

contactPOINT

UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC ARTHUR A. DUGONI SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY | VOL 103 • NO 1 | SPRING 2023



PACIFIC HEALTH CARE COLLABORATIVE

ADVANCING INTEGRATED TEACHING AND CARE

WANT TO ENHANCE YOUR DENTAL PRACTICE?

Enroll your dental assistant in our RDAEF Program today!

RDAEF

Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions

The Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry's eight-month RDAEF program satisfies the Dental Board of California's requirements for preparing RDAs and existing RDAEFs for the new extended functions licensure.

The next RDAEF program begins **SEPTEMBER 23, 2023**

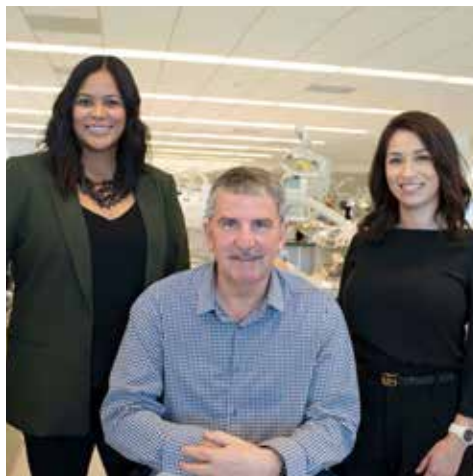
The Dugoni School of Dentistry Difference:

- ❑ A comprehensive program with 410 hours (342 for existing RDAEFs) of instruction, combining in-person lectures, online modules, group discussions, hands-on laboratory and live patient clinical experiences
- ❑ Certification programs for both RDAs and existing RDAEFs at a fully-accredited dental school
- ❑ Personalized instruction led by dental faculty members from the Dugoni School of Dentistry
- ❑ The only Dental Board of California-approved provider of the RDAEF program at a dental school in Northern California
- ❑ Interest-free payment plans available to qualified candidates
- ❑ Funding available through the Sallie Mae Smart Option Student Loan®
- ❑ Convenient weekend schedule at the Dugoni School's state-of-the-art campus and simulation lab in downtown San Francisco



"Having Maggie, an RDAEF trained at the Dugoni School, in our practice has helped tremendously and has enabled me to be more productive, spend more quality time with patients and provide better dentistry as I can delegate certain procedures. When our RDAEF is not in the practice, it's more challenging. She makes everything better and takes some of the stress away from me. It has improved the way we operate and has been nothing but a great experience for me and my team."

—Dr. Curtis Jansen, Monterey



UNIVERSITY OF THE
PACIFIC
Arthur A. Dugoni
School of Dentistry

Contact the Division of Continuing Dental Education
cedental@pacific.edu | 415.929.6486

For more information visit **dental.pacific.edu/RDAEF**



CONTENTS

CONTACTPOINTS SPRING 2023

INNOVATIVE CLINICAL MODEL

The Pacific Health Care Collaborative, a new clinical and academic facility in Sacramento, will be the first of its kind in the nation. Discover how it will provide comprehensive healthcare services to the public, while offering an integrated clinical learning environment for students training to be dentists, physicians, physician assistants, nurses, pharmacists, occupational therapists, nutritionists and social workers.

16

HUMANISTIC LEADERSHIP

Dean and Vice Provost Nader A. Nadershahi '94 recently completed his term as chair of the American Dental Education Association Board of Directors. In this article, Dr. N. Karl Haden explores Nadershahi's commitment to humanistic leadership and how the Dugoni School of Dentistry has continued its legacy of leadership in dental education.

22

CALIFORNIA DREAMING

Dr. John L. Blake '88 is the current president of the California Dental Association and the second consecutive dentist with a public health background to serve in this leadership position. Learn how Blake finds balance in his life by serving his profession and community and by following his passion for surfing and sailing on the California coast.

28

ON THE COVER

This graphic represents the intersection of dentistry, medicine and pharmacy in the future Pacific Health Care Collaborative.

PHOTO / ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

3 From the Dean

Current Issue 4

8 Faculty Profile

University News 12

14 Around Campus

Alumni Profile 32

34 Alumni Scene

Philanthropy 36

40 Old School

CONTACT POINTS



contactpoint.pacific.edu

Alumni Association
Alumni Association President
Dr. Peter C. Liu '89

Director
Joanne Fox
(415) 929-6423
jfox@pacific.edu

Dugoni School Foundation
Call (415) 929-6406 or visit dental.pacific.edu

Foundation President
Dr. Janet Andrews '83

Executive Director
Jessica Jencek
(415) 929-6422
jjencek@pacific.edu

Practice Listings and Dental Opportunities

To register your listing online contact
Andrea Davis at (415) 351-7108 or
awoodson@pacific.edu

Continuing Dental Education

For complete CE course listings, visit dental.pacific.edu/CDEclasses
(415) 929-6486 or cedental@pacific.edu

WITH YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

For over two generations, Liberty has worked exclusively with members of the profession, counseling and guiding dentists through all aspects of a dental career. We identify the problems dentists face, and offer solutions and opportunities in many areas including:

- Insurance
- Practice Opportunities
- Risk Management
- Fiscal Analysis
- Estate Planning

LIBERTY

FORMERLY MITCHELL & MITCHELL INSURANCE AGENCY

CA License #0D79653

CONTACT US



415-884-3336



gruano@libertycompany.com



Novato, California 94949



libertycompany.com

SERVING THE DENTAL COMMUNITY FOR OVER 60 YEARS!

CONTACT POINT

UNIVERSITY OF THE
PACIFIC
Arthur A. Dugoni
School of Dentistry

San Francisco, California
Vol. 103 · Number 1 · 2023
dental.pacific.edu

DEAN AND VICE PROVOST
Nader A. Nadershahi

EDITOR
Kara A. Sanchez

EDITORIAL BOARD
David W. Chambers
Joanne Fox
Eddie K. Hayashida
Jessica Jencek
Cindy Lyon
Nader A. Nadershahi
Kara A. Sanchez
Sandra Shuhert
Dan Soine
Craig S. Yarborough

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Eric K. Curtis
N. Karl Haden
Marianne S. Jacobson
Kirsten Mickelwait
Ashley Musick
Dan Soine

ART DIRECTION
Sandra Shuhert

DESIGN
Brian Blanchard
Benjamin Levy
Sandra Shuhert

PHOTOGRAPHY
ADEA Pacific Dental
John Blake Services
Jon Draper PBK Architects
Arnold Eilers PDS Foundation
Samantha Gallia Touro University
Jason Millner California
Chris Woodrow Melissa Yamanaka

ADVERTISING
Benjamin Levy

Contact Point is published biannually by the University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry. Sixteen-time winner of the International College of Dentists Journalism Competition and winner of the Gies Award for editorial content. Readership consists of 10,000 alumni, parents, friends, faculty, students and members of the professional community. Material included herein does not necessarily represent the official position of the school. All inquiries regarding advertising should be directed to Design and Photo Services, University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry, 155 Fifth St., San Francisco, CA 94103 or contact Ben Levy at blevy@pacific.edu. Material in this publication may not be reproduced in any form without permission.

Member Publication
AADEJ
American Association of Dental Editors & Journalists

HELPING PEOPLE LEAD HEALTHY LIVES

NADER A. NADERSHAHI, DEAN AND VICE PROVOST

First of all, thank you to the many alumni, friends, supporters, students and residents who joined us in February for the 124th Annual Alumni Meeting, “Celebrating Women in Dentistry,” at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco. What a pleasure it was to gather together to learn, reconnect and socialize with our Dugoni School family!

This issue of *Contact Point* highlights several important advances at the school. You’ll learn more about the Pacific Health Care Collaborative, an integrated dental-medical clinic and academic facility—the first of its kind at an American university—that we are developing in Sacramento, California. We also explore some changes in dental education and how our school is playing a leading role, in part, through faculty leadership at the American Dental Education Association, where I recently concluded my term as chair of the ADEA Board of Directors.

Several alumni are in the spotlight as well, including Dr. John Blake ’88, the new president of the California Dental Association. You’ll also learn more about the legacy and continuing impact of long-standing faculty member, Dr. Bob Christoffersen ’67, and meet one of our newest alums, Dr. Samantha Gallia ’22, who is using her platform as Miss Washington USA to encourage young women to explore science and health careers through the social media campaign #GirlDocsRock.

From recent graduates to veterans in the profession, the Dugoni School alumni family has a wide variety of personalities, perspectives and professional paths. But one thing ties us together—our dental education experience and the way it prepares us for success.

No matter your age or the stage of professional life you are in, I encourage you to stay in touch with your fellow alumni, remain connected to the Alumni Association and look for opportunities to participate in CE, mentorship and even teaching. I also encourage you to support our philanthropic efforts, including our Dugoni School Annual Fund, endowments or other projects that fuel your passion.

I look forward to the coming months of activity, including our Commencement Weekend on June 16 – 18 when we welcome the newest members to our alumni family—the graduates of the Class of 2023!

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

Staying Connected

PHOTO BY ADEA

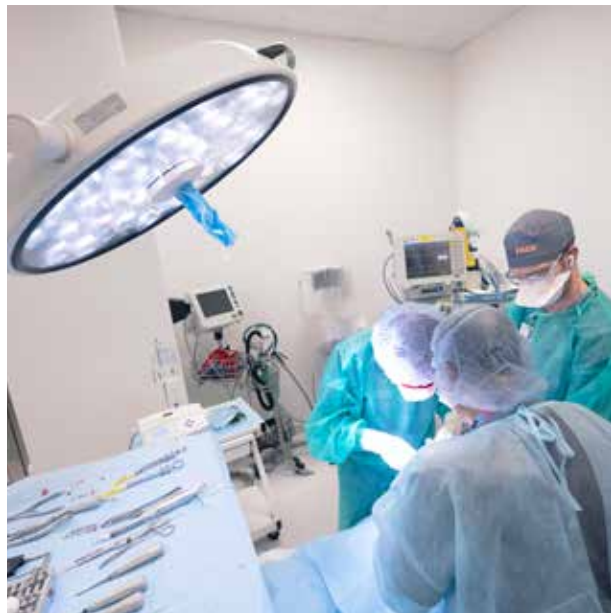


New Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Center Planned in San Francisco

The Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry has been awarded \$350,000 by the Herbst Foundation to build a new ambulatory surgery center at its San Francisco campus to increase access to oral health care for low-income and historically underserved populations. Expected to open in summer 2024, the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMS) SurgiCenter will initially serve more than 150 patients per year, a number that will increase as its care team expands. The center will reach a number of patient populations including children, older adults and people with intellectual and development disabilities who require deep sedation and general anesthesia to facilitate their dental/surgical care.

“Building out an accredited OMS SurgiCenter will enable our OMS department to significantly expand our surgical services to include procedures that are normally performed in a hospital operating room,” said Dr. David Lam, associate dean for medical integration and professor and chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

The 1,800-square-foot OMS SurgiCenter will feature a dedicated reception area, a pre-op consultation room, three operating rooms, a post-anesthesia recovery unit, a pharmacy/dispensary area and a supply management space. Dental students, residents and interns will rotate through the center assisting with surgical, sedation and perioperative medical evaluative patient care. “Oral and maxillofacial surgery centers in an academic setting are rare; only a few exist on the East Coast and none in Northern California,” said Dr. Nader A. Nadershahi ’94, dean and vice provost. “This generous grant from the Herbst Foundation will go a long way in supporting care for underserved people in California and training the next generation of dental and medical providers.”



PHOTOS BY JON DRAPER



\$1 Million Endowed Scholarship to Support Students

The Delta Dental Community Care Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Delta Dental of California, has awarded a \$1 million gift to the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry to support future scholarships for deserving dental students.

The gift establishes the Delta Dental Endowed Scholarship for Opportunity. The fund is designed to support students who have demonstrated high academic achievement while having experienced financial disadvantage or hardship, or who may be overcoming other difficult circumstances in their lives. Scholarships will be awarded to a minimum of two dental students each year, with a preference for students who have demonstrated interest in working in underserved communities.

“We are proud to partner with University of Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry and support their mission to educate and train the next generation of dental practitioners,” said Kenzie Ferguson, vice president of the foundation and the corporate social responsibility program at Delta Dental of California. “The partnership helps us

achieve our broader mutual goals of bettering the oral health and wellness of our communities by fostering greater inclusivity and increasing educational opportunities for those training for careers in the dental field.”

Symposium Explores How to Reduce Inequities in Oral Health Care

Healthcare practitioners, educators and leaders from across the country gathered at the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry for the “Dentistry as Participant and Casualty of Racism and Bias in Medicine: Moving Toward Equity in Oral Health Care” symposium hosted on January 20 by the Pacific Center for Equity in Oral Health Care.

The gathering was among the first events of its kind in dental education to explore the structural disparities in oral health care through the intersection of racism, ageism, ableism, sexism/gender bias and other inequities.



“Our goal is to understand the history and consequences of systemic racism and bias in health care and engage participants in identifying strategies and steps that could be used in dental practice, research, education and healthcare policy to advance equity for all members of our communities,” said Dr. Elisa Chávez, symposium organizer and director of the Pacific Center for Equity in Oral Health Care.

Guest speakers included experts in medicine, dentistry, policy and other fields, and included representatives from University of the Pacific, UCLA, UCSF, Boston University, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and the Society for Women’s Health Research. Speakers highlighted some of the inequities experienced across health care that are grounded in racism or bias. Following the morning presentations, attendees gathered for an afternoon of roundtable discussions and the development of a plan to close the gaps. Action items from the discussions will be compiled into a follow-up “call to action” report that will be posted on the Pacific Center for Equity in Oral Health Care website.



PHOTOS BY JON DRAPER

Volunteers Provide Care for Homeless, Disabled and Veterans

For the first time since the start of the pandemic, students and faculty from the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry returned to Bill Graham Civic Auditorium on December 14, 2022 to participate in San Francisco's Project Homeless Connect (PHC), resuming a tradition of service going back many years.

Volunteers cared for several dozen homeless individuals who received free dental screenings and basic oral health care. Dental services are the most requested services by PHC attendees, reflecting the great need for oral health care among people experiencing homelessness.



PHOTOS BY JON DRAPER

"The Dugoni School established a partnership with Project Homeless Connect back in 2007. It is very rewarding to see our students engaged in a unique community oral health program with our long-standing collaborators at the San Francisco Department of Public Health, San Francisco Dental Society and PHC," said Christine Miller, associate professor and director of community health programs.



In early February 2023, the Dugoni School of Dentistry and its Union City Dental Care Center partnered with the Southern Alameda County Dental Society to organize two back-to-back outreach events for the community. “Give Special Kids a Smile” on February 3 provided screenings, cleanings and other care for children and adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities while “Give Veterans a Smile” on February 4 offered free screenings, cleanings and care for U.S. military veterans of all ages. Nearly \$70,000 in services were provided, from dental restorations and extractions to fillings and denture repairs. Patients also received free oral health kits.



“We’re glad we found this clinic because our clients who have developmental disabilities have a very hard time finding dentists,” said Judy Miramontes, who works at an intermediate care facility in Freeport, California.

Leane Perry brought her adult son Joshua who had been unable to see a dentist, largely due to the pandemic. “This is the first time he’s had a cleaning in years, and he got a tooth fixed,” she said. “Everyone was patient. It was an amazing experience.”

Therapy dogs and a therapy pony were on hand to put patients at ease. “Especially for kids who have an intellectual disability, it’s a very emotional experience because they can have difficulty processing things,” said Dr. Debra Woo ’86, director of operations for the Advanced Education in General Dentistry program. “The therapy animals soften the atmosphere. Kids who are withdrawn start interacting with the animals, then they sit in the chair and the animal sits next to them in the operatory. It’s an amazing transformation.”



PHOTOS BY JON DRAPER



PHOTOS BY JON DRAPER

Dr. Robert Christoffersen | Dedication Beyond Measure

By Marianne Sampogna Jacobson

Dr. Robert H. Christoffersen '67 has dedicated his life to the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry. Entering his 56th year at the dental school, he is the longest-serving faculty member among all University of the Pacific campuses, a role he embraces and a distinction of which he is very proud. His extensive CV is evidence of innumerable contributions to the institution he calls home. Joanne Fox, director of the Alumni Association, puts it succinctly, "Bob Christoffersen loves the profession of dentistry and this school." Dean and Vice Provost Nader A. Nadershahi '94 lauds his contributions, "Dr. Christoffersen has played a significant role in our 126-year history of success in many ways, including through his leadership in the clinic, with the state board and as our first executive associate dean."

Throughout Dr. Christoffersen's illustrious career, he has served in a myriad of roles and his impact has been immeasurable. "Dr. C," as he is affectionately known, began teaching just weeks after his own graduation from the dental school and has served as instructor, professor, founding group practice administrator, director of clinics, associate dean for clinical affairs and executive associate dean during his lengthy tenure. A dedicated, right-hand man to former Deans Dale Redig and Arthur A. Dugoni '48, he embraced any challenge, regularly putting in 12-hour days to bring their revolutionary ideas and acclaimed visions to life and to make dramatic changes to the institution. Two of his biggest accomplishments were enhancing the school environment by helping launch the humanistic approach to education and implementing the three-year curriculum.





PHOTOS BY JON DRAPER

“

Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, Dr. C oversaw every school improvement project with his fine eye for design and perfection in the details.

”

In 1989, then-Governor Pete Wilson appointed Christoffersen to a position on the Dental Board of California. “I served a full nine-year term including one year as the president of the dental board,” Christoffersen says. “This position gave me a different view of dentistry. I was shocked by what I learned about the profession through the work of our enforcement division. I was also fortunate to work with some very special people while on the board, including Drs. Steve Yuen ’56 and Roger Simonian ’73, as well as Ms. Georgetta Coleman, the executive officer at the time.”

Perhaps most unexpected from this gifted dentist and teacher was Christoffersen’s leadership role in facilities administration, where he envisioned and implemented dozens of projects. “Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, Dr. C oversaw every school improvement project with his fine eye for design and perfection in the details,” Fox recalls. Colleagues referred to him as the “dentist-architect.” While he had no formal training in architecture or design, he had a clear vision of what he wanted to create. Christoffersen completed rough drawings and led design teams through many improvements including creating the first large lecture room, reimagining the Pediatric Dentistry Clinic, updating the extramural facility in Union City and creating the Dental Hygiene and Advanced Education in General Dentistry Clinics on the Stockton campus.

“He was largely responsible for creating the ‘Ritz-Carlton’ of dental schools in style, along with cutting-edge, pre-clinical simulation labs, patient clinics and advanced classrooms,” says Dr. Craig Yarborough ’80, associate dean for institutional advancement. And Dr. Gene LaBarre noted in an article he penned for *Contact Point*, “Bob was the person most responsible for renovating and repurposing the Webster Street facility without causing a single missed beat in the academic concert—our own steadfast and loyal phantom of the opera.”





PHOTOS BY JON DRAPER

Christoffersen has always enjoyed teaching. While serving as a teaching assistant at San Francisco State University, he taught a physical science class to Peace Corps trainees and found it so satisfying he vowed to spend his life in education. Teaching is his true calling and his favorite class is always the current one! Students admire him as selfless and caring, putting them before himself. “He continues to share his vast wisdom and experience with our students ranging from the DDS program to our International Dental Studies doctors and our dental hygiene students,” says Yarborough.

Christoffersen made a lasting impression on many of his students including Dr. Aouse Khalil '11 IDS, currently an instructor in the Department of Preventive and Restorative Dentistry. “Dr. Christoffersen was the main reason I considered academia,” Khalil says. “He took his time to understand each student’s particular learning style, and seeing his passion for teaching inspired me to become an educator, which has been very fulfilling.”



Drs. Robert Christoffersen '67 and Dr. Aouse Khalil '11 IDS

**Teaching is his true calling
and his favorite class
is always the current one!**

“Now that Bob is working as an instructor, he occasionally shares with me the thanks he receives from students; those well-deserved, appreciative messages mean the world to him,” says Fox. Christoffersen quips, “The students keep me young.”

Not only has he dedicated his life to teaching and leading the dental school in numerous ways, he is also a generous donor to the school. In what he says is “giving forward,” he has created a significant endowment of more than \$1 million for the dental school. The Dr. Robert H. Christoffersen Endowed Professorship in the Department of Preventative and Restorative Dentistry will leave a legacy to the department and school that he has been affiliated with for most of his life.



Drs. David Nielsen '67, Arthur A. Dugoni '48 and Robert Christoffersen '67 in the Main Clinic at the former dental school building on 2155 Webster Street

Yarborough commends Christoffersen on his life's work. "While Bob often displayed a veneer of distant professionalism, he has given his heart and soul to our mission, values and success, and we applaud his lifelong contributions."

Christoffersen shares his advice to students. "You are only going to be educated once, so make sure you take advantage of every opportunity. Those formative years determine the type of dentist you will become."

As he plans for retirement in the next two to three years, Christoffersen is proud of his many contributions and affectionately shares, "The dental school is my life." Fittingly, he lives at the top of Twin Peaks with a view of his beloved dental school.

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



Scripps College Academic Leader Named Provost of Pacific



Gretchen Edwalds-Gilbert, a highly respected academic leader at Scripps College and biology professor at Scripps, Claremont McKenna College and Pitzer College, will be the new provost and executive vice president of University of the Pacific as of July 1, 2023. She will succeed Maria Pallavicini, who is retiring after serving as provost for the past 12 years and serving for one year as interim president.

Edwalds-Gilbert served for six years as associate dean of the faculty at Scripps College, the number-two academic post at the all-women's liberal arts college, one of the five Claremont Colleges in Southern California. Scripps is ranked 33rd by *U.S. News and World Report* among national liberal arts colleges. Most recently she served for 15 months as acting vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty, the college's top academic post. She also has extensive experience working across all five of the Claremont schools, including serving as faculty director of the Claremont Faculty Leadership Program.

A molecular biologist who earned a PhD from Weill Medical College of Cornell University/Sloan-Kettering Institute and a BA in biology from Swarthmore College, she is a biology professor on the faculties of Scripps, Pitzer College and Claremont McKenna. She also is a visiting scientist at the Beckman Research Institute of the City of Hope and was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Warsaw Institute for Genetics and Biotechnology in Poland.

"We are honored to welcome Dr. Edwalds-Gilbert to the Pacific family as the leader of our academic enterprise," said Pacific President Christopher Callahan.

As provost, Edwalds-Gilbert will be working side-by-side with faculty, deans, staff and the president's cabinet on building an innovative curriculum and improving all dimensions of the student experience to increase the success of Pacific students. She will have direct responsibility for the university's nine schools and colleges across the three campuses in Stockton, Sacramento and San Francisco, with more than 1,250 faculty and staff and 6,300 students.

"I am excited to join Pacific and to work with deans, faculty, staff and students to continue to enhance the student experiences at the undergraduate, graduate and professional levels," Edwalds-Gilbert said. "I look forward to working closely with a team of leaders who are innovative and committed to making Pacific the nation's best student-focused comprehensive university."

Pacific Students Guaranteed Admission to Touro University California Medical School

Thirty qualified University of the Pacific seniors will be guaranteed admission to the medical school at Touro University California each year under a new partnership between the two institutions. Select Pacific students who meet the GPA and standardized test requirements will earn automatic admission to the College of Osteopathic Medicine on Touro's Vallejo campus. Osteopathic medicine is a holistic approach to medical care with an emphasis on the musculoskeletal system.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for our students seeking a career in medicine by providing a clear pathway to medical school," said Maria Pallavicini, provost and executive vice president. "This partnership also will greatly impact the region by training a diverse group of highly qualified students who are likely to stay in the area and fill the growing need for physicians."

The United States could have a shortage of up to 124,000 physicians by 2034, according to a report from the Association of American Medical Colleges. The existing shortage of primary care doctors is especially high in California's Central Valley. Pacific's diverse student body (36% identify as Asian and 25% as Hispanic) also can help meet the need for physicians from underserved communities. Research has shown students from underserved communities are more likely to work in those areas.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOURO UNIVERSITY CALIFORNIA

"I'm very excited about the opportunity to partner with University of the Pacific to help build a more diverse physician workforce," said Tami Hendriksz, dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine and chief academic officer at Touro. "The alignment of our missions makes this partnership an ideal way to creatively address the projected physician shortages in our communities."

To qualify for the guaranteed admission program, Pacific students must have earned science and cumulative GPAs of 3.5 or better, attained a Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) score of at least 505 and completed 100 hours of volunteering with osteopathic physicians, primary care clinics or underserved communities, among other criteria. Students do not need to be in a specific major.

Pacific students will also be guaranteed admission to two other programs at Touro under the new partnership agreement: master of public health (10 students annually), which will train students to be leaders in research, education and policymaking, and the master of science in medical health sciences (10 students annually), a one-year program enabling students to become stronger candidates for medical school and opening the door for other healthcare-related opportunities.

AROUND CAMPUS

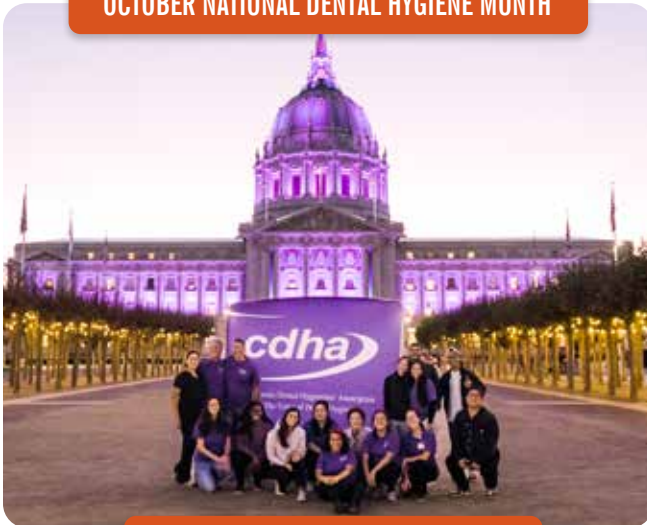
OVER THE HUMP PARTY



ASDA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



OCTOBER NATIONAL DENTAL HYGIENE MONTH



DIWALI CELEBRATION



CEREMONY HONORING THE LATE DR. ROBERT C.K. PENG



LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION



DUGONI DISCOVERY DAY



PHOTOS BY JON DRAPER AND CHRIS WOODROW



GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP



ASILOMAR



CDHA CONFERENCE



CDA ADVOCACY DAY





DENTAL–MEDICAL INTEGRATION: THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE EDUCATION AND DELIVERY

BY KIRSTEN MICKELWAIT

It's a conversation and question that's been going on for years: how to create more accountable, value-based health care for patients. As past chair of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Board of Directors and a member of the Santa Fe Group—a leading alliance of more than 240 dental, medical, patient and consumer organizations—Dean Nader A. Nadershahi '94 has been an active participant in that conversation, and has envisioned how the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry might help to advance that effort. Now, with the future Pacific Health Care Collaborative (PHCC), he has placed the school at the leading edge of this movement for integrated, patient-centered care. Led by the Dugoni School of Dentistry in collaboration with Pacific's Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy and School of Health Sciences, the PHCC will become a national leader in interprofessional, collaborative teaching and clinical care for the public, including underserved populations.

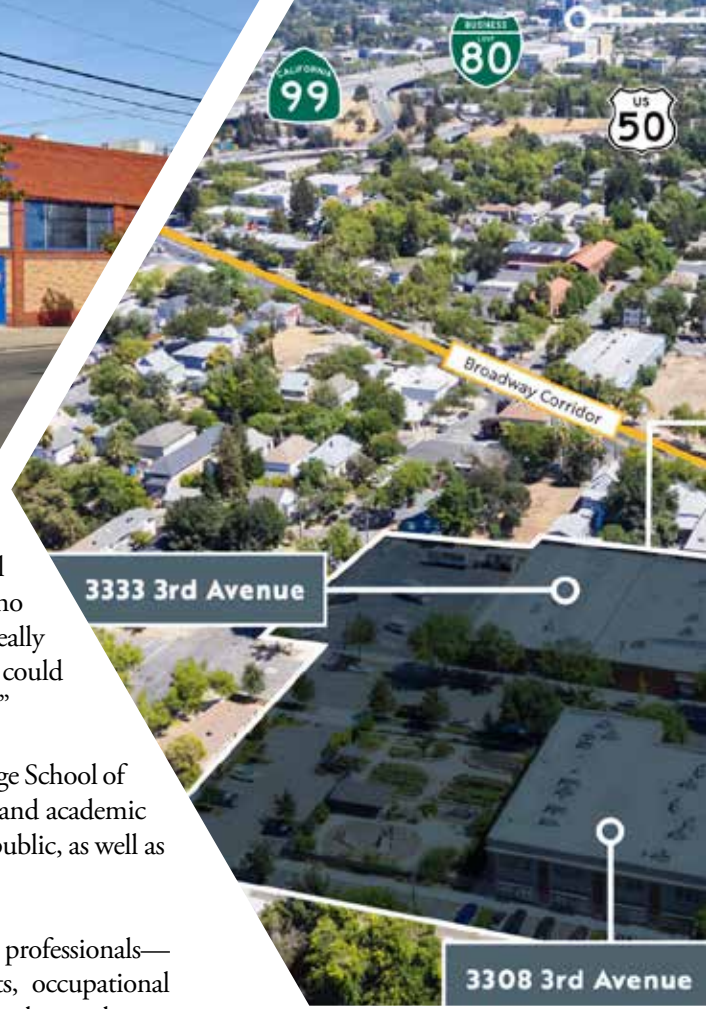


The future site of the Pacific Health Care Collaborative

“Traditionally, dental and medical schools have offered interprofessional didactic teaching and simulation training, but no one has brought all the learners together on the clinical side,” Nadershahi says. “There were no teaching clinics built around this collaborative care model. So that was really the idea, to create a model that other health science centers and schools could replicate and build upon—with University of the Pacific leading the way.”

Located near Pacific’s Sacramento campus—already home to the McGeorge School of Law and the School of Health Sciences—the PHCC will offer a clinical and academic facility to provide comprehensive, coordinated healthcare services to the public, as well as an integrated teaching and learning environment for students.

The new facility will offer students who are training to be healthcare professionals—including dentists, physicians, physician assistants, nurses, pharmacists, occupational therapists, nutritionists and social workers—the chance to learn and work together to provide holistic, patient-centered care.



IMAGES COURTESY OF PBK ARCHITECTS



According to Dr. William Sands ’71, director of special projects and the PHCC, this approach will produce not only more collaborative healthcare professionals, but much healthier patients. “There’s a very strong mouth-body connection,” he explains. “For instance, periodontal disease is endemic in the United States, and it’s integral to more systemic conditions—from diabetes to cardiovascular disease. This program will allow us to connect health sciences and departments that, until now, have been completely siloed.”

He offers an example. A patient goes to her dentist for an exam and learns that she needs a third molar extracted. The dentist might recommend an oral surgeon or two, but the patient is on her own to follow through with that appointment. At PHCC, the dentist could coordinate the appointment on the spot, then order a blood-sugar test, which might reveal a pre-diabetic condition. The facility’s doctors could seamlessly handle the case from there.

A critical element will be shared electronic health records among healthcare workers across the collaborative. “In a traditional medical-dental setting, if the dentist asks the patient, ‘How’s your health?’ he might say, ‘Terrific, I’m in great shape,’” Sands says. “He may be a diabetic but just doesn’t want to tell you. With shared health records, we’ll have that information so we can have a conversation with patients about taking their medications. And the building is being designed to require collaboration, so such communication will happen easily.”



Part of the PHCC mission is to provide a safety net for Sacramento’s vulnerable and underserved populations. Annually, approximately 20,000 medical patients and 10,000 dental patients from across the northern Central Valley region will be offered preventive, acute and ongoing dental and medical care, conveniently located in one setting. Nadershahi says that Dugoni School of Dentistry leadership is also looking at eventually implementing integrated mobile health care delivery to schools, assisted living homes and other venues, with screening and care for those who can’t come to the PHCC.

WHAT EXCITES ME MOST IS THAT THE DUGONI SCHOOL HAS BEEN A LEADER IN HEALTH DELIVERY FOR DECADES, AND THIS IS TAKING THAT TO A NEW LEVEL.



“What excites me most is that the Dugoni School has been a leader in health care delivery for decades, and this is taking that to a new level,” Sands says. “Everyone has been talking about it, but we’re at the forefront of this idea that will set the bar very high for the whole nation.”

On the teaching side, the PHCC will accommodate the Dugoni School’s international students—an expansion of the school’s successful International Dental Studies (IDS) program—as well as other programs in the School of Health Sciences, such as the Physician Assistant Studies program. Graduates of the two-year, accelerated IDS program receive a doctor of dental surgery degree and are eligible to sit for any state or regional dental board in the United States. The first cohort of 30 IDS students is expected to arrive at PHCC in the summer of 2024. By the following year, the cohort will grow to 60 first- and second-year students.

“We plan to start with International Dental Studies students, at least as an initial cohort, because they’re coming to the U.S. for their second doctoral degree,” Nadershahi says. “They’re prepared clinically to enter into a collaborative care model, where there’s a higher expectation right off the bat. They also bring diversity and deeper experience, which will enrich the whole operation.”



IMAGES COURTESY OF PBK ARCHITECTS

Rendering of the Ambulatory Surgery Center entrance at the PHCC

The Oak Park area was a natural choice for the new facility, with its proximity to Pacific's Sacramento campus that already offers graduate and professional degree programs in law, education and health. "We've bought a building that's about two blocks away from the existing campus—escrow closed in January 2023—so we're expanding Pacific's footprint in Sacramento," Sands says. The location is also close to hospitals and other potential partners. And it's easily accessed by public transit, making it reachable for all. Patients will be able to walk in or they can be referred by public agencies.

In addition, the facility will be located near the California State Capitol where, using the expertise of Pacific's McGeorge School of Law, PHCC leadership hopes to engage with policymakers to advocate for the advantages of integrating primary medical and dental care. Previously, the Dugoni School of Dentistry was able to launch a new model of care—the Virtual Dental Home—to provide dental services to low-income populations that otherwise would not have access. In 2014, the California State Legislature adopted AB 1174 to enable reimbursement of the system, thereby providing a sustainable method to scale and replicate the model. The plan is to demonstrate PHCC's success and create systematic changes in how health care is taught and delivered across the country.

PHCC leadership expects to break ground on the project in 2023, opening to the public in spring 2024 and to students that July. Architectural plans for the facility are currently being developed. In the meantime, school leaders are reaching out within the community to introduce the project locally. They have met with everyone from a local city council member and State Dental Director Jay Kumar to the Oak Park Business Association and a local homeowners' association.



Rendering of a nurses' station



Renderings of the dental reception area



Of course, such an ambitious vision requires the support of not only the local community, but of the university's and the dental school's large network of alumni and friends. According to Jessica Jencek, associate dean for development, the total project goal is \$26 million, with more than \$4.25 million in private philanthropy raised to date. "We expect to meet this goal with a blend of federal, state and private funding," she says. "Our generous Dugoni School alumni and friends will play a critical role in realizing our vision." Based on projected revenues, the PHCC will be self-sustaining within two years of operation.

The effort was greatly elevated in June 2022 with a \$4 million lead gift from Pamela and Stephen Thorne, IV. And, the Delta Dental Community Care Foundation made a \$250,000 Access to Care grant to the Dugoni School of Dentistry for the project. In addition, the school has received contributions from members of the dental school family to support the PHCC.



Stephen E. Thorne, IV

PHOTO COURTESY OF PACIFIC DENTAL SERVICES

Stephen E. Thorne, IV is the founder and CEO of Pacific Dental Services, one of the country's leading dental service organizations with more than 1,000 supported practices across the U.S. He is a valued member of the Dugoni School family; his father, Dr. Stephen E. Thorne, III, graduated from the Dugoni School in 1966 and two of his brothers are also graduates. Thorne is a perfect partner for the PHCC because one of his company's main initiatives is raising awareness about the critical link between oral health and overall health, and being a leading voice in advocating for better collaboration among medical and dental professionals to improve health outcomes for patients.

"We care about supporting dentists and creating a perfect patient experience, but we also strive to mentor and assist the next generation of healthcare professionals to become the leaders of tomorrow," Thorne says. "This new center will serve as the future of oral health and is an example of the dental-medical integration that will provide better health care to the patients who will utilize this amazing new facility."

“

WE CARE ABOUT SUPPORTING DENTISTS AND
CREATING A PERFECT PATIENT EXPERIENCE, BUT
WE ALSO STRIVE TO MENTOR AND ASSIST THE NEXT
GENERATION OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS TO
BECOME THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW.

”





PHOTOS BY JON DRAPER

Another donor and devoted Dugoni School family member is Dr. Ken Fat, a Sacramento-area leader and dentist. “I believe in helping those people in our community who exhibit the most need, and this project will address that underserved area,” Fat says. “It’s an honor to be involved in the vision and realization of the Pacific Health Care Collaborative.”

““

**I BELIEVE IN HELPING THOSE PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY
WHO EXHIBIT THE MOST NEED, AND THIS PROJECT
WILL ADDRESS THAT UNDERSERVED AREA.**

””

The project is a game changer for the Dugoni School of Dentistry. “We want to be recognized as the premier oral health education program anywhere in the world,” Nadershahi says, “and we have the incredible students, faculty, staff and programs to do that. With this project, I’m hoping to continue our trajectory as a leader in the conversation around how we can provide quality care in a way that shapes and advances health care nationwide. The best way to predict the future is to help shape it, and this is where the Dugoni School family can really make a difference.”

Kirsten Mickelwait is a San Francisco-based copywriter, content provider and professional storyteller.





THE IMPACT OF HUMANISTIC LEADERSHIP

BY N. KARL HADEN, PHD

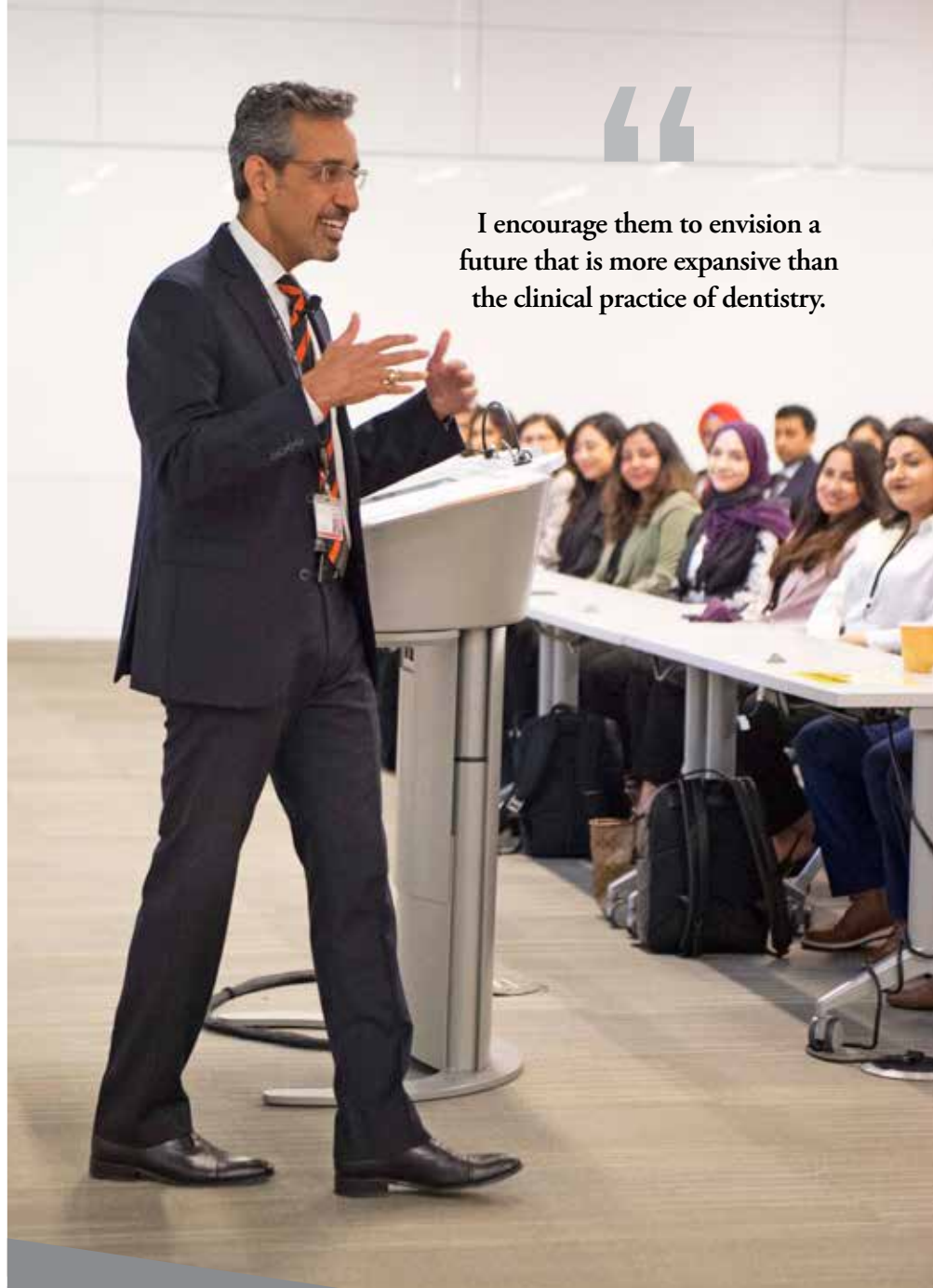
In the movie *Dead Poets Society*, Mr. Keating, an English teacher played by the late Robin Williams, provokes his students to question their assumptions about success and embrace a transcendent purpose: “To quote from Whitman, ‘O me! O life!...of the questions of these recurring; of the endless trains of the faithless... of cities filled with the foolish; what good amidst these, O me, O life?’ Answer. That you are here—that life exists, and identity; that the powerful play goes on and you may contribute a verse. What will your verse be?”

Inspired by his mother, a teacher, as well as his experiences as a student, faculty member and now dean at the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry, Dr. Nader A. Nadershahi '94 poses a similar question to each new class. Dean Nadershahi explains that, "When I first speak to our students, I ask them where they see themselves 20 years from now. I encourage them to envision a future that is more expansive than the clinical practice of dentistry. We aim for our students to graduate believing 'I'm possible,' that each of them can make an important difference as leaders in their communities, organized dentistry and health care."

Beyond graduating competent healthcare professionals, the dental school's bold vision and purpose includes transforming oral health education and helping people live healthy lives. Challenging students toward these ends is part of the dental school's unique brand of humanism, and it characterizes the philosophy and practice of the school's leaders. At a retreat last summer, the department chairs affirmed their commitment as humanistic leaders "to sustain the culture, develop and multiply future leaders and inspire others to succeed." While the Dugoni School of Dentistry is known for its humanistic model of education, the second strand forming its DNA is humanistic leadership.

I encourage them to envision a future that is more expansive than the clinical practice of dentistry.

We aim for our students to graduate believing 'I'm possible,' that each of them can make an important difference as leaders in their communities, organized dentistry and health care.



PHOTOS BY JON DRAPER





PHOTO BY JON DRAPER



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADEA

At the Dugoni School of Dentistry, respect is both an end and a means.

AN EXEMPLAR OF HUMANISTIC LEADERSHIP

Humanistic cultures and learning environments do not exist without humanistic leaders. Humanistic leadership is an approach that prioritizes the well-being and growth of others. It embraces and celebrates individuality by valuing the unique strengths and contributions of each person. With the goal of helping others reach their full potential, humanistic leaders create supportive and positive work environments exemplified by respect for others, responsibility, empathy and open communication.

At the Dugoni School of Dentistry, respect is both an end and a means. It is an end because human beings deserve respect. The dental school has long been described as a “family.” Embracing others and celebrating them are essential to build and strengthen familial relationships. Understood in this light, respect is the means to other commitments necessary for a humanistic culture, including trust, accountability and love.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ADEA



The recent pandemic tested leaders everywhere, including leaders in dental education, with unprecedented uncertainties and risks. Our primary means of communicating and interacting with others changed almost overnight. Underlying these interruptions, many felt for the first time a real and present danger to their physiological and safety needs. With deference to Abraham Maslow's hierarchy, physiological and safety needs are the foundation for social needs like love and belonging, and esteem needs such as respect, confidence and achievement. The pandemic eroded this foundation.

As the Dugoni School of Dentistry has done in many ways in the past, it again served as an exemplar during this time. In alignment with the dental school's commitment to its people, its leaders turned to taking care of faculty, staff, students, patients and their families. No employee layoffs occurred during the pandemic. The dental school stopped all patient collection efforts to alleviate the financial burdens as patients experienced sickness and economic hardship. The dental school remained available to patients who needed emergency care, relieving some of the pressure placed on overextended hospitals. The Dugoni School of Dentistry created a student-patient emergency fund for those who could not afford care.

For two years, Dean Nadershahi sent what he called "love letters to the family," an email every day with words of encouragement, usually including a quote, a video, a song or a suggested game to lift spirits. These messages kept the Dugoni School family together, reinforced the school's culture and informed the family about what senior leadership and others were doing to keep the dental school moving forward. Nadershahi and school administrators also facilitated a rapid response to licensure examinations as Dugoni School students became the first in the country to be permanently licensed with manikin-based exams.

Dugoni School
students became the
first in the country
to be permanently
licensed with
manikin-based exams.

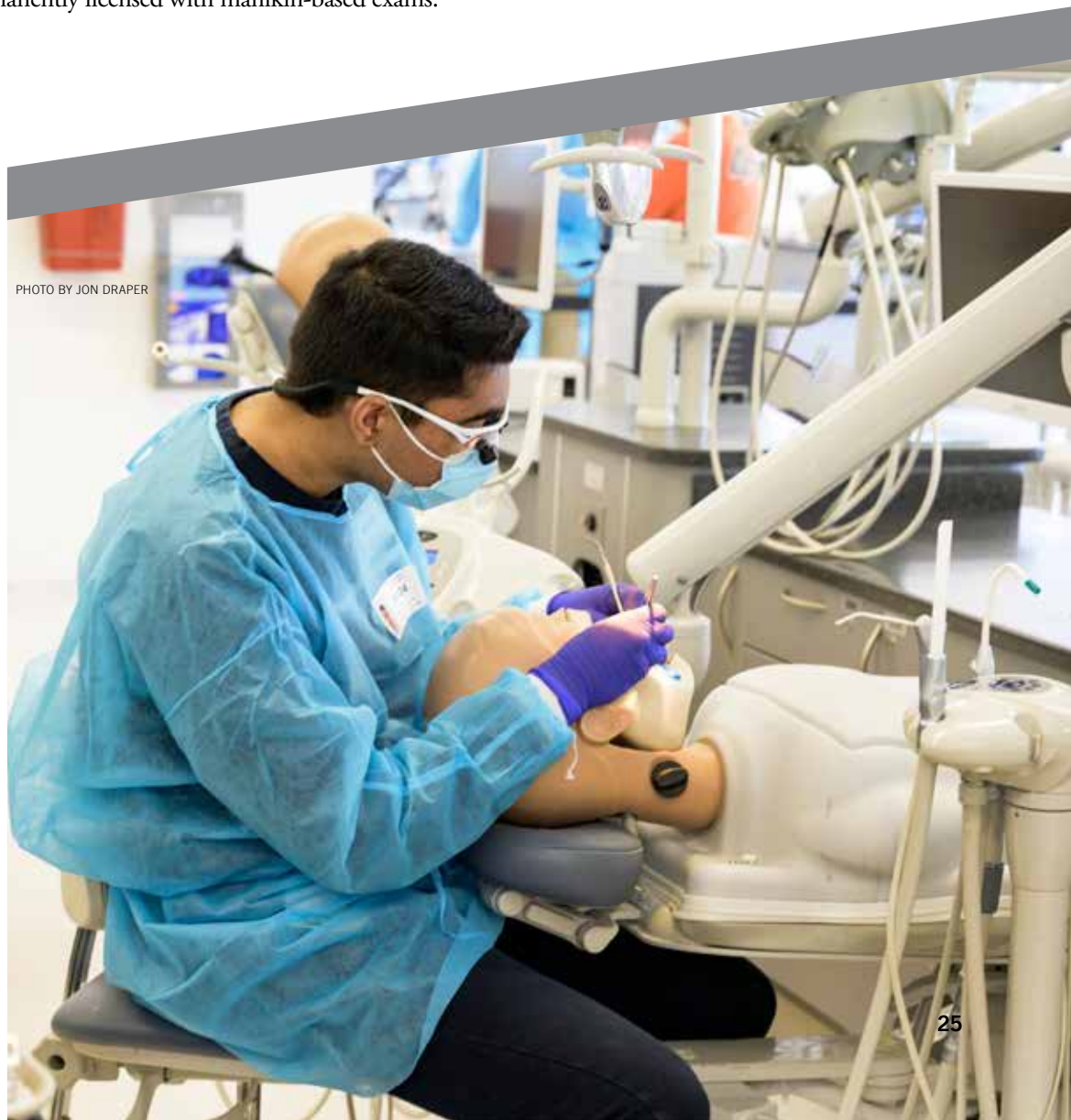


PHOTO BY JON DRAPER



Faculty and staff from the Dugoni School attend the ADEA Annual Session in Portland, Oregon

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ADEA



“BELIEVE I’M POSSIBLE”

Respect, empathy, compassion and open communication are some of the characteristics of humanistic leaders. In addition, the Dugoni School of Dentistry’s philosophy of humanism not only recognizes the uniqueness of each individual, but it also underscores personal accountability and responsibility to contribute to a purpose that transcends oneself. The goal of humanistic leadership is to create organizations, communities and environments where people experience well-being, where they can flourish.

As the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) begins its second century, the Dugoni School of Dentistry leads the way by setting the tone for the voice of dental education in the decades ahead. As the ADEA chair of the board,



Dean Nadershahi '94 cuts the ceremonial ribbon at the ADEA Annual Session

Nadershahi's theme for the recent annual session was "Believe I'm Possible." This theme resonated with the Dugoni School of Dentistry's brand of humanism. As Dean Nadershahi explains, "When I became chair, I intentionally talked about hearing everyone's voices. Each individual voice is important, matters and has a place in the organization. I am committed to the belief that individuals must believe in themselves, that they can make an impact, that they have something unique to contribute. By broadening the input of ADEA members, the association will experience an incredible ripple effect on what it can do and how we as educators share resources, information and opportunities."

Just as Nadershahi challenges Dugoni School students to envision a future in which they, as leaders, transform the lives of others, so his role as ADEA chair has allowed him to call each member of the organization to a deeper purpose. During his year as chair, Nadershahi led the New Thinking for the New Century (NTNC) project. The project aimed to identify new solutions to chronic problems and emerging opportunities in dental education while supporting the next generation of leaders. Three subcommittees have worked during the year, developing responses to faculty and staff recruitment, leadership development and succession planning and preparing students for the future of collaborative practice.

The NTNC project will galvanize dental education with new ideas and new initiatives. These ideas and initiatives will require individuals to step up and take responsibility as leaders. The dental school continues to demonstrate the kind of leadership needed in dental education. Through its commitment to humanistic leadership, the Dugoni School of Dentistry poses this question to every dental educator: "What will your verse be?"

N. Karl Haden, PhD, is president and CEO of the Academy for Advancing Leadership in Atlanta, Georgia.

SURF'S UP

A full-page background image of a surfer in a black wetsuit riding a wave on a yellow surfboard. The surfer is in a dynamic pose, leaning forward with one arm raised. The ocean is a deep blue with white foam from the wave.

**CDA President
John Blake
knows a good set
when he sees it**

BY DR. ERIC K. CURTIS

Dr. John Blake '88, executive director of the Children's Dental Health Clinic (CDHC) in Long Beach, California, and current president of the California Dental Association (CDA), has been surfing since he was five. He clearly feels at home in the ocean.

Blake speaks in measured, understated tones. To my Arizona ear, the cadences sound classically So-Cal—friendly, laconic and laid-back. We are talking on the phone, but I can practically see the sand and sun-dappled expanse of blue.

"I don't go out surfing as regularly as I used to," he says. "But it's peaceful and therapeutic."



Dr. John Blake at the helm of his boat Relentless; Drs. John Blake (left) and his brother James Blake (right)

Surfing also brings moments, for instance, when steering across the face of a wave—or being pummeled in its churn—of sheer excitement. The twin surges of exhilaration and calm that Blake finds in the Pacific Ocean’s briny embrace are, of course, partly physical: the push of wind and tide that pulls on tired muscles, the pattern of swells that syncs brainwaves and inclines the mind to meditation and even the occasional slice of icy water that slips between the shoulder blades, under the neoprene, balancing the reverie with sharpness, like a wedge of lemon in your tea, to keep you in the moment.

The allure is also chemical. It manifests in the metallic tang that burns the eyes and cuts the tongue, and in the negative ions that are said to rise out of the foam to trigger a spray of endorphins. And it’s psychological, in the state of flow that sharpens your wits, and in the rush of awe that blurs the world you left on shore. Surfing delivers, along with the uncertainty and danger that test timing, balance and nerves, a soothing repetition and satisfying circularity—you propel away from the shore, away from life’s comfortable routine, pitting yourself against the restless elements. Then, applying a practiced appraisal and a furious paddle, you get yourself swept back. Only now you are transformed—often for just a few seconds—harnessing the power of the deep, emerging out of the tumble and froth to ride the beast, splitting the seam between sea and sky, triumphant as Triton himself. A surfer’s experience is as big as the universe, and as intimate as a heartbeat.

“I like to be out in nature,” Blake says. Surfing, at least indirectly, brought Blake, along with his twin brother Dr. James Blake ’87, to dentistry. “When we were in high school,” he recalls, “our parents asked us to think about what we wanted to do when we weren’t surfing.” At their parents’ urging, the Blake boys spent time in a law practice and they volunteered in a dental public health clinic—the same Children’s Dental Health Clinic that John Blake would eventually lead. Their experience in the clinic did the trick: both brothers decided on careers in dentistry.

If surfing was liberating, it was also a distraction, eventually getting John in trouble. Once enrolled in dental school, he says, he found San Francisco’s Ocean Beach, with its treacherous currents, to be “more aerobic,” but no less enticing, than the Southern California waves he grew up with. “I was sort of a misfit,” he says. “I surfed more than I should have.” Consequently, Blake spent some time being counseled by then-Dean Arthur A. Dugoni ’48. “The dean saw me in a low moment,” he says. Instead of a reprimand, Dugoni gave him encouragement. “Art had a genuine interest in people,” Blake says. “We stayed in touch after dental school.”

His education planted the seeds of Blake’s subsequent engagement with organized dentistry, not only from Dean Dugoni’s famous example, but also because of the universal requirement for recurring training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation. “In dental school, James and I took a CPR instructor class to make a little extra money,” he says. The brothers then offered classes to faculty members and fellow students.

Once out of school, John and James Blake went into practice together, and they continued to teach CPR classes, now for the Harbor Dental Society. They got to know people, and they became co-editors of the society’s newsletter. Then a position became available on the California Dental Association’s Government Affairs Council.



John Blake says, “Someone told me, ‘You should apply. You’ll meet people there, and you’ll enjoy the camaraderie.’ I also enjoy policy and I like helping the profession, so I was interested.”

After several years in practice together, the Blake brothers went their separate professional ways. James gravitated to a practice in Seal Beach, while John stayed in Long Beach. (James has since retired; now, John says, “James has more time to surf than I do.”) John began volunteering again with the Children’s Dental Health Clinic. At first, he says, “I gave them one day a week.” But, having always liked pediatric dentistry, he became captivated by the people—both the patients and the team—and gradually he got more deeply involved.

The Children’s Dental Health Clinic describes itself as “a multi-specialty, all-inclusive, safety-net dental home” for underserved and medically compromised children and young adults, from infancy to 21 years of age. The CDHC, which, according to its website, sees some 6,500 patients each year, also supports a teaching program, partnering with the University of Southern California, that trains pediatric dentistry and oral and maxillofacial surgery residents. Its main facility resides on the campus of the Miller Children’s and Women’s Hospital at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center, and it maintains a satellite school-based clinic in Avalon on Santa Catalina Island.

Blake took the hospital dentistry program taught by Dr. Allen Wong ’86. Finally, after 15 years in private practice, he sold his practice to become executive director of the CDHC. He has never looked back. “My hardest day here,” he says, “is still more rewarding than a day full of shiny veneers.”

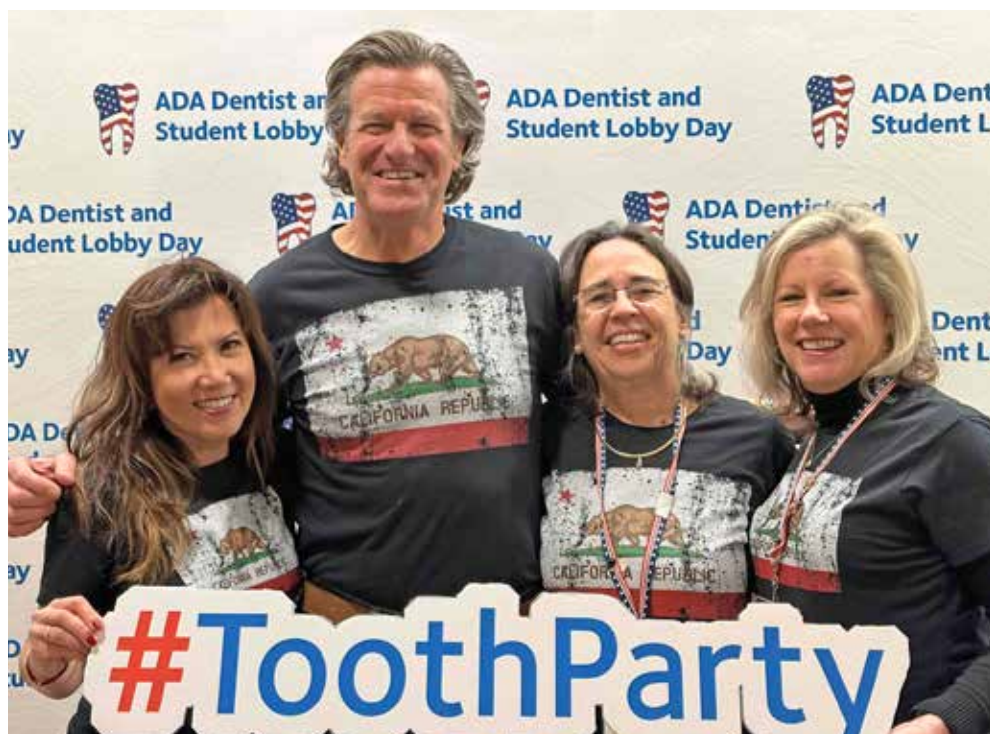


Handling change with aplomb also served Blake well when he recently navigated an important transition at the California Dental Association, as its traditional 52-member board of trustees was restructured into a 19-person board of directors, which, as CDA president, he chairs. The second consecutive dentist with a public health background, after another Dugoni School alumnus, Dr. Ariane Terlet ’86, to serve as CDA president,

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN BLAKE

**THE CHILDREN’S DENTAL
HEALTH CLINIC (CDHC)
DESCRIBES ITSELF AS
“A MULTI-SPECIALTY,
ALL-INCLUSIVE,
SAFETY-NET
DENTAL HOME”**





CDA leaders: Drs. Carliza Marcos '92, president-elect, and John Blake '88, president, with Ariane Terlet '86 and Judee Tippet-Whyte '86, both past presidents; Dr. Blake treats a patient at the Children's Dental Health Clinic

Blake, along with his board, grapples with such issues as access to care, the dental workforce ("How can we help strengthen the dental team?") and dental benefits ("Is there a way to rethink that whole structure?"). In his current role, Blake neither introduces legislation nor vetoes bills. Instead, he functions as a conduit for ideas, a facilitator of projects, an organizer of talent and the mouthpiece of the organization. He also now serves as a member of the American Dental Association's Council on Government Affairs.

"Dr. Blake is an extraordinary leader and a pleasure to work with," says California Dental Association Executive Director Peter DuBois. "He is highly respectful of others, listens carefully and is always thoughtful about his comments. These qualities, coupled with his natural grace, are why John is such an effective leader and a great example of the Dugoni School leadership values."

Away from the clinic and boardroom, Blake also loves to sail. He and James share a sailboat, a 56-footer with a cutter rig, which he eventually plans to take on a long-term voyage, first west to Hawaii, then south, perhaps to the Marquesas, and on to New Zealand. In the meantime, the surf still calls. This year, John and James Blake fulfilled a lifelong ambition of surfing near an oil rig island off the Southern California coast, accessible by boat, where the conditions serve up "some very good waves," including an occasional rogue wave, an unusually large unpredictable ocean wave. "We talked about it for 30 years," Blake says, "and we planned and schemed, and finally, on January 13, a day predicted to present conditions favorable for a rogue wave, we took our inflatable dingy out there." The offshore buoys were recording 20-foot swells, which Blake says

he assessed carefully, because "it hurts a little more now when I fall."

The brothers' lifetime of experience, patience and persistence, paid off. Slipping out of the dingy and onto their boards, they calculated the surges and refined their position. Then it happened. They found their elusive monster wave—and it found them—carrying them, finally, exuberantly, onto its back and down its thundering wall.

Blake seems satisfied with the balance in his life. He takes joy in his family, including his two grown children, a firefighter and a medical student. He adores his job. He finds fulfillment in volunteer work. And he pulls energy from the breakers, especially on days like the memorable one in January when he and James merged with that legendary swell.

"We caught the wave," he says. I can almost see the twinkle in his eye.

Eric K. Curtis '85, DDS, of Safford Arizona, is a contributor to Contact Point and is the author of A Century of Smiles, a historical book covering the dental school's first 100 years.

CROWNING ACHIEVEMENTS

Dr. Samantha Gallia '22

By Ashley Musick

Some young women grow up wishing to wear crowns, while others dream of becoming doctors.

Dr. Samantha Gallia '22 is a shining example that you can aspire to and achieve both.

Following her father's example (her father Louis Gallia, MD, DDS, is a board-certified oral and maxillofacial surgeon), Gallia knew from a young age that she wanted to pursue dentistry. Having spent her childhood in Sacramento, California, with two younger siblings and a plethora of pets, Gallia's first experience with leadership involved starting the Dental Divas club at her all-girls high school. Gallia was one of many club members who continued on to dental school, with one other former member having just enrolled as a student at the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry this year.

Gallia's experiences in high school also introduced her to another powerful community of women—pageant contestants. After entering (and winning) her first local pageant, Gallia found that she was drawn to the service opportunities and camaraderie that she experienced while competing.

"For a lot of the other girls, this was something that they had done for a very long time, and they took me in and taught me everything. That's really where my experience in pageantry started—a positive experience making friends and serving my community."

Though she didn't have time to compete during dental school, Gallia held onto the dream of returning to pageantry one day. "I always had this inkling in the back of my mind, because there's never been a dentist or doctor who competed at the Miss USA pageant. I had this dream and thought, 'How cool would that be, to show other women that you could do both?'"



Once her father informed her of University of the Pacific's accelerated pre-dental undergraduate program, Gallia never considered going anywhere else. She completed her bachelor of science degree in biological sciences in three years at Pacific, during which time she served as president of her sorority, Delta Gamma. In dental school, Gallia also served as co-president of the Student Community Outreach for Public Education (SCOPE) organization. She explained that her passion for both of these leadership roles was due to the opportunity they provided to continue uplifting women while also improving her mentorship and time management skills in preparation for her future career.

"I have never felt the same sense of community that I felt at the Dugoni School," Gallia says. "Everyone wanted to help each other, and I really appreciated that environment because I think that it's hard to find these days. The faculty are also very special—the one-on-one attention that they give you is very rare."



PHOTO BY JON DRAPER

Gallia had the honor of giving the student commencement address at the dental school's Commencement Ceremony in June 2022 and considers it the highlight of her dental career thus far.

She is now pursuing an oral and maxillofacial radiology residency at University of Washington. "This also stemmed from my dad, because in high school, I was looking for dental specialists to come and speak to my club. My dad introduced me to his longtime friend, Dr. David Hatcher, an oral and maxillofacial radiologist who is currently on the faculty at the Dugoni School. He took the time to sit down and educate me, and I ended up falling in love with oral anatomy and pathology, as well as the technology that comes into play in radiology."



PHOTO BY JON DRAPER

Gallia laughed as she shared that Hatcher, her most impactful career mentor, met her father while serving as the chief of hospital dentistry during her father's oral surgery residency and medical program at University of Washington. "My dad was actually the reason that Dr. Hatcher moved out to California, so it's funny that I ended up at the University of Washington, the place that my dad and Dr. Hatcher met, and where my brother is currently an undergraduate student. It's serendipity!"

This past November, Gallia returned to pageantry by competing and winning the title of Miss Washington USA, making her the first doctor or dentist to hold a state title. Her initiative, #GirlDocsRock, encourages young women to become involved in science and health careers. Gallia will go on to participate in the Miss USA pageant later this year—as the first dentist or doctor to compete for the Miss USA crown.

"I have a dream for the future where young women don't have to wonder if they can achieve something because of their gender," Gallia says. "My vision is to encourage young women in the health and science fields, and teach them the skills to be able to reach the pinnacle of leadership if they want to."

A Pacific Northwest girl at heart, Gallia's plans after graduating from University of Washington include finding work at an oral radiology practice, getting married to her high school sweetheart and becoming a teacher or professor herself. "I would love to give back to my community by teaching one day because I've just had such phenomenal teachers in my lifetime."

Ashley Musick is a freelance writer from Anaheim, California.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SAMANTHA GALLIA



ALUMNI SCENE

celebrating women in dentistry

124TH Annual
Alumni Association Meeting
The Fairmont Hotel | San Francisco
February 24 – 25, 2023

To view photo galleries of
Alumni Weekend events, please visit
dugonischool.smugmug.com

PHOTOS BY JON DRAPER AND CHRIS WOODROW



ADA Houston | 10.14.22



ALUMNI SCENE

ADEA Portland OR | 3.13.23



PHOTO BY MELISSA YAMANAKA

Hawaii Reception | 1.25.23



PHOTO BY JAMIE SAHOURIA

Alumni Association Board Meeting | 2.23.23



PHOTO BY JON DRAPER

PHILANTHROPY

LEGACY BALL



**DUGONI SCHOOL FOUNDATION BOARD
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD**



BRUCIA LEGACY SOCIETY



*To view photo galleries
of Alumni Weekend events, please visit
dugonischool.smugmug.com*



REUNION DINNERS

Memorial and Tribute Gifts from September 16, 2022 to March 13, 2023

In Memory Of:

Dr. Lawrence Betts
Dr. Kathleen A. Buoye
Dr. James K. Cady
Mr. John Cagnone
Dr. Leroy Cagnone
Dr. Steven Casagrande
Ms. Ann Oberlatz-Cisneros
Dr. Arthur A. Dugoni

Dr. Roy Eversole
Dr. Robert S. Gartrell
Dr. John P. Gaebel
Dee Gibbs
Dr. William W. Y. Goon

Dr. Kerrie Imagawa
Dr. Dennis Kalebjian

Dr. Arthur Kroll
Dr. Leonard L. Kwong
Mr. Andrew LaBarre
Sean Matsuda
Dr. Allen D. Miller
Mrs. Norma Nessier
Dr. Brian Nicoll
Dr. Gregory M. Nitz
Dr. Ronald D. Parris
Dr. Dennis Shinbori

Mr. Jim Seiferling
Dr. Irvin 'Irv' Silverstein
Dr. Roland Smith

Dr. Daniel Tanita

Dr. De Van Robins
Sean Matsuda
Dr. Morris Wong
Dr. Stephen S. Yuen
Dr. Herbert K. Yee

Given By:

Dr. and Mrs. Robert C. Golden
Dr. Holly S. Downes
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Bales
Dr. and Mrs. Robert C. Golden
Dr. and Mrs. Robert C. Golden
Dr. and Mrs. Ross C. Lai
Dr. and Mrs. Robert C. Golden
Dr. and Mrs. Robert C. Golden
Dr. Arden L. Kwong
Tom and Sue McConnell
Dr. and Mrs. Robert C. Golden
Dr. Arden L. Kwong
Dr. and Mrs. Michael F. Hair, Sr.
Dr. and Mrs. Scott W. Milliken
Dr. Nancy B. Greenfield
Dr. and Mrs. Robert C. Golden
Dr. Terry M. Imagawa
Dr. and Mrs. Robert C. Golden
Dr. and Mrs. Alexander G. Namikas
Dr. Robert R. Smith
Dr. Arden L. Kwong
Dr. and Mrs. Robert C. Golden
Dr. Michael L. Matsuda
Dr. and Mrs. Richard A. O'Day
Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth F. Hovden
Dr. and Mrs. Robert C. Golden
Dr. Arden L. Kwong
Dr. Ross M. Stangeland
Dr. and Mrs. Robert C. Golden
Dr. James H. Van Sicklen, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Robert C. Golden
Craig and Nancy Yarborough
Dr. and Mrs. Robert C. Golden
Dr. Arden L. Kwong
Dr. and Mrs. Michael F. Hair, Sr.
Dr. William van Dyk and

Ms. Margi Sullivan
Craig and Nancy Yarborough
Mrs. Ruby J. Robins
Dr. Michael L. Matsuda
Dr. and Mrs. Robert C. Golden
Mrs. Eleanor L. Yuen
Drs. Andrew Chen and Candice Yee Chen

Given To:

Dr. Robert Christoffersen Facilities Endowment
Dugoni School Annual Fund
Dr. Thomas R. Bales Family Endowment
Dr. Robert H. Christoffersen Endowed Professorship
Dr. Robert H. Christoffersen Endowed Professorship
Kids In The Clinic Endowment
Dr. Robert Christoffersen Facilities Endowment
Dugoni School Annual Fund
The Art Dugoni Scholar Endowment
Dugoni School Annual Fund
The Art Dugoni Scholar Endowment
The Art Dugoni Scholar Endowment
Dugoni School Annual Fund
Dugoni School Annual Fund
Dugoni School Annual Fund
The Art Dugoni Scholar Endowment
Alumni Association Scholarship Fund
Dugoni School Annual Fund
Dugoni School Annual Fund
Dugoni School Annual Fund
Dr. Leonard L. Kwong Family Scholarship Endowment
Dugoni Alumni Association Scholarship Endowment
Dugoni School Annual Fund
Dugoni School Annual Fund
Dr. Marion Hovden '52 Scholarship Endowment
Dr. Robert H. Christoffersen Endowed Professorship
The Art Dugoni Scholar Endowment
Dugoni School Annual Fund
Pacific Dugoni Alumni Association Scholarship Endowment
Dennis D. Shinbori Endowed Lectureship
The Art Dugoni Scholar Endowment
Dugoni School Annual Fund
The Art Dugoni Scholar Endowment
The Art Dugoni Scholar Endowment
Dugoni School Annual Fund
Dugoni School Annual Fund
Dugoni School Annual Fund
Dugoni School Annual Fund
Dugoni School Annual Fund
Class of 1956 Endowment
Dr. Herbert K. Yee Scholarship Endowment

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

In Honor Of:

Dr. William van Dyk

Given By:

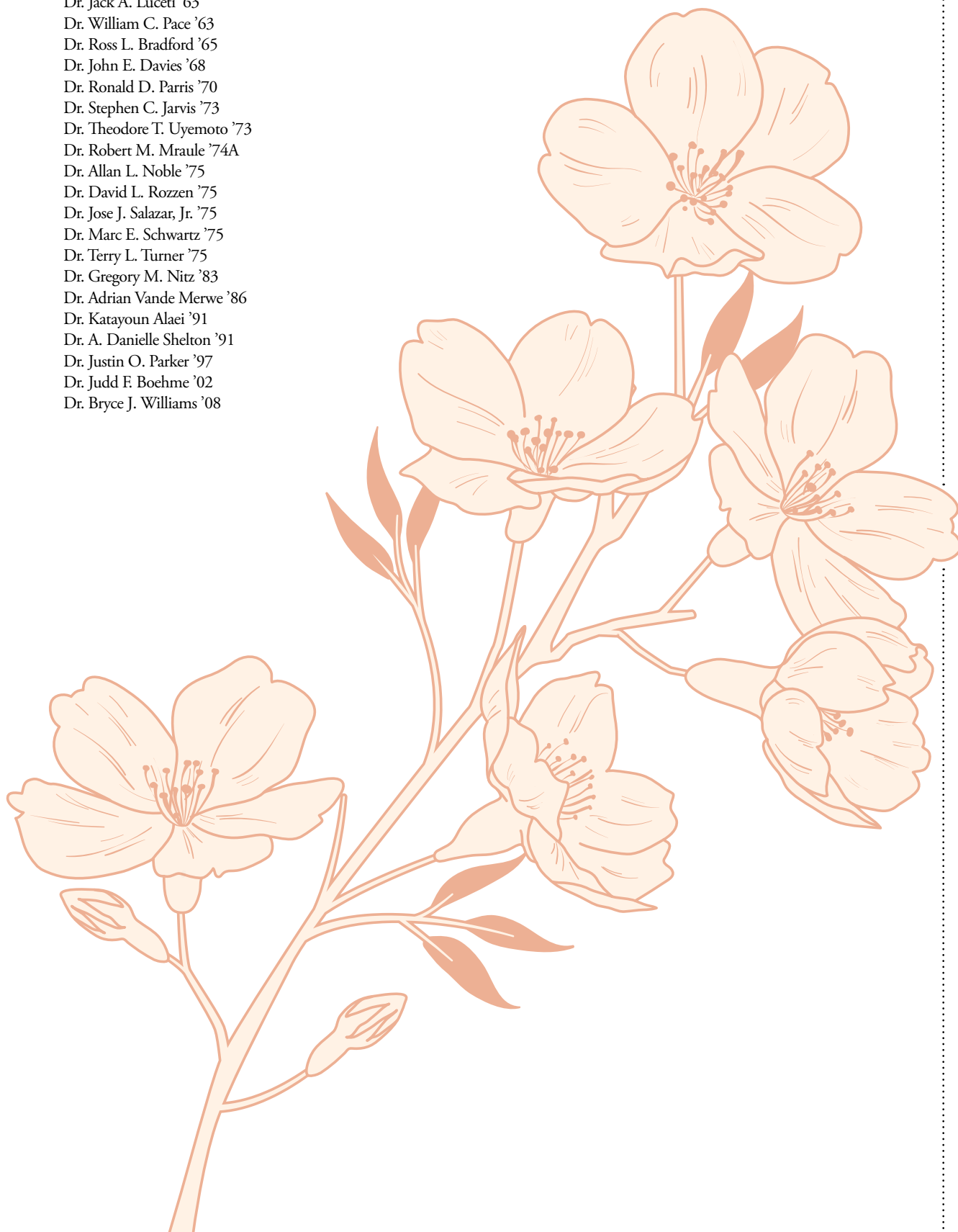
Dr. and Mrs. Michael F. Hair, Sr.

Given To:

Dugoni School Annual Fund

In Memoriam

Dr. Kenneth H. Cusick '56
 Dr. Jack A. Luceti '63
 Dr. William C. Pace '63
 Dr. Ross L. Bradford '65
 Dr. John E. Davies '68
 Dr. Ronald D. Parris '70
 Dr. Stephen C. Jarvis '73
 Dr. Theodore T. Uyemoto '73
 Dr. Robert M. Mraule '74A
 Dr. Allan L. Noble '75
 Dr. David L. Rozzen '75
 Dr. Jose J. Salazar, Jr. '75
 Dr. Marc E. Schwartz '75
 Dr. Terry L. Turner '75
 Dr. Gregory M. Nitz '83
 Dr. Adrian Vande Merwe '86
 Dr. Katayoun Alaei '91
 Dr. A. Danielle Shelton '91
 Dr. Justin O. Parker '97
 Dr. Judd F. Boehme '02
 Dr. Bryce J. Williams '08



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

An Early Call for Inclusion

In this friendly but bold statement from the *CHIPS* 1905 yearbook, the women of the College of Physicians & Surgeons outlined their resolve to be recognized as professional colleagues on an equal footing with the "gentlemen" of the college.

A New Declaration of Independence

—BY THE—

Women of the C. P. S.

Whereas:—We, the women of the C. P. S., have entered the College of Physicians and Surgeons on equal footing with the men and are grateful for the privilege; and

Whereas:—We not only find the companionship of these gentlemen helpful and pleasant in the extreme; and

Whereas:—All of us are old enough (and some of us worse than that) to realize our beauty, fascination and dangerousness—those of us who are beautiful, fascinating and dangerous (and there are some of us who are not); and

Whereas:—It often becomes necessary to hold consultations on various subjects with the aforesaid gentlemen,

Be It Resolved:—That in the hereafter we shall arrogate to ourselves the privileges of meeting the gentlemen on the same footing as we meet each other; and

Resolved:—If we are found lurking in shadowy corners, on the stairway, or in deserted rooms with sundry gentlemen or the same gentleman, that we have no further designs on the aforesaid gentlemen or gentleman than the extraction of ideas for the furtherance of our work, for the interest of mankind, and the satisfaction of ourselves; and

Resolved:—That we condemn any covert glances cast at us, or jocular remarks made at our expense or the expense of the aforesaid gentlemen or gentleman who find pleasure in our society, or consider it their or his duty to assist in our growth or the expansion of our ideas; and

Resolved:—That it be made known that we desire to be left heart-whole and fancy free until such a time as we deem it fitting to be otherwise; and, also, that the aforesaid gentlemen or gentleman be allowed the same privileges without any extraneous influences being brought to bear to mar the peace and serenity of our associations; and

Resolved:—That we are going to walk, talk, laugh, joke, quarrel, study, hold consultations, be as chummy as possible, and otherwise do as we please with any gentleman we can find who will act as party of the second part without caring who sees us, or feeling under obligations to apologize for our conduct or suddenly change the subject of conversation to Physiology, Biology, Pathology, Bacteriology or any other old "ology" when anyone chances (?) by; and, furthermore, be it

Resolved:—That we are going to meet the aforesaid gentlemen or gentleman on equal footing in our pleasures as we do in our work for the best good of ourselves, the aforesaid gentlemen or gentleman and our college, the C. P. S.



THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HAS YOUR BACK

The mission of the Dugoni School Alumni Association is to engage and inspire alumni in meaningful relationships with students, the school, and each other for life. Our goal is to enrich lives and relationships and to keep you in touch with classmates and the Dugoni School.

Need a referral for a patient moving to another city or state? You can contact your Alumni Association for a referral.
dugonialumni@pacific.edu

Need to hire an associate or a hygienist? View C.V.s/resumes of our students and recent grads:
<https://sfdental.pacific.edu/dentalopp2/forhirelisting.aspx>

Post your job listing on our Dental Career Opportunities site:
<https://sfdental.pacific.edu/forms/postdentalopp.aspx>

Coming soon:

An Online Directory for members only to post their office contact information, including websites.
The directory will be open to the public.

2023-2024 Alumni Association Events

Friday, June 16	Alumni/Graduate Banquet for the Class of 2023
Friday, September 8	Alumni Reception during CDA Presents in San Jose
Sunday, September 24	Dodgers vs Giants game at Dodger Stadium
Saturday, January 20	Live Webinar for FY23-24 dues-paid members: Infection Control & Dental Law
Friday & Saturday, February 9-20, 2024	125th Annual Alumni Association Meeting

In addition, the Alumni Association will host events throughout the year for students, and quarterly Blood Drives for the 155 Fifth Street building community.

Check the Alumni Association website often for event information: <https://dental.pacific.edu/dental/alumni>



We engage with students by hosting and supporting student activities.

UNIVERSITY OF THE
PACIFIC
Arthur A. Dugoni
School of Dentistry

155 Fifth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103-2919

Non Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Oakland, CA
Permit 810



“The Pacific Health Care Collaborative will be a game changer for our Sacramento Community, and it’s an honor to be involved in its vision and realization.”

—Dr. Ken Fat, former president of
the Dugoni School Foundation