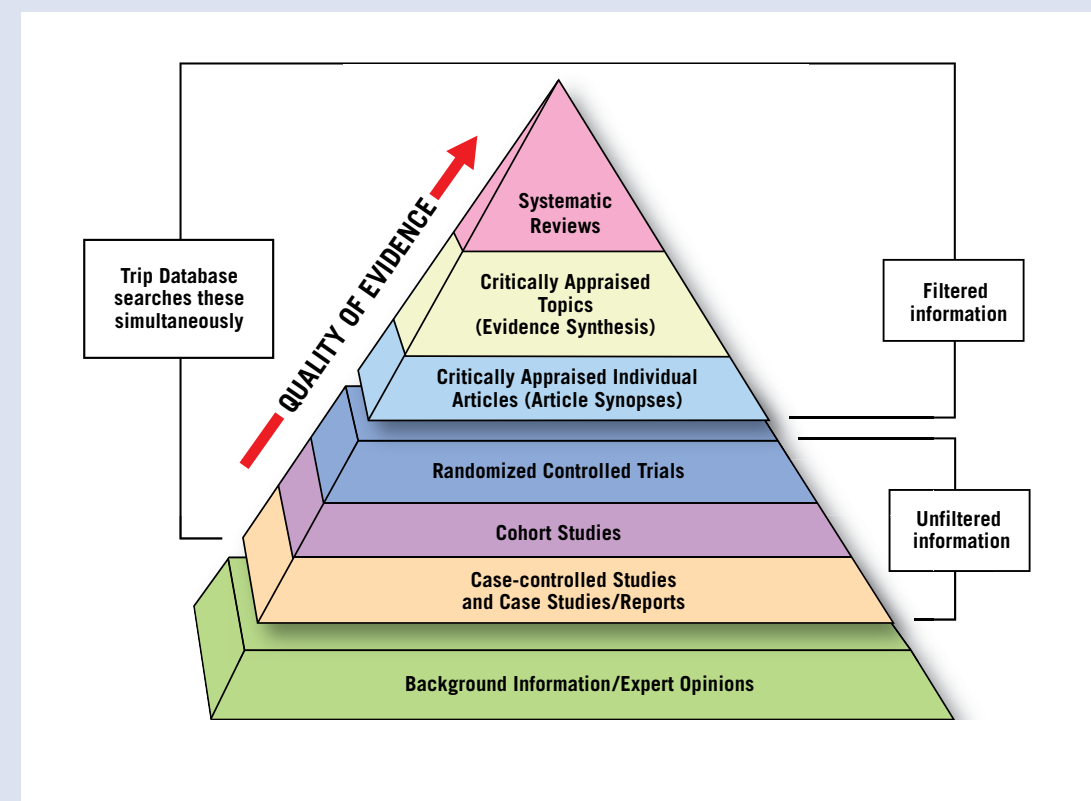
After applying and strengthening these skills in the clinic, students feel more confident making treatment decisions as clinicians.

“It has been gratifying to see EBD implemented across the curriculum,” Dr. Weyant says. “Our school is well ahead of most in terms of the quality of that education. We’ve been working on it for quite a while, and we’ve figured out a lot. I hope it is serving our students well.”

As part of a global group of dental schools, the School of Dental Medicine also is undergoing a transition in its approach to teaching caries diagnosis, prevention, and management. Dr. Weyant, representing the school in his role as coordinator of both the EBD and cariology curricula, has participated in national and international meetings over the past two years as part of an ad hoc group of dental educators working to create a new clinical guideline. This planning group was assembled to update and standardize caries curricula in response to concerns that the teaching of caries diagnosis, prevention, and management among dental schools is inconsistent and has resulted in unwarranted variability in dentistry’s approach to this aspect of patient care.

The School of Dental Medicine now is implementing these guidelines throughout the curriculum. The new curriculum uses a risk-based management approach in which a patient undergoes a formal caries risk assessment and caries lesion evaluation. Based upon that assessment, specific evidence-based interventions are developed for each patient that are designed to reduce that patient’s risk factors and the likelihood of developing new decay. This approach not only emphasizes the use of prevention interventions that have demonstrated effectiveness but also endorses the use of tooth-preserving restorative interventions.

Hierarchy of evidence pyramid: Best evidence includes information obtained through randomized controlled clinical trials; nonrandomized controlled clinical trials; cohort studies; case-controlled studies; crossover studies; cross-sectional studies; case studies; and, when scientific evidence is unavailable, the consensus opinion of experts in the appropriate field of research or clinical practice. The strength and quality of evidence increases while the possibility of bias decreases as you move up the pyramid. Systematic reviews sit at the top of the pyramid because they represent the strongest weighted evidence.



“The overall goal of this approach is to provide our students with the knowledge and skills needed to help them consistently provide to all patients the individualized care that will lead to the best long-term oral health outcomes,” Dr. Weyant says.

#### INTERTWINING PUBLIC HEALTH AND DENTISTRY

Dr. Weyant has spent his life focused on research and public health. A native of Ellwood City, Pa.—30 miles northwest of Pittsburgh—Dr. Weyant joined Pitt’s School of Dental Medicine in 1991.

Throughout his career, there has always been a strong connection to public health. This began early, during his first job after college in a laboratory in Pitt’s Graduate School of Public Health. In the lab, Dr. Weyant became aware of the importance of public health research. With the encouragement of his supervisor, he decided to pursue a Master of Science in Hygiene degree, which he earned at

Pitt in 1978. His interest in dentistry soon followed, coming about almost serendipitously, he says. His high school friends were in dental school and often spoke about their experiences. It was then that he saw a clear link between public health and dentistry.

“I would spend time with them and hear about their experiences,” Dr. Weyant says. “So the wheels started turning with regard to my own career.”

From there, Dr. Weyant went on to dental school and earned his DMD at Pitt in 1982.

He spent the next four years in active duty as a dental officer for the U.S. Navy, living in Washington, D.C.; Bethesda, Md.; and Okinawa, Japan. After the Navy, he entered into a dental public health residency with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C.

Looking back, Dr. Weyant sees a strong connection between his training in public health and his approach to dentistry.

“You can see the public health thread emerging,” Dr. Weyant says. “Everything I did was sort of developing my interests in public health and research.”

After working with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Dr. Weyant decided to pursue a career in research—something practitioners don’t often do. He earned his doctorate in public health, focusing on epidemiology, at the University of Michigan in 1991.

“If you want to be a researcher, you don’t typically go to dental school first,” Dr. Weyant says. “I think that’s pretty rare. It is a lot of training; my doctoral program was as long as dental school, but I knew it was what I wanted to do. At that point, there was no question [that] I wanted to go into research.”

*(continued on page 8)*



When Dr. Weyant joined Pitt, he first worked on orthodontic research, later moving into dental public health research. In his more than 20 years at Pitt, he has worked on numerous studies funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). His early research focused on aging, evaluating how dental disease plays a role in other chronic diseases.

More recently, he has been working on research on health disparities related to dental caries in children. Poor children suffer from much higher rates of dental disease than their more affluent peers. The exact reasons for this are unclear but seem to involve complex risks coming from family and social factors, economic hardship, and possibly underlying biological factors that are not yet well understood.

Outside Pitt, Dr. Weyant is involved with many projects. Since 1987, he has been a diplomate of the American Board of Dental Public Health, and he previously served as president of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry. He has been a frequent lecturer at the annual ADA Evidence-based Dentistry Champions Conference and has served on an Institute of Medicine committee on its Oral Health Initiative, which provided Congress with a plan for improving oral health policy within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

A former member of the NIH National Advisory Dental and Craniofacial Research Council, Dr. Weyant also serves as a member of the ADA Public Health Advisory Board. Likewise, he is involved with several local, state, and national committees focused on oral health disparities, increasing the dental workforce, and improving access to care.

“We are working to give students the skills they need to identify high-quality evidence, evaluate it, and see what will work best for their patients.”

— DR. ROBERT J. WEYANT

Since 2007, Dr. Weyant has served as editor of the *Journal of Public Health Dentistry*, for which he reviews academic papers. This position allows him to use his own EBD skill set to evaluate science on a finely tuned level.

“As an editor, you become efficient at reading manuscripts and understanding quality issues,” Dr. Weyant says. “You start to be able to easily detect what is solid research. You serve as a gatekeeper of sorts, making sure only high-quality research makes its way to print.”

With so many projects on his plate, Dr. Weyant calls himself a morning person, often rising at 4 a.m. to grab a cup of coffee and start working. He balances work life with family, seeing his grandchildren often and attending family dinners several times a week.

Interestingly, many of Dr. Weyant’s family members also are involved with public health. His wife works as a consultant for hospital information systems, for which

she travels around the country providing guidance on electronic records. His son is a clinical researcher who works in large data management, and his daughter teaches an Advanced Placement psychology course that includes content on research methods at a Pittsburgh-area high school.

“I certainly see parallels between what we all do,” Dr. Weyant says, “and I find it to be interesting and relevant to what I’m doing as well.”

Surrounded by research in all aspects of his life, Dr. Weyant plans to continue working on the EBD pipeline going forward—getting solid research into the hands of students and practitioners.

“As more practitioners receive training, we’ll start to see EBD evolve. Every year, we see a larger percentage of dentists using, accessing, and implementing high-quality evidence in their practice,” Dr. Weyant says. “In the end, it’s about having solid evidence to support your decisions.” ●

# Whatever It Takes

BY SALLY ANN FLECKER

Alumni who have graduated from the School of Dental Medicine in the past 20 years will probably fondly remember the names of many staff members throughout the school, some of whom are still here.

For example, when Aileen Brasacchio started her job three years ago as an assistant in the School of Dental Medicine Office of Student Affairs, she didn’t know that one day she would end up providing emergency babysitting services. It’s certainly not in her job description. But she’s a whatever-it-takes kind of person in a position that can’t exactly be scripted. She works with student organizations and student leaders, advising them on and assisting them with their activities, fundraisers, and events. “I help them with their nonacademic experiences to help enrich their overall educational experience here,” she says, “whether it’s personal, academic, or extracurricular support.” So when one of the dental students walked in with her 2-year-old daughter, Ms. Brasacchio just rolled with it. The student had a patient scheduled for a procedure in the clinic and her babysitter had canceled on her at the last minute. “She literally brought in her daughter, put her in my arms, and said, ‘I have to go. Please help me,’” recalls Ms. Brasacchio.



Ms. Aileen Brasacchio

“I HELP THEM WITH THEIR NONACADEMIC EXPERIENCES TO HELP ENRICH THEIR OVERALL EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE HERE,” SHE SAYS, “WHETHER IT’S PERSONAL, ACADEMIC, OR EXTRACURRICULAR SUPPORT.”

“So I watched her for an hour. It was like something right out of a movie.”

Being asked to babysit is not something ordinarily requested of a staff member, but Ms. Brasacchio knew that the appointment was important for this student and that the philosophical underpinning of her job is helping the students to succeed. So it was an imposition she didn’t mind.

It’s more common, though, to find Ms. Brasacchio facilitating class officer elections if it’s the beginning of the school year, or she might be working with a student organization to send a student representative to a conference. “I also work extensively with third- and fourth-year students who are applying to residency programs to give them insight into different program options, how to select a good fit for them, and what they should know about the residency application process or job search,” notes Ms. Brasacchio, who says the five years she spent as a high school history teacher and her master’s degree in school counseling come in handy.

Working in a collaborative environment in which everyone is on the same page about the goals of education is one of the things Ms. Brasacchio values about her job.

(continued on page 10)



“I’ve gotten to know some of the most amazing students. There are people here from different countries, backgrounds, and religions and from all walks of life. I love learning about different cultures. I’ve been invited to Ramadan dinners, Indian weddings, and Chinese New Year celebrations,” she says, adding that it’s not just that it’s a unique experience for her. “Being able to share these celebrations with students who I care for is really special to me.” Clearly, Ms. Brasacchio takes a great deal of pride in seeing the students develop during their time here.

And she’s not the only one. The students are at the heart of the job for most staff members at the dental school, whether their jobs bring them in direct contact with students or not. They take pride in seeing students grow and experience the success needed to move into their professional lives. They’re always on the side of the student, going about their work quietly and without expecting to be recognized—and without them, the dental school could not function.

## THE POWER WITHIN

Take the very professional Nadia Kasinec, for example. Ms. Kasinec is the module coordinator for the Department of Restorative Dentistry and Comprehensive Care and has 16 years of experience at the dental school under her belt. Ms. Kasinec’s primary responsibility is supervising the staff members who run the department’s dispensary, where the students come for the supplies and equipment, including anesthesia, that they need to do checkups, develop treatment plans, fill cavities, and do crown and bridge work. On a regular day, the department has the capacity to see 85 patients in the morning and another 85 in the afternoon. That’s a lot of dispensing. Ms. Kasinec’s challenge



Ms. Nadia Kasinec

**“YOU’RE NEVER GIVEN ANYTHING YOU REALLY CAN’T DO. YOU JUST HAVE TO FIND YOUR WAY TO DO IT.”**

in overseeing the ordering of supplies is to find that fine line between making sure there is always enough of what is needed on hand without going overboard, as storage space is limited.

Ms. Kasinec manages a loyal and experienced staff of 11. One member of her staff has worked in the department for 31 years. “It’s rewarding to be able to commend staff members for the great job they do,” says Ms. Kasinec, who is friendly, confident, and quick to laugh. “I have a great staff. We all get along. We all work hand in hand, and it makes this a very nice place to come to work.”

On the wall of her office, Ms. Kasinec has posted a saying: “The task ahead of you is never as great as the power within you.” “You’re never given anything you really can’t do,” she says. “I’ve always felt you’re never given anything you can’t handle. You just have to find your way to do it.” She looks up at that reminder on the wall

quite often during the period in February when fourth-year students take their board exams. “I order supplies and I help them with their assistants for the exam, making sure that it all comes together,” she says. “At the end of those two days, I want to sit back in my office and relax for a minute.” (That might be the time of year when she starts to daydream about fishing season. Skilled at both fly-fishing and angling, Ms. Kasinec starts off the season with an annual family fishing trip.) Even though student board exams are challenging, she considers helping students through the exam the most rewarding part of her job: “I love all the aspects of my job. But when they pass this exam that makes them doctors, I know I’ve done my job.”

## KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON

With 24 years of experience as a dental assistant, there’s little that Shelley Smith of the Department of Diagnostic Sciences hasn’t seen. She recalls that in her early professional days, when she worked at a dental clinic on Pittsburgh’s North Side, she was less skilled than she is now at taking X-rays and doing some of the procedures. “I would always tell myself that I’m determined to be the best at doing this. ‘Keep doing it and it will become second nature,’ ” she would reassure herself. These days, she won’t go so far as to call herself a pro—she’s too modest. Besides, she doesn’t have to; that’s what her coworkers and the doctors in the clinic call her. She’s the one they turn to for help when they need a hand. “If I can’t get it, Shelley will get it,” they’ll say. “That’s a big compliment to me,” Ms. Smith admits.

Ms. Smith has been the backbone of the department, where emergency patients come for treatment, for 15 years. “Some days, we can have 18 patients, and some



Ms. Shelley Smith

**“AS SOON AS THE PATIENT GOES TO HIS OR HER NEXT PROCEDURE, THE STUDENT HAS TO HURRY UP, CLEAN UP, AND GET SET UP FOR THE NEXT PATIENT. I THINK IT TEACHES THE STUDENTS HOW TO WORK A LITTLE QUICKER AND A LOT SMARTER.”**

days, it’s double that number,” she says. “The students provide good care for the patients, but as soon as the patient goes to his or her next procedure, the student has to hurry up, clean up, and get set up for the next patient. It’s a rush, but I think it teaches the students how to work a little quicker and a lot smarter. When the students start full-time careers, the practice won’t survive taking care of only five patients a day.”

Emergency clinic patients often have not been receiving regular dental care. Often-

times, they are in pain, which can make them understandably unhappy. While Smith won’t wrangle a patient to keep him or her in the dental chair, she is always alert for contentious encounters. “We get a lot of irate patients,” Smith admits. “I’m more of a watchdog, I would say, to alert the instructor that a student is having a problem with a patient. Then I’ll stand nearby. There are some situations in which the dentist can actually step in and intervene and calm the patient down.”

In her free time, Ms. Smith enjoys interacting with event-goers at PNC Park, where she crews the customer service desk, and at the CONSOL Energy Center, where she is a greeter. No matter where she is, Ms. Smith, with her calm and cool persona, is a real gem.

## A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME

“Issues,” are what Dannielle Waller prefers to call the dozens of things that unexpectedly come up over the course of a day and require her attention. On this she stands firm: These are issues, not problems. And it’s not just a question of semantics. Call them problems and they just might prove trickier to handle. Issues, on the other hand, can be managed: Line them up and check them off, one by one.

Ms. Waller, who goes about her assignments in an adept and unobtrusive fashion, is the administrative assistant for University Dental Health Services, Inc. (UDHS), the private practice of the dental school faculty. She assists with any number of administrative tasks, including making sure that UDHS providers are credentialed with the participating insurance plans. Most days, her desk is awash in paperwork. Today, for instance, a major insurance company has changed the name of one of



Ms. Dannielle Waller

**CALL THEM PROBLEMS AND THEY JUST MIGHT PROVE TRICKIER TO HANDLE. ISSUES, ON THE OTHER HAND, CAN BE MANAGED: LINE THEM UP AND CHECK THEM OFF, ONE BY ONE.**

its plans. That’s information Ms. Waller has to make sure gets into the hands of everyone who needs to know about it. Then there was the issue of the way one of the UDHS providers was credentialed with Medicare, not to mention the issues surrounding how another provider was listed on one of the insurance company Web sites. “When people were trying to get authorizations for treatment,” Ms. Waller says, “this provider was coming up as if she didn’t have all of her credentials. She does.” Still, it wasn’t a problem in Ms. Waller’s eyes. Several phone calls and e-mails later, she had it taken care of.

“For me, the most rewarding thing is when I complete a task,” she says. She likes the

*(continued on page 12)*



feeling that she does whatever it takes—especially when she has to pull together several different resources—to resolve an issue successfully. She likes the fact that her job is always changing. “There’s never a dull moment. I learn all the time. I’m learning something new every day,” she says.

Ms. Waller, who has been a member of the UDHS staff for eight years, appreciates the opportunity to work for the University. “I do truly enjoy working for the University and being here at the School of Dental Medicine. This is one of the best-kept secrets in Pittsburgh, to me,” she says. “Not only do I enjoy my job, but I’m always learning, and I truly appreciate that. Even the conversations in the elevator are interesting!”

## SMILES ALL AROUND

Dental assistant Terry Piazza is the ultimate professional. She has worked in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry since 1994, so she’s savvy about what dental students need to master during their rotation in pediatric dentistry. She also brings to the table a perspective gained from a 13-year career in private practice. She makes a point of being lighthearted and fun. But make no mistake: She’s a professional who is there to make sure students become skilled in working with children.

Part of her job is to demonstrate for students the technique of four-handed dentistry during a restorative procedure, such as filling a cavity. “I teach them how to utilize a dental assistant,” she says. “When you’re seeing 10–20 patients a day, you need someone who’s there to anticipate your needs and also to help with infection control.”



Ms. Terry Piazza

## TERRY PIAZZA HAS WORKED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY SINCE 1994, SO SHE'S SAVVY ABOUT WHAT DENTAL STUDENTS NEED TO MASTER DURING THEIR ROTATION IN PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY.

An understanding of the process of exfoliation and eruption—when children’s primary teeth fall out and permanent ones come in—is crucial in pediatric dentistry. It’s also important to know how to deal with a child undergoing a procedure. “With children, you have to have that. You have to learn that,” Ms. Piazza stresses. “When I’m one on one with a student, I try to illustrate patient management skills, such as distraction,

## SHOWCASE ON STAFF: THE PROSTHODONTICS TEAM APPROACH

“Is the cello more outstanding than the violin? Or is the flute more important than the oboe in an orchestra?” That’s the question Department of Prosthodontics administrator Ms. Rita Dreucci raises when she’s asked to identify one outstanding member of her staff. “I don’t have a gem,” she says, “I have a gold mine.”

Alumni from 1995 to the present will likely recall working with a number of staff members throughout the school.

For example, in the undergraduate prosthodontics lab, staff member Ms. Rosa Salvador-Murillo, who manages work sent to outside labs, has the longest pedigree at the school. She came on board in 1969. Lab tech Mr. Jim Roskowski began in 1982. Mr. Norm Macher and Ms. Susan Straud joined the team about 12 years ago. Dental assistants Ms. Amy Gambaro and Ms. Shadi Gates, the newest members of the prosthodontics staff, were welcomed into the group like long-lost family. Combined, the staff have almost 126 years of experience.

### SUPPORTING THE STUDENTS

To complete their prosthodontics requirements, third- and fourth-year

show and tell, boundaries, and rewards and praise. All of that has to be properly sequenced to work. You don’t praise and give rewards first. You give boundaries first. Then come rewards and praise.”

A highlight for Ms. Piazza is Give Kids a Smile Day, an event held each year for uninsured children. “Our department chair coordinates the event with the



Mr. Norm Macher

dental students are expected to complete three sets of dentures, three partials, and five miscellaneous prosthodontics cases. “There is much for them to accomplish,” says Mr. Macher. “We do our best to pass along our skills and knowledge to students. Sometimes they have questions I can’t answer, but the other lab staff members are very helpful and can respond to the student.” Mr. Roskowski adds, “We’re always there for each other when students have questions.”

dental students who are in the pediatric dental club,” she says. “It’s really an opportunity for me to work and interact with a lot of students and coworkers at the same time. It’s so nice to come together for the purpose of helping 40–50 kids who don’t have insurance and to do free dentistry that day.” (To learn more about Give Kids a Smile Day, please see page 45.)

In fact, staff members often go above and beyond the call of duty. Mr. Macher recalls one busy day—they often have 20 students in the lab at a time—when a student reported that he had finished making the acrylic for a set of dentures and put it on the shelf to cure. “Did you tighten it down?” asked Mr. Macher. “If it’s not closed properly, bubbles can form,” he noted. The student assured him that he had, adding that it was a particularly difficult case and he didn’t want anything to go wrong. The next day, when the students came in, they found that a set of dentures on the shelf had fallen out of its carrier. Sure enough, it belonged to the student with the difficult case. The dentures weren’t broken, but there were bubbles throughout. Mr. Macher let the student know there was a problem, then proceeded to spend an entire afternoon with the student fixing them so that the student wouldn’t have to start from scratch. The patient did have to come in again to make sure the bite was correct—and it was. What could have been a disaster for the student and his patient turned into a good lesson, thanks to Mr. Macher.

Students often return to let the staff members know how the work they did in the lab turned out—a reflection of how supported they have felt. “It’s rewarding to teach students

Ms. Piazza is pleased with the praise she’s been given for the way she does her job, especially praise in the form of awards she’s received from the student body. “I think that shows that they appreciate my efforts,” she says with pride.

In fact, the efforts of Terry Piazza; Dannielle Waller; Shelley Smith;

the work that I love doing, and they seem to appreciate it,” says Mr. Macher. “They call two or three years later and say, ‘I remember something that you did.’ It’s always nice that somebody remembers you for teaching them something.”

### APPRECIATING THE TEAM

Ms. Dreucci appreciates the high quality of her staff’s work as well as the special synergy they have together. “Day after day, they work with nervous patients, stressed students, exacting faculty, and high expectations,” she says. “Year after year, class after class, patient after patient, the requirements are similar, but the staff members continue to support the students and the patients who are depending on them.”

“I have good coworkers,” says Mr. Macher. “We work well together, integrating each others’ strengths and weaknesses.” Ms. Dreucci adds, “They need and depend on each other like family. That sounds a little sentimental, but I really think it’s like that and makes coming to work much nicer.”

It’s hard to imagine higher praise than that. If the prosthodontics staff are playing a symphony each and every day in the way they work with each other and their students, her words should be music to their ears. ●

Nadia Kasinec; Aileen Brasacchio; and all the other friendly, caring, and dynamic people who constitute the staff are appreciated. Not only do the staff members make the world of the dental school go round, they’re also the ones who give it a certain tone and tenor. Hats off to the staff; they make the school a great place to be. ●



# RESEARCH

## 15TH ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The 15th Annual School of Dental Medicine Research Symposium was held on Wednesday, May 13, 2015, at the O'Hara Student Center. This year's event celebrated the expansion of ongoing integrated clinical and basic science research relevant to the practice of dentistry and the craniomaxillofacial field as the school's new research pavilion and atrium opened.



Dr. Mark Redfern, University of Pittsburgh vice provost for research

Dean Thomas Braun and Associate Dean for Research Charles Sfeir opened the event discussing the magnitude of high-quality research being done at the dental school. Special guest Dr. Mark Redfern, University of Pittsburgh vice provost for research, presented a short overview of research being done at Pitt and noted that nearly 70 percent of the research at Pitt takes place within the schools of the health sciences. He added that dental medicine research has captured a higher percentage of government funding than many other areas at Pitt and that the annual School of Dental Medicine Research Symposium is the longest-running research event at the University.

**"Our researchers are recognized worldwide in the areas of craniofacial and dental genetics, craniofacial regeneration, dental informatics, clinical and translational science, and public health and epidemiology."**

— DR. THOMAS BRAUN, DEAN

The 2015 symposium featured two keynote speakers as part of the daylong event. The morning session keynote speaker, Dr. Ricardo Teles, is the OraPharma Distinguished Professor in the Department of Periodontology at the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry. He spoke about his research in the field of periodontal disease pathology and his use of biomarkers in



Keynote speaker Dr. Ricardo Teles

observing the progression of the disease. The afternoon session featured keynote speaker Dr. Bernard J. Costello, who is professor, program director in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, and director of translational research at Pitt's School of Dental Medicine. He presented a discussion on cranio-maxillofacial surgery at Pitt that highlighted some of the translational research with which he is involved.

Always a well-attended event, the research symposium also provided an opportunity for several Pitt dental researchers to share their recent work. During the morning session, each presenter highlighted the clinical applications and value that their laboratory work will have for dental practitioners.

Zachary Raffensperger, vice president of the School of Dental Medicine chapter of the American Association for Dental



Dr. Sayuri Yoshizawa, research assistant professor, and Dr. Charles Sfeir, associate professor and associate dean for research

Research National Student Research Group, presented his recent research comparing normative craniofacial data sets and their value to research on craniofacial anomalies.

Dr. Elia Beniash, associate professor in the Department of Oral Biology at the School of Dental Medicine, presented his research on the genetic link between pseudofolliculitis barbae, or ingrown facial hairs that result from shaving, and an increased risk of caries.

Elizabeth Leslie, an oral biology postdoctoral research associate at the Center for Craniofacial and Dental Genetics, discussed her current research in identifying functional genetic variants that underlie cleft lip and palate disorders.

Megan Weber, a student in the Oral Biology Graduate Program, presented a research study on determining whether genetic variations in the aquaporin locus can be associated with caries in adolescence. Her study concluded that variations in aquaporin expression in adolescence can lead to an increase in caries risk.

presented an analysis of the efficacy of sealer layers used in endodontic therapies.

Concluding the morning session was the presentation of the student research awards by Dr. Alexandre Vieira, director of student research. Please see page 16 for a listing of these awards and their recipients. ●



Dr. O. Jack Penhall (DMD '73), left, and Dr. Alexandre Vieira, associate professor

Dr. Anas Fatayer (DMD '12), who recently completed his graduate studies in the Oral Biology Graduate Program,



Dr. Joseph Petrone, assistant professor and chair, Department of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopaedics, left; Dr. Payam Zamani, 2015 Dr. Thomas Braun Master of Excellence Award recipient, center; and Dean Thomas Braun





Mr. Bob Gaydosh of Dell, left; Dr. Heiko Spallek, center; and Ms. Faith Mahan, 2015 Faculty Technology Adoption Award recipient

## FAITH MAHAN RECEIVES 2015 FACULTY TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION AWARD

It is a pleasure to announce the recipient of the 2015 University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine Faculty Technology Adoption Award, made possible by support from Dell. This annual award recognizes the outstanding and innovative use of instructional technology to improve the learning outcomes of our students.

The purpose of the award is to:

- recognize efforts by individual faculty members to adopt technology in their teaching,
- make the adoption of instructional technology more visible, and
- contribute to discussions about what constitutes efficient and effective use of technology for teaching.

Bob Gaydosh, an account executive at Dell, joined Dr. Heiko Spallek, associate dean for faculty affairs, to present this year's award to Ms. Faith Mahan, first-year dental hygiene clinic coordinator and instructor. Ms. Mahan was selected for the award for her dedication to advancing the use of technology in the Dental Hygiene Program.

The 2014 award was presented to Dr. Thomas Kunkel (DMD '85), assistant professor in the Department of Prosthodontics. ●

## 2015 STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS

**DR. PAYAM ZAMANI** received the Thomas W. Braun Master of Excellence Award.

**MR. DAVID COLE** and **MS. GAIL KIM** each received the Herman H. Langkamp Award, which recognizes third-year dental students interested in pursuing a career in dental education.

**MR. ZACHARY RAFFENSPERGER** received the American Dental Association/Dentsply Student Clinician Program Award for outstanding clinical or basic science research by a first-, second-, or third-year dental student.

**MS. MEGAN WEBER** was presented with a travel award to compete at the national Hinman Student Research Symposium for students involved in clinical and basic science dental research at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

**DR. LOULWAH ALOTHMAN** received the American Association for Dental Research Pittsburgh Section Award for outstanding clinical or basic science research by a dental student.

O. Jack Penhall Awards are given to students for outstanding clinical science research. This year's recipients were **MS. AAEMA ATHAR**, first place; **MR. KARUNESH CHAKOTE**, second place; and **MR. JOSHUA GERSTEN**, third place.

Each year, American Student Dental Association Awards are presented to three students for outstanding clinical or basic science research. This year, the recipients were **MR. BENJAMIN LEVINE**, first place; **MR. RYAN KANG**, second place; and **MS. KATELYN HILANDS**, third place.

**DR. SERENA HSIN** received the Gerald Orner Award, given to an outstanding fourth-year student researcher who is likely to succeed in postgraduate academic dentistry.

**DR. MATTHEW PHAM** received the Quintessence Award for Research Achievement, presented to a fourth-year student for outstanding individual research achievement. ●

## NEW BIODEGRADABLE IMPLANT DEVICE DEVELOPED IN THE SFEIR LABORATORY

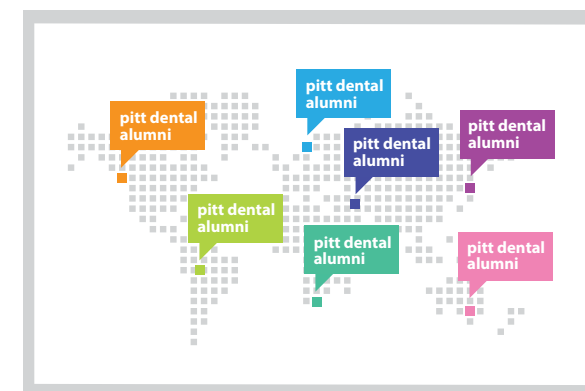
For the past two years, Mr. Andrew Brown, a bioengineering doctoral student in the University of Pittsburgh Swanson School of Engineering, has been working under the guidance of Dr. Charles Sfeir, associate dean for research in the Center for Craniofacial Regeneration (CCR) at the School of Dental Medicine.



Mr. Andrew Brown

Mr. Brown has been researching the development of new devices for improved dental bone grafting and guided bone regeneration (GBR) as part of the National Science Foundation-funded Engineering Research Center for Revolutionizing Metallic Biomaterials. GBR devices that currently are available require a second surgery to remove them following bone regeneration as part of placing a dental implant or as a treatment for advanced periodontal disease.

Mr. Brown and CCR members have been developing PerioMag, a fully resorbable magnesium/polymer composite GBR platform that enables patients and clinicians to avoid the pain, added cost, and complications associated with GBR removal surgeries while also offering a reduction in healing time. The development of PerioMag has received funding and advisory support from the University of Pittsburgh Innovation Institute and Center for Medical Innovation, Innovation Works, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Researchers are performing advanced trials and are seeking industrial partners and additional funding to help make PerioMag GBR available to oral surgeons and periodontists everywhere. ●



## KEEP US POSTED

Please remember to tell us about your recent educational pursuits, career advancements, presentations, honors, and appointments. Your news and updates will be shared in future issues of *Pitt Dental Medicine* as space allows. Your photos are welcome.

Please let us know if you have changed your address, phone number, or e-mail so that we can be sure to update our files. You also may update your information online at [dental.pitt.edu/update-your-information](http://dental.pitt.edu/update-your-information).

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DEGREE(S) AND YEAR(S) OF GRADUATION: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

PREFERRED E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION(S): \_\_\_\_\_

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Please mail your completed form to University of Pittsburgh, School of Dental Medicine, Office of Alumni Affairs and Development, Ms. Nancy Poe, 440 Salk Hall, 3501 Terrace Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15261. You also may e-mail it to [poen@pitt.edu](mailto:poen@pitt.edu) or call 412-648-8910.



## MESSAGE FROM THE DENTAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

Welcome to the summer edition of *Pitt Dental Medicine Magazine*. The first half of 2015 has been a busy time at the School of Dental Medicine. Alumni and students came together in April for the 15th Annual Dean's Scholarship Ball, held at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, to honor distinguished alumni and Dean's Scholarship recipients. The scholarship ball has been a tremendous success over the years and to date has raised more than \$2.5 million in gifts and pledges for the school. We welcomed our newest alumni at graduation in May and witnessed the opening of the commons and research pavilion the following week.

We are grateful to Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Jean A. O'Donnell (DMD '90) for serving as Dental Alumni Association (DAA) president for the last two years. Under her guidance, the association continued to provide mentoring sessions and began yearly service projects as a way to give back to the community we serve. Thank you, Jean, for your efforts

on behalf of DAA and for all you continue to do for the school. We also would like to thank outgoing DAA board members for their service and contributions to the school: Ms. Antonia T. Ambrosino (DH '73), Dr. David A. Anderson (MDS '84), Dr. Wayne D. Roccia (DMD '04), and Dr. Lya S. Sharpley-Hixon (DMD '13).

We look ahead to welcoming the school's new students on August 31 at the annual White Coat Ceremony. Dental alumni have been generous supporters of this event in the past, and we ask for your continued support for the incoming students. We will be packing medical supplies during our volunteer day at Global Links on September 19 and hope you will join us; please see page 34 for more information. Homecoming 2015, scheduled for October 9 and 10, may be the largest homecoming celebration for the School of Dental Medicine. We currently have class reunions planned for 10 dental classes and four dental hygiene classes. Please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs and Development if you would like to arrange

a class reunion. We also encourage you to consider nominating a colleague for a Distinguished Alumnus Award; the deadline for nominations is November 1.

I am truly honored to have been asked to serve DAA as its president. I hope to expand community outreach events over the course of my term. I also would like to enhance our online interaction with alumni who are looking for potential job and/or practice opportunities. We would love to hear your suggestions that will help us improve our services. Once again, thank you for this opportunity. Hail to Pitt!

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

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**  
The MOM-n-PA annual two-day free dental clinic for underserved Pennsylvanians will be held in the Pittsburgh area on June 3 and 4, 2016.

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

HELLO ALL,

On behalf of the Dental Hygiene Program, I would like to thank those of you who attended the Dental Hygiene Alumni Spring Luncheon in March. Our students appreciated alumni interest in their table clinic presentations and thank you for your feedback. Additionally, Ms. Angelina Riccelli, Dental Hygiene Program director, and Ms. Antonia Ambrosino, Dental Hygiene Program instructor, presented table clinics on our program's latest initiative, which involves interprofessional collaborative activities that are preparing dental hygiene students for team-based care with other health care professionals.

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Michele Darby (DH '68), the 2011

recipient of the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine Distinguished Alumnus Award for Dental Hygiene. An acclaimed educator and textbook author, Ms. Darby received many accolades during her career and was the first dental hygienist to become a Fulbright scholar.

Homecoming 2015 promises to be the best yet. The Dental Hygiene Program will host class reunion dinners (please see page 25) for class years ending in 0 and 5. I hope you will consider attending one of the four planned reunion dinners after the reception. If a reunion dinner for your class year is not already planned, I invite you to coordinate a reunion dinner for your class year ending in 0 or 5 by contacting Alycia Maltony at 412-648-5096.

In 2016, the American Dental Hygienists Association's Annual Session will take place in Pittsburgh at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center June 8-14. If you haven't attended our professional society's annual session before, I encourage you to take advantage of this great opportunity to participate in the many continuing education courses offered and to see the exhibits. We are planning a reception for Pitt dental hygiene alumni and friends, so mark your calendars and plan to join us. Details will be provided as the event draws nearer.

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

## 2015 DENTAL HYGIENE ALUMNI SPRING LUNCHEON

On March 21, 2015, 32 dental hygiene alumni, faculty members, and friends enjoyed a luncheon and a successful continuing education (CE) course in support of the Pitt Dental Hygiene Scholarship Fund. Attendees toured the dental hygiene clinic and received two CE credits for viewing second-year dental hygiene students' table clinic presentations. Presentations included "The Use of Ultrasonic Scalers on Patients with HIV"; "Sleep Apnea Screening in the Dental Office"; and "Genetic Predispositions to Dental Fear, Pain, and Anxiety." Ms. Angelina Riccelli (DH '74), director of the Dental Hygiene Program, and dental hygiene faculty member Ms. Antonia Ambrosino (DH '73) presented table clinics on their work with University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing faculty members in the areas of interprofessional collaboration and current research. They also shared updates about the Dental Hygiene Program with alumni. ●

TOP: Second-year dental hygiene students who presented at the event were (from left to right) Ashlee Antoszyk, Holly Reeves, Jaskiren Gill, Amanda Cononie, and Lucy Stone.

MIDDLE: Jaskiren Gill and Amanda Cononie present their table clinic, "The Use of Ultrasonic Scalers on Patients with HIV," to Karen Jorgensen (DH '80).

BOTTOM: The 2015 Pitt Dental Hygiene Alumni Spring Luncheon was held in the dental hygiene reception area of Salk Hall.





## 2015 T.F. BOWSER MEMORIAL LECTURE:

### “DIET AND DENTISTRY IN THE 21ST CENTURY”



Mr. David Meinz

The 21st Annual T.F. Bowser Memorial Lecture was held on Saturday, March 21, for about 250 attendees. Mr. David Meinz, MS, RD, FADA, CSP, presented an energetic, professional talk about the oral and systemic health connection, sugar substitutes, vitamin supplements, and the potential future role of dental professionals in total patient care. His talk even included a vintage *Little Rascals* film clip to reinforce the whole-health approach and caring nature that dentists have been known for throughout history.

Attendees learned to grasp the concept of lumenology versus arteriology in cardiovascular disease prevention and to appreciate the potential for the role of dentistry in preventive total patient care. They also were guided through how to select healthy food for teeth and how to increase personal energy—advice that is applicable to both patients and clinicians.

For a complete list of continuing education (CE) courses offered by the School of Dental Medicine, including online and off-campus courses, please visit [dental.pitt.edu/ce](http://dental.pitt.edu/ce).

Most CE courses meet in the Edward J. Forrest Continuing Education Center, 2148 Salk Hall, 3501 Terrace Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15261. Please visit the Web site for on- and off-site location details.

For more information or to register for a CE course by phone, please contact Diane Fleishman at 412-648-8370. ●

The T.F. Bowser Memorial Lecture Series was established in 1995 by Dr. Ellsworth T. Bowser (DDS '60) to honor his father, Dr. Theodore F. Bowser (DDS '24). The series has featured notable speakers on a variety of topics and is the School of Dental Medicine Center for Continuing Education's most well-respected and well-attended continuing education event.

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD GUIDELINES

The University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine is seeking nominations for its Distinguished Alumni of the Year 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.**

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

**The deadline for nominations is Sunday, November 1, 2015.**

## 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.

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

We also provide the following:

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

We accept Medicare and many commercial insurance programs, including Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield and UPMC.

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

## SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE UPCOMING CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

**Friday, October 2, 2015**  
**21st Century Anterior-Posterior Esthetic Dentistry**  
**Dr. Steven Weinberg**  
8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

**Friday, October 9, 2015**  
**Drugs in Dentistry Update, Including Conventional Drugs, Herbs, and Natural Supplements**  
**Dr. Richard Wynn**  
8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

**Friday, October 16, 2015**  
**Complications in Oral Implantology**  
**Dr. Randy Resnik**  
8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

**Friday, October 23, 2015**  
**Jewels You Can Use on Monday: Restorative Techniques You Can Use to Increase Productivity**  
**Dr. Marc Gottlieb**  
8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

**Saturday, October 24, 2015**  
**Surgical Crown Elongation: Hands-on Participation**  
**Dr. Pouran Famili**  
**Dr. Ali Seyedain**  
8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

**Friday, October 30, 2015**  
**Beyond 32 Teeth: The Mouth as an Overall Health Indicator**  
**Dr. Lisa Knowles**  
8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

**Friday, November 13, 2015**  
**A Review of Radiologic Procedures for the Dental Professional: DEP Recommendations**  
**Ms. Jill Beach**  
**Ms. Marie George**  
9 a.m.–noon

**Friday, November 20, 2015**  
**An Introduction to Rotary Molar Endodontics: A Hands-on Simulation Patient Experience (limited to seven participants)**  
**Dr. Marin Mandradjjeff**  
**Dr. Herbert Ray**  
8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

**Friday, December 4, 2015**  
**Introduction to Digital Dentistry: Hands-on Participation**  
**Dr. Thomas Kunkel**  
8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

**Friday, December 11, 2015**  
**Stuck in the 1930s: Why Partials Fail and What to Do about It**  
**Dr. Michael Waliszewski**  
8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

**Saturday, December 12, 2015**  
**Let's Talk About Infection Control**  
**Dr. John Molinari**  
8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

**Friday, March 18, 2016**  
**The Dentist's Role in the Identification, Diagnosis, and Treatment of Sleep-related Breathing Disorders**  
**Dr. Michael Hnat**  
8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

For details or to register, please visit [dental.pitt.edu/continuing-education](http://dental.pitt.edu/continuing-education).





## WHITE COAT CEREMONY 2015

**August 31, 2015, 3 p.m., Scaife Hall Auditoriums 5 and 6**

**T**he 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 symbolic tradition, incoming students are welcomed into 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 staff members, students, 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 the school's Web site. Please visit [dental.pitt.edu](http://dental.pitt.edu) for details and directions for viewing this exciting event.

Your donation of \$50 or more 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 2015 White Coat Ceremony, alumni are encouraged to write short inspiring notes to incoming predoctoral or dental hygiene students to energize them as they begin this period of intense study and personal growth.

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 from contributions from our alumni and friends.



Class of 2018

### I WANT TO BE PART OF THE TRADITION! My White Coat Ceremony Gift

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to **University of Pittsburgh**.

Please mail this completed form with your gift of support to:

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

For more information, please contact Ms. Nancy Poe at **412-648-8910** or [poen@pitt.edu](mailto:poen@pitt.edu).

## WORKING IN THE DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH SECTOR PROVIDES CHALLENGES AND REWARDS

**D**r. Kelly Bateman received her DMD from Pitt in 2010 and worked until her husband, Dr. Matt Bateman, completed his DMD degree here a year later. Married in 2009, the couple planned to work together in private practice. They never considered working in the dental public health sector. But when one of her classmates received a scholarship for a dental public health program, Kelly started to look into loan repayment programs offered by the National Health Service Corps (NHSC). NHSC offers funding to primary care medical, dental, and mental/behavioral health clinicians to repay their health profession-specific student loans in exchange for a two-year commitment to work at an approved NHSC site as dental public health care providers in a high-need underserved area.

Within a short time after applying, both Batemans were accepted at an NHSC-approved federally qualified health center (FQHC) in Nacogdoches, Texas, where they made their new home. About a year later, they were able to change FQHC locations to the HOPE (Health Opportunities for the People of East Texas) Project Wellness Center in Tenaha, Texas, which offers medical, dental, and mental health care. They worked side by side with the center's medical staff until funding was secured for a new dental-specific clinic. Matt had the opportunity to coordinate the construction of this new clinic, named the HOPE Dental Center.

"We have had unwavering support from our CEO, who allowed us to play a part in carrying out her dream for HOPE," states Matt.

"We have learned how to set up, manage, and operate a dental practice. Matt orders all of the instruments, obtains patients, and builds the practice," says Kelly.

The Batemans provide comprehensive dental care to lower-income and Medicaid patients at the HOPE Dental Center. Their time there has given them experiences they might otherwise not have had. Matt says, "Because we don't work for a profit (our compensation isn't based on production), we see some patient cases as a learning opportunity and can take the necessary time to be sure we provide the best treatment possible. We have consulted with our old classmates and colleagues who specialize in specific areas of dentistry for advice on complex cases. We have enlisted the help of area providers in caring for our patients, sometimes



Drs. Matt and Kelly Bateman with their children

at reduced rates. This simply isn't always possible in a private practice setting."

Kelly adds, "Fewer specialists in the area means we are becoming competent and confident in treating difficult and challenging cases. We have learned more about the dental field and what we are capable of than if we weren't challenged in this way in an urban area."

Like any career, not everything is perfect. The lower-income and Medicaid patients they see have a greater number of missed appointments and tend to be apathetic toward their care. The Batemans also are far from any urban areas, so they have fewer choices for entertainment and shopping. But they have become very involved in the community and, as the parents of two small children, participate in many family activities.

Comparing the opportunities they have had by choosing to work at an FQHC with taking a more traditional path by setting up a practice in a more urban area, Matt says, "We have learned more and have grown more as dental providers than we ever thought was possible. We both feel that this opportunity has prepared us well for our future by enabling us to refine the skills we had and learn additional skills, giving us a well-rounded outlook for the future."

"Debt of any kind can be crippling. Our educational debt, in addition to any business or practice loan that we would have taken out if we had entered into private practice, would have been very difficult. The public health option provided us with a way to somewhat alleviate our more limited educational loan burden and experience a very different way to treat patients," says Kelly.

The Batemans will be done with their commitment in about a year. They are undecided about what they will do after that but feel thankful and better prepared having completed this part of their journey.



# HOMECOMING 2015

## UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE HOMECOMING WEEKEND OCTOBER 9 AND 10, 2015

The Dental Alumni Association invites you to come home to the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine for homecoming. Join fellow alumni from the dental school for a dynamic weekend. Catch up with classmates and friends you may not have seen since you graduated.

Homecoming isn't just for those classes celebrating a reunion; we welcome all members of our alumni community to come back to campus.

The homecoming continuing education course will be in room 355 Salk Hall starting at 8:30 a.m. Kick off the evening at the Dental Alumni Association Homecoming Reception at the University Club at 5:30 p.m. After the reception, classes ending in 0 and 5 will hold individual class reunion dinners at 6:30 p.m. If your class is not listed on page 24 and 25 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, for information, and reunion updates.

In addition to attending the dental alumni reception at the University Club, you may wish to continue the celebration by attending the Pitt Alumni Association's Welcome Back Reception at 6:30 p.m. in the Cathedral of Learning. Visit [alumni.pitt.edu/news-events/homecoming](http://alumni.pitt.edu/news-events/homecoming) for the most up-to-date information on the reception. **We look forward to seeing you in October!**

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9 DENTAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HOMECOMING RECEPTION

(ALL ALUMNI WELCOME)

5:30 P.M., UNIVERSITY CLUB, 123 UNIVERSITY PLACE  
(ADJACENT TO SOLDIERS & SAILORS MEMORIAL  
HALL & MUSEUM)

## CLASS CRASH: NOT YOUR REUNION YEAR?

After the reception, join dental alumni, faculty members, and students for a homecoming dinner at 6:30 p.m. at the University Club. Make your reservation by September 25 for the Taste of Tuscany buffet dinner by sending a check for \$50 (made payable to University of Pittsburgh) to University of Pittsburgh, School of Dental Medicine, Ms. Nancy Poe, 440 Salk Hall, 3501 Terrace Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15261.

## DENTAL CLASS REUNION DINNERS

Reunion dinners for class years ending in 0 or 5 will be held at the University Club starting at 6:30 p.m., following the reception. Informational letters were mailed from your class organizer(s) with details about your reunion dinner and any weekend activities. To attend any of the dental class reunion dinners, RSVP to Ms. Nancy Poe at 412-648-8910.

As of July 1, the following individuals have volunteered to coordinate their reunion dinners:

### CLASSES PRIOR TO 1965, GOLDEN ALUMNI DINNER

- Ms. Nancy Poe, [poen@pitt.edu](mailto:poen@pitt.edu), 412-648-8910

### CLASS OF 1965, 50-YEAR REUNION DINNER

- Dr. Jay Wells III, [nodk@verizon.net](mailto:nodk@verizon.net), 412-835-3876
- Dr. Martin Dudas, [imartini@aol.com](mailto:imartini@aol.com), 724-684-7436

### CLASS OF 1970, 45-YEAR REUNION DINNER

- Dr. Walter Kalista Jr., [walterkalistadmd@yahoo.com](mailto:walterkalistadmd@yahoo.com), 412-213-3048

### CLASS OF 1975, 40-YEAR REUNION DINNER

- Dr. Linda Hamerski, [ljwichmann@hotmail.com](mailto:ljwichmann@hotmail.com), 412-965-5333

### CLASS OF 1980, 35-YEAR REUNION DINNER

- Dr. Deborah Studen-Pavlovich, [das12@pitt.edu](mailto:das12@pitt.edu)
- Dr. David Moffa, [dmoffa@comcast.net](mailto:dmoffa@comcast.net)
- Dr. Cheryl Rosato, [cherylrosato@yahoo.com](mailto:cherylrosato@yahoo.com)

### CLASS OF 1985, 30-YEAR REUNION DINNER

- Dr. Lynne Taiclet, [lmt51@pitt.edu](mailto:lmt51@pitt.edu)
- Dr. Thomas Kunkel, [tck14@pitt.edu](mailto:tck14@pitt.edu)

### CLASS OF 1990, 25-YEAR REUNION DINNER

- Dr. Margaret Gurtner, [drmaggie@gurtnerdental.com](mailto:drmaggie@gurtnerdental.com)

### CLASS OF 1995, 20-YEAR REUNION DINNER

- Dr. Diane Damratoski Romaine, [diromaine@hotmail.com](mailto:diromaine@hotmail.com)
- Dr. David Veronesi, [dv22@pitt.edu](mailto:dv22@pitt.edu)

### CLASS OF 2000, 15-YEAR REUNION DINNER

- Dr. Sarah Grafton, [segrafton@gmail.com](mailto:segrafton@gmail.com)
- Dr. John Ference, [ferencejj@pitt.edu](mailto:ferencejj@pitt.edu)

### CLASS OF 2005, 10-YEAR REUNION DINNER

- Dr. Theresa Smotryski Heaton, [tzarr878@yahoo.com](mailto:tzarr878@yahoo.com), 412-901-8327

## DENTAL HYGIENE CLASS REUNION DINNERS

Reunion dinners for class years ending in 0 and 5 will be held at the University Club starting at 6:30 p.m., following the reception. Informational letters were mailed from your class organizer(s) with details about your reunion dinner and any weekend activities. To attend a dental hygiene reunion dinner, RSVP to Ms. Alycia Maltony at 412-648-5096.

### CLASS OF 1975: 40-YEAR REUNION DINNER

- Ms. Barbara Hemler Egnot, [egno@juno.com](mailto:egno@juno.com), 518-689-4384
- Ms. Terry Pescatore Windle, [windle71@comcast.net](mailto:windle71@comcast.net), 724-495-3350

### CLASS OF 1980: 35-YEAR REUNION DINNER

- Ms. Susan Ban, [sub26@pitt.edu](mailto:sub26@pitt.edu), 412-364-3926
- Ms. Nancy Keeler Zeckowski, [nzeckowski@gmail.com](mailto:nzeckowski@gmail.com), 724-309-4316

### CLASS OF 1990: 25-YEAR REUNION DINNER

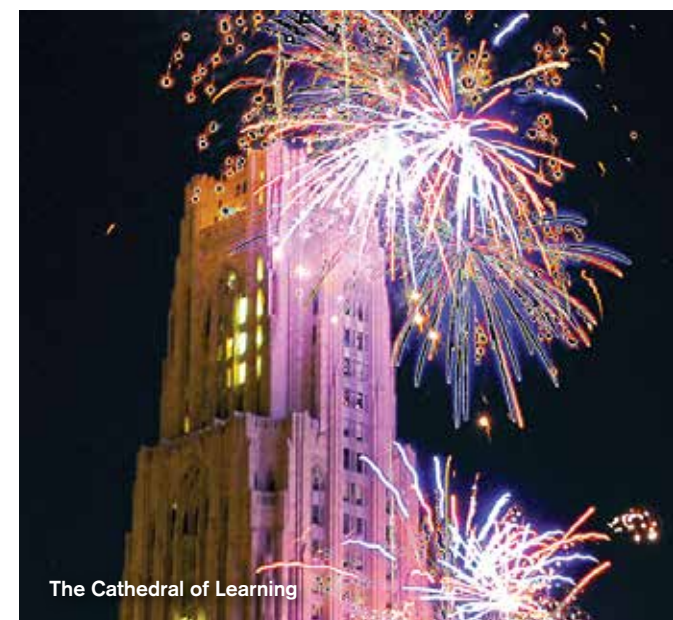
- Ms. Tina Keffer-Cunningham, [tina\\_cunningham@colpal.com](mailto:tina_cunningham@colpal.com)

### CLASS OF 2000: 15-YEAR REUNION DINNER

- Ms. Betsy Herrmann, [betsy1973@yahoo.com](mailto:betsy1973@yahoo.com)

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10 PITT VS. UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA FOOTBALL GAME, HEINZ FIELD, TIME TBA

Please contact the Panthers Ticket Office for game tickets at 1-800-643-PITT (7488), 412-648-PITT (7488), or [tickets@athletics.pitt.edu](mailto:tickets@athletics.pitt.edu).



The Cathedral of Learning

## HOMECOMING WEEKEND CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2015



## Drugs in Dentistry Update, Including Conventional Drugs, Herbals, and Natural Supplements

Presented by RICHARD L. WYNN, PHD

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

8:30 A.M.–3:30 P.M. • 355 SALK HALL • 6 CREDIT HOURS  
REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST FROM  
8 TO 8:30 A.M. IN THE EDWARD J. FORREST CONTINUING  
EDUCATION CENTER, 2148 SALK HALL (SECOND FLOOR)

This course will give you the most up-to-date information on the use of conventional drugs, herbals, antioxidants, and natural supplements in a dental practice. New medical drugs, over-the-counter ibuprofen acetaminophen combinations, recent incidences, and American Dental Association guidelines for management of drug-induced osteonecrosis of the jawbone will be discussed.

Hear an update on antibiotic use and learn about five newly approved blood thinners like Plavix and Coumadin. Popular topics such as herbal supplements, free radicals, reactive oxygen species, antioxidants, chocolate, red wine, acai, pomegranate, CoQ10, and National Institutes of Health purported medical benefits of and adverse reactions to marijuana also will be covered. In addition, you will learn about the newest updates on herbals that cause bleeding; the latest on chondroitin and glucosamine/MSM; the most recent findings on cardioprotective aspirin; the relationship among CRP, periodontal disease, and the risk of heart attack; moderate alcohol consumption; and which supplements to take for maximum overall health.

**CE COST:** Dentist: \$200 • Auxiliary or Spouse: \$125 •  
School of Dental Medicine Alumni Discount: Dentist: \$125 •  
Auxiliary or Spouse: \$85

**Seating is limited. To secure your space in this exciting continuing education course, you must register for this event separately from other homecoming events at [dental.pitt.edu/ce](http://dental.pitt.edu/ce).** For more information or to register for this course by phone, please contact Ms. Diane Fleishman or Ms. Lori Burkette at 412-648-8370.

THIS CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENT IS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH SUPPORT FROM THE T.F. BOWSER MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES.



# ALUMNI

## 15TH ANNUAL DEAN'S SCHOLARSHIP BALL

APRIL 11, 2015 | PHIPPS CONSERVATORY AND BOTANICAL GARDENS



The 15th Annual Dean's Scholarship Ball was held on April 11, 2015, at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. The evening was a celebration of our alumni, students, and supporters and included cocktails, dinner, and dancing. Three Distinguished Alumni Award recipients were honored and Dean's Scholarship recipients were recognized (please see story, pages 28–29). Honored guests included American Dental Association President Dr. Maxine Feinberg; Dr. Harry Zohn (DMD '84) and Dr. Cecile A. Feldman, dean of the Rutgers School of Dental Medicine; past Distinguished Alumni Award recipients; and past Dean's Scholarship recipients. ●

We are thankful for the generous support we received for the event from UPMC; EDIC (Eastern Dentists Insurance Company); PNC; United Concordia Dental; and PDAIS (Pennsylvania Dental Association Insurance Services, Inc.). We also would like to thank Knepper Press, Phipps Conservatory, and the Senator John Heinz History Center for their prize donations.



## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD, ADVANCED EDUCATION

**JOSEPH A. GIOVANNITTI** (DMD '77, ANESTHESIOLOGY '79)



Dr. Joseph Giovannitti is a leading national figure in dental anesthesiology. His illustrious career has included significant advances in teaching, service, and research.

Dr. Giovannitti currently is professor in and chair of the Department of Dental Anesthesiology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine and also serves as the anesthesia director for Pitt's renowned Center for Patients with Special Needs. He has been a consistent contributor to the profession of dental anesthesiology since he earned his DMD degree at Pitt in 1977. He completed his training in dental anesthesiology at Pitt under Dr. C. Richard Bennett from 1977 to 1979.

In the last few decades, he has advanced the curriculum to prepare pre- and postdoctoral students in anesthesia, pediatric dentistry, and medical emergency management; overseen the predoctoral externship program in dental anesthesiology; and presented numerous continuing education programs for local, regional, and national audiences. He provides exemplary and caring dental anesthesia services to children and adults with significant disabilities and health problems that require sedation when undergoing dental procedures. Recently, he completed American Dental Education Association leadership course work and was featured in a training video about dental anesthesia techniques.

Dr. Giovannitti has published 28 journal articles and 10 book chapters and has served as coinvestigator for three research grants. He is involved in national dental organizations and has served as a Commission on Dental Accreditation site visitor and application reviewer, president and examiner for the American Dental Board of Anesthesiology, and a member of the American Student Dental Association Strategic Planning and Advisory committees. His dedication to students, patients, and the school is at the heart of his pursuit of advances in scholarship, education, and clinical dentistry and in the benefit of organized dentistry. ●

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD, DENTAL MEDICINE

**ROBERT WEYANT** (DMD '82)



Dr. Robert Weyant currently is professor, associate dean for dental public health and community outreach, and chair of the Department of Dental Public Health at the School of Dental Medicine. He earned his

undergraduate, DMD, and MSHyg degrees at the University of Pittsburgh. He is a national leader in evidence-based dentistry. Recently, he was recognized for his contributions to research and teaching associated with evidence-based dentistry with the inaugural American Dental Association/American Association for Dental Research Evidence-Based Dentistry Faculty Award.

After completing his dental training at Pitt, Weyant served in the U.S. Navy as a public health dental officer in various locations. In 1991, he joined the University of Pittsburgh as an assistant professor in both the School of Dental Medicine Department of Dental Public Health and the Graduate School of Public Health Department of Epidemiology. In 1994, he was appointed chair of the Department of Dental Public Health in the dental school, followed in 1996 by his appointment to associate professor at the school. He was appointed professor in the School of Dental Medicine in 2009. Dr. Weyant also holds faculty positions in Pitt's School of Medicine, the University Center for Social and Urban Research, Cancer Institute, and the Pitt Clinical and Translational Science Institute.

Beyond his academic positions and achievements, he is editor in chief of the *Journal of Public Health Dentistry* and sits on both the Aging Institute of UPMC Senior Services and the University of Pittsburgh advisory board and Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute advisory board. He is a member of many professional and scientific societies; has contributed to more than 130 publications; and has participated in more than 75 conferences, seminars, symposia, and editorials.

Dr. Weyant is more than deserving of this award. His dedication to advancing knowledge in dental medicine and his commitment to students and the field of dental public health are commendable and a model of high achievement in academic medicine. ●

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD, DENTAL HYGIENE

**SUSAN HOLSTEIN MICHAYLO** (DH '84)



A 1984 graduate of the School of Dental Medicine Dental Hygiene program, Ms. Susan Holstein Michaylo has been an advocate and supporter of the school since she was a student.

Immediately after earning her certificates in dental assisting and oral hygiene, Ms. Michaylo went into clinical practice as a periodontal cotherapist for Dr. Francis Ceravolo (DDS '59, MDS '74). Her interest in business and education augmented her clinical hygiene career for the next few years. In 1991, she joined Colgate Pharmaceuticals (now the Colgate-Palmolive Company) to create the company's first-ever dental hygienist team involved in education and marketing. Her efforts contributed to the overwhelming success of Colgate Total toothpaste. She also created the national STAR Award program for the company to recognize the achievements of outstanding student dental hygienists.

Her success at Colgate was followed by her current successful career in clinical education with the Hu-Friedy Mfg. Co., LLC. She joined Hu-Friedy in 2007 as a liaison to schools and other institutions in Pennsylvania and several surrounding states. She coordinates continuing education courses and conducts other educational events to assist academic institutions in the use of Hu-Friedy products. She has contributed significant time, energy, and expertise to the Pitt Dental Hygiene Program. ●

## DEAN'S SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

**KENDAL A. KARPE**



Ms. Kendal Karpe is a native of the northern Virginia area. She attended the University of Virginia, where she earned her bachelor's degree in biochemistry.

She spent two years as a fellow at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), applying her scientific knowledge and honing her critical thinking skills. She was able to explore her interest in the cellular mechanisms contributing to oral health and disease. Her work at NIAID encouraged her to ask relevant questions and analyze data effectively. It also contributed to her ability to draw conclusions and solve problems with a critical eye.

Ms. Karpe chose to attend the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine in large part because her grandfather is an alumnus. When she first visited the school, her high expectations were far surpassed and her choice was fully confirmed. She is looking forward to joining the school to pursue her passion for science and her affinity for creating a personal connection with patients and the community. ●

## DEAN'S SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

**ADIL H. OMAR**



Mr. Adil Omar attended Cornell University. He is a native of Ithaca, N.Y., and has benefited from being part of a family that emphasizes education and the international exposure gained from relatives who are living in many foreign countries.

He sought out shadowing and volunteer opportunities in the United States, Sudan, the United Kingdom, and Malaysia. These experiences gave Mr. Omar ample opportunities to apply his analytic knowledge of biochemistry, immunology, nutrition, and bacteriology.

Mr. Omar chose the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine because it is a well-respected research institution with an array of opportunities available to student researchers. The close-knit student body and personal interactions between the students and faculty made a strong impact on Mr. Omar, leading him to choose to join the School of Dental Medicine family. ●



# NATIONAL MEETINGS FOR DENTAL SPECIALTIES AND PITT ALUMNI RECEPTIONS • SAVE THE DATE!



## ADHA 93RD ANNUAL SESSION IN PITTSBURGH

The American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) has announced that its 93rd Annual Session will be held in Pittsburgh. School of Dental Medicine Dental Hygiene Program Director Ms. Angelina Riccelli (DH '74) is chair of the planning committee for the upcoming meeting. Please mark your calendars for June 8–14, 2016, at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center.

## ADHA 93RD ANNUAL SESSION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**June 8:** Community Service Day and Workshops

**June 9–11:** Continuing Education Sessions

**June 10:** Institute for Oral Health (IOH) Benefit/President's Gala

**June 10–11:** Exhibits

**June 12–14:** House of Delegates/Business Meeting

General registration will open this summer. For the most up-to-date information, please visit [adha.org](http://adha.org). We look forward to seeing you in Pittsburgh.

## CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY— CALL TO ACTION

Sunday, October 25, 5 p.m. •  
University Club Library

We invite you to celebrate the diversity of the faculty members, residents, and students within the School of Dental Medicine. Join us as we make new friendships and connections with colleagues. We also will be reaching out to all in attendance to volunteer and engage in the recruitment, inclusion, and retention of our diverse community. We hope to see you there! For more information, please contact Ms. Nancy Poe at [poen@pitt.edu](mailto:poen@pitt.edu) or 412-648-8910.



## DENTAL ALUMNI RECEPTION AT ADA 2015

ADA 2015, America's Dental Meeting, will be held in Washington, D.C., from November 5 to 10. The Dental Alumni Association will hold an alumni reception on Friday, November 6, at the Marriott Marquis Washington, D.C., in Salon 13 from 5:30–7 p.m. **RSVP by October 26** to Ms. Nancy Poe at [poen@pitt.edu](mailto:poen@pitt.edu) or 412-648-8910. We hope to see you in Washington, D.C.!

Please visit [dental.pitt.edu](http://dental.pitt.edu) for locations and registration information and for the most up-to-date information about the alumni receptions listed on this page. ●

## ALUMNI RECEPTION AT THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF DENTIST ANESTHESIOLOGISTS (ASDA) ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC SESSION AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MEMBERS MEETING

Grand Hyatt Denver • Denver, Colo. •  
May 5–7, 2016

## NATIONAL ORAL HEALTH CONFERENCE (FOR DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS)

Cincinnati, Ohio • April 18–20, 2016

## ALUMNI RECEPTION AT THE 97TH ANNUAL MEETING, SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS AND EXHIBITION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGEONS (AAOMS)

Washington, D.C. •  
September 28–October 3, 2015

## THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY (AAPD) ANNUAL SESSION

San Antonio, Texas • May 26–29, 2016

## ALUMNI RECEPTION AT THE 101ST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PERIODONTOLOGY (AAP)

Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center • Orlando, Fla. •  
November 16, 2015 • 6:30 p.m.

Join us at the AAP Annual Meeting to get an update on the School of Dental Medicine Department of Periodontics and Preventive Dentistry and to connect with other Pitt Alumni and residents.

# ALUMNI UPDATES

**DR. MARC BENHURI (DMD '75)** received an honorary Doctor of Engineering degree from the University of New Haven during its commencement exercises this past May. He was recognized for his work on codes and standards for nuclear power plants. While enrolled at the School of Dental Medicine, Dr. Benhuri worked on developing new designs for dental implants.

**U.S. ARMY LIEUTENANT COLONEL ELAINE H. BERKOWITZ (DMD '86)** has retired after a career that spanned 38 years. In April 2015,



Rame Vata, rector of the University of Prizren, presented Dr. Berkowitz with an honorary doctorate during a ceremony honoring her for her contributions

to Kosovo during her deployments there in 2007, 2010, and 2011. Last year, she published her autobiography, *Live Life ... Love Country*.

**DR. GINA BUFALINI (DMD '10)** received her residency certificate



in pediatric dentistry from Pitt School of Dental Medicine in 2014. She recently was named an American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry NuSmile Graduate Student Research Award finalist. Her research project was one of only eight selected out of 85 entries to compete this year at the Annual Session in May in Seattle, Wash. She received a cash

award, paid registration for the session, airfare, and lodging and was presented with the award at the session.

**DR. JOSEPH C. COLE (DMD '77)** of Ridgway, Pa., was the 2015 recipient of the American Association of Orthodontists Humanitarian Award in recognition of his more than 35 years of humanitarian work to improve the quality of life beyond the scope of the private dental practice. Dr. Cole is actively involved in mission work that brings dental care to children and adults in remote areas without access to proper dental care around the globe. Additionally, he is involved in community efforts in Ridgway and Elk County, Pa., and has been a member of the Board of Trustees of the Pennsylvania Dental Association.

The District of Columbia Dental Society (DCDS) presented its highest honor, the Sterling V. Mead Award, to **DR. JOHN DRUMM (DMD '74)** on June 2. Dr. Drumm was chosen for this award in recognition of his outstanding achievements in dentistry; his life, which has reflected great credit upon his profession; and his distinguished contributions to DCDS and his profession. Mead was a distinguished dentist and author who wrote several books on dentistry between 1935 and 1954, including *Oral Surgery*, *Diseases of the Mouth*, and *Anesthesia in Dental Surgery*.

**DR. KRISTEN DONOHUE (DMD '00)** recently trained through the Implant Continuum (IC) in Miami, Fla., to place dental implants and then completed a four-day mission in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, placing 40 implants under the guidance of IC staff. Dr. Donohue loves the challenge of placing her own implants for low-risk patients. Currently, she is involved in a Spear Study Club and attends workshops in Scottsdale, Ariz.

**JOHN T. MARSHALL (DMD '08)** recently accepted an appointment at the Ohio State University College of Dentistry as an assistant professor in the Division of General Practice and Materials Science. He had previously been serving as an assistant professor in dental sciences at the Ohio Business College in Hilliard, Ohio, while maintaining a private practice in the Columbus, Ohio, area. ●



## Call for Yearbooks and Photos!

The Dental Alumni Association and the School of Dental Medicine are working together to compile an archive of yearbooks and other historic documents about the school and the people who studied and worked here.

If you have old yearbooks, class photos, announcements, or other similar materials to give to the school, please send them to the Office of Alumni Affairs and Development, 440 Salk Hall, 3501 Terrace Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15261-1933.

Please contact Ms. Nancy Poe at 412-648-8910 or [poen@pitt.edu](mailto:poen@pitt.edu) if you have questions or would like more information.



ALUMNI EVENTS CALENDAR  
SUMMER/FALL/SPRING 2015–16

August 31	General Assembly and White Coat Ceremony, 3 p.m., Scaife Hall, Auditoriums 5 and 6
September 2	Dental Alumni Association Executive Committee meeting and Board of Directors meeting, 5 p.m., Room 457 Salk Hall; brief business meeting followed by a presentation by Hayley Brugos, medical outreach manager and sustainability officer, Global Links  Student and alumni mentoring event to welcome first-year students, 6–7 p.m., Room 457 Salk Hall <b>RSVP to Ms. Nancy Poe at poen@pitt.edu or 412-648-8910 by August 18, 2015.</b>
September 19	Volunteer Day for School of Dental Medicine alumni, students, staff, and families at Global Links, 700 Trumbull Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15205; volunteers will be packing medical equipment Twenty volunteers are needed for each of two shifts, from 10 a.m. to noon and from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. <b>Please e-mail Ms. Nancy Poe at poen@pitt.edu to volunteer.</b>
October 9–10	Homecoming weekend continuing education course: Drugs in Dentistry Update, Including Conventional Drugs, Herbals, and Natural Supplements, presented by Richard Wynn, PhD, professor of pharmacology, University of Maryland School of Dentistry, 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Room 355 Salk Hall; to register, go to <b>dental.pitt.edu/ce</b> .  School of Dental Medicine Homecoming Reception, 5:30–6:30 p.m., University Club, 123 University Place; class reunion dinners at 6:30 p.m., University Club; for more information, call Ms. Nancy Poe at <b>412-648-8910</b> .  Pitt Alumni Association Welcome Back Reception, 6:30 p.m., Cathedral of Learning; visit <b>alumni.pitt.edu/news-events/homecoming</b>  Pitt vs. University of Virginia, time TBD; <b>contact the Panthers Ticket Office for homecoming game tickets at 1-800-643-PITT (7488) or tickets@athletics.pitt.edu</b>
October 25	Celebration of Diversity Call to Action, 5–7 p.m., University Club Library, 123 University Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15260; <b>RSVP to Ms. Nancy Poe at poen@pitt.edu or 412-648-8910.</b>
November 1	Nomination deadline for Distinguished Alumni Awards (See page 21 for nomination guidelines.)
November 6	Alumni reception at ADA 2015, America’s Dental Meeting, 5:30–7 p.m., Marriott Marquis Washington, D.C., Salon 13
February 2016	Medical and Health Sciences Foundation Winter Academy: • Wednesday, February 17, 2016, Mar-a-Lago Club, Palm Beach, Fla. • Friday, February 19, 2016, Ritz-Carlton, Naples, Fla. The Pitt Alumni Association will host a breakfast event at the Ritz-Carlton before the Winter Academy. <b>For more information, please contact Paul Casey at 412-383-7544.</b>
March 2, 2016	Dental Alumni Association Executive Committee meeting and Board of Directors meeting, 5 p.m., Room 457 Salk Hall  Student and alumni networking event for fourth-year students, 6–7 p.m., Rooms 457 and 458 Salk Hall <b>Please e-mail Ms. Nancy Poe at poen@pitt.edu if you are interested in attending.</b>
April 2, 2016	16th Annual Dean’s Scholarship Ball, 6 p.m., Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens
April 9, 2016	22nd Annual T.F. Bowser Memorial Lecture: “Innovative Periodontics: Creating Success in Today’s Dental Practice,” presented by Samuel B. Low, DDS, MS, MEd, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Scaife Hall; to register, go to <b>dental.pitt.edu/ce</b>
May 19, 2016	Alumni reception at the Pennsylvania Dental Association’s Pennsylvania’s Dental Meeting & Expo, 6:30 p.m., Hershey Lodge, Hershey, Pa.
May 20, 2016	Senior Luncheon and Senior Awards Ceremony, 11:30 a.m., University Club
May 21, 2016	School of Dental Medicine Diploma Ceremony, 1 p.m., Heinz Hall

For more information, please visit our online calendar at **dental.pitt.edu/events**.

IN MEMORIAM

ALUMNI

- Dr. James L. Ackerman (DDS ’51) • August 29, 2014  
Dr. David Agostoni (DMD ’71) • January 23, 2015  
Dr. Thomas J. Ammerman (DDS’63) • March 16, 2014  
Dr. Merle R. Amy (DDS ’52) • October 30, 2012  
Dr. Ralph V. Assetta (DDS ’58) • May 3, 2012  
Dr. Emanuel W. Amurgis (DMD ’75) • May 3, 2015  
Dr. J. Leonard Barretta (DDS ’65) • May 13, 2015  
Dr. Amberson C. Bauer (DMD ’68) • May 31, 2015  
Dr. Joseph E. Billups (DDS ’57) • August 1, 2014  
Dr. Ronald J. Briggs Sr. (DDS ’60) • June 3, 2015  
Dr. Samuel V. Castronovo (DDS ’58) • June 5, 2015  
Dr. William E. Checket (DMD ’69) • March 2, 2015  
Dr. Charles Marvin Coffey (DDS ’57) • March 21, 2015  
Ms. Michele L. Darby (DH ’68) • February 5, 2015  
Dr. Donald A. Davey (DDS ’51) • January 20, 2015  
Dr. Paul Foreman (DDS ’45) • January 14, 2015  
Dr. Robert Forner (DDS ’52) • April 10, 2015  
Dr. Allan L. Friedberg (DMD ’73) • June 1, 2015  
Dr. Joel E. Grotstein (DDS ’61) • August 11, 2011  
Dr. Dale E. Hamilton (DDS ’51) • February 25, 2013  
Dr. James D. Hensler (DDS ’55) • April 6, 2015  
Dr. Nathan W. Holber (DDS ’45) • January 1, 2015  
Dr. Richard Y. Ikeda (DDS ’55) • May 7, 2015  
Dr. George T. Jakenta (DMD ’76) • March 20, 2015  
Dr. Paul M. Jonas (DDS ’63) • February 21, 2015  
Dr. William D. Keane (ADCT ’70) • May 26, 2015  
Dr. Roger P. Kenney (DMD ’87) • February 21, 2015  
Dr. Ronald King (ADCT ’89) • March 6, 2015  
Dr. Adam Lesko (DDS ’54) • June 6, 2015  
Dr. William B. Lieberman (DDS ’46) • February 8, 2015  
Dr. Robert Mahaffey (DDS ’43) • March 23, 2015  
Dr. Salvatore A. Migliore (DDS ’61) • December 7, 2014  
Dr. Richard M. Miller (DMD ’71) • December 24, 2014  
Dr. Regis M. Nairn (DDS ’60) • February 10, 2015  
Dr. Edward Narcisi (DDS ’62) • February 6, 2015  
Dr. Samuel Nauhaus (DDS ’40) • February 2, 2014  
Dr. John T. Nixon (DDS ’52) • February 22, 2015  
Dr. Gerald Orner (DDS ’63) • October 28, 1987  
Dr. William Yee Ott (DDS ’54) • May 9, 2015

- Dr. Anthony R. Patterson Jr. (DMD ’76) • May 24, 2015  
Dr. Hugh Peery(DDS ’56) • January 10, 2015  
Dr. Steven W. Perand (DDS ’53) • November 24, 2014  
Dr. Michael Poprik Jr. (DDS ’56) • November 19, 2014  
Dr. Paul D. Rossner (DDS ’42) • June 13, 2015  
Dr. Jerome J. Rubin (DDS ’46) • December 6, 2014  
Dr. Patricia Sabers (DMD ’82) • February 3, 2015  
Dr. Wesley Sabocheck (DMD ’75) • March 10, 2015  
Dr. Myles S. Sandberg (DMD ’71) • June 28, 2014  
Dr. Paul H. Schmidt (DDS ’45) • November 22, 2014  
Dr. Paul E. Schnupp (DDS ’56) • May 28, 2015  
Dr. C. Rebecca Shelby (DMD ’94) • November 22, 2014  
Dr. Louis I. Sigalow (DDS ’47) • December 20, 2014  
Dr. Barrie H. Simonson (DDS ’59) • February 14, 2015  
Dr. Jefferson M. Sims (DMD ’81) • April 19, 2015  
Dr. Rodney S. Smith (DMD ’70) • May 27, 2015  
Dr. Stanley Starasoler (DDS ’48) • March 20, 2014  
Dr. William Francis Stitt (DDS ’61) • April 26, 2015  
Dr. Richard E. Swisher (DDS ’49) • Unknown  
Dr. Lawrence E. Vignali (DDS ’65) • May 22, 2015  
Dr. Donald Yourd (DDS ’52) • March 29, 2015  
Dr. Charles J. Zarganis (DMD ’69) • February 26, 2015  
Dr. Matthew L. Zimmer (DDS ’56) • January 4, 2015

FORMER FACULTY, STAFF, AND FRIENDS

Remembering Dr. Paul Foreman

Dr. David Foreman (DMD ’79) and his family have provided a gift to the School of Dental Medicine’s Herman and Dorothy Behrman Scholarship Fund in memory of his late father, Dr. Paul Foreman (DDS ’45). “The connection my father had to his classmate, Dr. Stanley Behrman (DDS ’45), and his brother, Dr. Lawrence Behrman (DDS ’46)—as well as the relationship I have with his son, Dr. David Behrman (DMD ’80)—make this a natural choice,” said Dr. David Foreman. The family’s donation is in recognition of Paul Foreman’s appreciation of the school’s role in his professional success. It will support first-year dental students who would not otherwise be able to attend dental school.

Mrs. Alice E. Forrest • March 23, 2015

Mrs. Forrest was the wife of the late Dr. Edward J. Forrest (DDS ’41, MS ’49, PhD ’53), who served as dean of Pitt’s School of Dental Medicine from 1961 to 1983.

Dr. Betty Jane McWilliams • February 20, 2015

Dr. McWilliams was director of the University’s Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Center from 1969 to 1991. McWilliams was named professor emerita in 1991 in the Department of Communication Science and Disorders in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.



## LESLIE RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS GRANT, PUBLISHES ARTICLE

Elizabeth Leslie, an oral biology postdoctoral research associate in the Center for Craniofacial and Dental Genetics, was recently recognized for a number of exceptional career accomplishments.



Dr. Leslie is the recipient of a prestigious National Institutes of Health Pathway to Independence Award, a K99/R00 grant funded by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, that started in July 2013. Titled Genetics of Craniofacial Disorders and Related Phenotypes, the training portion of the grant funds

her activities for two years as she transitions from a postdoc position to a tenure-track faculty position. Then the three-year research portion of the grant will fund her research activities as a faculty member of whichever university she chooses to join.

Also, an important article cowritten by Dr. Leslie, titled “Identification of Functional Variants for Cleft Lip with or without Cleft Palate in or near PAX7, FGFR2, and NOG by Targeted Sequencing of GWAS Loci,” was published by one of the premier human genetics journals, *The American Journal of Human Genetics*. She orally presented this published work under the title “Functional Variants in/near PAX7, FGFR2, and NOG in Orofacial Clefting” during the craniofacial anomalies session at the International Association for Dental Research/American Academy of Restorative Dentistry annual meeting in Boston, Mass., in March 2015.

Dr. Leslie received her PhD from the University of Iowa, where she worked with Dr. Jeff Murray. She also worked with Professor Mary Marazita and then joined the School of Dental Medicine to further her studies and work with her. Dr. Leslie received her undergraduate degree from St. Olaf College, where she studied chemistry and biomolecular science.

“Being selected for my first grant is very exciting and a little overwhelming; it’s all coming together right now. Seeing my research paper being selected for publication is very rewarding. It started as a thesis project and has been in the works for about five years,” says Dr. Leslie. ●

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Alumni, students, staff, and families welcome (ages 10 and older)

Volunteers will assist in sorting and packing medical supplies to help improve health care in resource-poor communities. We also will host a collection of materials, including durable medical supplies like crutches and walkers and new baby items such as diapers (sizes newborn and 1), clothes (new onesies and pants, sizes newborn-9 months), new baby blankets, washcloths, and baby hygiene products (shampoo, soap, lotion, diaper cream, and baby powder).

**Saturday, September 19**

**10 a.m.–noon:** 20 volunteers needed

**12:30–2:30 p.m.:** 20 volunteers needed

You are welcome to bring a lunch (noon-12:30 p.m.) if you would like to volunteer for both sessions. An eating area will be provided.

**Location:** Global Links, 700 Trumbull Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15205

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## 2015 ADEA ANNUAL SESSION AND EXHIBITION

Several faculty and staff members represented the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine at the 2015 American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Annual Session & Exhibition, held in March in Boston, Mass. This four-day session was a professional development and net-working event for dental, allied dental, and advanced dental education colleagues.

Together, Dr. Marnie Oakley, Dr. Jean O'Donnell, and Mr. Richard Oravetz presented the workshop “Cracking the Code to Globally (and Legally) Assess Student Professionalism.” The presentation explored a dental program that has faculty members globally assess student behavior and offer direct and timely feedback.

Dr. Heiko Spallek presented both a seminar and a workshop, one of which examined how cloud computing is impacting dental education, research, and patient care. Dr. Zsuzsa Horvath led a seminar exploring faculty development and was a member of the presenting team for the chair of the ADEA Board of Directors Symposium.

At the meeting, faculty and staff also participated in development sessions and workshops and viewed exhibitions of academic dentistry partners and suppliers. ●



## DEPARTMENT OF DIAGNOSTIC SCIENCES FACULTY AND RESIDENTS RECOGNIZED AT AAOM/AAOMP JOINT ANNUAL MEETING

The School of Dental Medicine's Department of Diagnostic Sciences was well represented at a special joint annual meeting of the American Academy of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology (AAOMP) and the American Academy of Oral Medicine (AAOM) in San Diego, Calif., this past April.



Dr. Kurt Summersgill

Faculty members and residents in the school's oral and maxillofacial pathology (OMFP) residency program participated in a wide range of activities.

Associate Professor and residency program director Kurt Summersgill was elected to a three-year term as secretary/treasurer of AAOMP, presented one case at the AAOMP histopathology seminar, chaired a meeting of OMFP program directors, and received an academic fellow ribbon from AAOM. He also coauthored a poster and platform talk and served as a judge for AAOMP resident platform presentations. Clinical Assistant Professor Joanne Prasad coauthored a platform talk.

Current and former residents in the program also played a prominent role at the meeting. Adepitan Owosho, a third-year resident, received an academic fellow ribbon from AAOM at the President's Reception and also presented the platform talk “Characterization of Spindle Cell/Pleomorphic Lipoma of the Oral Cavity: Clinicopathologic and Immunohistochemical Analyses.”

Abdulaziz AlDojain, another third-year resident, passed the AAOMP fellowship examina-tion, coauthored a platform presentation, and presented a poster titled “Polymorphous Low-grade Adenocarcinoma with Histological Features Mimicking Basal Cell Adeno-carcinoma: A Case Report.”

Second-year resident Blake Warner won the AAOM Robert and Kay Schattner Award for best presentation of an original investigation for “Topical Black Raspberries Reduce Proliferation and Survivin/Birc5 in Established OSCC.”

Yu Lei was a discussant for a clinico-pathologic conference, while Steven Barket (DMD '11) passed the AAOM academic fellow exam and Jassem Saleh (DMD '06) presented a poster titled “Cervical Chondrocutaneous Branchial Remnants: A Case Report.”

In addition, faculty members and residents had the opportunity to mingle with and interview four potential candidates for the OMFP residency program which, along with the department, has been gaining national attention. ●



## FACULTY ROUNDUP

**DR. MATILDA DHIMA**, assistant professor, has joined the editorial review board of *The Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry*. The journal is devoted entirely to prosthetic and restorative dentistry and is the official publication of 25 leading U.S. and international prosthodontic organizations.

**DR. POURAN FAMILI** (MDS '80, DMD '85), professor and chair of the Department of Periodontics and Preventive Dentistry, was appointed a commission site visitor of the Commission on Dental Accreditation for 2015–16. Site visitors are appointed for one-year terms, which are renewable for six years and begin in October of the appointment year.

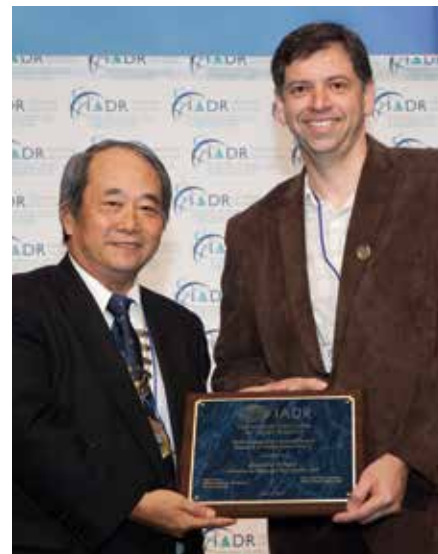
**DR. JOSEPH GIOVANNITI** (DMD '77), professor and chair of the Department of Dental Anesthesiology, gave a lecture for the American Dental Society of Anesthesiology in February 2015 at the annual Las Vegas, Nev. general anesthesia review. This annual review course is the largest continuing education program in dental anesthesia.



**DR. ANITHA POTLURI** (DMD '10), assistant professor and director of the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology, was elected to the Council of Sections within the American Dental Education Association. The council is composed of 38 sections and 10 special

interest groups that represent major disciplines and various areas of interest in dental and allied dental education.

**DR. ADRIANA MODESTO VIEIRA** (DMD '09), professor, has been accepted as a 2016 American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Leadership Institute fellow and was selected to represent ADEA as a judge at the 2015 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair.



**DR. ALEXANDRE VIEIRA**, associate professor, director of clinical research, and director of student research, will represent the American Dental Association Foundation as a judge at the 2015 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. He also was elected president of the International Association for Dental Research Cardiology Research's Group and was honored by the association as a 2015 recipient of its Distinguished Scientist Award for research in dental caries during the organization's general session in Boston, Mass., this spring. He was recognized for the decadelong work he has accomplished

on the individual's genetic susceptibility to dental caries from the original genome-wide search and the fine mapping of loci that influenced a surge in interest and work on the topic from many groups around the world.

**DR. ROBERT WEYANT** (DMD '82), professor, associate dean for dental public health and community outreach, and chair of the Department of Dental Public Health, received the inaugural American Dental Association/American Association for Dental Research Evidence-Based Dentistry Faculty Award in 2014.

**DR. KELLY WILLIAMS** (DMD '07), assistant professor, has been accepted as a 2016 American Dental Education Association Leadership Institute fellow. Fellows participate in a yearlong educational experience that prepares them for expanded roles in their institutions and the profession.



If you would like to offer shadowing opportunities to students, please contact Dr. Elizabeth Bilodeau at 412-383-7949. ●

## 2015 FACULTY RETREAT

The School of Dental Medicine Offices of Academic Affairs, Clinical Affairs, and Faculty Affairs facilitated the 2015 Faculty Retreat on April 28 at the University Club. The retreat focused on curriculum development as it applies to the school's strategic plan and built on the success of last year's retreat, which focused on teaching and learning in both didactic and clinical settings.

The morning session featured an overview of the curriculum by Dr. Jean O'Donnell, associate dean for academic affairs, and an introduction to the evidence-based curriculum model by Dr. Robert Weyant, associate dean for dental public health and community outreach. Faculty members had an opportunity to discuss and offer solutions to real-life curricular issues through table discussions during the second half of the morning. To encourage diverse points of view, faculty members were purposefully grouped so that various disciplines and departments were represented within each discussion group. Invited student representatives and facilitators from Pitt's Center for Instructional Development & Distance Education offered broad points of view.



The beginning of the afternoon session was a chance to discuss the school's new online curriculum management tool (CMT), which was presented by Mr. Richard Oravetz, director of instructional technology, and Ms. Melanie Reyes, curriculum development administrator. The new online CMT offers upgrades to the old system, including at-a-glance identification of courses and new curriculum mapping tools.

The remainder of the afternoon gave faculty members a chance to participate in a strategic planning exercise. During that time, they could develop potential solutions to strategic planning goals such as encouraging evidence-based learning,



increasing student attendance at continuing education courses (to comply with new Commission on Dental Accreditation regulations), and nurturing new graduates to become involved alumni. ●



## STAFF RETREAT 2015

The School of Dental Medicine hosted a daylong retreat for all staff members in April. This event was conceived by Dean Thomas Braun as an opportunity for staff to connect with other members of the dental school family and learn more about the groundbreaking research occurring throughout the School of Dental Medicine. The school has held staff retreats in the past, but this was the first retreat in several years for which staff members were given the opportunity to attend a daylong program.



To better accommodate the clinical staff, the program was broken up into morning and afternoon sessions. Presenters focused on one of two areas: bridging the gap between generations

in the workforce and understanding personality types using the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator assessment. The morning session also included a presentation from the school's Center for Craniofacial and Dental Genetics about ongoing research into orofacial clefts and a presentation on a long-range study on oral health problems in Appalachia being conducted at the school's Center for Oral Health Research in Appalachia. Marcia Walsh, the school's director of administration, coordinated the event and hopes to provide staff members with more leadership opportunities in the future. ●



## ADEAGIES FOUNDATION GRANT SUPPORTS ACADEMIC DENTISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

The School of Dental Medicine has received a \$6,475 grant from the ADEAGies Foundation. The foundation awards funds to individuals and organizations that serve its mission of enhancing the oral health of the public through programs that support dental education, research, leadership, and lifelong learning. Dr. Zsuzsa Horvath, assistant professor, director of faculty development, and director of the Academic Career Track Area of Concentration, applied for the grant to support the ADEAGies Academic Career Day Retreat for predoctoral students at the dental school.



Dr. Zsuzsa Horvath

The retreat is open to dental hygiene and predoctoral dental students and residents. Students will participate in a telecourse with schools in Detroit, Mich., and Houston, Texas, with each school offering site-specific activities. The retreat supports the Academic Career Track Area of Concentration (ACT ARCO) program for Pitt dental students interested in academic dentistry.

The ACT ARCO program informs students about different career options and also prepares them for future roles as dental educators by providing hands-on training in the areas of teaching, scholarship, and leadership. The program also benefits future dentists, who likely will be involved in training more junior dentists and staff members in their practices as well as in educating patients. ●

## 2015 STUDENT AWARDS AND SENIOR RECOGNITION

## SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE STUDENT AWARDS

TWO STUDENTS RECEIVE ADA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS  
MR. NEILSON WAGLEY and MR. DAVID COLE were awarded American Dental Association Foundation (ADA) scholarships for the 2014–15 academic year.



Mr. Neilson Wagley

“It is a great honor to receive an ADA Foundation dental student scholarship. I am grateful to represent the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine in this way. Dental school is a significant financial investment, and I am thankful for the support this scholarship provides,” Mr. Wagley says.



Mr. David Cole

and matriculation through the program is one of my greatest life accomplishments, and having support along the way is an integral part of that achievement. Receiving an ADA Foundation scholarship goes far beyond an economic backing; it objectifies my belief that someone

beyond my expected support system has confidence in the decisions I've made and trusts my ability to help make a difference,” says Mr. Cole.

## WANG SELECTED AS PITTSBURGH SCHWEITZER FELLOW

MS. ANNE LING WANG has been awarded a 2015–16 Albert Schweitzer Fellowship through the Pittsburgh Schweitzer Fellows Program.



Ms. Anne Ling Wang

A member of the School of Dental Medicine Class of 2017, Ms. Wang will focus on teaching prenatal lessons and workshops to women at Genesis of Pittsburgh during the upcoming academic year. The center offers a variety of programs and services free of charge, including resources to help women understand the physical and emotional changes that occur during pregnancy.

“I am excited to be part of the 2015–16 Albert Schweitzer fellows class and am looking forward to the leadership and program implementation experience that I will gain from it,” says Ms. Wang. ●



Dr. Michael Korch (DMD '04) welcomes graduates to the Dental Alumni Association.

## SENIOR LUNCHEON

A luncheon was held for the graduating Class of 2015 on May 15 in conjunction with the senior awards ceremony to celebrate student achievements and to welcome them to the Dental Alumni Association. School of Dental Medicine Dean Dr. Thomas Braun welcomed the attendees, and Associate Dean for Student Affairs Dr. Christine Wankiiri-Hale (DMD '02) invited the new graduates to be active participants in the Dental Alumni Association. Guest speaker Dr. Michael Korch (DMD '04), representing the Pennsylvania Dental Association (PDA), described how organized dentistry, such as PDA, can benefit new graduates at the beginning of and throughout their careers.

We would like to extend our special thanks to PDA for its support of the senior luncheon. ●





## 2015 SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE SENIOR AWARDS

ACADEMY OF OSSEointegration AWARD, to the senior student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the field of implant dentistry, presented by Dr. Steve Kukunas to **DR. KENTON ANDRYC**

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ESTHETIC DENTISTRY AWARD, to the senior student who has shown the most clinical proficiency and greatest interest in esthetic dentistry, presented by Dr. Filip Barbaric to **DR. EMILY CHOU**

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF IMPLANT DENTISTRY AWARD, to the senior student who has demonstrated the most interest academically and clinically in implant dentistry, presented by Dr. Steve Kukunas to **DR. KAITLYN BURGESS**

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ORAL AND MAXILLO-FACIAL PATHOLOGY AWARD, to the senior student who has demonstrated exemplary aptitude and achievement in oral and maxillofacial pathology, presented by Dr. Elizabeth Bilodeau to **DR. RICHARD VARGO**

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ORAL AND MAXILLO-FACIAL RADIOLOGY AWARD, to the senior student who has demonstrated exemplary aptitude and achievement in oral and maxillofacial radiology, presented by Dr. Anitha Potluri to **DR. PEINI ZHU**

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ORAL MEDICINE AWARD, to the senior student who has shown proficiency in oral medicine, presented by Dr. Kurt Summersgill to **DR. RICHARD VARGO**

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY AWARD, to the senior student who has demonstrated the most promise in pediatric dentistry, presented by Dr. Deborah Studen-Pavlovich to **DR. ZACHARY MILLS**

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PERIODONTOLOGY AWARD, to the senior student who displays outstanding performance in periodontics, presented by Dr. Kelly Williams to **DR. STEPHEN STREIFF**



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ENDODONTISTS AWARD, to the senior student who has demonstrated above-average skills in the area of endodontics, presented by Dr. Marin Mandradjieff to **DR. JOHN SNEE**

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGEONS DENTAL IMPLANT AWARD, to the senior student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement and performance related to the placement and restoration of dental implants, presented by Dr. Mark Ochs and Dr. Mark Sosovicka to **DR. FRANCO SEBASTIANI**

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGEONS DENTAL STUDENT AWARD, to the graduating senior student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement and performance in oral and maxillofacial surgery, presented by Dr. Mark Ochs and Dr. Mark Sosovicka to **DR. MATTHEW PHAM**

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ORAL BIOLOGISTS AWARD, to the graduating senior who has demonstrated achievement and potential in oral biology, presented by Dr. Alexandre Vieira to **DR. SERENA HSIN**



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ORTHODONTISTS AWARD, to the senior student who has displayed exceptional interest in the development of the orofacial complex, presented by Dr. John Burnheimer to **DR. CHRIS WOLLENSCHLAEGER**

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH DENTISTRY PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD, to a senior student for outstanding service to his or her community, presented by Dr. Robert Weyant to **DR. AMIR BOULES**

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF DENTISTS AWARD, to the senior student whose academic record most exemplifies a combination of outstanding scholastic performance and demonstrated leadership, presented by Dr. Deborah Studen-Pavlovich to **DR. LOUIS WENGER**

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PROSTHODONTISTS AWARD, to the senior student who has excelled in prosthodontics, presented by Dr. Robert Engelmeier to **DR. DOUGLAS PORR**

AMERICAN DENTAL SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGY HORACE WELLS SENIOR STUDENT AWARD, to the senior student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the field of dental anesthesiology, presented by Dr. Michael Cuddy and Dr. Joseph Giovannitti to **DR. BRAD BENNETT**



AMERICAN DENTAL SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGY STUDENT ESSAY AWARD, to a senior student in recognition of his or her excellent writing related to topics in dental anesthesiology, presented by Dr. Michael Cuddy and Dr. Joseph Giovannitti to **DR. JAIMIE MONG**



AMERICAN STUDENT DENTAL ASSOCIATION AWARD OF EXCELLENCE, to the senior student who has demonstrated leadership in the American Student Dental Association, presented by Dr. Christine Wankiiri-Hale to **DR. TAMAR SHRIKIAN**

LATHE BOWEN AWARD, to the senior student who most exemplifies the professionalism and strong moral and ethical values of Dr. Lathe Bowen, presented by Dr. Mark Ochs and Dr. Mark Sosovicka to **DR. RYAN MCCLOY**

ELLIOTT BRODIE AWARD, to the senior students who have demonstrated academic excellence and clinical competence, presented by Dr. Christine Wankiiri-Hale to **DR. LOUIS WENGER** (fraternity representative) and **DR. PEINI ZHU** (nonfraternity representative)

DENTSPLY MERIT AWARD, to the senior dental student who has shown accomplishment in removable denture prosthodontics, presented by Dr. Robert Engelmeier to **DR. JASON YANG**

PIERRE FAUCHARD ACADEMY CERTIFICATE OF MERIT, to a senior student for his or her outstanding leadership and dedication to the advancement of the profession, to **DR. PEINI ZHU**

W. ARTHUR GEORGE PROSTHODONTIC AWARD, to senior students who have excelled in removable and fixed prosthodontics, presented by Dr. Robert Engelmeier to **DR. SERENA HSIN** and **DR. ANGELA RENTSCHLER**

INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF DENTISTS AWARD, to graduating seniors who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and service, presented by Dr. Deborah Studen-Pavlovich to **DR. GEORGE HANKEWYCZ** and **DR. GREGORY SENCAK**

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ORAL IMPLANTOLOGISTS AWARD, to the senior student who displays the greatest interest in and commitment to oral implantology, presented by Dr. Steve Kukunas to **DR. JASON YANG**

HERMAN H. LANGKAMP AWARD, to the senior student whose activities reveal a talent for and an interest in a career in dental education, presented by Dr. Christine Wankiiri-Hale to **DR. MEGHAN BASTIN**

NORTHEASTERN SOCIETY OF PERIODONTISTS AWARD, to the outstanding senior student who has excelled in the field of periodontics, presented by Dr. Kelly Williams to **DR. MELANIE POMMER**

OMICRON KAPPA UPSILON, to the top 12 percent of the graduating class who rank highest in scholastic, technical, clinical, and professional achievement during the entire four-year dental curriculum, presented by Dr. Robert Weyant to **DR. KAITLYN BURGESS**, **DR. EMILY CHOU**, **DR. ZACHARY MILLS**, **DR. DOUGLAS PORR**, **DR. GREGORY SENCAK**, **DR. NICHOLAS SHIREY**, **DR. RICHARD VARGO**, **DR. LOUIS WENGER**, and **DR. PEINI ZHU**

GERALD ORNER AWARD, to a senior student for his or her proficiency in and dedication to dental research, presented by Dr. Alexandre Vieira to **DR. SERENA HSIN**



QUINTESSENCE AWARD FOR CLINICAL ACHIEVEMENT IN PERIODONTICS, to a senior student in recognition of his or her scholastic and/or clinical excellence in periodontics, presented by Dr. Kelly Williams to **DR. PEINI ZHU**

QUINTESSENCE AWARD FOR CLINICAL ACHIEVEMENT IN RESTORATIVE DENTISTRY, to a senior student in recognition of his or her scholastic and/or clinical excellence in restorative dentistry, presented by Dr. Snjezana Bagic to **DR. JAKE SHIRK**



QUINTESSENCE AWARD FOR RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENT, to a senior student in recognition of his or her scholastic and/or clinical excellence in research, presented by Dr. Alexandre Vieira to **DR. MATTHEW PHAM**



ROBERT RAPP AWARD OF DISTINCTION IN PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY, presented to a senior student who has excelled in the practice of pediatric dentistry, presented by Dr. Adriana Modesto Vieira to **DR. GREGORY SENCAK**

GILBERT N. ROBIN CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP, to a graduating senior in recognition of his or her dedication to continued professional excellence, presented by Dr. Christine Wankiiri-Hale to **DR. ANTHONY COLANGELO**



BRIAN D. STONE MEMORIAL AWARD, to the graduating senior who has shown outstanding clinical competence and a commitment to patients with special needs, presented by Dr. Lynne Taiclet to **DR. MATTHEW BREZINSKI**

WHIP MIX BEST OF THE BEST PROSTHODONTICS AWARD, to the senior student who has shown excellence in the study and clinical application of prosthodontics, presented by Dr. Robert Engelmeier to **DR. KENTON ANDRYC** ●



## 2015 DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM AWARDS

Each year, graduating students from the Dental Hygiene Program are recognized for their outstanding achievements and presented with the following awards:

ELLIOTT "STEVE" BRODIE AWARD FOR CLINICAL COMPETENCE, presented by the School of Dental Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh to a senior student who demonstrates outstanding clinical skills and comprehensive treatment planning, to **MS. ALINA M. HALUSIC**

COLGATE ORAL HEALTH ADVISOR STAR AWARD, presented by Colgate-Palmolive Company to a senior student who exhibits dedication and enjoyment of the dental hygiene profession, compassion in patient care, and enthusiasm for community service, to **MS. JASKIREN K. GILL**

DR. CLARK J. HOLLISTER AWARD FOR DENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION, presented by the Pennsylvania Dental Hygienists' Association to an outstanding graduating student who has shown ability and achievement in dental health education, to **MS. ANDREA E. NAPLEN**

HU-FRIEDY GOLDEN SCALER AWARD, presented by the Hu-Friedy dental instrument company to a senior student who exhibits outstanding clinical dental hygiene performance, to **MS. RENEE N. LEMMON**

SIGMA PHI ALPHA, the National Dental Hygiene Honor Society, elects members in the top 10 percent of their graduating class who rank highest in scholarship and character and who exhibit potential qualities for future growth, to **MS. ASHLEE L. ANTOSZYK** and **MS. ALINA M. HALUSIC**

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA DENTAL HYGIENISTS' ASSOCIATION OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD, presented by the Western Pennsylvania Dental Hygienists' Association to the senior student who has exhibited outstanding academic and clinical performance as well as professional demeanor, to **MS. ASHLEE L. ANTOSZYK** •

## 2015 FACULTY AND STAFF APPRECIATION AWARDS

Awards were presented to the following faculty and staff members chosen by the students for their outstanding service.



**CLASS OF 2015 AWARDS**, presented by Dr. Kenton Andryc  
**FACULTY AWARD:** Dr. Mark Sosovicka • **STAFF AWARD:** Ms. Dianna Cervi



**CLASS OF 2016 AWARDS**, presented by Mr. Ryan Orlosky  
**FACULTY AWARD:** Dr. Snjezana Bagic • **STAFF AWARD:** Ms. Terry Piazza



**CLASS OF 2017 AWARDS**, presented by Ms. Sammi Linkowski  
**FACULTY AWARD:** Dr. Marin Mandradjef • **STAFF AWARD:** Ms. Nadia Kasinec



**CLASS OF 2018 AWARDS**, presented by Mr. Sammy Gueringer  
**FACULTY AWARD:** Dr. Seth Weinberg • **STAFF AWARD:** Mrs. Tracey Wassel



Third-year dental student Ms. Megan McClain shows one of the girls participating in the CanTEEN Career Exploration event how to take an impression.

## CANTEEN CAREER EXPLORATION PROGRAM HELPS TO PROMOTE STEM CAREERS

The School of Dental Medicine, in cooperation with the Carnegie Science Center, highlighted dentistry and dental careers during a recent event for tween and teen girls held in the school's Simulation Clinic.

On Monday, March 30, 2015, a group of girls joined Assistant Professor and Director of Admissions Dr. Elizabeth Bilodeau, and several volunteers to experience being a dentist for a few hours. The girls spent the morning participating in hands-on activities such as pouring stone models and placing sealants on model teeth and listening to a short presentation about the advantages of a career in dental medicine.

This event was held as a part of CanTEEN Career Exploration, an innovative program that inspires girls to see themselves in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) careers through gaming and online activities. The initiative encourages tweens and teens to challenge themselves and expand their knowledge of diverse STEM subject matter with connections to related professions, potential career paths, and women making a difference. CanTEEN is currently composed of an interactive game and online resource. It uses innovative gaming elements and a sense of community to teach, enrich, and encourage youths in pursuit of their future professional selves.

"The Carnegie Science Center program is a wonderful way for girls to explore STEM careers. Current Pitt dental medicine students served as mentors and teachers to the girls. It was an incredibly successful event, and we were thrilled to be a part of it," says Dr. Bilodeau.

You can view photos from this and many other School of Dental Medicine events by visiting [flickr.com](https://www.flickr.com/photos/schoolofdentalmedicine/) and searching for University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. •

## AMERICAN STUDENT DENTAL ASSOCIATION

## Steel City Dental Expo 2015

**Thursday, September 24, 2015**  
**Wyndham Pittsburgh University Center,**  
**100 Lytton Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213**

PRESENTATION: **8:30 a.m.–noon**  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER: **Dr. Chris Salierno, DDS**  
VENDOR FAIR: **1:30–4 p.m.**

The American Student Dental Association (ASDA) at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine is proud to announce the eighth annual ASDA Steel City Dental Expo. All students, residents, faculty, and alumni are invited to attend the presentation and a keynote address by Dr. Chris Salierno, who will be presenting about lessons on dental implants, practice management, and cosmetic dentistry in the morning. A vendor fair will follow in the afternoon.

More details will be available on our Web site, but please save the date for this year's event. ASDA looks forward to making this year's expo the best ever!







## STUDENTS GIVE ATHLETES MORE REASONS TO SMILE

During the 2015 Special Olympics Pennsylvania Winter Games, athletes had the opportunity to participate in Special Smiles, a program launched by the Special Olympics Healthy Athletes program in 1997 that provides free dental screenings, preventive treatment, and oral health education.

Twenty students and four faculty members from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine attended the event this year. The faculty members—Dr. Matthew Cooke, Dr. Lynne Taiclet, Dr. David Veronesi, and Dr. Jason Cho—provided guidance to the students as they screened the athletes. The students screened 64 athletes and fitted 18 of them with mouth guards for the games.



Students from all four classes at the School of Dental Medicine provided screenings for the athletes, volunteer coaches, and student volunteers who participated in the event.

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

Joshua Gersten, a third-year DMD student, said that one of the athletes approached him during dinner one

evening and told him that he wore his mouth guard the whole time that he was participating in a game.

"It's rewarding to see the athletes getting excited about mouth guards and to educate them about the importance of maintaining good oral health," said Gersten. ●

## PITT GIVES KIDS A SMILE WITH FREE DENTAL CARE

Give Kids a Smile (GKAS) Day was celebrated at the University of Pittsburgh on January 30 and February 20, 2015. This year's theme was the Disney movie *Frozen*, and the department was awash in icy blue, silver, and white decor. Cutout paper characters from the animated film were on display, and a "make your own snowman" craft area was well stocked for patients and their families to be creative while they waited.

Faculty and staff members, residents, and students all contributed their expertise by donating their time to provide free preventive services to the children and adolescents who attended. GKAS Day ensured that extensive treatment services and preventive care for attendees included, but was not limited to, general anesthesia cases, restorations, extractions, and sealant applications.

Fifty-two patients were seen on the first day by students in the DMD and dental hygiene programs, faculty and staff members in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry and dental hygiene area, and residents from various other dental medicine departments.

Representatives from the Student Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry began planning in November to make this year's event a success. Materials donated by the School of Dental Medicine to support the event totaled approximately \$14,000. The dental school especially thanks Henry Schein, Inc., and the Colgate-Palmolive Company for their support of the event.

You can view photos from this and many other School of Dental Medicine events by visiting [flickr.com](https://www.flickr.com/photos/universityofpittsburgh/) and searching for University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine.

The *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* and *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* both covered the event. Photos from the event are posted on their daily photo slide shows on the TRIB LIVE site at [triblive.com/home/photos](http://triblive.com/home/photos) and the *Post-Gazette* Photos of the Day page at [post-gazette.com/photo](http://post-gazette.com/photo).

On August 21, 2015, Summer Smiles, made possible through the generosity of Dr. Edward (DMD '78) and Mrs. Jansue Korenman and other donors, will provide free exams, cleanings, fluoride application, and radiographs to the patients who participated in the annual Give Kids A Smile Days as well as other uninsured children and adolescents in the metropolitan Pittsburgh area. Dr. Korenman has been a part-time faculty member in the School of Dental Medicine for 35 years. Please see our Web site for more information about this event. If you would like to support Summer Smiles in the future, please contact Mr. Paul Casey at 412-383-7544. ●







## A CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY AND BLACK HISTORY IN THE HEALTH SCIENCES

On Thursday, February 19, 2015, the University of Pittsburgh chapters of the Student National Dental Association and the Student National Medical Association cooperatively held the Celebration of Diversity and Black History in the Health Sciences event to raise awareness of and show respect for the need for diversity in the health sciences professions.

The keynote speaker was Paula Davis, assistant vice chancellor for health sciences diversity at Pitt. Ms. Davis spoke about the need to keep moving in pursuit of your goals in spite of the hardships and hurdles that can get in the way.

The event was organized by third-year DMD student Arielle Forbes and supported by faculty, staff, and students from Pitt's Schools of Dental Medicine and Medicine. Attendees included faculty; staff; students; clinicians; and Dr. Tracey Conti, director of family medicine at UPMC McKeesport. Several members of the Pitt Premedical Organization for Minority Students, an undergraduate student group that promotes careers in the health sciences, also attended the event. •



Pictured from left to right are Ms. Samiksha Gulrajani, Ms. Arielle Forbes, and Dr. Tamar Shrikian.

## PITT DENTAL INSPIRES BIG IDEAS

Two of the 2015 Randall Family Big Idea Competition's top-winning teams, Oxi-Dent and Oculearn, presented innovative designs for future dental technology developed with the help of the School of Dental Medicine.

Since its inception in 2009, the Randall Family Big Idea Competition has been open to all University of Pittsburgh undergraduate and graduate students across all schools and departments. It is an experience-based learning opportunity that encourages Pitt students to form their own interdisciplinary teams, develop a product, and pursue bringing their product to market.

This year, two of the top-winning teams worked with School of Dental Medicine faculty, alumni, and student consultants with the aim of improving dental technology for students, faculty, and patients.

Associate Dean for Research Dr. Charles S. Sfeir served as a mentor for the grand prize-winning team, Oxi-Dent, which received \$25,000 toward the development of its technology. Pitt students consulted with Dr. Sfeir on an idea to treat peri-implantitis and featured Pitt dental alumnus Dr. Gary Machiko (DMD '82), who provided commentary about peri-implantitis, in the video presentation. The group proposes that the application of its Oxi-Dent coating on dental implants prior to insertion will stop and prevent inflammation that frequently results from the dental implant procedure.

The Oculearn team placed first in the People's Choice competition and placed third overall. The team incorporated footage filmed in the School of Dental Medicine's simulation clinic for a high degree of authenticity in its video. Oculearn's idea to develop a virtual 3-D environment program to track learners' movements is intended to provide real-time instruction to dental students in the clinic and at home by tracking their movements and providing feedback.

The teams would like to thank everyone involved and feel that the input from dental students was tremendously beneficial to developing, validating, and demonstrating their ideas. •



Team Oculearn



Participants in the Hinman Student Research Symposium

## SHAYA REPRESENTS SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE AT HINMAN STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Dr. Mandana Shaya (DMD '15) attended the 2015 Hinman Student Research Symposium, a national meeting that features oral and poster presentations of research studies by dental students and graduate trainees from dental schools across North America.

Dr. Shaya was the 2014 recipient of a travel award given to a student by the School of Dental Medicine to partially defray the cost of attending the symposium. This year's symposium featured presentations by 88 students representing 47 dental schools in 28 states, the District of Columbia, and three Canadian provinces. Dr. Shaya presented her poster, titled "Prevalence of Periodontal Disease among Low-income Discount School Patients." The keynote speaker was Dr. Lawrence A. Tabak, senior investigator at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research and principal deputy director of the National Institutes of Health. •

## ADA/PDA SIGNING DAY 2015

The School of Dental Medicine Class of 2015 participated in the American Dental Association (ADA) National Signing Day on March 5. This annual event gives fourth-year dental students the chance to meet with Pennsylvania Dental Association (PDA) staff members to learn more about the benefits and resources offered by PDA and ADA. •

Pictured from left to right are PDA Ninth District trustee Dr. Joe Ross; Andrea Hoover, PDA component and membership coordinator; PDA President elect and assistant professor in the School of Dental Medicine Dr. Herbert L. Ray; Michelle Rozman, PDA member services coordinator; and Bridget Baxter, ADA outreach manager, client services.

## CLASS CUP BOWLING

The Pitt dental medicine student Class Cup Bowling Tournament took place the evening of Thursday, February 26, 2015, at Arsenal Bowling Lanes in Pittsburgh. Bowlers from all four classes participated, and the third-year students took home first place. •



Fourth-year students pictured from left to right are, front row, John Full, Paige Erwin, and Spencer Hua and, back row, Mike McClain, Josh John, and S.K. Seo.

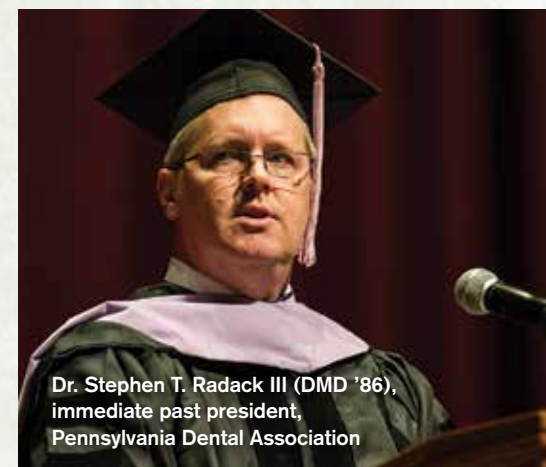
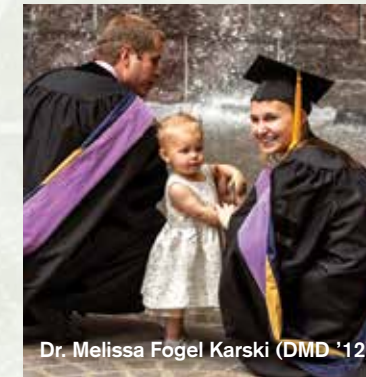
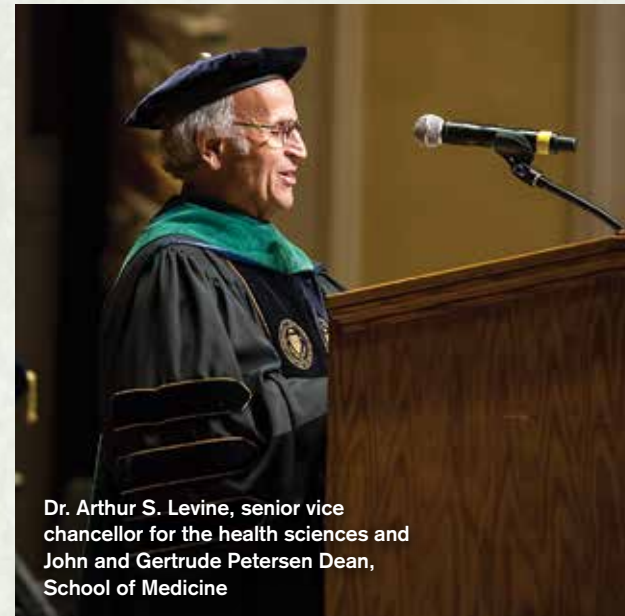




# STUDENTS

## 2015 DIPLOMA CEREMONY

THE SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE WELCOMED GUEST SPEAKER PENNSYLVANIA DENTAL ASSOCIATION IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT DR. STEPHEN RADACK III (DMD '86) AT THE ANNUAL DIPLOMA CEREMONY ON MAY 16 AT HEINZ HALL FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS IN CELEBRATION OF THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2015.





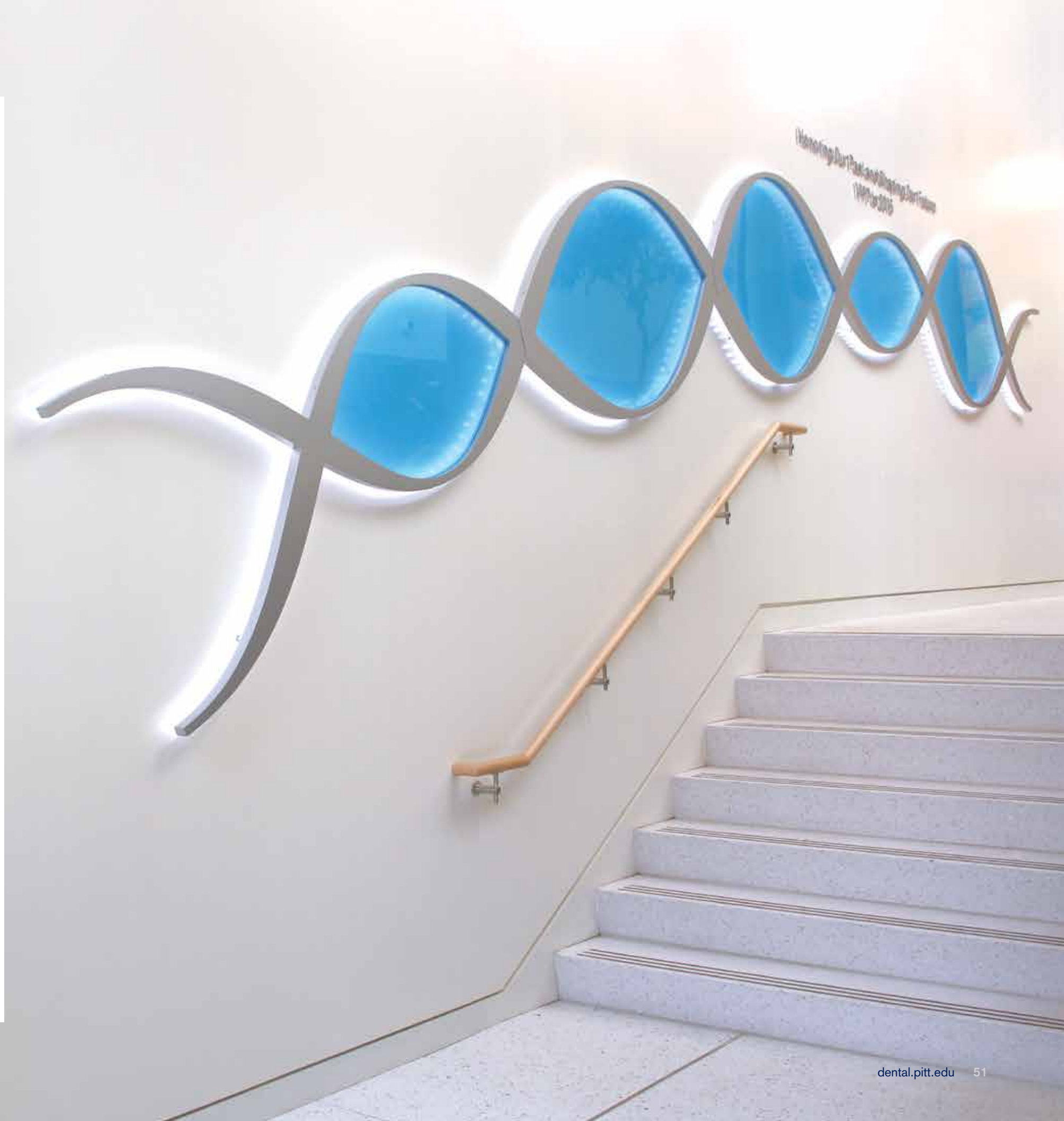


## Honoring Our Past and Shaping Our Future

The University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine Research Pavilion and Atrium adjacent to Salk Hall have been completed. The new facility, shared with the School of Pharmacy, opened its doors to faculty and staff in May 2015. This important addition is the school's largest expansion since the dedication of the Salk Hall Annex in 1967 and provides an additional 23,000 square feet of space dedicated almost entirely to ongoing research at the School of Dental Medicine. The facility will be home to new state-of-the-art laboratories, enabling the school to continue to attract and retain top researchers and clinicians from around the world.

The atrium features a prominent donor display wall, the DNA Donor Display, identifying the many individuals who have supported the School of Dental Medicine with gifts totaling \$10,000 or more made between 1997 and 2016. There is still time to support the school and become part of this outstanding opportunity.

The DNA Donor Display campaign will continue into the middle of 2016. To learn more about how to support the School of Dental Medicine or the research taking place at the school, please contact **Mr. Paul Casey** at **412-383-7544** or **pbc8@pitt.edu**.







# University of Pittsburgh

## School of Dental Medicine

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Pittsburgh, PA 15261-1933

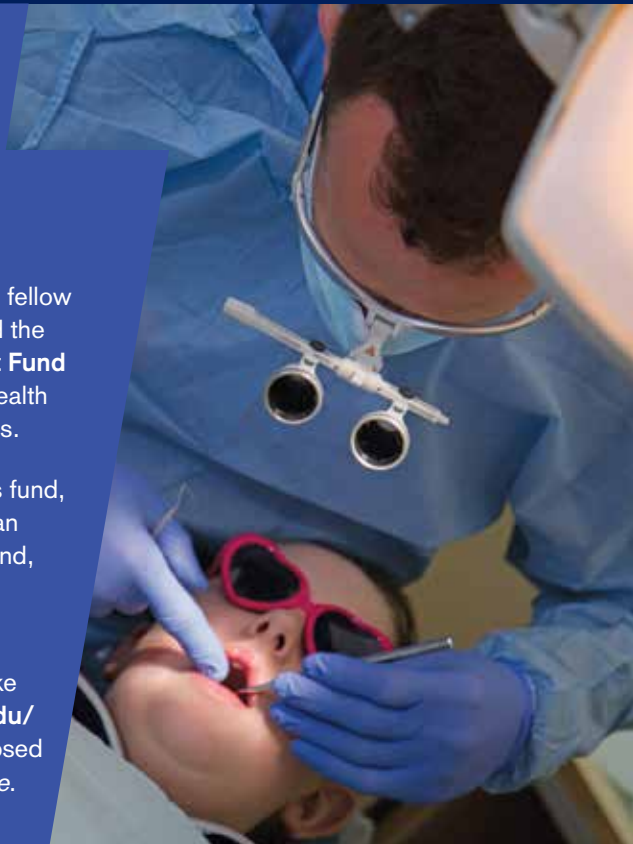
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### Supporting Pennsylvania dental students couldn't be easier.

Dr. James Desetti (DDS '52), along with fellow alumni from Pennsylvania, established the **Keystone Dental Student Endowment Fund** to assist students from the commonwealth with their dental education expenses.

If you have an interest in supporting this fund, or to learn how you or your class can establish an endowed scholarship fund, please contact Mr. Paul Casey at 412-383-7544.

For your convenience, you can make your donation online at [dental.pitt.edu/make-gift](http://dental.pitt.edu/make-gift), or use the envelope enclosed in this issue of *Pitt Dental Medicine*.



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