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**On our cover:** Each November, a team of OMFS surgeons from Dalhousie's Faculty of Dentistry travels to Vietnam to perform 80 or more cleft lip and palate surgeries on young children, an outreach mission Dr. David Precious started over 20 years ago.

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# ALUMNI ANCHOR

 DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY 1818 2018

# Dean's Message

It is a great pleasure to be able to speak to dentistry and dental hygiene alumni through the *Anchor*. As you know, I became acting dean last summer and was appointed dean at the beginning of this year. During this time, I have been delighted to meet with so many of you at conferences and alumni gatherings in Canada, the U.S., and Malaysia, and I look forward to many more of these meetings.

It is a great honour to take on the role of dean at such an exciting time for the Faculty of Dentistry. Construction work on our newly renovated clinic drew to a close at the end of 2017 and we welcomed the new year with our bright and well-equipped clinic fully open for business. Although the construction phase is over, fundraising continues.

Many of you have already made gifts to the clinic renewal project and I thank each and every one of you for what you have done. You are truly supporting the future of dentistry. If you have not yet made a gift and would like to, there are many opportunities to add your name to a project that is transforming the clinical experience for our students, faculty, and patients. Please feel free to contact our senior development officer Victoria Hamilton (victoria.hamilton@dal.ca) to talk about your options for making a gift.

2018 is Dalhousie University's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, providing us with another great reason to celebrate not only the opening of the new clinic, but other events and achievements as well. In particular, we look forward to the Faculty of Dentistry Homecoming Weekend, which will take place September 27 to 29 during Dalhousie's Homecoming celebrations.

At Homecoming, we will confer an honorary doctorate on Dr. Peter Cooney during our White Coat ceremony on September 27 and hold the official opening and naming of our new clinic (including tours) on September 28. Other highlights include the JD McLean lecture, which will be delivered by our former dean, Dr. Bill MacInnis, a full day of CE courses on September 29, and our Homecoming Celebration Dinner and presentation of Outstanding Alumni Awards at Pier 21 on the evening of the 29<sup>th</sup>. Please join your fellow alumni and the Faculty for what promises to be a special and memorable Homecoming Weekend. I look forward to seeing many of you then.

As always, our outreach activities continue to be a source of pride and inspiration to us. This year, we welcomed Green Shield Canada to the Faculty and they presented us with a cheque for \$250,000 in support of the Immigrant Outreach Oral Health Clinic.

This grant has enabled us to expand our Monday evening clinics to include badly needed restorative, in addition to preventative, care and increase the number of clinics we hold. The benefits of this clinic are obvious: dentistry and dental hygiene students become comfortable providing care to patients of different cultures and languages, new immigrants receive the care they need and learn about the Canadian dental care system, and the learning gained from the clinic is being shared with the oral health, academic, and immigrant communities at conferences around North America.



Providing oral health care to underserved populations was one of former dean Dr. Tom Boran's prime objectives for our Faculty. By exposing our students to outreach opportunities, he hoped they would continue to make a difference in their professional lives. This is a hope that two of this year's grads, Dave Ropson (page 14) and Jackie Brokken (page 15), are making a reality.

Tom Boran's legacy remains strong, and I continue to be committed to everything he helped to put in place. I also hope to find new ways to serve our community and enhance our students' learning experiences.

I warmly invite you to come home during Homecoming 2018, to celebrate what is new in the Faculty and to reconnect with people and memories from the past. Our alumni are our living legacy and by working together, we serve our patients, our communities, and our profession better.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Davis  
Dean, Faculty of Dentistry

## Dentistry Alumni Committee update

The DAC is delighted to welcome Dr. Ben Davis, the new dean of the Faculty of Dentistry, to the committee. Many of you have had the opportunity to speak with him at conferences and alumni gatherings in Canada, the U.S., and Malaysia. Many more of those opportunities lie ahead, particularly at our Homecoming Weekend celebrations, September 27 to 29. We all look forward to seeing you there.

We were sorry to bid goodbye to the Faculty's hardworking and always organized manager of student and alumni services, Jon Bruhm, in December 2017. Jon worked in the Faculty for seven years and, among his many roles, kept the DAC on track and moving

forward. Jon is now well established in his new role as donor relations manager with the Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation and we wish him all the best.

On June 9, Jon was presented with the NSDA 2018 Don Pamerter Friend of Dentistry Award, which is given to a non-dentist for outstanding service to the profession of dentistry. In his acceptance speech, Jon expressed his gratitude to the many students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends he had the opportunity to work and connect with over the years, especially the members of the Dentistry Alumni Committee and its chairs John Christie, Lee Erickson and Peggy Maillet, the many

mentorship and community contact program volunteers, and his own mentor Tom Boran.

We are delighted to welcome Melanie Bremner to the Faculty as our new alumni officer. Melanie joined the Dean's Office on June 18 from the Insurance Bureau of Canada. She holds a Bachelor of Public Relations degree from Mount Saint Vincent University and brings to her new role extensive event planning experience and a passion for building relationships. She looks forward to meeting alumni at the upcoming CDA conference and Homecoming Weekend. \*

## Joyce MacDonald wins 2018 Gladys Littler Award



Joyce MacDonald receives the Gladys Littler Award from Dalhousie president, Dr. Richard Florizone.

Gladys Littler joined the Faculty of Dentistry in 1911 and retired in 1958 after 47 years of service to the Faculty's first six deans. As the only staff member at the time, Littler basically ran the Faculty. Not only did she work for the dean of dentistry, she was known to provide secretarial assistance to the Faculties of Medicine and Law and, on special occasions, to the office of the president of Dalhousie. She was also responsible for taking and developing all of the X-rays in the dental clinic. It was a diverse role.

So it is fitting that Joyce MacDonald, whose official title of administrative assistant to the School of Dental Hygiene does not begin to describe the multitude of roles she performs, was this year's winner of the Gladys Littler Award for outstanding service to the Faculty of Dentistry. The award was presented to her at this year's Legacy Awards ceremony on June 20.

As the only staff member in the School of Dental Hygiene, where she has worked since 2000, a typical day for Joyce involves acting as a resource person for faculty members, staff, and students, helping to coordinate administrative and financial functions in the School and troubleshooting computer problems. She even invigilates exams when needed.

Cara Tax, director of the School of Dental Hygiene says, "Joyce is so generous of her time, knowledge, and understanding of how this school works. She always goes above and beyond to help others succeed and she is a real team player. As the new director of the dental hygiene school, I often don't know what I don't know, but I know that Joyce will know."\*

## Lindsay James wins Dal Impact Award

Long before she came to Dalhousie, third-year dentistry student Lindsay James wanted to be a dentist. Her maternal grandfather is a dentist and even before she started studying dentistry, she worked as a volunteer in the paediatric dentistry department at the IWK and as a research assistant for faculty members on a published paper about the treatment of cleft lip and palate. To be studying dentistry now is a "dream for me" she says.

Her background as a varsity athlete and volunteer prepared her well for her chosen career and helped to instill the values she brings to her studies and her work in the clinic and community: teamwork, leadership, community, the importance of getting involved and giving back, finding ways to help those who are physically or intellectually challenged, and being a mentor to others, particularly children.\*



Dr. Ferne Kraglund, assistant dean of students, presents Lindsay James with a Dalhousie Impact Award.



## Doors Open 2018

The Faculty of Dentistry participated in Doors Open Halifax for the first time in June. This is an annual event during which spaces of historical, contemporary, and architectural significance open their doors to the public. Our 245 visitors were able to see students at work in the level 1 clinic and the sim lab and ask them lots of questions.

It was a great way to showcase our new clinic, demonstrate student skills, and interact with the Halifax community, including the many children and teddy bears who came to our Teddy Bear Clinic. \*

## Article on sleep apnea wins Daniel M. Laskin Award

Drs. Reg Goodday (DDS '79, MSc '88), Susan Bourque (DDS '07, MSc '13), and Pember Edwards (DDS '16) were presented with the Daniel M. Laskin Award in San Francisco last autumn for the year's most outstanding article in the *Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery*.

The award is the result of studying hundreds of patient records and analyzing data relating to snoring, extremely high levels of sleep apnea, and the effectiveness of surgery in treating the condition.

"We found that no study had ever been undertaken on those who suffer from extremely severe sleep apnea: those who stop breathing over 100 times per hour," says Dr. Goodday. "Our study analyzed the records of 265 patients who had had surgery performed on them to assess the objective data—the numbers—and the subjective results that the patients themselves reported."\*



Drs. Reg Goodday, Susan Bourque, and Pember Edwards show off their Daniel M. Laskin Awards for the most outstanding article in the *Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery*. The article assessed the effectiveness of surgery as a cure for extreme sleep apnea. A CE course on obstructive sleep apnea will be held in Halifax on October 26-27. Dr. Goodday is one of the presenters.

Read more: [bit.ly/2K3EjyU](http://bit.ly/2K3EjyU)

## New faces in the Dean's Office

We have two new faces in the Dean's Office. Alumni from 2014 onwards will remember Maria Lamondo's smiling face from Patient Services. In February 2018 she joined the Dean's Office where she greets visitors, deals with enquiries, and performs a multitude of other tasks.

In June, we welcomed new alumni officer Melanie Bremner to the fold. She holds a Bachelor of Public Relations from Mount Saint Vincent University and most recently worked with the Insurance Board of Canada. You will be sure to meet her at upcoming alumni events. \*



Maria Lamondo



Melanie Bremner



## CONFUSED ABOUT CANNABIS?

The legalization of cannabis will have an impact on the health professions. To find out more, come hear Nadine Wentzell deliver a CE course on “The cannabis craze: Dealing with reality—how to address substance abuse in the workplace” on November 17 in Halifax. To register, please go to [dal.ca/dentistry/cde](http://dal.ca/dentistry/cde).

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## Dr. Jack Gerrow inducted into Order of Canada

Dr. Jack Gerrow, professor emeritus of the Faculty of Dentistry, had a busy spring. In May, he received an honorary doctorate from Dalhousie at Spring Convocation. In his address, he urged graduates to find mentors and role models to help them, particularly in the early stages of their career, and to question dogma, particularly dogma in health care and dogma in education.

Induction into the Order of Canada followed in June. Dr. Gerrow received this honour for his contributions to the field of dentistry, notably in the areas of accreditation and competencies. \*



# Faculty of Dentistry Homecoming Weekend: An action-packed weekend

The Faculty of Dentistry will celebrate many achievements during Homecoming Weekend, September 27-29, 2018. Plan to join the festivities!

Homecoming is a great chance to mix and mingle with classmates, other alumni, and faculty and staff, participate in a full day of continuing education, celebrate our Outstanding Alumni Award winners at the Homecoming dinner, and attend the grand opening and naming of the newly renovated clinic. 2018 also marks the 200th anniversary of Dalhousie University, so there are lots of activities taking place on campus.

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Homecoming Weekend kicks off on September 27 with our White Coat Ceremony and the conferral of an honorary degree on Dr. Peter Cooney. Dr. Cooney became Canada's first chief dental officer in 2004 and in this role worked to increase awareness of the prevention of oral diseases and to improve the oral health status of Canadians. He will speak at the ceremony, during which the new class of dentistry and dental hygiene students will be presented with their white coats and recite the Oral Health Professional Oath. A reception will follow.

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Hear what the newly renovated clinic means to the Faculty and the students who work and learn there. The official grand opening and naming ceremony will take place in the afternoon, with President Richard Florizone in attendance, followed by tours of the new clinic. Later that day, former dean

Dr. Bill MacInnis will be presented with the Association of Canadian Faculties of Dentistry Distinguished Service Award prior to delivering the annual JD McLean lecture. Dr. MacInnis will speak on the topic of career paths, mentors, and professionalism.

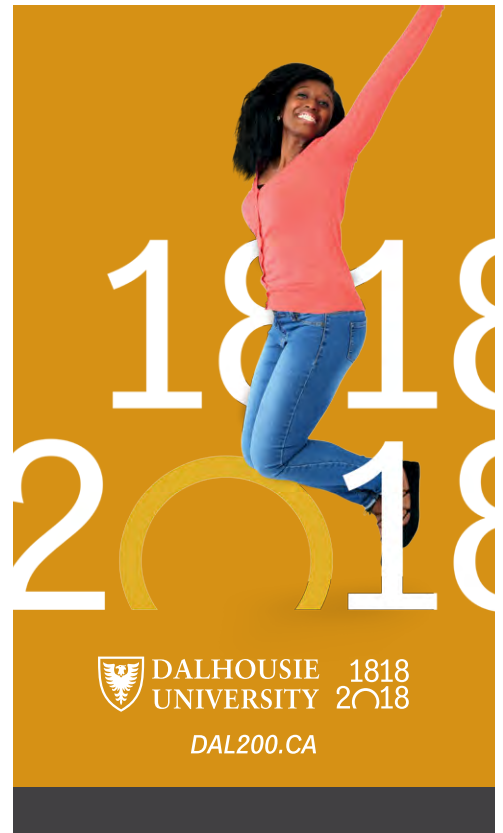
## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

A varied and timely selection of CE sessions awaits you on September 29, starting with the highly topical plenary session on the role of dentists in the opioid crisis. Breakout sessions cover a wide range of subjects, including oral manifestations of systemic diseases, oral cancer screening, communicating with limited English proficiency patients, facial trauma, and insights into silver diamine fluoride. There will also be opportunities to mingle with your colleagues and browse the sponsors' tables. For more information, please go to [dal.ca/dentistry/cde](http://dal.ca/dentistry/cde).

In the evening, we complete our celebrations by recognizing our Outstanding Alumni Award winners and enjoy time together at the Homecoming Celebration Dinner at Pier 21. Tickets are limited, so consider purchasing yours soon. The dentistry and dental hygiene community (Dal alumni and non-alumni) is welcome to attend the CE day and evening dinner.

We look forward to seeing you there! \*

*For more information about Homecoming Weekend, please go to: [alumni.dal.ca/get-involved/faculties/dentistry/events/](http://alumni.dal.ca/get-involved/faculties/dentistry/events/).*



## Celeste Williams (DDS '18)

helped to promote Dal's 200th anniversary as one of several students featured in posters that can be seen all over campus. Celeste is now studying paediatric dentistry at the University of Toronto. \*



The annual White Coat ceremony will take place on September 27. Dr. Peter Cooney, Canada's first chief dental officer, will receive an honorary degree during the ceremony.

## Upcoming Alumni Events

**CDA Alumni Reception**  
August 24, 2018  
Charlottetown, P.E.I.

**Dr. Harold Brogan Memorial Golf Classic**  
September 22, 2018  
Hammonds Plains, N.S.

**White Coat Ceremony and Honorary Degree Presentation**  
September 27, 2018  
Halifax, N.S.

**Clinic Grand Opening and Naming Ceremony**  
September 28, 2018  
Halifax, N.S.

**JD McLean Lecture and ACFD Award Presentation**  
September 28, 2018  
Halifax, N.S.

**Homecoming CE Day 2018**  
September 29, 2018  
Halifax, N.S.

**Homecoming Celebration Dinner 2018**  
September 29, 2018  
Halifax, N.S.

**Dentistry Winter Ball**  
January 26, 2019

**Dentistry Table Clinics Night**  
January 25, 2019  
Halifax, N.S.

**PDC Alumni Reception**  
March 8/9 (TBC)  
Vancouver, B.C.

**Dentistry Outstanding Alumni Award Nomination Deadline**  
April 1, 2019

**ODA Alumni Reception**  
May 10-11 (TBC)

Watch out for the details of upcoming alumni receptions: [alumni.dal.ca/get-involved/faculties/dentistry/](http://alumni.dal.ca/get-involved/faculties/dentistry/)

## Dentistry Homecoming 2018

SEPTEMBER 27-29 | HALIFAX, NS

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- White Coat Ceremony and the conferral of an honorary degree
  - The grand opening of the newly-renovated Dalhousie Dental Clinic + tours
- A full day of continuing dental education courses and plenary session
  - The JD McLean lecture, delivered by former dean, Dr. Bill MacInnis
    - Class reunions
    - Homecoming Celebration Dinner
    - Outstanding Alumni Awards

*For more details, please go to [dal.ca/dentistry](http://dal.ca/dentistry).*



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Photo by Nick Pearce

# Willing to do whatever he can

By Cheryl Bell

Dave Ropson, DDS '18, became a bone marrow donor during the final year of his dentistry program.

After convocation, Dave Ropson and his girlfriend, fellow dentistry graduate Jessica Willis, headed to St. Anthony, Newfoundland. Located on the northern reaches of the Great Northern Peninsula, this town of 2,500 people and its surrounding area are home to moose, whales, puffins, icebergs, and the occasional polar bear, but no long-term resident dentist.

That changed when Dave and Jess arrived in June.

Dave was working as a pharmacy intern in a St. John's pharmacy that serves a high proportion of methadone users when he had an "aha" moment that changed the direction of his studies and his life.

"I decided that I want to work more directly in the community with people who need a lot of help," he explains.

He found what he wanted in dental school. "In the clinic and outreach programs, we provide basic dental work for people who really need it. You're working with people who need a break, who need a smile, even though it may be tough for them to find a reason to smile. So many of these people have had rough luck, but they are super happy and appreciative for the work we do."

## A SHOW OF SUPPORT

Dave's desire to help those who "need a lot of help" took a very personal turn during dental school. Each year of his dentistry studies he lost a good friend, four in all, back home in Newfoundland. For him, it was another sign that people need help and he became a bone marrow donor in March 2017.

"To be a health professional, you have to be willing to do whatever you can," says Dave, "and when you are in your 20s is the best time to donate."

Donating bone marrow in the throes of dental school is not for the faint of heart, although Dave makes it sound pretty straightforward.

In the 10 days leading up to his donation date, he arrived at the Victoria General Hospital at 7:00 a.m. to receive an injection to prompt his bone marrow to generate more cells. The injections also cause bone pain and Dave admits he was feeling "pretty bad" after a couple of days and couldn't stand for long stretches of time because of the pain in his hips. He was on rotation at the IWK Health Centre at the time and the staff sent him home one day. "They had some mercy," he laughs.

The cell harvest took place on a Thursday with an IV inserted into each arm. Blood is removed from one arm and the stem cells are filtered out and then the blood goes back into the body through the other arm.

"It's not super comfortable," admits Dave, "mainly because I couldn't move for several hours." But it gave him an opportunity to study for the exam he had to write the next day.

Dave isn't privy to much information about the recipient of his cells apart from the person is alive and doing well. "It's a good feeling. I like to picture myself saving someone else's friend."

## AN INTEREST IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Getting involved in student government and working to make the Faculty of Dentistry a better place was also important to Dave during his years as a student. He was a member of the restorative justice committee that developed a set of values for the Dalhousie Dentistry Student Society and led to the creation of the mural that is now on display in the student lounge

He served as lounge manager, as the dental school representative on the Dalhousie Health Sciences Students' Association, and worked with the law school on a program called Sober Support.

Along the way, and in tandem with a public health elective he took in his fourth year, Dave discovered he liked developing programs and policies and finding new ways of doing things.

For the future, Dave hopes to be able to conduct some research on the Labrador population and work with the government to find ways to fund programs that will upgrade the level of care the mainly Inuit population receives.

Further studies in public health are also high on his list of things to do next. "I'm really interested in trying to create greater equality in levels of care and getting people access to care, regardless of where they are living or what group they are part of." \*



Photo by Nick Pearce

Dave Ropson headed to St. Anthony, Newfoundland after convocation to become the community's resident dentist. He hopes to continue his efforts to bring care to underserved groups.



Photo by Nick Pearce

Jackie Brokken (right) shows her sister Katie some of what she's learned during her studies in dental hygiene.

# The power of care

By Cheryl Bell

Photo by Nick Pearce



Down syndrome is connected with many physical vulnerabilities, including dental problems.

Jacquelyn Brokken (Jackie) had a degree in psychology under her belt and wasn't quite sure what to do next, but she knew her education wasn't over. As it turns out, it was her sister who inspired her next step, which took her to Dalhousie University's Faculty of Dentistry to study dental hygiene.

Jackie's older sister Katie has Down syndrome, a condition that is frequently connected to many physical vulnerabilities, such as heart defects, vision problems, hearing loss, and infections. Gum disease and dental problems are also a risk, partly because of the irregular way teeth can develop in someone with Down syndrome, and partly because of difficulties in getting adequate oral health care.

"Katie loves going to the dentist and has always felt comfortable there. It's important because she had three holes in her heart and is much more prone to periodontal disease. Oral health care is super essential to her," says Jackie.

"I decided to go into health care so that I could somehow give back to the health field that has done so much to help Katie."

Long before she arrived at Dal, Jackie was already giving back to people with different abilities and their families. She is a volunteer with Special Olympics bowling, and Katie is a regular Special Olympics participant in bowling, basketball, and track and field.

Jackie also provides respite care for families, often spending the time taking individuals with special needs on outings, such as swimming. For the past three years she has worked at a summer camp called The Club Inclusion, which offers programming to people who have different abilities.

## SO MUCH MORE THAN CLEANING TEETH

Jackie went into dental hygiene with personal hopes and expectations of what it would enable her to do. Those expectations were more than fulfilled.

"Studying dental hygiene was way more rewarding than I could ever have imagined," says Jackie. "I was surprised at the close-knit relationships I was able to develop with my professors, who are so passionate about their jobs. And I never expected to develop such close relationships with my patients. But when you see them over the course of three or four appointments, you get to know them."

Through the Faculty's outreach clinics, Jackie had the opportunity to work in seniors' homes and with veterans, to treat children at the Harbour View Elementary School paediatric clinic,

**"I decided to go into health care so that I could somehow give back to the health field that has done so much to help Katie."**

and to help underserved populations at the North End Community Health Centre and the Immigrant Oral Health Outreach Clinic.

"I learned that dental hygiene is so much more than 'cleaning'—a word dental hygienists hate! We provide debridement, preventative care, and oral health care education. We also have an important role in making people feel comfortable about going to the dentist's office, including children and those with special needs. I really enjoy that side of the work."

Jackie says the Harbour View paediatric clinic was one of her favourite rotations because of the opportunity to care for children, and she also found working at the Immigrant Oral Health Outreach Clinic very rewarding.

"You are caring for a diverse group of people, some of whom have never seen a dentist before," she says, speaking of the Immigrant Oral Health Outreach Clinic. "When you hand them the mirror so they can look at their teeth, many of them tear up. They are so thankful. Because we have to work with interpreters to be able to talk with our patients, we learn a lot about communication. We also see how much of a difference we can make."

## FOCUSING ON ABILITIES RATHER THAN DISABILITIES

In April, Jackie encouraged several of her dental hygiene classmates to volunteer at Sharing Smiles Day, an annual event that takes place in faculties of dentistry across Canada.

Sharing Smiles Day brings together people with physical and intellectual disabilities and dentistry and dental hygiene students for a day of games, crafts, and oral health education. The aim is to help both oral care providers and participants feel comfortable with each other.

"I think we need to focus on abilities rather than disabilities," says Jackie about Sharing Smiles Day, at which Katie was a participant. "I believe we learn more from them than they do from us, particularly about kindness and compassion."

Jackie is sad that her studies have come to an end, but she is looking forward to what comes next. She is currently looking for a job in the Halifax area and hopes one day to have a clinic of her own where she can specialize in treating patients with intellectual and physical challenges.

"It's a fascinating population to work with," she says. \*



# OMFS in Vietnam:

# This is your mission

By Cheryl Bell



Each November, a group of oral maxillofacial surgeons from the Dalhousie Faculty of Dentistry boards a plane and embarks on the 20+ hour journey to Ho Chi Min City in Vietnam. This is not a holiday.



Over the next two weeks the group will perform more than 80 surgeries. Their mission is to transform the lives of children with cleft lip and palate by improving their ability to eat, drink, speak, and interact socially without stigma.

The annual mission is a legacy of former dean Dr. David Precious, who, inspired by Dr. Nagato Natsume of the International Cleft Lip and Palate Foundation, went on his first outreach trip to Vietnam in 1996. Dal has been sending teams of surgeons to Vietnam ever since.

“At first, the Canadian team was made up of Dal surgeons only,” says Dr. Jean-Charles Doucet, who currently leads the missions. But participation from other surgeons across Canada is growing.

“The humanitarian aspect of these trips attracts people who are interested in providing access to care,” explains Dr. Doucet. “The surgical aspects are also interesting because we are dealing with a lot of different scenarios—patients of different ages, salvage surgeries from previous operations, a high volume of surgeries, working in different places—that really broaden your experience as a surgeon. So we get a lot of requests from surgeons who want to come with us.”

The 2017 team was made up of Drs. Doucet, James Brady, Scott Martina (previous Dal OMFS fellow) and Michael Shimizu from the University of London (a former fellow of Dr. David Precious).

The Canadian group joined up with the Japanese delegation from the Tokyo Smile Foundation at the base hospital in Ho Chi Min City where local nurses, assistants, and anaesthesiologists complete the team. They normally spend one week in Ho Chi Min City and a second week in a rural hospital in a province outside the city.

A typical day starts at 7 a.m. when the surgeons leave the hotel where they are staying. When they arrive at the hospital, they assess new patients, do rounds of the patients who had surgery the day before, and then begin operating at 8 a.m.. The four operating tables are all working at once, with the surgeons taking turns assisting each other. They wrap up at 6 p.m. unless they are putting in extra hours to fit in a few more urgent cases. The weekend is spent travelling between Ho Chi Min City and the rural hospital that has been selected for the mission.

“The local people advertise for us and the word spreads that we are coming,” says Dr. Doucet. “Because we have been there so many times, families know about us and are excited to bring their children. A relationship of trust has developed. But, unfortunately, we cannot treat everybody.”



**“We don’t come back well rested, but we really enjoy helping children.”**

**WHY VIETNAM?**

There is a higher incidence of cleft lip and palate in Vietnam, which is why it has been the focus of so many missions.

“The main reason is genetic factors,” explains Dr. Doucet, “although there may be environmental reasons that we don’t know about as well. There has been a great need for these surgeries, not only because of the number of cases, but because there were initially not many local surgeons trained to do the operations.”

All that has changed. Over the years, the Japanese-Canadian team has worked with Vietnamese surgeons and medical students, inviting them to observe and assist during the operations, and teaching them the techniques. Even though the local ability to perform the surgeries has increased

dramatically, for many families there are financial hurdles to overcome. For them, the visiting team provides access to care that would normally be out of their reach.

Dr. Doucet says the atmosphere among the multi-national team is friendly and collaborative, even when there are language barriers.

“We usually have dinner together every night and talk about the day,” says Dr. Doucet. “We are building strong relationships with our Japanese counterparts, surgeons from other parts of Canada, and the local medical teams in Vietnam.”

But the ability to help the children and the families living with cleft lip and palate is what galvanizes them all.

“It is one of the most rewarding things we can do,” says Dr. Doucet. “It is a simple surgery that requires very little equipment, and it changes people’s lives by enabling them to eat, drink, and speak normally, without the stigma the whole family lives with.”

“We had a patient with a cleft lip and palate who was 18 or 19 and lived in the woods. Prior to surgery, every time he consumed food or liquids, it went up through his nose.”

**FUTURE AMBITIONS**

It is no surprise the team’s resolve to maintain its annual visits remains undiminished. The goal for the future is to try to involve more people—nurses, anaesthesiologists—from across Canada and expand the Canadian team.

Funding is the main issue, says Doucet. The missions are currently partially self-funded by the team members themselves with some support from the Elizabeth Precious Endowment Fund. “We are hoping to develop ways of getting donations to help us expand what we do.”

The team would also like to provide more follow-up care, particularly to observe children until they finish growing and to ensure they are functioning well in terms of their dental and speech development.

The work continues and the legacy of David Precious lives on. \*

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# A Dal Original:

## Dr. David Precious

By Cheryl Bell

This profile is part of the Dalhousie Originals 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary storytelling project, which acknowledges and celebrates the impact and contributions made to our campus, country, and world by some of the outstanding individuals associated with the university since 1818.

**David Stanley Precious** (1944–2015) arrived at Dalhousie in 1961 as a fresh-faced 18-year-old from Ottawa to study science and play varsity football. In Halifax, he not only found a home and a vocation—he found a passion that would improve the lives of children around the world

Dr. Precious's path to becoming an internationally renowned educator, humanitarian, philanthropist and oral and maxillofacial surgeon started with his BSc in 1965, followed by a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree in 1969 (with the University Medal in Dentistry). He then became Dal's first resident in

the university's new MSc in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Shortly after graduating in 1972, he returned to Dal to teach, becoming chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in 1985 and, in 2003, dean of the Faculty of Dentistry.



But it was a chance encounter at a conference in New York in 1995 that changed Dr. Precious's life and expanded the scope of his work globally. He met Dr. Nagato Natsume, director of the Japanese Cleft Palate Foundation, and they discovered a shared humanitarian view of their profession.

Oral and maxillofacial surgeons treat many diseases and injuries of the head, neck, face and jaws. They also treat birth defects such as cleft palate and lip, which occur when a baby's lip or mouth do not form properly during pregnancy. Children who lack access to treatment for these defects often have trouble feeding and speaking clearly, may have problems with their teeth and hearing, and are frequently teased and bullied because of their appearance.

Dr. Natsume invited Dr. Precious to join a Japanese delegation of surgeons travelling to a remote island in Vietnam to operate on children with cleft lip and palate.

"I was so enthused [after the trip]," Dr. Precious later recalled. "I came back to Dalhousie and told the department I'd like to do this in a more formalized way. We became partners of the foundation and started sending delegations of surgeons to Japan, Vietnam and Tunisia to perform surgeries and train surgical residents."

For more than 20 years, Dr. Precious took time to travel to those countries, and others such as India and Brazil, to treat cleft palate and lip, and train others to do the same. Through to this day, faculty members from the Faculty of Dentistry continue to go on annual outreach missions to Vietnam to operate on children and train surgical residents.

In addition to his humanitarian activities, Dr. Precious published and spoke widely. He served as president of the Nova Scotia Dental Association and chief examiner of the Royal College of Dentists of Canada, among other leadership roles. He received the Order of Canada, the Canadian Dental Association's Medal of Honour and two honorary degrees, including one from Dalhousie in 2013.

He also received many offers to work elsewhere, but through until his death from leukemia in 2015 at the age of 70, he remained committed to Dalhousie and Halifax, seeing it as an ideal environment for his teaching and humanitarian work. "I really love the atmosphere at Dalhousie and the Maritime way of life... I found a home." \*

Read more: [dal.ca/about-dal/dalhousie-originals/david-precious.html](http://dal.ca/about-dal/dalhousie-originals/david-precious.html)



## THE LEGACY EFFECT

### Judy Flecknell and Jeff Williams

Judy Flecknell (DDS'86) and Jeff Williams (DDS'86) found their life's passion at Dalhousie's Faculty of Dentistry, both in their careers and in each other. Now, they want to honour that connection and help others through a bequest in their will.

#### *We Can Help*

If you're thinking of including Dalhousie University in your estate plans, we can help you match your gift to your wishes. Explore the possibilities at [dal.ca/plannedgiving](http://dal.ca/plannedgiving).

#### *Have questions? We have answers.*

Victoria Hamilton | 902.494.6170 | [victoria.hamilton@dal.ca](mailto:victoria.hamilton@dal.ca)



Visit [dal.ca/donors/flecknell-williams](http://dal.ca/donors/flecknell-williams) and learn more about their story.

**“It’s been an exciting journey  
getting to this point ...”  
—Cory Sears**

## Nobel Biocare provides cutting edge technology

By Jessica Feader

Dalhousie’s dental community is eagerly awaiting the grand opening of the new dental clinic this September. Thanks to many generous donors, including Nobel Biocare, the new clinic will provide students and faculty with state-of-the-art equipment and technology, and improve the level of patient care.

“We have had a wonderful working relationship with Nobel Biocare for over two decades. They are leaders in the field of implant solutions and have always provided us with unrivalled service,” says Dr. Ben Davis, dean of the Faculty of Dentistry.

Nobel Biocare’s recent gift to the new clinic will help to position the Faculty as one of Canada’s leading dental schools. Students will gain access to leading technology and equipment to maximize their learning experience while in school. Alumni and other oral health care professionals who return to Dal for continuing education will also benefit from the faculty having this impressive range of new capabilities.

“We are extremely grateful for Nobel Biocare’s generous support of our clinic renewal and their gifts will allow our students, faculty, staff and patients, access to top-quality technology and products,” continues Davis.

This gift provides the Faculty of Dentistry with a new dental cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) scanner, cutting edge LS3 Procera scanner, NobelClinician treatment planning software and other in-kind contributions to support the Faculty’s outreach work. The licenses will allow students to access innovative software to support their treatment plans for patients. The new CBCT scanner is an invaluable piece of equipment for students and faculty who provide implant procedures for their patients. The technology will help students gain more knowledge and hands-on learning with dental implants.

“Continuing our strong commitment to educating the next generation of dental professionals, we are extremely proud of this new collaboration and long-term relationship with Dalhousie’s Faculty of Dentistry,” says Hans Geiselhöringer, president of Nobel Biocare.

The relationship between Nobel Biocare and the Faculty of Dentistry dates back to the early 1990s when Dr. Doug Chaytor



Photo by Danny Abriel

From the left, Dr. Blaine Cleghorn, Cory Sears, regional sales manager for Nobel Biocare, Dr. Ben Davis, David Murchison, territory manager for Nobel Biocare, Dr. Gorman Doyle

(DDS’59) implemented the initial implant dentistry elective program. The program has since grown in volume such that all students in the DDS program now get pre-clinical and clinical experience for patients requiring implant fixture placement and restoration of the implant fixtures. Implant dentistry has become a core component of patient treatment at Dalhousie with the Faculty placing close to 300 implants over the past year by both grad and oral surgery residents.

“Nobel Biocare has taken the time to facilitate implant education. They have given us the digital tools to create treatment plans and provide safe and effective surgical care,” says Dr. Kale Wudrich, a senior periodontics graduate resident at Dal. “This offers an important learning opportunity for students and residents, while having a positive impact on patient care and experience.”

In addition to providing innovative products and solutions, Nobel Biocare has been instrumental in supporting students with their studies. It provides support for residents in the General Practice Residency, Graduate Periodontal, and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery programs. The company helps students stay up-to-date with the latest technologies and advancements in dental implants. It presents workshops and provides hands-on training for faculty, students, staff, and lab technicians. Topics range from digital dentistry to more hands-on surgical restorative sessions.

“It’s been an exciting journey getting to this point and we are positive that utilizing the solutions from Nobel Biocare will ensure that patients and clinicians are having a world-class experience,” adds Cory Sears, regional sales manager of Nobel Biocare Canada. “With leading digital scanning technologies and the company’s family of implants, the learning experience will be able to reach new levels and continue to be at the highest possible standard in dentistry.”

“Nobel Biocare has been and continues to be the number one supporter of the implant dentistry program at Dalhousie,” says Dr. Gorman Doyle, a full-time faculty member and division head of Implant Dentistry at the Faculty of Dentistry.

A CE course on “Small field of view cone beam computed tomography for dentistry: Applications and interpretation” will be held on November 3. Dr. Curtis Gregoire is the presenter. To register, please go to [dal.ca/dentistry/cde](http://dal.ca/dentistry/cde)\*

# 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 is a list acknowledging those who have made financial contributions between April 2017 and March 2018. We sincerely appreciate your support. We would also like to thank our donors who requested to remain anonymous.

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1941

Leonard S. Goldberg

1950

Walter Cook  
\*David Peters

1955

Doug & Jackie Eisner  
Bruce Ross

1956

Norman J. Layton

1957

James W. Carson  
James H. Peters

1959

G. Murray Dewis  
David R. Rubin

1960

Yosh Kamachi

1961

Kinji Asahina  
Larry Gaum  
Roger J. Paturel  
Thomas H. Raddall II

1962

Don Bonang  
Doug Chaytor  
J. W. Logue  
Robert A. Murray

1963

William O. Adams  
Melvin Brown  
Garry W. Condon

1964

Brian H. Weeks

1965

Robert Cooper  
George R. Nye  
G. S. Zwicker

1966

Robert A. Janes  
Maurice K. Wong

1967

Doug Arnold  
John W. McMullen

1968

Donald Feeney  
Jamie Levitz  
Eckart Schroeter  
William Thompson

1970

Leslie J. Hudgins  
Floyd V. Jackson  
Bill & Robin MacInnis  
Winsome Smith

1971

John Christie  
Carl Tilley

1972

David Moore  
Robert Murray  
Eric Parsons

1973

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Harold Johnson

1974

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A. Ernest Corrigan  
Wayne & Peggy Maillet  
William Rector

1975

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1976

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1977

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1978

Tom Boran  
Thomas H. Boyle  
K. L. Henry Chong  
Ian Doyle  
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1979

Carl F. Canning  
Reg Goodday  
Gary Samson

1980

Val Biskupski  
Brian S. Budovitch  
Marlene E. Mader  
Rory McLean  
Robert K. Snow  
Michael J. Taylor

1981

Lee Erickson

1982

Michael Bonner  
Patrick Bonner  
Mary Breneol  
Ronald Buckley  
Paul Coady  
William Fleming  
Gregory Foley  
Hans Laltoo  
Stewart MacDonald  
Archie Morrison  
Terry Peddle  
Jeff Piekarski  
Arthur Spencer  
Grahame Usher  
Daryl West  
Anne Young  
Mary Yurchesyn  
Peter Zwicker

1983

Janet Bailey Buckley  
Robert Dunphy

1984

Eric Beaton  
M. Anne MacDonald  
Marjorie MacDonald

1985

Simone Abbass  
Terry Ackles  
Greg MacDonald  
Daniel Tam  
Joseph Westhaver

1986

Judith Flecknell  
Kenneth Ngan  
Chris Petropolis  
Rick Raftus  
Donald Stewart

Lary Trites

Jeff Williams

1987

Jeffrey Bonang  
Maureen Bourgeois  
Patty Greencorn  
Daniel McKenna  
Caroline Pavlin

1988

Heather Carr  
D. Scott Clark  
Bernadette McCarthy  
R. B. Price  
Cheryl A. Wenn

1989

Daniel Albert  
Linda Blakey  
Paul Cameron  
Terry Foreman  
Richard Holden  
Greg Hooper  
K. Stacey Hughes  
Adrian Power  
Gordie Rudolph  
Joanne Stewart

1990

Claire Karst  
Anne Ready-MacIntyre  
Yvon Saulnier  
Kevin Walsh  
MaryAnn Wiseman  
Ernest Wotton

1991

Allan Hynes  
Kilby Townshend

1992

Christopher Baker  
Jeff Clark  
David V. Craig  
Mary McNally

1993

Joanne M. Green  
J. Scott Green  
Neil Power

1994

Jill Dobbin  
Sherry Locke  
Matthew Nichols

1995

Katrina Brouwer  
Paul Hurley

1996

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Maureen E. Wiseman

1997

Todd Dakin  
Nada Haidar  
Kelly Hatt

1998

Nancy Browne

1999

Krishna Mahabir  
Jeffrey Watson

2000

Joanne Carson

2001

Sandy Pirie

2002

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Julie Labbe  
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Mark Ripley  
Mark Sutherland  
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2003

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Danny Lawen  
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2004

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2005

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2006

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Arumugakadavul  
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2007  
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2008  
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2009  
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2011  
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2012  
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Ahmad Fayad

\*Deceased

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1965  
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1966  
Alexandra M. Wright

1967  
Judianne Thomas

1968  
Merla Gerrior

1969  
Glenda M. Butt  
Irene Chapman

1971  
Jean V. McGinis

1972  
Deborah (Turner) Richard

1974  
Nancy Neish  
Pam Vokey

1975  
Rena Demone

1977  
Susan Matheson

1978  
Marilyn Cummings  
Jeannette Laba  
Wendy Swinemar Wilkins

1979  
Lois McLean

1980  
Wanda Fedora

1981  
Ann MacDonald

1984  
Colette Thistle

1985  
Kim Haslam

1986  
Michele M. Chioveli  
Lesley Des Noyers  
Catherine McIntyre

1987  
Vicky Garland  
Sara Harding

1989  
Mona d'Entremont

1990  
Stacey Walsh

1991  
Susan Keating-Bekkers  
Angela Hynes  
Janice Irving  
Brenda MacIsaac  
Monica Robinson

1992  
Joanne Clark  
Jackie White

1993  
Jennifer Bower  
Heather Sutherland  
Marnie Troyer

1999  
Andrea McAllister

2001  
Wendy Stewart

2005  
Pamela MacKay

2006  
Sarah Gillis

2007  
Marianne Williams

2016  
Cindy Thibodeau

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2009  
Joanna Grant

2012  
Shauna Hackey

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### DID YOU KNOW?

The group practice clinic is a cornerstone of our Clinic Renewal Project. If you would like to join alumni and friends who have chosen to name cubicles and be part of the transformation, please contact Victoria Hamilton at 902.494.6170 or [victoria.hamilton@dal.ca](mailto:victoria.hamilton@dal.ca) for more information.

# Tracy Doyle creates healthy smiles at Special Olympics and beyond

By Suzanne Rent

**Dr. Tracy Doyle** (DDS '04) is on a special mission this summer. The paediatric dentist is heading to Antigonish, N.S. as part of the Healthy Athletes program at the national Special Olympics.

Healthy Athletes offers free health screenings to all the athletes competing at the games. Athletes can take part in programs such as Opening Eyes (vision), Fit Feet (podiatry), and FUNFitness (physical therapy). Doyle was recruited to take part in Special Smiles, which screens the athletes for dental health.

"It's a fun part of the games," Doyle says. "I said yes because I think it's a worthy cause."

Doyle and her team will be doing check-ups, providing oral health education, and even fitting athletes for mouthguards, if needed. The program will be fun and interactive, and offers passports and prizes as an incentive for the athletes to participate. Students and hygienists from Dalhousie will go with her and are volunteering their time.

Doyle already has a special connection to the broader Special Olympics community. She takes part in Sharing Smiles Day, a national event created by Oral Health, Total Health, a nation-wide, student-led non-profit that offers free oral health education to patients with special needs. Dr. Alison Sigal, a paediatric dentist in Ontario, founded Oral Health, Total Health when she was a first-year student at the University of Toronto in 2008. Since then, the organization has reached out to dentistry faculties across the country, including Dalhousie, where Doyle is an assistant professor in the Division of Paediatric Dentistry.

"I really had a vested interest for it to be included at Dalhousie," Doyle says.

Participants in Sharing Smiles Day learn about oral health in fun ways. For example, they can take toothbrushes and practise brushing on a dragon toy with large teeth and try their hands at erasing cavities on mouth diagrams. There are lots of other activities as well, including nail painting and bracelet making, all with the goal of allowing dental students to interact with people with special needs. The aim is that good relationships now will translate into good patient relationships later and better access to care. This year's Sharing Smiles Day took place in April with 50 volunteers and more than 50 participants.

Through the Special Olympics and Sharing Smiles Day, Doyle is reaching a vulnerable community. Many patients with intellectual disabilities have challenges coping with clinical environments. Because of that, they go without consistent care.

"Parents find they have a hard time accessing dental care for their children with special health care needs," Doyle says.



Dr. Tracy Doyle has always had a special interest in treating those with physical or intellectual challenges. This summer she takes it to a new level at the national Special Olympics in Antigonish.





Dr. Doyle is a regular participant in Sharing Smiles Day, a national outreach effort to improve dental health care for those with physical or intellectual challenges.



Dr. Doyle has always wanted to work with children, making paediatric dentistry a natural choice for her career.

**“When I found out I could practise paediatric dentistry, I was elated”**

## A FOCUS ON CHILDREN

Doyle always wanted to work with children. She’s a paediatric dentist with the IWK in the Department of Dentistry. The group cares for children in the Atlantic region, providing paediatric dental services that include the prevention and treatment of early childhood cavities.

“I think we do a good job of treating the child and their teeth, and also the whole family circumstance,” she says. “Treating the child is only part of what we do. I treat a family most of the time.”

For Doyle, the plan was always to study at Dalhousie and work at the IWK. She and her husband wanted to be closer to her family in Cape Breton and his family in P.E.I. She learned about paediatric dentistry during a rotation at the IWK during the course of her studies.

“When I found out I could practise paediatric dentistry, I was elated,” Doyle says.

Doyle says she enjoys that children love the simple pleasures. She recalls one young patient who had her eye on a plastic green frog she would receive for a visit to the dentist well done. It was her first time getting radiographs, which Doyle was able to capture. But the end game for that young girl was the plastic green frog.

“There’s nothing like the eternal optimism of a child,” Doyle says. “If we could all find the joy like that, the world would be a better place.”

She has her repertoire of songs and stories she uses to engage her young patients in the visit. She doesn’t wear white coats or even scrubs, making the process far less clinical and more approachable for children.

“They’re a bright part of your day,” Doyle says about her patients. “You have to make it fun or they don’t find it fun. We’re very accommodating.”

## FOSTERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF DENTISTS

Lindsay James is a fourth-year dentistry student and will be joining Doyle at the Special Olympics. Doyle has been James’s professor every year at Dalhousie and James has worked with Doyle at the IWK the past couple of summers. Doyle also helped James on a third-year research project, which happened to be on the Special Olympics.

“I’ve always had an interest in that area, so it was a perfect match,” James says of her work with Doyle.

James will be one of the students helping with the screening of athletes at the games. She’s also helping to recruit more dentistry students to join them with the Healthy Athletes program. She says she’s looking forward to the experience.

“We don’t get a lot of interaction with that population,” she says.

James also took part in Sharing Smiles Day in April. She says Doyle has a down-to-earth manner that makes her patients and their families feel at ease and she expects to see it in action in her work at the Special Olympics.

“I feel like they can trust her and ask her questions,” James says. “She just treats everyone with respect. That’s big with this population.”

James says it’s that same manner that made Doyle approachable as a professor. James shadowed Doyle in the clinic and OR at the IWK. And although James says she doesn’t know what dental specialty she’ll pursue, she says Doyle has always been willing to help with information and mentorship.

“I’m not afraid of asking her questions,” James says. “She’s a really good teacher that way. She leads by example.”

The Special Olympics kick-off in Antigonish July 31 and will run until August 4. The work Doyle will do this summer as part of Healthy Athletes will help her to gather important oral health data about individuals with intellectual disabilities, which will be used to help address disparities in this community. Doyle says she’s in it for the long run.

“I was surprised at the level of energy by everyone involved with Special Olympics,” Doyle says. “I think I’ll be involved for the remainder of my career.” \*

# The power of yes

By Suzanne Rent

**Sangeeta Wylie built a successful career as a dentist and actor by being open to opportunity**

## Sangeeta Wylie is a yes person.

"If someone offers me an opportunity, I say yes," says Wylie, who graduated from Dalhousie Dentistry in 2001.

That willingness to say yes to opportunity has led her down many paths, including a career as a dentist, but also as an actor, and a playwright. Now based in Vancouver, Wylie balances her dentistry career with an acting career. She has appeared on television, in commercials and films, on stage, and she recently started writing a full-length play.

Her decision to attend Dalhousie's Faculty of Dentistry was the result of a yes.

The choice of dental schools was between the University of Toronto and Dalhousie. She had just finished her degree at Acadia in Wolfville where she studied chemistry and music and wanted to live in a larger community. She spoke with Dr. David Butler (DDS '85),



her childhood dentist from Newfoundland where Wylie was raised. She says Butler inspired her to go into dentistry because he "made everything interesting" during visits to the dentist. He told her Dalhousie had a problem-based learning program and an excellent academic and clinical reputation.

"Those were all pluses in its favour," Wylie says. "I realized I could get a better education at Dalhousie. I think Dal has a really special program."

Eventually she opened her own private practice, but she always knew she wanted to pursue something creative.

"I seem to need both sides working," she says. "I couldn't just be a dentist or just an actor. It balances me to do both."

She found the creative outlet she needed as the result of a random conversation with a patient who told her about an introduction to acting class. Wylie's husband was travelling extensively for his job and she wanted something to fill the time.

Wylie loved the performing arts as a child. She started acting in plays in school, attended drama camp, joined the choir, and took dance classes. She excelled at the piano and won competitions.

"I always thought every kid wanted to be an actor, but only the lucky ones got to do it," she says. "I was a shy kid and performing gave me the permission to push me through that shyness."

She took an intensive acting program at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting in New York. She continued her acting studies at top studios in Toronto and Vancouver.

"I was bitten," she says. "It opened up worlds to me I had forgotten about."

She sold her private dental practice and she and her husband took six months off to travel. The couple moved to Toronto and Wylie pursued acting. She found success almost immediately, landing three commercials within three months and roles in independent projects.

"You really confront yourself as a person when you're an actor," she says. "It's important to know who you are. In order to play another person, you have to find the connection to yourself."

The next move was a return to Vancouver, where Wylie's acting career flourished.

She starred in *Refuge*, a play based on the true story of a refugee from Eritrea. Halifax playwright Mary Vingoe wrote the play, and Wylie was part of its West Coast premiere in Vancouver last year.



Photo by Emily Cooper

Sangeeta Wylie (left) balances a full career as a dentist with her passion for acting. She has appeared in such productions as *Refuge*, a play by Halifax playwright Mary Vingoe, and *Beeba Boys*, by Deepa Mehta.



**“It’s about being human and connecting with them person-to-person, not just dentist-to-patient.”**

One of her favourite roles was in *Beeba Boys*, a crime thriller by internationally acclaimed Canadian director Deepa Mehta, which premiered at the Toronto Film Festival in 2015. In it, Wylie plays Kiran, a girl interested in Jeet Johar, played by Bollywood star Randeep Hooda. Mehta called Wylie, “exceptionally talented, genuine, and fearless”.

“She was able to pull things out of me that were very real,” Wylie says.

And her two careers collided when she played a dentist in the 2012 film *Tower*, which also played at TIFF. *Tower* was her first feature role.

## **DENTISTRY AND ACTING: PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER**

But Wylie never gave up dentistry. She now works at a non-profit clinic called Mid Main Community Health Centre, which offers dental and medical care for patients of all ages. Wylie’s been there for more than a year now. The organization is run by a board of directors and Wylie says it feels like a team to her. It’s a close walk from her home and the schedule gives her the flexibility to go on auditions and accept acting projects.

She says she likes the diversity of the patients at the clinic. She has time to slow down and learn more about her patients, not just their oral health. She says a sense of humanity and compassion is crucial in this role.

“It’s about being human and connecting with them person-to-person, not just dentist-to-patient,” she says. “You have to find a way to relate to them like anyone in your life.”

Wylie uses her acting skills in her dentistry career, too. Wylie enjoys listening to her patients and endeavours to make a visit

to the dentist a pleasurable experience. Acting, she says, is about listening. That’s a crucial skill to use with patients.

“You learn to listen to another person to see what they need,” she says.

And breathing has been an important skill she uses in acting and as a dentist. As an actor, it’s about finding an authentic connection, through breath.

“When you breathe with someone, you connect with them,” she says.

A lot of the skills Wylie uses in dentistry and acting she credits to Dalhousie. She says she learned to fail, but she also learned resilience, coping skills, and work ethic. She also learned how to deal with the unpredictability of dentistry and to solve problems.

“You have to have an acceptance of going with the flow,” she says. “When you let it go and allow it to come to you.”

She also credits faculty members for her success and remembers well the lessons they taught. She says Dr. David Precious was one key mentor. While she only had a few interactions with Precious during her time at Dalhousie, she says, “he was one who believed in you and made all things seem possible.”

And she recalls a cheeky acronym Dr. Tom Boran used in his teaching: AFGE, which stands for Another Friggin’ Growth Experience.

“He has a great sense of humour,” Wylie says. “It’s a little thing, but it lightens the moment.”

Wylie says she’ll remain a yes person and not plan her career too much. And she still wants to hone her creative and scientific skills.

“The things I have done have all been the result of not making too many plans and being open to things,” she says. “The journey has been the reward and will continue to be the reward.” \*

# 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](mailto:alumni.dentistry@dal.ca).

## ALUMNI

The NSDA Award of Excellence was presented to **Chris Baker** (DDS '92).



**Nada Haidar** (DDS '97) was installed as NSDA president for the coming year at the NSDA AGM in June.

**Amanda Hill** (DDS '08) received the Nova Scotia Dental Association's Community Service Award in June 2018.

Thank you to **Lee McFadden** (MSc '84) who spoke of his Dal Dentistry experiences at the alumni reception in Winnipeg, part of the Coast to Coast tour.

Congratulations to periodontics resident **Erin Nowe** (DDS '16) and OMFS resident **Nick Emanuele** (DDS '16) on the birth of Ethan James Emanuele in April.

**Thomas Raddall III** (DDS '87) received the Nova Scotia Dental Association's Dr. P. S. Christie Award for Distinguished Service in June 2018.

## FACULTY



**Heather Dyment** was appointed chief of dentistry at the IWK Health Centre in July.

**Mark Filiaggi** and **Danny Boyd** (Applied Oral Sciences) were each awarded Phase Two Early Stage Commercialization Grants from Innovacorp in April. These awards provide \$50,000 in research funds for one year.

\***Wayne Garland** (DDS '77, Dental Clinical Sciences) received the Dr. Wayne Garland Award from the class of 2018. This award is presented annually to a faculty or staff member for outstanding dedication and commitment to providing a quality pre-clinical education.



**Jack Gerrow** (professor emeritus) was presented with an honorary doctorate from Dalhousie University and received the Order of

Canada, both in June.



**Brendan Leung** was awarded an NSERC Discovery Grant. The grant provides funding for his program of research on

developing new techniques for growing microbes and mammalian cells together in culture.



**Debora Matthews** (Dean's Office) received a Leadership Excellence Award from the Network for Canadian Oral Health Research in

December 2017.

**Carl McDermott** (Dental Clinical Sciences) received the Part-Time Clinical Instructor Award from the class of 2018. This award is presented to the part-time clinical instructor who has contributed most to student education in clinical dentistry.

**Pierre-Luc Michaud** (Dental Clinical Sciences) received the Dr. Gorman Doyle Award from the DDS class of 2018. This award is presented to a full-time clinical instructor who has contributed the most to student education in clinical dentistry.

**Pierre-Luc Michaud** and **Curtis Gregoire** (OMFS) were promoted to associate professor and granted tenure, effective July 1, 2018.

\***Richard Price** (DDS '88) delivered the keynote address on dental materials at the 2018 AADR/CADR Annual Meeting and Exhibition in Fort Lauderdale, Florida in March.



\***Sachin Seth** (DDS '00, Dental Clinical Sciences) has been appointed the director of the Student Group Practice. Clare Champoux

(DDS '96) and Frances Tomkins (DDS '03) have been appointed group practice leaders.

**Tamara Wright** (Dental Clinical Sciences) received the W. W. Wood Award for Excellence in Dental Education from the class of 2018.

## STAFF

**Jon Bruhm** (former alumni officer) was presented with the Nova Scotia Dental Association's Don Pamerter Friend of Dentistry Award in June 2017.



**Joyce MacDonald** (School of Dental Hygiene) received the 2018 Gladys Littler Award, which was presented during the Dalhousie Legacy

Awards on June 20.



Photo by Wayne Garland

**Nancy Webb** (Dean's Office, retired) received the Student Life and Community Improvement Award from the class of 2018. This award is presented annually to a faculty or staff member who has shown an effort to improve the dental school experience inside and/or outside of regular clinical activities.

\* Denotes alumni who are also faculty members

## Faculty of Dentistry Homecoming 2018

### CONTINUING DENTAL EDUCATION DAY

Come home to Dal Dentistry and a special 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary Homecoming Weekend. A full day of continuing education sessions will be offered.

- The role of dentists in the opioid crisis: a panel discussion
- Dental care for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Silver Diamine Fluoride: how to implement into your clinical practice
- Communicating with limited English proficiency patients and discovering new worlds of oral pathology in new Canadians
- Oral manifestations of systemic diseases – the mouth as the window into the body
- Approach to interpretation of cone beam computed tomograph and clinical pharmacology
- Preventing impacted maxillary canines in 9 to 10-year-old patients & care of patients with cleft lip and palate
- The millennial patient and the colourful world of piercing and other bod mods
- What is current in dental hygiene practice?: short presentations
- Facial trauma

#### Dentists/MD

Early Bird Fee \$250

After Early Bird Fee \$300

#### ADHP/Others

Early Bird Fee \$100

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The early bird date is August 30, 2018.

[dal.ca/dentistry/cde](http://dal.ca/dentistry/cde)

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# Sharing Smiles Day: Learning about special needs

By Cheryl Bell



Photo by Mirror Image

This is the third year Dalhousie's Faculty of Dentistry has participated in Sharing Smiles Day, a national initiative aimed at improving the relationship between those with physical and intellectual challenges, and their oral health care providers.

It is early on a cold and rainy April Saturday morning and the fourth floor of the Dentistry Building is bustling. Everywhere you look there is a game or an activity waiting to happen: mini putt golf, bowling, soccer, cupcake and T-shirt decorating, mini basketball, jewellery making, fingernail painting, and a photo booth. There is also a booth where Special Olympics athletes can have oral screenings.

Dentistry and dental hygiene students are ready for Sharing Smiles Day, an annual event held in faculties of dentistry across Canada that brings together oral health students and individuals with intellectual and physical challenges. The idea is that they will hang out, play some games, decorate cupcakes or a T-shirt, talk a little about oral health, have a pizza lunch, and end the day feeling a lot more comfortable around each other.

## NOT THAT DIFFERENT FROM YOU

"How can it not help?" asks fourth-year student Codey Pilgrim. His wife's younger brother was autistic and died as the result of his condition. Codey is here to give back to those with special needs. "Through exposure, you discover they are not that different from you," he says.

Kelsey Eatmon and Kate Rumbolt are the student leaders for this year's Sharing Smiles Day, the third one to be held at Dalhousie's Faculty of Dentistry. They have around 45 student volunteers who worked with the 60 or so participants and families.

The day's participants included Josh, who has an "explosive kick" when he plays soccer. He's also a DJ with 270,000 songs on his hard drive and has played music for a fundraising event for the Special Olympics. Katie, whose favourite animal is the monkey, poses with Olivia for a photo. They are both holding swords. Four-year-old Hudson, who, like a few of the other participants, attends weekly Because Every Ability Matters (BEAM) sessions in the Faculty, is familiar with his surroundings. "He walked in like a boss," laughs his father.

In the oral-health room, brothers Jonah, who is 22, and Scott, 25, are brushing "sugar bugs" off some plastic teeth. Their mother, Kem, is acutely aware of the importance of good oral health to the overall health of her sons.

"They brush and floss at home and get their teeth professionally cleaned every four months. They've never had a cavity," she says. "They both have heart conditions, so looking after their oral health could extend their lives as well as give them a better quality of life."

## THEY ARE TEACHING ME

First-year dentistry student Catherine Murphy is a coach with the Special Olympics for track and field and speed skating. She trained as a nurse and worked at the IWK hospital before starting the dentistry program. As a nurse, she often cared for children with special needs. She hopes to be able to care for children and special needs patients when she becomes a practising dentist.

"They're real and honest. They tell you how it is straight up," she says, explaining what she enjoys about treating this population. "I may be helping them, but they are teaching me."

Shianne Ferguson, Abby McDermott, and Jill Russell are second-year dental hygiene students. They decided to get involved in Sharing Smiles Day because of their classmate, Jackie Brokken, whose sister has Down syndrome. Abby already knows that she wants to work with kids and have them as part of her practice. "Today is a great experience," she says. "It helps you know how to talk and interact with people with special needs. You basically treat them like anyone else, which is great."

Fourth-year dentistry student Tyler Nelson has a special needs older brother who has experienced some difficulties with oral health care. "You see the struggle and you learn to empathize and to build up a reservoir of love," he says. "It's really rewarding working with these special people and to be a dentist is a good way to help the people in your community."

Qualifying program student Philip Mwimanzi has brought his two young sons, aged eight and four, to enjoy the day. They are kicking around a soccer ball with some of the participants. It's Philip's first time at Sharing Smiles Day. When asked why he volunteered, "Why not?" was the reply.

His answer says it all. \*

Watch the YouTube video:  
[youtube.com/watch?v=1bHBK4y4Yes](https://youtube.com/watch?v=1bHBK4y4Yes)



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