Doctor of Dental Surgery Awards 2023

Dr. John A. Valenza
AIAA Award of Excellence

Dr. Ralph A. Cooley, T. Bub Davis & Jeff Gons
Academy of General Dentistry Senior Student Dental Award

Houson Academy of General Dentistry Award

Dr. Ralph A. Cooley & Phil Poiriour
American College of Dentists Outstanding Student Leader

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

Dr. Lani James
Texas Dental Association Outstanding Senior Award

Dr. W. Kenneth Horvitz
W. Kenneth Horvitz, DDS, Ethos and Professionalism Award

Dr. Thomas Harrison
Gaiser Houston Dental Society Community Dentistry Award

Dr. Jay Elliott & Kyle Hale
Ellison-Hale “Grantee” Award for Clinical Excellence

Dr. Stephen Laman, DDS Scholarship for Servant Leadership

Dr. Jerry Long
UT Health Houston School of Dentistry Good Samaritan

Dr. Ron Collins
UTSD Alumni Association Award

Dr. Doral Frey
American Association of Public Health Dentistry Recognition Award

American Equilibration Society Award

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

International College of Dentists Student Leadership Award

Dr. Kathy Gibson, Stephen Laman, Jesse Welch & Bentina Winikopf
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

Dr. Esther Kayser & Maria Luna
American Academy of Implant Dentistry Undergraduate Dental Student Award

American College of Prosthodontists Award

Academy of Osseointegration Outstanding Dental Student in Implant Dentistry Award

Hanna Best of Best Award for Excellence in Prosthodontics

International Congress of Oral Implantologists/DENTSPLY Student Dentistry Award

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

American Academy of Implant Dentistry Undergraduate Dental Student Award

Dr. Joe Ontiveros
Southwest Academy of Restorative Dentistry Award

Dr. Rade Paravina
Academy of Dental Mantraah Award

Dr. Magda Elworthy
Society for Color and Appearance in Dentistry

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

Dr. Stanta Koilmaz-Cyhan
Robert G. Douch and James L. Roar Award

Dr. Laura Harris
American Academy of Orthodontics Award

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

Dr. Eric Penu
Special Care Dentistry Student Award

Dr. Dan Bentley & Gargi Medhokri
Society for Simulation in Health Care Award

Quintessence Award for Clinical Achievement in Restorative Dentistry

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

Dr. Nga Ntozzi
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Dental Student Award

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

Dr. Dhatvu Van Der Heeern
Houston Chapter of the American Association for Dental Research Award

Prem Fenchurch Academy Senior Student Award

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

Dr. Christopher Daud & John Smith Jr.
Edwards C. Hindi Academy Award

Houson Society of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons Award

Dr. Clark Whitmire
American Academy of Forensic Sciences/NHSA Wills Senior Student Award

Dr. Lesia Gojard
American Association of Endodontists Student Achievement Award

Mr. Krishna Korkal
UTSD Student Information Science Award

Dr. Miranda Sly
American Academy of Oral and Oropharyngeal Surgery Outstanding Senior Award

Dr. Miranda Sly & Stephen Laman
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Alpha Alumnus Award

Dr. Robert Spears
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Predoctoral Student Award

American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Achievement Award

Dr. Jeannine Craig Sankford Student Leadership Award

Walter G. Streeting Award

Ali Muhammad Shaker Al Hamrn
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 M. Al Hazem
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 alumna 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.

Pervan Sahly
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" Leffone, DDS Memorial Scholarship
Awarded to a student with expressed interest and aptitude for prosthodontics. The late Dr. Leffone was a 1988 alumna certified in prosthodontics in 1990. He received numerous awards for clinical excellence.

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"

Class of 2023 Awards Banquet
April 20, 2023

Ali M. Al Hazem
Sheela R. Allen
Dominique A. Angibeau
Laura T. Arst
Meghan P. Bhakta
Erika J. Bowman
Thylan A. Bowman
Renee L. Browning
Bethany N. Burgess
Ingrid Y. Choi
Hobin Chun
Mackenzie S. Clayton
Ayush R. Dalal
Jacob I. Dahnon
Noree D. Dalwadi
Nhu N. Dau
Meghna M. Dara
Esmeralda Diaz
Tuyet A. Doan
Jason M. Dodge
Aashti Elango
Ethan M. Ellis
Yahilel Garza
Samantha R. Gaudet
Elissa Guerra
Heni Gutman
Caroline C. Hajduk
Jefferson T. Henshorn
Teresa R. Hill
Heba Y. Hoelscher
Megan R. Hovland
Amber B. Hua
Tanner S. Hutchinson

Bridget B. Huynh
Christie M. Huynh
Hiroshi Iago
Artur P. Jakubowski
Reena Kaithol
Justin J. Kang
Glazia A. Kazmi
David J. Kelly
Yoel E. Kidane
Suhuyng Kim
Clara M. Kohlmetz
Pooya Khinnaawamy
Benjamin D. La Guardia
Chloe N. LaRosa
Layly M. Layh
Khoi K. Le
Thanh V. Le
Jane J. Lee
Ryan N. Lee
Nazira A. Lewis
Macie L. Long
Julio C. Loes Cruz
John D. Luck
Jasmine Luke
Ashley D. Mathew
Salman Momin
Sydney A. Maye
Mary Kate Myers
McClurer B. Neaorth
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
Pervin Sahly
Sawyer G. Sams
Benjamin L. Scarpino
Mostafa A. Sheikh
Chandler D. Smith
Ryan R. Smith
Riddhi J. Solanki
Jared M. Stegar
Reda Syed
Nicholas T. Tipton
Tien D. Tran
Mau D. Truong
Jackson B. Valencia
Austin J. Viskoik
Stephanie Vu
Tian D. Vu
Hannah M. Walsdorf
Kehui Wang
Jayson K. Workman
Mary A. Younan
Sarah Zhao