

LLUSD ARTICULATOR

The melding of compassion and competence in dental education



LOMA LINDA
UNIVERSITY
School of Dentistry

**Zina Johnston &
Shelly Withers
take leadership
roles**

**Paul Richardson,
Yiming Li,
Wu Zhang, &
Kristi Marshall
retire**

**LLUSD students
sweep CDA
research poster
awards**

**2021 graduation:
a virtual
carmencement**



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The melding of competence and compassion
in dental education.

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 1 SUMMER/AUTUMN 2021

Articulator (formerly **Dentistry**) celebrates with alumni and friends the School of Dentistry's efforts to combine compassion and competence in the education of oral healthcare professionals. LLUSD alumni represent the strength of that amalgam. The journal is published twice each year by the Loma Linda University School of Dentistry Office of Marketing.

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LLUSD Mission

Loma Linda University School of Dentistry seeks to further the healing and teaching ministry of Jesus Christ by providing an environment wherein:

Students learn to provide high quality oral healthcare based on sound scientific principles

Patients receive competent care, which is preventive in purpose, comprehensive in scope, and provided with compassion and respect

Faculty, students, and staff value the patient relationship, respect diversity, and share responsibility by working together toward academic, professional, spiritual, and personal growth

Scholarly activity and research provide a foundation for evidence-based learning and enhance whole person care

The workplace environment attracts and retains a superior and diverse faculty and staff who motivate, educate, and serve

Our communities (local, global, and professional) benefit from our service, stewardship, and commitment to life-long learning.



The 2021 LLUSD Conferring of Degrees was staged with a new, looming tower backdrop—the sixteen-story LLUH Medical Center.

Editor's Note

This *articulator* should be reaching you just in time for Christmas and filled with some badly needed cheer.

Since early last year, a lot of things have been different and not necessarily better.

A friend of mine who particularly enjoys Christmas said he hopes that Santa has had both jabs and his booster. I mentioned to him reports that a lot of deer are vulnerable to SARS-CoV-2 and that set him to worrying about Rudolph.

While the dark humor results from feelings of being out of control, there is one thing that we have some say over and that is the Spirit of Christmas and how we treat one another, vaccinated or not, masked or not.

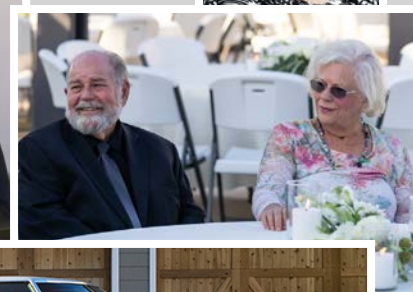
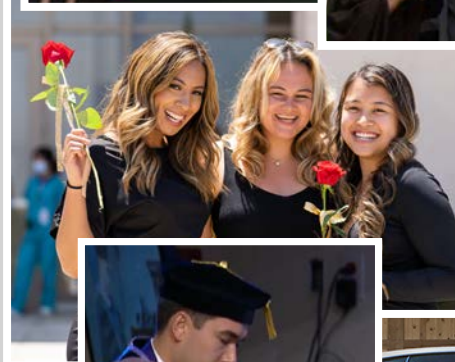
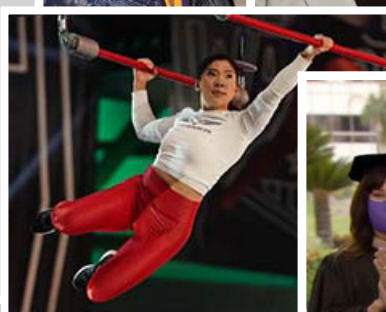
In that spirit, I wish you a virus-free holiday season brimming with tolerance, charity, and good will.

Doug Hackleman, MA
Editor

COVER: The roof of the LLU Church new Family Ministries building was the venue for the School of Dentistry Class of 2021 senior dental student banquet.

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Circle*



The purpose of the Dean's Circle is to support students and enhance their educational experience. Our Dean's Circle members are important partners in our mission to provide the finest in oral healthcare education. Your gift makes this possible by funding scholarships, updating facilities, supporting service opportunities, and much more.

Gifts of \$1,500 or more to any School of Dentistry fund qualify you for Dean's Circle membership and benefits.*

More information regarding the Dean's Circle and other School of Dentistry giving opportunities can be found at dentistry.llu.edu/about/giving-opportunities.



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DEAN'S MESSAGE

A meditation on our fraught interrelationships

The cacophony of life is in full force here at Loma Linda University, not only in my life but in the lives of those all around me. The hustle and bustle of new students arrives with the vibrant energy they bring to our campus each autumn. It is a wonderful and positively exciting time in university life. Yet while on the surface the mood feels familiar, this year it also seems to me different. There is an underlying edge that is rather sharp, profoundly troubling, and potentially dangerous to all of us.

The times in which we are living are at best polarizing, decidedly divisive, and often antagonistic. I am intimately aware of families and other relationships that are being tremendously strained in some cases to the point of permanent fracture. Even marriages are being tested and stressed over the deadly virus and disagreements about whether to take the vaccine. Palpable tensions in the political realm are increasing, not diminishing. No longer can one hold an opinion opposing a party line without being rhetorically bludgeoned, isolated, and sometimes even removed from a position. Freedoms of thought and persuasion are now demeaned and often disallowed if they do not align with a dominant perspective. Intolerance abounds not only in politics, but in every facet of life, even within religions and church denominations.

Anger sells. Outrageous headlines get clicks. Hostility seems to be the most popular tool today in social media because not only does it draw one in, but it sets up an addictive feedback mechanism that provokes escalation to more and more hurtful rhetoric. Words are often penned now that demonstrate beliefs in manners that frequently are uncivil, uncouth, and self-aggrandizing. My great-grandmother used to say to me, "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all," a concept widely disdained today. Courtesy is no longer a value. To take offense is an accepted new norm.

I can't believe this is what God wants for us.

Recently on a trip to Vermont—where the colors were starting to change, the New England weather was dampened



Dr. Robert Handysides

by rain, cooled by a northern pressure system, and the morning mists were rising from the valleys to the mountains—I ran across a familiar passage in Psalms 46:10.

"Be still, and know that I am God."

It made me pause. I hope it will do the same to you.

In that pausing I was moved away from the topics of today, toward thoughts of our Creator and heavenly Father. What would He do if He lived among us today? On reflection another favorite passage came to mind, Jeremiah 29:11:

"'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"

Life is moving at a furious pace. New dreams and plans are being brought forth in each of our lives. Change is the only constant. We are in the midst of these changes at the School of Dentistry. New projects and plans will soon be rolled out. But we want to follow in God's plans for us. So, we pause, reflect, pray and invite His presence to inspire and journey with us. I invite you to join us and do the same.

Respectfully yours,

Robert Handysides, DDS'93
Dean



How will you leave your **LEGACY?**

● Drs. Edmond and Ella Haddad are leaving their legacy by giving the gift of opportunity. Both educators at Loma Linda University Health, they decided to make a gift through real estate. Proceeds from its sale established the Ella and Edmond Haddad International Student Scholarship in the Loma Linda University School of Public Health and added to The Labeeb Haddad Memorial Scholarship in Loma Linda University School of Dentistry.

"Qualified students from all over the world should have the opportunity to receive a higher education. We believe everyone has something that they want to promote and for us that is love, peace and hope."

– Drs. Edmond and Ella Haddad

To learn how you can give from your IRA account or about establishing a Planned Gift, visit lulegacy.org or call **909-558-4553**.

MANY STRENGTHS. ONE MISSION.



**LOMA LINDA
UNIVERSITY
HEALTH**

Upcoming CE Courses (7 hours each)



Paul A. Hansen

Principles and Innovations in Removable Partial and Complete Denture Therapy

Sunday, January 9, 2022, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Lecturer: **Paul A. Hansen, DDS**

How to Transition to a Wellness-Oriented Practice Starting Tomorrow

Sunday, January 23, 2022, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Lecturer: **Timothy Donley, DDS, MSD**



Timothy Donley



Christian Johnston



Nancy Andrews
Dewhirst

Infection Control with COVID-19 Interim Recommendations and the California Dental Practice Act

Sunday, February 13, 2022, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Lecturers: **Nancy Andrews Dewhirst, RDH, BS**
Christian Johnston, JD

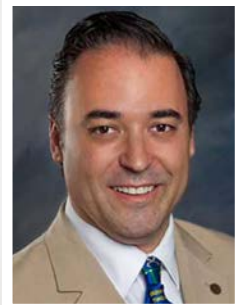
Management and Utilization of the RDAEF

Sunday, February 27, 2022, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Lecturer: **Mark Estey, DDS**

Holli Riter, DDS

Jeri Fowler, CDA, RDAEF2, OA



Mark Estey



Holli Riter



Jeri Fowler

Register for courses at:
<https://tinyurl.com/yxebt8oq>

Upcoming CE Courses (7 hours each)



John R. Kalmar

Practical Oral Pathology

Friday, March 4, 2022, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Lecturer: **John R. Kalmar, DMD, PhD**

Non-Surgical Orthopedic Corrections with Micro-Implants

Sunday, March 6, 2022, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Lecturer: **Won Moon, DMD, MS**



Won Moon



Mel Hawkins

Medical Emergencies: Clinical Perspectives in the Dental Office and in LIFE!

Sunday, June 5, 2022, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Lecturer: **Mel Hawkins, DDS, BScD(AN),
FADSA, DADBA**

Register for courses at:
<https://tinyurl.com/yxebt8oq>

TRANSITIONS

LLUSD welcomes new faculty members

Since the ongoing pandemic arrived, the School of Dentistry added two faculty members to its full-time clinical roster—both to the Division of General Dentistry with their appointments effective January 1, 2020.

- Hung-Chi Liao, DDS, MSD'21, assistant professor and dental clinic practitioner, Division of General Dentistry.
- Houda Tebcherany, DDS, assistant professor and dental clinic practitioner, Division of General Dentistry



Dr. Hung-Chi Liao



Dr. Houda Tebcherany

2022 RDAEF Expanded Duties Program

This comprehensive Board-approved RDAEF program provides 410 hours of instruction for RDAs and 318 hours of instruction for existing RDAEFs. It combines didactic, hands-on laboratory and live patient clinical experiences that satisfy the California Dental Board's requirements for new and existing RDAEFs who wish to expand their licensure in preparation for earning certification in the new extended functions.

This RDAEF Expanded Course is taught as a series of three individual courses (modules) that must be successfully completed in a designated sequence within an established time frame before taking the new State Board Examination. Modules can be paid individually and sessions will be offered on Sundays and evenings to better accommodate working professionals.

To successfully complete the program and be eligible to sit for the new State Board Examination, participants are required to pass all three modules with a minimum 75% pass rate.

Financial Aid: Loma Linda University Continuing Dental Education is now offering funding available to qualified individuals through the **"Sallie Mae Smart Option Student Loan"** program. These are low interest student loans that offer choices between 3 repayment options. Apply online and it only takes approximately 15 minutes to get a credit result. Please visit the Sallie Mae website for more information.

To register call LLUSD Continuing Education Ph: 909-558-4685 | F: 909-558-0835 or go to dentistry.llu.edu/rdaef

Module 1

Fee: \$4,700 | CDE Credits: 104

July 5, 2022 – Sept. 25, 2022 (19 class sessions)

July 5, 7, 10, 17, 19, 21, 31 / Aug. 2, 4, 14, 16, 18, 28, 30

Sept. 1, 11, 13, 15, 25, 2022

Module 2

Fee: \$6,300 | CDE Credits: 128

Sept. 27, 2022 – Jan. 22, 2023 (24 class sessions)

Sept. 27, 29 / Oct. 9, 11, 13, 23, 25, 27 / Nov. 6, 8, 10, 20, 29 /

Dec. 1, 4, 13, 15, 18, 2022 / January 3, 5, 8, 17, 19, 22, 2023

Module 3

Fee for Licensed RDAEFs: \$6,000 | CDE Credits: 104

Fee for RDAs: \$7,000 | CDE Credits: 180

Jan. 31, 2023 – June 4, 2023 (30 class sessions)

January 31 / February 2, 5, 14, 16, 19, 26, 28 / March 2, 12,

14, 16, 26, 28, 30 / April 9, 11, 13, 23, 25, 27, 30 / May 2, 4,

7, 16, 18, 30 / June 1, 4, 2023

All three modules can be paid by payments, with the balance due 10 days before the end of each module.

TRANSITIONS

Zina Johnston

Incoming assistant dean, Clinic Administration



Dr. Zina Johnston

On July 28, Dean Robert Handysides informed the LLUSD family that after interviewing five candidates the School of Dentistry's nine-member Clinical Dean Search Committee had selected Zina Johnston, DDS'00, for recommendation to the LLU Board of Trustees as the School's designee to the position of Assistant Dean for Clinic Administration.

As he congratulated Dr. Johnston for her nomination to this new role, Dr. Handysides thanked "the nominating committee for all its hard work, the nominees, and those who have put their name forward for consideration and their commitment to making LLUSD the best it can be."

Emails in response to LLUSD ALL indicated widespread appreciation for Dr. Johnston's past and prospective contributions to the vitality of the School and its Clinic Administration.

Following three undergraduate years at La Sierra University in Riverside, California, Dr. Johnston was accepted to LLU School of Dentistry. At graduation in May 2000, she received the Wilfred A. Nation Award and the American College of Prosthodontics Award. After graduation, Dr. Johnston served on the faculty at the School of Dentistry for a year before practicing privately in Riverside and Yucaipa, California. She returned to the LLUSD faculty on a full-time basis in August of 2008 and was inducted 2014 into the Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society Chi Chi Chapter.

A much-appreciated mentor, Dr. Johnston received the School of Dentistry Teacher of the Year Award in 2019. In recognition of her support for the values of Loma Linda University she received the LLUH Health Exemplar Award (Compassion & Wholeness) in 2019 and the LLUH Spiritual Service Award in 2020.

Responding to her recent appointment, Dr. Johnston said, "I feel extremely privileged to continue to support the strong tradition of clinical education that is the hallmark of what makes the School of Dentistry a great school. The support I have received since assuming this role has been tremendous and very appreciated. With God's guidance over our school family, our future looks bright."

Shelly Withers

Incoming chair, Department of Dental Hygiene



Dr. Shelly Withers

Dean Robert Handysides declared his pleasure at Dr. Shelly Withers' acceptance, effective July 1, to chair the LLUSD Department of Dental Hygiene.

Dr. Withers has just completed a PhD in psychology and was ready for new challenges," he explained. "I am confident she will do well in this new role. With the support of her colleagues in the DH Department and the rest

of the School I am excited to see the contributions she will make."

The daughter of a privately practicing dentist, Dr. Withers is a 2000 graduate from the LLUSD Department of Dental Hygiene.

During fourteen years on the LLUSD faculty, Dr. Withers served as clinical instructor, assistant professor, and associate professor before her recent appointment to department chair. For seven of those years, she served as a registered dental hygienist in the LLU Faculty Dental Office. Before her recent doctorate, Dr. Withers earned an MS degree in health professions education in 2007.

A relentless learner, Dr. Withers has attended or taken sixty symposia, continuing education, and professional seminars across seventeen years of academic involvement.

She is the lead author in three of five scientific journal publications, and co-author or co-investigator in a variety of research-related projects, both academic and industry-related, that include one day each week with the investigatory team at the Center for Dental Research.

Her many service activities have taken her to Jamaica, China, India, and Mexico, and her teaching honors include LLUSD Teacher of the Year (2021), Student Research Mentor of the Year (LLUSD Student Research Program), and Teacher of the Year (LLU Dental Hygiene Pinning Ceremony).

Dr. Withers feels blessed to teach at LLUSD. "I value having an educational system with a spiritual emphasis. . . . I commit to continue the pursuit of lifelong learning through educational advancement and involvement in research. I want to encourage students as they pursue their educational and professional goals."

TRANSITIONS

Paul Richardson steps back

Dr. Paul Richardson and his wife, Jane, relax on the roof of the new William Loveless Chapel during the senior class banquet.

On August 9, 2021, his 74th birthday, after more than 49 years on the LLUSD faculty, nearly half of it as associate dean for Clinic Administration, Paul Richardson, DDS'72, MEd, announced his retirement through an email to the LLUSD family.

"I have been in this position for 23 years. . . . It has been a once-in-a-lifetime experience that I am very grateful to have been entrusted with. The big picture is that I have been blessed with an extremely competent and understanding staff that had the same goals and work ethic that I have, making life in this position a joy. They participated in the excitement of daily discovery, complete support for the School and the maintaining of the School's reputation as a place to get the best dentistry in the world. In addition, the faculty and upper management have embraced the concept of change and growth, for the most part, and as a group we have moved forward; I deeply thank all of you for that."

Dr. Richardson's final year and a half at LLUSD comprised what he called "Covid time, a challenge like none I have ever witnessed in the 50-plus years I have been engaged with the educational and clinical process here at LLUSD." And although he hopes "we never see such a challenge again," he believes it was demonstrated that "we can beat it and still provide a quality education, exceptional and safe care, and survive as an institution. It has strained us to the limit," he concluded, "but we are still here, thanks to all of you."

Dr. Richardson was born in Caracas, Venezuela, to missionary parents, but spent most of his childhood and youth in Avon Park, Florida, where his parents had been called to serve at Walker Memorial Hospital after his father completed his degree and further education for Medical Technology. He spent some time as a teenager working in a machine shop, as a mechanic for a Ford dealership for two summers, and at a Case IH tractor dealership. He attended Forest Lake Academy followed by

Southern Missionary College where he spent three interesting years before leaving for Loma Linda in 1968.

During World War II, Dr. Richardson's father served in the European theater as a registered army nurse. His parents subsequently accepted a call to manage a small medical clinic in Caracas, Venezuela, where his dad directed the clinic and mother served as a nurse. A local dentist who worked at the clinic taught his father some dentistry including how to extract teeth. His dad talked up dentistry some while the future dentist was in high school.

Dr. Richardson has warm memories from his student days at LLUSD.

One day as the future prosthodontist was walking the hallway past the Department of Restorative Dentistry, Dr. Lloyd Baum stuck his head out of the office door and summoned him. "I thought I was dead for sure," he recalls, "especially when he began to note that the School was aware that I was running a small commercial dental lab on the side with a few doctors as clients. Money was tight in those days!" he interjects. "Fortunately for me, he wanted me to do some lab work for him on a regular basis. That was a great relationship and a learning experience like none other."

Dr. Richardson recalls the prosthodontist John Neufeld, DDS, as "the toughest professor around but fair; and we learned a great deal from him, especially about removable prosthodontics. He expected us to all pass a test case of complete dentures to be done with no faculty involvement, but to be instantly done over if it did not meet his standards. I not only learned removable prosthodontics from him but also self-reliance.

"When I came to Loma Linda, I was experiencing the end of a long-term relationship," Dr. Richardson recalls. "Dennis Steele, DDS, class of 1971, with whom I'd been good friends

TRANSITIONS

at Southern, decided to be matchmaker, so I met a nursing student named Jane Manire at lunch with him and his wife. I was hooked, and once you marry a California girl you never leave California. Her father was from Tennessee, so at least he and I spoke the same language, which helped a bit."

Dr. Richardson had "always had an interest in teaching, but never thought I could until Dean [Judson] Klooster, and Professor [Elmer] Kelln offered me a chance to do so."

Upon his graduation from LLUSD in 1972, Dr. Richardson was employed as an instructor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry with the plan that he would immediately attend University of Southern California to take the prosthodontic program and obtain a master's degree in education. With the help of Dean Klooster, DDS, MMS, and Elmer Kelln, DDS, professor, Department of Oral Medicine, the fledgling dentist completed both goals, graduating from USC in 1974.

By 1978 Dr. Richardson was associate professor and chief of Restorative Dentistry's Fixed Prosthodontics section. In addition, he started and directed a General Practice Residency program that had three sites for education: LLUSD, LLUMC, and the Jerry Pettis Veteran's Administration Hospital. The VA section exists to this day.

From 1984 to 1998, while maintaining some responsibilities at LLUSD, he established a private practice in Yucaipa, California.

Dr. Richardson was considered so much the consummate prosthodontist that LLUSD oral surgeon Phillip Boyne, DDS (one of Dr. Richardson's instructors during dental school), would refer some of his most interesting patients to Dr. Richardson in his Yucaipa practice to provide them prosthodontic dentistry.

In 1994, Dr. Richardson returned to LLUSD and soon became director of its Patient Care Services. During this time he "was able to hire Marina Black, and we moved forward into the computer age." In 1999 he was appointed LLUSD associate dean for Clinic Administration. Ms. Black also moved to Clinic Administration to assume duties in the transition to computer-based electronic patient record that took LLUSD to the next generation of computer managed clinical records. This included outfitting all clinics with the first chairside computers. A bit later Jodi Staff Pierce was hired as patient relations supervisor for the clinic and worked closely with Dr. Richardson on particularly troubled cases. She says, "He had my back 100 percent, always," and added, "He



Dr. Richardson and Jane, with sons Paul, Doug, and David.

is the consummate planner and an organizer." Mrs. Pierce remained as the Clinic Administration Administrative Assistant until July of 2021.

Dr. Richardson's interests and gifts were a great match for the challenge of shepherding LLUSD into the digital age as he oversaw the transition of oral radiographs from film to intraoral online radiographs; and by 2009, all LLUSD radiographs were online. He recalls humorous occasions during the transition when clinicians would request

a printout of a scan and then hold the picture up to the light before realizing their mistake. More recently he has been deeply involved in the School's ongoing transition to digital dentistry.

As he announced his looming retirement, Dean Robert Handysides, DDS'93, said, "Dr. Richardson is one of my mentors and has taught me so much during my tenure in administration. I am personally and professionally grateful for his dedication, passion for service, and leadership. Dr. Richardson has been a long-term educator here at the School of Dentistry, and his knowledge of our clinic operations and history is vast.

In response to Dr. Richardson's intentions, the appreciation of Jessica Kim, DDS'05, director, Faculty Dental Practices, was apparent as she thanked him for guidance through "so many big transitions at the School. . . . You were always thinking about the future and pro technology. Thank you for your visions and all you have accomplished during your years of service."

"As I wind down 50-plus years of patient care and dental education," Dr. Richardson concluded, "Dean Handysides has kindly offered a transitional place for me to be able to continue to give back to LLUSD, when needed, by supporting the school educational process anyway I can."

Perhaps in retirement Dr. Richardson will have more time to enjoy his three sons—Paul, digital trainer for Vita corporation; David, professional fine artist; and Doug, an accountant—and his grandchild, Riley. And then there are some old iron vehicles from decades past: a 1953 Chrysler New Yorker Hemi, a 1966 Toyota Land Cruiser pickup truck (Chevy powered), a 1977 Jeep CJ7 (that Jane says needs to be sold) that may now get restored to their original glory.

The retiring associate dean says, "Jane and I are now in the ugly duckling stage of our fifth house to be remodeled while living in it—I do the woodwork and other stuff and she does the plans," but, he adds, "Still Married!!"

TRANSITIONS

Drs. Li and Zhang exit

Since 1997, the LLU School of Dentistry's scientific research commitment has been first under the influence and then the direction of Yiming Li, DDS, MSD, PhD, distinguished professor and associate dean for Research, and has benefited simultaneously by the critically conscientious applied research of his wife, Wu Zhang, MD, professor, Dental Education Services, and director, Research Services and Sterilization Assurance Service.

The improbable series of trying events that Drs. Li and Zhang surmounted as young adults to achieve their professional education and their contributions to LLUSD are described in an [earlier Articulator](#).

As LLUSD dean in 1997, Charles Goodacre, DDS'71, MSD, distinguished professor of prosthodontics, recruited Dr. Li to the School's faculty and, in 1999, appointed him to associate director of its newly named Center for Dental Research (CDR). Dr. Zhang was appointed research associate at the CDR and assistant professor the following year.

In 2002 Dr. Li was asked to direct LLUSD's newly expanded Clinical Research Program. Two years later (2004) he was appointed director of the Center for Dental Research.

Dr. Li has been active in collaborative research. He served as chair for the American National Standard/American Dental Association Specification for Biological Evaluation of Materials. Under his leadership the LLUSD CDR has dominated tooth bleaching and color measurement research. Dr. Li also served on the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Dental Products Panel between 2006 and 2009 to which he remains a consultant.

Dr. Li was appointed LLUSD associate dean for Research in February 2014, but perhaps the most tangible testimony to his dedicated efforts is the 5,600 square foot, state of the art research facility in Chan Shun Pavilion that opened in February 2015 and now houses the Center for Dental Research. "Research is a key component of our calling, as it enhances the prospect of wholeness," he noted at its grand opening.

Dr. Li had authored 155 articles and book chapters, 193 abstracts, and has given 158 oral and poster presentations most of which were supported by research grants funded by NIH and various industries. "Dr. Li has helped to build the student and resident research programs to a level that has enabled LLUSD students to garner a disproportionate number of state and national awards especially at the annual competition for student research at the California Dental Association Convention," says Dean Robert Handysides, DDS'93.

All of this explains why Dr. Li was honored in 2014 with the Loma Linda University Distinguished Investigator Award, in 2017 with LLUSD's School Distinguished Service Award, and during the School of Dentistry's 2018 commencement was designated



Dr. Yiming Li and Dr. Wu Zhang

distinguished professor of Restorative Dentistry.

When the research couple arrived in Loma Linda in 1997, Dr. Zhang started NIH-supported fluoride studies with faculty and students and began collaborating with nine major international laboratories to establish Gold Standard methods for fluoride analysis.

She initiated the School's Sterilization Assurance Service (SAS) and Dental Unit Waterlines testing program. Dr. Zhang thought both could be managed together to strengthen the overall research program and, with the support of Dean Goodacre, in 1998 the school's Sterilization Assurance Service was established and under her guidance has grown to serve LLUSD alumni and many other dental professionals nationwide.

"In 2000 Dr. Zhang started the LLUSD Dental Unit Waterline Testing Service that was expanded to deliver waterline testing for dental care providers in 43 states including those in universities, large dental organizations, and many dental offices.

In 2012 Loma Linda University recognized the contributions of Dr. Zhang with its Distinguished Research Award based partly on her contributions to funded projects and so many studies involving students, visiting scholars, and faculty that ranged from tooth whitening to oral odor, from antimicrobial activity to laser treatment.

Dr. Zhang collaborated with the American Dental Association's research lab for ten years which contributed to the first edition of ISO standard 16954 Dentistry—test methods for dental unit waterline biofilm treatment—which was published in July 2015.

Dr. Zhang has been published 200 times—including 74 articles and 124 abstracts—by herself and with co-authors and colleagues.

During the 2015 grand opening of the Center for Dental Research, Dr. Li remarked that "science is the servant of 'service.'" But scientific advance depends on the conscientious application of its methodology. For the past quarter century at the LLU School of Dentistry science has flourished in the astute and benevolent hands of Dr. Yiming Li and Dr. Wu Zhang.

TRANSITIONS

Kristi Wilkins Marshall's retirement plan

At Ohio University, Athens, attracted by the opportunity for academic stimulation, Kristi Wilkins majored in education. With a growing interest in healthcare, she enrolled in the medical assisting program at Kettering College of Medical Arts. There she met Bob Wilkins of Kettering, Ohio, whom she married in 1974. The couple moved to Loma Linda, where he completed respiratory therapy studies and became chair of LLU's respiratory therapy program.

In 1980 Kristi completed LLUSD's dental hygiene program with honors. She recalls that Violet Bates, the program's first director, was still at the helm of the department, nine years after presiding over the first graduation of dental hygiene students at LLUSD.

While raising two sons and working as a dental hygienist, Kristi was selected by Loma Linda University's School of Dentistry to join its faculty in 1995. Supported by great mentors, she added a master's in biomedical and clinical ethics to her credentials and became the dental hygiene department's chair in 2002. That position added a dozen or more committees to her schedule.

She has taught multiple courses offered in the dental hygiene program, most recently focusing on ethics and law. Her administrative and teaching performance awarded her LLUSD's 2007 Dental Hygiene Alumna of the Year and dental hygiene's Teacher of the Year. After a one-year personal sabbatical to teach at the University of Texas, San Antonio's dental hygiene program, she returned to the chair position in 2008. In 2016 she received the School's Distinguished Service award.

After 19 years of chairing the Department of Dental Hygiene, a truly distinctive accomplishment emerged.



Mrs. Kristi Marshall

She has served as a departmental director with four successive deans, from 2002 to 2021. She will add another year to that record while assisting her successor, Shelly Withers, RDH, MS, PhD, with the transition. "It's hard to have a small program in a bigger school," Kristi says, "but I have the highest regard for the school's administrators and faculty, who have been very supportive. I was blessed by their leadership and dedication."

In 2010 Kristi suffered the loss of her husband. Colleagues admired her resilience as she coped with multiple challenges. Outreach trips followed to Zimbabwe and The Republic of China, both seeking guidance from US dental hygienists. She shared

commuting faculty members with China, who were introducing their skills at China's Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital in HangZhou Zhejiang province.

Closer home, with volunteer dental faculty, she was exploring the validity of a three-year associate degree program in Palm Desert. Forty-one students in five classes, 2011-2017, were successful in that program, which put a footprint in the Palm Desert community—all accomplished with the Department's faculty volunteers and limited budget.

Kristi remarried in 2017 and is planning full retirement in 2022. She and her husband are anticipating more frequent excursions—boating, skiing, and exploring national parks with their family—six children and six grandchildren.

The School of Dentistry has benefited significantly from Kristi Marshall's organizational skills and wishes her and her family the best as they explore the world together.



Kristi Marshall with her former student and successor, Shelly Withers

LLUSD dental students sweep the research poster awards at CDA Presents 2021

Fifteen LLUSD dental students swept the table clinic competition at the 2021 CDA Presents the Art and Science of Dentistry virtual convention May 13-16, 2021— nine from the class of 2022 and six from the class of 2021.

Fifteen LLUSD dental students swept the table clinic competition at the 2021 CDA Presents the virtual Art and Science of Dentistry convention held May 13-16, 2021—nine from the class of 2022 and six from the class of 2021.

The School's third-year students received first and second place awards and one honorable mention, while the graduating class contestants were awarded third place and an honorable mention.



Christopher Chaffin



Eugenie Choi



Joraldine Feliciano

First Place Winners (D3)

Presenters: *Christopher Chaffin, Eugenie Choi, Joraldine Feliciano*

Presentation Title: *Ability of Intraoral Scanners to Capture Crown Finish Line at Various Depths*

Mentors: *Udochukwu Oyoyo, Brian Goodacre*



Richard Chong



Jordan Dobbin



Hyeon Kim



Jacqueline LeNoir

Second Place Winners (D3)

Presenters: , Richard Chong, Jordan Dobbin, Hyeon Kim, Jacqueline LeNoir

Presentation Title: Radiographic Assessment of Alveolar Bone Levels in Elderly Individuals with Metabolic Syndrome

Mentors: Leticia Lenoir, Ahmed Khocht



Yeganeh Amini



Isaac Covarrubias



Jeffrey Kendall



Nicole Mahboubian

Third Place Winners (D4)

Presenters: Yeganeh Amini, Isaac Covarrubias, Jeffrey Kendall, Nicolette Mahboubian

Presentation Title: Canal Transportation and Volume Changes after Root Canal Preparations

Mentors: Gina Roque-Torres, Tory Silvestrin, Justin Wu, Leif Bakland



Yara Arnouk



Ji Yeon Chung

Honorable Mentions (D4)

Presenters: Yara Arnouk and Ji Yeon Chung

Presentation Title: Supportive Peri-Implant Therapy Following Dental Implant Restoration: A Five-Year Retrospective Analysis

Mentor: Yoon Kim



Guada Lund



Mohammed Shaikh

Honorable Mentions (D3)

Presenters: Guada Lund and Mohammed Shaikh

Presentation Title: MicroCT Analysis of Abrasivity of Toothpaste Tablets Compared to Conventional Toothpaste

Mentors: Gina Roque-Torres, Udochukwu Oyoyo, So Ran Kwon

LLUSD COMMENCEMENT 2021

2021 LLUSD commencement

On the day before Commencement weekend began, Ron Forde, DDS'83, assistant professor, DGD, emailed the class of 2021 with words of congratulation:

You have all been stretched beyond your expectations . . . [Y]ou have learned much about who you are, the importance of working with and helping each other, the strengths found in relationships, and the importance of family and friends. You have survived the unforeseen challenges that a global pandemic has brought to almost every aspect of life, and you have pushed on and pushed through. Now, you are about to move forward into the realization of your individual dreams, and this is to be celebrated.

I wish you the best as you prepare to graduate from our School in the next few days. No more will you be carrying around a case of instruments or a computer on your back as a daily ritual. You have made it!!!

So on to new chapters of service! There are many lives outside of these walls that are awaiting your skills as you have learned them, and you will have the privilege of bringing smiles and relief to many. You will be appreciated and trusted by many who will seek your help, and you will know the joy of serving others.

Remember that your lives and your words will carry weight with those you meet and serve. What an honor and a calling to impact the lives of others for good. . .

The Conferring of Degrees was memorialized digitally for the class of 2021 students who were permitted to arrive with family and friends in one vehicle per graduate.

The QR code below takes you to a video of the Sunday afternoon service.



Watch the Conferring of Degrees at this address:

<https://vimeo.com/570440762>

CONSECRATION SERVICE

Hooding and Awards during Consecration Service



Dean Robert Handysides presents a Bible to Heather Perry, DDS'21.

*Abigaill Ruiz, DDS'21,
is pleased with the hood
she has just donned as she
shakes hand with John
Won, DDS'05, MS,
head, Division of General
Dentistry.*



*Ali Alobaidi, DDS'21,
attempts a record for
an LLUSD selfie with
classmates.*



*A newly hooded quartet
of dental students from
the class of 2021 relax
a couple of days before
graduation (L-R): Angela
Chan, Eunice Chung, Na
Kim, and Connie Hong.*



Christopher Daniel Chan receives President's Award



Chris Chan, DDS'21, is the eldest among four sons of LLUSD alumnus Gary Chan, DDS'89, MS'95. One of his younger brothers, Brian, is in the LLUSD class of 2023. Home schooling provided Christopher the opportunity to participate in a rigorous speech and debate team and to train as a classical pianist.

During his undergraduate years at California Baptist University, Chris received numerous awards and recognitions for his performance on the piano, in academics, and in debate.

Chris identifies closely with Loma Linda where he was born (Loma Linda University Medical Center), where he has worked (Campus Store), taught (BLS classes for Life Support Education), studied (extensively at the LLU Library with friends), and where over the years he has fellowshipped at the University Church and Campus Hill Church.

Chris served as class president each of his four years at LLUSD and is an Omicron Kappa Upsilon candidate.

He currently is enrolled in the Advanced Dental Education Program in Orthodontics and Dentofacial orthopedics.

In recognition of Christopher Chan's excellent academics, his ability to lead, and his dedication to whole person care in dentistry, Loma Linda University School of Dentistry wholeheartedly names him recipient of the 2021 *PRESIDENT'S AWARD*.

Crystal Yeap honored with the Prince Award



Crystal Yeap was selected by the Dentistry Class of 2021 as its Prince Award nominee.

Established in 1957 by M. Webster Prince, DDS, the School of Dentistry's inaugural dean, the Prince Award is given in recognition of qualities of scholarship, leadership, and stewardship. Crystal values being caring, nurturing, dedicated and driven. She has applied these qualities in her life through academics, service, musical gifts, artistry and dance. Her talents, hard work and desire to serve have led her to become a compassionate and versatile dentist.

A graduate from Pacific Union College, Crystal majored in Chemistry. While at PUC, she was engaged in numerous activities including mission trips, working as a tutor and teacher's assistant, and leading a service-oriented club on campus.

Crystal's experiences with dentistry showed her a career path in which she could apply her drive, compassion, skills, and talents.

As a student at Loma Linda University, Crystal has been involved in local and international service learning, ASDA leadership, and (in her 4th year) serving as Clinic Vice President. She is personable, genuine, and strives to serve the needs of others.

It is a pleasure and honor to present Crystal with the 2021 *PRINCE AWARD*.

STUDENT AWARDS

Student Achievement Awards 2021

During the School of Dentistry's annual senior recognition events, 55 awards were presented to their recipients. The graduates and their awards are memorialized below.

Academy of Dentistry International Student Servant Leadership Award

Jacqueline Neumann, DDS'21

Academy of General Dentistry Award

Prarthit Mehta, DDS'21, Purin Chirachevin, DDS'21

Academy of Operative Dentistry Award

Andrew Najem, DDS'21

Academy of Osseointegration

Eunice Chung, DDS'21

ADA Foundation Colgate Student Research Recognition Award (recognized D3 year)

Katelyn Ordway, DDS'22

American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry

Dhara Shah, DDS'21

American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Award

Kevin Jahng, DDS'21

American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Award

Gabrielle Dennis, DDS'21

American Academy of Oral Medicine Award

Rebecca Quinn, DDS'21

American Academy of Orofacial Pain Award

Brandon Talmood, DDS'21

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

Liliana Popova, DDS'21

American Academy of Periodontology

Peter Tafesh, DDS'21

American Association of Endodontists

Naghme Talakoub, DDS'21

American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Award

Brandon Talmood, DDS'21

American Association of Orthodontists Award

Christopher Chan, DDS'21

American College of Dentists, SoCal Section

Jeanine Khoury, DDS'21

American College of Prosthodontists Award

Johnathan Kim, DDS'21

American Student Dental Association: Award of Excellence

Lori Foust, DDS'21

Boyko Award for Christ-like Service

Joufika Gestoso, DDS'21

Brian D. Stone Memorial Award

Suzie Lee, DDS'21

California Dental Association Senior Award

Peter Tafesh, DDS'21, Jeanine Khoury, DDS'21

ICOI/Dentsply Pre-doctoral Student Achievement Award

Ameer Frangieh, DDS'21

International College of Dentists Student Leadership Award

Krista Min, DDS'21

International College of Dentists Student Humanitarian Award

Amanda Jacovani, DDS'21

LLU Center for Dental Research Basic Science Award (D2)

Corinne Atiga, DDS'23, and Brittany Calderon, DDS'23

LLU IDP Fixed Prosthodontics Award

Mehrzad Dalaei, DDS'21 (IDP)

LLU IDP Professionalism Award

Mehrzad Dalaei, DDS'21 (IDP)

LLU IDP Removable Prosthodontics Award

Prarthit Mehta, DDS'21 (IDP)

National Association of Seventh-day Adventist Dentists

Joanna Moses, DDS'21

Oesterling-Wical Removable Prosthodontics Award

Prarthit Mehta, DDS'21

Omicron Kappa Upsilon (OKU) Awards – DDS'21

Yeganeh Amini, Jason Bajwa, Angela Chan, Christopher Chan, Rebecca Choi, Amanda Jacovani, Kevin Jahng, Suzie Lee, Grace Moon, Shant Oroojian, Rebecca Quinn, Anna Sukhova, Ameer Frangieh (IDP), Jeanine Khoury (IDP), Dhara Shah (IDP)

OKU, William S. Kramer Award for Excellence (D3)

Jeremiah Holt, DDS'22

Pierre Fauchard Academy Award

Yeganeh Amini, DDS'21

President's Award

Christopher Chan, DDS'21

Prince Award

Crystal Yeap, DDS'21

SCADA Dentsply Student Clinician

Angela Chan, DDS'21

Southern California Academy of Oral Pathology Award

Grace Moon, DDS'21

Southern California Society of Dentistry for Children Award

Dhara Shah, DDS'21

Western Society of Periodontology Award

Fenal Shah, DDS'21

Wil Alexander Whole Person Care Award

Angela Chan, DDS'21

Wilfred A. Nation Award

Jonathan Tangunan, DDS'21

Dental Hygiene Class of 2021 student awards

American Association of Public Health Dentistry

Sandra Saucedo

Bates Award

Kimberly Coy

CDHA California Dental Hygienists' Association

Robert Hysa

Clinician's Award

Nina Yu

Dean's Award

Elisabeth Crespo

Klooster Humanitarian Award

Theodore Tzeng

Middleton Award

Thang Ngo

Mitchell Award

Brian Pheng

Sigma Phi Alpha Award

**Michelle Abad, Elisabeth Crespo, Brian Pheng,
Madison Verska**

2021 Honors Program Recognition

Graduates recognized for Elective Program completion

Yeganeh Amini

Honors Program in Endodontics and in
Dental Research

Yara Cathrina Arnouk

Honors Program in Dental Research

Jason Singh Bajwa

Honors Program in Dental Research

Angela S. Chan

Honors Program in Orthodontics & Dentofacial
Orthopedics

Christopher Daniel Chan

Honors Programs in Orthodontics & Dentofacial
Orthopedics

Isaac Covarrubias

Honors Program in Dental Research

Ameer A. M. Frangieh

Honors Program in Implant Dentistry

Amanda Jacovani

Honors Program in Dental Research

Kevin Jahng

Honors Programs in Orthodontics & Dentofacial
Orthopedics and in Dental Research

Celina Dahae Kim

Honors Program in Orthodontics & Dentofacial
Orthopedics

Johnathan Kim

Honors Program in Dental Education

Suzie Lee

Honors Program in Dental Research

Jacqueline Michelle Neumann

Honors Program in Dental Education

Shant Oroojian

Honors Programs in Orthodontics & Dentofacial
Orthopedics and in Dental Research

Liliana R. Popova

Honors Programs in Pediatric Dentistry and in
Dental Research

Dhara Hardik Shah

Honors Program in Pediatric Dentistry

Naghme Talakoub

Honors Program in Endodontics

Jonathan Alsaybar Tangunan

Honors Programs in Orthodontics & Dentofacial
Orthopedics and in Dental Research

DH PINNING

Dental Hygiene Pinning Ceremony



Shelly Withers hugs her retiring boss, departing Department of Dental Hygiene chair, Kristi Marshall.

DH PINNING



Shirley Lee, BS'82 (DH), MS'07, congratulates Thang Ngo, BS'21 (DH)



Mikayla Lopez, BS'21 (DH)



John Cua, BS'21 (DH)



Left: Arraiya Perez, BS'21 (DH) and (R) Mikayla Lopez, BS'21 (DH), bracket a friend.



Heidi Beisiegel, BS'21 (DH)

BACCALAUREATE

Baccalaureate Sabbath



Chris Chan, DDS'21, "How Great Thou Art"

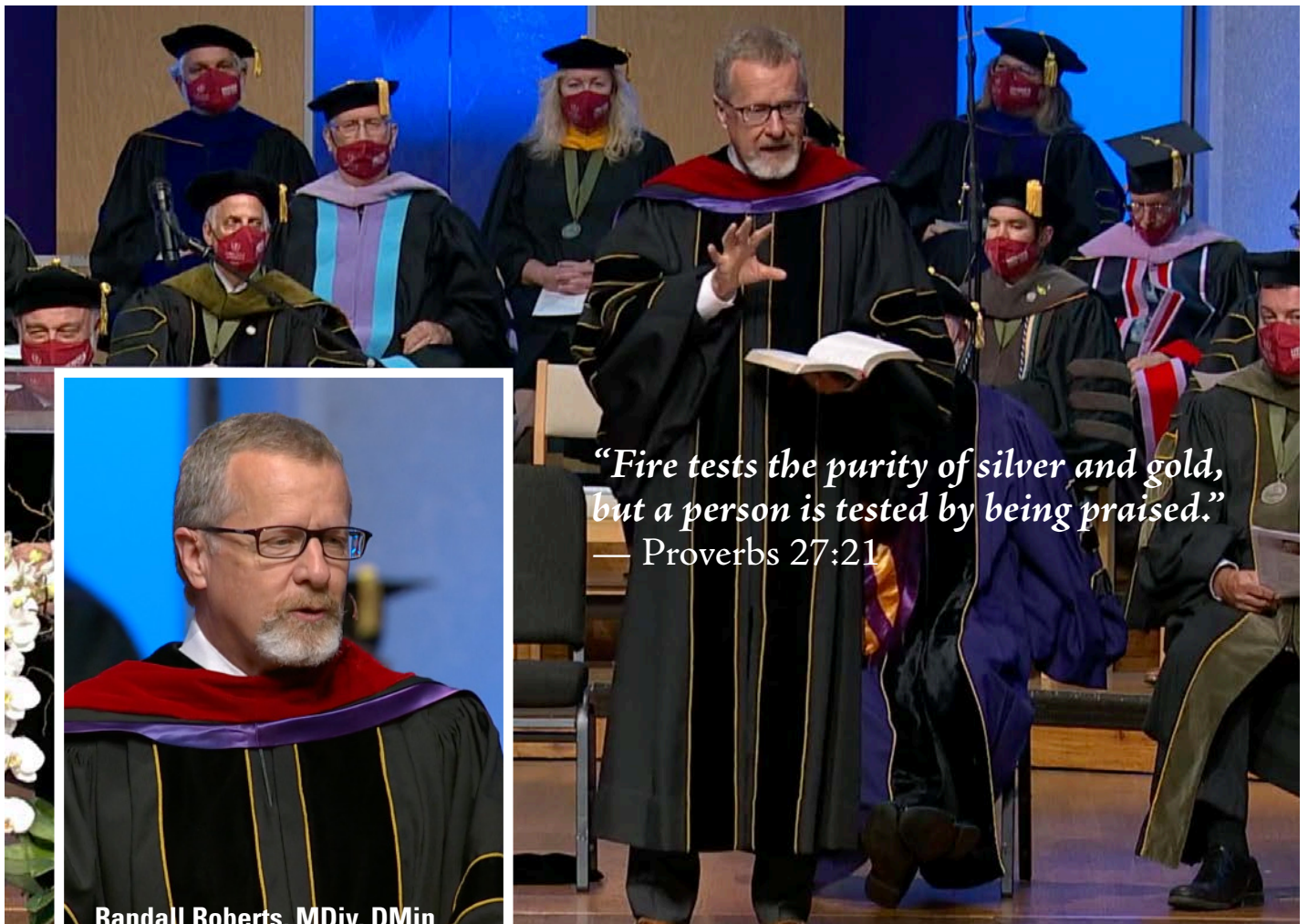


*"Graduation is
much better than
orientation."*

Jacqueline Neumann, DDS'21

<https://vimeo.com/548017431>

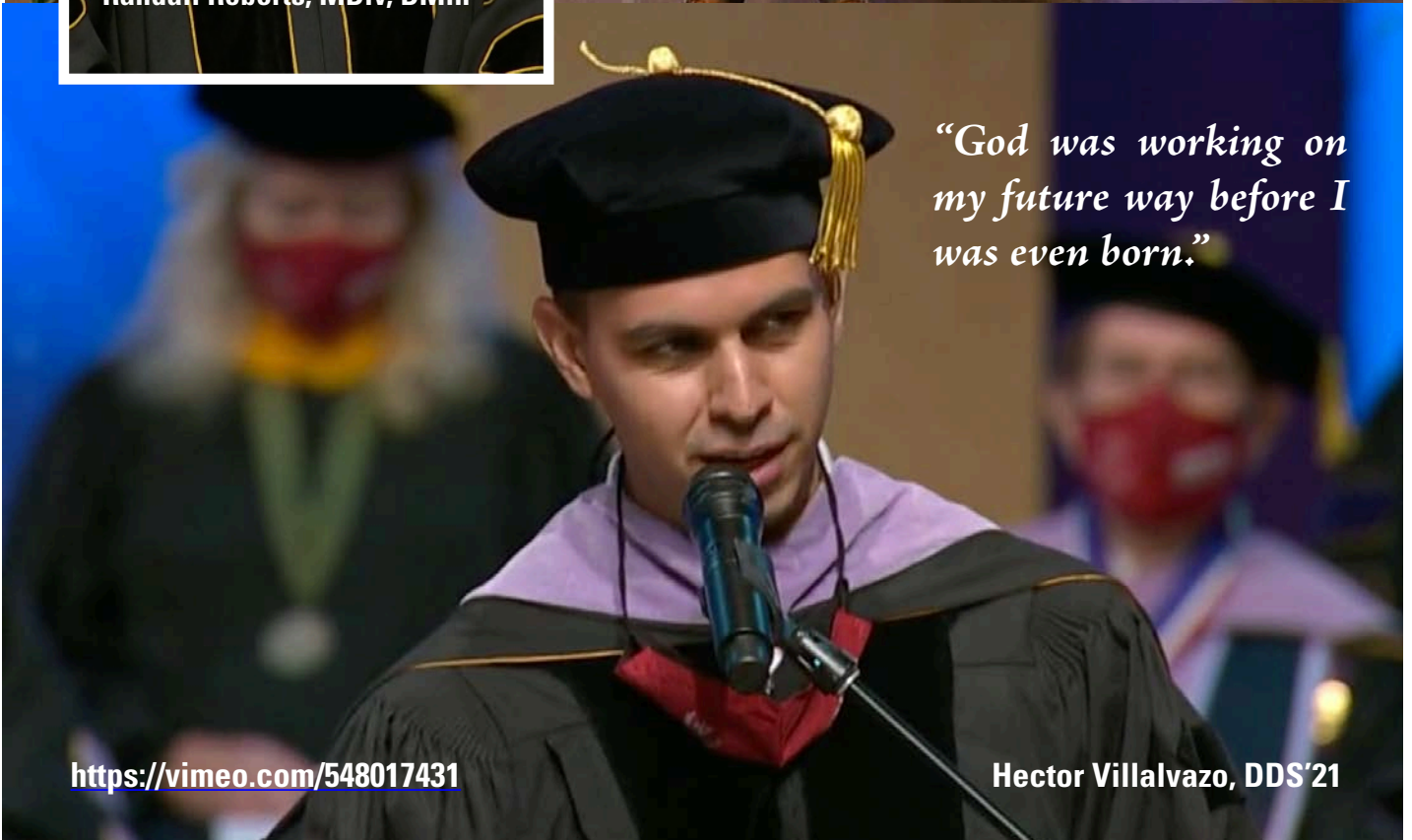
BACCALAUREATE



*"Fire tests the purity of silver and gold,
but a person is tested by being praised."
— Proverbs 27:21*



Randall Roberts, MDiv, DMin



*"God was working on
my future way before I
was even born."*

<https://vimeo.com/548017431>

Hector Villalvazo, DDS'21

OFFICER COMMISSIONING



The 2021 Commissioning & Promotion Ceremony for the LLU School of Dentistry and Medicine was held Sunday, May 30, 2021, 11:30 am, on the entryway to the Coleman / Chan Shun Pavilion.

Four LLUSD class of 2021 graduates participated (L-R):

- Michael Borchik, Navy
- Alex Bullock, Army
- Isaac Covarrubias, Army
- Junghun Frederick Choi, Army

OFFICER COMMISSIONING



Brigadier General Michael Walter, MD, USAR (Ret) discusses with the new officers the honor, the responsibility, and the reward of uniformed service.



LLUSD's graduating newly commissioned officers stand shoulder to shoulder (left to right, Michael Borchik, Junghun Frederick Choi, Alex Bullock, and Isaac Covarrubias).



CONFERRING OF DEGREES



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY

School of Dentistry



Class of 2021

CONFERRING OF
DEGREES

SUNDAY, MAY 30
5:00 P.M.

DRIVE THRU (1 CAR PER
GRADUATE)

STAGE/CHECK-IN @ CENTENNIAL COMPLEX / DRIVE-THRU
@ WOODS WALKWAY. STREAMED LIVE @ GRADCAST.

LLU School of Dentistry Dean Robert Handysides, DDS'93, gets a hand from Esther Forde, MBA, MA, assistant dean, Admissions and Student Affairs.

It wasn't just another weekend and school year concluding Sunday afternoon in May. Viruses are no respectors of humans, not even graduating healthcare professionals or their particularly meaningful moments.

And so the LLUSD graduating Class of 2021 was presented with its degrees in a hybrid ceremony of in-person and virtual (analog and digital) elements—an occasion that President Richard Hart, MD, DrPH, termed a “drive-thru, walk-across event.”

Backed by sixteen stories of new hospital and a profusion of international flags representing so many countries of student origin, the 2021 distribution of LLU School of Dentistry diplomas took place under ideal Southern California weather.

Dr. Hart congratulated the 2021 LLUSD graduates for the first time as alumni from the School of Dentistry—39 dental hygienists, 131 dentists, and 32 dentists with advanced dental education certificates and/or degrees. “So we honor your scholarly accomplishments,” Dr. Hart concluded, “and depend on each one of you to fulfill the mission of Loma Linda University to make man whole.”

Dean Handysides, DDS'93, offered the invocation and introduced the LLUSD classes of two thousand and twenty-one to President Hart and Provost Ronald Carter, PhD.

Kristi Marshall, BS (DH)'75, MA, retiring chair, Department of Dental Hygiene, introduced for her last time the graduating dental hygiene class and Esther Forde, MBA, MA, assistant dean, Admissions and Student Affairs, introduced the doctor of dental surgery graduates. As their names were called, each graduate proceeded to cross the stage individually, received a diploma from Mark Estey, DDS'98, associate dean, Academic Affairs (as did all 200-plus graduates), and then stood (each in turn) between Dean Handysides and President Hart as their photos were taken to memorialize their achievement.

Doctor of dental surgery (DDS) graduates (undergraduate and International Dentist Program) subsequently had their opportunities.

Steven Morrow, DDS'60, MS, associate dean, Advanced Education, introduced the graduates from the Advanced Dental Education programs and called them individually to receive their diplomas and/or certificates.

Karl Haffner, PhD, VP for Student Experience gave an inspiring address as he enjoined the graduates to go and be the hands of Jesus to those in need.

Watch by clicking here: <https://vimeo.com/570440762>

CONFERRING OF DEGREES



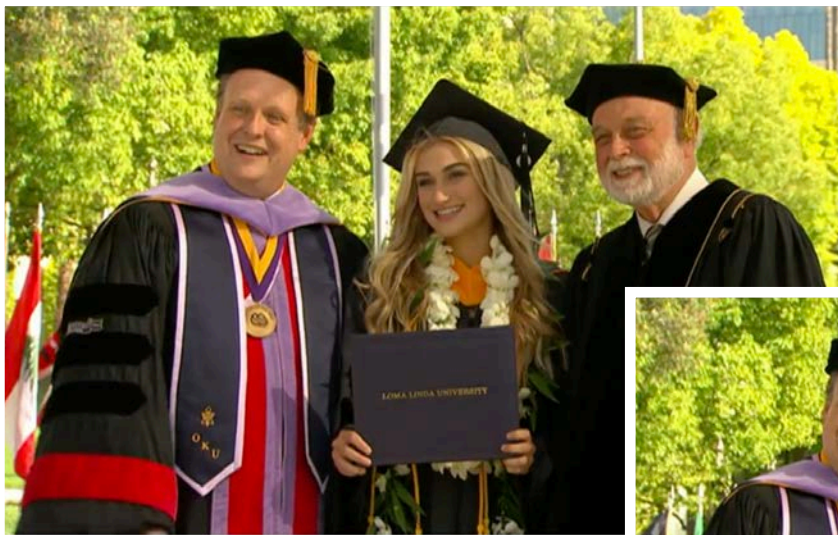
Flags behind the dais demonstrate the international diversity of the LLUSD graduating students.

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

The next several pages provide examples of graduates from various programs receiving their diplomas during the 2021 conferring of degrees. A video of the entire event can be watched by using <https://vimeo.com/570440762>, and individual still photos of each graduate in regalia are available at [this address](#) to individuals with llu.edu email addresses.



Kristi Marshall introduced the class of 2021, the last class under her watch.



Sarah McKenna Phelps, BS'21 (DH)



*Nadine Tawfik, BS'21 (DH),
cum laude*



Thang Dang Ngo, BS'21 (DH), class Spiritual Vice President

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

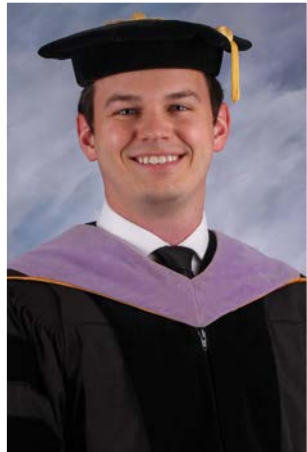


Abigail A. Aviles Manahan, DDS'21

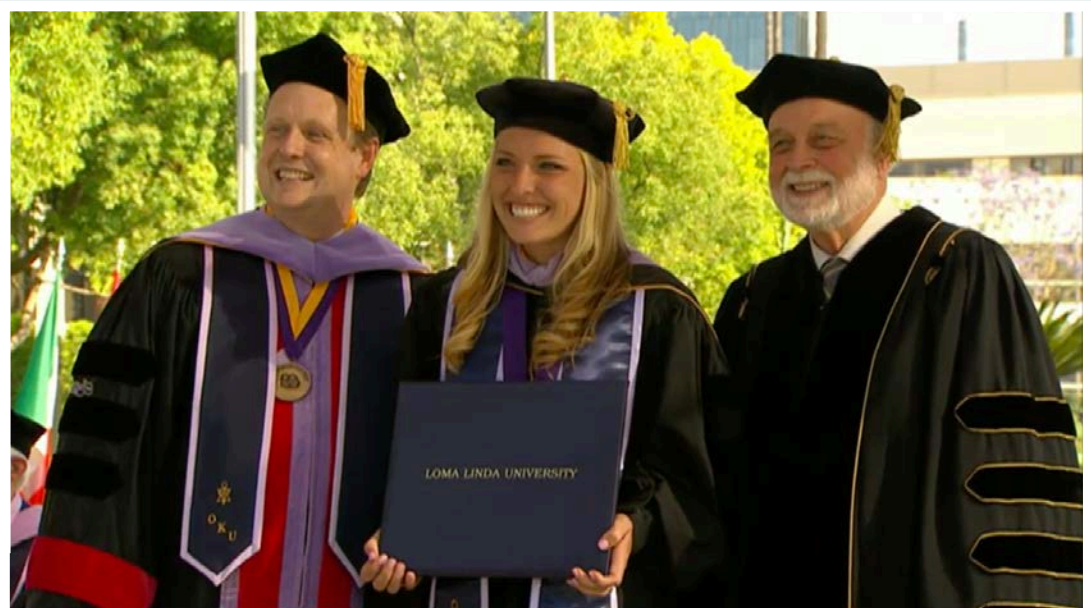
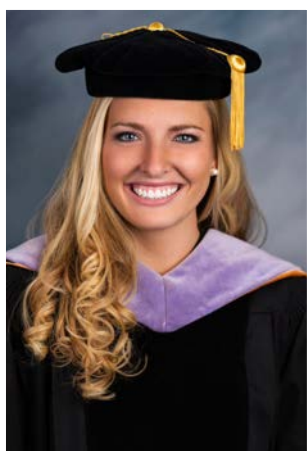


Joal Roger Legaspi, DDS'21

CONFERRING OF DEGREES



David P. Rittenhouse, DDS'21



*Rebecca Langejans Quinn, DDS'21, LLU ASDA Pre-dental Committee Co-Chair,
Class Social Co-Vice President, Omicron Kappa Upsilon*

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

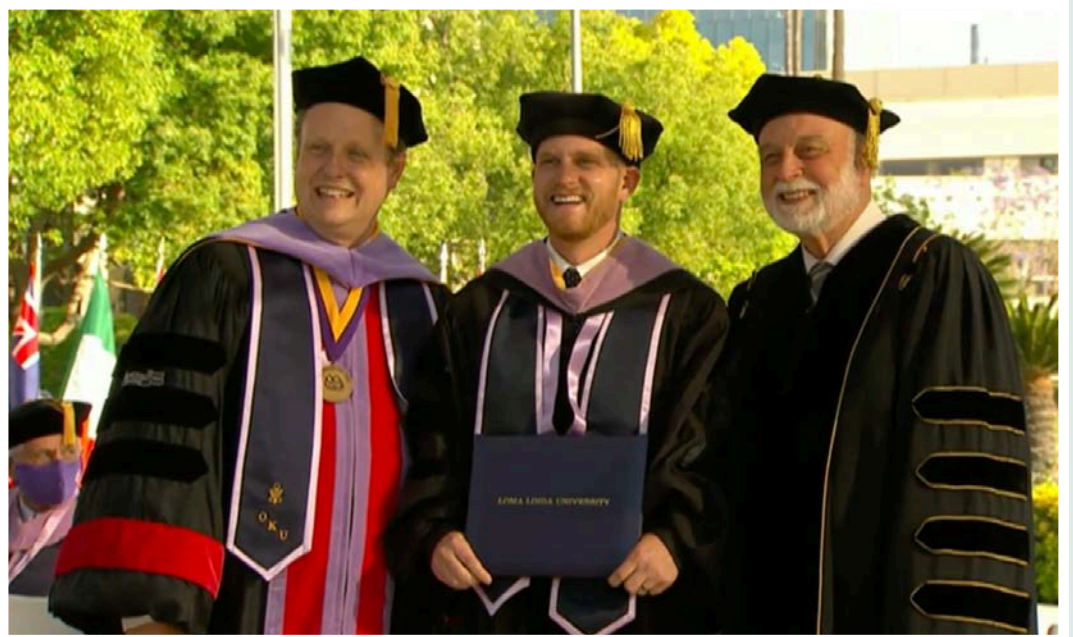


L-R: Dean Handysides poses with Prarthit H. Mehta, DDS'21 (IDP), class representative, Academy of General Dentistry, his brother, Vidit Mehta, DDS'18, and President Hart.



Ethar Said Mustafa, DDS'21 (IDP), with her husband Diary Hoshiyar DDS, '19

CONFERRING OF DEGREES



Bryan J. Otis, DDS'17, MS (Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics)



Jonathan Alsaybar Tangunan, DDS'21, Class Treasurer, Wilfred A. Nation Award recipient

CONFERRING OF DEGREES



Commencement speaker Dr. Karl Haffner addresses the LLUSD Class of 2021.

“Graduates, again congratulations. And I leave you with this charge: Go, and touch the untouchables, heal the hurting, and be the hands of Jesus.”



FACULTY AWARDS



Dean Robert Handysides reviews with Dr. Joseph Kan the wording of his School Distinguished Research Award.

Dr. Joseph Kan—2020 School Distinguished Research Award

Joseph Kan has been on the LLUSD faculty since becoming assistant professor in 1996, associate professor in 2001, and, as of 2007, full professor at the School of Dentistry's Center for Prosthodontics and Implant Dentistry. He simultaneously maintains a private practice limited to prosthodontics and implant surgery.

Dr. Kan is on the editorial board of the International Journal of Periodontics and Restorative Dentistry, and the International Journal of Esthetic Dentistry. He was the program chair for the 2018 Academy of Osseointegration (AO) Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, and is currently a member of the AO Board of Directors.

A peripatetic educator, Dr. Kan has presented 236 invited lectures/presentations in 28 different countries. He has published over 100 referenced articles and book chapters on

interdisciplinary treatment planning, periodontal and peri-implant tissue management, and immediate tooth replacement concepts. Based on a 2017 article from The International Journal of Oral Maxillofacial Implants, Dr. Kan authored or co-authored four of the top 100 most internationally cited publications. These four publications also ranked Loma Linda University third among educational institutions with articles cited in implant dentistry.

In recognition of his significant contributions as both researcher and educator, especially in the areas of prosthodontics and implant dentistry, and as a tireless mentor to LLUSD graduate students and the wider world of practicing dentists, it is an honor to present Dr. Joseph Kan with the 2020 SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH AWARD.

FACULTY AWARDS



Dean Robert Handysides prepares to present Ms. Kathleen Moore with the School Distinguished Service Award.

Ms. Kathleen Moore—School Distinguished Service Award

Kathleen Moore has served in the School of Dentistry through four decades and five deans. She first was hired in 1978 to be correspondence secretary for Dean Judson Klooster. While typing the dean's letters, official minutes, and unofficial meeting notes, she gained valuable understanding of the organization and structure of the School. In 1981 she became department secretary under Dr. James Crawford. Ms. Moore credits her strong feelings of loyalty for the School of Dentistry to Dr. Klooster and Dr. Crawford, whom she has often referred to as her professional father.

When the School's Alumni Association was looking for a director, Ms. Moore saw this an opportunity to create synergistic collaboration between the School's continuing education activities and the Alumni Student Convention. As director of the Alumni Association since 1995, her responsibility for thousands of alumni records has resulted in many life-long friendships.

The School of Dentistry sponsored Ms. Moore's master's degree in health information systems that prepared her for broader responsibilities that accumulated and peaked in 2010 with her appointment as associate dean for Educational Support Services, Computer Services, Continuing Dental Education, Marketing and Publications, and the Dental Alumni Association.

But over the years, regardless of her title, Ms. Moore has always said, "My job is to make the Dean look good." Her 41 years of dedication to the School have been characterized by a "whatever-it-takes-to-get-the-job-done" attitude.

In recognition of her enthusiastic and diverging contributions to so many aspects of the life of the School of Dentistry, it is an honor to recognize Ms. Moore with the 20021 SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD.

FACULTY AWARDS



Dean Robert Handysides presents Dr. Susan Richards the School Distinguished Faculty Service Award.

Dr. Susan Richards—School Distinguished Faculty Service Award

Susan Richards, DDS'84 assumed full-time teaching duties at Loma Linda University School of Dentistry in 1987 and currently holds the academic rank of associate professor. She teaches courses in oral and maxillofacial pathology, as well as general and systemic pathology, for predoctoral dental and dental hygiene students. She also lectures for dental advanced education programs and provides specialty clinical consultations in all of the School's teaching clinics.

Dr. Richards has served on numerous committees and task forces at the School of Dentistry and Loma Linda University, and is known for her commitment to order and logic, consistent with her undergraduate education in mathematics and chemistry.

Dr. Richards treats clinical oral pathology patients at the School's faculty practice one half day per week. She provides general dentistry care one day a week at the Koppel Special Care Dentistry outpatient surgery center where she treats young children, medically compromised children and medically compromised adult patients who require their dental treatment to be provided under general anesthesia.

In recognition of her conscientious contributions to professional education, it is with great honor that the School of Dentistry names Dr. Susan D. Richards recipient of the 2021 *SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED FACULTY SERVICE AWARD*.

FACULTY AWARDS



Dean Robert Handysides presents Dr. Shelly Withers with the School Distinguished Faculty Service Award.

Dr. Shelly Withers—School Teacher of the Year Award

Shelly Withers, BS'00 (DH), MS, PhD, graduated from the LLUSD dental hygiene program at the turn of the millennium. She found the place and the people and the profession a congenial match. Her career is characterized by an amalgam of learning and teaching, teaching and learning.

In 2002, Dr. Withers began teaching in her alma mater's Department of Dental Hygiene: first as clinical instructor, then, from 2003 to 2008, as assistant professor. Since 2009, she has served the Department as associate professor with responsibilities for course direction, clinical oversight, lab instruction, and student research mentoring.

Dr. Withers also holds an appointment at the School's Center for Dental Research where she has assisted with clinical studies. Most recently, she collaborated with colleagues in a podcast, called "LLUSD Updates" that finds them sharing with the School family announcements, laughter, and encouragement.

But it is Dr. Withers' role as a professional oral healthcare mentor that marks this moment, and her deserving of this award is evidenced by what students say about her:

"Ms. Withers . . . was always available outside of class for help, all while earning a doctorate degree. Not all heroes wear capes!"

"When you meet a professor who is kind and patient, you naturally desire to learn from them."

"Dr. Withers is the perfect role model for all of us. She showcases perseverance, passion, and grit. She seeks to connect to all of us and understands the pressure of being successful in academia."

"I am honored to be her student and to have been able to learn from her not just as a dental hygiene student but as a person."

Dr. Withers enjoys a variety of extracurricular interests such as skiing, golfing, and swimming. She rode a Kawasaki Ninja for years, but has traded in those sporty wheels for an electric scooter.

It is a special honor to present Dr. Shelly Withers with the 2021 *SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD*.



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
School of Dentistry

Dental Waterline Testing Service (DWTS) and Sterilization Assurance Service (SAS)

Dental Waterline Testing Service (DWTS)

has been in operation since 2000. We evaluate microbial contamination of dental water lines and are actively involved in research on waterline biofilm removal and treatment methods. Many dental offices, universities, veterans hospitals, and medical/dental centers in over 43 states use our service for monitoring the quality of their dental water lines.

What are some of the advantages of using LLU School of Dentistry's DWTS?

- The Standard Method 9215D (membrane filter method) of the American Public Health Association (APHA) is used to examine waterline microbial contamination.
- Detect heterotrophic plate count (HPC) bacteria counts up to 2,000 CFU/mL.
- More than 20 years of experience.
- Free consultations with our experienced staff
- All-inclusive insulated test kits contain sterile sample vials, ice packs, and detailed instructions.
- Test reports are accessible through the Online Customer Portal after seven days.
- Local customers may deliver samples directly to our research laboratory.

Sterilization Assurance Service (SAS)

was established in 1998. SAS provides biological monitoring of sterilizers for over a thousand dental clinics, community colleges, medical/dental centers, and other institutions nationwide.

What are some of the advantages of using LLU School of Dentistry's SAS?

- More than 20 years of experience.
- Two testing options are available to help you budget for your infection control requirements.
- Return envelopes or prepaid envelopes are included based on your choice.
- Access test results through Online Customer Portal after seven-day incubation period.
- Certificates of Participation are available for a nominal fee.
- Spore test failures are reported by phone or email the same day samples are analyzed.
- Class V integrators for steam sterilizers are available. The combined use of spore tests, and STEAMPlus Integrators provide early detection by visually confirming the performance of your sterilizers.

Prepaid return package labels are available to order.

LOMA LINDA
UNIVERSITY

School of Dentistry

Dental Waterline Testing Service and Sterilization Assurance Service Order Form

Date _____

Name (Last) _____ (First) _____

Office name _____ E-mail _____

Contact person _____ E-mail _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ Fax () _____

Sterilization Assurance Service

Customer ID# (current customers) _____

Sterilizer (type/model/serial #) _____

(Supplies for each sterilizer must be kept separate for ID purposes.)

☐ Steam _____ ☐ Chemical Vapor _____ ☐ Dry Heat _____
Basic package (1) One test strip and one control strip per test (2)

Return envelopes (3) Access results online (4) Failure notification by phone or email

Price	Quantity	Total
\$89/12 tests	_____	\$ _____
\$129/24 tests	_____	\$ _____
\$169/52 tests	_____	\$ _____
Optional: Certificate of participation - \$12/each		\$ _____
S&H for each package - \$15		\$ _____

Intensive package (1) Two test strips and one control strip per

test (2) Prepaid return envelopes (3) Certificate of Participation (4)

Access results online (5) Failure notification by phone.

Price	Quantity	Total
\$128/12 tests	_____	\$ _____
\$298/52 tests	_____	\$ _____

Class V Integrator for Steam Sterilizer (New)

Price	Quantity	Total
\$32/100 tests	_____	\$ _____
\$220/1000 tests	_____	\$ _____

<https://tinyurl.com/y7mv9v3y>

Dental Waterline Testing Service

Customer ID# (current customers) _____

Tests	Price/Each	# of Tests	Total
3	\$30	_____	\$ _____
4-8	\$27	_____	\$ _____
9-12	\$25	_____	\$ _____
13-25	\$23	_____	\$ _____
26-50	\$22	_____	\$ _____
>50	\$20	_____	\$ _____

Optional: Certificate of Participation - \$12/each \$ _____

- A foam box, ice packs, sample vials, and instructions are included.

Shipping & Handling

Priority Mail – starting at \$15 per box**FedEx 2-day** – \$36/3-12tests; \$45/13-40 tests

(Prepaid return package labels are available to order.)

Check enclosed \$ _____ (made payable to SAS-LLU)

Charge: Total \$ _____ ☐  ☐ 

Name on card _____

Card number _____

Exp. Date ____/____ CCV# _____ Invoice# _____

Mail to:

Dental Waterline Testing & Sterilization Assurance Service

Chan Shun Pavilion, Suite A-1005

11175 Campus Street, Loma Linda, CA 92350

Tel: (909) 558-8176, (909) 558-8069

FAX: (909) 558-0307

E-mail: sas@llu.edu

NEWS

Bruno Loos awarded

Bruno Loos, DDS, MS'87, PhD, alumnus, Advance Dental Education Program in Periodontics, was presented the International & American Associations for Dental Research (IADR) Distinguished Scientist Award in Research in Periodontal Disease during the "virtual experience" Opening Ceremonies of the 99th General Session & Exhibition of the IADR, held in conjunction with the 50th Annual Meeting of the American Association for Dental Research (AADR) and the 45th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association for Dental Research (CADR), on July 21-24, 2021.

Dr. Loos is director of the Postgraduate Master's program in oral health sciences at the Academic Center for Dentistry Amsterdam (ACTA), the Netherlands. He completed an MS degree in periodontology at LLUSD where his research included questions regarding the efficacy of non-surgical approaches to the management of periodontitis.

Dr. Loos subsequently investigated the molecular epidemiology of porphyromonas gingivalis transmission from patient to patient as he completed a PhD in oral biology at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Back in the Netherlands, Dr. Loos continued his work on the immunobiology of periodontal and peri-implant diseases and oral health. His clinical research focuses on relationships between oral health and systemic health, as well as clinical studies in the treatment of peri-implant diseases.



Dr. Bruno Loos enjoys his award.

The award consists of a monetary award and a plaque, and is designed to recognize, encourage, and stimulate outstanding research achievements in research and its translation through clinical research in periodontal disease.

Dr. Loos' connection to LLUSD is augmented by his marriage to Dr. Jantien Herweijer, DDS, who earned a certificate in endodontics at LLUSD in 1985.

LLUSD wins LLU Homecoming's Pickleball tournament

The School of Dentistry's lucky (and talented) 13-member Pickleball team overcame eight teams from six other LLU schools that participated Sunday, March 7, in Homecoming's annual School vs School Pickleball Tournament.

Engraved with the School's name and the year, the progressive Pickleball trophy will reside at Prince Hall at least until Homecoming 2022.

Since the Pickleball competition began in 2018, LLUSD has emerged victorious each year except for a win by the School of Medicine in 2020.



NEWS

Melvin Lund, most senior faculty alumnus

Melvin Lund, DDS, lone surviving founding LLUSD faculty member, travelled from his home in Zionsville, Indiana, at the age of 98, for the purpose of visiting LLUSD. He was hosted on April 26 by Charles Goodacre, DDS'71, MSD, distinguished professor, one of his former students, for dinner and a tour of the School where he had his picture taken by Prince Hall's first floor "memory wall" and again with some of LLUSD's current faculty members who enjoyed him as their teacher.

For most of his sixteen years at LLUSD, Lund was chair of the Department of Restorative Dentistry. He last taught for the School in 1971, the year in which he and his close teaching associate Dr. Lloyd Baum both departed for faculty appointments at different universities. Dr. Lund went to the University of Indiana to be chair of operative dentistry and Dr. Baum left for Stony Brook, Long Island, and its fledgling School of Dental Medicine.

Dr. Goodacre left for Indiana University that same year to earn a Master of Science in Dentistry and served on IU's faculty from 1974-1993, a period that included his last seven years chairing its Department of Prosthodontics. Meanwhile, Dr. Lund remained on IU's faculty teaching there into his 90th year.

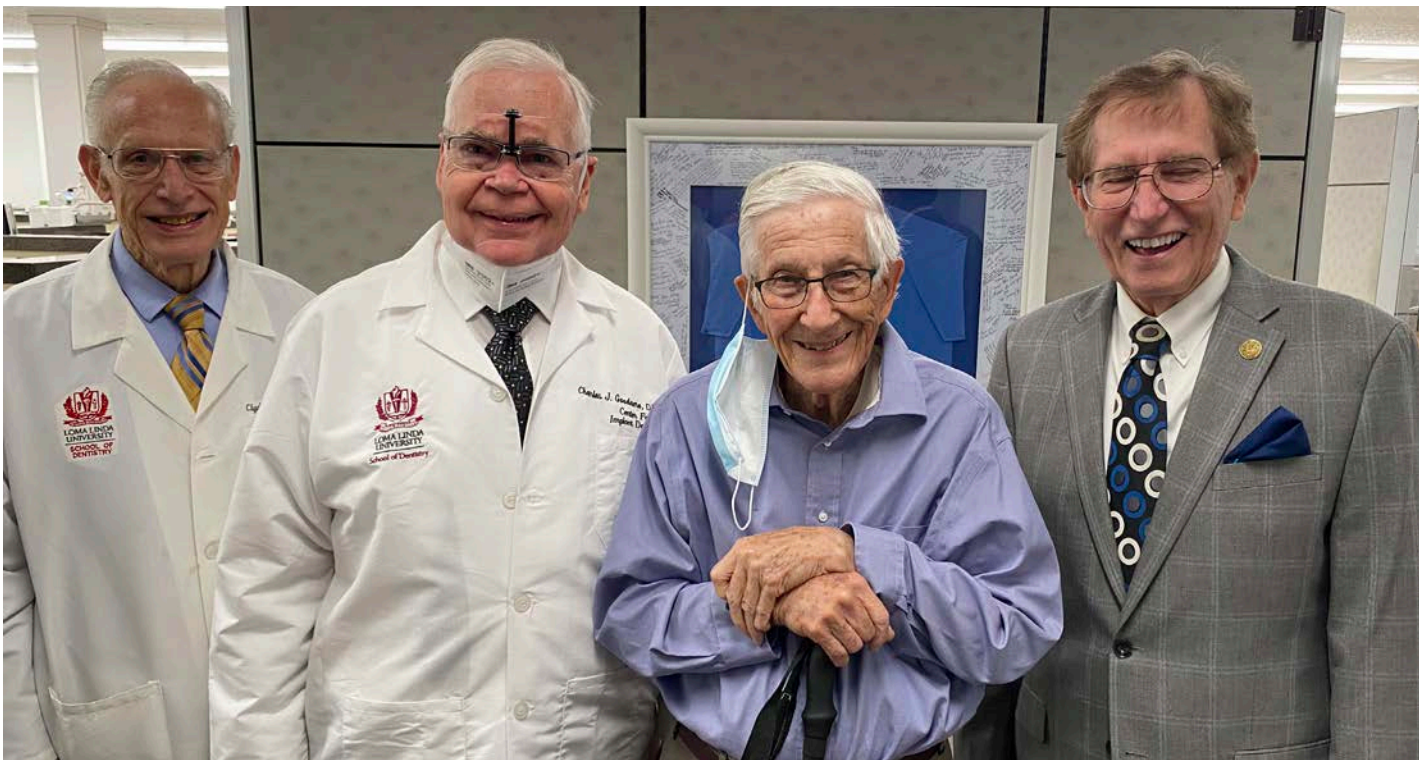
Dr. Lund was as steady and predictable as Dr. Baum was sometimes mercurial. Their contrasting approaches to oral healthcare mentoring provided an optimal clinical education to the graduating dentists of the School's first dozen or so classes.

Clyde Roggenkamp, DDS'70, MSD, associate professor, says "I am fortunate enough to have had Dr. Lund as a teacher four years at LLUSD and then two more years while earning my MSD at Indiana University." In fact, Dr. Lund was faculty sponsor for Dr. Roggenkamp's class of 1970.

Believing "his ability to speak to the early days of the dental school from personal experience would impress everyone," Dr. Roggenkamp suggested that Dr. Lund be invited to deliver the LLUSD commencement address for the class of 2023 at age 100.

Dr. Lund wrote the editor regarding his former student's suggestion with his droll humor saying, "Time is something I look at a bit differently than I did not long ago. . . . when I try to relate to one element of time in the distance—things become a bit murky."

He added, "I think well of the School of Dentistry."



Clyde Roggenkamp, Charles Goodacre, Melvin Lund, and David Ryneearson, DDS'71, MS'87

NEWS

LLUSD alums provide restored smile to homeless man

Tina Saw, DDS'14, takes selfie with homeless patient not shown.

Talk about random stuff!

Late last year, a New Jersey man who regularly watched an Ocean Beach waterfront live cam noticed two men with 5-gallon pails picking up trash on the local beach each morning. From across the continent, the man emailed the star feature reporter for CBS affiliate News 8/KFMB-TV in San Diego and asked if he could find a way to thank the men.

The News 8 reporter with a cameraman investigated and found two homeless men had been living out of a broken-down van for several years and regularly spent time early each morning collecting litter from the surrounding beachfront property. It was just something that one of them said they enjoy doing "to make the community look better."

Beginning September 5, 2020, News 8 broadcast several feature segments on the two homeless former drug addicts and their contribution to the esthetics of the Ocean Beach waterfront.

The story triggered a heartwarming community response that included LLUSD alumni who were profoundly practicing the School's motto—Service Is Our Calling—in a way that radically improved the lives of the two friends.

The story unfolds in a series of segments by News 8 San Diego hyperlinked below in chronological order:

- ***New Jersey man spots Ocean Beach trash volunteers on web cam*** [September 4, 2020](#)
- ***Good deeds rewarded | Homeless men in Ocean Beach receive \$25,000 in donations*** [September 14](#)
- ***Ocean Beach homeless men receive a 'Minivan Makeover' and find a place to live*** [October 19](#)
- ***"Ocean Beach Helper" receives new smile free of charge*** [November 17](#)
- ***Former Ocean Beach homeless man receives new \$8,000 smile for free*** [March 15](#)

NEWS

Prosthodontist quartet participates in literature review for JOP

Three LLUSD prosthodontic faculty members and a fellow in the Advanced Dental Education Program in Prosthodontics, Abdulaziz Alzaid, BDS, MS'20, Brian Goodacre, DDS'13, MSD'17, associate professor, Charles Goodacre, DDS'71, MSD, distinguished professor, and Mathew Kattadiyil, BDS, MDS, MS'99, professor and director, Advanced Dental Education Program in Prosthodontics, figured significantly in an effort published in the March 2021 *Journal of Prosthodontics* by the American College of Prosthodontists to concisely review the pertinent literature on lingering controversies in the field of occlusion.

Critical appraisal by nineteen prosthodontists' of more than 6,600 articles resulted in their identification of over 515 articles and the distillation of 14 unresolved occlusal-related topics within which 50 consensus statements were formulated.

David Felton, DDS, MSD, former *JOP* editor in chief, summarized the supplemental *Journal* publication on occlusion: "[The] series of evidence-based consensus statements and critically appraised topics serve to provide the best available current discussion on the topic of occlusion in rehabilitative dentistry" that "move us toward BETTER EBD information regarding patient rehabilitative care."

*Dr. Abdulaziz Alzaid**Dr. Brian Goodacre**Dr. Charles Goodacre**Dr. Mathew Kattadiyil*

NEWS

Sarah Chang competes on American Ninja Warrior



Photo by: Elizabeth Morris/NBC

American Ninja Warrior competitor Sarah Chang flew through the early obstacles with apparent ease.

Sarah Chang, D3, daughter of Steve Chang, DDS'91, competed June 7, 2021, on the thirteenth season of NBC's American Ninja Warrior during the second episode of qualifiers.

It takes a lot of athleticism and major conditioning even to qualify to compete in the radically challenging televised obstacle course that athletes from across the country attempt to conquer. But LLUSD class of 2022 dental student Sarah Chang's assiduous training, and a boffo application video, earned her a shot at glory and the \$1 million ultimate winner's prize.

At an imposing 4'10," she is the shortest Ninja contestant ever to complete an obstacle. Sarah "flossed" for a moment on the start line to communicate that she's a future dentist. Celebrating her triumph over each of three obstacles, she negotiated the Shrinking Steps, Weight For It, and charged across Broken Bridge before, like so many others, meeting her Waterloo on Tipping Point.

There's no shame in losing to Tipping Point. Of the 77 second episode challengers, nearly half (36) never made it that far; and another 16 were stopped by its difficulty and fell into the water below. Of the 77 challengers, less than 10 finished the course.

It was at Southern Adventist University that Sarah began physical conditioning that also exercised her belief that we have a spiritual obligation to make the most of what God has given us. But it was in dental school that she really brought her beliefs and her practice into alignment, consistently pushing herself to maximize the advantages to all facets of life that maximum conditioning can provide.

By December of 2019 Sarah had the confidence to apply for the opportunity to challenge the daunting obstacle course that comprises the American Ninja Warrior competition. An online application form asks for pretty basic stuff, but the crucial requirement is for a two- to three-minute video that demonstrates why the applicant should have the opportunity to compete.

Four years ago (season 9), there were 77,000 applicants to compete in the show. And so it was, Sarah says, "a special moment" when in January she received a phone call from NBC producers saying that her application stood out—that her video demonstrated personality, energy, and a great work ethic—and she would be competing in the second episode of season 13.

Although she missed out on the \$1 million prize, Sarah will

NEWS

soon have a career in dentistry and lifestyle habits that will serve her well in every endeavor. As of late August 2021, the senior dental student is concentrating on passing her upcoming board exams. Thanks to her dad, Sarah came to dental school very familiar with the profession and LLUSD's commitment to service that she and her three younger siblings have experienced on countless mission trips with their dental alumnus father (Dr.

Steve Chang is a founding board member and president of the Palau Adventist Wellness Center). She looks forward to practicing general dentistry and also expresses an interest in exploring pediatric and esthetic dentistry.

Sarah believes life is an opportunity to glorify God, and she says she has found her "why" in an amalgam of faith, health, and service.



Photo by: Elizabeth Morris/NBC

Omran Bishbish appreciated

A grateful patient made a gift this August to LLU School of Dentistry in appreciation for the particularly competent and compassionate care she received from Omran Bishbish, DDS, a graduate student dentist in the School's Advanced Dental Education Program in Periodontics.

Recipients receive a Healing Hands lapel pin and a recognition card. Dr. Bishbish's patient wrote:

Dear Doctor Bishbish.

I really appreciate your thoughtfulness and care and your desire to do meaningful work to help your patients have life easier.

Thank you for that. I really do appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Anna Roschina

Healing Hands provides an opportunity to recognize and encourage the special people who make this organization a place for healing and wholeness.

When a gift is made, the honored caregiver is sent a Healing Hands recognition card that may have a signed message or be anonymous, to let him or her know that their special care did not go unnoticed.



Dr. Omran Bishbish

For information, call the Office of Philanthropy Healing Hands at **909-558-4438** or email giving@llu.edu or visit www.lluhealinghands.org

NEWS

Montry Suprono et al fight the virus with aerosol reduction

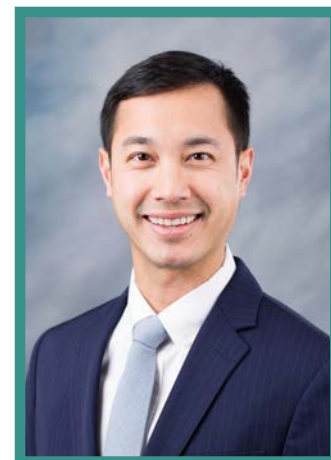
The combination of HVE and an intraoral suction device significantly reduced the amount of microbial aerosols generated.

Research directed by Montry Suprono, DDS'07, MSD'11, director, LLU Center for Dental Research (CDR) with the assistance of a eleven co-investigators (see box), has demonstrated that microbial aerosols generated during a dental cleaning procedure can be minimized significantly by the use in tandem of a high-volume evacuator (HVE) with an intraoral suction device.

The LLUSD research report entitled "A clinical investigation of dental evacuation systems in reducing aerosols" was published in the June 1, 2021, issue of the *Journal of the American Dental Association*, volume 152, number 6.

Suprono et al found the employment of both devices, rather than the HVE alone, provided an almost 300 percent reduction in microbial aerosols—mean (standard deviation) of 46.1 CFUs versus a mean (standard deviation) of 132 CFUs versus.

Conducted at the LLUSD main student clinic, the research was motivated by the COVID-19 virus and the effort to understand its transmission while determining optimal strategies for mitigating its propagation in the dental operator.



Dr. Montry Suprono

Clinical trials involved 93 dental students who assumed the roles of operators, assistants, or patients at the LLU dental clinic. Aerosol samples were collected at timed intervals from blood agar plates placed in various zones throughout the clinic before, during, and after the dental cleaning procedures.

The procedures themselves were conducted using a split-mouth design—meaning operators used both the HVE instrument and intraoral suction device on one side of the patient's mouth during one round of the cleaning procedure and used only the HVE on the other side of the patient's mouth for the other round of the procedure.

Important findings from the research:

- Compared to using the HVE alone, the combination of HVE and an intraoral suction device significantly reduced the amount of microbial aerosols generated—a lot.
- Thirty minutes between procedures provided adequate time for aerosol levels to return to pre-procedure microbial baselines.
- The highest microbial counts came from the agar plates positioned on patients in the operating zone as opposed to the plates that were placed on mobile trays and shelves further from the oral procedure.

Dr. Suprono says he hopes the research will inform and guide best clinical practices to enhance safety and hygiene during dental cleanings. There also remains ample opportunity to consider other types of procedures or equipment to minimize aerosol generation by dental procedures.

The LLUSD procedure generated aerosol minimization study was picked up quickly and reported July 5, 2021, in *Bite Magazine* as well as on June 30 by *LLUH News*.

To learn more about the School of Dentistry's research endeavors, visit dentalclinics.llu.edu/center-dental-research or call 909-558-8069.

JADA article co-authors

- **John Won, DDS, MS**
- **Roberto Savignano, PhD**
- **Zhe Zhong, DDS, PhD**
- **Abu Ahmed, MS, PhD**
- **Gina Roque-Torres, DDS, MSc, PhD**
- **Wu Zhang, MD**
- **Udochukwu Oyoyo, MPH**
- **Paul Richardson, DDS, MEd**
- **Joseph Caruso, DDS, MS, MPH**
- **Robert Handysides, DDS**
- **Yiming Li, DDS, MSD, PhD**

NEWS

Chi Viet awarded and serves

Chi T. Viet, DDS, PhD, MD, assistant professor, Loma Linda University School of Dentistry, Advanced Dental Education Program in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, has been awarded an NIH K23 Grant to evaluate the epigenetic signature of head and neck squamous cell carcinoma pain.

The five-year \$1,226,070 grant will support the development of a research program to investigate the biomarkers (epigenetic signatures) of head and neck squamous cell carcinoma pain in

patients through highly impactful translational research. Her surgical work in head and neck cancer and microvascular reconstruction has given her a deep understanding of the most critical problems plaguing head and neck cancer patients and, as a result, has compelled her to focus on cancer pain research. Beyond poor survival, these patients face more severe pain than other cancer patients. Poor pain control not only erodes their quality of life, but it also decreases their survival. The



Dr. Viet operates with colleagues.

patients as well as the implementation of preclinical models to study the epigenetic mechanisms of cancer pain. This research includes the first prospective trial to comprehensively assess pain in head and neck cancer patients and characterize the epigenomic landscape of head and neck cancer pain.

As a head and neck surgeon and scientist, Dr. Viet's research focus over the past 15 years has been on the epigenetic mechanisms of head and neck carcinogenesis and pain. Her career goal is to improve outcomes in head and neck cancer

epigenetics of cancer pain remains a poorly investigated area. With her previous work, she has laid the foundation to establish the role of epigenetics as an important driver of cancer pain and has identified key gene targets to treat both cancer pain and cancer growth.

Dr. Viet's drive for pain research is rooted in a deep desire to revise pain management strategies and to mitigate opioid dependence in cancer patients. Cancer pain and opioid dependence are both major public health concerns, and in fact

NEWS

many head and neck cancer patients become opioid dependent. She is hopeful that new, non-opioid therapies resulting from highly translational research will significantly improve quality of life and survival in her patients.

Dr. Viet's K23 award provides individuals who have a clinical doctoral degree with an intensive, patient-oriented research experience. The grant means support and time for these individuals considered to be on the path to a productive, independent research career.

Since Dr. Viet joined the LLU School of Dentistry in August of 2019, and just before the beginning of the current pandemic, she was privileged to participate in a November mission trip to Hue Central Hospital in Hue, Vietnam, in conjunction with physician colleagues from New York University where she earned her

medical degree and completed an OMFS residency. At Hue Central Hospital, Dr. Viet along with the NYU team performed the first microvascular free flap in a head and neck cancer patient treated by the local surgical oncology team. Dr. Viet considered this work, "a step forward for the surgical oncology program at Hue in helping patients preserve their form, function, and quality of life despite their terrible diagnosis."

Dr. Viet earned her DDS and PhD from the University of California, San Francisco, and completed a fellowship in Head and Neck Oncology and Microvascular Reconstructive Surgery at Providence Medical Center, Portland, Oregon.

Elisabetta Cotti reigns in Sardinia

Elisabetta Cotti, DDS, MS '90 was appointed Dean of the School of Dentistry, University of Cagliari, Italy in June 2021.

Dr. Cotti After completing her advanced education program in endodontics at LLUSD in 1990, Dr. Cotti returned to Sardinia, Italy, where she was born and raised, to open the island's first endodontic practice.

Sardinia's first dental school, at the University of Cagliari, had opened just ten years earlier and Dr. Cotti contributed to its clinical program by teaching endodontics to its dental students. That led to further academic involvement including Dr. Cotti's initiation first of an international exchange program followed by the development nine years ago of a post-graduate endodontic program.

In addition to her teaching activities and private practice limited to endodontics, Dr. Cotti has been very involved in research that has resulted in numerous publications. She has been collaborating, and continues to collaborate, with the Department of Endodontics here at LLUSD; about five years ago she secured a major Italian grant for research that was completed at LLUSD. And she maintains the position of LLUSD visiting faculty.



Dr. Cotti enjoys the applause of her peers.

Dr. Cotti's career arc has been of great benefit to the people of Sardinia and beyond.

Following Charles Goodacre, DDS'71, MSD, Richard Oliver, MS'62, Joseph Caruso, DDS'73, MS'75, and Robert Handysides, DDS'93, Dr. Cotti is the fifth LLUSD alumnus to become the dean of a dental school.

NEWS

Classic Chevy bridges LLUSD generations

A 1973 Chevrolet Caprice Classic 2-door driven by Gregory Mitchell, DDS'84, MBA, assistant professor, Division of General Dentistry, spanned and participated in LLUSD history (the remembering and the creating) as it transported graduating dental students from the classes of 2020 and 2021 through the recent precautionary carmencement alternative to traditional commencement services.

The pristine 1973 automobile was first owned by Hilbert "Bert" Lentz, Jr., DDS'57, MS'70, an inaugural class graduate who served on the LLUSD faculty from 1979 to 2011, the last surviving instructor from the original class of 1957.

Dr. Mitchell purchased the perfectly maintained car from the Lentz family in 2018 and used it to chauffeur Noor Daras, DDS'20 (IDP), her husband Thaer Alqadoumi, DDS'16 (IDP), and their two small children through the 2020 carmencement event on Sunday May 2, 2021.

As an alumnus and graduate student in the Advanced Dental Education Program in Periodontology, Dr. Alqadoumi had the pleasure of presenting Dr. Daras with her diploma.

And then again on May 30, 2021, Dr. Mitchell used what the Lentz family has called "the burgundy chariot" to chauffeur JinHee Choi, DDS'21 and her husband Matthew Jhonson through the graduating procession.

Dr. Mitchell says he finds it "a meaningful pleasure to connect generations of dental school alumni and an honor to participate in making official what these young graduates have worked so hard to achieve."



Dr. Mitchell is bracketed by Dr. Daras and Dr. Alqadoumi.



Dr. JinHee Choi stands between her husband and Dr. Mitchell.

NEWS

COVID-19 stimulates innovation in dental practice

Since the end of March 2020, the Health Policy Institute of the American Dental Association has been tracking the state of dental practices across the United States. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a precipitous drop in

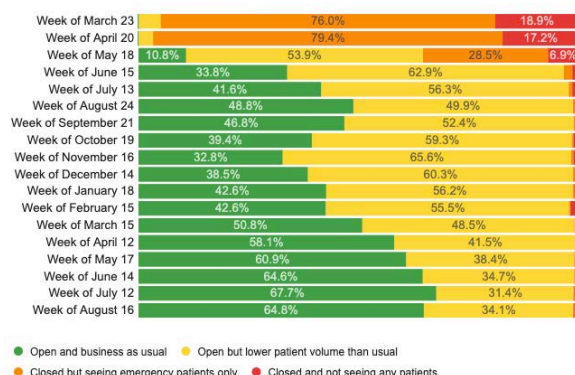
HPI Health Policy Institute

COVID-19: Economic Impact on Dental Practices
Week of August 16 Core Results

ADA American Dental Association®

What is the current status of your dental practice?

ALL RESPONDENTS



appointments made and kept by dental patients. By the week of March 23, 2020, 76 percent of American dental practices were closed and only treating emergency patients. While 18.9 percent were closed and scheduling no patients. Five percent were open but with significantly reduced patient volume.

Things got only worse until the third week in May when 10.8 percent of dental practices were open as usual and 53.9 percent were open with lower patient volume than usual.

Beginning in the middle of June 2020, most dental practices have been open, but with more than half of them experiencing reduced patient volume that was growing again until setbacks in October and especially in November 2020. Since then, growth has been slow but steady through the middle of July 2021 until another small reduction in August.

An article from gritdaily.com cited COVID-driven ingenuity by healthcare providers, among them an LLU School of Dentistry alumnus.

Dr. Tina Saw, DDS'14, a San Diego-based private practitioner, witnessing the decline of oral health as the pandemic persisted, created an Oral Genome Kit. Mailed to patients' homes, the Oral Genome Kit includes an oral microbiome test that measures saliva for eight indices of dental wellness including acidity, bacteria, red and white blood cells, and halitosis, to determine whether patients have bacteria that cause cavities and gum disease. CLIA-certified



Dr. Tina Saw

lab results inform a customized plan for oral health and preventative recommendations.

"Being in a high-aerosol environment, the pandemic forced many dental practices to close for several months," Dr. Saw told the Grit Daily reporter. "Dental problems that were left untreated only caused pain, and it was difficult for dentists to treat patients when their offices were closed. In addition, new studies linking periodontitis (gum disease) and COVID-19 complications only emphasized the need to focus on prevention and the greater need for at-home wellness kits such as Oral Genome to prevent future pain and discomfort."

Dr. Saw says, "I love the path of entrepreneurship. It makes me excited for each and every day, and the people I meet along the way are truly the best." But she recognizes that "entrepreneurship takes dedication, persistence and thinking outside of the box."

It remains to be seen how much of the COVID-inspired adaptation to remote appointments and testing kits mailed to the homes of patients will continue or expand as technology and computer apps make assessments at a distance increasingly conceivable.

FOND FAREWELLS

LLU School of Dentistry mourns the loss of each passing alumnus and attempts to notify the School family of each departure. As a Christian institution, we look forward in faith to the day when there will be a great alumni reunion that brings us all together again.

With heartfelt condolences

Grace Eunhae Kim, DDS'07	August 11, 2021
Kenneth R. Gallion, DDS'91	July 28, 2021
Duane Wacker, DDS'64	November 15, 2021
Michael P. Skirvin, DDS'72	March 8, 2021
Kenith Robert Craig II, DDS'68	September 18, 2021
Donald M. Hickman, DDS'64	September 16, 2020
Vernon A. Holyoke, DDS'62	July 30, 2021
Robert G. Moon, DDS'63	October 23, 2021
Eric Munson, DDS'73	October 31, 2021
Kenneth E. Nelson, DDS'76, MD'77, MPH'76	September 28, 2020
Leland W. Pack, DDS, MS'96	October 31, 2021
Miguel J. Pappaterra, DDS'10, MS'16	August 30, 2020
Knud A. Pedersen, DDS'67	May 9, 2021
Lloyd Pragasam, DDS'76	September 3, 2020
Chandra D. Rudisaile, DDS'02	November 22, 2020
Kenneth L. Scott, DDS'58	October 1, 2021
Kenneth R. Wynn, DDS'60	September 15, 2020