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CONTENTS CONTACTPOINT AUTUMN2024



IMAGE BY ADOBE STOCK

ON THE COVER Microbes: A detailed view of vibrant 3D microscopic bacteria, including oral bacteria

From the Dean	3
Current Issue	4
University News	8
Around Campus	10
Alumni Scene	30
Alumni Profile	32
Philanthropy	36
Old School	40



Dean Nadershahi takes a selfie with students on stage during the White Coat Ceremony

12

18

24

ORAL-SYSTEMIC CONNECTION

Research shows that mouth-body disease connections exist. This article shines a spotlight on the relationship between oral health and systemic well-being, citing some recent findings and utilizing examples provided by Dugoni School faculty members.

SERVING CHILDREN IN NEED

The Kids in the Klinic (KITK) program began in 1996 to raise funds to help underserved children receive dental care, and it has grown into a \$3.2 million endowment. Learn about the evolution of the KITK fundraising efforts, the patients served and the alumni and friends who have made this endowment possible.

RURAL DENTISTS

Writer Christina Boufis highlights a few alumni who are practicing dentistry in rural communities in Northern California. She explores the factors that attracted these dentists to practice in rural areas and how they have become integral members of their respective communities.



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UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry

San Francisco, California Vol. 104 · Number 2 · 2024 dental.pacific.edu

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Contact Point is published biannually by the University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry. Eighteen-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 Angelique Bannag at abannag@pacific. edu. Material in this publication may not be reproduced in any form without permission.



HELPING PEOPLE LEAD HEALTHY LIVES

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NADER A. NADERSHAHI, DEAN AND VICE PROVOST

Flourishing in the Fall

New traditions and partnerships are flourishing at the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry, and we are excited to share the latest updates with you.

We recently held the Dugoni School's firstever Dentist-Scientist Oath Ceremony, during which DDS and IDS students expressed their commitment to ethics and professionalism in research. This event and new oath are part of the Pacific-Stanford PRIMED Fundamentals of Clinical Research training program for all firstyear students. In this issue, you'll read about our partnership with Stanford Medicine which will increase access to specialty care for people with oral health and hearing conditions and bring collaborative opportunities in multidisciplinary education and research. You'll see photos of the Pacific Health Care Collaborative, our new clinical and academic facility in Sacramento which opened in July. Thirty students in our expanded International Dental Studies program are now learning and providing care to the public at this facility in Sacramento.



PHOTO BY CHRIS WOODROW

Our feature articles include a spotlight on some alumni who have chosen to live and practice in rural areas of California, caring for people who would otherwise have to travel great distances to receive dental care. We also focus on oral health's "ripple effect" with some of the latest examples of the relationship between oral health and systemic wellbeing. And we feature a look back—and forward—at the Kids in the Klinic Endowment and the many ways that underserved children and families have benefitted from the generosity of those who have supported this endowment since its creation in 1996.

Thank you for staying engaged with the Dugoni School of Dentistry family, whether through reading *Contact Point*, attending our alumni events or CDE courses, mentoring students, teaching or strengthening the school through philanthropy. We are always grateful for the support of our alumni and friends, and we look forward to building even more partnerships—and establishing more cherished traditions—going forward.

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

Welcome New Academic Leaders

Dr. Didem Ozdemir Ozenen Named Associate Dean for Oral Health Education

A respected clinician, educator, researcher and leader, Dr. Didem Ozdemir Ozenen joined the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry as associate dean for oral health education in August 2024.

She helps provide oversight of all educational programs, working with the leadership team to support the school's curricula, faculty, students, residents, research projects and the Continuing Dental Education division. She is also deeply involved in faculty



recruitment, development, appointment and promotion, and serves as chair of the Faculty Development Oversight Committee as well as other committees.

Ozenen earned her DDS degree and a PhD in pediatric dentistry from Istanbul University in Turkey, where she also served as a clinical instructor. She continued her education by earning a second PhD in medical education from Marmara University in Turkey. She served as a clinical research fellow at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research at the National Institutes of Health in Maryland. There, she made significant contributions to genetic research, discovering two novel gene mutations associated with Amelogenesis Imperfecta (AI) in pediatric dental patients.

Starting in 2005, Ozenen served as a fulltime professor at Yeditepe University in Istanbul, Turkey, which recently became the first university in Europe to be accredited by the U.S. Commission on Dental Accreditation. She played a key role in obtaining this prestigious accreditation and held various leadership roles at the university, including associate dean for academic affairs and head of the Curriculum Management Committee. She was also the founder and director of Yeditepe University's Non-Interventional Clinical Research Institutional Review Board.

In addition, Ozenen is a founding member of Turkey's Association for Accreditation of Dental Education Programs, where she was elected as vice president for a third consecutive term. Her extensive contributions include many national and international publications, presentations, awards and the solo editorship of a nationally acclaimed pediatric dentistry textbook in Turkey.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS WOODROW



Dr. Rinku Saini Named Chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry

Dr. Rinku Saini, who rejoined the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry as an assistant professor of pediatric dentistry in summer 2023, was named chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry on August 5, 2024.

He served as a full-time faculty member at the dental school at the beginning of his academic career, from 2009 to 2012. In addition to his involvement in the school's didactic and clinical curriculum, he served as an adjunct associate clinical professor with University of California, San Francisco's pediatric dentistry residency program from 2016 to 2023.

Saini earned a BS degree in biological sciences from University of California, Irvine and a MS in cell and molecular biology from University of Hawaii at Mānoa. He was awarded both his DDS and MPH in health policy and management from Columbia University in New York City. Subsequently, Saini completed a GPR at the UCLA/Sepulveda Veterans Administration in Los Angeles and his residency in pediatric dentistry at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC.

Along with his continuing work in academia, Saini has enjoyed a robust private practice career with his practice partner Dr. Donald Schmitt '99 at their offices in Danville and Concord, California. He is active in organized dentistry, making presentations and conducting grand rounds with local dental components, study clubs and hospitals as well as through the Dugoni School's continuing dental education programs.

Dr. Natasha Lee '00 Receives Dr. Arthur A. Dugoni Faculty Award

Dr. Natasha Lee '00, assistant professor of diagnostic sciences, course director of practice management and jurisprudence and former president of the California Dental Association (CDA) and the San Francisco Dental Society, received the 2024 Dr. Arthur A. Dugoni Faculty Award from the CDA Foundation.

The award was established in recognition of Dr. Arthur A. Dugoni's remarkable accomplishments in dental education and organized dentistry. The award is presented to an individual recognized for their exceptional leadership, innovation, collaboration, compassion, philanthropic spirit and integrity in dental education. The honor was announced during the CDA House of Delegates meeting in November.



PHOTO BY JON DRAPER



PHOTOS BY CHRIS WOODROW

Students Take First-Ever Dentist-Scientist Oath

Students in the DDS Class of 2026 and the IDS Class of 2025 expressed their commitment to the highest ideals of ethics and professionalism in research when they took the dentist-scientist oath during a ceremony on August 20, 2024.

The event was the first of its kind at the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry and the first research-specific oath ceremony held at a dental school anywhere in the world, according to faculty organizers.

"The dentist-scientist oath was inspired by my mentor Dr. Karen Davis, world-renowned neuroscientist at University of Toronto, who developed an oath for scientists that emphasizes the importance of community, professionalism and ethical conduct in research," said Dr. David Lam, associate dean for medical integration, chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Dr. T. Galt and Lee DeHaven Atwood endowed professor. "We embraced Dr. Davis' and colleagues' original declarations of pride, integrity and knowledge pursuit, and further declared the importance of inclusion in research to produce knowledge that is applicable to all people."

The students recently completed the Pacific-Stanford PRIMED Fundamentals of Clinical Research program held during the past year by the school in partnership with faculty from Stanford University. The mandatory, formalized training included 20 hours of instruction in best practices for conducting high-quality clinical research. The students were awarded certificates of completion from Stanford to recognize their participation in the training.

The training is being supported by a \$3.8 million, five-year grant by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research of the National Institutes of Health to fund the Pacific-Stanford PRIMED program. PRIMED's goals are to train the next generation of clinical oral health researchers to be equipped to translate research into practice and to grow the number of clinician-scientists in the workforce.

"The Dentist-Scientist Oath Ceremony was a profound reminder of the responsibility we carry as both clinicians and researchers," said Tyler West, Class of 2026. "It reinforced the importance of conducting research with integrity and a commitment to advancing patient care. Participating in the research training at our school has been incredibly rewarding, as it provides the tools and opportunities to make a meaningful impact in the field of dentistry."

"During my time here, I've seen that the Dugoni School doesn't just put humanistic ideals on a placard, but instead strives to live up to those values in everything it does," added Arick Christopher, Class of 2026. "I see the Dentist-Scientist Oath Ceremony as an extension of those ideals and a reminder of the importance of ethics and thoughtfulness in the research process."

The Dugoni School of Dentistry has a history of traditions that convey a commitment to ethics and professionalism. In 1998, it was the first dental school in the country to host a White Coat Ceremony to mark students' transition to patient care.

New Partnership with Stanford to Expand Access to Specialty Care

Patients at the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry and the School of Health Science's Hearing and Balance Center will have better access to specialty care for oral health and hearing conditions as part of a new partnership with Stanford Medicine.

There is a natural link between dentistry and conditions of the ear, nose and throat, but too often they are seen as unrelated with negative consequences for patients. The collaboration between Pacific and Stanford will bridge the gap by combining Pacific's expertise in dentistry and audiology with Stanford Medicine's advanced diagnostic and surgical capabilities in oral cancers and ear conditions.

"This exciting partnership will build upon our longstanding history of collaboration and draw on Stanford's and Pacific's unique strengths to provide world-class comprehensive care for patients—through preventive care, diagnosis, treatment, functional rehabilitation and maintenance," said Dr. David Lam, associate dean for medical integration, chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Dr. T. Galt and Lee DeHaven Atwood endowed professor at the Dugoni School of Dentistry.

Two multidisciplinary clinics will be established on Pacific's San Francisco campus as part of the collaboration. At the Head and Neck Cancer Outreach Clinic, dentists will evaluate, biopsy, image and diagnose pre-malignant and malignant oral lesions. Patients in need of further advanced surgical care will be treated by specialists at Stanford Medicine.



Hearing and Balance Center

UNIVERSITY OF THE

Patients will benefit from truly comprehensive care, including oral health optimization, functional rehabilitation and maintenance delivered by Pacific and Stanford experts working closely together throughout all phases of patient management.

"Because people usually have regular dental exams, disease can often be detected early, before it progresses into a highly aggressive cancer that may require the removal of part of the tongue or jawbone," said Dr. Konstantina Stankovic, chair of the Department of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery at Stanford Medicine. "Removing an extra few millimeters of the tongue could be the difference between having understandable versus almost unintelligible speech. It's a tremendous opportunity to detect and treat diseases early."

The Otology Outreach Clinic will focus on hearing conditions. Audiologists from Pacific's Hearing and Balance Center, also located on the San Francisco campus, will screen patients for hearing disorders.

Patients in need of advanced care will be referred to Stanford Medicine, where they can receive procedures such as cochlear implant surgery. "Offering audiological services through this partnership means early detection and top-tier care for hearing conditions," said Dr. Gabriella Musacchia, associate professor and chair of the Department of Audiology at Pacific. "It's a game changer for patient health and an incredible learning opportunity for our students."



Wall Street Journal Ranks Pacific No. 87 in U.S.

The *Wall Street Journal* ranked University of the Pacific No. 87 among all top U.S. colleges and universities—the highest national ranking ever achieved by the 173-year-old institution.

Pacific also ranked No. 11 among all private universities in the American West, trailing only traditional academic powers such as Stanford University, Cal Tech and USC and ahead of peers such as University of San Francisco, Pepperdine University and Loyola Marymount University.

California's first and oldest university came in 40 spots higher than last year in the new *Wall Street Journal/College Pulse* rankings. Pacific placed exceptionally well among all schools and colleges in the country for social mobility (No. 36 overall and No. 8 among private colleges) and graduates' salaries (No. 54 nationally and No. 7 among private schools in the West).

The annual *Wall Street Journal/College Pulse* Best Colleges in the U.S. report rates the top 500 colleges and universities in the country—private and public, big and small—based on factors such as graduates' financial success and student feedback in areas such as student life, career preparation and the quality of academic facilities.

"Pacific is committed to not only preparing students with the knowledge they need to be successful lifelong leaders and learners but helping them become critical thinkers by teaching them how to think, not what to think," said President Christopher Callahan. "Our small class sizes and extraordinary faculty create an environment in which students experience transformative growth, which we see in their career achievements."

The president noted that unlike other national rankings that focus on inputs such as admission rates and subjective criteria such as reputational rankings set by opinions of leaders at other universities, the *Wall Street Journal* study looks at outcomes such as alumni earnings, social mobility and student satisfaction.

Pacific's rise in national rankings is reflective of the university's laser focus on student success. Callahan has set an ambitious 10-year goal of becoming the best comprehensive, student-centered university in the country.

Additionally, Pacific received Hispanic-Serving Institution status from the U.S. Department of Education to add to its designation as an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution. Earlier this year, Pacific was also named one of America's best colleges by *Money* magazine, earning 4.5 out of 5 stars.



Pacific Health Care Collaborative Opened its Doors in Sacramento this Summer

SACRAMENTO IDS CLASS OF 2026 WITH DUGONI SCHOOL LEADERS





PHOTOS BY BRADY RENNER

AROUND CAMPUS







UNIVERSITY REGENTS ON CAMPUS







PHOTOS BY EDUARDO SOLER AND CHRIS WOODROW

By Dr. Eric K. Curtis '85

OUR EXPANDING GRASP OF ORAL-SYSTEMIC RELATIONSHIPS IS CHANGING HOW HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONERS APPROACH THEIR PATIENTS AND EACH OTHER I recently received a call from a family practice physician, Dr. B. He said that for the past two years he has been treating a 62-year-old woman named Sally for a facial infection with a fistula draining from her left cheek. Several CT scans and MRIs had not identified the cause, and multiple rounds of antibiotics had not resolved the lesion. Finally, a radiologist suggested that the etiology might be dental. Dr. B. asked Sally about her dentist, and she mentioned my name, so he picked up the phone to request that I take a look.



I remembered Sally right away. I had referred her to an endodontist more than two years before—for an abscess on her lower left second molar. I hadn't seen her since.

A periodical radiograph confirmed the issue, and an uncomplicated extraction healed the fistula, leaving a small, lumpy white scar at the base of her jaw. I asked Sally why she had gone to her medical doctor instead of to the endodontist. "I don't have dental insurance," she said. "But I have a medical plan."

Dr. B. and I share a patient who clearly believes that a doctor is a doctor. Yet—not even accounting for specialization—in focus and scope, as well as in education, insurance provisions, networking systems, recordkeeping, political interests and professional traditions, American medicine and dentistry are miles apart.

The medical-dental divide may be less conspicuous in other locales. When I worked, right after my Dugoni School graduation, as a medecin-dentiste stagiaire in a Swiss teaching hospital polyclinic, the surgery department routinely sent patients over to the dental service for consultation, evaluation and treatment prior to an operation. But in the United States, the gap between dental and medical sensibilities—and communication—remains as stark as my patient's suppurating ulcer.

"Doctors are doctors, and dentists are dentists, and never the twain shall meet," Julie Beck writes in "Why Dentistry is Separate from Medicine," in *The Atlantic* (March 9, 2017). "Whether you have health insurance is one thing, whether you have dental insurance is another. Your doctor doesn't ask you if you're flossing, and your dentist doesn't ask you if you're exercising." IMAGES BY ADOBE STOCK

Several historical wrinkles, fueled, perhaps, by ancient demands of pride, status, independence, social convention, legislation and money, may explain the rift, including the rejection of a proposed dental curriculum at University of Maryland's medical school in 1839, leading to the founding of the first independent dental school, the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, in 1840. Years later, there was the wholesale disregard of recommendations in the 1920s to merge dentistry with medicine; and then the rise of health insurance in the 1930s, which designed medical plans, deemed a necessity, to fund large, unpredictable expenses, and dental coverage, considered an optional benefit, to subsidize predictable, lower-cost preventive measures.

As a result of these and other distributive workforce trends, medical and dental disciplines evolved to practice in remarkable isolation from each other. When a medical provider examines a patient for diabetes, for example, and a dentist diagnoses periodontal disease, no one, least of all the doctors, typically thinks they ought to collaborate. But, of course, they should. The human body keeps its concatenated parts interacting with each other regardless of what administrative separations the various treatment purveyors may declare. Disease states notoriously refuse to stay inside the lines.

Expanding knowledge has made our corporeal interconnectedness increasingly plain. Research in the 1980s, which substantially increased in the 1990s, began to reveal biological links between oral and systemic maladies—periodontitis with diabetes, for example, and periodontitis with cardiovascular disease. In 2000, the United States Surgeon General David Satcher declared, "Without oral health, you're not healthy." The general public even started getting the memo; patients came into my practice requesting prophies to prevent a heart attack.

YOUR DOCTOR DOESN'T ASK YOU IF YOU'RE FLOSSING, AND YOUR DENTIST DOESN'T ASK YOU IF YOU'RE EXERCISING.

Continuing research shows consistent evidence for mouth-body relationships: oral diseasecausing bacteria can colonize in other parts of the body and trigger inflammatory responses and illness beyond the mouth. A September 2024 study, for instance, published in the American Medical Association's *JAMA Oncology* found oral bacteria implicated in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma. Other studies suggest that the oral microbiome particularly a dysbiosis, or imbalance, therein—may affect the SARS-CoV-2 virus, HIV, prostate health and even aging.

Drs. William Lundergan '81, Kavitha Parthasarathy and Navid Knight '89 of the dental school's Department of Periodontics published a paper this year, "Periodontitis and Alzheimer's Disease: Is There a Connection?" (*Oral* January 2024, 4, 61-73), in which they were able to draw a line from gum disease to dementia: "It seems clear," they write, "that periodontal pathogens and/or their virulence factors can enter the brain via vascular or neural pathways. It also seems clear that these pathogens can stimulate a neuroinflammatory response that could lead to neurodegeneration and subsequent cognitive impairment."

Dr. Parvati Iyer, assistant professor in the Department of Diagnostic Sciences and course director of Integrated Clinical Sciences II, published a 2023 paper in the *Journal of the California Dental Association*, Volume 51, titled, "Oral Cavity is the Gateway to the Body: Role of Oral Health Professionals: A Narrative Review." This May, she gave a presentation at the California Dental Association (CDA) meeting in Anaheim titled, "Oral Gut-Brain Axis and You—Paradigm Shifts for Optimal Health," and a July talk at the school titled, "Flossing for Your Heart: Oral Health's Ripple Effect."

HEALTH EQUITY CANNOT BE ACHIEVED IF ORAL HEALTH IS LEFT OUT OF THE EQUATION.

Iyer sent me a schematic showing microbes associated with periodontitis, caries, diabetes, pancreatic cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, esophageal cancer, colorectal cancer, cystic fibrosis, cardiovascular disease and Alzheimer's disease. "Please note," she wrote, "that P. gingivalis is listed on all the systemic diseases!" Iyer's CDA paper reports that P. gingivalis is also present in gastrointestinal, genitourinary and liver diseases and autoimmune diseases, including systemic lupus erythematosus and Sjogren's syndrome.

Much of this incitement to illness is inflammatory and related to periodontal disease. As Lundergan, professor and chair in the Department of Periodontics, explains, "A susceptible host experiences a subgingival bacterial dysbiosis, leading to periodontitis, which in turn results in a hyperinflammatory response: the injured tissue—which, in the case of generalized perio, when you consider the totality of all those pockets, involves significant surface area—releases pro-inflammatory mediators: cytokines, host-derived proteinases and prostaglandin E2. Bacteria, bacterial fragments or bacterial byproducts, along with these pro-inflammatory mediators, may enter the bloodstream and migrate to different parts of the body, where they exert their effect locally."

But naturally, it's complicated. Nearly half of adults over age 30 suffer from periodontal disease, and while an unmistakable link exists between periodontitis and various systemic conditions, including cardiovascular disease; diabetes; respiratory infections; rheumatoid arthritis; Alzheimer's disease; pre-term, low-birthweight babies; and chronic inflammatory bowel disease, it's not always obvious what leads to what. Mouth-body disease connections may be casual—or causal.

Studies show that many dental procedures, including periodontal probing, scaling and root planing, tooth extraction and restorative procedures, can admit bacteria into the bloodstream. Even eating and brushing teeth can produce bacteremias that last more than 30 minutes. Yet the mouth may also serve as a simple physical conduit for the development of infections, ulcers, pneumonia and cancer when, during breathing and swallowing, external microbes dive into the digestive and respiratory tracts.

What's more, periodontal disease and certain chronic systemic conditions, including heart disease, stroke and diabetes, share risk factors such as smoking, poor diet, obesity, high blood pressure or high LDL ("bad" cholesterol). In the case of some systemic conditions, particularly diabetes, the relationship seems to be bi-directional—diabetes increases the risk for periodontitis and periodontitis increases the risk for diabetes.

The recognition of certain oral-systemic linkages has already yielded useful results. "One of the biggest concerns we see is the connection with oral health and diabetes," says Dr. Kim Benton, assistant professor in the Department of Diagnostic Sciences and director of the new Pacific Health Care Collaborative. "The good news is when we treat the periodontal condition, we begin to see an improvement in diabetes."

"The bottom line is that we are analyzing the existing research and trying to understand it further," Iyer says, "especially in light of the emerging field of personalized medicine. We should always ask the question, 'Why does a specific treatment work for some and fail for others?'" A lack of complete clarity is certainly no reason to shrug off the multitude of bodily networks. Oral health by itself forms a critical chunk of overall health. "While a definitive and direct cause and effect would be helpful in prevention and treatment, known associations between organ system diseases cannot be dismissed because they all exist in the same vehicle," says Dr. Elisa M. Chávez, professor in the Department of Diagnostic Sciences and director of the Pacific Center for Equity in Oral Health Care. "So oral health has to be included as part of a bigger picture, and these associations—between oral and systemic disease and the social determinants of health—must not be dismissed or understated, as the implications of inadequate oral health care, with or without an identified direct cause and effect, can be significant to an individual and to public health."

As understanding of these oral-systemic ties deepens, so does the potential for improved care, and, in turn, health care providers' responsibility—which encompasses a duty to collaborate across the professional spectrum. "Our understanding of these links places a burden on dentists and our physician colleagues to work together for the better treatment of our patients," Lundergan says. "I believe that integrated care is the key to better outcomes."

"Simply put, health equity cannot be achieved if oral health is left out of the equation," Chávez, says. "At an individual level most people would likely be able to articulate how dental pain and missing teeth negatively impact their overall health and well-being. But there is still a disconnect within the healthcare system and among the general public in that individuals don't realize the risks their chronic diseases and medications can hold for their oral health, and the associations between poor oral health and chronic diseases are often minimized."

Dental students at the Dugoni School are being trained to shrink that disconnect. "Our students are exposed to the oral health-systemic health link across our Helix curriculum," Lundergan says. "Primary exposure is during the first two years of the curriculum in the Integrated Biomedical Science and Integrated Clinical Science strands where students learn about the link and its implications for patient care. Our Pacific Health Care Collaborative (PHCC) in Sacramento is in many ways the result of this link and the recognition that medical care providers and dental care providers need to work together to provide optimal care for patients."

Benton says that the most important aspects of dental-medical behavioral integration include improving health outcomes at lower cost for more people, as providers learn from each other. Serving that objective, PHCC aims to provide a "one-stop shop," including an ambulatory surgical center to address dental and medical needs of patients, such as those having developmental and intellectual challenges, who require full sedation. PHCC's programs are designed to create teaching conditions in which students can truly come together, in learning with and from each other.

Chávez points out that merging disparate healthcare systems requires, among other advances, policy changes, including legislative funding, to adequately support treatment, research and education that will promote further understanding of the oral-systemic connection to improve outcomes. It may seem like a tall order, but the kind of integration that Dugoni School professors dream of could be closer than we think. Look how far we've already come.

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.*



OUR STUDENTS ARE EXPOSED TO THE ORAL HEALTH-SYSTEMIC HEALTH LINK ACROSS OUR HELIX CURRICULUM.

77

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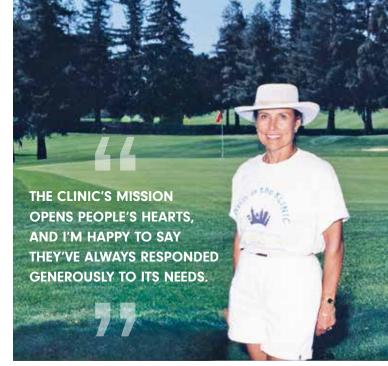


Raising Funds to Serve Those Most in Need



According to the California Dental Association, 500,000 children statewide miss about 874,000 school days each year due to dental problems. On average, 61% of third graders have experienced tooth decay and 22% have untreated tooth decay—and socioeconomically disadvantaged children are at an even higher risk. When left untreated, dental problems can cause infections that interfere with speaking, eating and learning, and may lead to lifelong deficits for children.

To meet this critical need, Dr. Susan A. Bittner '74A, former president of the Children's Dental Health Care League and current board member of the Dugoni School Foundation, founded the Kids in the Klinic (KITK) program with a grant from the Hutto Patterson Foundation. During the past 28 years, KITK has grown to serve more than 1,500 children and adolescents annually, offering more than \$100,000 worth of free and reducedcost dental care annually. Many of these young patients—some living with medical problems, birth defects or other debilitating conditions—don't have any other access to dental care.



Dr. Susan Bittner '74A







"The Kids in the Klinic program is a vital initiative that enables us to extend dental care to all families, irrespective of their economic status or ability to afford treatment," says Marisol Andrade, manager of the school's Hutto Patterson Pediatric Dentistry Clinic. "This not only benefits the patients but also enables our students to actively participate in pediatric patient care, allowing them to gain valuable experience that may not otherwise be available to them."

The volunteer-led program is now supported by the nearly \$3.5 million KITK Endowment and an annual budget of just under \$160,000. It has been funded by a series of ambitious philanthropic events over the decades. The goal is to increase the KITK Endowment and quadruple its reach from serving 1,500 to 6,000 children annually in the next several years. The last KITK fundraiser was held in 2019 due to the lack of events taking place during the COVID-19 pandemic. The school now plans to revive the tradition with a spectacular event in the spring.

Spring 2025 KITK Fundraiser

On Saturday, March 1, 2025, the dental school will host a black-tie "Breakfast at Tiffany's"themed KITK fundraiser at the InterContinental Hotel in San Francisco. Co-chaired by Dr. Michael Fox '82 and Brenda Zawatski, a friend of the dental school, the event will include a reception with auction games, followed by dinner and a live auction featuring unique getaways, exclusive wines and one-of-a-kind dining experiences. For those who are unable to attend the fundraiser, a silent auction will also be offered online. Several sponsorship and underwriting opportunities are available for individuals and companies interested in investing in this worthy cause.



The March event will be the latest in a long history of fundraising for KITK. "The dental school wanted to attract more young patients to provide pediatric experiences for its students," Bittner remembers, "and it was also eager to provide more treatment to underprivileged children in the broader community. We required funds to address these needs."



Day at the Farms

The program's first golf fundraising effort was conceived during an alumni gathering at the Del Mar Racetrack in San Diego, California. Dr. Clay Cooke '74B and Dr. David Eshom '85, both former board members of the Dugoni School Foundation, discussed the idea of hosting a similar but different event to benefit the KITK program. Initially called "UOP Day at the Farms," it featured a golf tournament followed by dinner at Rancho Santa Fe Farms Golf Club on July 29, 1996.

"Never did I dream that, from discussing University of the Pacific with former board member Don O'Connell at dinner one night, a concept would be born that still continues today," Cooke recalls. "He suggested that David Eshom and I organize a golf tournament in Rancho Santa Fe to raise funds for the dental clinic. That's how it all started—our Southern California way to support Dr. Arthur Dugoni."

"Clay pointed out that we were both golfers and we both love the dental school," Eshom adds. "We co-chaired the event for four years. We showed the dental school community that a golf tournament can generate a lot of positive feelings for the school and a lot of money for the KITK program."

Golf & Tennis Classic

In 1999, the event expanded north to the Los Altos Golf and Country Club for a few years before relocating to the larger venue of The Olympic Club in San Francisco in 2002. These KITK fundraising events were chaired by Dr. Susan A. Bittner '74A and later by Drs. Blaire Bittner '98 and Doug Yarris '83.

The 2017 KITK Golf & Tennis Classic had an exciting line-up typical of this fundraiser: it included a \$5,000 putting challenge, a \$1 million hole-in-one shootout and a cocktail hour and silent auction, followed by a dinner, raffle drawing and a live auction. Special guests included former famed Oakland Raiders quarterback Jim Plunkett, former KTVU-TV Channel 2 sports director Mark Ibañez, saxophone star Mike Phillips performing with Yoshi's house band, Golden State Warriors hype man Franco Finn, former Warriors basketball star Adonal Foyle and numerous Warriors and 49ers Dance Team members.



Dr. Susan A. Bittner '74A; Drs. Michael Fox '82, Doug Yarris '83, the late Arthur A. Dugoni '48 and Adam Miller '16; Dr. Ken Fat

A past president and board member of the Dugoni School Foundation, Dr. Ken Fat was impressed with the San Francisco event and decided to organize a KITK Golf & Tennis Classic in the Sacramento Valley, held at the Sun City Golf Club in Lincoln Hills as well as in Roseville, from 2002 to 2005.

"The San Francisco fundraiser was so successful that we were able to replicate the golf and tennis tournament in the Sacramento area," Fat says. "The dinner, hole sponsorships and the auction generated so much enthusiasm and financial support for the dental school. The events created a lot of excitement and fun for dentists, auxiliaries, businesses and other important people in the community. When there is a worthwhile cause, it is great to see so many people come together to make it a success."



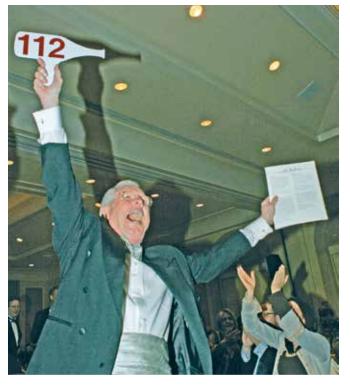
GOLF CLASSIC

SAN FRANCISCO

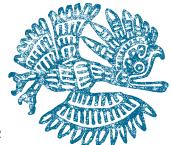


In 2001, the Kids in the Klinic Endowment received another boost from an inaugural desert golf tournament held at TPC Canyons (now known as TPC Las Vegas) in November. This fundraiser was chaired by Dr. Gregg Hendrickson '91 and many local alumni served on the committee. Thirty-four golfers challenged the links in a four-person scramble format followed by an auction and dinner all to raise funds for KITK.









Vino de Mayo Wine Auction

Another past fundraising success for the KITK Endowment was Vino de Mayo, a wine auction held at luxury San Francisco hotels in 2005, 2008, 2010 and 2012. According to former event chair Dr. Michael Fox '82, the auctions collectively netted about \$500,000 over the years. It always featured cocktails, a silent auction, dinner and a spirited live auction featuring renowned wine auctioneer David Reynolds.



Event chair Dr. Michael Fox '82 with the late Anthony Dias Blue, legendary wine and food critic, and the late David Reynolds, auctioneer

"The first auction was held on Cinco de Mayo," Fox recalls, "and David coined the name Vino de Mayo, since the auction was centered around wine and was always held in early May." He cites the wide volunteer effort—co-chairs, committees, event planners and others—required to produce such an elegant event.

"I'm about fun, and Vino de Mayo was successful in that it allowed us to raise money and give people an event they enjoyed and looked forward to attending," he says. "Raising money for kids is gratifying in the way it can change a child's life."

Alumni and friends enjoying the live and silent wine auctions



Best Dressed Smiles Benefit Fashion Show

From 1997 to 2008, this biennial fashion show was chaired by Bonnie Kwong, a former board member of the Dugoni School Foundation, and Dr. Susan Bittner '74A. In a common cause to provide dental care to underserved children in the Bay Area, the event's proceeds benefited the KITK Endowment.





Guests at the fashion show and luncheon, held at the Fairmont San Francisco, always enjoyed a silent auction and cocktails in the Tonga Room, followed by lunch in the Grand Ballroom. The 2005 fundraiser was indicative of the star power this event attracted: TV celebrities Jennifer Massey, a finalist from NBC-TV's "The Apprentice," and Dr. Bill Dorfman '83, the dentist on ABC-TV's "Extreme Makeover," teamed up with Hall of Fame 49er football player Roger Craig to stroll down the catwalk. Local television personality Jan Yanehiro emceed the show and former Congresswoman Jackie Speier spoke about her experience as a patient at the Dugoni School of Dentistry when she was a child. Average attendance was 450 guests, and each show raised up to \$40,000.

"I was honored to have chaired seven fashion shows," says Kwong. "The volunteers, supporters and audience members all appreciated KITK's critical mission to treat and care for as many underserved children as possible, giving these children a winning smile and the confidence to succeed at school and in life."

"It's been amazing to see the growth of the Kids in the Klinic Endowment since its founding back in 1996," says Dean Nader A. Nadershahi '94. "Through the commitment of time, talent and treasure by our volunteer leaders, participants and donors, this endowment has flourished, helping us serve children in the greatest need of oral health care. It's exciting to dream about how many more young lives we'll touch as we continue to grow this endowment."

"It's taken a lot of effort," Dr. Susan Bittner says, "but the results, as seen in the good work that the clinic has done in the past and will continue to do in the future, make it all worthwhile. The clinic's mission opens people's hearts, and I'm happy to say they've always responded generously to its needs."

If you're interested in becoming a corporate sponsor or donating an auction item for the upcoming KITK fundraiser, please contact Bridget Chau, donor relations and event manager, at (415) 929-6432 or bchau@pacific.edu.





49er great Roger Craig; models on the catwalk; Jan Yanehiro and Bonnie Kwong; Academy Awardwinning actress Rita Moreno and former Congresswoman Jackie Speier

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

Practicing Where You Want to Live

What is it Like to be a Dentist in a Rural Community?

By Christina Boufis

After attending dental school in the city of San Francisco, it might seem likely that many graduates would end up practicing in urban or suburban areas. But for several alumni of the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry, setting up practice in a small town has distinct advantages. What is it like to be a dentist living and working in a rural community? Just ask Dr. Michael French '01 who owns the only dental practice exclusively focused on treating children and teens in Sonora, California, a small historic Gold Rush town of about 5,000 people in the Sierra Nevada Foothills. "It's such a small community that residents run into each other often," French says. "It's kind of funny. When I walk around a grocery store, a kid will come up and tap me on the arm and open up his mouth. Or I'll be at the soccer field watching my kids, and a girl will walk up and show me her wiggly tooth."

French lives in the nearby small town of Murphys, California, where he had owned a vacation home and liked the slower pace of the area. Then, in 2009, when he was looking to start his own practice, he heard about an orthodontist in Sonora who had an empty office space with a view of the mountains.

ENTA

"The timing was right for me to set up practice in a small town and share the building," he explains. French and his wife Dao were also looking to raise their children in a more rural environment. Previously, they lived in Alameda and French served as dental director for St. Rose Hospital in Hayward.

And then there was a quote from Dr. Arthur A. Dugoni '48 that French had taken to heart. "Practice where you want to live. Live where you want to practice." French recalls, "He also said, 'Be part of the community and people will come to you.""

That is certainly true for French, who does no advertising but is booked months out. His son, Dr. Chris French, who graduated from A.T. Still University, Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health, helps in the practice every other weekend.

And in the Dugoni School spirit of giving back, French does a lot of volunteer work in the community and abroad. "I met my wife on a mission in Vietnam," French explains. "She was a translator." Together, they travel to Vietnam to provide dental services to children through their charity, Pacific Smiles.

"Be part of the community and people will come to you."

Closer to home, French is on staff at Adventist Health Sonora, the only hospital in the county, where he performs dental surgeries on children who need care and supports the hospital's dental clinic. "We'll see those kids pro bono as needed," he says. "And every year we do a big Give Kids a Smile event," where French and other volunteers will see about 50 to 70 kids who don't have dental insurance.

"It's nice to be associated with the hospital that's very active in the community and a few other volunteer agencies up here," French says.

French's family also enjoys small-town living in a beautiful area with mountains nearby, wineries and no name-brand coffee shops. "Everyone knows everyone in a small town, so you know a lot of your patients before they walk in the door. That's one of the things I like about it," French says. LO.

Dr. Michael



Dr. Michael French '01 with staff members and other volunteer dental professionals from the community during Give Kids a Smile events at his Safari Smiles practice



Less than a 20-minute drive northeast of Sonora is the small town of Twain Harte, California, (population about 2,000) where Dr. Joshua Calder '23 practices dentistry.

How did he settle on Twain Harte? "I like to do a variety of procedures in dentistry, especially the surgical ones," Calder says. "And practicing dentistry in a rural area forces you to be creative sometimes because your access to specialists, in many cases, can be limited."

In addition, Calder grew up in Utah and loves outdoor activities like hiking, fishing and

camping, which he has access to living in the Sierra Nevada Foothills with its plentiful trees, mountains and lakes.

While he was still in dental school, Calder heard about an office in Twain Harte where the dentist, Dr. Kyle McDonald '82, was about to retire. After Calder graduated last year, he jumped at the chance to join the practice which is part of a small dental group with nine offices throught the Central Valley. PRECISION FAMILY DENTISTRY TWAIN HARTE

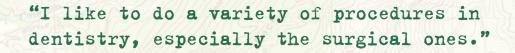
As one of the very few dentists in town, Calder is recognized when he's out in public. He's also been embraced warmly by the community and finds it easy to build trusting, doctor-patient relationships. "I think it's important to have a good reputation when you're working and living in a small town because news travels fast," he says. "You need to put your best foot forward and be consistent in the way you practice and treat people."



Dr. Joshua Calder '23 treats a patient

Precision Family Dentistry of Twain Harte dental office

While Calder sees patients of all ages, his patient population skews toward older adults, as Twain Harte has a large retiree contingent. "A unique challenge with this type of population is that some patients lose mobility and dexterity near the end of their lives," he says. "So, you're trying to find the right balance of comprehensive treatment and palliative care that will keep them comfortable and not overwhelm them."





For instance, many of his elderly patients don't want to travel an hour away to see specialists. "I think you need to be familiar with the breadth of dentistry in a rural community," Calder says, "And you need to become comfortable with some of the trickier cases."

How did his education prepare him to practice dentistry in a rural community? "The Dugoni School gave me access to a lot of opportunities, knowledge and experiences through the instructors and clinics, and I really tried to take advantage of that when I was in school."

Though he doesn't own the practice, something he'd like to do in the future, Calder was able to hit the ground running when he joined the office. "From day one, I was able to handle just about anything that came through the door," Calder says. "And if I wasn't, I had a great network of alumni, friends and mentors that I could reach out to and help me solve any issues."

Like French, Calder sees the positives of living and working in a small town. "I like developing a reputation in the community of being trustworthy and of doing good work and providing a good service to help people with their dental needs."

The Clear Lake area in Lake County has been home to Native American tribes, particularly the Pomo Indians, for centuries. One of the small rural towns near California's largest freshwater lake is Kelseyville, California, (population about 3,300) where Dr. Ruby Carlson-Larson '90 set up practice right out of dental school.

"I'm an Alaska Native and I went to the Dugoni School of Dentistry on the Indian Health Service Scholarship Program," Carlson-Larson explains. "I always knew I wanted to work with Indian health clinics. When I got a call about opening up a clinic, I came up to Kelseyville and did the interview."

There was an immense need for health care in the area in 1990, particularly to serve the Native population, many of whom live on one of the four reservations nearby. But there wasn't much funding. After about a year, Carlson-Larson was able to help open a health clinic called Tribal Health in the nearby small town of Lakeport. In addition, she traveled as a locum dentist to other Indian health clinics in Mendocino, Sonoma and Lake Counties. Carlson-Larson was one of the very few Native dentists who worked at these clinics.

The following year, because of high demand, she opened a private practice to provide care for non-Native patients. "I would work at the Indian health clinic from nine o'clock in the morning until five o'clock at night. Then I'd go to my office and work from six to 10 o'clock in the evening. seeing non-Native patients," Carlson-Larson says. "I just dedicated myself to dentistry."

Carlson-Larson '9°

Dr.

Working in a rural area, Carlson-Larson practices "old-fashioned dentistry where you spend a lot of time with the patient," she explains. "I do all my own work. The only things I refer out are some complicated surgical extractions."

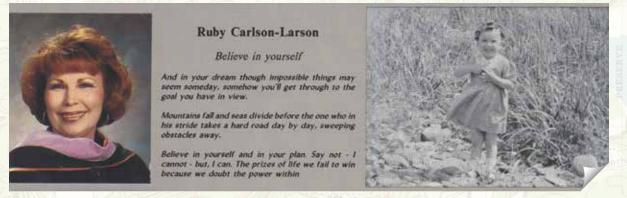
Her education at the Dugoni School of Dentistry plus her volunteer work at a hospital and in tiny villages in Alaska prepared Carlson-Larson well to meet the many challenges of treating patients who may not have received much—or any—dental care in the past.



"It's an emergency all day long," she says. "It's not planning something out in advance. The patient comes in and you have to make an emergency assessment on what you're going to do."



Lake County Tribal Health offers dental and medical services to Native Americans in the region



Dr. Carlson-Larson's graduation photo from the 1990 CHIPS yearbook



Dr. Carlson-Larson treats a pediatric patient

Carlson-Larson also travels to the reservations, often with an assistant, to meet patients where they are and sometimes to provide care at no cost for those who are most in need. "Once we extracted a person's tooth right in their car because they didn't want to come to the clinic," she explains.

Thirty-three years later, Carlson-Larson is now seeing some of the grandchildren of the patients she's provided care for all these years. "It's heartwarming and rewarding to be part of the community," she says. Carlson-Larson also provides a lot of oral health education to patients, explaining how to care for their teeth.

"That's how Dugoni School of Dentistry students are," she says. "They're teachers. They want to educate."

Just last year, Carlson-Larson stopped traveling and staying at the reservation Monday through Wednesday. She decided to work only at her practice on Thursdays and Fridays. "I'm trying to slow down a little bit," she says.

What Carlson-Larson hopes for in the future is that a Dugoni School graduate would be interested in working with this rural and Native population. "I'm willing to be a mentor because there's just so much to learn," she says. "Working in a rural area and working on the reservations, you really learn what dentistry is all about. You really have to be on your toes."



"I do all my own work. The only things I refer out are some complicated surgical extractions."

For these alumni, practicing dentistry in small towns where they live and working closely with their patients is extremely rewarding. And being able to practice the full breadth of dentistry is nothing but a win-win for the dentists and their patients.

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

29

ALUMNI SCENE



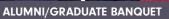




















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SAN DIEGO ALUMNI GATHERING



Dr. Nick Morton '08: From Endodontics to Entrepreneurial Endeavors

by Ashley Musick

A successful endodontist turned entrepreneur, Dr. Nicklaus (Nick) Morton '08 never anticipated that his career would lead him to co-found Tipsy Elves—a company that has become popular for its innovative festive wear, including ugly holiday sweaters, Halloween costumes and ski gear. Propelled by a successful "Shark Tank" appearance on ABC-TV, what began as a creative side project quickly developed into a career fueled by creativity, perseverance and strategic thinking.

Born and raised in Sparks, Nevada, Morton's initial inclination towards dentistry stemmed from its blend of science and business. He appreciated the clear-cut nature of endodontics and the opportunity to make a tangible difference in patients' lives. Though he aspired to business ownership, he primarily envisioned someday owning his own dental practice—or perhaps a few.

Morton pursued his undergraduate studies at University of California, San Diego before moving north to attend the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry, enticed by the school's prestigious clinical reputation as well as the positive experiences of his aunt, Dr. Leslie Jue '87, and his uncle, Dr. Brian Payne '86, a faculty member in orthodontics. Morton served as president of the Associated Student Body and graduated with high honors.



After completing his endodontic residency at University of Florida in Gainesville, Morton was ready to say goodbye to the humidity and hurricanes and returned to San Francisco to practice endodontics before pursuing a more creative outlet.

This craving for creativity led to the development of Tipsy Elves, a shared idea that emerged when Morton and his good college friend Evan Mendelsohn—both nostalgic for the themed events of their college days—co-founded a business designed to bring festive fun to a broader audience.

"Once you leave college, you look back and think, 'That was kind of special, you know?' Every weekend you'd go out and do something fun, and now it's only around a holiday or a big event. We wanted to help create experiences for adults that were more memorable, but we didn't know how to turn that into a business yet."

ALUMNI PROFILE

In 2011, Morton and Mendelsohn launched Tipsy Elves as a side project, leveraging Mendelsohn's search engine optimization skills to capture the market share for ugly Christmas sweaters. Their preliminary batch of 5,000 sweaters sold out within a few weeks—far exceeding their initial expectations. "We thought it would take two or three years to sell them all, so we were like, 'What just happened?' But then it was off to the races."

The company's pivotal moment arrived in 2013, when Morton and Mendelsohn appeared on ABC-TV's "Shark Tank." Their pitch impressed Robert Herjavec, leading to an investment and long-term partnership and friendship that continue to aid the success of the business today.

"Once the episode aired, we sold as much in three days as we had the entire year before," said Morton. "Since then, it's the gift that keeps on giving—reruns on CNBC and mentions by Robert on the radio and 'Good Morning America.' Nine years later, 7-8% of our customers still learn about us from 'Shark Tank.'"





Tipsy Elves founders original sales pitch on "Shark Tank" in 2013; Dr. Nick Morton '08 and Evan Mendelsohn with "Shark Tank" partner Robert Herjavec (center); Morton and Mendelsohn on set with the "Shark Tank" cast



By 2015, Morton transitioned from part-time dentistry to focus full-time on Tipsy Elves, coinciding with the company's decision to significantly increase its product range. Tipsy Elves continually pushes the boundaries of creativity, innovating to expand the festive apparel market—including an upcoming collaboration with Morton's former dental school classmate and fellow entrepreneur, Dr. Chrystle Cu '08, founder of Cocofloss. "Chrystle and I thought it would be fun to combine our dental backgrounds to create something together."

"We're excited about this future collaboration, and are sure the Dugoni School community will love it," says Cu. "During dental school, Nick was a natural leader and everybody's friend. He somehow managed to be both easygoing and on top of things, and he always led our class with a fun sense of humor."

"My interactions with so many people throughout my dental career helped me be better in business," says Morton. "As a dentist, you learn how to talk to anybody and everybody. You learn how to read people and how to listen, so I think that really helped. And I still taught at the Dugoni School during night clinic until last June because I love the school and I love the people there."

PHOTOS COURTESY NICK MORTON

ALUMNI PROFILE

Morton's future plans for Tipsy Elves involve continuing to leverage the company's success to explore new markets and product lines, with the goal of remaining a leader in the festive apparel industry for the next 15 to 20 years and securing Tipsy Elves' legacy as a recognizable household name.

When asked what advice he would give to current dental students, Morton's response was twofold: "Take advantage of your time with experienced faculty, especially for clinical learning. In terms of business, a lot of people feel as if they need to do extensive research or have the perfect team before starting. My advice is, 'just do it."



Players in this year's Reno golf tournament don tuxedo golf polo shirts from Tipsy Elves; Drs. Nick Morton '08 and Nancy Ly '11 with their two children in matching Tipsy Elves Halloween costumes; Morton and Ly on the slopes in their Tipsy Elves retro ski gear

A lot of people feel as if they need to do extensive research or have the perfect team before starting. My advice is, 'just do it.'

> Outside of business, Morton enjoys spending time with his wife, Dr. Nancy Ly '11, and their two young children, and he has developed a passion for golf. He helps organize an annual golf tournament in Reno that maintains strong ties to the Dugoni School community. Originally founded by Drs. Marc Geissberger '91 and Foroud Hakim '91, the tournament has become a vibrant event for alumni, current and former faculty members and students, strengthening bonds within the school community while still leaving room for fun—as Tipsy Elves' playful golf apparel often makes an appearance on the course.





Morton's journey, though unorthodox, underscores the power of creative thinking in business, serving as an example for dental students and aspiring entrepreneurs alike. He has demonstrated how diverse skills and a willingness to explore new opportunities can lead to extraordinary success, happiness and personal growth.

Ashley Musick is a freelance writer from Orange, California.

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PHOTO BY CHRIS WOODROW

On July 15, 2024, the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry welcomed senior fundraising professional Eric Dumbleton as its new associate dean for development. In his leadership role, Dumbleton serves on the Dean's Cabinet, oversees the development team and spearheads efforts to expand the philanthropic impact on the school's people and programs.

Dumbleton brings to the Dugoni School of Dentistry nearly three decades of experience in higher education administration, including more than 17 years in development and fundraising in San Francisco and the Bay Area. Most recently, he served as chief development officer at University of California Law, San Francisco (formerly UC Hastings) where he established a high-performing and dynamic development operation. Prior to that, Dumbleton was the senior associate athletic director for development at University of San Francisco and previously served as the capital campaign director at St. Anthony Foundation.

Dumbleton earned his undergraduate degree from College of William & Mary in Virginia where he was a Division I soccer student-athlete. He later earned a master's degree in business administration from Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, Georgia, and completed the Harvard University Graduate School of Education's Institute for Educational Management program in 2016.

"I am thrilled to be a part of the Dugoni School family," he said. "It's inspiring to see the passion and love people have for the school and to

know the impact it is having on the lives of so many. I'm excited to help lead the Dugoni School to even greater heights through thoughtful engagement and philanthropy."

Dumbleton works closely with faculty, staff, alumni and other supporters in the community, as well as with the Dugoni School Foundation board members who help the school secure resources to realize its vision, purpose and goals.

"We look forward to Eric's leadership in spearheading philanthropic initiatives and collaborations that will allow us to grow as the best oral health education program in the world," said Dr. Nader A. Nadershahi '94, dean and vice provost.

To learn more about the student scholarships, faculty research, new facilities and priority programs that philanthropic support helps fund, including access to care for underserved patients through the school's clinical services and community outreach, contact Eric Dumbleton at (415) 596-3280 or edumbleton@pacific.edu.



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Dr. Wesley and Mrs. Karen Wong

In Memoriam

Dr. Lowell M. Merrill '50 Dr. John M. Holmes '51 Dr. James S. Henderson '52 Dr. Douglas A. Snell '52 Dr. John R. Russell '55 Dr. John M. Adams '59 Dr. Richard D. Metlen '59 Dr. Henry H. Sagehorn '59 Dr. Ronald E. Cliff '60 Dr. Ray M. Hymer '60 Dr. Frank W. McDaniel '60 Dr. David D. Moore, Sr. '60 Dr. John V. Anderson '61 Dr. Robert E. Trombetta '61 Dr. William F. Zingheim '63 Dr. Myron (Mike) J. Bromberg '64 Dr. Sherwin J. Black '65 Dr. Owen Guy Humphries '65 Dr. Ronald I. Iriyama '66 Dr. Peter C. Knudson '66 Dr. Lance M. Larson '66 Dr. William S. Cherry '68 Dr. Jack N. Garfield '68 Dr. Richard B. Marill '68 Dr. William Ralston '68

Dr. Richard W. Peterson, Jr. '69 Dr. John Graeser '70 Dr. Ronald Nowell '70 Dr. Charles W. Pascal '70 Dr. Lynn S. Call '71 Dr. Robert M. Noonan '71 Dr. Herbert C. Peschel '71 Dr. Richard S. Salsbury '71 Dr. Chris B. Odden '72 Dr. Willard R. Hancock '76 Dr. Marion J. Kimm Low '76 Dr. Gary N. Nishimura '76 Dr. Randall B. Pina '76 Dr. Alan T. Skeoch '76 Dr. Thomas W. Stansbury '76 Dr. R. Mark Wilson '80 Dr. Charles W. Ruefenacht '83 Dr. Alina E. (Schwartz) Zeidler '88 Dr. Alex J. Brandon '93 Dr. Eric Zaremski '99 Dr. Chad R. Brown '12 Dr. George Gray, Associate Member Dr. Giuseppe Inesi, Associate Member

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Dugoni School Annual Fund Dugoni School Annual Fund Dugoni School Annual Fund

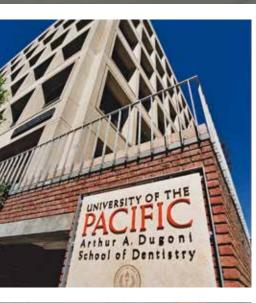
OLD SCHOOL

NAMING CELEBRATION

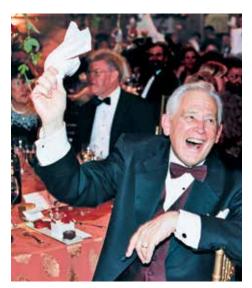
Twenty years ago, on August 28, 2004, University of the Pacific named its renowned School of Dentistry as the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry in honor of Dr. Dugoni during his 26th year as dean and amid the dental school's \$50 million capital campaign. Pacific became the first university in the United States or Canada to name its dental school after a current dean.

The Naming Celebration consisted of five events: Unveiling Ceremony at the dental school, two-day National Leadership Symposium at the Fairmont hotel, a black-tie Rotunda Fundraising Dinner at San Francisco City Hall, a Gala Naming Celebration at Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall with a post-performance party at City Hall and Brown Bag Luncheon tributes from students, faculty and staff. These events attracted nearly 4,000 people and honored Arthur A. Dugoni for his accomplishments, vision and leadership. The Naming Celebration raised \$556,710 in net revenue and the school's capital campaign increased by \$2.1 million three weeks after the celebration and by another \$5 million five months following.











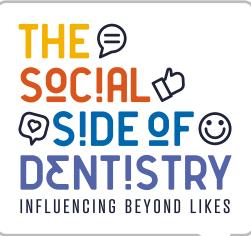












2025 Alumni Weekend The 126[™] Alumni Association Annual Meeting

Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco Friday and Saturday, January 31 – February 1, 2025

Drs. Reza Khosravi & Kianor Shah - AI & Dentistry

Dr. Miles Madison - Periodontics / Dental Products

Dr. Parul Dua Makkar - Oral Cancer / Legacies

Earn up to 12.5 CE units during our two-day meeting. Speakers and general topics include:

Drs. Brian Baliwas '14 & Adam Miller '16 – Dental Photography Dr. Ivan Chicchon '13 – Implants Dr. Ashley Clark – Practical Oral Pathology Dr. Brian Harris '05 – Esthetic Dentistry Ms. Irene Iancu – Periodontics Treatment Planning

In addition, we'll provide:

- Podcaster Dr. Allison House, interviewing speakers & VIPs live.
- The 39th Frederick T. West Orthodontic Lectureship, featuring both Mr. John Morton and Dr. Jonas Bianchi.
- The 2nd Annual Alan H. Gluskin Endodontics Symposium, with Drs. Anil Kishen and Walid Nehme.
- Panel of Experts Professionals who help dental practices. (Law, insurance, taxes, etc.)
- The student-led Dugoni Business Club's 3rd annual networking event for dentists, hygienists and students.

Included in registration fees:

• Lunch and reception on Friday, continental breakfast Saturday, and coffee/tea throughout the meeting.

Dr. Lauren Yasuda Rainey '11 – Composites / Black Triangles Dr. Stephanie Yeung – Prosthodontics Scanning / 3D Printing

 A short Recognition Program will precede the reception allowing Dr. Amanda Rae Kronquist '15, 2024–2025 Alumni President and Dr. Nader Nadershahi, Dean and Vice Provost, to present Medallion of Distinction award to Dr. Ann Marie Silvestri '75.

Book your room at the Fairmont Hotel by the end of the year to take advantage of our room block: https://book.passkey.com/go/UOP2025

The Dugoni School Gala - Anchored in Excellence

Saturday | 7:00 pm | The Ritz-Carlton | 600 Stockton Street, San Francisco Includes class reunions. Contact Development representative: bchau@pacific.edu



Web: dental.pacific.edu/alumniweekend | Email: dugonialumni@pacific.edu



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I owe so much to the Dugoni School for who I am professionally as well as personally. I am proud to support the scholarship of the next generation. It is exciting to see that students continue to receive an unmatched education and training in our humanistic environment. The Dugoni School family is special.

—Dr. Brian Grey '91 Ortho

HOTO BY CHRIS WOODROW

10