

Fall 2018

Lasting Impressions College of Dental Medicine

Nova Southeastern University

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A LIFE SAVED
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A LIFE OF LEARNING
PAGE 34

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Impressions

FALL/WINTER 2018 COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE

Caring for HIV Patients

PAGE 4

CDM salutes its alumni

who are serving their communities
around the world.



NSU
Florida

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN
UNIVERSITY

The CDM will honor its alumni with receptions at the following conferences:

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2019

Endodontics Alumni Annual Conference
Oceanographic Campus, Hollywood, Florida

APRIL 10-13, 2019

American Association of Endodontists Convention
Montreal, Canada

APRIL 29-MAY 3, 2019

American Association of Orthodontists Convention
Washington, D.C.

MAY 26-29, 2019

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
Chicago, Illinois

JUNE 27-29, 2019

Florida Dental Convention
Kissimmee, Florida

Contact Rosalie Marin at rosalie.marin@nova.edu for information.

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06-025-18SAT

Message from the Dean

"Dear Dean Niessen,

I wanted to send a short note to tell you that I teach at a residency program at Jersey Shore University Medical Center/Hackensack Meridian, and we have one of your graduates this year. His name is Michael DiSanto, and he is an absolute gem.

He's well prepared clinically and is the consummate professional. I have worked with him on a few periodontal surgeries, and his skills are very impressive. He is a real credit to NSU.

I've taught for three years now—and I have really enjoyed working with the residents—but this group is excellent, and Michael stands out."

—Maxine Feinberg, D.D.S.



This email makes any dean's and faculty member's day. It also serves as an excellent introduction to this issue of *Impressions*, which features our graduates—both D.M.D.s and advanced education residents. They are beginning their careers throughout the world, and in a variety of settings from private practice to the military.

Improving oral health often involves partnerships. This issue describes two key partnerships that are enabling NSU CDM students and residents to learn to care for unique populations. Caridad Health Center in Boynton Beach provides health care to low-income children and adults. A partnership between the CDM and Caridad enables pediatric dental residents and faculty members to provide dental care for very young children. A grant from the Quantum Foundation funded this important program.

Another successful and long-standing partnership with the Broward County Health Department is our Cypress Creek Dental Clinic, which provides dental care to patients with HIV and educates dental students on the important role oral health plays.

The CDM continues to make a difference in patients' lives. The Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Department has certainly made a difference for Jeff Simon. Read about how a flyer may have saved a life.

Finally, on a personal note, it is difficult to believe that it has been five years since I was appointed dean of the NSU College of Dental Medicine. It continues to be a privilege to serve in this role. The commitment of our faculty members to the NSU Core Values and to providing our students with the NSU Edge remains steadfast.

Fins Up! Go Sharks!

Linda C. Niessen, D.M.D., M.P.H., M.P.P.
Dean and Professor
College of Dental Medicine
Nova Southeastern University



Students Receive New Equipment and White Coats

Two events kick off the school year for the CDM students—the day they receive their supplies and equipment and the prestigious White Coat Ceremony.

The CDM's annual White Coat Ceremony officially welcomes new dental students to the college. This year, the CDM welcomed 125 students, selected from 3,000 applicants, to the incoming class of 2022. The students accepted their white coats as a symbol of the dental profession and recited the oath that defined their new professional responsibilities to enter NSU's College of Dental Medicine.

The class of 2022 includes 40 underrepresented minority students—32 Hispanic students, 6 African Americans, and 2 Native Americans. The average GPA is 3.6; Science GPA is 3.6; the DAT average is 21; and 20 percent of the class have master's degrees. The class of 2022 comprises 53 men and 72 women. ♦



Top: Members of the class of 2022 are officially welcomed to the CDM during the White Coat Ceremony.
Below: The arrival of supplies is a day of controlled chaos for the dental students.

Caring for HIV Patients



Program director Mark Schweizer, back row, fifth from left, with members of his team at the CDM Cypress Creek dental office

COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE FACILITY DELIVERS VITAL CARE

BY JOHN DOLEN

In the mid-1980s, a boy named Ryan White was shunned by his Indiana school because of ignorance about HIV. The young hemophiliac, who contracted the virus from a blood transfusion, became a poster child for ignorance about AIDS, and a national movement was born.

Many courageous people have been fighting that ignorance ever since, resulting in national legislation enacted shortly after White's death in 1990. The goals include better treatment for patients, education for the public, and support for select organizations at the ground level.

One such initiative thrives at the Cypress Creek dental facility operated by the NSU College of Dental Medicine. This dental office not only treats patients with HIV, it also educates future health professionals.

Among those professionals is Kathryn (Katie) Champion, D.M.D., who graduated from the CDM in May and plans to enter private practice. "After my time here, I'd feel comfortable treating any HIV patient," Champion said. She also dispels the notion of fear. "With the regular precautions we take with any patient, the risk of exposure to the disease is no different."

Champion served a four-month term at the Cypress Creek office, as do all of the CDM's fourth-year dental students. First- and second-year predoctoral students come to the facility for observation, orientation, and education, preparing them for their senior predoctoral rotation.

Mark Schweizer, D.D.S., M.P.H., associate professor, who began treating HIV patients early in his career, leads the CDM Cypress Creek dental office. His interest prompted him to receive a master's degree in public health at NSU in 2010.

Schweizer has been involved in the Ryan White grant process at the CDM for 11 years and as the program director for the last 6 years. On the national level, he is dental director of the Southeast AIDS Education and Training Center (AETC). The AETC's mission is to increase the number of health care providers who are



CDM professor Alberto Despaigne works with fourth-year dental student Joanna Theodorou.

effectively educated and motivated to counsel, diagnose, treat, and medically manage people with HIV.

The grant provides support for the clinic, as well as for companion medical and mental health services in Broward County. Under the grant, dental clinics use a team-based approach composed of health professionals from multiple disciplines.

This approach has led to an impressive outcome. "It's all about viral suppression in people living with AIDS," Schweizer explained. "I am proud that our program produces outcomes of 93 percent viral suppression—one of the highest in the country." This not only preserves the health of the person with HIV, but also prevents sexual transmission of the virus to an HIV-negative partner.

Recent CDM graduate Julia E, D.M.D., applauds the value of the Ryan White grants. "For the patients at

Caring for HIV Patients

Cypress Creek, you can count on other community services to be available for nondental needs of the patient,” she said.

The students stress that the precautions they take for HIV patients are no different than those they take for any patients. But the CDM students also “add respect and care for the patients,” E said.

Schweizer added that the staff even participates in annual AIDS walks together. Although Schweizer professes to want to retire from service in two years, don’t bet on it. “I love this,” he said.

Schweizer emphasizes how vital dental care is to HIV patients. “HIV medications have side effects that can contribute to dental decay, periodontal disease, and fungal infections,” he explained. “Those can advance to systemic infections and harm the heart and other organs if not treated. An oral health professional can also be the first to recognize symptoms of HIV.”

Peter Mai, D.M.D., M.S., another recent CDM alumnus, pointed out the uniqueness of the CDM program. “When I interviewed for school here, the program stood out because of [this] clinic. I hadn’t heard of a program like that before,” said Mai, who is doing a teaching fellowship and internship at Baylor University Medical Center.

“As president of the class of 2018, I am constantly reminded of how this is everyone’s favorite rotation. The level of care we can give is special.”

—Peter Mai

For Mai, the rewards are many. “As president of the class of 2018, I am constantly reminded of how this is everyone’s favorite rotation. The level of care we can give is special,” he said. This year, the Student Government Association awarded the Cypress Creek program the Student’s Choice Award as Extramural Facility of the Year.

“And the gratitude from the patients is huge,” Mai added. “Recently, a 6’8” guy gave me a big hug. I’ll never forget that.” ♦



Patient navigators Radu Nedelcu and Cecile Camille, right, confer.

HIV TREATMENT DEVELOPMENTS

- Chronic condition can now be contained through antiretroviral drugs.
- Daily antiretroviral therapy can reduce the amount of HIV in the blood to levels that are undetectable with standard tests.
- Continued treatment is considered crucial to keeping the virus suppressed.
- Oral health professionals can be among the first to recognize symptoms.

HIV/AIDS PATIENT CARE PRECAUTIONS

(Hint: It’s the same as the protocol for all patients.)

- gloves
- masks
- protective eyewear
- proper disposal of sharp instruments
- sterilization of dental instruments
- respect



CDM professor George Kolos, left, dental assistant Diana Russo, and CDM professor Juan Velasco discuss a treatment plan with fourth-year student William Sainsbury, seated.

CDM CYPRESS CREEK FACILITY

Quick Facts

- led by Mark Schweizer, D.D.S., M.P.H.
- 20 dental operatories (chairs)
- 12 to 16 predoctoral seniors per term
- 3 full-time hygienists
- 3 full-time dentists
- 1 program coordinator
- 4 dental assistants
- 3 patient navigators
- 2018 Student's Choice Award: Extramural Facility of the Year
- supported by The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program
- part of a multidisciplinary, patient-care initiative that's achieved a 93 percent viral suppression rate

RYAN WHITE CARE ACT

Highlights

- first major piece of AIDS legislation
- comprehensive system
- primary medical care
- essential support services
- HIV care and treatment services
- supports uninsured and underinsured people with HIV
- works with cities, states, and community-based organizations
- helps 500,000+ people each year
- has reached more than half of all people diagnosed with HIV

CLINIC CLIFFHANGER

“I was weak in the knees at this point. They had me meet with Dr. Kaltman, and he explained the situation. While he calmed me down, I still was shocked that I hadn’t known anything about this before, that my regular dentist hadn’t discovered it.”

—Jeffrey Simon

ROUTINE SCREENING UNCOVERS LARGER PROBLEM

BY MICHELLE F. SOLOMON

Jeffrey Simon saw his dentist vigilantly. He never missed a cleaning and kept up on his periodic dental examinations.

Four years ago, when he was living within walking distance to Nova Southeastern University's College of Dental Medicine (CDM), Simon noticed a pamphlet hanging on his door describing dental services at the college. "I thought I'd try it," Simon said. "I called right away and got an appointment."

Simon was scheduled at the CDM Patient Care Center's main clinic on the Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus. While dental X-rays had been processed before, Simon had not previously received a panoramic X-ray. Panoramic radiography is a two-dimensional X-ray that captures the entire mouth in a single image—the teeth, upper and lower jaws, surrounding structures, and tissues. Patients coming in for examinations at the CDM clinic receive a panoramic X-ray as part of their initial consultation.

"In order to qualify for services, and to be treated by our students, patients need to have a complete evaluation by our restorative dental faculty," said Steven Kaltman, D.M.D., M.D., chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and assistant dean of hospital and extramural affairs for the CDM. "During that appointment, they discovered that Mr. Simon had a large lesion on the right side of his jaw."

Simon recalled it was less than 10 minutes into his appointment when they asked him if he was aware of the lesion. "They wanted to know if I ever had numbness or pain," he said. "No," he replied.

He was referred to the oral and maxillofacial surgery department and was seen immediately. "I was weak in the knees at this point," Simon said. "They had me meet with Dr. Kaltman, and he explained the situation. While he calmed me down, I still was shocked that I hadn't known anything about this before, that my regular dentist hadn't discovered it."

The lesion had encapsulated onto Simon's lower right jaw and wisdom teeth, which had never been removed.

Simon's surgery took place three weeks later. The aggressive cyst was removed in the operating room by CDM residents working in the trauma unit at Memorial Regional Hospital in Hollywood, Florida, with Kaltman

as the supervising physician. "It is a teaching experience for these students, no doubt," confirmed Kaltman. "We present each case preoperatively, and, in this case, we went over the type of cyst, how it should be treated, and what complications there might be."

An oral biopsy showed that the cyst was benign, "much to my relief," Simon said. According to Kaltman, if the lesion had not been diagnosed, it's likely it would have continued to grow. "It was big, but it would have gotten bigger," said Kaltman, adding that, eventually, the lower jaw bone would be weakened to such a point that it could have caused a pathological fracture.

"This could have caused a number of mounting problems," said Kaltman. "He may have lost teeth, and, rather than enucleation—removing the cyst—and letting it heal over time, this patient may have needed to have a large bone graft had this not been discovered."

Kaltman said the patient has some numbness in the area that will be permanent, because the cyst was wrapped around a nerve. "That is something I can live with when I think about what could have happened," Simon said.

While Simon was someone who had cared about his oral health, Kaltman said there is still a valuable message to be learned from his story. "The 'take home' here is whether it is a benign, aggressive lesion, or a malignancy, not getting routine dental care and the proper X-rays can lead to these types of problems getting out of hand," Kaltman said.

Simon credits that flyer about NSU CDM services with "saving his life."

After the CDM clinic diagnosed the lesion, Simon vowed to never return to his former dentist and said he won't go anywhere but the CDM's clinic for his dental needs. He has since had multiple procedures done in the clinic, including two implants to replace teeth that had been missing for years from sports injuries, and has had some periodontal work done on his gums.

"I like that I feel I have a whole team of dentists working with me at the CDM," Simon said. "They are precise, and I know they care. They do whatever they can to make your life better, and they've certainly improved mine. I will be forever grateful to NSU's College of Dental Medicine." ♦

It Takes a Village



Nilma Feliciano, professor in the NSU CDM Department of Pediatric Dentistry, talks with a young patient to make her comfortable.



CDM Partners with Caridad Center

BY MICHELLE F. SOLOMON

They say it takes a village to raise a child. For a four-year-old with severe dental problems, it took a no-cost dental clinic in Palm Beach County, NSU's College of Dental Medicine pediatric dentists and pediatric dental residents, a Broward County children's hospital, and a Boca Raton couple's generosity to make young Albert's life pain-free.

Albert was suffering. His mother, Maria, would rub his teeth and gums with a topical anesthetic just so he could eat. "*No sabia qué hacer* (I didn't know what to do)," said Maria, who, through a translator, added that her son's teeth were totally decayed. Then, one day, she was talking about her son to a neighbor. The woman mentioned no-cost dental services at Caridad Center, the free health care clinic established in 1989 in west Boynton Beach in Palm Beach County.

Social worker and health educator Caridad Asensio and teacher Connie Berry were working at Hagen Ranch Elementary School in west Boynton Beach when they realized that many children from farmworker families lacked medical and dental care, and that the families needed food and clothing. To address these needs, they founded the Migrant Association of South Florida. Then, in 1992, they began a free clinic in a double-wide trailer on State Road 441 in Boynton Beach with local doctors and dentists volunteering services.

On opening day at 7:00 a.m., nearly 400 people lined up to receive services. In 1997, through donations, the center was able to build a

It Takes a Village

7,500-square-foot facility a few miles east of the original location. And, in 2005, the name was changed to be more inclusive of the agency's mission of health, education, and outreach. Caridad Center continues to provide health services to uninsured children and adults who live in Palm Beach County and to those who are at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

"Nova Southeastern University's College of Dental Medicine has had a long partnership with Caridad Center," said Laura Kallus, chief executive officer of the center. But, it was a challenging time a few years ago. "I had many volunteer dentists, but what I didn't have were pediatric dental specialists to care for very young children," Kallus said. "This is where NSU's CDM was so crucial."

In 2016, the West Palm Beach grant organization Quantum Foundation donated \$200,000 to create the program, which provided the means for the CDM to send pediatric residents and faculty members to Caridad. The pediatric dental residents work in Caridad's clinic on Mondays and Tuesdays, performing services from simple checkups to crowns, fillings, and tooth extractions on young children.

TEAM EFFORT

"Almost every child who comes to Caridad is not arriving for a dental checkup, although we wish that were so. They are coming here because the child is in pain, or because their parent or caregiver can see a cavity," said Margaret Kim, D.D.S., who was working with residents at Caridad the day Albert arrived. "Sometimes, it may be their second experience, and the first visit ended up with the children having a tooth pulled because of a cavity, so that is what they remember."

After the second appointment, it was clear that Albert needed surgery, which would require anesthesia.

"In cases such as his, he needed to be treated at a hospital," Kallus said. "But we don't have funding for that."

The CDM Pediatric Dentistry Program has an affiliation agreement with the Joe DiMaggio Children's



From left, fourth-year dental student Tyler Frey, first-year pediatric dental resident David Luther, dental assistants Janet Leon and Simone Santos, CDM professor Nilma Feliciano, Caridad dental clinic manager Claudia Avendano, fourth-year dental student Gregory Quattlebaum, and first-year pediatric dental resident Muadh Algomaiah

Hospital in Hollywood, Florida. So, Kim researched prospects there. While she committed to perform Albert's surgery, she needed an operating room and an anesthesiologist at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital. And that would cost money.

FINDING THE HELP

"NSU took on getting the costs reduced a bit at the hospital for the operating room and the anesthesia, but the medical bill would still be thousands of dollars, even with the reductions," Kallus said. Her donors had been generous to the clinic inside Caridad Center on so many occasions in the past, she decided to approach them now. "I spoke to every donor who has given us a dollar, and I would say, 'I have a four-year-old child waiting for surgery,' and I would tell Albert's story."

Her plea worked. John Wood and Ann Fairfax Wood, who had been generous supporters of Caridad Center and its dental clinic in the past, stepped up to help.

The Boca Raton residents, who created the Fairfax Wood Scholarship Foundation in memory of their eldest son, Bruce, had given money to the clinic for

“The school doesn’t just send the pediatric residents to assist our patients, but they bring so much other value to us. NSU is unique for us, because it is a true partner.”

—LAURA KALLUS, CEO, CARIDAD CENTER



Fourth-year dental students Tyler Frey and Gregory Quattlebaum treat a patient.

new dental chairs and other equipment. Ann Wood remembers when she first toured the Caridad Center’s dental clinic. “I saw their X-ray machine, and I was afraid to ask how old it was,” she said.

When the Woods heard about Albert’s situation, they quickly agreed to help. “They sent us a picture of Albert and his mom. And we said, ‘That’s our little boy’ ” John Wood said.

LAYING A FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE AID

Kim said there are “so many more Alberts who come into the Caridad Center.” Residents treat up to 12 patients during the days they are at the Boynton Beach facility. For residents who treat those in need, Kim hopes it has a lasting influence. “When they see how much need there is, maybe they will take that with them into their private practices.” Faculty members hope the residents will be willing to help someone who needs their services, being willing to work out a payment plan, for instance, or do something a little extra.

Garima Gupta, D.D.S., a postgraduate pediatric dental resident at the CDM, agreed. “As a dentist, I share the common value that community service is a vital part of our profession,” Gupta said. “I look forward to getting up every morning and making a difference in others’ lives. It is a great sense of accomplishment to see the children’s happy faces and to have their families acknowledge the efforts of our team. These experiences at the Caridad Clinic will always stay with me and serve as a motivating influence in my entire career. My long-term goal is to open a satellite clinic in an underserved area to provide dental services to children.”

Kallus said the partnership with NSU’s CDM is priceless. “The school doesn’t just send the pediatric residents to assist our patients, but they bring so much other value to us. NSU is unique for us, because it is a true partner.”

Visit caridad.org for more information about the Caridad Center. ♦



Saying
Goodbye
to her CDM home

BY ELLEN WOLFSON VALLADARES

Ines Velez, D.D.S., M.S., said her husband, Guillermo, always teased her that she was the only person who woke up on Monday mornings happy to go to work.

“It’s true. I love going to work,” Velez said before she retired after 18 years with the Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine. “My work is my passion. The students have been my passion. NSU is the best institution in the world. I have been to several different universities around the world, and I cannot compare any of them with my experience at NSU. This has been like home for me,” added Velez, who was a professor and director of oral and maxillofacial pathology at the CDM.

You would never know from the gleam in her eyes and the smile on her face that Velez was leaving her duties at NSU because the cancer she was diagnosed with in 2006 had finally caught up with her. She left the CDM in April 2018, passing away July 19, 2018. She truly believed that was just “the next step” for her, and that is what she told her students.

When she made the decision to retire, Velez plainly addressed her classes, telling them she was leaving because she had stage four cancer. When they gasped, she told them, “Don’t worry, it’s a step, it’s OK, we will see each other over there. Now, we are going to have class.”

Still, Velez was amazed by the outpouring of love and support she received from her students, as well as the faculty and staff members. “You cannot imagine all the love the students have shown me. They stopped traffic for me outside and brought me fruits and flowers. One day, they handed me something and told me it was a 50-question test, true or false, about me, and they all wrote such beautiful things,” she said. (See story on page 16) “I never thought I would receive so much love from faculty, staff, everyone. I was right: The CDM is my real home in this world.”

Velez arrived at her CDM home in 2000. Prior to that, she already had fallen in love with pathology through her postgraduate studies in oral and maxillofacial pathology at the University of Florida and the work she did as director of pathology and biopsy services at several universities in her home country of Colombia.

In 1999, when the political and economic situation deteriorated in Colombia, she and her family came to the United States. “We came here almost as refugees. We were not, since my husband is American, but things were pretty bad,” she remembered.

Velez said the first thing she did was contact the new dental school at NSU. The CDM hired her the next day, and she started her new position in January 2000.

continued on page 17



Ines Velez, front row center, shows her shark spirit with CDM professors, including Dean Linda Niessen, right, and dental students during her farewell ceremony.

TRUE OR FALSE: Velez's Students Adored and Respected Her (Hint: It's True.)

After all the tests and quizzes Ines Velez, D.D.S., M.S., gave to students through the years, students turned the tables on her and presented her with a "midterm examination" they created as a way of expressing their gratitude and support. It consisted of 50 true-or-false statements, each written by a different student. Velez said she was extremely touched and surprised by the outpouring of love and support from the students and the beautiful words they wrote to her, some in English and some in her native Spanish. "They were so lovely, so adorable," Velez said.

Following is a sampling of some of the "test questions" written by the students. The final page read: "Answer Sheet: *¡Todas las respuestas son muy verdaderas! ¡Te queremos mucho!*"—which means, "All the answers are very true! We love you so much!"

- T F "Dr. Velez has an influence of a great professor that will never be erased from my heart. She always teaches from the heart and not from the book. I just want you to know your time, effort, and hard work are appreciated. Thank you for always teaching us with a genuine heart and a radiant smile."—Ajmal Abed
- T F "Dr. Velez is one of the most important teachers you will encounter in your life. She teaches her students more than what can be taught from a book. To have a teacher so knowledgeable in her profession is a gift. Apart from what she teaches you in class is how to be a human while being a doctor, which many are not able to teach. She teaches us to have compassion and empathy, all while putting the well-being of the patient first. So many lives are saved, and will be saved, due to the kindness and warmth Dr. Velez is known and loved for."—Fatimah Waseem
- T F "Dr. Velez has an energy and passion rarely seen. Sometimes it seemed like she was almost yelling in excitement for the material she was teaching. She always smiled and was patient and kind to each student she came across. Thank you for your example and bright spirit. We are so grateful for you."—Steve Randall
- T F "Dr. Velez is the perfect definition of what a professor should be. The amount of compassion and dedication she puts forth to her students is incomparable. She's a great example of what one day I aspire to be as a dentist."—Alyssa Cabañas

continued from page 15

“When I arrived here, there was no biopsy service, so I created it,” she said. “I joined forces with Dr. Diane Stern, the most famous oral and maxillofacial pathologist in the world, I believe.” Stern, she explained, had been running a private biopsy practice.

Today, NSU’s CDM is still the only biopsy service in South Florida, reviewing approximately 2,000 biopsies every year.

Diane Stern, D.D.S., a professor in the Department of Oral Diagnostic Sciences, remembers when she met Velez. “She impressed me as being conscientious, hard-working, and empathetic,” Stern said.

The two began working together when Stern semi-retired. “It was then, at the beginning of 2003, that I joined Dr. Velez. We worked together all the succeeding years in perfect harmony—and early on in extremely close quarters. There was never a cross word, despite the fact that we may have disagreed on a diagnosis from time to time,” Stern said.

“We had great respect for each other. When your colleague is a tireless worker who is extremely conscientious in addition to being a kind, empathetic, and all-around great human being, how can things not go well? I only wish our association could have gone on for many years,” she added.

Through the years, Velez’s passion for pathology also became evident in the extensive grants, research, and awards she received, and the vast number of presentations and publications in her name. She is a Diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology and a Fellow of the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology.

She also has been honored with the CDM Professor of the Year Award in 2013 and the Students’ Choice D3 Most Valuable Professor Award in 2015. In addition to seeing patients and screening more than half of the biopsies, Velez handled administrative work for the department and taught five classes.

Michael Siegel, D.D.S., M.S., chair of the Department of Oral Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences, lauded Velez’s contributions to the CDM and the entire university. “Dr. Ines Velez [was] an extraordinary faculty member. She [was] a joy to work with each day as she utilized her unique talents and compassion to enable the growth of our students,



Ines Velez was passionate about research.

patients, and faculty members—including me. She [was] a treasured resource within our department, as well as within the CDM and the community,” he said.

Siegel had more praise for his former colleague. “Dr. Velez [had] highly sought-after clinical skills in addition to her laboratory and basic science acumen. She epitomized the NSU Core Values of being the consummate academician, while being student-centered at every level of the academic ladder. She continually strove for excellence in every academic endeavor. Dr. Velez set the bar for each of our students and faculty and staff members to strive to emulate. She embodied the intellect, work ethic, compassion, and academic perspective that any chair would seek in any faculty member at any level.”

For Velez, her service to the CDM and the students was simply a duty born out of her belief that pathology is one of the most important parts of the college. “We save lives. We diagnose cancer and try to decrease suffering from horrible lesions in the mouth,” she said. “One of the first things I

“She epitomized the NSU Core Values...while being student-centered at every level of the academic ladder.”

—Michael Siegel, D.D.S., M.S.



Top and bottom: Ines Velez's CDM colleagues and students joined her during the emotional farewell ceremony.

Center: Dental students Zohaib Munaf, left, and Peter Mai present Ines Velez with one of her many accolades.

make sure my students understand is that it is more important to diagnose cancer on time than to do any dental work. I want them to learn all the dental work, with the consideration that first is the life of the patient.”

Velez said that the hardest part of her job was finding a diagnosis of cancer and having to tell a patient. The experience did not make it any easier to deal with her own diagnosis. However, she said that she lived 12 happy years with cancer, thankful that she was able to still do her job and enjoy life. She attributed her well-being to her practice of meditation and a healthy, vegetarian diet. Meditating had also helped her peacefully accept the “next step” that was coming, she said.

After retiring, Velez and her husband moved to Texas to be close to their son, who is a physician. She was looking forward to spending time with her husband, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, painting, doing embroidery, listening to opera, and doing other things she enjoyed—all of which she accomplished before her death.

“I want to do what I love while I can,” she said.

Velez’s former coworker, Lynn Solomon, D.D.S., M.S., professor in the Department of Oral Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences, agreed that Velez will be missed personally and professionally. “‘Be the change that you wish to see in the world.’ This is a quote Dr. Velez often used at the end of lectures. It sums up the way she lived her life and performed in her profession,” Solomon said.

“Her inspiration continues on in the thousands of students and colleagues who had the privilege of being taught by, or working with, a person with such high standards and deep integrity,” Solomon added. “At the CDM, we will miss Ines every day.” ♦

Nova Southeastern University
College of Dental Medicine
Davie, Florida

April 2018

Farewell, Dear NSU Family,

I have enjoyed the blessing and the privilege of being a proud member of the NSU community. Community that has a purpose—contributing to making this world a better place where compassion and love should be the common denominator instead of mistrust, dislike, and indifference. It has been an honor to be a teacher for every single student who has gone through NSU's College of Dental Medicine.

At this juncture, in which the end of my physical body is near, I am full of joy, because I have had a splendid life and a magnificent family. God has allowed me to fulfill my dreams. During almost 20 years, my students and the rest of the NSU family have played a key role in the success of my professional life. I have been surrounded by love, dignity, and science. You have been essential in my pursuit of happiness.

You are my family, and this fact prompted me to share with you my most intimate feelings. I want to attest that I am ready to take the next step, which is beyond this life. I am approaching this venture in the same way that a child is about to enter an unknown realm.

Whatever I am going to find on the other side, it would be a stage of absolute peace. After going through this agitated experience of being human, going back to my Source and attaining perfect peace are my greatest aspirations.

Please, receive my love and gratitude.

Ines Velez

IN MEMORIAM

Ines Velez passed away on July 19, 2018, surrounded by her husband, children, and grandchildren. Any donation to the NSU College of Dental Medicine in honor of Ines Velez will be used toward faculty development. Please contact Rosalie Marin, CDM Dean's office, at rosalie.marin@nova.edu.

Screen Time

Maritzabel Hogge's Passion for Radiology

BY CAROL BRZOZOWSKI

Maritzabel Hogge, D.D.S., M.S., M.S.M.Ed., appreciates the quiet times that come with her job as an associate professor and director of radiology for the CDM's Department of Diagnostic Services.

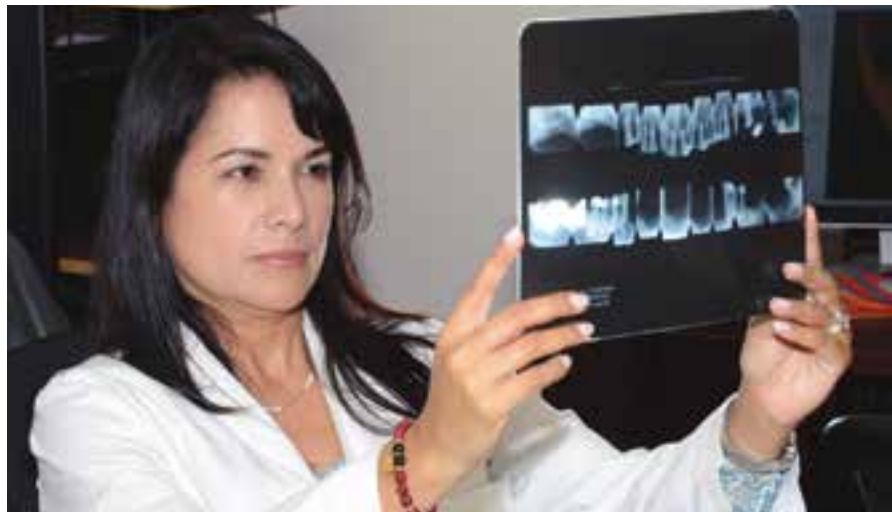
"I like diagnosis—discovering pathology or anatomical variations within the maxillofacial region," said Hogge, an oral radiologist. "You sit down and read the reports, working in a calm environment and going at your own pace."

While Hogge enjoys the quiet environment of sitting at her desk studying radiology scans on a computer, she also enjoys interacting with students. Her day-to-day activities include working with predoctoral students, teaching radiographic techniques and how to diagnose and write reports. "We see different cases every day," she said.

Hogge also teaches continuing education classes to dental care professionals, including a course on digital radiology to help dental assistants meet the requirements for radiography training in Florida. She teaches the course in collaboration with Eun Choi, D.M.D., a clinical assistant professor in oral and maxillofacial radiology at the CDM.

Hogge said she has noted a hunger among students and those pursuing continuing education to learn more about new technologies "so they can improve as a dentist and be more efficient," she said. It also helps them give guidance to patients on making decisions about their dental health, she added.

Some dental students have been inspired to change their career path after learning about digital radiology. "You have to have a passion to do it. Some [dental students] find it very interesting to do this kind of job, and it's rewarding in the ways you can help the patient," Hogge pointed out.



Maritzabel Hogge teaches radiographic techniques.

COMING TO AMERICA

Hogge came to the United States in 2001 and began working on her postgraduate education. She also tried to quickly assimilate into her new country by learning English, obtaining a driver's license, and working on her boards.

Hogge began a residency at the University of North Carolina in 2005 and earned an M.S. degree in oral and maxillofacial radiology. Her research experience and master's degree thesis were on "Precision of Cephalometric Landmark Identification 3-D vs. 2-D: Comparing CBCT Half-Skull Projections, MPR-Rendered Volumes, and Conventional Cephalograms for Relative Location of Cephalometric Landmarks and Precision of Localization in Pretreated Orthodontic Patients."

In 2008, Hogge accepted a position at the CDM as an assistant professor in the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology of the Department of Diagnostic Sciences. South Florida felt like home, she said, with its established Colombian culture, including food, friends, and the ability to fly back for a visit to Colombia in three hours.

COMING FULL CIRCLE

Hogge—who learned her specialty in the United States—now teaches dentists who come from abroad to refresh basic dental knowledge and learn about radiation safety and techniques. Although she and the dentists she instructs may never meet the patients whose radiology scans they read, Hogge said she takes pride in contributing to an effort to improve the person’s well-being.

Through the years, technology has allowed her diagnostic work to become more exact. “Before we had panoramic; now we have three-dimensional technology and can see a great deal in an image,” Hogge said, adding that it saves time and expands the view within a scan to enable more precise diagnoses.

The computer equipment and software Hogge uses includes iCat Vision Imaging Software (Cone Beam Computed Tomography of machine: iCAT New Generation); Carestream 3-D Imaging software (Cone Beam Computed Tomography of machines: 8100, 9000, and 9300); Invivo by Anatomage Imaging Software; Simplant Pro Imaging Software; XDR Imaging Software; Orthophos XG Imaging Software; and Galaxis Basic-Sirona Imaging Software.

CREATING CYCLES

Hogge advises students that diagnostics requires laser-sharp focus and a good foundation in anatomy upon which ongoing studies build more knowledge. Continuing to learn beyond graduation is important as new dentists set up practices. Hogge often tells students, “You have to have a good basis and know the basics—that something doesn’t look normal. You learn to develop your treatment plan. Keep studying every day. Go to professional meetings in other cities where you can expand your knowledge, in addition to networking and having fun with your peers.”

Collaboration also is important, as Hogge demonstrates with Choi, reading the scans and teaching together. “We learn from each other,” Hogge said of Choi, who came to the United States from South Korea. “We communicate with each other when we have any issues. It’s very important to have a person at your side who is helping you all of the time to maintain a positive learning environment.” ♦



FAST FACTS

Hometown Bogotá, Colombia

Education D.D.S. degree from Universidad El Bosque School of Dentistry (1992–1995) and Pontificia Universidad Javeriana School of Dentistry (1995–1998)

M.S. degree in oral and maxillo-facial radiology from the University of North Carolina (2005)

Professional joined the CDM in 2008

serves on several Nova Southeastern University committees

member of the American Academy of Oral and Maxillo-facial Radiology—Predoctoral

Personal married Brian Hogge in 2009

enjoys spending time with their five-year-old child

Shaping Smiles

Second-Generation Dentist Gives Families Reasons to Smile

BY CAROL BRZOZOWSKI

Jose Larumbe, D.D.S., comes from a long line of dentists who practiced general dentistry—his father, mother, uncle, brother, and three younger cousins. Larumbe embraced the profession as well, but he chose pediatric dentistry.

“I don’t like to talk about politics, money, or religion—those three things you don’t talk about to kids,” he said with a smile. Larumbe is generous with his smiles. “I smile today, because I’ve done something for somebody every day, and that’s good,” he said.

Larumbe specializes in patients born with a cleft palate. He took an interest in this type of work when he joined NSU’s CDM faculty, learning the Naso Alveolar Molding (NAM) technique from Eric Stelnicki, M.D., a pediatric plastic surgeon who introduced it at the CDM. Larumbe is the only CDM dentist currently doing the procedure.

NAM is a presurgical orthopedic appliance that approximates the cleft and molds the soft tissues and cartilage of the nose to improve the results of surgical cleft lip and cleft palate repair. Ideally, it is used with infants, as it gives the plastic surgeon more tissue with which to work, said Larumbe.

Since not all patients tolerate the NAM appliance well, Larumbe introduced a nasal conformer in 2010. “The intent is to enlarge the affected nostril and elongate the nasal columella in a forward direction,” he said.

Larumbe derives immense satisfaction in going the extra mile for his cleft palate patients. “You become part of the family,” he said. He calls to check in on the children, and family members call him to express their gratitude and invite him to milestone events. Such invitations allow him to witness the progress on his patients’ faces as they grow.

FOUR MORE KEYS TO SUCCESS

1. OFFER DISTRACTIONS

While Larumbe enjoys pediatric dentistry, there is the challenge of working with children who are at an age where they don’t understand why they experience pain during a dental procedure or how to cope with it. The key, he said, is “to demonstrate to them that you understand what they are going through.” Distract them in an effective way to help them cope, he tells students.

“You talk to them to get their minds away from the dental chair and make them feel like you’re one of them,” he said. “You have fun with them, joke with them. Never lie to them. They need to trust you.”

2. ENJOY ROUTINES

Larumbe spends Mondays with the fourth-year dental students on their pediatric dentistry rotation, supervising and teaching them clinical components.

On Tuesdays, Larumbe brings his skills to the craniofacial team at Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital, where they see an average of 16 patients from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. “It is designed to bring the patients with craniofacial anomalies to be treated in an interdisciplinary team approach for the best outcome possible,” he said. Team members include a coordinator, pediatrician, geneticist, audiologist, otolaryngologist, orthodontist, pediatric dentist, oromaxillofacial surgeon, plastic surgeon, speech pathologist, psychologist, social worker, parent advocate, patients, and parents.

On Wednesdays, Larumbe is at the KID Dental Clinic at the Kids In Distress campus in Wilton Manors, where he treats patients with cleft lip and palate using the Naso Alveolar Molding technique, as well as his nasal conformer.

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Jose Larumbe finds immense satisfaction in treating cleft palate patients and helping their families.

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On Thursdays, Larumbe accompanies residents to operating rooms at Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital or Broward Health’s Andrews Avenue location in Fort Lauderdale to help treat patients. Fridays are reserved for didactics and office work.

3. INSPIRE OTHERS

Larumbe also keeps in touch with residents and former students who live throughout the United States and overseas. They talk about procedures they learned from him and now apply in their own practices. Some have been inspired by Larumbe to specialize in craniofacial work as their dental practice, taking their skills to communities that lack the specialties.

Former student Ajay Joshi, D.D.S., a 2014 CDM graduate, now practices pediatric dentistry in Fishers, Indiana. “He has compassion for children and the pediatric community—you just watch him in action, and you see what he’s all about,” Joshi said of Larumbe. “It was a tremendous blessing to watch his techniques and learn from him and how he works with children.”

Another concept Joshi learned from Larumbe is to take the profession one day at a time. “He said you have to know your limits,” Joshi said. “That rang a tone with me, because there are times where you feel like you want to be the hero and save the world, but you have to realize there’s a certain stopping point where you have to stay within your skill set. You try to do good and be a positive influence on the world.”

4. LOVE WHAT YOU DO

Larumbe praised the NSU CDM program for achieving good results and said it has exemplary standing among other U.S. dental school programs.

He returns to Mexico every two years to Puebla and Tlaxcala universities to teach the NAM technique to pediatric dentistry residents in a lab and hands-on course over three days.

Larumbe said he advises dental students to “treat dentistry as dentistry. Don’t just go into it for the money. Do the work first,” he added. “Treat everyone as an equal. You deserve a good living because you went to school for so many years, and you are very good, but first, you are a dentist because you care about the people.” ♦



FAST FACTS

- Hometown** Oaxaca, Mexico
- Education**
 - Universidad Tecnológica de México, class of '75
 - Cirujano Dentista, a D.D.S. equivalent
 - (Holds record for highest GPA—45 years and counting)
 - Pedodontics residency, Boston University, M.S. '79
- Professional**
 - 20-year practice in Oaxaca, Mexico
 - faculty member at NSU since 2000
 - teaching permit under NSU CDM umbrella
 - (Prefers to call teaching “showing,” in that he likes to demonstrate what has worked for him.)
- Personal**
 - three sons (Joey, Brian, and Mark) with wife, Noreen, who passed away
 - married to Alva, who he had dated 43 years ago
 - one “beautiful granddaughter” named Ava

MESSAGE from the Chancellor



When Morton Terry, D.O., established Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine—the forerunner to Nova Southeastern University's Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine—in 1979, who could have imagined what this formidable, visionary figure would accomplish over the next few decades?

Dr. Terry's great foresight would lead to the creation of additional colleges, the founding of Southeastern University of the Health Sciences, and, eventually, the establishing of NSU's Health Professions Division. His dream was to develop an educational environment that was not only interdisciplinary, but also collaborative concerning the delivery of health care.

Today, the Health Professions Division is the ultimate culmination of Dr. Terry's intuition and vision—a progressive and prosperous health education system made up of 8 colleges and more than

60 degree and certificate programs. Because of Morton Terry and many others who helped pave the way, we were able to create a synergistic health education system that produces thousands of health care professionals on a continuum to care for the residents of the United States.

From a nationwide perspective, the NSU Health Professions Division has been a true trendsetter. We have, and continue to, set the example for many established and newer universities, including my alma mater, Columbia University, as well as the University of Chicago and Lincoln University, which are all creating their own versions of our Health Professions Division.

Nova Southeastern University has earned its reputation as an esteemed educational institution. If you look at the alumni from our various programs, you will find them working in assorted and important roles throughout the United States. Some are serving as deans, chairs, and directors at prestigious universities, while others are working as small-town health care providers or delivering care at large teaching hospitals.

NSU has grown and evolved since its 1964 inception, and its 1994 merger with Southeastern University of the Health Sciences, by adopting the core values and principles of preeminent education. As a result, NSU is being recognized for its all-encompassing excellence, which brings added value to the degrees our graduates earn during their broad-based educational and clinical training.

It may be a bold prediction, but I think that within the next 5 to 10 years, NSU will rank as one of the top 100 universities in the United States.

Frederick Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.
Chancellor
Health Professions Division/Special Projects



Graduation 2018

The NSU College of Dental Medicine graduated 158 dental students during 2018. This includes 125 predoctoral students, 31 postgraduate students, and 2 fellowships.

This list contains the students' names, hometowns or regions if available, and plans if available. Year of completion is included for the postgraduate students. Dental studies are Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD), General Practice Residency (GPR), Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMS), Orthodontics (ORTHO), Pediatric Dentistry (PEDS), Periodontics (PERIO), PG Operative Dentistry (OPER. DENT), and Prosthodontics (PROS).

Here are the CDM's newest alumni.



PREDOCTORAL (D.M.D.) GRADS

Effat Ahmadi

Iran
Private practice

Lauren Alfred

Dominican Republic
GPR at the Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center, Bronx, New York

Anum Ali

Pakistan

Samarah Al-Jamali

Miami, Florida
Aspen Dental, Fort Myers, Florida

Jeffrey Allen

Florida
Private practice

Lisandra Amador

Cuba
AEGD at a Veterans Hospital

Tina Amir

Iran
General dentist at Sunrise (Florida) Dental

Isabella Anderson

Caracas, Venezuela
Army—F. Edward Hébert Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP)

Jusemmy Arce

United States

Reshma Baddaloo

Trinidad & Tobago
Miami, Florida

Ashley Beck

Hershey, Pennsylvania
GPR at Mountain Area Health Education Center, Asheville, North Carolina

Ketan Bedmutha

Buffalo, New York
Residency, Montefiore Medical Center, New York City, New York

Vikas Beri

Chicago, Illinois
Associate dentist in private practice

Deeva Bhatt

London, England
Pediatric residency at the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

Wesley Carlisle

Shreveport, Louisiana
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery residency at LSU Health, Shreveport, Louisiana

Kathryn Champion

Columbus, Ohio
Private practice, Deerfield Beach (Florida) Partners in Dentistry

Jasmine Cheema

California
Residency

Cheolwon Chung

Seoul, South Korea
Private practice, Abbeville Dentistry, Texas

Ana Cosma

Romania
Heartland Dental

Tara Derakhshandeh

Iran
Private practice

Alina Diaz

Cuba
Private practice

Domenic E. DiGioia

St. Petersburg, Florida
Periodontology residency at University of Florida

Michael DiSanto

New York
GPR at Jersey Shore Medical Center

Rachel Dorfner

United States
AEGD at NYU Lutheran—Santa Barbara, California

Rajvi Doshi

Winston-Salem, North Carolina
Private practice

Jordan Eckardt

Miami, Florida
Private practice with Heartland Corporation





Julia E
Ottawa, Canada
Private practice

Shaileen Ejtemai
Virginia
OMFS residency, Louisiana State University, New Orleans, Louisiana

Andrew Falestiny
Buffalo, New York
Private practice

Libby Finer
San Juan, Puerto Rico
GPR at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Kalynn Foster
Deerfield Beach, Florida
Orthodontic residency at St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri

Luis Franceschi
Venezuela
Private practice

Victoria Gandarillas
Miami, Florida
Pediatric dental residency at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Daniel Gardner
United States
Private practice

Seyedeh "Sanaz" Ghiassi Afjen
Tehran, Iran
GPR at Helen Hayes Hospital, West Haverstraw, New York

Sandra Ghobrial
Alexandria, Egypt
GPR at Mount Sinai Health System, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Giovanni Gonzalez
Miami, Florida
Private practice

Jaime Gonzalez
Valencia, Venezuela
Orthodontics residency at Seton Hill University Center for Orthodontics, Greensburg, Pennsylvania

Ela Gozlan
Jerusalem, Israel
Private practice

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GRADUATION 2018

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Heilyn Hernandez
Cuba
Private practice

Patrick Huebner
Vienna, Austria
U.S. Army

Sarah Hutson
Jacksonville, Florida
Private practice

Quan Huynh
Vietnam
Private practice

Kassandra Ingram
Puerto Rico
Private practice

Andreina Jativa Garcia
Venezuela
Private practice, Miami, Florida

Sanghyun Je
Seoul, Korea
*Private practice,
Seattle, Washington*

Jaeyoon (Julie) Jeong
Seoul, Korea
Private practice

Sung Yeop Jeong
Seoul, Korea
*Private practice,
Dallas, Texas*

Latoya Luke Joseph
Brooklyn, New York
Private practice

Jonathan Journo
Marseille, France
*Endodontics residency at
Texas A&M University,
Dallas, Texas*

Baha Kablawi
Amman, Jordan
Private practice

Mohamed Kaplan
Chicago, Illinois
Pursuing oral surgery residency

Rozana Karim
Florida
Private practice

Sara Karim
Hollywood, Florida
*Associate dentist at Pacific Dental
Services in South Florida*

Zenab Khan
Pakistan
GPR in New York City

Henry Kim
Hayward, California
Private practice

Cintia Kopecny
Brazil
Private practice

Mary Labance
Seminole, Florida
Private practice

Dorotie Lacroze
Haiti
*AEGD at NYU Lutheran—Miami,
Miami, Florida*

Navid Lajevardi
Miami, Florida
*AEGD at NYU Lutheran—
Metropolitan New York,
New York City, New York*

Junaid Lakhani
North Carolina
Private practice

Nhung Le
Vietnam
*Private practice with
Bear Creek Dental*

Thien Le
Hawaii
Private practice

Vinicius Lima
Brazil
*GPR at Tufts University,
Boston, Massachusetts*

Catherine Lopez
Miami, Florida
Private practice

Lailani Lorenzo
Hialeah, Florida
Private practice

Tiffany Lu
Taiwan
*Orthodontic residency at Loma Linda
University School of Dentistry,
Loma Linda, California*

David Luther
Orange, California
*Pediatrics residency at NSU CDM,
Fort Lauderdale, Florida*

Lella Macario
Brazil
Private practice

Peter Mai
Saigon, Vietnam
*Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
internship at Baylor University
Medical Center, Dallas, Texas*

Mega Margapuram
Sacramento, California
U.S. Air Force

Brianna Mastrianni
Jupiter, Florida
*Private practice,
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida*

Marjan Mirkheshti
Iran
Private practice

Ashvi Mittal
India
*Private practice specializing
in pediatrics*

Zohaib Munaf
Pakistan
*Pediatric residency at New York
University Langone Medical Center,
Brooklyn, New York*

Christopher Naglieri
Brooklyn, New York
*GPR at Kings County Hospital
Center, Brooklyn, New York*

Gina Najafi
Gainesville, Florida
*Public health/general dental
practice in northern Florida*

Sarah Y. Naon
France
*Orthodontics residency at Tufts
University, Boston, Massachusetts*

Camha Nguyen
Vietnam
U.S. Army

Chi Nguyen
Da Nang, Vietnam
Private practice

Lily Nguyen
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
GPR at University of Virginia

Michelle Nguyen
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
*Private practice,
North Miami, Florida*

Tony (Danny) Nguyen
Jersey City
*Associate dentist at Picasso
Dental General and Cosmetic
Dentistry, Waxahachie, Texas*

Thuy Vy Nguyen
Vietnam
Private practice

Stephen Norton
Boynton Beach, Florida
*GPR at Veteran's Affairs Medical Center,
Gainesville, Florida*

Kelli Orcutt
Fairbanks, Alaska
Private practice

Shivani Parikh
New Jersey
*GPR at Robert Wood Johnson
University Hospital,
New Brunswick, New Jersey*

Pratik Patel
Anand, India
Private practice

Rikul Patel
Nairobi, Kenya
*AEGD at Dayton, Ohio, Veterans Affairs
Medical Center*

Jeffrey Perez
Miami, Florida
*Aspen Dental,
Port Charlotte, Florida*

Maria Petroche
Quito, Ecuador
*Periodontics residency at
Boston University*

Thomas Pike
Jacksonville, Florida
*AEGD at the Naval Dental Center,
Great Lakes, Illinois*

Kyle Radin
Cleveland, Ohio
*Private practice,
Cleveland, Ohio*

Jose Ramirez
Cuba
Private practice

Noura Rezapour
Iran
*Pediatric residency at University
of Nevada, Las Vegas, Nevada*

Andrea Rodriguez
Ecuador
Private practice

Justin Ross
Longview, Texas
*Private practice,
Miami, Florida*

Flora Sarmiento
Matamoros, Mexico
*Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
residency and internship at
Rutgers University*

Jon-Michael Scalercio
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
*AEGD at NYU Lutheran—Bradenton,
Bradenton, Florida*

Rahul Shah

Jesse M. Schwartz
Englewood, New Jersey
*AEGD at Idaho State University,
Meridian, Idaho*

Mena Shenouda
Orlando, Florida
Private practice

Ethan Silverman
Melbourne, Florida
*Private practice,
Melbourne, Florida*

Adam Slatniske
New Windsor, Maryland
*Parkville Family Dentistry,
Parkville, Maryland*

Hasaan Sorathia
Chicago, Illinois
Private practice

Derek Stallard
Kingsport, Tennessee
*Private practice,
Saint Cloud, Florida*

Richard Sung
Madison, Wisconsin
Private dentistry

Naghme Taherian
Iran
Private practice

Brian Tran
Plantation, Florida
Private dentistry

Nghi (Ken) Truong
Saigon, Vietnam
Private Practice

Timothy Turner
Fort Benning, Georgia
Private practice

Lauren Valancy
Plantation, Florida
*AEGD at the Bay Pines VA Healthcare
System, Bay Pines, Florida*

Dana Verdecchia
Windsor, Ontario, Canada
Private Practice

Thomas Veronee
Jupiter, Florida
Private practice

Mateo Vidales
Bogotá, Colombia
Private practice

Lesly Viera
Cuba
Private practice

Sarah Vu
Boston, Massachusetts
GPR

Mark Wells
Davie, Florida
*Private practice,
Orlando, Florida*

Ryan Whelen
North Carolina
Private dentistry

Shelby Willoughby
Winston-Salem, North Carolina
AEGD with Air Force

Benjamin M. Yanowitz
Hollywood, Florida
*GPR at Montefiore Medical Center,
Bronx, New York*

Christina Yidi
Colombia
*AEGD at Orlando VA
Healthcare System*

Mohamed Youssef
Alexandria, Egypt
Private practice

Michael Zhang
Virginia
Private practice

Brandon Zipper
New York City
*Postgraduate orthodontics
certificate at Temple University
School of Dentistry,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

POSTDOCTORAL GRADUATES

Bashar Adeinat—PERIO PG3
Amman, Jordan
Private practice, Jacksonville, Florida

Saleh Almukhlis—OPER. DENT. PG2
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Private practice

Golsa Akbarian—PROS PG3
Iran
*Teaching at West Virginia University
School of Dentistry*

Dana Al Hashimi—PERIO PG3
Iraq

Mikhail Daya Attie—OMFS PG4

Marwa Bawazir—OPER. DENT. PG2
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Ph.D. program

Kanika Bembey—PERIO PG3
India
*Private practice, San Francisco,
California*

Kelly Cundy—PEDI PG2
Fort Lauderdale
*Private practice,
South Florida*

Ivonne Duarte—AEGD PG2
Caracas, Venezuela
Private practice

Marcela Cardona Echeverri—
PROS PG3
Cali, Colombia
*Private practice,
South Florida*

Melania Elsner—ENDO PG2
Baltimore, Maryland
Private practice

Sava Estanboliah—AEGD PG2
Aleppo, Syria
Private practice

David Garazi—PERIO PG3
Miami, Florida
*Private periodontic practice,
South Florida*

Daniella Godoy—PEDI PG2
Venezuela
*Private practice,
South Florida*

Daniel Hall—PEDI PG2
Poway, California
*Private pediatric practice,
Prescott, Arizona*

Neelam Jadeja—AEG PG2
India
Private practice

Zeenat M. Khan—PROS PG3

Ki Jung Kim—PEDI PG2
Ulsan, South Korea
Pediatric practice

Jin Lim Seup—OMFS PG4
South Korea
*Private practice,
Colorado Springs, Colorado*

Ronak Makadia—ENDO PG2
India
*Private practice,
San Diego, California*

Ahmad Malluh—OPER. DENT. PG2
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Ph.D. program

Rohit Mathur—PROS PG3
India
Private practice

Mitchell Miller—PEDI PG2
Boynton Beach, Florida
Private practice, Florida

Riyad Nouna—AEGD PG2
Damascus, Syria
Opening a private practice, Michigan

Sandra Ogando—ENDO PG2
Colombia
*Private practice,
Miami, Florida*

Valeria Pizzini—ENDO PG2
Italy
*Private practice,
Norfolk, Virginia*

Alexander Raiken—ENDO PG2
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Private practice

Nelcy Sanchez—PEDI PG2
Venezuela
*Private practice,
Dallas, Texas*

Ziad Shannis—AEGD PG2
Syria
Private practice, Florida

Lauren Tink—ENDO PG2
Montreal, Quebec
*Private practice,
South Florida*

Vanessa Watts—OMFS PG4
Vancouver, Canada
Private oral surgery practice, Florida

FELLOWSHIPS

Alex Mehler—ENDO FELLOW
New York City
*Endodontics residency at
NSU College of Dental Medicine,
Fort Lauderdale, Florida*

Muadh Al-Gomaiah—
CRANIOFACIAL FELLOW
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
*Pediatric dentistry residency
at NSU College of Dental Medicine,
Fort Lauderdale, Florida*

Bonded for Life

Alumni Thrive on Being Leaders, Concentrating on Careers

BY NICOLE STERGHOS BROCHU

For years, mutual friends at the College of Dental Medicine (CDM) urged Andrew Haidet and Whitney Howard to date, universally struck by how perfect the two were for each other. Haidet and Howard were, as one friend put it, “the same person”—born leaders, go-getters, known for helping others and bringing friends together—the kind of people who made those around them smile.

Only two people initially disagreed that they were a match in those early years at the dental college: the couple. “We were both dating other people, and he was always my mentor and a really good friend. I never thought of him in that way,” she said. “And then he started pursuing a relationship with me.”

Today, Andrew Haidet, D.M.D., and Whitney [Howard] Haidet, D.M.D., are off to a strong start in proving their friends right. One year after their Naples, Florida, wedding, and just a few years into their careers, they make a powerful pair. Each leads a thriving dental practice in the Southwest Florida area. He works at Gulf Shore Cosmetic and Family Dentistry, while she is at Complete Dentistry of Estero. Together, they are debt-free, having paid off nearly \$700,000 in combined student loans within their first three years or so of graduating from dental school.

Their personal lives are a testament to their caring, fun-loving spirits. They adopted two rescue cats—an orange tabby named Blue and a gray tabby named Howie. They have their own idea of couples therapy, which involves exercising their shared competitive streak on the coed kickball field and the fantasy



Whitney Haidet's rapport with her patients echoes back to her lifelong goals of leadership and giving back.

football bracket, though she often beats him in their March Madness bets. They honeymooned in Greece and vacationed in Hawaii. This fall, they'll head to Spain, and every Independence Day, they meet up with about 18 to 20 fellow CDM alumni on trips to locales like New York City, New York, and Amelia Island or Key West, Florida.

And, they're still leaders and go-getters, bringing friends together and making people smile. Only now, they do it as a couple.

THE BOND BEGINS

The concept of being a couple seemed foreign to the two avid Gator fans when they met Halloween of 2009, while tailgating with mutual friends at a University of Florida (UF) football game. A recent graduate of UF's



Andrew Haidet appreciates that the CDM teaches aspiring dentists about the importance of compassion and patient satisfaction.

chemistry program, Andrew Haidet was in his first year at the CDM; Whitney Howard was a senior, seven months shy of her Bachelor of Science degree in the UF nutrition program and waiting to hear back on her application to the CDM. He offered her advice and followed up later with texts of support.

When she got accepted to the CDM, Haidet made himself available to answer her questions. The day before she started at the CDM, he came to welcome her to the Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus, and was always there to help her with her classes. At the end of Haidet's third year, and just before the start of hers, he completed his term as president of the Psi Omega coed dental fraternity—and handed Howard the gavel. Both had been selected by their respective classes to lead the prestigious group's CDM chapter, serving back-to-back terms.

Theirs was a strong bond, a mentorship that lasted more than three years at the friendship level, until Andrew Haidet decided he wanted more. It was spring 2013, and the Melbourne, Florida, native was three months away from graduating.

She was hesitant. "Finally, I came to my senses, and it was the best decision I ever made," Whitney Haidet said. "I was like, we should have done this a long time ago!"

THE BOND CATCHES

That persistence and that drive to help others, set goals, and pursue dreams, set Andrew Haidet apart, said his friend and CDM classmate Kavi Shah, D.M.D. "He always looked out for other people. That's the kind of person he is," said Shah, who befriended Andrew Haidet in their first year at the CDM and later married Whitney Haidet's close friend and CDM classmate Gargi Gajera, D.M.D., in 2013.

Unlike Shah, who joined his father's dental practice in New York, Andrew Haidet "didn't have any connections or family members to lean on when he left school," Shah said. "I think Drew is a little more unique in that he ran with things on his own. He took the initiative to set himself up for success when he finished school."

Amir N. Farhangpour, D.D.S., noticed the same go-get-'em qualities in Whitney Haidet. Farhangpour, the CDM's codirector of the predoctoral clinic and professor of the college's board preparation class, found Whitney Haidet especially self-motivated.

"She was always helping other people, especially with the licensure process," Farhangpour said. "I always tell



“I love science, and I love medicine, and dentistry provides that.”

—Whitney Haidet

students that after graduation, grades are no longer the yardstick by which success is measured. Passion, dedication, and giving back to the community will be the measuring tools. That was something Whitney grabbed onto very early on.”

THE BOND PERSISTS

Leadership and giving back are Whitney Haidet’s goals. The Tampa native was president of her high school class and captain of the cheerleading squad. In her second year at the CDM, while treasurer of Psi Omega, she developed a student ambassador program for the college, recognizing how important it was for the students who led campus tours to make a good first impression on candidates interested in the dental school.

The CDM experience is infused with that sense of community, said Gajera, Whitney Haidet’s close friend and bridesmaid. At other schools, “There was always that vibe of everyone for themselves, whereas at the CDM, everyone helped each other. We were more like a team,” Gajera said, adding, though, that education is what you make of it. “Whitney and Drew are both go-getters. They don’t sit around and wait for things to happen for them. They went the extra mile, and they got the most out of what the CDM had to offer.”

What the CDM offered, Andrew Haidet said, is a real-world education that didn’t just focus on the

clinical aspect of dentistry, but also taught aspiring dentists about the importance of compassion and patient satisfaction. “They teach you how to deal with people and how to run a practice,” he said. “It’s not just all about chapters in a textbook.”

What both Haidets say they found next, at Heartland Dental—the dental support organization that owns both their dental offices—was another key to their success. “They’ve presented us with the opportunity to grow to our full potential,” Andrew Haidet said, adding that the group offers training in leadership, business management, and, especially, patient satisfaction. “Patient experience is their specialty. Their focus is on providing support, so you can be successful.”



“[The CDM teaches] you how to deal with people and how to run a practice.”

—Andrew Haidet

He credits that support—and the busy practices it helps cultivate—for the couple’s ability to repay their student loans so quickly. He stresses, though, that his measure of success is not about money, but whether patients are happy with their care and are eager to come back. That is, after all, why he got into dentistry, he said, “to interact with patients in a way where I could have a positive impact on their lives.” ♦

THE STUDENT LOAN PAYOFF

SEVEN TIPS FOR GETTING DEBT-FREE IN UNDER FIVE YEARS

More than 44 million Americans are carrying student loan debts, and 30- to 39-year-olds hold the distinction as the fastest-growing student loan borrowers of any other age group, according to *Forbes* magazine. Dentists Andrew and Whitney Haidet are not among them.

The CDM grads credit their ability to pay off nearly \$700,000 in student loans in a little over three years to the lessons they picked up in dental school and at Heartland Dental, the dental support organization (DSO) that owns their practices. They offer the following tips.

- Find a DSO with a reputation that focuses on excellence in clinical dentistry that also provides business and leadership training and support.
- Reach out to colleagues and mentors for advice on running a successful office and team.
- Focus on quality dental care and the patient experience instead of high-volume procedures.
- In setting a budget, dedicate a large portion of your income to making monthly payments on your loans.
- Avoid financial investments until the loans are paid off. No investments are guaranteed to make more than what you'll lose in loan interest.
- Cultivate strong relationships with your patients and team.
- Enjoy your work.



Always Learning

Continuing Education Integral Part of Life

BY SANDI DRAPER

JunSik Kim, M.S., Ph.D., D.D.S., a practicing orthodontist in the Fresno, California, area, is a long way from home. More than 10,000 miles from where he grew up and his childhood family remains: Seoul, South Korea. He didn't make the move in one leap; he had a layover at the NSU College of Dental Medicine. His quest for better education brought him here.

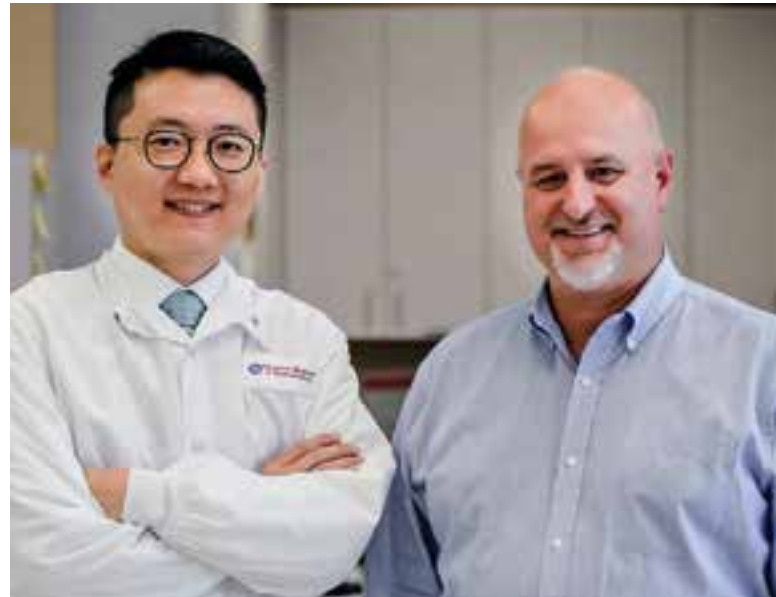
Kim grew up in what he calls a megacity; Seoul is the world's fourth-largest metropolitan economy, after Tokyo, New York City, and Los Angeles, with a population of more than 10 million. "During my elementary school to dental school journey in Seoul, I could see fast development of Seoul and Korea, which had held the Seoul Asian games in 1986, the Seoul Olympics in 1988, and the Seoul World Cup in 2002," he said.

His family remains in South Korea. "I have one brother who is a lieutenant colonel in the army and patrols the DMZ (demilitarized zone), which is the border between South and North Korea. I am very proud of my younger brother. He is a father of two sons and a good husband who is protecting South Korea from the communist regime of the North." His brother also takes care of Kim's parents, who remain in Seoul.

THE CALL

In 1999, Kim graduated from the dental school of Seoul National University, which he calls the best dental school in Korea. Kim spent three years after graduation as a public health dentist in a rural area. "I worked with a lot of underprivileged people, such as families with handicapped children, alcoholics, mental patients, and the homeless," he remembered.

That experience created in Kim a desire to help the needy and less fortunate. "In 2002, I opened my private practice in Seoul. When I started to see patients, I felt a deep responsibility to them. In other words, if I didn't have 'enough' or the 'best' knowledge, I felt guilty,"



JunSik Kim with Eric Pellkofer, vice president of orthodontics operations at Western Dental & Orthodontics

Kim said. So, while he worked during the day, he continued studying nights and weekends, even after dental school graduation.

"Through those nights, I earned a master's degree, and then a Ph.D. Also, I attended many education courses and seminars dealing with all fields of dentistry, such as prosthodontics, periodontics, endodontics, implantology, esthetic dentistry, and orthodontics." While he was exposed to all facets of dental care, "I was attracted to the logical thinking process of orthodontics. So, I decided to devote my life to the orthodontic specialty," he said.

THE JOURNEY

By 2015, it was time to broaden his continuing education horizons. Kim noted that, since 2004, he had attended seminars in conventional orthodontics, lingual orthodontics, surgical orthodontics, speedy

orthodontics, mini-screws, and even graduate school. “However, those things had come to South Korea from the United States, which is where modern orthodontics originated,” he said.

To continue his education, he wanted to come to the source. “I believed I could be a better orthodontist and scholar, both with principles and with clinical work,” Kim said. “I want to be the best for my patients; that is my duty as a doctor.”

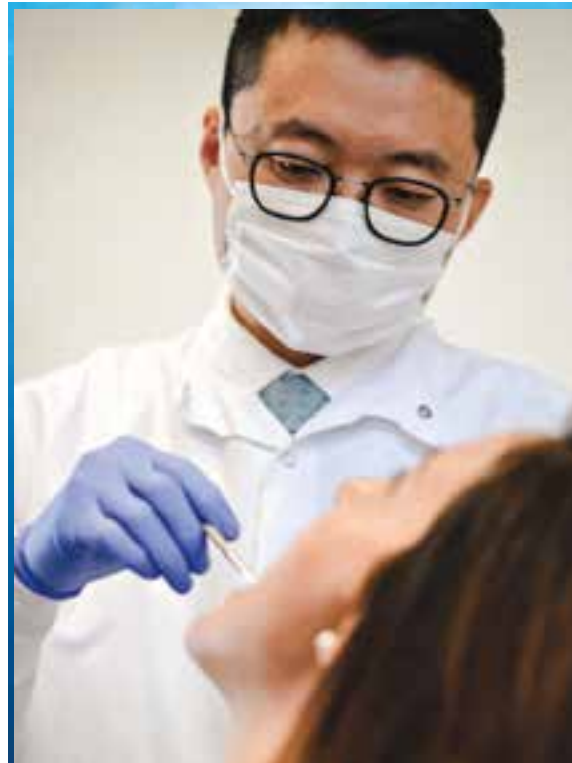
ADVANCED LEVELS

NSU’s College of Dental Medicine made it to the top of the list as he was researching U.S. schools.

“There are several things I liked in the postgraduate program at the CDM. First, it has a very open and friendly environment to international students like myself,” he said. Kim also found the faculty and staff members, colleagues, and patients very supportive and helpful. “With their support, I could enjoy and finish my residency successfully. The CDM offers all dental specialties, which gave me great interdisciplinary working opportunities. So, even though my major was orthodontics, I could learn the most updated knowledge of other specialties.”

Kim remembers with gratitude the many CDM faculty members who contributed to his success. “I enjoyed all the lectures from each professor for the two-and-a-half years of my residency. I appreciated their time and effort for our class,” he said.

CDM professors also fondly remember Kim. “It was an honor and a privilege to teach JunSik Kim during his time here at the CDM,” said Abraham Lifshitz, D.D.S., M.S., chair of the orthodontics department. “Having come with previous orthodontic training from South Korea, he was very respectful of others’ opinions and kept an open mind, always eager to broaden his knowledge in orthodontics. He is remembered in our



FAST FACTS

- Hometown** Seoul, South Korea
- Education**
 - D.D.S. degree from Seoul National University (1999)
 - M.S. degree from The Catholic University (2010)
 - Ph.D. degree from Kyunghee University (2013)
 - Postgraduate from NSU CDM (2017)
- Professional**
 - public health dentist
 - private practice dentist
 - corporate dental group orthodontist
- Personal**
 - married to Hyun-Jung Choi
 - two sons, Jungmin Kim, 13, and Junghun Kim, 12
 - enjoys reading and working out at the gym



JunSik Kim, center, with the other dentists and staff members at the clinic where he works in a rural area of central California.

department as the ‘TAD Master’ for his expertise in using temporary anchorage devices.”

After graduating in December 2017, Kim joined a corporate dental group in a rural area of central California. “Usually, I am very busy during the day, but I enjoy doing an exam, diagnosis, making a treatment plan, and monitoring the progress of a patient. I need to think of a creative, but logical, way to solve the problems for individual patients.”

A QUEST FULFILLED

Although Kim resides on the opposite coast from the CDM, the distance hasn’t diminished his appreciation for the college. He likens his feelings for the university to the military expression *Once a Marine, Always a Marine*. “I am always an alumnus of NSU. So, if I want to be the best doctor, it is very important to support and make the CDM the best. Through that, I can have strong colleagues and, also, contribute to research to improve human health,” he said.

He hopes future CDM graduates always put their patients first. “When you choose this as your career, lifetime learning is your duty,” Kim said. He recommends continuing education, not for career success



JunSik Kim discusses patient treatment plans with a staff member.

or financial gain, but to benefit patients. “We can be harmful to patients if we stop learning. I understand dental students already have studied very hard to get into dental school. Students deserve to enjoy life, but must put learning first. That is the reason why people show respect to doctors.” ♦

Parents and Partners

Couple Balances Dental Practice, Family Obligations

BY CAROL BRZOZOWSKI

More than two decades ago, 2001 alumni Jeffrey Starkman, D.M.D., and Sharlene Yap Starkman, D.M.D., were study partners at the CDM. Today, they are partners in life: husband and wife, parents of three children, and partner doctors at nine Great Expressions Dental Centers in South Florida.

Yap Starkman completed a pediatric dental residency at the CDM for the first year and at Miami Children's Hospital during the second year, serving as chief resident for both years. Starkman completed a three-year residency in periodontics at the CDM. They married in 2003.

Yap Starkman, a pediatric dentist, said she chose the CDM because "It was a brand-new school at the time, emerging from this state of affairs where dentistry seemed to be falling by the wayside."

Jeffrey Starkman, a periodontist, added that because the college was new at the time, he saw a chance to grow with the program. Other dental schools at the time were "entrenched with tradition and century-old dental techniques," he said. In contrast, the CDM had state-of-the-art equipment and—being a new school—an excitement in the air that he wanted to surround himself with.

An all-inclusive academic environment with medical, dental, and pharmacy students set up to help people was also attractive to Yap Starkman. Both held leadership positions during their time at the CDM. During their final years, Starkman was the dental school president, and Yap Starkman served as fourth-year class president.



Jeffrey Starkman and Sharlene Yap Starkman are partner doctors at nine dental centers in South Florida.

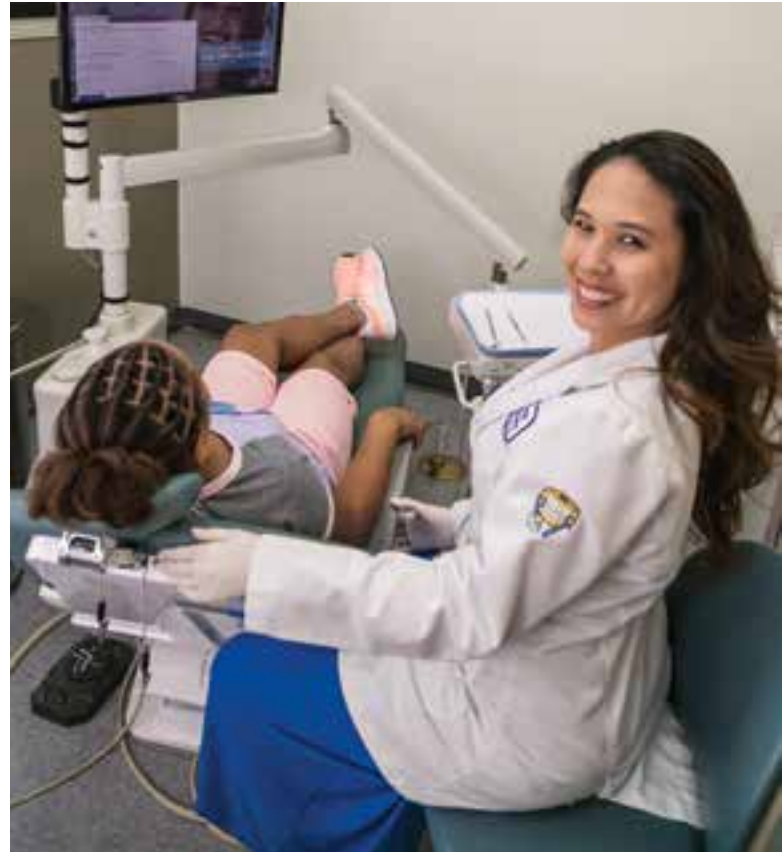
Yap Starkman said she and her husband hit it off because they both understood the other's challenges of the long, grueling hours of study and labs. "Dental school is definitely not for the faint of heart," she said. "You have to be very disciplined and make lots of sacrifices." But, she said she was unaware of the significant physicality dental school demands. "It involves working with your hands, bending, and back-breaking demands," she explained. "In pediatrics, a lot of it is very physical, especially if we have to assist a child or a special needs patient. We have to be on our feet at all times and be very alert."

Her desire to work with children was behind Yap Starkman's decision to choose pediatric dentistry after majoring in psychobiology with an emphasis in developmental psychology. She said it was a natural fit. The work transcends clinical aspects to encompass

ALUMNI Impressions



A cheerful atmosphere throughout the clinics helps keep patients comfortable.



behavior management, such as learning how to deal with and overcome anxiety issues in children and their parents. Some patients come in through the Florida Department of Children and Families, which also entails a sociological aspect that Yap Starkman said she enjoys.

GRAND EXPECTATIONS

The two are partner doctors at nine Great Expressions clinics spanning Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach counties. “As partner doctors, we are leaders in each of our offices because of years spent with the Great Expressions Dental Centers,” Yap Starkman explained. “We also serve as mentors, allowing new dentists to shadow us to gain insight on how patients are seen and treated. As specialists, we know we are traveling to meet our patients’ needs.”

The two chose to affiliate with Great Expressions Dental Centers (GEDC) because they would rather focus on treating patients than on the business aspects of running an office, such as human resources, insurance, leasing space, and marketing.

“When you’re in school, you have this mindset that you’re going to hang your shingle—that’s a very traditional approach to dentistry,” Yap Starkman said. “Since we graduated, the focus is a lot different. It’s not that putting your name up on the wall necessarily indicates success, but it’s more what you can do for your patients.”

The couple also found that affiliating with dental service organizations enables them to focus on their first priority—family. “We’re not staying at the office late at night,” said Yap Starkman. “I’ve seen our children’s every recital, every performance, and graduation.”

Through Great Expressions Dental Centers, they also engage in philanthropic efforts by donating dental home care supplies, dedicating a day to help the indigent population, and prepping meals for the community.

Being a pediatric dentist who also is a mother has not changed the way she deals with patients, but it has changed the way she deals with parents, said Yap Starkman. She said she could empathize with the anxiety parents feel when hearing their child cry. “Even though I know everything is okay, I put myself

in their shoes,” she said. “It makes it easy to explain things, because I’ve gone through all of the stages of teething, exfoliation, and trauma.”

She regards patients as extended family. She has been treating many of them since she got out of residency and is now seeing them go off to college. She also is assisting the next generation of pediatric dentists. Several CDM dental students interested in pediatric dentistry shadow Yap Starkman on Saturdays to learn what her job entails.

Jeffrey Starkman noted he “fell in love with comprehensive care dentistry” while at the CDM and chose periodontics because of the college’s strong periodontal department. “That’s where the comprehensive treatment was,” he said. “In clinic, you learned how to put one crown here, one crown there, but the periodontal faculty members pieced it all together.”

Assisting postgraduate students and learning dental theories about comprehensive care, as well as the excitement of being around motivated people, helped Jeffrey Starkman cement his future in the specialty. “Dental school is a rigorous four years, but it’s not nearly enough to know everything,” he said. “Once you master your craft, you throw in the dynamic properties of working with patients and their time, budgets, desires, motivations—and explaining the value of what we do to them.”

Yap Starkman added “the culmination of [dental school] was specializing. Now that we are specialists, I know it takes a team effort. That team effort is very apparent in a dental service organization, because I don’t have to look at other referral services. They are right there—sometimes literally in our office—so it’s so much easier.”

“We want to see not only the patient, but the patient’s family, children, and the grandchildren,” Jeffrey Starkman added. “With that in mind, we have all aspects of dentistry covered: pediatric dentistry, orthodontics, general practitioner, and periodontics.”

Yap Starkman’s advice to dental students is to embrace perseverance. “You have to believe in it,” she said. “To this day, I’m still close to my attendings and colleagues from residency, just because we were in it for the same intentions.”

The two return to the CDM a few times each year to speak to American Student Dental Association members or present a program on career paths. ♦



FAST FACTS

GREAT EXPRESSIONS DENTAL CENTERS

- headquartered in Michigan; founded in 1982
- industry leader in preventive dental care, orthodontics, and specialty care
- 500 licensed dentists
- 280 independently owned and operated offices in 10 states
- recognized for oral health improvement initiatives addressing quality, safety, affordability, patient convenience, and research
- donated \$125,000 over five years to the NSU College of Dental Medicine
- donates 5 percent of its revenue to various funds affiliated with Martin Luther King, Jr., organizations
- makes more than 100,000 meals for Feeding Children Everywhere
- hosts dental care missions to Haiti and Africa
- provides oral-care products to communities via the GEDC SmileCenter



STUDENT IMPRESSIONS



The Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity's Sixth Annual Oral Cancer Awareness 5K Run and Walk-a-Thon brought out an array of students, professors, running enthusiasts, and a few canines to raise money for a patient's treatment. Above, the fraternity printed a check for \$10,000, but a larger turnout than expected boosted the donations to \$12,000.

BY OLIVE H. COGDILL

Members of the NSU chapter of the Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity (AO) run for their patients. Of course, some also walk. But no matter how they reached the finish line during the Sixth Annual Oral Cancer Awareness 5K Run and Walk-a-Thon, the goal was the same—to raise money to help support care for a patient.

This year, AO raised more than \$12,000 during the 5K held on NSU's Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus. That's more funds than the organization expected it would raise toward patient treatment. AO initially printed an oversized check for \$10,000, but ended up receiving a larger turnout than anticipated, resulting in unforeseen funds from registration fees and donations. More than 350 people—and a few canines—turned out for the 5K.

The event benefited Samin Nuhin, a 16-year-old girl who visited her local orthodontist for a consultation

ing Allen Ressler from the Alpha Omega Foundation, Gabi Cabrera from Henry Schein, and Christopher Robertson from Aspen Dental, as well as from Linda C. Niessen, D.M.D., M.P.H., M.P.P., dean and professor of the NSU CDM.

Nuhin, the patient beneficiary, presented the gold and silver medals to 5K champion Luis F from Brazil, who finished in 17 minutes, and to class of 2020's Rafael Martinez, who came in a close second. In addition to the 5K, oral cancer screenings, performed by dental students and oral surgery residents, were offered during the event.

Alpha Omega, the oldest international Jewish medical organization, was founded in 1907 by dental students at the University of Maryland to fight discrimination. Today, the organization has more

for Treatment

ALPHA OMEGA DENTAL FRATERNITY CONTINUES 5K FUND-RAISER

about getting braces. During her consultation, the orthodontist observed an aggressive lesion in her lower right mandible. She eventually was referred to the NSU CDM oral and maxillofacial department, where a biopsy report revealed her diagnosis of ameloblastoma. She underwent a series of surgical procedures to eradicate the disease and reconstruct her tissues.

Members of the NSU Alpha Omega Executive Board met with the patient several times during her treatment. They were inspired by her calm collectedness and firm resolve to pursue surgical treatment. "She and her family were ecstatic when they learned of Alpha Omega's annual OC5K community initiative," said Jiten Solanki, a member of the class of 2019.

The 5K began at the Alvin Sherman Library with a welcome from Christopher Robertson, representing the event's title sponsor, Aspen Dental. At the finish line, participants were cheered on by leaders of AO and the HPD Asian Student Association, which helped organize the event, and mascot Timmy the Tooth.

The 5K concluded with a brief ceremony featuring congratulations from the event's key sponsors, includ-

than 100 alumni and student chapters in 10 countries, and welcomes members of all religions and ethnicities.

The CDM's AO chapter is a tight-knit group of dedicated dental students, instructors, and professionals who promote oral health, networking, activism, and academics through community-based activities. Projects the AO's 120 members have worked on during 2018 include collecting and coordinating 400 cans of food to benefit the victims of the volcano eruption disaster in Guatemala, visiting schools to teach children the importance of brushing their teeth, and hosting periodic tutoring sessions to help CDM students succeed in the dental education curriculum.

In spring 2016, the CDM's chapter had 30 members who graduated, making it one of the organization's largest graduating classes in the country. "Many of the CDM faculty members belonged to the AO when they were in dental school," said Solanki, who also worked on the 2016 and 2017 5Ks. "Common ground like belonging to the same fraternity helps us to engage with the professors and other professionals on a deeper level." ♦

Branching Out

Sons and Daughter Follow Father's Footsteps

BY CAROL BRZOZOWSKI

Sitting on a bench outside of the NSU CDM, three dental college students discussed their evening plans. Although the day had taken them in different directions—one had completed work at the North Miami Beach clinic, one was preparing to see a patient, and one had finished classes that day—they were ending it at the same destination: their Boynton Beach home.

The three are not only NSU CDM students, but also siblings.

Stephen Norton, D.M.D., who graduated in May 2018, and twins Greg and Emily Norton, are the children of Stephen G. Norton, D.M.D., owner of Norton Dental Arts—a general and cosmetic dentistry. He has practiced cosmetic and rehabilitative dentistry in Delray Beach, Florida, for more than 32 years. Their mother, Susan, had worked there as the receptionist. The siblings come from a



Proud father Stephen G. Norton, center, with his children—and future dental colleagues—Stephen, right, and twins Greg and Emily

tight-knit family, sharing a bond that weaves through every aspect of their lives.

“We went to the same high school, the same undergrad college, and now the same dental school,” said Greg Norton. “I was on the same sports team in college with my brother. I golf with him a lot. I take classes with my sister. We have dental conversations at dinner. We always study together, work well together, and help each other out. It makes life a little bit easier.”

“We had dental magazines everywhere,” said Emily Norton of their childhood. “Dad was always into continuing education, so we were always seeing bits and pieces of information.”

The Norton siblings were aware of their father’s impact on patients’ lives and of patients’ respect for him. Many became family friends.

“It felt natural for us to fall into this,” said Emily of her and her brothers’ decisions to pursue dental careers. They all had an interest in math and science and in using their hands to help improve people’s well-being.

The Norton family enjoyed a healthy work-family balance. Despite their father’s long days at his office, “he always came to our soccer games,” said Emily. “He was always trying to point us in the right direction when we were kids with our math homework and science projects. He was always there when we needed him.”

They, in turn, have been there for him. After their mother passed away, they moved back to Boynton Beach from south Broward County to be with their father. Although it meant a longer commute to NSU, they supported each other in the healing process.

ATHLETIC ADVANTAGE

As children, the three were not only high achieving in academics—particularly in math and science—but also gifted in athletics, where they made a name for themselves at St. Andrews School in Boca Raton. The Norton siblings were each recruited to Bucknell University in Pennsylvania—where their father and grandfather went to college—to play Division I water polo.

While their father earned his dental degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, the siblings all chose the CDM to be close to family and friends and enjoy year-round outdoor activities. “It’s hard to believe they all ended up being bio majors and

deciding to go into dental school,” said Norton, adding he’s “thrilled” his children chose dentistry as a career.

“I knew they were athletic. Dentistry is an art and a science, and if you’re coordinated, it makes it a lot easier,” he said. “It requires dexterity, and you don’t know until you start doing it in your sophomore and junior years if you’re really good with your hands.”

TRIPLE THREAT

The Norton siblings have become an attraction at NSU CDM. “All of the teachers are so excited to meet us when we come into their classes,” noted Emily. “They’re very caring, always helping us, and are very patient with us. We have a thousand questions. They guide us.”

The three have engaged in a fair amount of student involvement, including Psi Omega, the cosmetic dentistry club, the American Student Dental Association, and the Florida Dental Association. Emily holds membership in Phi Kappa Phi for her ranking in the top 10 percent in her class.

In 2017, the twins went to Jamaica on a medical outreach trip. “It was an eye-opening experience for us,” said Emily. “They had no access to dentistry. They were so happy to see us.”

In a makeshift clinic set up in a local church, Emily and Greg worked as part of a dynamic approach involving NSU students representing dental, pharmacy, osteopathic medicine, and occupational therapy sectors. “The students from the different colleges worked together, which was very helpful for the patients,” Emily said. Many patients presented with tooth decay, noted Emily. “A lot of work involved extractions. We were helping them get out of pain. It was nice to give back like that. It was a humbling experience.”

“I enjoyed how grateful the Jamaicans were when we went there,” Greg said. “There were hundreds of them standing outside wanting dental treatment. We could only do so much, but we were able to help the community out.”

Emily and Greg have done pediatric rotations at Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital and the NSU CDM Kids In Distress clinic. While at the CDM, Stephen spent once a week at the NSU North Miami Beach clinic, worked with HIV patients at the Cypress Creek facility, and did pediatric rotations at Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital.

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The Norton siblings and their father say they appreciate making their patients happy with their treatment.

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In mid-summer 2018, Stephen headed to Gainesville to do a general practice residency at a Veteran's Affairs Medical Center hospital. "He'll be doing a lot of complex cases there," said his father, adding that one year in such a residency is equivalent to "years of experience." Stephen said he looked forward to assisting in various procedures and helping veterans.

TRIPLE PLAY

Emily and Greg are now in their fourth year in dental school, and all three intend to follow their father by going into general dentistry. They learned cutting-edge technologies at NSU CDM, and they augmented that education with their father's knowledge, accumulated through years of experience.

"He's pretty much ahead of us on all aspects," Emily said. "He knows all of the tricks of the trade. I call him up with a question, and he'll ask me if I tried it a certain way. I'll say 'no, but next time I will.' I've learned patience from him."

Greg says he also has learned patience from his father. He confers with his father for advice on handling various dental situations. When their father got a new 3-D Cone Beam CAT scan machine, it helped as they studied anatomy, Emily said.

In addition to changing technology, the dental business model is changing, Norton noted, adding that he has transitioned to doing more cosmetic dentistry.

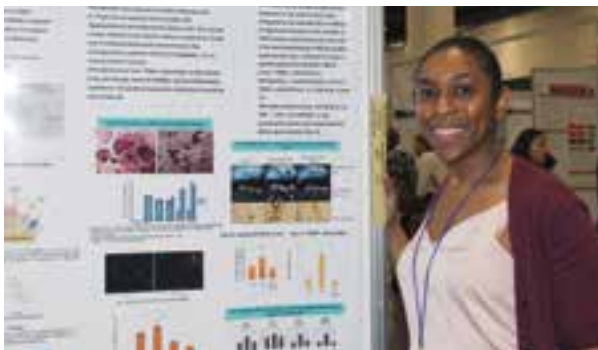
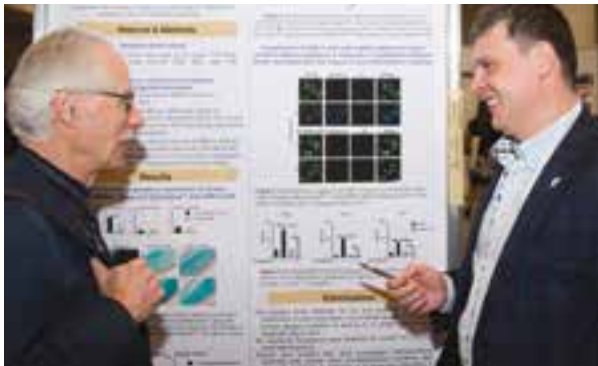
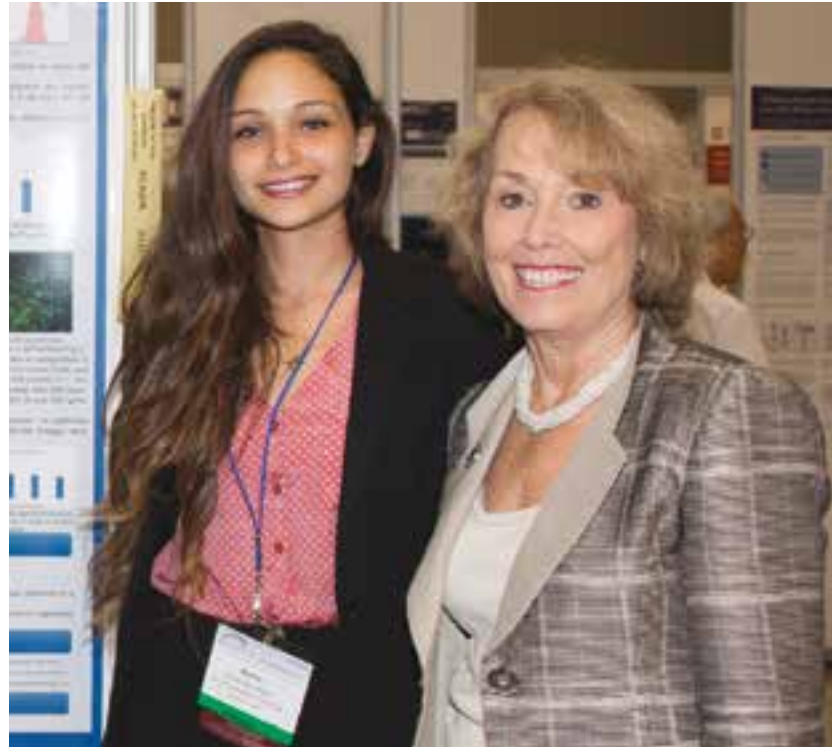
While they may need to branch out on their own after graduation, ideally, the siblings want to work together, Emily said. She posits that there will always be patients who seek out a family dental practice, because they favor an environment where they can make a connection with the same dental professional who knows them.

Although her father may have never envisioned his children working together, "with Stephen graduating, it's coming to reality that all three of us are going to be dentists and working together," Emily said.

In addition to working together, the trio believes that patient care and education are paramount. Stephen recalled one patient who brought him a photo to show him how she wouldn't show her teeth for a smile before her dental problems were fixed at the CDM.

"We're like the first line—the patients tend to see their dentists more than they see their doctors," Emily said. Greg added that patients are appreciative of learning the connections between dental health and overall health. And, he said, "the gratitude that patients offer after their dental care cannot be measured." ♦

CDM Presents at the AADR and IADR Conference



Top left: Umadevi Kandalam, left, points out aspects of her research to fellow CDM professor Saynur Vardar-Sengul.

Center, left: CDM professor Alexandru Movila, right, confers with Joseph J. Zambon, dean of the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine.

Bottom, left: Gabriella Ambrose, a second-year postgraduate resident in periodontics, presents her CDM research.

Above: Student Karen Ben-Elazar with Linda Niessen, CDM dean and professor.

The CDM was well represented during the 2018 conference of the American Association for Dental Research (AADR) and International Association for Dental Research (IADR) held in Orlando and Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

NSU professors and students who led workshops/or made presentations are CDM faculty members Laurie Gordon-Brown, D.M.D.; Romer Ocanto, D.D.S., M.S., CAGS; Stanley Hack, B.D.S.; Rashondia Gaines, D.D.S., M.S.; Toshihisa Kawai, D.D.S., Ph.D.; Alexandru Movila, Ph.D.; Umadevi Kandalam, Ph.D.; Sharon Crane Siegel, D.D.S., M.S., M.B.A.; Oscar Padilla, D.D.S.; Evren Kilinc, D.D.S., Ph.D.; Mauricio Guerrero, D.D.S.; Cristina Garcia-Godoy, D.D.S., M.P.H., CCRP; Shiva Khatami, D.D.S.; and Marvin Golberg, D.D.S.; CDM staff member Jennifer Chung; senior research associate Maria A. Levi-Minzi, Ph.D., of the Center for Applied Research on Substance Use and Health Disparities in the NSU Abraham S. Fischler College of Education; Tara Sheehan, Ph.D., BCBA, adjunct professor in the NSU College of Psychology; Avery Ruben, D.M.D.; second-year resident Gabriella Ambrose, D.M.D.; fourth-year dental student Roman Mogilevsky; and third-year student Karen Ben-Elazar. ♦



Namerow Retires

Kenneth Namerow, D.D.S., has retired from the NSU College of Dental Medicine endodontics department. Namerow joined the CDM in 2010 after a 32-year career in private practice.

During his years at the CDM, Namerow served as chair of the Department of Endodontics and devised an endowed professorship to attract and retain promising young academicians. Working with the endodontic alumni, more than \$500,000 was raised from faculty members, alumni, and the American Association of Endodontists Foundation to establish an endowed professorship. Today, the endowment is valued at more than \$600,000.

In recognition of his efforts, the Alumni Association recommended naming the professorship the Kenneth N. Namerow Endowed Professorship in Endodontics. The first recipient of the endowed professorship, Taner Cem Sayin, D.D.S., Ph.D., has succeeded Namerow as chair of the CDM endodontics department. ♦

Professor Featured in AADR

The American Association for Dental Research (AADR) featured Ana Karina Mascarenhas, B.D.S., M.P.H., Dr.P.H., in its Strides in Science series. Mascarenhas is the associate dean of research at the CDM.

Mascarenhas has a B.D.S. degree from Goa College and Hospital in India and also holds M.P.H. and Dr.P.H. degrees from the University of Michigan—Ann Arbor, with an emphasis on oral epidemiology. Mascarenhas serves on the editorial boards of journals and is a statistical consultant for oral surgery, oral medicine, oral pathology, and endodontics. She also has chaired Health and Human Resource Administration independent



review panels and has served on review panels for the National Institutes of Health and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

In the AADR article, Mascarenhas discussed her involvement with the organization. In response to the question about cross collaboration with other scientific disciplines for the future of dental, oral, and craniofacial research, she replied, “This should be our No. 1 priority. We cannot sustain as a profession if we don’t collaborate with other health professionals and other experts. Lately, I’ve had a lot of success engaging medical professionals and training them to do screening and

triaging,” she said.

The article can be accessed at iadr.org/AADR/About-Us/News/Strides-in-Science. ♦



Jeffrey Ganeles Elected to AO Board of Directors

Jeffrey Ganeles, D.M.D., an adjunct associate professor at the CDM and a Boca Raton, Florida, periodontist, was elected to the Academy of Osseointegration (AO) Board of Directors at its annual business meeting.

An AO member since 1990, Ganeles has served as a member of several scientific program committees and chaired the program committee for the 2017 annual meeting. In 2006, he served as cochair of the State of the Science in Implant Dentistry (SSID) consensus conference. In 2005, he was recognized with the “Best Clinical Presentation” award in the Clinical Innovations section. In addition to the AO, he has been an active Fellow of the ITI International Team for Implantology, a Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology, and an active member of the American Academy of Periodontology.

Ganeles is a graduate of Cornell University and received his D.M.D. from Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine in 1983. This was followed by a general practice residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and a periodontal residency at the University of Pennsylvania College of Dental Medicine. He has authored or coauthored more than 45 articles and chapters in books and journals and is a reviewer for several journals. ♦

OKU Welcomes Newest Members

The CDM’s Chi Psi chapter of the national dental honor society Omicron Kappa Upsilon (OKU) welcomed its newest members: Ashley Beck, Michael S. DiSanto, Andrew M. Falestiny, Kalynn M. Foster, Jamie J. Gonzalez, Tiffany Lu, Brianna Mastrianni, Marjan Mirkheshti, Ashvi Mittal, Lily Nguyen, Kelli Orcutt, Derek S. Stallard, Shelby Willoughby, and Brandon L. Zipper.

Members consist of senior students from the scholastic top 20 percent of the class. The CDM’s Chi Psi chapter was founded in 2000 as the honor society’s 68th chapter and has 200 members in the categories of alumni, honorary, and faculty. ♦

New Diplomates Named

Three CDM endodontists achieved Diplomate status from the American Board of Endodontics after completing the board certification process. Diplomates are a distinguished group of endodontists who have demonstrated their dedication to professional growth. The new diplomates are Bertram I. Moldauer, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D., class of 2004; Jamie D. Ring, D.M.D., class of 2008; and Matthew Miller, D.M.D., class of 2012. ♦

Resident Honored

Second-year CDM resident Gabriella Ambrose, D.M.D., was awarded first place for her poster presentation “Effects of Adenosine-Receptor-Agonist on Prevention of RANKL-Mediated Periodontal Bone Resorption” during the Florida Sections Symposium and Student Poster Session at the American Association for Dental Research. ♦

CDM Alumni Honored by Florida Dental Association



FDA immediate past president Michael Eggnatz presents the New Dental Leader Award to Jordan Harper (left) and the Dentist of the Year award to Irene Marron-Tarrazzi.

Two CDM alumni were honored by the Florida Dental Association (FDA) during the 2018 Florida Dental Convention in Orlando. Irene Marron-Tarrazzi, D.M.D., M.S., a 2003 alumna, was named 2018 Dentist of the Year, while Jordan Harper, D.M.D., a 2015 graduate, was awarded the New Dental Leader Award.

Marron-Tarrazzi was recognized for her commitment and leadership to the dental profession. In her 14 years of membership, she has served as second vice president of the American Dental Association (ADA), president of the South Florida District Dental Association, treasurer of the FDA Political Action Committee, and as a member of the ADA New Dentist Committee. She also is an alumna of the ADA Institute for Diversity in Leadership and a speaker for the ADA Success Program.

“Dr. Marron-Tarrazzi is a true professional,” said Drew Eason, executive director and CEO of the FDA. “She has served as an excellent leader in serving her profession at every level and promoting oral health in Florida.”

In 2017, Marron-Tarrazzi won the Women to Watch Award from the Lucy Hobbs Project. She also is a fellow of the American College of Dentists, International College of Dentists, and the Pierre Fauchard Academy.

A native of Venezuela, Marron-Tarrazzi studied dentistry at the Universidad Central de Venezuela and

earned her dental degree from NSU’s College of Dental Medicine. She completed her postdoctoral training at the University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill, where she earned her Certificate in Periodontology and Master of Science degree.

Marron-Tarrazzi serves as an adjunct faculty member at NSU and the University of Florida Hialeah Dental Clinic and owns a private practice in Miami. She was featured in a profile that ran in the spring 2015 issue of *Impressions*.

Harper, a native of Niceville, Florida, is the vice chair of the FDA Council on the New Dentist, which represents dentists who have been practicing for 10 years or less. In this role, he helps the FDA identify and implement opportunities to engage and serve new dentists. The CDM alumnus also is a member of the Niceville-Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce and an honorary commander of the Air Force 58th Fighter Squadron.

As the state’s premier professional organization representing Florida-licensed dentists, the FDA serves as Florida’s advocate for oral health. A constituent society of the American Dental Association, the FDA was established in 1884 to ensure patients receive the highest quality of care from dental professionals. The FDA is the leading expert and advocate on issues affecting Florida dentists and the oral health of Floridians. To learn more, visit floridadental.org. ♦

New CDM Alumna Honored

Kathryn Champion, D.M.D., right, a 2018 alumna, is one of 29 dental students—representing 29 dental schools—to be awarded \$10,000 each from the Delta Dental Community Care Foundation.

The Delta Dental Community Care Foundation Student Leadership Award recognizes graduating dental school students who demonstrate outstanding leadership and dedication to providing dental care and/or oral health education to underserved communities while attending dental schools in one of the 15 states and Washington, D.C., where the organization serves.

The deans and faculty members at each dental school select the award winners for their strong leadership skills, dedication for serving others, and passion for dentistry. The students received their



awards at their schools' awards or commencement ceremonies in front of their friends, families, teachers, and peers.

"If past leadership is a predictor of future leadership, Dr. Champion's contributions as a student leader demonstrate her ability to make a difference to the dental profession. For that reason, Dr. Champion received this award," said Linda C. Niessen, D.M.D., M.P.H., M.P.P., dean and professor of the CDM.

"In addition to strong academic skills, each student has shown a very special dedication to serving those who are less fortunate, which aligns with our foundation's goals of helping the underserved receive proper care and education," said Karen Robinson, vice president of corporate affairs for Delta Dental. ♦

CDM Shares in Henry Schein Cares Donation

The CDM is one of nine dental colleges that is sharing in the donation by Henry Schein, Inc., of health care products in support of the colleges' oral health outreach trips to underserved communities in the United States and around the world.

The donations are being made as part of the Henry Schein Cares Global Student Outreach Program—an initiative of Henry Schein Cares—the company's global corporate social responsibility program.

Under the Global Student Outreach Program, Henry Schein provides teams comprising dental students and faculty members from each school with a donation of oral health supplies. The teams use these products during medical outreach trips to provide oral health care education, emergency dental services, screenings, prevention, sealant application, and restorative treatment to children and adults living in underserved communities.

Approximately 40 to 50 CDM students participate in outreach programs on the Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus and during trips to provide dental care and



education to people in countries where health care isn't readily accessible.

In addition to providing treatment, the Global Student Outreach Program teams assess the oral health needs of each targeted community and work to implement a sustainable oral health system, including the identification and training of local members of the community who can sustain oral health education and care on an ongoing basis. ♦

D.O., M.D. Students Begin Education

NSU made history on July 28 as it welcomed approximately 300 incoming medical students in the nation's first combined White Coat Ceremony celebrating Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) and Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) candidates together.

The White Coat Ceremony also served as the official welcome for the charter class of 53 M.D. students, who are enrolled in the NSU Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Allopathic Medicine (NSU MD). The college received preliminary accreditation from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education on October 10, 2017, allowing it to begin recruiting students.

NSU is now one of only three universities in the United States with two medical colleges. NSU's medical colleges both bear the name of university benefactor Dr. Kiran C. Patel, M.D.

The university also is now home to the only D.O. and M.D. programs in Broward County. The NSU Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine is the largest medical school in Florida. It offers one of two D.O. programs in the state and one of 34 in the United States. NSU MD is home to the 8th M.D. program in Florida and 1 of 151 in the nation.

To meet demands in its various medical, health care, and life science programs, NSU is planning to construct a 250,000-square-foot, integrated medical education building to complement its health professions facilities and health care centers. The new complex will be within walking distance of NSU's existing health education facilities, the Center for Collaborative Research, and the future HCA East Florida teaching and research hospital planned adjacent to University Drive.

Nova Southeastern University also is opening a Tampa Bay Regional Campus in Clearwater, Florida. When construction is complete, the 325,000-square-foot complex will replace NSU's existing Tampa Campus and will include a second educational site for the Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine. ♦



HPD Library Named in Honor of Couple

The HPD Library was renamed the Martin and Gail Press Health Professions Division Library in honor of South Florida philanthropists Martin and Gail Press.

Gail Press, who initially worked as a reading specialist, launched her career at Miami Carol City High School before becoming a full-time professor at Miami-Dade College for more than 30 years. Martin Press is an attorney with the Gunster law firm, one of Florida's oldest and largest full-service, business law firms. Over the past decade, he has been involved with NSU, dedicating his time to the university's Board of Trustees. For more than 15 years, Martin Press served as both chair and vice chair of the NSU Shepard Broad College of Law's Board of Governors.

The Martin and Gail Press Health Professions Division Library has been designated as a Resource Library for the National Library of Medicine and National Network of Libraries of Medicine. On a day-to-day basis, it supports approximately 7,800 HPD students and 1,600 faculty members, clinicians, and medical researchers. The library's professional reference and instruction librarians provide individualized service and serve as subject specialists and liaisons for the HPD's eight colleges.

"The library's 3-D printing lab supports ongoing research and has played a key role in actual dental trauma surgery," said the late Kaye Robertson, M.L.S., executive director of the Martin and Gail Press HPD Library, who passed away in July. "Virtual reality software gives students a better grasp of the human anatomy and even enables them to practice patient interactions." ♦

Become a part of an extraordinary story.

Be active in YOUR alumni society and leave a lasting impression.

The chain of events started as you applied to NSU. It continued as you became a student at the College of Dental Medicine and then graduated to become a member of the dental profession. You are a vital part of the NSU family.

Make your voice heard by becoming active in the new CDM Alumni Society. We also are accepting nominations for the CDM Alumni Society Advisory Board.

The chain begins and continues with you.

For the latest information, visit our website at dental.nova.edu. You can update your personal information at dental.nova.edu/alumni-relations

For more information on becoming involved, email Rosalie Marin at rosalie.marin@nova.edu, or call (954) 262-7317.

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