

UMKC School of Dentistry Alumni News

Fall 2021

# EXPLORER

Vol. 78 No. 2

## Welcoming the next chapter

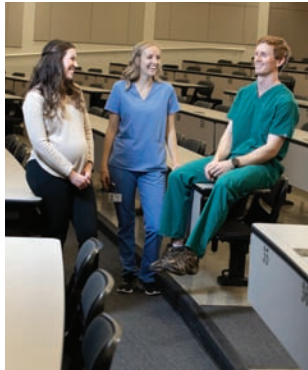
Meet the new dean of the  
UMKC School of Dentistry



## Features



- 6** **The school begins** a new era by welcoming a new dean, Steven E. Haas, D.M.D., J.D., M.B.A. Find out what impressed him about the school and how his experience will help guide the school going forward.



- 10** **Reasons are plentiful** for what motivates alumni of the school to give back in the form of scholarships. Chief among them is supporting students and the future of the profession. For students, scholarships enable them to pursue their dreams of dental school. For alumni, the decision to give may be made in unlikely places, even on a golf course.

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## UMKC School of Dentistry Alumni News EXPLORER

*Explorer* is published twice each year for alumni and friends of the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry. UMKC is an equal opportunity, affirmative action, ADA institution.

### DEAN, SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

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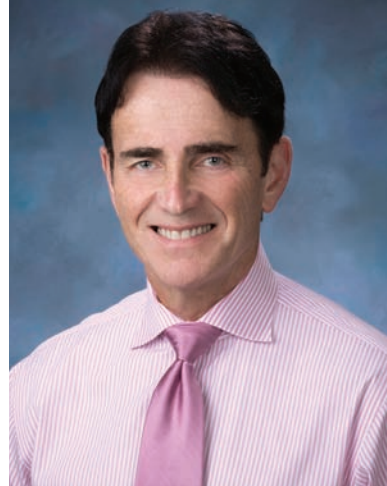
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**THANK YOU FOR** extending such a warm welcome as I settle into Kansas City, UMKC and the School of Dentistry.

Since August 16, my first official day as dean, I have been in “discovery mode.” I have met many students, staff, faculty and alumni, listening to their ideas and getting a sense of their priorities. I have gained knowledge of the university and its dental school, learning about its culture, procedures and rich history. I have seen first-hand the dedication and commitment so many people have for our School of Dentistry and its future. I’m excited to be a part of it.



I’m also excited to introduce my first issue of Explorer, which highlights this dedication and commitment. The fall magazine issue is focused on donor appreciation, and includes stories showcasing the importance of scholarship support, both from students who receive funds and alumni who donate them. Also featured are the annual donor honor roll and estate gift listing, along with a recognition of our endowed class scholarships. We know the significance of our alumni and donor support, and this issue recognizes the valuable role you play in our ongoing success.

As I continue to meet and build relationships with more alumni, know that my door is always open. Don’t be afraid to speak up and share your opinions. I want to hear from you. At the same time, I want you to know where I stand on issues, and I will share information as much as possible. I believe this approach fosters a trusting environment and the type of culture I want to foster at our school. Through effective communication and working together, we only strengthen our position as one of the nation’s top universities providing dental education.

Thanks for your continued interest and support for the School of Dentistry. I look forward to hearing from and working with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven E. Haas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Steven E. Haas, D.M.D., J.D., M.B.A.  
Dean, UMKC School of Dentistry



**FALL SEMESTER BEGINS AGAIN**, and I'm reminded of my time in dental school. The stress of the unknown, the deadlines and especially the bill for my education. I was lucky enough to receive a scholarship to help lessen the burden, but it's no secret the burden of 2000 is less than the burden of 2021. As our students begin seeing patients in relative normalcy, I am so grateful that the Rinehart Foundation is able to provide relief to so many through the scholarships created over our long history. The hundreds of thousands of dollars awarded this fall allow students to work a few less hours outside of school and maybe feel a little more prepared for their next crown. If you have established a scholarship, be sure to ask your student recipient about it next spring when we (hopefully) have our in-person dinner to meet our students.

In this issue, you'll read more about scholarship recipients and how the help they received has created a circle of giving. (Read more on page 10.) Now, there are more people out there like you and me who received scholarships and make it a personal goal to give back. My class fully funded a scholarship that I am proud to see

awarded each year, and I hope all the classes will consider doing so if they haven't already. It's an incredibly rewarding project to undertake as a group, and we have all class scholarships listed on page 5 so you can check where your class stands.

As we begin another new chapter and welcome Dr. Steven Haas as our new dean, I look forward to growing this rich tradition of giving and receiving. I also look forward to applying this vision for the future of our students, faculty, staff, endowments, professional development and hopefully some capital projects. (Read more about Dean Haas on page 6.) Working together, I see great things in our future.

Thank you from the Rinehart Foundation Board, the staff and especially the students at UMKC SOD!

Dr. David Suchman (DDS '00)  
Chair, Rinehart Foundation

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## Estate Gifts

**THESE DONORS HAVE** indicated that the UMKC School of Dentistry is in their estate plans. We are grateful for the lasting legacy they are creating.

Dr. Brett L. Ferguson  
Dr. William F. Slagle Jr.

Dr. Charles F. and Mrs. Margit Squire  
Dr. Rodger L. Suchman

Professor Emeritus Daniel E. and  
Mrs. Mary W. Tira

### Medallion Recipients

#### PHILANTHROPY MEDALLIONS

The Rinehart Medallion honors the memory of Dr. Roy J. Rinehart, longtime dean of the UMKC School of Dentistry. The Rinehart Medallion is bestowed on alumni and friends of the school who have distinguished themselves through philanthropy or service. Each year, Rinehart Medallions are given to recognize lifetime donors of \$10,000 or more. Annual donations to the Rinehart Foundation provide the School of Dentistry invaluable support that enables it to improve the quality and expand the scope of its educational, research, clinical and outreach programs.

#### Medallion Recipients:

Jay Y. Hiramoto (D.D.S. '65)  
Damon Jensen (D.D.S. '07)  
Liz Kaz (D.H. '86, M.S. D.H. '87)  
Justin R. Kohlhorst (D.D.S. '88, Perio '90)  
David L. May (D.D.S. '77)  
George R. Myers (D.D.S. '65, M.S. O.M.S. '72)  
J. Don Spillers (Ortho '93)  
David E. Stamos (D.D.S. '83)  
David L. Suchman (D.D.S. '00, A.E.G.D. '01)  
Jason E. Wagle (D.D.S. '97, Perio '99, Oral Biology M.S. '00)  
Loretta R. White (D.H. '74, D.D.S. '82, Ortho 84)  
Stanton D. Widmer (Endo '08)



Alum Julianna Ervin (D.D.S. '19)

### Golf Gives Back

**ALUM JULIANNA ERVIN (D.D.S. '19)** is incredibly grateful for the scholarships she received while attending dental school. That sense of gratitude motivated her to volunteer at the school's golf tournament and her support of the tournament has continued as she's entered the profession. Read more on page 10.

### New Scholarships

#### McGinty/Brent Scholarship

Charles McGinty (D.D.S. '77) has an established, thriving practice in Joplin, Missouri, and knows well the importance of having dental care providers in areas of need. When establishing his scholarship, he wanted to support students from rural Missouri. It was an added bonus when his daughter, Sarah Brent (D.D.S. '08), decided to attend his alma mater and establish her own practice. The scholarship honors that legacy by giving preference for female students.

#### Schooler Scholarship

Lisa Paschang, R.D.H., M.S. a longtime employee of UMKC, established this scholarship to honor her father, Charlie Schooler (D.D.S. '51). He was a clinical dean at the UMKC School of Dentistry before retiring and being named professor emeritus. He was also in private practice, and Lisa remembers that he was one of the few dentists in the Kansas City area with a dental hygienist working in his office in the early 1960s. This scholarship will honor a life well-lived by helping dental students with children, students who are single parents or dental hygiene students.

#### Class of 1955 Scholarship

Although this class has graduated more than 60 years ago and built exciting careers through dental practices near and far, they've never forgotten the importance of the education they received at UMKC School of Dentistry. This scholarship recognizes the importance of the help they received as students and the impact it had on their profession as well as their lives.

#### Jayne and Chris Buttner Scholarship

This scholarship was created with the intent of thanking the UMKC School of Dentistry, which enabled Jayne (D.D.S. '90) and Chris (D.D.S. '90) Buttner's career paths with successful practices in orthodontics and oral and maxillofacial surgery, respectfully. After graduating, they made a concerted effort to provide philanthropic support to the school, serve as alumni and Rinehart Board members and support the school with community efforts in New Mexico. This scholarship was founded to help fellow New Mexicans during their matriculation through the school, to support them with financial assistance. They hope that other New Mexican graduates and all future scholarship recipients follow their path and give back to their community and the School of Dentistry.

## ENDOWED CLASS SCHOLARSHIPS



### Not yet endowed scholarships\*

1948: \$5,000.00	1999: \$9,625.00
1951: \$1,000.00	2001: \$1,750.00
1952: \$5,530.00	2003: \$3,785.00
1953: \$2,220.00	2004: \$1,000.00
1954: \$7,093.56	2005: \$9,387.50
1961: \$5,575.00	2006: \$850.00
1989: \$6,310.00	2007: \$4,300.00
1990: \$1,100.00	2008: \$600.00
1993: \$6,050.00	2009: \$1,700.00
1995: \$8,650.00	2010: \$300.00
1997: \$1,200.00	2012: \$2,921.57
1998: \$4,407.80	2017: \$3,099.36

\*When your class fund reaches \$10,000, we look forward to making your first award.

<sup>a</sup>Sept Scholarship  
<sup>b</sup>David L. Moore Award  
<sup>c</sup>Dr. Daniel Cruz Memorial Scholarship  
<sup>d</sup>Heidi Garren Everley Scholarship  
<sup>e</sup>Ji Blanchfield Scholarship

# New Dean Loves Seeing Others Succeed

Haas brings dental knowledge, administrative experience, big-picture thinking

By GREG HACK

**T**he UMKC School of Dentistry has a long history of clinical excellence, and the school's new dean, Steven E. Haas, D.M.D., J.D., M.B.A., is eager to use his broad base of experience and knowledge to carry on that tradition.

That experience includes years in private prosthodontics practice, a law degree, an MBA, work on dental legislation and regulation, and several academic administrative posts, most recently as associate dean for clinical affairs at the University of Nebraska College of Dentistry.

"It's great coming to a school that dates back a century," said Haas, only the school's ninth permanent dean. "The school has such a deep history of accomplishment, and you can feel that in everything from the Rinehart Foundation's support to the alumni's commitment to continuing that success."

Haas, in interviews in August and September, talked about his own education and experiences and how they prepared him for the challenges ahead of him as dean. He conveys a sense of confidence but not ego — of faith in others and trust in sound practices, whether in clinic or the executive suite.

In his first few weeks on the job, Haas focused on fact finding and getting to know the faculty, students and other administrators. He likes what he sees.

"There are so many good people here, a good team," he said. "When you get to know each other, get comfortable and start to mesh, you have each other's back. And then you're really a team."

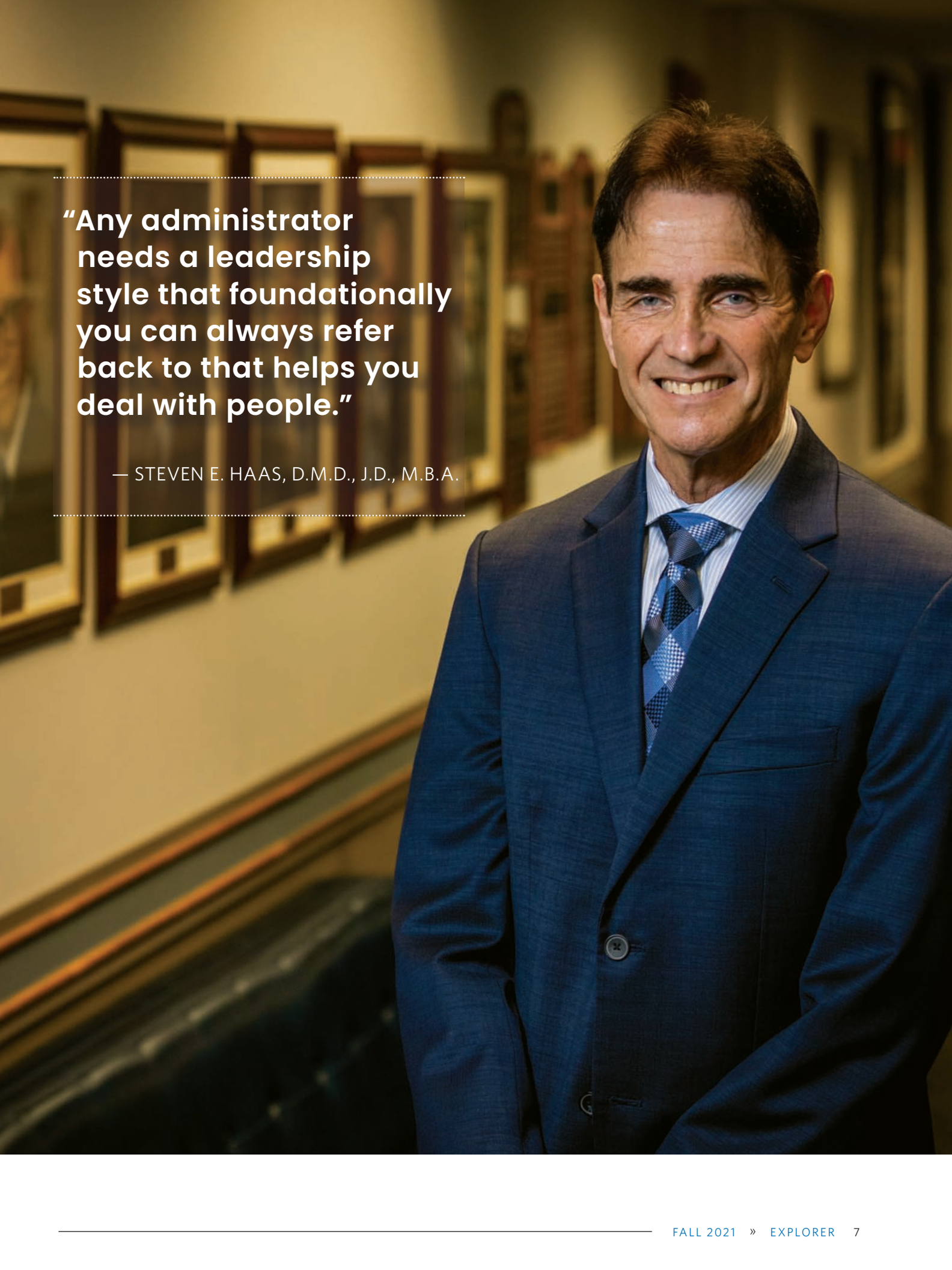
And what does he hope to bring as the leader of that team? Good management processes and practices, Haas said, which may not sound exciting but are essential.

"Getting my law degree taught me a different way of thinking, of being comfortable with gray areas where there's no 'right answer,'" Haas said. "And my MBA gave me a ton of skills I use to this day, not only in leadership style, but in change management and conflict resolution, things that any administrator has to be able to do well."

.....  
New dean continues long line of impressive leadership at the helm of the School of Dentistry.





A man with dark hair, smiling, wearing a blue suit jacket, a light blue striped shirt, and a blue patterned tie. He is standing in a hallway with a wooden handrail and several framed pictures on the wall in the background.

**“Any administrator  
needs a leadership  
style that foundationally  
you can always refer  
back to that helps you  
deal with people.”**

— STEVEN E. HAAS, D.M.D., J.D., M.B.A.

## Path to dentistry

In bringing along the next generation of dentists, Haas thinks about how he came to dentistry and dental education. He's grateful for the people and experiences that shaped him.

In high school, he explored health care careers as a volunteer at Long

During his studies, he particularly appreciated the mentorship of his group leaders, Dr. David Garber and Dr. Harold Baumgarten. Most of all, he remembers Dr. Morton Amsterdam, whose deep knowledge of periodontic prosthetics and love for teaching rubbed off.

gather our information, we look at signs and symptoms, we follow that through with a diagnosis and a course of treatment."

That was interesting to Haas throughout dental school, residency and specialty training. But he also wanted to know how to think in

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**"At the top, it's not pushing people to make needed changes. It's assembling your leadership team, realizing what the changes are that we all need to make, and then letting them guide the change."**

— STEVEN E. HAAS, D.M.D., J.D., M.B.A.

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Island Jewish Hospital. Medicine did not capture his imagination, he said, but seeing resident dentists work on trauma patients did. "One resident took me under his wing and invited me to come at night and take calls with him. He dealt with the dental emergencies that stem from motor-cycle accidents, gun wounds, knife wounds. He so enjoyed the challenges, and I said, 'This is for me.'"

His parents encouraged that shadowing and then supported him when he was off to the University of Pennsylvania to study dentistry. Shortly after he started those studies, his father, a New York City cab driver, died unexpectedly. Though the family had little savings and no life insurance on his father, Haas' mother kept him on course.

"I thought about dropping out of dental school, driving a cab for a year or two to get us on more stable financial footing," Haas said. But his mother was having none of that, insisting he stay in school because there was no guarantee he would return. "Somehow, she got me and my brother through dental school," Haas said.

Haas specifically remembers an advanced seminar with Amsterdam where he accepted about 40 classmates to participate. It was difficult to fit the class into a dental student's busy schedule, and by the last session, everyone but Haas and his roommate had dropped out.

"I thought Dr. Amsterdam might say, 'Only two of you left. Let's just skip it.' But instead he said, 'What if I prepare a day's worth of material and we spend the whole day together?' And we did," Haas recalled. "Here's a world-renowned authority, and we were nobody — two dental students he might never see again. He bought us breakfast. He bought us lunch. And he presented 8 hours of great lessons. He loved teaching that much."

## Connecting the dots

Haas may credit Amsterdam for his interest in teaching and academia, but his own love of learning and desire to understand how systems and people work seem very much a part of him.

"The attraction for me has always been the thought process," Haas said. "So in the health care professions, we tend to think more linearly in that we

ambiguous situations involving complex human interactions. He thought studying law could help with that, especially when he became involved with advising on New York state legislation affecting dentistry.

"Law teaches you something very different: how to think when there's no distinct right answer," he said. "You need to be nimble enough on your feet to be able to see other arguments and to be able to formulate the best arguments for each side. So it really opens your mind to other ways of thinking."

As he took on other management tasks, overseeing clinics in New York and then academic programs after a move to Florida, Haas knew he needed more leadership skills. So he returned to school and got his MBA.

## Leadership skills

"Any administrator needs a leadership style that foundationally you can always refer back to that helps you deal with people," Haas said. "I favor situational leadership. Other styles focus on the leader; situational leadership focuses on the follower."

So if someone is clearly competent and confident about the tasks at hand,



the leader delegates and watches the person succeed. If there are new duties someone might not be fully ready for, the leader teaches or provides training and mentorship.

Goals and values don't have to change, Haas said, but each person gets what's needed to succeed and grow. And with a comfortable, productive team, a leader's other big challenges — managing change and conflict — are met more easily.

"At the top, it's not pushing people to make needed changes," he said. "It's assembling your leadership team, realizing what the changes are that we all need to make, and then letting them guide the change."

Haas added, "You also have to think of change as dropping a pebble in a pond. Beyond the initial change, you have to anticipate all the ripples that emanate and manage for those, too."

The same values hold true when there's conflict, he said.

"Any manager has to make some tough decisions, and everyone isn't going to agree," Haas said. "But that just shows that people really care. And there's a much greater chance that stakeholders will get on board once a decision is made if they are really listened to and feel heard."

### Getting settled; looking ahead

By mid-September, the dean's office was looking inviting. Diplomas and certificates filled two walls, "and I want to get a big screen on another wall so we can hold video conferences," Haas said.

Something else big also is missing from everyday life — Haas' family. His wife, Luana Oliveira, and their two children, 7 and 10 years old, are in Florida, where she is in the Advanced Education in General Dentistry program at the University of Florida - Hialeah. They met when he joined the faculty at Nova Southeastern University and, at least by his account, it was love at first sight.

"She's a dentist, too, from Brazil and has a lot of experience in academia," Haas said. "But she's still learning a lot

in this program and wants to get her American dental degree."

Haas is looking forward to her completing the program so the family can reunite full-time, but in the meantime, video calls and frequent trips back and forth will have to do. And Haas has no shortage of work at the dental school to occupy him.

But Haas would like to see students drawn from even wider geographic and demographic areas, and the faculty to have diversity to match the student body. "Having teachers who look like you can be an important support," Haas said.

As Haas learns more about the school and its operations, he remains

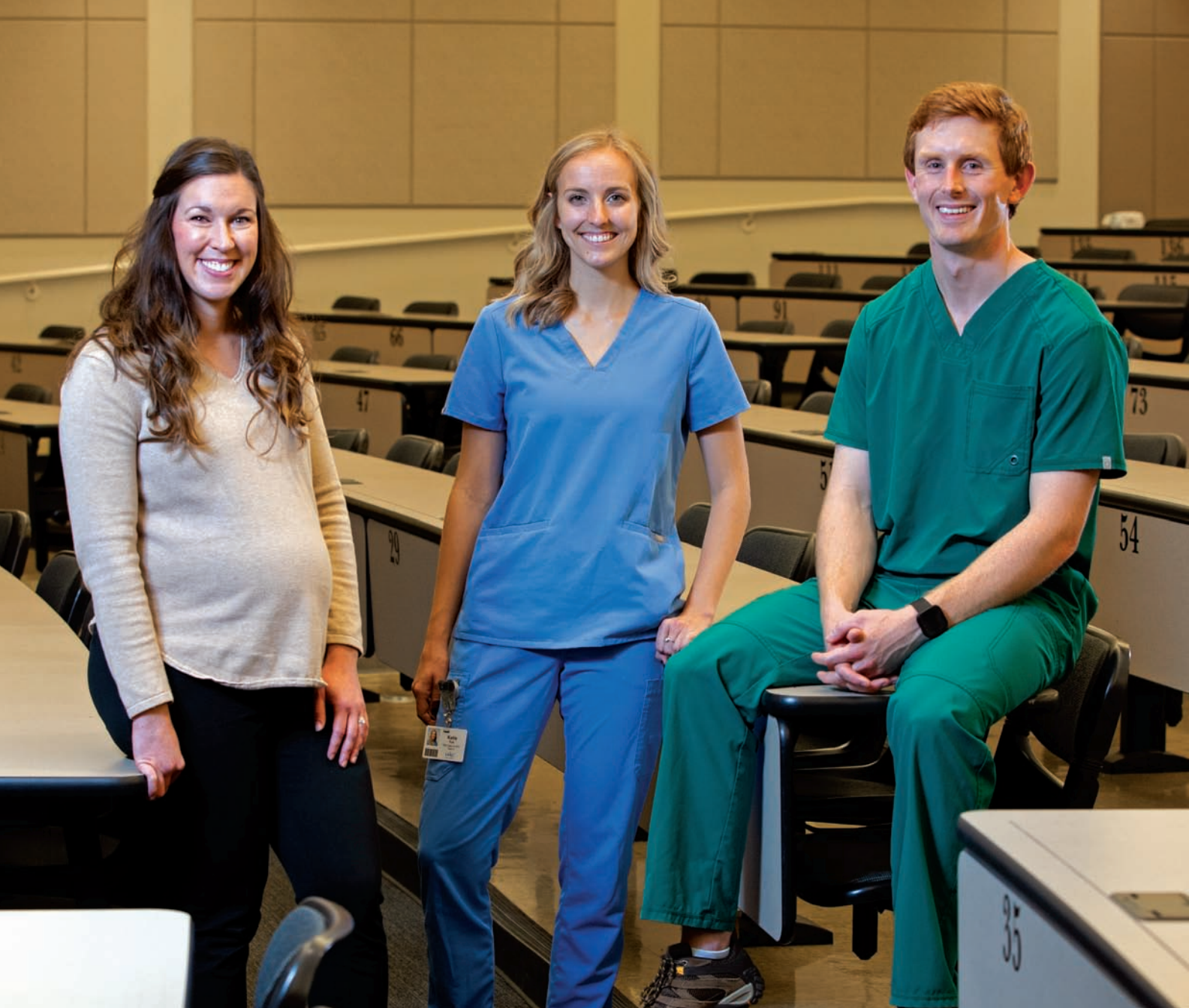


For Haas, leadership comes in many forms.

High on his priority list is the UMKC-wide goal of increasing diversity and inclusion. The school's special partnerships with Kuwait and Hawaii help diversify the student body, and reduced-tuition arrangements with Kansas and some other states help, too.

optimistic. He was thinking recently, after looking at the portraits of past deans outside his office, of how the dean from a century ago must be laughing.

"That dean got the school through a pandemic, too," Haas said. "I think we will get through what we face now." ■



# Dental Dreams and Activated Alumni

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Scholarships inspire students and future giving

By BRYCE PUNTENNEY



UMKC School of Dentistry is known for encouraging its students to achieve their fullest potential as oral health care providers. The alumni do their part as well, as their generous scholarship support inspires students to keep striving.

For dental student Kathryn Roe, that means bringing much needed dental care back to rural communities. For fellow dental student Ryan Greenway, it's to pursue a post-grad career in oral surgery. The scholarships alumna Dr. Julianna Ervin received inspired her to return the favor. Receiving and providing these financial resources, the students and alumni help strengthen the future of dentistry.

### Small-town support system

People have always been a priority for dental student Kathryn Roe (D.D.S. Class of '24). "I knew from an early age that whatever I did for a career, I wanted to help people."

Roe's desire to give back is centered in the community support system she grew up with in Herington, Kansas, her hometown.

"I've always felt the strong support, not just from my family but everyone in my community: my school, my church, my neighbors," said Roe. "You know the saying, 'It takes a village.' Well it literally took a village to raise me."

When she graduates from UMKC, she plans to return to Herington to help provide much-needed dental care to its rural community. According to Roe, the scholarships she received from the Rinehart Foundation are enabling her to pursue that dream.

She is well aware that working in a small community likely means sacrificing some pay and potential profits larger-city dentists can make. And that reality likely means taking a bit more time to pay off her student loans.

Scholarships enable students to reach their fullest potential and help instill a passion for giving upon graduation.

"But I wouldn't have it any other way," said Roe. "Getting these scholarships takes some financial load off, and I can serve exactly who I want to serve: anyone who walks in my door. And that is awesome."

Her interest in both dentistry and giving back to her hometown began in high school. As a senior, she led underclassmen in a project to teach elementary students the importance of day-to-day dental hygiene.

"That's where I really started to see the impact I could have, in particular with my small community," said Roe. "I learned more about the field through shadowing and I fell more and more in love with everything dentistry could provide."

Working with the young students, she saw the importance and results of preventive care, something that has stayed with her through dental school. She hopes she can be a similar agent of change for Herington, as well.

"I want to be a driving force for preventative care in these rural areas,

**"I knew from an early age that whatever I did for a career, I wanted to help people."**

— KATHRYN ROE  
SECOND-YEAR  
DENTAL STUDENT

so patients aren't just seeing the dentist when it's urgent," Roe said. "If I can shift that perspective, I'll truly see the benefit of what I'm doing in the community."

Roe is the first in her family to pursue dentistry. In fact, no one in her family works in health care of any kind. "But my mom is a seasoned

accountant," Roe said, "so she's ready to not only be a patient, but also take on the business side of things."

Roe says both the support of her family and the support of the alumni drive her forward to achieve her goal. "These scholarships really do change lives," she said. "The financial commitment that comes with dental school can be overwhelming, but knowing that people you have never met want to support your dreams, that is so meaningful."

### One job is better than three

Dental student Ryan Greenway (D.D.S. Class of '22) has aspirations of continuing his dental education and pursuing an advanced education degree in oral surgery.

"There's a significant need out there for oral surgeons," said Greenway. "They have a massive impact on people's lives and having that kind of impact I think is cool."

But to have time to follow that pursuit, Greenway needed to work fewer jobs outside of school. That is where his scholarships came in.

"Last year, I had about three jobs, but this year I cut it down to just one," Greenway said. "Scholarships absolutely enabled me to lighten my workload outside of school."

Currently, he's in the application process for oral surgery programs. The costs can add up, so the financial support he's received in pursuing his D.D.S. will give him the best shot of continuing his path. "It takes off a massive burden with all the application fees," he said. "It helps ensure that I'll be able to take that next step in my dental career."

For Greenway, what first drew him to dentistry was all the activity that happens in a dental office day to day. He knew he wanted to use his hands and avoid being stuck at a desk.

"When I shadowed other dentists, I liked that there was energy all day," Greenway said. "They were always moving and they seemed to genuinely enjoy the job."

He's the first person in his family to go to dental school, and he has



Green with generosity – Ervin gives back through golf.

their full support. Nevertheless, they were a bit surprised about his enthusiasm for the industry. “My dad is a bank examiner and my mom works in nonprofit, so they don’t quite know what to make of all of this.”

Before Greenway moves on to the next phase of his career, there is one more goal he hopes to achieve. “My friends and I have made a mission to try out as many Mexican restaurants as we can before we graduate,” he said. “It’s been a weekly ritual for us so far, but we’ve got a ways to go.”

### Golf gives back

For alumna Julianna Ervin (D.D.S. ‘19), what began as a part-time job in college became an unexpected avenue for supporting future dentists. In dental school, she started working at a golf course in the pro shop to help

pay the bills. But it didn’t take long for the lure of the links to make her a golfer as well.

.....  
**“It’s important for me to return the favor that I received as a student. I want to alleviate some of the students’ financial burden as well.”**  
.....

— JULIANNA ERVIN (D.D.S. ‘19)

“I figured if I’m going to be at a golf course this much,” Ervin said, “I may as well pick up the game.”

While at UMKC, she was grateful to be a scholarship recipient. “It took some stress off during an incredibly

demanding time; while you’re worrying about school you’re also thinking about how to pay bills and having enough to cover living expenses,” she said.

With some of that financial burden lifted, Ervin’s gratitude drove her to look for ways to give back to the alumni who supported her. Participating in the annual Dental Alumni Scholarship Golf Tournament, seemed like a perfect fit.

“As a student, I had some nerves playing with the faculty and alumni since I hadn’t been playing that long, but it’s great to see everyone outside of school having fun,” she said. “My shots could get eventful, but thankfully my team wasn’t counting on mine every time.”

Ervin has continued to stay connected to the school through the golf tournament, where she sponsors a team each year. “It’s important for me to return the favor that I received as a student,” she said, referring to her scholarships. “I want to alleviate some of the students’ financial burden as well.”

According to Ervin, dentistry is a field where it’s easy to fall into being in your own professional bubble, and it’s easy to get isolated. Staying connected with UMKC has helped her stay up to date on dental trends, but also support future dentists. She urges all her fellow alumni to do the same.

“We can make a difference,” she said. “The urge to take a break from dental school after graduation is understandable. But the UMKC School of Dentistry is a great school, and with our support, we can help keep it great.” ■

## Class Notes

### Classes of the 1960s

**Warren Blaich (D.D.S. '62)** retired in 1998. He spends time traveling, golfing and being with family. He enjoys all his blessings.

**Edward Read (D.D.S. '67)** plays racquetball and works five days a week as a courier.

**Russell Tabata (D.D.S. '67)** is taking care of his family, including nine grandchildren, exercising, eating properly, golfing and helping with various volunteer organizations (including the UMKC School of Dentistry).

### Classes of the 1970s

**Fred Loe (D.D.S. '72)** fully retired in 2017 and splits time between Green Valley, Arizona, and South Fork, Colorado. He drives old cars and SUVs, hikes, runs bird dogs and visits with his first and only grandson in Boyd, Texas.

**Charles Mahaffey (D.D.S. '72)** is recovering from cancer, doing limited travel and providing laboratory support in his practice.

**John Ball (D.D.S. '77)** is working at the UMKC School of Dentistry.

**Richard Gilman (D.D.S. '77)** retired in 2016 and is doing some part-time teaching and legal consultation.

### Classes of the 1980s

**Randy Davis (D.D.S. '82)** is working, as well as serving as an emergency foster parent. He watches the Chiefs and the KSU 'Cats.

**John Fales (D.D.S. '82)** is enjoying time with family and friends, providing care for patients, and cheering for the Chiefs, Royals and Jayhawks.

**Earl Larson (D.D.S. '82)** has retired from dentistry and is now a real estate sales associate in Longboat Key, Florida.

**Melodee Armfield (D.D.S. '87)** goes to the YMCA and serves on its board. Her vision is significantly compromised. Her granddaughter is five years old now.

**Michael Berry (D.D.S. '87)** is the immediate past-president of the Missouri Dental Association.

**John Hay (D.D.S. '87)** is spending as much time as possible outdoors and with family, including four grandchildren.

**Pasco Scarpella (D.D.S. '87)** is still working and goes to school part time for music composition.

**Lendall Shell (D.D.S. '87)** says the work never ends. He's slowly edging toward retirement.

### Classes of the 1990s

**Sheila Jungmeyer (D.D.S. '92)** is working. She has three children ages 13, 14 and 22, as well as three dogs and a parrot.

**Brad Miller (D.D.S. '92)** is livin' the dream!

**Isabelle Reed (D.D.S. '92)** is working in private practice.

**Stephanie A. Robertson-Cameron (D.D.S. '92)** is working a side gig as a certified yoga teacher. She is still working in solo private practice and celebrating 21 years in her current location.

**Paul Vollmer (D.D.S. '92)** is senior partner of a three-doctor, three-location practice in oral and maxillofacial surgery in the northeast corridor of the Twin Cities. He is also the director of True North Professional Studies, a local chapter of the Seattle Study Club. He is a past president of the St. Paul District Dental Society and has participated on a number of committees for both the SPDDS and Minnesota Dental Association. He lives in Stillwater, Minnesota, with his wife, Carrie, son, Alex, and two pugs, Melvin and Pippy.

**Edward Stephens (D.D.S. '97)** enjoys camping with his wife and watching the family grow with grandkids.

### Classes of the 2000s

**Kate (Nielson) Stanley (D.D.S. '07)** became a pediatric dentist and has a solo private practice in Overland Park, Kansas.

### Classes of the 2010s

**Justin Orr (D.D.S. '12)** served seven years in the Navy and just completed his orthodontics residency at the University of Pennsylvania.

**Daniel Pernoud (D.D.S. '12)** had a second child in August 2021. He has been practicing in St. Louis, Missouri, for nine years.

**Sierra Binns (D.D.S. '17)** is working full time at a private practice as an associate and loving her newest title as "mama"!

**Madison Reynolds (D.D.S. '17)** is practicing general dentistry.

**Julia Riddick (D.D.S. '17)** is working as a general dentist.

**Chloe Stuck (D.D.S. '17)** is dental director of Your Community Health Center and a new mama to Callie Rose Stuck.

## In Memoriam

Olen Crockett (D.D.S. '47)  
 Thomas D. Fankhauser (D.D.S. '74)  
 William J. Hardin (D.D.S. '49)  
 Jeffery Higgins (D.D.S. '08)  
 Alan A. Keimig (D.D.S. '56)  
 Corry R. Lanyon (D.D.S. '82)  
 Robert Marx (D.D.S. '77)  
 Sherman Thomas Mitchell (D.D.S. '76)  
 John L. Sauer (D.D.S. '91)  
 John Stone (D.D.S. '80)  
 Charles S. Thompson (D.D.S. '68)  
 James B. Trotter (D.D.S. '76)  
 Mickey J. Wagner (D.D.S. '62)  
 Richard O. Walker (D.D.S. '63)  
 Tom White (D.D.S. '47)

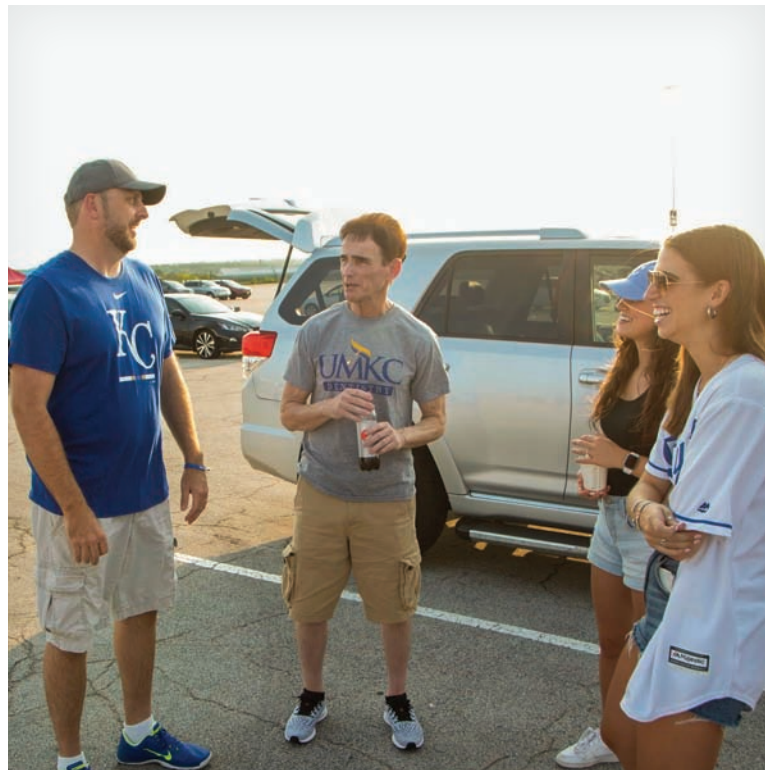


### Welcome Game at the Royals

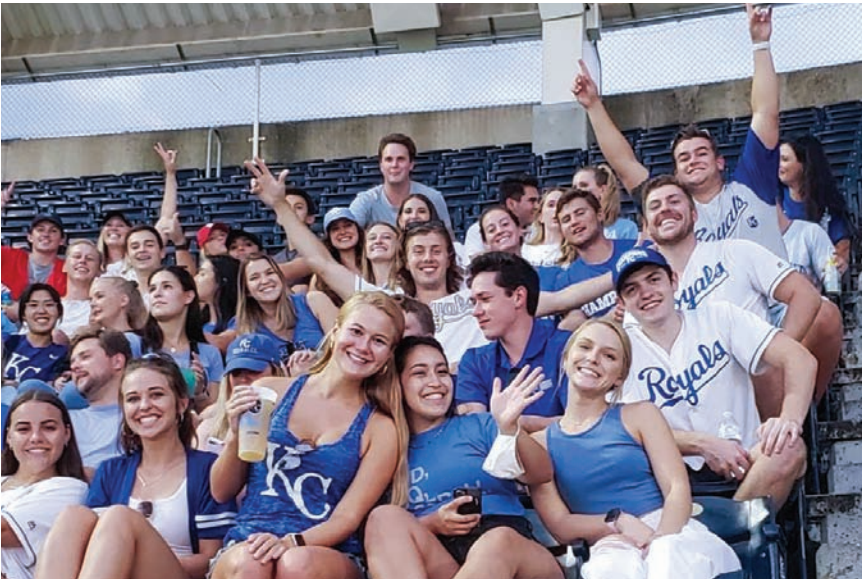
#### THE UMKC DENTAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

was excited to once again welcome the incoming dental and dental hygiene classes by taking them out to the ballgame. Unable to offer this event last year due to the pandemic, the Dental Alumni Association extended tickets to the second year dental students and senior dental hygiene students.

The students, along with participating staff, faculty and alumni, all enjoyed the Kansas City Royals vs. Cleveland Indians game on Tuesday, Aug. 31. Attendees feasted on a pre-game tailgate with grilled favorites before heading to the game and rooting for the home team. Even though the Cleveland Indians won, the New Student Welcome game continues to be a loved tradition to kick off the academic year at the Dental School. Participants were happy to have it back this year.







New dean greets alumni at SmileCon

## Viva Las Vegas

**MEMORIES WERE MADE** and shared during the School of Dentistry alumni reception held at the American Dental Association's Annual Meeting, SmileCon, in Las Vegas, Nevada, on Tuesday, Oct. 12. Alumni caught up with some familiar faces and one new one, Dean Steven Haas. Dean Haas enjoyed meeting with many of our alumni and sharing his vision with them.



Alumni welcome Dean Haas

## Meet Me in St. Louis

**THE UMKC SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY** brought a little bit of UMKC to the other side of the state, including Dean Haas. Our new dean joined us for another School of Dentistry alumni reception, held in conjunction with the Mid-Continent Dental Congress in St. Louis, Missouri, on Thursday, Oct. 28. The school enjoys connecting with so many alumni.

## Spalitto Named President of UMKC Alumni Association

**JOSEPH SPALITTO (D.D.S. '72)**, will serve as the president of the UMKC Alumni Association. The mission of the association is to provide a lifetime link to UMKC for alumni and friends to support the mission and goals of the university and to help it achieve its potential. Also serving on the Board are Debbie Thompson (D.H. '81), Mark Gregston (D.D.S. '94) and Marissa Ibarra (D.H. '18).



Joseph Spalitto (D.D.S. '72)



Connie White embraces a new chapter.

### Connie White Caps Off Distinguished Career

**IN 1973, CONNIE WHITE (D.D.S. '81)** came to UMKC to start college, and she decided to stay. And stay. Now, she will retire from the School of Dentistry, her professional home for all the decades in between.

"I left my home in southeast Missouri when I was 18 and moved to Kansas City," said White, who earned a chemistry degree in 1977 and her doctor of dental surgery degree in 1981. "After eight years of school, I joined the faculty and did my graduate work in oral medicine and oral biology while I was teaching. I've taught for 40 years, so that's 48 years total I've been here."

Now she is ready to step back, savor her accomplishments and memories, and take stock in what's next.

"I have three grown children and two grandchildren, and I'm looking forward to spending time with them and with my husband, Jerry," she said.

And what will White miss the most about the School of Dentistry?

"The people," she said. "People make the school special."

White figures that over the years those people have included more than 10,000 students, "and at some point

things tipped," she said. "I started out teaching with faculty who had taught me, and then I was teaching with people who had been my students."

White also has seen fascinating changes in dentistry and dental education. The level and variety of services offered to patients have advanced greatly, she said, and the age of digital dentistry has brought improvements in everything from record keeping to X-rays.

"I think we do better in treating the whole patient, too," White said, "improving overall health and not just dental health."

White has served the school and its faculty, students and patients in many roles, including chair of the faculty and chair of the Department of General Dentistry. A lot of that work has involved people skills as much as dental knowledge.

Dental students have changed over time, too, White said.

"When I got here, I was one of 10 women in a class of 160. I also stood out when I joined the faculty," she said. "Now the classes are about 50-50 men and women, and students and

our faculty are much more diverse in many ways." White said the school also teaches and nurtures students in a more comprehensive way than it did when she arrived. Rather than just excellent clinical training, she noted, students also can get more emotional and financial support.

White also has made her mark nationally in dentistry and dental education, often through professional associations. In her last full week at UMKC, she jetted off to South Carolina for a board meeting of the national Academy of General Dentistry, which she served in many roles leading up to being its president in 2020.

"It's our first in-person board meeting in a year and a half," she said. "I was the academy's pandemic president, and my year as past president will be up in November."

A silver lining to fulfilling school functions during her Academy of General Dentistry presidency, she said, was that Lance Godley, D.M.D., M.Ed., took on some duties well before White retired. And according to White, "he's the perfect person to take over" as interim associate dean of clinical programs.

White, who was recently granted professor emerita status, said the school might not have seen the last of her.

"I might consider teaching again, or doing some fundraising for the school," she said. "They say you have to friend-raise before you can fund-raise, and I've made a lot of friends over the years."



Accolades were plentiful for White.





Two thumbs up for orientation.

## Students Come from Many States to Become a Part of the UMKC Dental Family

**EXCITEMENT SURGED** through the UMKC School of Dentistry on Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2021, as 109 members of the D.D.S. Class of 2025 and 30 members of the D.H. Class of 2023 went through preliminary orientation activities. Besides having their photos taken, the students checked out how their computers work with the school's systems and were fit tested for N95 masks.

Precious K. Hollins traveled farther than most of her classmates to be a part of the School of Dentistry. "I am from the Mississippi Delta and got my undergraduate degree at Jackson State University. I am feeling very excited to be mentally stretched throughout these next four years."

Though she's from Mississippi, Hollins said she spent a great deal of her childhood in the St. Louis area. That connection to Missouri led her to the STAHR

Scholars Dentistry, a 10-week summer program at UMKC that develops culturally diverse dentistry candidates. According to Hollins, even though the pandemic required the program to go online, it still helped her decide on UMKC.

"STAHR made an amazing first impression on me. I virtually met some people who have been integral in my dental journey. It was nice to receive unconditional support from people who never met me in person."

Many class members enter the school directly from their undergraduate degree programs, and some bring more varied life experience. Macila Arnold, for example, has been in the Army Reserves for about 10 years and worked in animal health care in and out of the military. Canine dental work was part of that, contributing to Arnold's interest in dentistry.

"There is growth potential in both military and civilian sectors in the dentistry field, which was an encouragement to do the career change," Arnold said.

One member of the D.H. Class of 2023, Kennedy Bauer, said, "I am beyond excited to start my journey into dental hygiene school! UMKC was my first choice of school in part because it's the one area program that offers a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene."

Among the new D.H. students, Kansas City native Shairry Lene admitted being "super nervous" to start school but said being admitted through the D.H. Reserved Admissions Program "took a huge weight off my shoulders since this program is so competitive! I had to keep up with grades, shadowing, and volunteering to continue in the program."

She added: "What drew me to dental hygiene was the flexibility and being able to help others. However, I am starting to realize how I also want to be an advocate for this field and share the importance of hygiene, which so many know little about."

After a day filled with photographs, computer set up and mask fitting, the D.D.S. Class of 2025 and D.H. Class of 2023 got better acquainted on Thursday and received a wealth of vital information. Several information sessions followed on topics including curriculum, student services, building safety, school policies, opportunities to participate in student clubs and organizations, "learning how to learn" and handling their finances. Orientation concluded with faculty panels, a joint presentation on the school's culture of diversity and respect, and information on wider UMKC resources such as libraries and counseling services.

Student Francisco Flores from Lawrence, Kansas, typified the excitement of concluding orientation and heading into the school year. "Since I was a junior in high school, I have seen the UMKC School of Dentistry as the place for me. What had always seemed a ways away is here. Dental school is no longer my future, but my reality, and I can't wait to begin!"

## Legacy Students

**THE SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY** is proud to have many multigenerational families and realizes success comes in part from its rich history, with roots stretching back to 1881. Here are the legacy students from the D.D.S. Class of 2025 and D.H. Class of 2023.

### Kayla Burdette:

Richard D. Crowder (D.D.S. '06), father; Richard E. Crowder (D.D.S. '73, Orthodontics '76), grandfather; H.D. Crowder (D.D.S. '53), great grandfather; Darlene Klassen (D.H. '63), great aunt

### Alex Gardner:

Jeffry Gardner (D.D.S. '97), father

### Luke Hanby:

Charles Hanby (D.D.S. '73), cousin; Jacky Standlee (D.D.S. '85), cousin

### Seth Hofheins:

Donald Hofheins (D.D.S. '85), father

### Samuel Huckabee:

Samuel Huckabee (D.D.S. '95), father; Melanie Bishop Huckabee (D.D.S. '94), mother

### Karan Kaur:

Jamandeep Kaur (D.D.S. '20), sister-in-law

### Monty Lyddon:

Tricia Pellet (D.H. '74), mother

### Jentry Muck:

Janice Bausch (D.H. '84), aunt

### Nathaniel Prather:

Joshua Prather (D.D.S. '17), brother

### Elizabeth Quinn:

Alicia Douglass (D.D.S. '08), cousin

### Cameron Robertson:

Derek Magers (D.D.S. '13), cousin

### Nick Setser:

Craig Lashley (D.D.S. '98), uncle; Alexandra Lashley (D.D.S. '23), cousin

### Connor Williams:

Jarrold Williams (D.D.S. '00), father

### Scott Wilson:

Donald Wilson (D.D.S. '93, Orthodontics '95), father; Kimberly Wilson (D.H. '92), mother

## Check Out Our Incoming Classes and See How They Stack Up!

### B.S.D.H. Class of 2023

(30 Students)



**21** Caucasian

**2** African America

**4** Asian

**1** Native American

**2** Hispanic/Latinx

**30**  
Females

States Represented  
**MO and KS**

Age Range  
**19-35**

**3.66 Average Science GPA**  
**3.72 Average Cumulative GPA**

### D.D.S. Class of 2025

(109 Students)



**77** Caucasian

**4** African America

**12** Asian

**4** International (Kuwait)

**7** Biracial

**1** Native American

**4** Hispanic/Latinx

**50**  
Females  
and **59**  
Males

States Represented  
**MO, KS, AR, NM, HI, AZ, CA, IL, LA, MI, MS, NC, OH and OK**  
—  
Additional Country Represented  
**Kuwait**

Age Range  
**21-35**

**3.72 Average Science GPA**  
**20.25 Average DAT**





Oral hygiene kits made by Dental Hygiene students.

## Dental Hygiene Students Educate Community

**UMKC DENTAL HYGIENE STUDENTS** are providing important oral health care instruction to a variety of patient populations. While the locations vary year-to-year, this year they are working with Special Olympics Missouri, Rose Brooks Center, KC Care Clinic, and Operation Breakthrough. Students will assess, plan, implement and evaluate a program for individuals who may not have access to professional dental care.

Senior dental hygiene students decorated oral hygiene kits for children ages 3-5 at Operation Breakthrough as part of the course, Anchor 314: Interdisciplinary Oral Health Field Experiences. The children will receive the bags as well as custom oral health presentations from the students. This is an annual project for students to showcase their ability to tailor their oral health communication and promotion strategies to any age. The children at Operation Breakthrough receive consistent support in accessing their best oral health from a local community partner!

## Paying Tribute to Retirees

**THE SCHOOL CELEBRATED** nearly 100 years of combined service with the retirement of three faculty and staff members. Those honored included:

### **Sharon Adams - 25 years of service**

Registered Dental Hygienist  
Dental Faculty Practice

### **Connie White (DDS '81) - 40 years of service**

Interim Associate Dean for Clinical Programs and Associate Professor  
Department of Restorative Clinical Sciences

### **Lindra Primers Woodard - 31 years of service**

Certified Dental Assistant  
Dental Faculty Practice

## New Faculty



**Hanan Ali,** B.D.S., joined the faculty as clinical assistant professor in the department of Restorative Clinical Sciences.

She received her B.D.S. from the University of Benghazi in 2007, a M.S. Biomaterials from SUNY Buffalo and a certificate in Prosthodontics in 2015 and 2021, respectfully.



**Professor Ashley Hobbs** joined the faculty as clinical assistant professor, division of Dental Hygiene. She received her

B.S.D.H. from UMKC School of Dentistry in 2011 and is currently pursuing her M.S. in Dental Hygiene Education at the School of Dentistry.



**Marwa Shembesh,** B.D.S., joined the faculty as clinical assistant professor in the department of Restorative Clinical Sciences.

She received her B.D.S. from the University of Benghazi in 2008 and a certificate in Prosthodontics at Boston University in 2021.

## National Recognition for Students

### **DENTAL STUDENT MOLLIE PETRIE**

(D.D.S. Class of '22), under the supervision of Brenda Bohaty, professor and chair of Pediatric Dentistry, published an article in the online publication Contour. The article titled, "The Ethics of Whitening Children's Teeth," appeared in the March 2021 issue of the journal, a national journal published electronically by the American Student Dental Association.

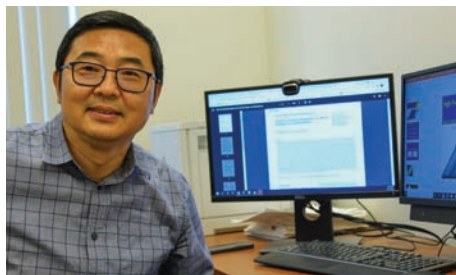
## Faculty News of Note



Timothy Cox, Ph.D.

**TIMOTHY COX, PH.D.**, endowed professor, Department of Oral and Craniofacial Sciences, was an author on a paper published in *Development*, Abe, M., COX, T.C., Firulli, A.B., Kanai, S.M., Dahlka, J., Lim, K.C., Engel, J.D. & Clouthier, D.E. (2021) GATA3 is essential for separating patterning domains during facial morphogenesis. *Development*. 148: online ahead of Print. doi:10.1242/dev.199534. PMID: 34383890.

Cox will also present at the 42nd Annual David W. Smith Workshop on Malformations and Morphogenesis and Developmental Disorders: From Mechanism to Treatment.



Yong Wang, Ph.D.

**YONG WANG, PH.D.**, professor, Department of Oral and Craniofacial Sciences, is an author on six articles published over the past several months. He has been appointed to serve as a standing member of the Oral, Dental and Craniofacial Sciences Study Section, Center for Scientific Review of National Institutes of Health (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2025) and

named oral session chair and presenter at the International Association for Dental Research annual meeting, July 20-24, 2021.



Keerthana Satheesh, D.D.S.

**KEERTHANA SATHEESH, (D.D.S. '05)** Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Periodontics, received a tri-lateral project funding to study the effects of COVID on clinical operations. This is a joint study to be conducted in South Africa, Belgium and Missouri.

## Faculty Service

**BRENDA BOHATY, D.D.S., PH.D.**, is a professor and chair of Pediatric Dentistry and director of the Advanced Education Program in Pediatric Dentistry at neighboring Children's Mercy Hospital. She also serves as a volunteer discipline director/consultant for the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disorders Training Program at the University of Kansas Medical Center. This program is an interdisciplinary training program that brings together the fields of audiology, speech therapy, nursing and others in an effort to provide opportunities to develop leadership skills in working with populations who are impacted by neurodevelopmental and related disorders.

## Public Health Dentistry Addresses Anti-Racism

**MEGAN WENDLAND, D.D.S.**, assistant professor, Department of Dental Public Health and Behavioral Science co-authored a landmark anti-racism white paper (<https://www.aaphd.org/white-paper>) with other members of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry.

## New Orthodontic Research with Cleft Palate Patients and AI

**THE DEPARTMENT OF ORTHODONTICS** and Dentofacial Orthopedics has partnered with the Children's Mercy Hospital craniofacial unit to start a research project on volumetric analysis of cleft palate patients (IRB approved and under review by the OCS department). The department also has two pending research projects involving Artificial Intelligence (AI), one in AI-assisted Cephalometric analysis and the other AI-assisted Cone Beam segmentation.

## Interim Program Director Named

**SIMON MACNEILL, D.D.S.**, professor, Department of Periodontics, has been named interim program director of Advanced Periodontics. Mabel Salas, D.D.S., served as the previous program director and left the school to pursue private practice. MacNeill is the recipient of the Elmer Pierson Good teaching award in recognition of his contributions. This is his second tenure as program director.



Simon MacNeill, D.D.S.

# SAVE THE DATE

for these upcoming  
alumni events



## **Royals Opening Day**

April 4, 2022

## **Midwest Dental Conference and Alumni Class Reunions**

April 21-24, 2022

## **Rinehart and Dental Alumni Board meetings**

April 21, 2022

## **Pouring from the Heart**

April 21, 2022

## **Annual Alumni Scholarship Golf Tournament**

June 24, 2022



For more information about alumni events and news, visit [dentistry.umkc.edu/alumni](https://dentistry.umkc.edu/alumni).  
You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

## CONNECTING THROUGH CONTINUING EDUCATION

The UMKC School of Dentistry invites you to earn your continuing education credits with us! We are updating our website with the newest courses available and will be releasing our 2022 CE courses soon. Bookmark our site for available courses and updates: <https://bit.ly/UMKCSODCE>

**Please note:** We are following Kansas City, Missouri ordinances regarding COVID-19 and courses are subject to change as we keep in mind the safety of all attendees.





University of Missouri-Kansas City  
School of Dentistry  
Office of Alumni and Advancement  
650 E. 25th St.  
Kansas City, MO 64108-2784



# 2022 MIDWEST DENTAL CONFERENCE

**SAVE**  
*the*  
**DATE**

[midwestdentalconference.org](http://midwestdentalconference.org)

**APRIL 21-24, 2022**  
*Kansas City, Missouri*