contactpoint

UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC ARTHUR A. DUGONI SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY | VOL 103 • NO 2 | AUTUMN 2023

CEREMONIES

WELCOMING STUDENTS WITH TRADITIONS OLD AND NEW

UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry

PRESENTS



SAN FRANCISCO

Saturday and Sunday | March 2 – 3, 2024



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CONTENS CONTACTPOINTAUTUMN2023 CONTACTPOINTAUTUMN2023 ENDODONTIC EXCELLENCE The first class of three endodontic residents started in 2013, and

The dental school welcomes students to the Dugoni School family with various activities during matriculation week. Dr. Eric Curtis '85 recalls his experience as a first-year student and explores how

the school embraces old traditions and new initiatives for its

The first class of three endodontic residents started in 2013, and now the endodontic residency program is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Discover how the program has evolved during the past decade and hear from Dr. Adham Azim, chair, about the goals and plans for the future.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

University News

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Around Campus

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Alumni Profile

JZ

CAREER ADVANCEMENT

The Dugoni School of Dentistry provides valuable learning opportunities for individuals looking to enter the dental field as hygienists and for existing allied dental professionals—RDHs and RDAs—seeking to improve their skills. Learn how the school's programs are preparing allied dental professionals for their careers and expanding roles.

incoming students.

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Alumni Scene

Philanthropy



Old School



ON THE COVER Members of the Class of 2026 interact with the

"Colored Shadows" exhibit at the Exploratorium during the first-year retreat.

PHOTO BY JANA ABDULRAHIM



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NADER A. NADERSHAHI, DEAN AND VICE PROVOST

Welcome to the Autumn 2023 edition of Contact Point!

In this issue we go behind the scenes of one of our highly in-demand programs—our graduate program in endodontics, which is celebrating its 10-year anniversary. And we shine a light on some of the new traditions and activities to support the student experience that are being led by our admissions and student affairs teams. From first-week kickoff events to retreats, student clubs, old and new traditions and more, you'll want to discover the ways the student experience has changed (or not changed!) from the time you were in dental school.

Many of you and others in the profession know that the Dugoni School has offered a highly regarded Dental Hygiene program for many years. However, you may be unaware that we offer other programs for allied dental professionals. This issue also highlights our Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions (RDAEF) and Registered Dental



PHOTO BY CHRIS WOODROW

Hygienist in Alternative Practice (RDHAP) programs, which offer new opportunities for allied professionals to expand and improve care in communities across the state.

Our alumni profile features Dr. Michael Gamboa '88, who launched a second career as a U.S. Navy officer and previously served the Dugoni School of Dentistry as a parttime clinical faculty member for numerous years. We also spotlight Janelle Palomares, manager of student life and involvement, who is known by many students and graduates for her passion for helping them thrive during their time at dental school.

We look forward to seeing many of you—our alumni, friends and supporters—at the Annual Alumni Meeting, February 9-10, 2024, at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco. Please mark your calendars and join us for a great weekend to reconnect, learn, socialize, experience the new Legacy Ball and class reunion format and grow with fellow members of the Dugoni School family!

idez A.

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

New Director and Grant Award for Pacific Health Care Collaborative

As construction continues on the Pacific Health Care Collaborative (PHCC) in Sacramento, the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry is also moving forward with staffing plans, community outreach and fundraising to support the project and new programs.

Kim Benton, DDS, MPH, was selected as the director of the PHCC and Sacramento programs. She will help build and grow the PHCC clinical model and oversee the educational activities of this first-of-its-kind integrated clinical facility in an academic health setting. She will work with colleagues to lead operations, including staffing, budget oversight and financial operations for the PHCC, and the International Dental Studies program expansion in Sacramento.



Located in the Oak Park neighborhood, the PHCC will combine dental and medical services for the public in a teaching and learning environment. The new facility will offer students who are training to become healthcare professionals—including dentists, physicians, physician assistants, nurses, pharmacists, occupational therapists, registered dietitian nutritionists and social workers—the chance to learn and work together to provide holistic, patient-centered care.

The PHCC will be able to serve 20,000 medical patients and 10,000 dental patients from across the region annually. The facility will have space for 10 medical exam rooms, 30 dental operatories and dedicated rooms for people with intellectual, developmental and acquired disabilities. There will be classrooms and a simulation clinic for students, as well as an ambulatory dental surgery clinic and a mobile health clinic to bring care to community sites.





"Dr. Benton's mix of clinical experience, teaching, interpersonal skills, operations background, passion for serving the community and many other qualities will serve our students, staff, faculty and patients well," said Dean and Vice Provost Nader A. Nadershahi '94. "She is passionate about educating patients on the importance of oral health and the impact it has on their overall health. She will also help with outreach to Sacramento's Oak Park neighborhood and other communities in the region as the PHCC project moves forward."

Benton has many years of service as an assistant professor in the Department of Diagnostic Sciences at the Dugoni School of Dentistry. Since 1998 she has owned and operated Vista Pacific Dental in Daly City, California.

The PHCC project also received a new gift of \$200,000 from the Delta Dental Community Care Foundation's Access to Care Grants program. The funding will go toward capital and equipment support of clinical services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as for low-income and underserved groups who will be cared for at the PHCC. The facility is scheduled to open in summer 2024.

Dr. Han Receives NIH Award to Study Immune Biomarkers for Predicting Oral Cancer



Dr. Xiaoyuan Han, assistant professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, recently received a Support for Research Excellence-First Independent Research (SuRE-First) Award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) on the topic, "Single-cell immune landscape in the oral dysplasia's malignant transformation."

Han is the first researcher at University of the Pacific to receive the SuRE-First Award, which aims to provide students, especially those from underrepresented groups, with research opportunities and to enrich the research environment at institutions having limited NIH research support.

The award grants Han \$702,000 for a four-year research project to

identify immune features that predict the malignant transformation of cells in the mouth to oral cavity squamous cell carcinoma (OCSCC) using state-of-the-art, single-cell analysis and bioinformatic AI tools. "The students engaged in this research project will develop multiplex immune imaging assay on clinical dental biopsies and apply innovative bioinformatic AI tools on data analysis in my research project, which is a collaboration with Stanford School of Medicine," said Han.

"OCSCC is an aggressive cancer with a poor prognosis, and Han's work could help to identify patients needing early care and increase our ability to provide personalized medical treatment for these patients," said Dr. David Ojcius, assistant dean for research, assistant provost for research and scholarship and co-chair of the Department of Biomedical Sciences.

Dr. Shika Gupta Named Department Chair of Clinical Oral Health Care

Following a national search, Dr. Shika Gupta '07 IDS has been selected as the new chair of the Department of Clinical Oral Health Care.

She previously served the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry as a full-time faculty member in the Department of Preventive and Restorative Dentistry and, beginning in 2018, as a group practice leader. Gupta additionally engaged in private practice in San Mateo from 2007-2012 and 2017-2020.

She has also participated in the school's Dental Faculty Council, Academic Advisory Committee, Enrichment Program Task Force, Quality Assurance Committee, Infection Control Committee, Pacmanual Task Force, Student Appeals Committee and the DDS and IDS Admissions Committees. A member of University of the Pacific's Academic Council since 2017, she recently completed service as the 2022-23 chair of the Academic Council.

Gupta earned her BDS degree at Goa University in Goa, India, her MDSc degree in restorative dentistry at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and her DDS degree from the Dugoni School of Dentistry's IDS program.



PHOTO BY JON DRAPER



New Outreach Serves Filipino Community and East Bay Children

The Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry co-hosted an oral health outreach table at the Pistahan Parade and Festival, the largest celebration of Filipino art, culture, dance, food and music in the United States. The festival was held August 12-13 at Yerba Buena Gardens in San Francisco. Volunteers included leaders from the school's Student Community Outreach for Public Education (SCOPE) program and Christian Medical and Dental Association chapter.

"The Pistahan event was an amazing opportunity for us to help our immediate community alongside volunteers from UCSF's Filipino Dental Student Coalition," said Alini Agnes, Class of 2024. "Most of the event volunteers from our school—including myself—come from a Filipino background, so this event was a meaningful way for us to give back while also learning and gaining an appreciation for Filipino culture. During the event, we strived to increase oral health literacy and discussed how oral health affects systemic health."

Also that weekend, volunteers from SCOPE and the Pediatric Dentistry Study Club participated for the first time at a backto-school resource fair for the Hayward Unified School District. Backpacks, supplies and health resources were given to children and families, who also enjoyed fun activities throughout the day. Student and faculty volunteers provided oral health information, gave demonstrations, answered questions and connected children and parents to local dental clinic resources.



PHOTO BY MARISOL ANDRADE

PHOTO BY TIM VERCELES

University Alumni Association Honors Dr. Janet Andrews for Mentorship

Dr. Janet Andrews '83, clinical assistant professor emerita, was one of four recipients of the 2023 Faculty Mentor Award from the Pacific Alumni Association on October 15 on the Stockton campus. The awards are presented annually to faculty who, through their personal and professional relationships, have mentored students and encouraged alumni to do likewise by providing internships, career opportunities and scholarships.



PHOTO BY JASON MILLNER

Dr. Nabiha Ahmed '23 views Andrews as a mentor and aspires to use the guidance she has received. "Dr. Andrews is so warmly and logically approachable," Ahmed said in her nomination letter for Andrews. "She gives the right amount of advice for us to think critically. She is the woman powerhouse I aspire to be one day."

Andrews has had a remarkable career spanning four-plus decades much of it in various roles with the Dugoni School of Dentistry, including 10 years on the Admissions Committee. After completing a bachelor's degree at Marquette University, she earned a master's degree from Pacific in 1979 and a DDS degree from the Dugoni School of Dentistry in 1983. She recently completed a two-year term as president of the Dugoni School Foundation.

"Dr. Andrews supported me every step of the way during dental school," said Dr. Angela Chen '23. "She leads by example and it's obvious that students, other faculty and patients love working with her."

CURRENT ISSUE

Dental Camp: High Schoolers Explore a Career in Dentistry

Forty high school students from across the United States participated in a unique Dental Camp program, part of University of the Pacific's Summer High School Institute held in late June and early July. The majority of the program took place on the Stockton campus with three days of the sessions held at the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry in San Francisco.

Attendees had an opportunity to explore many topics related to dentistry, learn handson skills, meet with faculty and current dental students and participate in workshops and lectures about dental materials, procedures and specialties.

"It was really heartwarming and inspiring to see high schoolers so passionate about the field I'm dedicating my life to," said student volunteer Owen Chan, Class of 2024. "The students were all so engaged and eager to take on responsibility. I wish I had known that programs like this existed when I was in high school!"

"It was so rewarding," said Samantha Rovno, Class of 2025, who helped teach hand skills to participants in the simulation lab. "Mentoring these high school students made me even more appreciative of our faculty's guidance and effort."

The Pacific Summer High School Institute attracted more than 1,600 students over two sessions. The institute dramatically expanded in its second year, going from 13 program options in 2022 to more than 50 this year. The university's library and all nine of Pacific's schools and colleges offered courses. Nine athletic programs were also available for students to hone their skills.







PHOTOS BY JON DRAPER





Meet the Mastermind Behind Student Engagement

By Ashley Musick

Born and raised in the Bay Area, Janelle Palomares lived in South San Francisco until age six before moving to Hercules, California, where she still lives today with her husband and daughter. After graduating from California State University, East Bay, with a bachelor of arts degree in mass communication and media studies, Palomares planned to move to Los Angeles to work on movie sets and become a Hollywood film editor.

Palomares' first job out of college was working at a local TV station, where she learned about editing, production and the art of storytelling. However, when the station shut down, Palomares' cousin recommended she pursue an opening in the Office of Admissions at the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry. She landed the job as an administrative assistant and then became an admissions coordinator.



Though Palomares loved working with each new applicant class, she soon realized that she wanted to build more lasting relationships with the students during their time at the dental school. After years of promoting student life activities to incoming students, Palomares decided that she wanted to be involved in creating them.

Following the retirement of Dr. Eddie Hayashida, former associate dean for administration, the student affairs coordinator position was established within the Office of Student Services. This created the opportunity for Palomares to become a student affairs coordinator a year later before growing into her current role as the manager of student life and involvement.

Upon first starting in student affairs, Palomares recalls being handed a stack of binders and thinking to herself, "This just won't do."



In collaboration with student leaders, she tirelessly worked to digitize and streamline student request forms to make processes easier for both students and faculty, in addition to creating an official student life handbook. Though it took a few years to fully integrate the new handbook and processes, the impact has been significant.

"Janelle is the glue that holds all student life events together," explains Associated Student Body President Mason Tittle, Class of 2024. "She has a very special quality in that despite being the mastermind behind most of these events, she wants the students who run them to get all the praise. I wish every student could see how hard Janelle works for us—if you have ever had a good time at a Dugoni School student event, Janelle probably had a hand in making that happen."

Palomares' influence can also be seen in her commitment to amplifying student voices, both in the types of speakers and events student affairs hosts, in addition to her involvement with the university's Title IX cases. She takes pride in serving as a resource and advocate for students during their time at the dental school, all while creating spaces to reduce stress and encourage mental wellness both within the classroom and beyond.

"I really value what the students have to say, because I know that many of them want to learn more about the opportunities available within the dental field," Palomares shares. "To me, that's what student engagement is all about, which is why I really value input from student leaders on how we can make the program even better."

When asked about her future plans for student engagement, Palomares replied, "I definitely want to create more activities for students that take them away from the stress of school. It can be as simple as making a space for them to play music or watch a movie. I just want to encourage mental wellness and add a little bit of fun."

She has received recognition throughout her 21-year career at the Dugoni School of Dentistry in the form of multiple awards, most recently having been awarded the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) Advocate Award in June 2023.

STAFF PROFILE

Dr. Craig Yarborough '80, describes Palomares as the heart and soul of the dental school. "Janelle's sole purpose at the Dugoni School is to make it 'the happiest place on earth' for our students," shares Yarborough. "She brings a smile and hearty laugh every day, and just makes the people around her better. She started working here with energy, humanism and dedication and continues to convey it in every relationship she forms."

Outside of work, Palomares enjoys spending her time with husband Marcel and daughter Lily, playing golf and attending Comic-Con annually to add to their combined collection of more than 300 Funko Pops (the collectible vinyl toys). And, she just recently acquired her motorcycle license. Though she has yet to purchase the perfect bike, she hopes to grow comfortable enough to one day take long rides up to Napa or along the Pacific Coast Highway.

COURTESY OF JANELLE PALOMARES



With regard to her plans for the future, Palomares insists she is happy with her life as is. "For my career, I just want to continue learning. I love networking at conferences and learning more from everyone I meet within student affairs. Personally, I want to be a great role model for my daughter and the best wife to my husband. I want my daughter to be a student leader one day—I always tell her, 'You could be a leader, you know that, right?' I just want to be able to show her how to do that."

Ashley Musick is a freelance writer from Orange, California.

Jose Hernandez Biopic Inspires Pacificans and the World

Many of the milestones in the remarkable life of Jose Hernandez '84 UOP—NASA astronaut, University of the Pacific engineering graduate and former regent—have been driven by his incredible sense of perseverance and patience. He continually peppered NASA with applications for the astronaut program—12 times in all before finally being accepted.

A Million Miles Away, the biopic of Hernandez's journey, starting as a migrant worker in the farm fields of San Joaquin County to Pacific, and eventually to fame as an astronaut, debuted internationally on September 15 on Amazon Prime. Actor Michael Pena plays the role of Hernandez.

Pacific students, alumni, donors and other invited guests were treated to a screening of the movie on August 30 at both the Janet Leigh Theater and Don and Karen DeRosa University Center on the Stockton campus. Afterwards, Hernandez took part in a questionand-answer session with University President Christopher Callahan.

"When I was growing up my intention was not to have a movie made about my life," Hernandez said, prompting a chuckle from the audience. "My goal was simply that I wanted to go to space. When I did get selected, I got attention because I was the first migrant farmworker astronaut. It was then I realized that I had become an instant role model. I embraced that role when it came to talking to kids to inspire them."

Hernandez noted Hollywood often takes liberties when it comes to storylines. He said his biopic has some characters who are combined and timelines that are altered. But, for the most part, he believes the movie "stayed true" to his story. He also praised Pena's work. "He was my choice to play the role from the start," Hernandez said. "And I thought he did an excellent job."

The movie has several Pacific and Stockton references, including a shot with the Pacific gate in the background and several clips in which Pena wears a University of the Pacific shirt. Those drew applause from attendees at the campus movie showing.







Hernandez with his father Salvador

"He has positively impacted tens or even hundreds of thousands of young people across the Central Valley," Callahan said. "This film now will have that same impact."

"I met Jose when I was younger when he was planning to run for elected office," said Mariana Arellano, Class of 2025, a marketing major from Modesto. "He is part of the reason I am here. He paved the way for so many of us. The fact that he was able to make it further was inspirational."

In an interview prior to the screening, Hernandez talked about embracing new challenges. "I will always be known as an astronaut, but that and \$4.99 will only get you a coffee at Starbucks," he said. "I still must work for a living. I have my consulting business and my vineyard. I am moving forward with a lot of energy. I feel there is something big that is going to happen. What that is, I do not know. But we are turning the page every day."

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Dr. Frank Brucia '44 Leaves Legacy of Unwavering Loyalty

Dr. Frank A. Brucia '44A, the dental school's longest-serving supporter, mentor and friend, passed away on May 12, 2023, surrounded by his family, at the age of 106.

Brucia graduated from the Dugoni School of Dentistry, then known as the College of Physicians and Surgeons, in 1944. He had a successful private practice in the North Beach area of San Francisco and prominent leadership roles with the California Dental Association and San Francisco Dental Society.





PHOTOS BY JON DRAPER





He was awarded the Alumni Association's Medallion of Distinction in 2000 and in 2022, he received the rare Arthur A. Dugoni Lifetime Achievement Award for extraordinary accomplishment, commitment and service to the dental school.

His generosity to the dental school spanned more than five decades and led to the creation of the Brucia Loyalty Society in recognition of his unwavering support. The society honors donors who mark 10 consecutive years of giving to the Dugoni School of Dentistry, with at least \$10,000 in lifetime giving.

"Dr. Frank Brucia, known as Papa Frank, was an icon and inspiration to so many," said Dean Nader A. Nadershahi '94. "He shared his time, talent and treasure with the Dugoni School and beyond. Dr. Brucia is one of our giants who has paved the way and provided shoulders upon which we stand today with a stronger profession."

Brucia was married to his late wife Helen for 69 years. He leaves behind three children: Kristina Davis, Ric Brucia and Dr. Jeff Brucia '88, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



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PHOTOS BY CHRIS WOODROW

Celebrating 10 Years of Endodontic Residency

By Jennifer Langham

The year 2013 was a busy time at the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry. Work was noticeably underway on the construction of the school's downtown building, but there was also the announcement of a new, 27-month Advanced Education Program in Endodontology. A press release at the time informed readers, "The start of the program will coincide with the school's move to its state-of-the-art campus in July 2014."

This confluence of events meant that from the beginning, the endodontic residency program has been known for top-notch facilities, technology and equipment. But then and now, the success of the residency program has been based on its people.

Building on a Culture of Excellence

"Our terrific faculty members were ready to teach a residency program," remembers Dr. Cindy Lyon '86, professor and associate dean for oral health education, who was on the Curriculum Committee considering the establishment of the residency program in 2013. "Adding the advanced education program, with the opportunity to teach endodontology to both predoctoral and advanced education students, brought some additional energy to the whole dental program."

The goal of creating the program—resulting in a master of science degree and certificate in endodontics—was to leverage these skilled faculty to model the latest technology and techniques in endodontic care for the entire dental program. In addition, the program would integrate the second-year residents within the intake and emergency services of the group practice model, providing care for patients with more challenging dental issues.

Lyon names some of the luminaries in the endodontic field who have taught at the dental school: Dr. Ove Peters, who helped start the endodontic residency program and is globally recognized for his research and for translational technology; Dr. Stephen Cohen, author of 10 editions of the definitive endodontic text *Pathways* of the Pulp; Dr. Alan Gluskin '72, long-time chair of the school's Department of Endodontics, who served as president of the American Association of Endodontists (AAE) in 2020; and now Dr. Adham Azim as chair.



Above: One of eight new bench microscopes in the preclinical lab Below: Dr. Alan Gluskin '72 and Dr. Michael Glenn, first-year resident





Dr. Adham Azim, chair of the Department of Endodontics

"There has been a nice handoff between leaders at multiple stages of the endodontic program, and each has brought something new to the school," Lyon notes.

Since 2021, the department has been led by Dr. Adham A. Azim, associate professor and the Dr. Earl R. and Tannia Hodges Endowed Chair in Endodontics. Azim has overseen an addition of almost \$1million in new equipment to the department for both the predoctoral and residency programs: new bench microscopes for teaching DDS students in the preclinical lab, additional endodontic motor and obturation systems and new microscopes on all predoc endo chairs, along with sensors and ultrasonic units.

Under Azim's leadership, the school has also made a full curriculum revision, moving classes to different quarters and updating the curriculum itself, thus gaining more hours with the students to enhance their mastery of the specialty. "I can't say enough about the support from and role of the school's administration in making these changes," says Azim. "Until I came to the Dugoni School, I couldn't really grasp the importance of the culture here. Administration, faculty and students care about coming here and contributing all they can. Students feel that they have a lifelong relationship with the school—it's not just a place they're spending three years and then leaving."



PHOTO BY ROSIE FOWLER

Learning from Mentors

Dr. Mia Tittle '18, '22 Endo would agree with this description of the culture at the school. Tittle's father, Dr. Kenneth Tittle '89, an endodontist and part-time faculty member, was a role model for her, but it was mentorship from professors such as Drs. Gluskin '72, Gordon Lai '20 Endo, Johnah Galicia and the late Ray Scott '80 who inspired her to pursue endodontics as a specialty.

"Almost every patient who comes into our endodontics practice is in pain," says Tittle, "and I really like the challenge of meeting someone, getting to know them, making them feel safe and getting them out of pain, all in one visit. It's especially rewarding."

Also gratifying for Tittle is the "extremely micro" nature of endodontics. "Many procedures in general dentistry involve working in very small spaces, but in endodontics it's even smaller—using microscopes with up to 30 times magnification and instruments that are fractions of millimeters in diameter—so it's focused work. You learn to trust your gut and your training, and it's very satisfying," she says.

PHOTO BY JON DRAPER

As both a former DDS student and resident, Tittle saw how the endodontic residency program enhanced the dental school as a whole, providing DDS students with opportunities to learn from the residents and to explore endodontics. "It's easy for students to jump in on a research project or to shadow residents in the clinic," she says. "And it's very helpful for predoc students even if they're not interested in specializing to learn how endodontists do things."

Now in practice with her father in Pleasant Hill, California, Tittle noticed the increased presence of the dental school's endodontic program at this year's AAE conference, where the program had its first reception with former residents and even prospective students stopping by. "It was great to see how many students were really interested in coming to the Dugoni School, and I think it boosts the reputation of the entire dental school to have a strong endodontic program," she says.





Dr. Mia Tittle '18, '22 Endo with her father and faculty member, Dr. Kenneth Tittle '89 (right)

"You learn to trust your gut and your training, and it's very satisfying."

Boosting Research and Global Reach

One important component of the residency program's mission and reputation over the decade has been a commitment to research. Lyon says that this was by design. "Research and shared scholarship have always been important at the dental school, and the endodontic program was created with these goals in mind," says Lyon. "The program will continue to excel in research with the great team we have in place, comprising longstanding faculty members as well as new additions."





The dental school recently hired Dr. Prasanna Neelakatan as the endodontic program's dedicated research director. Neelakatan joins the Dugoni School of Dentistry from Hong Kong University, one of the world's top-ranked dental schools, where he was assistant dean of research. He will now oversee the research work by endodontic residents. "Dr. Neelakatan is really going to boost our research potential and the ability of our residents to contribute to research literature," says Azim.



"With our expertise, we can shape how endodontics is practiced worldwide."

The global reach of the Dugoni School of Dentistry's endodontic program has also been expanded through a two-year international endodontic program facilitated by the Division of Continuing Dental Education. The program is geared primarily toward international dentists in Europe. By delivering structured online content as well as in-person coursework and by overseeing clinical work, this non-degree granting program aims to elevate the practice of endodontics on a global scale.

"We focus on evidence-based dentistry, and our expectation is that dentists who complete this program will practice endodontics at the highest level possible." Azim explains. He notes that the online content is so well respected that many endodontic departments in this country are using it to train their residents.

"We also have the best endodontics surgical training in the country," Azim continues. "This is an area that is often a hurdle for many endodontists everywhere. With our expertise, we can shape how endodontics is practiced worldwide."

Diving Deep Into the Field—And Paying It Forward

It was the opportunity to expand his own skills that inspired Dr. Amro Elkhatieb '16 IDS and current endodontic resident, to return to the dental school. He says the program "takes a deep dive" into endodontics for practicing dentists like himself.

"We're focusing on the science behind endodontics and the research that has been done, and we're surrounded by professors and professionals who are big names in the field of endodontics who have left their mark in research, in teaching and in the development of new materials in the field," Elkhatieb says. "So we're not just doing the procedures, but learning what will make the work successful."

He points specifically to surgical techniques such as apicoectomy, autotransplantation and root amputations as some of the newer techniques he's learning in the residency program. "Some of the techniques and procedures we are doing right now are different from how it was done even 10 years ago, so the technology and the innovation in this field is just amazing," he says.



Currently, Elkhatieb serves as a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and as a District 13 delegate for the American Dental Association. When he completes the residency and can practice as an endodontist, Elkhatieb also wants to speak internationally on the topic and, importantly, teach at the Dugoni School of Dentistry, as he has seen many of his fellow alumni do. He understands why. "Investing a day a week in teaching at the dental school is investing in the field, and helps you grow as a clinician and as a human being, which I think is part of the legacy that Dr. Arthur Dugoni left," he says.



Dr. Amro Elkhatieb '16 IDS

"We're not just doing the procedures, but learning what will make the work successful."



Moving Into the Future

An exciting recent addition to the school's Department of Endodontics is an Endodontics-PhD program in collaboration with University of the Pacific, Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy. During the five-year program, students will earn a certificate in endodontics, a master's degree in dentistry and a PhD in chemistry from the pharmacy school. The first student accepted into the program will start in 2024.

"We are one of only four dental schools to have this combined Endo-PhD program," says Azim, "and I think it will help boost our research to a very high level."

The Dugoni School of Dentistry has also received approval from the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation to increase the number of students in its endodontic residency program, from six total students to eight (four residents per class), increasing the ability to support the community and treat more patients.

Earlier this year at the AAE conference, the residency program won its first AAE award, achieving fourth place in a table clinic by first-year resident Dr. Ankita Kathpalia. Additionally, for the first time, the dental school had four presentations by residents.



"We are one of only four dental schools to have this combined Endo-PhD program, and I think it will help boost our research to a very high level."

Azim, who himself was recognized at the AAE meeting with the Edward M. Osetek Award for his outstanding teaching, is excited about what these developments mean for the next 10 years of the endodontic residency program at the Dugoni School of Dentistry.

"Without a doubt, I can see us leading the country, and even leading worldwide, in this specialty," he says. "We have an excellent team of clinicians, researchers and educators who work well together and support each other, and I feel very fortunate to work with them and to lead this department."

Jennifer Langham is a contributor to Contact Point and other University of the Pacific publications.





Matriculate Me: How the Dugoni School Welcomes its New Students

By Dr. Eric K. Curtis '85

Forty-one years ago, in early July, an 18-hour drive from Arizona brought my dad and me to a gray clapboard apartment building on the corner of Sacramento and Laguna Streets in San Francisco. I flung open the door of my tiny rental trailer and dragged out a well-worn couch. Muscling its bulk across the sidewalk and into the lobby, I upended the couch and, pivoting from corner to corner, walked it over the linoleum into the quivering elevator. I squeezed in, crouching, and punched the button to the top floor. My transformation from college kid to dentist lurched into motion.

Entering the dental school's orbit prompted a cascade of social activity, seemingly as natural and predetermined as the steps in the Krebs cycle. My new roommate Derrek, who picked me out of a list and cold-called me with a pitch to share his space, knew lots of people, including a third-year student who drove us to Tiburon for lunch the day before school started. We soon took in a third roommate named Armel (with whom I conferred several times as I prepared this article) and joined groups of students who gathered at the Presidio to watch Fourth of July fireworks and met for dinner at a Japantown restaurant called San Wang.

The dental school conducted its own rituals of inclusion. We sat for photos, welcome speeches and orientations. The admissions director, a jovial former U.S. Coast Guard officer named Dave Adkins, announced he would host a monthly group birthday party with cake. We each got a locker, a daunting stack of textbooks and a black buckram box containing a human skull.

We opened our first-year kit in the preclinical lab, guided by the resonant radio voice of Professor of Preventive and Restorative Dentistry and former Executive Associate Dean Robert Christoffersen '67, where we unwrapped handpieces—it felt almost sacred to be granted access to such powerful professional talismans—along with an array of instruments carrying curiously personal names, particularly the ones for carving wax: PK Thomas, Hollenbeck, Tanner. "You don't know what this is now," Christoffersen intoned, again and again, holding aloft, in each instance, an exemplar, "but you will soon."

> "You don't know what this is now," Christoffersen intoned, again and again, holding aloft, in each instance, an exemplar, "but you will soon."

I got to know my classmates, particularly the folks in my corner of the lab. One of them, Damon, who sat across the aisle, became a periodontist and has provided specialty care in my general practice—one day a week now—for 36 years. The school assigned me a "big sister" named Margaret from the class ahead. Another second-year student named Ed also dispensed helpful advice and an occasional cold soda as I slaved over my hot Bunsen burner.

Dean Arthur Dugoni '48 explained his notions of a humanistic education—that students are actual people, worthy of respect. He told us to expect collaboration and collegiality, rather than the hazing considered normal in other dental schools, from our instructors, who would from the outset call us "doctors." At the end of the week, Dean Dugoni invited the entire incoming class to his home down the peninsula—his *actual* house, as if we were family, or something—for swimming and a barbecue.

On the third weekend, the administration loaded us onto buses and sent us to Stockton, where we became acquainted with Pacific's mother ship, participating in discussion groups and hanging out poolside. The school's warm embrace, which, as the dean promised, included a noticeably supportive stance from faculty and staff, really did help ease me into the intensity of my new environment. My journal entry on August 15, 1982 reads, "In operative lab, Dr. Savio always says 'redo' so nicely."



Dr. Eric K. Curtis '85 in the CHIPS yearbook



Ryan Zarrabian, Class of 2025, with Pacific's Powercat mascot





The initiatory events I recall remain notably intact—welcome speeches, photos, mixers, student mentors and even an off-campus excursion. As we did, current students mingle even before classes start. Kalene Ward, Class of 2026 and a member of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, says class members met informally the weekend before school to get to know each other, "which helped take the edge off first-day jitters because we had already made a few friendships by then."



Although the hand instruments so prominent in my kit occupy a diminished place, and handpieces reside in sterilization areas, students still assemble in the sim lab to open their first-year kits, an occasion that Assistant Dean of Admissions, Student Services and Diversity Stan Constantino calls "the pinnacle of the week."

The pinnacle crowns a more action-packed week, and month, than ever. Honoring the school's traditions and embracing its ethos, Constantino's Office of Student Services crafts a comprehensive slate, updated yearly, of opening ceremonies, thoughtfully selected, strategically arranged, tightly organized, fine-tuned and polished to a shine. "The Dugoni School has upheld its long-standing traditions, which is remarkable," Constantino says. "Dean Nadershahi has shared his vision of maintaining storied traditions and also urged us to create new ones." Accordingly, "We also have participated in and re-imagined new and refreshing traditions."

Dean Nader A. Nadershahi '94 says that matriculation exercises endeavor to focus students on their new identity, as faculty and administrators outline expectations and offer avenues for success, both in school and in life. "We want students to understand the culture of the Dugoni School, as well as of the profession itself," he says. "We tell them the integrity of our profession is in their hands."

We want students to understand the culture of the Dugoni School, as well as of the profession itself.



Constantino believes that the first day of school should be just as memorable and essential as graduation. "I challenged my staff to help create memories and foster a sense of community, support and belonging for our students," he says, citing evidence demonstrating that a student's feelings of affiliation protect mental health and boost academic outcomes.

Armed with these sensibilities, the student services staff churns out a lineup of celebratory features wholly lacking in my day. On the first day this year, students, faculty and staff arrived on campus to the sounds of a live brass band playing top-40 pop music. They entered the building, accompanied by the university's Powercat tiger mascot, under a balloon arch, to find inside a continental breakfast and photo booth.



PHOTOS BY JON DRAPER



Students from the Class of 2026 at the Meet the Fam event

Students report both astonishment and reassurance. Christian Aquino, Class of 2026 president, describes a "rousing welcome orchestrated by a spirited marching band."

Radhika Ruparel, IDS Class of 2025 vice president, says, "We felt at home the first day itself when we were welcomed with a band and smiling faces."

"On our first day of school there was a giant welcome party, which made me feel appreciated and excited," says Class of 2026 Ethics Representative Brandon Alexis.

Matriculation week activities carefully balance the noise with nuance, offering both a "Meet the Fam" reception, in which new students mix with faculty and staff, and a First-Gen Lunch for students who are first-generation college graduates, where they mingle with faculty who are also first-gen grads.



Dr. Mark Booth '01 with new students at Meet the Fam



Students getting acquainted in Molinari Hall



Alumni Association-catered Cioppino Dinner

Entering students receive presentations on diversity, equity and inclusion; laptop orientations with the IT division; introductions to building operations, financial aid and the school's medical clinic and wellness center; and information about counseling and psychological services, student leadership opportunities, public safety and the integrated clinical sciences curriculum. This year's off-site, first-year retreat included team-building exercises, discussions of achievementpromoting strategies and a keynote address on professionalism.

Admittedly a lot to absorb, such rapid-fire exposures to Dugoni School life are designed to boost students into high-energy mode. "The first week of school was very insightful." Alexis says, "It prepared me for the rigorous schedule ahead."

The school also goes out of its way to entertain. This year's entering students enjoyed an excursion to the Exploratorium, along with a battery of breakfasts, lunches, snacks and hors d'oeuvres, capped by the now-famous Alumni Association-catered Cioppino Dinner.



Students enjoying the Exploratorium

An awareness that sociality enhances holistic growth runs through all levels of engagement. Aquino, who discerns in matriculation activities "a pervasive atmosphere of motivation to propel us towards our goals," also appreciates that cooperation underlies achievement: "Having classmates always ready to offer guidance and assistance made adapting to the fastpaced program more manageable." Ward agrees: "You cannot do dental school alone."

Mutual acceptance is critical. "We want to create an atmosphere in which everyone feels comfortable, where no one has to worry about being who they are," Dean Nadershahi says. "Our goal is to keep students engaged," says Janelle Palomares, manager of student life and involvement. "We do our best to make our presentations interactive and fun."

> We're lucky to have incredible people at our school, both our students and those who support them and the future of our school.

"Creating learning environments and co-curricular experiences for our students has always been at the heart of our department," Constantino explains. "Our dedication and beliefs about higher education serve as the foundation of our commitment to the development of not only a doctor, but the 'whole person.""



Students activate the "Colored Shadows" exhibit at the Exploratorium





The traditional kit opening in the simulation lab

PHOTOS BY JON DRAPER



First-day fun in the photo booth

New students are all smiles

Nadershahi emphasizes that education must concentrate as much on its participants as it does on the curriculum and physical plant. "We're lucky to have incredible people at our school, both our students and those who support them and the future of our school."

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Creating learning environments and co-curricular experiences for our students has always been at the heart of our department.

Luck seems to follow thoughtful planning and deep wells of goodwill. "We want the students to be comfortable in their new home," Palomares says. "We are a family, and we want them to succeed."

The attention to hospitality and fellowship makes the same magic I remember. "The unwavering support and camaraderie this institution offers are unparalleled in the world of dental education," Aquino says. "The Dugoni School truly embodies what it means to be a family."

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.



OPENING More Doors TO Dentistry

PROGRAMS FOR ALLIED DENTAL PROFESSIONALS SHINE AT THE DUGONI SCHOOL

PHOTOS BY CHRIS WOODROW

BY KIRSTEN MICKELWAIT

There are several paths to a career in the dental profession, and earning a DDS degree is just one of them. Although many people are aware of the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry's excellent programs for aspiring dentists and specialists, not everyone knows about the baccalaureate Dental Hygiene program and two other offerings from the school's Division of Continuing Dental Education (CDE) for allied professionals to enhance their careers. These programs can provide opportunities for its graduates outside of clinical practice—and such access to continuing education ensures that the Dugoni School of Dentistry is feeding the pipeline of skill, experience and service to raise the caliber of oral health care across the board, says Kelly Fong, director of the Division of CDE. "It also produces competent providers for patient care in underserved communities."

An Indispensable Role: The Dental Hygiene Program

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, dental hygiene is one of the 30 fastest-growing occupations nationwide, and is it any wonder? Not only is the role indispensable to any practice—about 70% of dental hygienists find work in dental offices—but it's also applicable to many other careers, including management, research, public health, administration and teaching.

The Dugoni School of Dentistry's 16-month Dental Hygiene (DH) program is one of only three such programs in California that offers a bachelor's degree, and it's the only school to require admission interviews. In classes of 20 to 22 hygiene students, the unique rotation experiences include collaborations with orthodontic residents, learning about teledentistry care and training within the school's Hutto Patterson Pediatric Dentistry Clinic. The integrated clinical model allows for student interaction and co-therapy experiences with not only dental faculty but with other dental students from around the world.

Dental hygiene faculty members are active in the California Dental Hygienists' Association (CDHA), from its board of trustees and committees to chairing the CDHA Foundation—a nonprofit that serves as a grant administrator for hygienists and local components focused on community-based programs to promote public oral health care.

Program Director Lory Laughter, RDH, MS, is particularly proud of the DH program's work to bring alternative pathways to dental hygiene education. "We're investigating a way to offer dental hygiene education in rural and underserved areas," she says. "Moving to San Francisco to study can be costly; by offering our program in more remote areas we can also positively impact access to care for a greater population. And those who can be educated where they already live are more likely to remain in those more remote areas."

Laughter is also pleased that so many dental hygiene graduates have returned to the Dugoni School of Dentistry to become faculty members—currently, four of the school's DH instructors are alumni. "I'm proud that they hold the program in such esteem that they choose to come back to educate future graduates," she says.

"As a recent graduate, I am forever grateful for the dental education I received at the Dugoni School," says Bella Reynolds '23 DH. "I work for an alumnus in the Bay Area, where I now call my new dental home. The Dental Hygiene program has truly given me the tools for success in this profession. Each day, I look forward to treating every patient to the best of my abilities and in the best ways in which I was taught!"



Program Director Lory Laughter, RDH, MS





Nani Bezuayehu '16 RDHAP, a presenter in the current program, with her mobile hygiene equipment

Community Outreach: Registered Dental Hygienist in Alternative Practice

Offered twice a year, the Registered Dental Hygienist in Alternative Practice (RDHAP) virtual program trains certified dental hygienists and expands their skills to treat patients in underserved communities, as well as those with complex physical, medical or psychological needs. The first in-person RDHAP program began at West Los Angeles College in 2003, but the first-ever online program was launched by the Dugoni School of Dentistry in 2004. Elena Francisco '05 RDHAP, a former Pacific dental hygiene assistant professor and RDHAP graduate, is the program's current director.

Most students enroll in the program to become RDHAPs and start their own private practices, Francisco says. Others take the course to increase their comfort level working with the type of patients the RDHAP can provide care for, including the elderly, disabled, homebound and facility-bound individuals.

In classes of 20 to 26 students, the online curriculum includes interactive webinars and modules. Since the webinars are live, students can meet and engage with their instructors and peers, and because the coursework is virtual, it's accessible to professionals in both urban and rural environments. Topics include dental hygiene practice and theory; treatment of medically complex patients, geriatric patients and children with and without special needs; oral pathology; pharmacology; information management; medical and dental emergencies; and business administration.

Although a similar program is offered by three other schools across the state, several factors set the Dugoni School's program apart, according to Francisco. First, it's provided by an accredited university and top-ranked dental school where students can earn

> 150 hours of continuing education credit. The program is backed by a dedicated CDE team that gives continued student support to ensure their success. Above all, it's taught by practicing RDHAPs who have been "in the trenches" themselves and it features supportive, practicing dentists as presenters.

> "Practicing RDHAPs give the students a realistic perspective on how their practice can increase access to care," Francisco says. "They shine a light on the advantages and pitfalls of private practice and business ownership. We ensure our students can look critically at the laws regarding RDHAP practice, better preparing them to work within the scope of practice."



"

We ensure our students can look critically at the laws regarding RDHAP practice, better preparing them to work within the scope of practice.

It takes a special kind of person to become an RDHAP, Fong says. She cites one Dugoni School of Dentistry RDHAP graduate who chose to provide oral health care to patients now needing palliative care—a relationship that's not just about hygiene but about compassion and dignity. "She'll have a three-hour appointment with a patient, and sometimes she'll just sit bedside and talk with them," Fong says. "It's very rewarding for both the patient and for the RDHAP."





Program Director Elena Francisco'05 RDHAP



Maggie Rodriguez, RDAEF instructor

Deepening Skills: Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions Program

Launched in 2011, the eight-month Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions (RDAEF) program is offered once a year for registered dental assistants who want to deepen their skills within the practice of dentistry. The program at the Dugoni School of Dentistry—the only Dental Board of California-approved university program in Northern California—features up to 410 hours of instruction that includes in-person lectures, hands-on training in a cutting-edge simulation laboratory, live patient clinical experiences, online modules and group discussions. It satisfies the Dental Board of California's expanded requirements for certification of existing RDAEFs with new, extended functions.

"RDAEF students are taught the same high-quality, evidence-based dentistry that our DDS students are taught, although it's in a much shorter period of time," said Dr. Brian Kenyon, associate professor, group practice leader and RDAEF instructor. "We have a modern, spacious facility and an enormous sim lab. And our RDAEF students are able to take advantage of and have access to both of those aspects of our school."

Leana Miller graduated from the RDAEF program in 2011 before pursuing her bachelor's degree in educational studies from Arizona State University. Currently, she is an RDAEF instructor at the Dugoni School of Dentistry, serves as an adjunct dental assisting instructor at Monterey Peninsula College and works on call as an RDAEF in Monterey and Santa Clara counties. "The Dugoni School's RDAEF program integrated core academic knowledge with technical and occupational training and hand skills that provided me with a pathway to postsecondary education," she says.

In the 12 years since she was a student here, Miller has seen several big changes to the program. First, since the move to its new Fifth Street campus, the dental school features a state-of-the-art simulation lab to provide students with real-world training experiences.

The faculty who teach within our RDAEF program are extremely committed. They also spend countless hours to make the program better every year.

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Improved technology has also brought the use of Canvas, webbased software that supports online teaching and learning. Students can view modules, lectures, presentations, grades and attendance, communicate with instructors and peers and even submit their completed skill sheets online.

Another big change: "As students, we used to have to bring six patients to the dental school for Module 3–cord packing and impressions," Miller says. "Now, students are required to bring three patients to the school but can complete the other three livepatient treatments in their dental offices." This was an adaptation necessitated by the pandemic, when it was increasingly difficult for students to bring their dentists and patients into the school, but the convenient practice has remained.

Miller is proud of her involvement with the RDAEF program, and the ability to constantly improve the quality of the instruction and student experience. "I'm so thankful to have a team who trusts me," she says. "It allows me to improve 'the wheel'—and my wheels are always turning!"

"The faculty who teach within our RDAEF program are extremely committed. They also spend countless hours to make the program better every year," Kenyon adds.

Leana Miller, RDAEF instructor





Dr. Brian Kenyon, associate professor, group practice leader and RDAEF instructor

Fong says that, especially since COVID, there's an enormous gap in access to dental care and such allied professionals are needed more than ever—especially in underserved areas. "I think that's what I'm most proud of," she says. "Here at the Dugoni School, across all of our programs, we place a strong emphasis on giving back. And our students are very committed to serving their communities."

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

To learn more about the Dugoni School of Dentistry's programs for allied dental professionals, visit **dental.pacific.edu**.



Dr. Michael Gamboa's Second Act

By Christina Boufis Peterson

In 2019, at the age of 56, Dr. Michael Gamboa '88 had reached what many would consider the pinnacle of his career. He ran a successful dental practice in downtown San Francisco which he took over once his dad retired. He was an assistant professor at the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry's Department of Preventive and Restorative Dentistry, where he enjoyed teaching. And having grown up in Foster City, California, he was close to his family.

"But you have to be careful what you wish for," Gamboa says. As the dental practice grew, he spent more time managing the business side of things, and "got further and further away from dentistry which I loved."

Something had to change. How about joining the U.S. Navy?

The thought wasn't as far afield as it may seem. "Many of my relatives have served in the military," Gamboa explains. "My grandfather joined the U.S. Army from the Philippine Army in World War II. My uncles were in the Army and Navy, and my cousins were also in the Navy. I know it sounds cliché, but I wanted my next steps to be more meaningful, to do something bigger than myself, and the military could provide that opportunity."

The idea also sprang from another source. When he was teaching, a student asked for a recommendation to apply to the Navy. Gamboa provided the recommendation. Joining the Navy sounded interesting and intrigued him. A few years later, with the support of his wife, Judy Chen, Gamboa talked to a Navy recruiter.

> There were just a few issues. One was that Gamboa exceeded the age limit of most Navy recruits by a few decades. Another was that the upper age limit for a practicing dentist in the Navy is 62, though he could apply for an age waiver. And lastly, it was late in the recruitment season. There were no open positions. The Navy recruiter gave him a "lukewarm" response and told Gamboa to try again next year.

and Peter Garcia

Then the COVID pandemic hit. The Navy wasn't accepting dental candidates. "At this point in time, I was going to be 59," Gamboa says. "I was ready for another phase of my career, and I was hopeful about the military."

Then in January 2022, Gamboa received a call telling him there was an active-duty opportunity available. The Navy already had a number of applicants, but Gamboa applied, went through several interviews and was accepted. In June 2022, he was commissioned as an officer into the U.S. Navy.

In late August 2022, he left for an eight-week training program at Officer Development School (ODS) in Newport, Rhode Island,





PHOTO BY HM2 NGUYEN Lt. Michael Gamboa '88 (second from left) with Lt. Commanders Thomas Seo, Al Long



ALUMNI PROFILE

the first time he'd been away from his family for this long. What followed was a rollercoaster of physical and mental challenges. "It was eye-opening," Gamboa says of the experience. At ODS, he was taught "all the Naval customs, honors and traditions that go with becoming a Naval officer," including how to wear a uniform and how to march. "I was by far the worst marcher out there," he adds.

"There was also a lot of getting up early," says Gamboa. He had to be on the field at 4:30 am to run drills and perform calisthenics. And, as he puts it, there was "a little yelling."

After ODS, Lieutenant Gamboa was sent to Camp Pendleton in San Diego, California. "You're a Naval officer first, a dentist second," he explains. Currently in the 1st Dental Battalion, he is an asset of the Marines, where he practices dentistry, mentors younger dentists and continues to build his military skills, including pistol and rifle qualifications.

"The Navy is very lucky to have Dr. Gamboa caring for our service men and women and mentoring young dentists," says Dr. Mary Turoff'77, assistant professor in the Department of Clinical Oral Health Care and past president of the Alumni Association. "Dr. Gamboa and I teamed together in 2018 as restorative faculty in the night clinic at the dental school. He would come directly from his private practice, ready to continue working until the last patient was dismissed."



Above: CHIPS yearbook, 1988 Below: Young Gamboa with his father Marcelino V. Gamboa, DMD





PHOTO BY LT KENDALL FELTON

One of the things that surprised Gamboa when he joined the Navy was just how many Dugoni School of Dentistry connections he has found there. "Dr. Gamboa was my supervising faculty for multiple night clinic sessions," says Lt. Nikole Lanchares '20. "And it was weird when I first saw that he was a lieutenant. It was as if the roles were reversed, because now he was coming to me with questions about military dentistry and I was teaching him."

Throughout his entire career, Gamboa says he has been very lucky to have the support of people who believed in him and mentored him, including his father who was also a dentist. It was Dr. Fletcher Craig who mentioned he might be a good teacher. "He turned on my dental light bulb," Gamboa says. "Once I was teaching, I had great mentors—Drs. Rich Garcia, Robert Christoffersen '67, Ron Borer and Bill Barthold, among others."

Currently, one of his sons, who is finishing up an academic program, is living in San Francisco with Gamboa's wife. His older son has joined him in Southern California. "I'm no one special," he adds. "I couldn't have done this on my own. I'm very fortunate to have the great support of my wife and family."

What's next? Though he would like to teach in the Navy, "I have no idea what the Navy has planned for me," Gamboa says. "It should be interesting."

Christina Boufis Peterson, PhD, is a freelance health and medical writer from the East Bay.

ALUMNI SCENE













PHILANTHROPY



Dr. Greg Wadden '77 Ortho, Dr. Richard Rutter '58 and Dr. William Lieber '74 Ortho

New Endowed Scholarship Honoring Dr. Richard Rutter

After the Orthodontic program's long-awaited 50th anniversary event on May 6, several alumni expressed an interest in establishing a new fund in honor of Dr. Richard Rutter '58—The Richard R. Rutter Orthodontic Endowed Scholarship. Special thanks to Dr. Greg Wadden '77 Ortho for his generous lead gift, which has now made it possible for all additional gifts to this new fund to be matched 1:1 by the university's Powell Fund.

"I wanted to honor Dr. Rutter because I very much appreciated his efforts to help put me on a career path that I love," said Wadden. "And hopefully establishing this fund will spur others to donate as well."

For more information about supporting the Rutter Endowment, please contact Jim Dugoni in the Office of Development at jdugoni@pacific.edu or (415) 749-3349.



The 2024 Dugoni School Gala: The Ball for Us All is our reimagined celebration of philanthropy, Reunion Classes 4s and 9s and the Dugoni School family set against the vivid backdrop of the Lunar New Year.

PHILANTHROPY

Pacific Health Care Collaborative Preview

On September 26, 2023, 90 alumni, friends and community leaders gathered at Fixins Soul Kitchen, owned by former NBA star and former Mayor of Sacramento Kevin Johnson, to preview and tour the Pacific Health Care Collaborative in the Oak Park neighborhood of Sacramento. To date, nearly \$5 million in philanthropic contributions have been made to this project. The PHCC is set to debut in July 2024.





Clockwise from top right: Drs. Kim Benton and Bill Sands '71 Cassandra Jennings, CEO of St. Hope and Oak Park Neighborhood Association board members Dean Nadershahi '94, Dr. Kim Benton, Kevin Johnson, Dr. Ken Fat and Dr. Bill Sands '71 Dr. Margaret Delmore, Dr. Wai Chan '79, Dr. Eric Wong '88, Ruby Yu, Della Yee, director of operations for the Sacramento District Dental Society, and Dr. Jaynath Kumar, state dental director Nia Jones, senior field representative for the office of Congresswoman Doris Matsui







PHOTOS BY JASON MILLNER

Memorial and Tribute Gifts from March 23 to September 1, 2023

In Memory Of:

Dr. Judd F. Boehme Dr. Lewis Branscomb Dr. Frank Brucia

Mrs. Judy Chambers Mr. Chris Currie Dr. Lewis Roy Eversole Dr. Amybeth Harmon

Eleanor Hollywood Mr. Michael Keckler Mrs. Maren Klott Dr. Armand A. Lugassy Dr. Robert M. Mraule Mrs. Pauline Oshetski Mr. Brad Pitts Mr. Ethan Rogers Mr. Frank Rosier Mr. James Salter Dr. Michael A. Severen Dr. Paul R. Thomassen Honorable David Vanderwall Dr. Peggy Rhoads-Warnock Dr. Elliott L. Wien Jerry Yuke

Given By:

Craig and Nancy Yarborough Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth F. Hovden Dr. and Mrs. Michael J. Antonini Dr. Steven A. Dugoni Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth F. Hovden Dr. Michael and Mrs. Joanne Fox San Francisco Dental Society Drs. Ann Marie Silvestri and Tom Ellerhorst Dr. and Mrs. G. Bruce Valentine Dr. Robert Christoffersen Dr. and Mrs. G. Bruce Valentine Dr. Austin J. Davies Dr. and Mrs. Douglas E. Cowden Michelle Ferber Judith Riedel Craig and Nancy Yarborough Dr. and Mrs. Bertrand D. Rouleau Dr. and Mrs. G. Bruce Valentine Dr. and Mrs. Jack Saroyan Dr. Unnati B. Doshi Dr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Bales Dr. and Mrs. Bertrand D. Rouleau Dr. and Mrs. G. Bruce Valentine Dr. and Mrs. G. Bruce Valentine Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth F. Hovden Dr. and Mrs. G. Bruce Valentine Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth J. Shaw Mr. and Mrs. Don R. Thomassen Dr. and Mrs. G. Bruce Valentine Craig and Nancy Yarborough Mrs. Jill W. Badger Mrs. Eleanor L. Yuen

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OLD SCHOOL

ORTHO 50TH CELEBRATION

After a two-year delay due to the pandemic, the 50 Years of Orthodontic Excellence event took place on Saturday, May 6. This 50th anniversary celebration of the Graduate Orthodontic program included an academic symposium and tour of the dental school, followed by a cocktail reception and dinner at the InterContinental Hotel in San Francisco.

More than 80 alumni attended the symposium where Drs. Cory Constanzo '02, '04 Ortho, Joorok Park '08 Ortho and Marta Baird '08, '11 Ortho presented practical information on the latest digital advances and Invisalign[®] respectively.

The evening event, held at the hotel's grand ballroom, attracted almost 190 alumni, friends and faculty members, including Dr. Richard Rutter '58 and Dr. Robert Boyd, former chairs of the Department of Orthodontics, and Dr. HeeSoo Oh '01 AEGD, '05 Ortho, current chair. Guests were treated to speeches and award presentations, along with a video greeting from Dr. Arif Alvi '84 Ortho, president of Pakistan. The celebration continued with dancing into the evening. The event was a success and there is already discussion about a 60th anniversary celebration.







PHOTOS BY DELUMPA PHOTOGRAPHY







2024 Alumni Weekend | The 125[™] Alumni Association Annual Meeting Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco | Friday and Saturday, February 9 – 10, 2024

All presenters are Dugoni School alumni, associate members, and faculty. Bring your team!

Earn up to 12 CE units from among these speakers and topics:	Dr. Neal Kravitz – 38th Frederick T. West Orthodontics Lecture
Dr. Louie Al-Faraje – Implants	Dr. Stanley Malamed – Local Anesthesia
Dr. Eric Blasingame '12 – Practice Management Systems	Dr. Jesse Manton '14 – Cardiopulmonary Physiology
Dr. Stephen Buchanan '78 – Endodontics	Dr. Jamie Sahouria '04 — Pediatric Dentistry
Dr. Michael DiTolla '88 – Anterior Aesthetics	Mr. Neal Shabashov – Basic Life Support (BLS required course)
Dr. Daniel Hammer '11 — Technology / Nerve Injury	Dr. William van Dyk '73 – Business Management

NEW PROGRAM: Dr. Adham Abdel Azim & Dr. Alan H. Gluskin '72 – Inaugural Alan H. Gluskin Endodontics Symposium Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of our graduate program in endodontology, this program will take place at the Dugoni School of Dentistry at 155 Fifth Street, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm Friday, and will include two lectures, lunch and a tour.

Included at the meeting: A panel of experts for graduating students, recent graduates, and members who are looking to transition out of their practices, will take place Friday morning. In additon, the student-led Dugoni Business Club will hold a networking event for dentists, hygienists and students Friday evening from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.



Registration materials have been mailed. Look for information about the 2024 Alumni Weekend on our website: **dental.pacific.edu/alumniweekend** **NEW EVENT:** On Friday, from 11:30 am until 1:30 pm, a casual buffet lunch for **all attendees** will replace the usual formal sit-down luncheon. Courses will break for 1.5 hours to give attendees time to grab a bite and to socialize. This event in the Grand Ballroom will include a photo booth, table games and contests with prize drawings.

NEW EVENT: At 5:00 pm on Friday, a Recognition Program & Reception will include a welcome from outgoing Alumni Association President Peter Liu '89; remarks from Dean and Vice Provost Nader Nadershahi '94, and Medallion of Distinction presentations to three outstanding members of the Dugoni School family: Drs. Alan Budenz, Judee Tippett-Whyte '86 and William van Dyk '73. Following these presentations, a reception for all attendees will begin.

RE-IMAGINED EVENT: Reunion dinners, usually held on Friday evening after the reception, will take place on Saturday evening as part of the Dugoni School Gala: A Ball for Us All. Contact: bchau@pacific.edu



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"It is an honor to join the Dugoni School in its efforts to improve the oral health of the underserved in the California Central Valley. The Dugoni School's expertise and dedication has and will continue to change the dental landscape and truly create dental health equity."

> —Jeffrey R. Lewis President and Chief Executive Officer Legacy Health Endowment