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University of  
Pittsburgh

School of Dental Medicine



## ALUMNI NEWSLETTER February 2021

### A Message from Dean Costello





The changing of our calendars to 2021 brought more excitement than the usual celebration of a new year. This is partially because we are hopeful that the peak of the pandemic is behind us. But more of my excitement for 2021 is due to our school celebrating its 125th anniversary.

This year, we will enjoy telling many of the important stories of the history of our amazing School of Dental Medicine. I think you will enjoy celebrating the incredible impact and stature that Pitt Dental Medicine has had since our founding. We want this year to represent a celebration of the people who have made Pitt Dental Medicine special for so many years. Thank you for being an important part of our legacy.

For 125 years, the amazing people from our School of Dental Medicine at Pitt have been working to improve oral and craniofacial health. Although this started simply enough as a regional goal, we have expanded our influence nationally and internationally to become world leaders in our mission of improving oral health through teaching, research, and service. This is certainly reason for us to celebrate! I am fairly sure that all of us are ready to move on to thoughts of celebration and success.

Our celebration of our 125th anniversary will officially kick-off on Feb. 23, which is also our annual Pitt Day of Giving. Last year, you helped to make us one of the stars of Pitt Day of Giving and I hope we will once again show the Pitt community how committed we are to supporting our students and the future of our school.

I am also excited to announce that we have established a new scholarship fund exclusively for students from underrepresented groups at our school. This is another important step in showing our commitment to diversity and inclusion. When you support us on Pitt Day of Giving, I hope you will consider directing your gift to this new scholarship fund that will help minority students attend Pitt Dental Medicine.

We should all feel tremendously proud for being a part of such an impactful history. For 125 years, we have been making the world a better place and I know that we are not done innovating and doing great things for the public and our profession. Our school will continue to carry on this very important mission for many years to come. Together, our Pitt Dental Medicine family bridges our proud past to a bright future.

Yours in Service,

Bernard J. Costello DMD, MD  
Dean and Thomas W. Braun Endowed Professor

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## Pitt Day of Giving



On Feb. 23, we will celebrate our annual day of giving to commemorate the University of Pittsburgh's founding in 1787. On Pitt Day of Giving, members of the community—alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and students—are asked to make a gift to schools, departments, or initiatives that are most important to them.

We will also launch our 125th anniversary celebration on Pitt Day of Giving, happening on Feb. 23. Last year, we placed second in the Raise the Bar Challenge, resulting in \$15,000 of bonus funds from our University. Let's do it again this year! With your support, you help our school shine brightly.

Please consider giving to one of your favorite Pitt Dental Medicine initiatives on Feb. 23!

[Give Now](#)

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## Pitt Dental Medicine Celebrates 125 Years



Watch your inbox for announcements pertaining to this year's schedule of events that commemorate our 125th anniversary. We will host the Living Our Legacy Series of virtual panel discussions in March, April, and May that will focus on our school history, alumni athletes, and research. We hope to have in-person events later this year—events like a golf outing this summer, Alumni Weekend in the fall, and the return of our Dean's Scholarship Ball. The in-person events are still contingent on safety guidelines surrounding the pandemic, so please watch your emails and [check our website for updates](#) throughout the year for more information.

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## Living Our Legacy Series

Please register now for the first of our Living Our Legacy Series, a virtual panel discussion celebrating our history, "Bridging Our Proud Past to a Bright Future," on March 4 at 7 p.m. EST.

Associate Professor and Director of UDHS Oral Pathology Laboratory Elizabeth Bilodeau has been working on a "Documenting our History" project and will host this online live event. Respected panel members include Professor Emeritus and Dean Emeritus Dean Thomas W. Braun (DEN '73, '77), Professor Emeritus and Senior Associate Dean Emeritus Dennis N. Ranalli (DEN '82), Clinical Associate Professor Angelina Riccelli (DEN '74), and Adjunct Assistant Professor in Orthodontics/Dentofacial Orthopedics Thomas D. Forrest (DEN '79, '89) will also join to share anecdotes and insight. Join us for this wonderful opportunity to celebrate our history.

Join us for this wonderful opportunity to hear their anecdotes and insights to help us celebrate our 125th anniversary!

[Register Now](#)

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## Meet Our New Alumni Coordinator



We are excited to welcome Alumni Coordinator Rebecca Anthony ([rea73@pitt.edu](mailto:rea73@pitt.edu)) to our Pitt Dental Medicine team. Becca joined Pitt Dental Medicine in mid-January and has valuable development experience from the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. During her free time, she enjoys reading, yoga, playing the oboe, and spending time with her family. She is currently working to earn her MBA. Her dedication, creativity, and friendliness will be an asset to our team. Please join us in welcoming Becca!

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## A Message from Continuing Dental Education

Friends and Colleagues,

We want to thank you for your support of Pitt Dental Medicine Continuing Education (CE) through the years, and we want to touch base on our upcoming CE efforts. We take our responsibility seriously to continue to provide you with quality CE offerings, even in these challenging and unprecedented times. This is especially pertinent in a re-licensure year in Pennsylvania (March 31, 2021).

Since we are unable to offer in-person courses at our 13 on-campus and off-campus sites, we have decided to offer multiple live webinars, which will be available to everyone. We are scheduling courses of varying lengths (anywhere from two to six hours) on various days and times to try to accommodate as many people as possible. We have several courses scheduled in 2021 already and are continuing to add many more, so we encourage you to check out our course calendar or visit our [website](#) for the latest updates.

We also have a few self-study CE courses that you can take at your convenience. Watch recorded video content, take a short quiz, complete an evaluation, and print your own completion certificate.

For any questions, contact Lori Burkette ([llb4@pitt.edu](mailto:llb4@pitt.edu)), Tracy Bauer ([tbb17@pitt.edu](mailto:tbb17@pitt.edu)), or call 412-648-8370.

We hope you will take advantage of these offerings. We appreciate your commitment to continuing education, and we look forward to continuing to meet your needs.

Here's hoping 2021 will be a better new year for all of us.

Joe Ambrosino, DMD, MPM, MS, FAGD  
Director, Center for Continuing Dental Education  
Instructor, Dental Public Health

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