

# contactPOINT

UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC ARTHUR A. DUGONI SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY | VOL 102 • NO 1 | SPRING 2022

## CELEBRATING



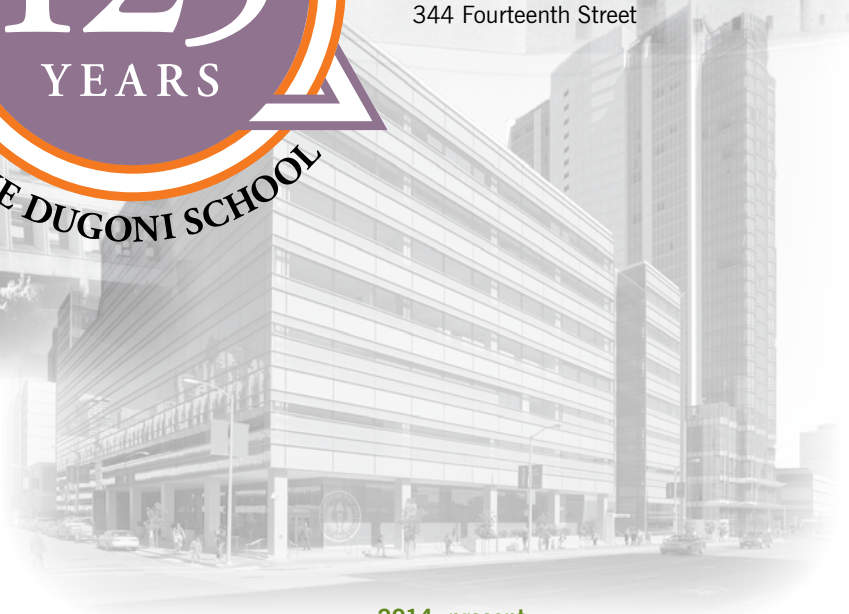
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**ON THE COVER** The building facades of the four dental school locations since 1896.

PHOTO BY SANDRA SHUHERT

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## HELPING PEOPLE LEAD HEALTHY LIVES

### NADER A. NADERSHAHI, DEAN People Powered

What a milestone we have reached together as the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry officially celebrates its 125th anniversary!

In this issue of *Contact Point*, we take a look at the history of our school through photographs, anecdotes and memorable moments over the years. We have much to celebrate as we recall special times and much to be excited about in our future.

Our dental school has occupied four different locations in San Francisco. While our facilities have grown in comfort, technological capabilities, clinical spaces and other amenities, our people remain the school's most important asset. This issue of the magazine also celebrates our students, residents, staff, faculty, alumni and supporters—the people who make the Dugoni School a success.

Our people create our culture through shared values. Our people bring new ideas and challenge the status quo. Our people care for our community and work hard to improve outcomes and brighten smiles for our patients and all of our constituents.

And no matter what challenges we have faced—including the pandemic—our people have risen to the occasion to help us succeed.

I know that our future is bright as long as we continue to support each other and value our talented people. We value *you*!

Nader A. Nadershahi '94, DDS, MBA, EdD  
Dean and Vice Provost



PHOTO BY JON DRAPER

## Yerba Buena District Honors Dugoni School For Excellence in Community Service

A San Francisco civic organization has honored the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry with the Community Excellence Award for Community Engagement, recognizing the school's many forms of community outreach and support during the past year.

The Yerba Buena Community Benefit District (YBCBD) bestowed the honor during a virtual awards presentation held January 18. Other honorees receiving Community Excellence Awards included the Moscone Convention Center and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

The Dugoni School of Dentistry has made a positive impact on the Yerba Buena neighborhood in many ways, especially during the pandemic. The school provided vital dental services to nearly 20,000 local children, families and adults during the past year. It kept its Emergency Clinic open during the initial shelter-in-place order in 2020 so people who needed dental care could get it without overburdening already busy hospital emergency rooms.



Last year, the dental school provided more than 4,000 COVID-19 vaccines to local seniors, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, healthcare workers and other frontline employees. The school worked closely with the San Francisco Department of Public Health and the San Francisco Mayor's Office on Disability to host the first targeted vaccine clinic in San Francisco for people with disabilities, including Special Olympians. With support from alumni and friends, the school also created a patient emergency fund for people who were financially impacted by the pandemic to help them pay for dental care. In addition, the Dugoni School of Dentistry launched a "Dental Care is Essential Care" public service ad campaign to encourage those who put off dental visits during the pandemic to resume oral health care.

The YBCBD is a nonprofit organization working to improve the quality of life in the Yerba Buena neighborhood, encompassing roughly Second to Fifth Streets and Market to Harrison Streets. Its programs include Community Guides, SFPD bike patrol officers, graffiti removal, street and sidewalk cleaning, neighborhood marketing and public art projects.

PHOTO BY JON DRAPER



## New Department Chairs for Endodontics and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Two respected individuals in the oral health profession recently joined the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry to provide leadership for the Department of Endodontics and the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. The new chairs were selected following national searches.



### **Adham Azim, BDS, DDS**

*Associate Professor and Dr. Earl R. and Tannia Hodges  
Endowed Chair in Endodontics*

Dr. Adham Azim earned a BDS from Cairo University where he also received his endodontic training, and obtained his DDS degree from University of Buffalo, School of Dental Medicine. He later completed his endodontic certificate at Columbia University, and since then, he has been a full-time educator and a part-time private practitioner. Before joining the Dugoni School of Dentistry, he served as the division head and director of the endodontic postgraduate program at University of Buffalo.

Azim is a diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics. He has lectured all over the world and has received several awards for his research work. He has more than 30 publications in peer-reviewed journals and has written textbook chapters for *Ingle's Endodontics* and *Endodontics: Principles and Practices*. Azim is a member of the scientific advisory board of the *Journal of Endodontics*, associate editor for the *European Journal of Endodontics* and a reviewer for multiple endodontic journals such as the *International Endodontic Journal*, *Journal of Dental Traumatology* and *Journal of the American Dental Association*. He is also the founder and CEO of Endolit, an educational application that helps dentists interested in the field of endodontics learn about endodontic literature and clinical endodontics.

### **David Lam, MD, DDS, PhD**

*Chair and Dr. T. Galt and Lee DeHaven Atwood Endowed Professor  
in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery*

Dr. David K. Lam specializes in the comprehensive surgical management of patients with cancer, pathology and trigeminal nerve injury. His research and clinical programs are closely integrated, and his research addresses the challenges he faces in the clinical management of oral and maxillofacial surgery patients. He received his DDS with honors from University of Toronto and subsequently obtained a PhD in the collaborative program of neuroscience and oral and maxillofacial surgery and a specialty certificate from the same institution. He earned an MD from University of California, Davis and completed a postdoctoral neuroscience research fellowship, as well as a surgical fellowship in maxillofacial oncology and reconstructive surgery, at University of California, San Francisco.



He is a diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and an OMFS fellow in the Royal College of Dentists in Canada. His funded research focuses on the diagnosis and management of pathology, nerve injury and pain. In addition to funding on research, education and training grants, Lam has published and presented internationally, nationally and locally on a variety of topics relevant to his research and clinical interests.



## Faculty Member Contributes to Landmark Oral Health in America Report



A comprehensive new report from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) dives deep into the subject of oral health in America, issuing several calls to action to improve the health of the nation.

Released in December 2021, *Oral Health in America: Advances and Challenges* is a culmination of two years of research and writing by hundreds of contributors. The report is a follow-up to the U.S. Surgeon General's *Report on Oral Health in America* which was published in 2000.

Dr. Elisa Chávez played a leadership role by serving as associate editor for the report's "Section 3: Oral Health Across the Lifespan: Working-Age and Older Adults." Chávez is a professor in the Department of Diagnostic Sciences and also serves as director of the Pacific Center for Equity in Oral Health Care and a member of The Santa Fe Group.

The report includes chapters on the effects of oral health on the overall well-being of individuals, communities and the economy; oral health across the lifespan; oral health integration, workforce and practice; pain, mental health, substance use and oral health; and emerging science and promising technologies to transform oral health.

Explore the full report on the NIDCR website at [www.nidcr.nih.gov/oralhealthinamerica](http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/oralhealthinamerica).

## Dean Nadershahi Named to State and National Leadership Roles

The Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry's influence in health care and oral health education is taking new forms thanks to the leadership of Dean Nader A. Nadershahi '94.

In December 2021, Nadershahi was chosen by Governor Gavin Newsom to serve on California's new Health Workforce Education and Training Council. He is one of 17 healthcare leaders charged with guiding California's health workforce education and training to meet the state's health care needs. The council is composed of experts who represent a variety of health professions and various graduate medical education and training programs, including the fields of primary care, nursing, dentistry and behavioral health. The Health Workforce Education and Training Council was formed in late 2021 following passage of Assembly Bill 133. The council is part of the Department of Health Care Access and Information.

In addition to his role in California, Nadershahi has moved into new leadership at the national level. In March 2022 he was named chair of the board of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) for 2022-2023. ADEA represents dental schools, allied dental programs and postgraduate dental programs across the United States and Canada. ADEA activities encompass a wide range of research, advocacy, faculty development, meetings and communications, including the esteemed *Journal of Dental Education*.



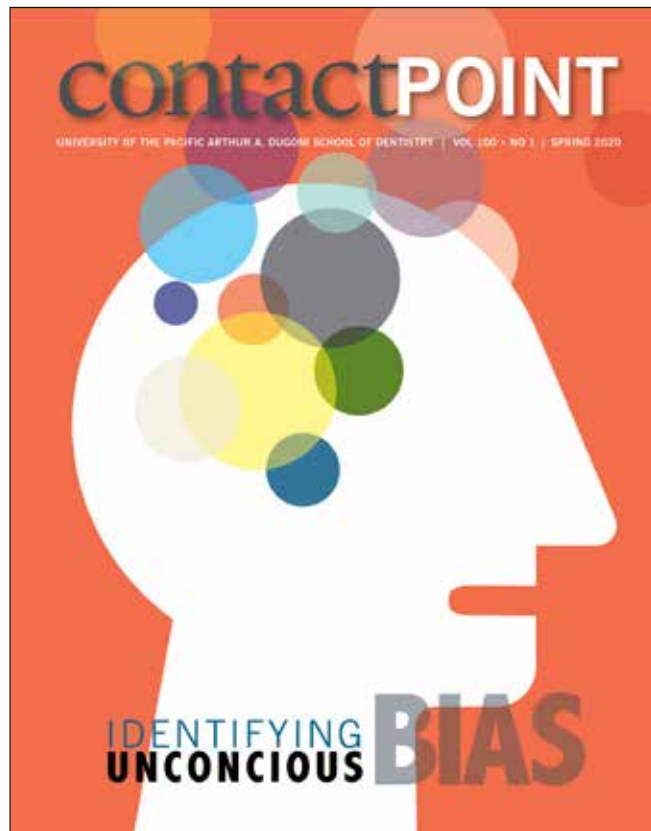
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AMERICAN DENTAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

In other leadership activities, Nadershahi serves as a member of the influential Santa Fe Group, an action-oriented think tank focused on improving lives through oral health.



## ICD Honors Contact Point Magazine

*Contact Point* magazine received two awards from the International College of Dentists—USA section: the Platinum Pencil Award—Division 1 for outstanding use of graphics for the Spring 2020 issue and an Honorable Mention Award for Outstanding Cover—Division 1 for the Autumn 2020 issue. The awards were presented at the American Association of Dental Editors and Journalists virtual meeting on February 22, 2022.



“Thank you to Sandra Shuhert, director, Brian Blanchard, Angelique Bannag, Jon Draper and former director Joan Yokom for showcasing the school in the best light through their visual design and photography. They met the challenges of producing two award-winning issues of *Contact Point* while working remotely during the pandemic,” said Dean Nader A. Nadershahi ’94.





PHOTOS BY JON DRAPER

## Modernizing the Past By Ashley Musick

**Dorothy Dechant, MA, PhD, has always been passionate about the importance of contemplating and acknowledging nature, something that greatly influenced her desire to pursue biological anthropology as a student at University of California, Berkeley (UCB).**

During her undergraduate program, Dechant volunteered to work at University of California's Museum of Paleontology preparing fossils, working with specimens and constructing databases. She went on to receive a master's degree and PhD in biological anthropology—both from UCB. This fueled her fascination with evolution and humanity's place in nature, which later led her to successfully co-found a natural history museum in Virginia—an experience that helped her realize how much she enjoyed the challenges of working in a museum environment.

Having taught briefly at City College of San Francisco before joining the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry as a museum coordinator and adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, Dechant explains, "I started thinking about how to get funding to improve the preservation of the collections and increase their accessibility to researchers and to faculty for teaching. I was branching out and trying to be creative with the position."





“ The Dugoni School has always given me a lot of independence, which I appreciate because it has allowed me to be creative in directions that are important for the school, the students and the profession. ”

As curator for the Center for Dental History and Craniofacial Study at the dental school, Dechant has since expanded her role beyond monitoring museum acquisitions to include researching and creating exhibits, a transition that led to her instrumental involvement in creating a virtual museum for the Dugoni School of Dentistry.

When the dental museum moved from the Webster Street campus to its current location, Dechant faced the challenge of keeping all of the collections accessible despite limited physical space. “The dean at the time was Dr. Patrick Ferrillo, and his thought was, ‘We can’t take all of this with us to the new school, so how about we photograph everything?’” says Dechant. “He called it the virtual museum project, and the idea was that we would create virtual exhibits instead of having the traditional museum setting.”

Dechant worked tirelessly with Jon Draper, in-house photographer, to take images of the A.W. Ward Museum of Dentistry artifacts and redesign them into the Virtual Dental Museum, with the goal of creating exhibits that expose students and professionals to a variety of topics involving dental history.

“I am always impressed with the depth and detail of the information she gathers on each subject,” says Sandra Shuhert, director of design and photo services. “Dorothy has brought our collections to life by creating engaging digital and physical exhibits at the school and in our online Virtual Dental Museum that can be shared with and enjoyed by the world.”

Dechant appreciates working with the P&S Comparative Anatomy collection, which is composed of skulls from a broad variety of animals, and developed a way to use the collection to teach dental evolution. “I enjoy it very much, because it’s something dental students aren’t normally exposed to,” says Dechant. “I call my class ‘The Truth About the Tooth’ because students see and learn about human teeth constantly, but they aren’t able to readily do hands-on and direct observation of the huge variety of tooth shapes or numbers that are in the jaws of other mammals, fish and reptiles.”

Dechant recognizes that even though most students will follow a more traditional dental career path, this class provides them with a broader perspective on how teeth originally evolved. “It seems that every time I finish teaching that course, the students are really happy that they took it because they typically have limited experience with observing the teeth of organisms other than humans, and they find it interesting.”



*Dechant demonstrates aspects of dental evolution for students visiting from Peking University School of Stomatology using a shark jaw specimen from the P&S Comparative Anatomy collection.*

*“The P&S Years” display case, located in the foyer of Dorfman Hall, features vintage artifacts from the dental school, classrooms and clinic.*



PHOTOS BY JON DRAPER

Visit the Virtual Dental Museum at [dentalmuseum.pacific.edu](http://dentalmuseum.pacific.edu)



PHOTOS BY JON DRAPER



In addition to her various responsibilities and specialized projects, Dechant also acts as a resident historian for the dental school. From answering alumni questions to providing the administration with historical information, Dechant realized that she could modernize the school's archives much like she did with the museum.

"One of my projects before the school moved in 2014 was to scan all of the volumes of the *CHIPS* school yearbook and *Contact Point* alumni magazine. Before, you couldn't search the history of the school very easily, so having those series of volumes scanned has revolutionized my ability to find information quickly."

"Dorothy is incredibly meticulous and takes her job as school historian very seriously," says Shuhert. "She has a deep understanding of our archives, and over the years has built an important research tool for dental and anatomical professionals across the country."

Dechant is also responsible for the school's Spencer R. Atkinson Library of Applied Anatomy collection, an invaluable, world-renowned collection that consists of more than 1,500 human crania assembled by orthodontist Spencer R. Atkinson—primarily from autopsies and biological warehouses. Professionals from across the globe and advanced students conduct research with specimens from the Atkinson collection.

A recent project that Dechant led was the repatriation of Native American remains to certain tribes, something that wasn't possible before the school changed locations because the Atkinson skull collection was dispersed. Though there are very few Native American remains in the collection, Dechant recognized the importance of this initiative and began the highly specialized process, which required formal communication with the tribes,

other museums and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act organization in Washington, D.C.

Dechant's ultimate passion lies in evolution, a theme that unifies her broad range of responsibilities. From creating virtual exhibits to digitizing the Dugoni School of Dentistry's historical archives, Dechant's ability to use a modern setting to access the past is a defining characteristic of her accomplishments at the dental school. She was recognized with the Medallion of Distinction Award, the Alumni Association's highest honor, in 2017.

"The Dugoni School has always given me a lot of independence, which I appreciate because it has allowed me to be creative in directions that are important for the school, the students and the profession," said Dechant. "I appreciate how they have trusted me to take things in a good trajectory, and I feel like I've accomplished that in my work with both the dental history and the skull collections."

*Ashley Musick is a freelance writer from Anaheim, California.*





## Pacific Selected for Esteemed College Service Program

University of the Pacific is one of only four private universities in California selected to take part in Californians for All College Corps, a program with high-impact community service that also helps students pay for college.

Pacific will receive up to \$3.2 million over two years to support 100 students who will participate in community service combined with classroom learning. Students who complete a year of service will receive \$10,000 for college.

In total, 45 public and private universities were selected through a competitive grant process. The state is investing \$146 million into the program—the largest in California history. Other universities selected include University of California, Berkeley; University of California, Los Angeles; University of California, Davis and University of San Diego.

“We are absolutely thrilled with our selection,” said Edie Sparks, Pacific’s vice provost for undergraduate education. “To go from a pilot of 10 students in 2020, to 27 the next year and soon up to 100 is tremendous.”

The Californians for All College Corps is focused on critical issues such as climate action, K-12 education and COVID-19 recovery.



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN MURILLO



## Pacific Ranks No. 1 in U.S. in Career Earnings for Low-Income Students

University of the Pacific ranks No. 1 in the nation in career earnings for low-income students who attended colleges that enroll high percentages of Pell Grant recipients, according to a new Georgetown University study.

Pacific ranks No. 39 in the nation among all public and private universities for lifetime earnings for students from low-income families, the study shows. That puts Pacific near the top 1% in the nation among the 3,410 schools studied and No. 3 in California—trailing only Stanford University and University of Southern California. But when looking at U.S. colleges and universities that have the highest percentage of Pell Grant recipients—those schools in the top half—Pacific was first in the nation, according to the analysis from Georgetown’s Center on Education and the Workforce.

“We are enormously proud of our faculty, staff and leaders who have created a university that serves students from low-income families so well,” said Pacific President Christopher Callahan. “A 21st-century college education is expensive. This study shows how that investment pays off for our students, especially those with limited means.”

# AROUND CAMPUS



HYGIENE PRESENTATIONS



SCOPE IN CHINATOWN



CDA NETWORKING FAIR



125 LOGO INSTALLATION



VACCINE CLINIC



INTERNATIONAL BONE SYMPOSIUM



PHOTO BY KELLY FONG



ASILOMAR



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DIWALI CELEBRATION



DIA DE LOS MUERTOS



HOLIDAY PARTY



# SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS GIVE BACK







BY MARIANNE SAMPOGNA JACOBSON

Dental school remains a significant investment of time and money. The DDS program tuition at the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry, for example, is currently \$119,360 per year. In order to encourage students with high potential to attend, the dental school has a robust scholarship program. Overall, 96 of the current enrolled students across all classes and programs have received institutional scholarships together totaling almost \$1 million for the 2021-22 academic year. Each year, the Admissions Office selects 10 to 11 incoming students to receive a sizeable award (\$60,000 to \$100,000 across three years) through the Dean's Scholarship program. Most of these scholarships are funded by generous donor gifts and endowments, including the Alumni Association Student Scholarship Endowment.



These awards are merit-based and students are selected because of their demonstrated achievement or personal qualities including leadership, philanthropy, strong character, high aptitude scores or potential to excel at the dental school curriculum. The scholarship program is supplemental to other forms of need-based assistance. "About 85% of our students qualify for and receive some kind of financial aid (federal- or state-funded loans) or scholarships or both," shared Marco A. Castellanos, director of financial aid.



**Dr. Eric McMahon '05**

“ As it paid for one whole year,  
earning the scholarship inspired  
me to do my best every day,  
never skip class and try really hard  
to prove I was deserving. ”



PHOTO BY JILLIAN VINCENT

Scholarships enrich the overall program and vitality of the institution. In general, scholarships impart many benefits to their school communities: they create motivated and appreciative students, cultivate loyal and generous alumni, increase diversity of backgrounds and thoughts and relieve financial stress to allow students to reach their full potential. Dr. Eric McMahon '05, who completed his pediatric training at Harvard University in 2007, is an inspiring example of how receiving a scholarship propelled him to perform at his highest potential. He reflected, “As it paid for one whole year, earning the scholarship inspired me to do my best every day, never skip class and try really hard to prove I was deserving.”

Scholarships benefit the recipients in multiple ways. McMahon recalled the day he received his scholarship to the Dugoni School of Dentistry as one of the proudest moments of his life. The award ignited his motivation, which paid off with good grades and the opportunity to complete his pediatric residency studies. Building on this positive experience, he approaches his thriving pediatric practice in upstate New York every day with enthusiasm and pride.

Some scholarships are earmarked for students from various backgrounds with the goal of increasing diversity in the student body. Dr. Kimberly Carlyle-Clark '00 was the recipient of a unique, one-time award match from the late Hall-of-Fame baseball player Joe Morgan. Dr. Craig Yarborough '80, associate dean for institutional advancement and director of the Center for Success, recalled, “Art Dugoni sent letters to professional athletes of color to encourage them to donate matching funds to help create a full scholarship for deserving applicants. Joe called Art, who didn't believe it was him, so when Joe said, ‘This is Joe Morgan,’ Art replied, ‘This is the Pope.’”

Morgan came to campus to meet Carlyle-Clark and a recognition luncheon was held to thank Morgan and members of the Joe Morgan Youth Foundation for the generous scholarship donation. “The relationship between me and dental school benefitted both sides,” said Carlyle-Clark. “The scholarship certainly helped me get a tremendous education at a cutting-edge institution, and it brought a diverse student like me into the fold of the Class of 2000 when there were fewer than a handful of African American students at the Dugoni School.”

Additionally, scholarships relieve stress, allowing students to reach their full potential. “So far it has benefited me by helping offset costs from dental school,” said Amanda Delgado, Class of 2024. “It's just a huge stress reliever knowing that I have this scholarship to help support my goals and aspirations. In the future, the scholarship will allow me to start working towards my dreams at a faster rate because it will have helped cover some of the costs of my dental education.”

Illustrating other benefits, the alumni scholarship recipients interviewed all continued on to specialty training after graduation from



**Dr. Kimberly Carlyle-Clark '00**

“ The scholarship certainly helped me get a tremendous education at a cutting-edge institution, and it brought a diverse student like me into the fold of the Class of 2000 when there were fewer than a handful of African American students at the Dugoni School. ”



PHOTO BY LIANA HENSON

the Dugoni School of Dentistry, in part because their student debt was not as burdensome due to their scholarships. The humanistic model they were drawn to and experienced at the Dugoni School of Dentistry lives on through these alumni to this day. The motto at The Smile Lodge, the practice co-owned by McMahon along with his wife Dr. Megan McMahon '15, is “Every Kid Deserves to Smile.” The Carlyle Orthodontics practice in Orlando, Florida, emphasizes a humanistic approach to care with a “friendly, caring environment.”

Several recipients cited the scholarship as a big factor in their decision to attend the Dugoni School of Dentistry, but it is noteworthy that other scholarship recipients would have chosen to attend the dental school even without the scholarship. Some prospective students had already made up their minds when they learned of their financial awards. Anthony Suber, Class of 2024, said of his first impression of the Dugoni School of Dentistry, “The people I met made me feel like a part of the Dugoni School family during my interview. They nailed it and every interview after that could not compare.” He was speechless when he learned of his award and shared that he will be forever grateful to the alumni who funded his award and to the dental school for having faith in him. McMahon felt likewise; he was sold on the Dugoni School of Dentistry from the get go, and was humbled by his scholarship award.

PHOTO BY JON DRAPER



**Anthony Suber, Class of 2024**

“ The people I met made me feel like a part of the Dugoni School family during my interview. They nailed it and every interview after that could not compare. ”



PHOTO BY SAHOURIA TEAM



Dr. Jamie Sahouria '04

“ Definitely make your decisions based on your gut, not your pocketbook—what matters is how your work makes you feel at the end of the day. ”

There are myriad ways in which Dean's Scholarship recipients give back. In addition to the financial gifts they now donate to their alma mater, they give back through the care of their patients, helping underserved communities and mentoring and supporting current dental students. One such generous alumna is Dr. Jamie Sahouria '04, a pediatric dentist from Rohnert Park, California. Not only does she give back to the dental school financially, but she also donates her time and service. She is the current president of the Alumni Association where she focuses her efforts to “unite our already tight-knit alumni group and create as many opportunities to safely interact together as possible.” Sahouria, who completed her pediatric specialty training in 2007 at University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Houston, hopes to carry on traditions of the past while creating new connections for the future.

Additionally, she and her office team participate in the Give Kids A Smile program every February to provide free dental health care to kids without access to services. Similarly, McMahon and his colleagues have treated more than 1,000 underserved children without dental insurance since they opened The Smile Lodge in 2014. Sahouria and McMahon also give back to the dental school by serving as adjunct faculty members at their alma mater, both guiding students in their shared specialty of pediatric dentistry.

“I do try to give back through my patients,” said Carlyle-Clark, who completed her orthodontic specialty training at University of Tennessee in 2004. “I get to know them as people (not just teeth), especially kids and teens who many adults ignore. I get in tune with them and I aim to be a positive sounding board. It is the



PHOTO BY JON DRAPER



humanistic approach of the Dugoni School that I try to embody. It's an enriching relationship and experience for both of us." She recently received a very satisfying email from a former patient who is currently in dental school, and who credited Carlyle-Clark with being an important role model.

Current students Delgado and Suber pay it forward by volunteering. Both have histories of service to their communities. Suber has coached numerous kids' sports teams and volunteers with Heal the Bay, an environmental group that promotes ocean health through beach cleanups and other activities. Delgado volunteered at Camp Kesem, a free summer camp for children whose parents have cancer, as well as with a nonprofit dental organization that provides low-cost dental implant care to patients in need. They both agree it is enriching and inspiring to be able to help others, and is something they will continue to do in the future.

The ecosystem of scholarships, from the donors to the recipients to the student body that benefits from the additional diversity and academic strength, promotes a culture and environment of future giving. Carlyle-Clark donates to the Dr. Edward Bryan '57 Endowment which provides funding for African American dental students. McMahon recently created an endowment with more than \$50,000 for promising pediatric dental students in honor of a pivotal role model in his life, Dr. A. Jeffrey Wood, former chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry at the Dugoni School of Dentistry. McMahon thought he was heading in the direction of being an implant specialist, but when Wood pulled him aside and told him he was impressed with his work with children in the clinic, McMahon changed direction and switched his focus to pediatric dentistry, and he is immensely satisfied with this choice and his career path.

Another way alumni give back is by serving as positive role models for others within the profession and school. Carlyle-Clark, McMahon and Sahouria have all become ambassadors of the school and dentistry in general. They exude positive energy and enthusiasm for their profession and embody the humanistic approach they learned at the Dugoni School of Dentistry. Alumni continue to give back to current students with advice too. Carlyle-Clark offered, "Stay encouraged...it gets tough when you launch your own practice. But treat all others, co-workers, staff and patients alike, as you would like to be treated." And Sahouria shared, "Definitely make your decisions based on your gut, not your pocketbook—what matters is how your work makes you feel at the end of the day."

These scholarship recipients, who value their education and strive to make a difference in the profession and in their communities, serve as role models for others and reflect the pay-it-forward benefits such investments yield. Those benefits leave a lasting impact on the entire Dugoni School of Dentistry community, the dental profession and all of their patients.

*Marianne Sampogna Jacobson, BA, MBA, is a freelance writer from Marin County.*

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To contribute to a student scholarship fund or to create an endowment, contact the Development Office at (415 ) 929-6406 or [kwessler@pacific.edu](mailto:kwessler@pacific.edu).



PHOTO BY JON DRAPER

#### Amanda Delgado, Class of 2024

“ In the future, the scholarship will allow me to start working towards my dreams at a faster rate because it will have helped cover some of the costs of my dental education. ”

# DUGONI SCHOOL STUDENTS THRIVE WITH TECHNOLOGY

By Kirsten Mickelwait

Until recently, many people deplored the growing use of technology and our reliance on digital devices in lieu of face-to-face relationships. On-screen interactions seemed a less effective way to communicate, distancing us and making us more reliant on our devices than on each other. However, the recent pandemic demonstrated that these devices, apps and platforms can enable us to stay connected whether or not in-person meetings are possible. In dental education and in the real world, technology is helping us to communicate better, faster and more efficiently.



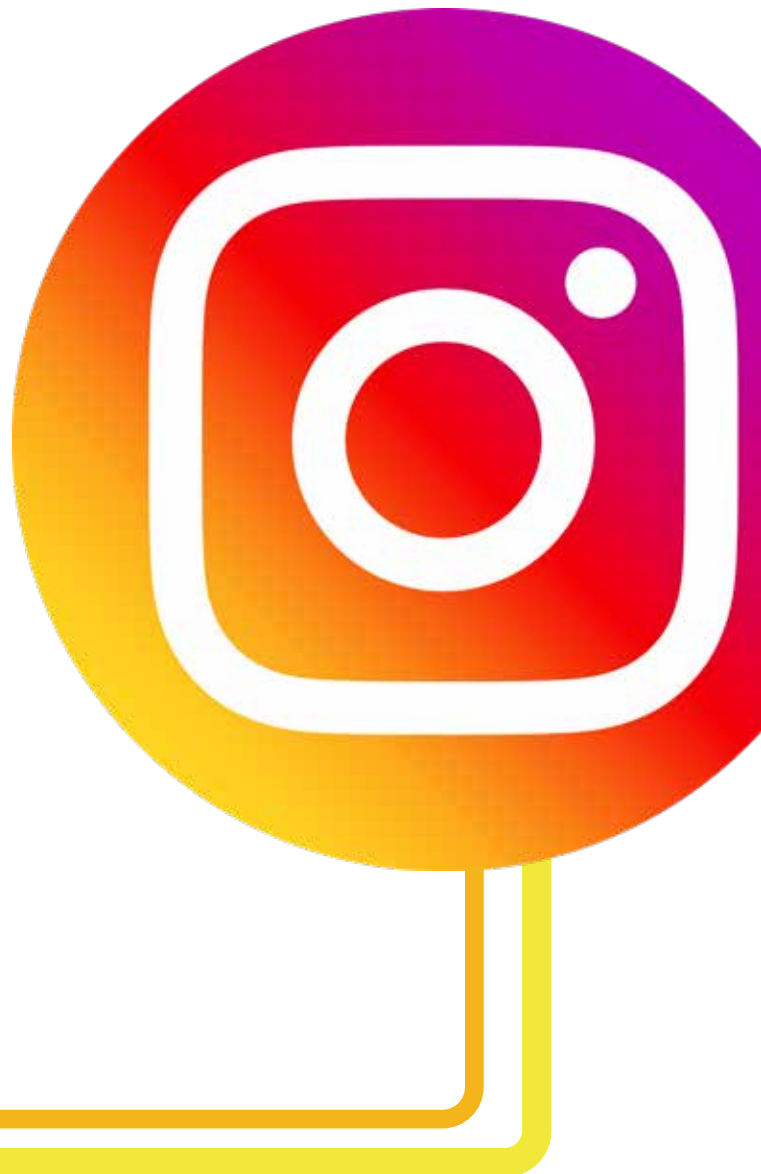
The Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry's use of technology continues to evolve through the strategic implementation of interactive instruction, digital dentistry, experiential learning, communication tools and information sharing. We recently asked several Dugoni School of Dentistry students how they use technology—including during this challenging period—from classes and time management to personal relationships, and what practices they'll keep moving forward.

For an institution like the Dugoni School of Dentistry that stresses humanistic learning and experience, the need for technological support poses an additional challenge: How do you continue to promote a culture of interpersonal engagement when students, faculty and staff are communicating through devices? Robert Zhou, Class of 2023 and American Student Dental Association (ASDA) representative, points out that weekly emails and updates from Dean Nader A. Nadershahi '94 and Executive Associate Dean Eve Cuny keep everyone feeling connected and valued as part of the Dugoni School community.

The school's own app is a great digital resource, with content ranging from the dean's messages and a school-wide employee directory to event videos, recent photos and the weather forecast. The app also enabled students, faculty and staff to upload their weekly antigen tests and to access the electronic building entry screening form during the height of the pandemic.



**In dental education and in the real world, technology is helping us to communicate better, faster and more efficiently.**





## ACADEMICS

If there's one enterprise that has benefited from the past two years, it's Zoom. There's hardly a person who is not now familiar with virtual backgrounds, chat bars, how to "unmute" themselves and grooming and dressing professionally only from the waist up. From March 2020 to June 2021, dental students used this platform and Webex video conferencing to attend didactic lectures, visit faculty during office hours, participate in classroom discussions and organize school events. Other popular resources include Canvas, the university's learning management system, Slack for sharing information, Notability for note-taking and studying and Osmosis for instructional videos.

"For me, the most interesting example of technology innovation was the 'at-home' dental simulation exercises where we received feedback from faculty members using an intraoral camera via Zoom," says Heera Govindarajan Venguidesvarane, president of the IDS Class of 2022. "Before COVID, I don't think any of us could have imagined that this would be possible. In spite of many challenges, it was a really creative use of resources and technology."

Zhou says that Osmosis videos have been a helpful support tool for class lectures, supplementing students' understanding of certain didactic courses. Osmosis is an online learning platform featuring animated instructional videos on a range of dental and medical topics. Faculty from the Dugoni School of Dentistry have co-developed dental videos with Osmosis.

## EXTRACURRICULAR COMMUNICATION

Outside of class, there are many opportunities to engage with fellow Dugoni School of Dentistry students and colleagues at other dental schools. Class presidents use apps like Groupme for free group messaging and Discord for topic-based, invitation-only channels to share class updates and helpful advice. Facebook Groups and Facebook Messenger are also popular for school-related communications. And "Lunch and Learn" gatherings are hosted in person or on Zoom.

**"As a CDA representative, I relied heavily on Google Docs and Zoom to coordinate meetings with other CDA reps and organize events for the student delegation."**

**—Darius Tenorio, Class of 2023**



“As a CDA representative, I relied heavily on Google Docs and Zoom to coordinate meetings with other CDA reps and organize events for the student delegation,” says Darius Tenorio, Class of 2023. “Our class job fair and advocacy day, where we advocate oral health bills to both state senators and assembly members, were held on Zoom. It was a great way to continue these relationships and events.”

### **TIME MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATION**

Any Dugoni School of Dentistry student will cite time management as a key skill for succeeding in dental school. Several students credit Google Calendar—or “gCal”—and the entire Google Suite as being the secret to their success managing classes and meetings. “I use the Sleep Cycle app as my personal alarm clock and for tracking my sleep quality and quantity,” says Zhou. “The Reminders app lets me make quick bullet-point lists for daily tasks, school assignments and other personal responsibilities.”

### **WELLNESS**

One of the greatest challenges of a rigorous three-year dental school curriculum is staying motivated to exercise and follow other healthy practices. Two sources are favorites of the dental students we talked to: Peloton streaming workouts and YouTube fitness videos. The latter is a virtual unlimited resource of instructional and entertainment videos from which you can learn anything from yoga to digital photography.

“One of my favorite pastimes is watching cooking videos on Instagram and YouTube,” says Tenorio. “Not only is it a great way for me to get lessons in the kitchen, but ASMR food videos are very relaxing!” Autonomous sensory meridian response (ASMR) is a category of video designed to create sounds and visuals that elicit a pleasant physical response. Another popular YouTube genre is mukbang or meokbang, an online audiovisual broadcast in which a host consumes great quantities of food while interacting with the audience. First made popular in South Korea in 2010, it’s now a global trend.





## SOCIAL INTERACTION

Of course, interacting on social media is hardly new for dental students. But use of platforms like Instagram, Snapchat and WhatsApp Messenger has only intensified during the past two years, both for social engagement and for school-related communications. A class meme account on Instagram called “@dugonishomies” has been great for building and maintaining class spirit.

“As a member of the original COVID class, I didn’t meet many of my classmates until partway through our first year,” says Tenorio. “But technology allowed us to stay connected, talk and become part of the Dugoni School family.”

For anyone who is still unclear about the difference between WhatsApp and regular text messaging, WhatsApp is considered to be more resourceful than a text message. It doesn’t require a stable phone connection and can work on WiFi or any 2G/3G network. And, because it uses end-to-end encryption, WhatsApp is inherently a safer option than other messaging apps. It’s also great for international texting because it doesn’t incur long-distance charges. “Since our international program is a class of 26 students, it is easy for us to form groups and communicate via WhatsApp Messenger,” says Venguidesvarane, an IDS student from India.



## FINDING A BALANCE

Dugoni School of Dentistry students returned to in-person simulation labs and patient care in June 2020, at a reduced capacity that was increased over several months. How did they feel about returning to a more face-to-face world? Everyone we spoke with agreed that working together again in person was a welcome relief. But they had also adapted to remote communication and were reluctant to give up some of that convenience. Asynchronous learning won't go away.

“Many faculty increased their expertise in distance learning methods during the pandemic interruption and have created ongoing hybrid (in-person and online) courses,” says Dr. Cindy Lyon '86, associate dean for oral health education.

“These digital platforms are absolutely here to stay,” says Danika Lund, Class of 2022 and co-president of the Endodontics Study Club and Military Club. “Personal interaction is the driving force of increased use and expansion of communication-based technology. The lines are blurring between the individual entities of personal interaction and our technological devices.”

Tenorio appreciates Zoom-recorded lectures because they have allowed him to re-watch lectures after the fact, slowing down the video when necessary to help him better grasp a subject. And now that faculty have learned how to teach remotely, such digital advantages have been incorporated into curricula, offering both on-campus and digital experiences. The students interviewed agreed that they'll continue using all these apps and platforms in both their school work and their social lives.

Of course, technology will always have a place in our modern world. The key is finding a balance between the many options and conveniences of the digital space with the personal rewards of gathering and learning in person. The Dugoni School of Dentistry's students have discovered that, by staying flexible and getting creative, they can thrive and learn together with the latest technology.

*Kirsten Mickelwait is a San Francisco-based copywriter and professional storyteller.*

**“The lines are blurring between  
the individual entities of  
personal interaction and our  
technological devices.”**

**—Danika Lund, Class of 2022**







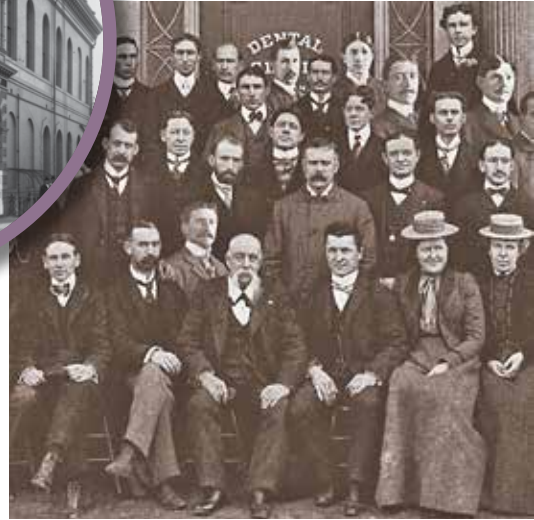
A century and a quarter after the opening of this dental school, many outward effects of early inventions are gone. The original building vanished into earthquake rubble; the initial curriculum tumbled from starched 19th-century fussiness into the 21st's chaotic creativity. But much more of what our founders set in motion still flourishes. Early impulses whirring with ambition and scrappiness were assembled, adjusted, revised and reinvented to form a motherboard of modern educational excellence.

History is a tool. Ours moves us to reflect on the strengths that shape us, the visions that energize us, the relationships that inspire us and the knowledge that transforms us. Indeed, tracing our journey reminds us how to live next—how to seize the spirit of scientific inquiry, harness the synergism of collaboration and collegiality and multiply the force of our own determination to thrive amid uncertainty. The past 125 years molded the Dugoni School of Dentistry to resilience, flexibility, productivity and humanism. Such qualities remain well-positioned to propel us through the next 125.

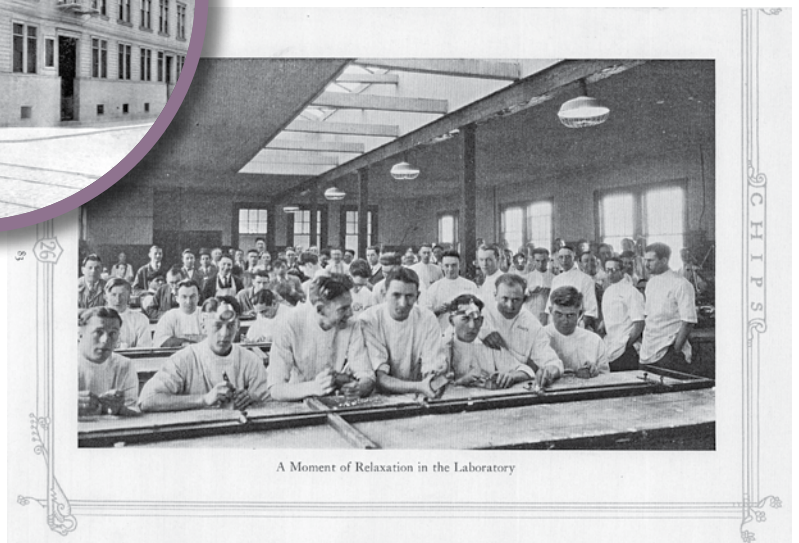
—Dr. Eric K. Curtis '85, author of *A Century of Smiles*



1896 – 1899 | 818 Howard Street

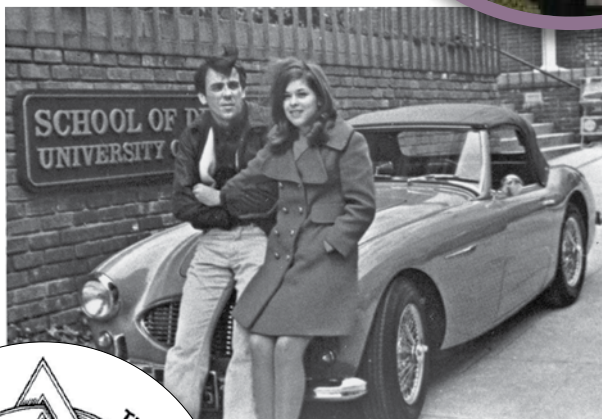


1899 – 1967 | 344 Fourteenth Street

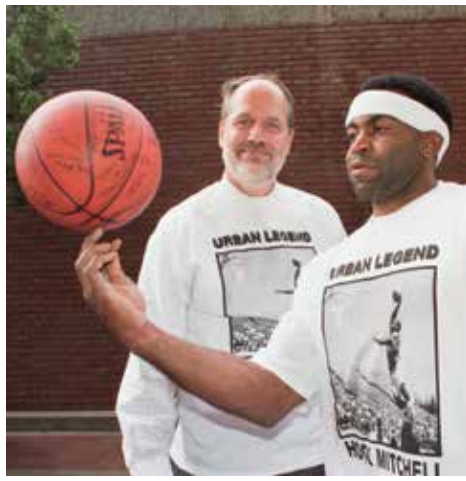
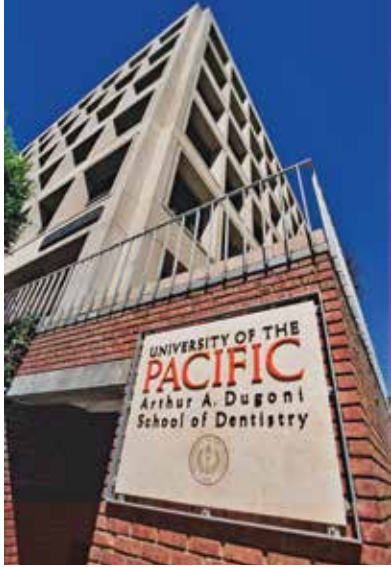


*DS*

















SCAN CODE  
TO VIEW VIDEO



"125 YEARS IN  
125 SECONDS"



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## 5★ REVIEW

By Brooke Furniss

**Joe Higgins, a big fan of the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry, looks forward to smiling and chewing his way through Italy on his next adventure. Thanks to the dental school, Higgins has received amazing prosthodontic care.**

At age 74, he has been a professional actor for more than 50 years, and a bright smile is important in his line of work, particularly for films and commercials. He graduated from Hofstra University with a degree in theatre in 1972. A proud member of Actors' Equity Association, he worked in New York for many years, appearing on the soap opera "Love of Life," in commercials and on stage. He moved to the Bay Area 37 years ago and has acted in major roles at regional theatres in San Francisco, Sacramento and the San Jose area.

One of Higgins' favorite roles is when he dons a red suit and plays Santa Claus every Christmas for hundreds of children in their homes and for seniors in assisted living facilities. He has played Santa for more than 25 years, and even during the pandemic, Higgins managed to keep his streak going by performing as Santa on Zoom. In 2021, to express his gratitude for his favorite student dentist R. Christiaan Allen, Class of 2022, Higgins visited with Allen's children as Santa via Zoom.



PHOTO BY PAT ANEKAYUWAT



For Higgins, life with dentures began at the young age of 18 with a partial bridge. He had two large canines that gave him a vampiric look in his headshots. His local dentist pulled them and replaced them with a partial. Over the years, more teeth were removed until, eventually, full upper and lower dentures were in place and lower implants were completed at another dental teaching clinic in San Francisco. These were fantastic improvements. The problem came years later when the lower denture needed replacement and the former clinic's price was unaffordable.

"Actors in the Bay Area don't make a lot of money and Medicare Advantage does not provide much in the way of coverage," said Higgins. "I visited more than four providers before picking one who seemed by appearance acceptable. Let's just say the experience was 'horrific.' After spending more than \$2,800 and experiencing unnecessary pain and bruising, I was left with an unwearable, ill-fitting lower denture."

Higgins serendipitously found out about the Dugoni School of Dentistry one evening when walking his canine companion, Prince Harry, and meeting Sandra Shuhert, director of design and photo services at the dental school, and her dog Tatum. Shuhert recommended he try the dental school clinic after hearing about his past issues with his dentures. Higgins received his properly fitted, fully functioning custom lower denture from the school's prosthodontic clinic at a price he could afford, and he hasn't stopped smiling.



PHOTO BY JON DRAPER

Christiaan Allen and Joe Higgins

His experience with the dental school is the best he has ever had. “I’ve been able to eat things I haven’t been able to eat for over 30 years!” exclaimed Higgins. “I just ate an ‘everything’ bagel for the first time in forever and it was amazing because I didn’t get any of the seeds stuck under my dentures or any pain from chewing.”

A strong advocate for the dental school, Higgins sings the praises of Allen, his student dentist. Higgins shares a special bond with Allen from visiting him every time he goes into the dental school. “Chris is a great doctor and I trust him with everything he recommends. The professors are always supervising him and they really like Chris’s suggestions and his meticulous work,” said Higgins. “I am being treated by a student dentist, but I feel like I am being treated by the best of dentists!” He has never felt safer and more at peace with decisions made by Allen and his team.

“Joe is a great person, and it has been a privilege working with him,” said Allen. “He came in frustrated with his previous denture and it was so rewarding providing him with something he could chew and confidently smile with.”

“ I am being treated by a student dentist, but I feel like I am being treated by the best of dentists! ”

The school’s clinic is not only affordable, but has provided Higgins with a better and more pleasant oral health care experience. “It’s a safe environment with caring people who are doing the best they can to help you. I recommend the dental school to friends all the time and will continue to recommend Chris Allen for a lifetime.”

Higgins will be spreading his smile around Europe soon. He’s saving up for a trip to Italy, travelling from north, where his mother’s family comes from, to south where he has old friends. He has visited every continent over the years (keeping a promise he made to himself), but his favorite experience was camping in Antarctica which he describes as “like visiting another planet.” Higgins cannot wait to continue his travels carefree as he no longer worries about issues arising from his dentures.

The dental care provided at the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry is impressive and in many cases it’s essential to the community it serves. The proof is seen on the smiles of the faces of countless, grateful patients like Joe Higgins.

*Brooke Furniss, BA, MA, is a freelance writer from Orange County, California.*



PHOTO BY JON DRAPER



A canine connection: Sandra Shubert, Tatum, Joe Higgins and Prince Harry

PHOTO BY JEFF DRAPER



# ALUMNI SCENE



To view photo galleries of Alumni Weekend events,  
please visit [dugonischool.smugmug.com](http://dugonischool.smugmug.com)







PHOTOS BY JON DRAPER AND CHRIS WOODROW



CLASS OF 2020 BANQUET AND GRADUATION PORTRAITS



## SAVE THE DATE!

**124<sup>TH</sup> Annual  
Alumni Association Meeting**

**Friday & Saturday  
February 24 – 25, 2023**



PHOTO BY MAJ. DOUGLAS HALLEAUX

President Joe Biden with Dr. Dan Wong '90 during a visit to the COVID Community Vaccination Center at the NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas. Wong, a periodontist and active duty member of the U.S. Air Force, currently serves as the dental squadron commander at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nevada. Under the directive of President Biden, Wong was deployed to Houston from February to May 2021 to serve as the commander of 222 active duty Air Force medical members (64th Expeditionary Medical Operations Squadron) to set up and operate a Federal Emergency Management Agency and State of Texas supported Community Vaccination Center. The team provided more than 350,000 vaccinations in 82 days.



# PHILANTHROPY



*To view photo galleries of Alumni Weekend events,  
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**LEGACY BALL**







▲ Class of 2007 ▼ Class of 1972

## DUGONI SCHOOL FOUNDATION BOARD MEETING



## REUNION DINNERS



## BRUCIA LEGACY SOCIETY



PHOTOS BY JON DRAPER AND CHRIS WOODROW



## Memorial Gifts from August 1, 2021 to March 7, 2022

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If you are interested in making a memorial or honor gift, contact the Development Office at (415) 929-6406



## Our College

THE College of Physicians and Surgeons of San Francisco was established during the summer of 1896. There seemed at the time to the profession in general and to the public no necessity for founding and conducting another medical college on this coast. The field seemed to be entirely filled, but the object of the men who initiated and afterwards so successfully developed the enterprise, was for the purpose of giving the students of the Pacific Coast and of all countries bordering on the Pacific Ocean an opportunity to secure a medical training of a more practical and thorough character than had heretofore been accomplished.

A few active and determined men, after many conferences, finally perfected their plans and made their first announcement in the month of June, 1896. After securing desirable quarters in the most popular center of the city, students were matriculated, and the active work of teaching was begun in the following October. The most sanguine hopes of the most sanguine men of the school did not count upon more than thirty students during the first term, and many of those interested expected to be called upon to contribute from their own pockets the moneys necessary to conduct successfully the enterprise. The highest hopes were more than realized. The faculties came into close contact with the students, and there was a feeling of deep interest continually flowing from one to the other. The school, therefore, grew rapidly and flourished from its very beginning. The first class, instead of numbering 30, as was expected, grew to 100. The second year the students numbered 200; the third year the number was about 250; the fourth year, 350; and the fifth year, over the last number.

A department of dentistry was added in the fall of 1896. This was ably conducted, and contributed very largely to the success of the institution. Two years later a pharmaceutical department was added to its curriculum, and this has aided in no small part in the building up of the institution.

So rapidly did the college grow that larger quarters became imperative. The trustees purchased a lot on Fourteenth Street near Valencia, and thereon erected a large, modern structure, with commodious lecture halls, laboratories, and surgical amphitheaters. There are also comfortable reception rooms for patients to the infirmaries, where are to be found all modern appliances and apparatus for the proper treatment of the various cases coming under the observation of the clinicians.

This excerpt from the second volume of the *CHIPS* yearbook in 1901 describes the establishment of the College of Physicians and Surgeons in San Francisco in 1896 and how the school grew from 30 students to more than 350 students in the first five years.

# Get to Know your Alumni Association

## Your Alumni Association – Goals and Activities

The mission of your Dugoni School Alumni Association is to engage and inspire alumni in meaningful relationships with students, the school and each other for life. Enriching lives and relationships is our goal.



### We engage with students:

By hosting and supporting student activities.

### We assist members:

By providing network opportunities, CEUs, referral services and job listings.



### We contribute to students' success:

By donating to our Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. So far in fiscal year 2022 (7/1/21 to date), 94 members and friends have contributed \$34,035 to the fund, matched 100% by the Powell Match Program!



“ Thank you for helping me fulfill my dental dreams. I can't express how much I appreciate it and how much this opportunity means to me. ”

—Cierra Zaldivar, Class of 2023



**We help the community-at-large:** By implementing quarterly Blood Drives at our Fifth Street building.

## UPCOMING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EVENTS

- Three-Campus Alumni Reception in Reno, Nevada – Sunday, July 10
- Reception for members and their families in San Diego – Sunday, August 7
- Reception at CDA Presents in San Francisco – Friday, September 9
- Alumni Reception at the ADA Meeting in Houston – Friday, October 14
- Event in Salt Lake City, Utah – TBD in November
- Reception in Honolulu, Hawaii – Thursday, January 26, 2023
- Reception during the ADEA Meeting in Portland, Oregon – March 2023
- 124<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at the Fairmont Hotel – Friday and Saturday, February 24-25, 2023





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"I wouldn't be where I am today without the Dugoni School and its people. I am excited to give back and continue Dr. Art Dugoni's legacy of providing scholarship support to help reduce the educational debt burden for our graduates, including our exceptional orthodontic residents."

—Dr. Heesoo Oh '01 AEGD, '05 Ortho  
Chair, Department of Orthodontics