



# DENTISTRY

SUMMER 2016



Dr. David Felton helps Mimi Hoang, D1, prepare teeth for a fixed bridge in the Simulation Lab.

## School of Dentistry's future in sure hands with Felton

By Alana Bowman

**A**s his mother tells it, 3-year-old David Felton was a decisive fellow.

Upon returning from visiting a family friend's dental practice in Charlotte, North Carolina, the young Felton announced, "I've decided I want to be a dentist when I grow up because all they do is sit around and make money." Dr. David Felton, newly appointed dean of the University

of Mississippi School of Dentistry, doesn't remember it exactly the way his 94-year-old mother told the story when they were visiting his hometown of Garner, North Carolina, recently.

"I've wanted to be a dentist for as long as I can remember," said Felton. "I'll take her word for it."

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Felton

## Well-trained graduates, faculty achievements highlight spring semester

WOW, has it been a QUICK five months since Sue and I arrived in Jackson in mid-January, or what?!

I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your kindness, for the incredibly warm reception and for your support of us and of the School of Dentistry. It is very refreshing to see the dedication and commitment of our faculty, staff and alumni as we

move forward to educate the next generation of Mississippi dentists.

I'm proud to say that on May 27, all 34 members of the Class of 2016 graduated on schedule! Although I've only known members of this class for a few months, I've found them to be incredibly cohesive, collegial and patient-care oriented. For those of you in practice who will be employing these new dentists, you're getting a very well-trained, highly motivated group of very competent colleagues!

Let me take this opportunity to highlight a few of the great things we've accomplished at UMMC this semester:

- Four of our faculty received Norman C. Nelson Order of Teaching Excellence awards this spring: Dr. Jennifer Bain (D.M.D. '09), Dr. Wayne Caswell, Dr. Susan Warren and Dr. Jordan Yu. They have all made us very proud!
- In addition, Dr. Bain was selected as the recipient of the 2016 Regions Bank TEACH Prize, a first for the School of Dentistry. Of all the Nelson Order recipients from each of the schools at UMMC, six individuals were selected as finalists for the TEACH Prize. Congratulations to Dr. Bain for this achievement!
- Dr. Jim Fitchie announced his retirement as of June 30. He will be replaced by Dr. Tracy Dellinger, who will serve as interim chair of the Department of Care Planning and Restorative Sciences. We welcome Dr. Dellinger into this new role, and wish Dr. Fitchie all the best as he enters the next phase of his life.
- Dr. Jeff Brown (D.M.D. '01) will leave the School of Dentistry on July 30 to enter private practice. Dr. Ravi Chandran (D.M.D. '09), interim chair of oral and maxillofacial surgery and pathology, will also serve as interim director of our OMFS Residency Program while we recruit Dr. Brown's replacement. Our best wishes to Dr. Brown for a productive career in private practice!
- We also have ongoing recruitments for faculty to replace Dr. Moe Qaisi (OMFS) and Dr. Harold Kolodney (oral and maxillofacial prosthodontist) and a periodontist to replace Dr. Tony Adams.

• We have requested from the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) permission to increase our entering class size to 40 students, which is the maximum we can accommodate given our current physical plant. We plan to have 40 in the incoming class this August.

Dr. Scott Gatewood (D.M.D. '84), associate dean for academic affairs, has asked graduating classes from 2010 and 2014 to complete a brief survey. This is one of the requirements for our CODA accreditation, and we strongly urge you to complete it if you are a member of one of these graduating classes.

- We have begun the process of developing a new strategic plan for the School of Dentistry. This will serve as our "road map" for the future of the school, and will enable us to focus our attention – and dwindling financial resources – on the most critical initiatives that we establish. We have developed six task forces that are evaluating important potential initiatives that will help us structure our plan to meet the future opportunities before us.

- We have begun work on a new, six-week rural rotation for dental students. This will allow our D4 students the opportunity to practice outside the School of Dentistry in adjunct faculty (the new UMMC designation will be "clinician-educator") offices for four days per week during a six-week period. Students will return on the fifth day to continue work within the school.

This program has several major advantages:

- 1) It will provide our students with additional patient-care opportunities that we cannot provide in the Jackson area, including additional experiences with pediatric dental patients (which the students desperately need).
- 2) It will give students the opportunity to have clinical procedures that count toward the clinical experience requirements performed outside of the school.
- 3) It will provide our students with the ability to see how private practices are managed, and that they can be highly successful practicing in rural Mississippi.
- 4) It will provide our adjunct faculty with the opportunity to observe potential associates, to see if they are a good "fit" with their practice's philosophy, staff and goals (and vice versa with the students).
- 5) It will address the expanded duty/dental health aid therapist issue that is looming over the state.
- 6) It will allow the school to provide oral health-care services to the underserved areas of Mississippi.

We are most excited about this new initiative. Dr. John Smith (D.M.D. '79), our assistant dean for admissions, will serve as director of this new program.

If you would like to serve as a rural site "clinician-educator" and host a student in your practice, please contact Dr. Smith at (601) 984-6060 or at [jbsmith@umc.edu](mailto:jbsmith@umc.edu) at your earliest convenience.

- It appears that we've FINALLY gotten our flooding issues resolved here at the school, which is great news for us! That being said, there are other facilities issues we will need to address in the near future.
- While parking for our patients continues to be a challenge, our new parking deck is quickly becoming a reality. We hope the 1,000-car facility, immediately adjacent to the school, will be completed for occupancy by early fall. Although it will serve UMMC employees, it will not be available for patients.

We continue to battle the high cost of educating our next generation of dental students. As an example, the Class of 2015 graduated with an average student debt load of \$104,858, while graduates of the Class of 2016 had an average student debt load of \$159,006. While this is well below national levels, my concern is how it will ultimately impact the practice of dentistry in Mississippi. Think about how you would open a dental practice if you carried that type of financial debt.

Finally, due to state appropriation reductions for the entire Medical Center, we're asking you to consider a donation to the School of Dentistry's Foundation this year (if you've never given before), or an increase in your annual donation. You can contact Sheila Henderson, our development officer, at (601) 815-2300 or at [sahenderson@umc.edu](mailto:sahenderson@umc.edu). Sheila can provide you with information about planned or estate giving and how to contribute to the school's funds. My ultimate goal is to raise funds for student scholarships to allow our Mississippi students the opportunity to have the best education at the lowest possible cost. I hope you'll join Sue and me in this quest.

We both look forward to a long and fulfilling career here at UMMC. While the school is currently in very good shape, I believe we can be one of the best schools of dentistry in the U.S.!

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## New SOD dean eyes expanding community service, 'digital' dentistry

How many professionals can say that the career they dreamed of at 3 was their final choice and the one that made them happy? "I love what I do," said Felton. "I love dentistry, but I really love academic dentistry."

Upon graduation, he signed a lease on some property in Raleigh. The contractor had two years to build his office, so while waiting for construction to begin, Felton accepted

a one-year appointment in the Department of Prosthodontics at the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry.

"At the end of my first year working for the school, the contractor still had not started the construction project, so I accepted the appointment for a second year," said Felton.

Halfway through the second year, Felton was offered a full-time position by the school. On his way home that day, he noticed work had finally begun on his rental property.

When Felton told the contractor that he had been offered a full-time position at the school, the contractor informed him he'd have to pay the rent whether he was in the building or not.

"I had a 24-month completion clause in my contract, and he had beaten it by three days," said Felton. "I ended up leaving academics and went into private practice for three years."

Although he was still able to teach part time, Felton's heart was not in private practice.

"I missed academics," he said. "I had absolutely fallen in love with it when I was there."

After he had completed specialized training in prosthodontics, served in several faculty positions at UNC and had a stint as dean in West Virginia, Felton became dean of the School of Dentistry on Jan. 19. Just as decisive today as he was at 3, Felton has a vision for where the school is going, and he's taking the steps to achieve those goals.

"The first goal is to come up with a very cogent strategic plan for the school," he said. "We've already started the process with the chairs and senior administrators, and I've challenged them to think outside the box. Most people in strategic planning will tell you that you need to think about that BHAG—Big Hairy Audacious Goal. What do you want to be when you grow up? I think that's what we need to do."

Felton asked his faculty and staff to think of what they would like to see the school doing differently in five to 10 years.

Dr. Robert Scott Gatewood, chair of the Department of Endodontics, said Felton's experience in leadership is evident in the way he "gathers information, considers possibilities and moves forward with a plan or solution."



Felton evaluates D2 Miles Backstrom's preparations of teeth for a fixed bridge in the lab.

"Dr. Felton, in a short period, has worked very successfully to gain insight into the opportunities and challenges facing the School of Dentistry," Gatewood said. "He has met with virtually every faculty member and has used the information gained to help structure solutions and promote opportunities."

Dr. Jason Griggs, associate dean for research and professor and chair of the Department of Biomedical

Materials Science, said Felton has given him the task of identifying strategies to increase research by dental students. The school's current student research program, the UPSTART Program, is led by Dr. Amol Janorkar, associate professor of biomedical materials science. The program is very successful with undergraduate students, but fewer D.M.D. students have chosen to participate in recent years.

"One strategy that we are looking at is adding a required assignment for every dental student to design a research study," said Griggs. "Those who choose to conduct their study would be matched with a faculty mentor and would be eligible for small intramural grants."

Students and faculty also are excited about plans to expand the school's community service learning in the future.

"I would like to see the School of Dentistry take on a greater role in community service," said Trisha Patel, D2. "We already have service learning week, but I think we could expand it even further to reach more people in our community and our state."


As for other goals, Felton said there are opportunities to begin training students on digital dentistry, the surgical placement of dental implants and the use of lasers in dentistry.

"Do we do a good job of what we are doing today? Yes," he said. "If we're doing the same thing five years from now that we're doing today, our students are going to be five years behind what they need to be."

"Technology in dentistry is changing that fast. What do we need to do to keep up with it?"

Whatever the changes, more than one student said they are confident Felton will be there to lead by example.

"He has so many duties and responsibilities as dean, but he still finds the time for students in the pre-clinic and clinic setting," said Miles Backstrom, D2. "Dr. Felton presents a lead-by-example attitude and is not afraid to get his hands dirty, whether that's helping a student with a denture case or mopping up the flooded basement floor after a big rain."

"The School of Dentistry is in good hands with Dr. Felton," said Delta Boyles, D2. "He has already changed many things for the school in his first semester with us, and I am excited to see what else he plans to do." 



Colenberg-Eakins shares her latest photo of Deucebug with Earl.

## Transplant helps dentistry alumna gain quality of life

By Ruth Cummins

LaToya Colenberg-Eakins' little dog Deucebug might have to take a break from crawling into bed with her every night.

"He's going to be so sad," said Colenberg-Eakins, 31, a 2011 graduate of the School of Dentistry.

Her pug won't be the only one who will miss out on a favorite ritual. Colenberg-Eakins no longer can enjoy venison.

"No wildlife," she said. "And my husband is a bigtime hunter." The tradeoff, however, is a no-brainer. On Jan. 11, Colenberg-Eakins turned her back on seven years of dialysis when she received a new kidney at the Medical Center.

*She lost a little. She gained so much.*

"My incision hurts, but I feel awesome. The last time I got dialysis was last Friday," Colenberg-Eakins said less than 24 hours after her surgery. "With dialysis, you feel so heavy. Now, I feel light. It's weird. I'm hurting, but I feel so great."

Dr. Mark Earl, assistant professor of transplant surgery, performed the procedure.

"Her kidney function is outstanding," Earl said the day before her scheduled release. "She's right on track."

"End-stage renal disease patients who receive a transplant live longer and have a better quality of life generally than those who remain on dialysis."

A resident of Pearl whose practice spans three cities, Colenberg-Eakins' journey to a kidney transplant began when she was diagnosed at age 13 with focal segmental glomerular sclerosis, a serious disease that usually leads to kidney failure.

In her second year of dental school, her kidneys failed completely, and she began the rigors of dialysis five days a week. It caused a temporary interruption in her classes and her pursuit of a longtime dream: to practice dentistry in Mississippi's rural communities.

"In Fayette, there are no dentists – no one in general practice," she said of the town where she grew up. Because their teeth were decayed and neglected, people in the town then and now "ended up

with extractions. Their teeth are pulled. If they'd gotten earlier care, that wouldn't have happened.

"I want them not only to have healthy teeth, but to look better."

That comes from personal experience.

As a young girl, "I hated my teeth," she said. "I had a bunch of spacing issues. People thought I was an angry person because I didn't smile.

"I got braces and a lot of reconstructive surgery, and that transformed me."

A dental school rotation at the Jackson-Hinds Comprehensive Health Center locked in her decision to pass up an often-lucrative dentistry practice in a more urban area.

"I'd ask a patient, 'How long has your tooth been hurting?' They'd say, '10 years.'"

She returned to her roots, practicing full-time at the Claiborne County Family Health Center and working part-time for a Jackson dental practice that also has an office in Hattiesburg.

When she became exhausted, both from her disease and constant travel, she made it onto three kidney transplant waiting lists, the most recent a year ago in Mississippi.

"My daily routine has been to get up, drive to work, haul home and get on dialysis for three hours, sit up for 30 minutes to make sure I'm not bleeding, go to sleep, and the next day do it all over again," Colenberg-Eakins said. "I would normally get to bed at midnight or 1. I had to plan everything."

"It's a big challenge for the overwhelming majority of patients just to manage their dialysis at home, much less be a busy professional," Earl said. "That is incredible."

Colenberg-Eakins almost lost hope, and so did her mother, as the wait stretched on and others were selected for a transplant.

"I did get angry for a while a year ago, but then I realized how dangerous that was," she said. "I questioned God. But I apologized to Him, and I found a peace."

She and her mother, Betty Colenberg of Fayette, are women of faith. Betty's husband and LaToya's father, the Rev. Anthony Charles Colenberg, is a pastor, as is Colenberg-Eakins' husband, Elbert Eakins Jr.

"It hurt when you saw other people get a kidney, and then they messed it up," Betty said. "But then I said, 'Lord, give it to her in your time, not in my time.'"

The time came early on a Sunday morning when her parents were driving to the church her father pastors in Natchez. A weary Colenberg-Eakins was in bed.

"I almost missed the call," Colenberg-Eakins said. "I had my phone on silent. I just happened to look at it."

Her father was the alternate contact. He fielded a call, then told his wife.

"We turned around and came back," Betty said. "I've had a bag packed all this time."

"They asked how long it would take me to get to UMMC," Colenberg-Eakins said. "I told them eight minutes."

The donor's kidney was still hours from reaching the Medical Center when Colenberg-Eakins was admitted at mid-morning. Then came her only fears: Would the organ be a suitable match given her rare blood type? Would it be healthy enough to be transplanted?

Her questions were answered when her health-care team came to her room at 6 a.m. Monday and rolled her to surgery. Before the anesthesia, she got to do something that most transplant patients don't.

"I saw the kidney," Colenberg-Eakins said. "I was being nosy. It was so exciting. It was going to be my lifeline."


That night, Colenberg-Eakins said, her new life kicked in.

"It's a feeling to be in end-stage kidney disease, and it's gone," she said.

There hasn't been time for Colenberg-Eakins and her husband to talk about how life will change. She's relieved that her husband and mother no longer must be her "dialysis partners," with one of them present as a condition of home treatment.

"I look forward to not having to plan it into my day," she said. "I look forward to just being free."

Soon after her surgery, Colenberg-Eakins bought a lottery ticket. Her numbers didn't match, but she wasn't a loser.

"I did win the lottery," she said. "The kidney lottery. We hit the jackpot." 

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**"It's a big challenge for the overwhelming majority of patients just to manage their dialysis at home, much less be a busy professional. . . that is incredible."**

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**— Dr. Mark Earl**

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# Advocacy a priority for dentistry Alumnus of the Year

By Brandi Van Ormer

When Mark Donald (D.M.D. '88) was a sophomore in dental school in 1986, the Mississippi legislature was considering a proposal to close the School of Dentistry.

Unwilling to uproot his family to continue his dental education in a neighboring state, Donald did the only thing he knew to do: He took a week off from school, donned his white coat and walked the halls of the capitol building, talking to any legislators he could find.

For many reasons, and as the result of combined efforts from many individuals and organizations, the bill that threatened the dental school died, and Mark Donald not only continued his dental studies, but he also dabbled in political advocacy and organized dentistry. He was appointed the first senior dental student to serve on the Mississippi Dental Association Board of Directors.

Fast forward 28 years, and Dr. Mark Donald has been in private practice in his hometown of Louisville since 1989. He is president of the Academy of General Dentistry and past-president of the Mississippi Dental Association (MDA), serves as an American Dental Association delegate from Mississippi, and has made at least one trip to Washington, D.C., every year for the last 18 to lobby Congress on dental and oral health issues.

Considering his career-long devotion to advocacy for his profession, it is not surprising that School of Dentistry alumni chose Donald to receive the 2016 Dental Alumnus of the Year Award. Honored April 29 at the 34th annual Dental Alumni and Friends Luncheon at the River Hills Club of Jackson, Donald said it has been his privilege to be able to make a difference in the lives of patients.

"It's all about the patients," Donald said. "Even when the issue is increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates for dentists, it's not really about us getting more – it's all about the citizens of Mississippi accessing dental care."

Donald's efforts have definitely resulted in more filled dental chairs. He played a key role in starting the MDA's Mission of Mercy Project, which delivered free dental care at a two-day event at Hinds Community College in Pearl to more than 2,600 Mississippians who couldn't have afforded it.

In addition, he served as the first chair of the Rural Dental Scholarship Program Commission, a program that offers scholarships to dental students who commit to practicing dentistry in Mississippi's rural and underserved areas. During the time Donald served on the commission, the program expanded from three scholarships to nine.

Connie Lane, executive director of the MDA, touted Donald's efforts on behalf of dentistry in Mississippi.

"Very early in his career, Mark made the choice to raise his hand and get involved," Lane said. "Dentistry is no different than any other health-care profession. The reality is that if dentists aren't advocating for our profession, the profession won't advance, because nobody else will lead that charge.

"Mark has been in a position where he's at the table discussing challenges and opportunities that are unique to the profession in our state."



As Action Team leader for the MDA, Donald coordinates federal lobby efforts for the organization and helps students from the American Student Dental Association with their lobby efforts on Capitol Hill. Past-chair of the Mississippi Dental PAC, Donald was appointed by then-Gov. Ronnie Musgrove to the governor's Oral Health Task Force in 2000, and helped craft the statewide oral health plan for Mississippi.

Donald has played an active role in numerous dental organizations, including the American Dental Association, the Mississippi Dental Association, the American College of Dentists, the Academy of General Dentistry and the Pierre

Fauchard Academy. According to his classmate, Dr. Stephen Gandy (D.M.D. '88), Donald becomes a leader in pretty much any activity he takes on.

"From being an elder in his church to president of the Academy of General Dentistry, Mark has shown what it means to have a giving spirit and live life fully," Gandy said. "He's a great example of what a person can do to make the best use of his talents and the time he has here on Earth to help out his fellow man."

As she presented his award, Dr. Sherry Gwin (D.M.D. '86), president of the Dental Alumni Board at UMMC, referred to Donald as a "workhorse who never gives up when dentistry needs protecting or advanced."

Gwin also commended Donald for volunteering to teach dental students about advocacy, organized dentistry and even practice management as important facets of their profession.

Dr. David Felton, dean of the School of Dentistry, congratulated Donald on being chosen as this year's honored alumnus and thanked him for his mentorship to UMMC's dental students.


"Dr. Donald has been an inspiring advocate for dentistry and for the placement of dentists into the rural communities around Mississippi for many years," Felton said. "He is a tireless advocate for the citizens of the state, for the dental community and for the UMMC School of Dentistry."

Donald's level of volunteerism is unique, Lane said.

"It's not often that you see someone who is willing to donate as much time and be as committed as he has been through the years," she said. "It's not an easy thing to volunteer: It takes courage and confidence to put yourself out there and let people be critical."

Donald said his commitment to UMMC and to the School of Dentistry runs deep.

"I received a very good education at UMMC, and when I came out of school I was ready to start treating patients right away," he said. "The new dean is mission-minded and I'm excited that he's focused on giving students the opportunity to work with dentists who practice in rural Mississippi towns.

"I love the mission of the school and the passion its students have to treat the citizens of Mississippi. That's my mission, too – one that I'm happy to give my time and effort to." 

# Dentistry alumna-turned-assistant professor earns top faculty prize

By Alana Bowman

For Dr. Jennifer Bain, assistant professor and interim department chair of periodontics and preventive sciences in the School of Dentistry, teaching is about maximizing one's ability to reach people and to touch lives.

"Any given year, I teach about 150 students," Bain said. "If 30 of those go into private practice, I can reach more people."

"It's rewarding. I'm a passionate person and I really enjoy seeing someone else develop a love for something I love."

With this approach, it's no wonder Bain has been the recipient of so many awards in her comparatively short teaching career. She was appointed to the position in the school in 2014, was awarded an American Academy of Periodontology Foundation teaching fellowship, took home the Hembree Honor Society's D3 Full-time Clinical Faculty All-star Award and the D4 Full-time Clinical Professor of the Year Award in 2015, and earned the society's D2 Clinical Science Professor of the Year Award in 2016.

On May 9, the 2009 dental school graduate was chosen to receive the 2016 Regions Bank Toward Educational Advancement in Care and Health (TEACH) Prize, which celebrates the highest qualities of the Medical Center's teaching faculty.

The prize is chosen from the inductees to the Norman C. Nelson Order of Teaching Excellence each year. The winner receives a cash award of \$10,000 and recognition at a Nelson Order inductee luncheon. This was the first induction of the Nelson Order since the passing of its namesake, Dr. Norman Crooks Nelson, vice chancellor emeritus for health affairs and dean emeritus of the School of Medicine, who served from 1973-94. Nelson was not only the longest-serving leader in the history of UMMC, but he also had a reputation for being a master teacher.

Attending the Nelson Order luncheon were representatives from Regions Bank, including Alon Bee, city president for metro Jackson, who presented the award to Bain.

"The Regions Bank TEACH Prize is one of my favorite events that Regions sponsors," Bee said. "It is an honor for me to participate in recognizing a distinguished faculty member at UMMC who has made an impact in the classroom as well as the health-care community."

Bain said as a student, she became "the most prolific student-researcher in dental school." It appears she is putting in even more effort as a teacher.

Responsible for redesigning the periodontal curriculum, Bain integrated basic and clinical teaching into the coursework. First-year dental



students are now introduced to the clinical application behind the science they are learning.

Bain said her teaching philosophy is driven by the Chinese Proverb, "I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand."

"I feel that in order for students to not only remember but understand, they must be actively engaged in the content," she said. "In a world with increasing complexity of care and science, we must teach in new ways, linking new science to diagnoses and treatments."

According to her students, the philosophy works.

"What she's taught us in the classroom has been above and beyond what I would expect for a first-year dental student," said Andrew Morgan, D1. "I had no idea I'd learn so much."

"She integrated into the clinical aspect a real-world application of why the science matters."

Morgan said although Bain challenged the students and asked a lot of them, she provided the tools they would need "to complete the tasks and to be one step closer to being able to treat the patient."

Bain takes the responsibility of training Mississippi's future oral health-care providers very seriously.

"The knowledge and skills we impart affect not just the students themselves, but the health of their future patients," she said. "I cannot merely teach information and hope they 'get it.' I have to somehow ensure it."

Bain is the first dentistry faculty to be awarded the TEACH Prize, which began in 2013.

"We are incredibly proud," said Dr. David Felton, dean of the School of Dentistry. "Dr. Bain is a gifted teacher and a great innovator, adapting emerging teaching methodologies into the classroom. She epitomizes excellence in academics."

"Her novel, evidence-based approach to teaching periodontics, her research background and experience, along with her clinical expertise in periodontal surgery and the surgical placement of dental implants, make her the true 'triple threat' faculty."

For Bain, the prize offers a sense of validation as a professor.

"I work really hard from the time I get here in the morning until I leave campus after six," she said. "At home, I have family time, then I work until late at night on lecture prep."

"Winning the TEACH Prize lets me know that others see and appreciate my efforts." 🦷

# Commitment to family leads construction manager to D.M.D.

By Alana Bowman

When Brannon Myrick's first child was born, he felt something was not exactly "typical."

Although the child's delivery was uneventful, the doctors and nurses whisked little Leighton Olivia away, leaving Myrick torn between making sure his wife, Lisa, was okay and checking on his new daughter.

Myrick had spent the first few years of his career as a nurse, but he wasn't prepared for the diagnosis of Down syndrome. He and his wife were not quite 30 years old, making the risk of having a child with Down syndrome less than one in 1,000, according to the March of Dimes.

"The hardest thing is that [the doctor] walked in and just said it in front of all the family and friends in the room," said Myrick.

"When you look around at your parents and all the people you've looked to for security and see in their eyes the same fear you are feeling, you know it's you and you alone (who has) to deal with it."

Myrick said when facing unexpected circumstances in life, a person can "fold in and run or say 'This is what you've got' and get out there," living life to the fullest despite the difficulties.

"And that's what we did," he said. "We've done it ever since."

His first step was to move back home. Myrick had changed careers from nursing and was managing a military construction project at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Being a construction manager meant moving frequently to where jobs were located. He knew another career change was in his future.

"We knew we needed the support of family," Myrick said. "We realized early intervention is a big thing, which is one of the main reasons you want a home base."

"You can't just go moving all around and having to re-establish those services."

He and his wife moved back to Mississippi and started Leighton on multiple therapies, including physical and occupational therapy, so she could meet her developmental milestones. During one of

Leighton's therapy visits, Myrick was inspired to consider dentistry as his new career.

"I was flipping through a magazine when I saw an advertisement for a cleft lip and cleft palate repair team called Smile Train," he said. "I saw there was an oral and maxillofacial surgeon among the team of professionals."

"I don't know why, but that caught my eye."

Myrick shadowed an oral surgeon to find out if it was a good fit for him. The first step to becoming an oral and maxillofacial surgeon is a dental degree, so he reached out to dentists in Jackson and surrounding areas for information.

"I shadowed all the specialties and general dentists to get a feel for what was out there," he said. "I liked it. After my first day of shadow-

ing, I realized that the profession has everything I was looking for in a career."

Myrick has been an exceptional student in the School of Dentistry. He took home multiple awards from senior honors night, including the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Dental Student Award, the Pierre Fauchard Academy Senior Award, the

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor and the Dean's Scholastic Achievement Award. He was also inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

"Brannon brings the qualities of maturity and commitment to family," said Dr. Wayne Caswell, associate professor of dentistry. "He also has incredible skills needed to be a

dentist and the positive personality to succeed in everything he does.

"Brannon will be a great credit to the profession of dentistry."

Leighton is now big sister to 5-year-old Laurel Rae and 1-year-old Lincoln Gregory Cranford. Myrick said he wouldn't change a thing about his oldest daughter.

"The future for Leighton is as bright as any other child's future," he said. "She's brought my family closer together."

"Without her, I would never have this career. I would never have thumbed through that magazine." 🦷



Myrick

**“Brannon brings the qualities of maturity and commitment to family. . . He also has incredible skills needed to be a dentist and the positive personality to succeed in everything he does.”**

**— Dr. Wayne Caswell**



# JPS students take field trip to see dentists

By Alana Bowman

Row upon row of young children file off buses and into the School of Dentistry early on a Friday morning.

It's "all hands on deck" as everyone from the school's administrative staff and faculty to students and researchers work together to serve the biggest influx of patients in a four-hour period that the dental clinics will see all year as part of the American Dental Association's annual Give Kids A Smile event.

Disease Control and Prevention. Regular dental check-ups are critical to keep a child's teeth and gums healthy.

Left untreated, tooth decay can have devastating effects on young children and has been connected to more serious health concerns later in life, including cardiovascular disease, stroke, bacterial pneumonia and diabetes.

Early dental problems can affect a child's learning, interaction with other children and ability to eat.

State Sen. Hillman Frazier is a familiar face at the school for this annual event.

"I look forward to coming here every year because it's a very good learning experience," Frazier said. "I have a chance to see the progress the School of Dentistry is making, to interact with the staff members and faculty and to see how they are training up young dental professionals."

Frazier said the preventive nature of the exams will help Mississippi's children in their academic achievement as well.


"This is the first time some of these students have to receive dental care, and it's very good to see them getting the care and attention," he said. "This is preventive. If dental problems go unattended, they miss days out of school and fall behind."

"It's going to save the state money in the long run."

Asia Rouser, 5, a pre-kindergarten student at Johnson Elementary School, sat with her classmates Layla, Miley, London and Marquavius, waiting patiently for their turn to be screened. Asia leaned back on her bench and laughed quietly to herself.

When asked what was funny, she almost didn't want to answer. With a little prodding, she spilled the beans.

"I was thinking I want to work here when I grow up," she said. "I want to be a dentist."

Underneath the hustle and bustle of the morning, the faculty, students and staff at the School of Dentistry aren't just providing much needed oral health care. They are inspiring the next generation of Mississippi dentists. 



Johnson Elementary student Khloe Hudson shows off her brushing technique to state Sen. Hillman Frazier, left, Fahad Al-Fadhli, D2 and Jennifer Bui, D3.

Before noon, more than 700 students from Johnson, Galloway and Dawson Elementary Schools will have received free dental exams and cleanings, instruction on brushing and flossing, sealants on permanent molars, and referrals as needed.

"Give Kids A Smile is a wonderful project that the School of Dentistry is proud to participate in annually," said Dr. David Felton, dean of the school. "It is our time to give back to the community and to provide much-needed care to children in Mississippi."

"We are delighted to have the opportunity to participate once again in this most worthy project."

The ADA began the national Give Kids A Smile program in 2003 as a way for dentists to join with the community to provide dental services to underserved children. The School of Dentistry has been taking part since the beginning.

"Preventive care is critical to maintaining good dental health and overall well-being, and we will continue to participate in efforts to help those who need it," said Dr. William Duncan, interim chair of pediatric dentistry and community oral health. "Give Kids A Smile Day is a fun time for the School of Dentistry."

Nearly one in four children ages 2-11 has untreated cavities in his or her baby teeth, according to the U.S. Centers for

Give Kids A Smile is made possible by the support of the Medical Center, the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation, Hinds Community College, the Mississippi Dental Association, private dentists and community and corporate partners, including Henry Schein, Ultradent, Colgate Oral Pharmaceuticals, C-Spire, Johnson & Johnson Healthcare, Premier Dental, Whip Mix Corporation, the Mississippi Department of Transportation, Brown Bottling Company and Owens and Minor, among others.

## SOD alumna earns scouting distinction



Dr. Barbara Mauldin in San Lucas, Nicaragua

Barbara Mauldin (D.M.D. '84) received the 2016 Girl Scouts of Greater Mississippi Women of Distinction award for the Pine Belt Area during a Feb. 11 celebration in Hattiesburg.

Mauldin served as den leader for Cub Scout Pack 68 in Petal for seven years and as Cubmaster for Pack 68 for six years.

"Those of us who have led young girls and boys through scouting and watched them grow to be fine upstanding adults have the greatest honor of knowing that in some way, we have helped our society to be a better place for all of us," Mauldin said. "I view scouting as a very positive influence for our girls and boys because scouting teaches life skills, responsibility and respect for oneself and authority.

"I am deeply grateful and humbled for being selected as a woman of distinction in 2016."

Dr. David A. Felton, dean of the School of Dentistry, commended Mauldin for being a positive role model for young women.

"Your ability to serve as a positive example of courage, confidence and character truly attests to your dedication to this most worthy organization," Felton wrote in a congratulatory letter to her. "We here at the School of Dentistry are most proud . . . to recognize your contribution to the community and state."

## SOD faculty receives periodontology award



Dr. Jennifer L. Bain, assistant professor of periodontology and preventive science, has been selected by the American Academy of Periodontology Foundation to receive an AAP Teaching Fellowship.

Bain is one of a select few faculty nationwide teaching at the pre-doctoral level to be selected for the award.

Made possible by a \$1 million commitment from the AAP, the \$50,000 fellowships support young periodontal educators' commitment to a career in academia. They are given to qualified faculty members within their first three years of teaching at a U.S. periodontal training institution.

## ADA Foundation taps SOD, JFC for leadership honor

The School of Dentistry and the Jackson Free Clinic were selected by the American Dental Association



Foundation to receive an E.

"Bud" Tarrson Dental School Student Community Leadership Award for the 2015-16 school year.

The annual award highlights significant dental student outreach to vulnerable communities in the U.S. and supports the "access to care" mission of the ADA Foundation by helping dental student groups provide oral health care to those in need.

Set up, run and managed by students, the JFC provides medical, dental and therapy services to the inner city community. Students volunteer to work when the clinic is open and are supervised by a volunteer faculty member.

"The University of Mississippi School of Dentistry and the Jackson Free Clinic program are excited to be among those six programs selected to receive a \$5,000 award this year," said Dr. Wilhelmina O'Reilly, professor of pediatric dentistry and community oral health and assistant dean for student affairs. "Tyler Wheeler is a D2 student from Gulfport who applied for and received this leadership award.

"It will be very helpful for purchasing supplies and equipment needed to keep the clinic going."

The SOD and JFC were among six programs to receive the award nationally. The awards are funded by the Tarrson family and ADA Business Resources, Inc.

## National research groups taps D2 for presidency



Kendra Reed Clark, D2, has been elected 2017-18 president of the American Association for Dental Research's National Students Research Group.

Clark will serve as NSRG president-elect for 2016-17 before fulfilling her time as president.

Clark also has been named president of the local student chapter of the International Association for Dental Research. She is currently president-elect of the national Student Research Group.

# Florida fractograph expert keynotes Research Day event

The School of Dentistry hosted its 22nd-annual Research Day Feb. 23.

Dr. John J. Mecholsky Jr., professor of materials science and engineering at the University of Florida, provided the keynote address.

Known as an international expert in the fractographic analysis of brittle materials, Mecholsky shared his presentation, "A Critical Analysis of Fracture or Why Things Fall Apart," with School of Dentistry students, faculty and staff.

Ten poster abstracts were presented for judging. The Hinman Student Research Award went to Jiman Nelson, mentored by Dr. Michael Roach, for the project, "Modification and Characterization of Anodized Titanium for Dental and Orthopaedic Implants." Nelson will represent the school at the national-level competition in Memphis Oct. 28-30.

The ADA/DENTSPLY Student Clinician Research Award went to Kendra Clark, mentored by Dr. Amol Janorkar, for the project, "3-D Spheroid Models for Functional Evaluation of Endothelial Cell Differentiation." Clark will represent the school at the national-level



Enjoying a lively discussion during the School of Dentistry's Research Day event are, from left, Samuel "Eric" Johnson, D3; Susana M. Salazar Marocho, a postdoctoral research fellow in biomedical materials science; Dr. Yuanyuan Duan, assistant professor of biomedical materials science; Dr. John J. Mecholsky Jr., professor of materials science and engineering at the University of Florida; and Dr. Jason A. Griggs, associate dean for research and chair of biomedical materials science.

competition in Denver Oct. 20-24.

Dr. Jason Griggs, associate dean for research and professor and chair of biomedical materials science, and his staff were responsible for organizing the event. It was the newly appointed dean Dr. David Felton's first Research Day at UMMC.

"I am thankful to our retiring dean, Dr. Gary Reeves (D.M.D. '84), for his support of research through intramural seed grants, bridging funds and travel funds," Griggs said. "I look forward to helping Dr. Felton continue the

growth of our research mission."

"Research is critically necessary to advance the science of dentistry and improve patient care outcomes," Felton said. "Our faculty continue to serve as excellent mentors and role models for our students in the research arena."

Key contributors to the event were Pete Lewis, Alishi Li, Bryant Salmon, Anna Nix Jennings, Sakshi Jain, Susana Salazar and Glenn Thomas.

## SNDA representatives make good 'impression' on prospective students



The School of Dentistry's Student National Dental Association hosted its annual Impressions Program March 24, which provided an in-depth look at the overall dental school experience for undergraduate and graduate students interested in pursuing careers in dentistry.

The program includes information about DAT preparation and the

school's application process, mock interviews and opportunities to visit with deans, administrators, instructors and current dentistry students. The students also got to participate in hands-on dental activities to peak their curiosity and other opportunities to explore the field of dental medicine.

## Dentistry faculty receive top honors at Hembree Society induction ceremony



The School of Dentistry's top faculty are honored by their students at the Hembree Society induction and awards ceremony each year.

Faculty receiving awards at this year's ceremony include from left, Dr. Charles Ramsey, Dr. Wayne Caswell (accepting for Dr. Andres Pappa), Dr. Jennifer Bain, Dr. Fanasy Deming, Dr. Susan Warren, Dr. Ayman Asfour and Dr. Bill Boteler.



Faculty and students enjoying Hembree fellowship include Front row from left, Ben Rudsenske, D1; Kyle Neely, D3; Bryant Salmon, D3; Alyssa Swenson, D2; Ronald Young, D2; Andrew Tran, D2; and Austin Huffman, D1; and back row from left, Barry Nguyen, D3; Brannon Myrick, D4; Rebecca Wright, D4; Dr. Charles Ramsey, D1; Jennybeth Hendrick, D1; Dr. Wayne Caswell; Dr. Jennifer Bain, Dr. Fanasy Deming; Katie Corkern, D1; Dr. Susan Warren; Dr. Ayman Asfour; Dr. Bill Boteler; Stephanie Rizzuto, D3; Zack Hutchens, D4; and Will Umphlett, D4.

### In Memoriam: Dr. Edward "Ned" Wikle



Dr. Edward (Ned) J. Wikle (D.M.D. '08) died March 17 after a courageous two-and-a-half-year battle with lung cancer. He was 36.

A native of Tupelo, Wikle earned a business degree at the University of Mississippi in 2002. After a short banking career, he obtained his D.M.D. with cum laude honors from UMMC. While in dental school, he joined the U.S. Navy and, upon his dental graduation, completed his general practice residency at the U.S. Naval Medical Center in San Diego, California. He was then assigned to the Marine Corp/Air Station at Iwakuni, Japan, where he served three years. He then returned to the U.S. and completed a two-year residency in endodontics.

Wikle is survived by his wife, Dana, and their three children, Rivers Abigayle, 5, Edward Elijah, 3, and Joseph Luke, 2; his parents, Charles and Cathy Wikle; and his siblings, Will, Emily and John.

In honor of Wikle's memory, a 529 fund has been established to help fund his children's collegiate education. Contributions can be made by writing a check to College America, putting in the memo line "529s for Rivers, Elijah and Luke," and mailing it to Scott Marshall, Rivertree Financial Planning, 2630 Ridgewood Road, Suite C, Jackson, MS 39216.

## Dental Friends and Alumni event



Dr. Sherry Gwin, president of the Dental Alumni Board at UMMC, speaks during the Annual Dental Friends and Alumni event at River Hills Club in Jackson

## SOD White Coat ceremony



Dentistry Class of 2018 students, from left, Alex Downs, Chauncey Craft and Kendra Clark, recite the Dentist's Pledge along with their classmates during the American College of Dentists White Coat Ceremony and Reception Feb. 26 in Jackson.



Anna Claire Moore, daughter of second-year student Chad Moore, assists her father in donning his white coat while her mother, Dr. Alecia Moore, (D.M.D. '12) looks on after the White Coat Ceremony.

## Senior class take first intramural softball title

For the last seven years, the School of Dentistry has hosted an annual softball tournament and crawfish boil for faculty, staff and students.

After an exhaustive tournament that included teams from each of the four classes and SOD faculty and staff, the D1 team and the D4 team met for the championship.

For the first time since the tournament's inception, the D4 team won the overall title.



SOD D1 softball tournament runners-up



SOD D4 softball tournament champions

# Class Notes: highlighting news, events in the lives of SOD alumni



**Alan B. Carr, D.M.D.**, who continues to practice maxillofacial prosthodontics at the Mayo Clinic, said he feels very lucky to have started his career at UMMC's School of Dentistry.

Carr is chair of the Department of Dental Specialties.



**Barbara Mauldin, D.M.D.**, is enjoying being Ms. Senior America, and will crown the 2016 winner in Atlantic City this October.

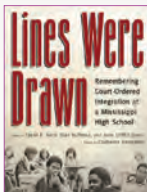
Mauldin recently returned from a Baptist medical and dental mission trip to the Sandonista region of Nicaragua, where she and a team of 31 colleagues from Mississippi and Alabama provided free dental services,

medical screenings, glass eye fittings and prescriptions to those in need.

"We were profoundly moved by the many ways God provided everything we lacked, from personnel to food to dental anesthetics," Mauldin said. "The loaves and fishes story from the Bible was shown to me and the others on this trip."



**Teena Freeman Horn, D.M.D.**, of Houston has co-authored a book with two other Murrah High School Class of 1973 alumni.



In the University Press of Mississippi's "Lines Were Drawn: Remembering Court-ordered Integration at a Mississippi High School," Horn, Alan Huffman and John Griffin Jones include contributions from more than 60 students, administrators and teachers who share the story of an unprecedented time in Mississippi history.

Horn practices family dentistry in Houston.



**Sherry Gwin, D.M.D.**, of Jackson is ending her term as Dental Alumni Board president and beginning a new role as 2nd vice president of the Mississippi Dental Association Board of Trustees.

**Acie Whitlock, D.M.D.**, of Madison will take over from Gwin as Dental Alumni Board president beginning this fall.



**Ed Wheeler, D.M.D.**, of Gulfport reports that several classmates of the Class of 1983 are still going strong along the South Mississippi Coast. Wheeler submitted these two pictures taken at continuing education events to show the class bond is still strong.

**Steven K. Miner, D.M.D.**, of Back Bay Family Dentistry in D'Iberville lives in Ocean Springs and enjoys sailing, fishing, hunting,

farming and camping, as well as "trying hard at golf."

**Terri Jones, D.M.D.**, and Wheeler both own family dental practices in Gulfport.

**Mike Shields, D.M.D.**, recently moved his longtime practice to a new location in the Moss Point Waterfront District.

**Reggie Broom, D.M.D.**, is a pediatric dentist with offices in Gulfport and Ocean Springs. Broom said a special joy for him is that he is now caring for the children of his earliest patients. He and his wife, Kathie, live in Gulfport, where Broom enjoys running, hiking and photography.

**Carrol Palmore, D.M.D.**, lives in Gulfport and is retired from the U.S. Air Force.

Wheeler said he still remembers when, on their first day in class, Broom declared, "I'm just happy to be here!" Nearly 37 years later, Wheeler said, "the feeling still applies!"



**Mark Donald, D.M.D.**, was honored at the 34th annual Dental Alumni and Friends luncheon at the River Hills Club of Jackson on April 29.

In recognition of his tireless advocacy for the dental profession, Donald was named the 2016 Dental Alumnus of the Year.

Donald has been practicing in Louisville for 28 years, and his son, Kyle, will be joining the School of Dentistry this year.



**Jay Fandel, D.M.D.**, retired from the Air Force in October 2013 after 22 years in the Dental Corps. He has since bought into Concho Valley Family Dental in San Angelo, Texas, the same town where he was the Dental Commander from 2005-08.

While not at his practice, Fandel spends time with his wife, Frances, and their five children: Nicholas, Lauren, Jaymie, Dylan and Marc. He also enjoys swimming, fishing and building models.

Fandel said he has enjoyed seeing fellow UMMC dental friends at the annual New Orleans dental conference, and reports that he hopes to get back to Alumni and Friends Weekend sometime soon.



As of this spring, dental patients of Dr. Mike Harkins will have to be much more specific about which Dr. Harkins they see.

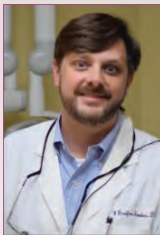
**Mike Harkins, D.M.D.**, and his wife, Julie, recently celebrated the graduation of their son, Dr. Michael Joseph Harkins, and their daughter-in-law, Dr. Claire Stewart Harkins, from the School of Dentistry.

Harkins has a longtime dental practice in Clinton.

CLASS of '02

**Brad Jenkins, D.M.D.**, owns Jenkins Dental Care in Indianola.

He recently made local news when he detected a rare keratocystic odontogenic tumor in one of his patients. Thanks to Dr. Jenkins' careful attention, the patient fully recovered.



CLASS of '08

**T. Antonio Landers, D.M.D.**, is happily settled in Charlotte, North Carolina. He and his wife, **Veronica Landers, D.M.D.** Class of 2009, own Oasis Dentistry, which consists of two offices. They have two daughters, Isabella and Penelope.

Veronica Sanders said "We are blessed, and thank God for all He has done and is doing for us."



**Fanasy Prokop Deming, D.M.D.**, said, "dentistry and life have been good to me."

Since graduating from the School of Dentistry, she received a Certificate of Periodontics and a Master of Science degree from the Baylor College of Dentistry in 2006. Upon finishing her residency, she moved to Madison and started a private practice in periodontics from scratch. She later joined the Periodontic and Preventive

Sciences Department at the School of Dentistry as a part-time clinical assistant professor in 2007.

She said teaching and mentoring dental students are among her favorite things. She keeps busy as a volunteer dentist at the Caring Hands Dental Clinic, Mission First and Dentistry from the Heart.

She has served on the Mississippi Dental Association's Board of Trustees for the last four years and is currently the MDA speaker. She is also an officer in the Mississippi Association of Women Dentists. Deming has participated in several mission trips to Mexico, Costa Rica and Honduras, and is looking forward to serving on a trip to Haiti this fall. Dental students selected her as Clinical Professor of the Year in 2009, 2014 and 2016.

Outside of work, Deming enjoys cheering for her sons Ethan and Whittman in their Boy Scout, piano, karate and sports activities. She is also very active in her church, teaching Sunday School and attending Bible studies.

Two years into taking over Great Big Smiles Pediatric and Adolescent Dentistry in Metairie, Louisiana, things are going very well for **Nathan A. Burns, D.M.D.** He is growing the practice and actively remodeling his office.

He and his wife, Vanessa, love living in New Orleans and are proud to announce they are expecting their first child in December.

CLASS of '03

CLASS of '03

**R. Andrew Martin, M.D., D.M.D.**, can be found in Starkville at Martin Oral and Facial Surgery.

After receiving his dental degree magna cum laude from UMMC, Martin went on to earn his medical degree at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Following a general surgery internship, he completed his oral and maxillofacial surgery residency at UAB.

Martin is board-certified by the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

**Dr. Wendy Hawkins, D.M.D.**, is co-owner of the Winning Smiles Dental Group of Brandon and Flowood, which was voted Best Dentist and Best Cosmetic Dentist by The Clarion Ledger's "Best of the Best" poll in 2015.

Hawkins has two daughters, Lida Hawkins Lewis, 3, and Landers Lewis, 2.



**Jennifer Bain, D.M.D.**, is an assistant professor and interim department chair of periodontics and preventive sciences at the School of Dentistry.

In May, she was chosen to receive the 2016 Regions Toward Educational Advancement in Care and Health (TEACH) Prize. TEACH Prize winners are selected from the inductees to the Normal C. Nelson Order of Teaching Excellence each year.

CLASS of '09

Two new graduates of the Mississippi Rural Dentists Scholarship Program will bring excellent dental care to small-town Mississippi.

**Chris Price, D.M.D.**, will return to practice in his hometown of Summit, while **Rebecca Wright, D.M.D.**, is headed to New Albany.

CLASS of '16

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School of Dentistry  
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## Mark Your Calendar for 2016 Continuing Dental Education:

### Friday, July 29

#### Advancements in Direct Restorations

Speaker: Dr. Frank Shull

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Norman C. Nelson Student Union

4 credit hours

### Friday, Aug. 26

#### Implementing Lasers into Your Practice

Speaker: Dr. Mark Bancroft

8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Jackson Medical Mall Thad Cochran Center

7 credit hours

### Friday, Sept. 9

#### Guarding Your Practice through Proactive Risk Management

Speaker: Richard Small

8:30-11:30 a.m.

Norman C. Nelson Student Union

3 credit hours

### Friday, Nov 11

#### Successful Single Visit Endodontics on Both Vital and Non-Vital Teeth: Increase Success while Increasing Profits

Speaker: Dr. Garry Bey

8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. | School of Dentistry

6 credit hours

See you in Denver this  
October for a UMMC Alumni Dinner  
in conjunction with the Annual  
ADA meeting!  
More details to come  
at [www.umm.edu/alumni](http://www.umm.edu/alumni)