DIAMOND

Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry Magazine Spring 2024

TEMPLE DENTAL ALUMNI SUCCESSES

From Philanthropy to Artificial Intelligence to Dental Practice





DIAMOND

Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry Magazine | Spring 2024

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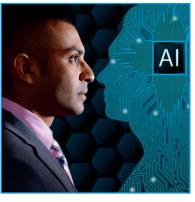
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IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN Temple Dental is at the Forefront of Innovation
- 4 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AT TEMPLE DENTAL
 New AI Center Advances Boundaries of Dental Care, Jay S. Patel, BDS, MS, PhD
- 6 Major Grant Will Use AI to Predict Severe Periodontal Diseases
- 7 Ahead of His Time with Artificial Intelligence, Suhaib Khaderi '01
- 8 ALUMNI FEATURE
 In Conversation with Mrs. Mildred Mishkin: Remembering Jack Mishkin, '43, DDS
- 10 LEGACY FAMILIES
 Reflections: Her Career & Her Dad, Susan Chialastri, '87, & A. J. Chialastri, '49
- 12 From Chicago to Pakistan, Community-based Care, Reem Shafi '98
- 13 Venneri Family Practice Loses its Well-loved Founder, Dr. Joe Joseph Venneri '54, Doreen Venneri '87 & Joseph P. Venneri '89
- 14 Respecting Each Other's Choices, Paul Leary '86 & Megan Leary '14
- 15 We are #TempleMade, Michael Bydalek '89
- 16 NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS
 'Determination is the core of everything.' *Tom Howley '81*
- 17 Success in the Business Side of Dentistry, Larry Stone '73
- 18 Back Again at Temple Dental in Pediatrics

 Joshua Bresler '03, Kevin Krick '08 & Adam Wolf '13
- 20 LOVE IS IN THE AIR
 Impact of Temple Dental, Robert Bentz '91 & Sara Cooley Bentz '94
- 21 Uplifting the Community, Juili Shivde '22 & Soham Apte '22
- 22 Combining the Art and Business of Dentistry, Jerry Pyser '71 & Joel Shapses '71
- 23 Building Quality Relationships, Amanda Rizner '13 & Shane Eckels '14
- 24 A Chance Meeting Leads to Success of Many Kinds, Ina Kim '07 & Will Choi '09
- 25 Temple Dental Shaped Our Lives, Albano Zenelaj '16 & Jonida Sinani '16
- 26 SHARING OUR STORIES

 My Life is a Patchwork Quilt, *Eric Shapira '75*
- 27 Learning, Learning, Tamatha Bowes '14
- 28 Williamsburg Dental's Newest Associates Keep Local Hero Smiling Robert Spennato '89, Jarred Gettes '20, & Alexa Spennato '20
- 29 Appreciating Temple Dental, Kutlwano Ramputswa '99
- 30 Comprehensive Education at Temple Dental, Michael Saba '14
- 30 Temple Dental Clinical Training Prepared Me Well, Michael Palys '94
- 31 Message from the President of the Alumni Association, Ron Silverman '73
- 32 CELEBRATING TEMPLE 160th Celebration
- 34 Graduation & White Coat Ceremonies
- **36 CONTINUING EDUCATION**
- **36 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**
- 37 IN MEMORIAM



12



16





TEMPLE DENTAL IS AT THE



DEAN AMID I. ISMAIL, Laura H. Carnell Professor

s I look at the large museum collection on the third floor of the dental building, I read with pride what your school has experienced, developed, evaluated, and explored in the practice of dentistry since 1863. Throughout its 161 years, Temple Dental has been graduating dentists with superb clinical acumen and capabilities that surpass other graduates. To maintain this legacy, our faculty have worked hard to teach dental students how to develop as excellent clinicians and professional learners. Our location also has driven us forward. We are a beacon of care in a highly underserved area with a patient population who have high needs for medical, dental, social, and economic needs.

But success cannot be achieved by maintaining the status quo. Rather, it is our legacy of clinical care and innovation that propels our success—and my task as dean and a leader of the school is to advance this legacy.

Over the last decade our school has progressed in all areas of dental practice. Just two examples are the recent additions of significant power in digital dentistry and artificial intelligence (AI). Not content with the average or minimal, we are building the skills of all 300 clinical students and over 50 residents.

RECENT ADVANCES

In fact, this year we purchased 20 TRIOS 5 3-D Scanners and expanded our capacity to provide digitally designed and milled or printed prostheses. Also, in AI we hired one of the stars in the field, Dr. Jay Patel, and we received a large grant from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research at NIH. With Dr. Marisol Tellez leading the study, AI will help us examine how to best predict severe periodontal diseases. See more about these new developments in the following pages.

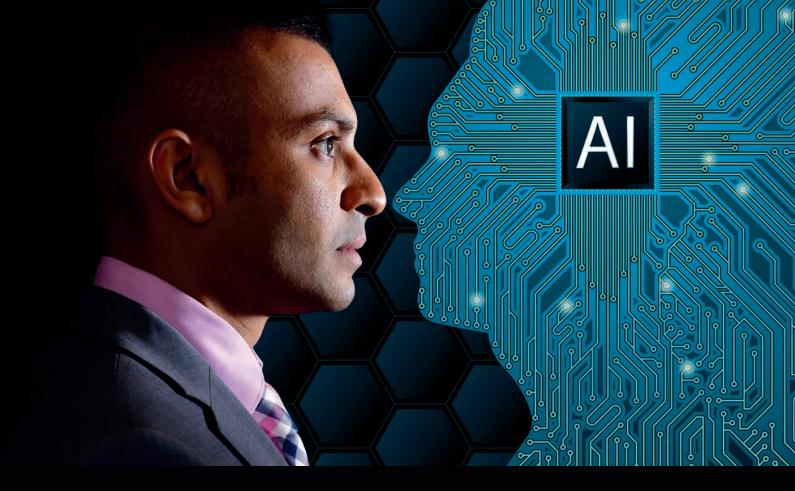
However, the real focus of this issue is you—because our alumni define the success of Temple Dental. You shine as our legacy. That's why we're sharing alumni stories of achievements here. But I know that no one issue of *The Diamond* can encompass all the successes of all our alumni. Hence, I invite you to join me at the Reunion this April 26 and share your successes with our students and faculty. You are a star, and we want future Temple Dental Owls to know your story.

As we look to the future, I also ask you to support our innovation in expanding our clinical services, funding development programs for faculty, opening a new rural educational program in Tamaqua, Pennsylvania, and other exciting developments.

Dr. Amid I. Ismail
Dean and Laura H. Carnell Professor

FOREFRONT OF INNOVATION





NEW AI CENTER ADVANCES BOUNDARIES OF DENTAL CARE

JAY S. PATEL, BDS, MS, PHD

"Our journey is toward a future where Al-powered dentistry transforms lives and communities, one smile at a time," says Jay S. Patel, BDS, MS, PhD, director of dental informatics and the Al Center as well as assistant professor of dentistry.

It's a paradigm shift in dental practice and oral and craniofacial research...actually, a transformative moment. And our newly established Artificial Intelligence (AI) Center is at the forefront.

Q: Dr. Patel, how will you integrate AI and Informatics into the Center's work?

A: We'll be focusing on innovative applications of Al, big data analysis, image processing/computer vision, machine learning, and deep learning—as we integrate the power of Al and domain expertise from various areas of healthcare, our aim is to improve patient care and outcomes. That means integrating medical, dental, nutrition, and behavioral data with computer science and Al to improve decision-making, problem-solving, and treatment planning for better oral and overall health of the patient.

Q: Your goals?

A: One major goal is to provide holistic and interdisciplinary patient care through the

power of practice-based evidence and Al. Another major goal is to study oral health disparities using diverse datasets generated from our diverse patient population in the greater Philadelphia area.

Q: And the Center will revolutionize oral healthcare delivery?

A: In short, the Center will be a pioneering hub of innovation and collaboration at the intersection of AI and dentistry. Through our multidisciplinary approach to research and clinical practice, we are poised to revolutionize the landscape of oral healthcare delivery by harnessing the transformative potential of Al, big data analysis, image processing, and machine learning.

Q: Effect on patient outcomes and health equity?

A: By generating practice-based evidence, enhancing diagnostic precision, and addressing oral health disparities, we are ready to advance the science and practice of dentistry while improving patient outcomes and promoting health equity for all.

4 RESEARCH APPROACHES OF AI CENTER

GENERATING PRACTICE-BASED EVIDENCE THROUGH THE POWER OF BIG DATA AND AL

Due to the increased adoption of electronic dental records (EDRs), electronic health records (EHR), and digital imaging, our research approach will use big data analysis techniques to extract valuable insights from vast and heterogeneous datasets. That will generate practice-based evidence to help us determine "what worked" and "what did not work." Our goal is to identify patterns, trends, and associations with significant implications for clinical decision-making and treatment outcomes, so we can uncover hidden correlations and risk factors not discovered otherwise.

This process will help us build predictive models for identifying clinician-unknown factors. Then we'll be able to address these factors to prevent either disease initiation or progression. Ultimately, we'll pave the way for more personalized and precise approaches to dental care delivery.

Unlike traditional randomized controlled trials, practice-based evidence relies on observational data from routine clinical practice without strict inclusion and exclusion criteria. In other words, "real-world" evidence is provided! That's why we aim to establish practice-based evidence, guidelines, and protocols that are grounded in the realities of everyday clinical practice. In short, we'll translate research findings into actionable strategies.

ORAL HEALTH INTEGRATED WITH **OVERALL HEALTH**

Linking oral health and overall health is crucial due to their bidirectional relationship. While poor oral health can contribute to systemic conditions like diabetes and cardiovascular diseases, the reverse is also true. Recognizing this connection is essential for implementing comprehensive healthcare strategies that ultimately improve both oral and systemic health. Linked EDR and EHR provide a unique opportunity to recognize such connections. Therefore, our center aims to develop cutting-edge linking algorithms to connect these two critical sources of datasets. Then we can obtain patients' complete information for research and enhance health information exchange between medical and dental providers in real time.

IMAGE PROCESSING AND DIAGNOSTIC PRECISION

We will apply computer vision methods to enhance both diagnostic accuracy and treatment planning in dentistry. Digital imaging modalities, such as intraoral radiography and conebeam computed tomography have revolutionized the way tures and pathologies. By leveraging state-of-the-art image

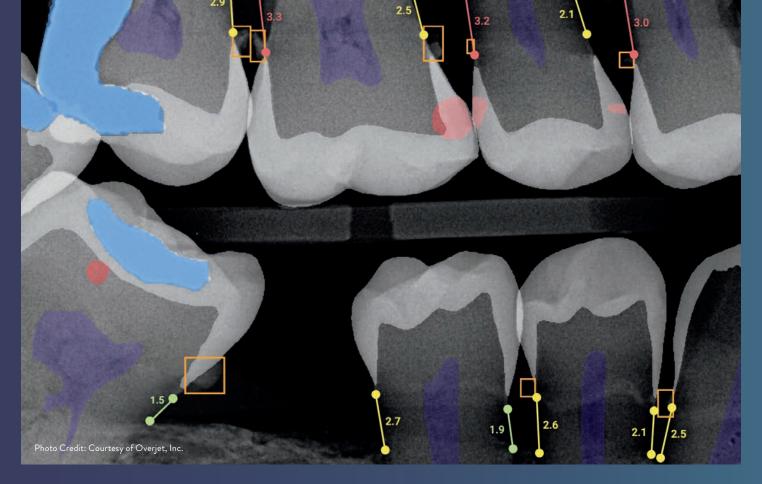
processing algorithms and these datasets, we aim to develop automated tools and software platforms for image analysis, segmentation, and feature extraction. That will enable clinicians to obtain quantitative and objective assessments of conditions with unparalleled precision and reproducibility. From caries detection and periodontal assessment to orthodontic treatment planning and implant placement, our image-processing initiatives will empower clinicians with the tools and technologies they need to deliver optimal care and achieve superior clinical outcomes.

MACHINE LEARNING/DEEP LEARNING FOR ORAL HEALTH DISPARITIES

Oral health disparities—the differences in oral health status and access to care across demographic, socioeconomic, and geographic lines-remain a persistent challenge in public health. These AI methods will play a pivotal role in addressing oral health disparities and improving health equity among underserved populations. Our goal is to shed light on the underlying determinants of oral health disparities and to present targeted interventions and preventive strategies. Harnessing the power of AI and machine learning debiasing methods will help us do just that—so those in public health can reduce disparities in access to quality dental care. •



The Center will be a pioneering hub of innovation and collaboration at the intersection of AI, dentistry, and oral health.



MAJOR GRANT WILL USE AI TO PREDICT SEVERE PERIODONTAL DISEASES

It's part of our new frontier with AI: a \$3.5 million, five-year grant from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research at NIH. With a title of "Sequential Modeling for Prediction of Periodontal Diseases: an Intra-Collaborative Practice-Based Research Study (ICPRS)," the project will seek to develop various tasks in four components:

COMPONENT 1—will fund training of 10 faculty from Temple Dental and 10 students in applied clinical research by offering a graduate certificate program in applied patient-oriented research from the College of Public Health (CPH).

COMPONENT 2—will strengthen:

- ♦ Collaborations among the dental school, CPH, and the Medical School for faculty and student training
- Overall research support for executing Component 4

A collaborative effort to develop the program included:

- Individuals with backgrounds in periodontology, general and oral epidemiology, oral microbiome, health informatics, biostatistics, and public health
- Physicians who will assist in extracting medical metrics relevant to managing periodontal diseases (PD) from re al-time medical records in the Pennsylvania Health Share Exchange (PA HSX)

COMPONENT 3—By increasing the number of faculty-student mentoring partnerships to conduct small-scale research projects, the project will expand clinically oriented faculty participation in:

- Grant-funded research activities
- Annual research day
- National research meetings

COMPONENT 4—will conduct longitudinal predictive models of PD incidence and progression, using machine-learning approaches and microbiome/metagenomic sequencing strategies.

The project is the second Uo1 to develop a practice-based research network at Temple Dental. ◆



This new grant from NIH/NIDCR represents a major milestone in the path envisioned for Temple Dental school to cement its legacy as a leader in dental education and care for the underserved. —Amid Ismail

AHEAD OF HIS TIME **WITH AI**



Sharing his AI expertise internationally, Dr. Shuaib Khaderi, DMD '01, based in Abu Dhabi, gives a lecture on machine learning.

It's new. It's innovative. It's AI machine-learning visualizajust for use in his own clinic.

"I noticed that in dentistry every year we have new products as the entire workflow is getting digitized. But the one thing that was missing was digitizing the patients' experience before they even get in the chair. Or getting them in the chair to experience all the wonderful procedures available at modern

"Nine years ago I think I was ahead of my time. The tech wasn't there, and developers couldn't figure out what I was trying to build. So I tabled it. Then about three years ago, I went all in and self-funded it. I just believed in it." On a whim, to take his idea further, he pitched it to an accelerator startup program—and won funding. In fact, he received a unani-

First put to use in the dental office as Your Social Smile, the core concept is now finding new applications and new markets. "It's full steam ahead," he says.

EXPLAINING THE IDEA

Basically, the concept uses AI to immediately show patients what they'll look like after a procedure. In dentistry, that means providing pictures of themselves after whitening, veneers, and braces. Done easily from a phone or computer tablet, the tech tool especially appeals to the instant gratification of Gen X and Millennials, Khaderi says.

Dental informatics at Temple Dental was what initially fed his curiosity about efficient systems. Though he thought it was a great direction 25 years ago, he was also thinking, "What are we doing here? This could be done better or faster."

When Dean Ismail heard about Khaderi's work, he reached out. "Get on a train and come see what we're doing at Temple!" Says, Khaderi, "I was so impressed with the changes and the innovation at the school. The simulators there are the next level. I'd say I'm a proud alumnus."

ABU DHABI CLINIC

He adds, "When the dean heard I was thinking of expanding my clinic, he said, 'Let me put you in touch with some alumni who have multiple practices and have been very successful.' I reached out to them, and they were very supportive. So what I appreciate is that when the time comes, the network is there. There are no egos. You just pick up the phone, have a good conversation, and they see where they can help. We're all the Brotherhood of Temple."

Since 2009, Khaderi has run a successful general family and cosmetic practice in Abu Dhabi. Enthusiastic about the family-centered lifestyle and progressive spirit in the emirate, he also notes that cultural differences require a different way of working than what he was accustomed to in his previous Arizona practice. For instance, he quickly knew that he had to set up the office with one chair in a closed room. "Patients here really do appreciate, respect, and listen to doctors—dentists, medical, it doesn't matter. But they expect time with you. And they like their privacy so you only work out of one chair in a closed room."

Today, his 22-chair facility has 18 clinicians, all in different specialties. "Education and preventive care are our backbone," he says. "Although that wasn't the culture here, now we have the largest dental hygiene department in the country." He's also currently shifting into a medical and dental facility where clinicians who are medically based also have a dental understanding. •

IN CONVERSATION with MRS. MILDRED MISHKIN

Remembering Jack Mishkin, '43, DDS



A member of the local chapter of Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity and the Miami Beach Dental Society, Dr. Mishkin died in 2014 at the age of 92.

he starts at the beginning. "Well, I'll tell you, after he inished at Temple, my husband practiced in New York, where he was working very hard, but not feeling that great. In the same office building was a physician, and Jack went to see him. He didn't really see anything wrong but sent Jack to another doctor who did a thorough examination. He told Jack, 'What's wrong with you is exhaustion. I recommend that you get your family together and go to Florida for vacation. You'll feel better."

So they did it. "It was 1958," she says, "and Jack took a look around, said this is where I want to spend the rest of my life, and we've been here ever since in the same house. And we've loved it."

PATIENTS LOVED HIM

She continues: "I'm very proud of what my husband accomplished. His patients adored him. I can tell you that for a fact because I used to help him in the office. Whenever he needed me, I would go in. So I know how they felt about him. He took care of them, treated them as family, and they were thrilled. He really saved people's mouths. For example, if a patient came to him with a toothache, he'd say to them, 'We don't want to pull it. Let's see if we can save it because there's nothing like having your own tooth. If you have a false tooth, you don't know how it's going to end up later on.' By explaining the importance of retaining what you have, he would try to persuade them."

He built confidence with patients, she says. "Many times a person would call, thinking something was wrong. Jack knew he wouldn't find anything wrong but would say, 'Meet me at the office.' Then he would go to the office, look at them and be able to say that everything is fine. He was very, very kind. He did everything to put them at ease and make them comfortable."

Dr. Irving Shugar, '67, family friend and Florida neighbor, agrees. "The patients I referred to him were ALL happy with his bedside manner and pleased receiving his specialty treatment. He also was generous with mentoring students and young dentists starting out in their careers."



GETTING HIS DIPLOMATE

Staying up to speed with the latest thinking in dentistry was important to him, Mildred emphasizes. "I'm going to tell you a story. He was practicing for quite a long time, and one day he said to me, 'I want to get my diplomate."

She remembers that he took courses at New York University for three years. To help, she and their son typed the required reports to fix any misspellings or errors. "With my husband we would read every line and refine it until we felt it was perfect," she says. "When he took the final exam, his instructors were amazed how well he did, and he was thrilled to get his diplomate. He really was very bright."

In fact, he graduated with honors from Temple Dental. And he achieved the honor despite taking on different jobs to pay tuition. As the school's janitor, he swept the clinic floors and took out the garbage. "Without such work," she says, "he wouldn't have gotten through dental school. His parents didn't have the money."

Mildred's birthday party in March was a grand celebration. Friends and family, about 60 of them, gathered in Miami Beach to honor her as she reached the remarkable age of 100. Dean Ismail was there, too, maintaining the close relationship that she so appreciates.

CONNECTION WITH THE SCHOOL

According to the 2012 issue of *The Diamond*, Dr. Mishkin was 19 when he took his first trip out of New York to attend Temple Dental. Feeling far from home, he found camaraderie with his classmates. "We supported each other," he said then. "That was part of the Temple environment. To me, Temple was a big and a very important family."

In appreciation of what Temple Dental meant to him, Dr. Mishkin regularly supported the school, often with "the hidden things," notes Mildred. "If he heard of something that needed to be funded, he would do it. And I still do it," she says, "because he would want me to do it. I feel it's the right thing to do, and I help in every way I can."

She continues: "I have a very fond place in my heart for the school and for what the dean is doing. I have to tell you, he's one of a kind. He's one of the smartest, nicest people I know. He works very hard to accomplish what he sets out to do. And he and his wife are a wonderful couple. I think they like me, and I love them! They've been so kind. I'm just a wife, and they treat me like a dearest friend."

Whenever they have time to visit, she looks forward to it. "I like to know what's going on. And it's interesting to talk about Jack's feelings about Temple. They like to hear it, and I like to tell it."



REFLECTIONS HER CAREER AND HER DAD

Dr. A. J. (Gus) Chialastri '49 & Susan Chialastri '87



DR. SUSAN CHIALASTRI RECOGNIZED WITH PRESTIGIOUS STAUFFER AWARD

On April 10, Susan Chialastri, '87, DMD, MS, DICOI, FACD, accepted the Stauffer Award that honors service beyond the classroom and the university community. The award is Temple University's highest alumni recognition for faculty and comes with a \$4,500 cash prize.

r. C, as her students call her, began her teaching career in 1975 and has been a full-time faculty member at Temple Dental since 2007. She is "Temple Made," a four-time alumna, graduating in 1972 from the School of Dental Hygiene, in 1974 with a BS in Education (summa cum laude), in 1987 with a DMD (summa cum laude), and in 2009 with an MS in Oral Biology. She completed the Temple Teaching in Higher Education Certificate Program in 2013 and the Provost Teaching Academy in 2017. Most recently, she was department chair of periodontology, the predoctoral periodontology program director serving as course director for several didactic and periodontology clinical courses, and designer/course director of the Periodontology and Oral Implantology Honors Program. As of January 1 this year, she is a part-time faculty member and interim department chair.

Below, we talk with Dr. Susan Chialastri about her award and her years as a faculty member and student at Temple Dental.

Q: What does the Stauffer Award mean to you?

SC: I am overwhelmed by this university award when so many other faculty are deserving of this honor.

Q: What do you appreciate most from your years as a student Temple Dental?

SC: I worked at Temple for nine years in the Dental Radiology Department teaching dental hygiene and dental students before going back to dental school. I feel the teachers were tough and demanded excellence. Many of them were ex-military so they expected a lot from the students. But I think they instilled in us not to settle for mediocre and to always try your best in each procedure.

Q What do you value most as a faculty member?

SC: I was very lucky when I returned to teaching in 2007 that many of my old professors were still at the school so I could benefit from having them guide and mentor me in my new role. I became friends with these people whom I respected so much as a student—and I am grateful to all the faculty who encouraged me and are responsible for my professional success.

Among the highlights of my time at Temple Dental have been teaching several didactic and clinical periodontology courses and working in various leadership positions over the years. That includes serving as chair of my department and director of the Phase I Clinic when we transitioned to the Comprehensive Model Cluster system.

However, I think the greatest joy that I have found in teaching is sitting chairside with the students. The feedback from the students and patients make it a pleasure to work in the clinic no matter how busy we get.

Q: Other noteworthy leadership positions?

SC: I was active in the ADA and the student dental association as well as state and local dental societies and advisor for the Xi Psi Phi Dental Fraternity and the Periodontology Study Club. Also, I was a board member and now am the current chair of the Harcum Dental Hygiene School Advisory Board.

Q: The impact that you feel you've made?

SC: External validation like receiving the AAP Educators Award for Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring Periodontics in 2010 and 2017, being chosen for the Gallery of Success for Temple University College of Health Professions in 2013, and being asked to be faculty speaker at graduation were great honors.

But the most touching and rewarding memories are in the cards that I have received over the years from students, reminding me that I can make a difference in their education even in very small ways. I am so proud to be a part of their education.

Q: Memories of your father?

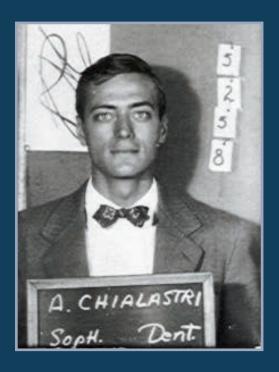
SC: What can I say? I am a daddy's girl. I thought he was terrific. His office was on the first floor of our house when I was little. When he would come upstairs, I would greet him, and his hands smelled like Dial soap and his belly smelled like zinc oxide and eugenol. Smells of dentistry that everyone hated back in the 1950's, but I love those smells.

Q: What you learned from him?

SC: As a pediatric dentist he had a unique way of managing his patients and talking to the parents. He was so good with the special needs children. He treated all patients the same with respect and humor. He would talk up a storm to divert their attention from the procedure.

I think I learned a lot from my dad about how to treat people. The staff, the students, other faculty—he knew everyone's name and greeted them when he saw them.

The only advice I didn't take from him was that he wanted me to go into Orthodontics, but I chose Periodontics. •



Legacy of Augustine Chialastri, '49, DDS

Esteemed pediatrics clinical instructor at Temple Dental, Dr. Augustine Chialastri passed away on November 23 last year. He is remembered as active in the Temple Dental Alumni Association, local and state dental associations, and the Xi Psi Phi Dental Fraternity. Notably, he was director of the Post-Graduate Pediatric Dental Residency Program at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children until he retired at age 89. In college he played basketball for LaSalle University, was a life-long ticket holder, and never missed a home game for over 70 years. In 2024 he would have celebrated his 75th Temple Dental reunion since graduation.

FROM CHICAGO TO PAKISTAN, COMMUNITY-BASED CARE Reem Shafi '98



Surrounded by the snow-covered Himalayas sits a small city, Sialkot, in the Punjab district of Pakistan. There in the old part of town is an ancestral home, once dilapidated but now reborn as a medical and soon-to-be-added dental facility. It belongs to Dr. Reem Shafi who is bringing her mission of serving the underserved to a place of family connection.

Envisioning that her three children and their friends, who all are in dentistry, will go back periodically to her homeland and help provide free care, Shafi will open the last piece of her clinic this summer. It's the dental side that will complement the medical side, which has been operating for almost two years. "We had plans to open both at the same time," she explains, "but logistically we just wanted to make sure that things on the medical side were working well." Now, that the medical facility has "taken off" with testing for basic health markers and disease awareness, the dental clinic is taking shape.

Although known for manufacturing surgical equipment, football and soccer balls, Sialkot is a town with no or very limited access to healthcare, she explains. Yet, she says, "If other communities that have access to healthcare can have them, why shouldn't this community be treated in a similar facility?" So wanting to make her facility as cutting edge as possible, its state-of-the-art equipment includes digital X-rays and CBCT.

She describes the clinic as "starting off with three chairs, mostly treating emergency-based situations to get patients out of pain. We'll do extractions, biopsies if we're able, fillings, and prophylactic cleanings so people don't come in as emergency patients. If they need comprehensive treatment, we'll probably do that as well. But, initially, we'll do emergency-based medicine."

NEIGHBORHOOD TIES

Back home in the Chicago area, Shafi also focuses on an underserved population. One day every other month she treats patients who come from different countries, who don't have dental insurance, or who have no access to health care. She emphasizes, "That's my mission because you have to take your knowledge and experience and really go in and help your communities."

With dental offices in 27 locations, she has resisted an overall brand identity. Instead, she has named most of them to reflect a tie to the neighborhood. "I wanted each one to have its own community presence and belonging." So Two Rivers, her first office, is named for the local city square. And Troy, her second office, is named for the local high school football team.

"I did not want cookie cutter dental offices," she says. "I wanted patients to feel that they belong to an office."



Such a focus on serving the community while operating a successful practice demands a good business sense, and Shafi has it. In fact, she teaches business courses at Temple Dental and tells students, "The dental school gives you that opportunity to build strong connections. This is a place where you are meeting your peers and your teachers, and they are going to be your mentors and sometimes your business partners."

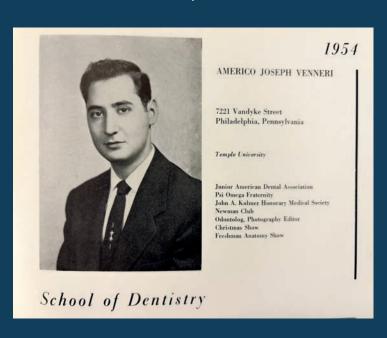
CREATING LEADERS

She adds: "I want students to think outside the box because one day they're going to be leaders in the communities they serve. I want us to cultivate and nurture students to become eventual leaders in the dental health care field—to be not only amazing clinicians but also excellent entrepreneurs and research-based individuals."

As a current board member of Temple Dental and past president of the Alumni Association, Shafi is enthusiastic about where Temple Dental is today and where it's going. That's why she encouraged her son, Shane, to enter the Dental Temple program. And that's why she believes he'll be especially ready to meet the challenges of a dental profession when he graduates from the post-grad program in periodontics this June. •

VENNERI FAMILY PRACTICE LOSES ITS WELL-LOVED FOUNDER, DR. JOE

Joseph Venneri '54, Doreen Venneri '87 & Joseph P. Venneri '89



A. Joseph Venneri, '54, DMD, the father of Joseph P. Venneri, '89, DMD, and Doreen A. Venneri, '87, DMD, died February 4 of this year. The only American-born son of Italian immigrant parents, he graduated from Frankford High School in Philadelphia and then went on to study science at Temple University. Next, he graduated from Temple Dental, the only one in his family to attend college and graduate school. He credited the support of his loving family for his achievement.

He started his dental career in the U.S. Navy as a lieutenant. Two years later he established a practice in Hatboro, Pennsylvania, later working with his daughter and son. Together, they worked to provide cutting-edge treatment in a warm and friendly environment. He was known for always making room in his schedule for anyone in need. His philosophy: "If you have a problem, I have a chair."

A pioneer in bringing endodontics to a general dentist office, he lectured and trained dentists across the U.S. in the Sargenti Method. His family says he never shied away from a motivational speech and enjoyed many hobbies, especially music. He was quite an audiophile with quite the vinyl collection. ♦



"It's been an exponential change in making us bigger and better." That's how Dr. Paul Leary, '86, describes his Long Island, New York, practice after his daughter, Dr. Megan Leary, '14, joined the team that includes another partner.

What does a father do when he wants his daughter, also a dentist, to join his practice? He "gets out of the way," says Dr. Paul Leary. "The decision has to be hers."

He continues: "When you find yourself called to this profession, and one of your children follows that same calling, there's nothing you want more than having her in the practice. But it couldn't be my choice."

Such respect for his daughter as she planned her career has been evident ever since she decided to be a dentist. Yes, he encouraged her to visit his office as a teenager. There she "watched, saw how things went, how we took care of people, that it wasn't just a matter of treating teeth, but treating people," he recalls. "That was a big piece she took from me and my staff. Also, at the time we had an associate, a woman, who was a positive influence as Megan watched someone manage a family while practicing dentistry. Generally, I think people react to what you do instead of what you say."

But also when choosing a dental school, Dr. Megan Leary remembers that her father encouraged her to look at different options. However, she says, "My decision about where to go to school was a bit easier because his experience at Temple Dental was such a positive one."

PREPARED FOR THE BUSINESS SIDE

Full time with the practice now for seven years, Megan's journey there came after two years at the V.A. Medical Center in West Los Angeles. She began as a general practice resident and then was named chief resident. "That was a big moment for me," she says, "a combination of what I had learned at dental school, feeling confident in my abilities, and propelling me to the next step in leadership."

Reflecting on what Megan brings to the practice, Paul says, "I noticed as soon as she got here that she was prepared for the business side. She just took to the administrative part of dealing with staff and scheduling. I think it first surfaced

when she was chief resident at the V.A. She has comfort in management. Also, having Megan here has opened us up to a new population, as some patients prefer to be treated by a woman. I think that piece is really important."

Megan adds: "Something else that I'm bringing to the practice are my experiences from the West Coast. Different treatment approaches and different materials there have opened my mind up to other creative ways of dealing with the same problem."

PREPARED FOR LEADERSHIP

Considering his own journey, Paul remembers a deciding moment as a first-year dental student: He raised his hand to join the Navy. After four faculty members steered him toward Navy dentistry, he spent three years on active duty and 14 years as a reservist.

"But a really big part of what I brought out of Temple was how much further I went with leadership," he says. "As I've served with the local society, the state society and then as an ADA board member, each step has been additive. Starting with the experiences in dental school, then the Navy, then going near the top of organized dentistry, it was all formative. Wow, Temple Dental really got us ready."

Megan agrees while emphasizing the positives of a respectful environment, especially with dental students. "I think that's rare to find in a dental school," she says, "and it's been important in the next steps of my career."

Today, as Paul realizes that his retirement is on the horizon, he again is getting out of the way so the practice can reflect the personalities of his daughter and his other partner. "I think that's something that all senior members in practices need to be aware of. Others need to express their experience and their own individuality in the way the practice will change. It requires all of us to bend a little bit around what's coming and what can be successful for the practice." •



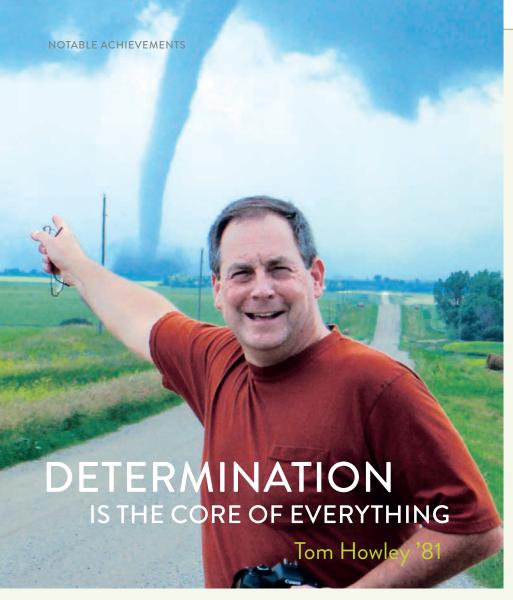
ollowing the start of my solo dental practice in 1990, the 2000's saw major milestones. I purchased and converted a "corner" building into my dental office, expanding my footprint in Horsham, PA. Proudly, still solo, but that will change in Fall of 2024. Professionally, I became a Fellow in the American College of Dentists (ACD) in 2006, followed by Fellowship in the International College of Dentists (ICD) in 2011.

Subsequent to my induction into the ICD, I became heavily involved with the organization, holding a variety of appointments for both the USA-Section and its Foundation, leading to being President of the ICD USA-Section Foundation in 2023.

2023 has brought me back in fold to Temple Dental, after giving a decade's worth of "practice management" presentations to the AEGD program. In 2023, I committed to serving the Temple Dental Alumni Association in a leadership role.

But by far the biggest Temple Dental news of the 2000's, is the Spring 2024 graduation of our son Ryan, from our alma mater, being a third-generation dentist. He will join the dental Owl's nest, of his grandfather, Ray (Past Associate Dean, Director of Clinics), his uncle, Mark (Class of 1988), and of course, his father, Class of 1989.

We are #TempleMade. ♦



Dr. Tom Howley is not only known for his quite long list of professional honors, service, and leadership roles. He also is respected for his two decades as a storm chaser tour guide and driver.

Since I was a kid, I have always been fascinated with storms and particularly tornados," says Dr. Howley. "I amassed a collection of videos and articles and ultimately the best tornado book collection in the world. But I wanted to take it further and actually chase storms and tornadoes. The problem was I knew nothing about meteorology or storm chasing. So I endeavored to teach myself." He spent 20 years as a driver, well respected forecaster, and storm chase tour guide for people from all over the world. That meant driving about 400,000 miles to see about 300 tornados of every size and intensity, some quite close.

Determination and perseverance to learn what was necessary pushed Howley forward, and they have been a throughline in his life and career. "You need to set your goals just beyond what seems achievable," he says, "and then do whatever is necessary to get there. There is truly little that you can't accomplish if you put your mind to it."

MEETING THE CHALLENGE

An experience in his Temple Dental fraternity house also demonstrates the point. "We had a major two-alarm fire," he explains. "Two of us

crawled into the room with heavy smoke, shot off the extinguishers and fled for our lives." Nearly succumbing to smoke inhalation, Howley didn't put out the fire but did accomplish something that seemed almost impossible. The house was underinsured and he took a leadership role in getting the necessary coverage. The secondary insurer eventually agreed to the repairs.

"I have never liked being told there is something that I 'can't do' or that it's 'not for me," he says. "That only makes me want to prove them wrong."

That feeling was evident in 1997 and again in 2000 when two serious automobile accidents forced Howley to discontinue his dental practice. Doctors also advised him to stop all travel and involvement with dental organizations. Howley didn't listen. Instead, he continued to serve in nearly every aspect of the dental profession on local, state, national, and international levels.

CONTINUING LEADERSHIP

Although he emphasizes that all of these roles have been meaningful, he especially mentions several accomplishments: earning his Mastership in the Academy of General Dentistry, serving as president of the International Academy of General Dentistry, and leading the Pennsylvania AGD to becoming the most awarded and admired constituent in the organization while he served.

Still engaged in professional as well as community service, Howley currently is secretary of the Temple Dental Alumni Association. Additionally, in 2022, the AGD honored him with the Albert L. Borish Award for "innovation, leadership, and dedication to the advancement of dentistry." Also noted were his "positive changes for the benefit of the profession and dental health of the public." But perhaps his greatest accomplishment? He points to meeting his wife at Temple where she worked in Radiology and then raising his children and grandchildren. "We were married in my senior year. So Temple certainly played a big part in all that." •

SUCCESS IN THE BUSINESS SIDE OF DENTISTRY

On April 5, Dr. Larry Stone received the 2024 Temple University Gallery of Success Award. Celebrating outstanding professional achievement and inspiring students toward their future, the honor also recognizes the impressive accomplishments of some of our most esteemed alumni.

hank you notes and cards may seem like small gestures of gratitude. But Dr. Larry Stone believes they "are important because they represent relationships, critical for a successful career in dentistry."

"I always saved them, and when I finally left the office, I took a box of those cards with me as a reminder of all the people who appreciated the services we provided over the years. After retirement, foregoing those healthy relationships with patients as well as with employees can be difficult for many dentists."

While he points out that Temple Dental prepared him well for the technical side of dentistry, he says the opportunity at the school to navigate relationships with instructors, classmates, and patients "was essential to preparing me for life in the real world."

By that, he means the business side of managing a practice depends on skills such as building connections. "The average dentist in private practice is out of school for at least five years before feeling comfortable opening a practice. Why is that? Simply because he or she doesn't yet have the knowledge, skill, or experience to run a business, let alone practice a profession as demanding as dentistry."

He continues: "When I ask dental students if they have ever hired or had to fire an employee, I rarely find one who has. During my first 10 years after graduating from Temple Dental, I averaged about three weeks a year in continuing education. Half of that time was devoted to practice management. And with constantly changing technology, materials, and methods, continuing education is essential to ensuring a successful career. That's why I've always maintained that your education in dentistry actually starts the day you graduate."

ETHICS SEMINARS

After more than 50 years in dentistry, most of them in private practice in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, Stone believes ethics in dentistry is a fundamental issue that needs attention.



To that end, he has funded with a significant gift the Temple Dental seminars that are bringing ethics to the forefront.

Designed to provide guidance, the seminars ask students to solve hypothetical ethical dilemmas as they compete for scholarship prizes. His hope is that the classes will benefit students, graduates, and the public at large. •



Stone now believes that ethics in dentistry is a fundamental issue that needs attention.



BACK AGAIN AT TEMPLE DENTAL in PEDIATRICS

It's all about the smiles at Temple Dental's Children's Dental Clinic. Helping to provide the specialized care are (from left): Kevin B. Krick, '08, DMD, pediatric chair, clinic director, and clinical assistant professor; Joshua A. Bresler, '03, DMD, FAAPD, pediatric vice chair and assistant professor; and Adam B. Wolf, '13 DMD, pediatric clinical assistant professor.

rs. Bresler, Krick, and Wolf graduated from Temple Dental, pursued careers, and have returned to the school, ensuring that the pediatrics program is teaching and using the most effective methods for oral health education, preventive and comprehensive care of children, including those with special healthcare needs.

CONTINUING THE FAMILY TRADITION Joshua A. Bresler, '03, DMD, FAAPD

Following in the footsteps of his late father, David A. Bresler, '79, DDS, Dr. Josh is committed to pioneering patient care and excellence in the field. That is evident in much of his work, including his current position as medical director of the Red Lion Surgicenter, the nation's first Ambulatory Surgery Center dedicated to providing dental services.

What laid the foundation for his success, he emphasizes, is his education at Temple Dental. A two-year pediatric residency at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia strengthened that expertise and led to his earning a diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry in 2008.

Beyond clinical practice, Bresler is a respected dental educator, holding positions as vice chair and assistant professor of pediatric dentistry at Temple and as an assistant professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine. He explains that his focus is to "pay forward the guidance and support he received from Temple faculty over two decades ago." In fact, his hope is "to make a difference for students, inspiring them to achieve greatness in their dental careers," just as his mentors did for him during his years at Temple Dental.

Actively involved in the dental community, he contributes to various boards, associations, and academic clubs. Notably, he received the Temple University Humanitarian Award for his work with humanitarian efforts in Haiti.

Recognized as one of Philadelphia's Top Dentists, Bresler has earned numerous awards, including being voted among the country's most promising young dentists in Incisal Edge magazine.

DEFINING SUCCESS

Kevin B. Krick, '08, DMD

Asked how much of his success he can attribute to Temple Dental, Dr. Krick has two answers: one as a student, and one as faculty.

"As a student," he says, "I appreciated the rigorous academic curriculum, hands-on clinical experience, and supportive faculty. As faculty since 2021, I appreciate being part of a cohort that creates a learning environment where students can develop both the theoretical knowledge and practical skills necessary for a career in dentistry. Helping students develop into competent and compassionate dental practitioners during their time in the clinic also brings me a great deal of personal and professional satisfaction."

All of those experiences have helped him define success as: "building trust and rapport with patients and their parents and delivering quality care while adhering to the highest ethical standards. These are the keys to helping others improve their oral health and overall well-being and how I find satisfaction and fulfillment."

Before his faculty position at Temple Dental, Krick was associate clinical director at a nonprofit pediatric practice located in underserved areas of Philadelphia. He also worked in general practice throughout the Philadelphia region and was a clinical associate at the University of Pennsylvania in the Department of Oral Medicine.

PREPARED FOR ANY CHALLENGE

Adam B. Wolf, '13, DMD

What was especially valuable about Dr. Wolf's Temple Dental education? He points to several areas but begins with recalling advantages that many alumni cite as vital preparation. "The institution's commitment to academic excellence, clinical experience, and patient-centered care was invaluable for my professional development."

He underscores that view as he proceeds to detail the specifics. The comprehensive and rigorous curriculum "equipped me with knowledge, skills, and confidence." Hands-on

clinical experiences "were instrumental in preparing me for any challenge I have faced thus far in my career." In fact, "the clinical training I received allowed me to apply theoretical concepts in a practical setting. This background not only honed my technical skills but also instilled in me the importance of effective communication, empathy, and patient care."

Also noteworthy, he says, was "Temple Dental's commitment to fostering a collaborative and supportive learning environment." He adds: "The sense of community among students, faculty, and staff created a positive and encouraging atmosphere. This support system was instrumental in overcoming challenges and pushing me to achieve my full potential."

In addition, he notes the "valuable networking and mentorship opportunities." Engaging with experienced professionals and alumni, he says, "allowed me to gain valuable insights into the industry, opening doors to opportunities and guidance that significantly contributed to my success." ♦



Drs. Bresler, Krick, and Wolf have returned to the school, ensuring that the pediatrics program is teaching and using the most effective methods for oral health education, preventive and comprehensive care of children.



IMPACT OF TEMPLE DENTAL

Robert Bentz '91 & Sara Cooley Bentz '94

66 | mpact." When asked their thoughts about the effect that Temple Dental School has had on their lives the word "impact" is what Robert Bentz, DMD, FACP and Sara Cooley Bentz, DMD, FAGD, RN agree upon. Temple Dental is where they met over 30 years ago so of course it not only had an impact on them professionally but three decades of marriage and four children later it is evident that Temple Dental has played a major role in their personal lives as well.

"Temple Dental School had a profound impact on our lives not only because of what we were taught clinically but also because we learned to focus on the whole patient not just on their immediate dental needs. We discuss their lifestyle and what's contributing to their current dental condition. Then we consider how that might be affecting their overall health or vice versa. This has been the approach for both of us throughout our careers," shared Dr. Cooley Bentz.

Dr. Bentz and Dr. Cooley Bentz were also inspired by innovation and technology while they were at dental school. As a result as the fields of dentistry and prosthodontics evolve

and advance their practice embraces the latest procedures to maximize the health and comfort of their patients.

"When I think about everything I learned as a Graduate Prosthodontics Resident at Temple Dental and look at the evolution of technology and how we are doing things today it is mind blowing," says Dr. Bentz. "However, no matter how much we evolve, the core values that were instilled in us remain the same. And what's amazing is we see those same core values being instilled in our son who is currently wrapping up his 3rd year as a Dental Student at Temple Dental."

The "Impact" of Temple Dental is profound and moves through generations inspiring future dentists and specialists such as the Bentz' son, Christoper, as well as their daughters, Emily, who will soon be completing her Prosthodontics Residency at the University of Maryland and Julia, who is a peri-anesthesia nurse in the Temple Dental School Sedation Center.

The "impact" that Temple Dental had on two young students decades ago is still felt today and will continue for years to come. •

UPLIFTING THE COMMUNITY

Juili Shivde '22 & Soham Apte '22

ittle did we know what life had in store for us when we embarked on our DMD journey at Kornberg School of Dentistry. As two ambitious individuals from different cities of India, it was not long before we realized that we shared much more in common than just our dental school and home country. It was the beginning of our journey toward not only a successful career but also a friendship that blossomed into a lifelong relationship. Of course, we had our pre-wedding shoot on Temple University's campus as a tribute to the place that brought us together!

We both agree that Temple played a significant role in shaping our careers into the clinicians we are today. Navigating dental school during COVID-19 was challenging but the school was determined to make us succeed. We adapted to virtual learning and new protocols like donning PPE and social distancing. But the biggest obstacle was the uncertainty and fear that came with the pandemic. Despite all the chaos, we found ways to stay motivated supporting one another at each step. Looking back, we are proud of ourselves for pushing through the hardships - it made our graduation day even sweeter! As they rightfully say, 'Perseverance conquers'.

After graduation, we wanted to use our skills and knowledge to uplift the community. We decided to kickstart our career working for the underserved population in Wisconsin. Before we joined the practice, patients had been deprived of dental care for almost 2 years due to a shortage of providers. We feel confident in performing surgical extractions, and root canals, undertaking complex denture cases, and catering to all their dental needs. All the credit goes to our excellent training at Temple. ♦





COMBINING THE ART AND BUSINESS OF DENTISTRY Jerry Pyser '71 & Joel Shapses '71

It was September '67, first day of freshman orientation. Sitting alphabetically at long lab tables in the old North Broad building were 135 students. One of them was Jerry Pyser. Another, across the table, was Joel Shapses. Outgoing guy that he was, Pyser reached out, saying, "Hi, I'm Jerry Pyser!" Both were "out-of-staters" in a class of mostly in-state students. And both were living away from home in apartments within a block of each other—in a class of mostly commuters. That common bond "made our initial friendship as friends and study partners kind of normal," recalls Pyser. And, as he says, "the rest is history." Married and living in Naples, Florida, they now reflect on their incredible journey that began at Allegheny and Broad.

"Joel and I have been blessed with our partnership, and not simply from a personal standpoint," says Pyser. "We were able to wear different 'hats' in our professional partnership, while serving the community well for many years."

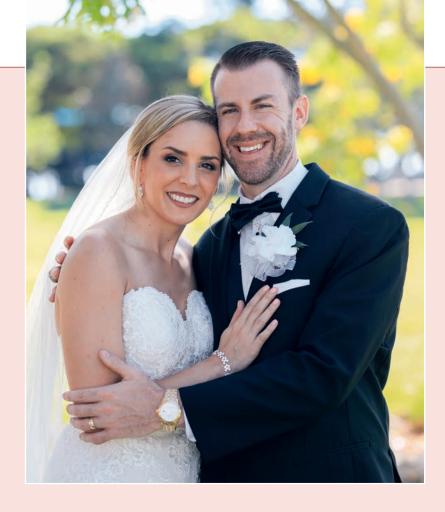
In their practice, Shapses, a sculptor of abstract and realistic forms as well as a dentist, tapped into his creativity to problem solve in innovative ways, while Pyser used his strength in management skills to grow the business. "Joel created very successful results for our patients with clinical skills beyond repute," explains Pyser. "They wanted my artist's hands," adds Shapses candidly. That artistry was evident throughout the office where Shapses' work was prominently displayed. The result was a happy and successful Fort Lauderdale prac-

tice. But when a potential buyer was interested in their fully computerized office, the first one in the country at the time, they sold the practice and moved onto other areas.

OTHER WAYS OF SERVING

Pyser pursued management consulting as dental executive director for the Highlands County Health Department in Sebring, Florida, where he built, managed, staffed, and operated three dental clinics that today see 90 children daily. Shapses helped serve AIDS adults and unwed mothers. Next, Shapses started an AIDS program for Broward County, and later became a full-time artist. Pyser, meanwhile, developed his own management and marketing company to help dentists achieve their goals through practice transition and sales.

Looking back on their four years at Temple Dental, Pyser and Shapses agree that while they didn't see then the value of their professors' very challenging ways of teaching, in the real world they have greatly appreciated the disciplined methods. However, the biggest benefit that stands out for them is "that Temple did and still does have a reputation as one of the best schools in the country," remarks Pyser. "This says a lot to the general public. Marketing your business is a key factor to having successful outcomes. And coming from a school with such a fine, prestigious reputation speaks for itself." In fact, he says, "maintaining the school's status is significantly important—a reason we both continue to support it as best we can." •



BUILDING QUALITY RELATIONSHIPS

Amanda Rizner '13 & Shane Eckels '14

I am Amanda Rizner, a 2013 graduate of Kornberg, and my husband is Shane Eckels, a 2014 graduate. We opened our private practice, Dentistry on Fruitville, in Sarasota, Florida, in 2022 and we celebrated our 2nd year in general dentistry practice in February. I'm currently the sole general practitioner at the office while Shane helps run the business aspect behind the scenes. He works at a local private office in town as well.

What do you most appreciate about your time at Temple Dental?

Our classes at Temple were truly like a family. We both were able to make lifelong friends from the journey we had together. The comradery we built with each other not only helped throughout the dental school years, but it also provided a continued support system as our careers progress.

How has Temple Dental prepared you for success?

At Temple, we were able to build quality relationships with many staff members and fellow colleagues. This seems unique to Temple when compared to other universities. In the clinic, being able to see significantly more patients than most of our dental peers is also a distinct advantage. This gave us the confidence in the real world to apply the skills we've learned as well as to understand what limitations we have and the need to improve.

What are the defining elements of your success?

While success can be defined many different ways, we have found that hard work and being empathetic to your staff and patients are defining factors of being successful. Having a team that takes as much pride in their work as you do and feels a sense of ownership in your practice makes dentistry truly enjoyable! ◆

A CHANCE MEETING LEADS to **SUCCESS** OF MANY KINDS



After meeting at Temple Dental and then marrying, Dr. Ina Kim DDS '08 and Dr. Will Choi DDS '09 now both work in the Bay Area of California.

ne was an endodontics resident at Temple Dental, and one was a general dentistry student at the school. So what were the chances that they would meet? Quite simply... rare. But an elderly Korean woman who spoke no English provided the connection.

She had come to the dental clinic for treatment and needed a translator. Dr. Choi, fluent in Korean, was the best choice. But realizing the patient required endodontics, he transferred her case to the graduate program. There, Dr. Kim, also Korean, stepped in, with Dr. Choi assisting.

Ina Kim '07 & Will Choi '09

"We didn't know each before at all," says Kim. "It's amazing," adds Choi.

A friendship developed, and by the time Kim graduated, they were dating. While he finished school, she went back to the Bay Area in California to be close to her family and to work in an endodontic practice. During a year of separation, they became engaged. Later, they married in Dr. Choi's hometown of Los Angeles with one of Kim's co-residents as bridesmaid.

COMPLEMENTARY SKILLS

Today in California, they juggle the many demands of Choi's seven practices with 25 dentists, his work at Stanford as a hospital dentist, educator of residents and junior faculty, implant director, and special needs provider—as well as Kim's part-time clinician work—while raising three children.

How do they find the time to do it all? To keep everything in place, they say their skills, which they honed at Temple Dental, are complementary. She is the behind-the-scenes supporter who likes to work with day-to-day details. "I'm type A, that's who I am," she says. "I like to do what I have to do." Conversely, Choi sees the grand scheme of things.

"Temple Dental taught us what to prioritize as clinicians and people, and we have been able to relate that to our daily lives," notes Kim. For instance, during the first 15 years of their marriage, they concentrated primarily on the business and their children. Looking ahead to the next 15 years, they also will be working to educate other young professionals by introducing good business practices and a good work ethic.

STEPS ALONG THE WAY

While at Temple Dental, they both were very serious about "planning for the real world." For Kim that meant learning as much as she could about endodontics, the specialty she had finally decided to pursue while a dental student. For Choi that meant getting involved in student affairs and learning how to lead, delegate, compromise and, importantly, how to scale a business.

TEMPLE DENTAL SHAPED OUR LIVES

Albano Zenelaj '16 & Jonida Sinani '16

ur names are Jonida Sinani and Albano Zenelaj and we're proud graduates of Temple University Kornberg School of Dentistry. Temple Dental not only shaped our professional experience but our whole life. We met at Temple Undergrad and later we both got accepted to Temple Kornberg School of Dentistry, where we got engaged and later married. We are parents of two children, Marko and Aria, and one day we hope they can continue their parent's legacy and also become Temple dental grads.

Following dental school, we completed one year of GPR at St. Luke's Hospital. Shortly after completing the residency Dr. Sinani joined the attending faculty at St. Luke's Residency program where she is currently working and teaching. Dr. Zenelaj became an associate and soon after, we opened our own office in Fairless Hills PA.

We are the professionals we are today because of the education and the training we received from Kornberg School of Dentistry. We appreciate the school for the great dental experience and guidance it gave us. Kornberg School of Dentistry prepares its students with the highest ethics and excellent patient care. As soon as someone hears that you're a Temple Dental grad, you are immediately respected due to the high reputation that Kornberg School of Dentistry carries. As dental students, we were always treated with respect. We had the ability to connect and create a good rapport with our faculty and mentors which had a significant impact on shaping and helping the young dentists we were to grow confidently in our careers and provide a better treatment for our patients. Kornberg School of Dentistry opened the doors to a whole world of opportunities and success. For us, financial success is not the only element of success in dentistry. The most successful dentists are the ones who sincerely care about people, about their patients and their staff. Because they care, they smile more, work harder, and perform better treatments. Patients feel this sincerity and they respond to it. Staff also appreciate their genuine concern, and they are willing to sacrifice more for these doctors. Our motto is, "If you genuinely care about your patients and your staff, everything else will follow." ♦



We're forever grateful to Kornberg School of Dentistry for the education it gave us, for shaping and making us the best dental professionals we could possibly be.



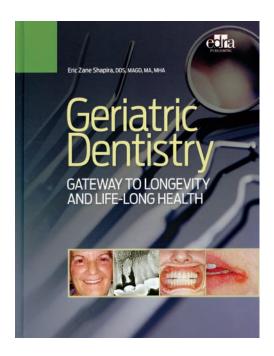
MY LIFE IS A PATCHWORK QUILT...

I thank Dean Howell every day for believing in me.

In my last year as a dental student, I applied to give a paper at an International Meeting in Amsterdam as a member of the American Student Dental Association. To my surprise, my proposal was accepted. The shock hit me when I realized I did not have enough money to get there. I was working three jobs while in school to help pay rent, books, food etc...I went to our Dean, Charles Howell, and asked if there was any money I could borrow for this purpose. He asked me some questions and then said he could get me the airfare from a grant and as a loan. I was elated (and eventually paid back the loan).

In Amsterdam, I met a dentist from Sardinia, who stated he was my sponsor and would take me back to his Island for several months to shadow him and his brother, both dentists, in their practice and that I could live with him there. I had no idea about this before I left other than someone sponsored me for after the conference. While there, I met a young medical student named Luca who was a friend of the family and we became friends. Luca eventually became a prominent psychiatrist in Italy and head of the FDA for Italy, as he was an expert on psychotropic drugs.

Many years later, after being run into by a truck in 2020 while at a stop sign, I was incapacitated for awhile with neck and back surgery; during the recovery from neck sur-



gery, I could not sleep. I stayed up every night and wrote a textbook on Geriatric Dentistry, which I had taught, along with special needs dentistry for 40 years, to mask my pain. I met a professor at an ADA/FDI meeting in San Francisco just before the accident. He introduced me to a publisher in the exhibit hall and asked them if they might be interested in a book on geriatric dentistry. They said yes and to publishing my book, but after waiting a year, they dropped my contract due to Covid, loss of employees and paper pulp to print books. I was crushed. I called Luca, now teaching in Washington, DC, and asked if he could refer me to a publisher with whom he had worked. Fortunately, he did; they published my textbook (after another year of work) on January 1, 2024. It is called "Geriatric Dentistry: Gateway to Longevity and Life-Long Health" and will be printed in 7 to 8 languages I am told. I cried when I saw the completed book in print!

Things happen for a reason: all these experiences in life, basically happenstance, intertwined to make this happen for me. A patchwork quilt of experiences weaving a life story and a blessing in disguise. I thank Dean Howell every day for believing in me and allowing me to attend that student meeting; for if he had not, maybe none of these things would have ever come to fruition. I am eternally grateful to Temple University School of Dentistry for giving me the opportunity to become a dental practitioner and educator, providing me with the tools for my future success for myself and many others. •



LEARNING

LEARNING, It is hard to believe my class is going on our ten-year reunion. Much like in LEARNING, the words of Dr. Boberick, "Tomorrow is May"—in a blink, it has been 10 years! In many ways, being in practice for 10 years feels like a milestone, much like graduation. Since gradua-

tion, the best way to summarize what I have been up to is—learning. I have been learning how to better myself as a dentist and practitioner. Learning how to manage the business side of dentistry. Learning how to better communicate with patients and staff. Learning how to better handle the question, "Are you even old enough to be a doctor?" And learning that one day, that question will no longer be asked. Learning how to market and grow a private practice and patient base. Learning how to utilize new technology and software. Learning that sometimes a negative outcome is where you do the most learning. Learning to learn from mistakes. Learning no one is perfect. Learning grit. Learning the learning is the easy part, and implementing is what is hard. Learning what motivates and gives me drive. Learning how big and broad the world of dentistry is. Learning how to manage a work/ life balance. Learning how to be a mother. Learning what I do and don't like in dentistry. Learning about myself. Learning that the learning truly never ends! And learning, thank goodness I enjoy learning; and am so thankful to love what I do on a daily basis-making a positive impact on the patients I care for and on my team. Learning to be grateful. ♦

WILLIAMSBURG **DENTAL'S NEWEST ASSOCIATES KEEP** LOCAL HERO SMILING

In 2011, while serving in Afghanistan, Army Sergeant Russell Carter was severely injured in a rollover accident. While returning to base, the tactical vehicle he and six others were riding in malfunctioned, causing it to lose steering and fall fifty feet off of a bridge into a ravine. The accident left him with nonrecoverable injuries, as he recounts in his testimony for Homes for Our Troops. A native of Springfield, PA, Rusty returned to normal life as quadriplegic. He was used to fighting for the person next to him. Now, finding any sense of normalcy back home was his greatest fight.

Rusty first came to Williamsburg Dental because his mother, Virginia, was a longtime patient of Dr. Joseph Capista. After seeing Rusty for an exam, Dr. Robert Spennato, '89, decided he wanted to help a local hero in the best way he knew how; by giving him a beautiful smile. He called on Dr. Alexa Spennato, '20, and Dr. Jarred Gettes, '20, to restore Rusty's smile. Collectively, Drs. Robert Spennato, Alexa Spennato and Jarred Gettes developed a treatment plan and designed Rusty's beautiful new smile. "The compassion and delicacy with which they handled my case far exceeded my expectations," said Rusty. "For the first time in my life, I wasn't afraid or embarrassed to go to the dentist because of how comfortable they made me feel and how welcoming the whole team was throughout the process. The passion they have for the work they do was evident from my initial consultation to picture day."

Passionate about traveling, Rusty dreams of starting an organization to help injured veterans like himself have the accessibility and resources to see the world. Williamsburg Dental was honored to transform Rusty's smile and equip him with the confidence to pursue his goals. "Dr. Gettes and Dr. Spennato are true artists who love what they do. Thanks for changing my life!" ♦



Center: Army Sergeant Russell Carter (Rusty); Back row, from left: Jarred Gettes, '20 DMD, Robert Spennato, '89 DMD, Alexa Spennato, '20 DMD.



APPRECIATING TEMPLE DENTAL

What do you most appreciate about your time at Temple Dental?

I appreciate a lot of things. The commitment and the clinical experience of the faculty team were impressive. The cultural diversity of the students gave me a chance to learn about different cultures, but it also allowed me to network with the different students. The dental program itself, I really did enjoy it. The clinical program introduced us to real life situations. I also appreciate the support we got from the Dean's Office, International Student Office and all the support offices that made our studies at Temple a breeze.

How has Temple Dental prepared you for success?

The clinical skills they taught us have been on point. There is not a day when I am in the clinic that I don't appreciate how lucky I was to have been blessed with an education from Temple Dental. I am forever grateful for the opportunity I had as a student at Temple Dental. I also learned some life skills from some of the faculty members. And the different clinical student associations helped us with both clinical and networking skills.

What are the defining elements of your success?

Well, success is relative, but I can define my success as having been able to do the things that I had hoped to do in my dental career. I have been a mentor to high school students, dentists, and pre-dental students. I have had the privilege of working in both private practice and in a hospital dentistry setting. I also have had an opportunity to work with government departments on dental issues at a consultative level. By God's Grace, owning my private practice was a dream come true. I am very grateful that on my dental pathway I also met a lot of mentors and got support from diverse population groups. Thank you to my family and all who contributed in different ways to my life. •





There is not a day when I am in the clinic that I don't appreciate how lucky I was to have been blessed with an education from Temple Dental.



COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION AT TEMPLE DENTAL

During my transformative years at Temple Dental School, active involvement in extracurricular activities like the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) honed my leadership skills and community engagement. However, it was the practical experiences post-graduation that defined my professional journey.

Following Temple, I had the privilege to join Dr. Peter Louie at The Laser Dental Group. This not only exposed me to advanced dental technologies but also led to the eventual purchase of the practice, marking a significant entrepreneurial milestone. Expanding my professional portfolio, I established another general practice and a pediatric dentistry practice, diversifying my expertise. These ventures, rooted in the comprehensive education from Temple, exemplify the tangible impact of my alma mater.

Recently achieving Diplomate status at the International Congress of Oral Implantologists (ICOI) adds another layer to my journey and symbolizes my commitment to excellence and ongoing dedication to stay at the forefront of implant dentistry. My career reflects the practical impact of Temple Dental School's education. Proudly carrying forward the institution's legacy, I continue to grow and succeed. ♦

TEMPLE DENTAL CLINICAL TRAINING PREPARED ME WELL

30 years ago, I was accepted to the Harvard School of Dental Medicine's 3-year post-doctoral program in periodontology and upon graduation from Temple University School of Dental Medicine, now Kornberg, promptly made the move to Massachusetts from my home state of Pennsylvania. The clinical training I received at Temple prepared me well for my specialty program which also included clinical research at Harvard and The Forsyth Institute. After graduation I continued clinical research while deciding on my future employment. Soon enough I was interviewing at multispecialty dental offices in the greater Boston area including the Harvard University Health Services which also housed all areas of medicine. I accepted the position at the health service and another group office but had only planned on spending a year there gaining experience when I met my future wife. Since she had no interest in leaving New England, I decided to put down roots in the Boston area. We are now married with 3 children and I have lived longer in Massachusetts than in Pennsylvania. I still work at the same multispecialty group offices and am also a clinical instructor at Harvard. I enjoy my profession more than ever. It turns out that I really like helping patients save their teeth or replace them if they can't. It is also rewarding teaching the next generation of dental professionals how to get their hands and minds in sync with each other and it's a great thing to see that joy on their faces when they finally fully understand.



MESSAGE FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

COVID was a life altering experience for all of us, destroying or changing much of our lives as we previously knew them. The Alumni Association was no exception. Two years ago there really didn't seem to be much left functioning, and those of us who were running the shell that remained decided to take this opportunity to pretty much start over. Together with Dean Ismail we defined our goals, with emphasis on reconnecting alumni who have lost touch with the School and with each other. We restructured and greatly simplified the organization and rewrote the by-laws to reflect the changes. So, as the current President of the Alumni Association I present to you the new, improved, and hopefully more inviting and relevant Alumni Association.

The Association has a changed emphasis, expanding from its former emphasis on Philadelphia to local and regional events throughout the country where you can combine continuing education with spending time with other alumni from your local area. These community events are being organized and sponsored by Dean Ismail and faculty members of the Dental School. We are hoping that your community-based events will open up communication among alumni of all ages encouraging sharing ideas and experiences in a way we haven't been doing until now.

Our attempt to create open communication among alumni cannot succeed without your help. If there is someone you have lost touch with, please notify us and we will help you find them. If there is someone you know who is not connected to the Alumni Association, please let us know and we will get in contact with them.

Another goal of our association is to engage the current students at the school to learn their ideas and aspirations and provide support in achieving them. We hope to do activities and projects that will benefit the most number of students while they are any the school.

We have a dedicated group of volunteers and paid staff, working hard to make our revamped Association a success. The current Board members are as follows: President, Ron Silverman; President-Elect, Michael Bydalek; Secretary, Tom Howley; Treasurer, Cynthia Jetter; Awards Chair, Alan Simkins; and Young Alumni Representative, Varun Solanki. We also have two full-time university employees in the Alumni office, David Leach and Diane Fosbenner who provide outstanding support to our organization. Our Board of Directors meets in Philadelphia three or four times a year to plan activities and programs. We would like your suggestions, and need your support and



input. Feel free to contact me directly with any concerns or suggestions. We are building an alumni association that is relevant and helpful to all our graduates. •

Ron Silverman DDS mgronsilverman@gmail.com

Thank you to the alumni who shared their journeys. We know there are many more inspirational stories and we would love to hear from you at tdental@temple.edu



Temple University Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry marked its 160th birthday with special courses for students and alumni, an alumni association awards luncheon, a gala reception and dinner, and the white coat

an important role in developing dental education, community service and dental care for the underserved from the Civil War to today," Dean Amid Ismail said. "As we celebrate this important anniversary, I feel the grit and perseverance of the school's founder, Dr. John H. McQuillen, who was able to open a school during a challenging time in this country and accept the first class during the Civil War."







Recognizing that one of the most important milestones in a dental student's life is the White Coat Ceremony, Temple Dental held a commemoration on Friday, April 29, to honor the 144 members of the Class of 2025.

A highlight, as always, was when a family or faculty member coated each student, acknowledging the beginning of his or her clinical education while moving into the third year of dental school. Keynote speaker was Raymond A. Cohlmia, DDS, Executive Director of the ADA. Student commentary was provided by Dikshitha Shankar, Class of 2025 president. The dean's remarks concluded the ceremony, followed by receptions in Mitten Hall.



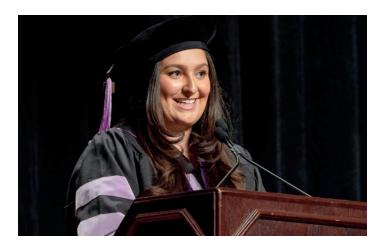








GRADUATION 2023



Temple Dental held the 2023 graduation ceremony at the Temple University Academy of Music on May 20. Dean Amid Ismail made opening remarks, followed by a keynote address from Kim S. Cameron, PhD, MA, MS, University of Michigan.

Sharing their thoughts, too, were Susan M. Chialastri, DMD '87, MS '09, on behalf of the faculty and student speaker Jacqueline D. Lieberman, DMD '23.

After presentation of degrees and specialty certificates, friends, family and faculty enthusiastically welcomed the 153 DMD graduates into the dental profession. Notably, they already have made outstanding contributions to dental care.





2024 CE COURSES

Friday, September 20, 2024

CLEAR ALIGNERS (CDE1795)

Dr. Harold Slutsky 9:00am – 4:00pm / 6 CE

Zoom: Dentist \$180 / Dental Team \$75 /
Temple Faculty \$25 / Residents/Students FREE
In Person: Dentist \$295 / Dental Team \$125 /
Temple Faculty \$50 / Residents/Students FREE

Friday, October 25, 2024

MANDATORY TRAINING

Act 31 Child Abuse Recognition and Reporting (CDE1796)

Dr. Angela Stout and Mary C. Pugh, Esq. 9:00am - 11:00am / 2 CE

Zoom: Dentist \$60 / Dental Team \$30 / Temple Faculty \$25 / Residents/Students FREE

Friday, November 1, 2024

Oral Lesions: Recognition, Diagnosis, and Management (CDE1797)

Dr. Chizobam Idahosa 9:00am – 4:00pm / 6 CE

Zoom: Dentist \$180 / Dental Team \$75 / Temple Faculty \$25 / Residents/Students FREE

PA RENEWAL IS MARCH 31, 2025

For more information, contact Nicole Carreno at ncarreno@temple.edu or 215.707.7541
Or visit our website at dentistry.temple.edu/continuing-ed

MODERNIZING THE DENTAL UNITS FOR STUDENTS AND POSTGRADUATE RESIDENTS

In an ongoing effort to improve the facilities that support educating students, one of our next capital improvement goals is to replace all 279 of the existing clinic chairs.

Recognition opportunities for gifts of \$30,000 or more can be paid over five years with a commemorative plaque displayed in one of the clinics.

Please consider making an online gift or contacting David Leach, Assistant Dean for Development and Alumni Affairs at 215-707-7887 or leach@temple.edu

ALUMNI CALENDAR OF EVENTS

dentistry.temple.edu/alumni/alumni-events



Join us for the Temple Dental Reunion and Alumni Awards Celebration on April 26, 2024

Information and registration details can be found at alumni.temple.edu/DentalReunion2024

TENTATIVE ALUMNI DATES 2024-2025 September 2024

Philadelphia Alumni Dinner & CE Program Date TBD

AAOMS Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL Alumni Reception

TBD September 9-14, 2024

October 2024

ADA SmileCon 2024 New Orleans, LA Alumni Reception TBD October 17-19, 2024

Temple Alumni Homecoming

Lincoln Financial Field, Saturday, October 19, 2024

AAP Annual Meeting San Diego, CA Alumni Reception

TBD October 31-November 3, 2024

Pittsburgh Alumni Dinner & CE Date TBD

November 2024

Chicago Alumni Dinner & CE Date TBD

December 2024

Greater NY Dental Meeting Alumni Reception Sunday, December 1, 2024

January 2025

Arizona Alumni Dinner & CE Date TBD

February 2025

Northeastern PA Alumni Dinner & CE Date TBD

March 2025

South Florida Alumni Dinner & CE Date TBD

April 2025

AAE Annual Meeting in Boston, MA Alumni Reception TBD April 2-5, 2024

White Coat Ceremony Friday, April 25, 2025

Reunion Gala and Alumni Award Ceremony Friday, April 25, 2025 AAO Annual Meeting in Philadelphia PA Alumni Reception TBD

April 25-27, 2024

IN MEMORIAM

George Blanchard, DDS	DEN '43	Alan Dutkin, DDS	DEN '61
Leroy L Wintersteen, DDS	DEN '44	Donald W Frantz, DDS	DEN '61
Lawrence F Balestra, DDS	DEN '45	Donald H Gucker, DDS	DEN '61
John J Radomile, Sr, DDS	DEN '47	Franklin Marsico, DDS	DEN '61
Augustine J Chialastri, DDS	DEN '49	J Edward Carchidi, DDS	DEN '62
Sidney B Parmet, DDS	DEN '51	Donald F Curtis, DDS	DEN '62
Lamoyne H Fleming, DDS	DEN '52	Howard Jaffe, DDS	DEN '62
H William Gross, DDS	DEN '52	Russel S Bleiler, Jr, DDS	DEN '64
Gabriel W Horkowitz, DDS	DEN '52	Alan Hafter, DDS	DEN '64
Robert S Woodward, DDS	DEN '52	Richard Hochman, DDS	DEN '64
David L Miller, DDS	DEN '53	Sydney Magriney, DDS	DEN '64
Edwin D Snyder, DDS	DEN '53	Victor Kirson, DDS	DEN '65
Thomas H Bailey, DDS	DEN '54	Steven L Weisberg, DDS	DEN '65
A Joseph Venneri, DMD		Stephen C Carmick, DDS	DEN '66
·	DEN '54	Jay A Denbo, DDS	DEN '66
Kenneth W Werley, DDS	DEN '54	James P Heidere, DDS	DEN '66, DEN '69
Burton E Balkin, DMD	DEN '55		_
Captain Emidio J Collevecchio, DDS	DEN '55	James H Currier, DDS	DEN '67
Robert M Hendricks, DDS	DEN '55	Orlando B Sanchez, DDS	DEN '67
Arthur F Hersh, DDS	DEN '55	Howard Tocker, DDS	DEN '67
Harold W Miller, Jr, DDS	DEN '55	Stanley Dintcho, DDS	DEN '70
Alvan Morton Morris, DDS	DEN '55	Frederick R Vanistendal, Jr, DDS	DEN '70
Howard S Selden, DDS	DEN '55	Richard Costantini, DDS	DEN '71
Ted M Stampien, DDS	DEN '55	Ira M Kay, DDS	DEN '71
T Chester Bright, DDS	DEN '56	Russell Alan Leve, DDS	DEN '71
Robert A Chandler, DDS	DEN '56	John D Martin, DDS	DEN '72
Howard Horowitz, DDS	DEN '56	Rosario F Mayro, DDS	DEN '72
Louis A Longo, DDS	DEN '56	Mark R Corbman, DDS	DEN '73
Glenn S Breidenstine, DDS	DEN '57	Kem C Moser, DDS	DEN '73
Paul J Coolican, DDS	DEN '57	Charles H Schupack, DDS	DEN '73
Arthur F Furman, DDS	DEN '57	Ronald Grabowski, DDS	DEN '74
Jack E Jordan, DDS	DEN '57	Mark C Diehl, DDS	DEN '75
Colonel James T Aslanis, DDS	DEN '58	Joseph FTate, DDS	DEN '75
Harold W Bartlett, Jr, DDS	DEN '58	Stanley J Koryat, DDS	DEN '76
Jay A Felty, DDS	DEN '58	James C Baker, Jr, DDS	DEN '78
George H Gaugler, Jr, DDS	DEN '58	Joseph F Jurgevich, DDS	DEN '78
Howard Neuman, DDS	DEN '58	James Rhode, DDS	DEN '78
George D Pirie, Sr, DDS	DEN '58	William P Fricker, DDS	DEN '78, DEN '80
Mark Shapiro, DMD, PhD	DEN '58	James J Murphy, DDS, PhD	DEN '79
Raymond C Sirois, DDS	DEN '58	Wayne A Martin, DDS	DEN '80
Michael J Smirne, DDS	DEN '58	Mark Gerard Toncini, DDS	DEN '82
Howard G Sokol, DDS	DEN '58	Richard D Knowlton, Jr, DDS	DEN '83
Wallace M Remsen, DDS	DEN '58, DEN '64	Christopher Thaddeus Juchno, DMD	DEN '84
Robert L Adams, DDS	DEN '59	Ronald R Reinmiller, DDS	DEN '84
Bernard M Eackloff, DDS	DEN '59	Michael P Olinits, DDS	DEN '85
Richard A Goodman, DDS	DEN '59	John W Feshuk, Jr, DDS	DEN '87
Vernon D Kressley, DDS	DEN '59	Helen E Ford, DMD	DEN '90
Bruce K Leinweber, DDS, MD	DEN '59	John D Horn, DMD	DEN '92
Joseph L Tabourne, Jr, DMD	DEN '59	Mathew Thomas, DMD	DEN '94
William F Potter, DDS	DEN '60	Wanda Flinn, DDS	DEN '01
Robert S Pribell, DDS	DEN '60	Michael A Pallante, Jr, DMD	DEN '03, DEN '04
Frederic A Thompson, Jr, DDS	DEN '60, DEN '62	Htin Gyaw, DMD	DEN '07
Jay H Monari, DDS	DEN '60, DEN '73	Mo Mahoutchi, DMD	DEN '14
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