

# THE BRIDGE



## **SIMULATION LABORATORY TOUR**

An up-close look at the new state-of-the-art facility

## **CREATIVE CUES**

A love for the performing arts has taken Dr. Sepehr Rahmany, DDS'03, from the stage to TV screens

## **BIG PICTURE THINKING**

Dr. Barry Schwartz is teaching a unique curriculum in professionalism and ethics

# Congratulations to the Schulich Dentistry Class of 2016

**Hesam Abbas-Tehrani**

**Abrar Ahmed**

**Jennifer Boogaards**

*UWO Gold Medal, American Dental Society Anesthesiology Award, Dr. Donald S. Moore Award in Occlusal Therapy, Dr. Walter R. Teteruck Award in Fixed Prosthodontics*

**Christopher Chan**

*Quintessence Award in Restorative Dentistry*

**Julia Chrapka**

*Canadian Dental Association (CDA) Student Leadership Award*

**Leanna Dunn**

**Katarzyna Dymerska**

*Academy of General Dentistry Senior Student Award, Toronto Academy Crown & Bridge Study Club*

**Brady Eason**

*American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Award, American Association of Orthodontics Award in Orofacial Growth*

**Ziana Esmail**

**Mohammad Garshasb**

**Jessica Gold**

**Cameron Ho**

**Eilyad Honarparvar**

**Maxine How**

*Michael Brooke Award in Oral Medicine*

**Jinyoung Jang**

**Haleh Javidnia**

*Ontario Dental Association (ODA) Proficiency Award, Quintessence Award in Periodontics*

**Yong-Woo (Tim) Jeon**

*American Association of Endodontists Award*

**Moonyong Kim**

**Adam Kliman**

**Alina Kofyrina**

**Dickson Kong**

**Matthew Kreher**

**Eugene Kryshtalskyj**

*Senior Oral Pathology Award*

**Yatong (Kelsey) Li**

*Dr. John C. McLister Service Award*

**Abelyn Lim**

**Po Lin**

**Carol Lui**

**Andrew Macdonald**

**Tyler MacDonald**

**Daniel Mandic**

**Jonah Marcovitch**

**Amirsalar Mofidi**

*American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS)*

**Kimberly Ngai**

*Alpha Omega Award, Dr. Igor Bolta Memorial Award in Restorative Dentistry*

**Kolby Olsen**

**Nicole Ostro**

*Senior Award in Paediatric Dentistry*

**Shiva Panahi**

**Bilal Paracha**

**Jae Park**

**David Pham**

**Sandra Rabi**

**Martin Reiss**

*American Academy of Orofacial Pain Award*

**Jonathan Sanderson**

*London & District Dental Society (LDDS) Award, Academy of Dentistry for the Disabled Award*

**Amy Saray**

**Samuel Schlesinger**

**Sarah Shell**

**Lu Shen**

**Sze So**

**Daniil Subbotin**

*3M Canada Clinical Award in Restorative Dentistry*

**Jaskaran Takhar**

**Ali Tanara**

**Fuad Tanha**

*Dr. Paul S. Sills Award in Prosthodontics*

**Cherry To**

**Anna Urbano**

*Professionalism Award*

**Venus Vandoost**

**Lan Vu**

**Robbie Zhang**

## INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED DENTISTS (ITD) PROGRAM

**Sinan Al-Rubaye**

**Alyaa Al-Shadeedi**

**Kavita Bal**

**Pratibha Bindlish**

*Dr. Gerald Z. Wright Award, Dr. Kenneth F. Pownall Memorial Scholarship*

**William Chang**

**Aditi Choudhery**

**Harjot Ganda**

**Bohdan Hrynyk**

**Cyril Joseph**

**Manish Kanwal**

**Shamin Makvandi**

**Kulpratibha Malik**

**Jarana Patel**

**Alexander Pilipenko**

*Dr. Glenn Walker Award*

**Mohammad Rahimi**

**Shikhar Kumar Saxena**

**Arash Shafiei**

**Christopher Shieh**

*Dr. George Bedrosian Memorial Award in Restorative Dentistry*

**Bahareh Tamiji**

**Ivan Zolotco**

# THE BRIDGE

SCHULICH DENTISTRY ALUMNI NEWSLETTER 2017

## SCHULICH MEDICINE & DENTISTRY

The Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry at Western University has a long tradition of excellence, beginning with the founding of the medical school in 1881 and continuing with the formation of the dental school in 1964. Our reputation has been built by dedicated teachers, breakthrough discoveries and our commitment to patient-centred care.

We are dedicated to preparing tomorrow's dentists, physicians and health researchers to become leaders who will optimize life-long health.

Western delivers an academic experience second to none, challenging the best and brightest faculty, staff and students to commit to the highest global standards.

Since 1878, 'The Western Experience' has combined academic excellence with life-long opportunities for intellectual, social and cultural growth.

## CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Jesica Hurst, BA'14

Emily Leighton, MA'13

Crystal Mackay, MA'05

Jennifer Parraga, BA'93

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Emily Leighton

Crystal Mackay

## DESIGN AND ILLUSTRATION

Jessica McGaw

## MORE INFORMATION

Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry  
Western University

Rix Clinical Skills Learning Building  
Room 2700, London, ON  
Canada N6A 5C1

To provide suggestions for future issues, contact us at [comms@schulich.uwo.ca](mailto:comms@schulich.uwo.ca).

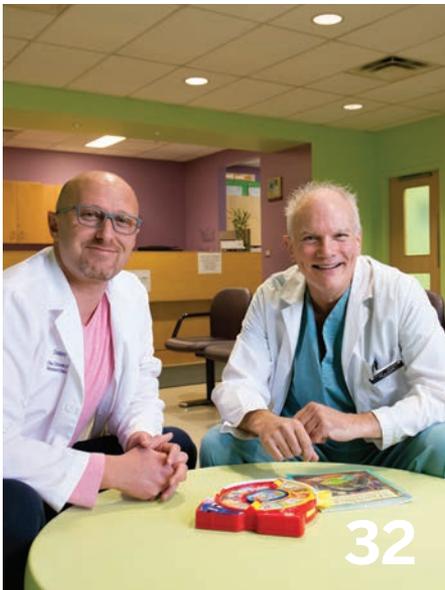
**519.661.3459**

**[schulich.uwo.ca](http://schulich.uwo.ca)**



## A team player

In the clinic, at the rink or on the water, Dr. Mark Botsford sees himself as a member of the team – striving for success



## Community mentors

The School's paediatric dentistry program is preparing students for the realities of dental practice with a new community rotation



## Family affair

They may span three generations, but Dr. Jessica Gold, her father and her grandfather are bound by one common interest: the field of dentistry

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**DR. RICHARD BOHAY**  
DMD, MSc, MRCDC  
Acting Director, Schulich Dentistry

Last year, I shared with you Schulich Dentistry's goal to become one of the best dental schools in North America. This year, I'm pleased to tell you about the projects and achievements that will rank us at the top.

Our strategic plan work has been a major focus since 2015. Four priority projects were identified including: human resources and organizational structure; undergraduate clinical education; technology; and faculty development. A fifth project – the Schulich Way – was also identified, and is being led by the Dean's Office.

The projects focus on human resources and organizational structure, and undergraduate clinical education have risen to the top in priority. In the next year, we will share with you our renewed approach to clinical education impacting our four-year Doctor of Dental Surgery and two-year Internationally Trained Dentist programs.

Our teams have also been very busy with faculty recruitment. We are filling five positions in Oral Biology, Prosthodontics and Oral Surgery. We are also moving forward with two positions in Oral Medicine/Oral Diagnosis.

Facility, technology and equipment changes and upgrades have also been a priority. Our first- and second-year students are now learning in the new Dental Simulation Laboratory. It is equipped with the latest teaching and dental technology and provides for additional technological applications as they become available or are built into our dental curriculum. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Dr. Stan Kogon, who led this project to completion.

Construction is underway for a new multipurpose classroom, student lounge, staff and faculty lockers, offices and storage in the space where the former simulation laboratory was situated. We anticipate that this work will be completed before the spring of 2017.

The Dr. Kent Floreani Orthodontic X-Ray Suite recently opened and we are implementing a new Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS). Now in the first phase, this system will be the backbone for digital imaging throughout the dental school.

Next on our list is the acquisition and implementation of a Clinic Management System. The implementation of this software will enable access to electronic patient records, digital imaging throughout the School, provide enhanced patient management and student progression processes. We expect the implementation to be complete by the summer of 2018.

In April 2017, we will receive an accreditation site visit, during which the four-year Doctor of Dental Surgery Program, two-year Internationally Trained Dentists Program, Graduate Orthodontic Program and Oral Surgery/MD/MSc programs will be reviewed. The preparation of documentation for that visit is well underway. We are feeling very positive about the outcomes from that visit.

Our focus on faculty development as it relates to undergraduate clinical teaching and evaluation has been enhanced. Dr. Walter Siqueira, the School's new Assistant Director, Faculty Affairs, has held a clinical update in the fall and is planning another

session on clinical calibration at the procedural level.

Meanwhile, Dr. Gildo Santos has been appointed Chair of Continuing Dental Education and he is exploring new ideas and programming for alumni and practising dentists.

Dr. Harvey Goldberg and the Admissions Committee are strengthening our application and selection process. Thank you to everyone who responded to his requests for assistance; your response was fantastic.

It was wonderful to see so many alumni during Reunion Weekend. The annual event provided us with the opportunity to recognize and honour Dr. Wes Dunn. It was a privilege to unveil a plaque, with his picture, in our main reception area of the dental school. The plaque was commissioned at the request of an anonymous donor who has generously supported the School.

On the same day, at Dentistry's Reunion Reception and the Dean's Gala, we recognized Dr. Brenda Thompson, DDS'84, and Dr. Bruce Hill, MCID'90, as the 2016 Dentistry Alumni of Distinction. Dr. Les Kalman, DDS'99, who is responsible for our DOCS program, received the School's Alumni Community Service Award.

It has been a busy year. And all our faculty, staff and students have demonstrated their vision, wisdom, patience and pride throughout the course of the past 12 months.

I believe that when the School's new Vice-Dean and Director arrives, he or she will be very excited about our accomplishments and the future for Schulich Dentistry and the entire School.

While there is still a lot of work to do, I am confident we are making good progress, and we are on the right track. With the continued support from Dr. Strong, the University and our alumni, we are well on our way to becoming one of the best dental schools in North America.

As always, I welcome your feedback and ideas and thank you for your support. ■



**DR. MICHAEL J. STRONG**

MD, FRCP(C)

Dean, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Distinguished University Professor, Western University

Schulich Dentistry is experiencing a renewal. From the strategic plan work being guided by thoughtful and creative leaders to the renovations and improved teaching facilities and the installation of new technology and equipment – change is taking place and strengthening the educational experience for our students.

For the past two years, I've been working very closely with Dr. Rick Bohay, and have watched as dedicated faculty, staff and students have put in hours of time, shared their wisdom, challenged one another and celebrated successes as they focused on strengthening Schulich Dentistry. It's been gratifying to be part of the process.

In the next year, we will see more change.

We are continuing our search for a new Vice-Dean and Director, and hope to be in a position to announce the successful candidate in the coming months.

With recommendations received from our hard-working strategic plan committees, we will be determining how a new human resources leadership structure and new processes and procedures supporting organizational

success will move forward. We are also developing a technology sustainability plan and new faculty development programs.

In the coming year, we will be welcoming new faculty to Schulich Dentistry who will enrich our curriculum and enlighten our students.

At the same time, our work is continuing on creating opportunities for dental and medical students to join together. We've had tremendous success with a combined White Coat Ceremony and Interprofessional Education Day, and I am committed to creating a special convocation, in the next few years, that will celebrate our medicine and dentistry graduates together.

Amidst all of this change, the day-to-day functions at Schulich Dentistry have continued. I'm very grateful to Dr. Bohay for his leadership as Acting Director. He has been involved in every single initiative in Dentistry – new and continuing. The many successes we have enjoyed this year are because of his commitment to the School. I'm also grateful to our many full- and part-time faculty who have shared so much of their time this year with our strategic planning work, and through meetings and town-halls. Their feedback and ideas were invaluable to our work and ultimately have strengthened our approaches.

I hope you will enjoy reading this year's issue of *The Bridge*. It includes just a few of our success stories including the opening of the Dental Simulation Laboratory, the operationalization of the Dentistry Surgical Care Unit and the project committee work on the strategic plan. We've also profiled two outstanding students and faculty members Drs. Timucin Ari, Barry Schwartz, and Gordon Payne.

And this year, we've expanded our alumni section. Included this year

are features on Drs. Mark Botsford, DDS'89, Karen Campbell, DDS'82, Jessica Gold, DDS'16, and Sepehr Rahmany, DDS'03. Each has taken an interesting journey since their graduation from Dentistry. It also features an update from Dr. Christy Nicolucci, DDS'07, sharing news about the Dental Alumni Society.

I look forward to seeing some of you at the ODA Conference in May, and at Homecoming in October. We'll have more news and updates to share with you then. In the meantime, you can learn more about what's taking place at Schulich Dentistry by visiting the website: [schulich.uwo.ca/dentistry](http://schulich.uwo.ca/dentistry). ■

*“Schulich Dentistry is experiencing a renewal. From the strategic plan work being guided by thoughtful and creative leaders and the renovations and improved teaching facilities to the installation of new technology and equipment – change is taking place.”*

—Dr. Michael J. Strong

## Honouring a quarter century of service

Western University honoured long-serving employees at special award ceremonies in 2016, recognizing service of 25 years or more. The honourees included Schulich Dentistry faculty and staff: **Full Time:** Dr. Sahza Hatibovic-Kofman; Graeme Hunter, PhD; Barbera Merner. **Part Time:** Dr. Mariela Anderson; Dr. Mark Botsford; Dr. Bruce Hill; Dr. Peter Fendrich; Dr. Clive Friedman; Dr. Manfred Friedman; Dr. Michael Hornyak; Dr. Ann Jarvis-Wachner; Dr. James Jean; Dr. Gary Keyes; Dr. John McLister; Dr. Donald Munro; Dr. Don Noble; Dr. Gordon Payne; Dr. Paul Romanson; Dr. Kenneth Wright.



Photo courtesy of the Ontario Dental Association

## Dr. Jack McLister serves as President of the Ontario Dental Association

Dr. Jack McLister, DDS'75, a faculty member at Schulich Dentistry for close to four decades, was named President of the Ontario Dental Association (ODA) for the 2016-17 year.

A member of the ODA for 41 years, Dr. McLister's involvement in organized dentistry began immediately after graduating from Schulich Dentistry in 1975. He joined the London & District Dental Society (LDDS) and sat on several

committees focused on community outreach. He also served two terms on the ODA Board of Directors.

Dr. McLister retired from the family practice he managed for 38 years, but remains devoted to the oral health of Ontarians and will continue to advocate for them in his role as ODA President. He continues to teach and mentor students at Schulich Dentistry.

## ODA President's Cup Hockey Classic supports DOCS program

It was the match-up of the year when Schulich Dentistry's hockey team, The Mighty Dents, faced off against the University of Toronto for the 2016 ODA President's Cup Hockey Classic. Cheered on by an enthusiastic crowd, the Mighty Dents prevailed, bringing home the ODA Cup to its rightful place at Schulich Medicine & Dentistry. The School's Dental Outreach Community Service (DOCS) program was the real winner of the game, however, benefiting from fundraising efforts and receiving a donation of \$1,500.

## Recognizing professional success

Several Schulich Dentistry faculty and alumni received the Ontario Dental Association (ODA) Award of Merit for 2016. This award is presented to ODA member dentists for outstanding service to the profession for a period of four years or more. Award recipients included: **Dr. Doug Beaton**, DDS'88; **Dr. Penny Campbell-Lownie**, DDS'95; **Dr. Greg Carr**, DDS'83; **Dr. Michael Hornyak**, DDS'86; **Dr. Jim Jean**, DDS'73; **Dr. Gordon Payne**, DDS'86; **Dr. Paul Romanson**, DDS'72.

# Schulich Dentistry alumni honoured

*During Reunion Weekend festivities, Schulich Medicine & Dentistry presented the Alumni of Distinction Awards, recognizing the tremendous contributions and achievements of our alumni.*



**Alumni of Distinction – Dentistry  
Dr. Bruce Hill, DDS, MCID'90**

Dr. Bruce Hill is an expert and leader in the field of orthodontics. A graduate of the Graduate Orthodontics Program at Schulich Medicine & Dentistry, Dr. Hill has served as an adjunct professor for more than 20 years and has taught more than 60 graduate orthodontic residents at Schulich Dentistry. He is a dedicated educator and has a great teaching style, making it easy for residents to learn all aspects of clinical orthodontics. He has participated as an examiner on a number of committees and has invited many residents to visit his practice and experience first-hand all aspects of a busy orthodontic office.

With a keen interest in the treatment of special needs children and adults, Dr. Hill began an informal sub-specialty in special needs orthodontics. In 2001, he established a program with the Children's Aid Society of London and Middlesex to treat children and teens pro-bono. To date, more than 300 children have received comprehensive treatment from Dr. Hill and his staff.



**Alumni of Distinction – Dentistry  
Dr. Brenda Thomson, BSc'78, DDS'84**

With two Western degrees and many years serving on the Dental Alumni Society, acting in the role as social director for her graduating class, Dr. Brenda Thomson has strong ties to Schulich Medicine & Dentistry.

She has been in private practice in Mississauga since graduating in 1984. In addition to the many hours she has dedicated to her more than 2,600 patients, she has also been involved in her community.

Dr. Thomson has served in a number of roles with the Halton-Peel Dental Association including president, vice president, treasurer, secretary and editor of communications, as well as serving on a variety of committees. She has also served as a member of the Ontario Dental Association and served as President of the Women Dentists Association of Ontario for two terms.



**Community Service Award  
Dr. Les Kalman, DDS'99**

Dr. Les Kalman has made a significant contribution to Schulich Medicine & Dentistry and serves as a strong role model for all Schulich Dentistry students. His sincerity for helping less fortunate patients, demonstrated through the Dental Outreach Community Service (DOCS) program, sets a high standard. His students describe him as a valued mentor and outstanding teacher.

In 2011, Dr. Kalman took on the leadership of the DOCS program. Since that time, he has formalized and implemented a volunteer-based outreach program into a mandatory component of the fourth-year dental curriculum. He also proposed and developed a fourth-year didactic course to supplement the program; established an annual agency meeting to reinforce collaboration; and implemented treatment delivery at the Schulich Dentistry clinic to maximize clinical success. He has established new partnerships all in an effort to strengthen DOCS and reach more community members.



# two worlds colliding

*Tom Filgiano applies the skills he's learned on the basketball court to the dental clinic*

By Crystal Mackay, MA'05

The night before a basketball game, while his teammates were relaxing, you could find Tom Filgiano, Dentistry Class of 2017, working on perfecting a dentures assignment in his hotel room.

Playing point guard on the varsity basketball team while completing his dentistry degree was a careful balancing act for Filgiano, who spent most of his university career splitting all of his time between his academics and the basketball court.

"There was a point that I would be at school all day, then I would practise from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., come back and work in the sim clinic until 10:00 p.m., and then wake up and do it all again the next day."

This extremely tight schedule taught him a lot about being efficient with his time, and how to manage high-stress situations with ease.

And he says he often found the two worlds colliding in unexpected ways. When on the court, he started to see ways to apply the skills he'd developed playing basketball to his dentistry practice and vice versa.

From the time he first put his hands on the ball in a game he was making a series of quick decisions based on what he observed in his environment. He had to assess the other team, get a feel for his own team's strengths and then make a call about what play to run.

"In basketball you can't be indecisive, you have to make a decision and then execute," he said. "I learned very quickly that it served me well to apply the same principle to my dentistry training. In dentistry you don't have the same time pressure, but you still have to look at the issue that you are faced with and

decide the best course of action to help the patient."

And those decisions, he said, have to be made with conviction.

He also found that having a keen attention to detail was crucial both on the court and in the clinic. Vital to the practice of dentistry is being sure that everything is perfectly flush, smooth and sealed. "Similarly in basketball, when you are running plays, you have to be sure that you make the right screen or make the right cut and the play breaks down if you don't," he said. Those minor details matter so much in both scenarios.

Based on his long list of awards, he's mastered the fine art of perfecting both his on-court and in-clinic skills. Filgiano has been an Academic All-Canadian during each of his five years of eligibility playing basketball. This award is given to varsity athletes who maintain an academic average of 80 per cent or higher.

While at Western, he won the Bob Gage Award two years in a row, given to a player who best exemplifies aspects of team play which are essential to success, and the Dr. Craig Boydell Award of Excellence for the player who best represents the team in terms of basketball, academics and community service.

This year he's used up all five years of eligibility to play basketball, so he's had to sit on the sidelines. "I have mixed emotions about not being able to play this year. I wish I could be out there, but at the same time, I can take a step back and enjoy the final year of Dentistry and take a bit of a breather," he said. ■

# Becoming Dr. Archibald

By Jennifer Parraga, BA'93

The thick, humid air and small, unorthodox work space in the tiny church didn't dampen Jennifer Archibald's enthusiasm as she set up her dental equipment and looked up to see a long line of people waiting to receive care. In fact, it inspired her.

Archibald was one of several Schulich Dentistry students who travelled to Jamaica this past summer to provide free dental care for one week to the islanders. It was just one in a long line of experiential learning opportunities she has enjoyed during her dentistry training.

Archibald is a big picture thinker. And for her, the journey to becoming a dentist has included more than long hours studying and refining her skills in the simulation lab and clinic.

It has meant asking important research questions, working at the bench, volunteering with the Dental Outreach Community Service (DOCS) program, working in a community hospital in Moose Factory and a soup kitchen in London, and teaching young people the benefits of good oral health through the DOCSKids program, all while mentoring her peers.

Passionate about research, Archibald has spent three summers involved with the School's Summer Student Research Program. She enjoyed rewarding research experiences after her first year with Graeme Hunter, PhD, and Harvey Goldberg, PhD, when she focused on biomineralization, and during her second year with Drs. Jacinta Santos and Gildo Santos when she completed a clinical evaluation of different treatment options for tooth restoration.

Following her third year, Archibald went in yet another direction and began working with Dr. Sahza Hatibovic-Kofman.

Working at the Children's Clinic and three community clinics, Archibald conducted research on the efficacy of a new sealant material for paediatric patients. Her work garnered her the CDA/Dentsply Award at Schulich Dentistry's annual Research Day, and she'll travel to the 2017 Canadian Dental Association National Conference to present her findings.

While Archibald spent the summer in the lab, during the academic year, she indulged her passion for the local community by volunteering with DOCS.

The program provides free dental care to low-income families who have no dental insurance. As challenging as it was to make the time due to the demands of her studies, she felt invigorated after each session. "I'd be at the clinic helping out with DOCS and say to myself, wow, I get to do this as part of my training and I've just made a huge difference in someone's life," she said.

Making a difference in people's lives is one of the things that Archibald loves so much about dentistry. And when she was chosen to travel to Moose Factory in Northern Ontario to provide dental care to community members she jumped at the opportunity. "To be selected to participate was incredible," she said. "We worked for two weeks providing hospital dentistry and learning about the health issues people face in Ontario's North."

Meanwhile back in London, Archibald is furthering her commitment to the community as an executive member of DOCSKids and by volunteering in a local soup kitchen. She is also an executive and founding member of the Western University branch of the Student Professionalism and Ethics Association, a national, student-driven association that was established to promote and support students' lifelong commitment to ethical behaviour — to benefit the patients they serve and to further the dental profession.

With only a few months until graduation, Archibald is grateful for her experiences thus far. "I'm so happy that I came to Schulich Dentistry. We're really lucky we're getting such a great education."

Through it all she has learned the value of collaboration, teamwork and the importance of community. She'll take all the lessons and experiences from the past four years to complete her journey of becoming Dr. Archibald. ■

*“I’d be at the clinic helping out with DOCS and say to myself, wow, I get to do this as part of my training and I’ve just made a huge difference in someone’s life.”*

—Jennifer Archibald





# Finding the **evidence** in 'evidence-based practice'

*The Summer Student Research Program gives dentistry students a chance to participate directly in the science that informs their clinical work*

By Crystal Mackay, MA'05

The best way for dentistry students to understand what it means to practise evidence-based dentistry, is to be directly involved in finding that evidence. Being exposed to research early on in their careers helps students develop important critical-thinking skills vital to the practice.

That's where the Summer Student Research Program comes in.

Each year, when their classmates have packed up their dental kits and gone home for the summer, a select group of students are working away on answering important research questions. These students are given the opportunity to contribute to clinical and basic science research under the supervision of faculty members at the School. They cap off their experience by presenting their work as part of Dentistry's annual Research Day.

"Our profession is based on science, so the science tells us why and how we do what we do and gives us the bedrock of clinical practice," said Dr. Stephen Ferrier, program coordinator of the Summer Student Research Program. "To have the experience of where that science comes from really equips the dentist to be ahead of the game and have critical thinking skills when it comes to new developments in dentistry."

Guessy Wang, fourth-year student at Schulich Dentistry, spent this past summer carefully studying patient charts. She was exploring outcomes for patients with implants and the risk factors involved in those outcomes. Her work earned her one of the top three awards at Research Day and she will be able to travel to the 2017 Dental Student Research Conference in Maryland to present her work as part of that award.

"I was especially interested in this project because it has an important impact on what we provide to the patient directly and how we improve our practice," she said. "It was very important to me to be able to contribute to the field in that way."

Not all research as part of the program takes place in the clinic. David Feere's research took place outside of the dentist's chair completely. Working at the lab bench alongside basic science faculty at the School, the third-year student looked at fibroblasts found in the gingival or gum tissue and their response to healing. Because there is no scarring in the gingiva, his work looked at the gene expression in these fibroblasts compared to other fibroblasts in the body to understand why scarring doesn't occur in the oral cavity but does elsewhere.



Students cap off their summer experience by presenting posters at Dentistry's annual Research Day

"I think research changes your work as a dentist," he said. "Being involved in coming up with a research problem and finding ways to solve it allows us to think about things differently."

Once he sets up his practice as a dentist, he hopes to be able to continue his research.

"Research gets me excited because of the possibility of finding new or novel things that may influence the way we understand the world," he said. "And you never know when you are going to stumble upon something that is really meaningful."

This is music to the ears of Dr. Harvey Goldberg, assistant director of Research at Schulich Dentistry, who says part of the program's goal is to encourage students to consider careers in oral health research.

"If even a small portion of the students who come through the program develop a passion for research, it will be a huge asset to the profession," said Dr. Goldberg.

The program's popularity has grown rapidly since 2011, essentially tripling in size to the current 15 funded student projects this year. The program is funded by the School and generous donations from various sponsors, including the Ontario Dental Association. ■

## 2016 DENTISTRY SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM

**Farah Abu Sharkh**, Class of 2018  
Supervised by Drs. Timothy Wilson  
and Khadry Galil

**Kim Beaucage**, Class of 2018  
Supervised by Drs. Jeff Dixon,  
Cheryl Seguin and David Holdsworth

**Jennifer Branch**, Class of 2018  
Supervised by Dr. Andrew Leask

**David Feere**, Class of 2018  
Supervised by Dr. Andrew Leask

**Erik Holm**, Class of 2018  
Supervised by Drs. David Holdsworth  
and Amin Rizkalla

**Sari Johnston**, Class of 2019  
Supervised by Drs. Michael Shimizu  
and Ali Tassi

**Jordan Khankhet**, Class of 2018  
Supervised by Dr. Ali Tassi

**Shawna Kim**, Class of 2019  
Supervised by Dr. Douglas Hamilton

**Carissa Menant Tay**, Class of 2019  
Supervised by Dr. Douglas Hamilton

**Yuliya Mulyar**, Class of 2017  
Supervised by Dr. Walter Siqueira

**Imad Siddique**, Class of 2019  
Supervised by Drs. Maria Jacinta  
and Gildo Santos

**Leah van Draanen**, Class of 2018  
Supervised by Dr. Christina McCord

**Guessy Wang**, Class of 2017  
Supervised by Drs. Harinder Sandhu,  
Richard Bohay and Yara Hosein

**Allen Xian**, Class of 2018  
Supervised by Dr. Les Kalman

**Andrei Zaharia**, Class of 2019  
Supervised by Drs. Amin Rizkalla  
and Jeff Dixon

# A conversation with Dr. Christy Nicolucci

For the past year, Dr. Christy Nicolucci, DDS'07, has served as the President of the Dental Alumni Society, taking over the reins from Dr. Veronica Lee, DDS'07. We caught up with Dr. Nicolucci, when she took a break from her busy practice, to learn more about the Society, the plan to update its role and the opportunities for alumni to become involved.

## **What activities has the Society been involved with in the past year?**

This year, the Society was busy with a few activities. We worked closely with the School's alumni engagement officer, Nicole Dorssers, and helped to plan the ODA Dentistry Alumni Reception and the Dentistry Cocktail Party during Reunion Weekend.

One of our main tasks this year was to manage and administer the Dentistry Alumni of Distinction Awards. This year, we were so pleased at the number of nominations that were submitted; there are just so many accomplished alumni.

As you may know, we awarded two awards this year to Dr. Brenda Thomson, DDS'84 and Dr. Bruce Hill, MCID'90. We had a great time celebrating with Brenda and Bruce at the Dean's Gala. It was the first time I attended, and we really enjoyed ourselves.



## **How can people nominate someone for the 2017 awards?**

We've been working with the School and the nomination forms are now available on the website. The deadline for submissions is March 10. I really hope everyone will give this thought – so many of our classmates are doing great things out there and they should be recognized.

## **What plans does the Society have for the upcoming year?**

We have a number of plans underway. As always, we'll be helping to host the alumni reception on May 5 at the ODA Spring Meeting. And with Homecoming weekend taking place from October 20-21, we will once again host a cocktail party and present the Alumni of Distinction Awards at the Dean's Gala.

We've also got some new things planned, and we are working closely with Nicole to implement them. As the School plans to build a larger overall alumni society, we will be making some modifications to our terms of reference as a society and recruiting new members to expand our role.

## **Why should people get involved with the Dental Alumni Society?**

When we were in School, our classes were a unit, we shared interests and experiences and there was a bond between us. When we graduated, we all went on to become individuals in our own right. Of course, it makes sense that this would happen. Participating in the Alumni Society brings us back again as a team. It's really a wonderful way to invigorate our work lives and remain connected to Western.

## **How can people get involved with the Dental Alumni Society?**

We are hosting a luncheon during the ODA Annual Spring Meeting on Friday, May 5, and welcome any alumni who are interested in getting involved. If people would like to participate, they can email Nicole Dorssers at [nicole.dorssers@schulich.uwo.ca](mailto:nicole.dorssers@schulich.uwo.ca) for more information. We look forward to a great turnout at the luncheon and the reception. ■



## *Celebrating Dentistry* **ALUMNI**

Recognize one of your former classmates or a colleague who you know has made outstanding contributions to the School, the community, and/or their profession by nominating them for an **Alumni of Distinction Award**.

The Alumni of Distinction Awards will be presented at the annual Dean's Gala taking place on Saturday, October 21, 2017. A Dentistry Alumni Cocktail Party will be held prior to the Dean's Gala.

**The deadline for nominations is Friday, March 10, 2017.**

Visit [schulich.uwo.ca/alumni\\_of\\_distinction\\_awards](http://schulich.uwo.ca/alumni_of_distinction_awards) today for awards criteria and nomination forms.



# Working the plan

By Jennifer Parraga, BA'93

The research was analyzed, the survey results reviewed and the consultations completed. The end result was a brand new 10-year strategic plan for Schulich Dentistry.

The plan identified four strategic directions and, within that, four major priority projects were identified. They included a new human resources model; the re-engineering of the clinical education operational, teaching and practice management processes and procedures; the development of a technology strategy and investment plan; and a new faculty development model.

The only thing left to be done was to begin working the plan.

Four leaders within Dentistry stepped up to the challenge and were joined by teams of faculty, staff and student volunteers to begin the heavy lifting and

advance the strategic plan projects.

For nearly a year, the committees have been meeting regularly to advance their work. Meanwhile, the Dental Renewal Committee has received bi-weekly reports and presentations on the progress from each committee.

Dr. Henry Lapointe, DDS'82, and his committee have been working to build the optimum human resources capacity model and faculty and staff organizational structure to ensure that Schulich Dentistry is aligned and able to achieve the strategic plan.

Intricate and complex are two words that stand out for Dr. Lapointe when thinking about the work his committee undertook. "It was challenging," admits Dr. Lapointe, who gathered all the information from disparate sources including surveys and retreats, and

worked to develop a new organizational model.

In the end, however, Dr. Lapointe is satisfied with the outcome, and really pleased that his committee arrived at similar conclusions to those developed by Dr. Karin Van Ryswyk's committee.

Dr. Van Ryswyk, DDS'86, and her team were charged with identifying the ideal clinical and teaching processes and procedures in order to implement the best teaching and learning environment.

Now Drs. Lapointe and Van Ryswyk are preparing final reports with recommendations to be reviewed and ultimately approved by the Dental Renewal Committee.

As the newly appointed Assistant Director of Faculty Affairs, Dr. Walter Siqueira enthusiastically took on the leadership to develop a new faculty preparedness plan that would focus on building the competencies of full- and part-time faculty. The committee working alongside Dr. Siqueira is continuing to meet and finalize recommendations for approval.

During the past year, significant technology advancements have been made in Dentistry. The new Simulation Laboratory and the Dr. Kent Floreani Orthodontic X-Ray Suite recently opened and the School is beginning to implement a new Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS). Plans are also underway to acquire and implement a new Clinic Management System. These changes factor prominently in the discussions of the technology committee. Led by Dr. Richard Bohay, the committee

**OUR VISION**  
**To be Canada's best dental school, delivering an extraordinary scholarly experience that prepares students to be exceptional dental professionals, with their communities and on the global stage.**

is developing a technology strategy and investment plan for the next 10 years.

In less than a year, two strategic planning committees are nearing completion of their work and two others are developing recommendations for review. It's all been possible thanks to dedicated leaders, and faculty, staff and student volunteers who have been focused on achieving the goal of becoming one of North America's top 10 dental schools. ■



Dr. Walter Siqueira

## THANKS TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN PROJECT COMMITTEES

### PROJECT 1 Human Resources Model

Henry Lapointe (Chair)  
Andrew Leask  
Betty Holme  
Deborah Lucas  
Abdulrahman Al-Osman  
Gildo Santos  
Timucin Ari  
Greg Jensen  
Arthur Worth  
Farah Sharkh  
Pagah Mirzhakalili  
Danielle Lamphorne  
Norma-Jean Trask

### PROJECT 2 Clinic Education Model

Karin Van Ryswyk (Chair)  
John Tupper  
Tom Mara  
Jim Jean  
Greg Jensen  
Gildo Santos  
Stephen Ferrier  
Jennifer Devlin  
Steven Injic  
Michael Tiedemann  
Michael Hornyak  
Patty Pappas  
Manny Friedman  
Ted Clement  
Paul Malcomson  
Wayne Baxter  
Kim Scott

### PROJECT 3 Information and Technology Strategy

Richard Bohay (Chair)  
Jacinta Santos  
Sergio Rodriguez  
Doug Hamilton  
Maha Nasser  
Cornel Driessen  
Jason Vincent  
David Omole  
Kim Scott

### PROJECT 4 Faculty Development Model

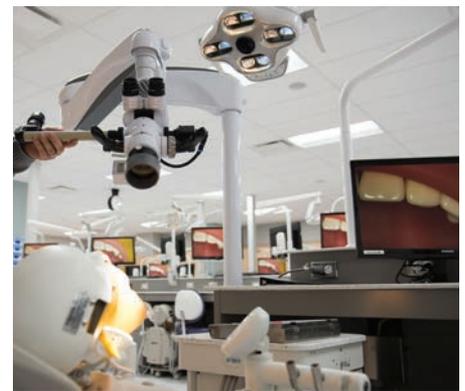
Walter Siqueira (Chair)  
Ali Tassi  
Brenda Davis  
Tom Mara  
Joe Armstrong  
Elliott Gnidec  
Paul Jackson  
Manfred Friedman  
Jennifer Archibald  
Yulia Mulyar  
Kathy Sadler

## SIMULATION LABORATORY TOUR

The future of simulation training has arrived at Schulich Dentistry. The new Simulation Laboratory opened its doors to first- and second-year students in 2016, replacing the older clinic constructed in 1968. The Laboratory is equipped with the latest teaching and dental technology, and allows for enhanced training opportunities. The renovation took one year to complete, and included a move to a completely different location. Get an up-close look at the new space and learn more about its advanced features.



Sixty hybrid work stations allow for simulation training and benchtop exercises. Each station features a patient simulator, an individual monitor linked to the lab's audio-visual system and LED lighting. The Laboratory also contains student lockers for convenient storage.



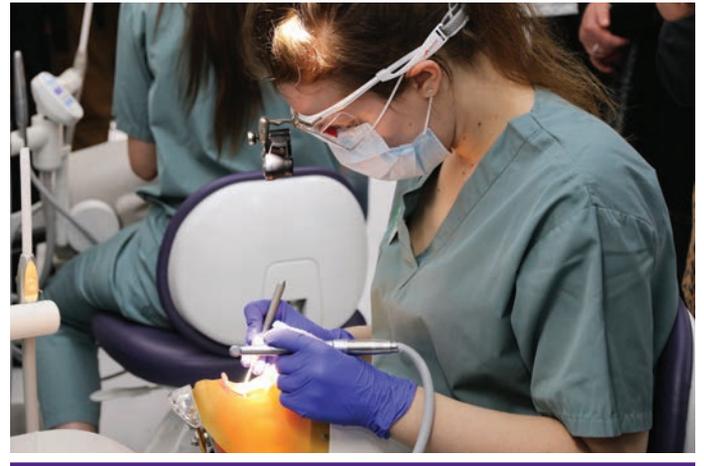
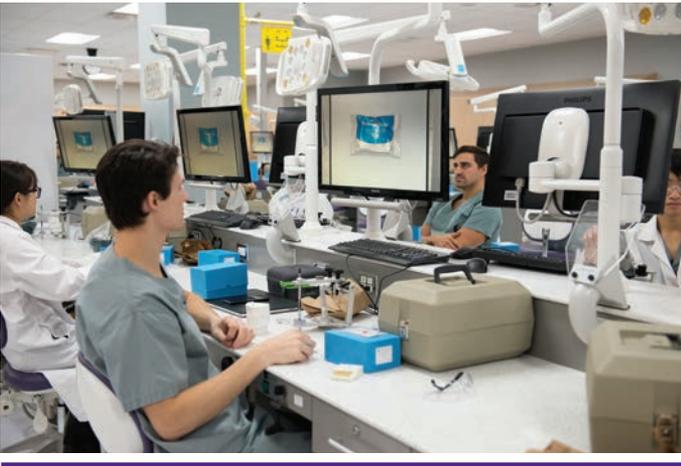
**Above and left:** The instructor work station significantly enhances teaching capabilities. It features several advanced tools, including a dental light camera, operating microscope and document camera. This state-of-the-art visual technology delivers examples via live-feed video directly to student work stations.



**Left:** Each work station provides bench space for practising technical procedures, such as setting teeth for dentures or waxing teeth for occlusion. The stations are equipped with dust extractors to minimize dust and promote better air quality.

**Below left:** Teaching materials are broadcast from the instructor's work station to individual monitors, delivering up-close views of information, slides, diagrams and procedures.

**Below:** Students refine their practical skills using the new patient simulators. Different typodonts enable learning for specific sub-disciplines such as restorative dentistry and endodontics.



**Below:** There are three digital x-ray capture stations in the Laboratory. The radiation-proof cabinets are attached to digital sensors through a computer acquisition program. Students can take radiographs of teeth and display the images on their individual monitors. There are also measurement, colourization and contrast tools available.



**Above:** The wet lab facilities provide space for pouring impressions and for mounting and trimming stone models.

# Family affair

*They may span three generations, but Dr. Jessica Gold, her father and her grandfather are bound by one common interest: the field of dentistry*



By Jessica Hurst, BA'14

For as long as Dr. Jessica Gold, DDS'16, can remember, dentistry has played a big role in her family's life.

"I remember attending family gatherings and overhearing my father and grandfather talking about dentistry in such a positive way," she recalled. "My mother and grandmother would joke that it was the only thing they could talk about, but I loved that it could bring parts of my family together in that way."

A recent graduate of Schulich Dentistry, Dr. Gold now contributes to all of the dentistry-related conversations that take place around the dinner table — something she has wanted to be able to do since she was a child.

And the young dentist certainly brings a new perspective to these discussions, as many advances have taken place in the field since her father and grandfather graduated from McGill University's dental school many years ago.

When Dr. Gold's grandfather, Dr. David Kaplansky, entered dental school in the late 1940s, he had just returned home after serving in World War II with the Royal Canadian Air Force. At that time, the polio vaccine had not yet been invented, space exploration had yet to take place, and the Internet and mobile devices were nowhere in sight. It would also take close to a decade before a fully-reclining dental chair would be released for commercial practice.

"When I first started my career, there was no such thing as implants or lasers," said 92-year-old Dr. Kaplansky, who worked





Left to right: Drs. David Kaplansky, Jessica Gold and Frank Gold

*“As I went through dental school, I started realizing what an incredible asset it was to have both my father and grandfather there as role models and teachers.”*

—Dr. Jessica Gold, DDS’16

at his practice for 54 years. “When I go into my son-in-law’s practice now, it is a whole new world. If I were younger, I would love to keep learning about all of the new techniques and materials being used today.”

But even Dr. Jessica Gold’s father, Dr. Frank Gold, noticed differences in the content his daughter was being taught in dental school. He explained that while the ‘meat and potatoes’ of dentistry have remained the same, technological progress and culture shifts have had a tremendous impact on the field.

Dr. Frank Gold continues to take part in continuing education to keep up with the latest progress in the field. Some of that continuing education even stems from phone calls with his daughter.

“I’ve already learned a lot from Jessica from the conversations we have had about cases we’ve each worked on in the past few

years,” he said. “One of our discussions actually led me to take a course on something I never used to do, and now I’m actually doing the procedure regularly.”

For someone straight out of undergraduate education, entering a challenging and competitive field can come with its ups and downs. Now completing a general practice residency at Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts, Dr. Jessica Gold explained it continues to be such a blessing to have mentors outside of the classroom that she can turn to for professional and personal support.

“As I went through dental school, I started realizing what an incredible asset it was to have both my father and grandfather there as role models and teachers,” she said. “We all have our friends, classmates and professors, but it has always been really nice to be able to talk to them about what I was learning and to involve them in the process.”

And in the near future, Dr. Jessica Gold will be taking that professional relationship even further by associating with her father’s dental practice in Oshawa.

“It has been a tremendous amount of fun to be able to bond with Jessica over this passion that we have,” Dr. Frank Gold said. “On a personal level, she is a great kid and I love being around her. But she’s also an excellent dentist, and I look forward to working with her outside of our phone calls and the conversations we have at family dinners.” ■

# A journey of reinvention

By Jessica Hurst, BA'14

*Dr. Karen Campbell has spent the entirety of her adult life inventing and reinventing herself — a process that has made the Schulich Dentistry alumna a better teacher, leader and paediatric dentist*

The early 1980s were a time of excitement, possibility and new developments for Dr. Karen Campbell.

Shortly after graduating from Schulich Dentistry in the spring of 1982, Dr. Campbell and her husband, Roy, welcomed their first son. With the economic downturn and their eyes set on a better future, the couple made the decision to up-root their young family and relocate to Iroquois Falls.

"Times were really good for us there for a number of years," Dr. Campbell said. "I set up a small dental practice and my husband worked in a gold mine. We were comfortable. Our second son was born there."

But with the rise in popularity of the personal computer and the Internet came a decline in the pulp and paper industry that had been supporting the small town they called home. The bottom began to fall out of the newsprint market, and people lost their jobs and their health benefits. Dr. Campbell saw the writing on the wall.

"That was the first of many times in my career that I had to adapt and reconfigure my career trajectory," she said. The health professional decided it would make the most sense to sell the practice and move back to London where she would have more opportunities and connections.

Working within her network in London, Dr. Campbell practised in various clinical settings in public health and private practice. And having the opportunity to treat mostly children and teach part-time at Schulich Dentistry in the Division of Paediatric Dentistry opened her eyes to how





much she enjoyed engaging with students and trainees.

Always looking to improve herself, Dr. Campbell decided to complete a three-year combined MSc degree and clinical diploma program in paediatric dentistry at the University of Toronto after 20 years of practice. This accomplishment guided her into specialty practice, and into a greater teaching role at Schulich Dentistry.

Shortly after Dr. Campbell made this career shift, her husband was diagnosed with Stage IV cancer. She supported him as he underwent treatment on and off for more than two years. He passed away from the disease in 2009.

Dr. Campbell once again found herself at a turning point. The Schulich Dentistry alumna told herself she had only two options — to retire completely, or dive deeper into her work.

“Everyone says that you shouldn’t make any important decisions after you face a major life event, but I didn’t listen to that advice at all,” she said with a laugh. “In fact, I did the exact opposite.”

Dr. Campbell was offered a position at the University of British Columbia (UBC) that would allow her to teach in the school’s new Graduate Program in Paediatric Dentistry. She accepted immediately.

“I knew very little about UBC or Vancouver, so making the decision to take on the role was both an adventure and a leap of faith,” she explained. “But once I sold my house and moved out here in 2010, I received wonderful mentorship and started my work with really great colleagues.”

Dr. Campbell is now Chief of Dentistry at BC Children’s Hospital, Clinical Associate Professor and Director of UBC’s Graduate Program in Paediatric Dentistry.

A leader in her field, Dr. Campbell credits her education at Schulich Dentistry with preparing her for the many changes she’s encountered throughout her career.

“I truly believe I received my dental education in the golden era of dentistry, as I had the opportunity to learn from some of the best professors,” she said. “Those years strengthened my ability to adapt to the many hats I’ve had the opportunity to wear.” ■

# A team player

*In the clinic, at the rink or on the water, Dr. Mark Botsford sees himself as a member of the team – striving for success*

By Jennifer Parraga, BA'93

For Dr. Mark Botsford, DDS'89, dentistry is a team sport. "Each player has a unique role to play and together we are all focused on a singular goal – treating our patient," he said.

It's a philosophy that his more than 4,800 patients benefit from. With his team comprised of two associates and three hygienists, he keeps things humming during the day in two busy family practices in Strathroy and London.

***The sports aficionado provides regular dental and on-demand care to the players and supports emergency services during games. Well positioned at rink side, he's seen his fair share of trauma.***

In the evenings and on weekends, Dr. Botsford shares his dental expertise and philosophy with a much larger team – the London Knights of the Ontario Hockey League. As the team dentist, Dr. Botsford attends every home game, and is there to support the Knights players, as well as the visiting team.

The sports aficionado, who has been working with the Knights since 2009, provides regular dental and on-demand care to the players, and supports emergency services during games. Well positioned at rink side, he's seen his fair share of trauma – from knocked-out teeth to jaw fractures.

There have been some challenging individual cases

too. Dr. Botsford shares the story of a young player who continued to have his teeth knocked out almost as soon as they had been replaced. "We would patch him up and fix his teeth, and the next game he'd get a another stick in the mouth; he was a magnet for injury. We ended up taking out seven of his teeth over time," he said.

With 34 home games during the regular season and even more during the playoffs, it's no easy task for Dr. Botsford to pick a favourite game. But for him, the most memorable three periods of play took place during the final game of the 2016 Memorial Cup.

Standing behind the team net, Dr. Botsford could feel the tension and the excitement from the players and the fans. "It ended in such dramatic fashion with the overtime goal," he said. "It was really the best game."

Dr. Botsford is as passionate about hockey as he is the players on the team he supports. "Those kids are great, they are so appreciative and friendly, so it's really fun to be part of what they are doing," he added.

Working with the Knights players reminds Dr. Botsford of his experience teaching dental students. For nearly 30 years, the proud alumnus served as a part-time faculty member – first in prosthodontics and then in operative care. "It was a good culture to be part of," he said. "And I enjoyed working with the students, and watching them progress to where they would begin to hone their skills and develop confidence."

Between his two practices, the Knights games, and work he does with Great West Life, it's hard to believe Dr. Botsford has the time or energy to pursue some of his hobbies. But this weekend athlete has recently joined a competitive dragon boat team, travelling to Welland two nights a week and on Saturdays to practice with his 20-member team.

"It's just like hockey and dentistry," he said. "The challenge comes from getting the team to play their role and focus on the end goal." ■



MASTERCARD MEMORIAL

Arctic Spa



# CREATIVE CUES

*Dr. Sepehr Rahmany's love for the performing arts has taken him from Schulich Dentistry's skit night stage to television screens across North America*

By Emily Leighton, MA'13

Known as 'the imitator' during his dental school days, Dr. Sepehr Rahmany, DDS'03, can toss out some uncanny impressions of past and present Schulich Dentistry faculty members.

This quirky knack for characters is one of the reasons he helped organize the annual dentistry skit nights throughout his four years at the School.

"I had a lot of fun with my classmates and professors during dental school," he said. "We developed close friendships."

Dr. Rahmany's acting talents were on display again about four years ago, in TV commercials for Crest and Oral-B that aired across North America.

He auditioned on a whim after a patient recommended him.

"I played a dentist, so it wasn't a stretch," he said with a laugh. "I consider it a stroke of luck. And it was a lot of fun to be a part of such a unique experience."

The amateur thespian has also performed in local theatre productions around Vancouver, where he now lives and works.

Dr. Rahmany was born in Iran in 1975. As members of the Baha'i faith, his family faced persecution and left the country before the 1979 revolution.

Landing in Canada at the age of four, Dr. Rahmany was raised in Ottawa and completed an undergraduate degree in human kinetics at the University of Ottawa.

The dental profession appealed to him because of the combination of several unique disciplines. "Dentistry is the perfect



marriage of art, engineering and health," he said. "And I feel I can really make a difference for people, improve their lives in a positive way."

Dr. Rahmany entered Schulich Dentistry in 1999, at a time when the Y2K scare was dominating news headlines. He remembers listening to rap and R&B artists like Usher, Sean Paul and Nelly, and embracing the 'frosted tips' hairstyle during his dental school days.

Apart from world events and pop culture, he also looks back at his four years of study with gratitude. "The School really prepared me for the practical experience of private practice," he said. "We were hands on from day one, which gave me confidence going out into the real world."

Having spent summers in Seattle during his dental degree, the call of the west coast proved irresistible and Dr. Rahmany settled in British Columbia immediately after graduation. "The lifestyle, the outdoor living, the scenery – it's incredible to live here," he explained.

Dr. Rahmany purchased a dental practice in North Vancouver in 2006 and has since expanded to take over two additional practices from retiring dentists in the area.

A self-described dental nerd, Dr. Rahmany continues to enhance his skills and qualif-

ications through continuing education courses in Canada and around the world. With this advanced training, he now performs implant surgery, gum grafting and wisdom teeth in-house.

The energetic 41-year-old is also committed to community work and currently helps young people foster a sense of community through informal gatherings and conversation.

"As a Baha'i, the highest station to achieve is that of servitude," Dr. Rahmany explained. "I think we all have a moral duty to learn about the world and to be concerned about the needs of others."

With no immediate plans to return to the stage or television screens, the successful dentist fills his spare time with recreational activities and family. He is raising two young children, a three-year-old and 13-month-old, with his wife, Samira.

He views his chosen profession as a commitment to life-long learning and building relationships, advice he passes on to dental students and recent graduates. "Constantly strive to learn more skills and make education a major priority throughout your career," he said. "And learn about your patients; their lives, families, adventures, and share yours with them." ■

***"The School really prepared me for the practical experience of private practice. We were hands on from day one, which gave me confidence going out into the real world."***

—Dr. Sepehr Rahmany, DDS'03

# TEAMWORK AND TALENT

*The team behind the Dentistry Surgical Care Unit is providing high-quality care to patients in the London community*



**By Emily Leighton, MA'13**

Friday is Dr. Joe Armstrong's favourite day of the week. Not for the excitement of the approaching weekend, but because Friday is OR day in the Dentistry Surgical Care Unit (DSCU).

"It's the high point of my week," said Dr. Armstrong, director of the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery program at Schulich Dentistry. "Everyone on the DSCU team looks forward to getting out of bed on Friday mornings."

Operating as an outpatient day-surgery unit, the DSCU enables the provision of oral surgery and a wide spectrum of dental procedures. It features two state-of-the-art operating rooms, six recovery bays and a nursing station.

The Unit is a freestanding operating facility – it does not exist within the walls of a hospital – which makes it unique among Canadian dental schools.

The Unit was the result of a special collaboration between Schulich Dentistry and the Department of Anesthesia & Perioperative Medicine. "We've worked together in the planning and design, equipment selection and clinical methods," explained Dr. Armstrong. "It's a multi-disciplinary approach and environment."

The strong partnership is paying off – staff members are performing highly efficient procedures with low complication rates. The Unit also marked a significant milestone this past summer – 100 successful patient cases.

Mary Lou Gough, the Unit's charge nurse and operational manager, attributes

the success to the team of people who come together every Friday morning and consistently deliver high-quality care. "I'm very proud of the team we've built," she said. "There's a huge amount of expertise and it's a very positive, friendly culture."

Dr. Armstrong agrees, emphasizing a shared commitment to excellence. "Our approach is completely based around excellence in patient care and patient safety," he said.

The Unit is currently staffed by a team of nine, including dental surgeons, anesthesiologists, registered nurses, dental assistants and other allied health professionals.

"It's incredibly gratifying to be a part of this project and see it succeed," said Dr. Christopher Harle, assistant professor in the Department of Anesthesia & Peri-operative Medicine, who was instrumental in planning and development from the Unit's inception. "I think we're all emotionally invested, having put in a lot of time, effort and interest."

The DSCU currently accepts healthy adult patients, but will be phasing in paediatric cases in early 2017. At full capacity, it can accommodate up to 60 patients per week, and plans include extending care to geriatric and special needs patients.

By expanding the scope of clinical care offered at Schulich Dentistry, the Unit is a key player in making specialty dental services more accessible in the London region.

"It's important to look at the Unit as a community resource," said Dr. Armstrong. "Our patients are the people of London and Southwestern Ontario, and this clinical service is for everyone to utilize."

In addition to patient access, the DSCU will also enhance clinical learning experiences for Schulich Medicine & Dentistry students and residents.

"The Unit provides an ideal interdisciplinary learning environment for students to learn minor surgical procedures, through observation and controlled teaching moments," explained Dr. Armstrong.

The combination of patient care, community impact and education is key to Schulich Dentistry's future. "The goal is to be a top 10 dental school in North America, and the Unit's successes will be a big contributor to that," said Gough. ■



***“It’s important to look at the Unit as a community resource. Our patients are the people of London and Southwestern Ontario, and this clinical service is for everyone to utilize.”***

—Dr. Joe Armstrong



From left to right: Dr. Joe Armstrong, Patience Chipperfield, Mary-Elizabeth Jones, Joe Serodio, Kim Jacques, Karen Willis, Mary Lou Gough, Anessa Kadri, Dr. Christopher Harle

# Big picture thinking



## *Hey Schwartzy, are you having fun yet?*

It's a question that, as a dental student, Dr. Barry Schwartz would hear from his mentor, Dr. Paul Morgan. "I'd be up to my elbows in a surgery or a procedure and he'd ask me this," said Dr. Schwartz. "He did so to help keep me balanced and in a positive frame of mind – and I needed that."

It's not all Dr. Morgan did for Dr. Schwartz. As a role model, Dr. Morgan demonstrated the 'bests' of dentistry for the young student. From communicating effectively and dealing with patients fairly to maintaining optimism; he exemplified what being professional looked like to the young student. "He lit a candle for me," said Dr. Schwartz.

Today, as an assistant professor teaching more than 100 hours of classes at Schulich Dentistry, he's sharing all he learned from Dr. Morgan and so much more.

What Dr. Schwartz began nearly 14 years ago at Schulich Dentistry – with just three hours of classes focused on ethics and professionalism, communication, and dental jurisprudence – has developed into a full program with four courses offered to students in each of the four years of their dental education.

The curriculum, which is unique to Schulich Dentistry, aims to enhance the students' education so that they will become well-rounded dental professionals. It's progressive and integrated, with each year building on the learnings from the previous year while incorporating other aspects of the curriculum.

The courses have been designed to reflect where the students are with the rest of the studies, and whether or not they are engaging with patients and other health care professionals.

"When I arrive in the classroom on the first day of the first class in Year One, I ask the students to put their pens down, power down their lap tops, open their minds, and start thinking," said Dr. Schwartz.

He challenges these future dentists to begin to think more critically – something that doesn't happen overnight for everyone.

The first-year course is introductory, and the goal is for students to begin applying critical thinking to different situations. The course offers the future dentists the opportunity to undertake three projects that involve real situations connected to the practice of dentistry, to study an ethics case, and to write a personal journal.

In one such project, students are challenged to consider how an action by a dental professional outside of the office may damage the reputation of the profession as a whole. This year, the first-year class wrote about the mainstream and social media storm around Cecil the lion, who was hunted and killed by a dentist.

Building on this, in second year, students focus on more specific subjects such as informed consent.

By third year, ethics and communication theory comes to life for students, as they are now interacting directly with patients in the clinic on a regular basis.

Additionally, themes such as dentists in society, dentists as colleagues and dental research are explored. And lecture topics focus on access to care, standards of care, dealing with error, and applied communications, to name a few.

The subjects of ethics and communications are integrated with regulations and guidelines affecting dental practice in the final year of study. Small group discussions take place covering topics such as the ethical treatment of staff and colleagues, boundary issues and advertising and marketing. Meanwhile, through standardized patient workshops, students practise encounters that bring to light legal responsibilities and communication dilemmas in challenging scenarios.

Dr. Schwartz gives credit to the School for adapting the curriculum to include

***“When I see the students having an ‘aha’ moment and really starting to see the big picture, that’s the greatest reward for me.”***

—Dr. Barry Schwartz

these courses. "The School and Western are very progressive, and we've had some amazing deans who have been extremely supportive of this programming," he said.

It's been a rewarding process for Dr. Schwartz to have been part of creating a new component to the program. It's even more satisfying to watch the growth of his students. "When I see the students having an 'aha' moment and really starting to see the big picture, that's the greatest reward for me," he said.

Getting to today, as a professor, bio-ethicist and educator has been an interesting journey for Dr. Schwartz.

From the age of 12, Dr. Schwartz knew he wanted to be a dentist. But at age 49, he was forced to leave his practice due to the development of an essential tremor.

His own dental education experience and the valuable mentorship and learnings about ethics and professionalism from Dr. Paul Morgan became even more important when he considered his next step.

With a keen interest in bioethics, he knew that completing a master's degree was the right road to take. As part of his studies, he worked with Dr. Stan Kogon to develop the ethics course at Schulich Dentistry.

Today, he's leading the country with this unique curriculum.

Dr. Schwartz's dedication to his students and enthusiasm for this curriculum is palpable. He believes he probably gets just as much out of the program as the students.

The best part is that he's still having fun. ■



Drs. Timucin Ari and Gordon Payne

# Community mentors

*A new community clinic rotation is enhancing paediatric training and mentorship for third-year Schulich Dentistry students*

**By Emily Leighton, MA'13**

Magic wands, raincoats and tooth washers. These may sound like must-have accessories for the tooth fairy, but for students at Schulich Dentistry they are part of a specialized vocabulary.

Through the School's paediatric dentistry program, students learn new ways to describe tools and procedures to children with the goal of making a visit to the dentist more comfortable, efficient and fun – curing lights become magic wands, dental dams transform into raincoats and drills act as tooth washers.

A new initiative at the School is enhancing this type of specialty training through rotations at local paediatric dentistry practices.

As part of the third-year curriculum, students are now required to visit a community clinic for at least two full days, shadowing and observing faculty members at work in their own practices.

"In the community, students will observe cases and learn in a clinical environment that is quite different from our school-based teaching," explained Dr. Timucin Ari, chair of the Division of Orthodontics and Paediatric Dentistry.

The new rotations give students an up-close look at behaviour management strategies, specific dental techniques and sedation methods. Students also gain exposure to unique patient populations, including children with special needs.

Dr. Gordon Payne, DDS'86, a paediatric dentist and dedicated part-time faculty member, has hosted several students at his busy London practice.

"I've got all this knowledge I want to pass on, and I want to have time to sit down with students and show them how rewarding paediatric dentistry can be," he said. "Not only do they see how to complete procedures more efficiently, but they also learn how to manage young patients and experience the flow of a typical paediatric dental office."

Dr. Ari and Dr. Clive Friedman, a part-time faculty member, have also welcomed students at their local practice.

The community experience complements a robust paediatric program at Schulich Dentistry, which starts with lectures and coursework in the second-year curriculum.

Third- and fourth-year students gain clinical experience working with patients from two to 12 years of age in the Children's Clinic. Set up to simulate a real dental practice, about 2,400 patients are cared for at the Clinic each year.

A key contributor to the overall success of the program is the small group of faculty who present lectures and oversee clinical instruction. "Faculty mentorship is key in our approach to dental education," said Dr. Ari. "And the faculty are helping make the paediatric program a stand-out at the School; their contributions are the reason for its continued success."

One of the motivations in implementing the community clinic rotations is to build on these strengths in teaching and increase opportunities for formal mentorship between faculty and students.

"Mentorship better prepares our students to serve their patients and communities," explained Dr. Ari.

In addition to the in-person experience

## ***"Mentorship better prepares our students to serve their patients and communities."***

—Dr. Timucin Ari

at local dental practices, students also write and submit reflective journals. The new initiative has been so well received that Drs. Ari and Payne are considering extending it to fourth-year students.

"This year is the test drive, to work out the practical elements and assess the learning benefits," said Dr. Ari. "It's been amazing to hear the feedback from students; they've all learned a lot and really valued the experience."

For Dr. Payne, showing students the day-to-day realities of a paediatric dental office makes teaching even more enjoyable. "Opening a student's eyes to how much fun paediatric dentistry can be, that's the thing that is so rewarding for me as an educator," he said. ■

**"I learned the importance of conducting and using the right practice management tools to enhance the dental experience for the child, so they may be more accepting toward dental treatment in the future."**

—Neelima Soni, Class of 2018

**"While shadowing Dr. Payne in his operatory, I experienced practice efficiency, patient communication, time management, organizational skills, and leadership."**

—Pooja Bhatt, Class of 2018

**"I learned how to engage with a variety of children and make them feel comfortable at the dentist's office. I also gained a lot of insight into different techniques for treating special needs patients."**

—David Omole, Class of 2018



## RESEARCH DAY AWARDS

Awarded for outstanding student poster presentations at Schulich Dentistry's annual Research Day. Recipients will represent Schulich Dentistry at upcoming research conferences.

### ADA Foundation Travel Award

**Gussy Wang**, Class of 2017  
Supervised by Drs. Harinder Sandhu, Richard Bohay and Yara Hosein

*A retrospective clinical and radiographic analysis of dental implants placed and restored in an undergraduate dental program*

ADA Dental Student Research Conference in Maryland

### CDA/Dentsply Research Travel Award

**Jennifer Archibald**, Class of 2017  
Supervised by Dr. Sahza Hatibovic-Kofman

*Long-term clinical study of hydrophobic and hydrophilic sealant materials in pediatric patients*

CDA National Oral Health Conference in Canada

### Hinman Student Research Travel Award

**David Feere**, Class of 2018  
Supervised by Dr. Andrew Leask

*Effect of matrix stiffness on fibroblast gene expression*

Hinman Student Research Symposium in Memphis, Tennessee

## FALL AWARDS

More than 20 awards were presented to faculty and students at the annual Schulich Dentistry Fall Awards Reception in November.

### Faculty Awards

**Dr. Timothy Wilson** was awarded the **W.W. Wood Faculty Award**, recognizing excellence in dental education. This special award commemorates Dr. Bill Wood, whose academic career exemplified dedication to research, teaching and service.

**Dr. Manny Friedman** received the **C.Y. Lung Award**, recognizing outstanding contributions made by a part-time faculty member to the undergraduate dental program.

### Class of 2017

**Jennifer Archibald**  
Canadian Academy of Periodontology Award; Dentistry Class of 1975 Scholarship; Schulich Dentistry Prize in Professionalism and Ethics

### Chloe Grondin

Academy of Operative Dentistry Award

### Jessica Gubernat

Elgin Dental Association Award in Oral Surgery

### Oies Hussein

Association of Prosthodontists of Ontario Award

### Peter Kim

Ontario Dental Association Proficiency Award

### Vida Lam

Western Faculty Association Scholarship

### Sara Worth

Centennial Orthodontics and Paediatric Dentistry Award; International College of Dentists Award

### Class of 2018

#### Tahir Ali

Laura Stakiw Memorial Award

#### Sydney Cormier

Centennial Orthodontic and Paediatric Dentistry Award

#### Carolyn Karr

Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario Scholarship Second Year  
Dr. Donald MacLean Award in Oral Radiology

#### Michael Rullo

Toronto Crown & Bridge Study Club Award

### Class of 2019

#### Alexandra Bonin

Dentistry Class of 1975 Scholarship

#### Brittney Leeming

Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario Dean's Award of Excellence

#### Thomas Proulx

Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario Scholarship First Year  
General Medicine Award

#### Andrei Zaharia

Dr. Sam Ioannidis Memorial Award  
Toronto Crown & Bridge Study Club Award

## GRADUATE ORTHODONTICS

**Right: Front row (left to right):** Dr. Michael Greene, Class of 2018; Dr. Christos Papadopoulos, Class of 2017; Dr. Diego Diaz, Class of 2019. **Back row (left to right):** Dr. Maria Pia Canales, Class of 2018; Dr. Woody Neilson, Class of 2019; Dr. Antonios Mamandras, Chair; Dr. Johnny Tran, Class of 2019; Dr. Erin Eyer, Class of 2017; Dr. Michelle Watroba, Class of 2017; Dr. Jennifer Curran, Class of 2018

**Below: From left to right:** Dr. Meena Na, MCID'16; Dr. Derek Tomson, MCID'16; Dr. Andrew Emanuele, MCID'16



## GRADUATE ORTHODONTICS

### Congratulations to the Class of 2016

Dr. Andrew Emanuele  
Dr. Meena Na  
Dr. Derek Tomson

### Welcome to the Class of 2019

Dr. Diego Diaz  
Dr. Woody Nielson  
Dr. Johnny Tran



### Alumni Weekend festivities

Graduate Orthodontics hosted an alumni reunion weekend from November 3-5, 2016. Highlights included a reception at the Graduate Orthodontic Clinic and a dinner at the Ivey-Spencer Leadership Centre. Dr. Kent Floreani, MCID'92, and his wife, Francine, were recognized for their generous donation supporting a new, fully-equipped orthodontic radiography suite at the School.

The next alumni reunion weekend will celebrate the program's 45th anniversary in November 2018. Drs. Len Chumak, MCID'85, and Ali Tassi, MCID'07, assistant professor, will be organizing this exciting event. ■



**Above: From left to right:** Dr. Ali Tassi, MCID'07; Dr. Kent Floreani, MCID'92; Dr. Harinder Sandhu; Dr. Annop Sondhi; Dr. Antonios Mamandras, Chair



**Above: From left to right:** Dr. Antonios Mamandras, Chair; Dr. Len Chumak, MCID'85; Dr. Drew McCallum; Dr. Marc Plus, MCID'79

## NEW RESIDENCY APPOINTMENTS

### Oral Maxillofacial Surgery (OFMS) Resident

Dr. Jeff Soparlo

### General Practice Residency (GPR) Residents

Dr. Derek Chung  
Dr. Kasia Dymerska  
Dr. Leanna Dunn  
Dr. Carol Lui



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DENTISTRY  
SCHULICH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY  
WESTERN UNIVERSITY  
LONDON, ON N6A 5C1