

## FIRST STEPS to Dentistry



The semester is off to a great start, and I would like to begin this issue of *Mdental* by sharing some exciting news with you. A round of renovations, which will include moving our Faculty Practice Clinics from the fourth floor to the first, is scheduled to begin this fall. These changes, further described in this issue, are the first step in establishing our new clinical centers, where multidisciplinary teams of our expert faculty will be able to offer highly specialized treatments to patients with complex medical needs.

We're also entering the second phase of our universitywide Catalyst Campaign. Thus far, the School of Dentistry has raised 62 percent of its campaign goal of \$30 million. You can read more in this issue about the campaign and about Charles A. Doring, DDS '87, MAGD, our school's volunteer campaign chair.

There is, of course, much else to talk about. My congratulations go to Huakun Xu, PhD, MS, professor in the Division of Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering, who recently received the 2018 International Association for Dental Research (IADR) Distinguished Scientist Isaac Schour Memorial Award. News about this prestigious award, which recognizes scientists who bring about significant advances in oral health through their work in the field of dental and craniofacial research, appears in this issue. Several other faculty members also presented papers at the IADR conference in July.

Another feature story in this issue profiles three members of our Dean's Faculty who volunteer in our clinics, teaching and mentoring our students. Their stories shine a spotlight on this essential program, which encompasses more than 200 alumni and other dental professionals who share invaluable time, critical knowledge, and irreplaceable practical experience with our dental and dental hygiene students. I would like to express my deep appreciation to our 2018-19 Dean's Faculty members.

Finally, I am happy to announce that last May, we successfully hosted a site visit from the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association.

Accreditation occurs every seven years, and, although preparing for it is a large undertaking, the process offers the school a chance to highlight the many



things it does so well. I am proud of how we serve our community as described in our vision statement — through education, patient care, research, public service, and global engagement. I also am proud of our talented students, who will be the oral health leaders of tomorrow, and I'm grateful to all those faculty and staff members whose efforts contributed greatly to our successful accreditation process.

**I look forward to sharing more good news about our school in the months to come.**

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Reynolds". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Mark A. Reynolds, DDS '86, PhD**  
*Dean and Professor*

## UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

### ON THE COVER

*UMB CURE Scholar Adrian Quinones learns techniques from Imani Fuller, a student at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, during a lab at Planet Smilez Discovering Dentistry Camp in June 2018.*

PHOTO BY TRACEY BROWN

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Find *Mdental* online at [www.dental.umaryland.edu/Mdental/](http://www.dental.umaryland.edu/Mdental/).

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# UMSOD IN THE NEWS

BY HOLLY SELBY

From a national competition for brainiacs to an initiative aimed at helping to combat the opioid crisis, the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD) is making news. Here's a sample of UMSOD stories recently highlighted in the media:

**Dentistry Today**, **Technical.ly**, and **WBAL-TV** report (March 2, March 20, April 2) how UMSOD is working with DrFirst, a Maryland-based health care technology company, to combat opioid abuse using innovative e-prescribing and communications technology in the school's clinics.

An article in **Vice** (March 14) investigating products touted as "natural" cites research into charcoal-based tooth-cleaning products by John Brooks, DDS, and Nasir Bashirelahi, PhD, professors in the Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences; and Mark A. Reynolds, DDS '86, PhD, UMSOD dean and professor.

Contestants in the USA Brain Bee Championship, founded by Norbert Myslinski, PhD, professor in the Department of Neural and Pain Sciences, explain to **The Baltimore Sun** (March 16) why they like to compete.

First-year dental students Benjamin Horn, LaShonda Shepherd, and Dan Yang describe what it's like to work in the school's "Dream Room" in the fourth installment of a series published in **ADA News** (June 4) about life as a UMSOD student.

To read more about UMSOD in the media, visit [www.dental.umaryland.edu/about/media-mentions/](http://www.dental.umaryland.edu/about/media-mentions/).

A Neurobiology Seminar  
March 15 - 18, 2018, Baltimore, Maryland  
**Building Better Brains to Fight Brain Disorders**

**Akhil Kondepudi of Missouri was the 2018 USA Brain Bee winner.**



▶ Kaden Johnson, a Green Street Academy seventh-grade student, learns about composites at UMSOD's Planet Smilez.

PHOTO BY  
SCOTT HESEL

## Laughter and Lessons at UMSOD Summer Dentistry Camp

The University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD) hosted 15 Baltimore City middle school students at the Planet Smilez Discovering Dentistry Camp in June. Founded by UMSOD student Kathryn Pawlak, the weeklong event is part of the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) CURE Scholars Program, a National Cancer Institute (NCI)-supported initiative designed to inspire a new generation of scientists.

The young campers, who attend Franklin Square Elementary/Middle School, Green Street Academy, or Southwest Baltimore Charter School, learned about oral health professions in a fun-filled setting that featured educational games, hands-on activities, and one-on-one exposure to leaders in the field. Nearly 30 students, faculty members, and alumni volunteered to help.

At the camp, participants learned about teeth and their functions; the negative effects of soda, sugar, acid, and smoking; the power of fluoride and protective sealants; and how only a dentist can repair a tooth cavity. The students also participated in activities that tested their brushing prowess, hand dexterity, and ability to place a composite restoration.

Launched in 2015, UMB CURE, part of the NCI's CURE (Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences), is the first program to begin with middle school students.

## INNOVATIVE NEW PRACTICE-BASED RESEARCH NETWORK Seeks Participants

The University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD) recently launched a new practice-based research network and is recruiting practicing oral health professionals to gather information that will be used to answer important clinical questions.

Called the Maryland Practice-Based Research Network in Dentistry (MPresD), the initiative aims to build a team of colleagues who will collaborate on research by sharing data gathered through their daily practice. The program's objective is to facilitate the transfer of scientific advances into dental practices and improve the way practitioners meet patients' needs.

Organized by Thomas W. Oates, DMD, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics, MPresD had a successful soft launch last spring that included a high rate of UMSOD alumni



participation in a survey studying perceptions of e-cigarette use. Full online registration for the program is now available, and Oates hopes to engage with initial registrants to determine future topics.

"We want to learn from practitioners the most salient issues and choose our direction from there," Oates says.

MPresD participants may choose from several membership options ranging from full participation in patient studies and data collection to a smaller-scale informational membership that includes access to study results and continuing education opportunities. Members may change their level of participation at any time.

To learn more or register, Oates encourages interested alumni to visit [www.dental.umaryland.edu/mpresd](http://www.dental.umaryland.edu/mpresd).

— SCOTT HESEL

## UMSOD OFFERS NEW IMPLANTOLOGY COURSE



The University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD) this fall launched a comprehensive, hands-on continuing education program aimed at preparing practicing dentists to perform implants.

"This curriculum is designed to impart the knowledge, skill set, and confidence needed to deliver one of the most highly sought services in dentistry today," says Keith W. Groves, DMin, MPC, executive director of UMSOD's Office of Institutional Advancement, which includes continuing education.

The new course, which costs \$14,400, is an intensive two-year program composed of lectures and hands-on training. During the course, which is one of only a handful offered in the country, participants will have the opportunity to treat patients. They also will earn 200 credit hours accepted toward certification by the American Academy of Implant Dentistry, the International Congress of Oral Implantologists, and the American Board of Oral Implantology.

— GWEN FARISS NEWMAN

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

visit [www.dental.umaryland.edu/ce](http://www.dental.umaryland.edu/ce).

# BY THE NUMBERS

University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD) students and faculty provide many free services, including screenings and treatments to members of the community in the Baltimore region. Here are a few highlights:



## 4,307 TEETH SEALED

since UMSOD's Division of Dental Hygiene launched its Sealant Saturday program in 2006 in partnership with the American Association of Women Dentists student group and the Greater Baltimore Dental Hygienists' Association



## 950 PATIENTS TREATED

at the annual Baltimore Mission of Mercy, a two-day event organized in tandem with United Way of Central Maryland. 275 UMSOD volunteers performed 2,000 extractions, 200 fillings, and 160 preventive treatments.

## 6,196 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

performed by Class of 2018 DDS students

## 2,300 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

performed by Class of 2018 dental hygiene students

## 84 ORAL HEALTH SCREENINGS

provided by dental hygiene students to pregnant women at the University of Maryland Medical Center's Women's Health Center

## 453 CHILDREN

participated in the National Museum of Dentistry's field trip grant program

## 101 ATHLETES TREATED AT SPECIAL OLYMPICS MARYLAND

17 received mouth guards, 91 received topical fluoride varnish applications

## 899 ORAL CANCER SCREENINGS

conducted during the Baltimore Mission of Mercy event and by the Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Society at local community events, including the SNDA WALK and an oral cancer screening day in College Park

COMPILED BY GWEN FARISS NEWMAN



**NOTE:** Unless noted, volunteer hours were performed between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2018.

# UMSOD SHINES AT INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

BY JOEL KABOT

Huakun Xu, PhD, MS, professor in the University of Maryland School of Dentistry's (UMSOD) Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics and director of the Division of Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering, is the 2018 recipient of the Distinguished Scientist Isaac Schour Memorial Award. Presented by the International Association for Dental Research (IADR), the honor recognizes exceptional accomplishments in tissue engineering, tissue regeneration, and stem cell research. It was announced in July at the IADR annual conference in London.

"Support from the school and department made this possible," Xu said. "Both have been very supportive of bone research and tissue engineering, and the dean [Mark A. Reynolds, DDS '86, PhD] has made bone research a major priority."

"Dr. Xu is a leader in developing new and therapeutic dental materials and stem cell constructs for tissue regeneration," Reynolds said. "His discoveries and work offer great promise of significantly advancing the treatment of oral and craniofacial diseases."

The IADR conference drew thousands of researchers from around the globe, including several other UMSOD faculty members and students who participated in competitions and presented abstracts.

Vivek Thumbigere-Math, BDS, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics, Division of Periodontics, participated in the

Joseph Lister Award for New Investigators competition. One of only 10 scientists selected from around the world to compete for the award, Thumbigere-Math qualified by placing second in a preliminary contest at the American Association for Dental Research's annual meeting in March.

His presentation was based on his research on osteoclasts, which are bone-eating cells. Using next-generation RNA sequencing and ChIP sequencing, Thumbigere-Math is trying to understand, at the genome level, what causes some osteoclasts to become overly active.

"This research is applicable beyond just periodontal disease," he explained, offering osteoporosis and rheumatoid arthritis as examples. "The goal is to get clinical relevance."

Other faculty members who presented at the IADR general session included Mary Beth Aichelmann-Reidy, DDS, clinical associate professor in Advanced Oral

Sciences and Therapeutics and chief of the Division of Periodontics; Kuei-Ling Hsu, DDS, MS, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Orthodontics and Pediatric Dentistry, Division of Pediatric Dentistry; and Se-Lim Oh, DMD, MS, clinical assistant professor in Periodontics. Shashank Joshi, BDS, MBA, resident in Periodontics, presented a poster. Additionally, Man-Kyo Chung, DMD, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Neural and Pain Sciences, spoke at a pain symposium.

During his 11 years at UMSOD, Xu has built a highly productive multidisciplinary research team and established collaborations with other researchers. Collectively, its members have generated more than 10 patents or pending patents and published nearly 250 peer-reviewed articles. "The [Schour] award is really a recognition of our group and collaborators," he noted.



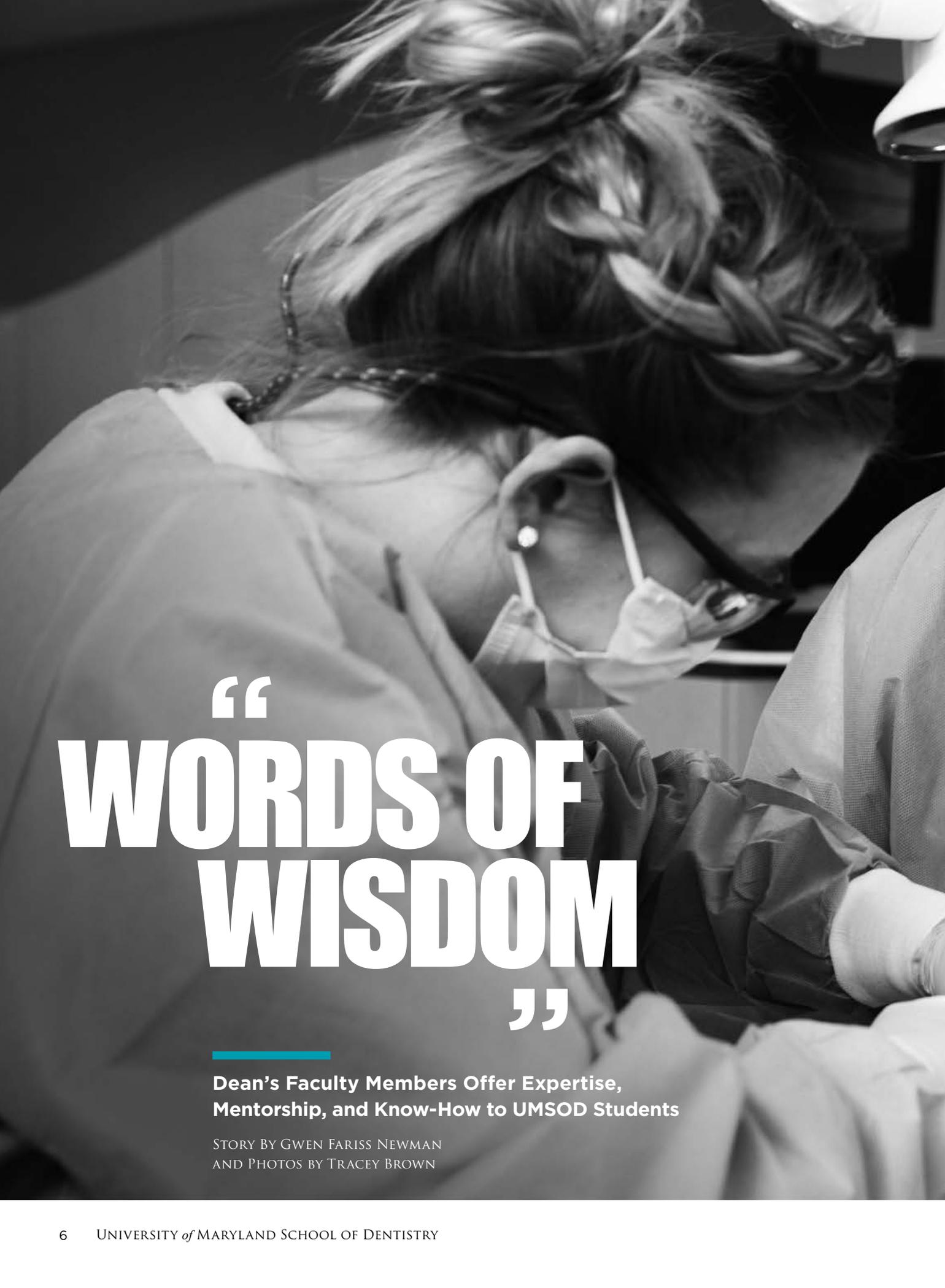
▲ Vivek Thumbigere-Math

◀ Huakun Xu



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

about Xu's research, visit  
[www.dental.umaryland.edu/Xu](http://www.dental.umaryland.edu/Xu).



“  
**WORDS OF  
WISDOM**  
”

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**Dean's Faculty Members Offer Expertise,  
Mentorship, and Know-How to UMSOD Students**

STORY BY GWEN FARISS NEWMAN  
AND PHOTOS BY TRACEY BROWN



DR. R. CHESKIS  
Deans Faculty

# A

## T THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY (UMSOD), A GROUP OF EXPERIENCED ORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS VOLUNTEERS IN THE SCHOOL'S CLINICS, ASSISTING, ADVISING, OVERSEEING, AND MENTORING DENTAL STUDENTS. KNOWN AS THE DEAN'S FACULTY PROGRAM, THE 14-YEAR-OLD INITIATIVE HAS GROWN FROM ABOUT 40 VOLUNTEERS A YEAR TO MORE THAN 200.

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Members of this vital program include community practitioners and recently retired professionals. Some are alumni, others are not. Some travel a few miles to serve in the clinics, others commute from as far away as New Jersey or Virginia. Last year, they donated more than 20,000 hours to the school.

Their most valuable gifts, however, may come in the form of wisdom, empathy, and practical know-how gained through years of patient care.

Spotlighted here are three Dean's Faculty members who share their experiences.

### CONNECTING MATTERS

**Chris Liang, DDS '98**, has vivid childhood memories of watching his father practice dentistry. He loved the way his father worked with his hands, but he was captivated by the interaction between dentist and patient. Later, as a student at UMSOD, Liang enjoyed the connections he formed with peers, professors, and patients. Together, he says, those early experiences shaped his views about the value of one-on-one relationships. It's little wonder that less than a decade after graduating from UMSOD, Liang was back on campus — as a Dean's Faculty volunteer.

"I like interacting with younger dentists who want to learn," says Liang, who runs a practice alongside his father with offices in Potomac, Md., College Park, Md., and Washington, D.C. A member of the Dean's Faculty since 2006, Liang commutes an hour each way every other Thursday to interact with students. Whether demonstrating the latest technologies and procedures or discussing a treatment plan drawn up by a student, Liang is energized by sharing what he knows with other aspiring dentists — just as his father did.

Liang — a member of the American Dental Association's House of Delegates; UMSOD's Board of Visitors; and the Maryland State Dental Association Charitable and Education Foundation's executive board as well as a past member of UMSOD's Alumni Association Board of Directors — brings a wealth of knowledge about dentistry to the program.

That broad experience with professional dentistry associations is of great value to an aspiring practitioner, says Chris Scott, DDS '15, who studied with Liang. Now UMSOD's chief orthodontic resident, Scott considers the Dean's Faculty a real asset to the school. "Whenever prospective residents come to the school, I always spotlight the Dean's Faculty Program," Scott says.



Chris Liang ▲

“

These volunteers come to our clinic with a wide range of treatment modalities and experience,”

Scott adds. “That insight empowers us to go into any setting and hit the ground running.

”

Liang, who in his spare time likes skiing, playing tennis, and fishing, says volunteering as a Dean’s Faculty member has been a two-way street. Not only has he enjoyed sharing his knowledge, but he’s picked up a few things, too.

“About 10 years ago, I learned about social media from residents in the clinic. Now it’s part of my daily routine,” says Liang, who uses Facebook to connect with peers and follow discussions within the field. “At first I dismissed it as just a passing fancy, but now I see its value.”

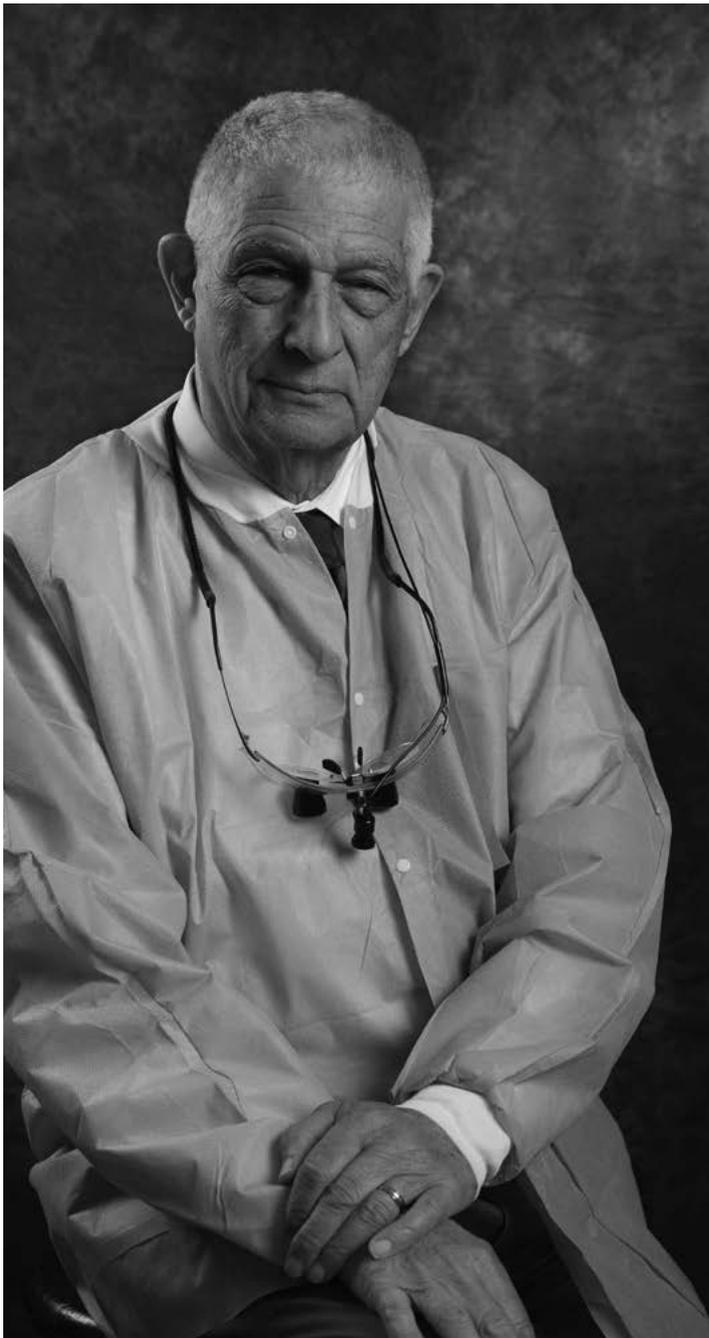
### THE ‘AHA MOMENT’

Since 2013, retired dentist **Richard Cheskis, DDS**, has volunteered 2½ days a week as a Dean’s Faculty member. Witnessing the moment when a student “gets it” keeps him coming back to UMSOD.

“The students learn very quickly,” he says. “The hand skills take longer to perfect, but if you stick with them long enough, you get to see that ‘aha moment’ when they master a skill, and from that point on, they’re not afraid.”

A 1959 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Dentistry, Cheskis practiced dentistry in Severna Park, Md., before retiring in February 2013. Two months later, he was volunteering at UMSOD.

“I’d always wanted to teach,” he explains. “And I love it. I really enjoy interacting with students. In the morning, I’m with first-year students. In the afternoon, I work with third- and fourth-year students. And I’m not sure which is more enjoyable. I get to see them when they first arrive, then later in the program, and I love seeing how they mature and how fast they pick things up.”



▲  
**Richard  
Cheskis**

For Cheskis — a golfer, past president of the Greater Severna Park Athletic Association, and former director of a soccer program — the camaraderie with students and faculty is greatly rewarding.

“When you’re in private practice, you’re not really working with other dentists,” he says. “Here, we go out to lunch and engage in a lot of conversations. You also get to see new technology coming out and can be a part of that change in dentistry as it occurs.”

Cheskis relishes sharing what he’s learned in a lifetime of practice with young professionals, whether how to effectively place a crown or run the business side of a practice.



**You get up, you come here, and you enjoy it. You’re not stressed out or on a time clock,” Cheskis says. “The more you’re here, the better it is. You forge a closer relationship with the students.**



Margo Rubin, DDS ’18, values the one-on-one interactions. “In school, we’re kind of learning by the book. But [Dean’s Faculty members] spend the majority of their time in private practice and draw from the most recent and relevant experiences clinically. I feel we grow the most from that exposure and their instant feedback.”

Cheskis’ willingness to share new ways of looking at or addressing situations is invaluable, Rubin says. “Dr. Cheskis is very encouraging. He wants you to learn things on your own, but he’s a safety net if you need one. I remember in pre-clinic, he’d offer a couple of ways to do a restoration. And that’s the only way to learn: Looking at your options and putting them into practice.”

## LEADING THE WAY

As a pre-med student at Temple University in Philadelphia, **Nahid Shahry, DDS**, entered a dentist’s office in need of treatment and, in addition to getting great care, found a mentor. Looking back, the experience fueled her passion for dentistry, provided a female professional role model, and inspired her to become a mentor herself.

Intrigued by what she saw in the dentist’s office, Shahry asked if she could help. The dentist “pointed out that I had no degree and no experience,” says Shahry, who later graduated from New York University College of Dentistry. Shahry was disappointed and insisted that

she could learn. “She initially let me come in part-time. And, in a couple of months, she saw how interested I was and hired me as a dental assistant.”

That early experience channeled Shahry’s interest more specifically into oral health. It also taught her the incredible power of mentorship.

A UMSOD volunteer in the Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) program since 1996 and a member of the Dean’s Faculty since 2006, Shahry practices at Churchville Family Dentistry in Bel Air, Md., and has been recognized by UMSOD for her outstanding service. As a Dean’s Faculty volunteer, she spends every Wednesday afternoon working one-on-one with students as they learn their craft. “The Dean’s Faculty Program allows me to be the teacher I’ve always dreamed of being,” Shahry says.

The mother of a third-year student at UMSOD, Shahry relishes mentoring a wide range of students. But an unexpected perk of the volunteer position has been having access to a steady flow of highly trained young professionals. “I’ve probably hired about 15 students directly from the school,” Shahry says. “Many of them have stayed with me a long time.”

Ashima Ahuya, a visiting scholar from India in the AEGD program who graduated in May, likens Shahry’s mentoring style to that of an enthusiastic cheerleader for and watchful supporter of the students and the patients they treat.

“

**I really like her teaching style,” Ahuya says. “She creates a very comfortable environment. Whenever I’m working with a patient, she treats me like a colleague.**

”

Ahuya also views Shahry as a role model. “She’s been in private practice for so many years, and she’s very motivated and positive about dentistry. She’s dedicated to patient care, open to research, and very willing to try new things herself,” Ahuya says. “She’s also a woman in a leadership position, and that’s very inspirational to me.”

**Nahid Shahry ▼**



# *In Appreciation of the* 2018-19 DEAN'S FACULTY

THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE PROFESSIONALS WHO GENEROUSLY VOLUNTEER AS MEMBERS OF THE DEAN'S FACULTY, OFFERING THEIR TIME, ENERGY, AND EXPERTISE TO THE NEXT GENERATION OF ORAL HEALTH LEADERS.

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▲ **Adam Eisner, Bradley Trattner, Guy Alexander, Barry Cohan, and Ali Behnia volunteer their time and expertise as members of the Dean's Faculty.**

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 \*As of July 2018

# LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR NEW, MULTIDISCIPLINARY CLINICAL CENTERS

BY HOLLY SELBY



Renovations at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD), including shifting the Faculty Practice Clinics from the fourth floor to the first, are scheduled to begin this fall. The \$500,000 construction project signals the launch of new clinical centers and is part of an ambitious plan to create state-of-the-art facilities dedicated to serving patients with complex oral health needs.

**The new clinical centers will advance and expand patient care at the School of Dentistry by bringing together multidisciplinary teams of faculty members who specialize in the treatment of chronic pain, oral cancers, geriatrics and special needs, cleft palate and craniofacial conditions, as well as others.**

Designed to allow for a team approach to patient care, the new clinics will enable specialists to work closely with patients, family members, and other medical colleagues to provide a full range of oral health services as well as connect patients to providers of related services, all within one institution. Already, nationally recognized clinical experts specializing in providing direct patient care are being recruited to the UMSOD faculty.

“There are patients with complex dental and medical conditions who require an integrated, multidisciplinary team approach to their treatment, and our new clinics will allow the school to better serve those patients,” said Mark A. Reynolds, DDS ’86, PhD, UMSOD dean and professor. “In doing so, the school will be able to serve as a resource to local and regional practitioners who refer patients in need of highly specialized, integrated care.”

Located on the University of Maryland, Baltimore’s health sciences and human services campus, UMSOD is uniquely positioned to house teams of health specialists from surgeons and physicians to dentists and nurses. The school already includes the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS), a nationally renowned leader in treating head and neck cancers, trauma, and craniofacial disorders. The new clinical centers, which will be modeled after the OMFS, will position faculty experts to offer care to a wider range of patients, including those challenged by developmental, traumatic, and infectious conditions, Reynolds said.

The new clinical centers will include faculty specializing in cleft palate and craniofacial disorders, including conditions caused by birth defects, trauma, or disease; and chronic oral pain, including that caused by temporomandibular joint disorders, among others. Other teams will focus on integrated special care and sedation, serving patients affected by developmental or intellectual disabilities. Additionally, experts in oral medicine, pathology, and radiology will serve patients with special needs including those associated with lupus or transplants.

As envisioned, the new clinical centers will draw referrals from the Baltimore region and beyond, and, in addition to offering patients superlative care, will provide an invaluable foundation for advanced postdoctoral training and greater opportunities for research and discovery.

“We couldn’t be more excited,” Reynolds said.

**1**  
Renovations scheduled to begin this fall signal the launch of the School of Dentistry’s new clinical centers.

**2**  
The centers will house teams of multidisciplinary specialists who will work closely with patients and their families and provide a wide range of oral and medical health care.



# UMSOD PROFESSOR RECOGNIZED WITH NATIONAL EVIDENCE- BASED DENTISTRY SERVICE AWARD

**Norman Tinanoff, DDS '71, MS, professor in the Division of Pediatric Dentistry at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD), is the 2018 recipient of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry's Evidence-Based Dentistry Service Award, which recognizes major contributions made to oral health through evidence-based clinical practice, academics, or policy development.**

In 1999, when Tinanoff joined the UMSOD faculty, access to oral health care services for children in Maryland was the worst in the country. With other health care advocates, he successfully testified on behalf of and pushed through nine bills — raising the percentage of children who receive at least one dental visit per year from 18 to 68. Tinanoff, who in 2015 was presented the University of Maryland, Baltimore Founders Week Public Service Award, says, “Pediatric dentistry is about prevention. We want to prevent cavities, not fix them, and prevention is based on science and evidence-based studies.” Here, he discusses advances in pediatric dentistry and the importance of teaching students how to make a difference.



*Throughout your career, what do you see as the greatest advancement in dentistry?*

When I graduated in 1971 from the University of Maryland (then the Baltimore College of Dentistry), dentistry was considered an “art and a science,” with the emphasis on “art.” Today, dental education has a strong science base, leading to more conservative management.

*What do you consider your greatest contribution to oral health?*

Perhaps that came early in my career in a 1978 research paper showing that the tin component of stannous fluoride has antibacterial effects. Today, there are several toothpastes on the market that use stannous fluoride as the active agent for



PHOTO BY SCOTT HESEL

reduction of plaque and gingivitis. I'm also proud to have been a part of statewide efforts to improve access to oral health care for children, with Maryland having risen from worst in the nation in 1999 to one of the best today.

*What is your focus now?*

More recently, my interest has been on optimizing "care pathways," which individualizes care for each patient based on risk factors and the best evidence for the individual's care. This includes the concept of active surveillance, where small cavities may not necessarily be treated with a filling, but instead are actively monitored by the dentist while the patient actively uses

preventive strategies to reduce the risks of the cavities getting bigger.

*What are the greatest challenges to pediatric dentistry?*

Making the paradigm shift from restorative treatment to patient-specific treatment and prevention. The main barrier is that insurance companies still emphasize payment based on procedures.

*As a teacher and a mentor, what's the most important lesson you try to teach your students?*

We always emphasize that acquiring tools for understanding and interpreting the science of dentistry will allow dentists to keep abreast of their profession throughout their

career. We also try to make sure that they learn the importance of making a difference in society.

*What's the most important piece of advice you offer to your patients' parents?*

We need to understand parents' expectations when they bring their child to see us. Through one-on-one discussions, we can add our expectations so that management of their child's preventive program will be optimized. If a child comes in with dental cavities, we tell the parents that if we are jointly successful, this will be the last cavity their child gets.

# CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

➤ **Local Anesthesia for the  
Dental Hygienist**

*Presented by  
Marion C. Manski, RDH '88,  
MS '04*

**Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 25-27**  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

➤ **The Golden Era of  
Reciprocating Instrumentation**

*Presented by  
Sergio Kuttler, DDS*

**Saturday, Oct. 27**  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

➤ **Collaborative Management  
of the TMD Patient**

*Presented by  
Gary Warburton, DDS, MD, FACS,  
FDSRCS; Jeremy J. Abbott, DDS*

**Saturday, Nov. 3**  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

➤ **Nitrous Oxide Review**

*Presented by  
Marvin Leventer, DDS '90*

**Saturday, Nov. 10**  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

➤ **Optimum Aesthetics**

*Presented by  
David Mazza, DDS*

**Saturday, Nov. 10**  
8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

➤ **New Advances in Caries  
Management: Risk Assessment,  
Silver Diamine Fluoride,  
and Glass Ionomer Cement**

*Presented by  
Douglas A. Young, DDS, EdD,  
MBA, MS*

**Saturday, Nov. 17**  
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.



➤ **Orthodontics Team Approach for  
Interdisciplinary Dentistry**

*Presented by  
Jose A. Bosio, BDS, MS*

**Saturday, Dec. 1**  
8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

➤ **Local Anesthesia for the  
Dental Hygienist**

*Presented by  
Marion C. Manski, RDH '88,  
MS '04*

**Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 6-8**  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

➤ **Infection Control is Not Optional/  
Proper Pharmacologic Prescribing  
and Disposal/Scope of Abuse**

*Presented by  
Louis DePaola, DDS '75, MS;  
Marvin Leventer, DDS '90;  
Christine Wisnom, RN, BSN*

**Saturday, Dec. 8**  
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

➤ **Nitrous Oxide Administration  
and Monitoring for the  
Practicing Dental Hygienist**

*Presented by Deborah Cartee,  
RDH '02, MS*

**Saturday, Jan. 26**  
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn about our continuing education courses, all held at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, call 410-706-2282 or visit [www.dental.umaryland.edu/ce](http://www.dental.umaryland.edu/ce).

# LOOKING FORWARD *to* CHALLENGES AHEAD

BY GWEN FARISS NEWMAN

**With 13 family members already immersed in the field of dentistry — including six orthodontists — Jose A. Bosio’s career choice probably didn’t surprise many.**

Nor did his drive to succeed. After all, his father built a successful trucking company, raised four children with his wife, returned to high school at the age of 42, and today has a foundation dedicated to transportation safety named in his honor in Concordia, Santa Catarina, Brazil.

“When you look back and you see the legacy left by your father, the greatest mentor you ever had, you wonder what you will leave behind,” says Bosio, BDS, MS, a clinical associate professor who joined the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD) in early 2017 to serve as program director of the Postgraduate Orthodontic Program. In May, he also was named division chief of Orthodontics.

A native of Brazil and a gifted athlete who paid for his dental education through volleyball scholarships and playing professionally for Cristalino/Sanepar Volleyball Club, the 6-foot-2 outside hitter graduated in 1987 from Pontifical Catholic University of Parana Dental School in Curitiba, Brazil. He then completed residencies in temporomandibular joint disorders at the Eastman Institute for Oral Health in Rochester, N.Y., and orthodontics at Ohio State University before opening successful practices in Concordia and Curitiba. But after working as an orthodontist for 20 years, the father of four daughters felt drawn to the academic arena.

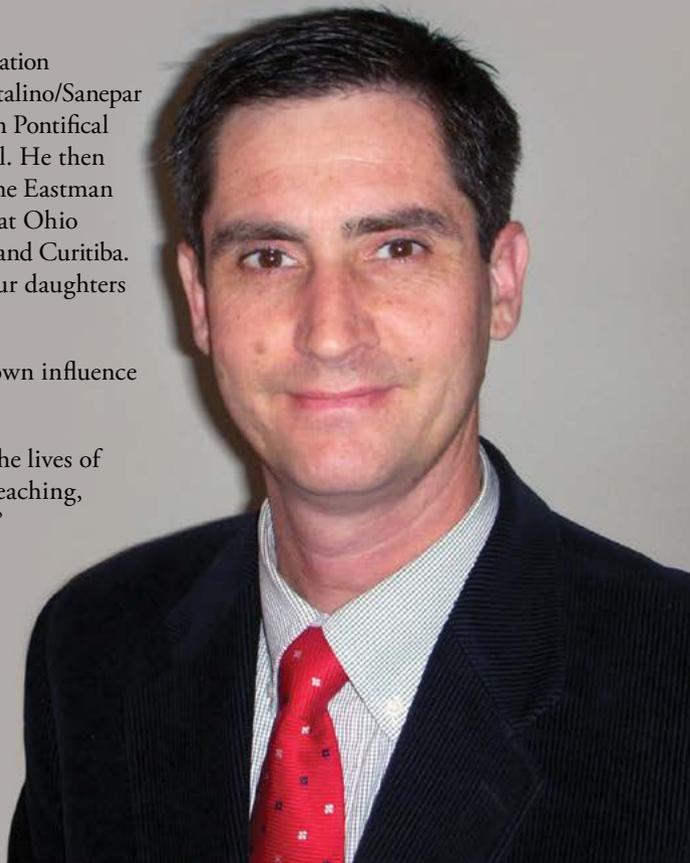
His father’s death in 1997, he says, moved him to evaluate his own influence on others and consider taking chances.

“Over the course of time, treating patients directly influences the lives of maybe 1,000 to 2,000 patients in Brazil,” Bosio says. “But by teaching, my reach becomes much greater than in private practice alone.”

*Continued on page 20*

>>

▶  
Jose A.  
Bosio



His wife, Maria Marta, who earned a master's degree in English from Akron University, encouraged him to consider his options — specifically those in the United States.

In 2008, Bosio joined the Marquette University School of Dentistry in Milwaukee as an assistant professor. Six years later, he took a position as an associate professor at Rutgers School of Dental Medicine in Newark, N.J.

Bosio was certified by the American Board of Orthodontists (ABO) in 2002 and the Brazilian Board of Orthodontists in 2004. He became an ABO board examiner in 2010 and is the immediate past-president of the Society of Orthodontic Educators.

A self-described technology lover who is energetic, focused, and unapologetic in his professional vision, Bosio is proud of his career path. At UMSOD, he oversees all matters related to orthodontics, from operations and research to curriculum and personnel. He also is responsible for managing the residents' curricular, didactic, and clinical education and a clinic with more than 1,200 orthodontic patients, as well as conducting clinical research. In this capacity, he oversees four full-time and 16 part-time faculty members, nine administrative staff members, 12 residents, and an international visiting scholar. Since arriving in 2017, he has created a clinic schedule aimed at enhancing departmental organization and expanding postgraduate access to patients.

When working or teaching elsewhere, Bosio often heard UMSOD described as a great school of dentistry, and that reputation is holding true. “Our orthodontics program is recognized for its excellence, and I relish the challenge and opportunity of elevating the program to an even greater place. I am honored to be teaching orthodontic students at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry. The excitement of being able to challenge these students and especially to inspire them is truly one of the most sensational experiences.”



**OUR ORTHODONTICS PROGRAM IS RECOGNIZED FOR ITS EXCELLENCE, AND I RELISH THE CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY OF ELEVATING THE PROGRAM TO AN EVEN GREATER PLACE.**



▲ Jose A. Bosio (front row, far left) with the SADIA Volleyball Club in 1981. Bosio could have chosen to be a professional athlete but opted for a career in dentistry.

# LAURELS

## AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS



DEVON ALLISON

**Devon Allison, PhD '17**, a fourth-year DDS student, won the American Dental Education Association (ADEA)/Crest Oral-B Scholarship for Predoctoral Dental Students

Pursuing Academic Careers, presented March 19 at the William J. Gies Awards for Vision, Innovation and Achievement in Orlando, Fla.

**Kathryn Pawlak**, a fourth-year DDS student, received a GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare Preventive Dentistry scholarship. The \$2,500 scholarship was presented during ADEA's Annual Session and Exhibition in March.

## APPOINTMENTS AND ACCOLADES



ABRAHAM SCHNEIDER

**Abraham Schneider, DDS, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences, was appointed in February to the editorial board of the *Journal of Dental Research* for the period 2018-20. He also

was appointed to the Government Affairs committee of the American Association for Dental Research for the period 2018-21.



MONICA SCHNEIDER

**Monica Schneider, DDS, MS**, clinical assistant professor, Department of Orthodontics and Pediatric Dentistry, was selected to participate in the Professional Leadership Program

for Women at Towson University. Designed for women who are committed to increasing their leadership capacity to influence their organizations and communities in a powerful and positive way, the program attracts women from throughout industry, government, and nonprofit sectors.

## GRANTS AND AWARDS



KUEI-LING "CHRISTINE" HSU

**Kuei-Ling "Christine" Hsu, DDS, MS**, clinical assistant professor, Division of Pediatric Dentistry, in February received a grant from the Colgate Award for Research Excellence

Program for her proposal "Transcriptomic and Metabolomic Profiling of the Oral Microbiome in Socially Disadvantaged African American Children with Early Childhood Caries."

**Surya Joseph, DDS, MBA**, second-year resident, Division of Orthodontic Dentistry, in March received a Research Aid Award from the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation for her proposal "Use of Temporary Anchorage Devices for Ridge Preservation After Tooth Extraction."

**Jin Y. Ro, PhD**, professor, Department of Neural and Pain Sciences, in March received a five-year grant of \$366,938 from the National Institutes of Health for his project "Peripheral Receptor Mechanisms in Orofacial Muscle Pain."



HANAE SAITO

**Hanae Saito, DDS, MS, CRC**, clinical assistant professor, Division of Periodontics, and **Radi Masri, DDS, PhD '05, MS '01**, associate professor, Division of Prosthodontics, received a grant from the Implant Dentistry Research and Education Foundation for their project "The Use of RNA-seq in the Quantification of Gene Expression by Microbial Population in Adult Patients Diagnosed with Peri-implantitis Compared to Controls."



RADI MASRI

**James Coll, DDS, MS**, clinical professor, Department of Pediatric Dentistry, received the 2018 American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry's (AAPD) Paul P. Taylor Award. The award recognizes the lead author of the most prestigious journal article in *Pediatric Dentistry* from the previous year and is determined by the AAPD editorial board and awards committee. This year's award was presented for "Primary Tooth Vital Pulp Therapy: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis." Coll, a diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry and a former member of the State Board of Dentistry of Pennsylvania, has been in private practice for 39 years in York, Pa. He is the author of numerous articles on primary tooth pulp therapy and a member of the editorial board and section editor for pulp therapy for *Pediatric Dentistry*. Co-authors were Suzi Seale Coll, DDS, MS; Kaaren Vargas, DDS, PhD; Abdullah A. Marghalani, DDS; Shahad AlShamali, DDS; and Laurel Graham, MLS.



PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

**Jose A. Bosio, BDS, MS**, clinical associate professor and director, Division of Orthodontics, was among the co-authors of two papers, "Tooth Loss and Craniofacial Factors Associated with Changes in Mandibular Condylar Morphology" and "Immunohistochemical Analysis of IL-1 Receptor 1 in the Discs of Patients with Temporomandibular Joint Dysfunction," published in *Cranio* in January.



GUADALUPE GARCIA FAY

**Guadalupe Garcia Fay, DDS**, clinical assistant professor, and **Gary Hack, DDS '79, MS**, clinical associate professor, both in the Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics, gave a presentation titled "Innovative CAD/CAM Protocol for Fabricating Screw-Retained Implant Resin Provisionals" at the American Association of Dental Research's 2018 meeting in March.



GARY HACK

Hack also presented two abstracts, "Devices to Screen for and Monitor Diabetes in Dental Practices" and

"Screening for Diabetes: The Maryland Experience," at ADEA's Annual Meeting in March.



WILLIAM HOFFMAN

**William Hoffman Jr., MAS**, department administrator, Division of Prosthodontics, was co-presenter of three presentations — "Human Resources Management and

Best Practices for the Department Administrator"; "Effort Reporting: Understanding the Requirements"; and "Faculty Transfers, Hello and Goodbye" — given at the Society of Research Administrators International's Northeast/Western Section in March.



MARY ANNE MELO

**William Hoffman Jr., DDS, PhD '05, MS '01**, associate professor, Division of Prosthodontics; **Mary Anne Melo, DDS, MSc, PhD**, associate professor and director, Division of

Operative Dentistry; **Michael Weir, PhD**, research assistant professor, Division of Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering; and **Huakun Xu, PhD, MS**, professor and director, Division of Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering, were among the co-authors of the paper "Nanomagnetic-

Mediated Drug Delivery for the Treatment of Dental Disease," published in February in the journal *Nanomedicine: Nanotechnology, Biology and Medicine*.

Melo, as part of an international collaboration with Federal University of Ceara, Brazil, also was the corresponding author for the article "Camellia Sinensis Active Compound and Derivates Responding to Erosive Attacks on Dentin," published in the journal *Brazilian Oral Research*.

**Abraham Schneider, DDS, PhD**, associate professor, Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences; **Monica Schneider, DDS, MS**, clinical assistant professor, Department of Orthodontics and Pediatric Dentistry; and **Huakun Xu, PhD, MS**, professor and director, Division of Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering, were among the co-authors of the paper "Functional Organic Cation Transporters Mediate Osteogenic Response to Metformin in Human Umbilical Cord Mesenchymal Stromal Cells," published in May in the journal *Cytotherapy*.



RICHARD TRAUB

**Richard Traub, PhD**, professor and vice chair, Department of Neural and Pain Sciences, was senior author of the paper "Opposing Roles of Estradiol and Testosterone on Stress-induced

Visceral Hypersensitivity in Rats," published in March in the *Journal of Pain*.

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# CLASS OF 2018 CELEBRATES ...



## **A DREAM CAME TRUE FOR 132 DDS AND 18 RDH/BSDH GRADUATES**

when the University of Maryland School of Dentistry Class of 2018 gathered May 18 for its commencement events. The festivities included an honors convocation, military oath of service, and Universitywide commencement ceremony, during which Frederick G. Smith, MS, DDS '78, and Venice K. Paterakis, DDS '81, received honorary Doctor of Public Service degrees from the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

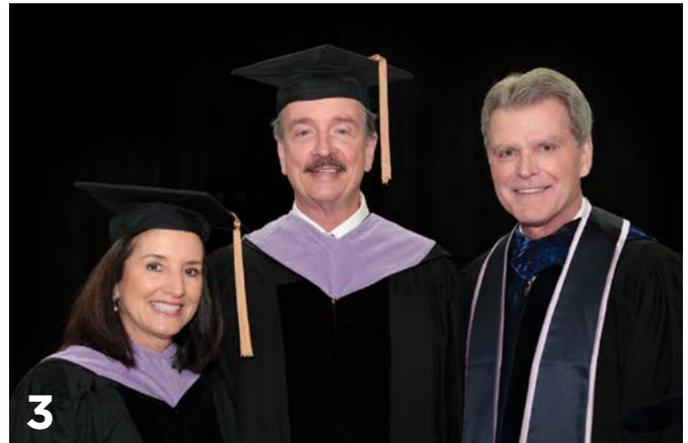
... WITH  
MOMENTS  
OF JOY,  
REFLECTION,  
AND  
SHARING ...



1



2



3



4



5



6

1 / Lt. Carmen Garcia congratulates students during the Oath of Service.

2 / Amir Itani with family members

3 / Honorary degree recipients Frederick G. Smith and Venice K. Paterakis with Dean Mark A. Reynolds, DDS '86, PhD

4 / Zhuoxun "Matt" Chen with his twin daughters, Elody and Ellie, and son, Leonardo

5 / Nabin Leem, who graduated summa cum laude, displays her certificate of honor.

6 / Ronald Chenette, DMD, MPH, and Mark Macek, DDS, DrPh, soak in the festive atmosphere during the honors convocation.

## ... AND A VIDEO DEBUT



▲ Courtney Miyamoto and her parents, Michael Miyamoto, DDS '87, and Joyce Miyamoto

After graduating from the University of Hawaii with a biology degree in 2013, Courtney Miyamoto, DDS '18, wasn't sure she wanted to go into the family business of dentistry. But taking a gap year and working at her father's practice in Wailuku, on the island of Maui, compelled her to follow in her dad's footsteps — in more ways than one.

"I just enjoyed working there with people and assisting surgeries, and that was a big motivating factor to get into dentistry," says Miyamoto, whose father, Michael Miyamoto, DDS, graduated from the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD) in 1987.

The younger Miyamoto chose to follow her dad's path in another way by picking UMSOD. This made her a third-generation UMSOD student, because Michael's father, Alan Miyamoto, DDS '62, had begun this dental school legacy a half-century earlier at what was then called the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery.

View Courtney Miyamoto's video at [www.dental.umaryland.edu/2018-grad-video](http://www.dental.umaryland.edu/2018-grad-video).

Courtney arrived in 2014, and as a second-year student she decided to make a short video to document life at the school and show it to her grandfather, who was battling cancer. Alan Miyamoto, who had practiced dentistry into his 80s, died in 2016 before she could finish the video, but it was shown to subsequent incoming UMSOD classes.

This year, Courtney revised and updated the video, which was showcased at the University of Maryland, Baltimore's 2018 commencement ceremony May 18 as her parents, grandmother, two younger

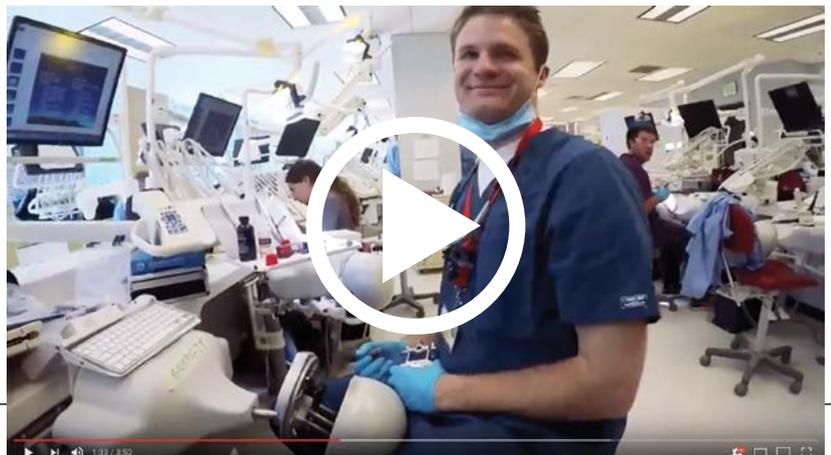
sisters, and an aunt watched with pride at Royal Farms Arena. It capped a big week for Courtney, who four days earlier was honored with UMSOD's Nathan Gold Memorial Award for conscientious and enthusiastic dedication to clinical practice.

"Courtney was selected for this honor by her classmates and faculty, and it is a highly regarded schoolwide award," said Karen Faraone, DDS, MA, associate dean of student affairs. "She is well-loved among her Class of 2018."

In considering her next steps, Courtney talked to six other dentists on Maui about her postgraduation plans, and they told her that if she was looking for mentorship, what better teacher than her dad?

"They said he'll be able to show me the way and that I could keep up to date with continuing education, so I decided to go straight into private practice," Courtney says. She also hopes to one day help to bring oral health care services to underserved populations, satisfying a commitment to community service that was encouraged at UMSOD.

— LOU CORTINA



# UMSOD STUDENT HELPS A PATIENT REGAIN HIS SMILE — AND CONFIDENCE

PHOTO BY HOLLY SELBY

BY SCOTT HESEL

As an oral health professional, Fazel Fakhari, DDS '18, PhD, knows that good oral health is inextricably linked to a person's general medical well-being. But it was while a student at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD) that Fakhari, who holds a doctorate in chemistry and is interested in the "art and science" of healing, had a chance to witness the power of that relationship.

In 2016, Fakhari began treating Sylvester McIntosh, a Baltimore resident and retired electronic technician. Now in recovery, McIntosh for years had struggled with addiction, and his drug use had ravaged his oral health. Missing nearly half his teeth, he suffered from chronic periodontitis and supra-erupted teeth. After seeing an advertisement, McIntosh arranged for an appointment at UMSOD.

“For me, improved oral health and especially a good smile were critical for my recovery,” McIntosh says. “A good smile would give me the confidence to interact with people.”

McIntosh was paired with Fakhari, who then worked in the UMSOD student clinic. Intrigued by the complexity of McIntosh's needs, Fakhari developed a treatment plan that included oral surgery, periodontal therapy, and prosthetic rehabilitation.

After several visits, the dentist began to notice a change in McIntosh's demeanor. “At first, he was very quiet and reserved,” Fakhari says. “Gradually, he began to smile more often.”

McIntosh credits Fakhari, who plans to enroll in an oral and maxillofacial surgery residency, with helping him regain his oral health — as well as a feeling of confidence. These days, he spends time with his daughters and works to help others in recovery. “I try to emphasize that there's hope and a better life,” McIntosh says, “if you seek the right treatment.”



▲  
Sylvester  
McIntosh (left)  
and Fazel  
Fakhari

## FROM THE BOARD OF VISITORS



When it opened in 2006, our \$140 million, nine-story School of Dentistry facility was arguably the best in the nation, and its innovative design is still viewed as a model. Looking forward, our plans to renovate the entire first floor — transforming it into the new, multidisciplinary clinical centers — are equally exciting, as they will position the school to

continue its tradition of state-of-the-art patient care and enable our departments to pool expertise even more efficiently.

I am happy to report that your response to the Catalyst Campaign has been encouraging, as we've surpassed the 60 percent mark with \$18 million committed toward our goal of \$30 million. This year, the school will continue to seek support for facilities renovation, endowments that bolster programs and faculty, and, most important, scholarship endowments.

In this phase of the campaign, we will look to alumni who wish to make commitments that reflect their interests. Many of you (in fact, a few hundred) help the school by volunteering in our clinical programs as members of the Dean's Faculty. These individuals share their time and expertise with our students and patients. Other alumni and friends have endowed faculty positions or student scholarships.

As School of Dentistry alumni, many of us share similar characteristics. We are independent, hardworking, detail-oriented, creative leaders in our field (and communities) who are passionate about patient care and treating the underserved. I support scholarships because I am dedicated to our school and our students, and scholarships are a fulfilling way to help both. If you are of a similar mind and in a position to do so, please join me and support them, too.

**Melvin F. Kushner, DDS '66**

*Chair | Board of Visitors*

## Meet **CHARLES A. DORING**, UMSOD Catalyst Campaign Chair

BY GWEN FARISS NEWMAN

Charles A. Doring, DDS '87, MAGD, has volunteered as a University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD) Dean's Faculty member for the last 20 years, served as president of the UMSOD Alumni Association from 2006–08, and has an active presence in Annapolis, where he advocates on behalf of the profession.

His newest adventure?

Last fall, the University of Maryland, Baltimore launched the Catalyst Campaign, a \$750 million Universitywide fundraising initiative, and when asked to serve as UMSOD's campaign chair, Doring immediately agreed.

"I graduated from UMSOD 30 years ago, and I've always kind of been involved," he says. "I just try to be a presence whether it's teaching a course in geriatric dentistry or conducting mock interviews with dental hygiene students or being an advisor as needed to mentor students."

Doring, who enjoys cosmetic and family dentistry, has a particular interest in treating children, the elderly, and physically or mentally compromised

patients. He is on the medical staff at Rockville Nursing Home and the Hebrew Home of Greater Washington. A firm believer in continuing education, Doring, in addition to his volunteer position on the Dean's Faculty, is a past president of the Maryland Academy of General Dentistry, chairs the Legislative Affairs Committee for the Maryland State Dental Association, and serves as a delegate to the American Dental Association.

The Bethesda resident likes to think of the school's alumni as a rich tapestry drawn from and based throughout the world. If the pieces are woven together in a way that encourages continued relations, he says, both UMSOD alumni and students are enriched.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to reach out to alumni all around the world, get them involved in the school, find out what they're doing, see what their needs are, and match the needs of the alumni with those of the school," he says. "It's an opportunity to reconnect. Opportunities abound both in terms of giving time and giving financial support that, in turn, will help further the education of other aspiring dental professionals."

Doring notes that the Catalyst Campaign will help fund everything from academic scholarships and fellowships, state-of-the-art technology, and endowed chairs and professorships to ongoing research advances and the creation of the school's new, multidisciplinary clinical centers.

**For more information, visit**  
[www.dental.umaryland.edu/give](http://www.dental.umaryland.edu/give).



# CLASS NOTES



I am truly honored to serve as the 2018-19 president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors for the University of Maryland School of Dentistry.

As board members, we strive to strengthen your lifelong connection to your alma mater, faculty, and fellow alums, and we look forward to seeing you on campus or at events.

On June 1, the Alumni Association hosted a lunch for second-year dental students who were about to begin their clinical experience. At the event, several directors led an informal discussion of what the students might expect in clinic. The students seemed to enjoy the conversation and many voiced an interest in alumni-led networking focused on career opportunities.

With that in mind, I plan to expand upon the mentoring Lunch and Learn events held throughout the year by featuring alumni speakers who focus on topics selected by the students.

I will focus on other initiatives as well, such as expanding programs for current students and younger alums, including our dental hygiene members; working with the school's development team to increase financial support of the school, with a particular focus on scholarships; and, of course, attracting the largest crowd ever to our All-Alumni Reunion Weekend! (I can't wait to see you all at our next reunion, planned for April 12-13, 2019.)

I invite all of you to join the Alumni Association. We are eager to reconnect with you and hear your thoughts.

In conclusion, I would like to thank past president Adam Eisner, DDS '89, for his leadership and hard work. During his tenure, he spearheaded the Lunch and Learn program and oversaw board approval of a new policy under which two recent graduates will be included on our board — both initiatives aimed at bringing together students and alumni. My thanks also go to the alumni directors who recently stepped down — and to new and returning directors, as well.

Best regards,

**Mary Ziomek, DDS '85**

*President | Alumni Association Board of Directors*

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

about the Alumni Association or events, please contact Jamie Myers, director of annual giving and alumni engagement, at 410-706-3663.



## 1982

**Richard D. Archer, DDS,** associate dean of clinical education at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry, won the Edward M. Osetek Award from the American Association of Endodontists. This award is presented to a full-time educator with fewer than 10 years of teaching experience, who has earned the esteem and respect of students and faculty associates.



Richard D. Archer

## 1986

**Leslie E. Grant, DDS, MPSA,** recently was awarded the American Association of Women Dentists' (AAWD) Lucy Hobbs Taylor Award, the organization's top honor.

Named after the first woman to earn a doctorate in dentistry, the award honors an AAWD member who has a record of accomplishment in one or more areas of dentistry, such as clinical dentistry, organized dentistry, academia, government, anthropology, archaeology, philanthropy, and consulting.

"Lucy Hobbs Taylor was a woman of great character and undaunted spirit," Grant says. "Through her persistent determination, she opened the doors of the dental profession to women. I am exceedingly thankful to the American Association of Women

Dentists for all that they do to promote the legacy of Dr. Hobbs Taylor by advancing professional excellence."



Leslie E. Grant

## 1993

**Christine Lathuras, DDS,** won the 2018 Leadership Award from the Waterbury, Conn., Regional Chamber Health Care Council.

## 1999

**Bianca Harris, BS,** and **Maura Ordovensky, BS,** are business partners who created a board review competition called "It's Hygienic" that is free to students and faculty. Students who attend receive \$400 scholarships for the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination. "It's Hygienic" plans to hold nine events in 2019.

## 2001

**Nathan Tilman, DDS,** was included on *Newport Now's* "Men Who Make a Difference" list.



Nathan Tilman

# A BRILLIANT IDEA

HAVE YOU EVER FOUND YOURSELF IN PUBLIC WITH FOOD STUCK BETWEEN YOUR TEETH? IF SO, YOU KNOW THE MISERY. SUCH WAS THE CASE WHEN MARGO BRILLIANT, DDS '85, ATTENDED ONE OF HER DAUGHTERS' HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION EVENTS.

The Aventura, Fla., orthodontist remembers trying to correct the situation as elegantly as possible. Then the proverbial light bulb went off: She scribbled her idea on a napkin and showed her husband, Robert M. Schwartz, a patent attorney.

**Thus, the smilePIK, a chic, \$12 toothpick neatly packaged in a lipstick case, was born.**

Designed to look like an everyday cosmetic, smilePIK features a removable plastic tip that can be used as a toothpick — but with style and class. Working together, Brilliant and her husband filed patents and spent three years transforming her idea from prototype to production.

They sold their first order in June 2017, but sales really took off on Black Friday in November after Kathie Lee Gifford and Hoda Kotb featured it on NBC's *Today* show.

Initially available only at Brilliant's private practice — Brilliant, Rothenberg and Meister in Aventura, about 20 miles north of Miami — and online at [smilePIK.com](http://smilePIK.com), the product is now sold in New York at Zitomer on Madison Avenue and Z Chemists on West 57th Street, as well as at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

Channeling her energy into another area of dentistry has been rewarding but time-consuming, Brilliant says. What's next? New tip colors and a male version made to look like a tube of lip balm. After all, none of us should be caught with food between our teeth.

— GWEN FARISS NEWMAN

## HAVE YOU EVER INVENTED ANYTHING?

Send us details about your innovations, and we'll share them with your fellow alumni.

Send your stories to [hselby@umaryland.edu](mailto:hselby@umaryland.edu).



◀ The smilePIK costs \$12 and can be bought online.

▶ Margo Brilliant, DDS '85



# WE ARE UMSOD!

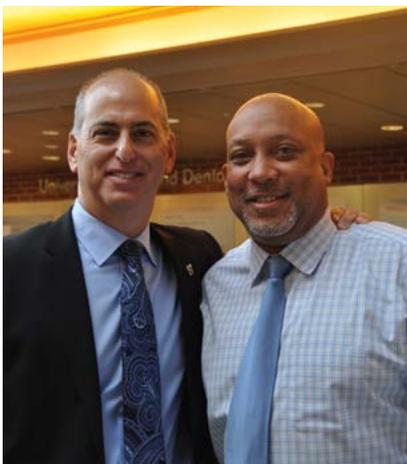
PHOTOS AND TEXT BY  
HOLLY SELBY AND SCOTT HESEL

At the 2018 All-Alumni Reunion Weekend, held June 8-9, about 200 UMSOD alumni accompanied by family and friends gathered in Baltimore to renew friendships and celebrate their alma mater. From continuing education classes and alumni awards to tours of the school and opportunities to connect with longtime friends, there were plenty of reasons to smile.

▶ The photo booth was a big hit with members of the Class of 1988.



From left, Tom Levickas, DDS '68; Susan Levickas; Rosemary Heher; Joseph Heher, DDS '68; Richard Ahlfeld, DDS '68; Alex Kassolis, DDS '68; and Giselle Ahlfeld at the 50th Reunion Class Dinner on June 9  
**PHOTO BY RICH COLLINS**



▶ Adam Eisner, DDS '89, immediate past-president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and Nathaniel Bullock Jr., DDS '89



▶ From left, Stanley E. Block, DDS '58; Gerald Donoghue; and Barbara L. Greco-Donoghue, DDS '58, at the opening reception

From left, Distinguished Public Service Alumni Award winner Michael D. Eggnatz, DDS '88; Linda Devore Dental Hygiene Alumni Award winner Jane Casper, RDH '99, MA; Distinguished Achievement Alumni Award winner Frank G. Serio, DMD, PERIO '86, MS '91, MBA; and Mark A. Reynolds, DDS '86, PhD, UMSOD dean. To read more about the 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award winners, please visit [www.dental.umaryland.edu/distinguished-alumni](http://www.dental.umaryland.edu/distinguished-alumni).



From left, Valli Meeks, DDS '88, MS '98, RDH, clinical associate professor in the Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Services; R. Elaine Rounsley, DDS '88; and Sally A. Davis, DDS '88, catch up at the opening reception.

At the Alumni Association business meeting, Adam Eisner, DDS '89, passes the gavel to his successor as president of the group's Board of Directors, Mary Ziomek, DDS '85.



Karen Faraone, DDS '78, MA, associate dean of student affairs, greets an alumnus at the opening reception.

Jonathan L. Rones, DDS '95, and his family traveled from Denver to attend the festivities.



# in MEMORIAM

*We are saddened by the loss of the following alumni and friends:*

Lawrence Bell Jr., DDS '74      Jules Millman, DDS '55  
 Anthony A. Caputi, DDS '56      Charles B. Rushford Jr., DDS '57  
 Harold H. Gilbert, DDS '44      Joseph H. Sheppe, DDS '50  
 Rhonda M. Hicks, DDS '88

\*The school learned of the passing of these alumni between Dec. 1, 2017, and May 31, 2018.

## SOPHIA ARABATZIS BALIS, DDS, Professor Emeritus at UMSOD



Sophia Arabatzis Balis, DDS, renowned as a pioneering role model for women and an advocate for pediatric oral health, died April 3 at the age of 88.

Balis made history in 1966 as the first woman appointed as a clinical faculty member at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD). She served for 25 years as an

associate professor, lecturer, and clinical supervisor at the school, retired in 1991, but continued to teach and lecture. She was named professor emeritus in 2006 and served as a part-time faculty member until 2014. In 2016, she was inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame.

Born in 1930 at a refugee camp in Greece, Balis is remembered by family members as a driven young woman who endured much to give much. She was the first woman in her family to go to college.

The eldest of three children, Balis also experienced firsthand the horrors of World War II, which influenced her perspective on community welfare and human rights.

Despite the adversity, Sophia was the first girl from her village to pass examinations for college and to enter the University of Athens Dental School. She graduated from the dental school in 1958, married her high school sweetheart, and moved to the United States, where she enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh and worked as an intern in pedodontics and oral surgery at Children's Hospital as well as in oral surgery at the Western

Psychiatric Institute and Clinic. Because her dental degree from Athens wasn't recognized in the United States, Balis enrolled at the University of Toronto Dental School in 1963. Three years later, she received her second Doctor of Dental Surgery degree.

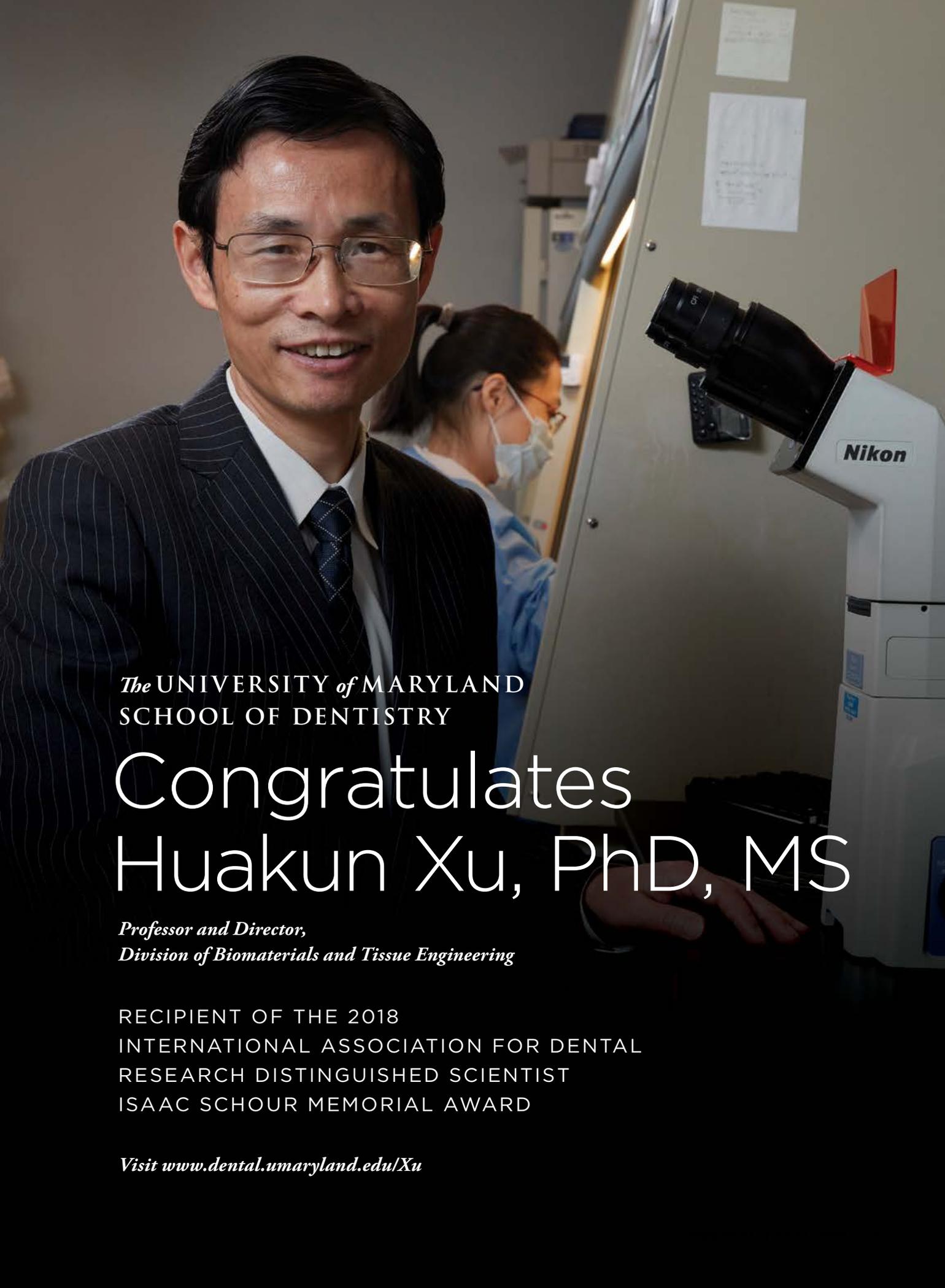
Norman Tinanoff, DDS '71, MS, a former chair of UMSOD's Department of Pediatric Dentistry, recalls that Balis' first assignment upon joining the school in 1966 was with the Community Pediatrics Center, where she established and directed its dental service for nine years. Under her tenure, dentistry became a fully functioning component of a system devoted to underserved children.

Balis also was known for developing a seminar series for professionals called "Beyond the Management Technique: The Use of Humanities as an Aid to Understanding Children." "These seminars started in the early 1990s and continued under her leadership until just a few years ago," Tinanoff said. "Her approach was to impart dental professionals with sensitivity for individuals of different backgrounds."

In Baltimore, Balis not only introduced the study of the humanities into dental education as a way of emphasizing sensitivity toward patients of different backgrounds, but she also was credited with being the first in Baltimore to initiate programs to prevent dental cavities in children by using fluoride application, now a universal practice. She worked closely with the Baltimore City Health Department and the Maryland Department of Health to effect positive change throughout the community. Academically, her research focused on periodontal disease, fetal alcohol syndrome, and Down syndrome, and her lasting contribution to education was a 1999 article that appeared in the *Journal of Dental Education* titled "Humanities in Dental Education: A Focus on Understanding the Child."

Balis was honored in 1974 by *Who's Who of American Women*, was awarded the IJ Preneech Prize in Endodontics by the University of Toronto School of Dentistry, and was a member of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

She was the wife of the late George U. Balis, MD, a former chair of psychiatry at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, and is survived by two siblings, two children, five grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.



*The* UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND  
SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

# Congratulates Huakun Xu, PhD, MS

*Professor and Director,  
Division of Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering*

RECIPIENT OF THE 2018  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR DENTAL  
RESEARCH DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST  
ISAAC SCHOUR MEMORIAL AWARD

*Visit [www.dental.umaryland.edu/Xu](http://www.dental.umaryland.edu/Xu)*

# DON'T FORGET!

**Friday, April 12, and  
Saturday, April 13, 2019**

# 2019

*All-Alumni*  
**REUNION WEEKEND**

**WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US!**

Visit [www.dental.umaryland.edu/reunion](http://www.dental.umaryland.edu/reunion)  
for more information.



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