Dear Colleagues,

The new academic year is beginning as I write. It is a time of excitement for new students, classes, and experiences, not to mention expectations for the future of those entering the final stages of their education. And for those of us on the faculty and staff, it is a time for reflection, re-evaluation, and re-dedication to our work.

It is also a good time to pause and think back on where we have been. Our cover highlights our Dental Hygiene program celebrating its centennial this October. In July of 1919 the Minnesota State Legislature passed legislation supporting establishment of an education program for dental nurse/hygienists. A program was established in the School of Dentistry that fall and the first class was accepted in 1920. Over the past 100 years the program has evolved to meet the ever-changing needs of the times. Please consider joining us for the celebration on October 18-19, 2019.

Naomi Rhode, one of our most accomplished alumni, has made a difference her entire career. Since graduating from our dental hygiene program, she has developed and focused her considerable talents as a speaker addressing team care in oral health and as a life coach. You will learn about one of the most caring and entrepreneurial spirits to graduate from our school.

There are many other examples of giving back within this issue including Bob and Delores Isaacson, who provided an incredible gift to the Division of Orthodontics, laying the foundation for an unforgettable legacy. Dr. Isaacson has been one of our most renowned alumni and faculty members and is missed with his recent passing. Alumni Dr. Monica Frazier Anderson has given back to her profession and community her entire career, and I hope you will enjoy reading about her most recent efforts, as I have.

Discovery through research continues to define us. The work of the research teams of Drs. Mark Herzberg, Don Simone and Mike John continue to be well supported by the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Herzberg’s group has made exciting findings regarding the biofilm of dental plaque; Dr. Simone’s team received funding to continue their work on mechanisms of bone cancer pain; and Dr. Mike John was awarded funding to further research on patient reported outcomes for dental treatments.

There are honorees of the University and the School of Dentistry who make us all proud. Dr. Freeman Rosenblum and Kay Adams were recipients of our Alumni Awards this past year. Dr. Conrado Aparacio has set the bar for accomplishments in research and teaching as a young faculty member being honored as Professor of the Year. And of course, my friend and colleague Dr. Larry Wolff, was honored by the University as recipient of the award for Outstanding Contributions to Graduate and Professional Education.

And then there is the story of Dr. Amy Full, one of our recent graduates and student leaders, who returned to her hometown of Marshall, Minnesota, to practice dentistry. She describes the support for this career path provided by our Minnesota Collaborative Rural Oral Health Project (MN-CROHP) and Outreach programs. It is a read well worth your time.

My many thanks to all of you for your support to the School of Dentistry! Keep in touch!

Take care,

Gary C. Anderson, DDS, MS
Dean

The University of Minnesota School of Dentistry advances health through scientific discovery, innovative education, and the highest-quality care for all communities.
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On the Cover Kelli Blankenship, MSDH.

Printed on paper containing a minimum of 10% post-consumer recovered fiber.
Rescuing Biofilm

U-M scientists discover signaling pathway that, when activated, helps bacteria to survive in dental plaque.

University of Minnesota researchers have discovered a previously unknown signaling pathway that regulates the gene expression of surface adhesive proteins on bacteria and provides compensatory biofilm/dental plaque formation.

“The discovery may help us to better understand how complex microbial communities develop and offer new targets for antibiotics,” says Mark Herzberg, DDS, PhD, principal investigator of the research team, professor in the School of Dentistry’s Department of Diagnostic and Biological Sciences (Division of Basic Sciences), and a member of the Masonic Cancer Center.

The scientists studied how oral bacteria adhere to and develop dental plaque biofilms in the oral cavity. The team wanted to learn whether and how the bacterial cells might adjust their surface adhesive proteins, which mediate bacterial adhesion and are often required for host colonization. The novel mechanism they discovered is embedded in the cell membrane and can signal for changes in those adhesive proteins.

The findings, published in Science Signaling, are important because cells express different types of adhesins; even when one type is blocked, other attachment options might be activated. The intramembrane bacterial signaling system is like a quality control mechanism, calling on different surface proteins to compensate in the absence of primary surface proteins. The regulatory signal is a conserved amino acid sequence found in fragments cleaved from the adhesive proteins. When the fragment is present in the membrane, the system is ‘off’ and, when it is absent, the system is ‘on’ and alternative surface proteins are expressed.

The newly discovered pathway appears to be present among a subset of Gram-positive bacteria, which include S. gordonii, one of the initial colonizers of dental plaque. Genes encoding surface adhesive proteins differ when the bacteria are recovered from saliva versus dental plaque in the same person at the same time.
Top Teaching Honor

When people ask Professor Larry Wolff why he has worked so long at the School of Dentistry, he replies without hesitation that it is his love of reaching students and the professional satisfaction that comes from watching them mature in knowledge and clinical skills.

He has been major thesis adviser for more than 40 advanced education residents, who typically say they gained the most valuable knowledge, skills and dedication to patient care from him. He integrates current research into all his teaching and has included numerous periodontology and microbiology graduate students on NIH-funded research programs.

“Dr. Wolff’s teaching approach is not just a lecture, but rather an interaction and discussion that helps students love periodontics,” says a former student.

On April 24, 2019, Larry Wolff, MS, PhD, DDS (Division of Periodontology) received the University of Minnesota’s 2018-19 Award for Outstanding Contributions to Graduate and Professional Education and was inducted into the University’s Academy of Distinguished Teachers. The award recognizes Wolff for his commitment to the ongoing improvement of teaching and learning, and to quality graduate and professional education.

Wolff has inspired students in classroom, clinical and research settings, while contributing exemplary administrative service, including 10 years as chair of the Department of Developmental and Surgical Sciences.

He encourages them to invest in their professional publications—and themselves—by becoming corresponding authors of research papers.

His many international mentees have gone on to make lasting contributions that have spread his legacy around the world. “Dr. Wolff’s friendly, polite and humble approach stimulated my interest in research and teaching/mentoring,” adds the former student. “His enthusiasm made my learning experience enjoyable and life changing. I will always be grateful for his help.

$1 Million Gift to the School of Dentistry Establishes the Dr. Robert J. Isaacson Endowed Professorship in Orthodontics

Described as a visionary long before the phrase was popularized, four-time University of Minnesota alumnus Robert Isaacson, DDS, MS, PhD, was a man whose eye was always on the future. It was a perspective on life and work that he shared with his wife of 46 years, Delores, who was on campus March 25 to announce the couple’s commitment of $1 million to the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry, Division of Orthodontics. The generous gift establishes the Dr. Robert J. Isaacson Endowed Professorship in Orthodontics in honor of Faculty Emeritus Robert Isaacson, who died in September 2018 at age 86.

Reflecting on her husband’s 50-year career before a group of his former colleagues and students at a reception in the McNamara Alumni Center, Delores Isaacson shared the underlying motivation for his personal and professional success. “Bob never worked a day in his life,” she said.
Speaking of Dentistry

Naomi Rhode parlayed her dental hygiene degree, personal talents and commitment to oral health into a wildly successful career balanced with family and spiritual connection.

Naomi Rhode is in her element. She’s in front of an audience, traversing the stage and engaging with the crowd as if they were all old friends. She tells stories punctuated with humor and imagery and personal connection, and delivers what she calls “deep content wrapped in heart.” See her in action and you’ll understand why this dental hygienist-turned professional speaker, practice management consultant, businesswoman, and life and speaking coach has been so successful.

That energy and enthusiasm made Rhode (pronounced like “roadie”) a coveted speaker who’s inspired audiences around the world to achieve new levels of professionalism and personal growth. It also fueled her success beyond the podium.

Capitalizing on her commitment to health, genuine interest in people and emerging opportunities in dentistry, she and Jim Rhode, her husband of 61 years, built a thriving practice management enterprise called SmartPractice. Says Christine Blue, associate professor and director of the School of Dentistry’s Division of Dental Hygiene, “Naomi is, perhaps, one of the most energetic personalities I have ever met. She has taken her background in oral health and created a new career pathway that is a role model for all.”

Different Times

Rhode was born in Minot, N.D. but grew up in Minneapolis where she attended Minnehaha Academy. Her father was a Boy Scout executive and lay pastor in the Methodist Church and both parents taught adult Sunday school. They built a religious foundation for their children and also modeled the effectiveness of communicating and connecting with others, often from a pulpit or podium.

Yet, Rhode’s early career aspirations had no connection to public speaking. She initially planned to be a nurse and train at what was, then, Swedish Hospital in Minneapolis (and who served as the dean of the School of Dentistry from 1964-1977).

Ramping Up

A few years later, the Rhodes packed up their three children and moved to Phoenix where she worked as a dental hygienist in her brother’s dental practice. Her husband, who had a U of M engineering degree (‘59) and specialized in long-range planning, ran her brother’s dental lab.

Rhode says those early years of practice were an eye-opening experience because she saw how patients’ neglect of their oral health often resulted in...
extractions and dentures. “It was an amazing preface to the rest of my dental life,” she says. “That’s about when the preventive dentistry movement got started and the thinkers and doers got behind it. This was exciting—dentistry beyond drill, fill, and bill.” But it meant a real challenge for dentists and their team members: how to communicate with patients about the importance of maintaining their oral health. “It was also the era when ‘marketing’ came into dentistry and practitioners needed tools to communicate and promote their practices in a classy way.”

She credits her husband with the foresight to see the business opportunities in these changes. They created a company they named Semantodontics (later renamed SmartPractice) and offered dentists the materials they needed for patient education, including things like recall cards, motivational materials, perio aids, floss, posters and stickers as well as marketing materials.

Empty nesters by age 40, the Rhodes had time and energy to expand their business and built it on a triangle of lectures, seminars, and products. They spoke at numerous conferences and conventions, and their company also presented between nine and 11 seminars each year of their own, many in Hawaii. They focused on things like building effective teams, office culture, and systems that worked, with titles such as “Planning and Leading the Dynamic Dental Practice,” “Identifying and Maximizing Personality Styles,” “Communication Effectiveness that Wins,” and “Referral Source Management.”

They also covered ‘softer’ topics such as “Words That Work” in which the audience role-played difficult patient communications situations. “Dentists wanted their new staff members to hear us on that topic—to ‘Naomi-ize my staff,’ they’d say—and they came to hear us over and over, as many as 20 times over the years,” says Rhode. SmartPractice even chartered 80-cabin cruise ships to offer on-board marriage enrichment seminars while cruising places such as the Middle East, Greece and Alaska.

Eventually, SmartPractice grew to 400 employees in Phoenix with divisions in eight countries and offered a full range of presentations and dental products.

Communication Sensation
Rhode remembers the first time she spoke before a big group, at the Greater New York Dental Meeting. “I thought I would pass out,” she says. But her charisma and passion for her topic outweighed her anxiety. Soon, she was in big demand, not only for dental audiences but also by corporations and associations. Audiences numbered between 60 and several thousand. Later, she served as president of the National Speakers Association and the theme of her leadership was the PRIVILEGE OF THE PLATFORM. She also served as president of the Global Speakers Federation and traveled globally to speak at their meetings.

School of Dentistry Adjunct Faculty Member Jerry Erickson saw first-hand the impact that Naomi Rhode had on dental audiences. He was a planning committee member for the annual meetings of both the Minnesota Dental Association (MDA) and the American Dental Association and says, “She was on the speaker programs of dental meetings across the country. When she spoke at the MDA’s Star of the North Meeting, the auditorium was packed and

“My motivation was always that privilege of the platform, to be a change agent for people and for practices.”
— NAOMI RHODE

she held that audience for a five hour presentation.” She had the same cache with smaller groups. Erickson also was involved in bringing the Rhodes to speak at a School of Dentistry continuing education seminar. “It was a smaller, more intimate setting,” he says, “but an equally successful program. Everyone loved their seminar.”

According to Rhode, the secret to developing such enthusiastic audiences begins ahead of time with the advance materials she sends out so the audience begins to feel they know her and forms an expectation. “I always go early to the room where I’m speaking and meet as many people personally as possible in the front row, back row and down the center aisle. Then you have friends in the audience, even if it is huge.”

During the speech, “I move around and forward into the audience with constant personal eye contact. And, I’m always available to meet people and visit after my programs and have some type of a handout with my contact information
on it so they can be in touch with me personally.” The reward, she says, has been incredible loyalty, verbal and written responses, and lifetime friendships.

Eventually, about 60 percent of her talks covered dental topics, with the rest devoted to inspirational speaking on other areas of business and on topics relating to faith and Christian life. She has spoken in every state and 17 countries and she once addressed chicken growers, a Boy Scout fundraiser and a dental group in one 24-hour period.

She kept up that pace until about 10 years ago when she had a major stroke en route to speak for a dental meeting at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. “I had the stroke in the Traverse City, Michigan, airport and I was in the hospital there for one month. I was paralyzed, and needed to learn to walk again. My mind was not affected nor was my speech and I had no facial paralysis so I had much to be thankful for.

“I went home in a wheelchair, and required physical, voice, and occupational therapy most of one year to get back to where I am now. My only limitation is that I have one frozen vocal cord, which does not limit me with microphones, nerve pain in one leg, and limited energy which is also age-related I am sure.”

She returned to speaking and kept her busy schedule until she cut back four years ago. Last year, SmartPractice sold its dental supply division to Darby Dental Supply. That didn’t change the SmartPractice core business or brand, which is now under the leadership of the Rhodes’ daughter, a dentist, and her physician husband. Together, they continue the forty-plus year tradition of providing to health professionals the people-oriented services and products that will improve patient communication and relationships, with the goal of facilitating the patient behaviors that will lead to better health.

Now, she speaks about once a month (mostly what she calls “giving back speaking”) and does life and speaking coaching, too. But she says there’s a bit more time to spend with her family that now includes three married children and their spouses—among them three dentists—their 12 grandchildren (one a dental student), three great grandchildren and friends throughout the country.

**Back to School**

Over the years, Naomi Rhode has kept close ties with the School of Dentistry and it’s no surprise that she spoke at the School of Dentistry commencement in 1986. She has been an active supporter of the Division of Dental Hygiene and received the 1994 Distinguished Dental Hygiene Alumna Award.

Says Christine Blue, “She and her husband, Jim, established the Naomi Rhode Center for Dental Team/Patient Relations endowment in 1999. The endowment creates a program to model caring dental team/patient relations. Their financial gift was substantial and the funds have built on Naomi’s passion for the strong interpersonal relationships and communication skills needed for a successful dental team.”

Blue says, “The endowment has enabled Division of Dental Hygiene faculty to provide innovative education and assessment to our students and supported research on dental team/patient relationships.”

Rhode explains her ongoing commitment: “I was given so much at the School of Dentistry, it’s been the basis for an amazing life. We become an accumulation of our choices and we make choices by values instilled in us in life. Our instructors at the school instilled incredible professional values.”

Looking back she says, “Yes, a successful business was developed but I can honestly say that was never the reason for my speaking. My motivation was always that privilege of the platform, to be a change agent for people and for practices. I prayed this verse from the Psalms every time I spoke: ‘May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in Thy Sight, O, Lord, my Rock and Redeemer.’”

She also prayed that with each speech she would change someone’s life for the better. “And…yes,” she says, “that patients would realize the benefits of better oral health because we cared about it not only as a science, well delivered, but also as important for the general health and wellbeing of our patients, our country and our world.”

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**Dental Hygiene Program’s 100th Anniversary Celebration**

October 19, 2019
McNamara Alumni Center
All Alumni Welcome

For more information: z.umn.edu/DH100

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DENTISTRY SPRING/SUMMER 2019
I Grew Up in A Cornfield

2019 Graduate Amy Full, DDS, talks about her dental school experiences in rural Minnesota.

In 2015, the School of Dentistry launched the Minnesota Collaborative Rural Oral Health Project (MN-CROHP). Funded by a five-year, $1.7M grant from the U.S. Department of Health, the program was created to encourage dental and dental therapy students to consider rural dental practice after graduation. Now in its 5th year, the program paired 16 volunteer students with the same number of rural dentists for a three-week orientation to rural dentistry and community engagement. Mentors and students met in April.

Two weeks before she graduated in 2019, Amy Full talked with the incoming group of MN-CROHP participants about her own student experiences with rural dentistry—in Jackson, Marshall, Cook and Willmar, Minnesota—and her plans to practice dentistry in Marshall, Minnesota. Her presentation is re-printed below.

BY AMY FULL

Good evening, my name is Amy Full. I am a fourth-year dental student. I participated in the School of Dentistry’s Minnesota Collaborative Rural Oral Health Project or MN-CROHP for short—during the summer of 2016, the first year of student participation. I would like to share with you a little background about how I got to where I am today and about where I am headed for my future in dentistry.

Think back to when you all applied to dental school. We each were asked to write a personal statement about ourselves. What did you write? My statement evolved around my life growing up in a small town in southwest Minnesota. My personal statement began something like this...’I grew up in a cornfield, went to high school in a cornfield, went to college in a cornfield, and I dream of returning to rural Minnesota to practice dentistry.’

These words seem so distant but are so very close to coming true. In 16 days my dream will become a reality. I will walk across the stage to get my diploma and be one step closer to my dream of returning to my hometown to practice dentistry.

Let’s get back to the cornfields so I can explain why my personal statement included them. You may be asking yourself where are these cornfields anyway? Well, my story begins in a small town about three hours from the Twin Cities in the farming community of Marshall, Minnesota. Some of you may know where that is, but for those of you who do not...I will help.

Everybody knows Schwan’s ice cream, or at least I hope you do. Schwan’s ice cream is how I always describe my hometown to people. That is one thing to know about small town living—people will always ask you “where is that?” And to answer them I tried many things and for many years. Now my best response is “Have you ever had Schwan’s ice cream? Well that company started in my hometown.”

That brings us to my second cornfield. When I was in grade school, Marshall High School was moved from the middle of town to, literally, the middle of a cornfield on the edge of town.

The third cornfield came from South Dakota State University (SDSU) in Brookings, South Dakota. I am a Jackrabbit alum. You might ask how I explain SDSU to people who give me the “I have no idea where that is” look. Well, I ask people if they have ever heard of Hobo Day. This is a harder one to explain, but sometimes I get an ‘oh yeah’ which is great because I have no other way to describe SDSU. Hobo Day is SDSU’s homecoming. If you haven’t heard of it, look it up online. SDSU knows how to throw a fun homecoming week, which of course I was always too busy studying to enjoy.
All right, enough about my pre-dental school days, now onto how I decided to apply and ultimately come to the University of Minnesota.

My family plays a huge part in my life and, when applying to dental school, it was no small task to find a place I loved that would also be one my family could come and visit on a regular basis. I picked Minnesota so I could always feel the support of my family. My sister is in a dermatology residency in Marshfield, Wisconsin, and my parents still live in my hometown Marshall. I am the half-way point on a trip between Marshfield and Marshall, which is great because my apartment feels more like a hotel than an apartment because of all the visits I get.

Another reason I picked Minnesota was its emphasis on rural dentistry. As I shared and wrote in my personal statement, it is my goal to return to my hometown and practice dentistry. The University of Minnesota allowed me to experience rural dentistry in many different ways.

First, I participated in the MN-CROHP program. I was placed in Jackson, Minnesota, with Dr. Roggow for three weeks. The experience allowed me to observe and learn, and to see the countless hours of procedures, morning huddles, office operations, community engagement, and so much more that a small community had to offer. I was given the opportunity to stay with Dr. Roggow and his wife at their home. This experience showed me the behind-the-scenes ‘dentist living’, including how Dr. Roggow spent his time at home with his family but also how he was involved with the community in book clubs and bible studies.

As part of my MN-CROP experience, I also connected with a community member in Marshall who supports and works with the KAREN community. KAREN is a group of refugees from Southeast Asia. For my project, I was able to work with families and teach oral health, as well as what to expect when going to the dentist. These experiences through MN-CROHP however were just the start of my rural experience at the University of Minnesota.

My next experience came when, starting my third year of dental school, I was placed in Cook, Minnesota for a month-long outreach rotation. This experience allowed me to work hands-on in the Scenic Rivers Dental Clinic and live in the very, very small town of Cook. Cook is just north of Virginia about 30 miles and

“...it is my goal to return to my hometown and practice dentistry. The University of Minnesota allowed me to experience rural dentistry in many different ways.”

— AMY FULL, CLASS OF 2019

The rural communities of Minnesota have given me so much and I am excited to ‘give back.’ I plan to work in Marshall and hope to start volunteering and become an active member in my church community. I am excited my family will be close by and that I will get to watch my nephews grow up as my sister plans to move back to Marshall upon completing her residency as well.

The University of Minnesota School of Dentistry’s Outreach and MN-CROHP programs were two of the most influential parts of my time in dental school. The learning was hands-on and practical. It not only confirmed my love for rural Minnesota but also showed me that, through a great mentorship, young dentists out of school can grow and become a great addition to a small town practice. It is my hope that you all find the same excitement in rural dentistry that I did during your time in the MN-CROHP program this year, thank you!
The School of Dentistry celebrated the accomplishments of its graduating classes at the 2019 Commencement Ceremony held May 10, 2019, in Northrop Auditorium. Included among the 195 participants were 122 new doctors of dental surgery, 32 recipients of advanced education degrees (master and PhD) and/or certificates, 6 dental therapists who will receive master’s degrees, and 35 dental hygienists (26 will receive a bachelor of science degree; 9 will receive a master of dental hygiene degree.) Paul Krebsbach, DDS, PhD, School of Dentistry alumnus (‘87) and dean of the UCLA School of Dentistry, provided the commencement address.
2018 Community Report

The charts below represent the unaudited revenue sources and expenses of the School of Dentistry for fiscal year 2018.

### Revenues & Expenses

#### Revenues

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Clinics</td>
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#### Expenses

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<tr>
<td>Clinical Activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>University Overhead &amp; Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Activity</td>
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**Fiscal Year 2018** was a positive year financially for the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry. Although the school continues to face challenges as one of Minnesota’s largest safety net providers of dental care, in 2018 it saw increases in grant sponsored research funding, new investment in clinical infrastructure and digital dentistry, and stabilization of funding the UCare Mobile Dental Clinic operated by the School of Dentistry.

Our continued financial sustainability incorporates innovative efforts to streamline clinical processes for patient care and registration, with continued investment in our tripartite mission of teaching, research, and service. Tough decisions were made in FY2018 on clinical restructuring efforts, and cost savings from those efforts will help sustain the mission of the school for future years.

**Revenues Notes**

**Total revenues** for the School of Dentistry increased $2.9 million for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018, as a result of increases in tuition, state support and research funding, while clinical revenues posted lower due to the sunset of a federal incentive program.

**Research revenues** increased by close to $1.8M in FY2018 over the prior year, owing to newly awarded federal grants.

**Tuition and fee revenue** increased $2.16M in FY2018, maintaining the school’s competitive position within its peer group of publicly supported Midwestern dental schools.

**Gifts and investment returns** increased slightly from FY2017 to FY2018. These amounts do not include gifts to the School of Dentistry that are managed by the University of Minnesota Foundation that are still invested with the Foundation.

**Expenses Notes**

**Total expenses** for the School of Dentistry decreased by $960,000 in FY2018.

**Clinical expenses** decreased slightly, though that decrease masked some one-time costs associated with an external clinic closure.

**Research expenses** increased significantly, proportionate to the increase in sponsored funding in FY2018.

**Central allocations** increased, as did some of the costs of administering the school as the school worked to stabilize activities following significant cost cutting measures from the prior year. Central allocations include the School of Dentistry’s pro-rata portion of such University-wide expenses as facilities management, libraries, central administration, technology and research administration, and compliance.

**Scholarships and Student Services** increased slightly to $2.0 million.

— Joel Heuschele, CPA, MBA

*Chief Financial Officer*
### 2018-19 School Statistics

#### Paid Faculty Appointments*

<table>
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<th>Full Professor</th>
<th>Associate Professor</th>
<th>Assistant Professor</th>
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<td><strong>79</strong></td>
<td><strong>127</strong></td>
<td><strong>250</strong></td>
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*As of October 2018.

#### Student Enrollment | Fall Semester 2018

Dental Hygiene, BS 34  
Dental Hygiene, Master Degree 24  
Dental Therapy, Master Degree* 6  
Dental Therapy, Dual Degree: BSDH/MDT* 16  
Doctor of Dental Surgery 434  
Advanced Education & Graduate Programs 79  
Program for Advanced Standing Students 32  
**Total** 625

*Effective Fall 2019, all enrolled dental therapy students are in the dual-degree program.

#### 2019 Graduates

Dental Hygiene-Baccalaureate Program 26  
Master of Dental Hygiene 9  
Doctor of Dental Surgery 122  
Professional & Graduate Degrees Awarded 32  
Dental Therapy 6  
**Total** 195

#### 2018-19 First-Year Dental Class Profile

**Total Number of Applicants**: 1,201*  
**Class Size**: 110

**Average GPAs**  
- Overall GPA: 3.66  
- BCP (Bio, Chem, Physics) GPA: 3.57  
- Science GPA: 3.58

**Average DATs**  
- Academic Average: 20.78  
- Perceptual Ability: 20.35  
- Total Science: 20.50  
- Reading: 21.94

*These figures represent AADSAS calculations.

#### 2018-19 First-Year Dental Hygiene Class Profile

**Total Number of Applicants**: 117  
**Class Size**: 24

**Average GPAs**  
- Overall GPA: 3.16  
- Science GPA: 2.85  
- Prerequisite GPA: 3.15

#### 2018-19 First-Year Dental Therapy Class Profile*

*Dual degree BSDH/MDT

**Total Number of Applicants**: 113  
**Class Size**: 8

**Average GPAs**  
- Overall GPA: 3.37  
- Science GPA: 3.16  
- Prerequisite GPA: 3.35
Conrado Aparicio Receives Century Club Professor of the Year Award

Conrado Aparicio, PhD, MScEng, is the real deal. He is the consummate educator with superb student evaluations and a mentor of award winning students at all levels of professional education. Lauded by students as “100% good” and “a precious treasure,” he also is universally respected by faculty and colleagues as a scientific pioneer and thought leader with a global reach.

In recognition of his contributions to the education, research and service mission of the School of Dentistry, Dean Gary Anderson, DDS, MS, announced on April 26 that Dr. Conrado Aparicio is the recipient of the School of Dentistry’s Century Club Professor of the Year Award. The award is the dental school’s highest honor. The announcement was made at the Celebrate Dentistry reception, co-hosted by the School of Dentistry and the Minnesota Dental Association and held as the kick-off to the association’s annual Star of the North Meeting.

In announcing the award, Anderson described Dr. Aparicio’s passion for teaching and research as both inspiring and exemplary. He is one of just a handful of School of Dentistry faculty who teach dental and dental therapy students and also lectures to students in graduate education programs, supervises master and PhD dissertation studies for students, and mentors PhD students and postdoctoral candidates.

Said Anderson, “Dr. Aparicio’s students and investigators describe the opportunity to work with him as a ‘privilege.’ They say that Dr. Aparicio ‘does not just teach me basic techniques. He teaches me a thinking method, a way to solve problems independently, which benefits me for the rest of my life.’ And still another says, ‘Going through his lab is the best experience I have (had) in my professional life.’”

“Now if you’re an educator,” said Anderson, “it doesn’t get much better than that.”

But, in fact, it does. Students across all education programs and levels of academic accomplishment describe Dr. Aparicio as patient, collaborative, inclusive, respectful, always available, very understanding, approachable, a unique personality who helps and supports all to reach their goals and grow, and as someone who “really knows his stuff.”

So, what’s his stuff?

Dr. Aparicio is the deputy director of the Dental School’s Minnesota Dental Research Center for Biomaterials and Biomechanics. His investigations into reparative and regenerative medicine focus on the creation of new advanced bioinspired biomaterials for the repair and regeneration of teeth, bone and gums.

His collaborations—with scientists as far away as Asia, South America, and Europe and as nearby as the halls of the School of Dentistry—have resulted in more than 100 research papers, books and book chapters. He’s been awarded millions in grants from diverse funding sources and his investigations have resulted in five international patents.

“But he is not a dentist,” said Anderson. “He is a materials engineer whose position on our faculty makes possible unique opportunities for collaboration and exploration of science and education at the interface of scientific disciplines.”

Dr. Aparicio’s multidisciplinary research, funded by the National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research, focuses on improving the longevity of dental fillings for the elderly. His investigations, funded by the Department of Defense, focus on improving the lifespan and preventing infection of prostheses for amputees.

In collaboration with School of Dentistry faculty member and biochemist Dr. Sven Gorr, Dr. Aparicio worked to develop a novel coating for dental implants that will prevent infections, the most common cause for implant failure. It’s an application with the potential for use in a broader category of medical devices and implants, such as those used for hip and knee replacement surgery.

Dr. Aparicio received his master’s degree in industrial engineering (1998) and his PhD in biomaterials/biomechanical engineering (2005), both from Technical University of Catalonia, Barcelona, Spain. In 2007, he completed his postdoctoral studies in regenerative medicine at Northwestern University in Chicago. One year later, he joined the faculty of the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry faculty and was awarded the position of professor in 2019.

“Dr. Aparicio has made us a better school,” said Anderson. “He is a superb teacher who is dedicated to the ongoing education and training of our students and of those who will follow him into his fields. He has been driven to push the boundaries of biomaterials science to discover bio-inspired technologies to prevent and treat common and costly oral and orthopedic diseases. His research is exemplary and his contributions translate into everyday dental practice and beyond, with the promise of great insights to come. It is my pleasure to recognize his many contributions with this award.”
said. “He loved the University of Minnesota, the School of Dentistry, his profession, students and fellow faculty members. Every day was filled with joy. He came home each night excited to tell me about all of the good things that had happened that day with his students and colleagues.”

Brent Larson, DDS, MS, director of the dental school’s Division of Orthodontics and emcee of the celebratory event, shared the story of Isaacson’s future-focused leadership, enthusiasm for teaching and lifelong learning, and his unique talent for empowering and motivating that influenced the lives of academic and clinical orthodontists around the world. “This generous gift allows us to honor Bob Isaacson,” he said. “Most important, it allows us to continue his legacy to benefit generations of orthodontic residents to come.”

In a memorial tribute published in The Angle Orthodontist, Editor Steven Lindauer, DMD, MDSc., wrote of Isaacson, “His mind instinctively saw how things could be where most others just accommodated to how things were done. Bob’s ideas were always born of the attitude of moving ahead; he never spent time pondering the past. This was done without selfish motivation, taking steps to implement change because it was the right thing to do.”

Sharing one additional insight into the legacy of the visionary educator, Delores Isaacson noted, “Bob and I both believe that it is our responsibility to give back at least as much as we receive in life. This is our way of giving back so that the good work can continue.”

In thanking the Isaacson family for their generous gift, Division Director Larson announced the dental school’s commitment to raise an additional $1.5 million. Priorities for these funds are to elevate the Isaacson professorship to an endowed chair of orthodontics and advance the school’s recruitment and retention of orthodontic faculty; and to grow the previously established Robert J. Isaacson Innovation in Orthodontics Fund in support of innovative technology and research opportunities.

The Isaacson gift is part of the School of Dentistry’s Driven: The University of Minnesota Campaign to raise $21.5 million to increase student support, drive innovation through research, and ensure state-of-the-art dental education through the use of digital dentistry, including imaging, impressions, dental restorations, and prosthetic construction through CAD/CAM and 3D printing. The campaign will be complete in 2021.

For more information about the two memorial funds established to honor Dr. Robert J. Isaacson, contact: Emily Best, School of Dentistry Development Office, at emilyj@umn.edu or (612) 625-6811.

Targeting Bone Cancer Pain

Severe pain is a common symptom of many types of bone cancers. As patients and providers seek new treatments for pain that do not involve opioids—which are known to have adverse side effects including addiction—scientists at the University of Minnesota are seeking new solutions.

A $1.9 million grant awarded in May to Professor Donald Simone, PhD, and an interdisciplinary team of scientists will advance this work to understand and treat bone cancer pain. The grant from the National Cancer Institute within the National Institutes of Health will support the team’s investigation of the underlying causes of cancer pain, specifically the role of cancer cell-neuron interactions that lead to pain.

“We are eager to understand how cancer cells interact with neurons to produce pain so that we can interrupt this interaction at the molecular level and reduce pain,” said Donald Simone, principal investigator for the study and professor at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry. “As bone cancers are extremely painful, this work might have significant clinical impact.”

The five-year, multifaceted research study will explore more deeply molecular mechanisms of pain transmission from cancer cells to the nervous system and is expected to provide insights into new strategies for managing bone cancer pain.

Recent studies by this team revealed that cancer cells release nanoparticles called exosomes. Exosomes carry molecules that excite nerve endings and signal pain. Understanding how exosomes excite neurons and developing new approaches to prevent this communication may lead to new treatments to alleviate pain from cancer.
U of M Awarded $3.1 Million to Develop Standardized Patient-Reporting Tool for Oral Health

The University of Minnesota School of Dentistry is leading an effort to create a universal tool that can be used internationally to measure patients’ perceived oral health quality. The tool, which will eventually take the form of a patient questionnaire, will one day generate the data needed by providers and researchers to more precisely measure the impact of treatment choices on patient populations.

“There is broad agreement today that the patient perspective is very important and that standardization of patient perceptions is a good thing,” said Mike T. John, PhD, DDS, MPH, associate professor and principle investigator on the project. “We intend to study and synthesize dozens of existing patient survey tools that have been created in the field of oral health and create one that reflects the simplest and best science.”

Once developed and tested, John’s team of scientists, dentists and statisticians will incorporate their oral health module into a widely accepted measurement system already in use for general health. The Patient-Reported Outcome Measurement Information System is the most advanced, government-endorsed system of patient-reported outcomes for physical, mental and social health.

The $3.1 million grant from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research will enable John’s team to follow the PROMIS process in developing the oral health component for adult dental patients. The instrument will involve assigning numeric values so that outcomes of oral diseases can be collected and measured consistently worldwide. Previous studies by John and his colleagues, and endorsed by NIH, have provided a framework for organizing patient-reported oral health outcomes into four areas: oral function, oral-facial pain, oral-facial appearance and psychosocial impact.

“Standardizing patient input is an essential step in helping dentists and dental research teams identify and gauge the effectiveness of treatments on a large scale, across settings, systems and even countries,” said John. “When completed and in use, this tool will facilitate research, reduce costs and integrate oral health into overall health measures.”

Ranier F. Adarve, DMD, MS, MHPE (Restorative Sci/Prosthodontics) was appointed to the Minnesota Board of Dentistry, effective July 3, 2019. His term expires January 2, 2023.

Christine M. Blue, BSDH, DHSC, MS (Primary Dental Care-Dental Hygiene) and Karl D. Self, DDS, MBA (Primary Dental Care-Dental Therapy) are invited contributors to the 2020 Surgeon General’s Report on Oral Health in America (in the Oral Health Integration, Workforce and Practice section of the report).

Mark C. Herzberg, DDS, PhD (Diagnostic/Biological Sci-Basic Sciences) was elected vice president of the American Association for Dental Research.

Aaron Kupcho has joined the School of Dentistry staff as the new executive assistant to the dean. He brings with him extensive professional experience in both private and non-profit sectors, including roles as a homeless youth case manager, arts educator, and committee page for the Minnesota Senate. Most recently, he served as an executive assistant in the commissioner’s office at the Minnesota Department of Revenue. He also is a talented actor and artist who produces large scale murals on display in locations throughout the Twin Cities.

See Aaron Kupcho’s latest installation Innocence Lost, at the Regis West Gallery, University of Minnesota West Bank Campus, October 10-26, 2019.

Dina Moussa, PhD (MinnCResT Fellow) received the 2019 Lion Dental Research Award from the Cariology Research Group of the International Association for Dental Research. The award was presented in June 2019 at the joint meeting of the IADR and the American and Canadian associations for dental research in Vancouver, B.C., Canada, where Moussa was a featured speaker.

James Q. Swift, DDS (Developmental/Surgical Sci-Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery) was recognized as the Minneapolis District Dental Society’s 2019 Guest of Honor.

Chad Wagner (Fourth-year dental student) received the 2019 William H. Bell Award for Pre-doctoral Achievement in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery from the American College of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. Wagner also was named the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) District 8 Delegate of the Year.
YOU ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF DENTAL HYGIENE

1919 DENTAL HYGIENE 2019

OCTOBER 18–19, 2019
Join us for a weekend of continuing education, school tours, and a celebration of excellence in dental hygiene education

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18
9:00am - 3:00pm Continuing Education Course:
Dental Hygiene and the Transforming Healthcare Environment
Register: www.smile.umn.edu

3:30 – 5:30 - Dental School Tours
Light Refreshments
Meet on the 9th Floor of Moos Tower
RSVP: 612-625-5751 or denalum@umn.edu

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19
100th Anniversary Celebration
McNamara Alumni Center
200 Oak Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455
6:00pm - Reception  |  7:00pm - Dinner
8:00pm - Program featuring guest, Carlos Rodriguez, Comedian and dental hygienist and remarks from School leadership

Tickets:
$50 per person  |  $25 student price  |  $500 table of 10

Register here: Z.UMN.EDU/DH100

Questions? Please contact the Alumni Relations Office at 612-625-5751 or denalum@umn.edu

dentistry.umn.edu
A Letter from the President

The University of Minnesota School of Dentistry. That name stirs many different feelings in alumni. We all have our stories about our time in Moos Tower (or before). Most of us can laugh at these stories, although some are still cringe-worthy, and a few can make your heart pound and your stomach drop even all these years later.

Our diplomas are our badge of honor: we did it, we made it, we achieved our goal. As a lifelong Minnesota resident and a graduate of the University of Minnesota for both my undergrad studies as well as dental school, it’s not a stretch to say that I bleed maroon and gold. I love this University, even when it has stretched me to my limits. So, when I joined the School of Dentistry Alumni Society Board in 2016, my goal was to share with alumni, both seasoned and new, the fondness and pride I have in my school.

As your SODAS president for 2019-2020, I take the reins from the talented and energetic Dr. Aruna Rao. As an alumni society board, we have been working towards the common goal of “bringing the love” to the School of Dentistry. We have invited dental, dental hygiene and dental therapy students to be board members because we value the very newest voices in dentistry in the larger voice of the alumni.

Our new flagship event, Alumni Weekend aims to bring together all alumni from the School of Dentistry. We intend to see this event grow year by year, until each September the halls of Moos Tower are overflowing with the voices of friends and colleagues who can’t wait to reunite and celebrate the friendship and education gained here at the U. It starts with you—invite a classmate or colleague to attend the festivities of Alumni Weekend!

We are a community. We are alumni, bound together by our experiences and education at this school. It wasn’t easy, as nothing worth achieving usually is. Our knowledge gained is the foundation of the professional lives we lead and for that, I hope we all bleed a little maroon and gold.

Angie Hilo, DDS, ’02
President, School of Dentistry Alumni Society
www.dentistry.umn.edu/alumni
Meet Your New SODAS President

What are you looking forward to as SODAS president?
The opportunity to become more involved with the School of Dentistry and to help influence the attitudes of new graduates to stay involved after they have completed their time here.

How do you stay connected to your classmates?
Social Media! The platforms that did not exist when I graduated in 2002 are now the easiest way to keep in touch with classmates all over the country. It’s nice to know what is going on in their lives, even if you rarely see each other in person. It has also been a great way to get advice from people you trust.

What's your favorite thing to do in the Twin Cities?
We live in a great food town, so my husband and I enjoy trying out different restaurants around the cities. In the last year, we’ve really enjoyed the Keg and Case Market in St. Paul and Hai Hai in Northeast Minneapolis.

What is dentistry exciting today?
The changes in technology have been fast and furious in the last 20 years. The ability to have 3D imaging systems in a small private practice is a game changer. The digital workflow is changing the way everyday dentistry is being done.

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What are you listening to?
At my office, all of us get to rotate choosing a Pandora station for the day. My last two picks were The Jayhawks and Motown Radio. Good music makes for better dentistry!

Hats off to you!
Graduation caps and gowns were once again donated to the Class of 2019 thanks to the generosity of the donors listed below. Graduation is the final step of our students’ education program. Since 1997, alumni and donors have made donations to underwrite the cost of caps and gown for graduating students, while simultaneously welcoming them into the profession. The Cap & Gown Graduation Fund also supports other graduation activities, including senior recognition awards (named after Drs. Mellor Holland, Kathleen Newell and Karl Self), and senior recognition banquets. On behalf of the alumni society and the Class of 2019, thank you! If you would like to make a donation in honor of the Class of 2020, use the enclosed envelope or make an online gift at www.give.umn.edu to the Dentistry Cap & Gown Graduation Fund (#8902).

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY ALUMNI SOCIETY
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www.dentistry.umn.edu/alumni

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In many organizations, a minority of workers do a majority of the work necessary to sustain the group. S. Kay Adams is one of those individuals. She is an outstanding contributor and an authentic leader who fosters trust, inspires others, and further the betterment of the causes she serves. A mainstay in University of Minnesota dentistry, Adams has treated patients, taught dental residents and dental hygiene students, and provided research assistance to faculty. She was employed for eight years at Boynton Health Service (1991-99) and at the School of Dentistry’s Hospital Dental Clinic, Faculty Practice and Clinical Research Center (1999-06). In 2006, she returned to Boynton where she currently practices.

Adams has been a member of the School of Dentistry’s Continuing Dental Education Advisory Committee for two terms (2008-2012), and served on the School of Dentistry Alumni Society (SODAS) board (2012-18) and as chair of the SODAS Honors Committee for two years. She’s been a trustee of the American Dental Hygienist’s Association; president of the Minnesota Dental Hygienist’s Association and chair of its administrative legislative and membership councils; and was the MDHA representative to the Minnesota Board of Dentistry. She also served as trustee and treasurer of the MDHA's component society and is a member of the UMN Medical Reserve Corps. Outside of the profession, she has an equally impressive history of service, including serving as block captain for her Neighborhood Watch Group and volunteering for her local library.

A pioneering spirit and a passion for excellence have long been hallmarks of Freeman Rosenblum’s career. Early on, during his tenure as associate professor and acting chair of the School of Dentistry’s Department of Pediatric Dentistry (1967-1969), he played a pivotal role in developing the school’s first graduate program in pediatric dentistry.

He was director of the three-year experimental pedodontic auxiliary training program, initiated in 1967, and participated in numerous research projects, including an NIH study that examined expanded roles for dental assistants. And in 1968, when it was rare and especially demanding to receive board certification, he became one of Minnesota’s first such certified pediatric dentists and encouraged his peers to do so the same.

In 1969, Rosenblum founded Metropolitan Pediatric Dental Associates, a thriving practice that reflects his unwavering advocacy for care for all children, regardless of patients’ insurance type or status. He retired in 2011.

Throughout his 50 years of dental practice, his commitment to service was high. He was appointed by the Governor to the Minnesota Board of Dentistry and served three terms, including two as president; chaired the Health Professional Services Diversion program; and chaired the dental division of the United Jewish Fund and the United Fund.

He also served as an executive council member and president of the St. Paul District Dental Society and received the district’s Outstanding Service Award in 2001. He was inducted into the Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honorary Society in 1972.
1945
Charles Francis Zwisler Jr. (DDS), Baxter, Minn., died February 19, 2019 at age 97. A member of the Naval Reserve during dental school, he served stateside as a Lieutenant J.G. in the Navy Dental Corps, then practiced dentistry for one year in St. Cloud before earning a master’s degree in orthodontics (1949) at Northwestern University. He practiced orthodontics in Mankato and also taught at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry and Mankato State University. He was a member of the Blue Earth County Dental Association; the Southern District Dental Society and the Minnesota and American Dental Associations; and the American Association of Orthodontics. He was a diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics and past president of the Minnesota Dental Association. He also served in the Mankato Association for Retarded Citizens and the Minnesota Association for Retarded Citizens, was a charter member of the Mankato Sierra Club, and a member of the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree. He was an avid amateur radio operator and shared his love of fishing, canoeing and hiking with his family.

1950
Francis F. Franta, Jr. (DH), died March 31 at age 93. He was a WWII veteran. After military service, he married and established a dental practice in North St. Paul where he worked until 1983. He loved the outdoors, especially camping and fishing with his family and friends.

1953
Helen Kohn (DH), Maria, Calif., died January 3, 2018. She was an avid bicyclist, gardener, skier and cook.

1954
Ralph C.E. Peterson (DDS), Golden Valley, Minn., died January 12, 2019, at age 88. He served two years as an Army dentist at Walter Reed in Washington D.C. after dental school and practiced general dentistry for two years in Minneapolis before establishing a private practice in endodontics at the Southdale Medical Center in Edina in 1958. He retired in 1991. He continued to enjoy annual lunches with his dental school classmates until just a few years ago.

1955
David Dvorak (DDS), St. Paul, Minn., was named the Minnesota Dental Association’s 2019 Guest of Honor, in recognition of his outstanding achievement and involvement in dentistry. He served on the St. Paul District Dental Society Executive Council (1992-98) and was secretary treasurer (1973-78). He was president of the Minnesota Academy for Gnathological Research (1978-79). He also received numerous teaching awards from the School of Dentistry, including that of Outstanding Clinical Instructor (1970 and 1974); Adjunct Clinical Faculty of the Year (2011 and 2015); and the Award of Excellence from the School of Dentistry Alumni Association (1999). He shared the Guest of Honor title with co-recipient Gary Anderson, School of Dentistry dean.

1958
Donald Popovich (DDS), died January 12, 2018. He practiced dentistry for 38 years in Minneapolis and Bloomington, yet remained a proud Iron Ranger his whole life. He was kind and generous, loved to laugh and enjoyed life, and treasured time spent with family and friends.

1959
Orlen Norman Johnson (DDS), died May 2, 2019. He was a hospital corpsman in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. A two-time University of Minnesota alumnus, he also received an MS degree from Wayne State University at Detroit, Mich. He had a career with the U. S. Public Health Service, taught dental radiology at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry, and was the author of Essentials of Dental Radiography for Dental Assistants and Hygienists. He was active in his church; the American Legion; the Radiation Advisory Council State of Nebraska; the American Dental Association, Nebraska Dental Association, and Lincoln District Dental Association; and the American Academy Maxillofacial Radiology, serving as secretary/treasurer (1979-1982).

1960
Edward J. Bifulk (DDS) died March 29, 2019. He fought courageously throughout the Korean War and was a loving son, father, grandfather, husband and friend.

1962
ElRay Fertig (DDS), Anoka, Minn., died Nov. 16, 2018 at the age of 83.

1963
Kip B. Jenoft (DDS), Coon Rapids, Minn., died Feb. 3, 2019. He grew up in Duluth, graduated dental school and earned a certificate in orthodontics ’65, then practiced orthodontics in Duluth for 10 years. At age 49, he graduated from Bethel College in St. Paul, where he received a Master of Divinity and was ordained as a minister.
1970
James Gilman (DDS), Warland, Wyo., provided free dental care to children in Guatemala again this year as a part of Global Dental Relief, an organization to bring dental care to children around the world.

1972
Jeffery A. Buchholz (DDS), Nixa, Mo., died Nov. 15, 2018, at age 72. He was a devoted man of God and he enjoyed the outdoors. His greatest joy was spending time with his wife, children and grandchildren. His example of kindness, integrity and devotion left an impact on all who met him.

1977
Roger Sjulson (DDS), Fosston, Minn., received the Minnesota Dental Association's Outstanding Service Award on April 26, 2019, in recognition of his contributions to organized dentistry and his support for charitable dental activities throughout the years. Involved in ADA, MDA, and Northwestern District Dental Society activities since dental school, he’s taken on leadership roles within the association and in dental professional organizations. He’s also generously donated his time to various charitable dental activities, including Mission of Mercy activities in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa; the Give Kids a Smile program; Donated Dental Services; and the Northern Dental Access Center. Additionally, he has attended nearly all of the MDA’s Dental Day at the Capitol events. Dr. Sjulson currently serves as secretary/treasurer for the Northwestern District Dental Society.

1980
Dr. Patrick Alcorn (DDS), Cass Lake, Minn., died January 29, 2019, at age 68. Married in 1972, he worked a variety of jobs to help put his wife through pharmacy school before going on to complete his own dental degree. He practiced dentistry in Reed Lake Falls for 35 years. After “retirement,” he continued to practice part-time at Northern Dental Access Center in Bemidji, Minn., until his cancer diagnosis in March 2017. He was active in his church and president of the local Lions Club, receiving the Lions Clubs International Foundation’s (LCIF) highest honor in acknowledgment of his dedication to humanitarian service. He was a member of the Sportsmen’s Club and a DNR licensed Firearms Safety Instructor, volunteering his time teaching kids through 4H, and took pride in helping to raise funds for, and build, a community pool in the 1980s. His positive attitude and zest for life was what defined him and helped him truly to enjoy the 23 months post diagnosis with family and lifelong friends, and checked off his “bucket list” items.

1981
Norman E. Nordgren (DDS), Duluth, Minn., died from cancer on February 3, 2019. He attended UMD part-time and worked for US Steel before being drafted into the Army and serving two years in Germany. In his early years, he enjoyed hunting, fishing with the guys, and riding his motorcycle. Flying was a passion, and he earned his private and commercial license. He returned to college, graduated from dental school, and practiced dentistry in West Duluth for 26 years. In his later years, he enjoyed golf, playing cards with friends, and he was no stranger to the Black Bear Casino.

1984
Gary Williams (DDS) and Dr. Gerald Wimmer (DDS) are co-recipients of the Minnesota Dental Association’s 2019 Humanitarian Service Award. The duo met at college in 1976, attended dental school where they were bench mates, and practiced dentistry together since graduation. Both have been involved in organized dentistry and volunteered their time and talents to events and organizations, including Project Homeless, Donated Dental Services, Team Smile Clinics with the Minnesota Twins and Superbowl, and the Minnesota Mission of Mercy (as co-leads in dental triage for all six events). Additionally, they’ve both volunteered with Volunteers in Mission, and have provided dental care in multiple locations in Honduras and Panama to those in need for over 20 years.

1986
Jeffrey L Champion (DDS), Waupun, Wisc., was the co-coordinator of the first annual Camendador, Elias Piña Dominican Republic Oral Surgical Dental Mission in February. The program serves the rural underserved populations where oral surgery, oral education and some other treatments such as Fl-Tx and fillings were performed.

Marc Montgomery (DDS), St. Paul, Minn., was voted a Mpls./St. Paul Magazine Top Cosmetic Dentist for the ninth consecutive year.

2001
Suzette Olson (DDS), Little Falls, Minn., announces that she is now the sole owner of First Avenue Dental. A Baxter native and a Brainerd High School graduate (with distinction), she graduated cum Laude from the University of Minnesota-Duluth and was ranked #15 in her dental school class. She joined Dr. Mel Bauer immediately after graduation in Little Falls, loving her career of helping patients with meticulous detail and compassionate care. In 2002 she became a partner at First Avenue Dental and worked to improve her technical skills with constant continuing education and purchasing state-of-the-art equipment. She assumed full ownership of the practice when Dr. Bauer retired in April 2019.

2006
Amber Cziok (DDS) received the Minnesota Dental Association’s President’s Award on April 26, 2019. Dr. Cziok has served on the
MDA New Dentist Committee, is currently a member of the MDA Membership Committee, and is a board member of the Minnesota Dental Foundation. She is a past trustee of the West Central District Dental Society and has served as a 10th District delegate at several ADA Annual House of Delegates meetings. She was recently elected MDA 2nd Vice President.

2008

Mark Phillips (DDS) received the Minnesota Dental Association’s New Dentist Leadership Award on April 26, 2019. Dr. Phillips is a member of Northeastern District Dental Society’s (NEDDS) Executive Council and co-chairs the district’s New Dentist Committee. Additionally, he is president of the Minnesota Association of Endodontists College of Diplomates, and a member of the Lake Superior College Hygiene Advisory Board, the Lake Superior Study Club, the Spear Study Club, and the Great Lakes Study Club.

2010

Brett Moore (DDS) was voted as a Mpls./St. Paul Magazine’s Top Dentist.

2011

Vladimir Leon (TMD Certificate 2011 and Orthodontics Certificate 2013) recently opened Leon Orthodontics in Inver Grove Heights, Minn. Dr. Leon is a Diplomate of the America Board of Orthodontics and he was a full-time faculty member at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry (2014-17).

2016

Christopher Pearce (DDS), joined Windsor Family Dental in Madison, Wisconsin.

Opioids Latest Focus for this Multi-faceted Grad

For Monica Frazier Anderson, DDS ’88, there is always a new endeavor around every corner.

“I have always had an entrepreneurial mindset, which was instilled in me by my family,” says Anderson, who has authored six books in three genres, hosted a cable TV show, delivered motivational speeches nationwide and worked in private practice for more than 20 years. Today Anderson works as a dental benefits administrator while also launching a non-profit organization to address opioid addiction in her community.

Anderson designed a campaign to educate the public on how to safeguard pills at home and dispose of unused prescription drugs at local clinics, pharmacies, hospitals and police departments. While the infrastructure has long existed to take back drugs in most communities, Anderson recognized that providers (including dentists) were rarely conveying the importance of quickly disposing of unused drugs to their patients. “Addiction often starts with someone having access to pills that were legally prescribed,” she said. “Providers and their patients need to understand the risks, and the ease of dropping off drugs for free, anonymously, year-round at convenient spots throughout their community.”*

Anderson conceived of the Drop the Drugs initiative last year as a required project for her participation in the American Dental Association’s Institute for Diversity and Leadership. Today she hopes to make it a sustainable model that can be replicated. The increased public messaging and collaboration with local government, law enforcement, health care systems, providers and the media have resulted in a nearly three-fold increase in the amount of pills taken back in her home community of Grand Prairie, Texas, in 2019 thus far.

As a young dentistry student, Anderson transferred to the U of M School of Dentistry in her second year from the University of Texas at Houston in 1985. Her worries about being the only new student and the only African American student in her class faded quickly as she and her fellow students pushed through the rigorous program together. “Coming from Texas, I had experienced a lot of racism and sexism; but not at the U of M,” said Anderson, who was elected president of her class. “My classmates initially referred to me as ‘the Baptist girl’ as opposed to ‘the Black girl’, which I found hilarious, and also delightful. We were a team.”

While Anderson has delivered speeches and published articles on a wide range of topics, today she finds herself delivering speeches on rebounding from setbacks more than anything else. Diagnosed with a malignant gastrointestinal stromal tumor in 2012, Anderson has undergone two surgeries and now takes a daily chemotherapy pill to treat her cancer.

“I’m just grateful to be here,” says the dynamic 57-year old mother of two and grandmother. “I’m running at about 70 percent of what I could do at full throttle in the past. But my 70 percent is pretty damn good. No matter what we are going through, we can still make the best of each day.”

*Learn more at www.dropthedrugs.org.
**SEPTEMBER 2019**

September 28-October 5
Homecoming Week
*U of M Day of Service*
September 28

Parade
October 4
6:30 p.m.
University Ave. SE

*Homecoming Game*
October 5
Minnesota vs. Illinois

**OCTOBER 2019**

October 18-19
100th Anniversary
Celebration—Program
in Dental Hygiene

October 30-November 2
American College
of Prosthodontists
Annual Session
Miami, Fla.

*Alumni Reception:*
Location to be determined.

For information:
Dr. Heather Conrad
conr0094@umn.edu

**NOVEMBER 2019**

November 2-5
American Academy
of Periodontology
Chicago, Ill.

*Alumni Reception:*
Location to be determined.

For information:
Dr. Massimo Costalonga
costa002@umn.edu

November 5
ASDA Vendor Fair
TCF Stadium
4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

For information:
DJensen@mndental.org

**JANUARY 2020**

January 14
School of Dentistry Alumni
Society Board Meeting

**FEBRUARY 2020**

February 8
Give Kids a Smile
University of Minnesota
School of Dentistry
Minneapolis, Minn.

**MARCH 2020**

March 6
16th Annual Dental Research
Updates from the U of M
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Great Hall
Coffman Memorial Union
Minneapolis Campus

For information:
smile.umn.edu

*School of Dentistry*
*Alumni Lunch:*
Noon to 1:00 p.m.
Location: To be announced

**APRIL 2020**

April 1-4
American Association
of Endodontists
Annual Meeting
Nashville, Tenn.

*Alumni Reception:
To be announced*

For more information

Except where noted, you can obtain further information on the events listed and/or request disability accommodations by contacting:

**Erin Strong Elliott**
*Alumni Relations*
(612) 626-6884
estrong@umn.edu

To stay informed about events at the University of Minnesota, see the Twin Cities Campus Event Calendar at www.events.tc.umn.edu
Discount Available

School of Dentistry Alumni Society members are eligible for discounted continuing education. Members may receive a 10 percent discount for “lecture only” courses offered through the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry. (This discount applies to School of Dentistry Alumni Society members only and not their employees.)

*See smile.umn.edu for updates.

**A U G U S T  2 0 1 9**

**Miniresidency in Prosthodontics:**
Advances and Innovations in Restorative and Implant Dentistry
August 8-11, 2019

**54th Annual Dental Assistants’ Seminar:**
It Starts with Us!
August 9-10, 2019

**Local Anesthesia Refresher:**
A Hands-on Review
August 23, 2019

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**O C T O B E R  2 0 1 9**

**Miniresidency in Geriatrics and Long-term Care for the Dental Team**
October 9-12, 2019

**Get It Done Day 2019**
October 11, 2019

**Nitrous Oxide/Oxygen Inhalation Sedation:**
A Training Program
October 11, 2019

**Dental Hygiene and the Transforming Healthcare Environment**
October 18, 2019

**Dental Implants: From Site Preparation to Complications**
October 18-20, 2019

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**N O V E M B E R  2 0 1 9**

**Sleep Apnea and Bruxism… Are they Related?**
November 1, 2019

**Evaluate, Diagnose and Treat the Most Common TMJ Problems:**
A Hands-on Workshop
November 2, 2019

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**D E C E M B E R  2 0 1 9**

**Peri-implant Conditions & Diseases: Assess, Manage, Treat & Refer**
December 7, 2019

**Office Oral Surgery:**
A Guided Experience for the General Dentist
December 16-17, 2019

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For more information

For more information, to register for classes and/or to request disability accommodations, contact:

**Continuing Dental Education**
6-406 Moos HS Tower
515 Delaware Street SE
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN 55455

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(612) 625-1418
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**Fax:**
(612) 624-8159

**Website:**
smile.umn.edu
Driven to improve the oral health of all Minnesotans.

The University of Minnesota School of Dentistry educates 73% of practicing dentists in our state, 68% of dental therapists, and 49% of dental hygiene educators. Gifts from generous donors advance our efforts to fuel student success in dentistry, improving oral health and access to care throughout Minnesota and beyond.