

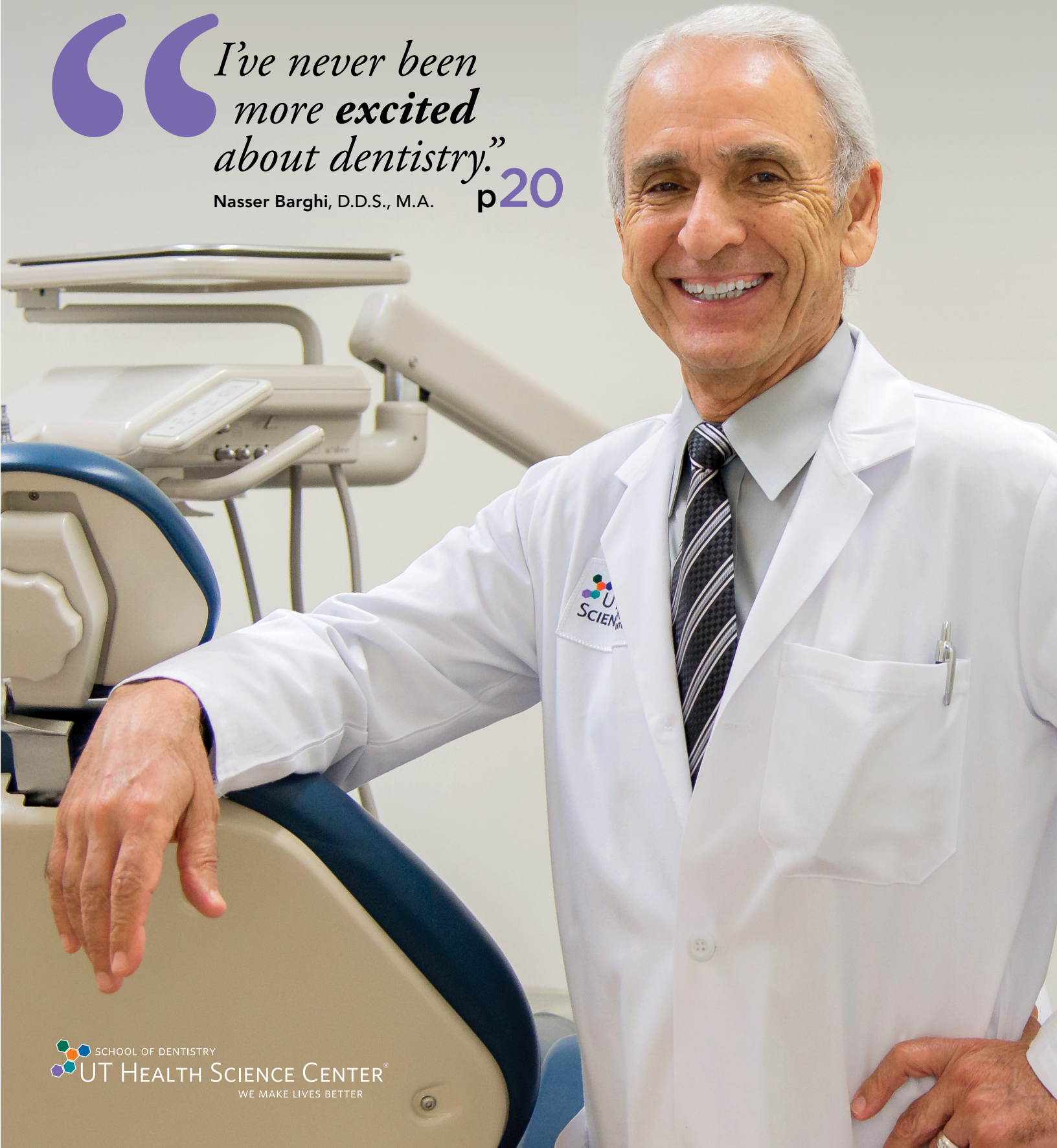
SALUTE



*I've never been
more **excited**
about dentistry."*

Nasser Barghi, D.D.S., M.A.

p20





YOU'RE INVITED!

The University of Texas System Board of Regents, President William L. Henrich, M.D.,
and School of Dentistry Dean William W. Dodge, D.D.S.,
invite you to the dedication ceremony of

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

Center for Oral Health Care & Research

11 a.m., Thursday, September 10, 2015

8210 Floyd Curl Drive

RSVP: SpecialEvents@uthscsa.edu or 210-567-2058





8 SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY 45TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

A beloved teacher, an accomplished alumna and a renowned businessman/philanthropist were honored this spring as just three examples of the extraordinary impact the School of Dentistry at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio has made on the community over the past 45 years.

20 THE DENTIST WHO DARED

At 72, Nasser Barghi, D.D.S., M.A., said he's just getting warmed up. The audacious transplant from Tehran was among the School of Dentistry's first faculty members. Within six months on campus, Dr. Barghi said he knew he wanted to stay for good.

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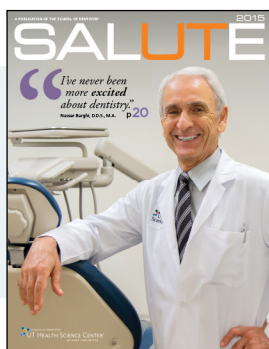
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ON THE COVER

With nearly 40 years of experience as a faculty member in the School of Dentistry, Nasser Barghi, D.D.S., M.A., said he has witnessed tremendous progress in research, education and patient care in the School of Dentistry at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio and is looking forward with excitement to the future of dentistry.

See story, page 20. (COVER PHOTO BY LESTER ROSEBROCK, CREATIVE MEDIA SERVICES.)

DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dear friends,

Life is full of change. As Johann von Goethe said, "Life belongs to the living, and he who lives must be prepared for change." The parable of the boiled frog helps us understand why those of us in the world of academic dentistry must be positioned to effectively manage the ever-changing landscape of dentistry and the constant threat of declining state and federal funding.

The parable says that if you place a frog in a pot of hot water, it will leap out. But if you place it in a pot of cool water, the frog will sit, become complacent and relax as the heat is slowly turned up. Sitting in a pot of warm water and not sensing any danger, the frog will remain there until it's too late and the water begins to boil. The moral of the story—remain alert and ready.

Thanks to the support of our alumni, donors, faculty and friends, our School of Dentistry will not languish like the frog. We are fortified and equipped to tackle the next frontier in dental health care, education and research.

In this second edition of *SalUTE*, your School of Dentistry alumni magazine, we are proud to give you a glimpse of what you—our steadfast supporters—have helped us accomplish through your leadership and generosity to prepare us for the future. The opening of our new clinical home, the Center for Oral Health Care & Research (COHCR) is, without question, one of the greatest achievements in our school's history. Here our faculty clinicians will care for patients and conduct business under our branded name UT Dentistry San Antonio.

With improved patient flow and navigation, a strategic alignment of specialty clinics, an abundance of natural lighting, and located adjacent and connected to our School of Medicine's clinical practice UT Medicine San Antonio, our new facility positions us for recognition as a regional resource for secondary and tertiary oral health care.

Our proximity and partnership with UT Medicine San Antonio is vital to improving education for our students whose careers will experience significant change in the nature of clinical practice. In addition, this connection is equally important to the growth of our practice revenue, which will accommodate those changes and help us maintain our top-tier status.

State appropriations for our School of Dentistry operations have diminished over the years from nearly 100 percent in the 1970s and early 1980s to where they stand today at 35 percent. Compensating for this has required several strategies, one of which has required us to increase tuition and fees.

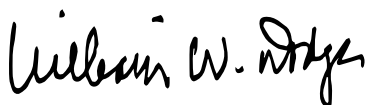
Although we remain one of the most affordable dental schools in the country (10th from the lowest of 65 schools), we continue to consider how the increasing costs of education and debt will impact our students.

Optimizing productivity in our clinics has and will continue to contribute to successfully increasing revenues, and we understand that this approach is our path to a successful future. But we can't achieve this without your continued support that also provides financial assistance for our students in need.

Thank you for partnering with us to ensure our School of Dentistry maintains its preeminence in our missions of teaching, research and patient care and sustains its lofty national standing.

Please contact me or stop by any time. My door is always open. And I do hope you will join us for the official dedication of our magnificent Center of Oral Health Care & Research on Sept. 10.

With best wishes as always,



William W. Dodge, D.D.S., Dean | School of Dentistry
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

Your comments and suggestions are always welcomed.
Contact our editor at SaluteMagazine@uthscsa.edu.



The opening of our new clinical home, the Center for Oral Health Care & Research is, without question, one of the greatest achievements in our school's history."

WE'VE MOVED!

Construction on the School of Dentistry's new home for its patient practice UT Dentistry San Antonio, which began in the fall of 2012, is completed and the building is now open for patient care at 8210 Floyd Curl Drive.

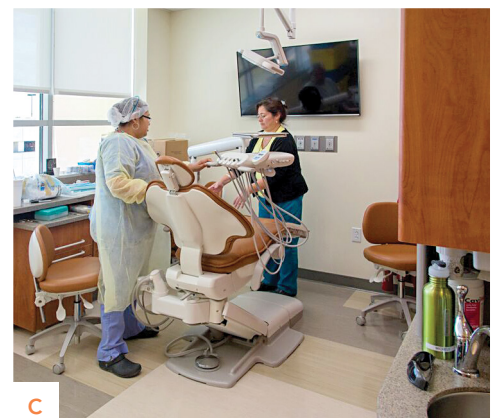
Size: 198,000 gross square feet
Number of stories: Four
Number of patient treatment rooms: 400 pre-doctoral and specialty operatories



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B



C

A Carlos Delgado and Karen Molano, San Antonio College dental assisting students, lend a hand to move equipment into the Center for Oral Health Care & Research. The students are completing their externship program at the School of Dentistry at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio. **B** Moving vans transport new equipment, technology and furniture to the Center for Oral Health Care & Research. **C** Marisa Gonzalez, dental assistant (left), helps Lisa Creagh, dental hygienist, set up a new patient exam chair in a clinic at the new Center for Oral Health Care & Research.



Graduates of the Class of 1990 came together this past spring to reminisce on their days in dental school, support each other's successes and celebrate the advancements of their alma mater.

CLASS OF 1990

REUNITES, REMINISCES, REGALES

The School of Dentistry Class of 1990 held its 25th Anniversary Reunion during the weekend of the Texas Dental Association's annual meeting in San Antonio, May 7 through 10. More than 70 alumni and friends reunited in San Antonio at the Hotel Valencia downtown for a weekend of fun and memories.

Sam Wakim, D.D.S., president of the School of Dentistry Alumni Association, who currently lives in Indiana, had the tremendous task of leading the reunion team and gathering contact information for all of his classmates. Dr. Wakim said he enjoyed his role because it allowed him to chat personally with almost everyone from his class.

"It was a pleasure to hear everyone's voice again, some for the first time in 25 years," he said. The class primarily used Facebook to communicate, setting up a reunion page and voting on hotel choice and the weekend's activities.

In 2010, the class of 1990 held a mini-reunion during the school's 40th Anniversary Gala. This event inspired them to plan their own official reunion in 2015.

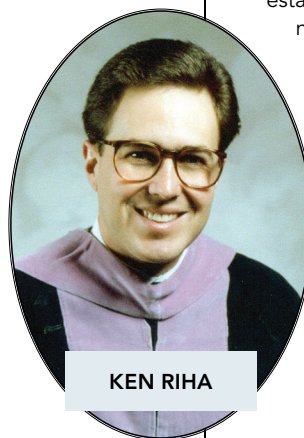
Dr. Wakim said the Class of 1990 is a very close-knit group, which was obvious at their reunion dinner when the class bonded over good times and bad, including a tornado that destroyed some of their classmates' homes the first year of dental school. "We always had fun together with semi-annual bachelor parties, housewarming parties, fraternity events and road trips," Dr. Wakim said. "You name it, we always found a way to have fun together despite the challenging time constraints of dental school."

Today, several of the Class of 1990 alumni have children who are of dental school student age and many of them attended the reunion with their parents.

"I was so proud of each of these new faces in dentistry and to know that they are the children of my classmates made me feel a sense of accomplishment," said Debra Duffy, D.D.S., Class of 1990 alumna.

"To know that our class loved dentistry so much that their children are following in our path just makes me smile!"

For more information on organizing a class reunion event, contact Sara Piety in the Dental Dean's Office at **210-567-6536**.



KEN RIHA

SCHOLARSHIP HONORS CLASSMATE, ADVANCES EDUCATION

The 25th reunion of the Class of 1990 was missing one special individual—classmate Ken Riha, D.D.S.,—who passed away in September 2011. Dallas-based dentist Stacie Test, D.D.S., was a classmate of Dr. Riha and became one of his longtime friends.

"Ken was a very outgoing, fun-loving, caring person and a great clinician," Dr. Test said. "He had a lot of friends, always had a smile on his face and would help anyone. His life ended too soon."

During a "Celebration of Life" event held in honor of Dr. Riha, Dr. Test and several classmates in attendance decided to establish a dental scholarship in Dr. Riha's name. They wanted to keep his memory alive at their alma mater. In just a few weeks, classmates, family and friends raised \$5,000 for the Kenneth E. Riha, D.D.S., Memorial Scholarship.

In 2015, a \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded for the fourth time to an incoming first-year dental student. Dr. Riha's family has attended each of the last three scholarship presentation events and has met each of the scholarship recipients. They also keep in touch with each of the three students. The first recipient will begin his final year of dental school this year.

Dr. Riha's mother, Jo Ann Riha, said her son "touched the lives of many on a daily basis." Like Ken, the scholarship recipients "have kind, giving hearts and are just wonderful young people," she said. "I feel I've gained three new children."

But the Class of 1990's story of generosity doesn't end there. At their May 2015 reunion, many fellow alumni decided to memorialize Dr. Riha in a more permanent way by naming an operator for him in the School of Dentistry's new Center for Oral Health Care & Research.

"We raised \$15,000 in pledges that night," Dr. Test said. "Now we are fundraising for the final \$10,000."

To make a gift to the Kenneth E. Riha, D.D.S., Memorial Scholarship or operator in the Center for Oral Health Care & Research, or for information on making a gift to the School of Dentistry, contact Sara Piety, director of development, at **210-567-6536** or piety@uthscsa.edu.

EXPAND YOUR SKILLS. ADVANCE YOUR CAREER.

Continuing Dental Education
at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio

For **more than 40 years**, the Office of Continuing Dental Education has offered programs for oral health care professionals with the goal of updating and expanding their technical and professional skills and cultural enrichment. **More than 265 CDE programs** and **over 70 video streamed courses** are offered each year.

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For more information, call **210-567-3177** or email
smile@uthscsa.edu

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The Office of CDE manages the affairs
of the Dental Alumni Association.
View our website at dentalalumni.uthscsa.edu

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY
UT HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER®
WE MAKE LIVES BETTER

Your legacy Our future

Please consider supporting the UT Health Science Center San Antonio School of Dentistry with a future gift in your estate plans.

**Your commitment will create a
healthier future for generations
to come.**

Your customized estate gift can provide for:

- World-class faculty
- Life-changing research
- Education of the next generation of dental health care professionals
- Meaningful programs or lectures that enhance the educational experience

We can help you create your future gift to support the School of Dentistry. Our gift planners will work with you, your attorney or other adviser to design the best gift plan for your individual situation and for those you love.



Contact Sara Piety at piety@uthscsa.edu
or at **210-567-6536**.

Visit us at giftplanning.uthscsa.edu

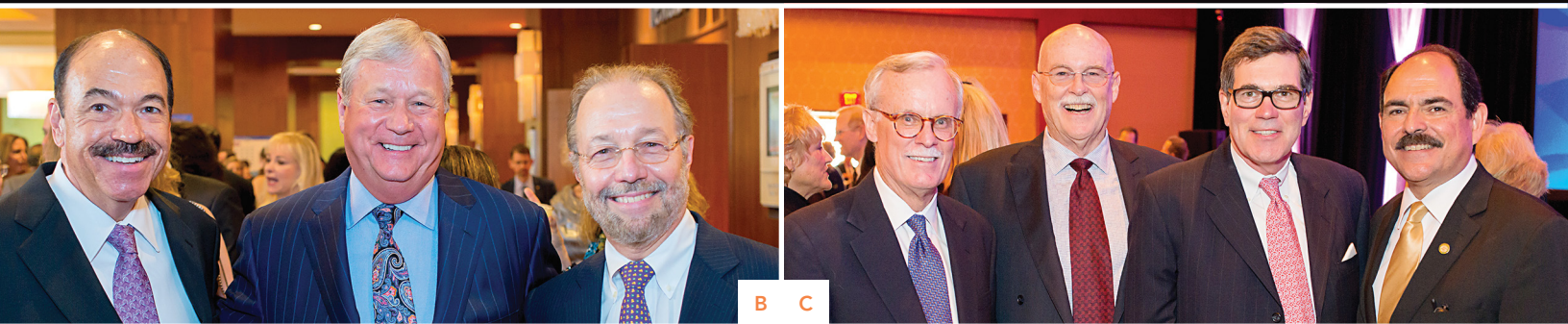
The best way to give depends on your own personal situation and should be discussed with your professional adviser.



School of Dentistry
45th Anniversary

Gala

Celebrating the past, shaping our future



A William W. Dodge, D.D.S., School of Dentistry dean (far right), congratulates the honorees of the school's 45th Anniversary Gala. They are (pictured left to right) Jeffrey P. Feingold, D.D.S., M.S.D., Maria Lopez Howell, D.D.S., and James B. Summitt, D.D.S., M.S.

B Pictured (left to right) David Shelledy, Ph.D., dean of the School of Health Professions; Michael E. Black, M.B.A., senior executive vice president and chief operating officer for the UT Health Science Center S.A.; and Francisco González-Scarano, M.D., dean of the School of Medicine and vice president for medical affairs, help celebrate the School of Dentistry's 45th anniversary.

C William W. Dodge, D.D.S., Robert Cronin Jr., D.D.S., M.S., retired dental professor, Warren Branch, D.D.S., '81, and C. Roger Macias, D.D.S., '83, visit during the School of Dentistry's 45th Anniversary Gala held at the Grand Hyatt San Antonio downtown.



A



B



C

A School of Dentistry alumnus Kyle King, D.D.S., enjoys the School of Dentistry's 45th Anniversary Gala festivities with dental students (left to right) Kim Do, Andrea Bakke and Brian Ross. **B** Birgit Junfin Glass, D.D.S., M.S. (left), '75, professor and associate dean for academic affairs in the School of Dentistry, welcomes former classmate, faculty member and friend Cynthia Banker, D.D.S., '75, to the School of Dentistry's 45th Anniversary Gala. Drs. Glass and Banker were the first two females to graduate from the School of Dentistry in 1975. **C** An impressive group of School of Dentistry students showed their support for their School of Dentistry as well as their keen sense of fashion at the gala event.

By **NATALIE A. GUTIERREZ**

A beloved teacher, an accomplished alumna and a renowned businessman/philanthropist were honored this spring as just three examples of the extraordinary impact the School of Dentistry at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio has made on the community over the past 45 years.

Faculty member James B. Summitt, D.D.S., M.S., alumna Maria Lopez Howell, D.D.S., and philanthropist Jeffrey P. Feingold, D.D.S, M.S., were honored for their dedication to the School of Dentistry and to the advancement of oral health care for South Texas and the community.

The three honorees were recognized before an impressive crowd of community members, alumni, faculty, administrators and students who gathered May 8 for the School of Dentistry's 45th Anniversary Gala to commemorate the school's landmark past and to celebrate its promising future.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott helped commence the evening with a warm and rousing welcome he delivered via a video-recorded message from Austin. He praised the three honorees and drew further applause from the audience when he predicted the School of Dentistry would experience continued and growing success through its new clinical facility.

"I look forward to the new Center for Oral Health Care & Research as the School of Dentistry begins its next 45 years of excellence and innovation," Gov. Abbott said.

William W. Dodge, D.D.S., dean of the School of Dentistry, echoed the governor's sentiments and thanked the honorees and the university's leadership for the school's accomplishments.

"Tonight we are celebrating the School of Dentistry's achievements that are only possible because of our institution's great leadership—our President William Henrich and his wife, Mary," he said. "And I have the greatest respect for all three of our honorees—Dr. Summitt, Dr. Howell and Dr. Feingold—who all have demonstrated a consistent, if not persistent, commitment at the national and international levels to improving the quality of and access to oral health care for all," he said.

The evening was punctuated by the presentation of three inspiring videos highlighting each of the honorees. The program ended with an exciting video glimpse of the new Center for Oral Health Care & Research.

Proceeds from the event are supporting the School of Dentistry's new Center for Oral Health Care & Research.

For more information on how to make a gift to the School of Dentistry, contact Sara Piety, director of development, at piety@uthscsa.edu or 210-567-6536. Or make a gift online at makelivesbetter.uthscsa.edu/dental donate.

> Read more about the gala honorees on the following pages.

School of Dentistry
45th Anniversary Gala
HONOREE

ABOVE James Summitt, D.D.S., M.S. (right), takes pride in educating and training the next generation of dentists such as dental student Talena, Lorren (left).

Educating / JAMES B. SUMMITT, D.D.S., M.S.

For more than 30 years, Dr. James B. Summitt has dedicated his career to teaching, conducting research and practicing dentistry as a faculty member, first in the Department of Restorative Dentistry, and then in the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio. He is considered a major innovator, contributor and national authority on the teaching and advancement of the principles of minimally invasive dentistry.

Dr. Summitt has published 65 scientific papers and 90 abstracts and has frequently presented at national and international meetings on the topic. He also is senior editor and author of the textbook “Summitt’s Fundamentals of Operative Dentistry, a Contemporary” now in its fourth edition and studied by faculty and students in more than 50 percent of U.S. dental schools, eight Canadian dental schools and at many dental schools in Europe, Asia and Africa.

Dr. Summitt has served as a mentor to many nationally recognized clinicians and educators and has personally taught operative dentistry to more than 2,000 students in

the School of Dentistry at the UT Health Science Center since 1989. He is advancing generations of dentists and faculty members in the prevention of dental caries and minimally invasive dental treatment.



Watch a video tribute to Dr. Summitt at
www.uthscsa.edu/academics/dental/programs.



It’s a charge to teach. It’s really a fun thing, especially when you have great students like we have here.”

James B. Summitt, D.D.S., M.S.



It’s an honor to work with someone as knowledgeable and well-respected as he is. Dr. Summitt shows up to clinic every day with a positive attitude and willing to help you in whatever procedure you’re doing.”

Matt Hannan, fourth-year dental student

School of Dentistry
45th Anniversary Gala
HONOREE

TOP Maria Lopez Howell, D.D.S. (center), enjoys a moment with her family (left to right) son, Blake, husband, Mark, and daughter, Candace. Photo courtesy of Ignacio Lopez. **RIGHT** Dr. Lopez Howell and her husband, Mark, are pictured at their graduation from the UT Health Science Center San Antonio Dental School in 1983.



Impacting lives / MARIA LOPEZ HOWELL, D.D.S.

Since the day she entered the classroom as a student at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio School of Dentistry, Dr. Maria Lopez Howell has had a keen interest in professional and civic efforts to improve the oral health of her community. As a San Antonio native, she passionately aided in efforts to bring community water fluoridation and improved oral health to families in her hometown.

Dr. Howell is a respected private practice dentist and an alumna and faculty member of the UT Health Science Center. She loves teaching dental students and has enjoyed participating in dental research for nearly 20 years. Dr. Howell serves as a national spokesperson for the American Dental Association where she continues to raise public awareness of the importance of oral health and assists in crisis communication. She was host of the American Dental Association's "Dental Minute," the longest-running public service announcement in the history of television.

Dr. Howell credits the School of Dentistry with giving her far more than she ever imagined as it not only provided her with an outstanding education, caring mentors and lifelong friends, but also introduced her to her classmate and future husband, Mark Howell, D.D.S. Today, they are best friends and partners in the family business of dentistry and treasure their relationship with their two adult children.

 **Watch a video tribute to Dr. Lopez Howell at**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=fi7KRgTVue0.

“ *The Dental School is the source of our future colleagues and they are the future of our profession. It's vital to have a thriving dental school in our community.* **”**

Maria Lopez Howell, D.D.S., Class of 1983

“ *I consider Dr. Maria my guardian angel. As far as I'm concerned, she saved my life.* **”**

Kelly Morgan, patient of
Dr. Maria Lopez Howell

“ *Dr. Howell is a shining example of leadership on all levels. She is a driving force and her influence has empowered others to live healthier lives through the practice of good oral health.* **”**

Maxine Feinberg, D.D.S., president,
American Dental Association



SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY 45TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

School of Dentistry
45th Anniversary Gala
HONOREE



LEFT Pictured at the School of Dentistry's 45th Anniversary Gala are (left to right) Jill Dodge and her husband, William Dodge, D.D.S., dean of the School of Dentistry; Barbara Feingold and Jeffrey P. Feingold, D.D.S., M.S.D.; gala honorees; and William L. Henrich, M.D., MACP, UT Health Science Center S.A. president and his wife, Mary Henrich. **ABOVE** Passionate about serving his community, especially children, Dr. Feingold founded, MCNA Insurance Company, which provides comprehensive administration of dental benefits for nearly four million members of Medicaid and CHIP programs.

Giving back

JEFFREY P. FEINGOLD, D.D.S., M.S.D.

Dr. Jeffrey Feingold, a diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology, is the founder, president and chief executive officer of MCNA Insurance Company, the largest privately held managed dental care insurance company in the country. Based out of corporate headquarters in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and San Antonio, MCNA provides comprehensive administration of dental benefits for nearly four million members of Medicaid and CHIP programs. Dr. Feingold is also the founder, president and chief executive officer of the Dentaland Organization. The organization was one of the first in Florida to build vertically integrated dental health care facilities, which offer multi-specialty dental care with a general dental component.

Dr. Feingold is a member of the Development Board of the UT Health Science Center San Antonio, the distinguished group that helps advise the university's leadership. He and his wife, Barbara, a former member of the Florida State Board of Education, are devoted philanthropists. They work tirelessly to give back to their home state of Florida, Texas and communities across the nation. They are particularly passionate about Jewish philanthropy and the State of Israel. After their significant gift to Florida Atlantic University, the Board of Trustees honored the Feingolds by naming the school's new premier meeting facility the Dr. Jeffrey P. & Barbara S. Feingold Board Room.

In 2014, the Feingolds made a transformational gift to support the School of Dentistry's new Center for Oral Health Care & Research and this world-class center will feature the Dr. Jeffrey P. and Barbara S. Feingold Atrium. The Feingolds' generosity will support the school's 45-year tradition of delivering first-class patient care, research and education.

Dr. Feingold received his B.A. degree from Tulane University and his D.D.S. from the New York University (NYU) College of Dentistry. He completed a prestigious residency at the Eastman Institute for Oral Health. Dr. Feingold received his M.S.D. (periodontology) degree and his certificate in periodontology from the Fairleigh Dickinson University Dental School.

Dr. and Mrs. Feingold's greatest legacy is their three children and four grandchildren.



Watch a video tribute to Dr. Feingold at

www.youtube.com/watch?v=7C7f1KOrevl



To me, the involvement of South Texas is San Antonio. It is the Dental School. It is the Health Science Center... It's an epicenter of the life of South Texas."

Jeffrey P. Feingold, D.D.S., president and CEO, MCNA Insurance Company



ALUMNI, FACULTY JOIN IN GENEROSITY

Gifts honor faculty contributions

David Cox, D.D.S., '80

Just one year ago in, September, faculty member and Class of 1980 alumnus David Cox, D.D.S., set a mammoth goal for himself and his colleagues in the School of Dentistry's Department of Comprehensive Dentistry. Their aim was to raise \$100,000 to name the third-floor patient waiting area in the school's new Center for Oral Health Care & Research.

School of Dentistry faculty had joined together in the past to raise money for

special projects such as the renovation of the student clinics in the 1990s. This time, however, their goal was much bigger.

As an alumnus of the school, Dr. Cox not only wanted to contribute to the fundraising campaign personally, he wanted to involve as many of his fellow faculty members as possible.

"I had been advised that it would be difficult to complete a \$100,000 fundraising effort," he said. "But I found everyone in each division within the department excited

to be recognized for their contributions to the school. Both full- and part-time faculty were willing to contribute."

In fact, 41 individuals within the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry came together to reach the \$100,000 goal by the time the school celebrated its 45th anniversary at a gala event on May 8, 2015. Members of every division within the department contributed toward the total raised of \$107,222, with gifts ranging from \$300 to \$10,000.

"This campaign highlights the fact that every gift makes a difference," said Sara Piety, director of development for the School of Dentistry. "No matter what amount a donor chooses to give, when combined with the generosity of their fellow donors, great things can be accomplished."

The Center for Oral Health Care & Research is the second new building for the School in its 45-year history. The state-of-the-art facility will support students, faculty and patients for years to come and will remind future students of the contributions of the faculty in the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry.

Dr. Cox hopes that current faculty will leave a legacy similar to the school's founding faculty of 1970—one of enjoyment of their collaboration with each other, of being highly competent, and of contributing all that they can to shaping students into well-prepared, highly ethical dentists of tomorrow.

For more information and to make a gift to the School of Dentistry, contact Sara Piety, director of development, at **210-567-6536** or piety@uthscsa.edu.



The Shane Epperson Memorial Scholarship honors the memory of the brave serviceman Shane Epperson (pictured) and supports the education of dental students at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio who are current or former members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

FULFILLING A FRIEND'S DREAM THROUGH SCHOLARSHIP

Proud Texan Shane Epperson joined the Navy in 2005 as a petty officer second class. In 2006 he met and befriended Petty Officer First Class Brian Chase. Over the next few years the men bonded and developed a close friendship. When their jobs stationed them in different locations, they kept in touch.

In April 2009, while deployed in Afghanistan, Chase received tragic news. Epperson was killed. He was only 21.

"The sudden and untimely death of such an intelligent and upstanding young man was a tragedy, compounded by the loss of his promising future," Chase said about Epperson.

Chase wanted to channel his grief into something meaningful. He found the answer when recalling Epperson's dream of attending the UT Health Science Center San Antonio's School of Dentistry to become a dentist after his four-year military tour. Epperson's memory inspired Chase to make a \$10,000 gift to the School of Dentistry to establish *The Shane Epperson Memorial Scholarship*. Today, his gift awards \$750 annually to a Texan who is a current or former member of the U.S. Armed Forces. The first scholarship was awarded in 2014.

Through this memorial scholarship, Chase is helping to ensure promising young dental students have the opportunity to fulfill their potential; a goal that his friend Epperson never had the chance to fulfill, but that Chase believes he would have wanted to share with others.



BRIDGE TO TOTAL WELL-BEING

The Center for Oral Health Care & Research is here!



By **LISA A. BASTIAN** with **NATALIE A. GUTIERREZ**

NEW CENTER OFFERS COMPREHENSIVE, COMPASSIONATE DENTAL CARE

Patients and oral health care professionals alike are already benefiting from the comprehensive dental care, education and training delivered in the brand new facility of one of the top dental schools in the nation—the School of Dentistry at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio. Through UT Dentistry San Antonio, the clinical practice of the university's School of Dentistry, patients have access to the following clinics in the school's new Center for Oral Health Care & Research:

- **Advanced General Dentistry:** Comprehensive general dental services, which include treatment of cavities, bruxism, gingivitis, gum disease, crowns (caps), veneers, cosmetic dentistry, evaluation of jaw pain, implants and tooth extraction, including wisdom teeth removal. Sedation services are offered. *Staff: advanced education general dentistry residents and faculty dentists.*
- **Dental Hygiene:** Services offered include periodontal assessments, comprehensive dental exams, oral cancer screenings, tobacco cessation and nutritional counseling. *Staff: supervised third- and fourth-year dental hygiene students.*
- **Endodontics:** Patients are typically referred to this clinic by their family dentist to receive root canal treatment and similar services. *Staff: supervised endodontic residents and faculty dentists.*
- **Geriatric Dentistry:** General dentistry services offered are tailored to the specific needs of older patients who may have some difficulty being seen in a private practice office due to cognitive decline, functional limitations, or complex medical or medication histories. *Staff: supervised undergraduate dental students and faculty dentists.*
- **Implant Clinic:** In addition to providing dental implants and similar patient services, this clinic works with other UT Dentistry San Antonio clinics to offer comprehensive patient care. *Staff: supervised dental residents and faculty dentists.*

"Our building is designed to improve the patient experience and expand services. And the close proximity of UT Dentistry to UT Medicine will allow enhanced utilization of medical services housed at the MARC. Discussions are underway to facilitate patient referrals between the two practices. Architecturally, the building offers more natural light, creating a welcoming setting for patients and a pleasant work environment for students, residents, faculty and staff."

—**Gary F. Guest, D.D.S.**,
associate dean for patient care
and professor of comprehensive dentistry

A A bridge connecting the Center for Oral Health Care & Research building to the Medical Arts & Research facility, planned for future construction, will foster collaboration between medical and dental clinicians, educators and researchers. Their goal is to ensure the total well-being of every patient treated by UT Medicine San Antonio and UT Dentistry San Antonio clinicians. **B** UT Dentistry San Antonio is the patient care practice of the School of Dentistry and is housed at the COHCR. **C** Gary Guest, D.D.S., was the project manager for the COHCR's planning, construction and equipment acquisitions. He also ensured a seamless transition of all clinics from the current dental building to the new building where he will continue to serve as associate dean for patient care.



"My mother brought me when I was a child to the UT Health Science Center Dental Clinic. Later, as an adult, I brought my wife, Cehlia, and our three children for care. The dentists, dental assistants, and staff create a nurturing environment providing compassionate care that is inclusive and innovative. It's clear they have a passion for oral health. Our community is fortunate to have such a prestigious dental clinic and school in San Antonio."
—José Menéndez, Texas senator



"I bring all four of my children to UT Dentistry for their dental care because they have excellent service, they're always on time, always friendly and they know how to make children feel safe and comfortable. My 8-year-old daughter is ready to jump into the dental chair when we get here. She loves it!"
—Antoine Busby, father of four UT Dentistry Pediatric Dental Clinic patients

PATIENT CARE

"As soon as I brought my mom in, the staff immediately took great care of her. I wouldn't have gone anywhere else. My mother and I are so grateful for the UT Health Science Center's Dental Clinic."
—Casandra Zupancic, daughter of UT Dentistry San Antonio Senior Care Dental Clinic patient 89-year-old Priscilla Lane.



"We're trying to make sure the most high-risk kids get sealants. Our dental students are always so excited about this."
—Suman Challa, D.D.S., assistant professor of community dentistry



- **Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery:** Surgical services offered include tooth extractions (including removal of wisdom teeth), replacement of teeth with dental implants, TMJ (jaw joint) treatment, correction of bite problems, bone grafts to replace lost portions or to build up the jaws, cleft lip and palate treatment, treatment of lesions and tumors, and facial cosmetic surgery. Advanced imaging services also are provided. *Staff: supervised residents and faculty surgeons.*
- **Oral Medicine:** This clinic treats medical issues involving the mouth's soft tissue, including canker sores, oral lesions and Sjogren's Syndrome (an immune system disorder causing dry eyes and dry mouth). *Staff: faculty dentists.*
- **Oral Surgery:** Patients receive myriad oral surgery services including tooth extraction, management of minor infection, smoothing of some jaw surfaces, and small biopsies. *Staff: supervised student dentists.*
- **Orthodontics:** Treatments offered are designed to improve a patient's bite and/or straighten teeth for cosmetic or medical purposes. Fitting of braces and clear aligners (such as Invisalign) are popular services. *Staff: supervised orthodontic residents and faculty dentists.*
- **Pediatric Dentistry:** The clinic offers comprehensive oral health care to children and special needs patients from birth through the teen years. Services include exams, radiographs, fillings, crowns, extractions, space maintenance and minor orthodontic appliances. Advanced behavior techniques, such as sedation and general anesthesia, are offered to selected patients. *Staff: supervised dental students, supervised pediatric dentistry residents and faculty dentists.*
- **Periodontics:** This clinic provides the evaluation, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the gum and bone supporting the teeth and dental implants. Major services offered include dental implants, tooth extractions, bone grafts and treatment of gum diseases and gum recession. *Staff: supervised periodontics residents and faculty dentists.*
- **Prosthodontics:** Specialty level, comprehensive care services offered include the replacement of teeth with crowns, implant restorations, removable partial dentures and complete dentures. *Staff: supervised prosthodontic residents and faculty dentists.*

DENTAL SERVICES OFFERED

- Bone grafts
- Braces and orthodontics
- Cancer patient dental care
- Cleft lip and palate treatment
- Crowns and bridges
- Dental implant
- Dental veneer
- Dentures
- Emergency dental care
- Extractions
- Facial reconstruction
- Fillings
- Gum disease treatment
- Gum recession treatment
- Jaw or facial bone fractures
- Mouth, jaw tumors and cyst treatment
- Pediatric dentistry with sedation
- Tooth replacement
- Root canal
- TMJ (jaw joint) treatment
- Wisdom teeth removal

UT DENTISTRY

Center for Oral Health Care & Research
 8210 Floyd Curl Drive • 210-450-3700

For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit <http://www.uthscsa.edu/patient-care/dental/appointment>.



FOUNDED IN 1967, the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMS) is just one of several School of Dentistry units to gain new clinic space in the Center for Oral Health Care & Research at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio. Faculty members provide advanced multi-specialty education and training to students and residents and superior care to patients with oral surgery needs that range from the simple to the very complex.

LEFT Edward Ellis, III, D.D.S., M.S. (far right), leads the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery clinic in the Center for Oral Health Care & Research and supervises the work of students, residents and other oral health care professionals including (left to right) Carlos Landaeta, D.D.S., attending faculty member; Paul Wilmer, D.D.S., resident; and dental assistants Elizabeth Zuniga and Lapenia Williams.

UNPARALLELED OPERATIONS

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery gets first-class facility

By **NATALIE A. GUTIERREZ** with **LISA A. BASTIAN**

SURGEONS, EDUCATORS

The School of Dentistry's world-renowned oral and maxillofacial surgeons perform operations and supervise all surgical services and procedures performed by the students and residents. With more than 40 years of experience, UT Health Science Center faculty members are global leaders in their specialty and are highly published and well regarded when lecturing on the subject throughout the world.

9 veteran oral and maxillofacial faculty surgeons are on staff.

Faculty members accept up to **3** residents to their OMS six-year training program each year.

Approximately **100** third-year and 100 fourth-year dental students train under OMS faculty each year.

SWEET SUITES, TECHNOLOGY

- More than **7,000 patient visits** are seen in the OMS Clinic each year.
- **10 patient exam rooms**
- **Six one-of-a-kind surgical suites** uniquely designed so oral surgeons have complete and unobstructed access to a patient's head and oral cavity.
- Ergonomic **surgical chairs** and **surgical equipment booms** that allow oral surgeons to tailor and enhance the patient treatment experience. All anesthesia monitor cables, oxygen hoses, drill cords and other equipment

are delivered from the foot of the surgical chairs rather than from behind the patient's head to allow for clear access to a patient's head and oral cavity.

- **Large operating room** equipped for major operations of all types, including those requiring intubated general anesthesia.
- **Sterilization facility** OMS is the only specialty clinic in the new center with this type of facility.



COMMON PROCEDURES

- More than **148 TMJ (temporomandibular joint) surgeries** are performed yearly.
- More than **300 dental implant reconstruction surgeries** are performed yearly.
- More than **140 orthognathic surgeries** are performed yearly to correct a "bad bite" in patients whose problems cannot be corrected with orthodontic appliances alone.



LEFT The Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Clinic in the Center for Oral Health Care & Research features a large operating room equipped for major operations of all types, including those requiring intubated general anesthesia.

ENDOWMENT TO HONOR FOUNDER, SUPPORT OMS CLINIC SUCCESS



Before the School of

Dentistry's first building opened in 1970, the faculty was already hard at work carefully developing its academic, research and clinical programs. In 1967, they founded the university's Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMS).

Visionary, scientist

Stephen B. Milam, D.D.S., Ph.D.

and professor Stephen B. Milam, D.D.S., Ph.D., was the School of Dentistry's

first Hugh B. Tilson Endowed Chair of the Department of OMS. He proudly served in this role from 1999 until his passing in July 2007 at the young age of 54.

This year, School of Dentistry administration and leadership are further honoring Dr. Milam's legacy by establishing The Stephen B. (Chuck) Milam Endowment in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Not only will the new endowment honor the memory of the OMS founder, it will provide the department with a fixed source of revenue for continued success.

Edward Ellis III, D.D.S., M.S., chair and residency director of the OMS Department, said that while two-thirds of funding for the new School of Dentistry OMS Clinic in the new Center for Oral Health Care & Research facility will be provided by the state of Texas, "the school itself must raise \$30 million dollars for the facility," he said.

"Since the graduate programs must equip and support their own clinics, endowments like this one are crucial to the long-time success of the OMS Department."

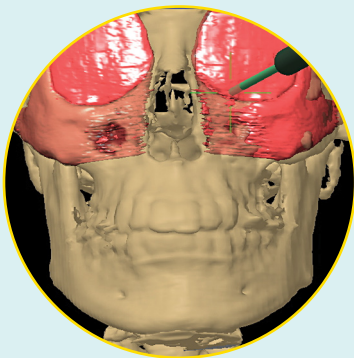
Dr. Ellis has set a goal of \$1 million in order to help furnish the OMS Clinic with state-of-the-art equipment and to fund other initiatives that will be important to the department in the years to come. Dr. Ellis has made a leadership gift of \$50,000 to fund the endowment.

"Many of our generous alumni have been supportive and the endowment is growing," Dr. Ellis said. "However, state funding continues to dwindle. The only way we can maintain a strong OMS program is to have the help of our alumni. Donating to this endowment is their chance to give back to the specialty that has given them the profession they now enjoy."

For more information or to make a gift to support the Milam endowment, or the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, contact Sara Piety, director of development, at **210-567-6536** or email piety@uthscsa.edu.

Our surgeons are among the pioneers of their profession who have been performing and advancing surgical techniques for more than 40 years and always with the patients' best outcome as the goal.—Edward Ellis III, D.D.S., M.S., chair and professor, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

HI-TECH FOR THE HOSPITALIZED



For patients requiring hospitalization, surgeons perform operations through the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Department at University Hospital where they have access to sophisticated software and digital technology, including the iPlan Craniomaxillofacial software by Brainlab and a mobile CT scanner. The Brainlab software is designed to provide surgeons with advanced imaging, visualization, surgical planning and intraoperative navigation needed to perform complex and delicate procedures. Both technologies allow enhanced quality of care for patients.

RESIDENT SERVICES

For patients who do not have insurance or cannot afford specialty care, the OMS Clinic offers resident services supervised by faculty, which can cost 50 to 60 percent less than typical private practice dental fees.

For patient information on qualifying for resident services, call **210-450-3100** or email oms@uthscsa.edu.

Edward Ellis, III, M.D., M.S., also chairs the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMS) at University Hospital, the teaching hospital of the UT Health Science Center San Antonio. The University Health System supports the School of Dentistry by providing its hospital surgical facilities, technology and support for many UT Health Science Center OMS residents.

With research interests in oral and systemic health interactions, Thomas Oates, D.M.D., Ph.D., has been focusing on the implications of diabetes on dental implant therapy for more than a decade.



DISCOVERY BY DESIGN

By **SALWA CHOUCAIR**

We are directly connected to and have the opportunity to interact with our counterparts in medicine. This is an opportunity in which we can walk from one end of the building to another and engage directly with physicians and medical staff, nurses and other health professionals working at the MARC."

Thomas W. Oates, D.M.D., Ph.D.,
interim associate dean for research and assistant
dean for clinical research in the School of Dentistry

From the arrangement of its new equipment and technology and the architectural layout of the patient areas, to its dedicated research laboratories, the new Center for Oral Health Care & Research (COHCR) is designed to encourage collaboration among faculty and their colleagues in specialties both within the UT Health Science Center San Antonio's School of Dentistry and with the various disciplines throughout the Health Science Center campus.

"One of the advantages of the new center is its adjacency and connection to our School of Medicine's Medical Arts Research & Center (MARC)," said Thomas Oates, D.M.D., Ph.D., interim associate dean for research and assistant dean for clinical research in the School of Dentistry.

"We are directly connected to and have the opportunity to interact with our counterparts in medicine. This is an opportunity in which we can walk from one end of the building to another and engage directly with physicians and medical staff, nurses and other health professionals working at the MARC."

Considered a preeminent researcher himself, Dr. Oates is excited about the possibilities the new center provides for dedicated research. He has been conducting his own research by borrowing space in another clinical building and working around other activities and schedules.



A dental implant (pictured) is an artificial tooth root that is surgically placed into the jaw to hold a replacement tooth or bridge. Dental implants may be an option for patients who have lost a tooth or teeth due to periodontal disease, an injury or other cause. Thomas Oates, D.M.D., Ph.D., is studying how diabetic patients may be able to benefit from dental implant therapy.

at the literature relating to how diabetes affects oral infections and gum disease. Previously it was believed that gum disease and oral infections contributed to the worsening of diabetes. However, one of the largest studies to date with a multi-center evaluation of five universities, including the UT Health Science Center San Antonio, revealed no positive effect of periodontal treatment in diabetes.

Dr. Oates wants to see what gaps were made in the literature or previous studies and how the profession, as a whole, missed the truth.

In addition, Dr. Oates continues to work with the National Dental Practice-Based Research Network (NDPBRN) to develop a network of dental practitioners and dental hygienists across five states including Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona and Kansas, interested in collaborating on research.

“We hope to become more engaged with our medical colleagues in oral cancer, pain management, regenerative therapy and more,” Dr. Oates said. “We will have plenty of opportunities in our new Center for Oral Health Care & Research.”

PROVIDING EDUCATION AND SERVICE

Besides a dedicated space for research, the new center offers greater opportunities for community health involvement through the daily operations of the School of Dentistry's clinics. From general dentistry and dental hygiene to oral surgery and maxillofacial surgery, the center is home to more than 12 dental clinics open to the community and staffed by licensed dentists who are also on faculty at the School of Dentistry as well as dental students.

“We’re the best kept secret in San Antonio,” Dr. Alexander said, who, at age 77, enjoys working with both the patients and the students in the clinic. “I still work full time because this is so much fun. Working with students is the exciting part of what I do. This is a learning institution, and they are learning what to do and providing a valuable service to their patients at the same time.”

The clinics offer a range of comprehensive dental care to the general public including routine dental procedures such as teeth cleaning and fillings and extractions to more complicated procedures such as root canals and dental implants.

For students, patients and faculty, the new Center for Oral Health Care & Research appears to have been well worth the wait.

ADVANCING ORAL HEALTH RESEARCH

Scientists in the School of Dentistry collaborate with clinicians and research teams worldwide. They work across multiple medical and dental disciplines to find new treatments. Research advances the knowledge of oral health, biomaterials, cancer, pain and more.

Research focus areas in the new Center for Oral Health Care & Research include:

- Dental biomaterials
- Diabetes and oral health
- Oral cancer
- Pain

“With this new facility, we will have a stand-alone clinic where we can work around our schedule and the patients’ schedules,” Dr. Oates said. “We will be able to move more patients through quickly including enrolling them in our studies and accomplishing procedures more efficiently. This translates into increased success of studies.”

RESEARCH THAT IMPACTS LIVES

With research interests in oral and systemic health interactions, Dr. Oates has been focusing on the implications of diabetes on dental implant therapy for more than a decade. Prior to his research and studies, dental students and practitioners were taught and believed that patients with diabetes were not good candidates for dental implants. Dr. Oates and a post-doctoral student began to question this assumption and began conducting their own studies on diabetic patients who needed implants.

“We’ve been working on this for more than 10 years, evaluating patients through these studies,” Dr. Oates said, “Our studies seem to support the idea that we don’t have to be as limiting as we were when it comes to dental implants for diabetic patients. These patients seem to be just as successful with implants as those without diabetes.”

Since wound and bone healing are concerns for patients with diabetes, Dr. Oates and his team follow their patients for a few years after they receive the implants. They have found that while wound healing is delayed, it is not compromised long term. Currently, they are looking to see if the patients with diabetes are more susceptible or prone to infection or gum disease long term as well.

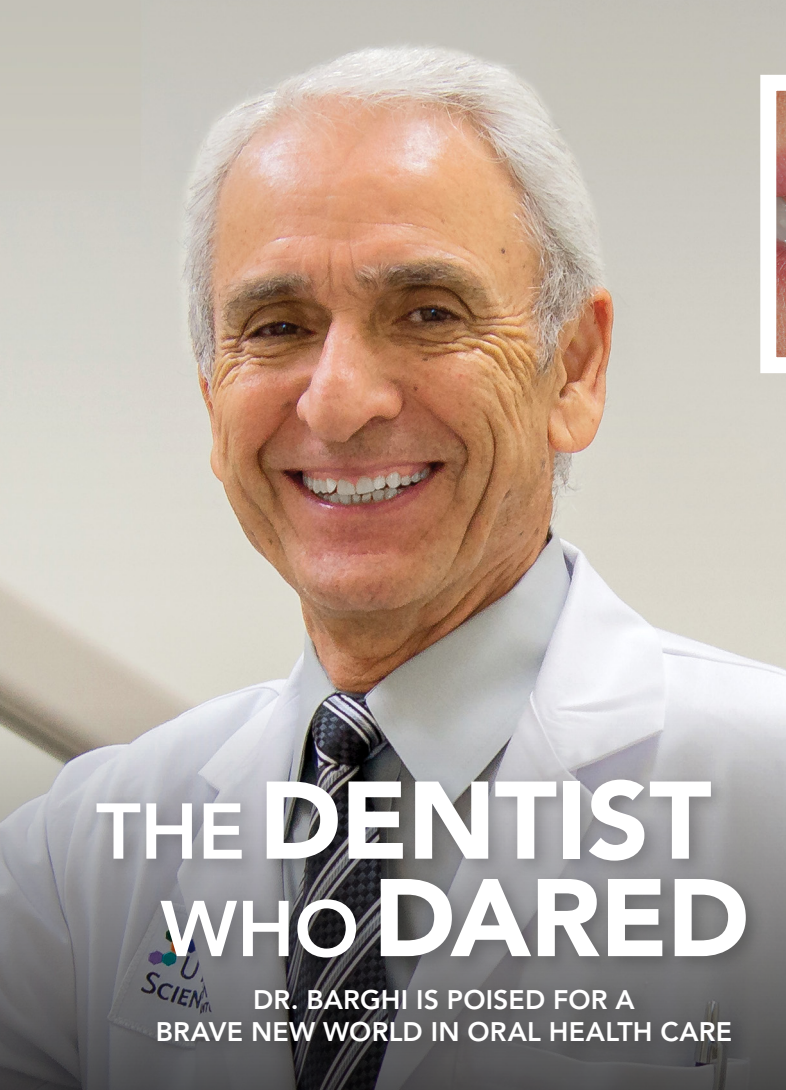
“The best benefit we can offer patients with diabetes is to give them the best ability to chew and function,” Dr. Oates said. “If dietary management becomes a component of their overall diabetes management, then we need to give them every opportunity we can to eat the right foods in order to manage the diabetes.”

After working with Dr. Oates for the past six years on these studies, Peggy Alexander, D.D.S., M.P.H., witnessed firsthand the difference implants have on the lives of patients with diabetes. Dr. Alexander is a clinical professor and research associate in the School of Dentistry.

“I recently had a patient during a post-operative appointment tell me, ‘You have changed my life.’ That is exciting to hear,” she said.

NATIONAL NETWORK

Questioning the status quo and improving the dental profession are priorities for Dr. Oates and his students who are currently looking



A before and after photo shows restorative dentistry work of a patient's smile achieved by dental students under Dr. Barghi's supervision in the School of Dentistry at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio.

I challenge anyone to do what we are doing. It's incredible"

Nasser Barghi, D.D.S., M.A.

and esthetic dentistry soon steered him to lead efforts to establish a new Division of Esthetic Dentistry. In 1985 the new division was launched with Dr. Barghi at the helm.

"By the mid-1980s we witnessed a surge in esthetic dentistry in light of advanced technologies and materials," Dr. Barghi said. "Since then, demand for esthetic dentistry and smile design has been on the rise. Placing value on esthetic dentistry has been financially rewarding for our clinics where most of the work is achieved by students. The same is likely true for our practicing graduates," he said.

Dr. Barghi credits the leadership of the School of Dentistry for their positive role in the success of the program.

Today, Dr. Barghi said students are learning how to use the new computer-aided design and manufacturing (CAD/CAM) and other digital technology for restoring function and providing life-like esthetic prosthetics with newly introduced high-strength ceramic systems.

Another advancement in the school is in the area of implantology, which has fundamentally changed the way missing teeth are replaced and restored in esthetics and function. Dr. Barghi said longitudinal observations of dental implants reveal overwhelming success. Developments in bone growth, soft tissue augmentation and other related advancements have taken implant dentistry far beyond what he said dentists imagined just a few years ago.

"In the long run, everything we teach our students is with the goal of molding them into exceptional dentists who will benefit their patients," Dr. Barghi said. "Our students are highly motivated and well-trained. The quality of treatments delivered by our students is exceptional. I challenge anyone to do what we are doing. It's incredible," he said.

With the opening of the new Center for Oral Health Care & Research, the new facility for the dental practice, Dr. Barghi said there will be new opportunities emerging for faculty and students to become more involved in implementing new digital technologies and 3-D printers in dental practice.

Having traveled across the globe to universities and dental organizations on every continent to lecture on the topic of esthetic dentistry, Dr. Barghi convincingly argues that the School of Dentistry at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio is second to none.

"I've never been more excited about dentistry than I am today," Dr. Barghi said. "I'm nowhere near being ready to retire. With our new building, we're just getting started in a whole new and exciting frontier in dentistry. And we're already the frontrunners."

By **NATALIE A. GUTIERREZ**

At 72, Nasser Barghi, D.D.S., M.A., said he's just getting warmed up. The audacious Texas transplant took a risk and moved more than 7,000 miles overseas from Tehran, Iran, in 1970 to pursue an advanced education in prosthodontics. Just six years later, he began his teaching career at what was then a budding new dental school at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Dr. Barghi was among the school's first faculty members, and within six months on campus, he said he knew he wanted to stay for good.

"The UT Health Science Center was truly the best place to teach and conduct research when it was established, and it's even better today," Dr. Barghi said. "It's simply the best education and amazingly has one of the lowest tuition rates. The quality of our graduates reflects this."

In the nearly 40 years Dr. Barghi has worked in the School of Dentistry, he said he's witnessed tremendous growth and progress in all disciplines of dentistry at the school. As a trained prosthodontist, Dr. Barghi started out teaching in the university's Department of Prosthodontics and later Restorative Dentistry. Currently he is a member of the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry. His talent, knowledge and expertise in dental ceramics

ALUMNI PROFILE: *Dr. Amjad Sheikh*

GRADUATE GIVES BACK

By **LISA A. BASTIAN**

Alumni of the School of Dentistry at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio have a long history of leadership, involvement in and generosity to their alma mater. Their engagement has made an enormous impact on the school's success today and in its future.

Amjad Sheikh, D.D.S., Class of 2002, is one of those proud alumni. This year, he made a gift of \$100,000 to support the construction of the \$108 million Center for Oral Health Care & Research.

Born and educated in Texas, the Houston-based dentist said he immediately began to see the results of his gift.

"The School of Dentistry leadership has done an amazing job on the new building," Dr. Sheikh said. "I think it definitely will enable our students to be better dentists, encourage alumni and others to become more involved and give back, and will create a new sense of excitement as it reflects how dentistry will be practiced in the future," he said.

Dr. Sheikh said he made the gift to fulfill a promise and show gratitude.

"After I was accepted into the UT Health Science Center School of Dentistry, I told myself I'd do whatever I could do to give back because the school had taken a chance on me to succeed. That's why I did what I did."

Dr. Sheikh's gift is just one way he gives back to his alma mater. While a dental student, he held numerous leadership and academic positions, including president of his class. Throughout the years the busy professional and family man continues to make time to volunteer by serving on the School of Dentistry Alumni Board as its secretary. He has been a board member for three years and is preparing to take on the role of president. The purpose of the board is to promote positive relations among alumni, increase cooperation between alumni and others dedicated to the betterment of the institution, and support alumni fundraising efforts.



Amjad Sheikh, D.D.S., '02, a proud graduate of the School of Dentistry and a proud father and husband, said he decided to make a gift to the School of Dentistry because he credits much of his professional success to his alma mater. He is pictured with his wife, Yvonne, and his three children (standing) Peter, (daughter) Alina, and son, Arman.

Although Dr. Sheikh specializes in general dentistry, he prefers to practice oral and maxillofacial surgery. He is ranked among the top 1 percent of dentists nationwide in terms of productivity. Dr. Sheikh attributes this achievement to the rigorous curriculum and excellent faculty he had while in dental school. Within three years of graduating with his D.D.S., he established Trinity Dental Centers in 2005. His state-of-the-art practice serves patients through 10 locations in Houston and the surrounding area.

The seed for creating Trinity Dental Centers was sown in 2002 when Dr. Sheikh began a three-year period practicing general dentistry with the National Health Service Corps in Laredo. While working at a local community health center there, Dr. Sheikh gained extensive experience in surgery and pediatric dentistry. More importantly, he saw how a large number of patients there did not have the financial resources to afford quality dental care. As a consequence, many patients resorted to traveling to Mexico or

other Latin American countries to seek dental care. Oftentimes they postponed needed care until they could save enough funds.

This experience made a lifelong impact on Dr. Sheikh, who was raised in the small, unincorporated Texas community of Hockley near Houston. After leaving Laredo, Dr. Sheikh returned home to Houston with a newfound purpose to serve the poor and underserved communities. From the beginning, he set up his private practice as one that balances his patients' dental needs with their financial responsibilities so they can receive affordable and excellent dental care.

Besides giving him a profession that he said he thoroughly enjoys daily, Dr. Sheikh said dentistry also has allowed doors to open that he never dreamed possible when he was growing up.

"I truly believe that so much of my professional success is directly due to my education at the School of Dentistry in San Antonio and I am very proud of it."



Juanita Lozano-Pineda, D.D.S., M.P.H., and Vidal Balderas, D.D.S., M.P.H., lead the nation's only Hispanic Center of Excellence in a dental school at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio.

REFLECTING THE FUTURE

HISPANIC CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IS CHANGING THE FACE OF DENTISTRY

By **SALWA CHOUCAIR**

Geographically located in South Central Texas, the School of Dentistry at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio offers a unique opportunity for health care and education. With underserved populations in almost 40 counties in South Texas, many of which have a 98 percent Hispanic demographic, institutions of higher learning in the Alamo City must meet the challenge of engaging, recruiting, mentoring and training future health care professionals who reflect the needs and the face of an ever-changing society.

Through its Hispanic Center of Excellence (HCOE), which is part of the Centers of Excellence grant program funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the School of Dentistry is expanding its recruiting efforts in South Texas to attract a greater number of underrepresented minority groups into dentistry.

As the director of the predoctoral outreach program for the School of Dentistry and the co-investigator for the HCOE grant, Juanita Lozano-Pineda, D.D.S., M.P.H., believes a targeted focus on recruitment and mentoring of students from South Texas will potentially increase the number of graduates who will return to South Texas as dental practitioners.

"We know we need more providers who are representative, culturally aware and culturally competent to meet the needs of the population in the areas of South Texas, which are currently underserved," Dr. Lozano-Pineda said. "I am a native of Brownsville, and I know South Texas. I've worked in public health as well, and I am very aware of the access to care issues and the unmet needs of

the poor and underrepresented populations. Patients feel more comfortable if they see a doctor who speaks their language and understands their culture. As diversified as our population is becoming, it is important to address this need and to try to have the health care providers match the populations they serve."

While recruitment and mentoring are part of the HCOE, in order to be funded by the Centers of Excellence, grantees must meet seven objectives including enhancing the curriculum and clinical education with regards to cultural competency; facilitating research; engaging students in community-based primary care training; and providing stipends.

"We are the only Hispanic Center of Excellence in the country in a dental school right now," said Vidal Balderas, D.D.S., M.P.H., assistant professor and co-investigator of the HCOE grant. "We are focusing on making this program one of the ones that others can pattern."

Beginning with recruitment, Drs. Lozano-Pineda and Balderas have forged a pipeline that extends from high schools to small colleges and universities throughout South Texas and San Antonio. Through events such as health fairs and career days, representatives from the School of Dentistry begin their recruitment efforts with high school students who are interested in science, math, engineering and the health professions. As part of the Building Our Leaders in Dentistry (BOLD) program, these students learn about dentistry and what it offers them as a career. "We expose them through our presentations on the science and technology of dentistry so they understand how the science they learn in high school applies to a career in dentistry," said Dr. Lozano-Pineda, who also serves as an assistant professor in the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry.

Once students are engaged in the field, the HCOE grant and pipeline continues to work through the Learning Enhancement for Achievement in Dentistry (LEAD) program. This summer program provides seven years of continuous support to students at every stage of their education from college through dental school.

"We don't want to recruit students and then just leave them," Dr. Lozano-Pineda said. "If you are going to recruit someone, especially someone who may not have had the same opportunities that others have had, then you must also be there to help them transition and be successful."

With 36 years of experience in the profession, Jeffery L. Hicks, D.D.S., professor in the School of Dentistry, has seen firsthand the importance of health care professionals reflecting the population they serve.

"I want to make sure that everybody in our society has every chance at an education," Dr. Hicks said. "The answer to our society's ills, I think, is education and access to information. If the Internet can provide us access to information, and if we can augment that with educational opportunities, then we are going to go far in solving the problems of our society."

Through the assistance of the HCOE, the School of Dentistry is leading the charge in changing the face of its profession, one graduate at a time.

MODELING THEIR PROFESSION

By **NATALIE A. GUTIERREZ**

ALUMNI RETURN TO TEACH, MENTOR STUDENTS

From the first graduating class of 14 in 1974 to the 104 dental and 29 dental hygiene students who earned their degrees in 2015, the School of Dentistry at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio has graduated more than 3,000 oral health care professionals. These graduates are having a profound effect on the health of patients, families and communities throughout Texas, the U.S. and beyond.

Several of the School of Dentistry's exceptional alumni have chosen to return to the school to teach full time and mentor students. They bring with them years of experience gained while in private practice. Now they're sharing their knowledge and skills with students, preparing them for future careers in dental education, research and patient care.

Here's why a few of them decided to return to their alma mater.



E. PENN JACKSON

Dr. Penn Jackson practiced dentistry alongside his father for 21 years and an additional nine years on his own in San Antonio before returning to serve as an assistant clinical professor in the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry at the UT Health Science Center School of Dentistry.

"Our School of Dentistry has an unparalleled opportunity to recruit the nation's finest faculty and students with its new clinic space in the Center for Oral Health Care & Research. I wanted to be a part of this full time. Most dentists don't have this nice of a facility to practice in! Our students will be educated in what is the absolute best case scenario for what a dental office can be. We will set the bar in both education and the practice of dentistry."—**E. Penn Jackson, D.D.S., '84, assistant clinical professor**



DAVID R. COX

Dr. David Cox began his private practice in Weatherford, Texas, in 1981 and operated a general dentistry partnership for the last 15 years prior to joining the School of Dentistry faculty in 2010.

"As a faculty member, I'm able to give back to something that has been very good to me. Dentistry has been a great blessing for me and my family and I wanted the chance to influence how the profession is practiced in the future. I enjoy showing students how to communicate by always having the patient's point of view in mind."—**David R. Cox, D.D.S., '80, assistant clinical professor**



EDWARD WUENSCH

After graduation, Dr. Wuensch opened his private practice in Bedford, Texas, until 1994. Today he sees patients four days out of the week in his current practice in New Braunfels and teaches in the School of Dentistry at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio.

"As faculty members, we educate students by taking time to know them and reach them where they are. It's a joy to see them accomplish their goals and to know that they are proud that their school is making a huge investment in them through the new Center for Oral Health Care & Research. This is our legacy as alumni and dentists – to help ensure the health and dignity of our community for years to come."—**Edward Wuensch, D.D.S., '85, associate clinical professor**



KAY H. MALONE III

After graduation, Dr. Kay H. Malone joined the U.S. Army and, for 25 years, was assigned to locations across the world. His love for teaching brought him back to the School of Dentistry at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio in 2013 as a volunteer faculty member. He was hired on full time in 2014.

"I wanted to return to help train students and enhance diversity within the school and the profession. It's rewarding to help educate the next generation of dentists in a profession that continues to evolve and to know that our students will be well-prepared professionals after graduation."—**Kay H. Malone III, D.D.S., '83, clinical assistant professor and admissions advisor**



DIANE SULLIVAN

Although not a graduate of the School of Dentistry at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio, Dr. Diane Sullivan said she always respected the school's reputation. She practiced dentistry for four years in Dallas and for 16 years in San Antonio before joining the UT Health Science Center San Antonio's School of Dentistry as a full-time faculty member in 2003.

"Without exception, our faculty is completely dedicated to our students and our patients. By treating our patients comprehensively, we can significantly impact their overall well-being. I enjoy being able to teach the connection between oral health and general health to both students and patients. It's important for all of us to be a part of keeping our School of Dentistry thriving for San Antonio because our community deserves the very best!"—**Diane Sullivan, D.D.S., assistant clinical professor**

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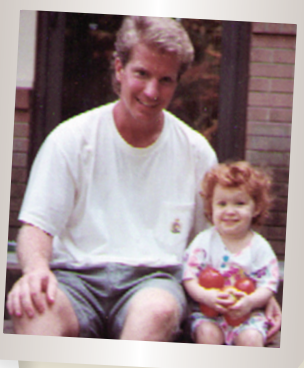
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Olivia Gassmann (pictured here at 2 years old with her father, Dr. Carl Gassmann), said she always looked up to her father and admired how he treated his patients with compassion.

Class of 1990 alumnus Carl Gassman, M.D., D.D.S. (left), is proud that his daughter, Olivia, who is following in his footsteps and attending the School of Dentistry at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio.

LIKE FATHER, LIKE DAUGHTER

PASSION FOR DENTISTRY RUNS IN THE FAMILY

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon Carl Gassmann, M.D., D.D.S., '90, was overjoyed when his daughter, Olivia, was accepted to the School of Dentistry at the UT Health Science Center San Antonio in 2013. Not only was he beaming at his daughter's achievements, his pride was bolstered by the fact that she would be attending one of the nation's top dental schools.

"As I watch her grow and develop into a seasoned dental professional, I know the school is on track to train her, her classmates and future students to become the best oral health care providers," Dr. Gassmann said. "I'm proud to be an alumnus and it's an honor that Olivia will soon be among the school's graduates."

Here's what they had to say about each other and the School of Dentistry.

Carl Gassmann, M.D., D.D.S., School of Dentistry Class of 1990 and graduate of the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency Program, 1995

Q. What is it about your daughter that will make her a good dentist?

A. "Her caring and compassionate nature along with the knowledge and skills she is learning in the UT Health Science Center San Antonio's School of Dentistry. That combination will serve well many future patients for years to come."

Q. Why did you recommend the School of Dentistry at the UT Health Science Center to your daughter?

A. "I told her that hands down, the UT Health Science Center San Antonio's School of Dentistry was the best place for her because it offers a balanced curriculum of basic science and clinical skills to build a career on. The new Center for Oral Health Care & Research will only enhance that training. Bright and beautiful buildings are important, but it is the people and professionals who make the institution great and that's what this school has. The entire South Texas region will benefit."

Olivia Gassman, third-year dental student

Q. Why do you see your father as a role model?

A. "My father is my role model not only professionally, but personally as well. He is passionate about his career and treats his patients with respect and kindness. He works harder than anyone I know, yet also values a work-life balance that is so critical to our family."

Q. What makes your professors stand out above the rest?

A. "Our UT Health Science Center San Antonio School of Dentistry professors are outstanding clinicians that bring their own experiences and clinical knowledge to the classroom learning environment. We have world-renowned researchers, textbook authors and clinicians teaching both our pre-clinical and clinical courses. They are truly passionate about the field of dentistry, and are always going above and beyond for our education. I'm really proud to be a student here and am grateful for the opportunity to study alongside inspiring peers and colleagues."

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