

ALUMNI ANCHOR

2024 | 2025



Dr. Frank Lovely (DDS'59)

A lifetime of achievement

+ An ambitious campaign focused on students, research, and community

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President Kim Brooks tours the GAP Clinic

2024 grad creates scholarships



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New Glasgow, NS

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Masthead

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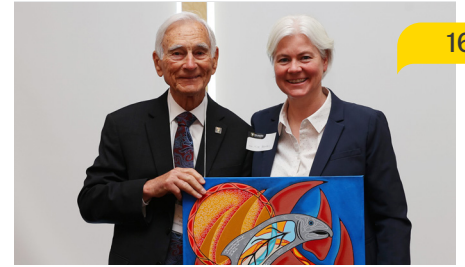


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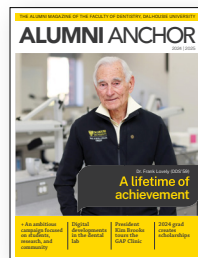
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On our cover: Dr. Frank Lovely (DDS'59) is this year's recipient of the Dalhousie Golden Eagle Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his many achievements for our Faculty of Dentistry and Dalhousie University.

Cover photo: Nick Pearce

Did you receive more than one Alumni Anchor magazine at your home or office? If you would prefer not to, please contact us at alumni.dentistry@dal.ca. It will help us all to be more environmentally friendly.

ALUMNI ANCHOR



Dean's message

We are often asked whether we get our summers "off". A firm "no" is the answer to that question! In fact, summer is often the busiest time of the year. Once our student clinics end in July, we hurry to complete projects, attend conferences, carry out research, and plan lectures before our first-year students arrive at the end of August.

The start of summer was particularly busy as we welcomed nearly 350 colleagues from around the globe for the inaugural Canadian Oral Health Summit. The federal Minister of Health, Mark Holland, announced the launch of the National Oral Health Research Strategy, the result of an ambitious project co-chaired by our own Dr. Leigha Rock and Dr. Paul Allison of McGill. The WHO asked all member states to develop such strategies and this one is only the second of its kind worldwide.

Earlier in the year, we collaborated with author and filmmaker Anna Quon, current Poet Laureate of Halifax, to hold two private screenings of her short documentary, *Me and My Teeth*, which movingly chronicles Quon's

relationship with her teeth and her thoughts on how the health system often fails those who need it most. The February screening was held in the Faculty of Dentistry as an internal event with a Q&A with Anna. A second screening in April featured a panel discussion with EJ Davis, director of supported housing with the North End Community Health Centre (NECHC), Francine Leach, dental hygienist and manager of the NECHC dental clinic, Karn Nichols, executive director of the Canadian Mental Health Association Nova Scotia Division, and Anna. A wide audience from the community attended and there was a lively discussion afterwards.

Last year's **DentDays** was popular and well attended as class groups gathered and we celebrated four OAA recipients. We're looking forward to doing it all again on October 25-26. This year we've added celebrations for our 25th anniversary alumni, so try to connect with your classmates and plan to be here. There will be CE and – by special request from our alumni – a Live@5 in the Cavity, hosted by our Faculty of Dentistry Student Society.

You will see from our cover that Dr. Frank



PHOTO BRUCE BOTTOMLEY

Lovely is this year's recipient of the Dalhousie University Golden Eagle Award for Lifetime Achievement. We are holding a party in the Dentistry Building on October 24, when we hope many of you will be arriving for **DentDays**. Please join us if you can to celebrate Frank's many achievements.

In this issue we feature recent grads and alumni, President Brooks's visit to our GAP Oral Health Clinic, more details about our campaign, together with good news about just a few of the many people and achievements we are proud of this year.

Ben Davis – Dean, Faculty of Dentistry

Dentistry Alumni Committee Update 2024/25

This spring the Dentistry Alumni Committee executive agreed to an additional two-year term. The only change is that Lindsay Van Dam (DDH'15) is our new secretary. We thank Kristen Flinn for her work in this role. We also thank outgoing student representatives Mohammed Alabdoulsalam (DDS'24) and Katie Morgan (DDH'24) for their service on the committee and congratulate them on their graduations.

Following the success of **DentDays 2023**, we'll be back in force this year with even more classes getting together and more activities planned. Please join us! Here is the line-up:

Friday, October 25: Reunion groups are invited to come to campus for a clinic tour, to receive their reunion pins, and other class activities. Special 50th anniversary luncheons will be held for the classes of 1973 and other classes will join us for tours, reunion pins, and class photos. At the request of nostalgic reunion classes, the Faculty of Dentistry Student Society is hosting a Live@5 in the Cavity. Come meet our current students!

Saturday, October 26: CE Day for the oral health community will take place at the Dentistry Building. For the first time, special 25th anniversary luncheons will be held for the classes of 1999.

Outstanding Alumni Awards will be presented to Dr. Linda Blakey (DDS'89) from Mount Pearl, NL, and Krysti Campbell (DDH'13), from Nassau, The Bahamas. This presentation is open to all alumni and friends. Please consider submitting nominations for the 2025 awards, which will include two exciting new awards: *Early Career Alumni* and *Friend of Dal Dentistry*. More details will follow in the autumn.

The weekend wraps up with a private Dal Dentistry kitchen party in the Grawood pub, featuring live Maritime music by the **Harbour City Band**. They were a big hit last year and we look forward to singing and dancing the night away. Alumni, friends, and students are invited. Please note this is a 19+ event.

If you are able, please join us on October 24 as we celebrate Dr. Frank Lovely, this

year's recipient of the Dalhousie University Golden Eagle Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Lovely has touched many lives and this is an opportunity to celebrate his numerous contributions to Dalhousie and the Faculty of Dentistry.

The 20th annual Dr. JD McLean Lecture will take place on September 24 and we invite alumni to join us. This year's speaker is Jeremie Saunders, an award-winning actor, producer and host of the hit podcast **Sickboy**. Born and raised in Halifax, Jeremie lives with cystic fibrosis and is a strong voice for rethinking how we view illness and disease. Former dean Dr. James D. McLean believed that it is important for health-care professionals to hear from leaders in fields outside dentistry.

The DAC continues to forge relationships with students and alumni and keep our community connected. If you would like to get involved with our committee, please email alumni.dentistry@dal.ca for more information.

Fall 2024 CPE Program

Valley CEDay 2024 SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

ACADIA UNIVERSITY, WOLFVILLE NS
8:30 AM TO 3:30 PM | 6 CE CREDITS
IN-PERSON
VISIT CPE WEBSITE FOR PROGRAM DETAILS

JOIN US FOR AN ALUMNI RECEPTION

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2024
5:30 PM TO 7:30 PM

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CEDay 2024 SATURDAY OCTOBER 26, 2024

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY, HALIFAX, NS
8:30 AM TO 3:30 PM | 6 CE
IN-PERSON
VISIT CPE WEBSITE FOR PROGRAM DETAILS

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR DENTDAYS 2024 ACTIVITIES ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2024 AT THE SUB

OAA Presentations
5:30PM- 7:00PM

Kitchen Party
7:00 PM TO MIDNIGHT

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOU JOINING US!

Part of
DentDays
2024

NL CEDay 2024 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2024

ST. JOHN'S NF
1:00 PM TO 4:00 PM | 3 CE
IN-PERSON
VISIT CPE WEBSITE FOR PROGRAM DETAILS

JOIN US FOR AN ALUMNI RECEPTION

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2024
5:30 PM TO 7:30 PM

Gahan House Harbourview
135 HARBOUR DR. | ST. JOHN'S NL

WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECONNECTING WITH YOU!

In-person CE Courses

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2024
8:30 AM TO 3:30 PM | 6 CE CREDITS
Endo-excellence: Navigating the root canal journey - from diagnosis to precision treatment

DNTL-DENT0192

Presenters: *Dr. Bettina Basrani & Dr. Isabel Mello*

WATCH FOR MORE IN-PERSON COURSES ADDED ON OUR WEBSITE.

Certification Courses

SEPTEMBER 23, 2024 | ONLINE SELF-PACED
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 TO SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2024 | 29 CE CREDITS
Local anesthesia for the dental hygienist (Online asynchronous, lecture and hands-on)

DNTL-DENT0006-005

Presenters: *Drs. James Brady & Jean-Charles Doucet*

MID-OCTOBER | ASYNCRHONOUS
2 CE CREDITS

I - Infection Prevention Spotlight: Innovations And Best Practices I

DNTL-DENT0189

Presenters: *Lisa Crotty and Tanya Aquino*

ACDE Webinar Series

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FRIDAY OCTOBER 11, 2024

12:00 PM TO 1:00 PM | 1 CE CREDITS

Lingualized occlusion for complete dentures

DNTL-DENT0185-054

Presenter: *Dr. Tanya Cook*



Visit dal.ca/dentistry/cde for a full listing.

MID-NOVEMBER | ASYNCRHONOUS
8 CE CREDITS

II - Canadian Standards And Best Practices For Medical Device Reprocessing In A Medical Device Reprocessing Area (Mdra)

DNTL-DENT0189

Presenters: *Lisa Crotty and Tanya Aquino*

WATCH FOR DATES OF THE NEXT CBCT CERTIFICATION COURSE SCHEDULED FOR THIS FALL.



SCAN HERE FOR A FULL LIST OF AVAILABLE COURSES

TO REGISTER: dal.ca/dentistry/cde

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UPCOMING EVENTS

UTAH RECRUITMENT/ALUMNI RECEPTION
October 1-2, 2024

VALLEY ALUMNI RECEPTION & CE (SEPT 21)
September 20, 2024
Kentville, NS

DR. JD MCLEAN LECTURE – 20TH ANNIVERSARY
September 24, 2024
Halifax, NS

MALAYSIA ALUMNI RECEPTION
October 5, 2024
Mandarin Oriental -Aqua Restaurant
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

DR. FRANK LOVELY CELEBRATION
October 24, 2024
Halifax, NS

DENTDAYS 2024
October 25-26, 2024
Halifax, NS

ST. JOHN'S ALUMNI RECEPTION & CE
November 22, 2024
St. John's, NL

PACIFIC DENTAL CONFERENCE ALUMNI SOCIAL
March 6, 2025
Vancouver, BC

ONTARIO DENTAL ASSOCIATION ASM ALUMNI SOCIAL
May 8, 2025
Toronto, ON

A taste for history

The Dental Archives Working Committee is working hard to preserve the history of our Faculty with the help of Courtney Bayne, university records manager, digital asset technician Phil Laughler, Bronwen Barter (DDS'3), and some community college students. Kate MacDonald and Glenda Butt (DDH'69), former directors of the School of Dental Hygiene, carried out early identification of photos and the working committee gathers regularly to put names to people in the many photos collected. If you are interested in spending quality time with this group, please contact alumni.dentistry@dal.ca. There are many laughs shared and cookies!



l-r: Dr. Bob Loney, Marilyn Klein, David Mercer, Dr. Doug Chaytor (DDS'62), Dr. Elliott Sutow, Dr. Chris Hawkins (DDS'68.) Missing: Dr. Frank Lovely (DDS'59) and Dr. Carl Canning (DDS'79)



Dr. Kathy Russell to receive prestigious humanitarian award

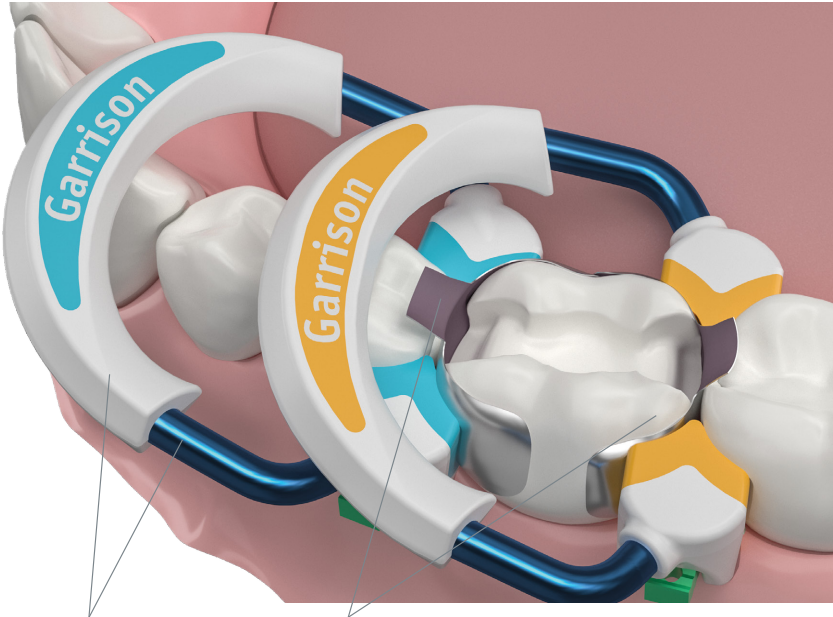
Dr. Kathy Russell (DDS'90) has been named the 2025 recipient of the American Association of Orthodontists Humanitarian Award. The award recognizes significant contributions to improve the quality of human life that extend beyond the usual scope of private practice, academic functions, or organized dentistry. Dr. Russell will receive her award in April 2025 at the Annual Session of the AAO in Philadelphia.

Dr. Russell has dedicated her career as a full professor at Dalhousie's Faculty of Dentistry to the support of patients with craniofacial anomalies, including cleft lip and palate. Her work involves patient care, international multidisciplinary research, liaison between patients/families and patient support organizations, including the American Cleft Palate Association, AboutFace, and the NS MSI Cleft Palate Program, and outreach work with Operation Smile. She is currently the chair and orthodontist for the IWK Cleft Palate Team.

PHOTO BRUCE BOTTOMLEY

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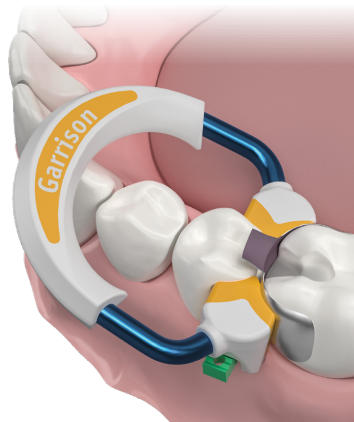
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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Dr. Sachin Seth helps Cheetahs for Change

Dr. Sachin Seth, associate dean of students, volunteered some of his time this past winter helping students at Charles P. Allen High School as part of Cheetahs for Change. Together they created a series of workshops covering several topics, including mental health and gender, invisible disabilities, privilege, period poverty, body neutrality and positivity, and community engagement. The students presented these workshops at several junior high schools. Cheetahs for Change is a student-led club at CPA aimed at advancing equity and bringing awareness to social justice issues.

2024 Dr. D. S. Precious Gold Medal in Dentistry: Jillian Bishop

Jillian Bishop (DDS'24) was on holiday in Scotland when she received the call from Dean Ben Davis to let her know that she was the winner of the 2024 Dr. D. S. Precious Gold Medal in Dentistry.

The award “means everything to me,” says Jillian, explaining that during dental school she focused on the clinical aspects of dentistry “rather than scoring 100% on a test”.

Back in high school, Jillian was always interested in science-based classes and considered both medicine and dentistry as potential next steps. Several things about dentistry appealed to her, however, and she applied to be part of a co-op program at school. It enabled her to shadow dentists at her family dental practice in Quispamsis, NB – Bailey Buckley Family Dentistry – which she loved. After the shadowing period was over, Jillian was offered a job for the summer and every summer after that. “They’ve been amazing mentors for me,” says Jillian.

Jillian says the favourite part of shadowing was seeing how all the staff members in the practice enjoyed seeing their patients every six months and developed personal connections with them. “When you build relationships



PHOTO BRUCE BOTTOMLEY

and trust, it really goes a long way to making patients comfortable,” she says.

After studying biology at Mount Allison University, Jillian was accepted into the DDS program in 2020. During dental school, she seized many opportunities to be involved in a range of activities, including the Let’s Talk Science and Happy Teeth education programs. She was also involved in a lot of fundraising activities with her class.

Jillian says she loved her small group practice group, supervised by Dr. Clare Champoux, and the public health elective, taught by Dr. Ferne

Kraglund. “It’s a really rewarding feeling to be the one to tell a patient that we’re going to look after your oral health for you and get you back to a state of health,” she says.

Jillian is now settling into the NB practice where she spent so many summers. She is grateful to everyone who believed in her over the years. Special thanks, however, go to Drs. Champoux and Kraglund and everyone at Bailey Buckley Family Dentistry. “They are some of my biggest role models and I hope I can be like them some day in practice.”

North Preston Parade Days

The North Preston Days parade took place on July 20 with the Faculty of Dentistry well represented by Dr. Tracy Doyle and her daughter Rebecca, paediatric GPR resident Dr. Zoe Rolle, dental assistant Kim Marchand, North Preston Dental Clinic coordinator Juliette Thomas, and some of the community children. Periodontist Dr. Matthew Morris gamely dressed up as the tooth mascot on what was a hot summer day!



You and a guest are invited to join us as we celebrate

Dr. Frank Lovely

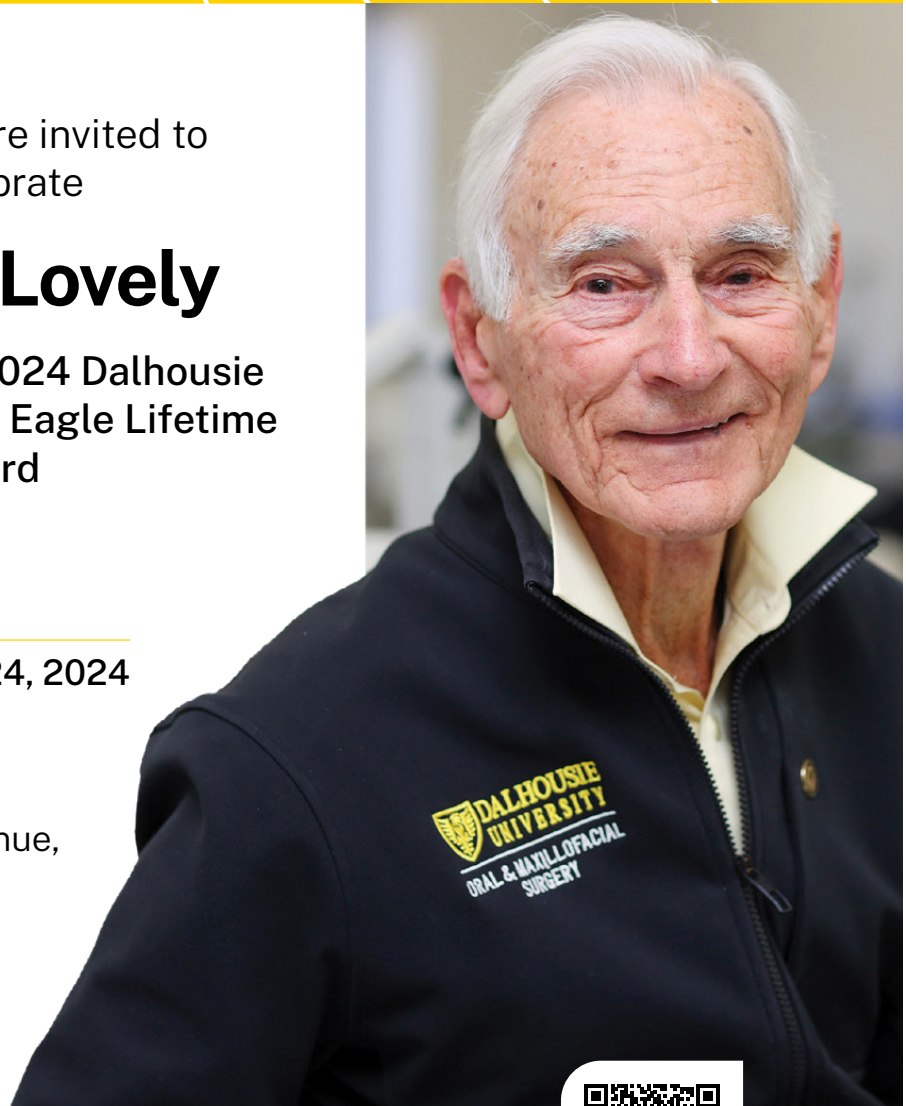
Recipient of the 2024 Dalhousie University Golden Eagle Lifetime Achievement Award

Thursday, October 24, 2024

Dalhousie Dentistry
Building, Level 1

5981 University Avenue,
Halifax, NS

5:30 – 7:00 pm



DrLovely.eventbrite.ca



l-r: Linda Blakey and Krysti Campbell

Meet the 2024 OAA recipients

This year's deserving Outstanding Alumni Award recipients are Dr. Linda Blakey (DDS'89) and Krysti Campbell (DDH'13), who have both demonstrated great leadership, a willingness to put their hands up to volunteer, and an impressive commitment to their patients and their profession.

LINDA BLAKEY

Virtually as soon as she graduated and returned to the St. John's/ Mount Pearl area of Newfoundland to practise, Linda Blakey became involved in organized dentistry, both provincially and nationally.

She has been involved with both the Newfoundland and Labrador Dental Association (including as president in 2011-12) and the Newfoundland and Labrador Dental Board. Blakey was on the NLDA committee that created the Gathering Place, an outreach clinic in St. John's that offers free dental care to patients in need. In addition to being actively involved in running the clinic with other dentists, she also volunteers there regularly, and encourages others to volunteer.

In 2013, Blakey became involved with the Canadian Dental Association (CDA) and served on numerous committees and the board of governors. She currently chairs the Newfoundland Dental Licensing Board. Blakey has mentored and guided many young female dentists in the early stages of their careers, encouraging them to participate in organized dentistry. She also volunteers with the St. John's Seastars Synchronized Swim Club.

KRYSTI CAMPBELL

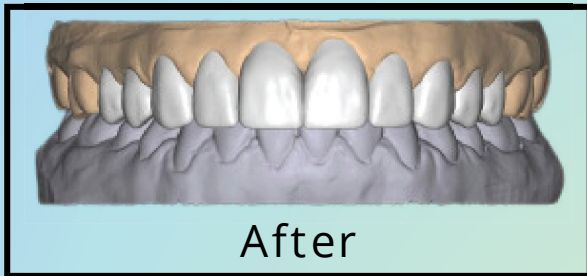
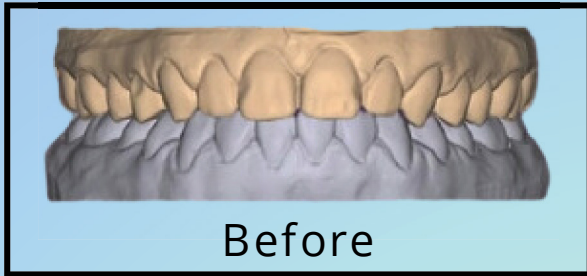
Krysti Campbell (DDH'13) returned home to The Bahamas after graduation and immediately began to make an impact on the lives of her patients and her profession.

In addition to her clinical practice, Campbell devotes many hours to advancing oral health through her volunteer activities. In collaboration with The Bahamas Dental Council and The Bahamas Dental Association, she has dedicated her time to providing dental screenings and cleanings to the Emergency Children's Hostel, displaced victims of Hurricane Matthew, breast cancer survivors, and patients who don't have regular access to care. She also participates in dental screening initiatives for World Oral Health Day.

In 2018, Campbell submitted eight recommendations to The Bahamas Dental Act, six of which were accepted. These recommendations have expanded the scope of practice for dental hygienists, demonstrating Campbell's commitment to her profession.

In 2022, Campbell received her Master of Public Health degree and obtained her Certified Health Education Specialist qualification. Recently she was selected as a recipient of The Bahamas 40 Under 40 Most Influential and Successful Young Professionals Award 2024 for her contributions to dental hygiene and oral health education.

Congratulations to Linda Blakey and Krysti Campbell, our 2024 OAA winners! The awards will be presented at a ceremony during **DentDays** on October 26. Please plan to be there.



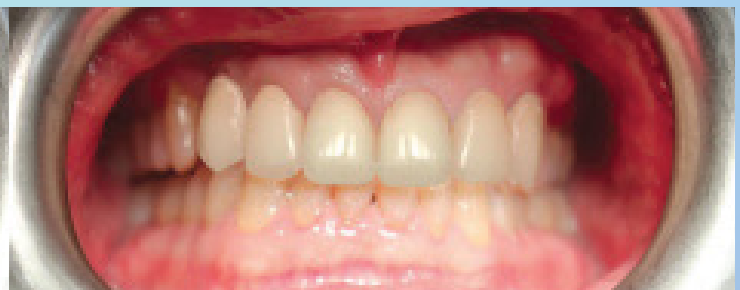
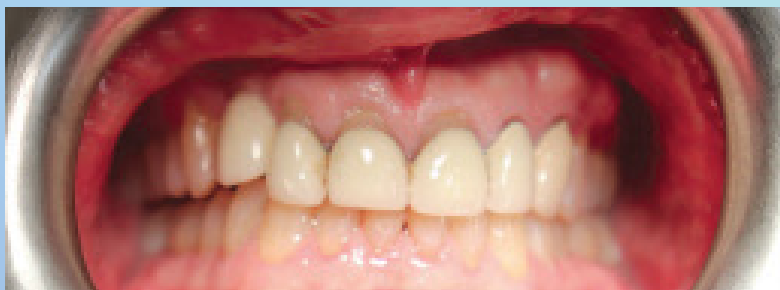
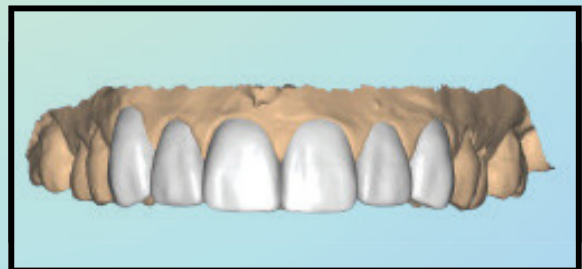
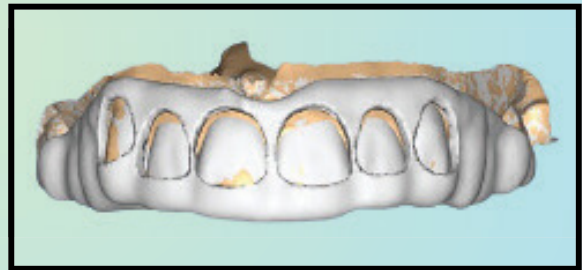
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2024 Impact Award winner: Mohammed Alabdoulsalam



PHOTO NICK PEARCE

Mohammed – Mo – Alabdoulsalam (DDS'24) is this year's recipient of the Faculty of Dentistry Impact Award for academic achievement, leadership, and his commitment to fellow students, the Faculty of Dentistry, and volunteering.

Mo came to Dalhousie from Winnipeg in 2017. He graduated with his BSc (with distinction) and as a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society in 2020. He began his DDS degree later the same year.

Mo served as co-president of the DDS Class of 2024 and received prizes for academic achievement, clinical research, community involvement, and the promotion of equity and diversity. In his third year, he won first prize at the annual Research in Oral Health Student Showcase, earning him a place at the national competition in Calgary, where he took second place.

Mo served on the Dentistry Alumni Committee and volunteered as a language interpreter in the Faculty's Government Assisted Populations Clinic.

At Dal, Mo has volunteered with the Because Everyone's Ability Matters (BEAM), Let's Talk Science, and HOPES programs. He and classmate Jillian Bishop used their Let's Talk Science experience to create the Happy Teeth Oral Health Initiative, which they presented in schools.

Mo's classmates call him "selfless" and say that he loves learning and sharing his knowledge – including his lecture notes.

During his studies he has somehow found the time to pursue an MEd degree through the University of Athabasca and his pilot's licence, which he received in March.

Mo says that he doesn't seek out awards but is happy when they come his way. "They don't change what I do," which is to help people, he says.

Mo is currently completing a one-year OMFS internship at the University of Arizona College of Medicine/Banner Health in Phoenix.

Federal minister talks to students about oral health

Federal minister of health, Mark Holland, was on campus in June to deliver the keynote address at the 2024 Canadian Oral Health Summit. During his visit, he met with seven oral health students to talk about why they decided to pursue oral health as a career and what they plan to do when they graduate.

Tarik Abdulkarim (DDH'25), Serge Hache (DDS'25), Alex MacIntyre (DDS'25), Sam Macwan (DDS'25), Carys Menard (DDH'25), David Okunola (DDH'25), and Allison True (DDS'25) come from a variety of hometowns and backgrounds – the Maritimes, Ontario, BC, Syria, Nigeria, and India. What they all have in common – which Minister Holland was excited to hear – is that they want to practise in small communities after graduation.

"Thank you for choosing this career," he said. "It will make a difference in the communities you serve where you will not only be a health care provider, but you can use the skills you have to be an advocate, a leader, and someone who can effect change."



PHOTO BRUCE BOTTOMELY

l-r: Carys Menard, David Okunola, Sam Macwan, Allison True, Serge Hache, Alex MacIntyre, Tarik Abdulkarim, Mark Holland

Paediatric dentistry faculty members honoured with awards

Two members of the IWK/Faculty of Dentistry paediatric dentistry team were the deserving recipients of awards earlier this year.

In February, Special Olympics NS presented Dr. Tracy Doyle (DDS'04) with a Golisano Health Leadership Award in recognition of the significant contribution she has made to the health of athletes through the Special Smiles program over several years. The presentation took place at the Inspired Gala in Halifax.

The Golisano awards recognize health champions who make significant contributions to equal access to health, fitness, or wellness for people with intellectual disabilities. It is the highest Special Olympics honour for health partners.

"Tracy's strong devotion and passion to the Special Olympics has inspired innumerable dentists and dental students to follow in her path and volunteer with this very important organization," says Dr. Jennifer MacLellan.

At the Faculty of Dentistry graduation dinner in June, Dr. Doyle was also awarded the W.W. Wood Award for Excellence in Dental Teaching.



Dr. Heather Carr and Dr. Jennifer MacLellan

PHOTO: ARTHUR MOLA PHOTOGRAPHY



Dr. Tracy Doyle

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

In April, Dr. Jennifer MacLellan (DDS'94) was presented with the CDA Distinguished Service Award at the CDA Annual General Meeting in Toronto. This award is given to recognize outstanding contributions to the dental profession, the dental community, or the oral health of Canadians at large in a specific year or outstanding service over several years. It may also recognize outstanding contributions at the academic, corporate, specialty society, council, commission, or committee level.

Fellow Nova Scotian dentist CDA president Dr. Heather Carr presented the award to Dr. MacLellan.

Let's stay connected

Stay in the know with the Alumni Anchor and The Current! Tell us whether you want to receive a paper copy in the mail, a digital copy in your inbox, or both.

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Give us a call at **1-902-494-2824**



DAL.CA/DENTISTRY

Reunited!

We were delighted to welcome several reunion classes back to campus for our first ever DentDays in October 2023 – particularly after post-tropical storm Fiona wreaked havoc with our Homecoming 2022 celebrations.

DentDays is our new, reinvented homecoming event and the 2023 event was so successful we are following a similar format for 2024: reunion lunches – including for our 25th year reunion classes (new this year) – tours, CE, OAA presentations, and a Maritime kitchen party with live music. Contact Kathy at alumni.dentistry@dal.ca to find out how we can help you arrange a reunion for your class.

DentDays 2023



DDS'73

l-r Don Fraser, Eric Easton, Bill Milton, Peter Manson, Russell Deveau, Tom Disney, Harold Boudreau, Toby Gushue, Leo Paul Richard, Dennis Peach and Lex MacNeil

PHOTO BRUCE BOTTOMLEY



DDH'73

l-r: Susan Penwell, Sue Lindsay, Holly Smith, and Dorothy Coleman

PHOTO BRUCE BOTTOMLEY

↓ We were delighted to welcome back the DDS'14 class for a reunion on May 4.



DDS'18

Front row l-r: Krissy Singh, Kash Kohli, Codey Pilgrim, Matthew Quinlan
Standing: Steven Walker, Taylor Shupe, Melissa Jeans, Matthew Davidson, Sean Eckstein

PHOTO BRUCE BOTTOMLEY



DDS'14

1st row, l-r: Corey MacGregor, Renee Mulrooney, Lauren Davis, Robin Wintermute, Tricia O'Brien, Kate Broderson, and Anne Lobban
2nd row: Emily Therien, Kelly Saxby, Emily Porskamp, Erin Pegg, Thayne Bezanson, and Audrie Knox Crouanas
3rd row: Jared Zeggil, Daniel Foster, Cory Murray, Aaron Law, and Kaylene Sheppard
Top row: Ben Lamarche, Ashfaq Jiwani, Marcos Kleming, and Kenneth Nowlan

PHOTO BRUCE BOTTOMLEY

2023 OAA recipients

The presentation of the 2023 OAAs proved to be a popular time to mix and mingle and celebrate our recipients.



l-r: Denise Zwicker, chair of the DAC, Wendy Stewart (DDH '01–2022 recipient), Toby Gushue (DDS'73), Lex MacNeil (DDS'73), Palmer Nelson (DDH'89), Dean Ben Davis.

Vancouver, BC – March 7-9

We are always delighted by the turnout for our alumni reception at PDC.



l-r: Dean Ben Davis, Harry Ames (DDS'85), Elizabeth Ames, Joanne Green (DDS'93), and Scott Green (DDS'93).



l-r: Dean Ben Davis, Kathryn O'Donnell (DDS'22), Ahmed Ismail (DDS'12), Robin Wintermute (DDS'14), Gurjot Bedi (DDS'15), and Furey Higgins (DDS'96).

Halifax – April 5

DDH alumni had an opportunity to get together and mingle at a reception held as part of Research in Oral Health.

Victoria Huestis (DDH'18, BDH'19), Jennifer Berkvens (DDH'18, BHD'19), Michelle Allaby (DDH'04), Andrea Hare (DDH'04), Heather Doucette (DDH'94), and Denise Zwicker (DDH'04, BDH'12).



2024 DentDays

OCTOBER 25-26

Friday October 25 2024	
Reunion Day	All day
50 th Reunion Luncheon	11:30am - 1:30pm Dentistry Building
Live@5	4:00pm - 7:00pm Dentistry Building, The Cavity
Saturday October 26 2024	
CE Day	8:00am - 3:00pm Dentistry Building
25 th Reunion Luncheon	11:30am - 1:30pm Dentistry Building
Alumni Award Presentations	5:30pm - 7:00pm SUB, Room 307
Kitchen Party	7:00pm - 12:00midnight SUB, The Grawood

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF DENTISTRY

A lifetime of achievement

Dr. Frank Lovely receives the 2024 Dalhousie Golden Eagle Lifetime Achievement Award

By Cheryl Bell

Dr. Frank Lovely (DDS'59) surveys the wall of the oral and maxillofacial clinic in the basement of Halifax's Victoria General Hospital. It contains photos of every resident – over 50 in all – who completed their oral and maxillofacial surgery training at Dalhousie University. This wall, he says, represents “everything” for him. “It’s the beginning of our department, it’s our progress over the years, and it’s where we currently are.” And it all began with him.

THE MAKING OF A DENTIST

Dr. Lovely's simple upbringing reveals few clues to the life that was to follow. He grew up as an only child in East Florenceville, N.B. In many respects, it was an idyllic childhood. Summers were spent on his grandparents' farms, and he enjoyed skating and other outdoor activities with his mother. But his early years were also marked by the Second World War. His mother worked in a potato processing plant and his father served in the army in England for nearly six years, returning home when his son was 10. “It was the first time I knew a male presence in the house,” Dr. Lovely says.

By the time he was 12, summers were spent working in the local Co-Op, which he did until he finished high school. His academic success led to a Sharp Scholarship, which covered the cost of his two years at Mount Allison University in Sackville, N.B. Those two years – including summer courses – gave him the 15 pre-med



PHOTO CODY TURNER

credits required to get into dentistry school.

So, why dentistry? In short: an inspiring role model. “Dr. Don Somerville was our family dentist,” explains Dr. Lovely. “He and his wife attended our church, he was in the Shriners, and he was a real community guy. He had a real influence on me.”

Dr. Lovely arrived at Dalhousie University's Faculty of Dentistry when he was 20 years old. Tuition for the dentistry program was expensive even in 1955 and he admits he “ran out of cash” at the end of first year. His solution was to join the army on the three-year Regular Officer Training Program (ROTP), which covered tuition and provided a small monthly stipend. Summers were spent at CFB Borden where Dr. Lovely completed basic training and even carried out minor surgeries in the summer after third year. The experience “gave me a jump start on fourth year,” he says.

THE PATH TO ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

When he graduated in 1959 – now married to his wife Harriet, a nursing instructor – Dr. Lovely began three years of military service at CFB Stadacona in Halifax. His time at the base proved to be a pivotal moment in his career.

Dr. Lovely explains that weekends were usually busy on the base. The young seamen who lived in the barracks were paid in cash on Friday and then went out on the town in their cars. “It was in the days before seatbelts and collapsible steering wheels,” he says, and sometimes there were scuffles outside the bars. The result was a lot of jaw fractures and other oral and facial injuries. Dr. Lovely spent a good portion of his time wiring jaws and making other repairs to teeth and faces.

In 1960, during his second year at Stadacona, the military sent Dr. Lovely to London, England, to spend four months at the Royal College of Surgeons learning from three different oral and maxillofacial surgeons. The experience would, he says, “whet my appetite for oral surgery.” It also left him with the words of Sir Terrance Ward, one of the surgeons, who said that “oral surgery would never grow in Canada until it started to educate its own people.”

THE FACULTY OF DENTISTRY'S FIRST GRADUATE PROGRAM

Dr. Lovely was preparing to leave the military when he received a call from the dean of the Faculty of Dentistry at Dalhousie, Dr. J. D. McLean, asking to meet with him. “It was a

timely call,” says Dr. Lovely, “and it changed my career and life forever.”

The result was a job offer, not only to teach, but to establish the Faculty of Dentistry’s first graduate program, an MSc in oral and maxillofacial surgery. It was an offer with strings attached, however: he had to get a master’s degree in oral surgery and commit to the Faculty of Dentistry for six years. He said yes, and after a year of teaching at Dalhousie, Dr. Lovely, his wife and two sons (Doug, DDS’88, and Greg, DDS’85) left for the University of Michigan in 1963. His program involved stints in clinic and surgery, lectures, and call duties. Harriet wasn’t allowed to work in the U.S., so she volunteered, and a daughter, Kim, was added to the Lovely family.

The return to Halifax in 1966 quickly plunged Dr. Lovely into a whirlwind of teaching, creating the new degree program, gaining Senate approval, and supervising the building and equipping of the OMFS clinic in the newly built Centennial wing of the Victoria General Hospital.

The task was huge, but Dr. Lovely says his time in Michigan gave him the knowledge he needed to plan the 18 credit hours required for the new OMFS degree. He lined up lecturers in other departments, including anesthesia and pharmacology, and assumed responsibility for teaching anatomy and surgical anatomy himself.

In 1969, the newly minted Masters in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery program accepted its first resident, Dr. David Precious, who would go on to become department head and dean of the Faculty of Dentistry. (Both Drs. Lovely and Precious are listed among Dal’s Notable Alumni.) Over 50 years later, the program continues to accept one resident each year.

A CAREER AND A LEGACY

Looking back over his career, which encompasses leading roles in both professional OMFS bodies and at Dalhousie, Dr. Lovely says he is most proud of the “structure we set up in surgery and the philosophy we developed that has continued to this day.” He also mentions the “rewards of clinical care” and illustrates what he means with a story.

One day at Centennial rink, the facility manager asked Dr. Lovely if he recognized a young man who was also working at the rink. The manager explained that when the young man – his son – was nine, he was hit by a

truck while riding his bicycle and dragged. The injuries were terrible. An orthopaedic surgeon and Dr. Lovely together spent over 12 hours operating, with Dr. Lovely repairing around 10 facial fractures. Over 20 years later, the only sign of the accident was one small scar hidden in an eyebrow. “They both told me how grateful they were for spending all that time and being so meticulous,” he recalls. “It’s these things people tell you afterwards and the lives changed that really matter.”

Dr. Lovely says he received the best advice of his career during the hectic time of setting up the OMFS program from Dr. Arthur Murphy, a friend and colleague in the Faculty of Medicine. “Don’t leave,” he said to me. “Take your time, be patient, and don’t rush. It will happen.”

Happen it did. The photos on the wall in the basement of the Centennial wing at the VG Hospital are a testament to both Dr. Lovely’s career and his pioneering achievement at Dalhousie University. ⚡



PHOTO CODY TURNER

Dr. Frank Lovely (DDS’59), professor emeritus, head of the Faculty of Dentistry’s OMFS department, 1966-1986, and creator of the Faculty of Dentistry’s MSc in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery,



PHOTO NICK PEARCE

Dalhousie president, Dr. Kim Brooks, presents Dr. Frank Lovely with his Dalhousie Golden Eagle Lifetime Achievement which recognizes remarkable and longstanding connection and commitment to the advancement of academic excellence at Dalhousie University. Painting by Loretta Gould.



Bringing WORLDS Together

Healthy smiles mean healthy communities.

Enriching education and empowering students to be leaders in their communities, removing barriers to oral health care for vulnerable populations, improving health outcomes through groundbreaking research — there are many ways that the Dalhousie Faculty of Dentistry is working to create a brighter future.

Our goals are ambitious, but achieving them is within our reach, with your help.

Together we can prepare our students to be highly skilled and compassionate professionals. We can foster an atmosphere where research thrives. We can serve our regional and local communities and promote health, wellness, diversity and continuous learning.

Discover how:

dal.ca/worlds-together

On the campaign trail

By Cheryl Bell

The Faculty of Dentistry is in campaign mode. Our mission: to raise nearly \$20 million of Dalhousie University's overall \$750 million goal for the Bringing Worlds Together campaign.

\$20 million is an ambitious goal, but we have ambitious plans for the future of oral health care education in our region. Donor support for this campaign will enhance opportunities for students to flourish as highly competent, culturally aware, and collaborative health professionals. It will enable our researchers to deliver health outcomes that have an impact in Canada and around the world. It will encourage more diversity within our professions and expand outreach initiatives, so we can have an even greater impact on our communities.

Here's a snapshot of what philanthropy will make possible.

INSPIRING FUTURE-READY LEADERS

Current students are future community leaders. Increased support for scholarships and bursaries will fuel student success and alleviate the growing financial burden associated with becoming an oral health practitioner. As the cost of living rises alongside tuition costs, many students are facing hundreds of thousands of dollars of debt in the pursuit of their education. Campaign funding will help students in financial need by creating bursaries and wrap-around supports for students from equity-deserving groups.

This campaign will enable the expansion of pre-clinical spaces in which students and alumni practise and upgrade their skills, enabling class sizes to grow.

Campaign funding will also enable us to invest in more fast-changing digital dentistry technologies, recruit and mentor students from equity-deserving populations, provide more opportunities for our students to collaborate with other health professions, and support student research.

ENGAGING IN HIGH-IMPACT RESEARCH

Faculty and student research improves health incomes in our communities.

Biomaterials are revolutionizing the way we treat diseases, and our team is a global leader in this field. Support for our campaign will fund a chair in translational research, biomaterials research projects, and create a lab space where researchers, students, clinicians, and partners can work together on next-generation technologies.

Funding will also be used to enhance our oral cancer research facilities and introduce a new graduate student training and awards program. In addition, we will expand our oral health research for priority populations, including Indigenous and African Nova Scotian populations, people with special needs, and the frail elderly to improve evidence-based care.

LIFTING OUR COMMUNITIES

The Faculty of Dentistry's many outreach programs provide excellent dental care to thousands of patients each year, including many who would not otherwise have access to these services.

Campaign support will make it possible to expand our community outreach and partnerships, strengthen their sustainability, and create opportunities to provide oral health care to more patients in need.

We will increase funding in community engagement and outreach, which will help to attract leaders in the field and increase the number of patients who face barriers to care. Enhanced services, such as accessible equipment and a patient navigator, will help our patients and communities.

Thanks to generous donor funding, we created two surgical suites that are equipped to deliver care under deep sedation or general anesthesia to up to 250 patients a year.



Dr. Olu Brown (DDH'09, BDH'11, DDS'23) is just one of the many future-ready leaders who have been inspired in our Faculty of Dentistry.

PHOTO BRUCE BOTTOMLEY

Facilities such as these are essential for treating adults with severe disabilities and special needs, and for paediatric patients. Campaign funding will allow us to hire dedicated staff, such as a nurse, patient navigator, and dental assistant, for this vital program.

Funding will provide the resources to renovate the entrance and lobby of the Dentistry Building to improve comfort, safety, and accessibility for all patients.

HEALTHY SMILES AND BRIGHTER FUTURES

Our goals are ambitious, but with your help they are within our reach. To find out more, please contact us:

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ANNIE JACOB

Courage and hard decisions

by Jane Doucet

As a little girl in Kerala, India, Annie Jacob (DDH'24) received a toy dentistry kit as a gift. Although she didn't enjoy going to the dentist ("scary, bright lights, big chair"), she did have fun using the kit to check her parents' teeth. It planted the seed for her to consider dentistry as a profession. When she was ready to explore post-secondary options, however, she faced a dilemma: after getting accepted into a dentistry program in India, cousins in Saskatchewan encouraged her to come to Canada.

"I had always wanted to study abroad, and I was also interested in pharmacy," says Jacob. In 2016, she moved to Barrie, ON, to begin the two-year pharmacy technician program at Georgian College. "I was only 17, but I was excited because I love an adventure," she says. Her plan? To study in Canada, then return to India to work, and to pursue dentistry or dental hygiene there in the future.

Like many best-laid plans, Jacob's had unexpected twists and turns – and one heart-wrenching personal decision – but a happy outcome.

A TIME OF OPTIONS

While working at a Lawtons pharmacy in Kentville, N.S., from 2018 to 2020, Jacob began taking pharmacy prerequisite courses at Acadia University. After becoming a permanent resident in 2020, she met with a Dal student advisor for pharmacy, and one for dental hygiene. In January 2021, she returned to India to marry Midhun, whom she had met in Barrie but was also from India.

The next month, Jacob discovered she was pregnant. "I wasn't brave enough to continue studying while I was pregnant," says. "I decided to apply to the dental hygiene program, and if I got in, I'd go for it. Deep in my heart, I knew I wanted to work in dentistry."

In May 2021, the couple moved to Halifax, where Midhun opened a South Asian grocery

store and Jacob resumed prerequisite courses at Dal. Baby Jeremy was born in October. In December, Jacob took Jeremy to India to meet his extended family. At the end of April, she applied to the DDH program, and was accepted while she was in India. Two days later, she got an email saying she had been moved to the waiting list. A week after that, another email confirmed she had a secure spot.

"It was an emotional roller coaster!" says Jacob. "Was I happy or sad? I had a six-month-old baby. It was so stressful." With Midhun's support, Jacob started the program at the end of August, but they didn't have childcare. Her parents moved in with the young family. After two weeks, her dad returned to India, with her mother staying for a few months. Then Midhun's mother took over. Finally, in May 2023, Jeremy had a daycare spot.

THE TOUGHEST DECISION

"It was a hard first semester, and hard after our parents left," says Jacob. "Jeremy was getting sick, I was getting sick, and I couldn't see patients with a runny nose. But I was determined to do the program." Jacob's mother returned to help with Jeremy three days a week, with two days at daycare to keep his spot. Then, Jacob's maternal grandmother got sick.

Jacob had two semesters left, and a tough decision to make. "I wanted my mum to be with her mother, so we decided that she would go and take Jeremy with her." Jacob flew to India with her mother and son, dropped them

off, then flew back to Halifax. She missed only three days of classes. "All of my professors were so supportive," she says. "I cried the whole flight home and for a month after. When we Facetimed Jeremy, he wouldn't talk to me for a few days. The mom guilt was terrible."

Luckily, Jeremy adjusted quickly and told everyone that his mommy was studying and that he would be going home when she had finished school. Now when they Facetimed, he asked to see her classroom and her friends. He was away from November 2023 to April 2024.

"When he came home, it felt like nothing had changed," says Jacob. "When I was sad and missing him, I thought, this time with him is a gift for my family – that's how I consoled myself. He met my cousins, who had children his age, and learned our language and our culture. He has good memories of his time there."

Jacob has good memories of the program, too, especially her community-outreach work in long-term-care homes. "I could really feel the need there, for the residents to have someone to hear them beyond oral health care," she says. "They would want to tell their stories, and I enjoyed listening."

In July, Jacob started working as a dental hygienist at a family practice in Bedford. First, there was a very special convocation ceremony, with Jeremy crossing the stage with her. "It's not just me graduating – it's also my husband, our mums and Jeremy," she says. "I've been dreaming about this moment." ♡



PHOTO BRUCE BOTTOMLEY

AUTUMN PENNEY

Providing dental hygiene care on the wing

by Jane Doucet

When you grow up in a small community, you tend to get to know everyone fairly quickly. That was the case for Autumn Penney (DDH'24), who was raised in Churchill Falls, Labrador, which has a population of around 700. As a child and teen, regular dental cleanings were an important part of her life. There was only one dental hygienist there – someone who would play a pivotal role when Penney was considering career options.

“Memorial University in St. John’s was just as far away from home as Dal, and Dal really interested me,” says Penney. “I knew I wanted to work in health care, so I took first-year medical sciences courses at Dal as a starting point. When I started looking more closely at Dal’s website, I stumbled across dental hygiene. It wasn’t a career I had ever thought about, and I applied on a whim.”

Back at home for the summer, Penney’s hygienist suggested that when her dad went for his cleaning, Penney should come to sit and watch her working. “After I shadowed her and thought about it, I realized the people aspect really appealed to me,” she says. “I’m a very outgoing person, and I love to hear people’s stories.”

AN INTENSE PROGRAM WITH A SUPPORTIVE GROUP

Although Penney was excited to start the program, she was also intimidated because she had only done one year of undergraduate studies. “I found the first year of the program overwhelming, and much harder than I expected,” she says. There was an upside, however. Growing up, her class sizes had been 12 students throughout her schooling. As an undergrad, she’d had hundreds of classmates in her courses.



PHOTO BRUCE BOTTOMLEY

“In dental hygiene, I had 29 classmates, and it was so much easier to get support and guidance from both our instructors and each other than in my first year at Dal,” says Penney. “Some of my dental hygiene classmates will be in my life forever.”

Penney’s favourite part of the program was the second-year clinics, in particular community outreach at Harbour View Elementary School in Dartmouth. “I started babysitting when I was 12, so I had fun teaching the kids,” she says. “I also enjoyed the hands-on aspect of the clinics, which made me feel prepared to start my career in dental hygiene.”

Less fun was injecting a local anaesthetic for the first time. “I’d never had any dental work or a needle in my mouth, so my first experience was from a classmate,” says Penney. “I was nervous at first, but I didn’t faint!” She also found microbiology challenging, because she didn’t have much experience in advanced science, but with hard work, determination and focus, she got through it.

A RETURN TO LABRADOR – WITH A TWIST

When Penney applied to the program, her plan was always to move home to work. “I want to give back to Labrador, where there is such a lack of resources for basic health care,” she says. “I also love the lifestyle and being outdoors. Everyone is connected to nature there.” Penney enjoys fishing, kayaking, hiking

and snowmobiling at her family’s camp.

In June, Penney started a six-month contract with the Nunatsiavut Government, where she is assisting Dr. Erin Power (DDS’11) of Rigolet Dental Clinic, providing oral care to isolated Inuit communities in coastal Labrador. She worked as a dental assistant until she officially became a registered dental hygienist in July. “This role really intrigued me,” she says, “because I’m from Labrador but I’ve never been to the coast – I just know it’s cold in the winter and the flies are unbearable in the summer!”

Power and Penney will fly into the communities, where they’ll stay in an apartment for a few weeks while they’re working. On her weeks off, Penney will live at home with her parents and younger brother. “It’s the perfect opportunity, and the right time for me to do something like this that involves travel, while I’m still so young and I don’t have a family of my own,” she says.

When Penney applied to the dental hygiene program, she had no idea she would kickstart her career in the profession in such a non-traditional way. What would she advise those thinking about applying and the opportunities that await them? “Just go for it! It can be overwhelming, and sometimes I wanted to quit, but I knew that this was what I wanted to do. This profession is so rewarding. I love it, and I’m passionate about it now.” ✨

HAIDER HUSSAIN

An adventure in periodontics

by Cheryl Bell

Haider Hussain's (MPerio'24) first experience of Canada was from the window of a quarantine hotel. It was May 2021, and he had arrived from the UK to take up his place on the master of periodontics program at Dalhousie University. "I like an adventure," he says.

ON THE MOVE

Hussain's adventures began long before he reached Canada. He and his family moved from Saddam Hussain's Iraq to the UK when Hussain was in his early teens.

The family settled in Leeds, West Yorkshire, which offered Hussain's parents – both engineers – work opportunities in a multicultural city.

Many of Hussain's family members are doctors and dentists, so when he was deciding what to study at university, health care was a clear choice. At school, he was able to get a few weeks' work experience in a couple of dental practices. He gained similar experience in a GP's medical practice but didn't find it as engaging.

"With dentistry," Hussain explains, "you're doing lots of things with your hands and being artistic. You're managing patients and staff. And there's also a giving back aspect to it."

In the UK, students can study dentistry straight out of high school. And so in 2006, Hussain began his five-year dentistry training at the University of Manchester, followed by a compulsory foundation year, which is a salaried position during which new dentists work under supervision.

Only a certain number of practices offer foundation year placements and Hussain's was in a high needs area near Sheffield. He treated patients needing multiple restorations, extractions, and full mouth rehabilitation and gained an appreciation for "delivering dental care centred on disease prevention".

After foundation year, Hussain needed a job. Like other junior dentists in the UK, he worked for the National Health Service. He gained more experience and built up his

speed, but in many ways the work wasn't satisfying enough.

"I understood the need to be fast, but I also wanted to give patients a good experience and for them to want to come back," Hussain says. "I knew then that I wanted go into private dentistry."

THE ROAD TO PERIODONTICS

He registered for a 15-day restorative certificate course at the Manchester Dental Education Centre, which he took over the course of a year while continuing to work. It was, he says, a "crash course on all the specialities".

The course opened the door to periodontics. Hussain was intrigued and attracted to both the aesthetic and surgical aspects of the speciality, and procedures such as crown lengthening and gum and bone grafts. He explored part-time programs that would give him skills and knowledge in more advanced periodontal treatment. A three-year masters in clinical periodontology at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston was the result.

Although combining his practice commitments with his studies and travelling back and forth to Preston was hard, Hussain says the program ignited his passion for periodontics. "There were lots of non-surgical treatments," he says, "and I was also able to do some surgeries, including guided tissue regeneration around implants, plus practising on pig jaws, and a dissertation in third year."

Hussain's first masters was an introduction to the speciality, but it didn't make him a specialist. That was why he came to Dalhousie to do a second one. He explored options in the UK and other countries, but Dr. Matthew Morris (MPerio'23), whom he met during his first masters and who was already in the Dal program, encouraged him to come to Halifax.



PHOTO BRUCE BOTTOMLEY

READY FOR DAL

The interview for the Dal residency took place over Zoom because of COVID restrictions, denying Hussain an opportunity to visit campus. "I was really impressed by the questions and by how chilled and relaxed the interviewers were," says Hussain. He was also given information about the program and the types of procedures he would be doing, including gum grafts using multiple techniques.

He says it was a "lightbulb moment" when he recognized the scope for soft tissue grafting and the "artistic side of perio" a North American program would offer him.

He was not disappointed. "Dal offers a true speciality training program," he says. "You're not only being tested on your skills, you're also being tested on the way you look for and gain that knowledge. I think this is what sets us apart from other programs."

He was ready for a program like this, he says. "I wanted to be a specialist. I wanted an adventure. And if that meant a new culture, a new place, new ideas, and working in a new country, I thought it would be stupid not to take that perfect opportunity."

For Hussain, the adventure is not over. After his board exam, he will be volunteering with Crisis Management Association at a refugee camp on Lesbos, a Greek island, where around 6000 refugees from Syria, Yemen, and Somalia wait for their paperwork to be processed.

"It's something I've always wanted to do," he explains. "I've done some volunteering and I like the idea of giving back and meeting like-minded people."

After some time at home in the UK, Hussain plans to return to Nova Scotia.♣

MARIAM EL-AGHIL

From refugee to patient advocate

by Cheryl Bell

Mariam El-Aghil (BSc'18, DDS'24) says there wasn't a single defining moment that convinced her to become a dentist. But growing up during the civil war in Yemen played a big part. Her experiences in her home country inspired her not only to become a health care professional, but also opened her eyes to the struggles of underserved populations. As a practising dentist, she aims to help these populations with their oral health.

A NEW LIFE IN CANADA

El-Aghil left Yemen in 2013. She was 16, had completed high school, and arrived in Halifax to join her two older brothers and go to university. Her parents and sister remained in Yemen.

It was a new country, a new culture, and a new education system. But it offered a safer future than the country she had left behind, where bombs and bullets disrupted both her school and home life. She says she would often study wearing a headlamp when there was no electricity.

El-Aghil landed in Canada as an immigrant, but by the time her sister arrived in 2016, the situation was worse in Yemen and there was no going back. They both successfully applied for refugee status and became Canadian citizens. Their parents arrived in Canada in 2021 after moving between Jordan, Egypt, and Turkey.

THE MAKING OF A DENTIST

El-Aghil's first step to becoming a dentist was to take Dalhousie's honours program in microbiology and immunology. She worked as a teaching assistant and tutor and discovered a love of teaching. "I definitely hope it will be part of my future," she says.

Before El-Aghil arrived in Canada, she already had ambitions to help relieve the hardships of underserved populations. "In high school, I co-founded a nonprofit organization in Yemen to distribute basic

life necessities to around 250 people in the first year, and 500 people in the second year, after the war started," she says. During her undergrad years, she volunteered as a coordinator for the annual Terry Fox Run.

In dental school, El-Aghil's focus shifted to the the Government Assisted Populations (GAP) outreach clinic where she worked as a language interpreter, eventually becoming the volunteer coordinator. This clinic provides oral health care to new immigrants and refugees at no charge to the patient. She was also vice-president of her class and a member of the EDIA committee.

"Canada opened up its arms to me when I came here," says El-Aghil, explaining her drive to give back to the community. "I wanted to pursue health care so that I could help underserved populations and enable them to have better oral health care."

A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY

During her fourth year of dental school, El-Aghil's interest in outreach took an interesting turn. The Faculty of Dentistry invited applications from students who were interested in attending the Student Diversity and Leadership Program at the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) conference in New Orleans in March 2024. The theme was emergency preparedness and underrepresented populations. El-Aghil was the successful applicant.

For two full days, she and other students from the U.S. and Canada discussed different types of emergencies and how to prepare for them. They also worked on group projects. What El-Aghil found particularly interesting were the types of emergency preparedness training students from other places received at their dental schools, such as how to deal with mass shootings.

A major take-away for El-Aghil was the concept of providing mobile dentistry in the



PHOTO BRUCE BOTTOMLEY

event of an emergency, using a bus equipped with dental equipment, for example. "I thought this idea could be useful as part of outreach as well as during emergencies," she says.

WHAT NEXT?

To boost her capacity to provide more complex treatment and outreach, El-Aghil successfully applied to do a general practice residency (GPR) in the Faculty of Dentistry, which began in June. The plan to do the GPR grew out of the dental public health elective El-Aghil took during her final DDS year.

By doing this course, she says she saw more complicated cases, including patients with more comorbidities and mental health issues. "I felt I needed additional training in handling patient emergencies to be equipped to manage the needs of the populations I want to care for," she explains.

El-Aghil plans to continue to act as the volunteer co-ordinator in the GAP clinic while she does her GPR. After that, it's a blank map, but she hopes to stay in Atlantic Canada and possibly find a position in rural Newfoundland.

Looking back on her decisions and educational path so far, El-Aghil says she considered studying medicine instead of dentistry. But she chose dentistry, she says, because oral health care is not a priority in Yemen. Visits to the dentist usually only take place when there is a problem, such as a toothache.

"I wanted to do something that wasn't common back in my home country in the hope that I can help people who are coming to Canada," she says. "I want to help them develop better oral health care and provide more advocacy for them. That was why I chose dentistry in the end. It was an easy decision." 🇨🇦



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2025 National Oral Health Convention

Attendee Registration
Opens February 2025



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**

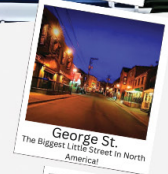
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Dr. Liran Levin
Perio-implantitis



Dr. Daniel Pompa
Medical Emergency



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The Biggest Little Street in North
America!



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The future is digital

By Cheryl Bell

Tucked into a quiet corner of the third floor of the Dentistry Building sits the only in-house full-service dental laboratory to be found in a Canadian university. In operation for over 40 years, the lab creates the bulk of crowns, bridges, dentures, bite planes, orthodontic appliances, and other devices that are used in the Faculty of Dentistry clinics.

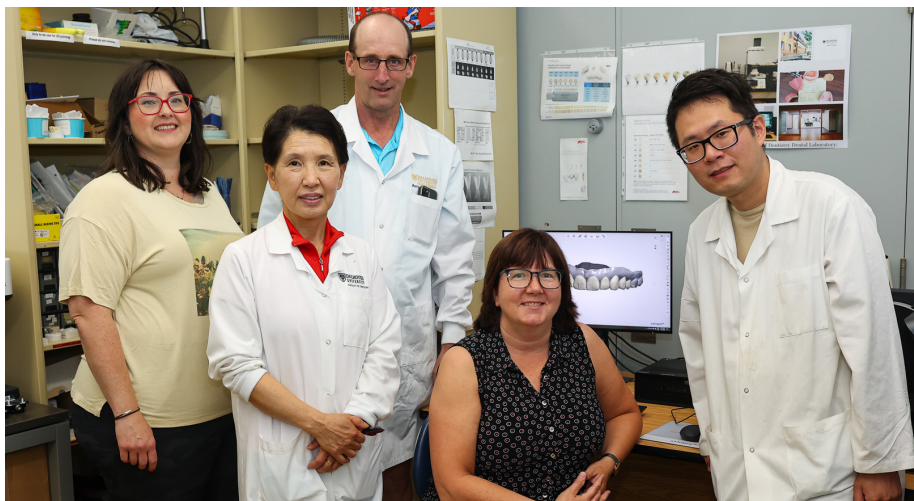
Over the past 10 years, digital technology has transformed the way the lab works – and is continuing to do so. A new 3Shape digital scanner system, which arrived in May, is a “remarkable advancement on our current digital capabilities,” says team lead Brenda Landry.

Two older model scanners, a Nobel Biocare Kavo LS3 and a Dentsply Sirona InEos X5, continue to do a lot of heavy lifting for the Faculty, helping to produce the crowns, bridges, and other items the students need.

Mark Rudderham, one of the lab technicians, says that the students first learn to produce traditional plaster casts from impressions taken of patients’ mouths. As they progress through their studies, students learn how to use Primescan intraoral wands on patients in the clinic to create digital impressions, which are then sent to the lab scanner where models are fabricated using the 3D printer. These files are also used in the digital design process.

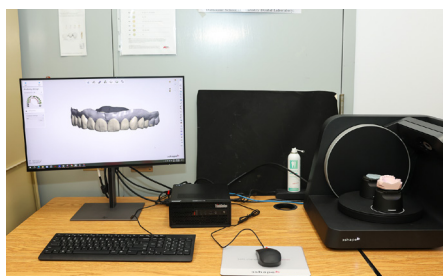
What the 3Shape adds to the lab’s capabilities is its capacity for design. For a crown bridge, for example, Landry explains that “we mark the margins from the scan received and, using the CAD software and extensive tooth library, we can design the crowns for optimum contour and function.”

The lab team currently designs bite planes, crowns, implants and bridges with it and are learning how to design cast removable partial denture frameworks (RPD) digitally. The designs for the RPDs are sent out to Selective Laser Melting for 3D printing and casting at the moment, but the aim is to produce these in-house in the future.



PHOTOS BRUCE BOTTOMLEY

Team I to r: Marsha Sheppard, Yeong Mi Baek, Mark Rudderham, Brenda Landry, Bob Wu
Missing: Richard Redhead and John Matthew



The dental lab’s 3Shape system is ready for use.

NEW KNOWLEDGE, NEW OPTIONS

Bob Wu joined the lab team as a dental technician two years ago after previously working in a private lab. “Bob came to us with a wealth of digital knowledge,” says Landry. “He was also familiar with the 3Shape system and helped us realize we needed it here to be able to move our capabilities forward.”

Wu says that one of the many advantages of the new equipment is that you can do a digital smile wax up based on a 2D image of a patient’s face digitally layered over a current arch scan. This new technique gives dental students and instructors a better vision of what the finished product will look like and helps them devise the final treatment plan.

Landry adds that another advantage is student education. Students can go into the lab to see the digital image of their scans. “If any alterations need to be made to a prep, the students can make the changes while the patient is still in the chair, saving them valuable appointment time.”

When the design of a crown is finished, it is sent to the lab’s milling machine where it is milled with

the appropriate burs in the zirconia’s “green” state. The crown is then placed into a sintering furnace that heats it to greater than 1500 degrees Celsius, which cures the zirconia and shrinks the crown to the perfect size.

EYES ON THE FUTURE

Producing dental appliances this way means that far fewer items need to be sent to outside labs to be produced, making production much more economical. Production is also more accurate and faster and involves fewer health risks from inhaling dust for those who operate the equipment. There is also less material waste, which is better for lab safety, workflow efficiency, and the environment. The software for the scanner can also be updated.

The lab team is delighted with the new scanner and the possibilities it offers. They also have their eyes on a new milling machine with an automatic loader that would process multiple jobs more quickly and accurately, with a reduced risk of error, resulting in fewer appointments and greater comfort for patients.

Landry says the transition from manual fabrication to digital was overwhelming at first. But the team appreciates that it brings a more consistent and efficient way of working. Now, when asked what the most exciting aspect of digital dentistry is, Rudderham immediately replies “constant change and adapting to new technology”.

The digital dentistry team of Richard Redhead and Bob Wu and select faculty members continues to assess the advantages of new and emerging technology. ⚡

DR. KEVIN WALSH

Climb every mountain

By Jane Doucet

When Kevin Walsh (DDS'90) was young, his mother planted the seed that he should consider dentistry as a profession. Returning home after a long shift as a nurse, she would say to him, "You don't want to be a doctor, they work too hard. You should be a dentist!" Although Walsh was born in Halifax, his father was in the military, and the family lived in Germany for seven years. There, he had a dentist whom he considered a role model, which helped water the seed.

After graduating from high school in Prince Edward Island, where his father had been posted, Walsh earned a BSc in chemistry at Dalhousie, then applied to Dal's dental school. After he was accepted, because he was familiar with the military lifestyle, he submitted his application to the Canadian Armed Forces. "The military looked after my tuition and paid me a small stipend during dental school, which was great," he says. "After I graduated, I was put in a clinic right away at a relaxed pace with mentors all around me."

Mentors were plentiful at dental school, too. Among them, Walsh lists Dr. Gorman Doyle, Dr. Harold Brogan (who, coincidentally, had been one of his Scout leaders in Germany) and Dr. Ronald Bannerman. Dental school was also where he met his future wife, Stacey LeBlanc (DDH'90), who was then a dental hygiene student.

SETTLED IN WINDSOR, NS

Walsh proposed to LeBlanc in the mountains in Switzerland, and they married a year after graduating from their respective programs. His first military posting was in Baden-Baden, Germany, where the newlyweds spent three years, followed by one year in Greenwood, Nova Scotia. With his military commitment complete, in 1994 the couple purchased a small dental practice from Dr. Allan Stewart in Windsor, Nova Scotia, and they have been there ever since. LeBlanc is the office manager and does some dental hygiene work, and their daughter Miranda (DDS'23) works with them two days a week (daughter Madison is a registered dietitian).

Outside of work, Walsh is an active member of the East Coast Endodontic Study Club, the International Team for Implantology (ITI) Study Club, and the Canadian Academy of Restorative Dentistry. He served as the chair of the Nova Scotia Dental Board from 2018 to 2020 and has been a clinical evaluator for the National Dental Board Examination since June 2017. In addition, he's a fellow of the Pierre Fauchard Academy and has been inducted into the American Academy of Dentistry and the International Academy of Dentistry.

Walsh also volunteers with the Nova Scotia Dental Association, having served as president in 2011. "As a solo practitioner, it's nice to be involved in committees and have other dentists to talk to," he says. "It also feels good to give back – you can't complain about something unless you understand the issues and use your voice to make changes."

In 2019, Walsh started teaching third-year, pre-clinical endodontics at Dal's Faculty of Dentistry on Wednesdays. "It's the students' first kick at root canals, and it's fun to share my knowledge – and to learn from them, too," he says. "It's also a nice way to break up my workweek. It keeps me fresh, and it motivates me to keep up on my own continuing education." In 2021 he added a prosthodontics course, and although he took last year off from teaching, he plans to return to it.

SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE

Walsh Dentistry Inc. is open Mondays through Thursdays, which is intentional. "I like to keep life in balance," says Walsh, "and you have to make time for what's important, which to me is work, family, spirituality, and personal interests." His personal interests aren't for the faint of heart; they include triathlons and mountain climbing. To date, he has summited five of the Seven Summits, the highest mountains on each of the seven traditional continents. Left to conquer are Mount Elbrus in Russia and Carstensz Pyramid in Indonesia.

In December 2023, Walsh summited Mount Vinson in Antarctica. "It's an amazing place,



Geographic South Pole

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



Mt. Vinson summit

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

with 24-hour daylight, no colour, no living things other than our group, no plants, no sounds," he says. "It's beautiful in a unique way."

In high school, Walsh was a self-described "comic-book nerd," but he always swam because he loved water. Then, in basic training, he started running. "I hated it at first, then I came to love it – I got better and faster, and I love the buzz," he says. "I see climbing and dentistry as a challenge, and I embrace every opportunity to improve myself in both."

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Kevin Walsh Dentistry Inc., and the founding dentist soon plans to drop back to three days a week of practice to "work less and play more. We started small, in a tiny building in downtown Windsor, and we've grown to include associate dentists and a staff of 10," he says. "I enjoyed my military service, but it was very scripted – here I have control to make the decisions."

For now, Walsh has no firm retirement or succession plans in place. "Stacey and I love travelling and wine, so when that time comes, we'll combine the two," he says. "We'd like to take bigger trips, to Australia and New Zealand – there's a big world out there to explore." ♣

LINDSAY VAN DAM From DDH to PhD

By Jane Doucet

When Lindsay (Macdonald) Van Dam (DDH'15) was growing up in Cole Harbour, N.S., her mother, an elementary school teacher, told her daughter she would make a good teacher. So when Van Dam enrolled at Dalhousie to earn a double major in English and history, that was her plan.

In the last year of her undergraduate studies, however, Van Dam saw that teaching jobs were scarce in her home province, where she wanted to stay. So she looked at other programs – and then she had her regular dental appointment. “I’d had the same dentist and hygienist growing up, and I loved going there,” she says. “I asked Carol, my hygienist, what she thought about me in that profession.”

Carol told Van Dam that in addition to being quick on her toes and able to make people feel comfortable, she had to be OK with blood, because “mouths bleed a lot”. That conversation sealed the deal. In her final year of undergrad, Van Dam took more science courses to prepare to apply to Dal’s School of Dental Hygiene.

“I’d always been shy about sciences, which was a big barrier, but I took the prerequisite courses and thought, I feel like I can do this,” she says. “So I put all of my eggs in one basket and only applied to Dal, even though I had never set foot in the Dentistry Building. And getting accepted was the best thing that ever happened to me! During undergrad I was just a number, but in dental hygiene school I was one of just 36 students, and we were always together – I found a family there. Two of my classmates stood as bridesmaids at my wedding last year.”

LEARNING TO TEACH

Van Dam’s favourite part of the program was her population health course, where the students went into the community, to an elementary school and a long-term care home, to hold education sessions on oral health care. After graduation, she worked exclusively in private practice for several years, first in north end Dartmouth, then in downtown Halifax.

“I always knew I wanted to become a clinical instructor,” says Van Dam, who began her part-time master of health studies through Athabasca University in the spring of 2019. At the end of that year, she became a first-year clinical instructor while still working in private practice, juggling teaching, studying, and work.

In the fall of 2020, Van Dam joined the School of Dental Hygiene as a part-time faculty member in the thick of the pandemic. “Talk about a learning curve! But that was the pinnacle for me – I was 27 years old, and I just got my dream job,” she says. And although teaching remotely wasn’t ideal (“in person is way better”), Van Dam came out on the other side of it. Then, research beckoned.

PURSUING A PHD

During her time in private practice in north end Dartmouth, Van Dam regularly saw children from a diverse patient population with a lot of dental issues, including serious tooth decay, leading to other health concerns. Many of them were on wait lists for additional care at the IWK Health Centre. She decided to do a thesis-based master’s degree on EDIA (equity, diversity, inclusivity and access) capacity in dental education. Her aim: to look at the current capacity of settings and faculty to support students from underrepresented groups pursue careers in oral health.

Inspired by her experiences as a dental hygienist, oral health educator, and research trainee, Van Dam decided to pursue doctoral studies through the PhD in Health Program in Dal’s Faculty of Health – the first dental hygienist to do so. She sought out Dr. Sheri L. Price in the School of Nursing as her supervisor.

“Dr. Price is an internationally recognized expert in interprofessional education (IPE), and her research is grounded in interpretive, qualitative methodologies,” says Van Dam. “My doctoral research is focused on improving access to care and will look at the experiences of dentistry and dental hygiene



PHOTO BRUCE BOTTOMLEY

Lindsay Van Dam (DDH'15) is studying for a PhD in Health

students in IPE and their preparedness for interprofessional collaborative practice.”

MANY LESSONS TO LEARN

To pursue graduate education and research work as a clinical research coordinator with Dr. Leigha Rock (“one of my research mentors”) in the Faculty of Dentistry, Van Dam had to leave private practice and teaching. “I love my patients and my dental family, and I love teaching, but through research I feel I can push my contributions to oral health even farther,” she says. “Also, I had experienced barriers in academic oral health because I didn’t have a PhD. It was limiting my ability to apply for certain supports, like research grants and funding, and to be an active collaborator. A doctoral degree will open doors.”

After wrapping up her first-year PhD courses this spring, Van Dam enjoyed a belated honeymoon in Portugal with her nurse practitioner husband Dexter (MNNP'23) in May. They met when they were roommates as dental hygiene and nursing students.

Over the years her education has taken Van Dam in many directions. She says she’s had to learn some hard lessons in knowing her limitations, because sometimes she takes on too much. “Personally, I’m trying to balance being a good wife, a good friend, a good aunt, all those roles. Professionally, there’s still so much I want to accomplish.” †

Staff spotlight: Bryan Fader

By Cheryl Bell

At the beginning of 2023, Bryan Fader took the bold step of accepting a newly created position in the Faculty of Dentistry: student success strategist. With a background in sports performance coaching, the role might not appear an obvious fit for Fader, but he would argue that an oral health professional student and a high-performance athlete have more in common than you might think.

One year on, he feels some significant breakthroughs have been achieved.

It started with a chance encounter in a Halifax supermarket. Fader ran into his friend Dr. Sachin Seth, the associate dean of student affairs in the Faculty of Dentistry, and they exchanged news. When Fader said that he was finishing off some qualifications for a master's degree in counselling and psychotherapy, that gave Seth an idea, which then turned into a job offer: Fader would teach some classes and offer individual counselling sessions.

For Seth, it made sense. "Student success rarely occurs in a vacuum – it is closely linked with their mental and physical wellbeing. We asked Bryan to help students deal with any personal issues that could affect their academic journey and to provide strategies to help them be more resilient and better able to cope when life gets a bit rough."

Fader quickly saw the similarities between his new students and the athletes he was used to coaching. "They're all high achievers," he explains. "They're highly driven, they're intrinsically motivated, they're used to challenges, and they all feel a pressure to perform."

Surprisingly, he also discovered that each student felt they were the only one with these feelings and that was because they didn't have opportunities to talk openly together as a group. Fader changed this by bringing them together in larger class groups, in a safe space where what they said was confidential, and where conversations about worries and fears could take place.

What the students learned, he says, was that they were all experiencing similar doubts and generally "feeling they're not doing as well as they're doing."

BECOMING COMFORTABLE WITH DISCOMFORT

Getting into dental school is not easy, so why do such high-achieving students suffer so much from imposter syndrome and anxiety? It turns out their high level of achievement is precisely the problem.

"These students have been the best in their class up until they started dental school," says Fader. "For them, getting an 80 rather than a 90 counts as failure."

Fader also maintains that students experience an identity crisis as they transition from being undergrads to becoming oral health-care students. They need to "let go of one rope in order to grab the next one," he says, and that makes them feel uncomfortable.

"I try to normalize that sense of discomfort so that the students don't feel that something is wrong," he adds. "Their role is changing, and they will feel discomfort as they progress from rope to rope."

A strategy Fader recommends for people struggling with anxiety is to adopt "horizon vision." He explains that a feeling of stress tends to speed things up. "The more we drop our heads down, the faster the world gets because we're seeing it more closely." The technique originates in treatment of anxiety in general, but Fader also uses it to help athletes. "It's useful for any kind of performance," he says.

Fader encourages students to understand how stress is felt in their bodies. "People often make the mistake of fixing the challenges they're experiencing in their head with other thoughts in their head, rather than fixing their bodies. That's why how we hold ourselves and our breathing matter so much. It helps us to slow down before we get into flight mode."

An expression Fader says he uses a lot is "How you do something is how you do everything." It's another technique he encourages students to adopt. "When does the patient experience start?" he asks them. He maintains that they need to prepare to see a patient, rather than wait until they are in the dental chair.



PHOTO BRUCE BOTTOMLEY

"With difficult conversations, challenges, feeling overwhelmed, and seeing a patient, if you practise how you want to be, when the moment comes, you're way more ready," he says. "It's much better than trying to pull yourself up in the minute before something happens."

HARNESSING STRENGTH

One of the important pillars he shares with students is the concept of desirable difficulty. "When I pitched this concept to the class, one guy said, 'Dude, we have enough difficulty. We don't want any more.'"

The response is understandable, says Fader. But he maintains that when you push yourself, even in a small way, you build a muscle.

"Think about going to the gym," he adds. "The weights shouldn't be lighter. The students need to get stronger."

He maintains his role is to help the students realize they are stronger than they think, and to provide the tools and strategies to harness that strength.

Looking ahead, Fader says that he wants students to know that they don't have to be in crisis mode to reach out to him. "Therapy tools are life tools," he says, "and the more we can work together to strengthen students' abilities to handle stress – and even welcome it – the deeper their life satisfaction will be and the more prepared they will be for what the future brings." ♣

Dean's List

Congratulations to our alumni, faculty, and staff who continue to receive awards and recognition for their work and contribute to the fields of dentistry and dental hygiene. If you have any news items or story ideas to share, please send them to alumni.dentistry@dal.ca.

ALUMNI



Dr. Aaron Bury finally received his 2022 OAA from Dr. Ben Davis at the Canadian Oral Health Summit in June.



Dr. Asile El-Darahali (DDS'08) received the T.D. Ingham Volunteer Award from the NSDA.



Dr. Ahmad Hussein (DDS'13) was one of 28 recipients to be presented with a King Charles III Coronation Medal from Lieutenant-Governor of NS

Arthur LeBlanc at a ceremony in Government House on May 6, 2024. The awards are presented in recognition of significant service.



Dr. Claire Karst (Dal DDS '90) was installed as the 2024-2025 NSDA president at the NSDA AGM in June.



Dr. Scott MacLean (DDS'01) received the Dr. Philip S. Christie Award for Distinguished Service from the NSDA.

Dr. Christos Papadopoulos (DDS'13) has been recognized with a Hellenic Heritage Foundation Outstanding Achievement Under 40 award for his role as an active mentor and educator in his profession, and leader in his community of Saint John, NB.



Dr. Grace Richardson (DDS'01) received the Community Service Award from the NSDA.

Dr. Mike Salyzyn (DDS'91) received the T.D. Ingham Volunteer Award from the NSDA.

FACULTY



Dr. Haider Al-Waeli has been appointed chair of NCOHR Knowledge Exchange and Mobilization Working Group and has also taken on the role of head of the Division of Periodontics.



Dr. Tracy Doyle is this year's recipient of the W. W. Wood for Excellence in Dental Teaching.



Dr. Locke Davenport Huyer in the Department of Applied Oral Sciences has been selected as a recipient of the 2024 President's Research Excellence Award for Emerging Investigators.

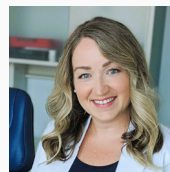
He will be formally recognized at the Dalhousie Legacy Awards in November 2024.

Earlier this year, he was awarded a five-year CIHR Project Grant (\$918,000 total) for the development of Metabolite-based Immunoregulatory Polymer Surgical Meshes for Pelvic Floor Reconstructive Surgery. He will work with colleagues in the Faculty of Medicine to phenotype inflammation used for pelvic floor surgeries and develop novel biomaterials that reduce inflammation and improve surgical outcomes.

Dr. Ian Doyle (DDS'78) will be inducted as the International College of Dentists (ICD) global president in August 2025 in St John's, NL.



Dr. Sura Hadad (DDS'03) was one of 35 dentists from across Canada to be inducted as fellows at the Canadian Section of the International College of Dentists (ICD) Convocation 2024 in Vancouver in March.



Francine Leach received the Don Pamenter Friend of Dentistry Award from the NSDA.

Dr. Terrie Logue (DDS'85, CertPerio'91) was elected vice president of the Canadian Section of the ICD at Convocation 2024 in March.

Dr. Debora Matthews delivered this year's convocation address to the dental hygiene and dentistry graduating classes. You can watch her speech on the Faculty of Dentistry's YouTube channel.



Dr. Tammy Wright received the Award of Excellence from the NSDA.

STAFF



Juliette Thomas, dental assistant and clinic coordinator at the North Preston Dental Clinic, received the Above & Beyond Award at the Faculty of Dentistry summer retreat in June.



Jennifer Strong, Dental Stores clerk, is the 2024 recipient of the Gladys Littler Award for outstanding service to the Faculty of Dentistry.

Annual Giving Report

The Faculty of Dentistry is extremely grateful for the generosity of our alumni, friends and organizations that support our Faculty and Dalhousie University. The following list acknowledges those who have made financial contributions between April 2023 and March 2024. We sincerely appreciate your support. We would also like to thank our donors who requested to remain anonymous.

DENTISTRY CLASS GIVING

1955

Doug & Jackie Eisner

1956

Norman Layton

1959

Frank Lovely
Murray Dewis

1960

Yosh Kamachi

1961

Kinji Asahina
Roger Paturel

1962

Douglas Chaytor

1963

Melvin Brown

1964

Brian Weeks

1965

Robert Cooper
George Nye

1966

Brock Rondeau
Maurice Wong

1967

Doug Arnold
John McMullen

1968

Donald Feeney
Jamie Levitz
Eckart Schroeter
William Thompson

1969

Vernon Shaffner

1970

L. J. Hudgins
Bill & Robin MacInnis

1971

Carl Tilley

1972

Barry MacLeod
David Moore
Robert Murray
Eric Parsons

1973

Thomas Disney
Harold Johnson
Lex MacNeil
Peter Manson

1974

A Ernest Corrigan

1975

Ron Beaton
Gary MacDonald
Ray Wenn

1976

James Craft
Paul Nauss

1977

H. Wayne Garland

1978

Tom Boran
Thomas Boyle
Alfred Dean
Ian Doyle
Russell Grover
Janet Stewart

1979

Carl Canning
Gary Samson

1980

Val Biskupski
Marlene Mader
Robert Snow
Michael Taylor

1981

Brian Matchett

1982

Ronald Buckley
Anne Young

1983

Janet Bailey Buckley
Robert Dunphy
Kip Homewood

1984

John Conrad
M. Anne MacDonald

1985

Simone Abbass
Terry Ackles
Tim Chaisson
Graham Conrad
Duncan McMaster
Joseph Westhaver

1986

Judith Flecknell
Kenneth Ngan
Chris Petropolis
Jeff Williams

1987

Maureen Bourgeois
Daniel McKenna
Caroline Pavlin

1989

Daniel Albert
Linda Blakey
Paul Cameron
Terry Foreman
K Stacey Hughes
Gordie Rudolph

1990

Michael Bishop
MaryAnn Wiseman

1991

Grant Creighton
Allan Hynes
Kilby Townshend

1992

Christopher Baker
David Craig
Mary McNally

1993

Pauline Cahill
Joanne Green
J Scott Green
Patrick Redmond
Alan Robinson

1994

Jennifer MacLellan
Matthew Nichols

1995

Katrina Brouwer
Kirk Preston

1996

Maureen Wiseman

1997

Todd Dakin
Nada Haidar
Kelly Hatt

1998

Nancy Browne
Melanie Moore
Kent Orlando

1999

Christine McLaughlin
Jeff Watson

2000

Janice Stewart

2002

Francis MacNeil
Sherrie Wills

2003

Graham Cobb
Deborah Delaney

2004

Amy Mihaljevich

2005

Wade Abbott
Sandy Crocker
Shannon Davis
Thora Hunter

2006

Avi Goldberg
Scott Schofield
William Taylor

2007

Charanpal Ahluwalia
Susan Bourque
Patricia Brady
Terry Farquhar
D Matthew MacLeod

2008

Mike Pettipas
Mohammad Shafiei

2009

Pari Irani

2010

Crystal Cobb

2011

Rammi Hassan

2012

Catherine Sweeney
Regan

2015

Patricia Logan
Virenkumar Patel

2021

Saravpreet Kaur

DENTAL HYGIENE CLASS GIVING – DIPLOMA

1964

Jane Wong

1965

Carol (Forman) Nicholson

1967

Judiann Thomas

1969

Glenda Butt

1970

Marilyn Kinnear
Marlene Lovett

1971

Jean McGinis

1972

Deborah Richard (Turner)

1974

Pauline Murphy Sutow

1975

Rena Demone

1977

Susan Matheson

1978

Jeannette Laba
Wendy Wilkins

1985

Carolyn Gorting
Kim Haslam

1986

Lesley Des Noyers
Catherine McIntyre

1987

Vicky Garland

1990

Alison MacDougall

1991

Angela Hynes
Janice Irving
Susan Keating-Bekkers

1992

Jackie White (Hubley)

1993

Jennifer Bower

1995

Shauna Deveaux

1997

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PHOTO: BRUCE BOTTOMLEY

DID YOU KNOW?

New digital dentistry equipment and software will transform teaching and learning in the Faculty of Dentistry. If you would like to join alumni and friends who have chosen to support this exciting and ambitious project, please contact Melanie Bremner (902.266.2021 or melanie.bremner@dal.ca) or Victoria Hamilton (902.497.6825 or victoria.hamilton@dal.ca) for more information.

2024 grad creates scholarship to help future students

By Cheryl Bell

Scholarships are a sought-after currency among students. Not only do they recognize academic and other achievements, but they help to cover the high costs of education. It's not often, however, that a graduating student decides to create a scholarship even before their first day at work. But that is just what Jared Lush (DDS'24) decided to do.

Compassion, selflessness, and determination are the "greatest traits a dentist can possess," said Lush in his valedictory speech at the DDS class of 2024 graduation dinner in May 2024. These are traits Lush himself possesses in abundance.

It turns out that he had a good role model and mentor in Zohreh Erfanian (DDH'01), an independent dental hygienist and an Iranian immigrant in Gander, NL, whom Lush worked for when he was in high school. He helped with the "administrative side of running her business" and worked as a receptionist. He loved interacting with patients and the experience helped to confirm that oral health was the field for him. "It reassured me that it was a career where I could help people and be a social person," he says.

A GIFT FROM THE HEART

Erfanian always supported his aspirations, says Lush, and that support grew. While Lush was completing his undergraduate degree in biochemistry-nutrition at Memorial University, Erfanian's brother Ashkan – the only one of her immediate family also to live in Canada – died as the result of a chemical leak at the office in Alberta where he worked as a security guard.

"I saw Zohreh during that time," says Lush, "and you could see the grief and hurt she was going through."

When Lush began his dentistry studies in 2020, Erfanian continued to encourage him. She also deposited a significant sum of money in his bank account to support his studies,

something she continued to do each year of his dentistry degree. "Zohreh said she wanted to help support me through dental school," explains Lush. "She said I had helped her a lot and looked out for others. She said she wanted to do it in honour of her brother – to keep his memory alive."

So upon finishing his dentistry degree, Lush decided that he wanted to repay Erfanian in some way. "I was very grateful to her," he says, "but it didn't feel right to accept the money and not do something in return."

Lush considered various ways to thank Erfanian for her gift, but it was his fiancée Sierra who suggested a scholarship in Ashkan Erfanian's honour. Lush took the idea to Erfanian, who was both moved and in favour of it.

The next step was to talk to the Faculty's development officer, Melanie Bremner, about the details of the scholarship. "I didn't want it to be based just on academic performance," says Lush.

WORKING OUT THE DETAILS

It was agreed that the total gift would be \$7500, pledged over five years at \$1500 per year. Each \$1500 award will be split evenly and awarded annually, with \$750 for a recipient in the Diploma of Dental Hygiene program and \$750 for the recipient in the Doctor of Dental Surgery program.

To be considered for the award, recipients must be in good academic standing and enrolled in the final year of either the DDH or DDS program. Sounding much like Lush himself, the criteria for the award specify that the recipients "will have made an effort to cultivate a sense of community within the Faculty and are friendly, considerate, and generous to fellow students, faculty, and staff".



PHOTO BRUCE BOTTOMLEY

Preference will be given to recipients who are "compassionate health-care providers, exceptional communicators, and show kindness and patience to those in their care," and who "show perseverance, determination, and courage throughout their education."

Lush says that Erfanian's perseverance and determination as an immigrant to Canada inspired the final criterion for the scholarship.

In the future, Lush hopes to create an endowed fund for the scholarship. Right now, however, he is happy that his vision is taking shape quickly and that Erfanian is pleased. "I think that by creating this scholarship and naming it after her brother, Zohreh and I are part of it together," says Lush. "And it gives me the opportunity to pay forward what she did for me."

Erfanian says she is grateful to Lush and Dalhousie for creating the scholarship to honour her brother who, even though he worked as a security guard, was a teacher who believed that, as a people, we are here to share knowledge and help others to reach their full potential.

"To overcome the most difficult part of my life – losing my beloved brother – I had to follow his kindness and wishes," says Erfanian.

The first Mr. Ashkan Erfanian Scholarships will be awarded at the 2025 graduation banquets. Dr. Jared Lush now works at the Cowan Heights Dental Centre in St. John's with four Dalhousie dentistry alumni: Dr. Derrick Batten (DDS'93), Dr. Paul Lutz (DDS'90), Dr. Jon King (DDS'06), and Dr. Tricia O' Brien (DDS'14). †

Dental clinic brings smiles to new Canadians thanks to Faculty of Dentistry and donors

Dalhousie President Dr. Kim Brooks toured the Government Assisted Populations (GAP) Oral Health Clinic with Dal alum, past faculty, volunteer, and donor Susan Keating-Bekkers. The clinic serves new Canadians, many of whom have not had consistent access to oral health care.

By Mark Campbell



PHOTO BRUCE BOTTOMLEY

Susan Keating-Bekkers (left), President Kim Brooks and Dean Ben Davis.

This article first appeared in the Spring/Summer 2024 issue of Giving Power at dal.ca/giving-power.

It's a Monday evening in February, and Dalhousie President Dr. Kim Brooks is taking her first-ever tour of the Faculty of Dentistry's Government Assisted Populations (GAP) Oral Health Clinic.

She is here on a busy night for the donor-supported clinic. There are 40 patients who need to be seen for dental hygiene care, fillings, extractions, or for their first-ever dental exams. Although their needs are different, these patients have one thing in common: they're all newcomers to Nova Scotia.

"I've heard a lot about the clinic, but seeing what it does is really eye opening," says Dr. Brooks. "I'm struck by the difference that faculty and students are making through the services and support they provide. They're meeting urgent needs that would otherwise not be met."

FILLING A GAP

For more than a decade, the GAP Clinic has partnered with the Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia to deliver oral care to hundreds of new immigrants. Its operations are supported in part by dentistry and dental hygiene students and faculty. Dalhousie alum,

past faculty member, and volunteer Susan Keating-Bekkers (DDH'91) has worked with Dalhousie to create philanthropic funds to support this clinic, making it sustainable for many years to come.

"Newcomers often have dental needs and limited support for services," she says. "Dalhousie's GAP clinic fills that gap by providing access to dental care. Providing funding to keep this clinic running is my way to help."

A GIFT WITH IMPACT

According to Heather Doucette (DDH'94, BSc'03), associate professor and director of the



PHOTO BRUCE BOTTOMLEY

L to r: Susan Keating-Bekkers, Prof. Heather Doucette, Dr. Kim Brooks

GAP clinic, many of the patients they see have higher rates of oral disease or require more extensive treatment than most Canadians. That's because very few of these patients, if any, received dental care before arriving in Nova Scotia. The majority have also faced financial and language barriers getting care as newcomers.

"Their first exam can take all evening, and we usually see them for several dental hygiene appointments before we can start to focus on dental treatment," says Doucette. "We may see a patient for the first time in September and they are still coming back to us in the spring for care."

Thanks to Keating-Bekkers's support, the GAP clinic has been able to provide oral care to 925 patients since 2017. Although removing the barrier of cost makes a huge difference for accessibility among newcomers, it also helps that there are both student and professional interpreters on hand to break down language barriers. "The ability to have the care you're receiving explained to you in

"I've heard a lot about the clinic, but seeing what it does is really eye opening."

-Dr. Kim Brooks

your own language is important, especially in a setting like this where someone may be very apprehensive," Keating-Bekkers says. "That creates a space that is safe and welcoming."

PREPARING STUDENTS TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY

In addition to removing barriers to care for immigrants, the GAP clinic creates opportunities for both dental hygiene and dentistry students to gain valuable clinical experience. For example, dentistry students have hands-on opportunities to build competence and confidence in meeting a wide range of dental needs, such as fillings

and extractions. But even more importantly, students can provide care across a wide range of languages and cultures – vital preparation for serving the community when they graduate.

"Think about how those interactions change who these students are and what they care about," Dr. Brooks says. "It enables them to think more about who their patients are and how they can communicate with them more effectively. That means better, more empathetic, and more inclusive care."

Keating-Bekkers agrees. "I really hope that the students come away with a strong desire to treat marginalized populations," she says. "It certainly has been rewarding for me." †



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