

THE BRIDGE

SCHULICH DENTISTRY ALUMNI NEWSLETTER | 2013



Schulich Dentistry Class of 2012

On June 20, 2012, the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry conferred 69 new graduates with their Doctor of Dental Science degree, including 15 students from the Internationally Trained Dentists program.

Adam, Eva

Anderson, Philip - UWO Gold Medal, American Academy of Periodontology Award, Dr. Igor Bolta Memorial Award in Restorative Dentistry

Banga, Susan

Bapoo, Hussein

Barzan, Guy - Alpha Omega Award, American Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons Student Award

Bahl (Van Der Maden), Melissa

Becir, Christopher

Behzadpoor, Doreh

Birek, Juliana - London & District Dental Society Award, Quintessence Award in Periodontics

Bossy, Johnathan

Burley, Erin - Academy of Dentistry for the Disabled Award, American Association of Endodontists Award

Chae, Young

Chan, Peter

Chang, Shi-Yun

Chattha, Gurpreet

Chiesa, Julia - American Academy of Orofacial Pain Award

Chung, Youly

Cornacchio, Angelica

Daneshvar, Niosha - American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Award

Dhaliwal, Lovneen

Dogra, Meenakshi

Fortino, Joseph

Ghanbary, Gelare

Gill, Kamal

Hasan, Agha

Hashem, Nelly - Senior Award in Oral Pathology, Michael Brooke Award in Oral Medicine, American Association of Orthodontics Award in Oro-Facial Growth

Hornby, Kyle

Jiang, Linda

Kalmantis, Elena

Kaprilian, Mireille

Khalid, Aarish

Khalid, Anwar - Toronto Academy Crown & Bridge Study Club

Khalid, Maaheen

Khojasteh, Mahmoud

Kim, Yong

Kua, Choo-Soon

Lam, Kent - Dr. Paul S. Sills Award in Prosthodontics

Lang, Adam

Lee, Daniel

MacIntosh, Kayleigh - Quintessence Award in Restorative Dentistry

Malkin, Dianna

McCallum, Jeremy - Ontario Dental Association Proficiency Award

McDonald, Erin - Quintessence Research Award, Dr. Donald S. Moore Award in Occlusal Therapy

McDonough, Patrick - Academy of General Dentistry Senior Student Award

Mojdani, Zahra

Nazarali, Natasha

O'Shea, Heather - Canadian Dental Association Leadership Award

O'Young, Jason

Reyhani, Azadeh - Senior Award in Paediatric Dentistry

Rogers, Michael - Dr. John C. McLister Service Award, Dr. Walter R. Teteruck Award in Fixed Prosthodontics

Shah, Palak

Wall, Jordan - 3M Canada Clinical Award in Restorative Dentistry

Yu, Cara

Zariczniak, Bogdan

Internationally Trained Dentists

Abdulkarim, Mace

Baradaran-Abdollahi, Shahrooz - Dr. Glenn Walker Award

Dawood, Laith

Doust, Elham

Grzegorzczuk, Alicja

Kashefi, Ali

Mahajan, Anuka

Mirkheshti, Farzad

Munjaj, Ajay - Kenneth F. Pownall Memorial Scholarship, Dr. George Bedrosian Memorial Award in Restorative Dentistry

Pazouki, Javad

Pinto, Viviana

Santi, Alexandre

Sayyad, Farvah

Taghizadeh, Behrooz

Wu, Hua - Dr. Gerald Z. Wright Award



Contents

- 3** **FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR**
An overview of 2012 at Schulich Dentistry, as well as exciting projects, programs and changes in the coming year.
- 4** **A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN, SCHULICH MEDICINE & DENTISTRY**
How Schulich Medicine & Dentistry's vision and strategic plan will impact the dental program over the next year.
- 5** **SCHULICH DENTISTRY NEWS**
A highlight of events, awards, honours and updates from 2012.
- 7** **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**
Caring for the Community: Adopting the DOCS program into the new DDS curriculum.
- 8** **STUDENT PROFILE**
Blazing a trail in stride, meet Dr. Tommy Fok from the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS) program.
- 9** **RESEARCH**
Material Matters: Exploring Dr. Marcela Carrilho's research and recent move to Schulich Dentistry.
- 10** **FALL AWARDS**
Celebrating Achievement: Fall Awards 2012.
- 11** **ALUMNI PROFILE**
Celebrating the 2012 Dental Alumni of Distinction Award recipient: Dr. David Lawton.
- 13** **EDUCATION**
Moulding excellence with a renewed DDS curriculum.
- 15** **THE NEW GENERAL ANESTHETIC SUITE**
Expanded facilities support special needs patients.
- 16** **RECOGNITION**
Recognizing the Dentistry Canada Fund for their gift to enrich student research.
- 17** **GRADUATE ORTHODONTICS**
A glimpse of this year's events in Graduate Orthodontics.
- 18** **NEW FACULTY AND RESIDENTS**
A look at new faculty and resident appointments at the School.



From the Desk of Dr. Harinder Sandhu

The past year has been an exciting one for Schulich Dentistry. As you may know, I had the great privilege to take a sabbatical from September 2011 to August 2012. During that time, I worked with our external partners at the Richard Ivey School of Business and am now in the process of completing a Fellowship in Public Policy and Advocacy at the American Dental Education Association in Washington, D.C.

I was never too far from the activities taking place at the School and maintained strong ties with the teams in London. I am immensely grateful to Dr. Bohay who served as acting director and vice-dean in my absence. His leadership ensured our work to produce the finest graduates and advance our research programs continued.

Schulich Dentistry is indeed prospering. Our new curriculum is solidly in place and our students

continue to grow as future dental professionals. Our Dental Outreach and Community Service (DOCS) Program which provides free dental care to low-income families has now been integrated into the curriculum as we continue to find new ways to live our values and develop socially responsible graduates.

Our research program which covers a spectrum of subjects from biomaterials to oral cancer is rich, productive and expanding.

In the coming months, construction crews will be descending upon the School as building commences on the new General Anesthetic Suite. Featuring two new operating rooms and six recovery bays, the new Suite will provide care to more than 60 people a week. Our focus will be on care for those patients with special needs or more complex concerns.

While the year has only

just begun, we have already started planning Homecoming Weekend. Mark your calendars, this year it will take place from September 27 to 29. As part of the celebrations, we will once again be recognizing our Alumni of Distinction Award recipients.

Maintaining connection with you is very important to us, and we are always seeking new ways to keep you up to date on our work in the School. Over the next year, you will begin to receive more communication from us with updates on our work. We hope that you will find this information interesting and engaging. As always, we welcome your contributions; if you wish to share your news with your fellow alumni, let us know and we can help.

Thank you for your continued support and interest, and all the best in 2013.

Harinder Sandhu, DDS, PHD, Dip. In Perio.
Director, Dentistry
Vice-Dean, Schulich Dentistry,
Western University

“ We have a new vision and a very focussed strategic plan guiding us as we work to strengthen our education and research programs, establish new partnerships, develop our faculty and staff and build our brand.”



A Message from Dr. Michael J. Strong

With the new year upon us, I have arrived at the mid-way point in my first term as Dean of the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. In the past two years, the leadership team, faculty and staff across the School have invested tremendous effort into planning and preparing for our future. We have a new vision and a very focussed strategic plan guiding us as we work to strengthen our education and research programs, establish new partnerships, develop our faculty and staff and build our brand. Now the real work begins, as we roll up our sleeves to achieve our goals and ensure our plans come to fruition.

During the next year, I will be working alongside Dr. Sandhu and the

team in Schulich Dentistry. We will focus on a variety of initiatives including the expansion of our facilities, the preparation of our graduates to play a broader role in the communities in which they live, an increase in the amount of high quality research, and the investigation of new opportunities to collaborate with dentistry schools internationally.

This newsletter shares a number of stories about the exciting projects already underway in Schulich Dentistry which are part of our strategic plan and are helping us to build toward a strong and successful future. As our alumni, your continued interest, involvement and support of our work plays a critical role.

We welcome your ideas and feedback and look forward to seeing you at one of the many events taking place in the next calendar year.

All the best,

Michael J. Strong, MD, FRCP(C)
Dean, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
Distinguished University Professor,
Western University

Schulich Dentistry News

Welcoming the Class of 2016

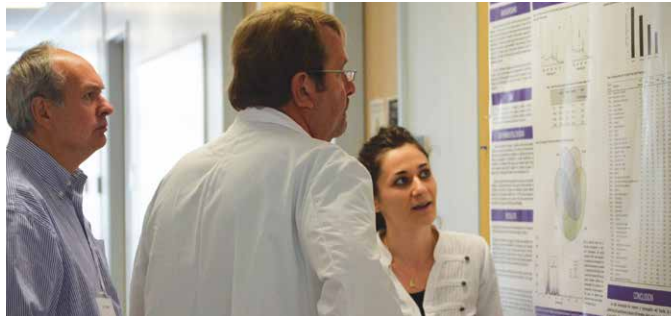
More than 507 applied and only 56 young men and women were successful. At the annual White Coat Ceremony along with their peers from the Internationally Trained Dentists program they were welcomed as the newest class to Schulich Dentistry. They proudly donned their white coats and then, under the leadership of Dr. Peter Trainor, President, Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario, recited the Oath of Commitment.



White Coat Ceremony welcoming the newest Schulich Dentistry DDS and ITD classes

Canada's newest dentists celebrated

While it happens every year, it never gets old – Convocation Day is always filled with great pride as Schulich Dentistry celebrates Canada's newest dentists. This past June, 69 new dentists joined the ranks. John Bossy offered the valedictory address, while Dr. Richard Bohay acted as Master of Ceremonies. Together with their families and friends, graduates enjoyed the ceremonies and reception at the Great Hall.



Top: Dr. J.T. Hamilton; Steven Holterman Ten Hove, MSc Candidate-Clinical Anatomy, Khadry Galil Lab; Karen Ann Bridge, DDS 2015, Jeff Dixon Lab; Dr. Sandhu, director, dentistry, vice-dean, Schulich Dentistry; Kathleen Martin, DDS 2015, Doug Hamilton Lab; Dr. Jaime Cury, J.T. Hamilton Distinguished Lecturer; Jason Zimmerman, DDS 2014, Walter Siqueira Lab; Dr. Figlewicz; Dr. Goldberg

Above: Dr. Bohay, Dr. Mara and Melten Bakkai - a visiting Grad Student (PhD Candidate from Marmara University, Istanbul) in Walter Siqueira Lab

Students shine brightly at research day

Students were just getting settled into their courses and schedules when they were put into the spotlight at the 11th annual John T. Hamilton Distinguished Lecture. Invited to give poster presentations on their work, several students were awarded for their achievements. Jason Zimmerman, co-supervised by Drs. Walter Siqueira and Sahza Hatibovic-Kofman, was awarded first place in the junior category, receiving the CDA/Dentsply Travel Award. Zimmerman will be representing Schulich Dentistry in the Student Clinician competition at the 2013 CDA Annual Meeting.

Kathleen Martin received second place in the junior category, and the ADA Foundation Travel Award. Martin, who was supervised by Dr. Douglas Hamilton, has also received the opportunity to present at the 2013 Dental Student Research Conference. Karen Ann Bridge of Dr. Jeff Dixon's lab received first place in the senior category, while Steven Holterman Ten Hove of the Dr. Khadry Galil Lab received second place and Jake Bedore of the Dr. Cheryle Séguin Lab received third place.

Dr. Harinder Sandhu honoured with prestigious fellowship

Dr. Harinder Sandhu, director, dentistry, vice-dean, Schulich Dentistry, was selected as the American Dental Education Association (ADEA)/Sunstar Americas, Inc./Harry W. Bruce Jr. Legislative Fellow, marking the first time the ADEA has awarded the fellowship to a dental educator outside the United States.

As part of his fellowship, Dr. Sandhu spent three months in Washington, D.C. as a staff member in the ADEA Policy Center, Advocacy and Governmental Relations Office. Through this role, he became involved in the Congressional process, bringing forth issues that relate to dental education, dental research and overall oral health.

This fellowship represents an essential link, ensuring dental professionals and educators communicate and work with legislators on policies and funding to benefit the oral health of all.



Dr. Harinder Sandhu, director, vice-dean, Schulich Dentistry

Sharing smiles

It was Mother Teresa who said, that “every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing.” How right she was. These gifts were plentiful through a special event called Sharing Smiles Day that takes place each year on campus.



Attendees enjoying Sharing Smiles Day

This event brings together students from Schulich Dentistry, local dental practitioners from the London area in partnership with Community Living London and Oral Health, Total Health. It was created to remove barriers, raise awareness and educate dental students and dentists about the importance of oral health care for persons with special needs. Since its inception three years ago, more than 250 participants have shared smiles while enjoying a day filled with games, a luncheon, and demonstrations on proper oral care.



Dr. Roos; Kathleen Martin, DDS 2015; Dr. Hottel and Dr. Garcia-Godoy at the 18th Hinman Student Research Symposium

Student research receives international award

Kathleen Martin (Class of 2015) received the Most Outstanding Presentation award at the 18th Hinman Student Research Symposium, held in Memphis, Tennessee. Martin's winning project explored the ability of new polymeric materials containing basic fibroblast growth factor to act as scaffolds for guided tissue regeneration in a cell culture model. Her project was overseen by Dr. Douglas Hamilton of Schulich Dentistry, in collaboration with Dr. Jianjun Guan of Ohio State University.

The symposium featured oral and poster presentations of research projects by dental students and graduate students. The 101 students who participated represented 45 dental schools from across Canada and the United States.

Students honour their teachers

Dr. Walter Siqueira and Dr. Barry Schwartz were honoured by students for their outstanding contributions to the undergraduate program. Receiving the W.W. Wood Award, Dr. Siqueira was recognized for his commitment as a full-time faculty member. Dr. Schwartz received the C.Y. Lung Award which recognizes the contributions of a part-time faculty member.

Dr. Timucin Ari chosen as IADH President Elect

For six years, Dr. Timucin Ari, assistant professor, Schulich Dentistry, has been an active member of the International Association for Disability and Oral Health (IADH) as the editor of the IADH Magazine. During the Congress in Melbourne, Dr. Ari was chosen as President Elect.

Through this role, he is responsible for facilitating communication with members, contacting national associations to help promote oral health in special needs populations, and encouraging undergraduate core curriculum in special care dentistry to dental schools worldwide, among many other duties.



Dr. Timucin Ari, assistant professor, Schulich Dentistry



Above: Students treating patients through the DOCS program

component is secondary – it's their enthusiasm, empathy and how they are managing the patient that is our primary focus," said Dr. Les Kalman, the program's director. Students gain valuable experience that speaks directly to the curriculum's values of patient centred, comprehensive care in a treatment team environment.

Furthermore, DOCS exposes students to a more diverse range of patients and patient needs. As Dr. Kalman explained,

"When we are out in the community we may be seeing a 30 or 40 year old that's never been to a dentist before. Their oral condition might be disastrous compared to what our students have seen in the clinics on campus"

Caring for the Community

Adopting the DOCS program into the new DDS curriculum

Schulich Dentistry has a strategic mission to become a champion for underserved and special needs patients and a curriculum focussed on comprehensive patient care. Its recent adoption of the Dental Outreach Community Service (DOCS) program into the redesigned DDS curriculum helps fulfill this mission.

The DOCS program, initiated by Dr. Ken Wright in 2008 as a voluntary program for dental students and other dental professionals, provides free dental care to low-income families without dental insurance. Since its inception, the

mobile dental unit has travelled throughout London setting up clinics at various community centres completing examinations, cleanings, fillings, tooth extractions and simple denture delivery. The program has grown substantially and its immense benefits to the community and students are palpable.

Completed in Year 4 of the DDS program, the now mandatory DOCS program places the emphasis on student-patient interactions. "We want the students to have an active role in participating. That's how they are graded. The technical

Students are creating diagnosis and treatment plans for cases that go beyond the regular treatments and assessments performed in the School's clinics.

Beyond improving dental students' clinical skills and employing key principles of the DDS curriculum, the program directly benefits the community. The barriers which prevent people from seeking and receiving dental assessment are removed. Dr. Kalman hopes the DOCS program opens students' eyes to the underserved members of our community and in turn will be highly motivated to give back to the community. ■



Blazing a Trail

Dr. Tommy Fok takes on the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery program

Dr. Tommy Fok is blazing a trail at Schulich Dentistry. He will be the first graduate of the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS) Program, a rigorous, six-year program which accepts only one student annually. He has however taken this journey of “newness” in stride. He believes, as with anything new, there are always some trials and errors along the way however, he also knows that the Schulich Dentistry program has offered the flexibility to fit his interests.

The OMFS Program provides individuals with a comprehensive background for the practice of oral and maxillofacial surgery as a specialty, as well as preparing graduates for examinations by the Royal College of Dentists in Canada.

The program includes extensive training in surgical correction of dentofacial deformities, maxillofacial trauma, maxillofacial pathology, maxillofacial reconstructive surgery, dentoalveolar surgery, implant surgery and ambulatory anesthesia. Students attend the



medical program at Schulich Medicine and complete their residency at hospitals in London and Windsor. An important part of the program is devoted to research; students must complete and defend an original research project. Dr. Fok’s project is in oral pathology, looking into cell markers to predict their utility in diagnosis and prognosis of salivary gland tumours.

In the end, students will graduate with a combined MD/MSc degree.

Dr. Fok is no stranger to Schulich Dentistry or Western University, having graduated with his DDS in 2007, and physiotherapy degree in 2001. That familiarity, along with Schulich Dentistry’s great reputation, made coming back to London and the School an easy decision.

With so many fields within the dental profession, Dr. Fok believes that the key is to find the one you most enjoy, “you need to do your research to determine a program’s suitability to your lifestyle and plans for the future.” Dr. Fok has enjoyed the program and opportunity to collaborate with both medical and dental professionals.

Dr. Fok is looking forward to practicing the full scope of OMFS and hopes the opportunity arises where he can educate future residents from the Program. ■



Material Matters

Exploring Dr. Marcela Carrilho's research and move to Schulich Dentistry

It's said "everyone smiles in the same language," but Schulich Medicine & Dentistry would add that the research behind those smiles also transcends borders. So when Schulich Dentistry was recruiting a new clinician-scientist, it looked beyond Canada and even North America, recruiting Dr. Marcela Carrilho of Brazil.

Dr. Carrilho received her DDS from the University of São Paulo in Brazil in 1997 and later earned a Doctoral Degree in Dental Materials. She had a private practice for a few years but decided she wanted something more. "I have a passion for research," she said, "and I do love teaching and being in a clinic with students." She became an assistant professor in Biomaterials and Operative Dentistry at Bandeirante University of São Paulo, and an Academy Fellow with Brazil's National Council for Scientific and Technological Development. Then she was contacted by a former classmate, Dr. Walter Siqueira who told her about the opening at Schulich Dentistry.

She started last July, and has focussed on writing grant proposals. She is looking forward to the day when her lab is fully operational, and is hoping at least one of her graduate students from Brazil joins her. Dr. Carrilho's research is focussed on how to improve dental materials in order to



make restorations last longer. "For some years, I've been studying the factors that determine the degradation of materials such as dental resin, and now I'm looking at the biological components in the host which contribute to the degradation of materials."

"Marcela is a great addition to our School," says Dr. Harvey Goldberg, assistant director, research, Schulich Dentistry. "Her work has been instrumental in demonstrating the presence and importance of host enzyme inhibition in the preservation of dentinal bond strength of composite fillings. These studies have significant implications in reducing the inherent high failure rate of composite resin restorations."

"I think basically we still don't understand the tissues that we are dealing with, so while it's impressive that we can replace a tooth that was lost, we still don't understand the

behaviour of the structure we're putting the implant into – the bone for example and the responses of the bone to that implant. There are many questions that need to be answered," said Dr. Carrilho. "Research is a non-stop field. The more we know, the more we realize we don't know. We have to go deeper and deeper to understand."

Schulich Dentistry's collaboration with Brazil goes beyond faculty recruitment. In 2008, Western University signed agreements with the University of São Paulo, for student exchanges and research collaborations. It's the kind of forward thinking that has now been incorporated into the School's strategic plan: Developing sustainable partnerships, networks and global initiatives.

"I'm absolutely sure of the value of internationalization. My work is a product of international relationships with other schools," said Dr. Carrilho. "It's important to know what other people are doing in your area of research. International connections can lead to breakthroughs."

While she's still adjusting to the Canadian culture, she has nothing but praise for her new School and colleagues, "This collaborative environment is really wonderful." ■

Celebrating Achievement: Fall Awards 2012

The Fall Awards Reception is an annual event to recognize the academic achievements of students and faculty during the previous year.



Above: Award recipients Jeremy Wageman, Deanna Vertesi, Diego Diaz Guerrero, Wendall Mascarenhas, Krystal Rickus and David D'Silva

Faculty Awards

Dr. Walter Siqueira
W.W. Wood Award of Excellence in Dental Education

Dr. Barry Schwartz
C.Y. Lung Award

Class of 2015

Brandon Brillon - Dean's Award of Excellence

Brandon Brillon - General Medicine Award

Brandon Brillon - Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario Scholarship (The)

Pilkwon Chung - Dr. Sam Ioannidis Memorial Award

Jee Lee - Dentistry Class of 1975 Scholarship

Kathleen Martin - ADA Foundation Travel Award

Jonathan Wong - Toronto Academy of Dentistry Crown and Bridge Study Club Award (The)

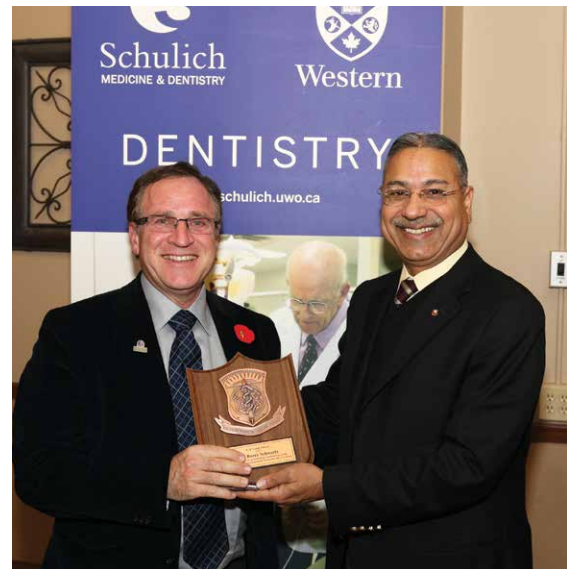
Krystal Rickus - Association of Prosthodontists of Ontario Award (The)

Deanna Vertesi - Centennial Orthodontics and Paediatric Dentistry Award (The)

Jeremy Wageman - Academy of Operative Dentistry Award (The)



Dr. Sandhu, director, vice-dean, Schulich Dentistry with Dr. Siqueira (left) and Dr. Schwartz (right)



Class of 2014

Justin Bubola - Laura Stakiw Memorial Award (The)

Justin Bubola - Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario Scholarships Second Year

Brayden Charlton - Centennial Orthodontic and Paediatric Dentistry Award (The)

Laura Van Damme - Dr. Donald MacLean Award in Oral Radiology

Donato Viggiani - Dr. Michael Weinberg Memorial Scholarship (The)

Jason Zimmerman - Canadian Dental Association/Dentsply Award

Class of 2013

Diego Diaz Guerrero - Dentistry Class of 1975 Scholarship

David D'Silva - Ontario Dental Association Proficiency Award (The)

Iaroslav Irodenko - Sunstar/G.U.M. Clinical Proficiency Award (The)

Alyson Kohlmeier - Canadian Academy of Periodontology Award (The)

Wendall Mascarenhas - Western Faculty Association Scholarship

Wendall Mascarenhas - International College of Dentists Award (The)

Wendall Mascarenhas - Elgin Dental Association Award in Oral Surgery (The)



Dr. Michael J. Strong, dean, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry; Dr. David Lawton with the the Dentistry 2012 Dental Alumni of Distinction Award and Dr. Harinder Sandhu, director, vice-dean, Schulich Dentistry

2012 Dental Alumni of Distinction Award Recipient: Dr. David Lawton

From the quaint town of Harrow, Ontario, nestled in picturesque Essex County to the banks of the Amazon River and some of Canada's northernmost communities, David Lawton, DDS'71 has shared his passion for dental care and education.

This past year, his dedication and commitment to professionalism that has spanned four decades were recognized with the 2012 Dental Alumni of Distinction Award.

Growing up on a small farm just west of Chatham, Ontario, the

young Lawton was often seen tagging along behind the local veterinarian when visits were paid to the farm. What he saw and learned was life-changing and piqued his interest in becoming a vet. Working alongside his classmates in a one-room schoolhouse, he dedicated himself to his studies.

While attending high school, a teacher encouraged him to consider the field of health sciences. It was, however, a special dinner at the famed William Pitt Hotel hosted by the

Ontario Government to recruit young students into dentistry that set a new direction for Dr. Lawton.

The dinner was then followed up a year later by a three-day visit to Toronto, where Dr. Lawton was billeted by a dentist and had a chance to experience campus life – that really convinced him that dentistry was the right direction to follow.

There was no question, Western was the only school he wanted to attend. "I only applied to Western," said Dr. Lawton, "and

immediately fell in love with it." The atmosphere on campus, camaraderie that developed between housemates at Eccles House, in Medway Hall, and the beautiful grounds made a lasting impression.

However, it was the opportunity to learn from dedicated faculty members such as Drs. Ron Jordan and Wes Dunn, who really helped to establish personal and professional values such as patient-centred care, a commitment to giving back to one's community and life-long learning.

It wasn't long after graduation that Dr. Lawton began to live those values. He quickly became involved with the dental hygienist program at St. Clair College, serving as a clinical supervisor for several years.

A busy practice and a young family didn't stop him from continuing to give back. Inspired by his son Ben, who has special needs, Dr. Lawton became involved with Community Living Essex County, serving on the board for more than eight years.

With a well-established practice in hand, Dr. Lawton became more motivated than ever to provide care to underserved communities. This time he looked further abroad and in 1997 spent a month in a prevention driven educational facility, in Santarém, Brazil. This enriching experience translated into eight, one-month pro bono service trips to Brazil, Kenya and Angola.

After 30 years, Dr. Lawton sold his practice. He turned his focus to Canada's far north, specifically Pond Inlet on Baffin Island and various other Inuit hamlets. Taking trips that stretched from four to six weeks and working 11 hours a day, six days a week, Dr. Lawton provided care to people for eight years. "It was truly wonderful, being able to absorb some of the Inuit culture, and spend time with locals and other health care providers. Being 'on the land' in the Arctic, with no sunsets from mid-May



Top: Dr. David Lawton treating a patient in Kenya
Above: Dr. David Lawton working in Brazil

to mid-August, fly fishing for arctic char and arctic grayling. I have memories that will last a lifetime."

For Dr. Lawton, it was a healthy mix of curiosity for foreign cultures, a chance for adventure, and an ability to practice his profession in underserved areas that inspired him to pursue his work abroad.

On several trips, he was accompanied by his wife, who served as a dental assistant and chair-side assistant.

As a young student, Dr. Lawton was inspired by a quote from the philosopher Moses Maimonides that graces the wall in the lobby of the Dental Sciences Building at Schulich Dentistry – "May there never develop

in me the notion that my education is complete but give me strength and leisure and zeal continually to enlarge my knowledge."

Taking this quote to heart along with the wisdom offered by his teachers, professors, colleagues and the people he served, Dr. Lawton has lived a life of giving back and in turn improving and enriching the lives of those around him. ■



Moulding Excellence with a Renewed Curriculum

Schulich Dentistry's dedication to delivering the best curriculum and clinical experience for students is reflected in the new Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) curriculum. Beginning in September 2009, Schulich Dentistry launched the first year of the redesigned curriculum which has been carefully implemented over a four-year period. 2012-2013 marks the first year whereby the old curriculum has been phased out entirely; the Class of 2013 will be the first Schulich Dentistry class graduating from the new curriculum.

The curriculum renewal was identified as a priority in the 2005 Strategic Plan. Dr. Richard Bohay, associate professor in Dentistry and assistant director for Academic Affairs in Schulich Dentistry, explains the six guiding principles of the enhanced

curriculum include: ensuring the program exceeds the requirements of accreditation, combining basic and clinical sciences, employing multidisciplinary approaches to teaching, an earlier introduction to clinics, offering senior students more time for electives and rotations and an ongoing desire to evolve and assess the program.

Dr. Bohay believes one of the most notable changes of the new curriculum is that it "puts the student first." Its predecessor effectively delivered content, however it did not focus on how the students internalized or built upon the information. The redesigned curriculum teaches content in a more organized manner ensuring students have the required foundational knowledge and skills prior to moving on to the next level.

Students now receive the foundational knowledge at the beginning of their dental education, allowing them to build upon and utilize this knowledge with each year of study. One primary example of this change is in Year 1 where Medicine is now taught in a thematic multidisciplinary systemic fashion by faculty teaching anatomy, physiology, pathology, pharmacology, microbiology and dentistry. Previously, the comparable course was taught in Year 3 where students are already immersed in clinics and working with patients.

The redesigned curriculum also encourages a more active learning environment. Although classroom lectures are still the principal method of content delivery, the curriculum strives to facilitate



“Dentistry is a challenging and demanding profession. Our goal is to create an opportunity for our students to develop into socially responsible, competent and compassionate oral health care providers.”

- Dr. Bohay

active student learning that is clinically relevant. This is achieved by adding new courses that focus on diagnosis and treatment planning, as well as introducing students to clinics in Year 1 rather than Year 3. Additionally, Year 1 and 2 students learn by observing their upper-year peers in a clinical setting.

“Our goal is that by third year, students are ready to take on comprehensive care of patients. Their experiences in first and second year will allow them to approach the clinical demands of third year with more confidence and less anxiety,” explains Dr. Bohay.

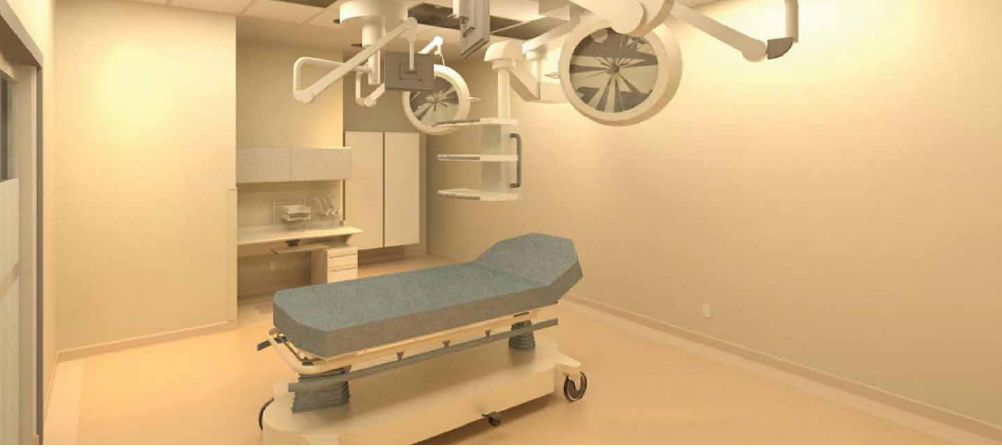
Furthermore, the recent implementation of the interprofessional Dental Outreach Community Service (DOCS) program



into the DDS curriculum speaks directly to the School's principles of creating compassionate and socially responsible oral health providers.

The combination of active learning, an improved focus on content delivery, clinically structured learning early in a student's education and the incorporation of community outreach programs will enhance Schulich Dentistry's student experience. In addition, it will ensure the School continues to produce confident, highly skilled, compassionate and socially responsible oral health care leaders. ■

See page 7 for more information on DOCS.



Top: A rendering of a GA Suite procedure room
Above: A rendering of the recovery room

Expanded Facilities Support Special Needs Patients

The Oath of Commitment, read aloud each fall by the newest class of Schulich Dentistry during the White Coat Ceremony, outlines a commitment to patient care. The words are straightforward, clear and very powerful. “I solemnly acknowledge that my paramount responsibility is to the health and well-being of my patients[...]. I will always act with sympathy and kindness to all patients in alleviating their concerns and pain.” The development of a new General Anesthetic (GA) Suite at Schulich Dentistry supports these guiding statements by putting focus on the treatment of special needs patients.

According to the “Federal Disability Report of Canada”, published in the mid 2000s, 30 per cent of patients with severe disabilities have unmet health care needs. Accessibility, long wait times for access to a GA facility and appropriate education of dental

practitioners have been cited as the barriers that impact the provision of oral health care for special needs patients.

This new GA Suite, providing care for complicated dental treatments such as restorative work, oral surgery or periodontal treatments, will relieve the 14-month waiting list, ensuring that dental care is available to all people across the region.

It will feature two new operating rooms, six recovery bays, barrier-free washroom facilities, a nurses’ station and additional space for clean-up and storage. It is estimated that at full capacity, more than 60 people will receive care weekly.

With the Suite in place, Schulich Dentistry will continue to advance the knowledge and skills of dental professionals to provide exemplary care to the diverse communities it serves.

“The quality and content of undergraduate education in special care dentistry has been shown to correlate with students’ confidence and their expressed willingness toward providing care for patients with special needs in the future,”

said Dr. Timucin Ari, assistant professor, Schulich Dentistry and President-Elect, International Association for Disability and Oral Health. “This new Suite”, he adds, “will have a positive impact on the Schulich Dentistry undergraduate education program.” Students will gain more hands-on clinical experience working with special needs patients. It will also enhance the interdisciplinary training offered to students as they will work much more closely with the General Anesthesia program and other specialties.

The Suite, which is being funded through a mixture of Ministry and generous donor support, was a priority project in Schulich Dentistry’s strategic plan.

Preparatory work has been underway for several months with the demolition and deconstruction of several work spaces. Construction will begin in early spring with completion expected by late summer – just in time for the commencement of classes.

“The GA Suite will be a one-of-a-kind facility not found in any other dental school in North America,” said Dr. Harinder Sandhu. “It will provide a special service to a targeted population, enhance interdisciplinary training and support interprofessional education. Once completed, the Suite will serve as a model for all other dental schools.”

“Most importantly,” adds Dr. Ari, “having dental treatments done in the GA Suite will improve special needs patients’ oral health and their overall quality of life.” ■



Dentistry Canada Fund Enriches Research

Creating a research environment where students can pose questions, seek solutions and learn from established scientists is a top priority at Schulich Dentistry. Thanks to a significant donation from the Dentistry Canada Fund (DCF) of more than \$125,000, increased funding will be available annually, on a competitive basis, for students to undertake summer research roles.

The DCF was created in 1994 as Canada's charity for oral health. Its mission was to mobilize and allocate resources for the advancement of oral health through education, research and public outreach. It is now winding down its services and contributing its funds to organizations whose mission is similar in nature to their own.

The donation, recommended by the Ontario Dental Association, will be directed to the endowed dental student researchship fund. The gift fills a critically important need as it increases the School's capacity to internally fund more dental students in their research projects, providing salary support. And given the climate of funding cuts from federal and provincial agencies, this support is especially welcome.

"Schulich Dentistry is committed to training life-long-learners and leaders in education, science and research. This is a key component of our educational program," said Dr. Harinder Sandhu, "This donation will help us expose more students to research, building

their knowledge and experience in applying scientific discovery to patient care, while working alongside world-renowned researchers."

Through this donation, the mission of the DCF will live on. In total, the charity has donated more than \$240,000 to Western University. ■



Graduate Orthodontics: A Year at a Glance

Division of Graduate Orthodontics Celebrates its 40th Anniversary

The Division of Graduate Orthodontics celebrated its 40th anniversary this year at the biennial alumni meeting on November 2. Dr. John Murray, who will be retiring in 2013, was recognized for 40 years of service as a faculty member for Orthodontics.

Division of Graduate Orthodontics Welcomed New Students in 2012:

Dr. Carine Bourassa
 Dr. Brian Phee
 Dr. Harbinder Sangha

Top: Drs. Antonios Mamandras, Chairman; Mary-Ellen Polymeris (Class of 2012); David Chambers (Class of 2014); Angie Smith (Class of 2013); Steven Ma (Class of 2012); Daniel Dagasso (Class of 2012); Natalie Swoboda (Class of 2014); Paul Glasser (Class of 2013); Bhavana Sawhney (Class of 2014); Matthew Tse (Class of 2013) and Ali Tassi, Clinic Director, enjoying the Graduate Luncheon Reception.

Second from the top: Drs. Cliff Singer (Class of 1985); Bob Voth (Class of 1988); Paul Karl (class of 1997) and Dave Brown (Class of 1989) celebrating at the 40th Anniversary event.

Middle: Drs. Robbie Strasdin (Class of 2004); James Stephenson (Class of 2005); Lui Regidgonda (Class of 2002) and Connie Anthanasopoulos (Class of 2002) at the 40th Anniversary celebration.

Right: Drs. Paul Karl (Class of 1997); Mike Meehan (Class of 1997) and Pius Kim (Class of 1997) at the 40th Anniversary event.





2012-2013 New Faculty and Residency Appointments

Faculty

Dr. Marcela Carrilho

GPR Residents

Rudha Al-Rohani

Aadil Shamji

Heather Jones

Wendall Mascarenhas

OMFS Resident

Jacqueline Cox

Graduate Orthodontic Residents

Dr. Carine Bourassa

Dr. Brian Phee

Dr. Harbinder Sangha



Stay Connected: Upcoming Alumni Events

ODA Spring Meeting
Alumni Reception
May 3, 2013
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Ontario Room,
InterContinental Toronto Centre

Pacific Dental Conference
Alumni Reception
March 7, 2013
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Oceanview Suite 4,
Pan Pacific Hotel, Vancouver

Homecoming 2013
September 27 – 29, 2013

Dentistry Alumni of
Distinction Reception
September 27, 2013

Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
Western University

London, ON, Canada N6A 5C1
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www.schulich.uwo.ca/dentistry

