

Class of 2022
Commencement

*The University of
Alabama School of Dentistry
at
The University of
Alabama at Birmingham*



*Bartow Arena
Saturday, June 4, 2022 12:00 PM*

*The faculty of the School of Dentistry
takes the opportunity of the*

Commencement Ceremony

*to acknowledge and congratulate our
students and wish all graduates
fulfillment and happiness in the
profession of dentistry.*

COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

Processional

Te Deum by Charpentier

Welcome & Introductions

Russell S. Taichman, D.M.D., D.M.Sc.

Dean

National Anthem

Mark Abere, D.M.D.

Class of 2019

Greetings from the Alabama Dental Association

James J. Phillips, Jr., D.M.D.

President of the Alabama Dental Association

Greetings from the School of Dentistry Alumni Association

Jason Etherton, D.M.D.

President-Elect of the Alumni Association

Lister Hill Lecture

Rear Admiral Gayle D. Shaffer, deputy chief, U.S. Navy

Deputy Surgeon General of the Navy

Special Awards Presentation

Alabama Dental Alumni Association Award for Leadership

Alabama Dental Association (ALDA) Student Leadership Award

American Student Dental Association (ASDA) Award of Excellence

International College of Dentists Student Humanitarian Award

UAB National Alumni Society Distinguished Alumni Scholarship Award (D3)

Joseph F. Volker Award

OKU Inductees

Edward H. Bradford, Jr., D.D.S., M.P.H.

Associate Professor, Department of Restorative Sciences

Perng-Ru Liu, D.D.S., M.S., D.M.D.,

Thomas P. Hinman Endowed Professor

and Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs

Dean's Medal Presentation

Russell S. Taichman, D.M.D., D.M.Sc.
Dean

Presentation of Graduates

Carly Timmons McKenzie, Ph.D.,
Associate Professor and Assistant Dean for Admissions

Nicolaas C. Geurs, D.D.S., M.S.,
Weatherford/Palcanis Endowed Professor, Chair,
Department of Periodontology

Warren W. Arrasmith, D.M.D.,
Thomas W. Jones Endowed Associate Professor and
Clinical Director, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Amjad Javed, M.Sc., Ph.D.,
Professor, Interim Associate Dean for Research

The Dentist's Pledge

Dentist Honor Code

Michelle A. Robinson, D.M.D., M.A.,
Associate Professor and Senior Associate Dean

Congratulations & Final Message to Graduates

Russell S. Taichman, D.M.D., D.M.Sc.
Dean

Recessional

Rondeau by Mouret

Please remain standing until after the recessional.

Marshal for the Faculty

Janice Jackson, D.M.D.,
Professor and Chair, Department of Pediatric Dentistry

Marshal for the Graduates

Chin-Chuan Fu, D.D.S., M.S.,
Associate Professor and Associate Chair, Department
of Restorative Sciences

Sonya T. Mitchell, D.M.D., M.S.H.A.,
Associate Professor, Department of Clinical and Community Sciences

LISTER HILL LECTURESHIP

Approximately half a century ago, the Century Club of the UAB School of Dentistry inaugurated the 'Lister Hill Lecture' series. The Century Club was a group of dedicated alumni and friends who through their generosity, desired to perpetuate the legacy of Senator Lister Hill's many contributions to the sponsorship of monumental legislation in the United States Senate.

Senator Hill's leadership provided funds that enabled thousands of medical professionals to have better training, millions of dollars to be spent for the construction of needed health research facilities, a National Library of Medicine to be created, and countless saved lives due to his dedication to the cause of health research.

Dr. Joseph F. Volker, then President of the University of Alabama at Birmingham and first Dean of the School of Dentistry presented the first address in 1970. Today, the address is supported by the University of Alabama School of Dentistry Alumni Association and is celebrated as one of the highlights of the school's annual Commencement ceremony. This year, we are privileged to have as the Lister Hill Lecturer,

Rear Admiral Gayle D. Shaffer, deputy chief, U.S. Navy Deputy Surgeon General of the Navy

Rear Adm. Gayle Shaffer earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of South Alabama and a Doctor of Dental Medicine Degree from the University of Alabama School of Dentistry. She earned a certificate in Comprehensive Dentistry from the Naval Postgraduate Dental School and holds a master's in health sciences from George Washington University. She received her commission as an ensign in 1989.

At sea, Shaffer served on USS Puget Sound (AD-38), completing two Mediterranean deployments. Ashore, her assignments include Naval Hospital Great Lakes; Great Lakes Naval Dental Center; clinic director, 2nd Dental Battalion, Camp Lejeune and Branch Dental Clinic, Naval Air Facility, Atsugi, Japan. She served as director, General Practice Residency; department head, Hospital Dentistry Division, and director for Branch Health Clinics, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD.

Shaffer served as executive officer, 1st Dental Battalion/Naval Dental Center, Camp Pendleton and U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa. She also served as commanding officer, Naval Hospital Jacksonville, FL.

As an Individual Augmentee, Shaffer deployed as officer-in-charge of the Expeditionary Medical Facility, Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti in support of Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa and Operation Enduring Freedom. She also deployed as commanding officer, NATO Role 3 Multinational Medical Unit, Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Resolute Support, Train, Advise, Assist Command-South. Her staff assignments include assistant deputy chief, Medical Operations, U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery; executive assistant to Navy deputy surgeon general, U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery; liaison officer to the Defense Health Agency; director, Health Services, Headquarters Marine Corps and Medical Officer of the Marine Corps; deputy chief, Operations, Plans and Readiness, U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery; and 38th chief of the Navy Dental Corps.

Shaffer maintains board certification in the American Board of General Dentistry, and is a fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry and International College of Dentists.

Shaffer began serving as the Navy deputy surgeon general and deputy chief, U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Feb. 28, 2020.

Shaffer's awards are the result of being surrounded by incredible shipmates and they include the Legion of Merit (two awards), Meritorious Service Medal (four awards) and various unit and campaign awards.

*2022 Awards
Convocation*



Special Honors

OMICRON KAPPA UPSILON

Omicron Kappa Upsilon is the national honorary dental fraternity. Students are elected to membership on the basis of scholarship and professional stature.

D4 Alumni Members

Ryan Boyd Elkins
Tanner Cole Godfrey
Makenzie Kitchens Johnson
Virginia Claire Loeb
Sarah Gwin Moore
Alexander Thomas Mathews
Katie Li Powers

IDP Alumni Member

Melissa Maria Lopez

2022 Presented Awards

The Alabama Dental Alumni Association Award for Leadership

The recipient of this award is a member of the graduating class who has displayed outstanding leadership in school affairs. He or she is selected by the upperclassmen of the student body. In addition to the recognition, the Alumni Association provides a monetary award to the recipient.

The Alabama Dental Association Student Leadership Award

The recipient of this award is presented to a graduating D4 who has demonstrated leadership qualities as a student. In selecting the candidates for this award, the faculty of the School of Dentistry has expressed the belief that the recipient has the potential to become a future leader within the profession possessing the motivation and dedication to pursue the betterment of the health of his or her patients and the advancement of the standards of the profession.

The American Student Dental Association Award of Excellence

This award honors the spirit of volunteerism and recognizes student leadership and participation in service to their school and local community. It is the belief of the faculty of the School of Dentistry that the recipient of this award has the potential to become an active participant in furthering the cause of organized dentistry.

The International College of Dentists Student Humanitarian Award

This award honors a graduate who not only exemplified and demonstrated passion for altruistic humanitarian service during his/her student years but has great potential to continue to do so.

2022 Presented Awards

The Joseph F. Volker Award

This award is bestowed annually upon a graduating student who has epitomized the team concept by selflessly helping classmates throughout their dental education. The recipient has worked for the good of the school and student body and is selected by a vote of the entire D4 class.

The UAB National Alumni Society Distinguished Alumni Scholarship Award

This award is presented each year to a student in honor of the previous year's NAS Distinguished Alumni awardee. The one-time scholarship is given to a student enrolled in the school or course of study of the winner of UAB's highest alumni honor. The 2020 distinguished alumni award winner was School of Dentistry alumnus Dr. Ben Cumbus.

2022 Awards

Academy of General Dentistry Student Award

Celia Lillian-Claire Bonnet & Valerie Johana Castro Velez

Academy of Operative Dentistry

Luis Angel Abrahante

Academy of Osseointegration

Valerie Johana Castro Velez

The American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry

Carolina Cohen Vaz Braga

The American Academy of Implant Dentistry

Daniel Macon Henderson

American Academy of Oral Medicine

Virginia Claire Loeb

American Academy of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology

(Leonard Robinson Award)

Cody Phillip Santora

American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology

Jackson Michael Gunter

American Academy of Orofacial Pain Outstanding

Senior Student Award

Luis Angel Abrahante

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

Alexa Ruttenberg Martin

The American Academy of Periodontology Dental Student

Award for Achievement in Periodontology

Katie Li Powers

American Association of Endodontics

Cody Phillip Santora

**American Association of Oral & Maxillofacial
Surgeons/Dental Implant Student Award**

Alexander Thomas Mathews

**American Association of Oral & Maxillofacial
Surgeons Dental Student Award/OMS & Anesthesiology**

Timothy Cale Kreger

American Association of Orthodontics

Tanner Cole Godfrey

American Association of Public Health Dentistry

Ana Elizabeth Ospina Castillero

American College of Dentists

Katherine Ann Paulett

**American College of Prosthodontics Undergraduate Award
(Palmi Mollier Merit)**

Morgan Nicole Collins

American Dental Society of Anesthesiology

Andra Andrei

Birmingham District Dental Society Award

Thieu Anh Vo

**Pierre Fauchard Academy Oral Health Foundation Student
Scholarship (D3)**

Crystal M. Smith

Pierre Fauchard Academy Senior Student Award

Cody Phillip Santora

International College of Dentists Student Leadership Award

Tanner Cole Godfrey

**International Congress of Oral Implantologist
Predoctoral Student Achievement Award**

Luis Angel Abrahante

Dr. Chau Ngoc Lam Scholarship Award

Nia Renee Taylor

William Lionell McCracken Memorial Award

Valerie Johana Castro Velez

OKU Kramer Award of Excellence (D3)

Linh M. Tran

Quintessence Award for Clinical Achievement in Periodontics

Sarah Gwin Moore

Quintessence Award for Research Achievement

Tanner Cole Godfrey

**Quintessence Award for Clinical Achievement & Restorative
Dentistry**

Cody Phillip Santora

Leon Schneyer Award

Makenzie Kitchens Johnson

Virginia Claire Loeb

Alexander Thomas Mathews

Jessica Marie Mitchum

Ana Elizabeth Ospina Castillero

Alyssa Raj Patel

Julia Thach Thao Pham

Katie Li Powers

Dr. Jeanne C. Sinkford Student Leadership Award-ADEA

Nia Renee Taylor

Society for Color and Appearance in Dentistry

Lindsey Ann Crnalic

The Southeastern Academy of Prosthodontics

Asisan Kalsi

Brian D. Stone Memorial Award Dental Lifeline Network

Thieu Anh Vo

Whip-Mix Hanau Best of the Best Prosthodontics Award

Cody Phillip Santora

The Dentist's Pledge

Dentist Honor Code

As evidence of the esteem with which I hold my chosen profession, and with full appreciation of my responsibilities to my fellow man implied and expressed by my degree in dentistry, I do hereby willingly pledge:

That I will execute to the best of my ability the theory and practice of dentistry so that I may do honor to myself and my profession;

That I will faithfully observe the principles of ethics as set forth by the profession;

That, to the best of my ability I will endeavor to improve myself through continuing education by whatever means available, so that I may keep abreast of the advances in the science and techniques of dentistry for the betterment of my patient.

All this I accept with pride in my profession and with humility at the magnitude of the work to be done.

Sidney B. Finn, A.B., D.M.D., M.S.

*Class of 2022
Graduates*



Graduates

Luis Angel Abrahamante	Florencia, Cuba
Pamela Carolina Acosta Mejia	Santiago, Dominican Republic
Andra Andrei.....	Targu Jiu, Romania
Zainab Anees Baldi	Baghdad, Iraq
Babatunde Michael Banwo	Lagos, Nigeria
Celia Lillian-Claire Bonett.....	Orlando, Florida
Kevin Tuck Borie.....	Hoover, AL
Carolina Cohen Vaz Braga.....	Gulf Shores, AL
Valerie Johana Castro Velez.....	Miami, FL
Morgan Nicole Collins.....	Alabaster, AL
Robert Rushton Corey.....	Mountain Brook, AL
Lindsey Ann Crnalic	St. Petersburg, FL
Robert William Cronk, III.....	Mobile, AL
Andrew Martin Dauphin	Dothan, AL
Jessica Saurabh Desai	Anaheim, CA
Melinda Swicord Dollins	Birmingham, AL
Ryan Boyd Elkins	Huntsville, AL
Dalila Estefania Fernandez	Miami, FL
Tanner Cole Godfrey.....	Logan, UT
<i>Recipient of dual DMD/PhD degree</i>	
Jackson Michael Gunter.....	Opelika, AL
Layth Hamid	Baghdad, Iraq
Kyle Jordan Hargis.....	Camden, AR
Natalie Alyse Harris.....	Cullman, AL
Shannon Elise Hearn.....	Mobile, AL
Daniel Macon Henderson	Andalusia, AL
Olivia Thompson Henderson	Johnson City, TN

Graduates

Sharon Anitha Jacob	Coral Springs, FL
Kayla Ann Jennings	Huntsville, AL
Keriann Nicole Jimenez	McLean, VA
Makenzie Kitchens Johnson	Kennesaw, GA
Andrea Grey Jones	Montgomery, AL
Austin Matthew Jordan	Frisco City, AL
Asisan Kalsi	New Delhi, India
Harmanmeet Kaur	Bartlett, IL
Caroline Brenna Kestner	Huntsville, AL
Mitchell Ray Kestner	Huntsville, AL
Timothy Cale Kreger	Huntsville, AL
Gabriela Cristina Larrea	Winter Haven, FL
Seon Yeong Lee	Seoul, South Korea
Jamie Yang Lin	Hoover, AL
Virginia Claire Loeb	Atlanta, GA
Melissa Maria Lopez	Santiago, Dominican Republic
David Howard Loveless	Birmingham, AL
Alexa Ruttenberg Martin	Birmingham, AL
Alexander Thomas Mathews	Florence, AL
Jessica Marie Mitchum	Knoxville, TN
Sarah Gwin Moore	Huntsville, AL
Amy Elizabeth Nealon	Naperville, IL
Thu Huu Bao Nguyen	Garden Grove, CA
Ana Elizabeth Ospina Castellero	Birmingham, AL
Alyssa Raj Patel	Opelika, AL
Dhvani Hardik Patel	Houston, TX

Graduates

Jayneel V. Patel	Nadiad, India
Kinjal Umesh Patel	Selma, AL
Hemakshi Vijay Patidar	Ashburn, GA
Katherine Ann Paulett	Madison, AL
Julia Thach Thao Pham.....	Bayou La Batre, AL
Katie Li Powers.....	Birmingham, AL
Shwetha Shri Rajagopalan	Chennai, India
Christian Lawrence Russ	Florence, AL
Chase Maxwell Samford.....	Auburn, AL
Cody Phillip Santora.....	Slocomb, AL
Lusine Sedrakyan.....	Yerevan, Armenia
Yasmin Taj Sindhi	Greenville, SC
Jordan Layne Smith	Tuscaloosa, AL
Austin Richard Stiles	Auburn, AL
Mary Colleen Stubbs.....	Wetumpka, AL
Jessica Nianci Sun.....	Birmingham, AL
Christopher Stender Swicord	Birmingham, AL
Nia Renee Taylor	Birmingham, AL
Tina Mathew Thomas	Ellicott City, MD
Marc Sanders Vallée.....	Mobile, AL
Thieu Anh Vo	New Orleans, LA
Layne Elizabeth Williams	Montgomery, AL
Matthew Michael Wilson.....	Madison, AL
Austin Sanders Wright	Scottsboro, AL
Ronald Gordon Young	Mobile, AL

