

Program

Check-in & Photos 5:00 p.m.

Officer Welcome & Reception 6:00 p.m.

Dinner 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Welcome Benjamin (David) La Guardia

Invocation Shealee Allen

Military Recognition Dr. Philip A. Kattchee

Dean's Welcome Dr. John A. Valenza

Award Presentations Dr. Robert Spears

Scholarship Recipients Dr. Ralph A. Cooley

Class Presentation David (Jade) Kelly

Class Officers

President Benjamin (David) La Guardia

Vice President Mackenzie Clayton

Secretary David (Jade) Kelly

Treasurer Laura Arsto

Class of 2023, thanks to our husbands, wives, families, and friends for their tremendous support these past four years. We realize that our endeavors would have been much more difficult to achieve without your love, patience, and understanding.

Photographs from this evening's event will be available at [Go.uth.edu/flicker](https://go.uth.edu/flicker)

Doctor of Dental Surgery Awards 2023

Dr. John A. Valenza
ASDA Award of Excellence

Drs. Ralph A. Cooley, T. Bob Davis & Jeff Geno
Academy of General Dentistry Senior Student Dental Award
Houston Academy of General Dentistry Award

Drs. Ralph A. Cooley & Phil Pierpont
American College of Dentists Outstanding Student Leader

Dr. Mai-Tram Nguyen
The Academy of Dentistry International Student Servant Leadership Award

Dr. Laji James
Texas Dental Association Outstanding Senior Award

Dr. W. Kenneth Horwitz
W. Kenneth Horwitz, DDS, Ethics and Professionalism Award

Dr. Thomas Harrison
Greater Houston Dental Society Community Dentistry Award

Drs. Jay Elliott & Kyle Hale
Elliott-Hale "Gunner" Award for Clinical Excellence
Stephen Laman, DDS Scholarship for Servant Leadership

Dr. Jerry Long
UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry Good Samaritan

Dr. Ron Collins
UTSD Alumni Association Award

Dr. David Fray
American Association of Public Health Dentistry Recognition Award
American Equilibration Society Award

Drs. Kathy Gibson, Stephen Laman & Karen Walters
International College of Dentists Student Humanitarian Award
International College of Dentists Student Leadership Award

Drs. Kathy Gibson, Stephen Laman, Jesse Welch & Bonita Wynkoop
Ninth District Dental Society Award for Collegiality Award
Ninth District Dental Society Ethics and Integrity Award

Dr. Amity Gardner
Texas Association of Women Dentists
Academy of Laser Dentistry Award
Academy of Operative Dentistry Award

Drs. Esther Kuyinu & Maria Loza
American Academy of Implant Dentistry Undergraduate
Dental Student Award
American College of Prosthodontists Award
Academy of Osseointegration Outstanding Dental Student in
Implant Dentistry Award
Hanau Best of Best Award for Excellence in Prosthodontics
International Congress of Oral Implantologists/DENTSPLY Student
Achievement Award

Drs. Rade Paravina & Joe Ontiveros
American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry Award

Dr. Joe Ontiveros
Southwest Academy of Restorative Dentistry Award

Dr. Rade Paravina
Academy of Dental Materials Award

Dr. Magda Eldiwany
Society for Color and Appearance in Dentistry

Dr. Gary Frey
James P. Ferguson Award for Excellence in Dental Anatomy

Dr. Yonca Korkmaz Ceyhan
Robert O. Dosch and James L. Rout Award

Dr. Lacey Harris
American Association of Orthodontists Award

Drs. Michelle Thompson & Dan Bentley
Ivoclar Digital Dentistry Student of the Year Award

Dr. Erin Potts
Special Care Dentistry Student Award

Drs. Dan Bentley & Gargi Mukherji
Society for Simulation in Health Care Student Award
Quintessence Award for Clinical Achievement in Restorative Dentistry

Dr. Jack Joseph
The Brian D. Stone Memorial Award from Dental Lifeline Network

Dr. Jennifer Chang
Quintessence Award for Clinical Achievement in Periodontics

Dr. Charles Streckfus
American Academy of Oral Medicine Certificate of Merit and Award
in Oral Medicine

Dr. Ngozi Nwizu
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Dental Student Award

Dr. Ransome Van Der Hoeven
UTSD Student in Applied Basic Science Award

Dr. Dharini Van Der Hoeven
Houston Chapter of the American Association for Dental Research Award
Pierre Fauchard Academy Senior Student Award
Quintessence Award for Research Achievement

Dr. Nikola Angelov
American Academy of Periodontology Dental Student Achievement Award

Drs. Christopher Daniel & John Smith Jr.
Edwards C. Hinds Academy Award
Houston Society of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons Award

Dr. Clark Whitmire
American Dental Society of Anesthesiology Horace Wells Senior Student Award

Dr. Leticia Guajardo
American Association of Endodontists Student Achievement Award

Mr. Krishna Kookal
UTSD Informatics Award

Dr. Marilia Sly
American Academy of Orofacial Pain Outstanding Senior Award

Drs. Marilia Sly & Stephen Laman
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Alumni Members

Dr. Robert Spears
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Predoctoral Student Award
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Achievement Award
Dr. Jeanne Craig Sinkford Student Leadership Award
Walter G. Sterling Award

Ali Mahmood Shakir Al Hatem
The John P. McGovern Outstanding Teaching Award
The John H. Freeman Award for Faculty Teaching

Doctor of Dental Surgery Scholarships 2023

Anissa Rodriguez & Nicholas Tipton

Bob and Tanya Foster Scholarship

In memory of his parents, it was created in 2007 by James R. Foster, DDS '87; it was awarded for interest and proficiency in pediatric dentistry.

Ali Al Hatem

Delta Dental Scholarships

For dental and dental hygiene students, it was awarded to fourth-year predoctoral students and second-year dental hygiene students who have shown the most interest, knowledge, and proficiency in pediatric dentistry.

Meghna Dara & Mary Younan

Gary S. Leff, DDS, MPH Scholarship Fund for the DDS/MPH Program

To award students on good academic merit and academic standing.

Ryan Lee

T. Bradford Willis, DDS, MSD Scholarship in Pediatric Dentistry

Created by UTSD alumnus T. Bradford Willis, DDS '79, of Waco, this award is for a predoctoral student beginning the fourth year of study who has displayed the most interest, knowledge, and proficiency in pediatric dentistry during the third year.

Parnian Salehi

The Houston Asian American Dental Society Scholarship

Awarded to a fourth-year dental student who demonstrates significant achievements at UTSD, ranking in the top 5% for cumulative clinical work and contributing to the community through volunteer or missionary work.

Clara Kohlmetz

The Triolo Leadership in Dentistry Scholarship

Created by Professor Emeritus Peter T. Triolo, DDS, and wife, Dr. Pamela K. Triolo, RN; awarded for academic standing and exhibiting leadership, collaboration, and compassionate care.

Ethan Ellis

William "Sam" Leifeste, DDS Memorial Scholarship

Awarded to a student with expressed interest and aptitude for prosthodontics. The late Dr. Leifeste was a 1988 alumnus certified in prosthodontics in 1990. He received numerous awards for clinical excellence.



Class of 2023 Awards Banquet

April 20, 2023

Ali M. Al Hatem
Shealee N. Allen
Dominique A. Angibeau
Laura T. Arsto
Meghan P. Bhakta
Erika J. Bowman
Thaylan A. Bowman
Renee L. Browning
Bethany N. Burgess
Ingrid Y. Choi
Hobin Chun
Mackenzie S. Clayton
Ayushi R. Dalal
Jacob I. Dalton
Noori D. Dalwadi
Nhu N. Dao
Meghna M. Dara
Esmeralda Diaz
Tuyet A. Doan
Jason M. Dodge
Aarthi Elango
Ethan M. Ellis
Yahiled Garza
Samantha R. Gaudet
Elissa Guerra
Heni Gutman
Caroline C. Hajduk
Jefferson T. Henthorn
Teresa R. Hill
Heba Y. Hoelscher
Megan R. Hovland
Amber B. Hua
Tanner S. Hutchinson

Bridget B. Huynh
Christie M. Huynh
Hiroshi Isago
Artur P. Jakubowski
Reena Kaitholil
Justin J. Kang
Ghazia A. Kazmi
David J. Kelly
Yoel E. Kidane
Suhyung Kim
Clara M. Kohlmetz
Pooja Krishnaswamy
Benjamin D. La Guardia
Chloe N. LaRosa
Layth M. Layth
Khoi K. Le
Thanh V. Le
Jane J. Lee
Ryan N. Lee
Nazira A. Lewis
Macie L. Long
Julio C. Lores Cruz
John D. Luck
Jasmine Luke
Ashley D. Mathew
Salman Momin
Sydney A. Moyer
Mary Kate Myrick
McCluer B. Neuroth
Kara Nguyen
Vincent T. Nguyen
Madeline E. Oles
Janki N. Patel
Sonamben R. Patel

Taylor V. Pettit
Huan T. Phan
Jacqueline Phan
Andrew D. Phillips
Elizabeth L. Pohlmann
Joshua C. Raby
Kayla M. Rankin
Diego J. Rivas
Anissa Rodriguez
Hanna L. Rowe
Shadaan A. Rupani
Brittyn L. Rushing
Parnian Salehi
Sawyer G. Sams
Benjamin L. Scarpino
Mostefa A. Sheikhi
Chandler D. Smith
Ryan R. Smith
Riddhi J. Solanki
Jared M. Stergar
Reda Syed
Nicholas T. Tipton
Tien D. Tran
Mau D. Truong
Jackson B. Valencia
Austin J. Viskozki
Stephanie Vu
Tuan D. Vu
Hannah M. Walsdorf
Kehui Wang
Jayson K. Workman
Mary A. Younan
Sarah Zhao

OUR MISSION

"To improve human health by providing high-quality education, patient care, and research in oral health for Texas, the nation, and the world"