

# DENTAL ALUMNI



Spring/Summer 2018



*In this issue:*  
2018 Alumni Weekend in Review  
UAB School of Dentistry Interim Dean Announcement

**DENTALUMNI**  
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA  
SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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Development Coordinator	Ms. Christy Roach

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

White Coat Ceremony in Birmingham, AL	Aug. 23rd
AGD in Destin, FL – Dean's Reception	Sept. 7th
ADA in Honolulu, HI – Dean's Reception	Oct. 18th

**ON THE COVER:**

*2018 Executive Council Officers from L-R:*  
Drs. Bruce Camp, Ben Ingram, Stanley Beard,  
Ben Cumbus, Bob Jones

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Fellow Alumni,

The Alumni Association is again working hard for you on many fronts. We have enjoyed another successful year - done in large part to our incredible staff of Scott, Charlene, Abby and our newest face, Christy Roach. I would also like to thank our officers: Dr. Ben Joe Cumbus (president-elect), Dr. Bruce Camp (vice-president), and Dr. Ben Ingram (secretary/treasurer) for their leadership, as well as the entire executive council.



We experienced a great Alumni Weekend, thanks to Dr. Lori Gearhart, with another stellar slate of continuing education, time with our classmates and colleagues, and our much needed and appreciated exhibitors in the overflowing exhibit hall. Our dental students performed their yearly magic at the talent show and assisted us with the raffle.

The UAB School of Dentistry has continued to flourish under the leadership of Dr. Mike Reddy. Dr. Reddy is a personal friend and has been in my home for alumni functions. However, we must say goodbye to him as Dean. During his tenure, we have risen to a premier, if not the top, dental program in the country providing demanding dental education, excellent clinical experience and outstanding academic research. We will miss his direction and his special relationship with the Alumni Association. We wish he and his family the best in their future endeavors.

Because of this change, your Alumni Association has mobilized to make many contacts to ensure our voice be heard on the Dean's selection committee. Our alumni reached out to Governor Kay Ivey, UAB Provost Dr. Pam Benoit and UAB President Dr. Ray Watts. We are pleased to announce that, because of those coordinated efforts, we were heard. Dr. Ben Joe Cumbus and Dr. Alvin "Red" Stevens will represent us on the committee. I congratulate these men for their dedication to organized dentistry and the UAB School of Dentistry.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting at the Gulf Coast Dental Conference on Friday June 8, 2018. Our luncheon features former Auburn and Alabama Head basketball coaches Sonny Smith and Wimp Sanderson. It should be a memorable occasion.

As we continue to strive for excellence in our association, I'm reminded of an old southern saying " I may pass this way only once, so any good that I may do or any kindness I might show, let me do it now, because I may never pass this way again".

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stanley R. Beard, 2018". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Stanley R. Beard, Class of 1989  
2018 UA SOD Alumni President



# ALUMNI WEEKEND 2018

## ALUMNI WEEKEND IN REVIEW

With record-breaking attendance and exhibitor support, the Alumni Association hosted another successful Alumni Weekend in Birmingham at the Hyatt Regency Wynfrey Hotel on February 1-4, 2018. More than 1,900 alumni, UAB SOD staff, faculty and students plus more than 50 exhibitors and sponsors gathered for continuing education and various dental meetings throughout the weekend. Evening events such as the annual Distinguished Dentist reception highlighted our finest for the year and President's Reception honored outgoing president, Dr. Robert S. Jones and his family. The weekend concluded with the fun must-see event showcasing the talent of the UAB dental students.



Make plans to attend 2019 Alumni Weekend February 6th-9th in Birmingham

# ALUMNI WEEKEND 2018

## DISTINGUISHED DENTIST AWARD WINNERS

At the annual Distinguished Dentist reception on Thursday, February 1, Dr. John D. Barnes was presented with the 2017 Distinguished Alumnus Award and Dr. R. David Roden was named the 2017 Outstanding Young Alumnus.



### Dr. John D. Barnes – 2017 Distinguished Dentist Award

A native of Huntsville, Alabama, Dr. John D. Barnes launched his private practice in 1982, where he continues to this day. Dr. Barnes graduated from the University of Alabama School of Dentistry in 1981, and completed a general practice residency at Huntsville Hospital. In 2008, he also completed a mini-residency in implants at the Bicon Implant Institute in Boston. Dr. Barnes has received multiple accolades within his profession and held numerous positions within organizations including President of the University of Alabama School of Dentistry Alumni Association, President of the Huntsville-Madison County Dental Society, and Chair of the University of Alabama School of Dentistry Leadership Council, among others. When not serving his community, Dr. Barnes enjoys time with his family and friends playing tennis, boating, skiing, and other outdoor activities.



### Dr. R. David Roden – 2017 Outstanding Young Alumnus Award

Dr. David Roden is a native of Albertville, Alabama. He attended Auburn University receiving his B.S. in Prehealth, Zoology, and then attended the University of Alabama School of Dentistry. Upon his graduation from dental school in 2002, Dr. Roden received the Dean's Medal, which is awarded based on a student's academic, service and leadership. He did a six year residency program in UAB's Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Department, and spent a year as Chief Resident in 2008 before entering into an academic practice as an assistant professor. In 2010, he joined the Oral Surgery practice of Dr. H. Newton Burton. Dr. Roden is a member of multiple professional organizations including but not limited to The Birmingham District Dental Society, UAB School of Dentistry Alumni Association, McCallum Alumni Association, and the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. When not practicing medicine, Dr. Roden enjoys spending time with his family, bird hunting and fishing.

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# ALUMNI WEEKEND 2018

## CLASS REUNIONS

Class Reunions were hosted on Friday and Saturday at the Hyatt Regency or offsite at nearby Birmingham venues.



*Classes of '52-'67 Medallion Club*



*Class of '68*



*Class of '73*



*Class of '78*



*Class of '83*



*Class of '88*



*Class of '93*



*Class of '98*

# ALUMNI WEEKEND 2018

## CLASS REUNIONS



*Class of '03*



*Class of '08*



*Class of '13*



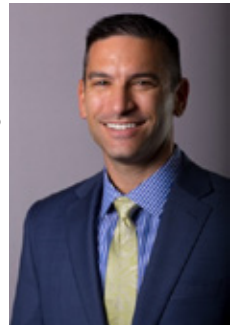
*Dental Hygiene*

Class reunions are hosted every five years. The upcoming 2019 Alumni Weekend will celebrate classes ending in the number "4" or "9". If you are interested in helping plan your reunion or need more information, contact Abby Vinson at [abbyv@uab.edu](mailto:abbyv@uab.edu).

**"No one has ever become rich simply by saving.  
Money grows by proper planning."**

**Warren Buffett knows the value of planning.  
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## DEAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT & MESSAGE

### Michelle Robinson Named Interim Dean of School of Dentistry

Michelle Robinson, DMD, M.A., associate professor and associate dean for Health Information and Business Systems in the School of Dentistry, became the interim dean of UAB School of Dentistry effective May 1.

"It is an honor to have the opportunity to continue the great work of Dr. Michael Reddy as we search for new leadership at the school," Robinson said. "We have a strong and engaged student, faculty, staff, and alumni base. I look forward to working with them as well as our campus and community partners. I want to thank everyone in advance for their valuable input and support as we move forward."

Robinson's research interests include electronic dental records, teaching and learning technologies, strategic planning, and organizational culture. She provides leadership in a broad range of IT and business services and has guided the school through the implementation of an integrated electronic dental record. She has also served more than ten years on the Electronic Dental Record User Group International Advisory Panel.

A champion of diversity, Robinson serves as the School's director of diversity and equity action officer. In 2017, she was recognized as a National Role Model with an award from Minority Access Inc., for her efforts in advancing the recruitment, retention and enhancement of underrepresented students and employees in the School.

Robinson is the faculty advisor for the Student National Dental Association chapter and student American Association for Women Dentists chapter.

She received her DMD from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and her M.A. from Columbia University.

A national search is being conducted to fill the position.

Greetings,

Our goal continues to be optimizing oral health locally and globally. As one of the premier schools of dentistry in the country, we are dedicated to leading oral health by strengthening our nationally ranked research program, expanding our patient-centred clinical practice, broadening engagement, and educating the next generation of clinicians, academicians, and scientists.

An engaged faculty and committed staff allow our students to interact with nationally recognized scholars and leaders in their fields. And situated amid a growing university and with modern facilities, we are attracting exciting new talent to our faculty, staff, student, and resident ranks. We have strong outreach programs and connections to organized dentistry, government, and industry. At the foundation of it all, our alumni association is growing in numbers and engagement.

The school recently completed an update of our strategic plan, aligning it with the university's new plan and creating a number of new initiatives within our four pillars of education, research, engagement, and patient care. This is an exciting time for our school and, during my tenure as Interim Dean, I look forward to advancing the tradition of excellence that has long defined UAB School of Dentistry.

Let's keep things moving...



Michelle Robinson, DMD, M.A.





# UAB SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS

## FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

**Dr. Paul Eleazer**, Professor and Chair of the Department of Endodontics, is retiring from UAB School of Dentistry on June 30, 2018 and will be working with the ADA as Chair of the Council on Scientific Affairs.

**Dr. Steve Filler** was presented with the prestigious Pierre Fauchard Academy faculty achievement award for his work with students and student organization, such as the Student Professionalism Association in Dentistry (SPEA). Dr. Filler is the first first-ever recipient from Alabama.

**Dr. Noel K. Childers**, Joseph F. Volker Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, has been appointed Editor-in-Chief of the AAPD. Previously serving as Section Editor for *Pediatric Dentistry*, he will officially take on the role in September 2018. Childers will oversee the publication of two journals, *Pediatric Dentistry* and *The Journal of Dentistry for Children*.

**Dr. Janice Jackson**, Professor in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, was awarded the Manuel M. Album Award at the AAPD annual meeting. This award is presented annually to the individual or organization that has made the greatest contribution to the oral health of children with special needs.

**Dr. Conan Davis** has been appointed to the AL Council on Health Costs, Administration and Organization of the State Committee of Public Health representing the Alabama Dental Association. This is a 5-year term. "Councils function to receive and act on matters referred to it by the State Committee for Public Health. The activity of each council varies according to subject matter, problem issues and time."

**Dr. Kyounga "Cecilia" Cheon**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, was awarded the prestigious Anne D. Haffajee Fellowship and recognized at the Opening Ceremonies of the 47th Annual Meeting of the American Association for Dental Research (AADR). In recognition of Dr. Haffajee's prominence as a female leader, the fellowship supports the academic and scientific development of promising women investigators toward an independent research career. Along with the interdisciplinary research collaboration through the Dentistry, Biomedical Engineering, and Stem Cell Biology, Dr. Cheon develops on pulp-dentin revitalization project using a nitric oxide releasing nanomatrix gel.

**Dr. Lillian Mitchell**, Assistant Professor and Director of Geriatric Dentistry, was appointed Chair of the Oral Health Challenges in the Aging Population Task Force for the American College of Prosthodontics (ACP) and the ACP Education Foundation at the ACP annual session.



Paul Eleazer



Steve Filler



Noel Childers



Janice Jackson



Conan Davis



Cecilia Cheon



Lillian Mitchell

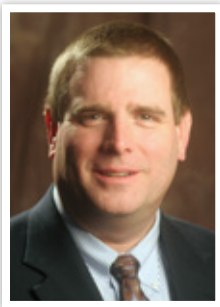
# UAB SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS

## FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

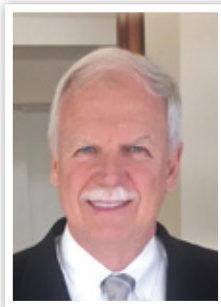
**Dr. Dan Givan**, Assistant Director of Graduate Prosthodontics Residency, was installed as Secretary of the ACP Board of Directors at the American College of Prosthodontics annual session. Dr. Givan will also chair the Council for the American Board of Prosthodontics, the certifying board for the specialty.

**Dr. George W. Ford**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Restorative Sciences, received a teaching certificate from the Center for Teaching and Learning during a ceremony in April 2018. Certification affirms that one has participated in significant professional development in teaching through CTL workshops, teaching observations, development of teaching materials, and other approved activities that strengthen and develop teaching skills.

**Dr. Chung How Kau**, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Orthodontics, has been selected to participate in the ADEA Leadership Institute, a year-long program designed to develop the nation's most promising individuals at academic dental institutions to become future leaders in dental and higher education. And, in October 2017, Dr. Kau was awarded the title of Visiting Professor to the University of Szeged in Hungary. The University of Szeged is one of Hungary's leading and internationally ranked higher education institutions. Dr. Kau is pictured with the Rector of the University of Szeged Professor Gábor Szabó who is a member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (center) and Professor Peter Borbely, President of the Hungarian Society and Chair at the Department of Orthodontics University of Debrecen.



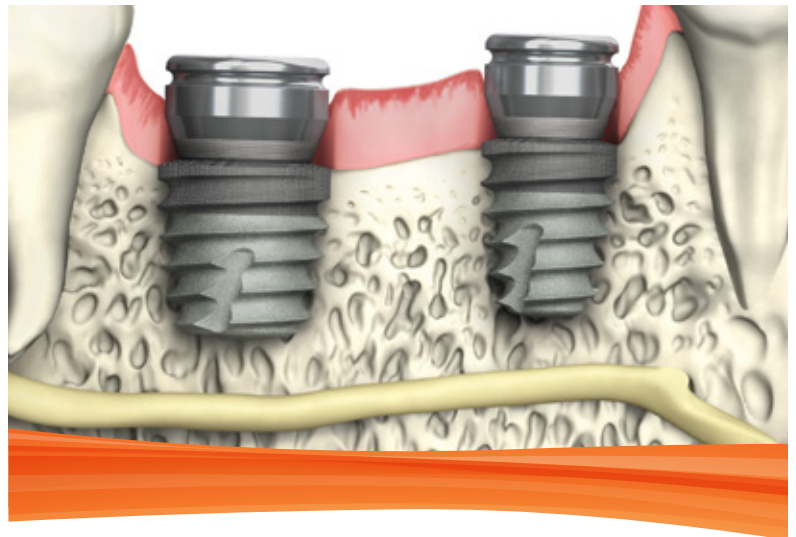
Dan Givan



George Ford



Chung How Kau



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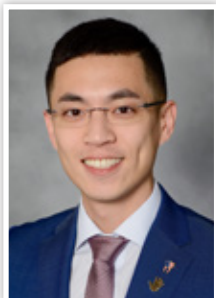
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# UAB SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS

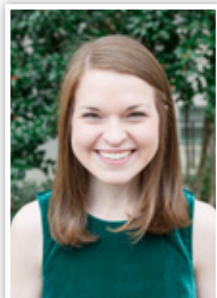
## STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

### ASDA's District 5 Cabinet Appoints Ten

Ten UAB SOD students received positions to serve on the 2018-2019 ASDA District 5 Cabinet. The district consists of 7 schools in the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Puerto Rico. The cabinet members will assist in the planning of district meetings, and other district-wide business that protects and advances the rights, interests and welfare of dental students. This is a great pathway to introduce students to lifelong involvement in organized dentistry.



**Kai Huang (D2)**  
District 5 Trustee



**Mollie Helf (D3)**  
Secretary



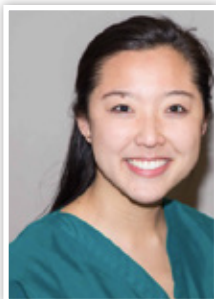
**Ishita Johal (D2)**  
Editor in Chief



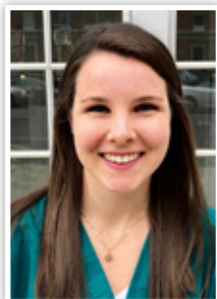
**Paul Kim (D2)**  
Contributing Editor



**Kelsey Gwin (D1)**  
Contributing Editor



**Danielle Ho (D1)**  
Pre dental Co-Chair



**Paige Holbrook (D2)**  
Wellness and Community  
Service Co-Chair



**Neel Patel (D2)**  
Video Production  
Manager



**Hayden Rathel (D2)**  
Presidential Council  
Member



**Connor Kelley (D2)**  
Presidential Council  
Member

### SNDA Honored as Diversity Champions

The UAB Student National Dental Association (SNDA) Chapter was awarded the 2018 UAB President's Diversity Champion Award in the Student Organization category. The honor is the highest a student organization at UAB can receive for their contributions to diversity. The award recognizes their many contributions to community service and recruiting the pipeline of future leaders.





# UAB SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS

## STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



Cassandra Wintterowd

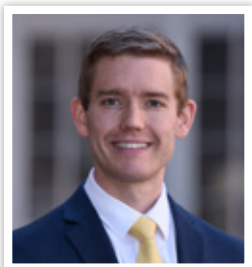
**Cassandra Wintterowd (D4)** was named the 2017 honoree for the John W. Stanford New Investigator Award by the ADA Council on Scientific Affairs. She is on a team that investigated the osseous integration of titanium fixation screws that stabilize a temporomandibular joint prosthesis. The John W. Stanford New Investigator Award honors the contributions of the late Dr. Stanford, who is credited with establishing the ADA's current standards program. The award acknowledges the original research that dental students and new dentists produce in the realm of dental standards.



Bright Chang

**Bright Change (D3)** was chosen to be a UAB Sparkman Fellow for Global Health. The Sparkman Fellows Program helps fellows understand global issues in a stimulating learning environment and provides mentorship to help foster future leaders in global health. He is also the first student from the UAB School of Dentistry to be chosen as a fellow in the program.

Bright was also chosen to serve as the President for the new Junior Board for Cahaba Valley Health Care (CVHC). As part of the new initiative at the CVHC, the Junior Board will help to connect the CVHC with the younger population of Birmingham, Alabama. Furthermore, the Junior Board will create and enhance fundraising efforts for the CVHC to help the underserved populations in Birmingham, Alabama.



Tanner Godfrey

And, at the UAB SOD Scholars' Symposium, Bright won the 2019 AADR Dentsply Sirona Student Competition for Advancing Dental Research and It's Application (SCADA) Award. This award serves to engage students to discover the importance and power of dental research, provide opportunities for students to advance their research skills and careers, and inspire students to look for new ways to have a positive impact on dental care and oral health. As part of this award, Bright will compete against other U.S. SCADA Award recipients at the 2019 AADR/IADR meeting in Vancouver, Canada.

**Tanner Godfrey (DMD/PhD third-year)**, was elected president of the AADR National Student Research Group (NSRG). He also won first prize in the IADR Hatton Competition for junior investigators who demonstrate potential for a productive career in dental research.



UAB SOD intramural soccer team, the Molar Bears, after the 10th and final penalty kick to win the 2017 championship game



A group of 8 third-year dental students on a recent visit to Denver, Colorado

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I had intended this column to be about philanthropy and alumni relations, but a lot has happened since our last publication. Plans change. People change. Institutions change. Therefore, the School of Dentistry is in for a big change. We learned shortly after Alumni Weekend that our wonderful dean, Dr. Mike Reddy, would be retiring and assuming the dean's position at the University of California San Francisco. This news was a bit surprising. Mike had been our dean for seven fantastic years and he had been with the School of Dentistry for nearly thirty years. I would like to reflect back on the past few years and maybe take a peek toward the future.

First and foremost, Mike Reddy was the best boss I ever had, and I've had plenty in my thirty years of working in higher education. He was able to maintain a high level of passion and effectiveness during his entire tenure with UAB Dentistry. In all things he did, Mike wanted the School to be the very best. From day one, he was strategic and inclusive. In his first year, the School embarked on putting together a strategic plan that has brought us to this point. All phases have improved under his leadership.

In fundraising, I couldn't have asked for a better partner. Mike Reddy didn't always tell our donors what they wanted to hear. He spoke with vision and optimism. I remember the first major prospective donor we visited early in his tenure. Mike painted a picture of how he wanted to achieve clinical excellence and make the School the best in the world. We walked away with a \$500,000 commitment! During our seven years together, we made more than 3,000 development visits with alumni and friends. We canvassed the country, from New York to Los Angeles, and across Alabama from Andalusia to Spanish Fort to Tuscaloosa to Ft. Payne and all towns and cities in between. He is one of the major players in helping us surpass our \$20 million campaign goal.

Our travels weren't always glamorous, actually they rarely were. Once, while visiting a donor in Guntersville and driving to a dental meeting in Chattanooga, I had a flat tire. Unfortunately, it was 100 degrees outside, I had had knee surgery, and triple A was running behind schedule. What did our dean do? He changed the flat in that blazing heat! It was during our travels that I got to know Mike as a person and family man. Sure, he talked a lot about dentistry and how to make the profession better. But he also talked about his family, music, sports, current events, etc... He is genuine and we will miss him. I not only consider him a great boss but a great friend.

We have achieved so much during his tenure. Our Comprehensive Care Clinic renovation will soon be complete. That renovation, along with others, gives us one of the nation's top dental facilities. The culture within the School has made a 180 degree turn for the better. Research remains #1 in federal funding and we have the brightest students anywhere.

All of his team leading efforts have brought us to this point and have built the foundation for the future. Now, Dr. Michelle Robinson is serving as the interim. I have known and worked with Dr. Robinson for many years. She has been engaged with our students, faculty and staff. She is recognized as an expert in her field. We are in good hands.

No one knows what the future holds, but we can look to the past for an indication. I know our alumni, faculty and staff will do everything they can to insure our future success. Many of you have called me to offer your support and help during this time. We're still in campaign mode and we all want to continue working to make the School the best it can be. Thank you for all you do – please keep it up!

Regards,



J. Scott Huffman, CFRE  
Executive Director of Development  
Executive Director, UASOD Alumni Association



## DEVELOPMENT NEWS

### A ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE

By J. Scott Huffman, CFRE



It was unlike any train I'd ever ridden. There was no click-clack, click-clack. No bouncing or jostling or even a loud hum. We were going nearly 200 miles an hour and the ride was as smooth as sailing on still waters. I looked across the aisle from me and saw Harrison Filler, a fourth year dental student, peering through the window of the Bullet Train pointing out Mt. Fuji to his classmates and hosts. I could hardly believe I was in Japan with ten UAB School of Dentistry students as part of our exchange program.

The exchange program's coordinator, Dr. Steve Filler (yes, Harrison's dad) had asked me to co-chaperone our students with Dr. Dan Givan. Of course, our students didn't need chaperoning as they're all adults, but I happily accepted. I had never been to Japan. Had never really given much thought to going until Steve Filler invited me to be a part of a group that would exchange cultural and educational ideas with our sister institutions (Asahi and Mekai Universities).



UAB Dentistry D4 students Hillary Duffee, Harrison Filler, Austyn Grissom, Ashley Turner Lee, Kenneth Liu, Amanda Morris, Drew Owens, Zehra Syed, Donielle Williams, and Dan "There You Are" Wright had been selected to participate in the program. They had already hosted their Japanese counterparts last summer and this was the return experience. A once in a life-time experience.



"They immersed us in their culture. We ate their food. We met their friends. We came to appreciate their day-to-day routines," said Austin Grissom. The exchange (March 30 thru April 5) included attending lectures and visiting the dental clinic at Asahi University. We were also guests of the university's welcoming ceremony. UAB students also toured the Mekai University School of Dentistry and met with various department chairs and faculty. All the while, our students were hosted by their Japanese counterparts throughout the trip. "When they visited UAB, they were fascinated with our extensive clinical experience and how we treated patients," said D4 Kenneth Liu. The Japanese students enter dental school after high school graduation. They have six years of training, but very little hands-on training with live patients. That

experience generally comes in compulsory residencies after dental school. Hillary Duffee, a fourth year student from Stuart, Fla explained, "...their stress is similar. When they were over here, the Mekai students anxiously checked their exam scores. You had a good night or a bad night depending on your exams. Exams are big there," she said.

While the educational and clinical components were an important part of the trip, it was clear to me, the cultural side of the exchange made the biggest impression on our students. Our dining experiences were memorable. Our meals of sushi, squid, eel, miso soup, beef, pork, shrimp, dumplings, and shabu-shabu (a hotpot dish of thinly sliced meat and vegetables boiled in water) were exotic. "I'll never forget the food. Some I really liked," said Grissom. With a grin, he also admitted he was glad to get back to Alabama for some home cooking.

The group's itinerary was rigorous and fairly structured. The days began around 7 a.m. and were packed with activities until the late evenings. We were fortunate to be visiting the week the cherry blossoms were in bloom. With its cherry blossoms and gardens, an evening tour and hike to the Buddhist temple Kiyomizu in the city of Kyoto was especially breathtaking. "Kyoto was really cool," said Liu. "The ancient history and culture blows your mind," he said.

*Continued on following page*



## DEVELOPMENT NEWS

*A Once in a Lifetime Experience Continued*

Our hosts from Meikai (Sone) treated us to a full day at Tokyo DisneySea. Much like its Disney counterpart in the states, the park was teeming with families. It was crowded because of the Japanese spring break, but our students made the most of their visit. Another highlight was a banquet aboard a traditional Japanese ship, cruising the Tokyo Bay, complete with sake, Japanese rice wine, beer and entertainment. There were many Japanese toasts such as kanpai and banzai hoisted throughout the evening.

On our last night there, our group gathered for dinner to discuss their experiences and share the most memorable impressions. They talked about touring the universities, dining, sightseeing, and karaoke. To my great pleasure, all of our students talked about their relationships with the people of Japan and their hosts. There were even tearful goodbyes at the airport. Hillary Diffie summarized their experience best. "I was so moved by their culture and the relationships we developed. They were so generous and accommodating. We were treated like royalty and I'm sure that filters down to their dental profession," she said.

I think it's important for our students, faculty and alumni to know how professional, cordial, and impressive our dental students were throughout their visit. I am grateful to our hosts, Chairman Jun Miyata, Asahi University President Katsuyuki Ohtomo, and the many dignitaries, administrators, faculty, and students for their generosity and giving us this once a lifetime experience. I also want to thank Dr. Dan Givan for schooling me and being my chaperone in Japan.

### Alumnus Paul Weeks "Honored to Give" \$500,000



Dr. Paul R. Weeks, Sr. has taken the first step to endow a professorship to benefit the UAB School of Dentistry's Department of Periodontology. The Huntsville, Ala periodontist is making a total gift of \$500,000 that includes current giving and estate giving. Weeks graduated from the UAB School of Dentistry in 1977 and completed the periodontics post-graduate program at UAB in 1979. He said the school and the Department of Periodontology have come a long way since he attended.

"My two year residency gave me the valuable skills I needed to start my own practice and to continue the ongoing educational process. The program gave me an excellent base to springboard from," he said.

Dr. Weeks has provided leadership to several dental organizations during his 38-year career. He serves on the UAB Dentistry Leadership Council, the school's fundraising and advisory board.

Through his service on the Leadership Council and previous service as a part-time clinical instructor at the School of Dentistry, he said he was keenly aware of the need to endow a faculty position. "I have been blessed with an excellent education which has enabled me to provide optimal care for my patients. I am glad to give back and keep our school among the best in the country. That's what the citizens of Alabama and the dental students and residents deserve."

He has been involved with prior fundraising campaigns to help the school, including the Weatherford-Palcanis Endowed Professorship in periodontology. He said he hopes other alumni will acknowledge the importance of having an excellent faculty and contribute to similar efforts. "I know they realize how much the UAB School of Dentistry has done for us. Now, more than ever, the school needs our assistance. I would like to challenge our alumni, especially older alumni like myself, to step up and make a gift. They might also consider leaving something from their estate," he said.

Although he has worked hard for nearly four decades, Weeks still finds time to enjoy life outside of dentistry. He enjoys traveling with his wife, Alicia, and enjoys cycling, fishing, hiking and snow skiing.

When asked to reflect on his time as a dental student and resident, Weeks admitted, "it wasn't all roses and it wasn't easy", but he says he's honored to give back to UAB and give future students and residents the same opportunity he had. He wants others from his generation to know that the school doesn't receive the state funding it once did. "Hopefully others will follow in my footsteps and give back. It is an honor to give to my school".

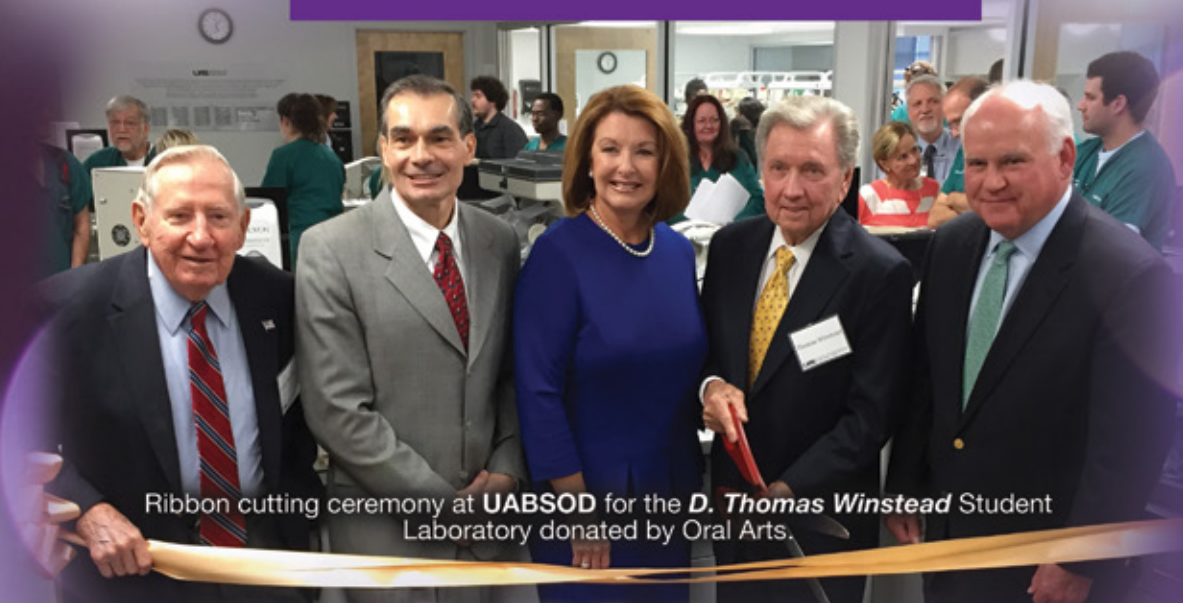
**For more information about how to support the School of Dentistry and to learn more about naming opportunities in the Comprehensive Care Clinic, contact J. Scott Huffman, Executive Director of Development, at [shuffman@uab.edu](mailto:shuffman@uab.edu) or 205-934-3601.**

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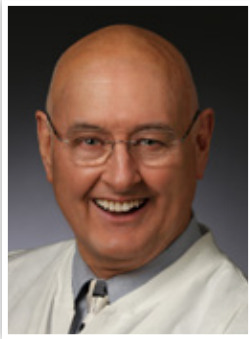
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# ALUMNI NEWS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



*T. Bob Davis*

**Dr. T. Bob Davis ('67)** was awarded the prestigious 2018 Humanitarian of the Year Award from the American Dental Association for his continuous efforts to serve those in need in various sites in Mexico and Central America, having taken over 1,500 dental students, 500 dentists, 500 hygienists, assistants and staff on one of his 42 plus years of dental mission trips. Dr. Davis has served in several leadership roles in the American Dental Association, Academy of General Dentistry, and Academy of Dentistry International. As a Fellow of the four major dental honor societies, he currently serves as Immediate Past-President for the Academy of Dentistry International. His avocation of music is well known, having recorded over 13 albums of his piano stylings, being the convocation pianist for over a decade for the Academy of General Dentistry and the Academy of Dentistry International, and now for the International College of Dentists.

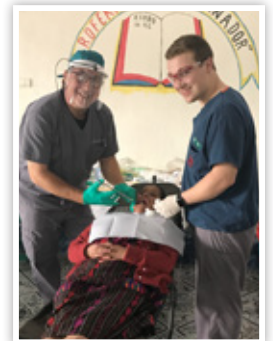
**Dr. G. Robin Pruitt, Jr. ('94)** and his son Chance traveled to ChiChicastengo, Guatemala in November 2017 with Health Talents International. This was Dr. Pruitt's tenth trip and Chance's second. They spent their days providing oral surgical care to those living in the outlying villages in the mountains of ChiChi. Dr. Pruitt also provides surgical training and teaches Guatemalan dentists on techniques regarding the removal of impacted wisdom teeth.

Chance is a Junior at Auburn University majoring in Biomedical Science and will be applying to dental school this summer. Dr. Pruitt's oldest son Carson is a D1 at UAB SOD and he has also attended multiple trips to Guatemala.

Chance says, "The time that we are able to spend with these wonderful, loving people in alleviating their pain and infection is one of the most rewarding things I have ever been involved in."

Dr. Pruitt says that he has been so blessed and honored to be able to go on this trip so many times over the last decade. He says, "To be able to help those in such need and to educate and train other dentists in this way, by the use of your time and talents, is to me the highlight of this great profession." He also says "To be able to travel and spend this amazing time with all three of my sons, who have such a passion and love to help others, is a gift."

If anyone should have an interest in a future trip, please feel free to reach out to Dr. Pruitt.



*Robin and Chance Pruitt*



*John Petty*



*Josh Puckett*

**Drs. John Petty ('80) and Josh Puckett ('09)** organized a Free Dental Day event in their hometown of Tullahoma, Tennessee on February 24, 2018 and treated 206 patients in need of a tooth extraction. Another leading dentist, Dr. Janette Gardner, and more than 80 dental professional volunteers supported Drs. Petty and Puckett in this local mission. Visit this youtube link to view the highlights of that day: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptEPMmreHoo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ptEPMmreHoo)



# ALUMNI NEWS

## WHERE ARE THE 2017 GRADS NOW?

**Dr. Suhasini Arun** moved to Atlanta, Georgia and is working as an associate at Kennesaw Mountain Dental Associates, a private practice in Kennesaw, Georgia.

**Drs. William and Kathryn Bates** and their dog-ghter, Roux, have moved to Ann Arbor, MI where Will is finishing up his first year of orthodontics residency at the University of Michigan. Kathryn is working as an associate with a private practice in a nearby town. Michigan summers are great, but the winters are snow fun at all!

**Dr. Erica Turke Cacciatore** and her husband, Jorge, moved to Jacksonville, Florida where she graduated from the Navy's Officer Development School in September 2017. Erica and Jorge will be moving with Navy to Sasebo, Japan where they will be stationed for the next 3 years.

**Dr. Morgan Floyd** is completing a General Practice Residency at Harvard School of Dental Medicine and the Cambridge Health Alliance in Boston, Massachusetts. Morgan facilitated a pilot program for Interprofessional Education between Harvard School of Dental Medicine and the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

**Dr. Nick Kim** is currently in orthodontic residency at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. Nick got married on March 24, 2018 in Seoul, Korea.

**Dr. Lee Maniscalco** is in residency at UAB for Oral Surgery working as an intern this year. **Dr. Chelsea Ashworth** is fulfilling her service back to the National Health Service Corps in a non-profit health clinic working with underserved populations. They met while in dental school at UAB and are now getting married this June!

**Dr. Dillon Patel** is finishing a GPR at Mt. Sinai Hospital in Manhattan, New York and planning to come back to the South, possibly around the Atlanta area, in July.

**Dr. Narissa Ross** has been busy completing an AEGD in New York City with NYU Lutheran all while exploring as much of the Big Apple as she can. The program is almost at an end so she be returning to the South pretty soon!

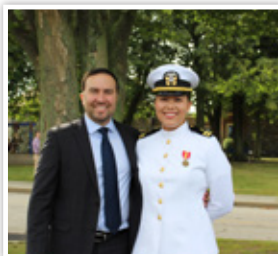
**Dr. Margaret Toups** is working with Drs. Christy Stevens ('02) and Suzie McCullough at McCullough & Stevens Dentistry in Trussville, Alabama. Margaret welcomed her baby girl, Mary Claire Toups on August 25, 2017.



Suhasini Arun



William and Kathryn Bates



Erica Cacciatore



Morgan Floyd



Nick Kim



Lee Maniscalco  
and Chelsea Ashworth



Dillon Patel



Narissa Ross



Mary Claire Toups

## IN MEMORIAM

**(‘53) J. D. Biggers** passed away January 8, 2018, retiring as a dentist after serving the Southside community of Birmingham, Alabama for 45 years. Born in Florence, Alabama, J.D. served in the U.S. Army in the European Theatre during World War II. He returned to the states and graduated from Florence State followed by the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry in 1953.

**(‘53) Thomas Clifton Looney**, affectionately known as "Doc," passed away peacefully at home in Livingston, July 28, 2017.

**(‘59) William Addison Beall**, of Luverne, Alabama, died March 24, 2018. He was a first generation graduate from the University of Alabama and attended the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry graduating with honors. He served two years in the United States Navy. In 1961, Billy and his wife, Sue, moved to Luverne where he practiced dentistry for more than 40 years. He received a Fellowship from the American College of Dentists and a Fellowship from the American Associations of Hospital Dentists. He was a member of the American Dental Association and served as chair of all offices and the executive boards on the Alabama Dental Association. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to: The University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry, WAB FD SDB 212, 1720 2nd Ave. S. Birmingham, AL 35294.

**(‘61) Edward Lee Rose, Jr.** passed away on March 5, 2018. He was a graduate of Birmingham Southern College and University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1952 until 1960 as a Sonarman.

**(‘63) C. Douglas Harrell** passed away on April 20, 2018 in Green Valley, Arizona. He served in the U.S. Air Force and was commissioned Captain. He graduated from Auburn University and received his dental degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry. From 1961 to 1998, Dr. Rose ran a private dental practice and was a dentist and partner at Ocean Oaks Dental Group. He also was president of numerous local, national, and international dental organizations. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry.

**(‘64) Herbert Milner Snuggs** passed away January 27, 2018. He graduated from Birmingham-Southern College and the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry. He was a member of the OKU national dental honor society. He served in the U.S. Army. For 25 years he practiced dentistry in Birmingham and was affiliated with the University of Alabama School of Dentistry as a part-time and full-time associate professor from 1964 to 2008.

**(‘64) Robert Norman Rogers** passed away January 26, 2018. He practiced dentistry and was the owner of Bessemer Dental Clinic for 50 years.

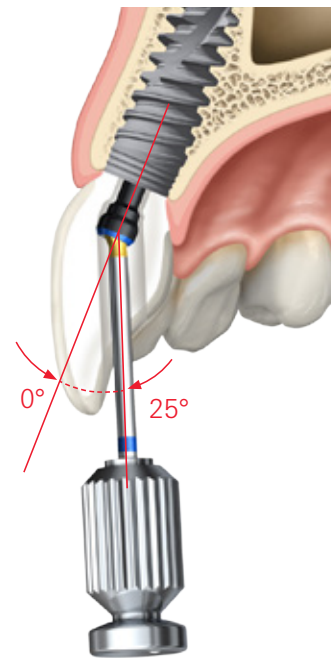
**(‘67) Maurice Mixson**, of Darien, Georgia, departed this life January 11, 2018. Dr. Mixson was a U.S. Army Veteran stationed in Germany. He received a BS from Emory University and his DMD from the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry.

**(Ortho ‘72) Robert Shaye** passed away April 12, 2017 after a courageous battle with lung cancer. Following his graduation from dental school at New York University, he served in the United States Army on active duty with the 86th Medical Detachment in Bad Hersfeld, Germany, as well as the United States Army Hospital at West Point. He completed his orthodontic training and received his doctorate of medical dentistry from the University of Zurich in Switzerland. Dr. Shaye spent one year at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry before moving to Louisiana to become a professor at Louisiana State University School of Dentistry in New Orleans.

**(‘70) Ormond Howell Ware, III**, also known as Juny, graduated from the University of Florida and served in the U.S. Air Force, where he was assigned duty in Japan for three years. After leaving the Air Force, he attended Florida Presbyterian College before he transferred to the University of Alabama, where he received a B.S. degree in Chemistry and Russian and a D.M.D. degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry in 1970. Ormond practiced general restorative dentistry in St. Petersburg, Florida and later limited his practice to TMJ.

**(‘85) Jack Donald (Don) Gross II** was welcomed to his heavenly home on November 27, 2017 after fighting a valiant battle with cancer. He graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, obtained his doctorate and received his master's degree in business. He opened his dental practice in Huntsville in 1985 and operated it for more than 32 years.

**(‘03) Christopher Michael Bittner** passed away January 18, 2018. Dr. Bittner was a 1991 graduate of Southside High School then graduated from Auburn University in 1996 and the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry in 2003.



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