

UMKC School of Dentistry Alumni News

EXPLORER

Summer 2021

Vol. 78 No. 1



Giving it their best shot

From screening the first citizens returning from overseas to the push to vaccinate Kansas City, UMKC dental faculty, staff and students have helped fight the pandemic

Features



- 6** **The pandemic upended** many best laid plans, and the UMKC School of Dentistry was no different. The school's alumni, faculty and students forged ahead regardless, continuing the school's mission to serve society and care for patients. Three members of our dental school family share their perspectives.



- 9** **The school's graduates** make a difference not only improving dental care but also innovating as practitioners.



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UMKC School of Dentistry Alumni News EXPLORER

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The School of Dentistry is a vital partner of the UMKC Health Sciences District, a group of health care institutions collaborating on research, clinical care, community wellness and health sciences education.

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WELCOME TO THE SUMMER edition of Explorer, featuring many great things happening in our School of Dentistry. I am so proud of all of our students, staff and faculty for the resilience, persistence and true grit they've showed over the past several months. They not only thrived but also rose to the occasion by helping with the COVID vaccine rollout.

Of course, the main mission of our school is to educate and train tomorrow's dentists, hygienists, specialists and scientists. The major indicator of that success is graduation. This year was a special time in our history as we celebrated with a hooding ceremony on the lawn of the National World War I Museum and Memorial. Just as amazing as this beautiful celebration was the fact that the pandemic restrictions were loosened in Kansas City that same weekend. The symbolism of the event with caps and gowns was made even more special by the hope for a brighter future found in all those smiling faces. We capped off the celebrations with Commencement at Kaufmann Stadium where our graduates were recognized on a stage near home plate – truly amazing!



Alongside our education mission, our university is established to generate new understanding and new ways to translate findings to benefit mankind. Our faculty and students are constantly searching for new and better understandings of health and disease. Our students learn from our world-renown faculty in all the disciplines within the school and the curious mindset of our faculty is contagious. Within this issue of Explorer, we highlight how our alumni take that spirit of curiosity and put it into practice.

A special thanks goes out to everyone who attended this year's virtual Midwest Dental Conference. After last year's abrupt cancellation, it was great to see everyone come together – even online! We look forward to hopefully welcoming everyone back in-person for the 2022 conference, April 22-24.

I also want to share news that our school will soon welcome a new dean – Steven E. Haas, D.M.D., J.D., MBA. Coming from University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry in Lincoln, he will join the staff on Aug. 16. We will share more about him in the coming weeks, as well as the fall issue of Explorer. Please join me in welcoming him to the School of Dentistry. And please accept my gratitude for your support given during my time as interim dean. It's been an honor to lead this exceptional dental school.

I hope this summer finds you and your loved ones as healthy and happy as can be. All of us at your School of Dentistry wish you the best.

With gratitude,

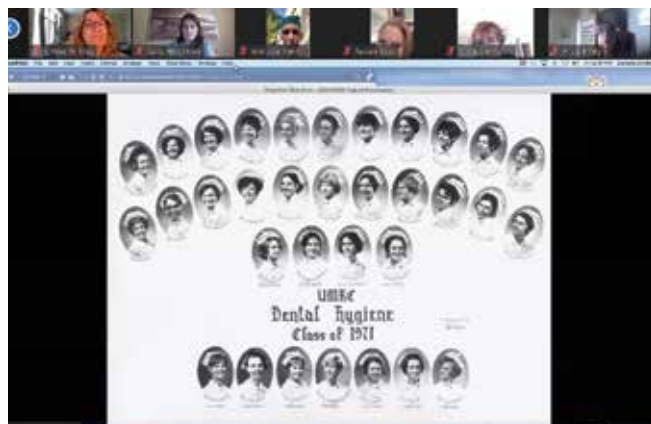
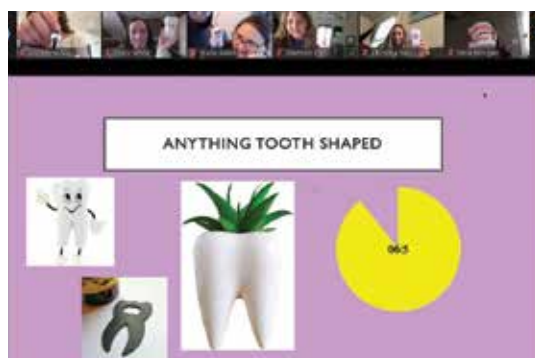
A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Russell B. Melchert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Russell B. Melchert, Ph.D.
Interim Dean, UMKC School of Dentistry

MDC 2021 - Virtually Together Again!

THE 2021 MIDWEST DENTAL CONFERENCE

brought together virtually more than 1,200 alumni, friends, students and professional partners. After having to cancel the conference in 2020, it was great to be together even if it was through a computer screen. The conference offered a robust schedule full of CE, a virtual exhibit hall, virtual milestone-year class reunions, the Alumni and Friends Recognition Event and social events such as a Bingo Happy Hour, the UMKC Dental Hygienists Alumni Association's Celebration event, and the annual fundraiser Pouring From the Heart.



Dental Hygienists' Celebration Event

THERE MAY NOT have been a buffet of delicious food, but the UMKC School of Dentistry Dental Hygienists' Alumni Association's Dental Hygiene Celebration still offered a good time and continued professional appreciation. A short business meeting started the virtual event, followed by an update on the Division of Dental Hygiene given by its director, Tanya Mitchell (BSDH '95, MS '01). Special award recipients were then recognized and honored along with those classes celebrating reunions, including a special message from Susan Macy (BSDH '61) celebrating 60 years. The event closed with a fun virtual scavenger hunt that had participants finding dental-related items in their homes and answering school-related trivia questions.

CE

ONE BRIGHT SPOT of the virtual conference was offering more continuing education hours than ever. Attendees were able to participate in live sessions and watch the recorded courses for 30 days after. This gave attendees the possibility of earning more than 70 hours of CE. As always, the conference offered world-renowned speakers covering topics that included implant aesthetics, endodontics, risk prevention, medical updates, mental health, financial growth and geriatric dentistry.

Alumni and Friends Recognition Event

EACH YEAR the UMKC School of Dentistry and the Roy J. Rinehart Memorial Foundation take time to honor and appreciate some of their outstanding alumni and friends for making a difference in our school community. We celebrated these champions during a special streamed event on Saturday afternoon. Honorees included the Class of 1970 celebrating 50 years in dentistry, UMKC Alumni Achievement Award winners and Young Alum of the Year winner Andrew Bruening (DDS '14). The event also honored alumni and friends who have made significant gifts to the Rinehart Foundation with \$10,000+ lifetime giving, \$25,000+ lifetime giving and \$50,000+ lifetime giving.

Honorees

Class of 1970 - 50th Class Reunion
Class of 1971 - 50th Class Reunion

UMKC Alumni Achievement Award Recipients

Dr. Nick Rogers (DDS '78)
Ms. Cindy Sensabaugh (MS '15)

Young Alumni of the Year

Dr. Andrew Bruening (DDS '14)

Rinehart Foundation Medallion, \$10,000

Dr. Jay Y. Hiramoto (DDS '65)
Dr. Damon Jensen (DDS '07)
Dr. Liz Kaz (BSDH '86, MS '87)
Dr. Justin R. Kohlhorst (DDS '88, PERIO '90)
Dr. David L. May (DDS '77)
Dr. George R. Myers (DDS '65, OMS '72)
Dr. J. Don Spillers (ORTHO '93)
Dr. David E. Stamos (DDS '83)
Dr. David L. Suchman (DDS '00, AEGD '01)
Dr. Jason E. Wagle (DDS '97, PERIO '99)
Dr. Loretta R. White (BSDH '74, DDS '82, ORTHO '84)
Dr. Stanton D. Widmer (ENDO '08)

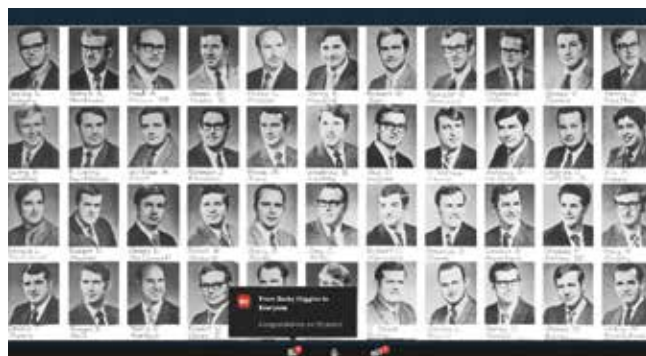
Rinehart Foundation Benefactor Pin, \$25,000

Dr. James A. Dryden (DDS '66, ENDO '72)
Dr. Scott S. Masunaga (DDS '82)
Dr. Steven J. Prstojevic (DDS '86)
Dr. Crystal Walker (DDS '04, PEDO '06)

Rinehart Foundation Benefactor Pin, \$50,000

Dr. Gary L. Brown (DDS '85)
Dr. Bart W. Putnam (DDS '95)

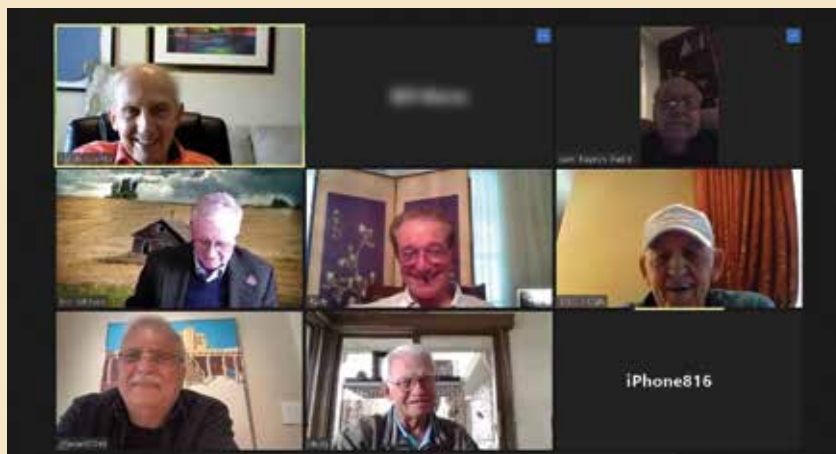
Alumni with such a strong connection to the school are why the Rinehart Foundation is able to support so many projects that are important and vital to the students, faculty and school.



Reunions

NINE CLASSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

took advantage of the weekend and connected for reunions on Zoom, the video conferencing platform. Classmates enjoyed reminiscing, catching up and making plans to see each other in person.



2021 Pouring From the Heart

POURING FROM THE HEART went virtual this year on Friday, April 16, during the Midwest Dental Conference weekend. The annual fundraising event celebrated 22 years of raising money for the dental school and focused on raising money for student-patient clinical experiences at the dental school. The new virtual format allowed alumni, supporters and friends to attend the event from around the nation, including many who held small viewing parties at their homes. The event began with a performance from alumni Andrew Moore (DDS '99) and his band, followed by a mixing class with alumni and faculty member Michael McCuniff (DDS '83), who showed attendees how to make the evening's signature cocktail, "The Masked Affair."

Attendees heard from Interim Dean Russell Melchert, followed by the experiences and stories from UMKC School of Dentistry dental hygiene students, AEGD residents and faculty. Throughout the night, attendees participated in a silent auction with exciting items including a signed Kobe Bryant jersey, a vacation to Sonoma, a year of free Belfonte ice cream, jewelry and more. Although the event looked different, attendees still partied with a purpose, raising more than \$21,000 for the UMKC School of Dentistry.



New Board Leadership

THIS SPRING MARKS the time for new leadership on two of the three alumni boards that serve the UMKC School of Dentistry: Dental Alumni Association and the Dental Hygienist Alumni Association. We have immense gratitude for the outgoing leaders for their service and look forward to what new leadership brings.



DENTAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION **Dr. Mark Gregston, president, 2021-2022**

Mark Gregston is an orthodontist and owner of Crossroads Orthodontics in Parker, Colorado. He is a 1994 graduate of the former six-year program at the School of Dentistry that combined both a bachelor's degree and a DDS. After completing an AEGD residency at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia, Gregston returned to UMKC to complete his orthodontics residency. Although now a Colorado lifer, he grew up in Independence, Missouri and loves coming back to the school and staying connected to Kansas City.

As he looks ahead to his term as president, Gregston says he would like to do his best to guide our alumni back into engaging with the school and the students. While we've all dealt with the adversity of the pandemic, he says, the challenges the students faced with new learning tools and attempting to treat patients under extreme circumstances had to be extremely frustrating and stressful. Now, he says, it's time to celebrate them, and our alumni, making it through and emerging stronger than ever.



DENTAL HYGIENIST ALUMNI ASSOCIATION **Marissa Ibarra, president, 2021-2022**

Marissa Ibarra graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene degree from UMKC in May of 2018. She has been working full-time in a private practice since she graduated. Marissa joined the UMKC Dental Hygiene Alumni Board right after graduation in 2018. She enjoys making connections with people in the community and tries to find volunteering opportunities whenever possible. She has volunteered at school dental screenings and summer camps, and participates in Adopt-A-Street. On the board, she heads the Community Service Committee and would love to bring more hands-on projects for the board to participate in.

As the president of the UMKC Dental Hygiene Alumni Board, Marissa's goals are to create close connections with recent graduates, alumni, and the Kansas City community. She looks forward to helping the board support our current students and graduates through scholarships, advice, and any other help needed. She looks forward to having in-person events again and making up for lost time. Her goal for the Midwest Dental Conference is to have a diverse line up of speakers, a Dental Hygiene Alumni Luncheon full of interactions, and creating a strong Dental Hygiene presence.



In the thick of fighting COVID

By GREG HACK

From screening the first citizens returning from overseas to the push to vaccinate Kansas City, UMKC dentistry has helped fight the pandemic

Above: The UMKC School of Dentistry family rose to the occasion in helping their communities during the COVID crisis.

Pandemics have a way of upending expectations.

Fortunately alumni, faculty and students of the UMKC School of Dentistry have a way of forging ahead regardless of obstacles and challenges, fulfilling the school's mission to serve society and care for patients.

That's how Michael McCuniff (DDS '83) in early 2020 ended up helping quarantine a planeload of passengers returning from Wuhan, China.

That's how Meghan Wendland, a new member of the faculty when the coronavirus hit, ended up arranging treatment for students with COVID-19, and then a year later training dozens of dental students to give pandemic-busting vaccines.

It's also how Tiara Fry, DDS Class of 2022, found herself learning to administer vaccines and then, along with McCuniff and Wendland and others from the school, inoculating members of the Kansas City and UMKC community.

So much for retirement

In February 2020, McCuniff thought he was easing toward retirement after taking emeritus status the previous spring. The longtime chair of the Department of Dental Public Health and Behavioral Science was working two days a week at the school, helping his successor and others in that department take over his previous duties.

When he joined the faculty in 1991, McCuniff brought several years in private practice and certification in public health dentistry to the school. For three decades he helped make public health a priority for the School of Dentistry, shaping and teaching the curriculum, arranging student rotations to urban and rural health clinics, and helping students find scholarships and placement in public health jobs.

McCuniff also pursued his interest in forensic dentistry and emergency response work as a member of the National Disaster Medical System and Missouri's State Emergency Management Team.

During the H1N1 pandemic, he was trained to run a quarantine operation, whether at an international border, a port or an airport. In February 2020, before

COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, he was called on to use those skills at Travis Air Force Base northeast of San Francisco.

"We were told we were going to be taking care of some Americans who were back from celebrating Chinese New Year in a little town in China called Wuhan," McCuniff said.

He was part of a team that tended to about 200 people who had been flown back to the United States on a chartered 747. Some had to be hospitalized, he said, and a few of them died. The majority fared better, though, housed in isolation in a hotel-like structure on the air base and monitored carefully by McCuniff and others.

"We were told we were going to be taking care of some Americans who were back from celebrating Chinese New Year in a little town in China called Wuhan."

— MICHAEL MCCUNIFF (DDS '83)

Rather than heading home when that first quarantined group did, McCuniff stayed at the base until early March for another assignment: Americans who had endured a long, fearful quarantine in Japan on the Diamond Princess cruise ship were coming back to the United States.

"These folks had already been through a lot," McCuniff said. "We set up different screening stations in a hangar, and I worked with a small team that included a physician from the Centers for Disease Control. We screened passengers who already appeared ill, almost certainly had COVID and were headed for hospitalization."

Every patient was carefully swabbed for possible evidence of the coronavirus. "Those swabs were like gold, in short supply at that time," McCuniff recalled, so they were quickly put into coolers and shipped to Atlanta for analysis at the CDC.

If the people returning from Wuhan had been happy and relieved to be released after their quarantine, the group from the cruise ship was positively overjoyed when its two weeks was over.

"The morning that they left, we were there at 4:30 in the morning, and I tell you they were ready to go," McCuniff said. "They truly appreciated everything we had tried to do for them. If anything about a pandemic can be fun, that was fun."

At his last federal quarantine assignment, at an air base outside Atlanta, he got a deeper appreciation of COVID-19's potential perils. A physician at the base said he had come from a posting in South Africa, where he had been working on

keeping the Ebola virus contained.

McCuniff said, "I knew then if we were pulling people off Ebola to work on COVID, well ..."

Back at the dental school, McCuniff was a key member of the COVID task force and led the committee charged with reopening the school safely for patients, faculty, staff and students. He spent hours reviewing CDC safety recommendations and incorporating them into the school's plans.

With his state emergency response team, McCuniff helped St. Louis establish a mobile morgue when the area's regular facilities were full. He also was part of COVID testings around the state and then mass vaccination events.

McCuniff said he "retired again" in June, going from part-time to adjunct status at the school. And when he has time apart from his work with the state task force and teaching public health courses

online for an Arizona university, he volunteers to give vaccinations in midtown Kansas City at the KC Care Health Center.

Lessons come to life

You also could find Meghan Wendland volunteering to give vaccines at that KC Care center earlier this year. Since joining the school in November 2019 as an assistant professor, Wendland has been building ties to such community institutions and looking for opportunities to give dental students more public health experience.

Wendland brought impressive credentials to UMKC, including a DDS from the University of Southern California and a master's in public health from Dartmouth, along with a residency at a federally qualified health clinic on the south side of Chicago. Just as important, she brought her passion for public health and health equity.

Wendland took over a heavy teaching load from McCuniff, from courses in ethics and professionalism, to dental behavioral science and public health. Besides surgical skills, she aims to give students the perspective and knowledge they will need to improve patients' overall health.

"I also help the students rotate through Score 1 for Health, a partnership with Kansas City University that provides health screenings in elementary schools," she said. When the pandemic curtailed in-person screenings, Wendland and her students adapted.

"Our elementary school partners really need those dental screenings to identify kids who have issues that need to be addressed," Wendland said. "We were able to run a really successful program using some intraoral cameras and training the school nurses to operate them."

Her dental students got valuable telehealth experience, teaming up remotely with the school nurses to conduct the elementary students' examinations. And they were able to see the importance of reaching into underserved communities, no matter the obstacles.

Wendland also faced challenges beyond adapting routines and course work to the pandemic's more online world.

"As a faculty member with a master's in public health, I was tasked with doing all the case management for any of our students who got COVID," Wendland said. "That was a heavy workload, but the pandemic changed everyone's workload and job description tremendously."

Wendland also made sure dental students could participate, along with students from the other health sciences schools, when the need arose for help with drive-up COVID-19 testings — and when federal legislation cleared the way for students in health sciences to administer COVID-19 vaccines.

With help from faculty at the School of Nursing and Health Studies, Wendland trained all of her third-year students and some fourth-years early in April, adding nearly 120 dental students to the pool of UMKC student vaccinators.

The students quickly were able to join in at Truman Medical Center and other vaccine sites, including on campus.

"We always talk about the importance of interprofessional education, of getting out of our silos, and the pandemic gave us real experience working with students from pharmacy, medicine and nursing," Wendland said.

Adding an unexpected skill

Tiara Fry, as a third-year dental student seeing patients, was vaccinated well before she was among the students in Wendland's vaccination training.

"I felt for those who were extremely afraid of needles," she said. "Many would tell me right before I gave the injection, so I tried my best to make them feel as comfortable as possible."

Fry, who chose dentistry "because I knew I wanted to help people," said she was glad to add giving vaccines to her skills for helping others.

"I was a little nervous the first few shots I gave," said Fry, a St. Louis native who got her undergraduate degree in molecular and cell biology at Rockhurst University in Kansas City. "But once I got comfortable with it, it was great! It felt amazing to be a part of diminishing the spread of a virus during a pandemic."

Fry has her sights set on a career as an orthodontist. "I've always admired the art and beauty of fixing someone's smile," she said, "and the problem-solving, math and physics" that orthodontic correction requires.

If she stays in general dentistry, however, Fry says she will consider working in public health, especially after her experience giving COVID-19 vaccines.

"I definitely felt warm inside knowing that I was contributing to a great cause," Fry said. "Dr. McCuniff and Dr. Wendland are two people who genuinely care about improving the scope of public health."

People might not have expected to find dentists, professors and dental

"I definitely felt warm inside knowing that I was contributing to a great cause."

— TIARA FRY, THIRD-YEAR DENTAL STUDENT

Being vaccinated was a massive relief for her, she said, and she hoped to share that relief with those she was able to vaccinate.

After the training, she soon was helping at a mass vaccination event at Pierson Auditorium on the UMKC campus.

students on the front lines in the pandemic. But they were there, from the first screenings of U.S. citizens returning from overseas to the most recent vaccination clinics in Kansas City. The UMKC School of Dentistry and its people have a way of upending expectations, too. ■



Getting a better grip: Inventions abound amongst the school's alumni including these patented dental instrument grips created by Dr. Melanie Simmer-Beck.

PRACTITIONERS CAN BE INNOVATORS TOO

The spirit of discovery is pushing the school's graduates to improve dental care and make a difference

By BRYCE PUNTENNEY

Throughout its history, the UMKC School of Dentistry has not only prepared the next generation of oral health care professionals, it has encouraged an innovative spirit among its graduates. Today, many still display this spirit of discovery, improving dental care and making a difference as both practitioners and innovators.

When the solution is your passion

While ergonomic instruments are more commonplace around today's modern dental chair, Melanie Simmer-Beck (DH '93, MS '04, Ph.D. '13)

remembers times when dental instruments were quite hard on the hands. And she had an invention she hoped would change that.

Working as a dental hygienist at a periodontal office in Overland Park, Kansas, much of her work consisted of treating acute dental issues, and the strain on her hands was taking a toll.

"Most of the tools back then were heavy, and I started to learn that there are a lot of musculoskeletal issues in the dental field," Simmer-Beck said. "It was my physical therapist that said, 'You know, isn't there some way to make the handles bigger?'"

It turned out she wasn't the only hygienist at the practice having issues, and soon, she and a co-worker got to work on a DIY solution. They tried out materials from a local plumbing supply store — some thick rubber tubing to cushion the grip handles of dental instruments — and that certainly helped. But it came with drawbacks.

"Our boss felt it was pretty unsightly," Simmer-Beck said, "and, to be honest, the thick rubber material kind of stunk up the place."

It wasn't long before Simmer-Beck's spirit of innovation took over and they got serious about filling this missing

piece in the marketplace. They reached out to a patent attorney and lined up a vendor to manufacture the grips. They also found an out-of-state car parts manufacturer that could produce the molds needed to make the grips. The finished product was a soft foam tube of varying sizes and colors that could be slipped onto the grip of a dental instrument.

According to Simmer-Beck, working with the manufacturer was an unexpected roller coaster ride. Although the car parts company was able to produce enough grips for getting initial orders out to dental professionals, the company went bankrupt and she found the mold for her grips had disappeared with the company.

Already a year into the process — and with a buyer lined up for the rights to market the grips — Simmer-Beck was still committed to her invention. “So, I was coming home every day after work and packaging up the grips to mail out to people,” she said. “After I sold the rights to the grips, the buyer was able to work out getting another mold. He is still selling them to this day!”

Ultimately, all the perseverance needed to see her invention through had a silver lining — it brought her back to UMKC. She brought some of the grips back to the school to show them off to the faculty. It was Cynthia Amyot (DH ’92, MS ’93, PhD ’03), then the director of the Division of Dental Hygiene, who asked what kind of research she had done on the grips. “I had done some,” Simmer-Beck said, “but now looking back, I’m almost embarrassed at what I thought was research back then.”

Amyot asked if Simmer-Beck had ever considered a master’s degree because her research would make for a great thesis. That encouragement was all it took. “I went home to my husband and told him, ‘Hey, I think I’m going to get my master’s degree.’”

Simmer-Beck has been a full-time faculty member and researcher at UMKC ever since, teaching continuously since 2004. She’s even gone back for her Ph.D.



Keith Robinson (DDS '74) with his PPE invention.

“I chose UMKC because I knew it would be rigorous and would emphasize critical thinking and perseverance,” said Simmer-Beck. “The school isn’t just training hygienists for the dental office alone, it’s training them to be leaders in the field nationwide.”

An idea worth revisiting

For Keith Robinson (DDS ’74) a good idea is always worth revisiting, even if it’s a couple decades later. He’s now serving patients as a maxillofacial prosthodontist in Texas, but back in 1985, Robinson was completing his fellowship at the MD Anderson Cancer Center where he was treating incredibly sick patients all day, every day. Working in that type of environment got him thinking about better ways to keep germs from spreading and

infections at a minimum.

Though precautions were taken, Robinson believed more could be done for better protection. “Whatever my patients put in the air,” he said, “I was wearing it on me somewhere, but mostly on my face.”

The medical-grade masks that health care providers wear offered a good start, but Robinson wanted something patients could wear during exams. What began to percolate in his head was a prototype for what would become single-use, suction-based personal protective equipment (PPE) using tubing. He did some research, drew up what he envisioned and even started working to create preliminary models.

Eventually, life got in the way and Robinson shelved the idea. “When you’re young, you think you’re

bulletproof, and it's not until you get older you realize that's not the case," he said.

When the global COVID pandemic hit, Robinson found the motivation needed to finally see his invention through to fruition. For the past year, he's been working with a manufacturer to perfect his innovative approach to PPE: a suction-based, hybrid mask made of tubing that fits below the nose, encircling the mouth of the patient. The device works to remove respiratory pathogens transmitted through the air. They are now testing a fully functional model called the CloudEvac.

Robinson credits his father for his tinkering mindset. When he was little, his dad worked on early computer systems and would bring home all kinds of equipment. He would put these mechanical pieces on the table and start explaining to Robinson what each did.

"I didn't even know it was happening," said Robinson, "but now I know he was implanting in me an inventive mind."

Ask and ye shall receive

Baron Grutter (DDS '10) takes the label "power user" to a different level. For nearly a decade, in addition to seeing patients, he's been work-

When it comes to digital technology, Grutter says he "never had any reservations about asking questions and getting help from others. I also found that I really enjoyed sharing those answers with others and helping them with troubleshooting."

Grutter's interest in computer programming goes back to his undergraduate years when he took a computer programming class, "not because I needed to, but just for fun." His father was an electrical engineer, so he's always had an appreciation for the engineering side of things.

That interest helped him make his choice of dental schools, as well. He is originally from Michigan and did his undergrad at a small university in Iowa, so he had a number of states he could consider for dental school. But it was UMKC's early adoption of chair-side, comprehensive electronic patient records that made his decision easy.

"It was that digital mindset and a personal characteristic that linked me to UMKC," said Grutter. "When I knew the dental school had gone digital before anyone else, I thought, 'Well this is me.'"

In the last few years, he's taken on a more formal role with the aligner software company Blue Sky, serving as a project manager and working almost daily to test new program revi-

of long emails, they said, "You know, why don't you just join our team?"

His new responsibilities have allowed him to cut back on the days he's seeing patients. On his off days, he's frequently still in the office, but spends time running dental cases through software and jotting down notes for one of his aforementioned lengthy emails.

"This wasn't something I envisioned myself getting involved with," said Grutter. "But bridging the gap between clinical treatments and digital planning fits well with how my brain works."

When Robinson's not working on software, he is working on his lecture materials for the classes he offers to fellow dentists to help with technology adoption, among other things. He jokes, "I'm pretty much active every other hour that I'm not sleeping."

Helping others is a key component to his interest in technology — whether it's for his patients or other dentists — and he's quick to offer encouragement to those in the profession.

"You don't have to be really good with technology to embrace it," said Grutter. "You do have to be ready to open yourself up to asking questions and seeking out help."

It is that spirit of inquiry that led each of these innovative practitioners

"You don't have to be really good with technology to embrace it. You do have to be ready to open yourself up to asking questions and seeking out help."

— BARON GRUTTER (DDS '10)

ing directly with dental technology companies to help perfect their technology and products. From companies providing implant planning to orthodontic aligners, many organizations took notice of his innovative ideas to improve their products.

sions and tools. The company initially approached Grutter and five other dental professionals to test out software they had already created.

"I'm not a man of few words, and I'm known to send highly detailed emails," said Grutter. "After about nine months

to challenge existing practices and to seek out ways to improve dentistry as a whole. For the UMKC School of Dentistry, cultivating that innovative spirit in each generation of dental practitioners is critical to the advancement of oral health care. ■

2021 Alumni Award Winners

THE SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY is proud of our 2021 Alumni Achievement Award winners. This honor annually recognizes outstanding alumni for lifelong commitment to the profession, the community and the school. Recipients were recognized at a UMKC campus-wide, virtual celebration on April 16, 2021.



UMKC ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - DENTAL

Dr. Nick Rogers (DDS '78)

It is easy to see that Dr. Nick Rogers, a 1978 graduate, has a passion for people. It is shown not only through the care of his patients, but also through his service to his community. Rogers has practiced dentistry in Arkansas City, Kansas, for over 40 years. The practice has grown to include Rogers' son and daughter-in-law, both UMKC School of Dentistry graduates. During his time there, he saw a need to improve the access of dental care for children, especially those in rural Kansas. He has advocated to ensure the water in his community was fluoridated, helped secure grant funding to start the Tiny Teeth dental program and Head Start program, and provided dental care at the regional hospital for children that required sedation for treatments.

In addition to his contributions to his community, Rogers has also served as a strong voice for dentists in Kansas. He has held multiple leadership positions in the Southern District Dental Society, participated on multiple Kansas Dental Association (KDA) committees and advisory boards, and most recently served as the KDA president in 2017-18. Rogers is also the only general dentist to serve on the Board of Trustees for the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and has served as president of the academy's foundation. In addition to all these activities, Rogers continues to find the time to support the UMKC School of Dentistry through service on the Rinehart Board and as a constant, smiling presence at UMKC School of Dentistry events.



UMKC ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - DENTAL HYGIENE

Cindy Sensabaugh (MSDH '15)

Cindy Sensabaugh graduated from the Master of Science program in Dental Hygiene Education in 2015. During her education, she presented her research nationally, was published in a peer-reviewed journal and was also inducted into the dental hygiene honorary society, Sigma Phi Alpha.

Early in her career, Sensabaugh practiced clinical dental hygiene which led her to serve as the clinical director for Special Olympics and part-time faculty at Valencia Community College in Florida. Sensabaugh's interests grew and she turned towards the corporate world.

Sensabaugh now oversees professional education and academic relations in her role as a senior manager at Philips Consumer Lifestyle. An experienced professional education manager, she previously served as a senior account executive at Procter & Gamble and manager for clinical research, education and professional relations at Dentsply Professional. She is a past president of Sigma Phi Alpha and has contributed articles to the *Journal of Dental Hygiene and Access*, an American Dental Hygienists Association magazine. Sensabaugh's contributions have made a profound impact on professional education and we are proud to recognize her.

Class Notes

Classes of the 1960s

Leland Carlson (DDS '61) has been married to wife, Eileen, for 60 years last December. Their health is good and they are living in a villa in Friendship Village in Chesterfield, Missouri.

Mervyn Chang (DDS '66) is semi-retired and has diplomat status. He enjoys golfing, biking and hiking. He has climbed Mount Everest, Mount Kilimanjaro, Mount Kailash in Tibet, Mount Jomolhari in Bhutan and Mount Whitney in California.

Rudolph E. Dittich (DDS '66) is still working three days a week and enjoying it.

John Hughes (DDS '66) retired in 2019.

Eric Johnson (DDS '66) retired at age 70 from orthodontic practice. He's playing golf and traveling some. He has six grandchildren and has been married to his wife, Becky, for 53 years.

William Marley (DDS '66) received patent #7942670B2 for locking screw heads of implant screws to prevent loosening.

Michael Milford (DDS '66) retired in 2010 and moved to St. George, Utah, in 2016. He plays golf and says he and his wife are doing fairly well and enjoy having family that live within four hours of them.

Bill Ramlow (DDS '66, ORTHO '73) is living in Columbia, Missouri, and spending winters in Mexico.

Peter Robinson (DDS '66) is actively teaching at the University of Illinois College of Dentistry as a clinical professor in periodontics on a volunteer basis.

Herschel Stroud (DDS '61) has been playing (sounding) taps for Honor Guard for military funerals.

James Whitehead's (DDS '61) wife passed in December 2018.

Stephen Zacker (DDS '66) did not marry until age 60. He has three beautiful granddaughters and retired in 2017.

Classes of the 1970s

Nancy Bruns Theiling (BSDH '74) retired after 46 years of practicing dental hygiene, all at the original practice where she started in St. Louis. She has worked for three dentists and has enjoyed working over the years with many families that are still patients.

William Cook (DDS '71, ORTHO '74) is enjoying retirement and raising angus cattle.

Ronald Finley (DDS '76) retired in June 2017.

Larry Hargreaves (DDS '71) is still working two offices full time.

Del Hiesterman (DDS '76) has traveled to South Africa, Poland and Italy since the last class reunion.

Dalton Hunt (DDS '76) is still practicing full time and living on his "farmette."

Jay Joern (DDS '76) sold his practice in 2016, sold the medical building in 2020 and is now enjoying seeing patients three days a week. "Dentistry is my hobby and I love it!"

Kenneth Koenke (DDS '76) and wife, Judi, live in coastal Maine. He retired from the U.S. Air Force in 2005 and moved to Maine. He worked in a dental office for five years and retired.

Douglas Miller (DDS '71) and his wife, Jody, are fine and living in Arkansas. They are sailing when possible. He still works part-time and enjoys it. "Stay in touch."

Edward Mitchell (DDS '71) retired from the U.S. Army in 2006 at the rank of colonel. He is board certified by the American Board of General Dentistry and Certifying Board of General Dentistry.

Randy Reed (DDS '71) is happily retired in paradise since 2010.

Robert Thousand (DDS '76) is still working, sailing, boating, flying and fishing.

Daniel Trampe (DDS '76) retired in 1995.

Richard Worley (DDS '71) enjoyed winter boating in Florida on a 36-foot Carver Motor Yacht named "2thDoc."

Classes of the 1980s

William (Billy) Booth (DDS '81) sold his practice and retired August 1, 2014. He became a grandpa in 2018 and again in 2020. He spends time golfing, fishing and playing music. He had a part in a TV commercial in 2019, playing the part of a retired golfer ... no stretch there. He only had one speaking line but had a blast doing it.

Robert Collinge (DDS '81) sold his practice in 2016 and taught at the Missouri School of Dentistry and Oral Health from 2013 to 2020. He retired as an assistant professor effective November 2020. A new dentist that he helped train is now the new owner of his old practice. God is good!

John Michael Cornali (DDS '81) specialized in orthodontics at Loma Linda University from 1999-2001. He retired from dentistry/orthodontics in December 2020 and sold his practice to Andrew McDonald (ORTHO '16).

David Farley (DDS '81) and his wife are on a new journey raising a puppy (a Bernese Mountain Dog) named Duke. He still sees classmates several times a year.

Craig Herre (DDS '81) just served two years as vice president of the American Dental Association. He continues in private practice with his son, Tim (DDS '04), in Leawood, Kansas.

G. Robert Huffstutter (DDS '81) is still working full time at his family dental practice in West Monroe, Louisiana. He is also teaching dental hygiene students at the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Lynn Kinderknecht (DDS '86) is still practicing full time with his son Jon (DDS '12). Four children have given him and his wife nine grandchildren. He's looking forward to some travel when things open up again.

Lynn Murray (DDS '81) sold her practice in October 2020, which gives her more time with her adorable granddaughter Arya.

Bill Patton (DDS '81) retired from the U.S. Army as a colonel in 2005 and retired from practice in 2015. He enjoys attending classic car shows and being a grandparent.

David Petrik (DDS '81) had been practicing in the Colorado cities of Englewood and Aurora for 10 years. He decided to move to Tampa Bay, Florida where he still practices — mostly on retired patients. He enjoys the Florida waterfront lifestyle, living on the eighth floor of a high-rise building with boat slips. His favorite pastime is walking the sunset on the gulf, eating at waterfront restaurants with friends and still snow skiing — especially since his son lives in Colorado. He loves being a granddad! He remembers all the great parties in Kansas City — disco dancing and XL 3-man gator roll. God bless all!

Randy Sollenberger (DDS '81) retired in February 2020.

John Tabash (DDS '81) retired in 2015. He has two grandchildren: William (2 years old) and Caroline (1 year old). He has been married for 35 years to Mary, whom he met during his orthodontic residency, and has lived a blessed life.

John (Jack) Thousand III (DDS '81) and his son John Thousand IV (CU Dental School), a periodontist, bought R. Thousand's (DDS '75) practice in St. Augustine, Florida. His son Daniel Thousand (CU Dental School) is a periodontist partner in Denver, Colorado. Jack sold his partnership in Denver in November 2018 and has been working at VA Truman in Columbia, Missouri.

David Tongate (DDS '81) will mark this summer as his 40th year in practice. He has three children and five grandchildren. His hobbies include travel and gardening.

Ron Wright (DDS '81) retired three years ago. He has been married to his wife, Pamela, for 32 years, has three grown, married children and three grandchildren who are 13, 13 and 12 years old.

Classes of the 1990s

Jim Dixon (DDS '96) just celebrated 16 years of practice in Liberty, Missouri, where he works with his wife, Leigh Anne (BSDH '02). They have four children — ages 20, 17, 10 and 8 — who keep them busy with all their activities.

Will Giannobile (DDS '91) took on the role as the 11th dean of the Harvard School of Dental Medicine on September 1, 2020. His wife, Angela, and son, Anthony (age 20), are doing well.

Classes of the 2000s

Jim Craig (DDS '06) is married with six children.

David Keim (DDS '01) served six years as lieutenant commander in the United States Public Health Service. He is past president for the Montana Dental Association, dental director for the Shepherd's Hand Free Dental

Clinic and state chair for Donated Dental Service Montana. He has been in private practice for 16 years and has four boys ages 16, 14, 11 and 8.

Robert Moeller (DDS '06) is married to his wife, Kim, and has four children: Huck, Crosby, Georgia and Archer. He graduated in 2009 from the University of Louisville Periodontology Residency and started a practice in 2010 in Salina, Kansas. He was Board Certified by the American Board of Periodontology in 2009.

Sally Powell (DDS '01) has been married to husband, Russ, for 22 years. Their twin girls are juniors in high school and starting to look at colleges. She was awarded the AGD Fellowship in 2020.

Mark Tindall (DDS '01) is married to his wife, Jennifer (DDS '03), and has three daughters: Tatum (15), Talia (13) and Taizley (10).

Classes of the 2010s

Koby Ferguson (DDS '11) was married in 2017. He completed his residency in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in 2018, graduating from Naval Medical Center San Diego. He has two sons born in 2018 and 2020.

Jordan Haedt (DDS '16) has a son, Forrest James, who was born June 18, 2020.

Caylin (Slavin) McCullough (DDS '16) has married since graduation and has spent the last four years in the Air Force. She recently separated from the military and started an orthodontic residency at the Medical University of South Carolina.

Michael Menolascino (DDS '11) has children ages 4, 2 and 1. He lives in Glendale, Missouri.

Andrea Morris (DDS '11) accepted the role as dental director serving the HIV community at a brand new clinic. She shares that a documentary *The Case Died With Her* came out in December regarding her sister. Andrea is enjoying life, still playing music and involved in

local politics. She will be pushing reform for legislation regarding sex abuse cases. She has a happy, large dog and cat and is looking forward to getting into building development on the side in St. Louis.

Nectarious Pavlakos (DDS '16) is now married to wife, Markella, and has a newborn, Vasilios. He currently works part time in private practice and part time at AEGD at the University of New Mexico. He received nominations for Albuquerque's best dentist and received a faculty excellence award at University of New Mexico.

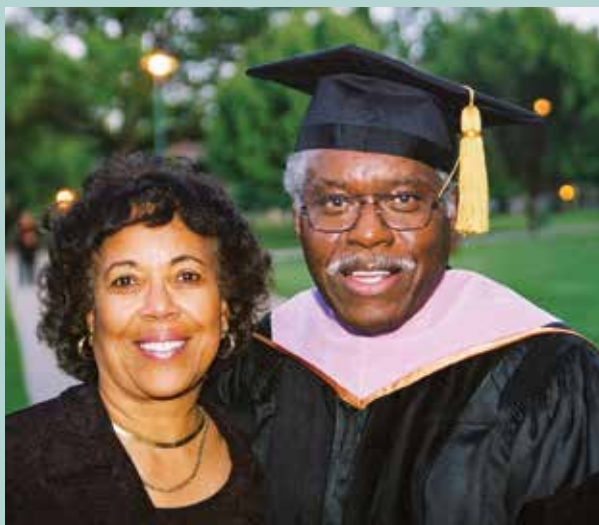
Grant Snider (DDS '11) and his wife, Kayla, are expecting their fifth child. He continues to write and illustrate books in addition to working as an orthodontist at Derby Orthodontics.

Micah Snyder (DDS '11), mom to Asher (born 2013), is the owner and sole dentist at Precision Dental in Lee's Summit, Missouri (opened June 2014 as a start-up practice).

Correction

Cleo Van Amburg (DDS '72) was mistakenly reported as deceased in the Summer 2020 edition of the Explorer. He reports he is alive and well at the Lake of the Ozarks with his wife Kathie. He has four children and three grandchildren. While Cleo is not dead, he claims his golf game is on life support.

Leaving a lasting legacy



Dr. Tom Jones (DDS '66) was the second African American accepted at the UMKC School of Dentistry and graduated with his Doctorate of Dental Surgery in 1966. He was a captain in the United States Air Force and spent his career serving and practicing in the Kansas City, Kansas, community. He also served as the team dentist for the professional basketball team the Kansas City Kings.

He was a part-time faculty member at the School of Dentistry for many years and joined full time in 1995, continuing with the school through 2011. He took many students and colleagues on annual dental mission trips to Venezuela, Honduras and Mexico. He was a strong advocate of the UMKC School of Dentistry and was always recruiting and mentoring future dentists. Those at the school remember his smile, laugh, positivity and storytelling.



Dr. Ron Riley (DDS '64) initially practiced general dentistry and later the specialty of endodontics in Wichita, Kansas, for 38 years. History will remember Riley as the first board certified endodontist to practice in the state of Kansas. Following retirement from practice in 2002, he began a second career at the school as a clinical associate professor in endodontics. He served UMKC for 16-plus years. He was the recipient of many honors including the David A. Moore Excellence in Teaching Award and was selected as instructor of the year by his students. He was recognized as Distinguished Teacher every year of his teaching career and helped to train over 2,000 students in endodontics.

In memoriam

Dr. Mark A. Andregg (DDS '92)
 Dr. L. Taylor Bahn (DDS '82)
 Dr. Eric Boyd (DDS '06)
 Dr. Eugene Michael Butel (DDS '78)
 Dr. Halburt L. Dewell (DDS '62)
 Dr. Chet D. Eastin (DDS '62, ORTH '64)
 Dr. James D. Fredrick (DDS '60)
 Dr. William R. Glasgow (DDS '56)
 Dr. Lawrence M. Graham (DDS '47)

Dr. David V. Honeycutt (DDS '71)
 Dr. Eugene C. Jarus (DDS '61)
 Dr. Paul K. Kincaid (DDS '45)
 Dr. Karl Keith Kreth (DDS '58)
 Dr. Robert R. Lacroix (PROS '78)
 Dr. David M. Mitchell (DDS '67)
 Dr. Fred E. Norton (DDS '64)
 Dr. Turner L. Peck (DDS '73)
 Dr. Walden R. Peterson (DDS '58)

Dr. Richard W. Radke (DDS '55, ORTHO '57)
 Dr. Bruce E. Ratcliff Jr. (DDS '57)
 Dr. Ron Riley (DDS '64)
 Dr. James S. Torchia (DDS '57, ORTHO '59)
 Ms. Rita Glover Watson (MA '71)
 Dr. Donald T. Yoshizumi (DDS '60)
 Dr. William R. Zagar (DDS '65)

Scholarship Par-tee!

GOLFERS ENJOYED a fantastic day on the course June 4 at the 21st annual UMKC Dental Alumni Scholarship Golf Tournament. This year's tournament took participants to WinterStone Golf Club in Independence, Missouri. As always, golfers were treated to food, fun and some antics by way of wingspan drawings, hole contests and a few mulligans.

The Alumni Scholarship Golf Tournament has awarded more than \$260,000 in individual scholarships to UMKC School of Dentistry students. Thanks go to the steering committee, led once again by Dr. Joe Spalitto, which included Dr. Chad Barth, Dr. Reese Graue and Dr. Michael McCunniff.

Thank you to all of the players and sponsors for a great day of golf raising money for student scholarships. Don't miss out next year as we celebrate the 23rd year of the Dental Alumni Scholarship Golf Tournament.



Visit the Dental Alumni and School of Dentistry Facebook pages and the school webpage at dentistry.umkc.edu to enjoy more photos from this and other alumni events.

Delta Sigma Delta

THIS PAST YEAR the school's Nu Chapter of Delta Sigma Delta was host to the honor society's annual regional meeting. The meeting allows members from chapters around the region to meet and tour school facilities. With the hard work of last year's Nu Chapter president, Megan Yamaguchi (DDS '21), and the rest of the executive board, the Delta Sigs received the prestigious Barry Baumann Annual Regional Meeting Award for overall chapter participation, outstanding execution and promotion of knowledge and fraternalism in Delta Sigma Delta.



Delta Sigma Delta award ceremony

American Student Dental Association

THE SCHOOL'S CHAPTER of the American Student Dental Association held Diversity and Inclusion Week in February in conjunction with its regional district. The event celebrated diversity and encouraged conversation around diversity issues. Some highlights of the week were interactive sessions with Laila Hishaw (DDS '00), alumna and pediatric dentist in Tucson, Arizona, and Dr. Meghan Wendland, assistant professor in the Department of Dental Public Health and Behavioral Science.



Faculty Award Nominee Doug Pearson (DDS '77)

Faculty Award Nomination

EACH YEAR, the graduating Dental and Dental Hygiene Classes are asked to select a faculty member to honor whom the class deems as most influential on their dental education. We are pleased to include the nominating remarks made by Dental Class of 2021 President, Cassandra Shannon, at the class's hooding and honors event:

The faculty member our class has nominated consistently goes above and beyond for all students. They are the first member on the clinic floor to welcome the inexperienced and nervous third-year students and the last one to make sure you have all requirements completed as we try to rush out of the doors upon graduation. This faculty is commonly seen sticking around clinic late in the afternoons. During any given clinic session, it is not uncommon to see this faculty member working with a student on an initial comprehensive exam, another student on an operative competency, another student on a crown prep, another student on a denture and will even gladly check your prophy if you ask!

Despite all that has happened with the clinic due to COVID, it has been a true blessing that almost everyone in my class had the wonderful opportunity to work with this faculty member. To wrap up this award, here are some direct quotes from my class:

"This faculty is the calming presence that is necessary to have in the clinic."

"Extremely knowledgeable, patient, and is very good at teaching real practical skills."

"Goes above and beyond always. Never tells you that they can't help you."

"The best ever. Thank you."

"MVP."

On behalf of my class, I am elated to present this award to Dr. Doug Pearson (DDS '77), Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Restorative Clinical Sciences at the UMKC School of Dentistry!

Paying Tribute to Retirees With Nearly 150 Years of Combined Service

FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS shared a virtual farewell hosted by Interim Dean Russ Melchert on February 4. Supervisors and friends noted accomplishments and memorable anecdotes about those retiring, who had nearly 150 years of combined service to the school. Those retiring also had the opportunity to share thoughts on their service and plans. Those honored, and their titles and areas:

Romualdo (Roy) Abella (35 years)

Dental equipment specialist
Dental Maintenance

Sharon Codilla (38 years)

Senior dental assistant
Dental Faculty Practice

Dr. Gary McReynolds (DDS '72, 39 years)

Clinical associate professor
Department of Restorative Clinical Sciences

Lynn Prine (8 years)

Senior dental assistant
*Radiology Clinic, Department of Oral Pathology,
Radiology and Medicine*

Dr. Richard Prine (DDS '73, 26 years)

Clinical associate professor
Department of Restorative Clinical Sciences



New faculty



Dr. Michelle Briner has joined the faculty as an assistant professor in the Department of Oral Pathology, Radiology and Medicine. She received her DDS in 2015 and certificate in dental aesthetics in 2016 at the Universidad de Los Andes, Chile. In 2020, she graduated from the University of Florida as an oral and maxillofacial radiology specialist.



Dr. Todd Brower has joined the faculty as a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Restorative Clinical Sciences. He received his DDS degree from the UMKC School of Dentistry in 1989 and had a private family general dentistry practice for 30 years at multiple locations in Lee's Summit and Kansas City, Missouri. He earned a master's degree in philosophical-theological studies in 2011 from the Saint Meinrad School of Theology in Indiana. He was an adjunct assistant professor at the UMKC School of Dentistry from 2019 to 2021.



Dr. Harlan Hassen received his DDS degree from the UMKC School of Dentistry in 1981. He was in solo private practice in North Kansas City from 1981 until joining the Department of Restorative Clinical Sciences as a clinical associate professor in February.



Dr. Jorge Vera-Rojas has joined the faculty as a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Endodontics. In 1989 he received his DDS from the National Autonomous University of Mexico, a certificate in endodontics from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in Boston in 1993 and a master's in science from the Yury Kuttler Institute of Advanced Education in Mexico in 2019.



Dr. Timothy Luke Wezeman has joined the faculty as a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Restorative Clinical Sciences. He received a master's degree in teaching in 1999, after which he taught middle and high school students for five years before attending New York University's College of Dentistry, where he graduated in 2008 with his DDS.

Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

Christina Baker (DH '13) was elected vice president of the Supreme (National) Chapter of Sigma Phi Alpha National Dental Hygiene Honor Society.

Profs. Christina Baker (DH '13) and **Tanya Mitchell (DH '95, MS '01)** presented a poster, "Student and Faculty Perceptions of a Virtual Clinic – Progressing Students' Clinical Skills During a Pandemic," at the virtual ADEA Allied Program Directors Conference.

Richie Bigham, assistant dean for student programs, was recently elected to a three-year term as Councilor for the ADEA Section for Dental School Admissions Officers.



Dr. Tim Cox, professor, Department of Oral and Craniofacial Sciences, was an author, with others, on two articles:

A dyadic approach to the delineation of diagnostic entities in clinical genomics. *American Journal of Human Genetics* 108(1): 8-15. doi.org/10.1016/j.ajhg.2020.11.013.

A GWAS in Latin Americans identifies novel face shape loci, implicating VPS13B and a Denisovan introgressed region in facial variation. *Science Advances*. Online ahead of print. Feb 5, 2021. 10.1126/sciadv.abc6160.

Dr. Sarah Dallas, professor, Department of Oral and Craniofacial Sciences was named a Distinguished Curators' Professor.



Dr. Kenneth Frick (DDS '86), director of the Advanced Education Program in Endodontics, is the president of the College of Diplomates of the American Board of Endodontics, and the chair of the American Association of Endodontists Standing Committee on Membership Services, a two-year position. Dr. Frick also continues as a consultant to the Commission on Dental Accreditation, conducting site visits for Advanced Education Programs going under accreditation review.

Dr. Lorie Holt (DH '93, MS '97, PhD '20), associate professor and director of the Degree Completion Program, and **Associate Prof. Tanya Mitchell (DH '95, MS '01)**, director, both of the Division of Dental Hygiene, presented "We Can Change: Rethinking e-Portfolios in Assessing Student Competencies" at the virtual ADEA Annual Session in March 2021.

Dr. Jean-Marc Retrouvey, professor and chair, Department of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, is among the authors of a book, *3D Diagnosis and Treatment Planning in Orthodontics*, a first on the subject.

Dr. Melanie Simmer-Beck (DH '94, MS '04, PhD '13), professor and chair, Department of Dental Public Health and Behavioral Science, has been named a Missouri State Champion for the 100 Million Mouths project.



Assistant Professor Julie Sutton

Asst. Prof. Julie Sutton, Division of Dental Hygiene, received the UMKC Chancellor's Award for Community Engagement.

Dr. Rebeca Weisleder, chair, Department of Endodontics, has been elected as secretary for the ADEA Section on Endodontics for the 2021-2022 term. The secretary assumes the roles of chair-elect and chair in the following years.

UMKC Commencement 2021 - In Person At Last

AFTER A YEAR of caution and sacrifice, UMKC and the School of Dentistry celebrated their Class of 2021 with live-streamed and in-person events. Dental hygiene and doctor of dental surgery students attended their live graduation at Kauffman Stadium.

Graduation followed a hooding ceremony for the DDS class near the World War I Memorial. The dental hygiene class had its own special event as well, its Senior Scholarship Day (more information on the following page).



Doctor of Dental Surgery

Timothey Edward Albright
Faisal Alenezi
Shurouk Majed Alkharabsheh
Abbey Michelle Allen
Rebecca Ruth Alumbaugh
Katie Elizabeth Andersen
Ramin Aris
Edward James Bagtas
Alandrah Nichole Bailey
Charles Stewart Bakula
Tyler Austin Bare
Raghad Behbehani
Mohammed H. Ben Eid
Taylor Renee Bieniek
Jay Praful Bhakta
Samantha Cherie Bornaman
Lyndzie Nicole Brace
Magdalena Bronakowska
Andrew Stephen Buckner
Brock Kinsey Buzbee
Hannah Denise Cabe
Alaina Jo Calabrese
Maris Estelle Calvert
Megan Elizabeth Casserly
Wesley Carl Christiansen
Tara Lynn Craven
Carlos Criss
Matthew Dale Darrow
Anthony Patrick Diskin
Stanton Ulysses Dotson

Alexandra Lynn Dunton
James Joseph DuPree
Christina Marie Fangman
Sarah Elizabeth Flowers
Abigail Renee Frazier
Meredith Mariel Gomes
Rachael Anna Gore
John Austin William Griffith
Yiou Guo
Adam C. Hallam
Anne Marie McCoy Haman
Kyle Jeffrey Hampton
Cory Alexander Hansen
Nathan L. Haverkamp
Michelle Lynn Hendrix
Ryan Anthony Hough
Aaron Edward Santos Howard
Meagan Nicole Huenergardt
Emily Ann Hutchinson
Sadaf Imran
Hannah Marie Ingram
Francisco Inzunza Santiago
Carson Ann Jett
Geoffrey Kerns
Kim Nhung Thi Kha
Alyssa Catherine Kieschnick
Jourdan Lynne Kilthau
Kristi Chiao Ting Koyanagi
Kole Robert Lopez
Megan Luke

Elizabeth Erin Lukens
Seyyed Mahmoudjafari
Vincent David Markovitz
Jaime Kika Masunaga
Severin Lydell McCoy
Benjamin McGowan
Briana Fehlig Menolascino
Taylor Michelson
Stephanie Ann Miller-Greer
Elizabeth Belle Mitchell
Nicole Kaenie Moberly
Bryson Yoshio Nakatani
Tanner James Neeland
Jodi Nguyen
Paraskevi Panousis
Bhavin Jitendra Parbhu
Vishal Parmar
Sophiah Njeri Penda
Chad Wendell Phillips
Yasmeen Mahmoud Qadi
Chase Victor Quattrocchi
Victoria Margaret Ratcliffe
Paloma Reyes
Izad Riaz

Vincent Nicholas Riggio
Madison Riggs
Chandler Logan Robertson
Elliott Patrick Romo
Caleb Mitchell Ruth
Chelsey Lynn Ruth
Amy Brienne Schmiegelow
Cassandra Marie Shannon
Carson Leigh Shannon
Micayla Marie Shrimpton
Jenna Shuler
Manpreet Singh
Harrison Baker Smith
Greyson Paul Spriggs
Kyle Gilbert Stallbaumer
Luca Trooien-Smith
Zachary Mark Vogel
Aaron Daniel White
Nathan Clark Wilcoxson
Joshua G. Wilhelm
Gage Jonathan Williams
Megan Katsuko Yamaguchi
Jacob Overton Young

FACULTY DDS CANDIDATES

Gloria Juliana Redford₁
Pierluigi Balice₃

Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene

Diana Carol Atchley
Catherine Elizabeth Baker
Morgan Ashleigh Bruce
Addison Barbara Cornett
Abby Nicole Eskina
Dannah Rose Hartwig
Christina Nicole Hasiotis
Paige Elizabeth Heitman

Bailey R. Howard
Aris M. Lamont
Darby A. Lewis
Brianna Christina Mitchaner
Emily Grace Murray
Kathleen N. Nguyen
Carly Jean Offerdahl
Janine Soledad Osorio

Sarah Elizabeth Pierce
Angel Dawn Potts
Addison N. Quinlan
Allison N. Russell
Casey N. Schrader
Ashlie Ann Shields
Carlie Rae Slover
Marissa Kay Soule

Sydney Kaylee Trout
Bre'A Cierra Williams
Ashley Nicole Wilson
Faith Elizabeth Wright
Courtney Michele Zulpo



Senior Scholarship Day

THE ANNUAL SENIOR Scholarship Day celebrated the accomplishments of the Class of 2021 with awards and special presentations. Because of social distancing requirements, this year's live-streamed event was held prior to Commencement. Congratulations to all of this year's recipients!

Dean's Academic Distinction Award

Katie Baker

Faculty Award

Christina Baker

Academy of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities Award

Emily Murray

American Association of Public Health Dentistry Association of Public Health Dentistry Award

Janine Osorio

Colgate Oral Pharmaceuticals Star Award

Brianna Mitchaner

Golden Scaler Award sponsored by the Hu-Friedy Co.

Abby Eskina

Missouri Dental Hygienists' Association Award

Katie Baker

Dental Hygienists' Alumni Association Sherry Burns Outstanding Clinician Award

Addison Quinlan

R. Lois Scott Scholarship

Nursyuhada Huq

Sigma Phi Alpha Annual Chapter Scholarship

Brandie Simonsen

Procter and Gamble Crest Oral B Preventive Dentistry Hygiene Award

Cinthia Ramos



Graduate Degrees

ORAL AND CRANIOFACIAL SCIENCES M.S. DEGREE

Burt Kawamoto, D.D.S., M.S.₁
Collin Schlosser, D.D.S., M.S.₁
Kendall Tada, D.D.S., M.S.₁

DENTAL HYGIENE EDUCATION M.S. DEGREE

Laura Hettinger, M.S.₃
Lori Carlson, M.S.₃



Advanced Education Dental Certificates

ADVANCED EDUCATION IN GENERAL DENTISTRY

William Atchison, D.D.S.₃
Aliah Emory, D.D.S.₃
Afreena Khan, D.D.S.₃

ENDODONTICS

Jamie Ball, D.D.S.₃
Niraj Patel D.D.S.₃

ORTHODONTICS AND DENTOFACIAL ORTHOPEDICS

Burt Kawamoto, D.D.S.₁
Collin Schlosser, D.D.S.₁
Kendall Tada, D.D.S.₁

1-Graduates-Fall 2020
2-Graduates-Spring 2021
3-Graduates-Summer 2021

Hoarding Ceremony

THIS YEAR'S Hoarding Ceremony at Liberty Memorial was made all the more special by the Legacy Hooders, family members of the graduates who are alumni of the school.

NAME	FAMILY HOODER	RELATIONSHIP
Timothey Albright	Dr. Tom Taylor (DDS '52)	Grandfather
Brock Buzbee	Dr. Roger Buzbee (DDS '88)	Father
Matthew Darrow	Dr. Daniel Darrow (DDS '12)	Brother
Sarah Flowers	Dr. Richard Barlet (DDS '58)	Grandfather
Yiou Guo	Dr. Edward Shamieh	Husband
Carson Jett	Dr. Tom Jett (DDS '95)	Father
Jaime Masunaga	Dr. Scott Masunaga (DDS '82) Dr. Millie Masunaga	Father Mother
Briana Menolascino	Dr. Michael Menolascino (DDS '11)	Brother
Paraskevi Panousis	Dr. Panagiota Sandoval (DDS '18)	Sister
Bhavin Parbhu	Dr. Shivam Parbhu (DDS '17)	Brother
Chase Quattrocchi	Dr. Mark Quattrocchi (DDS '86)	Father
Gage Williams	Dr. Chase Williams (DDS '18)	Brother



Military Commissioning Ceremony

Cassandra Shannon, Captain, U.S. Air Force

Stationed at: Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, TX

Alyssa Kieschnick, Captain, U.S. Army

Stationed at: Fort Carson, Colorado Springs, CO

Jourdan Kilthau, Captain, U.S. Army

Stationed at: Fort Jackson, Columbia, SC

Taylor Michelson, Captain, U.S. Army

Stationed at: Fort Carson, Colorado Springs, CO



AEP Participants

2021 GRADUATES of the UMKC School of Dentistry participated in the school's Admissions Enhancement Program (AEP), which was renamed to Students in Training, in Academia, Health and Research (STAHR).

Jay Bhakta, 2016

Paraskevi Panousis, 2016

Magdalena Bronakowska, 2015

Izad Riaz, 2013

Jodi Nguyen, 2016

Brianne Schmiegelow, 2015

The STAHR Ambassador program provides structured mentoring support to current DDS students. Faculty members meet monthly with students to provide support, and students attend workshops exploring the themes of academic development, leadership, identity and interprofessionalism. STAHR is a HRSA-funded collaboration between the Schools of Dentistry, Pharmacy and Medicine, and provides support to students from educationally and/or economically-disadvantaged backgrounds.

STAHR Ambassadors who graduated this year

Shurouk Alkharabsheh

Meredith Gomes

Alandrah Bailey

Kim Kha

Carlos Criss

Njeri Penda

Visit the Dental Alumni and School of Dentistry Facebook pages and the school webpage at dentistry.umkc.edu to enjoy more photos from these events.

Where graduates are going

2021 Dental Graduates

(104 students responding)



33 Group Practice

26 Advanced Education Program

24 Corporate Dental Practice

11 Public Health

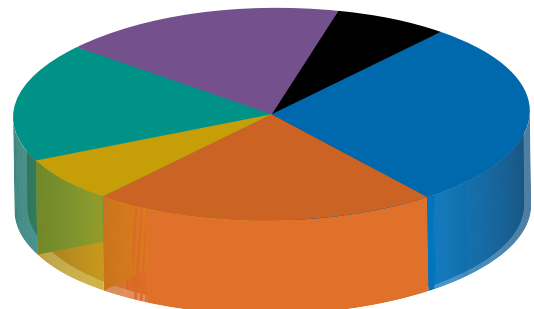
4 Military

4 Solo Private Practice

2 Other

2021 Dental Hygiene Graduates

(28 students responding)



8 Solo Practice

6 Group Practice

2 Public Health

5 Corporate Dental Office

5 Considering Private Practice

2 Other

PLAN YOUR EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WITH UMKC 2021 CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

PRINCIPLES AND INNOVATIONS IN REMOVABLE PARTIAL AND COMPLETE DENTURE THERAPY

In-Person Lecture

Dr. Paul Hansen

Aug. 27

UMKC School of Dentistry

5 Hours

BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR APPROACHING TRAUMA IN THE PERMANENT DENTITIONS

In-Person Lecture and Hands-On

Dr. Rebeca Weisleder

Sept. 24

UMKC School of Dentistry

6 Hours

NITROUS OXIDE FOR THE DENTIST, DENTAL HYGIENIST AND DENTAL ASSISTANT

Self-paced, online lecture with quiz available one month before lab date and one-day, in-person lab in October

Online and UMKC School of Dentistry

Dr. Keerthana Satheesh and Dr. Eileen Cocjin

Oct. 9

16 Hours

Please note that courses are subject to change because of COVID-19. We will be updating the courses on our website as dates are confirmed, keeping in mind the safety of all attendees. We also will be rolling out 2022 course listings, including ECP III, Local Anesthesia and more.

For updates and to register, call UMKC Continuing Dental Education 816-235-2142 (Relay Missouri: 800-735-2966 (TTY)) or visit our website: bit.ly/UMKCSODCE

ADA C-E-R-P® Continuing Education Recognition Program



Stay Connected! Alumni Events



New Student Welcome Game at “The K”
Tuesday, August 31, 2021

Rinehart/Alumni Board Meeting
Sunday, October 3, 2021

UMKC School of Dentistry Scholarship Banquet
Monday, October 4, 2021

ADA Alumni Reception – Las Vegas, Nevada
Tuesday, October 12, 2021

St. Louis Alumni Reception
Thursday, October 28, 2021

..... For more information about alumni events and news, visit dentistry.umkc.edu/alumni. You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Save the Date - 2022 Midwest Dental Conference

April 21-24, 2022 - Kansas City, Missouri



We look forward to once again
being in person next year.