# THE BRIDGE

SCHULICH DENTISTRY ALUMNI NEWSLETTER | 2016

Schulich
MEDICINE & DENTISTRY

Western

# Congratulations to the Schulich Dentistry Class of 2015

**Michael Barbalinardo** – 3M Canada Clinical Award in Restorative Dentistry | Dr. Donald S. Moore Award in Occlusal Therapy
**Natasha Bhalla**
**Aly Bhatia**
**Karen Ann Bridge** – Dr. John C. McLister Service Award
**Brandon Brillon** – UWO Gold Medal | American Academy of Periodontology Award | Dr. Walter R. Teteruck Award in Fixed Prosthodontics
**Lance Chamberlain** – London & District Dental Society Award
**Ashley Chan** – American Association of Endodontists Award | Dr. Igor Bolta Memorial Award in Restorative Dentistry
**Shahin Charkhandeh**
**Kahyan Cho** – Dr. Paul Sills Award in Prosthodontics
**Madona Chochkeh** – American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Award
**Pil Chung**
**Talia Davidson** – Michael Brooke Award in Oral Medicine | Toronto Academy Crown & Bridge Study Club
**Athena DeBrouwer** – CDA Student Leadership Award
**Jeremy Goldberg** – Alpha Omega Award | American Association of Orthodontics Award in Orofacial Growth
**Shawn Hadi**
**Mohammd Hakimi**
**Emily Israel**
**Nicole Johnson**
**Aaron Jolivet**
**Salimah Kanji**
**Tara Kennedy** – Academy of General Dentistry Senior Student Award | Senior Award in Paediatric Dentistry
**Joel Keshwah**
**Kwang Kim**
**Reehan Kotadia**
**Swetha Kumar**
**Young Jun Kwon**
**Jee Lee**
**Min Lee**
**Young Lee**
**Fengjun Li**
**Sandy Liu**
**Adam Lubus**
**Ryan Lum-Tai** – American Dental Society of Anesthesiology Award
**Bart Makowski**
**Kathleen Martin** – Academy of Dentistry for the Disabled Award | Ontario Dental Association Proficiency Award | Quintessence Research Award
**Jordan McKee**
**Amanda McPhee**
**Anh-Quan Nguyen**
**Duc Nguyen**
**Gabriel Patriarca**
**Andrew Prior**
**Safa Rizwan**
**Christie Schmidt**
**Alexandra Seichter** – American Academy of Orofacial Pain Award | Quintessence Award in Restorative Dentistry
**Harrison Siu**
**Wei Tang** – Professionalism Award 4th Year/ITD2
**Amy Tawadrous** – Quintessence Award in Periodontics
**James Tonogai** – Senior Oral Pathology Award
**Philip Tran**
**Grant Vezina**
**Jonathan Wong**
**Sida Zeng** – American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS)
**Daniel Zigler**

## Internationally Trained Dentists (ITD) Program

**Mustafa Abdullah** – Dr. Gerald Z. Wright Award
**Abdulhalim Abdulrahman**
**Zeena Adnan**
**Ilyas Ahmed Khwaja**
**Anwar Al-Gertani**
**Varun Arora**
**Aseel Assim**
**Zaid Babahami**
**Ardavan Bahmanyar**
**Suresh Bhagavathi Appan**
**Syed Bukhari**
**Anthi Gjinarali**
**Sardor Ibragimov**
**Anushree Pisharody**
**Gaganpreet Randhawa**
**Reem Salam**
**Karan Salwan**
**Mandeep Sandhu**
**Sunny Sehgal** – Dr. Glenn Walker Award
**Rahul Shah** – Dr. Kenneth F. Pownhall Memorial Scholarship | Dr. George Bedrosian Memorial Award in Restorative Dentistry
**Vandana Tripathi**
**Viktoriya Yashchuk**

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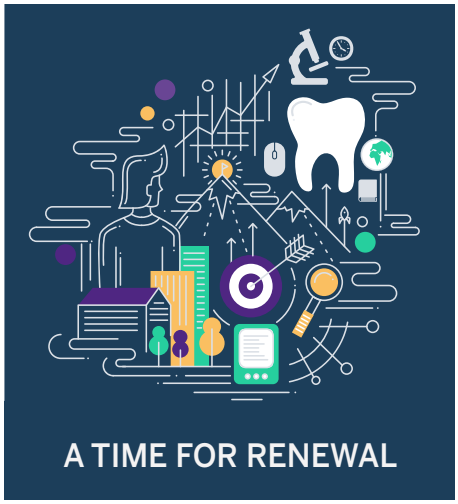


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COVER PHOTO: Drs. Michelle Gauthier and Bill Terzis.

# From the Desk of Dr. Richard Bohay

## 2015 was a year of great reflection, celebration, and renewal for Schulich Dentistry

With a goal to become one of the best dental schools in North America, this past year we started an ambitious and exciting journey toward the future.

Our work began in earnest in January, and continues to be led by Dr. Michael Strong, and the Dental Renewal Committee – a team of administrative and faculty leaders who are focused on advancing Dentistry's mission.

In January, the Committee began to initiate plans to gather feedback from Dentistry's closest stakeholders including: alumni, faculty, staff, students, and the broader community. Knowing that this would be a critical first step to achieving our overall goal, the Committee commenced three research projects. The hope was that

the results would inform our planning moving forward.

An external review was undertaken by three of our dentistry colleagues: Dr. Paul Allison, dean, Dentistry, McGill University; Dr. Daniel Haas, dean, Dentistry, University of Toronto; and Dr. Richard Valachovic, CEO of the American Dental Education Association.

Shortly after, surveys were conducted with alumni, faculty, staff and students to gather key learnings about Schulich Dentistry's strengths and opportunities for growth. And, working with a marketing research firm, an analysis of how Schulich Dentistry compares to other Canadian dental schools on a variety of measures involving students, faculty, research and clinical education was undertaken.

With all of this information in hand, the Committee felt well prepared to take the next step, which was the creation of Schulich Dentistry's 10-year Strategic Plan.

After significant consultation with our faculty, staff and students, the Plan was mapped out; a new mission and vision were developed and five major themes were identified. Following a retreat in November, faculty, staff and students were asked to participate in Project Teams to begin the work to establish annual project priorities and operational initiatives that will translate the strategic directions into action.

As the research and planning continued throughout the year, we turned our attention to some major redevelopment and construction projects – all focused on advancing our education mission.

Work is now underway to move from film-based imaging to digital imaging and the procurement of a new Clinic/ Patient Management System. This is an intricate and complicated process; however, we believe it is an important step to creating greater efficiencies within the Main Dental Clinic.

Dr. Stan Kogon has been leading the redevelopment of our Simulation Clinic and we are looking forward to the opening of new facilities in September 2016. The new clinic will be moved out of its current location, creating space for a new student lounge, teaching, and administrative needs.

This past year, our Dental Surgical Care Unit became operational. We have taken a progressive approach with our work on this project and we are very pleased with the delivery of care our patients are receiving. We are now ramping up activity while remaining steadfastly focused on our goal to reduce wait times for paediatric and special care patients.

I am also very pleased to report that the four-year Dentistry degree program, the two-year Internationally Trained Dentist program and the Graduate Program in Orthodontics have recently had their accreditation status elevated to Approved without reporting requirements.

We have recently started review sessions with our full-time and part-time faculty to develop opportunities to discuss improved standardization related to clinical teaching and improved communication regarding the curriculum.

The highlight of 2015 was the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Dentistry at Western University. Throughout the year, we enjoyed reading about the experiences of so many of our five decades of alumni, as we geared up for our anniversary weekend in September.

The two-day celebration didn't disappoint, as alumni gathered for our barbeque on campus and enjoyed a gala dinner held at the London Hunt and Country Club. More than 170 alumni and friends had an opportunity to proudly reminisce at the gala, which was made complete with the attendance of founding Dean Dr. Wes Dunn, as well as Mrs. Lorna Brooke and her two sons.

I'm very grateful to Drs. Jack McLister, Tom Mara, and Sandra Nicolucci for their leadership in organizing these two events.

I've only been able to scratch the surface of all the achievements, activities and projects underway in Dentistry with this message. Throughout this newsletter you will have a chance to read about the renewal process, learn more about the strategic planning process and the simulation clinic, as well as catch up on leadership and administrative changes at the School in much more detail.

The future is bright for Dentistry, and I look forward to continuing to update you on our clinical education, research and renewal achievements. I also welcome your feedback on the many initiatives that are currently underway.

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

# A Message from Dr. Michael J. Strong

Nearly 18 months ago, I shared with many of you my goal to have Schulich Dentistry become one of the top 10 dental schools in North America. That goal remains before us at the School today. This past year, we have invested a tremendous amount of time, energy and resources to create a foundation that I can confidently say will serve as the platform in achieving this goal.

Shortly after Homecoming 2014, a Dental Renewal Committee was struck to navigate the pathway of this work. The Committee is comprised of faculty and administrative leaders from Dentistry, as well as the Schulich Medicine & Dentistry decanal and administrative teams.

I'm grateful for the commitment of the Committee members who took on this task without a moment's hesitation – clearly this is indicative of the tremendous dedication and passion for Schulich Dentistry that exists within our teams.

Surveys, focus groups, research, several retreats and comparative analyses armed us with the information we needed to develop a new 10-year Strategic Plan which was launched in November.

It also supported the identification of a number of projects to be launched immediately, including the redevelopment of the Simulation Clinic, the patient management system and digital radiography project.

In late August, we held our first ever combined Medicine and Dentistry White Coat Ceremony – another important project identified early on in our renewal work. We are unique as a combined school of medicine and dentistry, but when you think about it – it really is intuitive. So many of our modern-day illnesses find their origins in oral diseases and so much of our practice of medicine needs to consider the individual as a whole. Bringing together both medical and dental students for this truly memorable event was just a natural first step in their careers. I was extremely proud to welcome the 248 new students at this event to the Schulich Medicine & Dentistry family.

We are continuing to identify ways in which our medicine and dentistry students can join together and, in the coming years, we are hoping to create a special combined convocation for them. There's much work to be done on that front; however, I believe it will serve as a powerful event for our graduates as they embark on their careers.

While a tremendous amount of work was being completed behind the scenes in preparation for strategic planning and the launch of several major projects, Dentistry's 50th Anniversary was being celebrated, culminating in two special events in September. It was indeed very special to spend time with so many of you who participated in the planned events.

I'm very grateful to Dr. Rick Bohay who has been leading Dentistry as the Acting Director this past year. He has been tireless in his work to lead Dentistry through its renewal process. He's also been instrumental in setting the path for the selection of a new Vice Dean/Director. The search process for this critical leadership position is now underway.

Meanwhile, our work will continue on several fronts. Throughout the newsletter you will have an opportunity to read more about the renewal work, the Strategic Plan, and the accomplishments of our fellow alumni, faculty and students.

I want to thank those of you who have participated in our surveys, met with me and our School's leadership, and written me during the past several months. Your thoughtful feedback was invaluable in our planning and will continue to assist us in our renewal work. I look forward to continuing the dialogue with you, as well as with our faculty, staff and students.

**MICHAEL J. STRONG**
MD, FRCP(C)
Dean, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
Distinguished University Professor, Western University

# Dentistry News

## Dr. Kenneth Wright receives Governor General's Caring Canadian Award for forty years of community service

Dr. Kenneth Wright received the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award, recognizing his significant and sustained contribution to the London community.

In 2008, Dr. Wright founded Schulich Dentistry's Dental Outreach Community Service (DOCS) program, which delivers free dental care to low-income families and individuals with no dental insurance. DOCS has become a flagship of Schulich Dentistry's educational experience, evolving from a coordinated volunteer effort to a mandatory curriculum component for fourth-year students.

For more than forty years, Dr. Wright has also been involved with various organizations and initiatives, including the United Way campaign, McCormick Home, the Scatcherd School, A Chair Affair and Community Living London.

## Recognizing professional success

Several Schulich Dentistry faculty and alumni received honours in 2015, including awards from the Ontario Dental Association (ODA) and London & District Dental Society (LDDS).

### ODA AWARD OF MERIT

**Dr. Charles Lin, DDS'79**
Adjunct Clinical Professor

**Dr. Blake Nicolucci, DDS'75**

**Dr. Olaf Plotzke, DDS'77**
Adjunct Clinical Professor

### DR. ROBERT A. BRANDON SERVICE AWARD

**Dr. Cornel Driessen**
Assistant Professor

### DR. NEIL FARREL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

**Dr. Michael Hornyak, DDS'86**
Adjunct Clinical Professor

### LDDS AWARD OF MERIT

**Dr. Tom Davidson, DDS'75**

**Dr. Jim Jean, DDS'73**
Adjunct Clinical Professor

**Dr. Robert Smyth, DDS'79**
Adjunct Clinical Professor

### LDDS SERVICE AWARD

2014: **Dr. Greg Carr, DDS'83**
Adjunct Clinical Professor

2014: **Dr. Olaf Plotzke, DDS'77**
Adjunct Clinical Professor

### LDDS HONOURARY MEMBERSHIP

**Dr. Stanley Kogon, MSc'70**
Professor

### FELLOW, INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF DENTISTS

**Dr. Michael Shimizu**
Assistant Professor

## Schulich Dentistry alumni honoured

At the 2015 Homecoming celebrations, the Alumni of Distinction Awards were presented, recognizing the tremendous contributions and achievements of our alumni.

**DR. JILL BASHUTSKI, DDS'05**
**YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD – DENTISTRY**

A top-ranked, award-winning student throughout her undergraduate studies, Dr. Bashutski spent several summer terms as a research student.

Following her graduation, she completed her Certificate in Periodontics and her Master of Science in Periodontics from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry. Since graduation, she has established herself as a leading researcher and educator.

Today, Dr. Bashutski is a Clinical Assistant Professor and the Acting Director of Graduate Periodontics, and Director of Undergraduate Periodontics at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Bashutski also serves as a senior editorial review board member for Implant Dentistry and the *Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Research*. She has authored more than 25 articles and five book chapters on periodontics and implant dentistry. Dr. Bashutski also works in private practice in Regina, Saskatchewan and Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**DR. LEN CHUMAK, DDS, MCID'85**
**ALUMNI OF DISTINCTION AWARD – DENTISTRY**

Immediately following graduation, Dr. Chumak was appointed Assistant Professor and has been a major contributor to the education mission at Schulich Dentistry since that time.

For the past 15 years, he has offered lectures to current dentistry residents. His students attest to his insightful seminars, which help to prepare them for their board exams and future clinical practice.

Dr. Chumak is known for his genuine concern for the success of his students, and his kind nature and gentle sense of humour which accompany his lectures.

## In memoriam – Dr. Walter Teteruck

In August, the Schulich Dentistry community mourned the passing of Dr. Walter Teteruck, chair, Continuing Dental Education, and professor emeritus, Schulich Medicine & Dentistry.

Dr. Teteruck helped establish the dental school at Western University and taught as a professor for more than 30 years. After his retirement, he continued his commitment to the School, starting and directing the Continuing Dental Education program.

Dr. Teteruck taught countless dental practitioners during the course of his long career, and wrote and developed many books and research papers. He was respected around the world as a leader in dental education. He was also recognized throughout his career, winning numerous honours including awards from the Academy of Dentistry International and the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry.

He is fondly remembered for his kindness and dedication to helping individuals in need, his passion for automobiles and living life to its fullest.

## Two classes, one family

In September, Schulich Medicine & Dentistry celebrated its first combined White Coat Ceremony since the tradition was established in 1996.

The Ceremony involved 248 new medical and dental students, including 56 Schulich Dentistry students and 20 students from the Internationally Trained Dentists (ITD) program.

The event was made even more special by the cloaking of siblings Eric and Dora Habib. A future physician and dentist, Eric, Medicine Class of 2019, and Dora, Dentistry Class of 2019, represent the strong link between the two health-care professions. They received their white coats together on stage.

*The Dentistry Class of 2019 poses on University Hill.*

*New dentistry students celebrate after receiving their white coats.*

*Eric Habib, Dr. Michael J. Strong and Dora Habib on stage.*

## Warm welcomes and fond farewells

In 2015, we welcomed new faculty and staff to Schulich Dentistry and to new leadership positions. Meanwhile, we bid farewell to a few others who have played important roles and contributed to our School's success.

We welcomed **Dr. Hasan Alkumru** (Restorative Dentistry – Prosthodontics), **Dr. Esperanza Bohorquez** (Restorative Dentistry) and **Dr. Azalea Romero** (Restorative Dentistry – Endodontics).

**Dr. Abdul Al Osman** stepped down from his role as Chair of the Internationally Trained Dentists (ITD) program, and, after many years, **Dr. Sahza Hatibovic-Kofman** completed her term as Chair of Orthodontics and Paediatric Dentistry.

**Dr. Maria Jacinta Santos** is now the Chair of the ITD program and **Dr. Ari Timucin** chairs the Division of Orthodontics and Paediatric Dentistry.

**Harvey Goldberg**, PhD, is the new Chair of Dental Admissions. Professor Goldberg has undertaken a complete review of our admissions process and will be bringing forward a revised admissions process based on extensive study and consultation with various dental and other professional programs.

**Dr. Najeeb Saad** (Restorative Dentistry – Prosthodontics and Assistant Director, Clinical Affairs) and **Dr. Aldo Manzur** (Restorative Dentistry – Endodontics) left the School. Dr. Saad returned to Pakistan and Dr. Manzur to private practice, while continuing to teach part-time at the School.

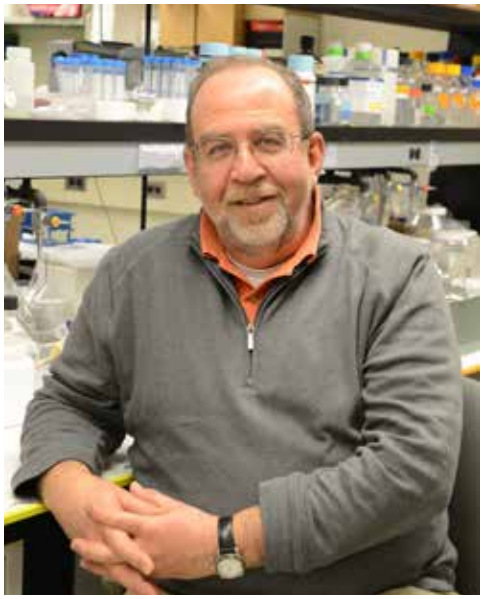
On the administrative side, we welcomed **Deborah Lucas**, who joined the School as the Associate Director, Administration and Finance. And we bid a fond farewell to **Elaine Clifford** (Oral Surgery) and **Cathy Adams** (Main Clinic Reception).

*Top Right: Elaine Clifford*

*Bottom Left: Harvey Goldberg, PhD*

*Bottom Middle: Dr. Hasan Alkumru*

*Bottom Right: Dr. Sahza Hatibovic-Kofman*



*From left to right: Dr. Christos Papadopulas, Class of 2017; Dr. Andrew Emanuele, Class of 2016; Dr. Harbinder Sangha, Class of 2015; Dr. Derek Tomson, Class of 2016; Dr. Brian Phee, Class of 2015; Dr. Carine Bourassa, Class of 2015; Dr. Michele Watroba, Class of 2017; Dr. Erin Eyer, Class of 2017; Dr. Meena Na, Class of 2016.*

## Congratulations to the Class of 2015

Graduate Orthodontics celebrated the graduation of the Class of 2015 with a celebratory lunch and awards ceremony at the London Hunt & Country Club.

Graduating were Drs. Carine Bourassa, Brian Phee and Harbinder Sangha, DDS'10.

## Welcome to the Graduate Orthodontics Class of 2018

- Dr. Maria Pia Canales
- Dr. Jennifer Curran, DDS'06
- Dr. Michael Greene

*Left: Dr. Brian Phee; Dr. Carine Bourassa; and Dr. Harbinder Sangha, DDS'10.*

*Right: Dr. Maria Pia Canales; Dr. Jennifer Curran, DDS'06; and Dr. Michael Greene.*

## NEW FACULTY AND RESIDENCY APPOINTMENTS

**2**
new faculty members

**1**
new OFMS resident

**5**
new GPR residents

### Faculty

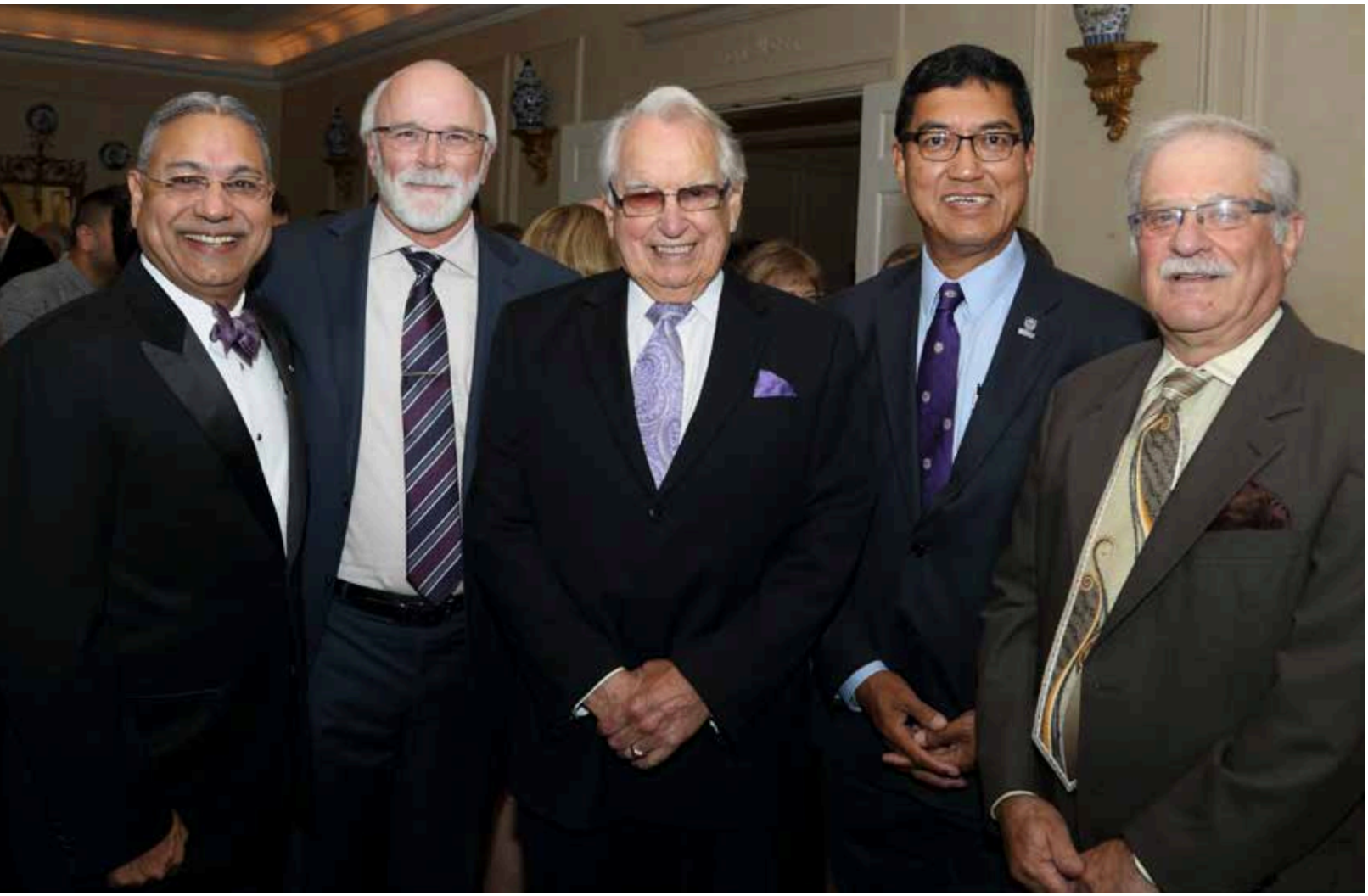
Dr. Esperanza Bohorquez
Dr. Azalea Romero

### OFMS Resident

Dr. Benjamin Rogala

### GPR Residents

Dr. Zeena Adnan
Dr. Lance Chamberlain
Dr. Jane Hendrickson-Rebizant
Dr. Jeff Soparlo
Dr. Amy Tawadrous



# Dentistry celebrates 50 years

In 2015, Dentistry marked 50 extraordinary years. The year-long festivities were launched with a kickoff event on campus in March, followed by a barbeque and open house, and gala dinner during the anniversary weekend in September.

Throughout the year, the milestone was also commemorated with profiles of faculty, staff, students and alumni, as well as a time capsule and special video.

In his speech at the gala dinner, Dr. Michael J. Strong, dean, captured the culture Dentistry has built in education, leadership and research. "In working so closely with all of you, I've developed more than a sense of pride about our School," he said. "There's a sense of belonging. There's a sense that this group is a family."

**“There’s a sense of belonging. There’s a sense that this group is a family.”**

— DR. MICHAEL J. STRONG

# Leading by example

## Jennifer Branch is working to connect dental students at the School and across the country through a number of leadership roles and initiatives

*By Emily Leighton, MA'13*

Jennifer Branch, BMSc'11, Dentistry Class of 2018, has an eye for backpacks – especially the vibrant orange, green and purple ones that her medical student colleagues proudly don in the hallways of Schulich Medicine & Dentistry.

Branch is hoping to bring these pops of colour to the School's dental classrooms and clinics. As an executive with the Federation of Canadian Dentistry Student Associations (FCDSA), she is helping initiate a national backpack program for dental students.

"It engages students and brings people together across the country," she explained. "It's an exciting way to enter the profession and something to look forward to for new students. It's seen as a badge of honour."

Backpacks are just one passion project for Branch in her role with the FCDSA, an organization working to connect Canadian dental students and advocate as a unified student voice for dental education. She is the Regional Councillor for Central Canada (Ontario and Manitoba), representing Schulich Medicine & Dentistry, the University of Toronto and the University of Manitoba.

As a fairly new organization – it was founded three years ago – the work of FCDSA leadership has centred on establishing sound administrative policies. Branch has been a part of creating a mission and vision, as well as mapping out the constitution and executive positions.

"It's been fantastic to be involved with building something right from the get-go," she said.

Branch's interest in this formative process comes as no surprise. She holds a master of business administration (MBA) from Laurier University, a two-year, co-op degree she pursued to sharpen and enhance her business acumen.

With work placements at SC Johnson and Bayer Healthcare, Branch certainly achieved this goal.

"I've always been fairly entrepreneurial, but didn't have complete confidence in my business skills," she said. "The MBA has also opened doors for me I didn't know were possibilities as an undergrad."

The second-year dental student is a proud Western and Schulich Medicine & Dentistry alumna, having completed her bachelor of medical science in 2012.

The opportunity to combine health and business brought her back through the School's doors. "Dentistry brings my two interests together," she explained. "I can start my own business, but still be involved in the health-care field."

Branch chose Schulich Dentistry for the location, small class sizes and the positive energy, something she says immediately stood out to her.

"When I came for the interview, I really liked the feeling that I got from the students – the collegiality and the

**"What I want to accomplish is to continue to improve dental education for future students and for my peers."**

— JENNIFER BRANCH

welcoming atmosphere," she explained.

Apart from her national leadership role, Branch is also involved with the University of Western Ontario Dental Student Society (UWODSS). As the Vice President Administration, she organizes Orientation Week for the incoming dental class and manages student volunteer opportunities.

Branch is also active in research, having participated in the Summer Student Research Program. She worked with Dr. Cheryle Séguin looking at whole-body vibration.

Although not directly related to oral health, her summer research experience instilled an appreciation for basic science. "Research helps keep you relevant," she explained. "Dentistry is changing all the time; it's important to be aware of the latest literature and new techniques."

Be it research, student leadership or colourful backpacks, Branch is dedicated to making a difference in student life and education at the School. It's the reason she stays motivated and focused, despite the number of commitments on her plate.

"Through my involvement and input, I feel I can have a significant impact on the School," she said. "What I want to accomplish is to continue to improve dental education for future students and for my peers."

# Home team advantage

## A seasoned veteran of the Mighty Dents hockey team, Dr. Derek Tomson has found camaraderie on the ice and in the dental clinic

*By Emily Leighton, MA'13*

**"Derek has an ability to reach even the shyest patients and make them feel comfortable in the chair. He's been a great leader and will be an excellent ambassador for the program."**

— DR. ANTONIOS MAMANDRAS

When Dr. Derek Tomson, DDS'10, Graduate Orthodontics Class of 2016, laces up his hockey skates and sports the iconic Mighty Dents jersey, he joins a proud and storied tradition at Schulich Medicine & Dentistry.

Dentistry's revered hockey team is part of a culture of team spirit among students, staff and faculty alike, and has ignited a friendly rivalry with the University of Toronto.

It's a camaraderie that Dr. Tomson continues to enjoy as an alumnus and current graduate student. "I'm in my seventh year on the team," he said with a grin. "And I'm now friends with the younger students who come out and play. It's a great atmosphere to be part of."

Dr. Tomson played for the Mighty Dents in the inaugural ODA President's Cup Hockey Classic in 2008, a memory he holds in high regard as being one of his favourites.

Born and raised in Burlington, Ontario, Dr. Tomson obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of Guelph. Following a year of travel in Southeast Asia, he completed a master's in epidemiology at the University of Ottawa.

A career in dentistry appealed to him as a way to connect his science background with the health-care industry. "I like working with different people every day and seeing diverse cases," he said. "Having a positive impact on people's health is important to me."

After shadowing his family dentist to get a sense of what the job entailed, Dr. Tomson entered the DDS program at Schulich Dentistry in the Class of 2010.

Following graduation and three years of private practice, Dr. Tomson decided to return to school, looking to his alma mater to pursue training in orthodontics.

He gravitated toward this specialized field because of the patient base and the opportunity to have a significant impact. "A lot of the patients I see lack confidence due to their smile. Orthodontics not only allows me to straighten teeth, it affords me the opportunity to improve their quality of life," he explained. "I also feel like I'm developing better relationships with my patients because I get to see them more often and over a longer period of time."

Now in his third and final year of the Graduate Orthodontics program at the School, Dr. Tomson is preparing to leave the Schulich Dentistry nest yet again.

And like many orthodontic graduates before him, he attributes his professional success to an influential figure: Dr. Antonios Mamandras, chair of the program.

"I call him my 'London Dad' because every decision he makes is to benefit the residents," said Dr. Tomson. "He makes us feel valued, that we're part of something meaningful."

Dr. Tomson also points to the faculty support more generally, as several faculty members travel from out of town to teach in the orthodontic clinic. "It's a caring environment and all the faculty really make it drive," he said. "It definitely makes me proud to be a student here."

For his part, Dr. Antonios Mamandras says students also play an important role in making the program a success.

"Derek has an ability to reach even the shyest patients and make them feel comfortable in the chair," he said. "He's been a great leader and will be an excellent ambassador for the program."

Dr. Tomson is hoping to open a practice of his own or partner with an established orthodontist when he graduates in March. With his wife's company based out of Mississauga, he is aiming to stay in the GTA region.

"I'll actually probably end up moving back to my hometown of Burlington," he said.

Regardless of where he sets up shop, Dr. Tomson has a number of classmates to turn to for advice with these types of major life decisions.

Affectionately called 'DROMCAT' – short for Derek, Rory, Oren, Marshall, Cam, Andrew and Tyson – the group graduated from dental school together in 2010 and have remained close, meeting a few times a year to reminisce and catch up.

"We always end up chatting about life and offering each other advice," said Dr. Tomson. "As nerdy as it sounds, we've even discussed the best matrix bands on the market."

Dr. Tomson does have some unfinished business going into the final three-month stretch of his time at Schulich Dentistry – the elusive ODA Cup that was lost in a devastating shoot out to the University of Toronto in 2014.

But regardless of bragging rights, the skates and jersey are representative of something far more meaningful to Dr. Tomson. "I'm where I am today because of the people I met in dental school," he said. "My best memories are of our time spent together."

# The power of two

## The Santoses' perfect blend of their personal and professional lives has helped to make an impact on improving dental techniques

*By Jesica Hurst, BA'14*

Drs. Gildo Santos and Maria Jacinta Santos are the true definition of a 'power couple.'

From supporting each other in significant career decisions, to simply finishing each other's sentences, it is evident that the two have found a way to blend their personal and professional lives in a seamless and effective way.

It's a partnership that has made a considerable impact at Schulich Medicine & Dentistry, and on the field of dentistry as a whole.

After completing doctor of dental surgery degrees in their home country of Brazil, Gildo and Jacinta made the decision to pursue an MSc in Dental Clinics.

What started as a way to simply stand out amongst their peers quickly turned into a genuine and passionate interest in dental research — so much so that Gildo went on to complete a PhD in Prosthodontics, and Jacinta went on to complete a PhD in Operative Dentistry.

"When you start doing research and asking questions and getting results, you want to keep with it," Gildo said. "The more you know, the more you know what you don't know, and you want to know more."

Today, the Santoses remain harmonious in their research efforts, which revolve around restorative dental practices and technology.

Their research looks at the effectiveness of bonding and ceramics to help determine the best protocols to use in the clinics at Schulich Dentistry, and around the world. Jacinta focuses on the clinical aspect of the research, whereas Gildo focuses more on working in the lab.

But they are working toward the same goal of improving dental techniques.

In the 1980s, ceramic dental restorations, otherwise known as dental fillings, became widely popular throughout the industry. With practices everywhere adopting this new technique, Jacinta made the decision to conduct clinical research about its effectiveness during her PhD.

What ended up being a rare, long-term 12-year evaluation became the clinical foundation for some of their current research, which they actively build upon all the time. They use the School's state-of-the-art technology like CAD/CAM, computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacturing, to improve the design and creation of dental restorations.

"There are always new releases in the market, so we want to test them to see what works best and what should be used in our clinic and taught to the next generation of dentists," Jacinta said. "We have been asking questions about the technologies and techniques used since we became faculty members here — once we get our answers, we can apply it directly to our work."

Their findings have also been applied on a global scale, as the couple's case studies have been published in international journals and they have given presentations and lectures outside Canada.

The Santoses agree that, while doing dental research isn't a common path for most, it has helped them improve and become better dentists.

"By doing this research, you see the things you need to improve on and why," Jacinta said. "If you don't ask the questions and get that feedback, you will keep doing what you're doing without knowing if you're doing things right or wrong, or the best way possible for the patients."

Possibly the best part of their research though is that they can work on it together, as they provide each other with unlimited support.

"It was just by coincidence that we enjoyed similar topics, but it is nice that we are working in the same area," Jacinta said. "There is no competition here — we are just always enjoying ourselves and adding to our collective body of work."

# DART Group aims to hit dental research bullseye

*By Jesica Hurst, BA'14*

*From left to right: Kim Beaucage, PhD, Dentistry Class of 2018; Erik Holm, PhD, Dentistry Class of 2018; Jennifer Branch, MBA, Dentistry Class of 2018; Dr. Mohamed Gebril, BDS, PhD Candidate; Jennifer Archibald, Dentistry Class of 2017; and Yara Hosein, PhD.*

*Missing from the photo: Shawna Kim, PhD, Dentistry Class of 2019; Daniel Mandic, Dentistry Class of 2016; and Noelle Ochotny, PhD.*

After dedicating countless hours to scientific innovation and discovery during the completion of their PhD degrees, second-year dentistry students Kim Beaucage and Erik Holm came to the realization that their current clinical studies could have a stronger focus on and incorporation of dental research.

The two were determined to fill that void by bringing together a like-minded group of trainees with a common interest in dental research.

In August 2015, they officially launched the Dental Academic Research Trainee (DART) Group.

"DART is comprised of trainees from different fields and backgrounds who have an interest in dental research, and who are generally already involved in research at the School," Beaucage said, adding that members currently include dentistry students, graduate trainees, postdoctoral fellows and internationally trained dentists. "This Group gives us an opportunity to get together and discuss ideas, and also have seminars and workshops that are relevant to research in some way."

The seminars and workshops are meant to supplement the training they already receive, and help bring their research efforts to the real world. They also focus on additional skills they will need to bring to the table throughout their careers, and what they think they can address during their own student-run events.

In the short time that DART has existed, they have already hosted two successful events. The first was open to all dentistry trainees and featured Ivey Business School's Mary Crossan, PhD, who discussed how to hone individual leadership skills. The second was a lunch and learn event that featured Dr. Jake Bartlett from McGill University who discussed translational research, innovation and industry, and entrepreneurship.

The DART Board meets approximately once a month to discuss their future goals.

> **"Groups like DART need to exist to help increase communication and collaboration between dentists and the researchers."**
>
> — ERIK HOLM

Beaucage and Holm created the DART Group to bring people together to discuss new dental research ideas and to hopefully initiate potential collaborative research projects.

"Research in the field of dentistry is really wide open — there is so much that can be done, but so little is currently being done," Holm explained. "Groups like DART need to exist to help increase communication and collaboration between dentists and the researchers."

Yara Hosein, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow currently working on dental research, agrees. She joined the DART board upon its inception and explained that it has been great working with dentistry students as a researcher, because it helps to provide information she doesn't have with an engineering background.

"I could spend months trying to determine what an important dental research question might be. But when I speak to Kim, Erik or other dentistry students in the Group, within one conversation we come up with a few ideas we could work on," Hosein said. "These conversations we have benefit both sides, so it's a really good marriage of skills."

Schulich Dentistry has seen its fair share of dental research groups before, but Holm explained they usually last a few years then die out until someone wants to pick it up again.

He and Beaucage believe that the DART Group will be successful by recruiting people who are consistently interested in research, and by creating more awareness of the Group amongst dentistry students.

They are also developing a transition plan for the Group that includes members from different years and research backgrounds.

"We just need to keep finding people who are just as passionate about dental research as we are. It's how this Group will continue to thrive," Beaucage said.

The Dentistry Renewal is creating a foundation to meet the 10-year challenge to become the premier Dental School in North America. Learn more about one of the most extensive renewal periods in the School's 50-year history.

# A time for renewal

*By Jennifer Parraga, BA'93*

It's 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday morning. At the end of a long hallway in the Clinical Skills Building, a light peers through the narrow window of a meeting room door.

As you walk closer, the sound, which is muffled at a distance, becomes clearer and more passionate. A group of faculty and staff are engaged in an animated discussion. The energy is high as are the stakes. And the commitment is nothing short of palpable.

The group, known as the Dental Renewal Committee, has been meeting in this way every other week since late 2014. And their dedication to Dentistry and the goal set out in front of them by Dr. Michael J. Strong, dean, Schulich Medicine & Dentistry, has never waned.

It was during Homecoming 2014 that Dr. Strong shared his ambitious goal for Schulich Dentistry to become one of the top 10 pre-eminent dental school's in North America. His announcement was met with great applause from alumni, faculty, staff and students. And it launched what can best be described as one of the most extensive renewal periods in the School's 50-year history.

Along with Dr. Richard Bohay, acting director, Schulich Dentistry, Dr. Strong struck the Dental Renewal Committee. Comprised of leadership from Dentistry, as well as the broader Schulich Medicine & Dentistry community, the Committee was charged with defining and initiating the renewal process; guiding the organization through the change in leadership while ensuring continuity and re-engagement of staff, faculty, students and patients; and being responsible to oversee the renewal of the dental school while ensuring accreditation standards are met.

In the past 15 months, the Committee has redefined the phrase 'taking action,' and they have done so in an inclusive and thoughtful manner.

Initially, the Committee undertook major research projects. These included an external review led by a team of three internationally recognized leaders in dentistry; a series of surveys engaging faculty, staff, alumni and students; and a comparative analysis of Schulich Dentistry with other dental schools in the country. All of this information informed a strategic planning process which began in the spring of 2015.

While keeping its eye on the future, the Committee knew that the teams in Dentistry could successfully complete some more immediate projects, enriching the existing education environment. Work began on the redevelopment of a new Simulation Clinic, the procurement of a new patient management system and a move from film-based imaging to digital imaging. The Committee also began the process for the search of a new Vice Dean/ Director for Dentistry.

As staff, faculty and students continued to be engaged through town halls and retreats, the Committee embarked on a strategic planning process. Through focus groups and one-to-one meetings, the plan was developed. With a strategic plan now in place, the Committee has turned its attention to guiding Project Teams, which will be digging deep into each of the strategic themes and developing operational initiatives to move the strategy into action.

The Committee will continue to meet faithfully every other week in the Clinical Skills Building, as it guides the School through the remainder of this renewal period.

## Dental Renewal Committee

**DR. MICHAEL J. STRONG**
**DR. RICHARD BOHAY**
**DR. STEPHEN FERRIER**
**DR. BERTHA GARCIA**
**BETTY HOLME**
**GRAEME HUNTER, PhD**
**DR. HENRY LAPOINTE**
**DEBORAH LUCAS**
**DWAYNE MARTINS**
**JENNIFER PARRAGA**
**DR. KARIN VAN RYSWYK**
**DALE SHELLEY** (now retired)

# Strategic Planning

*By Jennifer Parraga, BA'93*

In the spring of 2015, Dentistry embarked on a comprehensive strategic planning process to develop our 10-year Strategic Plan.

Under the leadership of the Dental Renewal Committee, which is guided by Dr. Michael J. Strong and Dr. Richard Bohay, Dentistry engaged alumni, faculty, staff and student stakeholders to reflect, question, analyze and be open to the needs and possibilities that are before the School.

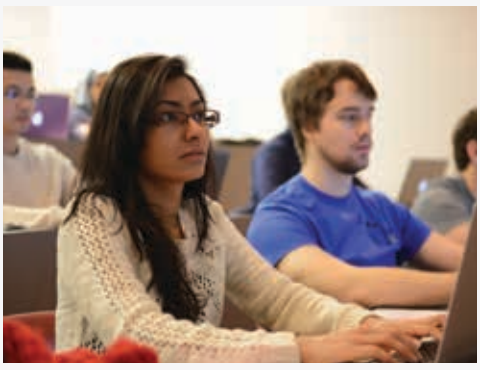
The process included a research phase with surveys, environmental reviews and findings from focus groups and one-to-one interviews with University leadership and community stakeholders.

The research helped with the identification of several critical factors that Dentistry must have in place to achieve its vision. It also helped to form the Strategy Map, and the School's new mission, vision and strategic directions.

On November 28, a strategic planning retreat was held. Faculty, staff, students and community dentists had the opportunity to learn more about the new strategic directions and volunteer to participate on Project Teams. They will work on annual project priorities and operational initiatives and focus their attention on the most critical performance improvement opportunities that will translate the strategic directions into action.

## CRITICAL FACTORS

- Learner-centred education that actively involves the students in their learning journey
- Delivery of an excellent clinical teaching experience that provides students with a broad range of dental experiences, both in the clinic and the community
- Evidence-based, innovative educational programming that encompasses a range of pedagogic models and tools
- Integration of advanced, modern equipment and technology within the clinical setting to ensure students are well prepared to practise in the real world
- Positive and collaborative learning environment with the appropriate faculty to student ratios
- Exceptional full-time and part-time faculty who bring passion and a range of skills, competencies and experiences to their teaching
- Collaborative partnerships with community dentists and the broader community
- A culture and environment that supports and enables research excellence
- Delivery of a high-quality patient experience that meets patient needs in a timely way



## OUR MISSION

■ We will develop in dental professionals the knowledge and skills to provide exemplary care to the diverse communities that we serve. We will influence the future of oral health care through scholarly inquiry, innovation and research.

## OUR VISION

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

## OUR VALUES

■ Social responsibility and accountability
■ Innovation and scientific excellence
■ Compassionate, patient-centred care
■ Diversity
■ Learning experiences that foster academic leadership, critical inquiry and a passion for life-long learning
■ Collaboration and partnership

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

### STRATEGIC DIRECTION #1: THE SCHULICH DIFFERENCE

■ We must deliver outcomes in learning, clinical care and research.

### STRATEGIC DIRECTION #2: THE SCHULICH WAY

■ We must excel at strategic processes and practices.

### STRATEGIC DIRECTION #3: PASSIONATE, PROUD & PREPARED DENTISTRY TEAM

■ To achieve excellence, we need capacity. Capacity is found in our culture, faculty, staff, technology and infrastructure.

### STRATEGIC DIRECTION #4: THRIVING

■ To support and sustain our capacity, we need to ensure we are using our resources wisely.

*See page 26-27 for more details about our Strategic Directions.*

# SCHULICH DENTISTRY STRATEGY MAP: 2016 - 2026

**Thus, achieving our VISION.**

## Mission

We will develop in dental professionals the knowledge and skills to provide exemplary care to the diverse communities that we serve. We will influence the future of oral health care through scholarly inquiry, innovation and research.

**And, meet the needs of the COMMUNITIES we serve,**

## Strategic Stakeholder Outcomes THE SCHULICH DIFFERENCE

### Learning

Students will:

- Have rich and diverse evidence-based learning experiences in a variety of settings, such as clinic, classroom, community and research environments
- Feel supported, involved and enabled to succeed

Graduates will be:

- Confident, competent and prepared to practise evidence-based dentistry
- Compassionate, caring and community-minded
- Proud to give back to Schulich Dentistry and to their communities

**So we can operate with EFFECTIVENESS and EXCELLENCE,**

## Strategies Of Excellence THE SCHULICH WAY

We will attract and enrol the most qualified dental students

- Implement a competency-based, inclusive student selection process
- Establish a quality assurance process for admissions

We will provide our students with outstanding clinical teaching, supervision and evaluation

- Enhance experiential learning opportunities in clinic and in community practices, at home and abroad
- Define and ensure supportive, accessible and collaborative teacher: student relationships
- Expand mentorship
- Improve evaluation processes

We will actively communicate and engage with our stakeholders

- Foster two-way, inclusive dialogue with students
- Create collaborative spaces and forums to foster active learning and multi-stakeholder discussions
- Cultivate open, two-way communication with community dentists and alumni

We will deliver high-quality patient care and services

- Train faculty, students and staff in patient-centred care
- Optimize the patient's clinical care journey and their treatment outcomes

**And, build a STRONG and PREPARED Dentistry school,**

## Capacity Strategies PASSIONATE, PROUD & PREPARED DENTISTRY TEAM

We will operate in a student-centred and collaborative culture that inspires and facilitates people to reach their full potential

- Foster engaged and empowered multidisciplinary faculty and staff teams
- Recognize and celebrate individual and team contributions and accomplishments
- Ensure all faculty and staff are accountable for teaching, patient care and research outcomes
- Facilitate multi-site clinical and learning environments

We will leverage emerging technologies, tools and information resources to support learning, research and operations

- Invest in and prepare users to employ:
  - Practice-management software and digital-communication tools
  - Digital radiography and diagnostics
  - Learning and collaborative technologies
  - Data-management and analytic software
  - Evolving dental equipment and spaces that mirror the real world

**We use our RESOURCES wisely,**

## Resourcing Strategies THRIVING

We will be fiscally accountable, transparent and judicious

- Achieve the optimum faculty:learner ratio
- Adhere to the highest ethical standards in all that we do
- Ensure exemplary financial management of all public and private funds

We will have direct accountability for fiscal and administrative management

- Prudently plan, problem-solve, make decisions and take action to achieve Schulich Dentistry goals

**Guided by our values**

## OUR VALUES

- Social responsibility and accountability
- Collaboration and partnership
- Diversity

## Vision

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

### Clinical Care

■ Patients will:

- Experience high-quality, timely, accessible and affordable care
- Be consistently satisfied with their entire clinical experience

■ London and surrounding communities will:

- Trust and value Schulich Dentistry's services and contributions

### Research

- Multidisciplinary research will provide fundamental knowledge about the tissues of the oral cavity and improve clinical outcomes
- Investigators will feel enabled and supported to carry out their research

■ We will synchronize and efficiently perform all clinical and operating processes

- Review and re-engineer clinic processes, including: patient scheduling and management, dental care supervision, cubicle booking, treatment planning
- Develop standards and expectations for teaching practice that all instructors must adhere to
- Enrich 'student experience' processes

■ We will advance oral health science through discovery and innovation

- Identify research priorities and goals for Schulich Dentistry
- Establish helpful processes to enable research success
- Promote multidisciplinary and interprofessional research projects
- Expand student involvement in research, by promoting critical thinking and participation in projects

■ We will design and deliver a dynamic, integrated and evidence-based curriculum for all dental programs

- Integrate most current, highest quality information and resources into curriculum
- Employ pedagogical best practices
- Embed learning outcomes and assessment in courses
- Blend related course content with Medicine and other health professionals

■ We will partner with the community and make meaningful contributions

- Expand community service, service learning and outreach opportunities
- Provide 'Bridges Out of Poverty' workshop to enhance sensitivity and understanding of poverty
- Partner with community dentists, other disciplines and hospitals to increase our collective impact

■ We will employ highly skilled and passionate teachers, researchers and staff

- Recruit and retain the most qualified faculty
- Engage part- and full-time faculty in continual training to enable evidence-based teaching practices
- Provide multiple and diverse opportunities for staff development and growth

■ We will have the right people in the right roles, focused on the right priorities, achieving optimum results

- Foster a diverse, inclusive community of faculty, staff, students, and alumni
- Lead a dentistry structure that aligns human resources with the needs of students, patients and communities
- Adapt the academic role model to the faculty needs
- Implement an accountability model for faculty and students; including performance standards and expectations

■ We will be led by passionate leaders who 'model the Schulich Way'

- Nurture the skills needed for leadership in the 21st century, including critical, creative and adaptive thinking abilities
- Create the necessary conditions for collective and transparent leadership to flourish in Schulich Dentistry
- Build the capability to lead and manage change

■ We will efficiently diversify and grow our revenue and funding in direct alignment to our goals

- Streamline and automate processes to deploy savings to higher priorities
- Strengthen Schulich Dentistry fundraising strategy and plan to expand donations
- Improve our grant-making processes
- Build and provide a comprehensive range of continuing dental education programs

■ We will measure our performance and continuously improve quality and outcomes

- Create a work environment that promotes open feedback and the constant drive to improve individual and team performance
- Use data and analytics to develop a Schulich Dentistry performance scorecard, measure performance and continually improve

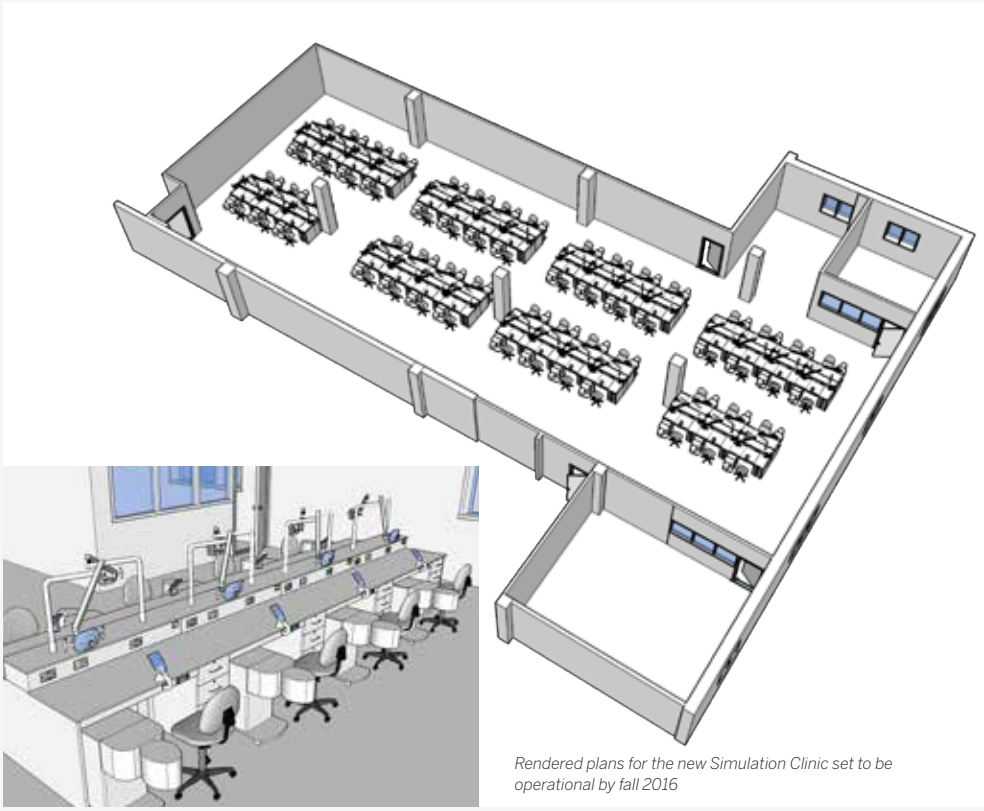
■ Compassionate, patient-centred care

■ Learning experiences that foster academic leadership, critical inquiry and a passion for life-long learning

■ Innovation and scientific excellence

# Building the future of simulation training

**Sixty hybrid workstations, interactive technology and instant feedback are just some of the features of Dentistry's new simulation clinic being constructed today to enhance learning now and in the future.**



*Rendered plans for the new Simulation Clinic set to be operational by fall 2016*

*By Jennifer Parraga, BA'93*

Ask any Dentistry alumnus, who graduated in the past twenty years, where they spent most of their time during their first few years of dental school and inevitably more than a few will tell you it was the Simulation Clinic.

"I sat and worked with mannequin heads, night after night after night," said Dr. Auzzie Reyhani, DDS'12, who also reflects on the time with some fondness.

With the lab constructed in 1968, and simulation equipment originally installed in 1995, the space has served Dentistry well.

No one can deny, however, that it's time for a change.

"Alumni may recall surviving in the lab with a certain degree of nostalgia, but all would agree that it is in need of an overhaul," said Dr. Stan Kogon, MSc'70, who is leading a team of faculty and administrative leaders who are planning and overseeing this critical project.

Renovations to the lab, which include a move to a completely different location in the School, will enhance the teaching and learning environment and elevate the clinical competency of students.

The new lab will allow for advances and new approaches to training, and enhance student experience. Sixty hybrid workstations will allow for simulation training and benchtop exercise in the same lab. The unique design will also provide four additional units featuring interactive technology, which allows students to practise and receive instant feedback on their clinical skills.

Each student will be assigned their own station featuring a state-of-the-art patient simulator; individual monitor linked to the lab's audio-visual system; LED lighting; and a secure storage space for their kit.

Meanwhile, the entire clinic will offer on-site digital radiography and house an updated wet lab to accommodate a full class. The new lab will address and eliminate many challenges of the current space including poor sight lines, inadequate audio-visual support and dated equipment.

The lab is expected to be operational by the fall of 2016.

Getting a project such as this one through to completion in such a short time has taken a significant commitment from the leadership and planning teams at the School. Early on in the process, Schulich Medicine & Dentistry made a multimillion-dollar commitment ensuring success of the project.

Alumni, friends and community members can play a role in redeveloping the clinic through donations. A fundraising project totalling $1 million is underway, and donations are currently being received to support the project. Gifts of $25,000 will be acknowledged on plaques placed on individual workstations within the lab.

To learn more about the project, contact Tracey Rutledge, Executive Director, Alumni Relations & Development: tracey.rutledge@schulich.uwo.ca

# Exploring your interests

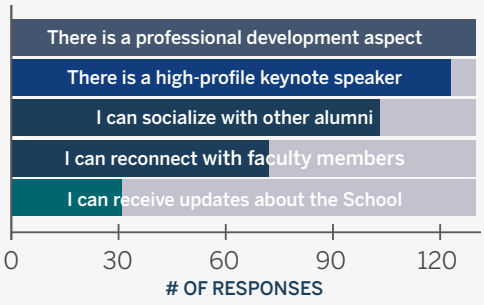
**In late 2015, alumni of the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University responded to a survey inquiring about their communication and event interests. The results of the survey will be used in the planning of ongoing publications and events, and the development of new programs. Thank you for assisting us in exploring your interests.**

## DO YOU FEEL WELL INFORMED ABOUT NEWS AND EVENTS HAPPENING AT THE SCHOOL?

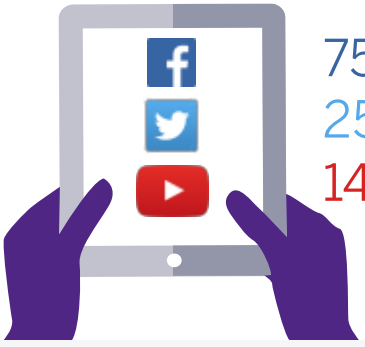
84% YES

16% NO

## I WANT TO ATTEND EVENTS WHERE...




## SOCIAL MEDIA PREFERENCES...



75%

25%

14%

## WHAT TYPE OF INFORMATION WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE IN SCHULICH MEDICINE & DENTISTRY PUBLICATIONS?

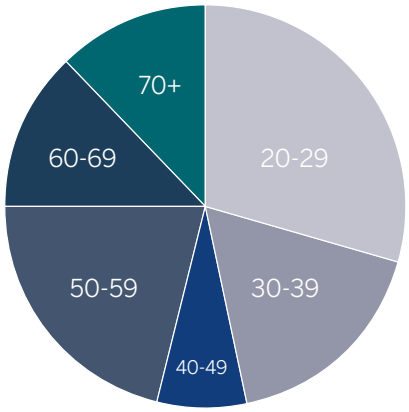
Presented in order of popularity

1. General news and information
2. Updates that pertain to your class year
3. Alumni news and accomplishments
4. Profile stories on current research projects
5. Event information
6. Profile stories on alumni
7. Profile stories on faculty members and students
8. Funding news/announcements

## WHERE WOULD YOU BE MOST LIKELY TO ATTEND EVENTS?

## GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

### WHAT IS YOUR AGE?

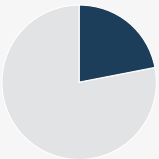



### WHAT PROGRAM DID YOU GRADUATE FROM AT SCHULICH MEDICINE & DENTISTRY?

25% Bachelor of Medical Science (BMSc)

44% Medicine (MD)

19% Dentistry (DDS)



22% Graduate Studies (MSc, PhD)

13% Residency Program

** Respondents may have graduated from more than one program*

# Living a life by design

## Dentistry has given Dr. Michelle Gauthier an outlet to remain creative and artistic while working on a different type of canvas – the mouth

*By Jesica Hurst, BA'14*

For almost a decade, Dr. Michelle Gauthier, DDS'07, has been mastering the craft of dentistry as an art form.

The young dentist always had an interest in the sciences, but her passion for creating detailed paintings and other forms of art was cultivated while she was a student at H.B. Beal Secondary School in London, Ontario. Once she graduated from the specialty arts program, she was determined to find a way to combine both of her passions.

Dr. Gauthier realized that becoming a dentist would give her a stable and rewarding career, as well as an outlet to remain creative and artistic while working on a new type of canvas – the mouth.

Often considered opposites, Dr. Gauthier believes science and art actually go hand-in-hand when it comes to dental work.

"A lot of dental work is considered aesthetic – correcting patients' smiles

and making them feel better about their appearance," Dr. Gauthier explained. "I'm very particular about making everything look and feel perfect – one professor even gave me the nickname 'da Vinci' because I would spend so much time making fillings look beautiful."

Since graduating from Schulich Dentistry, Dr. Gauthier has worked as a dental associate at various practices and at the University of Waterloo. However, in early 2015, the opportunity presented itself to acquire a practice called Lynhurst Dental, located in St. Thomas, Ontario.

She didn't waste any time putting some personal touches on the practice, including hot pink dental masks and gloves, fun toys for children and playing upbeat satellite radio stations to calm the more anxious patients.

"I always knew I would eventually open or acquire a practice, but it's funny how things happen when you're not looking for them," she said with a laugh. "This opportunity really just came into place for me, and even though it was overwhelming at first I have really grown to love it."

Dr. Gauthier's love of the arts and entertainment industry is also made obvious at her practice, as her office walls are lined with large posters and autographed pictures of her favourite musicians, athletes and sports teams. Other personal touches showcase her love of travel, specifically to big cities in the United States and Europe such as New York City, San Francisco, Paris and London.

The avid explorer doesn't just travel for pleasure, however, as she is also an advocate for giving back on a global scale. In the summer of 2014 she took part in a one-week mission trip to Guatemala, where she treated hundreds of patients in need.

"Being able to give back to a community in need was an incredible experience, because you really see that some of these people have very little and they thank you from the bottom of their heart," Dr. Gauthier said. She has continued to support international efforts through charities such as Childlife Network International Inc.

With less time to spend on her painting and other traditional art forms, she has channelled her artistic efforts into creating intricate jewellery for the mouth, using precious metals such as gold. She has created these unique accessories for musicians, professional athletes and television personalities like George Stroumboulopoulos.

If Dr. Gauthier had to give current students at Schulich Dentistry a piece of advice, it would be to be true to who they are – personally and professionally.

"I think some people are afraid to be themselves because they fear people won't want to see that side of them, but I think the most important thing is to be true to who you are," she said. "You're not going to please everyone, so be sure you're making your own decisions and that you enjoy what you're doing."

"And make sure you have some fun in the process," she added with a smile.

**"Being able to give back to a community in need was an incredible experience, because you really see that some of these people have very little and they thank you from the bottom of their heart."**

— DR. MICHELLE GAUTHIER

*Dr. Michelle Gauthier pictured with one of the young patients she treated during a mission trip to Guatemala in 2014.*

# Sound mind, sound body

## Alumnus and former varsity athlete Dr. Bill Terzis gains valuable inspiration from his role as head coach for Western University's water polo team

*By Emily Leighton, MA'13*

Dr. Bill Terzis, DDS'95, was only 11 years old when he was first introduced to one of the toughest sports in the world. It was the beginning of a special, long-lasting bond – one that has connected him to his alma mater for more than 20 years.

Water polo – a fast-paced game involving as much strategy as it does skill and strength – is his sport of choice.

"Quite simply it's the most fun I've had playing sports," Dr. Terzis explained. "It requires physical fitness and an ability to think under pressure, in addition to the fundamental skills."

Despite the enthusiasm, it was a rocky start for this athletic relationship. As a young and frequent summer patron of Southcrest Pool in London, Ontario, an uninitiated Dr. Terzis remembers being asked to play last minute when the pool's water polo team was short players for a game.

"I could barely make it to the other side of the pool to pick up the ball," he said with a laugh. "But watching the older players, the 16-year-olds, race down the pool and throw to the other side, that just lit a fire in me. From that day on, I was hooked."

This youthful passion for water polo developed into a competitive edge during high school and throughout his university education.

In Grade 10, while attending Westminster Secondary School, Dr. Terzis began training with the Western University varsity team. He became a full-fledged member of the team in his first year of undergraduate study, continuing as a Mustang for another six years.

A testament to his achievements out of the water, he entered Schulich Dentistry after only two years of undergraduate study.

Following graduation with distinction from the School, he completed a one-year, general practice residency at Jewish General Hospital in Montreal, Quebec. Returning to his hometown in 1996, Dr. Terzis set up a general family dentistry practice. He works with two associates, focusing on restoring patients' smiles, dental health and function, dental implants and cosmetic work.

"I think of myself as more of a mouth doctor, as opposed to tooth technician," he said with a boyish grin. "Restoring someone's ability to chew or smile, it's incredible. It keeps me going."

While managing a thriving dental practice, Dr. Terzis hasn't forgotten his aquatic passion – water polo remains a big part of his life.

He is currently the head coach for Western's varsity team, a position he will hold for the foreseeable future.

It is a significant time commitment to make in addition to his role as a father to two young children. The water polo season stretches from September to late November, with 10 hours of weekly practice time and frequent travel to games and tournaments.

But despite these responsibilities, it's a fulfilling experience for the former varsity athlete. "My satisfaction as a coach comes from getting in the water and playing, showing, teaching," he said. "And I love helping the student athletes as they develop from freshmen into confident adults and leaders during their years on the team. They really motivate and inspire me."

It seems inspiration comes in many forms for Dr. Terzis.

Part of a large Greek family, Dr. Terzis grew up appreciating ancient philosophies on life. He points to one particular Greek philosophy that has helped shape him as an athlete, a coach and a professional: 'pan metron ariston,' which roughly translates to 'all things in good measure.'

Dr. Terzis' interpretation is one of balance and harmony. "You need to consider your whole person and develop many aspects to yourself," he explained. "And recognize that a sound mind and a sound body are one."

# Global perspective

## Dr. Sahza Hatibovic-Kofman reflects on a remarkable career that has spanned international borders, languages and advances in dental education

*By Emily Leighton, MA'13*

Several English dictionaries line the shelves in Dr. Sahza Hatibovic-Kofman's office, discreetly tucked away yet still a noticeable presence in the space.

"When I read, I still have the dictionary with me," she explained with a smile. "I can understand the story, but I like to know more about the words being used."

Beyond a fascination with words, the dictionaries represent Dr. Hatibovic-Kofman's global journey from dental student half a world away to Chair of the Division of Undergraduate Orthodontics and Paediatric Dentistry at Schulich Dentistry.

As a non-native speaker, learning English was a professional and personal hurdle. And it's a language she says she is still mastering. "I want to move beyond delivering a message to being inspiring with my words," she said. "It's very important to be engaged in the language you speak."

This passion for learning is central to Dr. Hatibovic-Kofman's success. She is an accomplished dentist, researcher and academic leader, and has been teaching at Schulich Dentistry for more than 20 years. She has held the divisional chair position since 1999.

Originally from Sarajevo, she obtained her dental degree at Sarajevo University with a specialty in paediatric and preventative dentistry.

Following a doctoral degree in paediatric and preventative medicine at the same institution, Dr. Hatibovic-Kofman completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute for Postgraduate Dental Education in Jönköping, Sweden. During this experience, she worked on several research projects in the field of dental material, behavioural management and oral trauma.

**"I love giving what I know and my philosophies to young people who I hope will use it wisely and achieve much better than me. That is my aim."**

— DR. SAHZA HATIBOVIC-KOFMAN

But as she was looking to return to Bosnia, the country erupted into conflict – the early stages of a three-year war in the region.

Married to a Canadian ex-pat and pregnant at the time, Dr. Hatibovic-Kofman looked to Canada to build her education and expertise into a successful career. She applied for a faculty position at Schulich Dentistry and arrived as an assistant professor in 1991.

Interacting with the students keeps the trailblazer inspired and motivated. "I love giving what I know and my philosophies to young people who I hope will use it wisely and achieve much better than me," she said. "That is my aim."

Dr. Hatibovic-Kofman is quick to admit that while the clinic is her domain – a place where she feels comfortable and at her best – the lecture hall remains an exciting challenge.

"I feel like a fish in the water when I am in the clinic," she said with a laugh.

To satisfy her continued research interests, Dr. Hatibovic-Kofman collaborates with paediatric dentists and researchers across the world. She visits Sweden and her homeland of Bosnia regularly to deliver presentations to current graduate students.

"I keep myself connected because it's a collaborative, inclusive field", she said. "And Canadian paediatric dentistry is highly rated and well respected at the international level."

At the twilight of her career, Dr. Hatibovic-Kofman is transitioning the leadership of the division and retiring from private practice. She will remain involved academically and clinically at the School and continue seeing patients at the London Health Sciences Centre clinic.

She is enthusiastic about the opportunities ahead for Schulich Dentistry. "The future for the Division and the School is looking brighter and brighter," she said. "We are all working together to serve our community and provide the best education possible."

# Bridging the gap

## Dr. Shawn Steele is teaching dental students to 'think outside the mouth'

*By Tristan Joseph, BA'98*

By the time Dr. Shawn Steele, BA'01, DDS'05, JD'13, completes his PhD in Health Professional Education, he will have 13 letters after his name. Each letter speaks to his passion for dentistry, education, justice and people.

An adjunct professor, Dr. Steele teaches dental students part-time and provides specialized dental care for seniors and people with physical or mental disabilities at St. Joseph's Parkwood Institute. Dr. Steele is also working with local organizations to develop community-based oral care strategies for vulnerable populations and is a dedicated academic.

Through his work in the community, he sees the barriers that people face in accessing dental care first-hand. That knowledge and his belief that dentistry must be patient-centred are what motivate him to continue his education year after year.

His patient-centred philosophy is based on dentists looking outside the mouth, past the teeth and gums, so they can understand the patient as a whole person.

"You can be focused on the teeth and the mouth, but dentists can only have an impact on patients' lives if we think broadly," said Dr. Steele. "It's a matter of social justice. Oral health inequality is becoming a bigger problem with people who are homeless, refugees, seniors and many other vulnerable populations."

Experience has proven to him that the only way to help dental students understand that philosophy is through clinical education. Because of this, Dr. Steele is also looking outside the classroom, to what future dentists experience in their first days of practice. "On my first day as a dentist, I didn't understand the interaction between dentists and hygienists," said Dr. Steele. "We are educated in silos."

That moment and his focus on patient-centred care led him to implement an interprofessional education workshop for Schulich Dentistry and Fanshawe College Dental Hygiene students. The workshop is designed to provide students with the opportunity to learn how to work together, including competencies in interprofessional collaboration, communication and conflict resolution. With the proximity between the two institutions, Dr. Steele believes there is a unique opportunity to train dentists and hygienists to work together.

"We have an opportunity to lead in the development of service-oriented practitioners – dentists who will go on to have an inclination toward community service and social responsibility," said Dr. Steele. "Dentistry has a role in advancing overall health care and combatting the social injustices that exist in oral care. Oral health can't be separated from quality of life."

**"We have an opportunity to lead in the development of service-oriented practitioners – dentists who will go on to have an inclination toward community service and social responsibility."**

— DR. SHAWN STEELE

# Research Awards

**The Research Awards are presented annually to recognize the achievements of students in contributing to the School's innovation and excellence in research.**

## 2015 Student Research Award

### Quintessence Research Award
**(Graduating Dental Student)**
The Quintessence Research Award is awarded to a graduating DDS student who has been exemplary in research in the undergraduate dental program on the recommendation of the Schulich Dentistry Research Committee following nomination by faculty supervisors.

**Dr. Kathleen Martin, DDS'15**

## Schulich Dentistry Research Day Awards

### Certificate of Merit
**(Senior Category)**
Awarded to the top three presentations in the Senior Category at Schulich Dentistry's Annual Research Day.

First Place
**James Hutchenreuther, PhD Candidate, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology**
Supervised by Andrew Leask, PhD

Second Place
**Mohamed Gebril, PhD Candidate, Department of Biomedical Engineering**
Supervised by Dr. Amin Rizkalla

Third Place
**Dr. Meena Na, Graduate Orthodontics Class of 2016**
Supervised by Dr. Jeff Dixon

### Travel Awards (Junior Category)
Awarded for outstanding student poster presentations in the Junior Category at Schulich Dentistry's Annual Research Day. Recipients will represent Schulich Dentistry at upcoming research conferences.

**ADA Foundation Travel Award**
2016 ADA Dental Students' Conference on Research, Gaithersburg MD

**Kim Beaucage, Dentistry Class of 2018**
Supervised by Dr. Jeff Dixon

**CDA/DENTSPLY Travel Award**
2016 National Oral Health Conference, Vancouver BC

**Michael Tiedemann, Dentistry Class of 2017**
Supervised by Douglas Hamilton, PhD

**Hinman Student Research Travel Award**
2016 Hinman Student Research Symposium, Memphis TN

**David Feere, Dentistry Class of 2018**
Supervised by Andrew Leask, PhD

## Studentship Awards

### Dentistry Summer Research Program

**Edward Pham, Dentistry Class of 2018**
Supervised by Dr. Hasan Alkumru

**Kim Beaucage, Dentistry Class of 2018**
Supervised by Dr. Jeff Dixon

**Vida Lam, Dentistry Class of 2017**
Supervised by Harvey Goldberg, PhD

**Michael Tiedemann, Dentistry Class of 2017**
Supervised by Douglas Hamilton, PhD

**Erik Holm, Dentistry Class of 2018**
Supervised by David Holdsworth, PhD

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

**David Feere, Dentistry Class of 2018**
Supervised by Andrew Leask, PhD

**Gregory Luvison, Dentistry Class of 2017**
Supervised by Amin Rizkalla, PhD, PEng

**Martin Reiss, Dentistry Class of 2016**
Supervised by Dr. Gildo Santos

**Jennifer Archibald, Dentistry Class of 2017**
Supervised by Dr. Maria Jacinta Santos

**Jennifer Branch, Dentistry Class of 2018**
Supervised by Cheryle Séguin, PhD

**Daniel Mandic, Dentistry Class of 2016**
Supervised by Dr. Michael Shimizu

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

**Jason Vincent, Dentistry Class of 2018**
Supervised by Tim Wilson, PhD

*Michael Tiedemann, Dentistry Class of 2017, presented a poster as part of Schulich Dentistry's Annual Research Day in October.*

# Celebrating Schulich Dentistry

**With great celebration and School pride, more than 25 awards were presented to faculty and students at the annual Schulich Dentistry Fall Awards Reception in November.**

*Award recipients celebrated their academic achievements at the annual Fall Awards Reception.*

## Class of 2016

**Jennifer Boogaards**
Centennial Orthodontics and Paediatric Dentistry Award
Western Faculty Association Scholarship

**Ziana Esmail**
Ontario Dental Association Proficiency Award

**Jessica Gold**
Association of Prosthodontists of Ontario Award

**Po Cheng Lin**
Academy of Operative Dentistry Award

**Amirsalar Mofidi**
Canadian Academy of Periodontology Award

**Kimberly Ngai**
Dentistry Class of 1975 Scholarship

**Nicole Ostro**
International College of Dentists Award

**Martin Reiss**
Schulich Dentistry Prize for Professionalism and Ethics

**Jaskaran Takhar**
Elgin Dental Association Award in Oral Surgery

**Fuad Tanha**
Sunstar/G.U.M. Clinical Proficiency Award

## Class of 2017

**Jennifer Archibald**
Centennial Orthodontic and Paediatric Dentistry Award
Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario Scholarship Second Year

**Oies Hussein**
Toronto Crown & Bridge Study Club Award

**Peter Kim**
American Dental Society Anesthesiology Award

**Vida Lam**
Laura Stakiw Memorial Award

**Elizabeth Waknine**
Dr. Donald MacLean Award in Oral Radiology

## Class of 2018

**Sameen Abrar**
Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario Scholarship First Year

**David Feere**
Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario Dean's Award of Excellence

**Carolyn Karr**
Toronto Crown & Bridge Study Club Award

**David Omole**
Dr. Sam Ioannidis Memorial Award

**Sadia Tasleem**
General Medicine Award

## Fellowships

**Dr. Karl Cuddy**
Wesley and Jean Dunn Fellowship

*Dr. Esperenza Bohorquez received the C.Y. Lung Award at the Fall Awards Reception.*

## Faculty Awards

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

**Dr. Tarek Ek-Sayegh** was presented with the American Academy of Periodontology Educator Award for his contributions to the undergraduate periodontology program.

# Join us for Homecoming

September 30 - October 2, 2016

Schulich MEDICINE & DENTISTRY

Western

## Featured Events:

### The Dean's Gala

**Saturday, October 1, 2016**
The London Convention Centre

**Featuring the Alumni of Distinction Awards**

**Join us as we come together to celebrate the achievements of our extraordinary Schulich Medicine & Dentistry Alumni.**

**Friday, September 30**

**Continuing Dental Education: Rock Your Practice to the Top**

**Saturday, October 1**

**Dean's Distinguished Lecture**
**Complimentary Lunch**
**Self-Guided Historical Walking Tour**
**Western Mustangs Football Game**
**Golden Alumni Cocktail Reception**
**The Dean's Gala**

For more information, weekend accommodations and how to register visit:

**www.schulich.uwo.ca/homecoming**

Do you know outstanding alumni who are leaders in their profession and their communities? Nomination forms are available for the 2016 Alumni of Distinction Awards:

**www.schulich.uwo.ca/homecoming/alumni_of_distinction_awards.html**