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Winter 2024

## **LLU Dentistry - Volume 33, Number 1**

Loma Linda University School of Dentistry

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# Dentistry <sup>LLU</sup>

Winter-Spring 2024 | Volume 33 | Number 1



# Dentistry <sup>LLU</sup>

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*On the cover: Rainbow Mountain, Peru. Photo by Graciela Duran, BS'07 (DH), the April 2024 winner of the Dean's Photo Challenge.*

Volume 33, Number 1  
Winter - Spring 2024

*Dentistry* celebrates with alumni and friends the School of Dentistry's efforts to combine compassion and competence in the education of oral healthcare professionals. LLUSD alumni represent the strength of that amalgam. The journal is published twice each year by the Loma Linda University School of Dentistry Office of Marketing.

## LLUSD Mission

Loma Linda University School of Dentistry seeks to further the healing and teaching ministry of Jesus Christ by providing an environment wherein:

Students learn to provide high quality oral healthcare based on sound scientific principles.

Patients receive competent care, which is preventive in purpose, comprehensive in scope, and provided with compassion and respect.

Faculty, students, and staff value the patient relationship, respect diversity, and share responsibility by working together toward academic, professional, spiritual, and personal growth.

Scholarly activity and research provide a foundation for evidence-based learning and enhance whole person care.

The workplace environment attracts and retains a superior and diverse faculty and staff who motivate, educate, and serve.

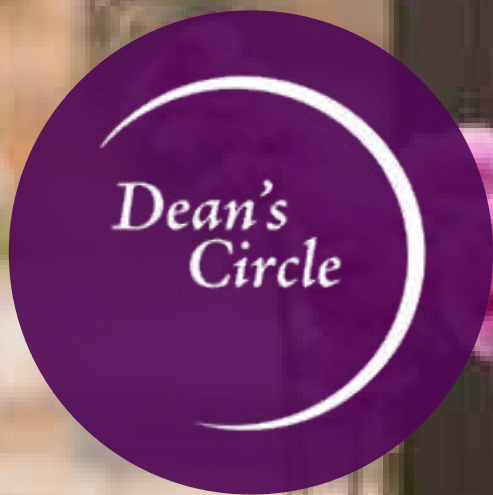
Our communities (local, global, and professional) benefit from our services, stewardship, and commitment to life-long learning.

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Dear Readers,

The printed version of this journal, and the initial digital version, incorrectly included the name of alumnus Douglas Sandquist, DDS'97 in our Fond Farewells. We sincerely apologize for any distress this may have caused Dr. Sandquist, his family, and their friends. The digital version of this publication has been updated and a retraction will be included in the next print edition of LLU Dentistry.



## Join a tradition of giving!

The purpose of the Dean's Circle is to support students and enhance their educational experience. Our Dean's Circle members are important partners in our mission to provide the finest in oral healthcare education. Your gift makes this possible by funding scholarships, updating facilities, supporting service opportunities, and much more. Gifts of \$1,500 or more to any School of Dentistry fund qualify you for Dean's Circle membership and benefits.\*

More information regarding the Dean's Circle and other School of Dentistry giving opportunities can be found at [dentistry.llu.edu/about/giving-opportunities](http://dentistry.llu.edu/about/giving-opportunities).

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[sdgiving@llu.edu](mailto:sdgiving@llu.edu)

*\* Gifts of \$1,500 or more must be donated within the same calendar year and received by December 31st to qualify for Dean's Circle membership.*

# RDAEF

## *Expanded Duties Program*

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**A comprehensive Board-approved RDAEF program with over 400 hours of instruction!**

*For more information call LLUSD Continuing Education  
909-558-4685 | [dentistry.llu.edu/rdaef](https://dentistry.llu.edu/rdaef)*

# Dean's Message

Dear Colleagues,

I am excited to be once again penning a Dean's message for the alumni journal. It has been a little while since we last published an edition for the School. In dealing with the challenges of the last few years, we have had many changes in our internal and external environments. This feels like another step towards getting back to normal.

Let's first take a moment to celebrate the remarkable achievements of the 2024 graduating class. Each student in the DDS, IDP, and DH classes have demonstrated exceptional dedication and perseverance, and we eagerly anticipate their future successes.

The historians among us will surely notice the reversion back to the Journal's original title, *Dentistry*. After several petitions, and due consideration, a decision was made to return to the previous name. The School celebrated its 70th anniversary last fall and with the resumption of the journal, it felt appropriate to make the change now. In honor of 70 years of academia and service, you will find a link to a wonderful flipbook article written by Dr. Leif Bakland and dedicated to Dr. Melvin Lund, the only remaining original dental school faculty member. We have provided a QR code that can be scanned with your smart phone to access the flipbook. If you do not want to use a smart phone the flipbook can also be accessed via our website under School News. I want to thank the numerous alumni, faculty, and staff who spent countless hours on this project. I hope you enjoy the walk down memory lane and that it gives you a sense of pride in your alma mater. The contributions of those who have gone before us are amazing.

Our history helps guide our future. Loma Linda University School of Dentistry has always been a faith-based, future-focused, quality-producing educational institution impacting

communities locally, nationally, and internationally. This means we are constantly working to improve and upgrade our School and ensure it complies with industry standards.

With that in mind, we worked diligently to prepare for a visit from our accrediting body, the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). CODA visited us in February, walking the campus and clinics alike. I am so pleased to report that we did well and came out of the process with no recommendations for six of our seven programs. We will quickly resolve the four minor suggestions made by CODA for the one program. The School being able to do so well is because of the fantastic dental school team and all the efforts they put forth. I want to commend them all and hope you will, too, when you see them next.

I am excited and look forward to the subsequent ways we can impact those whom we train and serve. We are honored to be part of the newly rolled-out Loma Linda University Health philanthropic campaign, Stronger Together. I am proud to be included in a community that looks for innovative ways to provide education, continues to enhance our facilities, and develops our faculty and students.

The School will need each and every one of you to support us in this next phase. Prayers are a way everyone can participate, and we need them in these challenging times. Please support us in



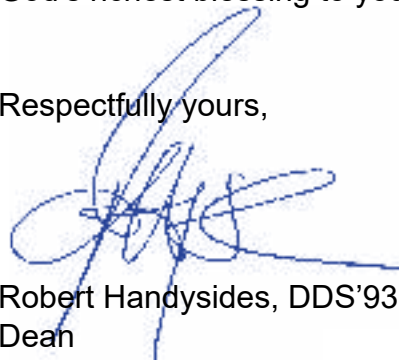
your conversations and help appreciate those who toil at the yoke to educate our next generation. The faculty and staff who work here are amazing people and tremendously dedicated. I appreciate them so much and hope you will, too.

Lastly, I request your financial consideration. If every alumnus donated a dollar amount equal to one of the procedures they do annually, for the next five years, we would be able to enhance and improve our educational facilities, strengthen our faculty pipeline, and help stabilize the cost of student tuition. With over 7,000 alumni, amazing things can happen when we all work together. I am asking you to start seriously and prayerfully considering if you will join me financially in giving to our School. Small or large gifts, all are appreciated and will help move the School forward. Gifts are like the different and unique fabric pieces used to make a quilt. Pieced together, they create an amazing covering that will make the School of Dentistry stronger and better able to deliver exceptional educational offerings.

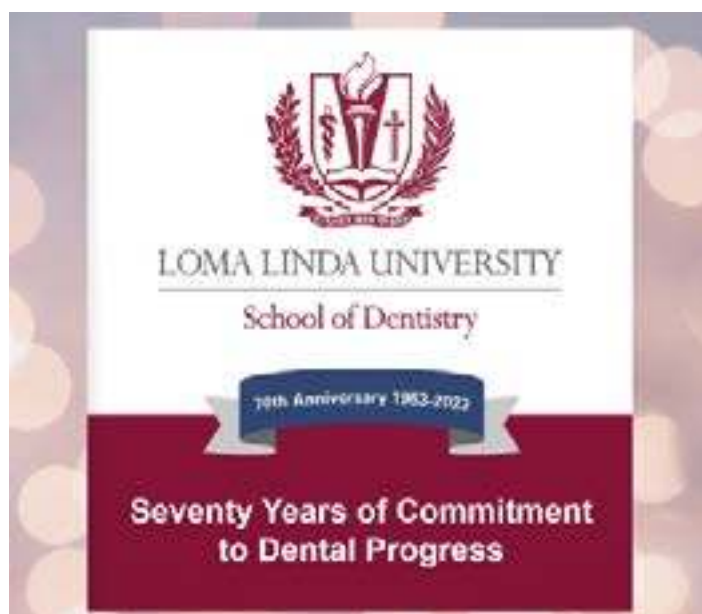
One last comment as I sign off. You will note that we have a new writer and editor for the journal. I want to warmly welcome and introduce you to Cara McCool. Our previous writer and editor, Doug Hackleman, desired to pursue his retirement after our last publication release. I want to formally thank him for many years of service and excellence in our communications, and I wish him all the best in the next phase of life's adventure. I am equally appreciative and excited about what Cara brings to the team and look forward to communicating with everyone in new and novel ways.

God's richest blessing to you all.

Respectfully yours,



Robert Handysides, DDS'93  
Dean



To view the flipbook, please scan the QR code or type in the link below.

<https://shorturl.at/u4oPj>







## Service Learning - Caring for Those in Cuba

Faculty and students from Loma Linda University School of Dentistry embarked on two significant trips to Cuba, participating in a pioneering dental health fair in Havana. The first trip, a four-day clinic, was held at Seminario Teologico Adventista de Cuba (SETAC) Theological Seminary and the Public Health Clinic in the Boyeros Municipality. This initiative aimed to provide dental care to the people of Cuba while fostering a strong relationship with the Cuban public health officers. The second trip, a five-day clinic, extended the reach of the initiative by including a health fair on the last day, where students educated patients on good oral health care. The Office of Religious Affairs, in collaboration with public health officials from Cuba, coordinated both trips, underscoring the impactful partnership between the School and the Cuban public health sector.

Supplies can be challenging to get in Cuba, so the School needed to bring its own resources with them. Each student and faculty member was given a box of supplies to pack in their luggage for the trip. Both trips successfully distributed the supplies and got them to their destination.

The team was well received, and patients were eager to see them. People lined up early and were willing to wait for an exam. Students and faculty were struck by how determined and strong the people of Cuba are. No obstacle was too significant. They would simply adapt and overcome

*continued on page 8*



*Dental Hygiene students Karla Gomez, BS'24 (DH) Lindsey Quartuccio, BS'24 (DH) and Cristina Fecue BS'24 (DH)*



*First trip to Cuba team*

**Top row left to right:** Alexander Castillo, DDS'24, Sanghyuk Lee, D3, Joshua Jeon, D3, Gary Kerstetter, DDS'83, Richard Kwon, D3

**Middle row left to right:** Daniel Bazan, SIMS Trip Leader, Yumin Lee, D3, Da Eun Jung, D3, Daniel Diaz, DDS'24, Pastor Herber Paneque, Secretary of Cuban Union - SDA Church

**Bottom row left to right:** Sejin Seo, D3, Karla Gomez, BS'24 (DH), Lindsey Quartuccio, BS'24 (DH), Cristina Feceu, BS'24 (DH), Orchidea Ferrer, DDS, professor



*Second trip to Cuba Team*

**Top row left to right:** Andrew Robinson, D3, Maziar Hafezi, D1, Ashlee "Georgetta" Skinner, D1, Jonathan Nguyen, D3, Logan Mathie, D3, Bernice Cabrera, Sunghyo Oh, D2

**Bottom row left to right:** Jessica Pena, Nathan Nguyen, D3, Mercy Dominguez, D1, Ashley Perdomo, DH1, Caroline Grainger, DH1, Tara Khamo, DDS'16, Gary Kerstetter, DDS'83

whatever challenges they met. The students treated patients from all walks of life and were greeted with nothing but joy and gratefulness. It was a very inspiring and humbling experience.

LLUSD students and Cuban dental professionals provided a variety of services, including cleanings, fillings, extractions, and oral hygiene instruction. During the busy trips, the students treated 50-60 patients daily, which added up to around 300-500 patients per trip. The students' professionalism and hard work impressed their Cuban dental counterparts.

The students felt the trips were worthwhile for several reasons. First, and perhaps most importantly, they had the opportunity to fulfill a calling to serve and give back in a meaningful way. Secondly, they treated challenging cases and encountered situations that they may not have had the opportunity to experience in the States. Those clinical experiences helped the students learn to problem solve in a different way. Because of this, many of the students believe both trips were beneficial to their education and wish more of their peers could share a similar experience.



*A tired student traveler ready for a break.*





*Top row from left to right: Andrew Robinson, D3, Nathan Nguyen, D3, Logan Mathie, D3, Maziar Hafezi Bakhtiari, D1, Jonathan Nguyen, D3  
Bottom Middle: Tara Khamo, DDS'16*



*Photos from around Cuba.*



*A group picture featuring all student presenters, student volunteers, mentors, support staff, and faculty.*

## Homecoming Recap

In March, the School celebrated during its annual Homecoming, which included all schools within Loma Linda University. It was a fantastic weekend that began with a Dean's Circle breakfast at the Mission Inn in Riverside, CA.

The Dean's Circle event brought together a wonderful group of generous alumni who help support vital projects. Their unwavering encouragement and contributions are meaningful to the School. Dean Handysides gave a moving speech about the status of the School and projects that will be accomplished with the continued support of the Dean's Circle and other donors. He talked about the importance of reimagining our clinics to try and accommodate not only more patients but more students.

The weekend of fun continued with the Student Research Poster Presentations and a group photo including all participants and their mentors. Thirty-five different groups presented topics ranging from general to advanced to clinical. There were 18 awards divided among advanced education, dental hygiene, and dental students. The winners are presented in the photos on the following pages.

At the reception staff, faculty, and students returned with alumni and celebrated the year's triumphs. This year marked the 50th and 60th anniversaries of the 1974 and 1964 classes. The reunions of these honor classes gave everyone a chance to catch up and reminisce about all the adventures in between.

We are so thankful to all who attended Homecoming events. The support you give to each other, and the students alike, is unmatched.



## Dental Hygiene, Clinical Category, 1st Place

*“Effectiveness of Herbal Mouth Rinse in Inhibiting Oral Bacteria: an In Vitro Study”*

Clarice Aghajanian, Stephanie Alameddine, Sohee Chung, Karla Gomez, Lindsey Quartuccio

**Mentors:** Danielle Ellington, BS'13, Mary Campbell-Beachler, MA, So Ran Kwon, DDS, MS, PhD, MS

## Dental Hygiene, Clinical Category, 2nd Place

*“Relationship Between Salivary Diagnostics and Gingival and Plaque Index”*

Madeleine Rivera, Heidi Mendoza, Ashlynn Montgomery, Gabriella Villegas, Alisa Andrade

**Mentors:** Shelley Hayton, MAT, BS'82, Udochukwu Oyoyo, MLIS, MPH, So Ran Kwon, DDS, MS, PhD, MS



## Dental Hygiene, Clinical Category, 3rd Place

*“Antibacterial Effect of Gold and Silver Coated Toothbrushes”*

Kaylee Ramos, Christina Bataseh, Natalie Ramos, Lesly Munoz, Elida Isquierdo Pizen

**Mentors:** Mary Campbell-Beachler, MA, Udochukwu Oyoyo, MLIS, MPH, So Ran Kwon, DDS, MS, PhD, MS

## Dental Hygiene, Community Category, 1st Place

*“Efficacy of Natural Teeth Whitening Remedies: Banana and Pineapple”*

Camille Davalos, Cristina Feceu, Stephanie Lee, Desiree Mercado, Nadia Rahgozar

**Mentors:** Udochukwu Oyoyo, MLIS, MPH, So Ran Kwon, DDS, MS, PhD, MS





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## Dental Hygiene, Community Category, 2nd Place

*"The Use of Chat GPT AI in Writing Research Proposals"*

Alhassan Alkhafaji, Matthew Jung, Zhihao Li, Taylor Romero,  
Angela Villapudua

**Mentors:** Udochukwu Oyoyo, MLIS, MPH,  
So Ran Kwon, DDS, MS, PhD, MS

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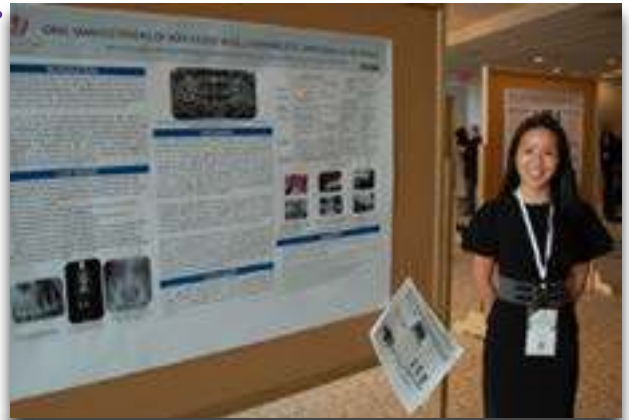
## Advanced Education, 1st Place

*"Oral Manifestations of Adolescent B-Cell Lymphoblastic  
Lymphoma: A Case Report"*

Berenice Cheng, Cheryl Bhatt (not pictured)

**Mentors:** Samah Omar, DDS, MSD'11,  
Jung-Wei Chen, DDS, MS, MS, PhD

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## Advanced Education, 2nd Place

*"Management of Horizontal Root Fracture in Permanent Teeth"*

Joseph Uhm, Charlie Kim

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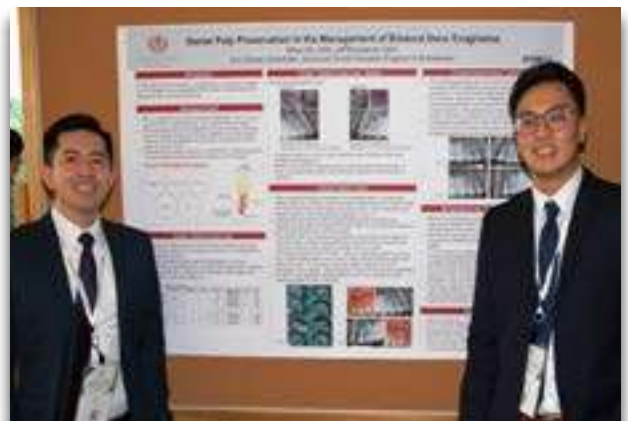
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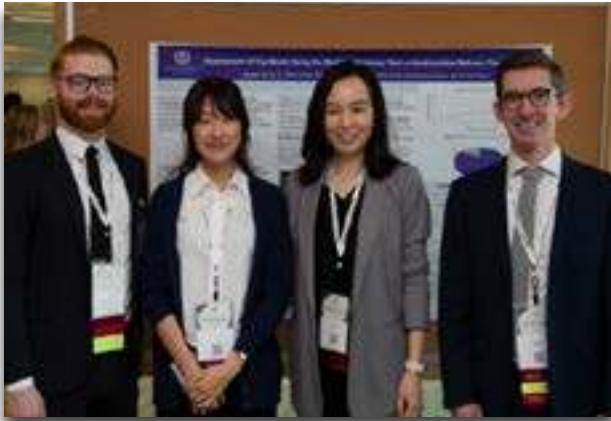
## Advanced Education, 3rd Place

*"Dental Pulp Preservation in the Management of Bilateral Dens  
Evaginatus"*

Ethan Do, Jeff Buizastrow

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## Doctor of Dental Surgery, Clinical Category, 1st Place

*“Assessment of Dry Mouth Using the Modified Schirmer Test vs Unstimulated Salivary Flow Testing”*

Jingwie Cai, Ire Ju, Rylan Jones, Samuel Madden

**Mentors:** Franklin Garcia-Godoy, DDS, MS, PhD, PhD, Udochukwu Oyoyo, MLIS, MPH, So Ran Kwon, DDS, MS, PhD, MS

AADOCR/SCADA Award to honor the group to represent LLUSD at the 2025 AADOCR/SCADA in New York, NY March 12-15, 2025.

## Doctor of Dental Surgery, Clinical Category, 2nd Place

*“The Effect of Face Mask Wearing on Breath Malodor”*

Thang Ngo, Savanna Sanchez, Joshua Ventenilla, Jonathan Lee

**Mentors:** Tara Khamo, DDS’16, Udochukwu Oyoyo, MLIS, MPH, So Ran Kwon, DDS, MS, PhD, MS

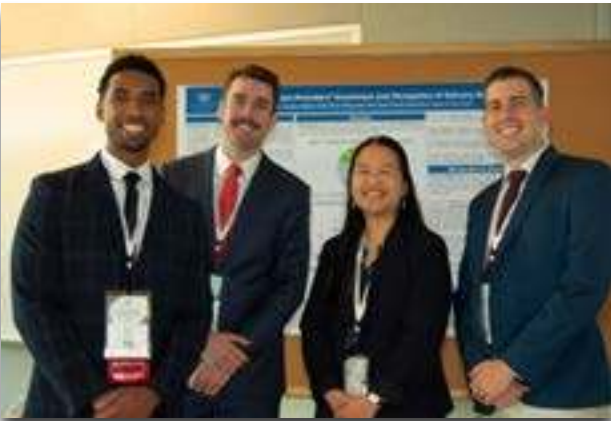


## Doctor of Dental Surgery, Clinical Category, 3rd Place

*“Oral Health Care Providers’ Awareness and Perception of Salivary Diagnostics”*

Matthew Cosaert, Nathan Hold, Filmon Kifle, Jordan Mar

**Mentors:** Steven Powell, DDS’83, Udochukwu Oyoyo, MLIS, MPH, So Ran Kwon, DDS, MS, PhD, MS

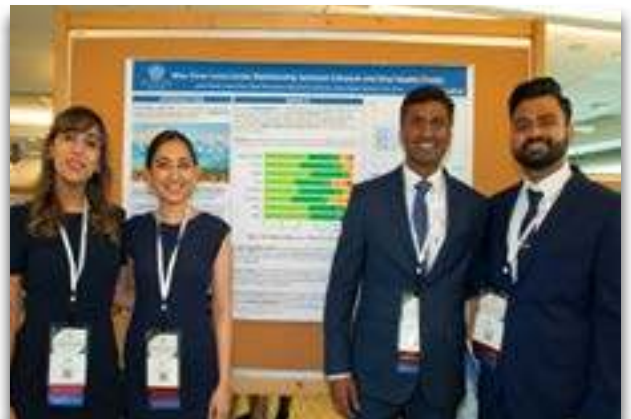


## Doctor of Dental Surgery, Community Category, 1st Place

*“Blue Zone Loma Linda: The Relationship between Lifestyle and Oral Health Profile”*

James Akkidas, Antervir Kaur, Sadaf Taheri, Gaurav Sood, Julia Ko, LLU Volunteer (not pictured)

**Mentors:** Raghad Sulaiman, BDS, Udochukwu Oyoyo, MLIS, MPH, So Ran Kwon, DDS, MS, PhD, MS







### Doctor of Dental Surgery, Community Category, 2nd Place

*“Perceived Satisfaction and Ergonomic Benefits Among Dental Loupe Users”*

Sihwan Sung, Jude Ritheesh Roy, Humaira Samreen, Dianne Viktoria Torres, Mahytab Zaky

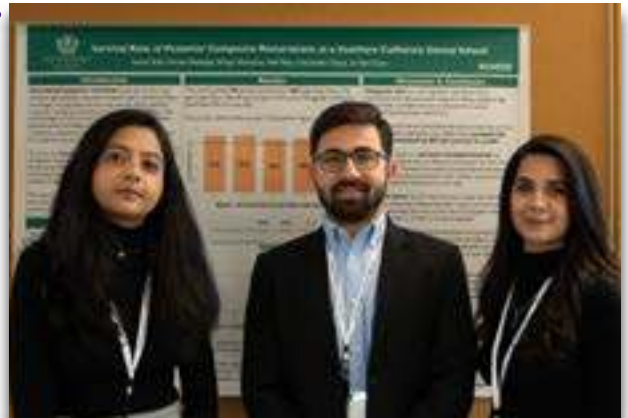
**Mentors:** Holli Riter, DDS’98, Udochukwu Oyoyo, MLIS, MPH, So Ran Kwon, DDS, MS, PhD, MS

### Doctor of Dental Surgery, Community Category, 2nd Place

*“Survival Rate of Posterior Coposite Restorations at a Southern California Dental School”*

Anand Shah, Himani Radadiya, Shreya Manocha

**Mentors:** Holli Riter, DDS’98, Udochukwu Oyoyo, MLIS, MPH, So Ran Kwon, DDS, MS, PhD, MS

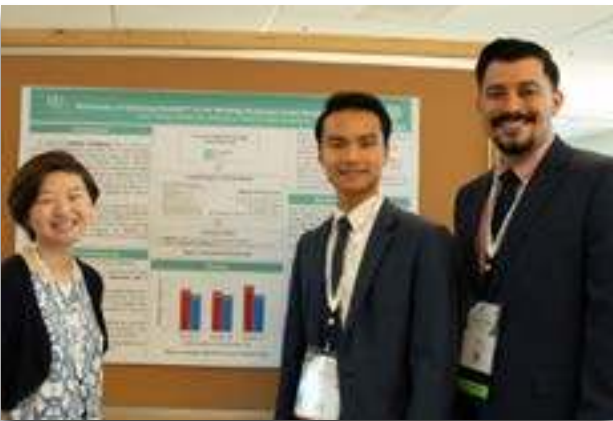


### Doctor of Dental Surgery, Community Category, 3rd Place

*“Outcomes of Utilizing ChatGPT 3.5 in Writing Graduate Level Research Proposals”*

Hayden Godfrey, Michelle Chan, Nathaniel Liu

**Mentors:** Udochukwu Oyoyo, MLIS, MPH So Ran Kwon, DDS, MS, PhD, MS



### Doctor of Dental Surgery, Scientific Section, 1st Place

*“Efficacy of Various Noise Cancelling Devices: In-Vitro Study”*

Kanush Chand, Sejal Sidhu, Maria Carvalho

**Mentors:** Ryan Sinclair, PhD, MPH, Udochukwu Oyoyo, MLIS, MPH, So Ran Kwon, DDS, MS, PhD, MS





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**Doctor of Dental Surgery, Scientific Section,  
2nd Place**

*“Accuracy of Partial and Complete-Arch Analog and Digital Impressions: An In-Vitro 3D Analysis”*

Jeremy Chieng, Daniel Lee, Nicole Lim, Sydney Yu

**Mentors:** Joseph Kan, DDS'90, MS'96, Sunee Limmeechokchai, DDS, MDS'20, Udochukwu Oyoyo, MLIS, MPH, John Won, DDS'05, MS'12

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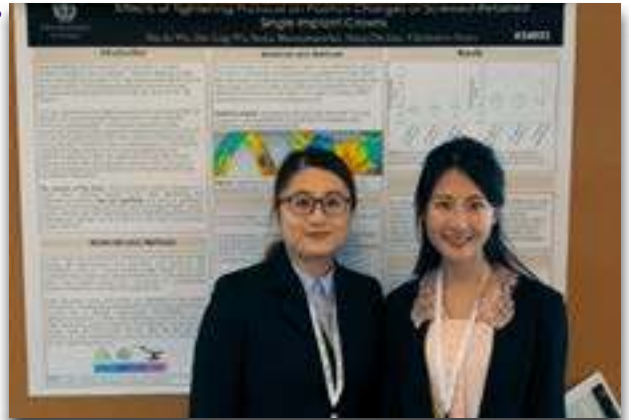
**Doctor of Dental Surgery, Scientific Section,  
3rd Place**

*“Effects of Tightening Protocol on Position Changes of Screw-Retained Single Implant Crowns”*

Hui Ju Wu, Hui Ling Wu

**Mentors:** Sasiya Bhumpattarachai, DDS, MSD, Udochukwu Oyoyo, MLIS, MPH

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**Thank you to all the people who made  
our competition a success.**

**2024 Student Research Mentors of the Year**



Dental Hygiene Program  
Mary Campbell Beachler



Doctor of Dental Surgery Program  
Dr. Sunee Limmeechokchai



*Student Research Mentors*



*Poster Competition Judges*



*D2 Student Volunteers*



*Students preparing for presentations.*



*D2 Student volunteers hard at work.*



*Poster Judges going over their notes.*



*Fun picture featuring all student presenters, student volunteers, mentors, support staff, and faculty.*

# Dean's Circle Breakfast | Mission Inn



*Alumni enjoy breakfast while listening to Dean Handysides update them on the School.*



# Mission Emphasis Breakfast



*Dean Handysides greeting alumni.*



*Alumni checking in.*



*Robert (Bob) Darby, DDS'61, Mrs. Joann Darby*



*Doyle Nick, DDS'78, MS'95  
Associate Director for Dental Affairs  
Department of Health Ministries  
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists*



*Donna Lunt, BS'62 (DH), Mary Quishenberry, BS'62 (DH)*



*Gary Kerstetter, DDS'83, Mrs. Pat Heisler,  
William Heisler, DDS'59*

# Honor Class Gathering

The DDS class of 1974 and DH class of 1964 recently celebrated their 50th and 60th reunions at Loma Linda University School of Dentistry. The event took place on Saturday, March 2nd in the Prince Hall entryway during Homecoming. The week was filled with activities, such as the Dean's Circle breakfast at the Mission Inn, student research poster presentations, reception, and the launch of the University-wide philanthropy campaign, "Stronger Together."

'Stronger Together,' is a testament to the collective power of our alumni and supporters. It aims to support cancer research and provide a much-needed facelift to the School of Dentistry. The DDS class of 1974, in a display of their unwavering commitment, generously donated \$400,000 to the campaign. This substantial contribution will help facilitate strategic updates such as adding dental chairs to the new SAC Health building and renovating the pre-doc clinic in Prince Hall section by section, enhancing the learning environment for future generations of oral health providers.

The event was a heartwarming occasion filled with joyous reunions, shared memories, and the warmth of good company. Reunion attendees were treated to a video featuring some of their DDS classmates who told stories from their dental school days, spoke about their enduring passion for dentistry, and shared highlights of their careers since leaving campus.

During the traditional "pass the mic" portion of the evening, the alumni expressed their gratitude for their excellent education, how well-prepared they felt when entering the industry, and how important that academic background had been for their careers. These honor classes wish to support their alma mater and see each generation of students receive an excellent education, just as they did.

Their donations and continued support help the School continue its mission of service. The future of the School is bright because of generous alumni like them.



*Robert Handysides, DDS'93 , Dan Fischer, DDS'74, Richard Hart, MD, DrPH*



*Robert Handysides, DDS'93, Daniel Kunihira, DDS'74, Richard Hart, MD, DrPH*



**From left to right starting with the top row:** Ernest Stromeyer, DDS'74, Robert Stafford, DDS'74, James Brigham, DDS'74, Don Bassham, DDS'74, James Snyder, DDS'74, James Abbott, DDS'74, Ronald Clark, DDS'74, James Davis, DDS'74, Mickey Damerell, DDS'74, Thomas Dwyer, DDS'74, Donald Gregg, DDS'74, Michael Fillman, DDS'74, Dan Kunihiro, DDS'74  
**Middle row:** James Giardina, DDS'74, Curtis Wiggins, DDS'74, William Pricehard, DDS'74, Roland Neufeld, DDS'74, Edward Lowry, DDS'74, Gerald Just, DDS'74, Larry Heater, DDS'74, Walter Hadley, DDS'74  
**Front row:** Manuela Sosa, DDS'74, Sherrie Ross, DDS'74, Dan Fischer, DDS'74, Gerald Weitz, DDS'74



**From left to right:** Melanie Jackson, BS'74 (DH), Joan Goodwin, BS'74 (DH), Patricia Gilliland, BS'74 (DH), Susan Potts, BS'74 (DH), Debra Anspach, BS'74 (DH), Diana Bauer, BS'74 (DH), Debbie Grable, BS'74 (DH), Rebecca Willis, BS'74 (DH)



**From left to right:**  
 Janet Morgan, BS'64 (DH)  
 Duquessa McGuffin, BS'64 (DH)  
 Donna Bartholomew, BS'64 (DH)





## Alumnus of the Year John Kershner, DDS'70

Loma Linda School of Dentistry is known for its top-notch education with an emphasis on service. Every School community member, from students to faculty to staff, take immense pride in their dedication to serving others. When choosing an Alumnus of the Year, the School looks for someone who exemplifies this dedication to service. This year, Dr. John Kershner has been named Alumnus of the Year, and we are proud to recognize his outstanding commitment to serving others.

Dr. Kershner is a hardworking dentist who is committed to caring for his patients and friends. His journey of service began in the early 1990s when he played an instrumental role in setting up a dental clinic in Zaoksky, Russia.

Since the inception of the Zaoksky Clinic, Dr. Kershner and his wife have made an astounding 60 return trips, providing dental care for numerous patients. Their benevolence has extended beyond dental care. In one instance the Kershner's assisted a young lady who required cancer treatment in the US. Dr. Kershner and his wife graciously opened their home, providing her with a place to recover. In other instances, Dr. Kershner contributed to many individuals' higher education in the US, often fundraising for their tuition and donating from his own pocket.

Dr. Kershner's acts of service have illuminated our world, making it a brighter and more wonderful place. His selfless giving, diligent work, and efforts to bring positive change to the world are truly commendable. The School is deeply grateful for his service and the inspiration he provides to our community.



*Richard Hart, MD, DrPH & John Kershner, DDS'70*



# Institute for Health Policy and Leadership

As the second half of 2024 quickly approaches, it is crucial to anticipate upcoming legislation that will positively influence dental offices across California. Two significant laws, AB 1048 and AB 952, have recently passed, and aim to streamline dental office billing and expedite patient care. These laws take effect January 1, 2025, and will bring about promising changes.

AB 1048 prohibits dental benefit plans from denying claims when a patient has a pre-existing condition. This is a significant benefit for patients, ensuring they will not be penalized for their health history. It will also prohibit plans from implementing unsupported wait periods before a patient's coverage starts, which should lead to faster access to care.

The second law, AB 952, directly impacts the billing process in dental offices. It mandates that dental plans must disclose whether they are state or federally regulated. This transparency empowers dental offices to bill insurance correctly, reducing the chances of claims being denied. It will also help denied patients start the correct appeals process faster.

The primary objective of both laws is to enhance patients' access to care and afford necessary dental care. Patients often struggle due to high costs and limited insurance coverage. While these laws may not resolve all dental office and patient challenges, they are a significant stride in the right direction.



# \$4M National Cancer Institute Grant Awarded to Chi Viet, DDS, MD, PhD, FACS



*Chi Viet, DDS, MD, PhD, FACS*

A \$4M National Cancer Institute (NCI) R01 grant has been awarded to Chi Viet, DDS, MD, PhD, FACS, a surgeon scientist and Associate Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Loma Linda University School of Dentistry. This grant is allocated for the study of oral pre-cancer and its progression to oral cancer. The research will focus on using artificial intelligence (AI) to develop a multi-omic biomarker to identify patients with oral pre-cancer who are at the highest risk of developing cancer.

Dr. Viet joined the faculty at Loma Linda University School of Dentistry in August 2019. Since then, she and her team have created a research program that investigates treatment strategies for oral cancer. Through her hard work and dedication, Dr. Viet has brought in over \$9 million in research funding to LLU. The research is highly translational, enrolling oral cancer patients treated by her, and her colleagues, directly into clinical studies performed by the lab.

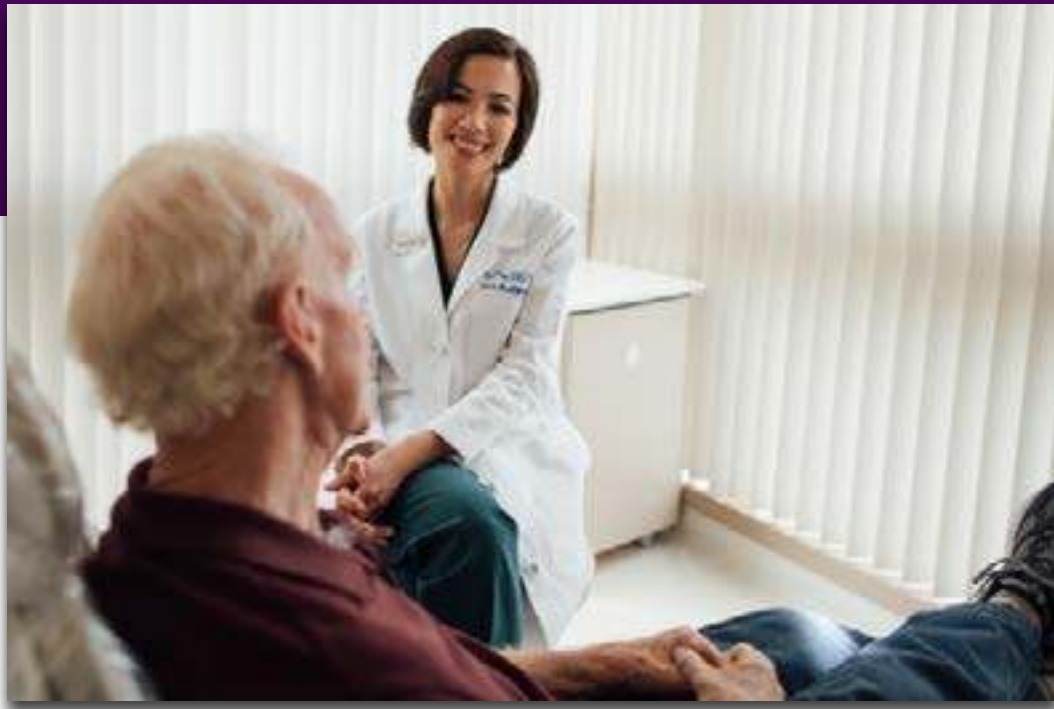
Oral cancer is a deadly disease, and in the U.S. alone, one person dies of oral cancer every hour. Dr. Viet, whose surgical practice is focused on oral cancer, explains, “There has not been any significant improvement in oral cancer treatment or survival in past decades. Patients suffer through highly disfiguring surgery and chemoradiation but are faced with terrible odds of beating their cancer.”

One way to increase survival rates is by diagnosing cancer at its earliest stages. Currently, about 10% of people have oral lesions that can appear as white or red lesions. A proportion of these lesions are pre-cancerous and often lead to a cancer diagnosis. Dr. Viet’s research uses a patient’s molecular signature—a combination of histologic and epigenetic marks—to identify cancer progression.

This most recent research grant is performed in collaboration with, Bradley Aouizerat, PhD, Deputy Director and Professor at New York University Dentistry Translational Research Center, who is a molecular epidemiologist focused on multi-omic signatures of complex diseases, and Alexander Pearson, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine at University of Chicago, a medical oncologist who uses mathematical modeling, high dimensional statistics, and basic tumor biology methods to investigate head and neck cancer.

The future is hopeful because of surgeon scientists like Dr. Viet, who work tirelessly to further oral cancer research. The School is proud of the work Dr. Viet and her team are doing towards earlier detection of oral cancer.






Follow one of Dr. Viet's "Jaw in a Day" patient stories. Scan the QR code below or go to [www.lifeontheline.tv](http://www.lifeontheline.tv).

**“Hope is an act of defiance.  
We have hope that we will cure this  
disease and save more cancer patients.”**


**DR. CHI T. VIET**  
*Associate Professor, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Louisiana State University Health  
Featured in Episode 4, Keep Moving Forward*

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*1st Dental Hygiene Class in September of 2020*

## Dental Hygiene class graduates in China

Dental Hygienists, a crucial part of Western medicine, are not always recognized as such in other countries. To address this, the Loma Linda University School of Dentistry, in a groundbreaking collaboration with Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital and Hangzhou City University (previously Zhejiang University City College), has pioneered a unique program. This program combines dental hygiene and nursing classes, leading to a bachelor's degree in nursing with a Certificate in Dental Hygiene upon graduation.

To qualify for the program, students must take the GOKAO test, also known as the Nationwide Unified Examination for Admissions to General Universities and Colleges. This test is similar to an aptitude test that helps students determine their career path. Students who perform well on the test and admission interviews may be accepted into the program.

LLUSD closely collaborates with HCU to create a curriculum that prepares the students for their future careers. With generous donations, an oral simulation laboratory was created at HCU where students can practice and perfect their skills. They currently work on their peers and mannequins, but it is hoped that more patients will soon embrace a preventative approach.

Two classes have already graduated from the program with some already growing their careers in the dental hygiene field. A new program is being developed with HCU to transition students into a dedicated program focusing on dental hygiene only without the nursing component. The students who complete this program will graduate with an Associate of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene.

The future looks bright for the students of HUC, and LLUSD is committed to supporting the program.





*Shirley Lee, MS'82, RDH'07 helps a student.*



*Dental Hygiene Lab Opening Ceremony March 2021*



# DDS Class Profile

## Class of 2024, Entering 2020



**Total Applicants**

1217

**SDA Applicants**

114

### Top 11 colleges students have matriculated from:

La Sierra University	15
Southern Adventist Univ	11
Walla Walla University	10
Univ of CA - San Diego	7
Andrews University	6
Pacific Union College	6
Univ of CA - Irvine	3
Brigham Young Univ	2
Cal Poly Pomona	2
Loma Linda Univ	2
Univ of CA - Riverside	2



GPA (cumulative)



Non-Science Avg



Science Avg



### DAT Average

Academic Average

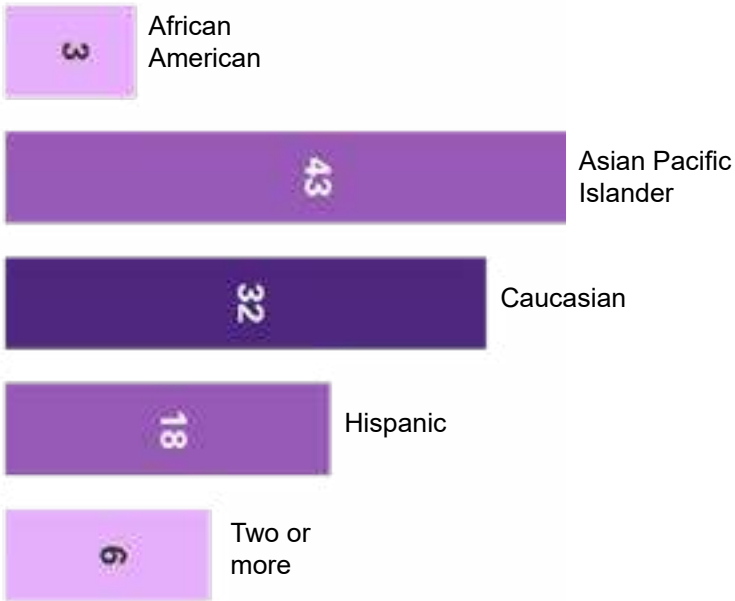
20.51

Total Science

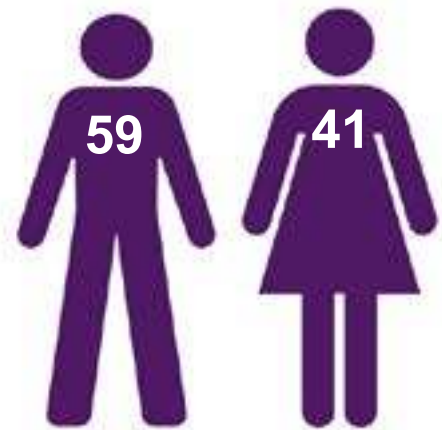
20.21

Reading Composition

21.64



## Ethnicity



## Gender



Average Age **23.81**





# LLUSD Continuing Education Statistics

January 2024 - June 2024

- 9** Hybrid and In-Person Courses
- 1858** Course Registrations
- 538** Unique Registrants
- 187** Alumni Registrants
- 106** Faculty Registrants



Upcoming Continuing Education Courses  
Scan for Details

**BRAXTON M.  
HENDERSON**

DMD, DADBA

**Hybrid Course - Onsite or Online**  
**Conscious Sedation in the Dental Office**

Sunday, September 15, 2024  
9:00am - 4:30pm



Continuing Dental Education

**JAMES  
KLIM, DDS**

**The Positive Impact of Digital  
Dentistry on Materials and  
Restorative Workflow**

Sunday, September 22, 2024  
9:00am - 4:30pm



Continuing Dental Education

## CALIFORNIA REQUIRED COURSES

- Infection Control Regulations
- California Dental Practice Act
- Responsibilities and Requirements of Prescribing Schedule II Opioid Drugs

Sunday, October 27, 2024  
9:00am - 4:30pm



Continuing Dental Education

## PAUL HANSEN, DDS

Principles and Innovations in  
Removable Partial, and Complete  
Denture Therapy

Sunday, November 17, 2024  
9:00am - 4:30pm



Continuing Dental Education

# Save the Date

# HOMECOMING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27 – MONDAY, MARCH 3

# 2025

[homecoming.llu.edu](http://homecoming.llu.edu)

#LLUHhomecoming |  [FB.com/omalindauniversity](https://www.facebook.com/omalindauniversity) |  [@omalindauniv](https://www.instagram.com/omalindauniv) | [homecoming@llu.edu](mailto:homecoming@llu.edu)



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY  
School of Dentistry

Alumni Student  
Convention

# CDA Reception

The School of Dentistry's admissions, alumni and marketing teams recently attended the annual CDA convention in Anaheim, which took place May 16-18. The convention provided current and prospective students, alumni, and dental professionals with an excellent opportunity to network and learn. With over 200 courses, 130 speakers, and 450 exhibitors, the convention provided opportunities for all attendees.

Many alumni stopped by the School's booth and attended the annual alumni reception nearby at McCormick & Schmick's Grille. The food and memories were abundant and a welcome part of the convention. Dean Handysides spoke about the new university-wide campaign, Stronger Together, which aims to raise funds for cancer research, physical updates to the patient clinics within the dental school, and strengthen mission aligned faculty through expanded research and practice opportunities. He expressed gratitude for unwavering alumni support which allows the school to continue to fulfill its mission of service to others.



*Steven Morrow, DDS'60, MS & Robert Handysides, DDS'93*

This year, Dr. Robert Handysides, dean, Marlise Perry, M.Ed., assistant director, Admissions and Student Affairs, Jake Love, MA, assistant director, Admissions and Student Affairs, and Jeri Fowler, RDAEF2, OA, assistant director, Alumni Affairs and director, RDAEF & OAP programs, were present to answer questions from interested prospective students. Many attendees showed interest in signing up for upcoming continuing education courses or applying to one of LLUSD's programs. They were engaged and asked many relevant questions about the School and the admissions process.

The School is so grateful for the opportunity to attend, network, and be part of such an amazing dental community. We hope to see you all at next year's CDA event May 15 - 17, 2025.



*The amazing food from McCormick & Schmick's Grille.*



*Ronald Forde, DDS'83, MSD'11 and P. Esther Forde, RN, MBA, MA*



*Sheila Aultman, CPA, CGMA, Steven Morrow, DDS'60, MS, and Mark Estey, DDS'98*



*A group posing for a photo with Juliana Powell, Senior Development Officer taken by Tim Sherwin, MS, Senior Development Officer.*



*Dr. Handysides chatting with group of alumni.*



# ART+SCIENCE

OF DENTISTRY



## CDA

**Dennis Shinbori Student Table Clinic Competition  
Anaheim Convention Center - May 17, 2024**

The Student Research Program, held during the 2024 CDA/CDHA Anaheim meeting on May 17, 2024, was a resounding success. LLUSD students, with their exceptional research, brought home 9 out of 12 awards, a testament to their hard work and dedication.

“Thanks to all our research students for their outstanding work, thanks to all our mentors for their expertise and time guiding our students, and thanks to the gracious support of our school administration!

Congratulations to all our students- You make us very proud!” --- So Ran Kwon, DDS, MS, PhD, MS

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### **Doctor of Dental Surgery, Community Category, 1st Place**

*“Blue Zone Loma Linda: The Relationship between Lifestyle and Oral Health Profile”*

James Akkidas, Antervir Kaur, Sadaf Taheri, Gaurav Sood, Julia Ko, LLU Volunteer (not pictured)

Mentors: Raghad Sulaiman, BDS, Udochukwu Oyoyo, MLIS, MPH, So Ran Kwon, DDS, MS, PhD, MS

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### **Doctor of Dental Surgery, Community Category, 2nd Place**

*“Perceived Satisfaction and Ergonomic Benefits Among Dental Loupe Users”*

Sihwan Sung, Jude Ritheesh Roy, Humaira Samreen, Dianne Viktoria Torres, Mahytab Zaky

Mentors: Perry Burtch, DDS’89, Udochukwu Oyoyo, MLIS, MPH, So Ran Kwon, DDS, MS, PhD, MS

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### **Doctor of Dental Surgery, Community Category, 3rd Place**

*“Outcomes of Utilizing ChatGPT 3.5 in Writing Graduate Level Research Proposals”*

Hayden Godfrey, Michelle Chan, Nathaniel Liu (not pictured)

Mentors: Udochukwu Oyoyo, MLIS, MPH, So Ran Kwon, DDS, MS, PhD, MS

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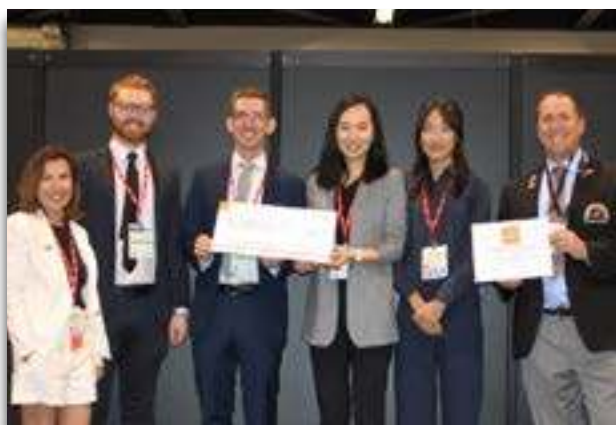
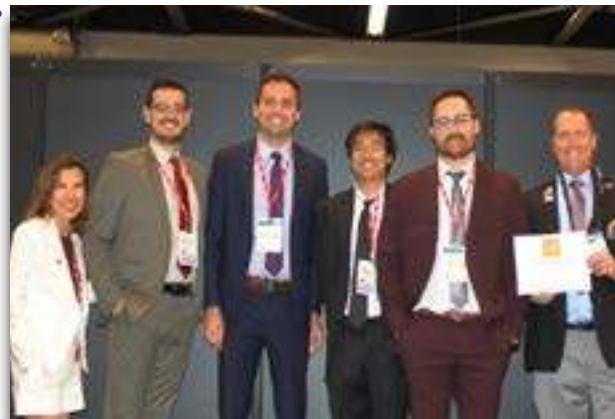
## Doctor of Dental Surgery, Community Category, Honorary Mention

*"Self-confidence of DDS Graduates of LLUSD in Performing Root Canal Treatments"*

Andrew Robinson, Alan Machado, Jeffrey Middleton, Zachary Evangelista

Mentor: Richard Gray, DDS

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## Doctor of Dental Surgery, Clinical Category, 2nd Place

*"Assessment of Dry Mouth Using the Modified Schirmer Test vs Unstimulated Salivary Flow Testing"*

Jingwie Cai, Ire Ju, Rylan Jones, Samuel Madden

Mentors: Franklin Garcia-Godoy, DDS, MS, PhD, PhD, Udochukwu Oyoyo, MLIS, MPH, So Ran Kwon, DDS, MS, PhD, MS

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## Doctor of Dental Surgery, Clinical Category, 3rd Place

*"Oral Health Care Providers' Awareness and Perception of Salivary Diagnostics"*

Matthew Cosaert, Nathan Hold, Filmon Kifle, Jordan Mar

Mentors: Steven Powell, DDS'83, Udochukwu Oyoyo, MLIS, MPH, So Ran Kwon, DDS, MS, PhD, MS

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## Doctor of Dental Surgery, Clinical Category, Honorary Mention

*"The Effect of Face Mask Wearing on Breath Malodor"*

Thang Ngo, Savanna Sanchez, Joshua Ventenilla, Jonathan Lee

Mentors: Tara Khamo, DDS'16, Udochukwu Oyoyo, MLIS, MPH, So Ran Kwon, DDS, MS, PhD, MS

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## Doctor of Dental Surgery, Scientific Section, 1st Place

*"Accuracy of Partial and Complete-Arch Analog and Digital Impressions: An In-Vitro 3D Analysis"*

Jeremy Chieng, Daniel Lee, Nicole Lim, Sydney Yu

Mentors: Joseph Kan, DDS'90, MS'96, Sunee Limmeechokchai, DDS, MDS'20, Udochukwu Oyoyo, MLIS, MPH, John Won, DDS'05, MS'12

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## Doctor of Dental Surgery, Scientific Section, 2nd Place

*"Effects of Tightening Protocol on Position Changes of Screw-Retained Single Implant Crowns"*

Hui Ju Wu, Hui Ling Wu

Mentors: Sasiya Bhumpattarachai, DDS, MSD, Udochukwu Oyoyo, MLIS, MPH

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## Doctor of Dental Surgery, Scientific Section, 3rd Place

*"Seating Length at Which Dental Acorn Acrylic Burs Experience Failure"*

Blake Unsell

Mentors: Justin Terrill, DDS'15, Ryan Becker, DDS'15, MS'20, Udochukwu Oyoyo, MLIS, MPH

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## 2024 Spring Scientific Session Dental Hygiene Students Original Research 3rd Place

*"Effectiveness of Herbal Mouth Rinse in Inhibiting Oral Bacteria: an In Vitro Study"*

Clarice Aghajanian (not pictured), Stephanie Alameddine, Sohee Chung, Karla Gomez, Lindsey Quartuccio

Mentors: Danielle Ellington, BS'13, Mary Campbell-Beachler, MA, So Ran Kwon, DDS, MS, PhD, MS

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# President's Award

The President's Award, the highest award given to a graduating dental student, is presented in recognition of academic excellence, and active participation in the student community within the context of Christian commitment.

Daniel M. Rexin was raised in a loving Seventh-day Adventist family in Bremerton, Washington. He was homeschooled through eighth grade, starting ninth grade at Bremerton High School. From an early age, he demonstrated a keen interest in engineering and pursued it throughout middle and high school. His dedication and meticulous nature were well-suited to the field.

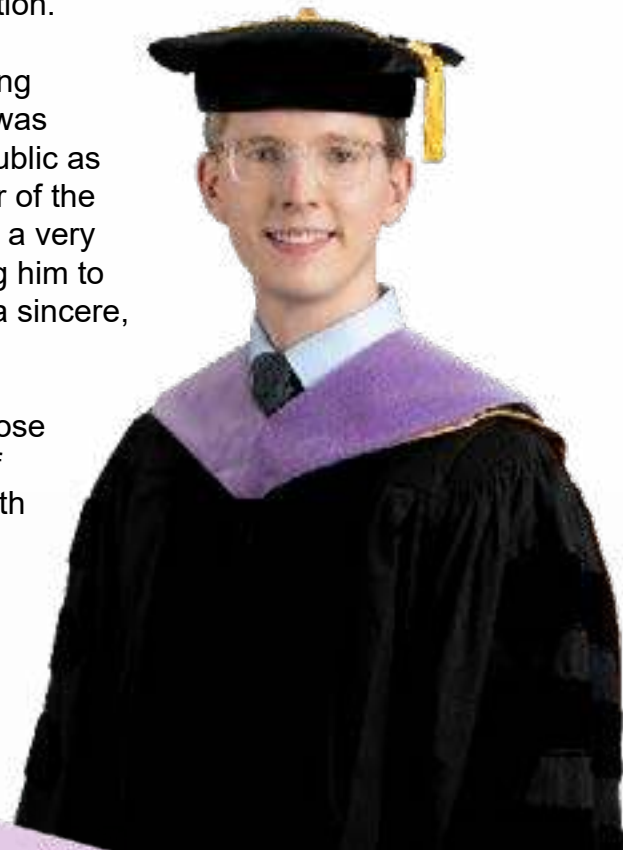
After a disaster hit his family, his perspective and future goals were altered. He realized he wanted to positively impact people's lives by alleviating their pain and suffering. Given Daniel's love for details, his dexterity, and his innate leadership qualities, dentistry seemed like a perfect fit for him.

He graduated from Walla Walla University with a Bachelor of Science in Bioengineering and made the Dean's List multiple times with a 4.0 GPA. He also received the WWU Achievement Scholarship, among many others.

When speaking to Dr. Kiddie Poomprakobsri he had this to say "In the realm where students count themselves fortunate to have good mentors, it is equally true that faculty are privileged to have a student like Daniel Rexin. His steadfast dedication, intellectual prowess, and unwavering commitment to excellence resonate both academically and clinically. Daniel's continual thirst for knowledge, coupled with his compassionate and caring nature, has not only brought joy to fellow students and faculty, but has also left a positive impact on patients. It has been my honor to mentor and witness Daniel's remarkable journey through dental education."

Daniel has proven to be an exceptional student by ranking 1st in his cohort of 98 dental students. His passion for service was evident throughout his trip to Maranatha in the Dominican Republic as well as other service learning trips. Dr. Gary Kerstetter, Director of the Service Learning Program, said, "He has an altruistic spirit and a very serving attitude. I would have no reservations in recommending him to receive any award acknowledging his Christ-like qualities and a sincere, committed heart in serving his fellow persons!"

In recognition of his exemplary academics, service to those around him, and dedication to Loma Linda University School of Dentistry, it is a pleasure to have presented Daniel M. Rexin with the President's Award at the Conferring of Degrees.



# Prince Award

Established in 1957 by the School of Dentistry's inaugural dean, M. Webster Prince, DDS, the Prince Award is given in recognition of scholarship, leadership, and stewardship qualities. Through peer nominations, the Class of 2024 selected this year's awardee, Amanda Oronoz.

Amanda was raised by her single mother, who taught her the value of hard work from an early age. She felt a strong connection to God and believed in His plan for her life, which led her to switch career paths and pursue dentistry. With her husband and family's support, she attended La Sierra University and earned a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry with academic honors.

During her time at La Sierra University, Amanda was able to help people through service by becoming a lead volunteer at the Amen Clinic, California Careforce, and volunteering at local health fairs through her church. Additionally, she gained extensive experience by shadowing a local dentist she greatly admired.

Amanda has consistently shown academic excellence, a strong desire to serve, and exceptional leadership skills at Loma Linda University School of Dentistry. She has been recognized on the Dean's List multiple times, served as her class president for the past three years, and actively participated in local and international mission trips. Her compassion, dedication, and outstanding values exemplify the principles of Loma Linda University School of Dentistry.

The School of Dentistry is pleased to present Amanda Oronoz with the Prince Award.



# Faculty of the Year

Since childhood, Nima Sarmast, DDS, MS, MPH, MSD always knew he would pursue a career in the healthcare field. Initially, he believed that dentistry was a branch of medicine and that becoming a dentist required one to be a medical doctor. However, as he grew older, he discovered that dentistry was a distinct discipline. Dr. Sarmast comes from a family of physicians, and it was his aunt that encouraged him to pursue Dentistry for a better work-life balance. He is grateful to her for the advice and has wholeheartedly loved the profession.

Dr. Sarmast loves to learn and collaborate with others, which made his transition into teaching seamless. He is a passionate faculty member with education and experience that have made him a well-rounded instructor and clinician.

One of his favorite aspects of teaching is the opportunity to engage with his students and instill in them a love of dentistry and of learning. The discovery process and the joy of learning motivates him, and he loves interacting with his students. He believes they have as much to teach him as he does them. One of his fondest memories is of a former student who returned to thank him for his support and encouragement years later. Thanks to him, she decided to pursue a career in Periodontics and is incredibly happy in her profession.

With great pleasure, we announce Dr. Nima D. Sarmast as the recipient of the Loma Linda University School of Dentistry Faculty of the Year Award. This award was going to be presented to him during the Conferring of Degrees ceremony for the School. Dr. Sarmast was unable to attend because of the birth of his first child. The School wishes to extend its heartfelt congratulations and it is a special honor to recognize Dr. Sarmast's exceptional contributions to the School.



# Distinguished Service Award

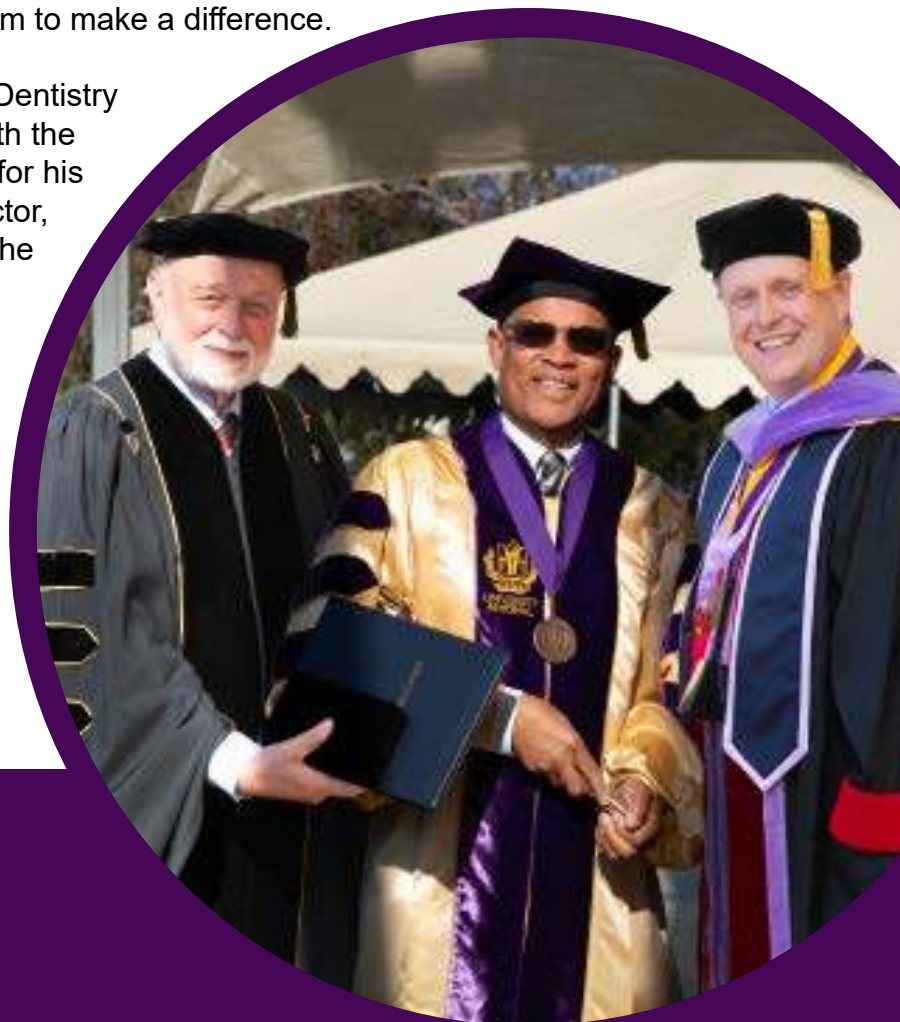
Dr. Ronald Forde, DDS'83, MS'11, did not plan to become a dentist when he began college. After completing a degree in Medical Laboratory Technology, he decided to pursue a degree in Religion. However, at an uncle's suggestion, he turned to a career in dentistry and found his true calling.

Dr. Forde graduated in 1983 with his DDS degree from Loma Linda University School of Dentistry. Within months of graduation, he moved with his family to Zaire, Africa, now known as the Democratic Republic of the Congo. There, he was appointed to open a new dental clinic in Lubumbashi. Six years later, he moved to Bulawayo in Zimbabwe, where he provided dental care for another decade. He speaks fondly of his 16 years in the mission field where he had the privilege of serving thousands of patients and participating in local church activities.

In 1999, Dr. Forde was invited to become a faculty member at his alma mater in Loma Linda. He accepted the position as Director of Service Learning through which he continued to share his love and knowledge of mission service, both locally and internationally. He enjoyed planning and participating in many student mission trips over the years.

After twenty-two years of practicing dentistry and teaching, Dr. Forde entered the Advanced Dental Education Program in Prosthodontics. He believes God guided him through the program, in which he gained a deeper knowledge and love of dentistry. Throughout his career as a dentist, director, and educator, he has always seen his work as a ministry. Dr. Forde has lived a life of service and believes that God has worked through him to make a difference.

The Loma Linda University School of Dentistry is honored to present Dr. Ronald E. Forde with the School Distinguished Faculty Service Award for his invaluable contributions as an educator, director, and mentor. This award was given to him at the Conferring of Degrees for the School.



# Distinguished Service Award

Mrs. Robin Fierro-Navarro started her professional journey at a wellness center. However, when the center moved, someone suggested she think about Loma Linda University School of Dentistry. It sounded like a good idea because she had once considered studying dental hygiene, but life events had gotten in the way. Robin was appointed clinic coordinator after her interview with Mary Hartwell, and Mary became her mentor.

Robin credits Mary with helping her discover her true calling: to provide guidance and support to the clinical staff. She feels this job allows her to serve a higher calling to those who need it. While this position differs from what she saw for herself with dental hygiene, she feels this was the role she was always meant to have.

Her dedication to her work and her co-workers is inspirational. She believes in an open-door policy that provides her co-workers with a safe place to discuss and engage, one of her most remarkable achievements at the School. Her empathy towards others is something that we all aspire to emulate.

Robin's fondest memories from her time at the School are related to serving. She talked fondly of community outreach programs such as Clinic with a Heart, remembering the sense of community and the fun of working together for the greater good. Her belief in community and service aligns with the School's core values and beliefs.

In recognition of her contributions and her long-standing and exemplary service to Loma Linda University School of Dentistry, it is an honor to recognize Mrs. Robin Fierro-Navarro with the School Distinguished Staff Service Award. This award was presented to her at the Conferring of Degrees for the School.



# DDS Student Achievement Awards 2024



Academy of General Dentistry Award  
Karmen Battikha, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. Steven Powell



Academy of General Dentistry Award  
Bradley DeVine, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. Steven Powell



American College of Dentists,  
Southern California Section  
Rami Rashed, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. Alan Herford



Pierre Fauchard Academy Award  
Kristina Padilla, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. So Ran Kwon



Academy of Dentistry International  
Student Servant Leadership Award  
Alexander Castillo, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. Gary Kerstetter



American Student Dental Association  
Julio Bolivar, DDS'24  
Presented by Esther Forde



California Dental Association  
Senior Award  
Rinkal Dhillon, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. Steven Powell



California Dental Association  
Senior Award  
Ronina Ali, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. Steven Powell



International College of Dentist  
Student Leadership Award  
Rachel Eshtiaghpour, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. Alan Herford

# DDS Student Achievement Awards 2024



Dr. Jeanne Craig Sinkford Student Leadership Award  
Dragoslav Milosavljevic, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. Ryan Becker



Boyko Award for Christ-like Service  
Alexander Castillo, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. Michael Boyko



Brian D. Stone Memorial Award  
Rami Rashed, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. Gary Kerstetter



International College of Dentists Student Humanitarian Award  
Monina De Jesus, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. Alan Herford



Wil Alexander Award  
Julio Bolivar, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. Doyle Nick



Wilfred A. Nation Award  
Brandon Castillo, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. Ryan Becker



National Association of Seventh-day Adventist Dentist Award  
Emily Tan, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. Doyle Nick



William S. Kramer Award for Excellence  
Jonathan Tran Nguyen, D3



American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry Award  
Kristina Padilla, DDS'24  
Dr. Steven Powell



American Academy of Oral  
Medicine Award  
Marina Morgan, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. Heidi Christensen



Academy of Operative  
Dentistry Award  
Andrew Lee, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. Reema Younan



American College of  
Prosthodontists Award  
Amanda Oronoz, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. John Won



Wical Removable  
Prosthodontics Award  
Melkonian, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. John Won



American Academy of Implant  
Dentistry Award  
Marina Morgan, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. John Won



ICOI Dentsply Pre-doctoral Student  
Achievement Award  
Brooklynn VanWinkle, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. Jaime Lozada



Academy of  
Osseointegration Award  
Antonela Kroqi, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. Jaime Lozada



American Association of  
Endodontists Student Achievement  
Award  
Sara Al Tally, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. Suhair Jambi



American Association of Oral and  
Maxillofacial Surgeons Award  
Thamar Silvestre Calle, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. Carlos Moretta



# DDS Student Achievement Awards 2024



American Academy of Oral and  
Maxillofacial Pathology Award  
Tamara Elsen, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. Susan Richards



American Academy of Orofacial  
Pain Award  
Daniel Rexin, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. Adam Shafik



American Association of  
Orthodontists Award  
Mina Hekmat, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. V. Leroy Leggitt



American Academy of Pediatric  
Dentistry Award  
Valerie Penarubia, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. Namrata Rana



Southern California Society of  
Dentistry for Children Award  
Daniela Avila, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. Namrata Rana



American Academy of  
Periodontology Award  
Rami Rashed, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. Yoon-Jeong Kim



Western Society of Periodontology  
Award  
Jens Nielsen, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. Yoon-Jeong Kim



American Academy of Oral and  
Maxillofacial Radiology Award  
Padma Yelisetty, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. Dwight Rice



SCADA/Dentsply Student Clinician  
Award  
Daniel Rexin, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. So Ran Kwon



ADA Foundation Colgate Student  
Research Award  
Chen Wei Yew, DDS'24  
Presented by Dr. Montry Suprono



LLU Center for Dental Research  
Basic Science Award  
Caleb Smeraldi, D2  
Presented by Dr. Montry Suprono



Juilo Bolivar, DDS'24, Valerie Penarubia, DDS'24,  
Amanda Oronoz, DDS'24, Ronia Ali, DDS'24,  
Rachel Eshtiaghpour, DDS'24, Antonela Kroqui,  
DDS'24, Daniela Avila, DDS'24



Carina Handysides, DDS'24, Morgan Rogers,  
DDS'24, Rachel Eshtiaghpour, DDS'24,  
Brooklynn VanWinkle, DDS'24

# Omicron Kappa Upsilon



Rawan Al Saadeh, DDS'24



Tamara Elsen, DDS'24



Madeleine Everett, DDS'24



Jens Nielson, DDS'24



Ki Don Park, DDS'24



Rami Rashed, DDS'24

# Class of 2024 Inductees



Mina Hekmat, DDS'24



Yong In Joung, DDS'24



Marina Morgan, DDS'24



Chen Wei Yew, DDS'24



Min Jung Yoon, DDS'24



Christopher Ziegele, DDS'24

# Dental Hygiene Pinning Ceremony



Dental Hygiene Class of 2024



Caroline Chatigny, BS'14 (DH) receiving a rose of recognition from Lindsey Quartuccio, BS'24 (DH).



Alhassan Alkhafaji, BS'24 (DH) receiving the Golden Scaler from Caroline Chatigny, BS'14 (DH).



Matthew Jung, BS'24 (DH) leading his colleagues out of the sanctuary.



Cristina Feceu, BS'24 (DH), Gabiela Villegas, BS'24 (DH), Alisa Andrade, BS'24 (DH)



Taylor Romero, BS'24 (DH) being pinned by Kevyn Hamilton, BS'19 (DH).



SoHee Chung, BS'24 (DH)



Desiree Mercado, BS'24 (DH) being pinned by Caroline Chatigny, BS'14 (DH).

# Dental Hygiene Student Awards 2024



Middleton Award  
Kaylee Ramos, BS'24 (DH)



Mitchell Award  
Alhassan Alkhafaji, BS'24 (DH)



Golden Scaler  
Alhassan Alkhafaji, BS'24 (DH)



Bate's Award  
Karla Gomez, BS'24 (DH)



Klooster Humanitarian Award  
Stephanie Lee, BS'24 (DH)



American Association of Public  
Health Dentistry  
Karla Gomez, BS'24 (DH)



Service Learning  
Kaylee Ramos, BS'24 (DH)



Service Learning  
Karla Gomez, BS'24 (DH)



Dean's Award  
Taylor Romero, BS'24 (DH)

# Sigma Phi Alpha Class of 2024 Inductees



Taylor Romero, BS'24 (DH)



Cristina Feceu, BS'24 (DH)





# Baccalaureate Sabbath



Speaker Randall L. Roberts, DMin



Brooklyn VanWinkle, DDS'24



Julio Bolivar, DDS'24



Karla Gomez, BS'24 (DH)

# Commissioning & Promotion Ceremony



Clyde Roggenkamp, DDS'70, MSD, Richard Gray, DDS; Army - 2d LT Alejandrina Calvillo, DDS'24; Navy - ENS Brooklynn VanWinkle, DDS'24; Air Force - 2d Lt Stephen Otanes, DDS'24; Samuel Young, DMD, Gary Golden, DDS'77



From left to right: Army - 2d LT Alejandrina Calvillo; Navy - ENS Brooklynn VanWinkle; Air Force - 2d Lt Stephen Otanes

# Hooding Ceremony



Emily Tan, DDS'24, and other graduates, reading the dental pledge at the end of the ceremony.



From left to right: Zina Johnston, DDS'00, assistant dean, Clinic Administration, Kevin Moreno, DDS'24, Mark Estey, DDS'98, associate dean, Academic Affairs



From left to right: Renu Aggarwal, DDS'24, Rawan Al Saadeh, DDS'24, Sara Al Tally, DDS'24, Ronia Ali, DDS'24



Layla Nemat-Bakhsh, DDS'24 posing for a selfie.



From left to right: Zina Johnston, DDS'00, assistant dean, Clinic Administration, Sabine Merville, DDS'24, Mark Estey, DDS'98, associate dean, Academic Affairs



Looking at the camera: Krishna Schachter, DDS'24

# Conferring of Degrees



Looking at the camera: Amanda Oronoz, DDS'24, Class President



Robin Fierro-Navarro recipient of the Distinguished Service Award.



Bradley DeVine, DDS'24 showing off his new degree to his family.



Alhassan Alkhafaji, BS'24 (DH), Class President



Dean Handysides hugging his daughter Carina Handysides, DDS'24.



Graduates celebrating their accomplishments.



Leif Bakland, DDS'63 and Debbie Catino



Jung Wei Chen, DDS, MS, MS, PhD and Cheryl Bhatt, DDS, MPH, MSD'24



Rami Jekki, DDS'06, Robert Walter, DDS'99, MSD, FACP





Graduates eagerly awaiting their hooding.



Eunhyo Choi, DDS'24 playing the musical tribute at the Hooding Ceremony.



Ronald Forde, DDS'83, MS'11, John Won, DDS'05, MS'12





# Fond Farewells

*Loma Linda University School of Dentistry mourns the loss of each passing alumnus. As a Christian institution, we look forward in faith to the day when there will be a great reunion that brings us all together again.*

Kent A. Anderson, DDS'80, MS	July 31, 2022
R. Leslie Arnett, Jr., DDS'68, MS	February 25, 2023
Franklin Gene Ballard, DDS'69	August 25, 2023
Tommie J. Banks-Howard, BS'63 (DH)	December 11, 2023
M. William Barnard, DDS'64	March 8, 2022
Harry J. Beckner, DDS'59	December 26, 2022
Louis M. Bishop, DDS'58	August 5, 2022
Vernon L. Blaney, DDS'74	2020
Frank Bonnet, DDS'64	March 29, 2023
William J. Busch, DDS'71	December 21, 2020
Donald G. Caster, DDS'60	January 26, 2022
Pamela G. Chase, BS'69 (DH)	March 4, 2023
Kimberly B. Coe, BS'90 (DH)	December 15, 2022
Bill G. Coker, DDS'72	September 10, 2019
Harry F. Danielson, DDS'57	December 14, 2019
Ralph L. Davis, DDS'63	January 3, 2022
Vernon S. Eddlemon, DDS'60	February 2, 2023
Debra S. English, AS'76 (DH)	March 15, 2020
Raymond M. Evard, MD, DDS'59	July 23, 2021
Pamela J. Feldkamp, BS'69 (DH)	November 2, 2022
Gerald A. Fillmore, DDS'71, MS	October 17, 2022
Robert L. Fritz, DDS'75	September 24, 2022
Sharon Golightly, BS'64 (DH), EdD	December 7, 2023
Melbourne D. Hedrick, DDS'61	May 29, 2022

Williard E. Hodgkin, DDS'67	October 25, 2021
Harry H. Houston, III, DDS'71	February 27, 2022
Connie Hubbard, BS'75 (DH)	January 19, 2023
Robert L. Huether, DDS'64	April 17, 2022
William B. James, DDS'57	July 31, 2023
William Kast, DDS'66	June 10, 2023
Cathy A. Knoechel, BS'81 (DH)	September 29, 2022
Brian M. Lane, DDS'87	January 23, 2022
Janice K. Lemann, DDS'84	2023
Edward Lewis, DDS'73	March 2, 2022
Carlton R. Lofgren, DDS'61	February 14, 2023
Glenn I. Logan, DDS'63	March 28, 2023
Robert A. Lorren, DDS'61	December 11, 2022
Donald R. Lunt, DDS'68	April 14, 2020
James E. Nuff, DDS'64	December 6, 2020
John N. Oliver, DDS'59	2022
Harold I. Olson, DDS'72	January 15, 2020
Joel L. Pedersen, DDS'04	December 17, 2018
Lowell D. Plubell, DDS'62	February 21, 2020
David B. Sandquist, DDS'66	May 16, 2022
Edwin F. Shryock, DDS'62, MS	May 23, 2022
Charles L. Smith, DDS'63	March 22, 2020
Arthur Spenst, DDS'61	January 8, 2023
J. Howard Sprague, DDS'62	April 4, 2022
Ted L. Stephens, DDS'60	July 25, 2022
Donald H. Stewart, DDS'73	February 20, 2022



Judith Strathman, DH'69	March 15, 2023
Heidi W. T. Sun-Haley, DDS'04	March 5, 2020
Peter L. Tataryn, DDS'67	October 29, 2022
William "Mel" Taskey, DDS, MS'69	December 7, 2023
Preetham S. Thomas, DDS'94	November 13, 2022
James A. Thompson, DDS'59	April 15, 2020
Thomas L. Thompson, DDS'60, MS	January 11, 2022
John L. VanDenburgh, DDS'67	June 2019
Eugene Warner, DDS'63	March 19, 2024
Kenneth R. Whitcomb, DDS'64, MS'66	June 4, 2023
Ronald A. White, DDS'73	September 7, 2022
Alan R. Williams, DDS'59	August 19, 2022
John R. Wohlers, DDS'68	January 29, 2023
Virgil V. O. Erlandson, DDS'68	April 2, 2024
Kennerley C. Ashley, DDS'63	April 18, 2024



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School of Dentistry

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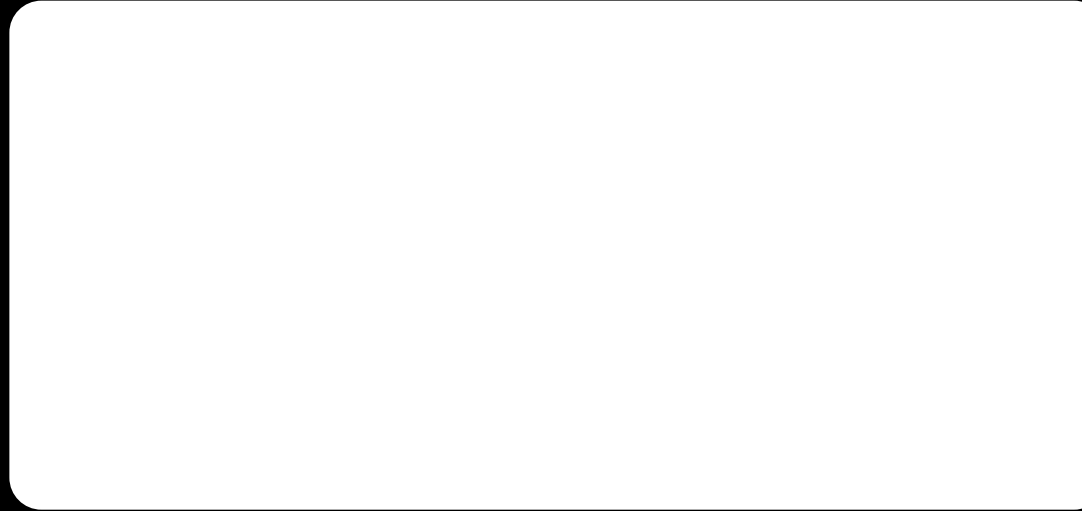


LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY

School of Dentistry

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Loma Linda, CA 92350

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ALUMNI STUDENT CONVENTION

# Homecoming

February 27 - March 2, 2025