HONORING OUR GRADUATES
118TH COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Friday, May 19, 2023

NRG ARENA
HOUSTON, TEXAS
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.”

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 Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
- 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
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

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
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!

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.
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.
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, Renorative Dentistry and Prosthodontics

Gregory W. Olson DDS, MSc
Chair, Pediatric Dentistry

Victoria V. Patronuova, 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. Colaundo, MD
President, UTHealth Houston

Dental Class President
Benjamin D. La Guardia

Dental Hygiene Class President
Valeria Zamarripa

Commencement Address
Due "Duke" Ho, DDS
Immediate Past President, Texas Dental Association

Conferring of Degree and Certificates
Giuseppe N. Colaundo, MD

Presentation of Candidates
Robert D. Spears, PhD

Faculty Hooders
Juliana A. Barros, DDS, MS; Douglas Bogan, DDS; Cleverick (C.D.) Johnson, DDS, MS; Shalizheh "Shelly" Patel, DDS, MEd

Administration of Dentist’s Pledge
Elizabeth A. Humaker, 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

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
ADVANCED EDUCATION IN GENERAL DENTISTRY
June 30, 2023
Heather L. Athon, DMD
Bo Chao, DDS
Alaa J. Kbabarah, DDS
Andrea M. Marquez Saturno, DDS
Lance Myers, DDS
Darian Shomali, DMD
Andrea B. Valencia, DDS

ENDDONTICS
Aug. 11, 2023
Letícia Chaves de Souza, DDS
Justin Fang, DMD
Ingmar A. Hernandez, DMD
Mansoor B. Saﬁder, 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

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
candidates receiving the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery May 19, 2023

Ali M.S. Al Hatem  
American Academy of Periodontology  
Dental Student Achievement Award  
Delta Dental Scholarship  
Elliot-Hale “Gunner” Award for Clinical Excellence  
Omnicron 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. Angibleau  
Dr. Jeanne Craig Sinkford Student Leadership Award  
Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency  
Okahoma City, OK

Laura T. Arsto  
UTHHealth 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  
Omnicron 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  
Omnicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society 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

Noor D. Dalwadi  
Private Practice  
Houston, TX

Nha N. Dao  
Ivoiclar 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  
Omnicron 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  
Omnicron 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" Leffone, DDS Memorial Scholarship  
Private Practice  
Weslaco, TX

Yahiled Garza  
Private Practice  
Houston, TX

Samantha R. Gaudet  
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

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

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

David J. Kelly  
Private Practice  
Houston, TX

Yoel E. Kidane  
Private Practice  
Dallas, TX

Suhhyung Kim  
Private Practice  
Houston, TX
candidates receiving the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery May 19, 2023

Clara M. Kohlmetz
ASDA Award of Excellence
The Trosko 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
Private Practice
Austin, TX

Khoi K. Le
Ninth District Dental Society Award for Collegiality
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency
Houston, TX

Jasmine Luke
Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency
Monclair, NJ

Ashley D. Matthew
Private Practice
McAllen, TX

Salman Z. Momin
Private Practice
Houston, TX

Sydney A. Moye
Edward C. Hinde 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

Najira 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. Loeres Cruz
International Congress of Oral Implantology/PENTFLY Student Achievement Award
Private Practice
Houston, TX

John D. Luck
Private Practice
Houston, TX

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

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. Petit
Private Practice
Grand Junction, CO

Huan T. Phan
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Achievement Award
Private Practice
Katy, 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
Libstock, 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
Corinna, TX

Shadaan A. Rupani
Private Practice
Edinburg, TX

Brittany L. Rushing
Robert O. Dosch and James L. Rose 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
Oklahoma City, OK

Mostefa A. Sheikhi
Private Practice
Woodstock, OK

Chandler D. Smith
Private Practice
Waco, TX

Ryan R. Smith
Private Practice
Nacogdoches, 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. Petit
Private Practice
Grand Junction, CO

Huan T. Phan
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Achievement Award
Private Practice
Katy, 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
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Joshua C. Raby
Private Practice
Libstock, 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
Corinna, TX

Shadaan A. Rupani
Private Practice
Edinburg, TX

Brittany L. Rushing
Robert O. Dosch and James L. Rose 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
Oklahoma City, OK

Mostefa A. Sheikhi
Private Practice
Woodstock, OK

Chandler D. Smith
Private Practice
Waco, TX

Ryan R. Smith
Private Practice
Nacogdoches, TX
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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 Surgeons 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

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
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