

UMKC School of Dentistry Alumni News

Summer 2019

# EXPLORER

Vol. 76 No. 1

A photograph of a woman with long, wavy brown hair, smiling broadly and looking upwards and to the left. She is wearing a maroon blazer over a black turtleneck sweater. She is holding a green bag. In the background, other people are visible, some wearing green bags, suggesting a conference or event setting.

## A thriving tradition

Every year, the Midwest Dental Conference strengthens professions, renews friendships and adds to its legacy.

## Features



**8 The Midwest Dental Conference** once again brought together thousands of dental professionals to update their skills, renew personal and professional relationships and celebrate their love of dentistry and dental hygiene. Here's a look at the conference's long history of educational contributions and how it continues to foster lasting friendships and commitment.



**12 The Lowry Pediatric Clinic** program at the School of Dentistry continues to provide comprehensive care for area children and pediatric dental experience for students. Several area schools have beneficial relationships with the program, and the value of its donated care is estimated at \$60,000 a year.



**23 Graduation 2019** celebrated DDS, DH and other degrees earned by students. Enjoy photos from the ceremony and see this year's graduates join the rolls of the thousands of dental professionals educated by the UMKC School of Dentistry.

## Departments

- 2 Midwest Dental Conference Recap**
- 16 Alumni News and Notes**
- 19 School News and Notes**
- 29 Continuing Dental Education**
- 29 Coming Alumni Events**

# 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.

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**WHEN I ARRIVED** 10 years ago, I quickly learned that the lasting bonds of friendship forged among classmates are one of the most revered features of our school. These amazing bonds form early, often out of common interests but sometimes out of necessity, and continue to evolve through our personal and professional development. Our more senior alumni for decades have understood the importance and value of these relationships and work to keep them strong through early and sustained outreach to our students and recent alumni. Dental education creates the opportunity, but the relationships are cemented through remarkable annual events such as the Midwest Dental Conference.



This issue of the Explorer recaps the 2019 Midwest Dental Conference and takes a deeper look at the conference's nearly 100-year history and enduring value for alumni and the dental professions. Each of my 10 years, I have seen these lasting friendships fostered at the conference and have enjoyed visiting with our alumni reunion classes. The stories I hear are quite tall and get taller as the evening progresses, but their underlying truths are remarkable perseverance and camaraderie.

Besides the conference, other activities such as our Pouring From the Heart Gala and Benefit and Alumni Scholarship Golf Tournament help ground us in the values we hold close as a school. The late Dr. John Haynes was the champion of children who needed care in our community. Having been a patient of the school as a child, he understood first-hand the value of giving back, providing care to the underserved and creating bonds to the families in the region. Another article in this issue of Explorer tells how we continue to care for the oral health needs of Kansas City's children every day through our Lowry Pediatric Clinic, a legacy project sustained by Dr. Brenda Bohaty.

Finally, the school year culminates with the celebration of graduation of our dental, dental hygiene, advanced education and master's/PhD students, and their joy can be seen in this Explorer's photographs of graduates, family and friends.

I hope you enjoy viewing those important events and accomplishments. More importantly, I hope you will join us in the next academic year as we continue to build our relationships with new students, recent graduates, alumni and friends so that the common bond we share has persistence into the future. Your seat is reserved!

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marsha Pyle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marsha" and last name "Pyle" clearly distinguishable.

Marsha A. Pyle, DDS, MEd  
Dean, UMKC School of Dentistry

# MIDWEST DENTAL CONFERENCE

## MDC 2019: Building ever-stronger bonds

**THIS YEAR'S** Midwest Dental Conference brought together more than 3,400 alumni, friends, students and professional partners from 33 states. The conference was held a little earlier this year, March 21-24, and was an exciting weekend full of educational sessions (117 CE credit hours), 14 class reunions, 98 vendor booths in the Exhibit Hall (including 20 new companies), two-dozen organizational meetings, donor recognition and, of course, socializing and professional bonding.

Be sure to visit the school's Facebook page and the Dental Alumni's Facebook page to relive or discover what you may have missed. And mark your calendar now so you don't miss next year's conference, April 16-19, 2020.



## Poster presentations

**MORE THAN 130 STUDENTS** presented posters, formally known as table clinics. The first-place dental hygiene team was Brooke Borel (DH '19) and Erica McClain (DH '19), on "Domestic violence: What is the dental professional's role?" The first-place dental team was Veeshesh Patel (DDS Class of 2020) and Drake Conner (DDS Class of 2020), on "Prevalence of adverse effects of Articaine vs Lidocaine following dental nerve blocks."





## Diversity in action

**THE FIRST-EVER** Student National Dental Association/Hispanic Student Dental Association Alumni Reunion, held Saturday, went extremely well, according to John Cottrell, the director of minority and special programs for the UMKC School of Dentistry. The reunion helped rekindle alumni relationships, connect minority students with mentors and encourage future recruitment and mentorship.



# MIDWEST DENTAL CONFERENCE

## Pouring From the Heart

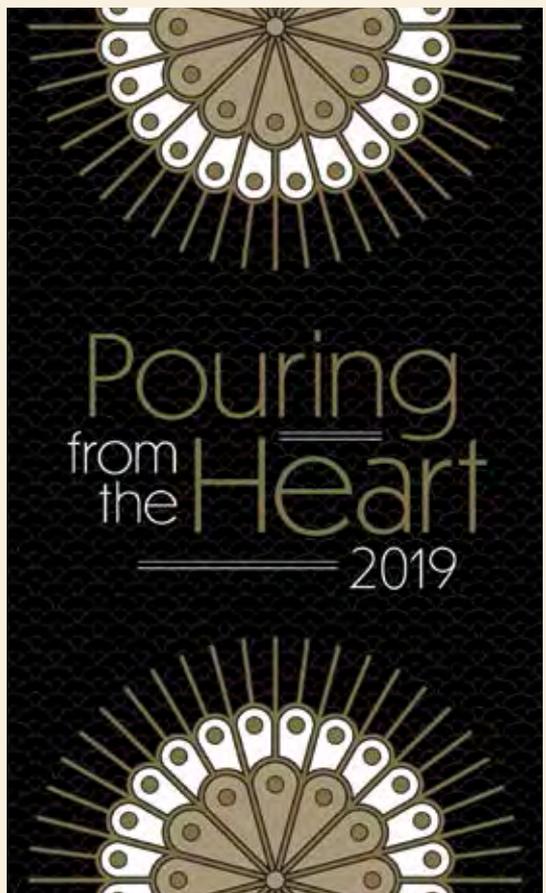
**POURING FROM THE HEART** celebrated 20 years this year with a new location and format. Guests enjoyed some phenomenal views of the Kansas City skyline from the floor-to-ceiling windows at the legendary American Restaurant event space. The night featured five tasting stations spread throughout the venue displaying the amazing culinary arts of Chef Andrew Longres. Each station was paired with a delectable cocktail. A true foodie's paradise.

Guests mingled throughout the night and were treated to live music as they bid on auction items and bought raffle tickets. The fifth annual John Haynes Leadership

Through Service Award was presented to Dr. Connie White (DDS '81) for her relentless dedication and service to the school and students. She embodies the characteristics the award's namesake, the late Dr. John Haynes (DDS '60), was known for.

It was a special evening raising funds for such a special cause. In the two decades since its inception, Pouring From the Heart has raised more than \$1 million for UMKC School of Dentistry patients. We are thankful for presenting sponsors such as Goetze Dental, for all event participants and for our generous donors for their GIVING from the heart.

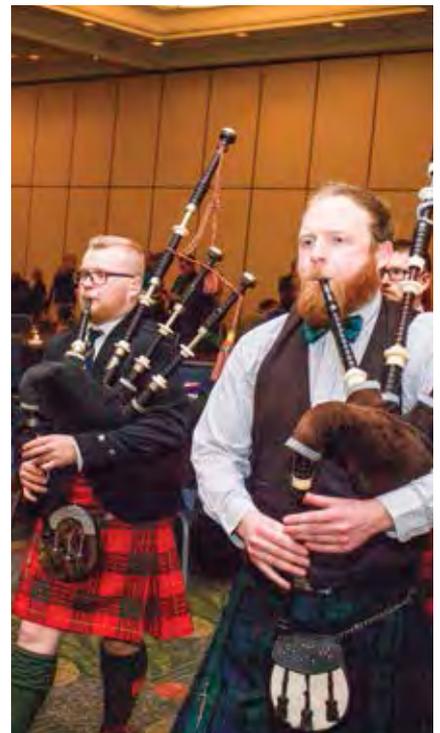




# MIDWEST DENTAL CONFERENCE

## Celebrations!

**THE WELCOME PARTY** celebrated a belated St. Patrick's Day with bagpipers from Kansas City's St. Andrews Pipes & Drums, some green beer and a delicious menu filled with Irish favorites such as corned beef sliders and Guinness cupcakes. After the Welcome Party many of the attendees participated in their class reunions. Classes celebrating milestones were the Class of 1959 celebrating 60 years and Class of 1969 celebrating 50 years in the profession. All class years ending in "4" or "9" were commemorated.



## Recognition Breakfast

**IT WAS SUCH A TREAT** to see such a large turnout of the 50- and 60-year reunion classes at the Rinehart Foundation Recognition Breakfast on Saturday morning. The room was full of great stories and memories! Also honored at the breakfast were alumni who have made substantial gifts to the foundation. Those with lifetime giving of \$10,000+, \$25,000+, \$50,000+ and \$100,000+ were honored. 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.



## New alumni leadership a Midwest Dental Conference highlight

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR** alumni association presidents on their installation at the 2019 conference.



Dr. Melodee Armfield received symbols of leadership from the outgoing president, Dr. Joseph Spalitto.

### **UMKC Dental Alumni Association Dr. Melodee Armfield, president, 2019-2020**

Dr. Melodee Armfield (DDS '87) brings years of service to organized dentistry to her new post as president of the UMKC Dental Alumni Association. She took the reins at the 2019 Midwest Dental Conference just as she was completing a term as president of the Kansas Dental Association. Through the years she has been an advocate for dentistry through the Seventh District Dental Society and the KDA Board of Delegates.

Dr. Armfield fondly remembers her days at UMKC, where she was president of the UMKC Association of Women Dental Students and president of Xi Psi Phi Dental Fraternity. She was also the catcher for the school's championship co-ed intramural softball team.

"I have always valued teamwork and was introduced to organized dentistry when I was a student. I benefited greatly from my mentors," Dr. Armfield said. "As president of the UMKC School of Dentistry Alumni Association, I will encourage younger alumni to get more involved in the association and older alumni to provide even more valuable mentorship for our younger members."



Krista Lancaster (right) received well wishes from the 2017-2018 president, Barbara Bragg-Meyer.

### **UMKC Dental Hygienists' Alumni Association Krista Lancaster, president, 2019-2020**

Krista Lancaster (BSDH '15) has worked fulltime in private practice with a general dentist in Lenexa, Kansas, since her graduation from the School of Dentistry in 2015. She also has served on the UMKC Dental Hygienists' Alumni Association board since 2015, first as chairman and now as president.

"The DHAA is a wonderful organization allowing alumni to network and make lifelong friends, along with making a real difference in the lives of the dental hygiene students by assisting them with scholarships and grants," Lancaster said. "I look forward to increasing event coordination between the DHAA and the Dental Alumni Association, as well as the Rinehart Foundation."

Lancaster added, "The 2020 Midwest Dental Conference will continue to build upon strengths of the revamped Dental Hygiene Alumni and Friends Luncheon and the well-received speakers and topics. We continue to recruit board members and currently have spots available. The 2019-2020 year is looking bright, and I look forward to supporting our students and alumni!"

**THE  
MIDWEST  
DENTAL  
CONFERENCE**

# a living legacy

By GREG HACK

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Decades of dedication to their colleagues and professions come together every year



**A**t the beginning of the 2019 Midwest Dental Conference, Dr. Rick Padley (DDS '79) was obviously happy when he ran into his longtime friend and mentor, Dr. Hugh Bruner (DDS '61).

"The weather was tough this winter," Dr. Bruner said, "so we haven't seen each other in a while. The conference always provides a good chance to see colleagues."

Dr. Padley agreed: "We've kept close over the years, and we always have interesting, wide-ranging discussions. In fact, this is what the conference is all about — the relationships, personal and professional."

Every year the Midwest Dental Conference, presented by the UMKC Dental and Dental Hygienists' Alumni Associations, provides a forum for thousands of such meetings, where colleagues and classmates find fellowship and share their passion for the dental professions.

The conference also displays sweeping institutional scope, offering dozens of carefully planned continuing education lectures, class reunions and official business sessions. The 2019 conference drew more than 3,400 alumni and other dental professionals from 33 states.

And for nearly a century, the vast transfer of knowledge and renewal of relationships have made the Midwest Dental Conference a lasting and important part of the dental professions in the region and beyond.

### How long has this been going on?

Though the Midwest Dental Conference name is a quarter-century old, a combination alumni-and-educational gathering in Kansas City dates back at least to 1923, when the Dental Alumni Association first met. Though no association records were preserved till after World War II, Dr. Leonard E. Carr did write many years later about his memories of the association's second meeting in spring of 1924. That meeting, he said, was held in a 150-seat lecture room in the Kansas City-Western Dental College at 10th Street and Troost Avenue. Even

then, besides commiserating and doing association business, the meeting had a serious educational component.

"There were three lectures that afternoon," Dr. Carr wrote. "Believe me, I thought it was great to sit there and listen to those big men."

Over the years the meetings grew and moved to downtown hotels such as the Muehlebach and then to Crown Center after it opened in 1971. The Dental Hygienists' Alumni Association grew, too, and eventually synched its annual meeting and reunions with the Dental Alumni Association's. The school's 1992 annual report boasted: "An average of 2,800 alumni and students attend the annual alumni meeting each year, making it the largest gathering of its kind in the world."

In the early 1990s, the conference was renamed. Some of its growth stemmed from its appeal to non-alumni dentists and dental hygienists in the region, who had come to know the value of its

"We're pleased to open the doors of our highly successful annual convention to dental professionals from across the Midwest!"

### Conferring great knowledge

Just as the materials used for restorations have evolved over the years, so have the conference's educational offerings. The conference has increased both the number of continuing education credits available and the breadth of subjects covered. That has helped all members of dental practice teams keep up with breakthroughs, improvements and best practices — something attendees appreciate.

The 2019 amalgam of courses ranged from specialty sessions for periodontics, pediatric dentistry, prosthodontics, and oral and maxillofacial surgery to more general office- and business-management topics such as disaster preparedness and insurance coordination.



The Sheraton lobby was full of classmates and colleagues catching up.

continuing education offerings.

In 1993, the conference was promoted as the Wild West Dental Roundup: A Midwest Dental Conference. And in 1994 it became simply the Midwest Dental Conference. Promotional materials touted its "69 total hours of continuing education credits" and said,

Dr. Alan Stoll (DDS '82) said he regularly made the trip across Missouri from Hannibal, where he has practiced since 1986, to catch the conference's specialty lecture in oral and maxillofacial surgery. Stoll said Dr. Brett Ferguson (DDS '81), chair of the school's Department of Oral and Maxillofacial

Surgery and Hospital Dentistry, and a past president of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, routinely lines up vital speakers.

“Many times I’ve incorporated what I learned in the talks. I take it right back to the office and start using it,” Dr. Stoll said. “The speakers are usually program directors and on the cutting edge of what’s being practiced. I love being able to listen and hear the latest.”

This year, Dr. Stoll heard Dr. Stuart Lieblich, DMD, a past president of the American Dental Society of Anesthesiology, speak on anesthesia issues for special patient populations.

Dr. Leiblich, who has had his own practice for decades and is a clinical professor at the University of Connecticut, said, “I had a great time presenting at the Midwest Dental Conference. The conference offered a great variety of excellent programs, well thought out by the organizing committee.”

Like Dr. Stoll, Dr. Kelley Thompson (DDS ’94) makes it to the conference most years, especially for the lecture in her specialty, periodontics, which she practices in Prairie Village, Kansas.

Her classmate Dr. Lisa Thurlow (DDS ’94), who practices general dentistry with her husband in Overland Park, Kansas, said, “MDC consistently brings high-quality speakers who appeal to general dentists, specialists and team members.”

Dr. Thurlow is the clinical director for the dental hygiene program at a local career college and brings her students to the conference whenever possible.

“The conference generously allows students from any school to attend at no cost,” she said. “This is a great way for local students to see what an outstanding opportunity we have for CE in Kansas City after they graduate.”

A third classmate, Melanie Huckabee (DDS ’94), whose practice is in eastern Kansas City, Missouri, often brings her staff to the conference. Two popular 2019 sessions aimed at dental staffs, on customer service and office communication, were presented by Judy



Chance meetings and photo memories were plentiful at the conference.

Kay Mausolf, an award-winning speaker. Her sessions were lively — and full.

“Everyone was so engaged and interested in learning, and so genuine,” Mausolf said. “I absolutely love the people I meet in the dental industry.”

### Keeping memories alive — and making new ones

For all the history the Midwest Dental Conference holds and up-to-date knowledge it imparts, many attendees say it’s the relationships — with classmates, colleagues and mentors — that keep them coming back.

On Friday evening this year, at their 25th reunion event, Drs. Thompson, Thurlow and Huckabee were among the first to arrive, and grateful for a chance to catch up with one another on their practices, classmates and families. All three married other School of Dentistry alumni: Dr. Doug Thompson (DDS ’93), Dr. Todd Thurlow (DDS ’94) and Dr. Sam Huckabee (DDS ’95). And they were very involved with their class, Dr. Huckabee as class president and Dr. Thurlow as class secretary.

“Though we live in the area, we don’t get to see each other that often,” Huckabee said. Thompson finished the thought: “Because we’re so busy with our families and our practices. The conference is always a good chance to see each other.”

Dr. Thurlow said having a milestone reunion this year was especially nice, bringing together two-dozen classmates from states nearby and far away, from Arkansas and Oklahoma to Arizona and California. “We hadn’t seen some of them since dental school,” she said, “so that was great!”

The conference also has many offerings tailored for dental hygienists. Many alumni come every year to gain continuing education credits — and to see their classmates.

Kim Gillam and Mary Lu Day, both DH ’79, were back for their 40th reunion. “But we come almost every year anyway,” said Gillam, who has retired from practice but still drives in from Salina, Kansas. “Our class was really close — all 36 of us! We’d do anything for each other.”

The conference also helped them stay in touch over the years, and to pick up a year’s worth of continuing education credits in one weekend.

“And we had so much fun,” Day said. “We still do!”

Day, who lives in the Kansas City area, said, “It has been a perfect career for me, and the conference has always been something to look forward to. We love our profession, and it showed in the care we gave.”

Members of the DDS Class of 1969, back to celebrate their 50th reunion,



Kim Gillam (DH '79) and Mary Lu Day (DH '79) found their class composite photo.

echoed the hygienists' dedication and camaraderie, and their sense that the school and their careers had given them the chance to live rewarding lives. Class members on Saturday — at breakfast, at dinner and at a hospitality suite in between — swapped stories about their school days and the profession they love.

Dr. Ronald Ingram practiced for many years in Pratt, Kansas, and still helps occasionally with free checkups at area schools. He keeps occupied now with a farm he bought near town, where he raises wheat, corn and milo. "It's good pheasant hunting land,

too," said Dr. Ingram, who plays host to classmates each November during hunting season.

Like some of his classmates, he had another career before dental school, teaching junior high and coaching.

"I enjoy helping others, but I also was always curious and liked learning," he said. "After dental school the conference was a regular part of that, allowing my practice to stay up to date. I've had a good ride."

Dr. Dean Mason may, at age 91, be regarded as the dean of the class. "I came to dental school late, at age 39," he said, after serving in the Pacific

in World War II and then working for Boeing. "But I still had time to practice for a long time — 33 years in Wichita — and retire at age 75."

If Dr. Mason is the dean of the class, Dr. Kenneth Cox is the ringleader. He has practiced for decades in the Kansas City area and always pulls together class events.

"I told them I wasn't going to organize any more reunions, but they wouldn't let me quit!" he said. "Seriously, it's always great to see everyone. We're all lucky men, happy for our dental education and the careers we've had. What else could we have done that would have helped people more? And most of us are still trying to help our communities and our younger dentists."

Dr. Harry "Ed" Martin summed up what several of his classmates said: "Dental school was like going into battle together and living to tell the tale! We learned that if we worked hard, kept our mouths shut and helped each other, we'd make it. And we did."

He continued: "The dental school was good to us, and we don't forget that. It's great to come back and see that so many of us are still around and doing well. I hope more recent graduates will support the school, too, and join the alumni association and keep it and the annual conference alive and thriving." ■



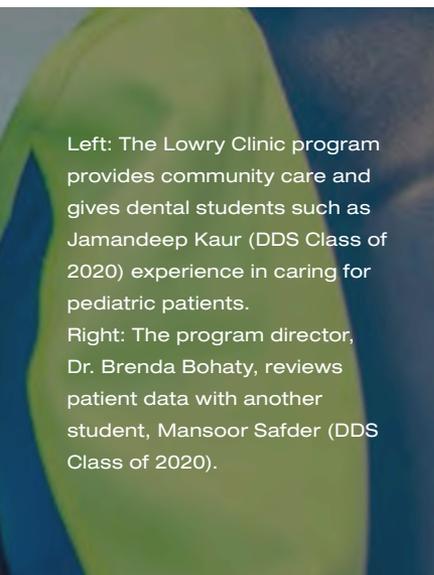
The DDS Class of 1969 turned out in force for its members' 50th Class Reunion.



# Starting *with a* Smile

Celebrating 70 years  
of care for KC kids

By BRYCE PUNTENNEY



Left: The Lowry Clinic program provides community care and gives dental students such as Jamandeep Kaur (DDS Class of 2020) experience in caring for pediatric patients.

Right: The program director, Dr. Brenda Bohaty, reviews patient data with another student, Mansoor Safder (DDS Class of 2020).



Every February the American Dental Association celebrates Children's Dental Health Month. The goal is to encourage dentists to devote a day to provide free dental care to children in their area. Through the UMKC School of Dentistry's Lowry Clinic program, that effort takes place year-round.

The Lowry program, which uses the school's pediatric clinic facilities, is committed to expanding children's access to dental care in the Kansas City area. It provides oral health care to underserved populations who wouldn't otherwise receive the care they need. The Lowry program is also working to break down as many barriers to dental care as it can, in particular by providing transportation to and from school for these young patients.

For Neena Patel (DDS '13), the time she spent in the Lowry program while attending UMKC was eye opening. "Before this program, I was unaware of how many kids don't have access to the care they need," said Patel. "Now in my practice, I have witnessed first-hand the need for dental care with children and how it can often go overlooked. The Lowry Clinic serves as a great means for children to get the care they need."

Another barrier the program works to break down is the fear that can be associated with going to the dentist. The students who staff the program are

keenly aware of their young patients' trepidations and are encouraged to bring cheer to their dental chair.

Supervised by faculty members, third- and fourth-year dental students help provide care in the program. They can be heard gently and encouragingly telling their young patients: "Good job." "You might feel a little pinch." "We're almost finished." "You've been so patient." "Let's go get a prize." The students are able to give their young patients positive experiences that can stay with them for a lifetime, so they know a visit to the dentist doesn't have to be scary or painful.

Besides preventive services, the program provides comprehensive care, including much needed restorative work. This is unusual for university-based pediatric clinics, as many are limited to providing preventive services.

Through the Lowry program, 150 to 200 students are seen each academic year. Free or reduced fees are available to families who cannot afford the care. The school estimates that the donated care is worth up to \$60,000 a year.

Besides providing invaluable care to children, the Lowry program gives UMKC students needed pediatric dentistry experience. That experience can be difficult to come by in dental education, but the school's brightly painted, kid-friendly pediatric clinic is

a great draw for children in the area.

Dentistry student Ronnie Marquez (DDS '19) said his experience in the clinic has been extremely valuable and rewarding.

“The value in treating a child from start to finish cannot be overstated, especially when you are beginning to learn how to treat the pediatric patient,” said Marquez. “The most rewarding aspect has been our ability to treat those in need while also having the opportunity to cultivate relationships and gain the trust of our pediatric patients.”

The chair of the school's Department of Pediatric Dentistry, Dr. Brenda Bohaty (DDS, MS, PhD '09), interviews graduates of dental schools nationwide for the Advanced Program in Pediatric Dentistry. In those interviews the graduates describe their experience in pediatric dentistry, and they rarely come close to the comprehensive experience the students receive at UMKC.

“We send our students out incredibly well prepared in pediatric dentistry,” said Dr. Bohaty, “particularly when compared with other schools across the nation that may not offer such a robust experience.”

Providing care for more than 70 years, the program is named after Dr. Howard S. Lowry, who provided

schools in the Kansas City urban core. Since its start, loyalty to the program by the school's faculty has helped sustain the program all these years.

These days, the program works directly with principals and school nurses from all over Kansas City, while focusing within the urban core. The program transports elementary students with a school staff member four mornings a week during the fall semester and then five mornings a week during the spring semester. The school's pediatric clinic also accepts patients from the public.

According to Dr. Bohaty, the program is most successful when the school has a champion who understands the importance of good oral health.

The program's faculty coordinator, Dr. Eileen Cocjin (DDS '05), works diligently to identify schools that are enthusiastic about their students' oral health needs.

Dr. Cocjin performs outreach efforts in area schools — including presentations at the schools — to seek those that have such oral health champions.

The clinic also collaborates with area health organizations to help identify schools in need.



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**“The value in treating a child from start to finish cannot be overstated, especially when you are beginning to learn how to treat the pediatric patient.”**

– RONNIE MARQUEZ (DDS '19)

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some of the money to get the effort started. Dr. Bohaty has been a part of the program in some capacity her entire tenure at UMKC, starting in 1987. Before her, longtime faculty member Dr. John Haynes (DDS '60) oversaw the clinic for nearly half a century.

When the program was conceived, it was designed to serve the dental needs of first- and second-graders at four

The comprehensive care catering to children is what keeps parent Maria Flores coming back with her four children. When she was expecting her first child, her family doctor steered her toward UMKC's pediatric clinic. The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommends that children receive their first dental check-up as soon as the first tooth

erupts and no later than at 12 months of age.

Flores says the care has always been good and affordable. So as her family has grown, she has returned regularly. “My doctor told me how important it is to take care of children's teeth,” she said during their visit in February. “I have four children now — 13, 11, 5 and 2 — and I bring them all here. My insurance covers their checkups, twice a year.”

According to Dr. Bohaty, much has changed in dental care in her time at UMKC, but there has been one constant — the continuing presence of preventable dental decay.

“We stress that dental cavities are one of the leading reasons that kids miss school,” Dr. Bohaty said. “It continues to be a problem, and we're trying to help schools out because if



Jamandeep Kaur (DDS Class of 2020) takes care of a young patient.

.....

we take care of the problem then we hope they'll miss less school because of toothaches."

The Lowry Clinic program gets some support from area charitable organizations, but not nearly enough to cover its comprehensive services. If you're interested in supporting the clinic, please reach out to the Rinehart Foundation at 816-235-2060.

"The Lowry Clinic is one way the School of Dentistry, through the work of the faculty, staff and students, works to improve oral health for the children of Kansas City," Dean Marsha A. Pyle said. "We are grateful for the legacy of caring for the community this clinic supports." ■



Educational materials for young patients were all part of a visit to the pediatric clinic during Children's Dental Hygiene Month.

## 2019 Alumni Award winners

**EACH YEAR UMKC** recognizes distinguished alumni from each of its schools, including two from the School of Dentistry. The school also recognizes an outstanding young alumnus. Here are this year's winners.



### ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD — DENTAL

**Dr. Terry O'Toole (DDS '81)** dedicated many years working with the Veterans Affairs Office of Dentistry in Washington, D.C., to help improve oral health for thousands of veterans in need. In addition to managing medical and

dental care deployment for about 8,000 patients each year, Dr. O'Toole was at the forefront of the VA's efforts to evolve its electronic health record system.

Over his 35 year career within the Veterans Health Administration, Dr. O'Toole served in various roles including staff dentist, clinic coordinator, chief of dental service and, most recently, director of dental informatics and analytics.

For nearly a decade he has focused on advancing the technology while serving as head of software development, where his team identified needs and created solutions that helped providers deliver more effective care. Additionally, the evolved electronic health records system enables the VA to effectively track data on patients and treatment protocols to measure outcomes and provider performance to drive system-wide improvements.

Dr. O'Toole also has led the way for teledentistry. He was one of the first to implement resolutions through the American Dental Association that allow dentists to serve patients virtually, making a huge impact on access to care.

Dr. O'Toole also has served as chair of the American Dental Association's Council on Dental Practice and is a member of the editorial board of the Journal of the ADA as well as a representative to the ADA Standards Committee on dental informatics.

His impact on these many areas of the profession has earned him the 2019 UMKC Alumni Achievement Award for the School of Dentistry.

## Class Notes

### Classes of the 1950s

**Robert Don Nassimbene (DDS '54)** retired after 60 years of enjoying caring for his patients.

**Marvin Reed (DDS '59)** has been retired for more than 20 years and is living in northern Virginia.

**Robert Dean Thomen (DDS '59)** retired in 2007. He has been married for 66 years and has three children, six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. He enjoys volunteering at Project Cure and wedding videography.

### Classes of the 1960s

**Kenneth Cox (DDS '69)** and wife, Sharon, are celebrating 51 years of marriage with two children and six granddaughters.

**Jerry Fankhauser (DDS '69)** fully retired in 2014. He is involved in volunteering in his community, staying in shape, yoga, golf, traveling and scuba diving. He and his wife, Leslie, have been married for 50 years.

**Donald Jump (DDS '69)** retired from dentistry in December 2017. His son **Tim Jump (DDS '00)** owns and operates the dental practice in Bolivar, Mo. Donald enjoys occasionally seeing patients while covering for one of the three dentists in the practice. Dentistry has been his passion and he misses his patients. He and his son Jeff now operate a cow-calf farm with 800 acres and 160 mother cows.

**Larry Kuhlman (DDS '69)** is celebrating 50 years of marriage with **Marilyn Laham (BSDH '68)**. They have three children and four grandchildren. Larry retired in 2014 when his son-in-law, **Chris Majors (DDS '98)**, acquired his practice. Larry and Marilyn are now enjoying retirement with travel, fishing, golf and their grandchildren's activities.

**Dean Mason's (DDS '69)** wife, Corlie, passed away in 2014.

**George Smith (DDS '64)** is staying active with tennis, biking, reading and fishing.

### Classes of the 1970s

**Kirk Collier (DDS '79, OMFS '84)** is practicing oral surgery in Prairie Village, Olathe and Lenexa, Kansas. He enjoys spending time with his family, traveling and racing cars.

**Michael Cottrell (DDS '79)** is the chief dental officer at the Rosebud Indian Health Service Hospital in Rosebud, South Dakota.

**Roger Bise (DDS '79)** retired from plastic surgery practice in 2017 after 29 years. He is now involved in travel and classic car collection and restoration.

**Eugene Curtis (DDS '74)** retired in 2015, and he and his wife moved to Florida to enjoy retirement.

**Thomas Fankhauser (DDS '74)** sold his practice in Wichita and retired. He has since moved to Texas to be near his son and daughter-in-law and has started golfing again.



### ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD — DENTAL HYGIENE

**Rebecca Stolberg (MSDH '96)** has been a leader for many years in dental hygiene and dental hygiene education. After graduating from UMKC with her master of science in dental hygiene, she began her career in dental hygiene education

as interim director of the Texas State Technical College Dental Hygiene Program. Stolberg then led the Department of Dental Hygiene at Eastern Washington University for 15 years, the only undergraduate degree program of its kind in that state. Stolberg has received more than \$450,000 in grant funding and, in 2016, the ADEA/Colgate-Palmolive Co. Allied Dental Educator Fellowship. She also served as course director for LEAF (Leadership Essentials for Adjunct Faculty). This program promotes leadership and professional development opportunities for part-time dental hygiene faculty. Stolberg now is the senior director of allied dental education and faculty development at the American Dental Education Association.



### YOUNG ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

**Dr. Jonathan Copeland (DDS '09)**, after graduation, went on to a residency at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. Dr. Copeland and his wife, Stephanie (DDS '10), now live in the St. Louis area with their young family. Despite his busy schedule at his private

practice, Dr. Copeland finds time to give back to the profession and his community. He is a board member of Missouri Dental Insurance Services Inc., a council member for Dental Lifeline Network, a founding member of the Veterans' Dental Care Coalition and the Missouri Section chair for the Pierre Fauchard Academy. He also had a seat in the Missouri Dental Association House of Delegates, was chair for the Missouri Dental Association's New Dentist Committee and serves as the SPEAR Study Club Leader. He shares his passion for lifelong learning through presenting CE courses on implants and through his instrumental leadership in helping start Missouri's first Connect 4 Success, a continuing education weekend for new dentists.

### Classes of the 1980s

**Rob Dakin (DDS '84)** is headed to Kenya for the fifth time in July to work in the clinic he has helped set up in one of the poorest areas in Nairobi. Rob has had the chance to work in Albania, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Liberia and Fiji. He is past president of the Wichita District Dental Society and currently serves as secretary of the Kansas Dental Association.

**Dean Elledge (DDS '83, AEGD '13)** won the dentist of the year award from the Wichita District Dental Society.

**Allen Reavis (DDS '84)** sold his practice Atchison Dental Associates after 34 years of practice. Allen is still working full time for the new owner, **Kyle Huntington (DDS '03)**.

**Don Vespa (DDS '84)** had a son, Nickolas, born January 2018. Don lives and practices in Florida.

### Classes of the 1990s

**Renato Aves (DDS '94)** has two daughters, Ally (17) and Izzy (9), and is an oral surgeon at the Tampa Bay Institute of Oral Surgery and Dental Implants, which has five locations in Florida.

**Marc Orjansen (DDS '96, PERIO '98)**

and his wife, Sara, have taken over leadership of the Belize Mission Project since the founder retired. The project, in its 28th year, is looking for dentists, hygienists and assistants to join the Orjansens for a week either Oct. 18-26 or Oct. 26-Nov. 3. To find out more email [marc.belizemissionproject@gmail.com](mailto:marc.belizemissionproject@gmail.com).

### Classes of the 2000s

**Rachael Graue (DDS '07)** opened a pediatric practice, Parkville Pediatric Dentistry, in October 2018.

**Joseph Laudie (DDS '09)** owns a practice in Emporia, Kansas. He has four children and loves his profession.

**Amanda Whiting (DDS '09)** welcomed twin sons, Jackson and Whitley, in November 2017.

### Classes of the 2010s

**Emily Carter (DDS '12)** and her husband, Noah, welcomed their fourth child, Lael, in February 2019.

**David Koepsel (DDS '11)** married Alysia Heideman in December 2018.

**David (DDS '10) and Emily (DDS '12) Mattingly** welcomed their third child, Adah, in December 2018.

## In memoriam

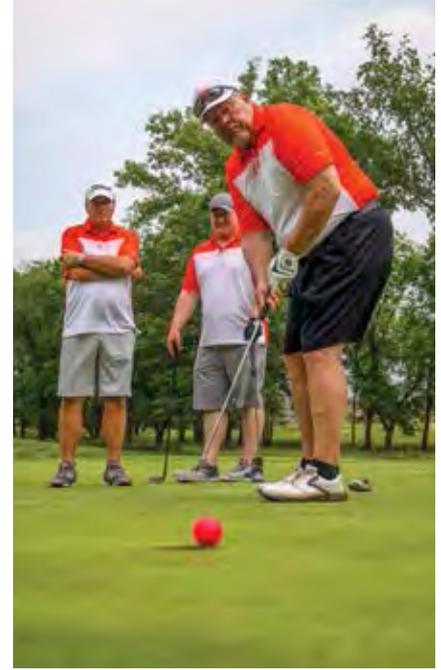
- Dr. Robert Chappel Arms (DDS '68)
- Dr. Paul L. Boatwright (DDS '54)
- Dr. John W. Cavanaugh (DDS '66)
- Dr. Hubert A. Eversull (DDS '54)
- Dr. John P. Grisham (DDS '62)
- Dr. Thomas O. Kennemer (ORTHO '69)
- Dr. Angela D. Kling (DDS '79)
- Dr. Leeland M. Lovaas (DDS '63)
- Dr. Roy D. Manning (DDS '60)
- Dr. John J. McCrory (DDS '45)
- Dr. John D. Mose (DDS '43)
- Dr. Vanessa A. Parris (DDS '07)
- Dr. John Franklin Phelan (DDS '56)
- Dr. Kenneth Edward Reed (DDS '69)
- Dr. Robert G. Smith (DDS '72)
- Dr. Douglas Woodbury (DDS '54)
- Dr. Howard R. Woosley (DDS '59)

## A 'par-tee' for scholarships

**GOLFERS ENJOYED** a fantastic outing May 31 at Shoal Creek Golf Course for the annual UMKC Dental Alumni Scholarship Golf Tournament. Attendees were treated to food, fun and some antics by way of wingspan drawings, putting contests and a few mulligans.

The Alumni Scholarship Golf Tournament, now in its 19th year, has awarded more than \$230,000 in scholarships to UMKC School of Dentistry students. The school thanks the steering committee, led again by Dr. Joe Spalitto and including Dr. Chad Barth, Dr. Reese Graue, Dr. Michael McCunniff, Matthew Muir, Joel Piper and Michael Rehme.

And thanks to all 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 20th year of the Dental Alumni Scholarship Golf Tournament.



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

## Royals Opening Day

**THE RAIN DIDN'T DAMPEN** the spirits of the alumni, students and friends who gathered for another fun Dental Alumni Opening Day for the Kansas City Royals at Kauffman Stadium on March 28. Attendees enjoyed pre-game tailgating with Kansas City barbecue from Jack Stack, and then the hardy group headed into the stadium to watch the Royals beat the Chicago White Sox, 5-3. Alumni continue to love celebrating Royals Opening Day, a tradition started by Dr. John Haynes.



## Prepping for success

**THE UMKC SCHOOL** of Dentistry, with help from a federal grant, has expanded and renamed its program for recruiting and encouraging students from underserved populations.

The school is sharing a five-year, \$3.2 million grant with the UMKC School of Medicine and School of Pharmacy. It is known as a STAHR grant, for Students in Training in Academia, Health and Research, and comes from the United States Health Resources and Services Administration.

STAHR grants support programs designed to increase the number of minority applicants to health care education, and to help them succeed once admitted. STAHR grants also focus on supporting interprofessional partnership programs so that future dentists, hygienists and other health professionals know the value of collaboration across their professions.

"Dental pipeline programs are desperately needed to help underrepresented minority students enhance their dental school applications, which in turn increases the diversity of practicing dentists," said Melanie Simmer-Beck, RDH, PhD, professor and director of the School of Dentistry STAHR Scholars Dentistry program.

Dean Marsha A. Pyle added, "The School of Dentistry has had notable success in encouraging, attracting and graduating students from underserved populations, and we're excited that this grant will allow us to expand and enhance our efforts. Greater diversity in students' backgrounds strengthens our school, and greater use of inter-professional education strengthens our future health professionals."

The STAHR program replaces the school's Admission Enhancement Program, which was started in 2011. That 10-week program helped a dozen students each summer from underserved populations better prepare for the Dental Admission Test. Last May, a record nine graduates from the UMKC School of Dentistry had gone through



Dr. Anna Jobe (DDS '18), who overcame many obstacles to graduate a year ago, is flanked by members of her practice's staff.

## Determination, helping hands foster success

**A YEAR AFTER GRADUATION,** Dr. Anna Jobe (DDS '18) has her own practice and is carrying on her mother's legacy. To do that, she overcame tremendous obstacles — attracted and aided by the School of Dentistry's Admissions Enhancement Program, now STAHR Scholars Dentistry.

Dr. Jobe was born in the United States but grew up in Chihuahua, Mexico. There her mother was a dentist and her father owned a cattle farm. Anna came back to the United States to pursue her college education, taking most of her undergraduate courses at UMKC. She participated in the AEP program in 2013, which helped her

apply to the DDS program. Equally as important, the program gave her a support system that would help her through great personal challenges.

During her first semester of dental school, Anna lost her father and then her mother.

Anna had to settle their affairs in Mexico, including moving her father's cattle herd, and start the process of adopting her two younger siblings to bring them to the United States. But with support from the program, she managed to do all that, distinguish herself in class and graduate on time.

Dr. Jobe said support from faculty, staff and classmates helped her persevere and follow her mother's path of caring for others.

the Admission Enhancement Program.

Dr. Simmer-Beck said the STAHR Scholars Dentistry program has 13 students this summer. Their education will be enhanced by more training in collaboration with students in the School of Medicine's Summer Scholars program, which also is being expanded through the STAHR grant.

In making the grant to UMKC, the federal agency said existing collaborations were already a strength

for the schools in the UMKC Health Sciences District.

"I am really excited about the inter-professional opportunities for our dental and dental hygiene students to build relationships with students pursuing other health care careers," Dr. Simmer-Beck said. "This makes our diversity efforts bigger and broader. And students are stronger when they have a better grasp of how the different parts of our health care system can work together."

## New faculty



**Christine Baker** has joined the faculty as a clinical assistant professor in the Division of Dental Hygiene. After receiving her BSDH ('13) from UMKC, she worked as a part-time adjunct clinical instructor. She expects to complete her MEd program at the University of Missouri-Columbia this year.



**Dr. Pierluigi Balice** has joined the faculty as a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Periodontics. He received his DDS ('12) from the University of Bari, Italy, and his master of dental science degree ('18) and a clinical certificate in periodontology ('18) from the University of Connecticut.



**Ashley Ryan** has joined the faculty as a clinical assistant professor in the Division of Dental Hygiene. She served as a corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps 1st Marine Division from 2008 to 2012. After her military service, she worked as a dental assistant, completed her BSDH ('16) at UMKC and then joined the faculty as a clinical adjunct instructor.



**Dr. Bhavika Thakkar** has joined the faculty as a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Restorative Clinical Sciences. She received a BDS ('09), from KBH MGV's Dental College & Hospital, Nashik, India, and an advanced education program certificate in prosthodontics ('18) from New York University. While at NYU, Dr. Thakkar trained predoctoral students in bench and simulation lab work and served as a teaching assistant in the clinic.

## McArthur is Kiwi of the Year

**DR. CAROLE MCARTHUR**, MD, professor in the Department of Oral and Craniofacial Sciences, was named a 2019 Kiwi of the Year Award recipient from the University of New Zealand. Dr. McArthur, who teaches immunology and immunopathology, has set up research and treatment clinics in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Cameroon. She is the director of AfriHealth Partnerships International and regularly visits the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Joe Pierle (left), CEO of the Missouri Primary Care Association, presents the Dr. Samuel Rodgers Achievement Award to Dr. Michael McCuniff (DDS '83).

## Samuel Rodgers Award

**DR. MICHAEL MCCUNIFF** (DDS '83) has received the Dr. Samuel Rodgers Achievement Award, the Missouri Primary Care Association's highest honor. Dr. McCuniff was honored for his efforts to attract dentists to work at community health centers, which serve areas and populations that otherwise might not have access to care. Dr. McCuniff is the school's director of outreach and chair of the Department of Dental Public Health and Behavioral Science.

## 'Most Notable' articles

**DR. CINDY AMYOT** (BSDH '92, MSDH '93, ESD '00, EdD), professor and associate dean, and **DR. PAM OVERMAN** (BSDH '70, MSDH '80, EdD), professor emeritus and associate dean emeritus for academic affairs, wrote articles that were chosen for the Journal of Dental Education's Most Notable Articles of 2018 list. The titles of their articles are "Implementation of Portfolios as a Programmatic Global Assessment Measure in Dental Education" and "Identifying Needs to Ensure a Humanistic Academic Dental Environment: A Multi-Site Survey of Dental Students' Perspectives."

## DH honor society president

**MARSHA A. VOELKER**, CDA, RDH, MS, associate professor at the School of Dentistry, was elected president of Sigma Phi Alpha, the national dental hygiene honor society. Voelker joined UMKC in 2007. She also is junior clinic coordinator in the Division of Dental Hygiene. Her areas of expertise and interests are dental biomaterials, motivational interviewing and use of various classroom technologies, dental hygiene instruction and forensic dentistry.

## UMKC wins \$5.4 million to keep researching bone and muscle loss

**THE UMKC SCHOOL** of Dentistry has received a \$5.4 million grant award from the National Institute of Aging to continue research into the effects of aging on bone and muscle loss. UMKC researchers have led the way in recognizing and studying how the two conditions — osteoporosis and sarcopenia — often occur together and may interact.

“UMKC is excited to continue this important research that can help solve health problems that affect our families and so many of us as we age,” said UMKC Chancellor C. Mauli Agrawal.

Bone and muscle loss both are widespread and costly. An estimated 25 million Americans have or are at risk for osteoporosis and resulting fractures, and a similar number of older Americans suffer sarcopenia or diminished muscle mass and function. Together, they are estimated to account for more than \$40 billion in annual health care costs. UMKC research has been at the forefront in recognizing how muscle and bones interact with each other and how one tissue affects the function of the other, as well as studying how exercise and other factors can help prevent muscle and bone loss as people age.

The grant will finance five years of work by UMKC research teams led by Mark Johnson, PhD, and Sarah Dallas, PhD, who are studying the molecular mechanisms by which aging bone and muscle cells communicate with each other, and how exercise and other measures could help reverse or prevent the effects of aging on bone and muscle. Their research teams are supported by co-leaders LeAnn Tiede-Lewis of the School of Dentistry; Ganesh Thiagarajan, PhD, PE, of the School of Computing and Engineering; and Michael Wacker, PhD, of the School of Medicine.

The research, which overall is receiving \$10.4 million in grant money, includes two more teams led by former UMKC faculty members. One of those teams is at the University of Indiana, led by Lynda Bonewald, PhD, who is the overall principal investigator of the research. The other is at the University of Texas-Arlington, led by Marco Brotto, PhD.

Dr. Johnson is the chair of the Department of Oral and Craniofacial Sciences and director of the UMKC Center of Excellence in the Study of Dental and Musculoskeletal Tissues. He is internationally known for his discoveries and work on the regulation of bone mass.

Dr. Dallas is the UMKC School of Dentistry’s Lee M. and William Lefkowitz Endowed Professor. She is internationally known for her fundamental research into the role of osteocytes, the cells that regulate bone mass; the dynamic interactions of bone cells; and the effects of bone-muscle “crosstalk” on the skeleton.

“This is a significant accomplishment which brings new excitement for our research program,” said Marsha A. Pyle, dean of the UMKC School of Dentistry. “We are grateful for the collaboration in advancing science that will occur because of it.”



Five challenging games made up the competition.

## Minute to Win It

**FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS** from across the School of Dentistry collected nearly \$1,500 for the Dr. Jacob McGuire Scholarship at the annual Students Take Action Minute to Win It Lunch. The series of five games ended with the DDS Class of 2020 claiming first place. The donation of the proceeds honors the memory of Dr. McGuire, who left a legacy of caring as a doctor, mentor, teacher and friend.



School of Dentistry students organized the volunteer effort.

## MLK Service Day a big success

**THE INAUGURAL UMKC** School of Dentistry MLK Day of Service exceeded all expectations as volunteers from the community and the school’s students, faculty and staff joined together to assemble and deliver 1,000 dental hygiene kits to local service organizations. Nearly 100 volunteers assembled the kits in the school canteen.

# JESSICA AYALA

## Here's a switch: a poet at the switchboard

**WHILE STUDENTS ARE** busy learning the arts of dental surgery and dental hygiene, there's another artist — an award-winning poet, teacher and musician — at work at the school's switchboard.

She's Jessica Ayala (BA '00), whose poetry flows from her experiences and those of other immigrants. Her family immigrated to the United States from Colombia when she was just 3 years old. She soon found she could express herself through poetry, and her first poems were published when she was in grade school.

Ayala currently is finishing her second book, "Just a Kid From Ipiales," which she describes as a poetic memoir of her unique journey as an immigrant youth. Her first book, "Huelga," published in 2017, collects poems about her work with undocumented students and other "invisibles" in society. In 2018, she won Pitch Magazine's Best of Kansas City award in the Poet/Spoken Word Artist division. Her work also has been supported by a two-year artist-in-residence grant from the Charlotte Street Foundation, which provides a workspace and financial support.

Ayala, who earned her bachelor's degree in creative writing in 2000 from UMKC, spoke recently about her art and her work at the school, which started about 3½ years ago.



Jessica Ayala seeks out quiet but inspiring places to work.

### **Q: How does a poet originally from Colombia end up at the School of Dentistry?**

**A:** I had taught for 10 years for the Hickman Mills School District and Crossroads Academy — pre-K, kindergarten and first-graders. That was a great experience, but I was looking to move from full-time to part-time work so I could devote myself more to my writing. I heard about a part-time opening at the dental school, and having the opportunity to serve Spanish-speaking patients as part of a job encouraged me to apply.

### **Q: How has it worked out?**

**A:** It has been ideal. I enjoy the contrast compared with my teaching days, and I eventually went from part time to full time. It's important work, making sure appointments are scheduled properly and the public's questions are answered, but it's not stressful. It's a perfect complement to my writing because I can leave it behind at the end of my workday. The school also has been a good, quiet place to write after my work shifts.

Dr. Jack Nelson, whose office is next to the call center, has been the most incredible cheerleader for my writing accomplishments. He would see me staying late and asked about what I was doing. When he found out I was writing, he was so encouraging and even gave me a special pen.

### **Q: You also blend music with your poetry. How did that come about?**

**A:** I've always loved music, and my father listened to traditional Colombian music. Being in Kansas City, I fell in love with jazz. So I've had many musical influences. I've also spent a lot of time at the Mutual Musicians Foundation. It has been a writing home for me, along with the dental school and my space at the Charlotte Street Foundation. I enjoy collaborating with other musicians and currently play in two bands.

### **Q: What was it like to be recognized in the Pitch's Best of Kansas City awards?**

**A:** Overwhelming! The vote for me was a vote for the families I write about — the asylum seeking, the immigrant, the invisible.

## Congratulations, 2019 graduates!

**THE UMKC SCHOOL** of Dentistry celebrated its 2019 graduates during commencement May 17 at Swinney Recreation Center. The school conferred 105 Doctor of Dental Surgery degrees, 30 Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene degrees and 12 Advanced Education Dental Certificates. The Department of Oral and Craniofacial Sciences conferred three Master of Science degrees and the Division of Dental Hygiene conferred one MS degree

in Dental Hygiene Education. Eleven graduates received military commissions. Graduates honored the faculty who had the greatest effect on their education with the Distinguished Teacher Award. Professors Julie Sutton and Christina Baker were recognized by the dental hygiene class, and the family of Dr. Jake McGuire received the award on behalf of their beloved, who passed away in October 2018.



## Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene

### BSDH-CLINICAL ENTRY

Bonnie J. Bennett	Kiet Luu
Brooke Ashley Borel	Erica McClain
Rachelle Marie Bragg	Myndie Rose McCombs
Brittany Nicole Burns	Austyn Nestor
Kyleigh Nicole Campbell	Emily Lauren Resz
Taylor Kristine Casey	Emily Rhew
Kendra Anne Castle	Shayna Erin Rosenak
Katelyn Cates	Hailey Nicole Salmons
Kirstyn Elizabeth Corder	Jeffrey J. Speak
Ryann Nicole Fahrenholz	Jordan Michelle Throndsen
Mikayla Rae Garrels	Alex Jo Walker
Madilynn Hirschler	Savanna Weiner
Halima Ibrahim	Jillian Renee Wells
Molly Kelley	Maddison Alyce Zych

### BSDH-DEGREE COMPLETION

Blake Lawrence Burns	Michelle Rasool
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## Doctor of Dental Surgery

Dana Aiko Totoki Adachi  
Sainy Ali Adel  
Rashin Alipour Moarefan  
Mohammed Esam Alshaye  
Connor Bahr  
Ron Michael Baker  
Joanna Barnes  
Parker Nash Benton  
Ryan Drew Bogard  
Codie Nickle Bontz  
Lee Anthony Brethower  
Rachel Morgan Bruncker  
Morgan Valerie Burgard  
Richard Weston Calvert  
Marcy Lee Carpenter  
Tyler Gerard Carron  
Shelby Comer  
Anthony Michael Contratto  
Anthony D. DelCorral  
Katherine A. Dumbell  
Calvin Eastwood  
Grayson Ediger  
Mahshid A. Farahani  
Stacie Anstead Fechner  
Carly Lallemand Garrigan  
Alison Elizabeth Geniec  
Bryant Van Giang  
Alexandra Rene Gielt

Suzana Gjoka Gjino  
Austin Jay Green  
Michael Ryan Gulley  
Kayla Dawn Hanna  
Colton J. Hartline  
Shaun C. Heier  
Tara Layne Humble  
Peri Whitaker Irwin  
Summer Fares Issa  
Arianna Daniell Jackson  
Mikiko Joiner  
Rachel Caitlyn Karabas  
Danielle Marie Keepes  
Brandon Michael Kratz  
Brian LaForge  
Bradley David Lance  
David Anthony Lane  
Nathan Alexander Laskowski  
Anna Marie Lee  
Michael Lawrence Lee  
Paul John Levinsky  
Rachel Ann Loggan  
Michael Joe Francis Loida  
Austin Taylor Majure  
Ronnie Reyes Marquez  
Samantha Mayes  
Matthew Kyle McHugh  
Rachel Lynne McIntyre

R. Ulises Melchor-Palma  
Addie Lynn Milam  
Casey Trey Miller  
Megan LouElla Misner  
Halie Faye Moitoza  
Mariah N. Moxley  
Ryan Michael Mulligan  
Graham Steven Naasz  
Zachary W. Nemechek  
Allison LeeAnn Neumeier  
Tiffany Phuong Tram Nguyen  
Van Anh Teresa Nguyen  
Mohammed Bushra Nuru  
Emily Ann Oehler  
Fernando Andree Paredes  
Bueno  
Kinnari Patel  
Parth Upendra Patel  
Conner Andrew Paustian  
Mary Margaret Pearman  
Jordan Anthony Perriman  
BriAnna L. Phillips  
Ailie Joy Powers  
Andrew Michael Rafie  
Celeste Leigh Roberts

Angelyn Rosenberger  
Michelle Royle  
David Lee Sanford, II  
Brendan Andrew Schleyer  
Clayton Schwinke  
Gwendolyn Michelle Scott  
Jereme K. Sebastian  
Karlton Henry Smith  
Ryan Joseph Smith  
Spencer Kennedy Smith  
Austin Mitchell Stehl  
Matthew Steven Stiles  
Haiping Sun  
McKenzie Morgan Swan  
Summer Glyn Swindle  
Johnna Thomas  
Samantha Leigh Thomas  
Camden Joji Gaerlan Tokunaga  
Max Masami Uyeda  
Sindi Vishaj  
Joseph Antoine Wakim  
Jordan L. Weber  
Blake James Willoughby II  
Jakob RM Zerr  
Conan Zhu

## FACULTY DDS CANDIDATES

Sergio Florencio, Jr.

Ahmad E. Zarrough





## Advanced Education Dental Certificates

### ADVANCED EDUCATION IN GENERAL DENTISTRY

---

Tho Do, DDS<sub>2</sub>

Hillary Mashak, DMD<sub>2</sub>

Tiffany Niquette, DDS<sub>2</sub>

Katherine Unes, DMD<sub>2</sub>

### ENDODONTICS

---

Geoffrey Clive, DDS<sub>2</sub>

Craig Mulherin, DDS<sub>2</sub>

### ORTHODONTICS AND DENTOFACIAL ORTHOPEDICS

---

Brad Chun, DDS<sub>1</sub>  
Alicia Griffin, DDS<sub>1</sub>

Kevin Kaiser, DDS<sub>1</sub>

### PERIODONTICS

---

Elizabeth Baldwin, DDS<sub>1</sub>  
Tanner Brock, DDS<sub>1</sub>

Darrell Livingston, DMD<sub>1</sub>

# GRADUATION



## Graduate Degrees

### ORAL AND CRANIOFACIAL SCIENCES M.S. DEGREE

Brad Chun, DDS, MS<sub>1</sub>  
Alicia Griffin, DDS, MS<sub>1</sub>

Kevin Kaiser, DDS, MS<sub>1</sub>

### DENTAL HYGIENE EDUCATION M.S. DEGREE

Karen Davis, MS<sub>2</sub>



*Graduates received degrees and certifications in Spring 2019 unless noted*  
**1-Graduated-Fall 2018**  
**2-Graduates-Summer 2019**



## Past AEP participants

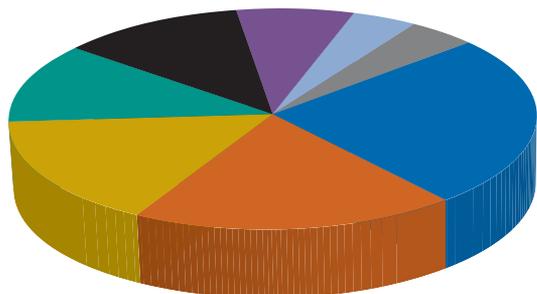
**FOUR 2019 GRADUATES** of the UMKC School of Dentistry participated in the school's Admissions Enhancement Program, which has been expanded and renamed Students in Training, in Academia, Health and Research, or STAHR. This year's graduates (from left), with the year they participated in the AEP Program: Rashin Alipour, 2014; Mohammed Nuru, 2014; Arianna Jackson, 2014; and Andre Paredes, 2013.



*Visit the **Dental Alumni and School of Dentistry Facebook pages** and the school webpage at <https://dentistry.umkc.edu> to enjoy more photos from this event.*

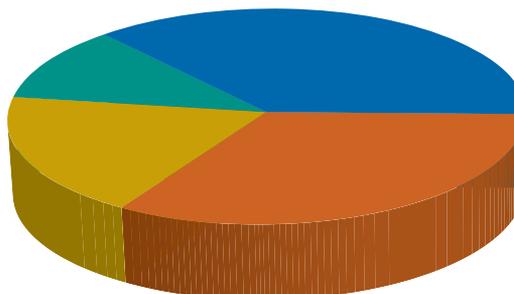
## Where graduates are going

**2019 Dental Graduates**  
(94 out of 105 students responding)



- 24** Group Private Practice
- 18** Corporate Dental Office
- 15** Residencies (AEGD, GPR)
- 11** Public Health
- 11** Military
- 7** Solo Private Practice
- 4** Specialty (OMS, Ortho, Ped)
- 4** Other

**2019 Dental Hygiene Graduates**  
(27 out of 28 students responding)

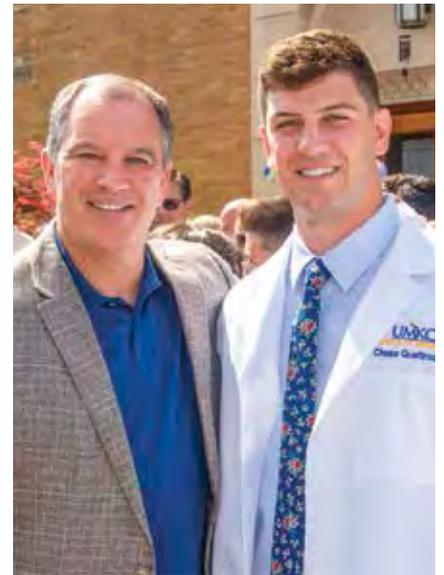


- 10** Solo Practice
- 9** Group Practice
- 5** Public Health
- 3** Temping

# TRANSITIONING

## Making the transition

**THE DENTAL CLASS** of 2021 and Dental Hygiene Class of 2020 were welcomed to the clinical phase of their educational programs during the annual Transitioning Into the Profession Ceremony, held June 7 at the Unity Temple on the Plaza. Dr. Bill Busch, owner of North Kansas City Dental and co-founder and creator of TeamSmile, was the keynote speaker. Representatives of each class took turns reading their Code of Ethics. All class members signed their code as they crossed the stage and then received their white coat for DDS students or scrubs for DH students. After the ceremony, participants and well-wishers adjourned to the School of Dentistry for a reception.



# PLAN YOUR EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WITH UMKC 2019 CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

## LOCAL ANESTHESIA FOR THE DENTAL HYGIENIST

*Three-Day, Lecture/Hands-On Course*

Liz Kaz, RDH, EdD, MS; Danielle Grotheer, RDH

July 26 – 28, 2019

## PRACTICING IN THE DENTAL HYGIENE PUBLIC HEALTH SAFETY NET

*Online*

Cindy Amyot, RDH, EdD; Kylie Austin, RDH, MSDH

August – December 2019

## SPANISH FOR THE DENTAL PROFESSIONAL: INTRODUCTORY COURSE

*Lecture: This lecture can be taken alone or as part  
of a full-day Spanish course*

Nicole Montiel, LDH

August 9, 2019

## SPANISH FOR THE DENTAL PROFESSIONAL: EDUCATION AND DENTAL EMERGENCIES

*Lecture: This lecture can be taken alone or as part  
of a full-day Spanish course*

Nicole Montiel, LDH

August 9, 2019

## PEDIATRIC ENDODONTICS

*Lecture/Hands-On Course*

Rebeca Weisleder Urow, DDS, MEd

September 21, 2019

## NITROUS OXIDE FOR THE DENTIST, DENTAL HYGIENIST AND DENTAL ASSISTANT

*Two-Day, Lecture/Hands-On Course*

Scott Gruwell, DDS, MS;

Keerthana Satheesh, BDS,

DDS, MS

October 11-12, 2019

## SBIRT: SCREENING, BRIEF INTERVENTION AND REFERRAL TO TREATMENT FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE

*Free, Online, Self-Paced*

[www.sbirt.care](http://www.sbirt.care)

To register, call UMKC Continuing Dental Education  
816-235-2142 (Relay Missouri: 800-735-2966 (TTY))  
or visit our website: <http://dentistry.umkc.edu>

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## Stay Connected! Alumni Events .....



**New Student Welcome Game at "The K"**  
Tuesday, Aug. 27

**ADA Reception – San Francisco**  
*In conjunction with the ADA Meeting*  
Thursday, Sept. 5

**Rinehart/Alumni Board Meeting**  
Sunday, Oct. 6

**UMKC School of Dentistry Scholarship Banquet**  
Monday, Oct. 7

**St. Louis Reception**  
*In conjunction with Mid-Continent Dental Congress*  
Thursday, Nov. 14

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



University of Missouri-Kansas City  
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