

 **UTHealth[®] Houston**
School of Dentistry



**HONORING OUR GRADUATES
118TH COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY**

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2023

**NRG ARENA
HOUSTON, TEXAS**

History of UTHealth Houston

Established in 1972 by The University of Texas System Board of Regents, UTHealth Houston is Texas' resource for health care education, innovation, scientific discovery, and excellence in patient care.

As a comprehensive health science university, the mission of UTHealth Houston is to educate health science professionals, discover and translate advances in the biomedical and social sciences, and model the best practices in clinical care and public health.

We pursue this mission in order to advance the quality of human life by enhancing the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease and injury, as well as promoting individual health and community well-being.

One of the nation's most comprehensive academic health science centers, UTHealth Houston is home to six schools:

- D. Bradley McWilliams School of Biomedical Informatics at UTHealth Houston
- Jane and Robert Cizik School of Nursing at UTHealth Houston
- John P. and Kathrine G. McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston
- The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Houston Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
- UTHealth Houston School of Biomedical Informatics
- UTHealth Houston School of Public Health

History of UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry

For more than 100 years, UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry has set the standard for oral health excellence by educating outstanding dentists and dental hygienists, advancing research in new fields of science and technology, and caring for the people of Texas, including its most vulnerable populations. The school's mission is to improve human health by providing high-quality education, patient care, service, and research in oral health for Texas, the nation, and the world.

Founded in 1905, UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry was the first dental school in Texas and the first professional school in Houston. The school became part of the UT System in 1943 and became part of UTHealth Houston in 1972. The school continues to lead dental education today with the vision of "Improving Oral Health... Improving Overall Health."

Academic *Regalia* History

The wearing of academic regalia, adopted by American Higher education institutions during the last century, is a tradition preserved from the medieval days of universities. The ordinary dress of the scholar, whether student or teacher, was the dress of a cleric, and initially, gowns were worn for warmth in unheated buildings, and hoods were designed to cover the tonsured head. Modern academic dress follows a code of regulations that distinguishes the conferred degree and the degree-awarding institution. The hood lining represents our institution's colors, while the binding colors of the hoods designate the degree earned. The gown for the bachelor's degree has squared-off sleeves.

The gown for the master's degree has an oblong sleeve, open at the wrist, while the sleeve base hangs down traditionally. The rear part of the master's degree gown sleeve is oblong in shape and square cut, with the front portion of the sleeve cut away in an arc. Bachelor's and master's degree gowns are untrimmed. The cap is a mortarboard with a tassel. The gown for the doctor's degree has bell-shaped sleeves. For the doctoral degree, the gown is faced down the front with velvet and three velvet bars used across the sleeves. These velvet facings and crossbars are of a color distinctive for the degree. The cap for the doctor's degree is a multi-sided velvet tam with a tassel.

Ceremonial Significance of *Sashes & Cords*

Military veterans have white sashes decorated with an eagle and the U.S. flag.

Graduates entering military service have white sashes decorated with the U.S. flag and the insignia of the branch they will enter.

Gold honor cords recognize dental hygiene graduates who completed at least 32 hours of community service.



President's *Message* Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, MD

On this momentous occasion, we salute your achievements at UTHHealth Houston and the careers of service you will soon be entering.

Your training, your skills, your experience, and most importantly, your unwavering commitment to creating a healthier future for all have prepared you well.

As you take your next steps as health professionals, you will find boundless opportunities to make a difference—to improve individual and community health and well-being. On this path, never stop pursuing excellence. Keep learning. Keep discovering. Keep modeling the best practices in your field.

Today, you join more than 50,000 UTHHealth Houston graduates who are united in service, making a difference around the world. We are deeply honored that you chose UTHHealth Houston for your education, and we hope that you will remain connected with us for milestones that lie ahead.

To the members of the Class of 2023, congratulations. I know you will make us proud.

Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, MD
President and Alkek-Williams Distinguished Chair
UTHHealth Houston



Dean's
Message
John A. Valenza, DDS

Dear UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry Graduates, Family, and Friends,
Congratulations to the Class of 2023 on this historic day! Each year, as we gather together for commencement, we all have thoughts about the past, the present, and the future. The experiences, memories, and new friendships developed over the past few years, the excitement and sense of accomplishment on this special day, and, of course, the wonder of what will come next.

As I write these words to all of you, I think about how you may be reading this at commencement, the 118th of this great school, and perhaps again later this year. But it is my hope you'll refer to this program for years to come. Whether it be to reminisce, to look up the name of a classmate you're trying to remember, or perhaps maybe even to recall who was the dean back then! Whatever the reason, I trust you will all cherish this symbol of your time and accomplishments at UTSD.

On this day, know that we are also honored by what you have achieved, who you have become, and what is to come. Of the many measures of the strength of our school, one, in particular, is you — its graduates. The care you will provide, the lives you will touch, and the leaders you will become reflect on us all. So, take what you've learned here and make us proud!

Congratulations, again, on this special occasion. Welcome to the UTSD family of alumni, and remember, "The Best is Yet to Come!"

Sincerely,

John A. Valenza, DDS '81
Dean, The William N. Finnegan III Distinguished
Teaching Professor in the Dental Sciences

#WeAreUTSD!



Commencement
Speaker
Duc "Duke" Ho, DDS, FAGD

Dr. Duc "Duke" Ho attended UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry, where he earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree in 1996 and completed a general practice residency at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston the following year.

Currently, he is a partner in a large group practice located in Katy, Texas, which includes five full-time general dentists, 14 full-time hygienists, and over 40 total team members.

Dr. Ho just recently completed his term as President of the Texas Dental Association. His other past service has included:

- President of the Greater Houston Dental Society
- Chair of the American Dental Association's Council on Dental Practice
- Delegate to the ADA House of Delegates
- Member of the ADA's Fight Insurance Interference Strategic Taskforce (FIIST), the ADA's Advisory Task Force on Dental Practice Recovery, and of the ADA's ERISA Special Committee

Dr. Ho is a Fellow of the International College of Dentists, the Academy of General Dentistry and the Pierre Fauchard Academy. He has memberships within the American Dental Association, the Texas Dental Association, the Greater Houston Dental Society, and the Academy of General Dentistry.

Perhaps his greatest pleasure is knowing that many of his associates have gone on to have successful private practices of their own.

Valedictorians

Walter G. Sterling Award for Excellence



Jayson K. Workman

The Walter G. Sterling Award for Excellence is given annually to the outstanding graduating senior of the School of Dentistry as chosen by the faculty. The award recipient is the student who has exhibited scholastic superiority, excellent interpersonal relations, and energy, and one who has earned the respect and affection of his or her patients. The award was made possible by a gift from the late Mr. Sterling.

Academic Achievement Award in Dental Hygiene



Nour Nimer

The Academic Achievement Award in Dental Hygiene is given to the Baccalaureate graduating student exemplifying academic excellence through achieving the highest grade point average in their graduating class.

Faculty Teaching Awards

John P. McGovern Outstanding Teaching Award



Stephen Laman, DDS

The John P. McGovern Award is given annually to the outstanding clinical faculty member as chosen by the senior class. This award is made possible by an endowment from the McGovern Foundation. The late Dr. McGovern, founder of the McGovern Allergy Clinics, maintained a deep interest in excellence in teaching at the health science center, where he held faculty appointments.

John H. Freeman Award for Faculty Teaching



Juliana A. Barros, DDS, MS

The John H. Freeman Award is given annually to the outstanding primary science faculty member as chosen by the senior class. The recipient exemplifies enthusiasm and drive toward effective teaching, personal interest in students' problems and educational goals, and whose example serves as a high student standard. The award was made possible by a gift from the late Mr. Freeman.

Lorna J. Bruning Award for Outstanding Teaching



Tulsi Patel, RDH, BSDH, MHA

The Lorna J. Bruning Award is given annually to an outstanding faculty member as chosen by the dental hygiene students, in recognition of clinical teaching. The award is named for the first director of the school's Dental Hygiene Program, which opened in 1955.

School of Dentistry Leadership

John A. Valenza, DDS

Dean

The William N. Finnegan III Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Dental Sciences

Lisa D. Cain, PhD

Associate Dean for Professional Development and Faculty Affairs
Associate Vice President of Faculty Affairs and Development, UTHealth Houston

Mary C. "Cindy" Farach Carson, PhD

Associate Dean for Research

Ralph A. Cooley, DDS

Assistant Dean for Admissions and Student Services

Amity L. Gardner, DDS

Assistant Dean for Clinical Education

Arthur H. Jeske, DMD, PhD

Associate Dean for Strategic Planning and Continuing Dental Education

Joe T. Morrow, BBA

Associate Dean for Management

Alan L. Myers, PharmD, PhD, RPh

President, Faculty Senate

Shalizeh "Shelly" Patel, DDS, MEd

Associate Dean for Patient Care

Robert D. Spears, PhD

Associate Dean for Student and Academic Affairs

Muhammad F. Walji, PhD

Associate Dean for Technology Services and Informatics

Class Leadership

Benjamin D. La Guardia

President, Dental Class of 2023

Valeria Zamarripa

President, Dental Hygiene Class of 2023

Department Chairs & Program Directors

Bhavini Acharya, BDS, MPH

Director, Pediatric Dentistry Residency

Nikola Angelov, DDS, MS, PhD

Chair, Periodontics and Dental Hygiene

Srinivas Ayilavarapu, BDS, DSc, MDS

Director, Periodontics Residency

Michael M. Chan, DDS

Director, General Practice Residency

Jeryl D. English, DDS, MS

Chair and Program Director, Orthodontics

Gary N. Frey, DDS

Chair, General Practice and Dental Public Health

Maria D. Gonzalez, DDS, MS

Director, Prosthodontics Residency

Harold A. Henson, RDH, PhD

Director, Dental Hygiene Masters Program

Anita Joy-Thomas, BDS, PhD

Chair, Diagnostic and Biomedical Sciences

Sudarat Kiat-amnuay, DDS, MS

Director, Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency

Timothy C. Kirkpatrick, DDS

Chair and Program Director, Endodontics

Maria A. Loza, DMD, MS

Chair, Restorative Dentistry and Prosthodontics

Gregory W. Olson DDS, MSc

Chair, Pediatric Dentistry

Victoria V. Patrounova, RDH, MHA

Director, Dental Hygiene Program

Nadarajah Vigneswaran, BDS, DrMedDent, DMD

Director, Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Program

Mark E. Wong, DDS

Chair and Program Director, Katz Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Order of Exercises

Inspirational Message

Ralph A. Cooley, DDS

Greetings

John A. Valenza, DDS

Welcome Remarks

Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, MD
President, UTHealth Houston

Dental Class President

Benjamin D. La Guardia

Dental Hygiene Class President

Valeria Zamarripa

Commencement Address

Duc “Duke” Ho, DDS
Immediate Past President, Texas Dental Association

Conferring of Degree and Certificates

Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, MD

Presentation of Candidates

Robert D. Spears, PhD

Faculty Hooders

Juliana A. Barros, DDS, MS; Douglas Bogan, DDS;
Cleverick (C.D.) Johnson, DDS, MS; Shalizeh “Shelly” Patel, DDS, MEd

Administration of Dentist’s Pledge

Elizabeth A Hunsaker, DDS
President-Elect, UTSD Alumni Association

Administration of Dental Hygiene Oath

Lori Jones, RDH, BSDH, MBA
President, UT Houston Dental Hygienists’ Alumni Association

Closing

John A. Valenza, DDS

Recessional

Candidates for Certificate in Dental Hygiene

May 19, 2023

Rachel M. Dowd

Sigma Phi Alpha

Anum Khan

Candidates for Bachelor of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene

May 19, 2023

Casandra Baumeister

UTSD Evidence-Based Dentistry Award

Andrea V. Contasti

Linda Cortes

Trinity A. Curry

The Dental Hygiene Class of 2003 Endowment

Peyton C. Dao

Stephanie D. Diaz

Lily Dinh

Shirah May Hall Memorial Scholarship in Dental Hygiene

Claudia Espinal

Natalia Frausto

Lauren A. Frazee

The Hu-Friedy Clinical Achievement/Golden Scaler Award

Linh D. Hawkins

Laura M. Huynh

Sigma Phi Alpha

Proctor and Gamble Preventive Dentistry Award

UTSD Faculty Scholarships

Michelle P. Leon

Ana P. Mendez

Graciela Mendez

Denisse Meza

Student Teaching Award

Elissa T. Nguyen

Tammy T. Nguyen

Nour Nimer

Academic Achievement Award

Sigma Phi Alpha

Samantha M. Paredes

Gene Stevenson, DDS, Memorial Award in Evidence-Based Dentistry

UTSD Simulation Award

Sandra Perez

Jessica Rojas-Garcia

Stefany D. Vasquez Castillo

American Association of Public Health – Dentistry

Carus Dental – Dental Hygiene Endowed Scholarship

Colgate Oral Pharmaceutical's Star Award

The Greater Houston Dental Hygienists' Association Ushma Ramaiya Memorial Scholarship

Valeria Zamarripa

Delta Dental Scholarship

The Greater Houston Dental Hygienists' Association Ushma Ramaiya Memorial Scholarship

UTSD Dental Hygienists' Alumni Association Award

UTSD Student Award in Interprofessional Education

UTSD Student Mentor of the Year Award

Alexis V. Zelaya

Lizette Zuniga

Candidates for Masters of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene

May 19, 2023

Elizabeth A. Alvarado, RDH

Desiree L. Hernandez, RDH

Courtney D. Routh, RDH

Megan A. Williams, RDH

*candidates for Postgraduate Certificate &
Master of Science Degree in Dentistry*

ADVANCED EDUCATION IN GENERAL DENTISTRY

June 30, 2023

Heather L. Athon, DMD
Bo Chao, DDS
Alaa J. Kabbarah, DDS
Andrea M. Marquez Saturno, DDS
Lance Myers, DDS
Darian Shomali, DMD
Andrea B. Valencia, DDS

ENDODONTICS

Aug. 11, 2023

Letícia Chaves de Souza, DDS
Justin Fang, DMD
Ingmar A. Hernandez, DMD
Mansoor B. Safder, DDS
John T. Vogel, DDS

GENERAL PRACTICE RESIDENCY

June 30, 2023

Kylie S. Barroso, DDS
Sara M. Burk, DDS
Lauren A. Cuda, DDS
Mary Anna A. Elliot Ontiveros, DDS

ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

Four-year track - June 30, 2023

Emeric R. D. Boudreaux, DDS
Cyndie Dallaire-Giroux, DMD
Matthew R. Torres, DDS

Six-year track - June 30, 2023

Steven S. Balandran, DDS, MD
Andrew M. Bhagyam, DDS, MD
Christopher S. Manis, DMD, MD

*candidates for Postgraduate Certificate &
Master of Science Degree in Dentistry*

ORTHODONTICS

Aug. 11, 2023

Payton L. Cook, DDS
Victoria A. Diggs, DDS
Christine D. T. Nguyen, DMD
Reid C. Risinger, DDS
Brittany A-T Trinh, DDS
Avery E. Valls, DDS
Russell T. Wilson, DDS

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

June 30, 2023

Ali Arsalan, DDS
Matthew J. Finor, DMD
Cynetha N. Henderson, DDS
David J. Lee, DDS
Liliana R. Popova, DDS
Meghan K. Thorburn, DDS
Riva T. Walker, DDS
Lejla Zoronjic, DDS

PERIODONTICS

June 30, 2023

Kearny Chang, DDS
Mary H. Jung, DDS
Jiayin Tan, DDS
Le L. Wang, DMD

PROSTHODONTICS

June 30, 2023

Anh Duong Dang, DDS
Meisa Keivani, DDS
Natalie A. Pereira Sanchez, DDS
Silvia C. Saponaro Vargas, DDS

Ali M. S. Al Hatem

American Academy of Periodontology
Dental Student Achievement Award

Delta Dental Scholarship

Elliott-Hale "Gunner" Award for Clinical Excellence
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society Award
W. Kenneth Horwitz, DDS Ethics and Professionalism Award
Pierre Fauchard Academy Senior Student Award
Periodontics Residency
Houston, TX

Shealee N. Allen

Ninth District Dental Society Ethics and Integrity Award
Southwest Academy of Restorative Dentistry Award
Private Practice
Amarillo, TX

Dominique A. Angibeau

Dr. Jeanne Craig Sinkford Student Leadership Award
Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency
Oklahoma City, OK

Laura T. Arsto

UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry
Good Samaritan Award
Private Practice
Houston, TX

Meghan P. Bhakta

Society for Color and Appearance in Dentistry
Private Practice
Austin, TX

Erika J. Bowman

Ninth District Dental Society Award for Collegiality
Private Practice
Fort Dodge, IA

Thaylan A. Bowman

Ninth District Dental Society Award for Collegiality
Private Practice
Fort Dodge, IA

Renee L. Browning

Private Practice
Houston, TX

Bethany N. Burgess

American Association of Orthodontist Award
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society Award
Orthodontics Residency
Houston, TX

Ingrid Y. Choi

Private Practice
Houston, TX

Hobin Chun

Private Practice
Houston, TX

Mackenzie S. Clayton

American Equilibration Society Award
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society Award
W. Kenneth Horwitz, DDS Ethics & Professionalism Award
Orthodontics Residency
St. Louis, MO

Ayushi R. Dalal

Private Practice
Houston, TX

Jacob I. Dalton

Ninth District Dental Society Award of Collegiality
U.S. Navy, Military Service
Jacksonville, NC

Noori D. Dalwadi

Private Practice
Houston, TX

Nhu N. Dao

Ivoclar Vivadent Digital Dentistry Student of the Year Award
James P. Ferguson Award of Excellence Dental Anatomy
Private Practice
Cypress, TX

Meghna M. Dara

American Association of Public Health
Dentistry Recognition Award
Gary S. Leff, DDS, MPH Scholarship
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society Award
Society for Simulation in Healthcare Student Award
Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency
Long Beach, CA

Esmeralda Diaz

Ninth District Dental Society Award for Collegiality
Private Practice
Houston, TX

Tuyet A. Doan

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society Award
Private Practice
Houston, TX

Jason M. Dodge

Private Practice
Houston, TX

Aarthi Elango

Private Practice
Chicago, IL

Ethan M. Ellis

Academy of Laser Dentistry Award
William "Sam" Leifeste, DDS Memorial Scholarship
Private Practice
Weslaco, TX

Yahiled Garza

Private Practice
Houston, TX

Samantha R. Gaudet

Private Practice
Houston, TX

Elissa Guerra

Private Practice
Houston, TX

Heni Gutman

Ninth District Dental Society Award for Collegiality
Private Practice
Laredo, TX

Caroline C. Hajduk

Texas Association of Women Dentists Award
Private Practice
Corpus Christi, TX

Jefferson T. Henthorn

American Association of Endodontists
Student Achievement Award
Private Practice
Houston, TX

Teressa R. Hill

W. Kenneth Horwitz, DDS Ethics & Professionalism Award
Private Practice
Port Arthur, TX

Heba Y. Hoelscher

Private Practice
Houston, TX

Megan R. Hovland

Private Practice
Houston, TX

Amber B. Hua

Private Practice
San Francisco, CA

Tanner S. Hutchinson

Private Practice
Houston, TX

Bridget B. Huynh

Private Practice
Houston, TX

Christie M. H. Huynh

Private Practice
Houston, TX

Hiroshi Isago

Private Practice
Houston, TX

Artur P. Jakubowski

American Dental Society of
Anesthesiology (Horace Wells) Award
Private Practice
Houston, TX

Reena G. Kaitholil

Private Practice
Houston, TX

Justin J. Kang

Private Practice
Houston, TX

Ghazia A. Kazmi

Academy of Dental Materials Award
Private Practice
Killeen, TX

David J. Kelly

Private Practice
Houston, TX

Yoel E. Kidane

Private Practice
Dallas, TX

Suhyung Kim

Private Practice
Houston, TX

Clara M. Kohlmetz
ASDA Award of Excellence
International College of Dentists Student Leadership Award
The Triolo Leadership in Dentistry Scholarship
Private Practice
Greensboro, NC

Pooja Krishnaswamy
UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry Informatics Award
Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency
Santa Barbara, CA

Benjamin D. La Guardia
Academy of Operative Dentistry Award
American College of Prosthodontists Award
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society Award
UTSD Alumni Association Senior Award
U.S. Air Force, Military Service
Andrews Air Force Base, MD

Chloe N. LaRosa
Private Practice
Houston, TX

Layth M. Layth
Private Practice
Dallas, TX

Khoi K. Le
Ninth District Dental Society Award for Collegiality
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency
Los Angeles, CA

Thanh V. Le
Greater Houston Dental Society
Community Dentistry Award

Private Practice
Houston, TX

Jane J. Lee
Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency
Boston, MA

Ryan N. Lee
Houston Chapter of the American
Association for Dental Research Award
The Academy of Dentistry International
Student Servant Leadership Award
T. Bradford Willis, DDS, MS Scholarship
in Pediatric Dentistry
Pediatric Residency
Chicago, IL

Nazira Lewis
Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency
Houston, TX

Macie L. Long
Academy of General Dentistry Senior Student Dental Award
Private Practice
Pearland, TX

Julio C. Lores Cruz
International Congress of Oral
Implantology's/DENTSPLY Student Achievement Award
Private Practice
Houston, TX

John D. Luck
Private Practice
Houston, TX

Jasmine Luke
Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency
Montclair, NJ

Ashley D. Mathew
Private Practice
McAllen, TX

Salman Z. Momin
Private Practice
Houston, TX

Sydney A. Moye
Edwards C. Hinds Academy Award
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society Award
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency
Houston, TX

Mary Kate Myrick
American Academy of Pediatric
Dentistry Predoctoral Student Award

Pediatric Residency
Houston, TX

McCluer B. Neuroth
Private Practice
College Station, TX

Kara Nguyen
Private Practice
Houston, TX

Vincent T. Nguyen
Houston Academy of General Dentistry
Private Practice
Houston, TX

Madeline E. Oles
Private Practice
Owensboro, KY

Janki N. Patel
Private Practice
Dallas, TX

Sonamben R. Patel
Hanau Best of the Best Award
for Excellence in Prosthodontics

Private Practice
Mentor, OH

Taylor V. Pettit
Private Practice
Grand Junction, CO

Huan T. Phan
American Academy of Implant Dentistry
Undergraduate Dental Student Award
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial
Radiology Achievement Award

Private Practice
Katy, TX

Jacqueline Phan
Private Practice
Dallas, TX

Andrew D. Phillips
International College of Dentists
Student Humanitarian Award
Private Practice
Bluffton, SC

Elizabeth L. Pohlmann
American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry Award
American Academy of Orofacial Pain
Outstanding Senior Award
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society Award
Private Practice
Austin, TX

Joshua C. Raby
Private Practice
Lubbock, TX

Kayla M. Rankin
Pediatric Residency
Memphis, TN

Diego J. Rivas
Dental Lifeline Network
Brian D. Stone Memorial Award
Pediatric Residency
New York City, NY

Anissa Rodriguez
Bob and Tanya Foster Scholarship
Private Practice
Chicago, IL

Hanna L. Rowe
American Academy of Oral Medicine
Certificate of Merit and Award in Oral Medicine
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society Award
UTHealth Houston School of Dentistry
Applied Basic Science Award
Private Practice
Corsicana, TX

Shadaan A. Rupani
Private Practice
Edna, TX

Brittyn L. Rushing
Robert O. Dosch and James L. Rout Award
Private Practice
Denver, CO

Parnian Salehi
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society Award
The Houston Asian American Dental Society Scholarship
Pediatric Residency
Rochester, NY

Sawyer G. Sams
Private Practice
Atlanta, TX

Benjamin L. Scarpino
U.S. Air Force, Military Service
Omaha, NE

Mostefa A. Sheikhi
Private Practice
Woodward, OK

Chandler D. Smith
Private Practice
Waco, TX

Ryan R. Smith
Private Practice
Nacogdoches, TX

Riddhi J. Solanki

Private Practice
Houston, TX

Jared M. Stergar

American College of Dentists
Outstanding Student Leader Award
Private Practice
Houston, TX

Reda Syed

Private Practice
Houston, TX

Nicholas T. Tipton

Academy of Osseointegration Outstanding
Dental Student in Implant Dentistry Award
Bob and Tanya Foster Scholarship
Periodontics Residency
Dallas, TX

Tien D. Tran

Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency
Dallas, TX

Mau D. Truong

Quintessence Award for Clinical
Achievement in Restorative Dentistry
Private Practice
Houston, TX

Jackson B. Valencia

American Association of Orthodontists Award
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society Award
Quintessence Award for Research Achievement
Texas Dental Association Outstanding Senior Award
Orthodontics Residency
Houston, TX

Soroush Vaseghi

Private Practice
Houston, TX

Austin J. Viskozki

Special Care Dentistry Association/Academy of
Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities Student Award
Private Practice
Grand Prairie, TX

Stephanie Vu

Private Practice
Houston, TX

Tuan D. Vu

Private Practice
Tyler, TX

Hannah M. Walsdorf

Private Practice
Anchorage, AK

Kehui Wang

Private Practice
Seattle, WA

Jayson K. Workman

American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial
Pathology Dental Student Award
Houston Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon Awards
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society Award
Walter G. Sterling Award for Excellence
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency
Dallas, TX

Mary A. Younan

Gary S. Leff, DDS, MPH Scholarship
Fund for the DDS/MPH Program
Quintessence Award for Clinical
Achievement in Periodontics
Periodontics Residency
Houston, TX

Sarah Zhao

Stephen Laman, DDS Scholarship for Servant Leadership
U.S. Air Force, Military Service
Colorado Springs, CO

Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, MD

President

Kevin Dillon, MBA, CPA

Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

Jagat Narula, MD, PhD

Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer

LaTanya Love, MD

Executive Vice President, Student Affairs and Diversity

Richard J. Andrassy, MD

Senior Vice President, Clinical and Faculty Affairs

Kevin Morano, PhD

Senior Vice President, Academic and Faculty Affairs

Kevin P. Eltife

Chair

Janiece Longoria

Vice Chair

James C. "Rad" Weaver

Vice Chair

Francie A. Frederick

General Counsel

Christina Melton Crain

Regent

R. Steven Hicks

Regent

Jodie Lee Jiles

Regent

Nolan Perez, MD

Regent

Stuart W. Stedman

Regent

Kelcy L. Warren

Regent

Neelesh C. "Neel" Mutyala

Student Regent

**As of March 1, 2023*

James B. Milliken

Chancellor

Archie L. Holmes Jr., PhD

Executive Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs

Jonathan Pruitt

Executive Vice Chancellor, Business Affairs

John M. Zerwas, MD

Executive Vice Chancellor, Health Affairs

The Dentist's *Pledge*

I, as a member of the dental profession, shall keep this pledge and these stipulations.

I understand and accept that my primary responsibility is to my patients, and I shall dedicate myself to render, to the best of my ability, the highest standard of oral health care and to maintain a relationship of respect and confidence. Therefore, let all come to me safe in the knowledge that their total health and well-being are my first considerations.

I shall accept the responsibility that, as a professional, my competence rests on continuing the attainment of knowledge and skill in the arts and sciences of dentistry.

I acknowledge my obligation to support and sustain the honor and integrity of the profession and to conduct myself in all endeavors such that I shall merit the respect of patients, colleagues, and my community. I further commit myself to the betterment of my community for the benefit of all of society.

I shall faithfully observe the Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct set forth by the profession.

All this I pledge with pride in my commitment to the profession and the public it serves.

Dental Hygiene *Oath*

In my practice as a dental hygienist, I affirm my personal and professional commitment to improve the oral health of the public, to advance the art and science of dental hygiene, and to promote high standards of quality care.

I pledge continually to improve my professional knowledge and skills, to render a full measure of service to each patient entrusted to my care, and to uphold the highest standards of professional competence and personal conduct in the interest of the dental hygiene profession and the public it serves.

Pictures and video from today's event available at:
Go.uth.edu/Flickr and YouTube.com/utsdhouston