



For she's a jolly good Alumni Fellow

Sherry Babbage Melisizwe, DMD '81, selected as this year's School of Dentistry Alumni Fellow

Also in this issue:

New ULSD student center named in honor of Wood E. Currens, DMD '67

Melissa Seibert, DMD '18 helps fellow dentists continue their education

Meet the DMD class of '25

Dean's message:

Preparing students for success with more diverse and complex clinical experiences



Dear Alumni & Friends,

If you have been around main campus lately, you have probably seen some signs of change — including, quite literally, some changes in signs. Across the university, UofL is highlighting ways that students achieve success “Here & Beyond.”

So, what makes a successful dental professional here at ULSD and beyond? I think the answer to that is simple: you produce a graduate who is committed to oral health, who is dedicated to providing the best quality care with an evidence-based approach, and who is prepared to handle the oral health needs of the population.

To do that, students must have clinical experiences. Knowledge is crucial, but practice-ready dental professionals must also hone their skills. Nothing replaces the value of experience.

This philosophy informs our priorities at ULSD. It is why we have invested millions in renovations to our facility here at Preston and Muhammad Ali. It is also why we have opened up sites across the state where our students go into communities and provide care.

In 2021 alone, we've opened three new clinical sites. You can find out more about these sites on page 13 of this newsletter.

Not only are these sites giving students more opportunities to treat more patients, but they are also exposing students to more diverse and complex cases than ever before.

In addition, these sites enable us to reach underserved areas and populations. By doing so, we are making strides toward greater access to needed care and greater equity in oral health.

Gaining clinical experience while also serving people who would otherwise not receive care: That is how ULSD produces practice-ready, evidence-based clinicians who are committed to oral health — here and beyond.

Go Cards,

T. Gerard Bradley, BDS, MS, Dr.Med.Dent.
Professor and Dean

DMD reunion update

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the combined 2020/2021 DMD Reunion honoring class years ending in 0,1,5 and 6 (originally scheduled for October 1-2, 2021) was postponed to 2022.

Be sure to keep your information updated on the [Louisville Alumni website](#) so you don't miss out on announcements about the new date. We look forward to seeing you back at ULSD for alumni events!

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2021 School of Dentistry Alumni Fellow
Sherry Babbage Melisizwe, DMD '81
Photo by Paige Moore

In Remembrance of Fellow Cardinals:

Stay Connected:

The University of Louisville is an equal opportunity institution.

Alumni Awards 2021:

For she's a jolly good Alumni Fellow

In honor of her selection as the 2021 School of Dentistry Alumni Fellow, we interviewed Sherry Babbage Melisizwe, DMD '81, about her path to dentistry, her passion for mentorship, and her selection as Alumni Fellow.

Responses were edited for length and clarity.

How did you choose the field of dentistry?

Dentistry was never on my radar. I was a Med Tech at the Jewish Hospital and the Children and Youth Clinic. I knew the dentist there from undergrad, so I was hanging out in the clinic, asking questions about different things. She noticed how much I liked being there and watching her do procedures. Out of the clear blue, she asked, "why don't you apply to dental school?" So I applied. I was the only African American that applied, so I guess they might not have had a choice, but they took me ... and the rest is history.

After receiving your degree, why did you choose to go into private practice in West Louisville?

I wanted to be where I felt like I would make a difference and be able to do some good, and that opportunity presented itself. I had my office in the neighborhood I practically grew up in — maybe a couple of miles at the most from my childhood home.

I changed buildings a couple of times, but all in the same block, doing dentistry in West Louisville for almost 40 years. I think I technically retired after 38 years. And then I got a chance to go back into the community by working as a full-time professor for the School of Dentistry. I was back in the West End with a clinical rotation our students do at Shawnee Christian Healthcare Center — and I was *at home*. It was really, really good to be able to continue to provide service to the community I love.

How did you get involved in diversity and inclusion efforts at the School of Dentistry?

I tell people all the time I'm looking for my replacement — I need somebody that's going to go and have a heart for the West End, and it's probably going to be a person of color.



Dr. Babbage (front row, right) helps cut the ribbon at the grand reopening of the Shawnee Christian Healthcare Center dental clinic on October 9, 2021.

There was a need to have diversity in this building. Because I love the school and because I love dentistry and because I talk too much, I was recruited to make sure that door for diversity stayed open — that it was not only open, but built up — and to encourage students of color that they could apply to dental school and that they would be welcomed here. I think that it worked. We have really increased from where we were, at least in the past 20 years. We've increased diversity enrollment and graduation rates. That's really important to me. And it starts with mentorship.

Why does mentorship mean so much to you — especially for African Americans and young people who are first-generation college students, as you were?

I want them to be able to see that they can do more if they want to. So I put myself up there as an example, the face of that first-generation college student. But I don't want to just be the face. I want to be the mentor, too. I'm not going to give your heart a dream and then not at least do *something*.

What are some of the mentoring activities you are involved in?

One avenue is with the health and medical cluster for the YMCA Black Achievers program. These kids are 9th-12th grade. Two of the kids want to be dentists, so I was like, "I'm your new best friend!" They might hate me by the time this is over, but I am not going to let them slip through the cracks!

I also get to do one of our biggest recruitment activities, the Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP). We get 80 kids from all over the United States. About 20 of them are usually on the dental magnet. We talk to them about what they need to do, and we write it down. It's called Chart Your Course. I love that we do that.

Then we've got the pre dental club on main campus. I help mentor that group as well. I also teach a class called Preview to Dentistry. And those things fell in my lap. You know, once you get here, they make sure you have something to do! And now that I'm full time, I get to be in clinic — which I love, love, love.

When you're mentoring students, what is the biggest challenge that you're helping them to overcome?

Confidence. I try to teach them not to look at that person next to you because you just bring your A game when you come in. And your A game might be different a little bit. Your talents might be a little different than somebody else's. That's okay. Just look at what your talents are, what your strengths are. And know your weaknesses so you can work on them.

Where did this passion, this commitment to helping, come from?

I tell people all the time I learned a lot of stuff at the knee of my mother and grandmother that I didn't know I was going to need. I'm talking about two ladies that were maids. But they always went to work with a smile. They were always feeding somebody else's kid, cleaning somebody else's house, but they never stopped showing unconditional love to their own family. So I learned the sense of community and giving from them, not from educated folks. Now I've learned a lot from educated folks, as well. But those basic things, those heart things, I feel like I got from those two women.



Dr. Babbage consults with DMD student William Walker in the lab.

“I put myself up there as an example, the face of that first-generation college student. But I don't want to just be the face. I want to be the mentor, too. I'm not going to give your heart a dream and then not at least do *something*.”

- Sherry Babbage

How does it feel to now see some of those students you mentored come back to ULSD as faculty?

I love that I get to continue the relationship in person. Dr. Madeline Hicks did that for me. She was the first African American female to be here, and she reached back her hand to guide me and help me. She was gone when I got here, but she didn't stop being a presence.

I think that, as a people, African American people value history and they value those that have opened doors for them. And hopefully I will never, ever fail to give the people that came before me the adoration and respect that they deserve. It's such comfort to have had that. And it's a comfort to have been mentored by them so that I could mentor somebody else.

Looking back at that day when you applied to dental school, could you have ever imagined where dentistry would take you?

Dentistry has been a blessing to me. It has allowed me to grow as a person. It has allowed me the space to give back. It's allowed me a space to touch young people. My husband coined the phrase, "dentistry is my ministry," and that's so true.

When you found out you had been selected as this year's School of Dentistry Alumni Fellow, how did you feel?

Well, I haven't done cartwheels and flips in a very long time, but I really felt like I could.

I feel like it's the top of the mountain. Being recognized by your peers and by your dean and by the folks on main campus, it just makes you want to work harder. It means there's more work to be done. You know, when you're Miss America, they want you to have an agenda, a platform. I'm looking at this the same way, and my platform is minority scholarships. It's giving me another avenue to ask for money or tell people where to go and what to do! And I will hopefully be able to continue to make the university proud of the things that I can do and will continue to do.



Dr. Babbage and her husband, Loyiso Melisizwe, at the 2021 University of Louisville Alumni Awards.

“Dentistry has been a blessing to me. My husband coined the phrase, ‘dentistry is my ministry,’ and that’s so true.”

- Sherry Babbage

Celebrate Dr. Babbage

Donors who wish to celebrate Dr. Sherry Babbage's achievements are encouraged to make a gift to the Minority Alumni Scholarship for Dentistry.* [Donate Now](#)

*The University of Louisville does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, color, national origin, ethnicity, creed, religion, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, marital status, pregnancy, or disability of an otherwise qualified individual in educational programs and activities. Accordingly, while a program or activity may be focused on the needs or issues of a particular group, they are intended to be inclusive of all and any participant may benefit from attendance or participation in these programs and activities.

Council update:

ULSD Alumni Council

Once again the Alumni Council partnered with the Prospect/ Goshen Rotary Club in a golf outing at Hunting Creek Country Club. The Alumni Council was well represented and this year we had three dental students play. D2 Megan Nay was on the 2nd place team and Megan alone walked off with two awards (closest to the pin and long drive). All in all, we raised \$2,000 for the Alumni Council. The weather was great and we all had a great time. A special thank you to all who participated and also to those who were sponsors. See you next year.

This fall, the invitation to serve as an alumni mentor for this year's D3 class (juniors – Class of 2023) was sent by email. Thank you to all the alumni who have volunteered to serve as mentors. This important initiative enhances students' education outside of the clinic and reconnects graduates back to the School of Dentistry. Plus, it is a fun, meaningful collaboration for all involved! We look forward to sharing stories with you about some of the mentors and mentees in the next edition of the ULSD alumni newsletter.

The next Alumni Council meeting is Tuesday, February 15 from 6-7 p.m. If you would like to attend the meeting and/or become a member please contact Dr. Mark Schulte '77, president, at mschulte5@yahoo.com or 502-558-0311.

As always, thanks for your support of the ULSD Alumni Council.



Above: **Thad Schulten, DMD '96** (second from right) and team. Below: **Meghan Nay, D2; Clark Currier, D4; Andrew Way, D4; Sean Aiken, DMD '18; Christopher Costello, DMD '15; Mark Schulte, DMD '77.**



2021 ULSD Alumni Council members

Officers

- Dr. Mark J. Schulte '77, President
- Dr. Kristen E. George '09, President Elect/CFO
- Dr. Gerald T. Grant '85, Secretary

Directors

- Dr. Babatunde O. Agbola '16
- Dr. Sean A. Aiken '18

- Dr. Jacob R. Bishop '16
- Dr. Wood E. Currens '67
- Dr. Christina Delis-Chiambas '94
- Andrea M. Edelen, R.D.H. '97
- Dr. Angela L. Fleace '01
- Dr. Donald T. Frey '12
- Dr. Richard H. Lin, Jr. '82

- Dr. Marija Sasek '05
- Dr. Jenna R. Schulten '10
- Dr. Jay B. Sheats II '99
- Dr. Kelly A. Underwood '06

Student Representatives

- Kirsten Peterson, DMD Class of 2023
- Andrew Way, DMD Class of 2022

Council update:

Orthodontics Alumni Council

The University of Louisville School of Dentistry Orthodontics Alumni Council's Annual Meeting took place Friday, October 29. It was so great to be back in person. The venue (Hotel Distil downtown) was terrific and the support staff at UofL was so helpful in helping to set it up.

We were so fortunate to have Dr. Maz Moshiri as the guest speaker for this year's meeting. He is so knowledgeable and presented so well.

During the event, the Council presented a Distinguished Service Award to longtime ULSD orthodontics faculty member Dr. Anibal Silveira. For more details about the Annual Meeting and more, you can read the [Orthodontics Alumni Council 2021 Newsletter](#).

Getting together was a great reminder of what makes our program special. Thank you to everyone who continues to support the program and the Orthodontics Alumni Council.



Above left: **Chris Edelen, DMD '83, MS '83, Orthodontics '85** presents the Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Silveira. Above right: **Maz Moshiri, DMD '06, MS '08, Orthodontics '08** presents a continuing education session.

2021 Orthodontics Alumni Council members

Officers

Dr. Jared O. Dean '09, Chair
Dr. Carl D. Gioia '11, '13, Vice Chair
Dr. Krushan C. Patel '19, 1st Director
Dr. Robert E. Spiller Jr. '80, '90, 2nd Director
Dr. Lauren Renaud '18, '20, 3rd Director
Dr. David C. Small '95, Immediate Past Chair

Directors

Dr. Raina S. Chandiramani '18
Dr. Ralph J. DeDomenico '74, '77
Dr. Amy B. Farnsworth '92, '95
Dr. Eric W. Hickman '95
Dr. Scott Q. Little '85
Dr. John K. Newcomb '07
Dr. Danielle L. Periago '05, '07
Dr. Carmen A. Quirk '17, '19

Dr. David C. Small '95

Dr. Justin M. Tristler '12

Faculty Advisor

Dr. Sunita S. Chandiramani '99, '02

Student Representatives

Dr. Ambika Sharma
Dr. Logan Wedding

Council update:

Dental Hygiene Legacy Alumni Council

Due to concerns about the COVID-19 Delta variant, the [Dental Hygiene Legacy Symposium](#) has been rescheduled from September 18, 2021 to February 12, 2022. The [Dental Hygiene Legacy Alumni Council](#) invites everyone (including non-alumni) to participate

in this annual event. The symposium will include a product showcase, CE courses, and networking opportunities.

Registration will open soon. For details and registration, visit the [UofL Alumni website](#).



DH3 students raise their Ls to celebrate the Kentucky Dental Hygienists' Association for their support of the ULSD dental hygiene program.

2021 Dental Hygiene Alumni Council members

Officers & Directors

Virginia L. Woodward '71, Chair
Pamela D. Barnes '77
Mary Ann Burch '68
Dr. Sharon C. Carpenter '75

Julie L. Drury '01

Adam C. Hall '11

Jennifer L. Hasch '13

Linda P. Lewis '85

ULSD Advisors

Sara Dunaway, Ex-officio member,
D.H. Academic Counselor, Sr.

Dr. Jacqueline A. Singleton, Dental
Hygiene Program Director

In the news:

Alumni achievements



James I. Armbruster II, DMD '76

Dr. Armbruster's practice, Dr. James I. Armbruster, DMD, PC, was recognized as "Business of the Week" by the Logan County, Colorado chamber of commerce in September 2021. Dr. Armbruster and his wife Patti Armbruster, RDH, BS, purchased the dental practice in Sterling, Colorado in 1978 after he left the Navy.



Drew Wilson, DMD '91

Dr. Wilson and his partner at Family Dental Care of Milford, NH, have been recognized by NH Business Review as 2021 Business Excellence recipients in the Healthcare category for a small organization. Dr. Wilson has also been named by his peers as "Top Dentist" in New Hampshire every year since 2010.



Danny Snyder, DMD '15

In October, Dr. Snyder successfully launched a Kickstarter campaign for the electric flosser he spent two and a half years developing. Hundreds of backers pledged nearly \$200,000 to help bring the Slate Electric Flosser to production. Dr. Snyder's dental practice is in Spokane, Washington.



Tsitsi Hungwe, DMD '16

Dr. Hungwe has been selected as a Youth Ambassador with the WAVE Youth Leadership Program. WAVE is a multi-state program focused on closing academic achievement gaps and improving educational opportunities for students disproportionately impacted by educational inequities.

Share your news!

Let us know when you, or a fellow graduate, receive special recognition so we may celebrate your success! We always want to hear your news so be sure "check in" with Fran Williams, ULSD Alumni Affairs, at 502-852-5077 or fran.williams@louisville.edu.

New ULSD student center made possible by alumni gift; named in honor of **Wood E. Currens, DMD '67**

A former bioengineering and biomaterials lab in the lower level of the School of Dentistry has been transformed into a new lounge area and study space for students. It features several small study rooms, as well as larger gathering areas. A television, refrigerators and microwaves provide amenities for students to socialize and eat.

"This is truly a student-inspired project to create more livable learning spaces in the school for students, and we are thankful to our donors who have made this happen," said Gerry Bradley, dean of the UofL School of Dentistry.

The project was made possible by a gift from **Bob McGuinn, DMD '74** and his family, including his daughter, **Leslie McGuinn Davis, DMD '07**. "UofL provided education in dentistry to my

daughter and myself, and we are so grateful for that education and the careers we have had," McGuinn said.

The McGuinn family chose to name the student success center in honor of **Wood E. Currens, DMD '67**. After graduating from ULSD, Currens served in many roles during his 44-year career at UofL, including department chair, associate dean and acting dean. "The name of the center honors the lasting relationships Dr. Currens made to so many alumni who stay connected to the school because of his influence on their careers," Bradley said.

The Louisville chapter of the American Student Dental Association also contributed to the project and was heavily involved in planning.



Members of the McGuinn family, along with Dr. Currens and his wife Jennifer, are flanked by LASDA officers and ULSD representatives as they cut the ribbon on the new Student Success & Wellness Center at ULSD.

Alumni spotlight: Melissa Seibert

Alumna helps fellow dentists continue their education

It's not often that someone would choose to wear the title of "geek," but for **Melissa Seibert, DMD '18** that title is something she wears with pride. Being a self-described "dental geek," Seibert has created a dental podcast that not only provides a continuing education (CE) opportunity for dentists but allows her to host fellow dental geeks and talk about, unsurprisingly, dentistry.

Seibert's podcast, "Dental Digest," is a dental podcast devoted to empowering dentists to stay on the cutting edge of evidence-based dentistry. Each week the podcast features guests who are university professors, textbook authors, scientists and key opinion leaders to discuss their expertise so dentists can stay informed. "I'm incredibly blessed that it has now grown to be in the top 1.5% of all podcasts globally, with thousands of weekly downloads," Seibert said. "It was also voted to be the number one most educational dental podcast."

In combination with "Dental Digest," Seibert created the Dental Digest Institute, an organization approved by the Academy of General Dentistry to provide CE credit to dentists. "Dentists must earn a certain amount of continuing education each year to maintain their dental license," Seibert said. "Because dentists are already putting in the work to stay current in dentistry by listening to the podcast, I wanted to create a way for them to have something to show for their time."

For dentists listening to the dental podcast, CE credit is just one benefit. "What makes the Dental Digest podcast so unique is that it's able to broadcast updates in dentistry at an unprecedented speed," said Seibert. "It takes years to publish a textbook, months to publish a dental study, but only a few hours to publish a new episode of the podcast. This means that dentists can stay informed in real time."

Seibert, an undergraduate from the U.S. Air Force Academy, was able to use education outside of dentistry to grow her business. "I'm grateful for my undergrad for giving me a foundation in computer science," Seibert said.



Melissa Seibert, DMD '18 Submitted photo

"Creating the CE side of Dental Digest, LLC. was a trial by fire because I had to learn to code in order to build the website." Currently, Seibert is completing the Air Force's highly competitive two-year Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) residency. In this AEGD, Seibert will do research and earn a master's degree in oral biology.

As Seibert continues her education, whether self-taught coding or a master's degree, her passion and love for dentistry began at UofL. "UofL is an exceptional institution committed to STEM education, so when I found out I was accepted into the School of Dentistry, it was a no-brainer that was where I was going for dental school," Seibert described. "All four years I was at UofL, I was reminded that dental school was only the beginning of my education and that being a life-long learner is essential."

Written by Kaela Dickerman, Louisville Alumni

New ULSD locations expand oral health care **equity and access**

1. Paducah

In September, the first group of ULSD DMD students started rotations at the UofL Dental practice on the campus of West Kentucky Community and Technical College in Paducah, Kentucky. The partnership between UofL and WKCTC allows students from both institutions to work together in a dental clinic, while providing services to residents of the Jackson Purchase region.

Since the practice opened, there has been incredible demand for appointments – with appointments booked several months out – demonstrating the immense need for additional dental care options in the area, especially for people who have Medicaid coverage.

The clinic director for the Paducah practice is **Gregory S. Lord, DMD '03**. In addition, **Adam Perry '21, DMD** will be part of the practice on a part-time basis.

2. Louisville - Home of the Innocents

On October 1, 2021, ULSD took over operations of the dental clinic at Open Arms Children’s Health, which is located on the campus of Home of the Innocents. While it serves all children in the community, the dental clinic specializes in providing dental services for children placed in foster care, children with autism spectrum disorder, children of refugees, and children with medical complexity.

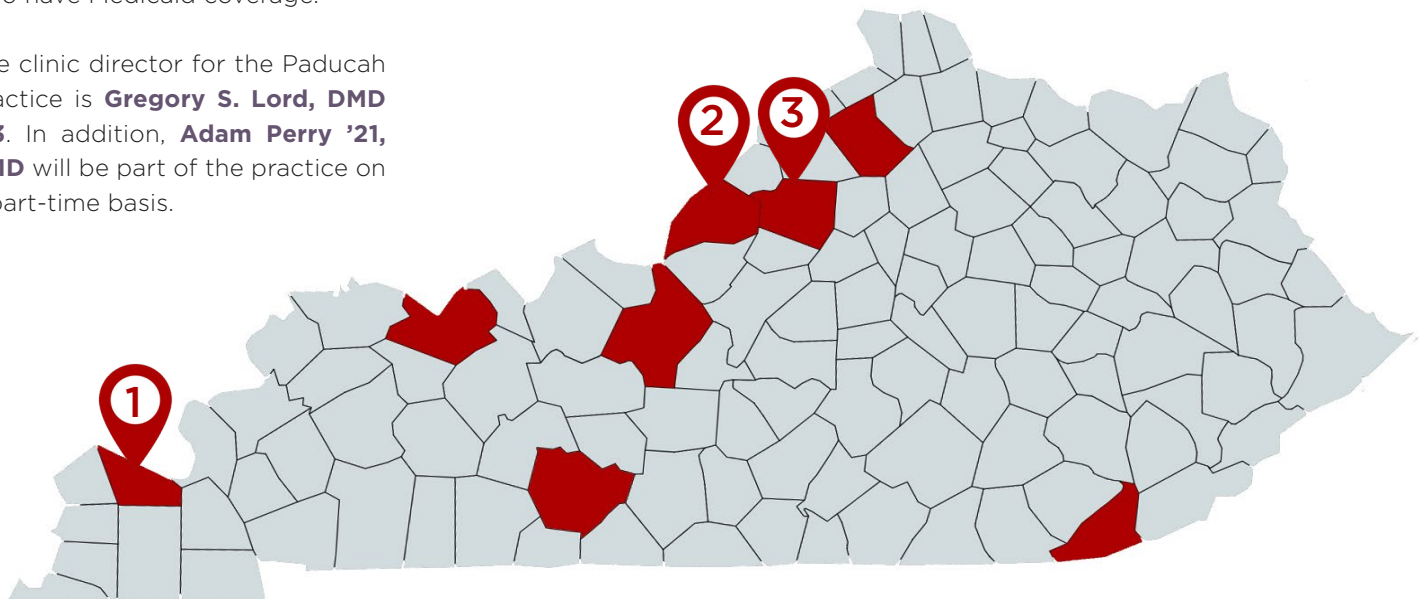
Alumni providing dental care services at this facility include **Lydia P. Winters, DMD '08** and **Miram Shaheen, DDS, MSD, Pediatrics '21**.

3. Shelbyville

Build-out is in progress for a new UofL Dental practice in Shelbyville, Kentucky. The practice will be located in a business office park on Mack Walters Road, which is near UofL Hospital - Shelbyville.

The practice will provide a full range of general dentistry services, primarily serving people who have Medicaid. Like the Paducah practice, it will also serve as an externship site for students. It is expected to open in late 2021.

The primary dentist for the Shelbyville practice will be **Pallavi Patil, BDS, MSD, MBA, DMD '21**.



ULSD clinic, externship, and community service sites.

In memory of Dr. Brian Alpert

After a courageous battle with Lymphoma, longtime ULSD faculty member Dr. Brian Alpert passed away at his home on Tuesday, August 24, 2021.

Dr. Alpert trained generations of oral and maxillofacial surgeons and other dental professionals.

He was born in Southern California and grew up in Lake Placid, New York. He received his BA from University College of New York University in 1963 and is a 1967 graduate of the School of Dental & Oral Surgery program at Columbia University. He did his residency in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery at Long Island Jewish Medical Center - Queens Hospital Center. Following training, he served in the U.S. Army Dental Corps at both the 121st Evacuation Hospital in Korea and Womack Army Hospital at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina.

He began his academic career at the University of Illinois. In 1973 he joined the faculty at the University of Louisville School of Dentistry as Associate Professor and Director of the Advanced Training Program in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery. At that time, he was the youngest oral and maxillofacial surgery program director in the country. Dr. Alpert was promoted to Professor in 1978 and he became Chairman and Chief at University Hospital in 1987.

Not solely an academic, Dr. Alpert maintained an active, full-scope private practice. He earned the status of Diplomate, Fellow or member of virtually all U.S. professional organizations pertaining to his specialty or dental education and has held leadership positions in most. He authored over 70 scientific publications and lectured throughout the world.

Dr. George Kushner, a former student of Dr. Alpert's who now leads the oral and maxillofacial surgery department, says Dr. Alpert was a "great leader, educator, surgeon and friend" whose contributions to the university, to Louisville, to Kentucky, and to the specialty of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery cannot be fully measured. However, Kushner says the personal relationships he made were perhaps the most important legacy. "Brian is extremely proud of his residents ... his surgical progeny. He is affectionately known to his residents as 'The Boss.' All of us have special memories of our time together."



Left:
Dr. Alpert joined ULSD in 1973 and led the oral and maxillofacial surgery program for decades. Below: Former residents from the past two decades have fond memories of ski trips with "The Boss."



Welcome to our new faculty

In the last year, the School of Dentistry has welcomed more than a dozen new faculty members, including many alumni.

Join us in welcoming:

- **Dr. Suzanne Barnes** - Assistant Professor in the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
- **Dr. Jacob Bishop** - Assistant Professor in the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry*
- **Dr. David Brock** - Assistant Professor in the Department of Rehabilitative & Reconstructive Dentistry
- **Dr. Guo-Liang “Ike” Cheng** - Assistant Professor in the Department of Diagnosis & Oral Health
- **Dr. Kristen Eguren** - Assistant Professor in the Department of Rehabilitative & Reconstructive Dentistry**
- **Dr. Sarah Hasewinkel** - Lecturer/Part Time Faculty**
- **Dr. Amirah Jackson** - Assistant Professor in the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry*
- **Dr. Jordan Johnson** - Lecturer/Part Time Faculty*
- **Dr. Sintelle Kent** - Assistant Professor in the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry*
- **Dr. Tiffany McPheeters** - Assistant Professor in the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry
- **Dr. Fata Moradali** - Assistant Professor in the Department of Oral Immunology & Infectious Disease
- **Dr. Pallavi Patil** - Assistant Professor in the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry*
- **Dr. Lisa Ryan** - Associate Professor in the Department of Oral Immunology & Infectious Disease
- **Dr. Mark Schulte** - Lecturer/Part Time Faculty*
- **Dr. Maree Shabeesh** - Assistant Professor in the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry
- **Dr. Miram Shaheen** - Assistant Professor in the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry**
- **Mark Vance** - Assistant Professor in the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry*
- **Dr. Bryan Veal** - Lecturer/Part Time Faculty* **
- **Lydia Winters** - Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry*

*ULSD DMD alumni

**ULSD residency program alumni

Delta Dental of Kentucky expands commitment to ULSD patient care, clinic operations funds

On October 20, 2021, Delta Dental of Kentucky announced a major gift to the University of Louisville School of Dentistry during a live “Raise Some L” event in the UofL Health Sciences Center courtyard. This gift will expand support for patient care funds and clinic operations throughout the Commonwealth. The partnership also includes additional support from ULSD for Delta Dental’s mobile screening unit. Together, ULSD and Delta Dental of Kentucky will make a lasting impact through happy, healthy smiles across Kentucky.



Brian Hart, Chief Revenue Officer for Delta Dental of Kentucky, presents the gift check to ULSD’s Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Dr. Margaret Hill.

Faculty & staff updates



Dukka named Periodontics Graduate Program Director, awarded Nevins Periodontics Fellowship

Dr. Himabindu Dukka, Assistant Professor of Periodontics, has been named program director for the ULSD graduate periodontics program. Dr. Dukka was selected for the role following a national search process. She assumes the role previously held by Dr. Henry Greenwell, who retired in the spring of 2021.

In addition, Dr. Dukka was recently awarded with American Academy of Periodontology Foundation Nevins Fellowship. This Teaching and Clinical Research Fellowship was created to address the retention of top periodontal clinical researchers and educators early in their careers. The award was created by generous donors in honor of Myron Nevins, DDS, a leader in periodontal clinical research. Applicants must be board certified in periodontology.



Potempa honored with “Polish Nobel Prize”

Dr. Jan Potempa, professor in the Department of Oral Immunology & Infectious Diseases, was awarded the Heisig Prize — which some have dubbed the “Polish Nobel Prize” — in recognition of his research on the relationship between bacterial periodontal diseases and autoimmune reactions.



Metz receives education research award

Michael J. Metz, DMD '00, MSD, MS, PhD was awarded the Ruth Greenberg Award for Medical Education Research at this year’s Research!Louisville event. Dr. Metz presented research on Effects of Active Engagement and Spaced Retrieval Practice on Knowledge and Application of a Self-Assessment Rubric. Dr. Metz is an Associate Professor and Chairman of the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry at ULSD.

Scholarship created in memory of **Kavya Balaji**, DMD class of '22

Kavya Priya Balaji, a 4th year dental student from Bowling Green, Kentucky, passed away on June 5, 2021. Thanks to the generous support of donors, including her parents, a scholarship fund has been created in her memory. The scholarship is set up with the goal to become an endowed fund, which will allow it to continue well into the future. To contribute to the scholarship fund, go to <https://give.louisville.edu/BalajiMemorial>. As shown in the photos placed on Kavya's locker after her passing (photo, bottom right), Kavya was much loved by her classmates. Her fellow LASDA members wrote this tribute to her:

Kavya cherished her family and friends, but the most important people in her life were her parents. She adored them and wanted nothing more than to make them proud. Kavya's boyfriend was a very important constant in her life as well. She had many friends and family members in Bowling Green, Louisville, and others scattered across the world.

Kavya was driven, dedicated, and motivated with every goal she set. She loved being involved in the school and community. She was active in many organizations/clubs at the school including LASDA, AO, and the club she created, the Pediatric Dental Club. She spent all her free time volunteering and shadowing at pediatric dental clinics. Her love for children drove her dream to be a pediatric dentist. She had almost finished her residency applications.

Most of all, Kavya was the greatest friend, an extraordinary person — beautiful inside and out. She was known and loved by so many for her kindness, willingness to help, and infectious personality. Kavya's personality was sassy, funny, and sarcastic. She was serious when necessary but joked around most of the time. Nothing written about Kavya will ever do her character justice.

We are all blessed to have known and loved Kavya. Even though she is not physically here, she is with us in spirit. Rest in peace, Kavya.



DMD class of 2025
by the numbers

Applied:
2059

Enrolled:
120

Colleges
represented:
74

Birth nations
represented:
13

Avg age:
23

Meet the Class of '25



Rieser Wells

Hometown: Evansville, Indiana
Undergraduate: Butler University



From the very first interaction with my ULSD class, I knew that I was surrounded by GREAT people. The D1 group is incredible and I jumped right in not only to my studies but activities and opportunities available to the students. I highly suggest to all incoming students, ask the questions, join the team, show up for the events. ULSD has so much to offer.

At Butler University, I was a very involved Bio-Chemistry major focused on sciences required for a successful dental school career. I must admit, however, that my experience as a four year college athlete, captain of my cheerleading squad, truly prepared me for life. Working with thirty different co-eds over four years brought me a new outlook and understanding of people.

I will use all of these skills in my dental career as I follow in the footsteps of both of my parents (**Crunchy Thompson Wells, DMD '95** and **Tony Wells, DMD '96, MS '99**), as well as my aunt and grandfather. Dinner conversation growing up always involved dentistry and the University of Louisville. I am so proud and humbled to be the fifth in my family to attend ULSD and hope that my sister will join us as well. Dental school is very challenging but even in my short time here, I have been rewarded with lifelong friends and a world-class education.



Caroline Reed

Hometown: Lebanon, Kentucky
Undergraduate: Western Kentucky University



I started out college as a broadcasting major, but taking those courses, I realized my heart wasn't there. It was a passion of mine, but not something I wanted to do as a career. I had a strong background in science and math, so I changed my major to biology and I started shadowing different careers.

I love the lifestyle of dentistry. I found that through dentistry I could have a connection with my community ... lead people and love people and help people, like in broadcasting, but in a different way.

During undergrad I shadowed under a ULSD graduate, **Scott Barbee, DMD '03**. He and his wife have a practice in Bowling Green. He took me under his wing and showed me so much more than just dentistry. There was one afternoon when Dr. Barbee and his wife and people from the office took me out to lunch and they allowed me to ask questions about all aspects of dentistry and how to thrive in this profession. That was a huge moment. I learned so much from them about the profession of dentistry and so much more. I really enjoyed being mentored by him and learning how to be a great dentist. And I really looked up to him because he was so intentional in helping me and intentional in how he runs his practice.



Dakota Duff

Hometown: Louisville and Southern Indiana
Undergraduate: Indiana University Southeast

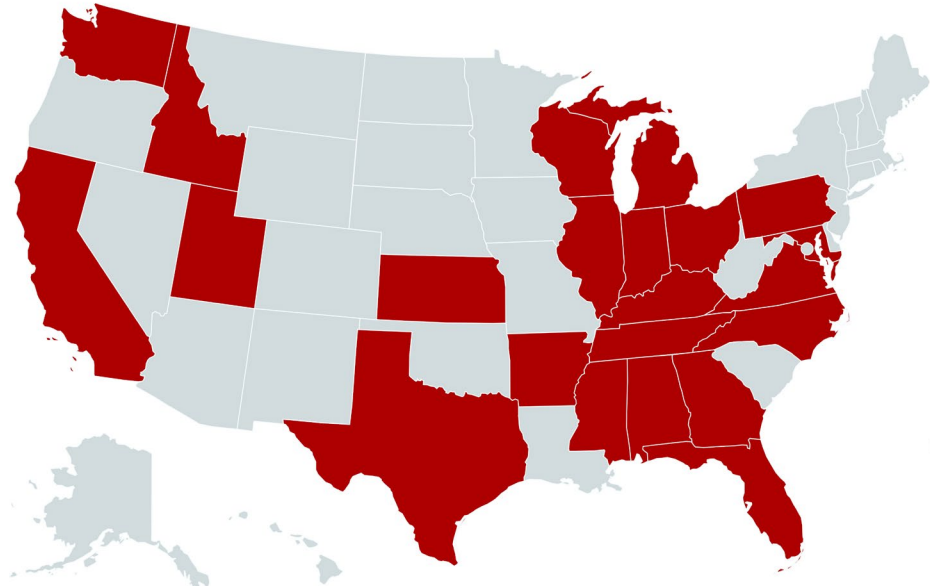
I've always wanted to be a part of something that would make a huge impact on the community and take care of others. I grew up in poverty and grew up in a very rural area. I grew up in a family that would often have to choose between going to the doctor or miss a payment on an essential bill.

I hope to take what experiences I've had before, and am still continuously learning, and will use them as a method of creating a better foundational and trustworthy relationship with my future patients — especially with those who may have a harder time opening up to and building trust with their professional providers.

My true inspiration to really push forward and choose a career in dentistry was when I met my husband. He is an EDDA and he invited me to shadow the doctor he worked with one day. This doctor attended ULSD, and I was very impressed with how he was able to address different patients with a wide range of medical conditions and essentially take their pain away, while also being a caring provider that would address their concerns and needs.

Where they're from:

DMD '25 undergraduate school states



Every dentist I've met that has gone to ULSD, they have been some of the most caring and talented providers that I've ever met, and that also extends to the faculty and individuals that are a part of ULSD.

I am very privileged and blessed to have this opportunity to sit in one of the 120 seats in my class to become a dentist. I thank all the faculty and individuals that took a part in the process of going through the thousands of applications and deciding to give me the chance and opportunity to be a part of this field. I also want to thank all the donors who have and will continue to contribute to ULSD. Your contributions toward the school are seen and as a dental professional student of ULSD, I am honored to be continuously supported so that I can have the best experience possible and thus be able to give my future patients the best care possible.



Payal Patel

Hometown: New Lexington, Ohio
Undergraduate: The Ohio State University

I was attracted to ULSD by their commitment to diversity and inclusion, service, and by the exceptional faculty. During my sophomore year in undergrad, I attended to the Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP) where I became familiar with the school, environment, and faculty. The positive impression that was created by the program and the city of Louisville itself helped me decide that I would want make ULSD my home for the next four years.

Read more from
members of the DMD class of '25 at
louisville.edu/dentistry/d1stories

DMD class of 2025
by the numbers

Avg DAT:
20

Average
overall GPA:
3.56

Average
Biology, Chemistry,
Physics GPA:
3.39

Number from
ULEAD early
admissions
program:
6



Mark Carter

Hometown: Lexington, Kentucky
Undergraduate: UC San Diego



Originally, I wanted to do medical, however I decided medicine was not my calling. When I started volunteering in student-run dental clinics, I gained an appreciation and passion for dentistry. I also love working with my hands and being able to create something out of nothing (or what people may perceive as nothing).

[I chose ULSD because] I wanted to move closer to home. The military took me away from home for a good amount of time. [In the Air Force], I learned leadership, discipline, resiliency, self-accountability, and teamwork. I know what a good and bad leader looks like. I understand the importance of making sure the team feels appreciated and valued. I understand the importance of having a good morale. I understand that you must sacrifice at times. I understand you can't live your life making excuses. I understand that you must put the patient's quality of life as the priority, service before self. Military gave me the structure and backbone. All those character traits and structure will allow me to value everyone around me, patients or staff, and make time for my family.

Being a first-generation college student, and now the first professional student in my family, is a major honor. My goal is to continue to grow and inspire. Being a Black dentist is also an honor, especially coming from my background. I truly feel like if I can make it this far, then anyone can.



Rachel Scaglione

Hometown: Brooksville, Florida
Undergraduate: University of Central Florida



After graduating UCF with a degree in biology, I decided to prepare for the DAT and complete nursing school to gain more experience in the healthcare field and differentiate myself as a dental school applicant. Nursing has given me a unique perspective to approach dental school. My time in hospitals, nursing homes, and mental health facilities opened my eyes to whole patient care. I learned how to interact with patients and their family members. I also learned to become an educator for patients of various health literacy levels.

I have also had many diverse and meaningful volunteer experiences. The Orlando chapter of Hearts for the Homeless organized weekly events where members would travel to downtown Orlando and host free blood pressure screenings in conjunction with a weekly food bank event. I learned that many members of this population had undiagnosed hypertension and the main reason was their fear or confusion of the healthcare system or a lack of knowledge of the resources available. This volunteer experience was particularly important to me understanding the link of cardiac and oral health.

I cannot begin to express the amount of friendliness and support that I feel being at ULSD. I'd like to thank the alumni, faculty, and donors of ULSD for their current and continuing support as I continue my dental education endeavor.

Sneak peek:

Former dental school building at Brook and Broadway begins to **reemerge** with a new purpose

After purchasing the former School of Dentistry building in 2020, a local development group has started the process of converting Raymond E. Myers Hall into a residential building containing 44 apartments. This fall, project leader Jeff Underhill from Underhill Associates gave us a preview of the renovations. Although the building will be modernized from top to bottom, several bits of history — such as the original entrance lobby and the giant wood columns — are being restored and preserved as a nod to the past.

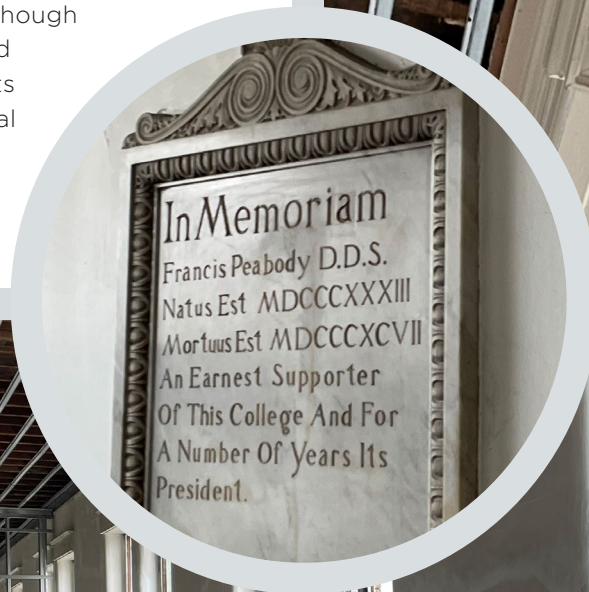


Photo gallery:

Fall at ULSD



August 20:

Alumni and friends join with ULSD faculty, staff, and students for a reception at the KDA Kentucky Meeting in Louisville.

August 21: Students and faculty take a break in front of the Delta Dental of Kentucky mobile screening vehicle during a screening event. ULSD joined with Delta Dental of Kentucky to participate in a back-to-school health fair at the new Louisville Urban League Sports & Learning Complex in West Louisville.



August 28:

DMD, dental hygiene and Advanced Standing Students are honored at White Coat Ceremonies at the Louisville Palace.

Photo gallery:

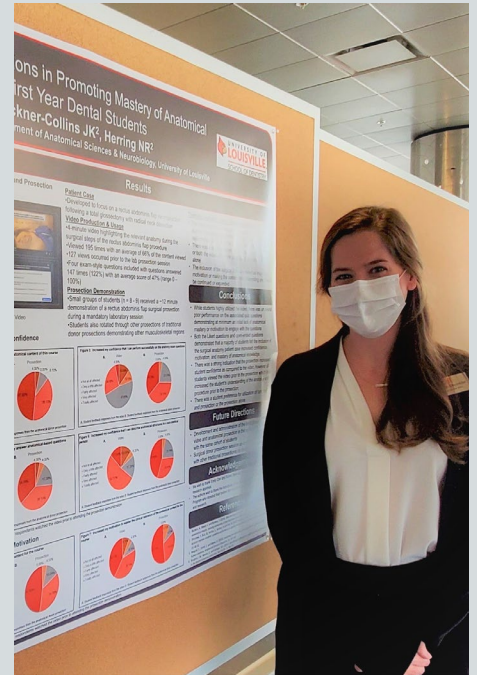
Fall at ULSD

September

2: Faculty and students representing the ULSD Hispanic Student Dental Association chapter attend a screening event.

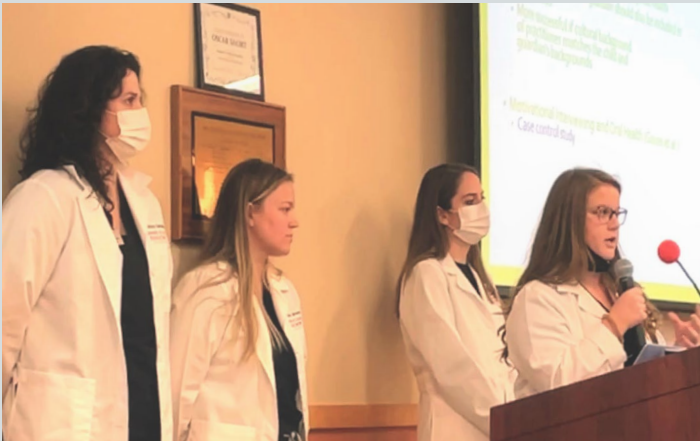


October 25: Madison Chumbler, DMD class of 2023, presents her research poster at Research!Louisville. Chumbler received 1st place in the Dentistry Clinical Research category.



September

9: DMD students present their research findings to fellow students and faculty during Grand Rounds.



Your support makes a difference!

We need your support now more than ever. State budget cuts and COVID-19 have had a major impact on the School of Dentistry over the past years and months. Our ability to maintain the highest standards in academic and clinical training, and to stay competitive with the best institutions in the world, depends on the support of our graduates and friends. Your gift will help us bridge that gap.

ULSD alumni **events** at a glance

December

10

38th Annual William J. Mansfield Jr.
Alumni Day

Virtual • 9:00 a.m. • [More details](#)

January

February

12

Dental Hygiene Legacy Symposium
(postponed from September)

School of Dentistry • 8 a.m. • [More details](#)

15

ULSD Alumni Council Meeting

School of Dentistry and Virtual • 6-7 p.m. • [Email for details](#)

March

18

ULSD Reception at The Hinman Meeting

Ruths' Chris, Downtown Atlanta • 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Continuing education

In conjunction with the Association for Continuing Dental Education (ACDE), of which ULSD CE is a member, we continue to host a wide variety of dentistry CE courses. These presentations feature expert faculty across 30+ schools of dentistry in the U.S. and Canada. Be sure to bookmark the [ULSD CE website](#) for the most up-to-date information on course offerings.