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Impressions

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Boston University

Boston University Henry M. Goldman
School of Dental Medicine

impressions

FALL 2020

COVID-19 HOW WE MANAGED

BOSTON
UNIVERSITY

impressions

A publication for alumni and friends of Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine.

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Rendering of SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

I can safely say that the past six months have been unlike any other period in my career. The word “unprecedented” has been used so much – by me, certainly, but also by anyone and everyone who has tried to capture in words the magnitude of what we, collectively, have endured – as to be rendered almost meaningless. And yet each day, each new development in the twisting, turning course of the coronavirus pandemic, has truly been unprecedented.

When we closed our Patient Treatment Centers on March 18, 2020, following guidance from Gov. Charlie Baker and the state Department of Public Health, I am certain that I was not alone in thinking that we would be facing a shutdown of a couple weeks, perhaps a month. I do not think anyone could have anticipated that our Patient Treatment Centers would not resume regular in-person patient care until July 2020.

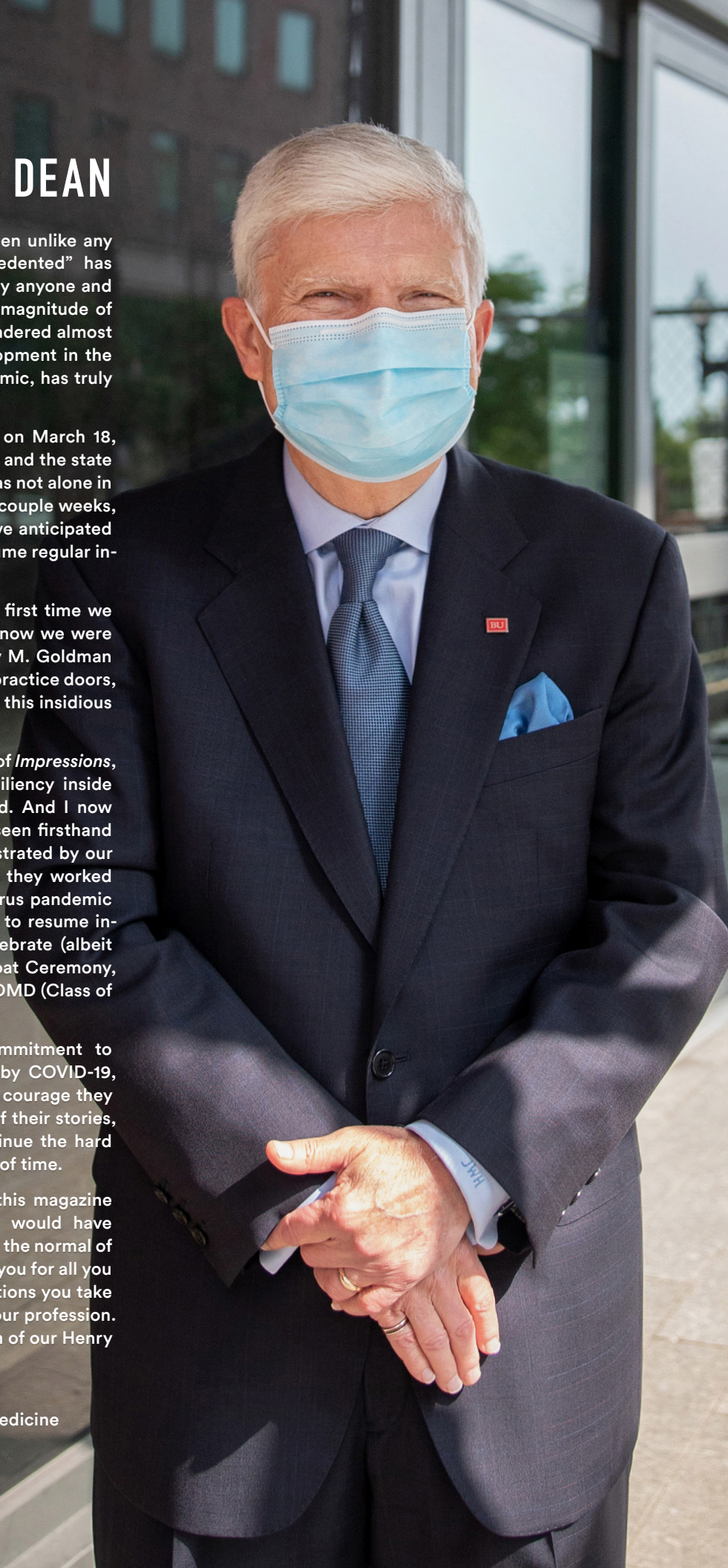
In the 57-year history of our school, this was the first time we shuttered our operations to this degree – and I know we were not alone. Around the globe, alumni of the Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine also had to close their practice doors, as public health officials tried to get a measure on this insidious virus. The scale of this disruption was immense.

But I wrote to you back in March, for the last issue of *Impressions*, that I believed you would find strength and resiliency inside yourselves that you may not have known existed. And I now have the evidence to back up that belief. I have seen firsthand the creativity, ingenuity, and adaptability demonstrated by our school’s faculty, staff, students, and residents as they worked through the restrictions imposed by the coronavirus pandemic to complete clinical and academic requirements, to resume in-person patient care, and – importantly – to celebrate (albeit virtually) important milestones, like our White Coat Ceremony, and the Professional Ceremony for our incoming DMD (Class of 2024) and DMD AS (Class of 2022) students.

Our alumni have demonstrated this same commitment to overcoming the obstacles placed in their paths by COVID-19, and I stand in awe of the grace, intelligence, and courage they have displayed. In this issue, you will read some of their stories, and I hope you will come away inspired to continue the hard work of coming back from this challenging period of time.

I was hopeful that by the time the fall issue of this magazine arrived in your mailbox a degree of normalcy would have returned to our lives. While we are a long way from the normal of February 2020, I commend each and every one of you for all you are doing to create a “new normal” and for the actions you take every day to support each other, our school, and our profession. I have never been more proud to serve as the dean of our Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine.

Jeffrey W. Hutter, DMD, MEd
Dean and Spencer N. Frankl Professor in Dental Medicine



Of Note

Goli Parsi ORTHO 14 was awarded diplomate status by the American Board of Sleep Dental Medicine during the 2019-2020 cycle.

Alfonso Caiazzo OMFS 96 will complete his two-year term as president of the Italian Academy of Osseointegration in February 2021.

Gregg Jacob DMD 00 OMFS 04 was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Surgeons at the Convocation Ceremony held in October 2019 in San Francisco, CA.

Dr. An-Louise Johnson, clinical instructor in the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, was appointed president of the Massachusetts Society of OMS in spring 2020, taking over from outgoing president Dr. Pushkar Mehra (faculty).

In July 2020, **Larry Dunham DMD 83** was promoted to assistant dean for diversity, equity, inclusion & belonging. In this position, Dunham will work closely with the Office of the Dean, Admissions, and other school leadership to recruit, retain, and support a diverse student, faculty, and staff body.

In April 2020, **Alexander Bendayan PROS 05** was promoted to associate dean of digital development, technology & innovation. In this role, Bendayan will liaise with the school's

department chairs, program directors, and clinical directors, as well as IT and facilities & operations staff, to ensure that the school is effectively fulfilling its mission related to digital integration and digital dentistry.



Pezza Orthodontics, a practice owned by **Joseph Pezza ORTHO 73** and **Gregory Pezza DMD 03 AEGD 04 ORTHO 08**, was awarded second place of all orthodontists in Rhode Island for the Providence Journal Reader's Choice Award. This is the ninth year in a row that Pezza Orthodontics has been voted in the top 10 of Rhode Island dentists.



A five-person team of GSDM alumni, faculty, and students—**Ana Keohane DMD 16**, **Sheila Rodriguez-Vamvas**, **Laura Callan SAR 15 MED 15 DMD 20**, **Afsheen Lakhani DMD 06 AEGD 07**, and

Alexander Bendayan PROS 05—was awarded first place at the 2020 Yankee Dental Congress for their presentation entitled “A Guide to Implement Digital Technology in U.S. Dental Schools.”

Six alumni and one GSDM faculty – **Jeffrey C. Bell ENDO 09**, **Samah A. Bukhari ENDO 17**, **Usman S. Fazli DMD 04 ENDO 12**, **Mona Haghani DMD 14 ENDO 17**, **Tammam Sheabar ENDO 16**, **Tadros M. Tadros ENDO 17**, and **Dr. Noor Khouqeer (faculty)** – were to be recognized and pinned as diplomates by the American Association of Endodontists during the 2020 AAE annual meeting. The meeting was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Mark Desrosiers ENDO 06 was awarded the Seymour Melnick Volunteer award by the GSDM Department of Endodontics in May 2020. This award is given to an individual whose dedication and devotion to the program goes above and beyond what is expected.

Emanouela (Ellie) Carlson ENDO 11, chair of the Division of Endodontics at the University of Colorado, was presented with the 2020 President's Excellence in Teaching Award. The recipient of this award is selected by the graduating students in the respective school or college.

Dr. Jyoti R. Sonkar (faculty) was awarded an American Academy of Periodontology Foundation Fellowship to attend the 2020 Institute for Teaching and Learning (ITL) program. The ITL program helps new faculty members gain competencies in teaching and other academic skills in the context of career planning.

Dr. Fernando Harp Ruiz MET 14 (faculty) was awarded the Crest Oral-B P&G Professional Oral Health Excellence in Teaching in Clinical Sciences Award in May 2020. This award was selected by the DMD and the DMD Advanced Standing Classes of 2020.

The American Board of Orthodontics (ABO) named **Perry M. Opin ORTHO 66** as the recipient of the 2020 Earl E. and Wilma S. Shepard Distinguished Service Award. This award recognizes an individual for outstanding dedication to and advancement of the ideals and mission of the ABO.

Ana Keohane DMD 16 was appointed secretary of the Boston District Dental Society in July 2020.

Hesham Nouh DSc 12 PROS 15 and **Gary Nord DMD 10** were selected as co-chairs of the ACP Educational Foundation annual appeal.

COVID-19: How We Managed

In January 2020, the first inklings of a new, and very contagious, virus started appearing in news reports. At first, it was difficult to discern how dangerous this virus – the coronavirus, or COVID-19 – would be, and how many people it would affect. By early March, however, the scale was clear: People in countries around the world were living in lockdown in an attempt to stop the spread of the disease.

Even now, more than six months after the wide-scale shutdowns began, we have not fully returned to normal. But Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine alumni around the globe have persevered through this crisis, deploying innovative strategies and state-of-the-art technology as they worked to reopen their practices and serve their patients. We are honored to highlight a few of their stories here – and we would love to hear from you about how you've managed throughout this public health crisis.

By Shannon Broderick &
Charis Anderson McCarthy



Boston, MA

Sergio Guzman

Sergio Guzman PERIO 01 DMD 03, managing member of Dental Partners of Boston, started preparing to reopen in May 2020 – but with 8,500 square feet of practice space and 45 employees, there were a lot of moving pieces to consider.

In addition to mandating social distancing, requiring strict PPE, and triaging patients, Guzman examined each aspect of the practice's environment to see where he could reduce exposure.

“The reality is, some of these changes basically modify the way we'd been doing things for the last 10 years,” he said.

Dental Partners of Boston reduced their morning huddle, normally attended by all dental assistants, hygienists, and doctors, to key members of the team. They changed the dress code; all staff now dress in surgical scrubs. The process for dental hygiene checks also changed: Patients come in once and meet with their hygienist; then about a week later, the dentist meets with them, virtually, to discuss treatment options. This minimizes the amount of time patients are in the office, and reduces the number of in-person interactions.

“We trained our dental hygienist to gather information, take intraoral pictures, intraoral scans, radiographs,

3D images... basically take all the information needed, so that we could then, at a later time, meet with our patient [virtually],” Guzman said.

The practice acquired 10 air purifiers with HEPA filters, which can filter a smaller sized particle than a standard air filter. “We're talking about 0.003



Alumni Pictured: Carolina Mujica AEGD 01 DMD 05, Maria Cardenas AEGD 01 DMD 04, Yael Frydman DMD 05, Kumiko Kamachi AEGD 94 PROS 97 DMD 99, Shiro Kamachi PROS 96 DMD 99, Barry Goldberg ENDO 85, Zachary Kano DMD 96 ENDO 08, Mani Moulazadeh DMD 00 ENDO 03, Sergio Guzman PERIO 01 DMD 03

microns in size, which is basically 100 times smaller than our regular filters that we have on our regular AC system,” Guzman said. They also installed hand-free high-suction units instead

of saliva ejectors to control aerosol.

In addition to these infection control measures, the practice also obtained an ultra low volume fogging machine in order to manage aerosol. The practice now “fogs” with a hypochlorous acid (HOCl). “HOCl is basically a weak acid, but it's a very potent disinfectant,” said Guzman. A nontoxic substance, HOCl can be made by combining non-iodinated salt, water, and electrolysis.

A fogger takes in the HOCl solution and then dispenses it as a small aerosol mist, which helps to disinfect all surfaces it touches.

The office gets fogged every morning and afternoon, and the rooms used in aerosol-generating procedures are fogged between appointments as well. Even staff members are fogged after removing PPE between appointments.

“It allows us to disinfect surfaces that couldn't be reached before, because you can fog all the way... to the ceiling, the lamps, the x-ray machines, and so on,” said Guzman.

Guzman said he thinks that many of the changes they've implemented are here to stay.

But he added, “I'm [also] looking forward to... having a vaccine that is effective and getting back to some normalcy. That would also be great.”

Bologna, Italy

Claire Eusebio

When Claire Eusebio DMD 04 AEGD 05 first heard of coronavirus in early January, she thought it would pass by fairly quickly.

Eusebio is a partner at Cobe Dental, a practice located outside of Bologna, Italy, that she owns with three other GSDM alumni—Diego Capri PERIO 01, Giacomo Ori AEGD 02, PROS 05, and Sherry Bloomfield ENDO 02.

“I didn’t expect it would turn into a pandemic, and that Italy would go into complete lockdown by March,” she said,

Italy was the first country in Europe to be affected by the coronavirus pandemic—as of October 28, 2020, they had recorded 564,778 cases. Most of the cases were centralized in the northern part of the country.

“[Italians] are very laid back, and like to enjoy their fun, and life...to put restrictions on them, it was strange to have that happen here. This is the worst place [for that],” Eusebio said. “[But] I felt like in the small town that we live in, people were pretty compliant. They followed what was being asked of them to do—to wear their mask, to stay in as much as possible, to go get groceries once a week, and [have] just one member of the family doing the grocery shopping.”

Eusebio and her partners closed

their dental practice on March 11, 2020, and re-opened two months later, on May 4, 2020, after the lockdown ended.

Prior to reopening, one of Eusebio’s partners did extensive research on infection control guidelines, examining CDC and WHO guidelines among other. Based on that research, the office increased its PPE requirements; Eusebio now wears a full set of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)— face shield, a face mask (shield), a N95 mask, a gown, and shoe covers—for every patient encounter.

“When we first opened, it was starting to get really warm in Italy... they hadn’t turned on the central air conditioning,” said Eusebio. “There was one time that I felt like, I think I’m going to faint...[but] you’re working on your patient. And you’re like, okay, just keep going and finish the procedure.”

The practice also ordered air filtering machines that clean the air and catch viruses and bacteria. Patients go through a pre-appointment screening, and they have their temperature checked. Appointments are spaced out to ensure time for infection control afterwards.

“The procedure itself is the same, but it’s the pre- and post-procedures that just take longer,” Eusebio

said. “You have to get dressed, your assistants have to get dressed, make sure that everything is already laid out before, and you just get the procedure done... you want to air out the room, disinfect and everything, so that the operatory is clean.”

Eusebio said that while it took time to adjust to a new style of dentistry, it has quickly become the new normal.

“It’s like you’re riding your bike,” she said. “You just don’t think about it anymore because you know how to do it.”



Tampa, FL

Leslie Ferrara

For Leslie Ferrara DMD 09, the business challenges created by COVID-19 were just as significant as the clinical challenges.

Ferrara, who owns a dental practice in Tampa, saw her last full day of patients on Thursday, March 12, 2020, a week before the state of Florida ordered dental offices to stop performing elective procedures. Her practice re-opened on Monday, May 11, almost two full months later.

“The biggest challenge for me personally... was just dealing with having my staff, who is like family to me, be unemployed for eight weeks and trying to go through the hassle of collecting [un]employment,” Ferrara said.

During the eight weeks her practice was closed, Ferrara spent countless hours taking webinars and virtual courses and researching information on HR forums to try and figure out how to handle the crisis, not just as a clinician, but also as a small business owner.

“How am I going to financially keep my practice open so that my staff is taken care of and they have a job to come back to and my patients are well cared for?” she said of the question that drove her research. “Trying to remain hopeful that we were going to get through this and

that we were going to get back to our office [was a challenge].”

In preparation for reopening her practice, Ferrara implemented a mask requirement and pre-appointment COVID-19 questionnaire, installed medical-grade HEPA air filters in each operatory, and equipped the hygiene rooms with high-function evacuation systems that wouldn't require a dental assistant to be suctioning while generating aerosols, all in addition to standard sterilization and infection control protocols. These steps were necessary to ensure patient and provider safety, but they did come at a cost, yet another unexpected hit to Ferrara's operating budget. Ferrara said that trying to learn about the PPP loan and the EIDL grant—and trying to keep up with rules and regulations that were constantly changing—was an additional challenge.

By the end of August, Hillsborough County, where Tampa is located, was seeing about 15 daily cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 people.

“Hillsborough County, which is one of the largest counties in the state, never had the peak that Miami-Dade and Broward County did in South Florida, but our mayor [Jane Castor] was very quick to implement mask mandates in any



kind of shared spaces,” Ferrara said. “[She]...took it quite seriously, to try and prevent our county and city from having the case load that some of the other larger counties in the state of Florida had.”

Ferrara said that patients have been receptive to the changes that they have made.

“At the beginning, there were definitely patients who were hesitant or wanted to delay routine care, which was totally fine—we want everybody to feel comfortable,” Ferrara said. “But the patients who have returned have seen all of the changes that we've made, and many of them have commented on how they feel comfortable here, and they really feel confident that this is a safe space.

“Dentists historically are experts in infection control,” she added. “So a lot of [patients] have made the joke, ‘Wow, I feel safer here than going to the grocery store.’ And that's the ultimate truth.”

Boston, MA & Dubai, UAE

Maged El-Malecki

Shortly after Maged El-Malecki DMD O2 shut down his practices – two in Boston and one in Dubai – on March 15, 2020, he started planning for how to reopen safely. He knew, even then, that it would take more than the standard infection control measures that were already in place.

“I knew that it was going to be completely different for society afterwards, especially in dentistry,” said El-Malecki.

El-Malecki researched technologies that could be used to easily disinfect entire offices, but many relied on chemicals or other processes that were ill-suited to dental practices and their open-concept designs.

He decided upon a more innovative approach, ultraviolet light. While we experience UV-A and UV-B light on the earth’s surface, UV-C light has a shorter wavelength (between 200-280nm) and doesn’t pass through our planet’s clouds.

It’s this shorter wavelength, known as the germicidal bandwidth, that makes UV-C light such an effective sterilization tool. UV-C light instantly kills a virus’s DNA, preventing it from replicating, whether in the air or on hard surfaces.

El-Malecki found a Danish company that had created an autonomous robot that uses eight UV-C lights, while moving in a 360-degree fashion, to disinfect and destroy 99.99 percent of all viruses and bacteria.

It wasn’t easy – as one might imagine, demand was high for new disinfection technologies – but El-Malecki acquired two of the units for his Boston practices, becoming the first dental practice in the world to use the technology.

The initial set-up, which took three to four weeks, was challenging. The



robots had to learn the office set-up, including the floorplan, the location of walls or other obstacles, the best navigation path, and the rooms or areas that needed extra attention.

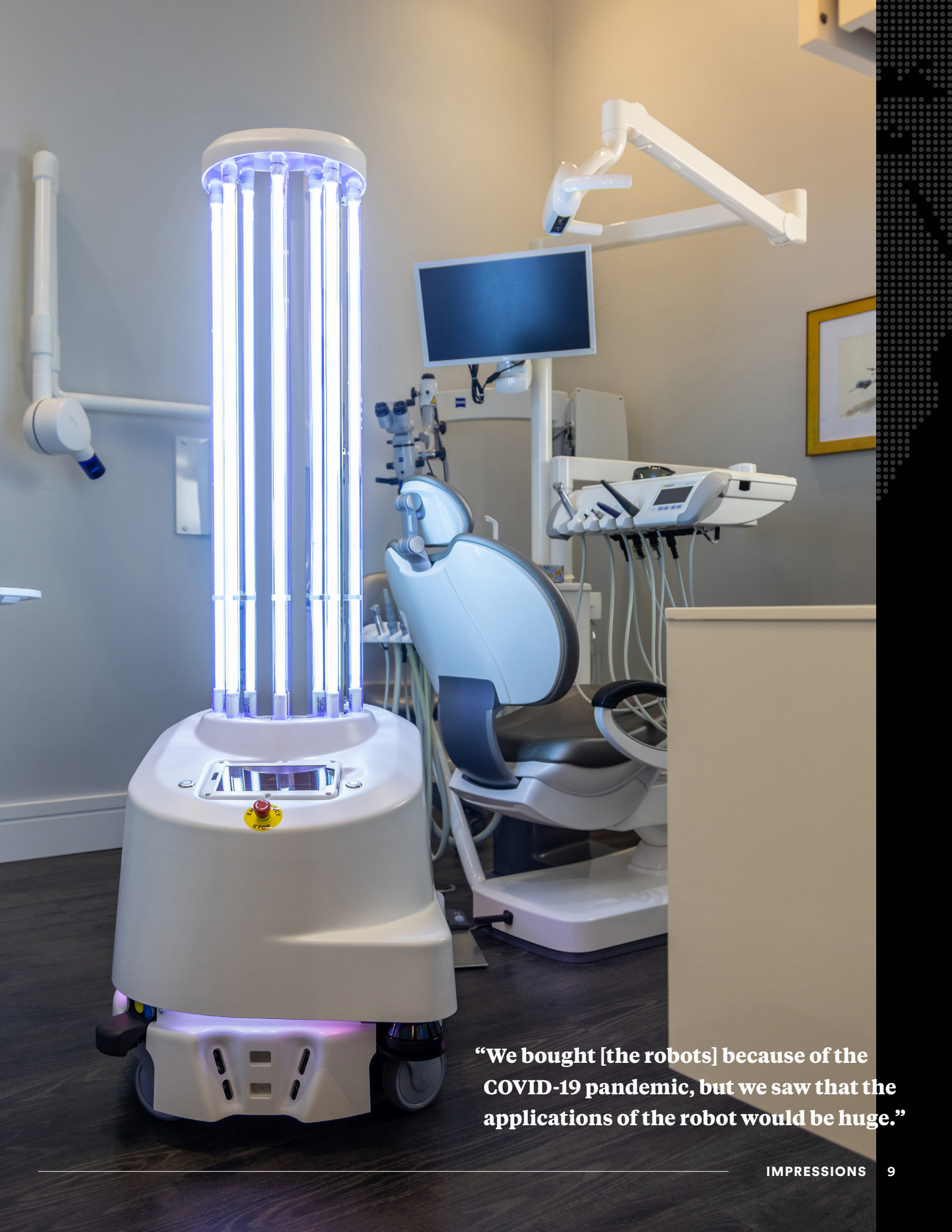
“There is some pain that comes with adopting new technology,” El-Malecki said. “[The robots] work perfectly in larger spaces, but in a dental office, things are a little bit tight, the entrances to rooms are not seven feet wide.”

But now, El-Malecki or someone on his team gives an order, via an integrated tablet, at the end of the day, and the robot will autonomously navigate the entire office, disinfecting every surface with incredibly strong UV rays within about two hours. The robots cannot be used when people are nearby, in order to protect individuals from being burned by the UV rays, but other than that, they have no side effects.

The robots are just one layer of El-Malecki’s infection control process. In addition to the robots, and the standard infection control procedures that were in place prior to COVID-19, El-Malecki has also replaced the filtration system and HVAC units in both offices in Boston, with hospital-grade Sanuvox air filtration systems. He also installed UV units in the duct system, which would kill any viruses, bacteria, or spores that made it through the filtration.

El-Malecki initially purchased the robots due to the immediate threat from COVID-19, but his practices will continue to use the technology even when the virus has been brought under control.

“We bought [the robots] because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but we saw that the applications of the robot would be huge... It takes care of all viruses and bacteria... it kills influenza A, influenza B,” El-Malecki said. “When I walk in the office the morning after the robot has done its disinfection round, I walk in confidently knowing that there are zero viruses or bacteria in the clinic space.”



“We bought [the robots] because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but we saw that the applications of the robot would be huge.”

CAREER COLUMN

Remote Interviews in the Digital Age

Whether you have heard them referred to as remote, synchronous, digital, virtual, video, asynchronous, Skype, or Zoom, know that all of these types of interviews still assess your fit for a role and the role's fit for you!



Generally, you have less time for articulation in interviews via web or phone, so spend more time practicing. Prepare the following:

1. For a clinical opportunity: Know your numbers on productivity and efficiency, including the different types of procedures you have done and how many of each. If you are a recent graduate with limited clinical experiences, then address the experiences you have had through your rotations and externships.
2. For a residency role: Know your field and have a clear, compelling answer for why you are choosing advanced education.
3. Dress in business attire as you would for an in-person interview. This will put you in the right mindset and encourage a professional approach.
4. Create a focused space for the call to avoid any distractions and interruptions. For video calls, prop your laptop on a table and sit about two feet away from the camera. For phone calls, sitting at a table will still be helpful to facilitate taking notes. If an interruption is unavoidable or something unexpectedly occurs, such as an ambulance driving by your window or a construction crew setting up for the day, acknowledge it for your interviewer.



For video-based interviews in particular, keep in mind the following:

1. Use headphones to cancel out background noise.
2. Avoid virtual backgrounds unless required by your interviewer.
3. Close all browsers and silence all computer notifications.
4. Look straight into the camera as you interact so that you maintain direct eye contact with your interviewer.
5. Prepare a “digital handshake” that will serve to break the ice and set you up for your elevator pitch.
6. Engage in active listening using your demeanor and non-verbal communication. Avoid vocalizing “ah-ha,” “mmm,” or other similar affirmations so that you do not shift the focus of the call’s audio when your interviewer is speaking.

For more resources on interview preparation, visit Boston University Dental Career Network and access our “Career Guides” section. For current students or alumni interested in mock interviews, reach out to gsmcra@bu.edu.



A Life Divided



By Charis Anderson McCarthy

Rick Murray's life can be divided into a before and after.

In the before, Murray DMD 85 was a successful dentist who bought a practice in his hometown of Medford, Massachusetts, shortly after graduating from the Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine (GSDM). His patients were friends, family members, former teachers. He loved interacting with his patients, and managing a small, but thriving, business.

In the after, Murray, equally successful, is a leader in the Provincetown, Massachusetts, business community. He owns and manages, with Bill Dougal, his life partner of 34 years, one of the town's largest hotel and entertainment venues along with a well-known gym.

In between, Murray was diagnosed with HIV.

"I went to undergrad, I went to dental school, and I started my business," Murray said. "I never did all that crazy partying that was the reputation of most gay men in the 70s and 80s."

But when three of his closest friends contracted the virus, Murray decided to get tested, just to be safe. He didn't expect to be positive; in fact, he was 100 percent sure he'd be negative. When the results came back, he "was floored," he said.

In the early 1980s, dentistry looked a lot different than it does now. Murray remembers infection control measures being standard practice while he was at GSDM – "BU's always been a step ahead," he said – but plenty of dentists, maybe even the majority, didn't wear gloves or masks regularly. The dentist from whom Murray purchased his practice was still relying on cold sterilization and didn't even have an autoclave in his office.

Those insufficient infection control practices crashed headlong into the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and between 1985 and 1988, the Center for Disease Control introduced universal precautions, guidelines that recommended using gloves and face shields as standard practice and disposing of needles and sharp objects in puncture-resistant containers. Universal precautions treated all patients as though they could possibly be carriers of blood-borne pathogens, and they marked a sea change in infection control procedures.

Murray had invested \$125,000 to upgrade his office with state-of-the-art equipment, including auto-claves, when he first purchased the practice, and, thanks to what he had learned at GSDM, already considered masks and gloves standard procedure.

Then, in the early 1990s, a case in Florida, in which it appeared that a dentist infected with AIDS had transmitted the virus to some of his patients, caught national attention.

"That's when all the bells went off in my head," Murray said. "I was petrified of transmitting the virus to my patients."

By 1993, he had sold his practice.

At that time, Provincetown, a small town on the very tip of Cape Cod, was one of the few communities that was openly welcoming people who were gay and/or HIV-positive, said Murray. He and Dougal, who was an executive at Rhode Island Hospital at the time, decided to move there.

"Most of us, as gay men in those days, thought we would move here and pass away," he said. "We didn't think we'd be able to have the therapeutics and all the HIV therapy."

But Murray was still ambitious, still driven, and didn't want to just bide his time until he died. So he and his life partner bought a building in town, home to an abandoned restaurant, and transformed it into the Mussel Beach Health Club. About a decade later, he and Dougal purchased the Crown & Anchor, a landmark hotel and entertainment complex on Commercial Street. Now, 30 years after they first moved to Provincetown, Murray and Dougal are among the town's leading businessmen.

"The first 10 years of doing what I'm doing now, I probably still yearned to be a dentist," Murray said. "It was a little bit more controlled and I had a much better one-on-one relationship with my patients, which I totally enjoyed."

While some people might not see the parallels between dentistry and hotel proprietorship, Murray said he draws daily on many of the business skills he learned at GSDM and in the years of owning his own practice.

"Running your own business—whether it's five people in an office or 100 people at a nightclub or a restaurant— it's the same outlook and philosophy that one would have [on] how to run the business," he said.

In 2020, with the rapid and debilitating spread of the coronavirus pandemic, Murray has also found himself drawing on his background as a healthcare provider.

“We went to [classes] with the med students for the first year and a half, so we had some training in epidemiology and disease and biochemistry, and all that,” Murray said.

Murray thinks this public health crisis will reshape health care’s approach to patient and provider safety and infection control in much the same way that the HIV/AIDS epidemic did in the 1980s.

His medical knowledge informed his initial intuition about the potential scale of the pandemic. He canceled all his large events back in March, and prepared a worst-case-scenario budget that assumed only limited revenue from his restaurant, and none at all from events or other activities.

He faced pushback from others in the business community, but as he shared with the Provincetown Board of Health, when told they planned to ban indoor shows, “I am a healthcare professional. I can understand why you would make that decision.”

Understanding the science underlying the public health crisis hasn’t made this year any easier for Murray. He has had to rework every aspect of the hotel’s operations, and he closed his gym entirely, moving some group fitness classes onto the deck of the hotel’s pool, so people could be outside and more socially distanced.

Normally, he has a summer staff of more than 100; this year, there are about 18, and everyone is working seven days a week. Despite the backbreaking work, revenue is down 80 percent – and no, that’s not a typo.

“I still have the same nut to crack here, because we still have to pay the mortgage and pay electric bills and pay gas and oil,” Murray said. “The biggest guessing game I’ve had is how to budget for a pandemic, because we’ve never had one.”





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All proceeds will support our amazing students as they become the latest in a long line of distinguished alumni.

ASDA
BOSTON UNIVERSITY STUDENT CHAPTER

A message from the Alumni Association President



Dear Fellow Alumni,

As I write to you now in late August, the world pursues its gradual adjustment to life in the time of COVID. With no clear end in sight, we're adapting to the constant adjacency of this virus. In some ways the time elapsed since March feels short, and in others, exceedingly long. I guess time distortion is one more manifestation of a pandemic. Who knew? I never imagined so much could happen while nothing was happening. And without question, each of us is forever changed by this shared, but socially distanced, experience.

“ I have only to look to my BU Dental Alumni family to find hope and inspiration.”

into the coffers to keep our staff employed as well as medically insured, bolster infection control procedures, and reassure nervous patients. As mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters, we've taken on new or expanded roles and responsibilities. We've anguished over concerns that we could be putting those we live with at risk after treating

Collectively, dentists have shared and been impacted by multiple profession-specific experiences. Over the last seven months, we've had to close and reopen practices, respond to specious narratives questioning whether dentistry and oral health are essential, dig deep

an emergency dental patient. All this, as we grapple with the uncertainty of when we might see – or hug! – our distanced loved ones. As individuals, most of us know someone who's fallen ill with COVID-19, and some of us have personally contracted the virus, experiencing first-hand the danger and caprice of this wretched infection.

To date, 2020 has been an epoch like no other. Yet, despite the all too frequent reports of virus-related suffering and sadness I have only to look to my BU Dental alumni family to find hope and inspiration. In this issue of *Impressions*, you'll see how several members of our GSDM alumni community have navigated difficulties through this crisis. Their stories of overcoming adversity and emerging stronger are certain to inspire you. But truthfully—I know that, if called upon, any number of you in the BU alumni family could recount personal stories of hardship and resiliency. At BU, we seem to self-select for determination, resilience, and beneficence – reason number one-million-and-one why I remain so **#ProudToBU!**

Without question, these are challenging times, but I remain optimistic that, much like the stories of your colleagues in this fall issue of *Impressions*, we will emerge stronger, wiser, and better positioned on the other side of COVID. For now, as we move through this ordeal together, I wish you all good health, happiness and inner peace.

Gigi Meinecke DMD 88
Alumni Association President

Leadership: New Alumni Board Members

Jasmine Khedkar DMD 17



Jasmine Khedkar graduated from GSDM's DMD Advanced Standing program in 2017. She also holds a master's degree in Public Health and a Masters in Information Technology and Management. She is an internationally trained dentist and brings with her 20 years of experience in the field of dentistry.

Khedkar is currently the Divisional Dental Director with Midwest Dental and oversees their 50+ dental offices. She formerly was the director of talent acquisition for 42 North Dental (formerly Gentle Dental) where she managed a team of recruiters

that focused on bringing the best talent to 75+ practices spread over five states.

She is very active in professional organizations, and is currently serving as a guest board member of the Massachusetts Dental Society (MDS), and as a member of the Business Development Committee, the Yankee Dental Task Force, and the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force. She is also on the Advisory Committee of the Dental Hygiene Program at Regis College, and is a member of the MDS, and the American Dental Association. She is also the immediate past chair of the South Shore District of the MDS.

Frank Schiano CAS 01 DMD 06 AEGD 07 ORTHO 18



Frank Schiano is an alumni four times over: In addition to his undergraduate degree, he completed his DMD in 2006 and his Advanced Education in General Dentistry in 2007, and then he graduated from the Advanced Specialty Program in Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics in 2018. Prior to residency, Schiano was a clinical assistant professor at GSDM and also worked in private practice.

Schiano worked tirelessly for over five years to help form the Boston District of

the Massachusetts Dental Society. A 2010 graduate of the MDS Leadership Institute, he was awarded the Massachusetts Dental Society's "10 Under Ten" Award in 2011. He also received the 2011 American Dental Association's Award for International Service for his leadership in Project Stretch, an international pediatric dental service organization, of which he is an active Board member. In 2014, Schiano was named by the MDS as a William McKenna Volunteer Hero.

Alumni Board Listing

Gigi Meinecke DMD 88
President

Maryam Shomali CAS 87
ENDO 93
President Elect

Chandan Advani DMD 04

Ashish Agarwal DMD 17

Nazila Bidabadi CAS 82
DMD 87

Stephanie Brooks DMD 18

Jasmine Khedkar DMD 17

Puneet Kochhar DMD 03

Hongsheng Liu DMD 10
ENDO 12

Robert Miller DMD 84
PERIO 86

Gary Nord DMD 10

Sepideh Novid DMD 04
AEGD 05

Casey Pedro DMD 03

Jamily Pedro DMD 11

Loubna Chehab Pla ENDO 08

Kady Rawal AEGD 10

Sean Rayment DMD 97
DSc 00

Jignesh Rudani DMD 17

Frank Schiano CAS 01 DMD
06 AEGD 07 ORTHO 18

Cameron Shahbazian DMD 14

Tadeu Szpoganicz DMD 11

Naveen Verma DMD 04

Donald Yu ENDO 81

Past Presidents

Zhimon Jacobson PROS 80
PROS 81 DMD 86 (1992–1994)

Bill Walker ENDO 68
(1994–1997)

Ronnie A. Schnell DMD 81
(1997–2000)

Josephine Pandolfo CAS 74
DMD 79 PERIO 82
(2000–2003)

Maddy Apfel DMD 80
(2003–2006)

Joseph Calabrese DMD 91
AEGD 92 (2006–2008)

Shadi Daher DMD 90
OMFS 94 (2008–2010)

Tina Valades DMD 84
(2010–2012)

Mitch Sabbagh DMD 87
(2012–2014)

Bing Liu DSc 99 DMD 03
(2014–2017)

Sean Rayment DMD 97
DSc 00 (2017–2019)

Class Notes



Rose Keeling DMD 14 and Tom Keeling DMD 14 welcomed son William Liam Virgil on April 15, 2020. Pictured with his parents and big brother Thomas.



Erica (Weinberg) Gilbert DMD 14 and Josh Gilbert DMD 14 welcomed son Ari Matthew on July 13, 2020.



Sara Saremi DMD 15 and Adrian De Vincenzo DMD 15 welcomed daughter Gabriella on March 25, 2020.



Olga Spivak DMD 16 and Chris Spivak welcomed son Alexander Surovtsev on May 28, 2020.



Alexandra (Costa) Reilly DMD 14 and Daniel Reilly welcomed son Harrison on June 22, 2020. Pictured with big brother Robert.

Ash Papneja DMD 15 and Krizia Proia DMD 17 welcomed daughter Karina Stella on August 20, 2020.

Anthony Guinn ENDO 17 and wife Stephanie welcomed their son Benjamin James on April 7, 2020.

Joyce Sun MED 10 ENDO 18 married Matt Munn on August 15, 2020, in Newport, Rhode Island.

Dan Messer ENDO 19 and wife Haley welcomed their baby daughter Clara Elizabeth on May 15, 2020.

Eugenia Yang DMD 11 ENDO 15 married David Chang on July 1, 2020, in New York.



Did you get married? Have a baby? Accomplish a life goal? We'd love to hear your news! Please email your updates (and any address changes) to Stacey McNamee at smcnamee@bu.edu.

Search

Send & Receive, Get Add-ins, Send to OneNote

Community

t-sta...

Yesterday at 2:13 PM

2020-2021 academic year continues to go very well. You have done so much to make this year a success. Read on for more details. School's [COVID-19 web page](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and our institutional website. Phase 3 of our resumption begins on September 21, 2020. During this...

Contacts, History, Voicemail

Make a call

Apps, Help

THE YEAR GSDM WENT VIRTUAL

Each year, the Goldman Gala in early April kicks off a flurry of important, milestone events for GSDM: Senior Awards Ceremony, Commencement, White Coat Ceremony, Orientation, and Professional Ceremony.

This year looked a lot different. Goldman Gala was cancelled outright, and the 2020 Commencement has been postponed until 2021. But the school still wanted to find a way to celebrate these important milestones for its students and residents – so GSDM went virtual.

For in-person events, we're able to (literally!) put ourselves in an attendee's seat. In this new virtual-event world, there were numerous factors that were out of our control: internet issues on both ends, cameras not working, guests not being able to find the right link or password to join, interruptions at the home, and more.

Despite these challenges, we are proud of the virtual events we produced this spring – you may have even tuned in for some of them! – and now we wanted to share a little more about what it took to pull this off.

New Meeting

Schedule

Go Nick Bennett!!!

good luck khushbu..

Imela!

great. proud moment

Good luck class of 2020!!!

YASMINE!!!!

ZZY YAZ!!!!

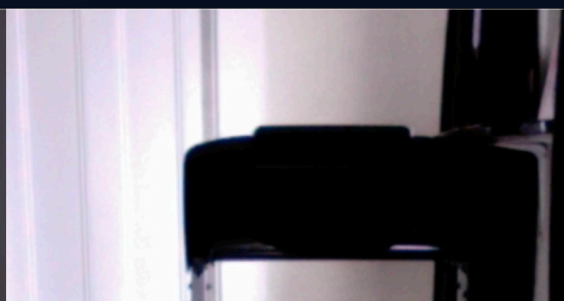
18 IMPRESSIONS

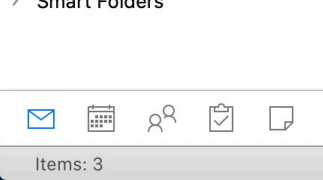
proud moment Dear

Go Corey!

All Missed

Enter a name, email, or number





MAY 2020

SENIOR AWARDS CEREMONY

Amanda Warren, Director of Events & Meeting Planning

Biggest Challenge: It sounds funny, but deciding on the right background music. Setting the right tone for an event is so important, and in the virtual world, music is a huge component to that. I wanted to create a fun, yet ceremonial tone, and I went back and forth on two different options before deciding on the final music.

Favorite Part: Watching all of the support from the families of the graduates pour in via the chat feature on our YouTube channel when we went live with the event.

MAY 2020

VIRTUAL TOASTS FOR COMMENCEMENT

Amanda Warren, Director of Events & Meeting Planning

Biggest Challenge: Execution on event day. This was our first “live” virtual event, and an extremely important one for obvious reasons. We broadcast a live Zoom meeting full of the graduates, so managing 200+ people’s audio & visual in that kind of setting was challenging.

Favorite Part: Seeing our graduates smiling in their regalia, and seeing all of the fun creative ways they were celebrating their day.

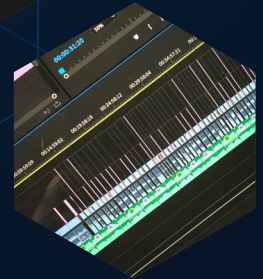
JULY 2020

WHITE COAT CEREMONY

Amanda Warren, Director of Events & Meeting Planning

Biggest Challenge: Recording all 207 students reciting the oath with Dean Hutter over Zoom, to then use that content in the virtual event. I can humbly admit that this did not turn out how I had hoped, but I do think we still captured the spirit of the oath recitation.

Favorite Part: Seeing all of the student’s video submissions. I know that this was not the way they anticipated being “coated”, but seeing their friends and family get involved was truly special, and I get emotional every time I watch them!



“THIS EVENT WAS 100 PERCENT LIVE... SO THERE WAS LITTLE TO NO ROOM FOR ERROR, WHICH PROVIDED THE EXCITEMENT AND ADRENALINE RUSH THAT I MISS FROM OUR IN-PERSON EVENTS.”

ORIENTATION

Joseph Calabrese DMD 91 AEGD 92, Associate Dean of Students

Biggest Challenge: The two main challenges were the amount of work involved in preparing for the event combined with the limited amount of time available to put it together. Also, more generally, it was challenging to create opportunities for communicating and engaging with students.

Favorite Part: Finding those opportunities to engage with each student. I parked myself in the Simulation Learning Center during instrument distribution so I could speak to each student in person.

Erica Stocks, Director of Student Affairs

Biggest Challenge: Orientation is about connection: connecting new students to the university, our school community, and to each other. I think that the most challenging part was figuring out a way to create connection as best we could give our limitations due to COVID-19. We had to pivot very quickly to reimagine how to deliver our orientation content virtually and how to hold our required, in-person sessions safely. It took a very concerted effort by the Student Affairs team, working in close collaboration with other GSDM offices, to take what was traditionally a two-week, in-person orientation to a one-week, hybrid orientation with COVID-19 precautions in place.

Favorite Part: Each year, there is a palpable excitement during orientation, and it was nice to see that was still there this year, even with everything going on.

PROFESSIONAL CEREMONY

Amanda Warren, Director of Events & Meeting Planning

Biggest Challenge: Mapping out how each component of the event was going to come together as one. Between Zoom, YouTube, our keynote & guest speakers, camera work, and the student's participation, there were many challenging layers behind the final product.

Favorite Part: Execution on event day. This event was 100 percent live (but virtual!), so there was little to no room for error, which provided the excitement and adrenaline rush that I miss from our in-person events. We had a small army behind the scenes that did a fantastic job handling their individual component, and I can't thank those individuals enough for their dedication leading up to, and on that day.

BY THE NUMBERS

We were thrilled to welcome our newest students in July 2020: These students, coming from all over the country and the academic excellence. We know they will contribute so much

DMD Class of 2024

2,312 Applicants

117 Enrolled Students



Top 5

U.S. States of Residence

Massachusetts 39%

Florida 8%

California 7%

New York 6%

New Jersey 5%

International students' countries of citizenship

Age Range

Education Level

Overall GPA



China



South Korea



Nigeria



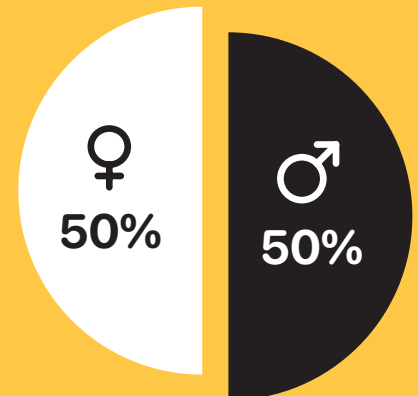
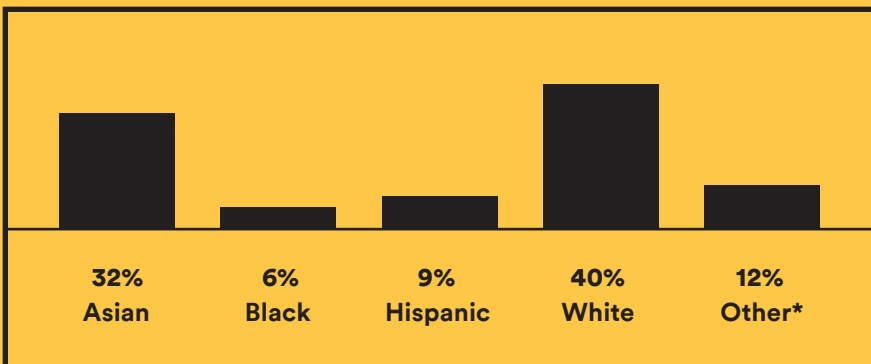
Vietnam

20-37

25 MASTER'S DEGREES

117 BACHELOR'S DEGREES

3.45

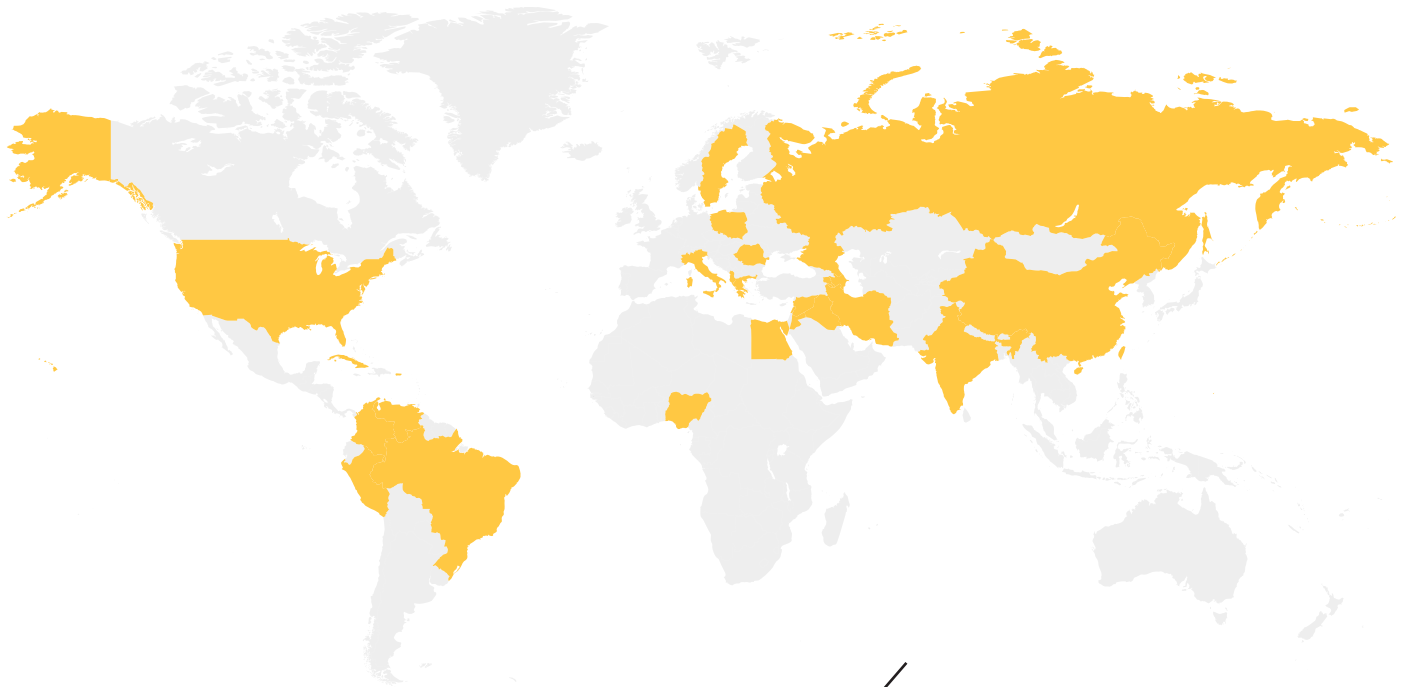


117 members of the DMD Class of 2024 and 88 members of the DMD Advanced Standing Class of 2022. world, bring with them a diverse set of backgrounds and experiences along with their demonstrated to our community, and we can't wait for you to meet them.

DMD Advanced Standing Class of 2022

1,426 Applicants

88 Enrolled Students



Countries of citizenship

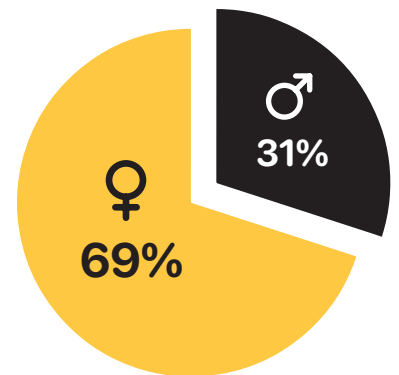
- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Albania | Greece | Peru |
| Armenia | India | Poland |
| Azerbaijan | Iran | Romania |
| Brazil | Iraq | Russia |
| China | Italy | Sweden |
| Colombia | Jordan | Syria |
| Cuba | Lebanon | Taiwan |
| Dominican Republic | Nigeria | United States |
| Egypt | Palestine | Venezuela |

Dental GPA

3.40

Education Level

- 1 PHD
- 12 MASTER'S DEGREES
- 88 DENTAL DEGREES***



* US DMD equivalent.



Congratulations
to the

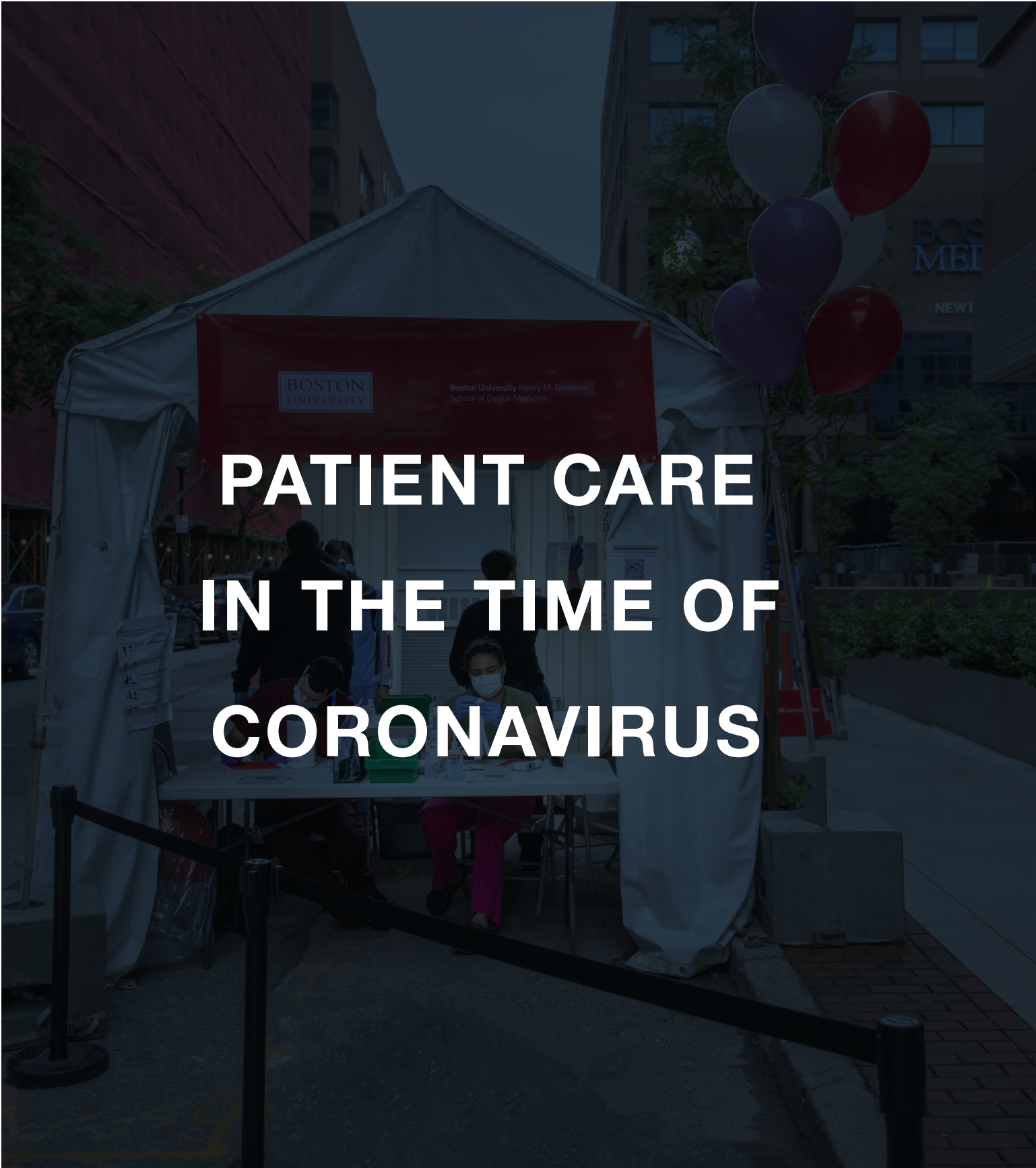
Class of 2020



Their GSDM experience may not have ended the way they had anticipated, but nothing can take away from all that they accomplished during their years at GSDM. Congratulations to the Class of 2020, and welcome to the GSDM alumni family.

 More photos online at
bit.ly/GSDMClassof2020





**PATIENT CARE
IN THE TIME OF
CORONAVIRUS**

On March 18, 2020, as COVID-19 started to spread in Massachusetts, GSDM ceased all in-person patient care to comply with a state order. So, providers pivoted to teledentistry.

“When a patient called in we would triage the patient and then a doctor would talk to them and try to figure out what the problem was, and how it could be remedied with a Band-Aid—so to speak, a Dental Band-Aid—until they could be seen,” said Dr. Margaret Errante, associate dean for quality management, compliance and continuing education, and director of the Dental Health Center at 930 Commonwealth Avenue.

Emergencies were diverted through to the oral surgery service at Boston Medical Center. So with a system to handle patients in place, the question became—when it became safe to resume in-person patient care, what would it look like? And how could GSDM do it?

On April 23, 2020, Dean Jeffrey W. Hutter announced the creation of the Task Force for a Successful GSDM Academic Year 2020-2021, to be co-chaired by Errante and Alex Bendayan PROS 05, associate dean for digital development, technology and innovation and ad interim chair, Department of Restorative Sciences & Biomaterials. The task force was charged with developing a comprehensive plan for the 2020-2021 academic year in response to the effects of COVID-19 on normal operations.

The school’s patient treatment centers posed some of the most significant challenges. In order for the patient treatment centers to re-open, the school needed approval from the state and the University.

“We really had to think from start to finish—when a person walks in until they leave, what is that process going to be?” Errante said. “And [that] has to be for the students, for the residents, for visitors, for faculty, for staff, and for patients.”

The school faced a multitude of challenges when it came to its resumption of in-person clinical care, including developing plans that addressed the many functions – administrative, clinical, research, academic – the school serves, and the sheer size of its patient base.

At full capacity, GSDM averages about 600 appointments a day, which puts it in a higher risk pool than a smaller dental practice, according to John Guarente DMD 89, associate dean for clinical affairs.

Even as plans began to take shape to mitigate that risk and create a safe environment for patients, students, faculty, and staff, new information was being released daily, requiring task force members to update their approach continuously.

“The amount of planning that went into this— queries, data mines, staff assignments, identification of people who had to be fit tested for an N95 respiratory mask, the ones who passed their fit testing for an N95, the supply of N95s drying up, and thus, having to change to another N95 brand as a result of having to refit and retest the masks to our patient care practitioners,” Guarente said.

The detailed planning extended beyond the patient treatment centers into other areas of the building. For example,

cleaning protocols had to be examined and modified.

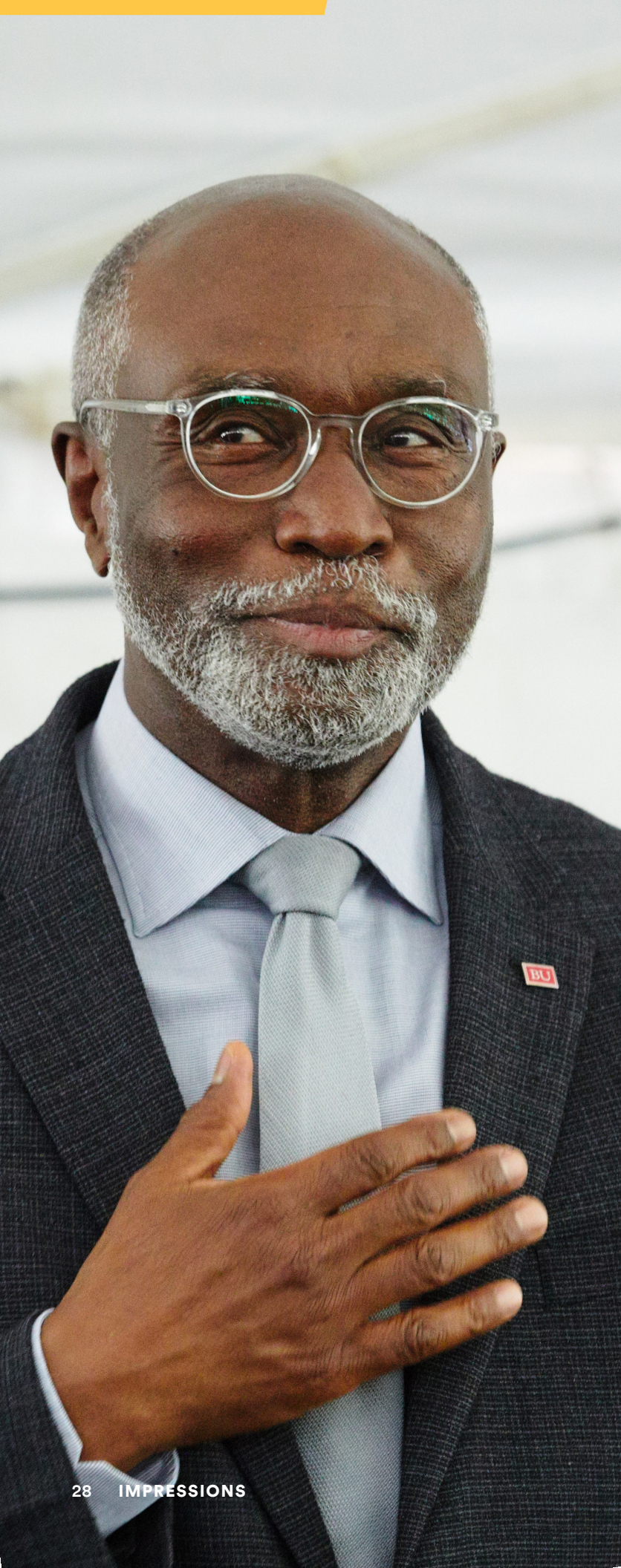
Two custodians from the Boston University Medical Campus (BUMC) are assigned to the building during the day, cleaning high-touch areas including elevator buttons and door handles; at night, 10 custodians clean the entire building. Kiosks with wipes are available throughout the buildings in office and classroom areas for individuals to disinfect their personal spaces.

On Sunday evening, June 28, 2020, Dean Hutter received approval from the University that GSDM could proceed as planned for its resumption of in-person patient care at both 635 Albany Street and 930 Commonwealth Avenue. This was the last hurdle the school had to clear, as Gov. Charlie Baker had given the green light to all dental procedures earlier in the month.

The school saw its first patients a week later, on Monday, July 6, 2020. In Phase 1, the school operated at 30 percent capacity, and then moved to Phase 2 and 50 percent capacity, effective August 10, 2020. As of September 21, 2020, the school moved to 75 percent capacity in Phase 3. The final phase will return the school to 100 percent capacity.

“There are people in this building that have never worked as hard [as they have] over these past 100 days, because of the circumstances that we were under,” Guarente said. “And the willingness to do that has certainly been to the school’s credit. That’s pretty much what we’re about. When you tell us we can’t do it— that’s when we get up and get it done.”





GSDM promotes diversity, equity, inclusion & belonging with new committee

Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine (GSDM) recently created the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Committee (DEIBAC) to assess the current diversity and inclusion climate at the school and to continue to nurture an inclusive and welcoming campus for the GSDM community. Larry Dunham DMD 83, assistant dean for diversity, equity, inclusion, & belonging, chairs the committee, which comprises students, faculty, residents and staff.

“The idea was to get input from all of our workforce, [and] to get it to the administration, so we could make changes as necessary to create a more comfortable climate for our diverse population,” said Dunham.

Recent events in the United States have heightened the importance of DEIBAC’s work. Dunham and other committee members are focused on channeling the energy and momentum that the school and the country have seen around social justice and race into initiatives and a continued, open dialogue at the school.

DEIBAC recently established a webpage, where individuals can find resources pertaining to unconscious bias, microaggressions, as well as LGBTIA+, Boston University, and dental education-specific resources, and also worked with student members of SNDA (Student National Dental Association) to start a journal club, where students meet to review articles and discuss them.

In the future, Dunham said that he hopes DEIBAC can work to both grow and mentor the next generation of healthcare providers.

“I’m hoping to see the organization grow leaders that will come back to the school,” said Dunham. “That’s always been a part of my mission even before the office was defined as DEIBAC, [when I was director of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs]. So that work I’m still doing, but I’m just trying to amplify it through DEIBAC.”



GSDM faculty chairs Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations through challenging year

Dr. Cataldo Leone, associate dean of academic affairs at Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine, had three years of experience on the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations before being appointed as the commission's chair last fall – but that experience still didn't fully prepare him for the challenges posed by COVID-19.

“We had over 5,000 dental graduates potentially, and an additional 5,000 plus hygiene graduates, who couldn't get licensed because they couldn't go to a testing center to take the exam,” said Leone. “So we were working, and are still working feverishly, with those testing centers to figure out when they could open, what the physical distancing will be, how to prioritize the many individuals that need to be scheduled.”

The 15-member Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations (JCNDE) is responsible for the

development and administration of the National Board Dental Examinations (NBDE). Leone was elevated to chair in 2019 for the 2019-2020 cycle.

As chair of the JCNDE, Leone oversaw the implementation of two different exams: the integrated National Dental Board Exam (INBDE), and the Dental Licensing Objective Structured Clinical Exam (DLOSCE).

COVID-19 did affect the implementation of the INBDE, which replaces the two-part National Dental Board Exams (NBDE). Many testing centers were closed, which left students without a place to take the exam. In order to accommodate this, the JCNDE implemented a series of measures, including extending the deadlines for examinations and scheduling additional appointments once the testing centers reopened.

Leone also oversaw the implementation of the DLOSCE, an exam designed as an alternative to traditional clinical

licensing exams. Currently, Alaska, Colorado, Indiana, Iowa, Oregon and Washington are accepting the DLOSCE; other states are considering the DLOSCE for initial licensure. The DLOSCE was not supposed to launch until late spring or early summer of 2021. However, due to COVID-19, graduates were unable to take state licensing exams, so the JCNDE fast tracked its implementation.

Despite the challenges faced this year, Leone—whose tenure as chair ends in October—said that he will miss his time on the JCNDE. He said that one of the most rewarding parts of being on the commission was learning more about getting to work alongside other individuals so passionate about dental education.

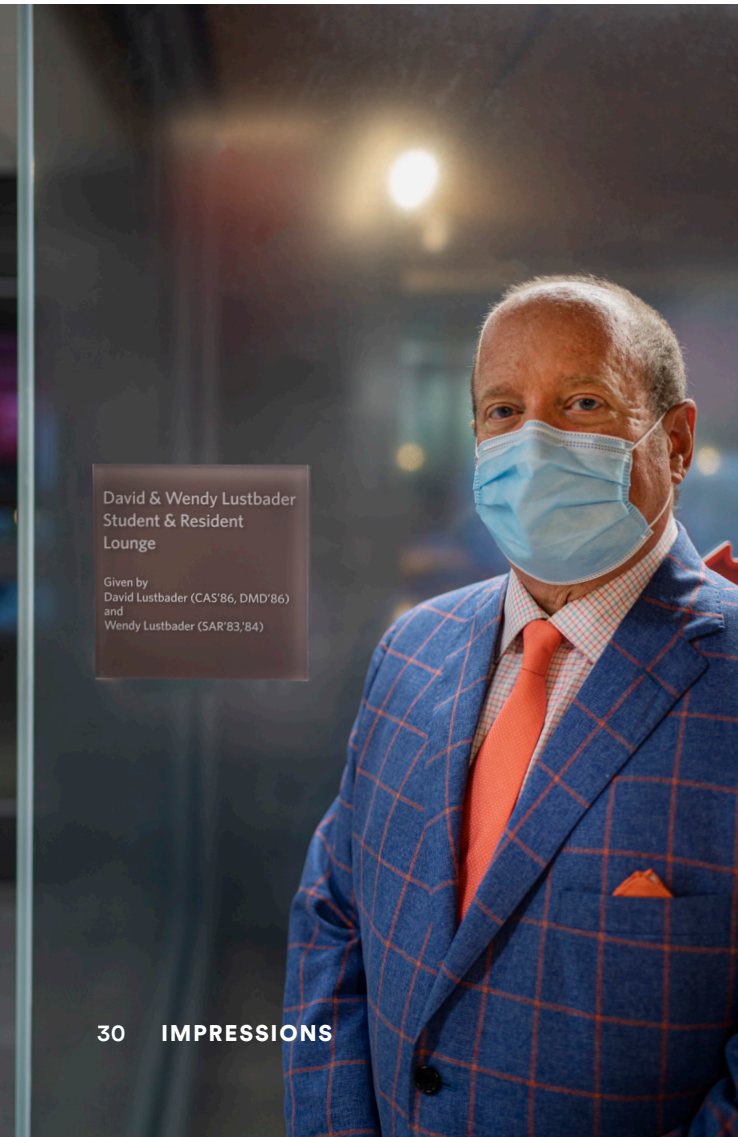
“I really enjoyed my time here. I've made some good acquaintances, friendships as well. I look forward to the continued success of the Joint Commission under new leadership,” Leone said.



Read more online at
bit.ly/LeoneJCNDE



FULFILLING A STRATEGIC PRIORITY



David & Wendy Lustbader
Student & Resident
Lounge

Given by
David Lustbader (CAS'86, DMD'86)
and
Wendy Lustbader (SAR'83/'84)





Despite a three-month moratorium on construction work caused by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the school's Addition & Renovation Project celebrated many significant milestones over the last six months, including the unveiling of the new Donor Wall and named spaces throughout the building. Many of these spaces were put to work immediately, from practice sessions and classes in the Simulation Learning Center to patient appointments in the Patient Treatment Centers to meetings (many of them virtual!) in new conference rooms and collaborative spaces. With just half a year to go before the project's completion, one can already witness the transformative effect this project will have on the school's future.



Gunarajasingam Family CONFERENCE ROOM



CONFERENCE

264



CAMPAIGN SUMMARY

GSDM's recent fundraising campaign featured an impressive number of "firsts" for the school: several \$1 million gifts from individuals, a full graduate scholarship in Periodontics, a full professorship in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, and several groundbreaking corporate gifts. Ultimately, the campaign raised more than \$33 million, surpassing its goal—a goal that had already been increased twice.

Most gifts supported the building's addition and renovation. This much needed construction project, identified as the most critical priority in the 2010 GSDM Applied Strategic Plan, is on track to be finished in July 2021. The new Patient Treatment Center will feature 100 patient treatment rooms, organized around 10 vertically integrated group practices. Already, 78 patient treatment rooms have been named, in recognition of gifts of \$25,000 to the building project. In addition, multiple conference rooms, meeting rooms, and collaborative spaces, as well as the student and resident lounge and the café, were named to recognize gifts.

Throughout the campaign, Class Gift participation and Giving Day fundraising placed GSDM in the top five of the University's 17 schools. Gifts came from all groups: students and residents, alumni both recent and long graduated, friends, faculty, and staff. The GSDM booth placed in the lobby every Giving Day also attracted attention and gifts from grateful patients. With the participation of leading dental companies, the GSDM campaign was truly supported by all.

The Dean's Advisory Board, led by chair David Lustbader CAS 86 DMD 86, was an important factor in the success of the campaign, which was led by campaign chair Uday Reebye DMD 09. "The strong leadership of our chairs made a critical difference, and we are deeply grateful for their tireless service," said Dean Jeffrey W. Hutter. Alumni Board members also contributed generously, with 100 percent participation in leadership giving, and served a critical role in communicating the strategic plan and priorities to their classmates and colleagues. GSDM had the highest faculty participation of any BU school as faculty names appear on donor plaques throughout the new space.

GSDM's global reputation enabled it to lead all other dental schools in attracting corporate support. These innovative strategic partnerships supported the launch of GSDM as the first dental school in the United States to offer a seamless digital environment, and most recently have enabled the school's students and residents to use the first robotic surgical unit approved by the FDA, as well as the newest 3D-printing technology.

GSDM's campaign, part of the University's Choose to be Great campaign, boasted remarkably wide-ranging support from friends, alumni, and corporate partners. This milestone event in the school's history marks a transformational change, positioning GSDM to continue its role as the preeminent leader in technology, innovation, curriculum, and patient care.

"We could not be happier with the campaign's success," said Dean Hutter, "and I urge all of our alumni and friends to visit the beautiful new building as soon as possible to see how our generous donors support our students, residents, faculty, staff and patients every day."





BRIDGING THE GAP

BY LOUISE KENNEDY

The GSDM Addition & Renovation construction project hit a major milestone in June with the opening of the new Simulation Learning Center (SLC), where predoctoral students and postdoctoral residents learn and practice the clinical skills they will later apply to patient care. Donor support is essential to this project—and two young faculty members have already stepped up.



Three years ago, Hesham Noh DSc I2 PROS I5 and Cameron Shahbazian DMD I4 appeared in a brief video encouraging participation in Giving Day. Noh is the associate chair of the Department of General Dentistry and director of Predoctoral Prosthodontics & Restorative Dentistry, and Shahbazian is a clinical assistant professor of General Dentistry. They're also close friends.

Urging others to give to the school inspired them to think about giving themselves. So when they heard about the opportunity to make a naming gift to the SLC, they jumped at it.

"We wanted to set a good example, and we wanted to do it together," Noh said. "I hope that people like Cam and me inspire more people to give back."

Shahbazian and Noh became the first donors to support student workstations in the SLC. Each named a station equipped with a state-of-the-art simulator holding a manikin, which has interchangeable jaws to facilitate studying different conditions and techniques, as well as water being dispensed through the hand piece to make the simulation as lifelike as possible.

Shahbazian is impressed by how advanced the SLC's technology is—and how much it has changed even since his time as a student. "When I came back [as a professor], I couldn't quite recognize the school I came from," he said. "With the new technologies, it's so much easier! It's much more accurate, much more efficient."

His experience as a GSDM student had a lot to do with his decision to return as a professor, Shahbazian said. "I was impressed by how much time they spent with students," he said, noting that he studied with many of the same professors who had taught his parents. "It felt like an unpaid debt I could never fulfill, so it only made sense to come back and teach. I wanted to bridge that gap between the older generation of teachers and the younger generation."

Now, his GSDM experiences have also inspired his gift. "I see it as honoring the vision of the University," Shahbazian said. "It gives students more resources, time—things we as a university need to propel us forward, especially in digital dentistry. By donating, it helps ensure that that level of technology continues."

For Noh, he's grateful to the students who have recognized him for excellent teaching—a recognition that also influenced him to give. "I wouldn't be teaching if I hadn't had that education, and I wouldn't have had that education if it weren't for BU. I only gave back because people before me gave back. I want that cycle to continue—I give back so it will continue."

It's all about the students, Shahbazian agreed. "Everything I've tried to do is always about the students—as a student, as an alum, as faculty," he said. "Without them, our school is just a big building."

Noh admitted that some might be reluctant to make a substantial donation at his stage of life. "My son is four months old—I should be saving money," he said. "But this is something that means a lot, and I didn't want to miss out."

Shahbazian, too, knows that younger alumni may be surprised by his decision to give major support at a relatively early point in his career. But he hopes that, by doing so, he may inspire others to do the same.

"If they see someone like me giving my time, physically by teaching or financially by donating from what I've earned," he explained, "they may say, 'OK, it can be done. Maybe I can do it too.' And it's important. It ensures that the other people after you will have that same kind of support."

To learn more about naming an SLC workstation for \$10,000, contact Stacey McNamee, director of Alumni Relations & Annual Giving, at smcnamee@bu.edu.

You gave and shared so much of yourself with us...

And when you reached the mountain top, you knew that you had done what you were capable of.

...our nanas, ...n shall you truly

Profile in Giving

Stephen R. Gordon Graduate Scholarship

By Louise Kennedy

Generous supporters of GSDM have created the Stephen R. Gordon (DMD'78) Graduate Scholarship in Geriatric Dental Medicine. The scholarship, to be awarded for the first time in July 2021, is the second graduate scholarship for a specialty program established for GSDM residents.

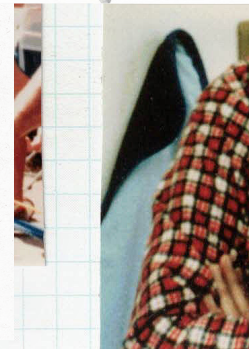
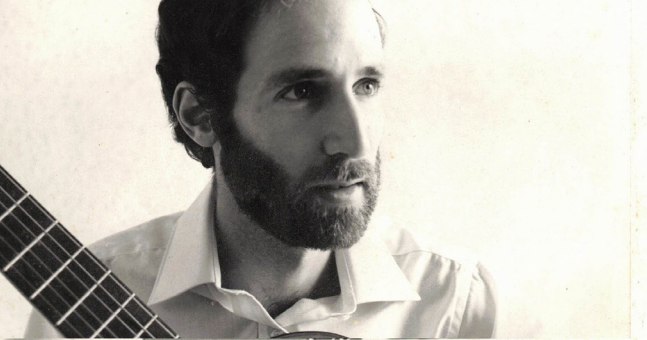
Stephen Gordon DMD 78 taught at GSDM for just two years before his untimely death, but in that short time he secured the affection and respect of students, residents, colleagues, and administrators—so much so that in just his second year he received the faculty award for excellence in clinical teaching. A less formal, but no less telling tribute, was the “Gordon Train”—the long line of students that always followed him through the Patient Treatment Center.

“He was kind, patient, and a great communicator,” said Joseph M. Calabrese DMD 91 AEGD 92, who followed Gordon into geriatrics and now directs GSDM’s Geriatric Dental Medicine program. “That’s why everybody followed him.”

That affection is now permanently recognized in this scholarship, which will be endowed through a bequest. The school is particularly grateful to the family and friends of Gordon who are already making gifts for immediate use, so that the fund can start benefiting residents right away.

The scholarship is intended to attract talented students with a background in prosthodontics to Geriatric Dental Medicine, because Gordon had a unique understanding of the restorative dental needs of older adults. He first grew interested in the field while working for Veterans Administration medical centers in Denver and Pittsburgh.

“He had a patient whose teeth were stained dark from decades of smoking,” one of Gordon’s relatives said, “and the standard at that time was to give people white teeth. But the contrast looked odd, so he tried to create something that matched.”



We will never forget... Thank You, Class '92



W... Th...



That aesthetic sense came naturally to Gordon, who had originally wanted to be a sculptor. “But his parents said, ‘This isn’t a good way to make a living.’ So they compromised on prosthodontics, and he became interested in the aesthetics of it.”

He had many other interests as well: playing classical guitar, running marathons (including Boston, twice), fly fishing, photography, rock climbing, and Nordic skiing. Sadly, it was while skiing in 1992 near Telluride, with five friends from BU, that he was killed in an avalanche.

“He had a life outside dentistry as well as in it,” Gordon’s relative said, “and he was very high-energy—he enjoyed and excelled at everything he did. That excitement carried over from one area to the other.”

Gordon’s excitement about dental medicine showed in his dedication and achievements, both academic and professional. After graduating with honors from Wesleyan University, Gordon earned his DMD at GSDM, receiving the Alpha Omega Award for the highest clinical and didactic GPA. He then did his residency in general dentistry at New York’s Mt. Sinai Hospital and practiced in Jerusalem for a year before joining the VA Medical Center, first in Pittsburgh and then in Denver.

It was there that he saw how many older veterans had never received dental care and needed restorations—work that brought him immense fulfillment. “The VA then saw the need and set up the first training program,” his relative said. “We hope this scholarship will help build up the field he helped initiate, by attracting more people to it and helping them get the extra training they need.”

GSDM seemed the right place for the scholarship, the relative said, not only because Gordon studied and taught here, but also because both his father and two great-uncles also attended BU.

Gordon had taught at the University of Colorado, Denver, while working at the VA Medical Center there, then returned east to direct geriatric dentistry at the VA’s Brockton and West Roxbury centers and to teach prosthodontics at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. But he left Harvard to join the GSDM faculty in 1990, first as an assistant professor of Prosthodontics and then as an associate professor, securing universal devotion, respect, and lasting gratitude.

When Gordon died suddenly, the relative said, “the first page of the yearbook that year, and two later pages, were a memorial to him. The students put together the photos. He did mean something to them.”

And, thanks to the generosity of his family and friends, Gordon’s name will live on, inspiring others to pursue the trail he blazed.

To learn more about the Gordon Scholarship and to apply to the Geriatric Dental Medicine Residency it supports, contact Joseph M. Calabrese DMD 91 AEGD 92, Clinical Professor and Director of Geriatric Dental Medicine, Department of General Dentistry, and Associate Dean of Students, at jobean@bu.edu. To learn more about bequests and other forms of planned giving, contact Kevin Holland, GSDM Assistant Dean of Development, at kevinh@bu.edu, or visit bulegacy.org.



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Leadership: New Dean's Advisory Board Member

Dr. Tarun Agarwal



Tarun Agarwal is a nationally recognized lecturer in the field of aesthetic and restorative dentistry. He earned his DDS from the University of Missouri at Kansas City in 1999. Two years later, he founded his own private practice, Raleigh Dental Arts.

In July 2002, he co-founded the DentalTown "Townie Meeting," an annual event considered one of the most progressive educational opportunities in dental education.

Agarwal has assisted numerous dental manufacturers in new product development and review. In 2012, Agarwal founded 3D

Dentists, a dental education center dedicated to teaching dental professionals around the world the latest dental innovations.

He has been featured on ABC, NBC, and CBS news and in several consumer magazines for his pioneering use of technology, philanthropic events, and aesthetic dentistry. In 2003, Agarwal was voted the "Townie of the Year" for his contributions to the growth and dynamics of the dental community. He was also recognized in 2008 by Tringle Business Journal as one of the '40 under 40', an annual award given to leading young professionals in the area.

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In Memoriam

Alan Berdan PERIO 84

New York, NY; May 23, 2020

Dr. Berdan earned his degree in dental medicine from Fairleigh Dickenson University and received a degree in Periodontics from Boston University. In 1997, he founded the Aesthetic Dental & Implant Center of Central Park South. An active member of the American Dental Association, American Academy of Periodontology, and the New York State Dental Association, he was passionate about dentistry continuing education and believed in providing state-of-the-art dental care with an emphasis on patient comfort.

Alvin Goodman ENDO 73

Charlotte, NC; April 20, 2020

Dr. Goodman graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1959, and then completed dental school at the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond, VA. After practicing dentistry in Charlotte, he received a degree in Endodontics from Boston University. He practiced as an endodontist in Winston-Salem and later in Charlotte, NC. He was a long-time member of the Charlotte Dental Society, and volunteered his time at free dental clinics in the Charlotte area.

Burt Stern PERIO 61

Needham, MA; May 18, 2020

Dr. Stern was a very humble but brilliant man. He graduated from New York University in three years, and then went on to Harvard School of Dental Medicine, where he graduated in the top 10 percent of the class of 1959. He furthered his specialization with a degree in Periodontology from a joint program at the dental schools of University of Pennsylvania and Boston University. Dr. Stern taught at Harvard, before opening his own practice in Needham, Massachusetts, where he practiced for over 30 years.

Florian Thompson DMD 88

Los Angeles, CA; August 4, 2020

Dr. Thompson graduated from Beverly Hills High School in 1976, and then went on to the University of California Los Angeles, graduating in 1983 with a degree in pathology. Dr. Florian went on to graduate from Boston University in 1988 with a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree.

Jay Marlin ENDO 70

Dartmouth, MA; May 1, 2020

Dr. Marlin ensured millions of patients would receive a far more comfortable and reliable root canal. Dr. Marlin participated in ROTC at UMass Amherst, and after graduating from Tufts Dental School, he served as a Captain in the U.S. Army where he earned an honorable discharge in 1970 after two years of active duty and two in. After a short stint in private practice, Dr. Marlin trained in the then-nascent specialty of endodontics at Boston University. He went on to establish a successful career with offices in Fitchburg, MA, Worcester, MA, and Keene, NH. He was also a dedicated teacher, devoting one day a week to endodontic instruction first at Harvard, then at Tufts. Always curious and inventive, Dr. Marim believed that the arduous process of filling root canals could be greatly simplified, and in the early 1970's, he invented the tool known today as the Obtura, a standard tool in dental offices.

Robert Gilliland OMFS 70

Akron, OH; May 25, 2020

Dr. Gilliland graduated from Sharon High School in 1955, and then attended Washington and Jefferson College, graduating in 1959. He went to dental school at University of Pittsburgh and graduated in 1963, before joining the U.S. Air Force as a captain. After serving in the Vietnam War, he went to Boston University for his didactic for Oral Surgery, which he completed in 1970. From there he went to Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, California.

Silverio Mazzella DMD 87

Tuckahoe, NY; April 3, 2020

Dr. Mazzella graduated from Fordham University and went on to earn his Doctor of Dental Medicine from Boston University. He was a devoted husband to Marilyn (Liscio) Mazzella, loving father to his beautiful daughters Kristen, Lauren and Jessica, son of Dr. Luigi, and Stella Mazzella (previously deceased), and beloved oldest brother of Louis, John, David, and Jennifer (Cassidy). He is also survived by many cherished nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and extended in-law family.

Yonathan “Yoni” Dassa MED 10 DMD 14

Boston, MA; August 23, 2020

Dr. Dassa was a graduate of Boston University's School of Dental Medicine where he earned his master's in Oral Health Sciences and Doctor of Dental Medicine. In 2018, Dr. Dassa was named a “Ten under 10” by the Massachusetts Dental Society, an award that recognized his contributions to dentistry and the community since graduating dental school. The following year he was voted Boston's Top Dentist by Boston Magazine.

After being diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer in January 2016, Dr. Dassa was given six months to live. In typical Yoni fashion, he accepted the challenge, and despite such odds, went on to become a Dental Director at Gentle Dental Brookline in 2016, married, traveled, and brought love and joy to all he met along the way.



The Last Word

Alexander Bendayan PROS 05 is the school's associate dean of digital development, technology & innovation and ad interim chair, Department of Restorative Sciences & Biomaterials. Dr. Margaret Errante is the school's associate dean for quality management, compliance & continuing education.

On March 18, 2020, leaders at the Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine made the difficult and historic decision to suspend all in-person clinical, research and educational activity at the school. This decision, while a necessary response to the coronavirus pandemic that had begun to sicken hundreds of Boston residents, marked the first time in the school's almost 60-year history that in-person activities had been curtailed to this degree.

On April 23, 2020, Dean Jeffrey W. Hutter established a task force of administrators, faculty and clinicians with two main objectives: to navigate the safe return to in-person research, simulation, clinical and classroom activities; and to plan for the new academic year in the post-COVID reality. As co-chairs of this Task Force for a Successful GSDM 2020-2021 Academic Year, we drew upon the expertise of a diverse set of leaders from all areas of the school, spanning the office of the dean, research, academics, patient treatment, admissions, students, global and population health, and innovation. This breadth of perspectives ensured the task force, as a whole, was planning for and envisioning all aspects of the school's operations – while accounting for an environment completely transformed by COVID-19.

During the early stages of the pandemic, guidance from governing bodies at the national, state, and local levels was changing rapidly. Despite that, we held fast to our guiding principle — navigating the return to in-person activities, while holding paramount the health and safety of our students, residents, faculty, staff and patients — and remained focused on our

goal of creating a planning framework that was based upon the best-available information, but also allowed for flexibility as that information evolved. We drew upon the school's culture of innovation to identify digital tools that we could use to manage the project and accomplish our goals rapidly and efficiently.

GSDM is unique among the schools and colleges at Boston University in that we not only manage three distinct environments — research laboratories, classrooms, and patient treatment centers — but we also begin our academic year in July. As a result, we faced the additional complexity of aligning our path with the University, while accomplishing the return to campus earlier than any other school or college.

As we are writing this, GSDM has not only successfully and safely resumed in-person research, preclinical simulation, patient care and classroom activities, but also inaugurated the newly built patient treatment centers and the new Simulation Learning Center at 635 Albany Street. Equipped with the latest digital technology, the new facilities will allow GSDM to remain a leader in dental education and patient care, and ensure that we meet the future needs of our students, residents and patients.

It was by working together that we were able to adapt and meet the challenge of continuing to provide excellent care and education in the wake of the pandemic, and we have immense faith in our team and community. Our commitment to excellence never faltered, and we can say with confidence that GSDM is back better than ever!

10

TAKEAWAYS FROM impressions

1 “I commend each and every one of you for all you are doing to create a “new normal” and for the actions you take every day...”

A message from the Dean
pg. 2

2 “In July 2020, Larry Dunham DMD 83 was promoted to assistant dean for diversity, equity, inclusion & belonging...”

Of Note
pg. 3



4 “Know your numbers on productivity and efficiency, including the different types of procedures you have done and how many of each...”

GSDM Career Column: Edition V
pg. 10



6 “...seeing their friends and family get involved was truly special, and I get emotional every time I watch them!”

The Year GSDM Went Virtual
pg. 18



9 “It was by working together that we were able to adapt and meet the challenge...”

The Last Word
pg. 52

10 Too busy to read cover to cover? We’ve got you covered! Visit bu.edu/dental and follow @budental on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for all the latest alumni features, school news, and more.

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