New Graduates Give a Nation a Reason to Smile
Features

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Cover photo:
University of Rwanda Dental Surgeon Graduate Joseph Nshimiyimana with Harvard School of Dental Medicine Instructor Donna Hackley. Photo credit: Jordan Snowzell

Global Highlight
Brittany Seymour, MPH11, returned to Costa Rica and brought a copy of the Harvard Dental Bulletin to the young girl from the indigenous territory of Ngâbe–Buglé de Coto Brus, who appeared on last year’s cover.

The Harvard Dental Bulletin is published twice a year for alumni and friends of Harvard School of Dental Medicine. We look forward to receiving your feedback and news.

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Dear Alumni and Friends,

The mission of Harvard School of Dental Medicine promises we will develop and foster a community of global leaders dedicated to improving human health. This can be interpreted to mean that we provide an excellent educational experience for our predoctoral and postdoctoral students that prepares them to become leaders in their field and to improve the overall health of their patients. This is certainly true. However, we take the commitment a step further. HSDM has a broader mission in the world that goes beyond the boundaries of the Longwood campus. Nowhere is this more evident than in our efforts in Rwanda.

More than seven years ago we made a commitment to help launch Rwanda’s first dental school and recently we were thrilled to celebrate its first graduates. Our faculty and even HSDM alumni have been immersed in Rwanda, developing curriculum and teaching eager students who will become the future dental leaders of their country. You can learn more about their efforts in this issue.

As I write this, we are about to host Senior Dental Leaders in Boston. Since 2007, the program cohosted with King’s College London, has brought together delegates from around the world at a critical time in their careers to develop key strategic leadership competencies and to network with leaders in international dentistry. The delegates this year represent 15 different countries. We hope they take home new ideas and inspiration to address oral health inequities in the world.

Additionally, our DMD students have been traveling the globe during their Spring Break, broadening their interests and studies. This year several students traveled to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates to volunteer with Special Olympics/Special Smiles providing oral health education activities and conducting screenings of athletes. Others traveled to Barcelona, Costa Rica, London, and Shanghai pursuing research projects and learning about dentistry and healthcare in other countries. This experience helps shape them as future practitioners and oral health advocates.

Our ability to offer international experiences and pursue global oral health and education projects is often supported by the generosity of our donors and friends listed in this issue. We thank you for supporting our mission. We may be a small school, but we endeavor to have a big impact in the world.

Bruce Donoff, DMD67, MD73
New Graduates Give a Nation a Reason to Smile
Rwanda’s First Class of Dentists Graduate

A jubilant crowd celebrated a victory in a soccer stadium in Huye, Rwanda, this past fall. The fanfare wasn’t for a soccer match, but rather for the commencement ceremony at the University of Rwanda — including its first-ever graduating class of dentists.

With a population of more than 12 million people and fewer than 40 registered dentists to serve them, adding 10 new graduates with bachelor’s degrees in dental surgery was a milestone for the future of the nation’s oral health.

Since 2011, Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) has been a leading partner in the effort to launch the new dental school and bachelor of dental surgery degree program at the University of Rwanda.

“It is an incredible blessing to be part of this historic moment in Rwanda. It is some of the most challenging, enjoyable, and rewarding work I’ve ever done,” Donna Hackley, PD95, HSDM instructor in oral health policy and epidemiology, said. Hackley spent five years working in Rwanda to reach this achievement.

What it took to get to this point began 7½ years ago with an initiative started by Partners In Health (PIH), the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), and the Rwandan ministries of health and education. Together, the entities launched the Rwanda Human Resources for Health (HRH) Program — a program to advance medical education and improve health care delivery systems in the country.

“Given the connection of oral health to overall health, the rise of noncommunicable diseases, and the potential for preventive care to mitigate disease, it was critical that dentistry be included in the program,” said Jane Barrow, SM87, HSDM associate dean for global and community health.

Barrow urged representatives from HRH to include a dental school in their plans for a world-class education system for health professionals. An extensive planning
process began with representatives from HSDM, the Rwandan ministries, the Kigali Health Institute, CHAI, PIH, and the University of Maryland with the goal of launching Rwanda's first dental school and dental surgery program.

Brittany Seymour, MPH11, assistant professor of oral health policy and epidemiology, accompanied Barrow on the initial HRH team visit to help make the case for a dental surgery program to the Rwandan ministers of health and education. “We were thrilled to see dentistry included in this groundbreaking project,” Seymour said.

A team of faculty and alumni served on site in Rwanda as faculty mentors and teachers, working with local colleagues to build the educational infrastructure from the ground up.

“We were very fortunate to have a dedicated team of Rwandan, HSDM, and University of Maryland faculty who brought a wide range of experience and expertise to the project and who were able to contribute in all aspects, from curriculum design and mentoring to research and community outreach,” Barrow said.

Brian Swann, MPH08, assistant professor of oral health policy and epidemiology, was one of the early volunteers who served six months in Rwanda.

“I wanted to be in the first wave of volunteers in order to better appreciate the culture of the people we were to serve,” Swann said. “Together both teams had to learn how to best communicate in a way that was accurate. I also wanted people to know that we were in this program to stay and that we believed they had capacity to sustain their program.”

In the fall of 2013, the new school welcomed its inaugural class into the five-year dental surgery degree program. The students spent their first two years of training with their medical school classmates at the University of Rwanda’s School of Medicine in Huye before beginning dental training in the capital city of Kigali. They were steadfast in their desire to learn. The inaugural class adopted the nickname “The Pioneerz” and became close friends.

“Some of the students had never experienced a dental visit and did not know any dentists,” Hackley said. “This was not only a new school and program, but totally new territory for them, so they truly are pioneers. They were faithful and resilient throughout the program. I’m incredibly proud of all they have achieved.”

The learning curve went both ways, and faculty found they often had to keep up with the eager students. “The passion for education and desire to gain knowledge among the Rwandese students is unmatched,” said faculty member Mohammed Razzaque. “As a teacher, there is nothing more joyful than being surrounded by the knowledge-seeking eager students, and Rwandese students gave me enormous joy.”

Important work was also done outside the classroom to better understand Rwanda’s oral health needs, including the nation’s first oral health survey. The study found a substantial burden of oral diseases and conditions, with pediatric and adult populations having many unmet dental caries and periodontal treatment needs — underscoring the importance of greater access to dental care and the need for the new school.

“In rural areas we need more care. People outside of town suffer a lot because of lack of care,” said Julienne Murererehe, assistant lecturer at the University of Rwanda. “Graduation is a very big achievement not only for the students and faculty, but for the whole country. It’s important for the development of oral health services in Rwanda.”

HRH funding will provide ongoing support for the program for the next six years. HSDM faculty will continue to assist with curriculum delivery and provide technical and strategic support as the school shifts to its new campus.

“It was hard work,” acknowledged University of Rwanda School of Dentistry Dean Chrispinus Mumena. “We have done our best and worked together with team spirit to reach farther than any one of us could reach alone. I am very proud of our graduating students. I am also very pleased with the collaborations between our faculty and the HRH Rwanda program.”

The Pioneerz have fulfilled their own dreams of becoming the first homegrown dentists prepared to serve their nation.

“I’m very excited and happy for today’s graduation, it is the day I have waited for, for a long time,” said graduate Joseph Nshimiyimana. “We are going to do our best to achieve more for our country.”
A Reflection of Our History
Honoring HSDM’s Diverse Past

Walk through the halls of Harvard and you’ll notice the University’s 382-year history displayed prominently. At HSDM, portraits of deans and faculty dating back to the School’s founding in 1867 adorn the lobby of the main building. These paintings serve as reminders of notable milestones and striking figures, but until recently provided a glimpse at only a select few. A new initiative, the Inclusive Spaces Project at HSDM, is an effort to broaden the scope of this artwork and reflect the School’s diverse and proud past.

This winter, HSDM commissioned a portrait to be painted of Robert Tanner Freeman, DMD1869, the first African American to graduate from Harvard Dental School. Only four years after the Civil War ended, Dr. Freeman, the son of enslaved parents, graduated in the first class of six students. He was also the very first African American to earn a dental degree in the United States.

“We’re thrilled to be able to give proper recognition to Dr. Freeman by displaying his portrait at HSDM. He was truly a trailblazer and is a central figure in the School’s history, as well as the history of dentistry in the U.S.,” Dean Bruce Donoff, DMD67, MD73 said.

“History is only as inclusive as its teller, and with this project, HSDM has begun to tell a more inclusive history where diversity was not only valued but part and parcel to its very existence.” — Josephine Kim

The painting was unveiled in April during the School’s inaugural Diversity and Inclusion Week and will be mounted in the lobby alongside the portraits of figures such as the School’s founding dean Nathan Cooley Keep, who declared that the School would “know no distinction of color in admitting students.”

As the project gets underway, additional portraits are being considered. Dr. George Grant, DMD1870, also the son of former slaves and the first African American faculty member of the School and the University, will be the next portrait to be added.

“We’re excited about the strong message this project sends about who belongs and is included at HSDM”, said Josephine Kim, director of diversity and inclusion.

“History is only as inclusive as its teller, and with this project, HSDM has begun to tell a more inclusive history where diversity was not only valued but part and parcel to its very existence.”

Freeman, Grant, and Franklin Scholarship

With additional funding, HSDM hopes to activate a scholarship that pays tribute to prominent African American figures in HSDM’s history — Robert Tanner Freeman, DMD1869, George Franklin Grant, DMD1870, and Dolores Mercedes Franklin, DMD1974, PD1976. The scholarship will provide support to a DMD student from an underrepresented minority group with significant financial need. To contribute to the fund, go to the giving page link on HSDM’s website and select the scholarship by name.
Building Community Through the Annual Give Kids a Smile Event

As the sun rose over a chilly Longwood Avenue, the Teaching Practices of the Harvard Dental Center was humming as dental students prepared to host Give Kids a Smile. Launched in 2003 by the American Dental Association, Give Kids a Smile is an event held annually that focuses on the oral health of children between the ages of one and 17.

This year’s event, held on Saturday, February 9, was organized by a team of dedicated dental students including Elodi Healy, DMD20, Emily Chen, DMD21, Owen Cheng, DMD21, Jennifer Lee, DMD21, and Ruchika Agrawal, DMD22. The Harvard Dental Center welcomed nearly 50 patients throughout the morning and care was delivered by 18 dental providers, 22 assistants, three medical student volunteers, and five oral health care education volunteers.

Student leader Elodi Healy said, “Working on bringing Give Kids a Smile to HSDM for the past three years has shown me how important it is to give back to the community that we are all a part of.”

“We strive not only to provide a singular day of delivering care and oral health education, but to establish care continuity and dental homes for children and their families.”

–Elodi Healy, DMD20

“I was inspired to get involved with Give Kids a Smile because of the impact this event has on the community,” said first-year student, Ruchika Agrawal.

“It’s not only about providing dental care but also about educating the community, which I believe is so valuable.”

As Serena, seven, listened intently to providers Nicki Gershberg, DMD22, and Mai Stern, DMD20, discuss the importance of flossing, her mother Meredith said, “She gets great attention from Harvard students and faculty. It teaches her the importance of good dental hygiene in a fun way that she will most definitely remember.”

This year’s event incorporated Operation Mouthguard, a student-run organization that provides oral health education and custom-made mouthguards for children and high school sports teams in underserved areas of Boston. Fifteen patients were fitted for mouthguards to be used for recreational sports.

No one was more excited than Lawrence, 10, who talked about his aspirations to play basketball for the NBA. He even selected a clear mouthguard to mimic many of the league’s most prominent players. “When I make the NBA someday, I’ll remember that you made my first mouthguard for me,” he assured his provider.

“The dedication of our students and faculty are what make this event a success each year,” said Healy.
Steven Spitz, PD97, Treats Patients on the Wild Side

Dr. Steven Spitz’s morning patient had an aching tooth and was desperately in need of a root canal. She didn’t have her usual appetite and was pacing back and forth trying not to focus on the pain. The staff gave her anesthesia and made her comfortable while Spitz and his team took x-rays and began to work on cleaning and shaping the damaged tooth.

This wasn’t a typical day in Spitz’s dental office, today he was treating patients at the Stone Zoo in Stoneham, Massachusetts. His patient Chessie, an 11-year old jaguar, is one of the largest cats and top predators in the western hemisphere, with teeth up to 100 millimeters long. For Chessie’s procedure, Spitz was joined by his clinical assistant, two associate veterinarians, and eight animal care professionals to ensure everything went smoothly during the two-hour treatment.

Spitz’s path from Harvard School of Dental Medicine’s prosthodontics program to dentist to the animal kingdom’s most exotic species began with a suggestion from one of his human patients.

“About 10 years ago a patient of mine asked me if I had heard of the Peter Emily International Veterinary Dental Foundation,” he said.

The foundation’s mission to take care of animals with severe dental cases — in sanctuaries often underfunded and understaffed for veterinary care — resonated with Spitz a lifelong animal lover, and he signed up to volunteer his services.

“My first experience involved doing root canals on a spider monkey, tiger, and kinkajou at a sanctuary in Georgia. It was an amazing experience working with the animals and talking with the veterinarians who specialize in veterinary dentistry.”

Enthralled by his work at the first sanctuary, he
volunteered at others around the country. He was soon asked to be on the Advisory Board, allowing him to share his knowledge of the latest human dental treatments and techniques with veterinarians at the annual Veterinary Dental Forum.

Spitz was eventually introduced to the president of Zoo New England where he is now the dentist on-call for the Franklin Park and Stone Zoos. He volunteers his time regularly to treat animals of all sizes and species—from a small potto, a 12-inch primate with a fractured tooth, to a bush dog in need of four root canals. His experience has come full circle from a childhood dream.

“When I was five years old if you asked me what I was going to be when I grew up, I would tell you a veterinarian. That dream stuck with me all through college,” he said.

Spitz earned his undergraduate degree from University of Massachusetts Amherst in animal science, however between his junior and senior year he shadowed a dentist and became interested in dentistry, eventually attending Tufts University School of Dental Medicine for his DMD degree and HSDM for his certification in prosthodontics.

“My goal has always been to help people and take the fear out of dentistry,” Spitz said. He opened his practice, Smileboston Cosmetic and Implant Dentistry, over 22 years ago with a team of five and has grown it into a multi-specialty operation with over 20 dental professionals.

In addition to leading a successful practice and volunteering his time with Zoo New England, he currently serves as International President of Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity (AO), visiting dental schools and alumni worldwide. He is closely involved in an AO program that provides no-cost dental care to Holocaust survivors living below the poverty line. Spitz is also on the boards of both the Metropolitan District Dental Society and Bright Spirit Children’s Foundation.

“I’ve always wanted to make the world a better place than I found it,” he said of his volunteer work and career path.

Spitz, who also served as an HSDM clinical instructor earlier in his career, advises dental students to not be afraid to try new things, as he did.

“Keep an open mind and always keep learning. We call it ‘practicing’ dentistry for a reason,” he said.

Spitz certainly follows his own advice, applying lessons learned from one species to another.

“My first experience involved doing root canals on a spider monkey, tiger, and kinkajou at a sanctuary in Georgia. It was an amazing experience...”

—Dr. Steven Spitz
Remembering Dr. Alvin Krakow

“Dr. Krakow influenced my career and professional life more than any other mentor or colleague.”

–Dr. Jawad Behbehani

Dr. Alvin Arlen Krakow, widely known as the leading force behind the establishment of Harvard School of Dental Medicine’s (HSDM) postdoctoral program in endodontics, passed away in October 2018. He leaves behind a lasting legacy at the School as a dedicated educator and innovator.

After completing his training in the endodontics program at Boston University’s School of Graduate Dentistry, Krakow joined the HSDM-affiliated Forsyth Institute in 1962 as its sole endodontist as the specialty had just begun. Recognizing the need for a postdoctoral program, Krakow approached HSDM with the idea of a joint endodontics program, and in 1970, became its first director. In 1972, he became chair of the Forsyth/Harvard Endodontics Program, which accepted students until the early 1990s. Although Krakow stepped down from the program in 1987, he continued to lecture part-time at HSDM through 2016.

Krakow had an appreciation for research and encouraged his students to have a full understanding of the scientific underpinnings of their specialty. Early on, he promoted the concept of vital pulp therapy before it was as widely recognized as it is today. He also developed a procedure for reverse debridement and instrumentation of teeth with posts that needed surgery. His focus on finding innovative approaches to improve endodontic procedures inspired others to follow his lead.

“He was a brilliant leader, an inspiring educator and a gifted clinician,” said Clifford Ruddle, PD76 in an article in American Association of Endodontists (AAE). “His love for scientific research, clinical practice, and making a genuine difference for others is legendary.”

Over the years, Krakow had a significant impact on the careers of many postdoctoral students, many of whom became nationally and internationally known for their own achievements in academia, research, and clinical work in the field.

“Dr. Krakow influenced my career and professional life more than any other mentor or colleague,” said Jawad Behbehani, DMsc77, PD77 in AAE. "He would listen to you as if your issue was the only thing that mattered at that moment. He was both a colleague and a friend and would often include us in social activities including meeting his family," he added.

In his personal life, Krakow was husband to Barbara whom he married in 1959, and father to two children, David and Lisa. He became passionate about biking in his later years, participating in multiple coast-to-coast rides, including the annual Pan-Mass Challenge which he rode on behalf of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

Dr. Joel Dunsky who worked closely with Krakow for many years as director of HSDM’s undergraduate endodontics program, and later as assistant clinical professor, summed up Krakow’s impact, “In addition to his educational and philanthropic involvements, he was also a compassionate and meticulous endodontist. He encouraged many college students to consider dentistry as a career and assisted them in getting into dental school and into post-doctoral programs. He loved doing good things for people. I will miss him.”

The Krakow Harvard/Forsyth Endowed Endodontic Research Fund

The Krakow Harvard/Forsyth Endowed Endodontic Research Fund pays tribute to Dr. Krakow’s visionary leadership in the field of endodontics by supporting innovative research at HSDM and Forsyth. To contribute go to: bit.ly/KrakowFund or contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 617-432-1533.
Research Highlights

Dr. Bjorn R. Olsen Receives the 2019 King Faisal Prize in Medicine

Dr. Bjorn R. Olsen, professor of Developmental Biology and Hersey Professor of Cell Biology, was recently awarded the prestigious 2019 King Faisal Prize in Medicine on the topic of Bone Biology and Osteoporosis for his outstanding contributions to the field.

He has made a series of key genetic discoveries which have enhanced the understanding of bone development, and the basis of inherited skeletal disorders, including osteoporosis syndromes. These contributions have earned him international recognition and acclaim in the bone and osteoporosis fields. Olsen traveled to Saudi Arabia this spring to receive the award.

Goldhaber Award Winner

This year’s Goldhaber recipient is Dr. Paul Sharpe, the Dickinson Professor of Craniofacial Biology at King’s College London. Sharpe graduated with a degree in biology from York University and a PhD in biochemistry from Sheffield University.

His main research interests are the molecular control of tooth development, dental stem cell biology, and tooth bioengineering. He has published more than 270 research papers in major scientific journals. He currently receives funding from the MRC and NIH. He is a member of the MRC Centre for Transplantation and Biomedical Research Centre and serves on the MRC Regenerative Medicine Research Committee grants panel.

His research has shown that in growing teeth, a tiny population of cells act as an emergency reservoir and that these can provide new stem cells during rapid tooth growth.

Above: Dr. Bjorn R. Olsen (right) receiving the 2019 King Faisal Prize in Medicine from King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Patron of the King Faisal Foundation.

Left: Bruce Donoff, DMD67, MD73, with Sam Goldhaber, MD76, award recipient Paul Sharpe, and Reeve Goldhaber.

Below: DMD and AGE students presented their research at Student Research Day, held on April 9. Posters were evaluated by faculty and several students were recognized with research honors.
Nurse Practitioners as Vital Allies in Oral Health

Serving on the front lines of health care, a nurse practitioner may very well be the first to identify a patient's oral health condition or disease, even before their dentist. A new national study conducted by Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) and its partners in the Center for Integration of Primary Care and Oral Health (CIPCOH), reveals nurse practitioners are well-prepared to meet this challenge.

The survey of nurse practitioner (NP) training programs focused on pediatric, family, and adult-gerontology primary care programs, with the purpose of assessing how well oral health was integrated in the educational curricula. The large majority of respondents indicated high levels of satisfaction with graduates' level of oral health training and competence. Results of the study were recently published in a paper in the Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

"Our study findings hold promise for addressing the gap in access to oral health care and eliminating oral health disparities in the United States," said co-author Maria Dolce, associate professor at Stony Brook University School of Nursing. "The majority of licensed nurse practitioners are primary care providers and comprise a significant proportion of the primary care workforce. Nurse practitioners are prepared to broaden access to oral health care and decrease health disparities, particularly for vulnerable and underserved populations," she added.

Since 2000, when the U.S. Surgeon General called for increased awareness of the importance of oral health to overall health, efforts to bring oral health into primary care training have been steadily gaining ground.

"Having nurse practitioners invested in the role oral health plays in overall health is vital," said co-author and lead Principal Investigator Christine Riedy, chair and Delta Dental of Massachusetts Associate Professor of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology at HSDM. "They are often embedded in places like schools, nursing homes, and health centers where oral health providers may not be, that's why they are such powerful allies in identifying oral health conditions and recognizing inequities in access to dental care," she said.

The study points to several academic institutions that have led the way in training and practice advancing interprofessional education stressing the oral-systemic health connection.

Northeastern University School of Nursing and HSDM tested a unique, interprofessional collaborative practice model, the Nurse Practitioner and Dentist Model for Primary Care (NPD Model), that brought nursing and dental students together in a clinical setting to improve health for older adult patients living with chronic health conditions.

"The nurse practitioner-dentist model enabled dental students to see firsthand how a nurse practitioner can interface with patients and dental providers seamlessly integrating care, and contributing to the patient's overall health care," said Co-Principal Investigator of the NPD Model John D. Da Silva, DMD87, MPH87, PD89, PD91, SM92, Vice Dean at HSDM.
International Student Research and Outreach

Students Nick Demeo, DMD21, David Danesh, DMD20, Morgane Amat, DMD19, Jennie Marinucci, DMD20, Matthew Tsai, DMD20, and Eshani Patel, DMD20, traveled to Abu Dhabi with faculty member Neeta Chandwani to participate in the 2019 Special Olympics Special Smiles event. HSDM students participated in oral health education activities and conducted screenings of the athletes.

Second-year DMD students Ashwini Parchure, DMD21, Jennifer Lee, DMD21, and Edward Hilton IV, DMD21, traveled to London to participate in research at Queen Mary University of London and Barts, and The London Institute of Dentistry. Lee and Parchure are working on a comparative survey of dental school students and faculty knowledge of sustainability in dentistry and curriculum innovation. Hilton is comparing the U.S. and U.K. treatment models for preventative care in pediatric populations.

Jiachen Lin (JC), DMD21, visited Shanghai, China for two weeks to shadow dentists and doctors in Shanghai No. 9 People’s Hospital. The first week, she shadowed the Oral and Maxillofacial department learning about a case of a rare disease, and the second week she shadowed the department of Prosthodontics. She also took classes with third-year dental students and introduced them to HSDM’s dental school curriculum.

Michael O’Donnell, DMD20, and Mai Stern, DMD20, visited Universitat Internacional de Catalunya in Barcelona, Spain, to work on a project related to how health literacy is reflected in different environmental factors inside and outside of health facilities in Barcelona. They also had the opportunity to compare curriculum and grade completion requirements within the U.S. and Europe. They were accompanied by instructor and senior tutor Armando Pardo, DMD15.
We are grateful to the following individuals and organizations for gifts received during the 2018 calendar year, from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018.

**HENRY C. WARREN SOCIETY**

Henry Warren made the first planned gift to HSDM in 1899 in the form of a bequest for $10,000.00. The school is grateful to those who have expressed their intention to provide for HSDM in their financial planning.

To recognize this thoughtfulness, the School established the Henry C. Warren Society.

- Jorge Bianchi, MMSc01
- James Billie, DMD73, PD77 and Corinne Billie
- Robert E. Binder, DMD66, PD69 and Ruth S. Binder
- Terri A. Binder, SM79, DMD84
- Charles Bowen, DMD66 and Gerlinde Bowen
- Allena Burge-Smiley, DMD82
- Frank A. Catalanotto, PD71
- Robert Chuong, DMD77, MD77, PD82 and Elaine W. Wong
- Michelle Copeland, DMD77, MD77 and Jonathan Halperin
- Michael R. Coppe, DMD70, DMSc78, PD74
- Albert S. Cowie, PD78
- Reed H. Day, MD84, DMD85, PD90
- Douglas S. Dick, DMD67, PD72 and Ettress M. Dick
- I. Leon Dogon, DMD63 and Sally Dogon
- Robert M. Donahue, DMD62, PD64 and Sherrie Stephens Cutler
- Chester W. and Joy A. Douglass
- Ilona E. and Richard H. Ferraro
- Brian B. Fong, DMD96
- Lorne M. Golub, PD68
- Alexander H. Halperin, DMD56 and Carol Halperin
- Jeanette Hennessy
- Lee Edward Hershon, PD74 and Nina Haskins Hershon
- T. Howard Howell, Jr., PD76 and Geoffrey Stevens
- Jae-Woong Hwang, DMSc03
- Mark E. Levine, DMD75, PD77
- Gayle J. Lowe
- Gordon J. and Ruth M. Macdonald
- Ginat Wintemeyer Mirovski, MD85, DMD86, MMSc88, PD88
- Edward R. Mopsik, DMD67 and Kaye A. Mopsik
- We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of these lists. Please let us know of any errors or omissions so that we may correct our records. Email: bulletin@hsdm.harvard.edu, or call 617-432-1533. Degrees listed reflect HSDM and affiliated degrees only.

**DEAN’S SOCIETY**

$100,000 and above

**Alumni and Friends**

Estate of Michael L. Barnett
- Robert Chung, DMD77, MD77, PD82 and Elaine G. Wong
- Joseph M. Stolman, DMD55

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- Linda C. Niessen, DMD77, MPH77, MPP82, PD82

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**NATHAN COOLEY KEEP SOCIETY**

$1867 TO $9,999

**Alumni and Friends**

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- David Victor Abdelmalak, MMSc17
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HSDM alumni were recently honored at the 2019 Gies Awards Gala at the ADEA Annual Session in Chicago. The awards honor individuals and organizations that exemplify the highest standards in oral health and dental education, research and leadership. Richard Valachovic, MPH81, SM82, PD82 (Pediatric Dentistry), was recognized for his leadership and legacy as ADEAGies Foundation Trustee and ADEA CEO and President; Linda C. Niessen, DMD77, MPH77, PD82 (Geriatric Dentistry), Dean of Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine and College of Osteopathic Medicine received a Gies Award for Innovation—Academic Dental Institution; James E. Mulvihill, DMD66, PD69, received the Gies Award for Achievement—Dental Educator; and Dean Bruce Donoff, DMD67, MD73, a previous Gies Award winner, had the honor of presenting an award.

Ladan Basiri, DMD93, was inducted into the American College of Dentists (ACD), the oldest major honorary organization for dentists. ACD members exemplify excellence through outstanding leadership and exceptional contributions to dentistry and society. Fellowship in the College is granted to those who have done meritorious work.

Reed Day, MD84, DMD85, PD90 (Oral Surgery), an oral surgeon in Phoenix, Arizona took part in a free dental services event for veterans. His Oral and Facial Surgery Center provided services at the two-day Maricopa County Stand Down held at the Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum. The services were free and open to U.S. veterans in need of dental care.

James H. Doundoulakis, PD85 (Prosthodontics), was elected to the General Chairmanship of the Greater New York Dental Meeting starting in January, 2019. He is also currently serving as the Organizing Chairman of the World Implant EXPO at the GNYDM, and gave international lectures in Guadalajara, Mexico and at the European Association of Osseointegration meeting in Vienna.

William Giannobile, DMSc96, PD96 (Periodontology), chair of the Department of Periodontics and Oral Medicine at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry received the Norton M. Ross Award for Excellence in Clinical Research from the American Dental Association. Giannobile was cited for his achievements in regenerative medicine, tissue engineering and personalized medicine and his dedication to innovation, collaboration, mentorship and leadership.

Thomas Indresano, DMD71, began his term as the 101st president of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) during its October Annual Meeting in Chicago. The organization represents 9,000 oral and maxillofacial surgeons. He is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. David Shafer, DMD86, of Farmington, CT, is the AAOMS Trustee for District 1.

Frederick Lambert, DMD18, MPH19, was awarded the ADA Foundation Crest and Oral-B Promising Researcher Award. The award promotes and recognizes excellence in oral health research by providing financial assistance for promising researchers to pursue a career in research that advances preventive dentistry.

Chun-Teh Lee, DMSc15, assistant professor of periodontics at the University of Texas Houston, was selected by the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) to participate in the AAP’s 2018 Leadership Engagement, Action and Development (LEAD) Program.

Samuel Lynch, DMSc89, PD98 (Periodontology), has initiated a new regenerative medicine company, Lynch Biologics (LBIO). His company acquired GEM 21S Growth Factor Enhanced Matrix and a portfolio of regenerative collagen membranes, bone grafting materials and wound dressings.

Richard Niederman, DMD76, received the 2018 Evidenced-Based Dentistry Accomplished Faculty Award from the American Dental Association (ADA) and the American Dental Association for Dental Research (AADR) for his leadership in the field. The ADA and AADR annually recognize dentists and researchers who make significant contributions to implement and advance evidenced-based dentistry.
Kalu Ogbureke, DMSc01, professor and chair of the Department of Diagnostic and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Texas Houston, was selected as a U.S. Fulbright Senior Scholar for 2017-2018. The University of Birmingham in the U.K. hosted Ogbureke from April to October as he continued his research into “Diagnostic and Prognostic Significance of Serum and Saliva Levels of MMP20 and DSPP in Oral Cancer.”

Athena S. Papas, DMD74, received an award from the Lucy Hobbs Project. Named for the first American woman to earn a degree in dentistry, the award honors exemplary women in the dental community. With expertise in the oral health care of the elderly and medically compromised, as well as patients with Sjögrens, cancer and bone marrow transplants, Papas has been the principal investigator of more than 100 clinical trials.

Matt Schiavone, DMD16, Shahid Aziz, DMD96, and Jose Marchena, DMD96, MD98, traveled to Aichi Hospital in Bangladesh to perform cleft lip surgeries with Smile Bangladesh.

Russel Taichman, DMSc90, PD90 (Periodontology), has been named the ninth dean of the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Dentistry. His appointment will begin in July 2019. Taichman joins UAB from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry where he served as associate dean for research and as the Major Ash Collegiate Professor in the Department of Periodontics and Oral Medicine.

Dr. Mark Zajkowski, MD97, PD99 (Oral Surgery), (center) was honored by the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in October for serving as its president during the past year. James Hupp, DMD77 (left) served a 95-96 term as president, while John Kelly, DMD71, MD71, PD76, served a 95-96 term.
The Harvard Dental Alumni-Taiwan Chapter gathered to support HSDM. As a group they raised $50,000 for HSDM.

(Front L to R) Emily Hwang, DMD10; Stephanie Su, DMD07; Rebecca Chen, DMSc15; Kelly Wang, MMSc17; Martin Fu, DMSc12. (Back L to R) Alex Tsai, DMSc92, PD92 (Oral Biology); Jerry Lin, DMSc04; Louis Tz-Chau Lu, SM91, DMSc95, PD95, (Orthodontics); Eric Ting, DMD91, DMSc94; Shou-Yen Kao, DMSc96; Yi-Jan Hsia, DMSc96; James Huang, DMD04.

Faculty News

Dean Bruce Donoff, DMD67, MD73, spoke at the 2018 AAOMS annual meeting and celebration of its 100th anniversary. He delivered a talk on the “Formation of a Specialty and AAOMS.”

Donna Hackley, PD95 (Pediatric Dentistry), instructor in Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new University of Global Health Equity (UGHE) in Butaro Rwanda, and participated in UGHE’s Inaugural Symposium on “Climate Change, Child Survival, and the Future of Global Health Equity.” She spoke about oral health professions and climate change and vulnerable populations and illustrated how environmental factors can affect oral health.

Mohamed Masoud, DMSc07, assistant professor of Developmental Biology and program director for Orthodontics, received first place in the teen category for his work with an extraordinary case using clear aligners at the biannual Invisalign Orthodontic Summit in Las Vegas.

Reshma Menon, DMSc17, joined the HSDM faculty in February. She will have didactic instruction and clinical supervision responsibilities in the predoctoral and oral and maxillofacial pathology advanced graduate education programs.

Shigemi Nagai, associate professor of Restorative Dentistry and Biomaterials Sciences, received the E. B. Clark Award from the Society for Color and Appearance in Dentistry (SCAD)—the society’s highest recognition for lifetime achievement in color science research.

Gili Naveh, assistant professor of Oral Medicine, Infection and Immunity, was recently honored with an Eleanor and Miles Shore Fellowship. The Shore Fellowship offers junior faculty at HSDM and HMS financial support during a critical time in their academic careers. The Naveh Lab studies the structure–function relations in the periodontal ligament (PDL) in particular and in ligaments in general.

Vicki Rosen, professor and chair of Developmental Biology at Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM), recently received The William F. Neuman Award, the most prestigious award given by The American Society for Bone and Mineral Research (ASBMR). The award recognizes major scientific contributions in the area of bone and mineral research and contributions to associates and trainees in teaching, research, and administration.

Mary Tavares, MPH80, PD90 (Dental Public Health), instructor in Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, will be sworn in as the President of the American Association of Public Health Dentists (AAPHD) and Brittany Seymour, MPH11, assistant professor of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, will become Secretary of AAPHD.
Student News

Muath Aldosari, DMSc20, AGE student in Dental Public Health and DMSc in Oral Biology has been awarded third place for the Leverett Graduate Student Merit Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dental Public Health. The award was given for his abstract: “Oral cancer screening practices and smoking cessation counseling among dentists in the United States, NHANES, 2016.”

Erinne Kennedy, PD18 (Dental Public Health), MMSc19, won Third Place for her poster “Assessing Faculty Burnout in Dental Schools” at the ADEA conference. Her mentor was Dr. Sang Park.

Kobie Gordon, MMSc21, AGE student in Dental Public Health and Masters in Dental Education, was selected as the 2019 recipient of the American Association of Public Health Dentists (AAPHD) Foundation Herschel S. Horowitz Scholarship. The award recognizes individuals who show great promise in a career in Dental Public Health.

Jevae Nelson, MMSc19, AGE student in Dental Public Health and Masters in Oral Biology was awarded first place for the Leverett Graduate Student Merit Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dental Public Health for her abstract: “National and State-Specific Prevalence Estimates of Past-Year Dental Visits Among Children Aged 1-17 Years, United States, 2016, written with her mentor, Israel Agaku.”

Fourth-year students Jillian Muhlbauer and Elaina Pullano received recognition at the 10th Annual ASDA District I Student Debate held at the Yankee Dental Congress. Jillian Muhlbauer (left) was selected for the American College of Dentists Outstanding Student Leader Award. Elaina Pullano (right) was nominated for the Matthew Boylan Scholarship award.

HSDM News

HSDM hosted the 13th annual Senior Dental Leaders conference in Boston in March. The week-long program, co-hosted with Kings College London, brought together dental leaders from around the world to develop their leadership skills and learn strategies to advance oral health agendas. This year, delegates from 15 different countries attended.

In February, HSDM hosted its annual Milestone Luncheon to recognize Harvard employees who have reached a milestone in 5-year increments of their employment. Pictured here are faculty and staff who were celebrated for their service.

Leaders in academia, business, and health care gathered for the third Leadership Forum, which was hosted by HSDM’s Initiative to Integrate Oral Health and Medicine in fall 2018. The two-day event, held at the Joseph Martin Center in Boston’s Longwood Medical Area, offered a thought-provoking lineup of speakers and panels on the topic of “Achieving Quality and Value in Healthcare through Integration.” This year’s Forum focused on innovations in how oral health care is taught, delivered, and funded.
A Lasting Legacy

Howard Needleman, DMD72, PD74, is a pediatric dentist who has been in both clinical practice and academic dentistry since 1974. He has been a senior associate in dentistry at Boston Children's Hospital and a part-time faculty member in Developmental Biology at HSDM teaching predoctoral and postdoctoral students and residents. In addition to his academic career, he provided dental care to children in a private multi-specialty group dental practice for more than 30 years. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) and a diplomat of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry.

“The Harvard School of Dental Medicine is in my will because I think it’s important to give back. I believe my career trajectory would have been totally different without the small classes, family environment, and unique opportunities that promoted the exceptional education that I received at HSDM.”

— Dr. Howard Needleman

Join him in leaving a legacy at HSDM.

Contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 617-432-1533 to learn more about preserving your own HSDM legacy.
Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, May 29**

Annual Graduate Recognition Ceremony
We recognize the achievements of the Class of 2019 by presenting awards to outstanding members of the predoctoral class and advanced graduate students.

**Thursday, May 30**

Commencement and Class Day
The Class of 2019 attends Morning Exercises in Harvard Yard followed by Class Day on the Quad, and a reception honoring the graduates.

**Thursday, June 6**

Reunion
We welcome DMD Classes ending in 4 or 9 back to campus to reconnect with HSDM and HMS classmates, and to enjoy a full program of activities and events.

**Friday, June 7**

Alumni Day
All alumni are welcome to join us on Alumni Day to spend time with classmates, applaud this year’s winners of the Distinguished Alumni Awards, and hear the State of the School address.

**Friday, October 18 to Sunday, October 20**

Continuing Education: Innovative and Effective Team Collaboration in Multidisciplinary Therapy
Join us for our first Continuing Professional Education course in Japan. This three-day course, taught by HSDM faculty and alumni, will provide a solid foundation for multidisciplinary therapy and implant therapy, as well as strategies for managing complications during treatment.

See a full list of events at: hsdm.harvard.edu/calendar
Reunite with classmates and relive fond memories with us!

ALUMNI DAY 2019

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!
Visit hsdm.harvard.edu/hsdm-alumni-day to register and for more information.

All HSDM alumni are invited to enjoy time with classmates, applaud this year’s winners of the Distinguished Alumni Awards, and hear the State of the School address!