

Advancing Oral Health.
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LEADING LADY

UMSOD educator Isabel
Rambob named UMBrella
Person of the Year.

HIGHLY REWARDING

Student National Dental
Association chapter
recognized for public service.

HELLO, NEW NORMAL

In-person classes and events
got underway this fall, but
masks remained de rigueur.

Mdental

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY | WINTER 2021



BRIGHT FUTURE

At the annual White Coat
Ceremony, UMSOD students
celebrated their transition
from classroom to clinic.



OfNote

Isabel Rambob, DDS, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Neural and Pain Sciences at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD), is the inaugural recipient of the UMBrella Person of the Year — Leading the Way Award.

The honor recognizes an individual member of the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) community who has demonstrated leadership as a role model, coach, or mentor while helping others reach their personal and professional goals.

The award is presented by the UMB Roundtable on Empowerment in Leadership and Leveraging Aspirations

(UMBrella), a community-building organization created to empower women and those who identify as women at UMB. It honors Rambob's mentorship of dental students throughout the years and her work as co-director of UMSOD's Domestic Violence Survivors Clerkship. As part of the clerkship, Rambob selects a group of fourth-year students each year to provide free dental care to female victims of domestic violence.

"This honor is very meaningful for me, as a female dentist," Rambob says. "I've been very fortunate to have people there for me, so I know the impact they can have." **M**

— UMB STAFF

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For decades, Renty B. Franklin, PhD, has pioneered prostate cancer research. Now, as the first African American to chair a UMSOD department, he's leading the way again.

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As our semester unfolded in fall 2021, it was invigorating to see the University of Maryland School of Dentistry's (UMSOD) hallways, classrooms, simulation labs, and clinics bustling with students eager to learn and faculty members keen to teach. This academic year represents an important transition that also brings significant opportunity for growth; as we restore many of our routines, we're also re-examining how we teach and learn, care for patients, and engage with our community.

This issue of *Mdental* offers stories highlighting how the school is returning to some of its standing traditions while continuing to adapt and excel in education, research, community outreach, and patient care. Our cover story describes the annual White Coat Ceremony, a cherished school tradition. This year, it was held as a hybrid event that allowed students to gather in person to celebrate their transition from classroom learning to clinical training but also was livestreamed so that their families could "attend" virtually.

I am pleased that you will read about Renty B. Franklin, PhD, a highly accomplished and internationally recognized educator and scientist, who last spring was named chair of the Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences, making him UMSOD's first African American department chair. Dr. Franklin's pioneering research on zinc and zinc transporters has led to landmark discoveries in our understanding of cancer.

A second article details how two distinguished professors, Jose A. Bosio, BDS, MS, clinical associate professor, chief, and postgraduate program director of the Division of Orthodontics, and Robert K. Ernst, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Microbial Pathogenesis, were celebrated at virtual investiture ceremonies. Drs. Bosio and Ernst are the Alumni and Friends Professor in Orthodontics and the Dr. Paul and Mrs. Jean Corcoran Endowed Professor, respectively.

Another colleague, Radi Masri, DDS, MS, PhD, professor in the Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics, last spring received a Wilson H. Elkins Endowed Professorship. Awarded by the University System of Maryland, the professorship supports Dr. Masri's research into barriers to oral health care, specifically implants, for those in underrepresented populations.

And for the eighth consecutive year, UMSOD's chapter of the Student National Dental Association has won national recognition for its fundraising, public service, and outreach programs aimed at encouraging students in underrepresented populations to pursue careers in oral health.

Despite our society and our school having to confront the biggest public health crisis in a century, our faculty, students, and staff continued to advance knowledge, innovation and discovery, community outreach, and clinical care.

Best regards,

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

Mdental

ON THE COVER

At the annual White Coat Ceremony, dental and dental hygiene students celebrate their transition from classroom to clinic.

Photo by Matthew D'Agostino / UMB

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OnTheCusp



ABOVE: Michael Guo films Ashraf Oreizi and Pooja Lineswala as they describe the sugar content in some popular snacks.

LEFT: Dental students Bumjoon Park, Pooja Lineswala, and Ashraf Oreizi are video cast members.

Proper Practices

Student Group's Video Promotes Importance of Oral Health to Youths

BY HOLLY SELBY

Tips about brushing your teeth and the sugar content of popular snacks are two of the lessons offered by a public health information video produced by the University of Maryland School of Dentistry's (UMSOD) Rotaract Club (Rotary Club of Baltimore Chapter).

Aimed at middle and high school students, the video represents an innovative adaptation of club activities in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Initially formed in 2019 in preparation for a mission trip to the Dominican Republic, the club rethought its approach to programming when the trip was canceled.

"When we realized we couldn't travel, we came up with the idea of making oral health information videos for local schools," said Ji Hye Park, a fourth-year dental student and 2020-21 chair of the group.

In collaboration with the Rotary Club of Baltimore, a worldwide volunteer organization of business leaders, the students hope to present the video in Baltimore City public schools, with which the Rotary Club partners.

Filmed last summer, the video is meant to be the first in a series. "Our goal is to make

age-appropriate oral health education videos in multiple languages," Park said, adding that club members speak several languages including Korean and Spanish.

The video follows a young woman who favors sugary drinks and candy (played by third-year student Reyan Abdelmoniem) as she visits the dentist (played by third-year student Teddy Umo). Throughout the film, animated visual jokes keep the public health messaging from feeling overly serious. (Club advisor Kate Noonan, PhD, MSED, senior director, special projects for the dean; and Glenn Canares, DDS, MSD, clinical assistant professor, clinical director, and assistant director of the Advanced Specialty Education Program in the Division of Pediatric Dentistry, offered oversight and support to the project.)

"As you can see, some parts are funny. We wanted it to be a little funny because for some kids, looking up and seeing a dentist in a respirator and face shield and gloves can be scary," Park said. "Besides, there are plenty of public health videos out there and we didn't want to be boring." **MD**

Goodbye, Online Learning. Hello, New Normal.

BY MARY THERESE PHELAN



As a first-year student at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD), Brianna Thewsuvat was eager for Aug. 11, 2021 to arrive — the date of new student orientation at the school on the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) campus.

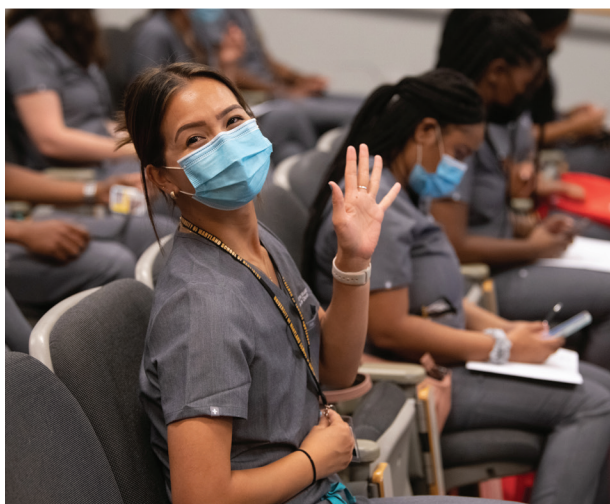
In-person orientation.

“To finally have some in-person interaction and not be seeing people on a computer screen — honestly, I feel really, really happy,” said Thewsuvat, who wore graphite scrubs, the uniform of incoming dental students. “I do much better with the learning styles of in-person learning, and especially as a commuter student, I look forward to making new friends. I was so glad when I learned we wouldn’t be going virtual.”

Thewsuvat, who lives in Owings Mills, Md., was one of 129 masked students occupying every other seat of the school’s auditorium to keep with physical distancing protocols. Throughout the day, students met each other,

faculty, and staff, and learned about the roles of the offices of Academic and Student Affairs and other information as they embarked on their four-year program.

“We’ve had quite a year, haven’t we?” said Judy Porter, DDS, MA, EdD, associate dean of Admissions and Recruitment, as she began the orientation session. “COVID has affected us all, in a lot of different ways. The isolation has affected us. But you know what we’re going to do? We’re going to get through this together. We’re going



TOP TO BOTTOM: UMB President Bruce E. Jarrell welcomed the dental Class of 2025 at UMSOD’s new-student orientation last August. Felicia Der, first-year dental student, begins the journey to becoming an oral health professional.

Photos by Matthew D’Agostino / UMB



Photo by Matthew D' Agostino / UMB

LEFT TO RIGHT: Members of the dental Class of 2025 and the dental hygiene Class of 2023 during orientation last August.

Second-year dental students Sorina Lim and Steven Lebowitz share a laugh in the hallway.



Photo by Sheryl Syme



Photo by Holly Selby

“I do much better with the learning styles of in-person learning, and especially as a commuter student, I look forward to making new friends. I was so glad when I learned we wouldn’t be going virtual.”

— BRIANNA THEWSUVAT, FIRST-YEAR STUDENT

to remember self-care. We’re going to make friends. Watch for people who need help. Build community. I think this is the great challenge of our generation right now — to build community because we are so tied to technology. Help us build the best UMB.”

Students also were welcomed by UMB President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS, who said he was delighted to be greeting students in person and encouraged them to focus on what it means to attend one of UMB’s six professional schools.

“You are no longer a college student, you are now a professional student, about to become a professional,” he told UMSOD’s Class of 2025. “And when you become a professional, that means things are very different. You will be a source of knowledge. People will look up to you.”

Their remarks marked the start of the academic semester and a partial return of UMSOD and the rest of UMB

to pre-pandemic campus experiences, whether in lecture halls, simulation labs, or clinics. Throughout late summer and fall, there were other signs of a much-welcomed, albeit gradual, transition to pre-pandemic behaviors.

A series of small, in-person, and outdoor Summer Socials were held by the Office of Student Affairs to welcome all returning dental and dental hygiene students. The school’s cafe, Crema, reopened on the first floor after months of being shuttered. Conversations were again held in faculty offices, hallways, and near lockers. Nonetheless, COVID-19 protocols — including vaccines for all students, faculty, and staff; full personal protective equipment worn by clinicians; masks worn in all indoor public buildings; and physical distancing — remained in place as the pandemic continued to evolve.

Other speakers who were on hand to help new students adjust to their surroundings and class schedules included Patricia E. Meehan, DDS ’93, MS, associate dean of Academic Affairs, and Karen Faraone, DDS, MA, associate dean of Student Affairs.

“It is just a pleasure to have all of you here in person,” Meehan said to the students who sat in the large lecture hall. “We’ll look forward to when you get your headshots done, so we can look at the composites and actually see your beautiful smiles.” **MJ**

Holly Selby contributed to this article.

Marking a Milestone

UMSOD's Annual White Coat Ceremony Celebrates Students' Transition from Class to Clinic



Photos by Matthew D'Agostino / UMB



ABOVE: Sheryl L. Syme, director of Dental Hygiene Programs, helps Carly Miller don her white coat.

LEFT: The BSDH Class of 2022 and the DDS Class of 2023 marked their transition from class to clinic.

BY HOLLY SELBY

Noting that the COVID-19 pandemic has been a significant presence in life and work since the members of the Bachelor of Science Dental Hygiene Class of 2022 and the Doctor of Dental Surgery Class of 2023 began their dental school journey, Mark A. Reynolds, DDS '86, PhD, dean and professor of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD), added that he has “been impressed by their resilience, persistence, and drive to become the best oral health care professionals possible.”

Reynolds' comments were made at UMSOD's White Coat Ceremony, which marks the students' transition from classroom learning to clinical training. This year, the annual event, during which students are presented with white coats, was held Sept. 17 as a hybrid event. Participating students and a handful of faculty members attended a small, in-person, on-campus gathering that was livestreamed so that friends and family could watch in real time.

Upon being presented with white coats, which are traditionally associated with the health care professions, “you have become part of the rich tradition that defines the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, the world's first dental college,” Reynolds told the students. “With this ceremony, you become the newest members of our profession.”

As part of the ceremony, the students received a University of Maryland, Baltimore lapel pin and a handwritten note. Called “Words of Wisdom,” each note was written by a UMSOD alumnus and carried

a message of advice, encouragement, and congratulation. Led by Patricia E. Meehan, DDS '93, MS, associate dean for Academic Affairs and assistant professor, the students also recited a professional oath in which they pledged themselves “to the service of humanity.”

For the second year, alumni and UMSOD supporters offered gifts of sponsorship on behalf of the White Coat Ceremony, Reynolds said, adding, “I would like to express my gratitude to all our dedicated alumni and friends for their participation.”

Later in the ceremony, Marc G. Nuger, DDS '79, president of UMSOD's Alumni Association Board of Directors, addressed the gathering and welcomed the students to the launch of their clinical training. “You are the future of our profession. Together, all of you are about to make a difference in many people's lives,” he said.

Other speakers included Chris Choi, DMD, MS, FACS, clinical assistant professor and co-director of predoctoral prosthodontics in the Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics; Lauren Miller, president of the BSDH Class of 2022; and Wongelawit Tadesse, president of the DDS Class of 2023.

Noting that several members of his family were or are teachers, Choi said that he finds inspiration in teaching. “You are the future,” he told the students. “Through you, I can reach many people.”

The White Coat Ceremony can be viewed here: www.dental.umaryland.edu/2021WhiteCoatCeremony. **MD**

Best of Both Worlds

UMSOD and Japanese Students Collaborate on UMB Global Health Summit Panel

BY HOLLY SELBY

Neither time differences nor physical distances could deter University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD) students last year from launching a series of collaborative online discussions with dental students from Nihon University School of Dentistry at Matsudo in Japan about improving health worldwide.

The group presented its findings as part of a student panel at the University of Maryland, Baltimore's (UMB) 2021 Global Health Summit, which was held virtually in May.

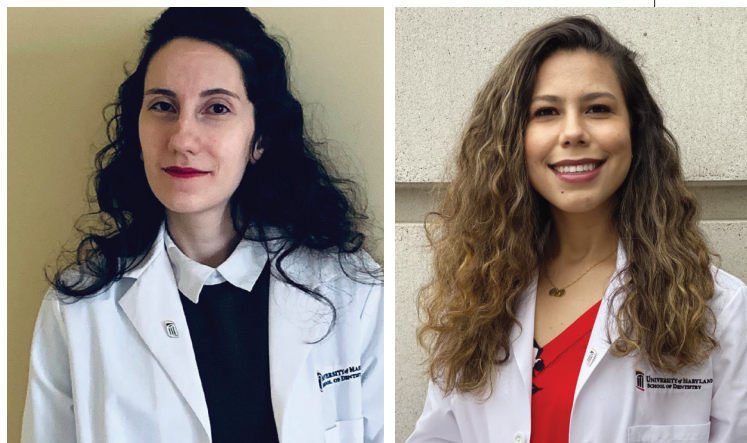
"The initiative really highlighted the importance of sharing our viewpoints, experiences, and lifestyles in order to better address the needs of humanity worldwide," said Ashraf Oreizi, a third-year UMSOD student who, along with fourth-year student Jazmin Jones, represented the UMSOD/Nihon University group on the panel. Sadataka Okudaira, a dental student from Nihon University, also participated in the live online discussion.

"The initiative really highlighted the importance of sharing our viewpoints, experiences, and lifestyles in order to better address the needs of humanity worldwide."

— ASHRAF OREIZI, THIRD-YEAR DENTAL STUDENT

"Regardless of the various limitations we had — such as a language barrier and time difference — the students from Nihon University were always excited and prepared to take on the next task," Jones said. "It made me realize how small the dental community really is."

Sponsored by the UMB Center for Global Engagement, the 2021 UMB Global Health Summit's title was "Decolonizing Global Health Education." "Decolonization" refers to a movement aimed at dismantling entrenched systems of dominance and power as part of improving the health of all populations — whether within an individual country or between countries.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Ashraf Oreizi and Jazmin Jones of UMSOD and Sadataka Okudaira of Nihon University (not pictured) represented UMSOD/Nihon University during the UMB 2021 Global Health Summit.

The two-day virtual event included keynote speakers from around the globe and students from 11 professional programs who shared reflections on the future of global education. The goal was to develop actionable ideas and recommendations for decolonizing global health education.

To develop their panel presentation, the UMSOD and Nihon University students met virtually several times to swap information about how their respective universities approach training oral health professionals. The discussions also delved into the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on dental care and education.

The students were aided by project mentors Kate Noonan, PhD, MEd, senior director, special projects for the dean; and Hanae Saito, DDS, MS, clinical associate professor and director of predoctoral periodontics, both of UMSOD; and Yorimasa Ogata, professor and chair, Department of Periodontology, Nihon University School of Dentistry.

"The discussions revealed the importance of listening carefully, asking the right questions, and being open to differing viewpoints," Noonan said. "I think it really laid the groundwork for better understanding and collaborations."

Additionally, because all preparations were completed via Zoom meetings, students and faculty mentors gained a new perspective on both the complexity of international collaborations and their value.

"Before COVID, being physically present was the main component of organizing externships and continuing education programs, but this inspired new ways of thinking about collaboration," Saito said. **MI**



Members of the 2020-21 SNDA Executive Board

Reaping Rewards

UMSOD's SNDA Chapter Continues to Earn National Recognition

BY HOLLY SELBY

Despite the disruptions and challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Maryland School of Dentistry's (UMSOD) Student National Dental Association (SNDA) received several national awards last summer in recognition of its fundraising, public service work, and outreach aimed at encouraging students in underrepresented populations to pursue careers in oral health.

Four of the awards were presented in June during SNDA's annual (and, this year, virtual) conference:

- **SNDA's 2021 Chapter of the Year Award** in the category of large chapter, in recognition of the group's outreach programs, mentorship, and fundraising. This is the eighth consecutive year that UMSOD's chapter has won first or second in the national competition.
- **The National Dental Association's (NDA) Legacy of Excellence Award**, in recognition of the group's overall and continued achievements. NDA is a professional organization that promotes oral health equity among people of color.
- **SNDA's Video Scrapbook Competition**, first prize, in honor of the best video depicting a chapter's events and memories from the academic year.

- **The Fourth Annual Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures Award**, which recognizes outstanding contributions and community outreach. This is the second consecutive year that the group has received this award.

"I am extremely proud that our SNDA chapter has continued its remarkable tradition of excellence, whether serving the community, mentoring and encouraging the youths of the Baltimore area to pursue careers in oral health, or supporting their student peers," said Mark A. Reynolds, DDS '86, PhD, UMSOD dean and professor.

"These remarkable students were undaunted by the pandemic, each staying focused on their studies while adapting standing programs and developing new ways to serve and educate our community neighbors."

At first, the idea of planning and executing myriad events during a pandemic was "very scary," said fourth-year dental student Ashley E. Reid, MS, who served as the chapter's 2020-21 president. "We faced a lot of out-of-the-box scenarios. We had to be flexible while making sure we were serving the community."

In the end, "teamwork and listening to the needs of the community helped us," she added.

The SNDA's Chapter of the Year competition is based upon a chapter's success in fundraising, performing community service, and launching new initiatives. Additionally, each chapter is assessed on how it executes three standing national programs: Impressions Day, in which pre-dental undergraduate students visit dental schools to learn about the dental school experience; a holiday canned food or toy drive; and an oral cancer walk.

UMSOD's Impressions Day, although held virtually in April, drew more than 100 participants and included a Dental Admission Test boot camp.

"I am thrilled that SNDA was able to adapt its programing so that UMSOD could offer so many undergraduate students a chance to learn about the experience of attending dental school," said Andrea Morgan, DDS, MS, clinical assistant professor and director of student advocacy and cultural affairs. "I am even more delighted that their efforts have been recognized on a national level."

Faced with the pandemic, SNDA retooled its approach to programing — seeking projects that could be offered remotely or completed outdoors. For example, through A Bridge to Academic Excellence, a collaborative community service project of the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, SNDA members tutored middle and high school students who were attending school remotely.

"I am thrilled that SNDA was able to adapt its programing so that UMSOD could offer so many undergraduate students a chance to learn about the experience of attending dental school."

— ANDREA MORGAN, DDS, MS, CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

The chapter also earned two other honors:

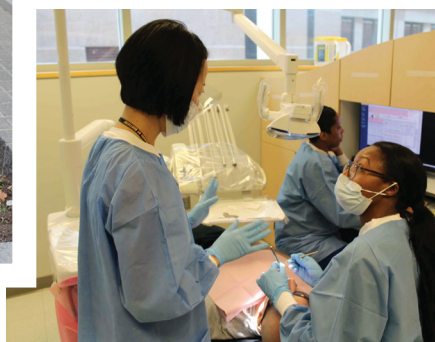
- **The Diverse Dental Society's Pandemic Oral Health Safety Video Contest**, first place, which included a \$1,500 prize. Awarded by the Dental Diversity Society, which comprises the Hispanic Dental Association, NDA, and Society of American Indian Dentists, it recognizes successful efforts to increase awareness among minority populations of the critical link between oral health and overall health, particularly during a pandemic.
- **The Forging and Fortifying Partnerships for Health Equity Virtual Video Competition**, second place, which included a \$300 prize. Presented by NDA's Presidential Inauguration Gala Committee, it recognizes efforts to increase awareness and sensitivity toward racial injustice. **MJ**

A Storied Ending

ADA News followed three UMSOD Class of 2021 members in their journey from UMSOD students to dentists.



Photo by Holly Selby



Courtesy of ADA News

ABOVE: Ben Horn, DDS '21; LaShonda Shepherd, DDS '21; and Dan Yang, DDS '21; were the subjects of a series of articles published in *ADA News*.

RIGHT: Hanae Saito, DDS, MS, clinical associate professor and director, predoctoral periodontics, discusses patient treatment with LaShonda Shepherd.

"The labs are done. The patients have been transferred. The competencies, experiences, and vertical learning assignments are all complete. The only thing left is to call them dentists."

And so begins the last installment of "Becoming a Dentist," a series

of articles published in *ADA News* that featured three University of Maryland School of Dentistry students from their first days of dental school through graduation.

The students — Dan Yang, Ben Horn, and LaShonda Shepherd — shared their dental school experiences, from listening to their first lectures and honing skills in the simulation lab to studying for exams and providing care to patients in the clinic.

Written by Jennifer Garvin, the articles were published from November 2017 to June 2021 in *ADA News*, an American Dental Association (ADA) publication. ADA is a Chicago-based dental professional association with more than 155,000 members. You can read the entire series at www.dental.umaryland.edu/ADA. **MJ**

—HOLLY SELBY

ByTheNumbers

Meet the DDS Class of 2025

They say that numbers don't lie, and if that's true, then the members of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry's first-year Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) class are studious, great at science and math, and 24 years old on average. Here is a numerical snapshot of the first-year DDS class:



DDS Class of 2025

129 students

54 male students, 75 female students

6 students

from another country

19 non-Maryland states

(including 10 students from California, and nine each from Florida, New York, and Virginia) represented in student body



69 students

hold bachelor's degrees in the biological sciences

49 students

graduated from college cum laude, magna cum laude, or summa cum laude (seven were summa cum laude)

21.5% of first-year students are Black

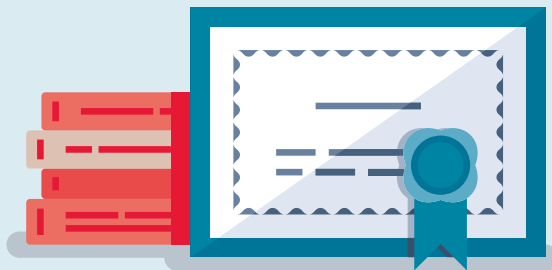
7% of first-year students are Hispanic

42.5% of first-year students are Caucasian

29% of first-year students are Asian

10 students with master's degrees

1 student with a doctorate



24 average age of students

UMSOD's Jones Honored as a UMB Student of the Year



Jazmin Jones is passionate about dentistry and service, two pursuits that will coalesce next year when she's scheduled to begin a four-year military commitment as a U.S. Army dentist.

"Dentistry is incredibly fulfilling

and allows me to really make an impact on individual lives. How many people can say that they literally give people's smiles back? I couldn't imagine doing anything else," says Jones, a fourth-year Doctor of Dental Surgery student at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD).

Jones, a 2017 graduate of the University of California, San Diego, attends UMSOD on a full U.S. Army Health Professions Scholarship. After graduation in May 2022, she will start four years of obligated service beginning with the rank of captain. After her residency, she plans to apply for an Army pediatrics specialty.

She has honed her dental, service, and leadership skills at UMSOD over the past three years, and her excellence in all aspects earned her recognition as one

of the University of Maryland, Baltimore's (UMB) inaugural Students of the Year, an honor that was presented as part of UMB's Founders Week celebration.

"As the Class of 2022 president and a female and minority student, Jazmin has served successfully as a role model for her peers — providing valuable insight, guidance, communication, and vision with a maturity beyond her years," says Karen Faraone, DDS, MA, associate dean of Student Affairs at UMSOD. "Her communication skills were particularly useful in the face of the multiple demands created by the COVID-19 pandemic."

Jones also co-founded the UMSOD Global Health Student Association and served as vice president of the chapter. She holds leadership roles in numerous other organizations, including the UMSOD chapters of the Hispanic Dental Association, American Student Dental Association, and Maryland Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

Committed to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion, Jones is a member of UMB's Diversity Advisory Council, serving on a subcommittee that offers insights on how the University's schools can promote diversity within their curricula. She also participated in the UMB President's Student Leadership Institute, with concentrations in effective leadership and inclusive leadership.

Jones said she was surprised and honored to win the UMB award, calling it "surreal" when she received a call of congratulations from UMB President Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS. "It's hard to wrap my head around, but I am so thankful for my amazing mentors, wonderful friends, and family for helping me get to this point," Jones says. **MJ**

— LOU CORTINA

UMSOD Employee Wins UMB Community Service Award



Josh Hiscock, PhD, MA, executive director of annual giving and alumni relations at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD), is the 2021 recipient of the University of Maryland, Baltimore's (UMB) Community Service Award.

The award, one of several presented annually by UMB in recognition of employees who go the extra mile

professionally or personally, honors employees who are active in local and international community service organizations.

Passionate about serving the community, Hiscock volunteers more than 25 hours a month with the Kiwanis Club of Ellicott City, Md., a global service organization that works to strengthen communities and serve children.

His many public service activities include being a longtime volunteer with Key Club International, mentoring and advising young leaders in the student-led high school service organization that is sponsored by Kiwanis. On the international level, Hiscock is immediate past chair of a seven-member Visionary

Leadership Team creating a leadership development program for the 180,000-plus members of Kiwanis in 80 nations around the world.

In fall 2019, Hiscock founded a service initiative titled Backpacks for Breaks, which addresses food insecurity in Howard County, specifically at two schools in Columbia with low-income students. Since December 2019, the program has provided backpacks filled with food for students during winter and spring breaks, when free or reduced-price lunches are not available. Thus far, nearly 11,500 meals have been provided. **MJ**

— HOLLY SELBY

Leading the Way

Dental Hygiene Student Receives System-Wide Scholarship

BY JOEL KABOT



Cailin Gollubier, Dental Hygiene Class of 2022, received a University of Maryland Alumni Association-International, Inc., scholarship for the 2021-2022 academic year. Given to two undergraduate, Maryland-resident students at each University System of Maryland institution, the award honors leadership activities and academic record.

Describing herself as someone who “wears many hats,” Gollubier embraced her first year at the

University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD) by “signing up to do a lot of things,” she says.

“I try to do as much as I can,” she adds.

That includes completing the President’s Student Leadership Institute certificate program at the University of Maryland, Baltimore; volunteering for the Dental Hygiene admissions committee; and serving as treasurer of UMSOD’s Student Dental Hygiene Association, among other activities.

Gollubier doesn’t intend to stop there, either, with plans to pursue a Master’s in Public Health after graduating from UMSOD. Drawn to health care after witnessing rural family members’ difficulties with oral health, she knew she “wanted to be on the preventive side of things.”

“Dental hygiene was a way to do that,” she says.

She plans to treat a specific target population, too: individuals

suffering from addiction and alcoholism.

“I’ve been in recovery for six years myself,” Gollubier says. “There’s a pretty large stigma attached, which affects access to care.”

Sheryl Syme, RDH, MS, associate professor and director of Dental Hygiene Programs, notes that this is the third year in a row that a Dental Hygiene student has received the scholarship.

“Ms. Gollubier’s leadership qualities and her desire to help others really exemplify the best of what our program has to offer,” she says.

“Receiving this scholarship really underscores that — and continues a recent Dental Hygiene tradition.”

For her part, while the scholarship’s financial aspect “certainly helps,” Gollubier appreciates the recognition most of all.

“I feel pretty proud that all my hard work was noticed,” she says. **Md**

Accolades



◀ **Sara Aldahmash, BDS**, endodontics resident; **Omid Dianat, DDS, MS, MS**, clinical instructor, Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics (AOST); **Behzad Mostoufi, DDS, MDS**, clinical instructor, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial

Surgery; **Ali Nosrat, DDS, MS, MDS**, clinical instructor, AOST; **Jeffery B. Price, DDS, MS**, clinical professor, Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences; **Elaine Romberg, PhD**, professor emeritus, AOST; and **Patricia A. Tordik, DMD**, clinical professor, AOST, co-authored “Accuracy and Efficiency of a Dynamic Navigation System for Locating Calcified Canals,” which was published in the *Journal of Endodontics*.



◀ PhD student **Abdulrahman A. Balhaddad, BDS, MSD**; **Mary Anne Melo, DDS, MSc, PhD, FADM**, associate professor and interim director, Department of General Dentistry; and **Akudo Ogubunka, DDS**, assistant chief resident, Advanced Education General

Dentistry, co-authored “Wear Behavior and Surface Quality of Dental Bioactive Ions-Releasing Resins Under Simulated Chewing Conditions,” which was published in *Frontiers in Oral Health* in February. Balhaddad also received the International Association for Dental Research’s 2021 Kulzer Travel Award-North America Region. The award encourages young investigators to undertake research in new/innovative testing methods of dental materials.

UMSOD Students Are Inaugural Recipients of Scholarship Awarded by Montgomery County Dental Hygienists' Association



University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD) students Paige Christensen and Carly Miller are the inaugural recipients of an annual scholarship established by the Montgomery County Dental Hygienists' Association (MCDHA) and awarded to Clinical Dental Hygiene Leader (CDHL) students at the Universities at Shady Grove (USG).

"We wanted to establish a scholarship that would offer financial assistance to strong, qualified students who aspire to careers in dental hygiene and who show promise as leaders in the profession," said MaryAnn T. Schneiderman, RDH, MS, clinical assistant professor and clinical dental hygiene director at UMSOD's educational facility at USG. Schneiderman, who is an MCDHA board member and served as president of the association from 2012 to 2016, spearheaded efforts to launch the scholarship.

The award "supports dental hygiene students pursuing the BS/MS Dual Degree in the CDHL program who are interested in a career that combines the principles of leadership, service,

and scholarship to advance the profession of dental hygiene," according to the MCDHA's description.

"I am delighted that the Montgomery County Dental Hygienists' Association is able to support deserving students as they pursue their professional careers," Schneiderman said. "And I am impressed with the hard work and promise shown by both our inaugural scholarship recipients."

A small award presentation ceremony was held in August at the UMSOD Shady Grove Health and Dental Services Facility, where a permanent plaque describing the scholarship will be displayed. **MD**

— HOLLY SELBY



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Innovation + Discovery



Theofilou



Younis

Conference Champion

UMSOD Resident Receives National Honor for Presentation

BY JOEL KABOT

Vasileios Ionas Theofilou, DDS, a resident in the Advanced Program in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology and doctoral student in the Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD), received the Gorlin Award at the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology’s 2021 annual meeting.

The award honors the best oral abstract among residents from contributing U.S. and Canadian oral and maxillofacial pathology programs. Theofilou’s presentation, “Stromal Inflammatory Subtypes of Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma Correlate with Patient Clinical Characteristics, Demographics, and Gene Expression,” was a continuation of prior research published in *Frontiers in Immunology* in March 2021.

Working in the lab of Rania H. Younis, BDS, MDS, PhD, director, Advanced Program in Oral and

Maxillofacial Pathology, and clinical associate professor, Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences, Theofilou was a member of an oral cancer research team that examined tumor inflammation as well as the stroma — the tissue around a tumor.

Under University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) Institutional Review Board-approved protocol, and in collaboration with Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery faculty members Joshua E. Lubek, DDS, MD, FACS, fellowship program director and clinical associate professor; Donita Dyalram, DDS, MD, FACS, residency program director and clinical assistant professor; and Robert A. Ord, DDS, MD, FRCS, FACS, MS, chair and professor, Younis’ lab “read” the pattern of inflammatory cells in the tumor tissue using immunohistochemistry staining of immune cells. A representative number of cases of the cellular

patterns were then used to analyze the transcriptional profile — in other words, the way genes are expressed at the RNA level.

“We then wanted to see if the pattern of tumor inflammation, stromal density, and transcriptional profile correlated with patients’ demographics and environmental risk factors,” Younis says.

Theofilou’s analysis revealed significant correlation with risk factors, such as smoking and alcohol consumption. “The current work provides a better understanding of oral cancer development, stratification, and phenotypes,” Younis says. “It’s one of the most exciting discoveries my lab has ever had.”

The finding will go a long way in characterizing the underlying pathogenesis of oral cancer. “We hope for its incorporation in future oral squamous cell carcinoma grading systems,” Theofilou says. “The importance of the tumor stroma and inflammation is underestimated by the current histopathologic grading systems.”

Adding that this was a team effort, Theofilou notes the contributions of other UMSOD co-authors such as Ioana Ghita, DDS, and Manar ElNaggar, BDS, MS, residents, Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences; Advanced Program in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology alumna Risa Chaisuparat, DDS, PhD; Dyalram; Ord; Lubek; and Younis, among other UMB researchers.

“I’m just really happy that UMB and the School of Dentistry, and the work of Dr. Younis’ lab in particular, received such recognition.” **MD**

UMSOD's Masri Awarded Elkins Professorship from University System

BY HOLLY SELBY



Radi Masri, DDS, MS, PhD, professor in the Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry and the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, received a Wilson H. Elkins Endowed Professorship in September. Awarded by the University System of Maryland, the professorship supports compelling research aimed at improving quality of life.

In addition to teaching dental students and treating patients, Masri directs a federally funded research laboratory focused on developing new treatments for chronic pain. A prosthodontist specializing in implant dentistry and complex oral rehabilitation, Masri focuses his innovations on making oral health treatments easier to access, afford, and use.

He holds several patents — the most recent for a novel use of magnetic nanoparticles that reduces the need for painful and costly root canals.

As an Elkins Professor, Masri is researching why patients, particularly members of underrepresented populations, frequently reject treatment with dental implants. Here, he discusses his latest investigation.

Typically, your research is done in the lab. What inspired you to launch this epidemiological investigation?

It's true, most of my research is in the lab, but in the clinic, I see a lot of patients. And I often find most patients don't know what dental implants are, and they are very quick to say "no" to the treatment even though it would offer a major benefit. Implants are a wonderfully effective treatment, and we'd like to understand the barriers that prevent patients, particularly from underserved populations, from seeking dental implants as a treatment to replace missing teeth.

There are great disparities in the kinds of oral health care received by Americans. One Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report shows that one in four adults has untreated

dental disease. It also shows that 42 percent of African American adults and 36 percent of Hispanic adults have untreated disease, compared to 22 percent of Caucasians.

Could you describe what your investigation will be?

We want to learn what the barriers are to getting advanced oral health treatments, particularly implants, and try to remove them through education. Obviously, there could be many reasons for refusing treatment such as cost or concern about pain. Once we identify these barriers, we think education will show patients that implants greatly enhance lifespan and overall health, and, in the long run, offer great cost benefits.

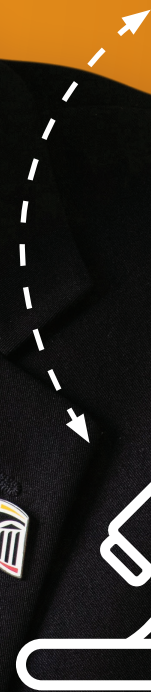
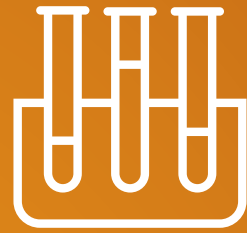
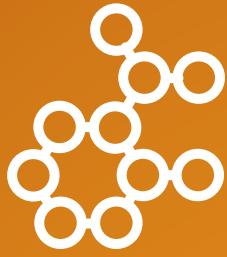
What are the benefits of implant treatments?

Successful implants offer patients the long-lasting, stable replacement of missing teeth, and that has a big impact on overall health and quality of life — the ability to eat and get nutrition, interview to get a job, and feel comfortable socializing.

How will you connect with underrepresented patients?

The project has an outreach arm. We will go out into the community where underrepresented populations may be, such as nursing homes, and try to educate people about implants, the dental school, and the process and benefits of receiving implants.

I've recruited two dental students who will be helping to gather the data and participate in community engagement. So that is another educational aspect to this project, as well. **MD**



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New Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences Chair's Career Is Groundbreaking in More Ways Than One

BY JOEL KABOT

In March, the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD) named Renty B. Franklin, PhD, chair of the Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences, making him the first African American department chair in the school's 181-year history.

It's a fitting cap to a career that has spanned more than four decades at UMSOD, and it's a responsibility the Birmingham, Ala., native doesn't take lightly.

"I consider taking the position an important step toward increasing diversity in school leadership," says Franklin, a professor who had previously served as interim chair.

"I never set out to be chair of a department," he adds. "Being chair was never a goal of mine, but I knew the impact my taking the position could have."

As an undergraduate at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Franklin considered a clinical career before two courses — biochemistry and endocrinology — led him to the laboratory, from which he never looked back.

"That's when I decided I wanted to be a basic science researcher," he says.

After earning a master's degree from Atlanta University and a PhD from Howard University College of Medicine, Franklin completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. He then found himself back at Howard as a faculty member involved in cancer research, specifically of the prostate. There, he worked closely with his mentor and advisor, Leslie C. Costello, PhD, who, with then-Dean Errol L. Reese, DDS, PhD, was responsible for ultimately bringing Franklin to UMSOD.

"Dr. Costello took the job as chair of the then-Department of Physiology at the School of Dentistry," Franklin says, "so I followed him to Baltimore."

At the time, Physiology was one of five basic science departments at UMSOD. They were later consolidated into one, the Department of Biomedical Sciences, before a restructuring led to the creation of three new departments:



A trailblazer in both research and representation, Renty B. Franklin was named chair of the Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences in May 2021.

Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences, Microbial Pathogenesis, and Neural and Pain Sciences.

Franklin has been a stable force in research even as the departments around him have come and gone. As chair of a successor department to Physiology, too, Franklin is following in his mentor's footsteps — just as he did in research.

At UMSOD, Costello, professor, Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences, and Franklin received more than three decades' worth of continuous National Institutes of Health funding and published nearly 200 research articles and multiple book chapters. It's at UMSOD where they made their most momentous contributions to the field of prostate cancer research.

Focusing on zinc's role in citrate accumulation in the prostate and changes in zinc levels associated with tumor growth, Franklin's lab determined the metabolic pathway responsible for production and accumulation of citrate in prostate epithelial cells, or the cells that form the lining of the prostate. They also were the first to show that osteoblasts — the cells that form bones — are the source of citrate production in bone.

Franklin also found that citrate accumulation in the prostate is a function of the prostate epithelium and that a decrease in accumulation related to tumor growth is due to metabolic alterations in the epithelial cells.

Ultimately, Franklin's research led to the use of magnetic resonance spectroscopy (MRS) imaging to diagnose prostate cancer.

"MRS is now the most accurate method for the detection and localization of prostate cancer," Franklin says.

His current research has led him beyond the prostate to the study of head and neck, liver, and pancreatic cancers.

"The common thread in all of these is the decrease in zinc, and how it contributes to cancer cell growth," Franklin says.

With such a strong background and legacy in research, it's no surprise that Franklin seeks to expand the research capabilities of his department.

"I view it as my responsibility to be supportive of faculty members who are starting out in research, or those expanding their labs, and to do all I can to support these activities," he says.

↓

“I NEVER SET OUT TO BE CHAIR OF A DEPARTMENT. BEING CHAIR WAS NEVER A GOAL OF MINE, BUT I KNEW THE IMPACT MY TAKING THE POSITION COULD HAVE.”

— Renty B. Franklin, PhD, chair of the Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences

His philosophy as chair is simple, driven by his own experience as a faculty member and a mentor to more than a dozen postgraduate students at UMSOD.

“The most important thing a chair can do is to give academics what they need and then get out of their way and let them do their work,” he says.

Franklin doesn’t just have tunnel vision for scholarly output, either.

“One of the challenges of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences as a department is that it has both a significant clinical side and a significant basic science side,” he explains. “The chair has to responsibly balance clinical areas with research.” That’s especially true when it comes to recruitment, he adds.

Mark A. Reynolds, DDS ’86, PhD, dean of UMSOD, is quick to praise Franklin’s past work as interim chair and his vision for the department.

“Dr. Franklin’s appointment reflects not only his distinguished tenure to date but also his plans for the future of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences,” Reynolds says.

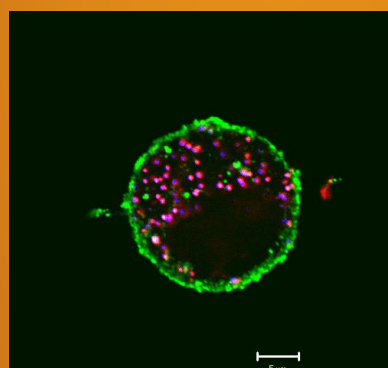
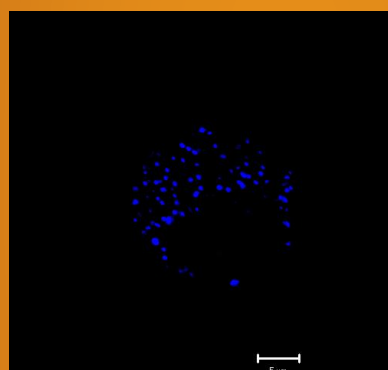
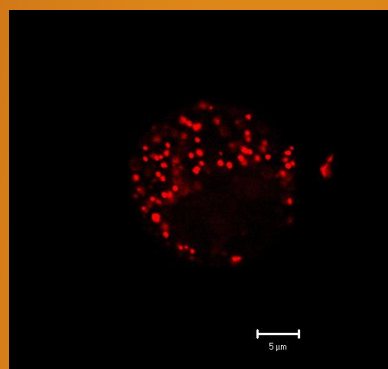
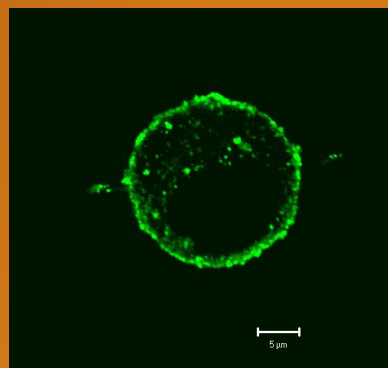
“Not only is he internationally recognized for his research contributions, particularly in the areas of prostate physiology and prostate cancer, but he is widely known for his outstanding contributions as a teacher and mentor,” Reynolds adds. “Notably, his prominence as a scientist has helped foster and promote minority representation.”

The last point is a topic of great importance to Franklin and Costello. Almost three decades ago, Franklin, Costello, and the late Warren K. Ashe, PhD, formerly of the Howard University College of Medicine, wrote in *The Physiologist Magazine* of being “disappointingly surprised” at the low numbers of African American faculty members in departments of physiology nationwide.

While Franklin notes that progress has been made since the article’s publication in 1994 — such as UMSOD’s success in attracting African American dental students, ranking third in enrollment percentage behind only Howard and Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry, both historically black colleges and universities — his groundbreaking selection as the first African American chair at UMSOD also underscores how far science, and the nation at large, needs to go.

To that end, Franklin returns to his motivation for taking on the duties of department chair.

“Hopefully, seeing me in this position will inspire African American dental students who want to go into academic dentistry,” he says, “as well those interested in basic sciences.” **MD**



A cancer cell stained with three fluorescent stains: Green marks a zinc Zip1 transporter; red marks mitochondria; and blue marks zinc. The merged image shows that zinc is associated with mitochondria.



Jose A. Bosio, BDS, MS,
Alumni and Friends Professor
in Orthodontics, and chief and
postgraduate program director,
UMSOD's Division of Orthodontics

CELEBRATING

LEGACY

Two UMSOD Faculty Members Honored with Endowed Professorships

BY HOLLY SELBY

The University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD) honored the inaugural recipients of two new endowed professorships, the Alumni and Friends Professorship in Orthodontics and the Dr. Paul and Mrs. Jean Corcoran Endowed Professorship, last spring in separate, virtual investiture ceremonies.

Endowed professorships play a unique role in academic institutions, allowing them to bestow recognition and distinction on outstanding faculty members as well as resources critical to their continued success. At each ceremony, remarks were offered by Mark A. Reynolds, DDS '86, PhD, UMSOD dean and professor; those who made the endowed professorships possible; friends and mentors of the named recipients; and, of course, the recipients themselves.

A medallion recognizing each recipient's accomplishments also was bestowed upon them. Its front features an etching of the UMSOD building and images of Horace H. Hayden and Chapin A. Harris, who in 1840 founded the school — the first school of dentistry in the world. The back of the medallion

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lists the name of the endowed professorship as well as a description of the school's purpose: Advancing Oral Health. Improving Lives.

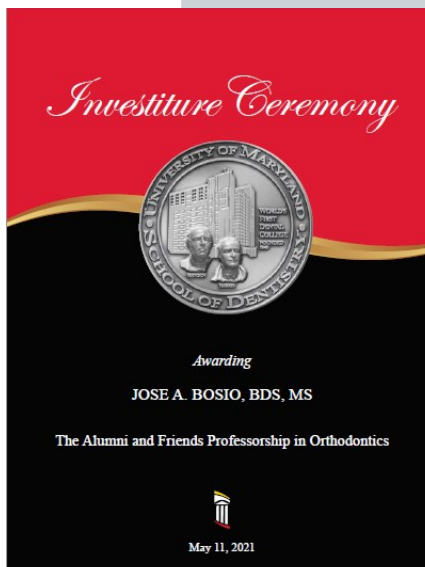
The two new professorships are UMSOD's second and third endowed positions. The school's first endowed professorship was established by Frederick G. Smith, MS, DDS '78, and Venice K. Paterakis, DDS '81. Its inaugural recipient is Tao Lowe, PhD, who is a professor in UMSOD's Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and holds a joint appointment in the Fischell Department of Bioengineering at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Noting that endowed professorships are a measure of the school's excellence, greatly enhancing its students' educations, as well as sustaining scholarship, supporting discovery, and helping to improve patient care in a chosen area of expertise, Reynolds thanked those whose generosity made the professorships possible.

"Such gifts are one of the most enduring contributions that can be made to an academic institution," he said. "To endow a professorship is truly to create an enduring legacy of excellence and impact."



Robert K. Ernst, PhD, Dr. Paul and Mrs. Jean Corcoran Endowed Professor, and chair, UMSOD's Department of Microbial Pathogenesis



THE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS PROFESSORSHIP IN ORTHODONTICS

Jose A. Bosio, BDS, MS, chief and postgraduate program director of UMSOD's Division of Orthodontics, where he also is a clinical associate professor, was honored May 11 as the inaugural recipient of the Alumni and Friends Professorship in Orthodontics.

Established by a group of UMSOD's alumni and supporters, the professorship enables the Division of Orthodontics to recruit and



I WANT TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THE PEOPLE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROFESSORSHIP.

— Jose A. Bosio, BDS, MS, chief of UMSOD's Division of Orthodontics

retain a leading educator and clinician. Through its support of Bosio's work, it will enhance advances in scholarship, education, and clinical care.

"I am delighted that many of our alumni and friends joined me and others in support of our orthodontics program," said Edgar Sweren, DDS '54, a member of UMSOD's Dean's Faculty who led the effort to create the professorship.

"With the establishment of the Alumni and Friends Professorship in Orthodontics, we are creating a leadership position that will forever enhance and extend our goals in education, patient care, and research."

Bosio completed his dental education in Brazil in 1987. He then received a postgraduate certificate from the Eastman Institute of Oral

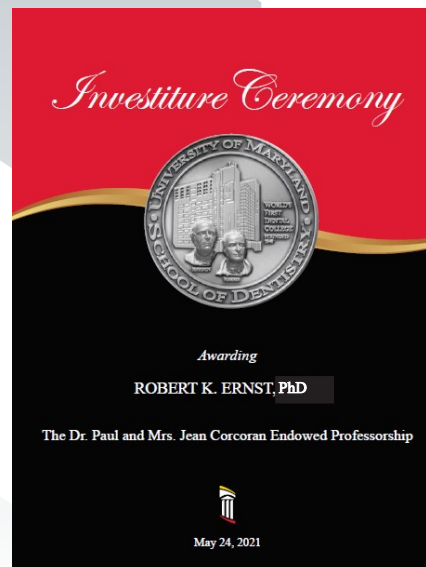
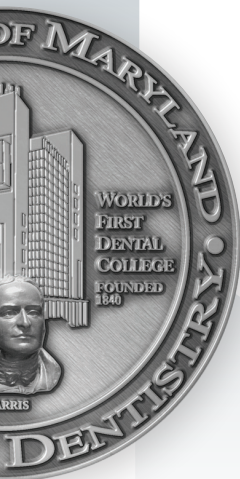
Health's Temporomandibular Joint Disorders Program in 1993 and a Master of Science degree and certificate in orthodontics from Ohio State University in 1996. He is certified by the American Board of Orthodontics (ABO) and the Brazilian Board of Orthodontics and Facial Orthopedics.

He received the 2011 American Association of Orthodontists' (AAO) Thomas M. Graber Award of Special Merit. In addition, Bosio has received multiple teaching fellowship awards from AAO (2008, 2009, and 2010) and the AAO Foundation (2011 and 2012). Since 2010, he has served as an ABO examiner. He also chaired the 2014 Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists/ Midwestern Society of Orthodontists Annual Science Session and has served as president of the Society of Orthodontic Educators and as a reviewer for the *American Journal of Orthodontics*, *Dentofacial Orthopedics*, *European Journal of Orthodontics*, *Journal of the World Federation of Orthodontists*, and *The Angle Orthodontist*.

During the virtual ceremony, Bosio thanked his family as well as his mentors, who include Reynolds; Vineet Dhar, BDS, MDS, PhD, clinical professor and chair of UMSOD's Department of Orthodontics and Pediatric Dentistry; and Philip Markin, DDS '66, MS, clinical assistant instructor, Dean's Faculty.

Bosio also spoke of his deep appreciation for those whose generosity established the professorship. "I want to express my gratitude to each and every one of the people who contributed to the professorship," he said. "I am very grateful."

To view the investiture ceremony, visit www.dental.umaryland.edu/JoseBosioInvestiture.



THE DR. PAUL AND MRS. JEAN CORCORAN ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP

Robert K. Ernst, PhD, professor and chair of UMSOD's Department of Microbial Pathogenesis and adjunct professor at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and the Department of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP), was honored May 24 as the inaugural recipient of the Dr. Paul and Mrs. Jean Corcoran Endowed Professorship.

Established by Paul Corcoran, DDS '75, and Jean M. Corcoran, the professorship enables the school to recruit and retain an outstanding researcher and educator whose work will further basic and applied research in critical areas of dental medicine, including the diagnosis, pathogenesis, and treatment of infections and infectious diseases involving the oral cavity and head or neck.

Citing former professors whose mentorship has had a lasting impact on his life, Corcoran, who is a 1968 UMCP graduate, said he was delighted to participate in the investiture.

"The University of Maryland and, subsequently, the University of Maryland School of Dentistry transformed an 18-year-old boy — not a man — into a DDS and changed my life," he said. "I feel very fortunate that, through our support of this endowed professorship, Jean and I are able to give back to the dental profession."

Since arriving at UMSOD in 2008, Ernst has received more than \$14 million in research funding from agencies including the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Department of Defense, and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

A co-founder of Pataigin LLC, a company

that is designing a rapid lipid-based diagnostic and antimicrobial resistance platform, Ernst, who holds 15 awarded or pending patents, is also in discussions to establish a Maryland-based startup for the commercialization of novel adjuvants using patented technologies developed in his laboratory.

During the virtual investiture ceremony, Ernst thanked his family, mentors, colleagues, and Reynolds. Additionally, he expressed his gratitude to the Corcorans.



BEING NAMED THE DR. PAUL AND MRS. JEAN CORCORAN ENDOWED PROFESSOR IS A PRESTIGIOUS HONOR. IT COMES WITH GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.

— Robert K. Ernst, PhD, chair of UMSOD's Department of Microbial Pathogenesis

"Being named the Dr. Paul and Mrs. Jean Corcoran Endowed Professor is a prestigious honor. It comes with great responsibility. I look forward to interacting with Jean and Paul frequently, and I will keep them apprised of the successes that we have in the future due to their gift," Ernst said.

The investiture ceremony reflects the great significance of endowed professorships, Reynolds said. "They are a measure of the depth and breadth of a school's excellence. We also have an opportunity to salute Dr. Ernst's notable achievements throughout the years, and we are able to express our immense appreciation to our donors, Dr. Paul and Mrs. Jean Corcoran."

To view the investiture ceremony, visit www.dental.umaryland.edu/RobertErnstInvestiture. **Md**

DENTISTRY CAMP OFFERS LESSONS, LAUGHTER, AND SMILES

BY LAURA LEE





“Most importantly, Planet Smilez cultivates ambition and academic potential by encouraging a career in the field of dentistry.”

— TASHARA BAILEY, PHD, MA, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS AND STEM CURRICULUM FOR UMB CURE

“Kevin has a headache,” 13-year-old Kennard Harvey joked as he proudly held up an anatomically correct model skull he put together during Planet Smilez Discovering Dentistry Camp, a weeklong interactive dentistry program held last summer for Baltimore City middle schoolers to learn about oral cancer and prevention as well as the oral health professions.

It was the third day of camp, and he was feeling giddy after painstakingly assembling the detailed 4D skull alongside his virtual camp teammates who named themselves the Flossy Posse.

Flossy Posse, Acid Attack, and Plaque Attack were the team names chosen by campers — a mix of University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) CURE Scholars and other Baltimore City students who worked for a week under the careful guidance of University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD) student volunteers and faculty to diagnose oral cancer cases and have fun doing it.

Now in its fifth year, the camp is a joint project involving Planet Smilez Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to oral education founded by Kathryn Pawlak, DDS '19; the CURE Scholars Program; and UMSOD.

The Planet Smilez camp is a reflection of Pawlak's passion for educating young people about oral health. For the second year in a row, she led the camp virtually from Buffalo, N.Y., where she recently completed her pediatric dental residency at John R. Oishei Children's Hospital.

“I am 100 percent committed,” Pawlak said. “I made a commitment to UMB, the CURE Scholars, and the Baltimore community to improve oral health care when I started

dental school. Now as a graduate, my partnership with the community is very involved. It comes from my heart.”

All week, campers were introduced to the basics of oral health through a series of speakers, discussions, and hands-on activities: how long to brush and how much toothpaste to use, as well as more advanced topics like maxillofacial anatomy and how to identify oral cancer.

“Most importantly, Planet Smilez cultivates ambition and academic potential by encouraging a career in the field of dentistry,” said TaShara Bailey, PhD, MA, director of programs and STEM curriculum for UMB CURE.

New this year was tobacco cessation programming led by Arielle Juberg, MPH, project coordinator, Prevention and Health Promotion Administration, Maryland Department of Health.

Also new were daily sessions about the social determinants of health led by UMSOD clinical assistant professors Andrea Morgan, DDS, MS, and Darien Weatherspoon, DDS, MPH.

“Many of you will have careers in health care,” Weatherspoon counseled scholars after explaining how health inequities affect communities. Education, transportation, housing, “these things are important to think about when you're treating your patients in the future,” he said.

CURE Scholar Savannah Glanville agreed that health outcomes can be based on your ZIP code. “Neighborhoods that have good health are usually richer,” she said during the group discussion.

The week ended with each team presenting dynamic oral cancer case reports. Each day campers diligently studied a real case with

PRECEDING PAGE: Planet Smilez scholars, joined by Kathryn Pawlak, DDS '19 (top row, center), and UMB and UMSOD faculty and staff, assembled model skulls as part of a virtual oral maxillofacial lesson.

Examples of SD of H

Social determinants of health (SDOH) have a major impact on people's health, well-being, and quality of life.

Examples

- Safe housing, transportation, and neighborhoods
- Racism, discrimination, and violence
- Education, job opportunities, and income
- Access to nutritious foods and physical activity opportunities
- Polluted air and water
- Language and literacy skills



“A lot of the stuff we’re teaching these middle schoolers, I didn’t learn until high school.”

— LAUREN GRITZER, MPH, DDS CLASS OF 2022



ABOVE: Andrea Morgan, DDS, MS, clinical assistant professor and director of student advocacy and cultural affairs at UMSOD, leads a virtual discussion with the CURE Scholars about social determinants and their impact on health.

the help of UMSOD student mentors in preparation for a PowerPoint presentation of their work during closing ceremonies.

“I think you hit the nail on the head. I can’t say how impressed I am,” said Donita Dyalram, MD, DDS, FACS, when Flossy Posse correctly identified a photo of a lesion on a 60-year-old male patient’s lip as squamous cell carcinoma.

Dyalram, residency program director, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, and an expert in oral malignancies, carefully critiqued each group’s conclusions while offering suggestions and praise. “Flossy Posse, Acid Attack, Plaque Attack, you guys took a tough topic and did a wonderful job with it,” she told the scholars, thanking them for their hard work.

While the scholars were the stars of the show, the dedicated volunteer dental and dental hygiene student educators played an enormous role by sharing their education journeys and

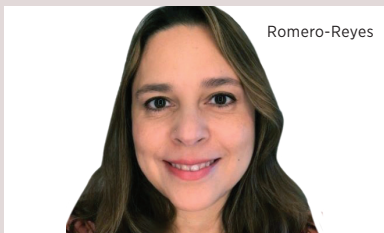
guiding scholars through challenging material.

Lauren Gritzer, MPH, a fourth-year dental student who along with second-year students Karen Abboud and Jade Bravo served as a student educator for Plaque Attack, said it’s gratifying to take part in a program introducing dentistry to young people in West Baltimore. “A lot of the stuff we’re teaching these middle schoolers, I didn’t learn until high school,” she said, chuckling.

On the final day, Mark A. Reynolds, DDS ’86, PhD, dean and professor of UMSOD, told scholars he hoped the Planet Smilez camp had opened their eyes to a career in dentistry. He encouraged them to keep working hard and to continue to pursue STEM education. “I hope that we will see you at the dental school throughout your middle and high school years, in college, and as future dental and dental hygiene students,” he said. **MD**

Lasting Impressions

Laurels



Simon Akerman, PhD, research assistant professor, and **Marcela Romero-Reyes, DDS, PhD**, clinical associate professor, both from the Department of Neural and Pain Sciences, co-authored “Preclinical Studies Investigating the Neural Mechanisms Involved in the Co-Morbidity of Migraine and Temporomandibular Disorders: The Role of CGRP,” which was published last year in the *British Journal of Pharmacology*. Akerman also was among the co-authors of “Differential Actions of Indomethacin: Clinical Relevance in Headache,” which was published in *Pain* in February.



Man-Kyo Chung, DMD, PhD, professor, and **Sheng Wang, DDS, PhD**, postdoctoral fellow, both from the Department of Neural and Pain Sciences (NPS), co-authored “Orthodontic Force Induces Nerve Injury-Like Transcriptomic Changes Driven by TRPV1-Expressing Afferents in Mouse Trigeminal Ganglia,” which was published last year in *Molecular Pain*. Chung and **Vipin Arora, PhD**, postdoctoral fellow, NPS, were among the co-authors of “Fight Fire with Fire: Neurobiology of Capsaicin-Induced Analgesia for Chronic Pain,” which was published in *Pharmacology & Therapeutics* in April.



Omid Dianat, DDS, MS, MS, clinical instructor, Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics (AOST); **Frederico C. Martinho, DDS, MSc, PhD**, clinical associate professor, AOST; **Behzad Mostoufi, DDS, MDS**, clinical instructor, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery; **Ali Nosrat, DDS, MS, MDS**, clinical instructor, AOST; and **Jeffery B. Price,**

DDS, MS, clinical professor, Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences, co-authored “Accuracy and Efficiency of Guided Root-End Resection Using a Dynamic Navigation System: A Human Cadaver Study,” which was published in the *International Endodontic Journal* in May.



Richard J. Traub, PhD, professor and chair, Department of Neural and Pain Sciences; **Robert K. Ernst**, professor and chair, Department of Microbial Pathogenesis; **Ohannes Melemedjian, PhD**, assistant professor, Department of Neural and Pain Sciences; and **Alison Scott, PhD**, research associate, Department of Microbial Pathogenesis; were awarded a four-year, \$1.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Defense for “Pain and the Immune System: A Novel Therapeutic Approach.”



Ina L. Griffin, DMD, clinical assistant professor, Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics (AOST), and **Frederico C. Martinho, DDS, MSc, PhD**, clinical associate professor, AOST,

co-authored “A Cross-Sectional Survey on the Impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 on the Clinical Practice of Endodontists Across the United States,” which was published in the *Journal of Endodontics* in January.



Gary D. Hack, DDS, clinical associate professor, Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics, presented “Using Technology During the Pandemic: Computer-Aided Design and Manufacturing and 3-D Printing in Dental Education” at UMB’s Teaching with Technology Virtual Conference in May. Hack also co-authored “A Specialized Myodural Bridge Named Occipital-Dural Muscle in the Narrow-Ridged Finless Porpoise (*Neophocaena asiaeorientalis*),” which was published in *Scientific Reports* on July 29.



Frederico C. Martinho, DDS, MSc, PhD, clinical associate professor, Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics (AOST), and **Patricia A. Tordik, DMD**, clinical professor, AOST, co-authored “Dental Abscess to Septic Shock: A Case Report and Literature Review,” which was published in the *Journal of Endodontics* in April.



Chris Choi, DMD, MS, clinical assistant professor, Division of Prosthodontics, Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics, appeared in a June documentary about dentistry in the United States produced by South Korean cable news company YTN.



Mary Anne Melo, DDS, PhD, associate professor and interim chair, Department of General Dentistry, and **Abdulrahman A. Balhaddad, BDS, MS**, PhD student, Dental Biomedical Sciences, were among the co-authors of “Photodynamic Therapy for Biomodulation and Disinfection in Implant Dentistry: Is It Feasible and Effective?” which was published in *Photochemistry and Photobiology* in April. Melo also edited the book “Bacterial Interactions with Dental and Medical Materials,” which was published in February.



Dina Sanchez, DDS, clinical assistant professor, Department of Orthodontics and Pediatric Dentistry, was awarded membership in the Omicron Kappa Upsilon national dental honor society for her outstanding scholarship, exemplary traits of character, and documented potential for professional growth and attainment.



UMSOD Professor Discusses Infection Control During a Pandemic

An overview of the COVID-19 pandemic, and instruction about federal, state, and University public health protocols were detailed in a webinar presented by Louis G. DePaola, DDS, MS, associate dean of Clinical Affairs and professor, Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD).

Titled “Management of SARS-CoV-2/ COVID-19 in the UMSOD,” DePaola’s remarks were made Aug. 25 as part of a course on infectious diseases coordinated by Patrik M. Bavoil, PhD, professor, and Kelley Hovis, PhD, senior instructor, both of UMSOD’s Department of Microbial Pathogenesis. Although the course is designed for second-year dental students, the webinar was made available to the entire UMSOD community because of the timeliness and relevance of its subject.

Noting that formulating a successful response to the COVID-19 pandemic last spring, took “a concerted effort by the whole dental school,” DePaola emphasized adherence to protocols is a critical component of public health.

As students, he said, “you need to be able to treat patients, you need to interact with each other, and if we don’t have good infection control from the minute you walk in the door until the minute you leave, we are going to have infection.” **MD**

— HOLLY SELBY



FocalPoint

Empowering Rising Health Professionals from Underrepresented Groups

BY JOYCE T.
DA SILVA, PHD

As a Latina and first-generation college student, I am familiar with the challenges that people from underrepresented groups face in health-related fields. Fortunately, throughout most of my education, I have been supported by mentors and programs that aim to improve the representation of diverse populations in health research.

Excellent mentoring relationships are critical to the advancement of underrepresented scientists. I completed a four-year internship during my undergraduate studies as well as a doctoral program in pain research under the guidance of Marucia Chacur, PhD, associate professor, Department of Anatomy, University of Sao Paulo (USP), Brazil. A generous educator, Chacur provided scientific training and helped me develop the resilience I needed to navigate challenging situations in school, work, and life.

My personal experiences have influenced my research interests. While walking through overcrowded aisles crammed with beds at the USP School of Medicine hospital during a clinical residency in pain management, I fully understood how chronic pain can diminish quality of life. I also noticed the higher number of women and elderly people in the pain clinic.

I became interested in understanding how sex and age may influence pain.

Now, as a postdoctoral fellow in the lab of David Seminowicz, PhD, associate professor, Department of Neural and Pain Sciences, University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD), I investigate brain mechanisms related to sex and age differences in chronic pain conditions in rodents and humans in pursuit of novel treatments.

The Seminowicz research team forms a diverse group whose members benefit from an environment where everyone's voice is valued independently of cultural and linguistic backgrounds. The experience has motivated me to work to boost awareness of the rich benefits of an inclusive environment.

Recently, I served as chair of UMSOD's Inclusive Excellence and Equity Committee, which aimed to strengthen diversity, equity, and inclusion at the school. Our projects included strategizing ways to address vaccine hesitancy and identifying tools that will help professors accurately pronounce student names. (Students report that when instructors know how to pronounce their names, they feel more valued.)

Last year, I was selected to be part of the Society for Neuroscience Scholars Program (NSP) to promote diversity and inclusion in biomedical science. NSP provides resources focused on career advancement challenges and cutting-edge scientific content for underrepresented graduate students and postdoctoral researchers.

I also participate in the National Institutes of Health-funded BUILD 2 ASCEND program, a collaboration between the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and Morgan State University (MSU) that aims to increase diversity in the biomedical community through mentoring. Within this program, I mentored a dedicated MSU undergraduate student who last year completed a research project that showcased her accumulated knowledge in hypothesis testing, project design, and implementation.

Recently, I was selected as UMB's first Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate PROMISE Academy Alliance Fellow, a National Science Foundation-funded program created to increase the number of historically underrepresented, minority tenure-track faculty within the University System of Maryland. Moving forward, my goal is to continue working to empower minorities through my research and by encouraging and mentoring others to pursue science and health care careers. **MD**

Alumni

From the Alumni Association



Dear Fellow Alumni:

Welcome! I am pleased to have this opportunity to introduce myself formally. I am Marc Nuger, DDS '79, the new president of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD) Alumni Association Board of Directors. I have been active in both the Alumni Association and the organized dental community throughout

my professional career. As a past president of the Maryland State Dental Association, and now as Alumni Association president, I am humbled and honored by the opportunity to represent the best interests of dentists in Maryland and throughout the country. I have thoroughly enjoyed practicing general dentistry for more than 42 years. Every day is a new adventure! Like many of you, I have seen some patients for so long that I now am providing care for their children, grandchildren — even great-grandchildren.

One of our school's great strengths lies in how many of its alumni are part of a long line of UMSOD graduates. My grandfather, daughter, and son-in-law all earned their DDS degrees at the school, and my wife is an alumna of the school's outstanding dental hygiene program. For me, UMSOD is all about relationships and connections — as I am sure it is for many of you.

As we move into 2022, the Board of Directors hopes to build on all of our connections while welcoming our newest alumni. A robust alumni association can provide great resources for the school and its faculty, students, and alumni.

I urge you to give back to our school in the year ahead, either by volunteering to mentor a student, attending a virtual or in-person event, donating to a scholarship in support of a student's education, or joining the Dean's Faculty.

There are many ways to stay involved with UMSOD: By reading the monthly alumni e-newsletter and staying informed about news and events, following the Alumni Association on Facebook and catching up through updates and nostalgic photos from years past, or checking out the excellent stories and photos in each issue of *Mdental*.

Our students represent the future of dentistry, and, through our involvement with UMSOD, we demonstrate our pride in our alma mater, willingness to be resources, and support of their academic and professional success.

We have a lot to look forward to in the upcoming year! Plans for our annual All-Alumni Reunion are still being made as we assess the evolving pandemic. Please stay tuned for updates!

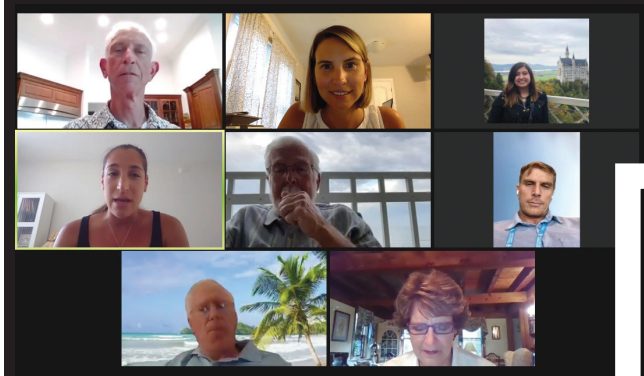
In the meantime, I hope you will join your fellow alumni and me in celebrating each other and the rich legacy that the School of Dentistry has given us.

Thank you,
Marc Nuger, DDS '79
President | Alumni Association Board of Directors

For more information about the Alumni Association or events, please contact Nicole Nash, assistant director of alumni relations, at 410-706-3663 or nnash1@umaryland.edu.



If you have news to share, please send it to hselby@umaryland.edu.



Alumni and current students gathered last summer at virtual meetings that targeted specific regions of the country including the West Coast and Florida.



Zooming in on Our Friends

The University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD) organized a handful of online alumni events last summer targeting specific regions of the country. At the virtual gatherings, Karen Faraone, DDS, MA, UMSOD's associate dean of Student Affairs and assistant professor, presented lively updates about the school. Nicole Nash, assistant director of alumni relations, offered descriptions of volunteer opportunities such as the mentoring program UMSOD Connect.

Attendees, who included alumni and current students, also had an opportunity to introduce themselves and network with each other. More regional gatherings,

both virtually and in person, are being planned, so please visit www.dental.umaryland.edu/alumni.

Additionally, the UMSOD Alumni Association Board of Directors introduced four new board members — “Sunny” Hussain Choudhary, DDS '21; Caitlyn Gerald, DDS '13; Christine D. Hoang, DDS '15; and Peter T. Kelly, DDS '11 — at a virtual orientation meeting Aug. 24. Marc G. Nuger, DDS '79, Alumni Association president; Shari Kohn, DDS '90, immediate past president; and Joanne Block Rief, DDS '86, president-elect, led discussions about the board's goals for the coming year. **Md**

— HOLLY SELBY

GET CONNECTED

ARE YOU UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY (UMSOD) ALUMNI WHO RECENTLY GRADUATED FROM A RESIDENCY PROGRAM? WE NEED YOUR KNOW-HOW!



You're invited to join UMSOD Connect,

the Alumni Association's new UMSOD LinkedIn group, through which alumni meet current students while sharing their knowledge about residency programs. If you're interested, please join us at www.linkedin.com/groups/12149632 or by emailing dentalalumni@umaryland.edu.

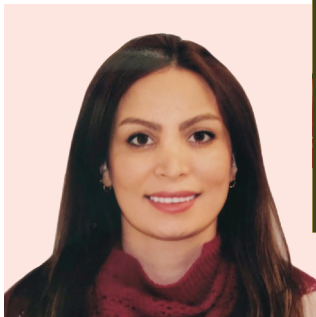
ClassNotes



Sylvan Feldman, DDS '65

Sylvan Feldman is the recipient of the American Academy of Periodontology's 2021 Educator Award, which recognizes excellence in teaching and mentoring in periodontics.

Feldman, who completed certificate programs in prosthodontics and periodontics, is a longtime member of the Dean's Faculty and a member of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry Board of Visitors. A prolific author, he has published numerous articles, in particular related to the science of implants. He also served from 1998-2000 as the president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.



Fahimeh Razian, DH '20

Fahimeh Razian created the artwork featured in 2020 on the cover of *1807: An Art & Literary Journal*, published by the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Razian, who describes her painting as "tulip flowers with a watercolor technique," graduated from the Institute of Visual Arts in Iran and was an art teacher for 10 years.



Melvin F. Kushner, DDS '66

Melvin F. Kushner, chair of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry's (UMSOD) Board of Visitors, member of the Dean's Faculty in the Department of Dental Public Health, and a past president of UMSOD's Alumni Association, was honored with a 2021

University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) Catalyst for Excellence Award. Recipients "exemplify powerful advocacy for success, achievement, and philanthropy for their respective schools while serving as visionaries for future progress," according to the award's description. For his professional and volunteer efforts on behalf of UMSOD, Kushner was recognized for championing and nurturing the collaborations that are critical to the advancement of oral health care. Additionally, the honor, which was presented virtually at UMB's Founders Week Gala in October, notes that his "steadfast and generous philanthropic and personal support has been a positive and profound influence for good for students, faculty, and community members."

In Memoriam

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

Mark E. Bailey, DDS '81
Eugene A. Beliveau, DDS '57
George T. Carofino, DDS '68
Beverly W. Dunn, DDS '68
Robin Henschel, RDH, BS '79

Carlton J. McLeod, DDS '56
Jorge J. Rodriguez-Fernandez, DDS '50
William D. Young, DDS '54

*The school learned of the passing of these alumni, faculty, and friends between April 13 and Aug. 23, 2021.

GameChanger



Called to Service

Community-Minded Alumnus Dickerhoff Never Forgets His Maryland and UMSOD Roots

BY HOLLY SELBY

Not even a bolt of lightning could stop David G. Dickerhoff, DDS '82, MAGD, from talking about the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD).

A few days earlier, lightning had struck his practice in Fayetteville, N.C., knocking out about 35 personal computers, 20 or so landlines, all the radiology equipment, and the security system. Although technicians and workers were still milling about his offices, Dickerhoff was willing to chat via cellphone about why giving back to his alma mater is important to him.

"I grew up in Cumberland [Md.], and still root for the Orioles, the Terrapins, and the Ravens," he said. "I still consider myself a Maryland boy even though I have lived in North Carolina since 1991. And I am very appreciative of the things that the dental school has done for me."

Since 1996, Dickerhoff and his wife, Janice Dickerhoff, have operated a private practice comprising five

general dentists, two specialists, and a support staff of 30. Janice, a former U.S. Army patient administration specialist, oversees all of the practice's higher-level functions, such as employee benefits, payroll, and taxes.

As an undergraduate at Western Maryland College (now McDaniel College), Dickerhoff joined the U.S. Army ROTC. After graduation, he applied to UMSOD but was turned down. He then served with the Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C., from 1978-82.

"In that four-year stint of service, they sent me to Jump School, and I was a platoon leader, executive officer, and company commander in a medical clearing station where I earned my Master Parachutist's Wings and Expert Field Medical Badge," Dickerhoff said. "The biggest thing is that those four years allowed me to grow up a little bit."

He applied again to UMSOD and was accepted. "I really appreciate

Maryland accepting me into the class. It taught me so much; I have always been proud to be an alumnus."

Dickerhoff fondly recalls competing on the parking lot roof with the Baseliners, an intramural basketball team, and learning from transformational professors such as Timothy F. Meiller, DDS, PhD, professor in UMSOD's Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences; and Richard Wynn, PhD, professor in UMSOD's Department of Neural and Pain Sciences. But "it should surprise no one that my favorite faculty member was Dr. Hal Crossley," he said.

After dental school, Dickerhoff continued his military career, serving in Wildflecken, Germany, and Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, as well as completing two advanced general dentistry residencies at Fort Sill, Okla., and Fort Bragg.

Throughout the years, he and Janice, who have sons ages 17 and 21, have remained committed to the notion of giving back. In 2019, the couple made a major multi-year pledge to UMSOD's Annual Fund and are supporters of the Dean's Innovation Fund and the Dean's Scholarship for Leadership & Excellence.

Dickerhoff also donates time to community organizations such as North Carolina Missions of Mercy and Rebuilding America's Warriors. He served for a decade as chair of the United Way of Cumberland County's dental division, and, since 2017, has been the North Carolina state chair of Dental Lifeline Network, a national nonprofit that provides access to dental care for the medically compromised and elderly.

"I have always felt that Maryland gave me an incredible start to my dental education," he said. "Because of that, I have tried to give back. As an elder and clerk of session in my church, Christ's example of being a servant has always inspired me to service." **MD**



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REUNION

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or email dentalalumni@umaryland.edu.



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