This year more than ever, your support makes an impact

To our supporters, alumni, and friends:

When the University of Louisville introduced its CARDINAL Principles a couple of years ago, I was thrilled to see how well they aligned with the characteristics that have made our School of Dentistry successful for more than 100 years — things like “C” for compassion, “I” for integrity, and “N” for noble purpose.

Now, as we come to the end of 2021, I think another one of those principles has come to the forefront not just for our school, but for everyone in the world: “A” for agility.

To be agile is to move quickly and easily. An agile organization doesn’t just respond to change. It embraces change and sees the opportunity that comes with it.

I am incredibly proud of the agility everyone in our ULSD family has shown in the past 20 months. Our students, faculty, and staff have risen to the challenge of navigating a global pandemic while also pushing forward with our strategic plan.

I am also proud of our extended family of supporters, alumni, and friends. Quite frankly, we could not have done it without you.

Because of you, we have made great strides in the past year to:

• Invest in facilities, faculty, and resources that put ULSD among the top 50 dental schools worldwide
• Provide high-quality dental education for students, including more students from diverse backgrounds
• Improve equity and access to oral health care throughout the state

Your financial support has always been important to us, but it has been more important than ever in recent years. In addition to COVID-19, which cut into patient care revenue significantly, we have needed to adjust to state budget cutbacks affecting our operations.

The purpose of this report is to thank you for your contributions and to show you how they make an impact. While we couldn’t spotlight all of the donors and funds that help the School of Dentistry achieve its mission, I hope the stories help you see how every dollar counts — and every dollar makes an impact.

With gratitude,

T. Gerard Bradley, BDS, MS, Dr.Med.Dent.
Professor and Dean
2020-2021 Giving at a Glance

$1.4M total donations
187 total donors

- 38% school and program operations (in-kind donations)
- 32% school and program operations (monetary donations)
- 10% academic scholarships
- 10% compassionate care for patients
- 10% student and resident support
- 9% other funds
- 38% facility improvement and capital investments, including the new student success and wellness center and upcoming orthodontic clinic renovations

2020-2021 Outreach at a Glance

From Paducah in the west to Beverly in the east, and at many points in between, ULSD students, faculty and staff are meeting the needs of underserved locations and populations. In spite of the COVID-19 pandemic, students clocked hundreds of hours of community service during the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

- 30 students created oral health videos for future use within JCPS schools
- 386 DMD and dental hygiene students participated in community service
- 605 hours of community service were provided by students
Why your support of Compassionate Care Funds makes an impact

The Compassionate Care Fund helps people like Frank. Frank provides round-the-clock care for his son, who became quadriplegic following a swimming accident. Frank also has his own health difficulties including a recent cancer diagnosis. The Compassionate Care Fund provided the support he needed.

Frank came to the dental school in need of comprehensive dental treatment including a deep cleaning and removable partial denture. “I am so grateful for the financial help – otherwise I wouldn’t be able to receive this dental treatment,” he said.

Financial barriers can limit access to care for many people in our community. Often, employed or retired individuals are ineligible for assistance in paying for dental treatment.

The Compassionate Care Fund provides financial assistance to patients in need using a sliding fee scale.

The goal of the fund is two-fold in that it helps provide preventive and comprehensive oral health care for patients in need, resulting in disease prevention along with improved health and quality of life.

Dental students also benefit in fulfilling clinical education requirements as they enrich their professional growth.

“I am so grateful for the financial help – otherwise I wouldn’t be able to receive this dental treatment.”

- Frank
Why your support of Scholarship Funds makes an impact

This scholarship has taken off quite a financial burden, and it has given me such peace of mind, which I desperately need in this final year.

- Taylor Walker-Smith

I was always interested in the sciences, building relationships with others, giving back, and becoming a lifelong learner. All of those things I found in dentistry, which led me to applying to dental school! Once I started shadowing my hometown dentist (a ULS Grad!!), I could really see the compassion and empathy shining through. I wanted to be able to give to a community in the same way!

Thanks to this scholarship, I will be able to graduate with less student loan debt. Student loan debt has always weighed heavy on me. This scholarship has taken off quite a financial burden, and it has given me such peace of mind, which I desperately need in this final year. With this scholarship, I’ll have a little more financial freedom to accomplish my goal of getting involved with public health. Maybe even a master's degree!

Thank you so much for supporting me through this last year of dental school. I am forever grateful!

Taylor Walker-Smith
DMD Class of 2022
Recipient of the Dr. Edward P. Smith & Mary Klein Smith Grant
I knew I wanted to somehow be in the medical field, and after my freshman year at UK a dentist from my hometown offered me a summer job position as a “hygiene assistant” flipping rooms and suctioning during procedures. That summer I learned so much about dentistry, oral hygiene, patients, and healthcare; I really fell in love with this field and the idea of treating my own patients and helping them improve their smiles. I worked at that office with ULSD alumna Dr. Ansley Depp (DMD ’93) every summer throughout college, and every year I fell more in love with my future career and all that dentistry has to offer. I couldn’t be happier to be pursuing my dreams and to be at ULSD!

Dental school and the associated costs add up quickly, so every scholarship I have received has helped ease my anxiety about loans and helped to lighten my financial burden. Whether it was helping me buy my loupes, or going towards rent and groceries, the past 2 years have been a little less stressful knowing that someone cares enough to help me on this journey financially. These scholarships also show me that my hard work and late nights studying are paying off, and they encourage me to keep pushing until graduation!

Thank you so much for helping me on my journey to becoming a dentist and supporting my dreams. I am so blessed to have these scholarships and the opportunity to keep studying and treating patients without as much of a financial burden. You have truly impacted my life and my dental career and I am extremely grateful for you! Thank you!

Kirsten Peterson
DMD Class of 2023
Recipient of the Richard Siebel Memorial Scholarship and Dr. William J. Mansfield Scholarship
Why your support of Scholarship Funds makes an impact

I've always wanted to do something in the science field. Ever since I was a child I was fascinated by nature and the world around us. With my grandmother, grandfather, mother, and father all being in the profession, I felt drawn to the dental field for as long as I can remember.

This scholarship money is helping me buy outside class books such as Boards practice books and materials, as I prepare to take my board exam at the end of this year! This will help me prepare not only for the exam but for my lifelong career.

Thank you for selecting me. It truly made me so happy and grateful to be chosen. You are helping me fulfill my dream.

Nicole Newkirk  
Dental Hygiene Class of 2022  
Recipient of the Dental Hygiene Legacy Scholarship

I have always loved going to the dentist and in elementary school when it was time to pick out what I wanted to be when I grew up, a dentist was my first choice. Since elementary school, my love for the dental field has only grown. With my biology degree and my love for other people, dental hygiene will be a great fit.

By receiving this scholarship, the debt from my student loans will have decreased. This is personally a large stress reliever. One day I would love to be debt free, but for now I am thankful for the opportunity to attend this amazing school.

Thank you so much for helping me attend my dream school so that I can learn to do my dream job!

Jessica Burgess  
Dental Hygiene Class of 2023  
Recipient of the Dental Hygiene Legacy Scholarship

I am thankful for the opportunity to attend this amazing school.  
- Jessie Burgess
Why your support of the Dean’s Fund makes an impact

The Dean’s Fund is used to support the greatest, most pressing needs for the UofL School of Dentistry. Funds donated to this account can be put to use immediately to support high-priority initiatives that are not funded by other sources. This flexibility has been incredibly important in supporting the school’s strategic priorities and, most recently, in navigating the pandemic.

According to Gerry Bradley, dean of ULSD, “during COVID-19, Dean’s Fund donations were used to get patient care services back up and running quickly and – most importantly – safely.” Bradley says the existing emergency dental clinic was completely overhauled from a small student-driven clinic to a large faculty-driven clinic with multiple providers and specialists.

As a result, ULSD was able to provide urgent dental care to area residents when COVID-19 made it difficult, or even impossible, to obtain this care in other settings. “It is likely that without the clinic, many of these patients would have ended up in local hospital emergency departments for care, further stressing an already stressed health care system,” Bradley says.

In all, the clinic provided care to 535 patients from March 13 to April 30, 2020.

Many of the safety measures implemented during that time, using money from the Dean’s Fund, continue to allow for safe treatment of patients and education of students today. These measures include aerosol pods, air filtration systems, and air purification systems.

These funds also support strategic initiatives. For example, when ULSD started the Red Bird Clinic in Beverly, Kentucky, Dean’s Fund donations were used to support students as they went there to provide direct care to patients in rural Eastern Kentucky.
Thank you to our Donors

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Dean’s Circle honors alumni and friends whose annual giving helps further the mission and vision of the school

Those who make annual gifts of $1,000 or more automatically gain entrance into the Dean’s Circle recognition society. Members of this group receive exclusive access to School of Dentistry updates and events, as well as a special thank-you recognition: the Dean’s Circle coin. One side of the coin features the Dean’s Circle emblem and the other side features artwork created by a student (such as the 2020 artwork by D4 student DaNea’ Graves shown at right). ULSD hopes this coin will find a special place in your home or office as a representation of your pride in the school and a reminder of the values we esteem as an institution.
Thank you to our Donors

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Throughout the year, our students and patients write thank you notes to the donors who help make their education and oral health care possible. Here’s just a small sample of what they’ve said this year.

Dear Donors,

Thank you very much for your contribution to the ULSD compassionate care fund. Your gracious donations have helped fund a complete denture and a removable partial denture for one of my patients in need. Your thoughtful contributions don’t go unnoticed. Go Cards!

Thank You,

Tyler Coney
Class 2021

Without your help I wouldn’t have been able to afford the necessary dental work in this point in my life. Your help doesn’t just help me chew; it helps me breathe and sleep soundly. I couldn’t have done this without you.

Dear Donor,

Thank you so much for your generous donation. Because of your donation, my patient will be able to have a beautiful smile again. It has brought so much joy to my patient. Thank you again for your kindness. We appreciate you so much!

Thank you,

Julie

Thank you for helping me get my smile back.
The University of Louisville is an equal opportunity institution.