At the newly named Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry, my 11-year tenure as dean has recently come to an end. This is also the farewell issue of the Bulletin, as the college transitions to staying in touch with you via RadyUM magazine and online communication channels.

So it’s a time of change – of summing up and looking forward. The university’s search for our next dean is continuing, so my term has been extended for one year, until June 30, 2019. Nonetheless, I want to reflect on important changes at the college during my tenure, and important ways in which the college has changed me.

In my two terms as dean, my responsibilities have included the traditional higher-education areas of focus, such as upholding academic excellence, expanding the research enterprise and developing new programs.

I have also led the drive for innovation and improvement in more personal, relationship-based areas, such as the student experience, the respectful workplace, alumni relations, fundraising and community service/engagement.

For me, it’s been a never-ending process of evolution and self-actualization. As dean, one must constantly improve one’s abilities to understand others, build trust and confidence, communicate effectively and inspire institutional pride and engagement. After 11 years, I’m still learning.

Over the past year, I have been humbled by the recognition I have received for my efforts from U of M alumni, peers and others in our community. At last September’s Alumni of Distinction dinner, I received a special tribute from the U of M Dental Alumni Association (UMDAA) for improving the student experience and increasing UMDAA involvement in college activities and governance.

In January, I was honoured with the Distinguished Service Award from the Manitoba Dental Association. It was a validation of the progress the college has made in enhancing the student experience, reinvigorating alumni relations, strengthening relationships with dental organizations and developing what I believe is one of the most-admired student mentorship programs in North America.

As many of you know, my wife Sharon and I are originally from New Jersey. On March 6, we became Canadian citizens at a ceremony that was emotional and inspiring.

A few days later, I hosted the annual U of M alumni reception at the Pacific Dental Conference in Vancouver. The tremendous U of M pride, loyalty and engagement among dentistry alumni there was in marked contrast to what I initially experienced upon my arrival.

When I asked the alumni there to support our capital campaign, every donor form was snapped up. Since the launch of the U of M Front and Centre campaign in 2010, our college can boast an impressive alumni donor participation rate of over 32 per cent (and climbing)!

Later in March, I hosted the college’s annual reception at the American Dental Education Association meeting in Orlando, Fla. This event has become a valuable networking forum for our academics and an effective marketing tool for the college. I feel immense satisfaction that such efforts to enhance our international reputation are bearing fruit.

Throughout my deanship, I have placed a priority on getting out of my office to personally connect with students, academics and support staff. I have also visited and listened to our alumni in the “real world” of their dental practices. I have relished the opportunity to help people find their place and feel valued in the university and the larger dental community.

I hope to see many of you at the 2018 Alumni of Distinction Awards Gala on Sept. 28 at the Fort Garry Hotel. Congratulations to Marcel Van Woensel [B.Sc.,(Dent.)/94, DMD/94, LLB/02], this year’s Alumni of Distinction honoree for dentistry, and to Professor Emeritus Colin Dawes, a steadfast member of our college community for an extraordinary 54 years, who will be presented with honorary membership in the Alumni Association.

I am grateful for my experience at the U of M. Our college is strong and stable, ready to advance into its next chapter. I look forward to contributing in new ways when I transition to the role of professor and researcher.

I conclude with a sincere grazie (thank you) for your support. I wish only the best for our world-class college and its incomparable people.
The Bulletin has been part of University of Manitoba dentistry and dental hygiene alumni’s lives for 36 years. Since 1982, this publication has highlighted student, faculty and alumni achievements and kept you informed about research and college news.

Now it’s time for us to transition to sharing the college’s news and accomplishments in a variety of formats that reach a broader audience, reflecting the interconnected college of today.

This farewell issue is numbered Volume 36. In my background, the Jewish tradition, the number 18 represents chai (life) and is associated with good luck. The number 36 represents double chai.

That seems fitting as this celebratory final issue salutes Dean Anthony Iacopino’s legacy and looks to a vibrant future under a new banner: the Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry.

It’s an exciting time at the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences. Since coming together as a five-college faculty in 2014, we’ve discovered new synergies and innovations to teach, learn, research and engage the community more collaboratively and inter-professionally.

We have also centralized our communications and marketing to promote and build the reputation of the Rady Faculty, its constituent colleges/units and vice-dean portfolios. My team ensures that newsworthy information from across the Rady Faculty is promoted on multiple platforms and disseminated to our stakeholders in a consistent, high-quality, branded manner.

All our communications and marketing efforts align with the Rady Faculty and college strategic plans; adhere to U of M web and visual identity guidelines; and support the university’s strategic priorities. In keeping with those priorities, we’re moving toward more digital dialogue, while still producing a high-quality print magazine.

You recently received the latest issue of RadyUM magazine, featuring Gerald Niznick [DMD/66, D.Sc./02] and Reesa Niznick on the cover and celebrating their historic, generous $7.5-million gift to the college. RadyUM highlights people, initiatives and achievements across the five health-science colleges. We’ll continue to mail out RadyUM, which you can also read online at news.radyfhs.umanitoba.ca.

In addition, each month throughout the academic year, we send out a Rady alumni e-newsletter by email. To ensure you receive it, please email your current mailing and email addresses to alumni@umanitoba.ca or phone 1-800-668-4908 to update your contact information.

We communicate with stakeholders daily through Instagram and Twitter (@UM_RadyFHS) and Facebook (Rady Faculty of Health Sciences) and encourage you to follow us. You can also stay up to date by visiting the Rady Faculty page on the UM Today news site: news.umanitoba.ca/network/rady-faculty-of-health-sciences/

There’s much to celebrate and take pride in at the Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry. I hope you will embrace our new communication channels, stay connected, continue to share your story ideas and keep in touch. L’chayim (To life)!

Ilana Simon
ilana.simon@umanitoba.ca

IN THIS ISSUE

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- Citizen Dean
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ON THE COVER:
Dr. Anthony Iacopino (left), dean of dentistry, and alumnus Gerald Niznick [DMD/66, D.Sc./02] celebrate Niznick’s historic naming gift to the College of Dentistry on May 29, 2018.
“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.”
– John F. Kennedy

Since 1999, the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) has hosted a respected program through its Leadership Institute to develop the leadership capacity of dental education professionals. Each year, the institute accepts about 30 dental professionals from educational institutions across North America. For 2018-2019, I am fortunate to count myself among this group.

For our most recent assignment, we were placed into groups with representation from a broad range of dental educational institutions. Collaboratively, we interviewed a full leadership line of progression at each represented institution, including presidents, provosts and applicable officials from government and non-profit organizations.

I interviewed Rafi Mohammed, executive director of the Manitoba Dental Association, and Mary Jane McCallum [DMD/90], an Indigenous U of M-trained dentist who is now an independent senator representing Manitoba.

We asked the questions you might expect: What is important in their roles? What are the key drivers behind their priorities? What obstacles do they face? What brings them satisfaction? Participants in our interviews hold senior management and leadership positions, so as you might imagine, their responses were consistently strategic and insightful. There were some common themes and problems faced, regardless of the institution. Those responses were somewhat textbook-meets-context.

What I did not count on, however, were the striking differences in how the leaders talked about their roles. Could it be that situations and context make that much of a difference? Perhaps, but my sense was that this had more to do with the person and the personality. We may have the same job description, but our work becomes a reflection of our own priorities, and ultimately, our own personalities.

That might be great news! Perhaps we are even more in control of our destinies than we think. Who we are and how we approach our duties can shape the work. I don't have the research to back that up, but intuitively, it makes good sense to take ownership of your work and fit it to your vision and strengths, to the extent that you can.

We can learn from programs like the wonderful ADEA Leadership Institute, but the classroom and formal education can only take you so far. The rest of the journey is your own, and the outcome will be uniquely yours.

I remember when Dean Tony Iacopino first took the helm of our college team. He came in with a bang! We didn't need to decipher the college's direction for the future; he very strongly pointed the way.

Who can forget the Drive for Top Five, his ambitious plan to make the U of M one of North America's top five dental schools? He came in with his vision and did it his way, ultimately bringing us to where we are today. The college will always face challenges. But thanks to Dean Iacopino, we are in good shape and poised for the future.

At this point, I was expecting to thank Dean Iacopino for his leadership, mentorship and guidance during his tenure. However, and fortunately for us, his term has been extended for another year. Let's see where he leads us next.

Finally, congratulations to a dental hygiene leader, Gayle Halas [Dip.D.Hyg./87, PhD/16], this year's Alumni of Distinction Award recipient for dental hygiene.

Congratulations also to our future leaders, the dental hygiene degree completion graduates and the School of Dental Hygiene and Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry Classes of 2018. We are proud of you and wish you all the best in your future endeavours!
People with the genotype PAV/PAV, Cruz explains, are highly sensitive to certain bitter-tasting compounds in food. Those with the genotype PAV/AVI – roughly half the population, including Cruz herself – are “medium tasters” of bitterness.

And those with the genotype AVI/AVI are “hypo-tasters” or “non-tasters” who can’t detect the bitter compounds at all.

A quick way to identify your genotype is by placing a paper test strip coated with a bitter chemical onto your tongue. (Testing kits can be ordered online.) Cruz says the results are dramatic. “Super-tasters make a scary face,” she says. “One friend of mine almost threw up. Non-tasters say things like, ‘What am I supposed to be tasting?’”

These genetic differences have been known to scientists for decades. But less than 10 years ago, researchers discovered that bitter taste receptors aren’t only found on the tongue. They’re in other parts of the body, such as the digestive and respiratory systems. Understanding the receptors’ functions outside the oral cavity has become an exciting field of research, Cruz says.

Scientists are starting to find associations between taste receptors and disease. It’s been shown, for example, that non-tasters are at greater risk for chronic sinus infections and tooth decay.

Cruz believes her study, funded by the Canadian Arthritis Network and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, is the first in the world to search for a link between “taste genetics” and rheumatoid arthritis.

“Studies are finding that bitter taste receptors are related to the immune system, and rheumatoid arthritis is an autoimmune disease,” she notes.

Cruz, who graduated as a dentist three years ago in her home country of Brazil, came to the U of M last year to conduct research with the interdisciplinary Manitoba Chemosensory Biology Research Group, led by oral biology professor Prashen Chelikani [PhD/04].

With Chelikani as her advisor, Cruz collaborated with a Rady Faculty of Health Sciences team including Dr. Carol Hitchon [M.Sc./05], rheumatologist and associate professor of internal medicine, and Robert Schroth [DMD/96, M.Sc./03, PhD/11], clinician scientist and associate professor of preventive dental science.

The team analyzed DNA from the saliva of 28 patients with rheumatoid arthritis, comparing their genotypes with those in a control group of 347 healthy individuals. The findings were more significant than expected.

“We found a higher frequency of super-tasters in the rheumatoid arthritis population than in the normal population, and a lower frequency of medium tasters and non-tasters,” Cruz says.

“Research has shown that super-tasters present a stronger immune response against bacteria than the other two genotypes. That response results in increased secretion of antimicrobial compounds – an inflammatory process. We think this may contribute to the development of rheumatoid arthritis, a disease of chronic inflammation.”

Cruz says the field of studying taste receptors holds great promise, particularly since there are 25 bitter taste receptors in humans, and her study focused on just one.

“For my PhD research,” she says, “we want to use a larger sample size and further explore the apparent association between taste genetics, inflammation, immunity and the risk of rheumatoid arthritis.”
### Continuing Professional Development Calendar for Dentistry and Dental Hygiene

**FALL 2018 – WINTER/SPRING 2019**

#### FALL 2018

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<td><strong>October 27</strong></td>
<td><strong>Anterior Composite Restoration 101</strong></td>
<td>Drs. Asmaa Haimeur, Rodrigo Franca, Ken Hamin (Lecture &amp; hands-on)</td>
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<td><strong>November 23-25</strong></td>
<td><strong>Local Anesthetic Techniques for Dental Hygienists</strong></td>
<td>Diane Girardin Dip DH, RDH and other faculty members of the School of Dental Hygiene (Lecture &amp; hands-on)</td>
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<td><strong>November 24-25</strong></td>
<td><strong>GOLD – Part 1</strong></td>
<td>Drs. Anthony Nowakowski, Aaron Kim, Terry Koltek and Chris Cottick (Lecture &amp; hands-on)</td>
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#### WINTER/SPRING 2019

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<tr>
<td><strong>January 19</strong></td>
<td><strong>GOLD – Part 2 (Optional)</strong></td>
<td>Drs. Anthony Nowakowski, Aaron Kim, Terry Koltek and Chris Cottick (Lecture &amp; hands-on)</td>
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<td><strong>February 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Oral Minimal Conscious Sedation for Dental Patients</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Peter Nkansah (Lecture)</td>
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<td><strong>February 9</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dental Management of the Immunocompromised Patient</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Nelson Rhodus (Lecture)</td>
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<td><strong>March 23</strong></td>
<td><strong>Cone Beam Radiology Technique and Interpretation Certification</strong></td>
<td>Drs. Meredith Brownlee, Idris Elbakri, Ingvar Fife (Lecture &amp; hands-on)</td>
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<td><strong>April 5-7</strong></td>
<td><strong>Restorative Techniques for Dental Hygienists</strong></td>
<td>Kaleigh Warden, Connie Hack, and other faculty members of the School of Dental Hygiene (Lecture &amp; hands-on)</td>
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<td><strong>April 13</strong></td>
<td><strong>What can a Prosthodontist do for your Patients?</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Igor Pesun and other members from the Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry (Lecture)</td>
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<td><strong>Spring (dates TBD)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Restorative Techniques for Dental Hygienists</strong></td>
<td>Kaleigh Warden, Connie Hack, and other faculty members of the School of Dental Hygiene (Lecture &amp; hands-on)</td>
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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
CLASSES OF 2018

2018 DR. GERALD NIZNICK COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY GRADUATES

2018 SCHOOL OF DENTAL HYGIENE GRADUATES
Gold medalists’ goals took root early

Never mind Take Our Kids to Work Day.

Brayden Adair [DMD/18] grew up in Calgary with a mother who is a dental hygienist. When he was in Grade 9, she got him a part-time job sterilizing instruments at a dental practice.

“I learned so much about dentistry before I started high school,” says the 25-year-old Adair. “Then in high school I started learning how to do charting and worked at the reception desk.

“I fell in love with the profession, seeing behind the scenes what it’s really like."

His mom, Nancy Adair [Dip. D.Hyg./83], a University of Manitoba alumna, owns a continuing education company called Hygiene Excellence Inc. On Convocation Day, May 24, she was back on the Bannatyne campus, along with Adair’s father, brother, grandparents and other relatives, to congratulate her son.

Adair graduated with the gold medal for the highest standing in the 33-member Dentistry Class of 2018. He also took home three other medals or prizes, recognizing his achievements in orthodontics, prosthodontics and periodontics.

His father attended the U of M as well. Having heard about the university from both parents, Adair moved to Winnipeg right after high school and took undergraduate courses with a focus on economics. He has a strong interest in business and the stock market.

He likes dentistry’s blend of science, art and business. “The thing I really enjoy is that every day there’s a new challenge,” he says.

In college, Adair enjoyed providing care through the Variety Children’s Dental Outreach Program that brings inner-city children to the college clinic. “That’s a great initiative,” he says. “We’d see kids who don’t usually get access to dental care.”

The new grad says he believes in treating patients like they’re family. “It’s sometimes tough for patients to trust us, like if we say they need a filling or a root canal, and they aren’t in any pain and can’t see it. Building rapport and trust is very important.”

Adair has returned to Alberta and joined Riverside Dental Clinic in Drumheller, about 90 minutes northeast of Calgary. “I’m very excited for the next chapter,” he says.

When Ziyue (Rita) Wang [Dip. D. Hyg./18] immigrated to Canada with her mother at age 15, her first dental hygiene appointment was a shock. While growing up in China, she says, she had never received proper hygiene care or oral health education.

“My gums were bleeding a lot and it was hurting,” she remembers about the appointment. “The hygienist told me it was because I had so much tartar, and I had gum disease. Then she taught me, step by step, the appropriate method of cleaning my teeth and flossing. After that, I started doing everything she said.

“The second appointment was a really good experience. She showed me that my gums were looking a lot better. I thought, ‘Wow, this can actually make a huge difference!’”

It was a career-inspiring moment. Now Wang is a hygienist with a gleaming smile who loves encouraging patients to achieve better oral health.

Despite being the youngest student in the Class of 2018 – she is only 20 years old – Wang graduated at the top of the 24-member group.

She earned five awards, including the Governor General’s Bronze Medal, the School of Dental Hygiene Gold Medal and the Maria Araceli Pacheco Memorial Award, which recognizes both outstanding marks and “demonstrated professional promise and concern for patients.”

Wang is an experienced tutor of English as a second language. The skills she has honed at explaining concepts in clear, simple English, she says, serve her well when she provides hygiene care to new Canadians.

“I was a newcomer patient, and I got to see a huge difference in myself,” she says. “Now I want to help the newcomer population.”

Wang is working part-time because she plans to take courses this academic year. She is trying to decide between completing the bachelor’s degree program in dental hygiene, becoming a restorative hygienist, or returning to school to retrain as a dentist.

Has she become a person who nags family members about brushing and flossing?

“Oh, yeah!” she says with a laugh. “My mom gets annoyed when I tell her too much.”
When she was 18 years old, Tejal Makwana [DMD/18] started dental school in her home country of India.

When her first instructor said that dentistry was not just a science, but an art, Makwana knew she had chosen the right path.

“I’m an Indian classical dancer and choreographer,” says the animated practitioner. “Artistry is a part of me. In dentistry, we create something. We try to make everything more beautiful, harmonious and symmetrical.”

Makwana started practising in 2003. But her husband’s marketing career uprooted them several times within India, and in 2006 it took them to the Middle East. She had to pass exams to requalify as a dentist in their new country, Oman.

It took several years to establish a solid practice. After eight years in Oman, believing that their two children would receive a better education in Canada, the couple decided to migrate again. They landed in a Toronto suburb and started over from scratch.

Makwana spent countless hours preparing for the rigorous exams that would allow her to enter the Canadian profession directly, without going back to university. Meanwhile, she desperately needed a job to help support the family.

“I applied to Tim Hortons. I applied to all the factories. I applied to a telemarketing place. They tell you, ‘You don’t have any Canadian experience.’ Or they say, ‘You’re overqualified – you’re a dentist,’ even though you can’t practise.”

After months of rejection and worry, Makwana enrolled at a college and studied her way to a dental treatment co-ordinator certificate. That got her a job as a dental receptionist. But in 2016, after working for a few months, she resigned.

She had decided to try the university route and had been waitlisted, then accepted, into the U of M’s International Dentist Degree Program. The in-demand program takes a small number of foreign-trained dentists (seven in the Class of 2018) and adds them to an existing class for the final two years of the four-year degree program.

Makwana was apprehensive about uprooting the family again, taking out a loan for tuition and managing university with two kids. “I thought, ‘I’m way beyond the age of study!’” she says with a bubbly laugh. Still, she plunged in with fierce determination. Family members from India visited to help. “I was at the university from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day,” she recalls.

“I’m happy that my kids saw me struggle and achieve what I wanted.”

On Convocation Day, as the 37-year-old Makwana was about to receive her U of M degree as a Canadian dentist, all the striving of the past 15 years came flooding back.

“Everything we’ve gone through flashed like a movie in front of me,” she says. “I seriously don’t know how I did it. But I cannot see myself not being a dentist.”

Makwana graduated with the Portnoy Award for initiating and completing a challenging, comprehensive restorative treatment. She is practising at Winnipeg’s Reflections Dental Health Centre and loving every minute.

The family is moving into a newly built house, her 14-year-old daughter and eight-year-old son are thriving, and her husband has a job in his field. They are set to become Canadian citizens this fall. Foreign dentists often contact Makwana on Facebook for advice about qualifying to practise in Canada. She warns them, “You will have to struggle a lot” and tells them that for her, attending the U of M was invaluable for making contacts, acquiring references and gaining abundant clinical experience of how dentistry is practised in Canada.

“I’m very happy with how it all turned out,” she says. “I’m happy that my kids saw me struggle and achieve what I wanted. They know it’s not impossible.”

"I'm happy that my kids saw me struggle and achieve what I wanted."
Brayden Adair  
Mentor: Dr. Jonathan Archer  
- University Gold Medal  
- Graduation with Honours  
- Dean’s Honours  
- MacLachlan-Hart Gold Medal for Complete Denture Prosthesis  
- Canadian Academy of Periodontology Award of Excellence  
- Dr. John Earl Abra Scholarship in Orthodontics  

Christopher Bao  
Mentor: Dr. Patrick Mao  

Harpreet Bhullar  
Mentor: Dr. Mel McManus  

Jessica Carswell  
Mentor: Dr. Carolyn Robertson  
- Dr. F.W.L. Hamilton Scholarship  

Emma D’Souza  
Mentor: Dr. Allan Cogan  

Jihyun Han  
Mentor: Dr. Carolyn Robertson  
- Graduation with Honours  
- Dean’s Honours  
- Dr. John W. Clay Medal & Prize  
- Alpha Omega Fraternity Award  
- Dr. M.H. Garvin Prize in Periodontology  
- American Association of Public Health Dentistry Award  
- Dr. W. Walker Shortill Practice Management Memorial Scholarship  

John Hart  
Mentor: Dr. Ken Skinner  
- Dean’s Honours  

Natasha Holder*  
Mentor: Dr. Jerry Baluta  
- Graduation with Honours  
- Dean’s Honours  
- Endowment Fund Award in Dentistry  
- Alpha Omega Fixed Partial Denture Prosthesis Award  
* Also graduated with Bachelor of Science in Dentistry  

Joanna Hyde  
Mentor: Dr. Jackie Samborski  

Maryam Kalvandi  
Mentor: Dr. Allan Cogan  

Loveleen Kaur  
Mentor: Dr. Mel McManus  

Natasha Kaushal  
Mentor: Dr. Carolyn Robertson  

Cleve Kim  
Mentor: Dr. Tariq Hameed  

In-ah Kim  
Mentor: Dr. Jerry Baluta  

Daniel Kolt  
Mentor: Dr. Marc Mollot  

Irena Kovacevic  
Mentor: Dr. Tim Blight  

Trent Lamirande  
Mentor: Dr. Ken Skinner  
- Canadian Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Undergraduate Dental Student Award  
- American Association of Endodontists Award  
- Mary Jane Ego Trophy  

Anita Lee  
Mentor: Dr. Jonathan Archer  
- Canadian Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Undergraduate Dental Student Award  

Lan Li  
Mentor: Dr. Patrick Mao  

Tejal Makwana  
Mentor: Dr. Marc Mollot  
- Portnoy Award  

Breanna Millette  
Mentor: Dr. Jackie Samborski  
- American Academy of Operative Dentistry Award  

Randy Mutchmor  
Mentor: Dr. Marc Mollot  
- Dean’s Honours  
- Canadian Dental Association Student Leadership Award  
- Dr. Isadore Wolch Prize in Endodontics  
- Dr. Daniel Tai Humanitarian Award in Dentistry  

Julie Oryniak  
Mentor: Dr. Tariq Hameed  
- 3M ESPE Canada Student Clinical Award  

Audrey Pinette  
Mentor: Dr. Jackie Samborski  
- Graduation with Honours  
- Dean’s Honours  
- Dr. H.H. Saunderson Award  
- Academy of General Dentistry Award  
- American Academy of Periodontology Award  
- Dr. Alvin Shinoff Award  

Gurleen Saroya  
Mentor: Dr. Michelle Jay  

Kirill Schroth  
Mentor: Dr. Chris Klazyk  

Marcos Sturym  
Mentor: Dr. Tim Blight  
- Certificate of Merit AAPD Predoctoral Student Award  
- American College of Prosthodontists Achievement Award  

Hassan Tahir  
Mentor: Dr. Mel McManus  

Shelley Tang*  
Mentor: Dr. Michelle Jay  
- American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Award  
* Also graduated with Bachelor of Science in Dentistry  

Meet Thakkar  
Mentor: Dr. Jonathan Archer  
- Sophie Kanee Memorial Prize in Dental Jurisprudence  
- Mary Jane Ego Scholarship  

Carlin To  
Mentor: Dr. Marty Greenfeld  

Jeanne Trinh*  
Mentor: Dr. Michelle Jay  
- Golden Scaler Award  
* Also graduated with Bachelor of Science in Dentistry  

Gladys Yeung  
Mentor: Dr. Marty Greenfeld  
- American Association of Orthodontics Award
A teddy bear dressed in green health-care scrubs accompanied Dr. Cindy Blackstock as she received an honorary doctorate at U of M Convocation on May 24.

Blackstock, a member of the Gitksan First Nation, has made teddy bears the symbol of her mission to reform Canada’s child welfare system and defend the rights of Indigenous children.

The social worker, professor and activist gave the Convocation address to more than 100 graduating students in dental hygiene, dentistry and pharmacy.

She recounted the Manitoba story of Jordan River Anderson, a boy from Norway House Cree Nation who was hospitalized from birth with a genetic disorder.

Jordan could have lived in a home setting. But the federal and provincial governments argued for more than two years over who should pay for his home-based care. He died in hospital in 2005 at the age of five, never having gotten to live in a family home.

Jordan’s Principle, named in his memory, aims to ensure that First Nations children get the government services they need without delay. Blackstock, who continues to fight for equitable services, urged the graduating students to be courageous in standing up for justice.

“When life calls you in a direction that you never expected, to stand in the winds of discrimination and injustice … you must rise to that occasion,” she said. “You will never feel ready. You will never feel smart enough. You will never feel brave enough. But you have been chosen.”

The ceremony marked the first time Convocation for the Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry and College of Pharmacy has been held on the Bannatyne campus, where the colleges are located, rather than on the Fort Garry campus.
When Dr. Anthony (Tony) Iacopino arrived in Winnipeg in 2007 as the U of M’s new dean of dentistry, he knew little about Canada and wasn’t sure how long he would stay.

“I didn’t know if I would like it, or if they would like me,” recalls the New Jersey-born professor of restorative dentistry, whose previous academic appointments were in Texas and Wisconsin.

That didn’t stop Iacopino, a former bowling champion, from stepping up and hurling concentrated energy at the job. He immediately proclaimed his bold vision to enhance the school’s quality and reputation, raise its profile and build its donor support. By the fall of 2008, he had led the then-Faculty of Dentistry to an ambitious strategic plan based on nine “pillars of innovation.”

In 2012, Iacopino’s deanship was renewed. In June of this year, having held the job for two terms – the maximum that a dean can serve – he officially concluded his 11-year tenure. He is one of the longest-serving deans in the school’s history.

Iacopino, known for pride in his Italian heritage, won’t be packing up his bowling trophies and saying arrivederci to the dean’s office just yet. He has agreed to serve for another year while the hiring search for his successor continues.

Once the new dean is in place, Iacopino intends to stay on as a professor. Meanwhile, we asked him to reflect on the leadership journey that has transformed him into a U of M stalwart and cottage-owning Canadian.
Looking back on your deanship, what are you most proud of?

One key accomplishment has been creating a more supportive learning environment. We've modernized our education and training systems, so students feel they're a valued part of the decision-making process and have a more satisfying experience.

The other key achievement has been bringing the entire Manitoba dental community together. One of the things that enabled us to do was create an outstanding mentorship program in partnership with the Manitoba Dental Association that pairs every student with a practising dentist for their entire four years of study.

Tell us about your Dental Office Visit Program.

That was the project I dreamed up to meet U of M-trained dentists at their practices. I visited more than 500 dental offices. My fellow deans across North America thought I was absolutely crazy. But if I was going to inspire and motivate alumni, I had to make a major commitment. I had to spend the time to reconnect, solicit opinions and talk about the past and the future.

It kept me in touch with the challenges that practitioners face. And the feedback influenced what we teach. Our curriculum now includes one of the most comprehensive approaches to dental practice management in North America.

What were some other significant changes at the college?

To name only a few, we've made many facility upgrades, such as creating a true home for the School of Dental Hygiene. We've fostered research through grants, partnerships and specialized equipment.

Our continuing professional development program has increased in quantity and quality. We've restructured our clinic operations and converted to a general practice model that better prepares students for practice.

We've stayed on the leading edge of technology, with innovations such as 3D digital imaging and CAD/CAM dentistry. The next thing we're looking at is 3D simulation for learning in the pre-clinical lab.

You recently became a Canadian citizen. How have you been Canadianized?

I'm not the same person I was when I arrived here. My American rough edges have been smoothed down. I've learned a lot about tolerance, acceptance, avoiding conflict, and the benefits of collegiality. I've tried to hybridize the more American-style striving and ambition with those softer qualities. Canada is home now.

LANDMARK GIFT WILL SUPPORT INNOVATION

Building relationships with all U of M dentistry and dental hygiene alumni has been important to Dr. Anthony Iacopino.

But getting to know Gerald Niznick [DMD/66, D.Sc./02], a 1966 graduate who attained global success as the originator of modern implant dentistry, has been a highlight for the dean.

“Gerry is a giant in the dental implant industry,” Iacopino says about the renowned California-based prosthodontist. “I admire his entrepreneurial spirit, his creative mind and his generosity.”

On May 29, 2018, Niznick and his wife Reesa made a landmark donation of $7.5 million to the college through the U of M’s Front and Centre campaign. In recognition of their transformative gift – the largest in the college’s history – the university has renamed the college the Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry.

The investment will support excellence in teaching, research and community engagement. It will enhance clinical training space, fund special initiatives and create reliable endowed funding.

“At this college, what we’ve lacked in resources, we’ve made up for in talent, creativity and innovation,” Iacopino says. “Now that we have additional resources, we’re going to do even more and become even better.”

A portion of the Niznick funds will initially provide the college with $250,000 per year to spend on additional innovations, Iacopino says.

“The leadership will identify strategic priorities,” he says about how the first allotment will be used. “Our biggest need right now is for academic positions and expertise in certain key areas, such as simulation technology and implantology.”

Niznick will stay involved with the college, Iacopino adds. “He has high standards and expectations. He believes in accountability, and that’s good. It will keep everybody focused on meeting the goals we set for ourselves.”

For Iacopino, the naming gift symbolizes how proud the college's alumni are of their education. He believes the gesture will inspire others.

“I anticipate that other alumni will become more involved and think about giving back in various ways, now that Dr. Niznick has set this extraordinary example.”
Committed to Community

Anyone who has spent time with Mary Bertone [Dip.D.Hyg./05, B.Sc.D.Hyg./11, MPH/15] knows how deeply she cares about providing care to underserved communities.

“I’ve always believed in service and giving back,” says the high-energy director of the School of Dental Hygiene.

Bertone, who has led the school since 2014, was recently appointed to an additional leadership role. She is the first dental hygienist to serve as director of the dental college’s Centre for Community Oral Health (CCOH). She has had front-line involvement with the non-profit centre since she graduated as a hygienist 13 years ago and started working for the CCOH in health promotion.

You might think that with all her responsibilities, Bertone would step back from caring for patients. But she feels it’s essential to stay involved. “It keeps me real,” she says.

She is particularly committed to hands-on care at the CCOH clinic in the far-northern community of Churchill, Man. She has been flying to the “polar bear capital of the world” since 2005.

“I used to go once or twice a year,” she says. “Now I try to go three or four times a year. I am the hygienist for Churchill, and then I bring other hygienists up there with me.”

The CCOH, formally established in 2000, operates six community clinics, including the one in Churchill. Each provides both clinical and health-promotion services. “We go where no one else goes, to increase access to care,” Bertone says.

The Access Downtown Dental Clinic on Winnipeg’s Main Street provides care to inner-city residents and sees many patients who are newcomers to Canada. The clinic at Deer Lodge Centre, a long-term care and rehabilitation facility in western Winnipeg, serves residents of the facility and people from the community.

The CCOH clinics at the Manitoba Developmental Centre in Portage la Prairie, Man., the Selkirk Mental Health Centre in Selkirk, Man., and St. Amant in Winnipeg provide oral care to people with special needs.

Senior dentistry and dental hygiene students rotate through the Access Downtown and Deer Lodge clinics. Some also travel to Churchill.

“It’s important for our students to gain experience with providing care to a wide range of individuals,” Bertone says. “It opens their eyes to another world that is very different from a private practice situation.

“We hope with that exposure, and seeing what the need is, that when they’re in private practice, maybe they’ll think, ‘I could give one day a month to working in community clinics.’”

Another service provided by the CCOH is the mobile Home Dental Care Program, which also provides experience to students. Three vans transport dental equipment and oral-care teams to long-term care facilities to treat patients who are unable to visit traditional clinics.

In the future, Bertone says, ultra-lightweight, easy-to-clean portable dental equipment may make it possible to increase care in private homes.

As for other outreach initiatives, Bertone has started discussions with several First Nations in Manitoba, hoping to establish partnerships. It’s important that the communities themselves define what their needs are, she says.

Bertone would also like to see the CCOH improve access to affordable care for seniors. Access Downtown, she notes, charges 25 per cent less than the Manitoba fee guide rate.

“We’d like to offer that same discount one day a week at Deer Lodge, and from there we could expand it. But we need to find more dentists to work in our program.

“A lot of older adults travel from the western part of the city all the way to Access Downtown to get the 25 per cent discount. So we know there is a need.”
CAPPING AN ERA

Thirty-six years ago, faculty member Bill Christie [DMD/64] suggested to Dr. Arthur Schwartz, dean of dentistry, that alumni should receive a mailed-out newsletter to keep them connected to their alma mater, and to each other.

With the Faculty of Dentistry (as it was then called) gearing up for the 25th anniversary in 1983 of the first class’s enrolment in 1958, Schwartz agreed. That’s how Christie came to be the founding editor and driving force of the Alumni-Faculty Bulletin, much later to be renamed the Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry Bulletin.

The inaugural issue in Spring 1982 was 12 pages long and contained no photos. In his debut Editor’s Notes column, Christie wrote: “This bulletin should be a means of keeping in touch.” And that’s what it became.

“There were only 523 dental alumni and 341 dental hygiene alumni on record in 1982,” Christie recalls. “So our first print run was less than 1,000 copies, which had to be increased by about 50 copies for the new graduates each year.”

The twice-yearly publication picked up momentum and was soon replete with black-and-white photos. In the early days, the Grads Through the Years section didn’t just report on alumni’s careers, but shared chatty updates on their marriages, children, pets and hobbies. Nicknames and offers of out-of-town hospitality weren’t unusual.

That section of the inaugural issue noted, “W.C. (Weepy) Weinstein (’62) still practices endodontics in Vancouver. If you need to know any of the ‘eating spots’ when visiting that city, Fred is the man to ask.”

The initial Bulletin committee included several faculty members. But Christie had to give due credit to the dean’s legendary administrative assistant. He wrote in 1983 that “the bulk of collecting and organization is done by Edith Williams.” So it was an editorial blow to the Bulletin when it had to trumpet in 1987: “EDITH RETIRES!”

The Bulletin managed to continue, keeping readers informed about reunions, convocations, faculty appointments and retirements, research, scholarly publications, outreach dentistry, and upgrades like the addition and extensive renovations to the building in 1989-90.

There were lively accounts of Sports Days and student-alumni hockey games. There were requests for donations and updates on capital campaigns. There were obituaries, including tributes to leading figures in the history of the school, such as Dr. Harold Hart, Dr. George Brass and Dean Emeritus John Neilson.

By the late 1980s, U of M communications staff were increasingly responsible for the content and photography, but faculty members continued to have editorial input. In 2005, the Bulletin evolved into a glossy full-colour magazine. At its height it came out quarterly, running 32 pages per issue.

Dr. Colin Dawes, professor emeritus, pitched in as a proofreader and advisor for the past 11 years. “I was probably chosen for the task because I was the faculty nitpicker!” he says.

Christie, who retired in 2007, and Dawes stayed involved as editorial advisors until this, the farewell issue.

“I want to thank every grad who ever took the time to send us an update, and everyone at the college who worked to put the Bulletin together,” Christie says. “I’m proud that this magazine has made alumni feel they’re part of a strong network, always connected to the ‘hallowed halls’ on Bannatyne.”

“I urge alumni to keep reading the news from the college in other formats. Make the effort to attend your class reunions. Find ways to give back to the dental school that gave you your start. My message is the same as it was 36 years ago: Keep in touch.”

STAY IN THE LOUPE!

We want to keep you informed about the accomplishments of alumni, faculty and students and all the news from the Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry and School of Dental Hygiene.

To be sure of receiving your copy of RadyUM magazine and alumni e-news, please update your contact info using one of these methods:
- Fill in our online form: news.umanitoba.ca/alumni/update-your-contact-information
- Email your current mailing address and email address to: alumni@umanitoba.ca
- Phone 1-204-474-9946 or toll-free 1-800-668-4908

New Grads: Your university student email address expires six months after graduation, so if you would like to continue receiving emails from the University of Manitoba, it’s important to update your contact information with an alternate email address.
CAPPING AN ERA
Igor Pesun [DMD/87] knows from experience that there’s a shortage of prosthodontists in Manitoba.

“There’s an incredible need,” says the associate professor, who is director of the new graduate prosthodontics program in the department of restorative dentistry.

“Between southern Ontario and Alberta, there are probably only 10 full-time prosthodontists. Manitoba has four full-time, and a few of us who practise part-time. We see patients from Thunder Bay to Saskatchewan, and from North Dakota to Nunavut.”

Prosthodontics is the dental speciality concerned with fixed and removable replacements for teeth, such as implants and dentures, as well as esthetic dentistry and reconstruction of other parts of the mouth, jaws and face.

With the launch in August 2018 of the graduate program at the Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry, the ranks of local prosthodontists are expected to grow. And patients, particularly those who can’t otherwise afford treatment, will have better access to advanced care.

The graduate clinic will charge about 70 per cent of the Manitoba fee-guide rate, says Pesun. It will take referrals from the dental community, as well as the U of M dental clinics.

The new, provisionally accredited three-year program leads to a master of science in prosthodontics. Only two other Canadian dental schools – the University of Toronto and University of British Columbia – offer graduate programs in this specialty.

Two graduate residents will be accepted each year. There will be a strong emphasis on digital technologies. Every resident will conduct research.

The residents will be able to collaborate on dental cases with those in the college’s other graduate programs, including oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics, pediatric dentistry and periodontics.

The program will also work with Health Sciences Centre and CancerCare Manitoba to serve patients where maxillofacial prosthetic treatment is needed because of genetic malformation, injury or disease.

The dream of a graduate prosthodontics program at U of M goes back a long way. In 1981, Dr. Lorne MacLachlan, an advocate for prosthodontics in Canada, established a charitable trust fund at the U of M to support the development of such a program.

Prosthodontist Brock Love [DMD/65], a longtime instructor at the college, kept the vision alive. “We’re standing on Dr. Love’s shoulders,” says Pesun.

In the early 1990s, Pesun assisted Love in a clinical research project, evaluating dental implants. That experience influenced Pesun to pursue graduate studies in prosthodontics in Augusta, Ga.

Pesun went on to teach at the University of Minnesota. When he returned and joined the U of M faculty in 2006, he kept hoping to see a graduate program come to fruition. But several hurdles had to be overcome.

“First, we had to demonstrate that there was enough demand for prosthodontic services at the college to ensure a steady flow of patients. So eight years ago, with support from Zimmer Dental, we launched an implant fellowship. We were able to show that there are enough implant patients for a graduate program to be viable. That fellowship has ended now, with the launch of the new program.”

The second hurdle was the need for prosthodontists on the faculty. “When I arrived, there were only three prosthodontists in faculty positions. We have doubled that over the years,” Pesun says.

Third, there had to be clinical space for the program. That was set in motion three years ago, when the college closed the faculty private practice clinic on the second floor. It has been repurposed as the new Graduate Prosthodontic Clinic.

“We’re starting with four operatories, with plans for a fifth. We also have lab and office space,” Pesun says. “It’s exciting to start training specialists and meeting the need for advanced prosthodontic care that we know is out there.”

For more information, visit:
umanitoba.ca/healthsciences/dentistry/rds/prosthodontics.html
Invitation boosts participation, study suggests

In a recent study, Manitoba dentists reported a low rate of providing care to residents of long-term care facilities.

A key reason they’re staying away, the study found, is that no one has invited them.

Of about 300 general dentists in Manitoba who participated in the anonymous study, only about one-quarter (26 per cent) said they currently treat long-term care residents.

Respondents’ most frequently identified barriers to providing care were having a busy private practice (60 per cent), never having been invited/asked to provide care (53 per cent), and a lack of mobile dental equipment or lack of a designated dental room in the long-term care facility (43 per cent).

Among dentists who do provide care to residents, either at a facility or at their own practices, the most common reasons were being asked or invited to do so (52 per cent), seeing it as a professional obligation (49 per cent), and having a past or current family member or patient in long-term care (40 per cent).

“These findings indicate that if dentists were directly asked, and were more familiar with the need for oral care at these facilities, the participation rate would be higher,” says Shelley Tang [B.Sc.(Dent)/18, DMD/18], a recent dentistry graduate.

Tang conducted the study of dentists’ views on treating long-term care residents in 2016 as the research project for her bachelor of science in dentistry. Robert Schroth [DMD/96, M.Sc./03, PhD/11], associate professor of preventive dental science, was her advisor, along with Pamela Dahl [DMD/96] and Mary Bertone [Dip.D.Hyg./05, B.Sc.D.Hyg./11, MPH/15].

The Manitoba Dental Association (MDA) provided summer studentship funding for Tang to undertake the research. The association’s long-term care committee commissioned and played a role in the study. The MDA emailed its general dentist members a link to the study questions and asked them to take part.

Previous Canadian studies have shown that people living in long-term care facilities are prone to poor oral health, complicated by factors such as complex medical conditions, side effects from medications, physical and cognitive decline and limited access to care, Tang says.

“Long-term care residents are a vulnerable population,” she says. “They may depend on facility staff to maintain their oral health, because self-care may be difficult. Staff may lack the time or training to perform daily oral health care. Unfortunately, there are currently no standards for daily mouth care in long-term care facilities.”

Rural dentists in the Prairie Mountain Health and Southern Health–Santé Sud regions had a higher rate of treating long-term care residents than dentists in Winnipeg. “In the city, many dentists assume ‘someone else is doing it,’ whereas in rural areas dentists tend to feel more responsible for a whole community,” Schroth says.

When dentists who don’t provide care to long-term care residents were asked what would motivate them to do so, the top two responses were having proper portable equipment or a designated dental room in long-term care facilities (61 per cent) and receiving an invitation to provide treatment (43 per cent).

Some dentists who currently provide care said one of their reasons was that they were exposed to long-term care patients during their dental training.

“Education is the key,” Tang says. “Dentists need to be better informed about the unmet need for care. The management of long-term care facilities needs to know how to approach dentists and what equipment, space, support and information dentists require in order to say ‘yes.’

“Nursing staff, those who reside in long-term care facilities and their family members also need oral health education. By fitting all these pieces together, the Manitoba dental community can improve service to this population.”
Volunteer dentist Dr. Tara Kennedy knows all the words to her favourite song from the movie *Frozen*. And now, so do a group of Spanish-speaking children in rural Guatemala who were receiving free dental care from the non-profit organization Dentistry For All (DFA).

Kennedy, a first-time volunteer with DFA in March of this year, estimates she sang *Do You Want to Build a Snowman?* about 100 times while performing dental procedures, from fillings to tooth extractions, to distract her young patients and put them at ease.

“It doesn’t matter that they didn’t speak English,” says Kennedy. “It was just something for them to pay attention to instead of the procedure.”

The Calgary-based DFA is run and supported by volunteers. It provides dental education and preventive, surgical and restorative care in developing countries. Oral health professionals and students, who cover the cost of their own travel, typically volunteer for a two-week stint in Guatemala or Nicaragua.

Dr. Brad Krusky, director of operations at DFA and a part-time instructor in preventive dental science at the Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry, wishes more dental schools would embrace externships like the ones offered through DFA and allow students time off to participate in volunteer humanitarian work.

“I want more dental and grad students to get this kind of experience before entering the ‘real world’ of the business of dentistry in Canada. It changes people,” he says. “It helps us to become better people.”

Kennedy, who is in her final year of the master’s of pediatric dentistry program at the U of M, plans to start a pediatric dentistry fellowship in Melbourne, Australia next August. She still struggles with how the children feel about their sometimes multiple, sometimes painful dental treatments. “I’m always worried that kids will just remember the discomfort of having the dental procedures done,” she says.

A case that stands out for her in Guatemala was that of a four-year-old boy who arrived at the clinic in a great deal of pain. After a round of antibiotics, days of treatment and evaluation, the DFA team determined that he would need multiple extractions.

“They were some of the most difficult extractions I have ever done. But even though there was a language barrier between us, I think he really understood that I was just trying to help. Afterwards, he came up to me and hugged me,” Kennedy says. His support worker later told her that he was back to happily running around, playing and eating.

Krusky recounts a time when the DFA team not only addressed someone’s oral health, but also saved a life. Fifteen-year-old Eddy came in with mouth pain that ended up leading to extensive work. The team pulled seven infected teeth, temporarily stabilizing and restoring six more.

Two days later, the teen fell very ill and had to be rushed to the hospital. There, they diagnosed him with a heart condition. “In his weak state of health, the dental treatment had overwhelmed his system, and we were told that with his heart condition and the state of the infections in his mouth, he likely would have died of heart failure and no one would have ever known what happened,” Krusky says. The boy made a full recovery.

With so little time at the Guatemala clinic and so many patients to treat, Kennedy was impressed with how well the whole DFA team worked together. “Everyone was ready to step up and do whatever needed to be done, even if it was just hanging something up or cleaning,” she recalls.

While this was Kennedy’s first year volunteering with DFA, it won’t be her last. “I’m so grateful for the opportunity and I’m sure my experience with them will be a long-term commitment,” she says.
Dr. Gayle Halas has built upon her educational foundation in dental hygiene to become an outstanding health-care researcher, educator and leader. Halas earned her diploma from the U of M School of Dental Hygiene in 1987. While practising as a clinical hygienist and raising her family, she completed a master of arts in integrated studies (specializing in educational studies) from Athabasca University via distance education.

For nine years, she served as a skilled and supportive part-time clinical instructor in the School of Dental Hygiene. In 2006, her career shifted when she became a research associate in the department of family medicine at the Max Rady College of Medicine.

In this role for the next 10 years, Halas grew increasingly passionate about primary health-care research. In 2016, she completed her PhD through the U of M’s individualized interdisciplinary program, with advising from the College of Nursing.

With a strong interest in patient education, rooted in her original training as a dental hygienist, she focused her doctoral research on patients’ engagement with educational health information. Of more than 800 submissions to the North American Primary Care Research Group, her PhD thesis was recognized as one of three distinguished papers. This led to an invitation to present her paper to the Society for Academic Primary Care in England.

In 2016, Halas was appointed assistant professor and research director in the department of family medicine. As part of this role, she leads the interdisciplinary Manitoba Primary and Integrated Health Care Innovation Network, which connects people, resources and opportunities for research and knowledge sharing.

“Marcel is a man of humility, great patience and a firm commitment to both personal and professional ethics,” his award nominators wrote about him.

Van Woensel was born and still lives in the rural community of Swan Lake, Man., two hours southwest of Winnipeg. He has practised in the nearby town of Somerset since earning his dental degree in 1994. He pursued his law degree part-time while practising dentistry, receiving it in 2002.

He has served as a dedicated part-time instructor in the Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry for the past 15 years. His teaching of dental jurisprudence imparts to fourth-year students a vital understanding of the relationship between dentistry, ethics and the legal system.

Van Woensel has helped to advance the excellence of the college, participating as a member of the dean’s advisory council, the Centre for Community Oral Health advisory council and several other committees.

He has served on numerous committees that advise the Manitoba government. His national service has included roles with the Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities Federation and the Dental Assisting Regulatory Authorities of Canada.

He is a fellow of the International College of Dentists and of the Pierre Fauchard Academy. In 2010 he received the MDA’s highest honour, the President’s Award of Merit.

Van Woensel’s profound sense of duty to the profession has inspired others and left an enduring mark on dentistry in Manitoba. He is a most worthy recipient of the 2018 Alumni of Distinction Award from the University of Manitoba Dental Alumni Association.

MARCEL VAN WOENSEL [B.SC.(DENT.)/94, DMD/94, LLB/02] Recipient of the UMDAA Alumni of Distinction Award

GAYLE HALAS [DIP.D.HYG./87, PHD/16] Recipient of the UMSDHAA Alumni of Distinction Award
Dr. Colin Dawes, professor emeritus of oral biology, will be awarded honorary membership in the University of Manitoba Dental Alumni Association (UMDAA) at the Alumni of Distinction Awards Gala on Sept. 28, 2018.

Born in England, Dawes completed his dental training at the University of Manchester, his PhD at the University of Durham and a postdoctoral fellowship at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. He was recruited in 1964 to join the University of Manitoba’s newly created oral biology department, where he taught for 40 years. For 23 years, he also worked as a clinical dentist in two First Nations communities.

Dawes served as editor of the global Journal of Dental Research from 1983 to 1993. His own highly respected research has focused on the role of saliva in oral health. He was contracted for many years by the Wrigley Company to investigate how chewing gum affects saliva.

In 2005, the Salivary Research Group of the International Association for Dental Research awarded him its Salivary Researcher of the Year Award, which took the form of a brass spittoon. That same year, he was appointed professor emeritus.

Dawes has published 160 reviewed manuscripts in scientific journals and given invited lectures in 27 countries. He was honoured by the Canadian Dental Association with its 2012 Distinguished Service Award.

Dawes’ many achievements and contributions make him highly deserving of honorary membership in the alumni association, said Jeff Bergen [DMD/09], president of the UMDAA.

Nancy Auyeung [B.Sc.(Dent.)/92, DMD/92] has been appointed director of continuing professional development for dentistry and dental hygiene in the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences. Auyeung has practised dentistry for 26 years and is a part-time clinical instructor at the Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry. She is a former president of the Manitoba Dental Association and currently chairs its continuing competency committee. She is a fellow of the International College of Dentists, the American College of Dentists and the Pierre Fauchard Academy.

Prashen Chelikani [PhD/04], professor of oral biology, and Robert Schroth [DMD/96, M.Sc./03, PhD/11], associate professor of preventive dental science, pediatrics/child health and community health sciences, have received a five-year grant of $885,870 from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for the study “Role of taste signaling and host-microbial interactions on caries risk in young children.”

Dieter Schönwetter [BA (Hons.)/87, MA/89, PhD/96], associate dean (academic), was recognized for his exceptional contributions to dental education with the 2018 National Dental Teaching Award from the Association of Canadian Faculties of Dentistry. Schönwetter has been a local and national leader in using innovative technologies in teaching.

Casey Hein has concluded her role as director of continuing professional development (CPD) for dentistry and dental hygiene and director of education for the International Centre for Oral-Systemic Health (ICOSH). Hein plans to focus on her work as an international speaker.

Over the past 10 years, Hein developed impactful CPD programs for health-care professionals. She helped pioneer the ICOSH at the Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry, establishing an online, accredited curriculum on oral health for non-dental health-care practitioners. In 2015, this curriculum earned the U of M the William J. Gies Award for outstanding innovation.

Hein led notable inter-professional education events at the U of M, including “Make the Connection” (2014) and “Obesity Intervention for Front Line Health-care Providers” (2015). Christine Polimeni [B.Sc./86, MD/90], vice-dean, continuing competency and assessment for the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, thanked Hein for her dedication and exemplary leadership.

The Dentistry Class of 1997 celebrated its 20-year reunion in November 2017 in New York City.
We extend our condolences to all family and friends of our Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences alumni and colleagues who have recently passed away.

CHARLES WILLIAM (BILL) KEARNS | Sept. 22, 1941—Sept. 27, 2017

Bill Kearns [DMD/67] passed away in Calgary on Sept. 27, 2017, at the age of 76.

Bill was born in 1941 in Saskatoon. He graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a bachelor of science and went on to dental school at the University of Manitoba, where he was president of his class for three years and senior stick in his graduating year, 1967.

Upon graduation, Bill served five years in the Canadian military’s dental corps, retiring as a captain. While in the military he met his future partners, Dr. Nick Misura and Dr. Bob Depledge. Bill, Nick and Bob practiced dentistry together in Calgary for over 40 years. Bill was thrilled when his son Tim joined the practice in 1993. Bill loved dentistry, and especially interacting with his patients.

He was involved in numerous community and volunteer activities. He curled and golfed all his life, including membership at Canyon Meadows Golf and Country Club for 42 years. He loved all the mountains had to offer – hiking with family and friends in summer and skiing in winter. He was a loyal Calgary Flames and Stampeders season ticket holder.

Bill and Lynne, his wife of 52 years, were fortunate to have travelled to destinations such as Myanmar, Nepal, Uzbekistan and Sri Lanka. No matter where he went, Bill cherished the people he met and the friends he made.

Bill’s kindness and generosity defined him. He was an eternal optimist who encouraged us all to dream big. He leaves behind his wife Lynne, children Tim (Michele Durling), Jane (Andy Kurelek) and Andrew (Melanie McMaster), seven grandsons and extended family.

WILFRED (FRED) WEINSTEIN | b. 1939—Oct. 15, 2017

Fred Weinstein [DMD/62], a member of the University of Manitoba’s inaugural dental class, passed away on Oct. 15, 2017 at the age of 78.

Born in 1939 in Winnipeg, Fred excelled in high school at both academics and basketball. After graduating in dentistry at the age of 22, he went on to earn his certificate in endodontics at the University of Pennsylvania under the tutelage of Dr. Louis Grossman, the “Father of Endodontics.”

Fred moved his family to Vancouver to become one of the first licensed endodontists in British Columbia. He successfully practiced at the Fairmont Medical Building for more than 40 years. He loved his patients, and he equally enjoyed teaching and lecturing throughout the world. In the 1980s, he had the distinction of performing an acute root canal on boxing champion Sugar Ray Leonard.

Fred served as an assistant clinical professor at the University of British Columbia. For many years, he was editor-in-chief of roots, an international endodontics magazine.

He was a past president of the Canadian Academy of Endodontics, the British Columbia Society of Endodontics, the Inter specialty Society of British Columbia and the International Federation of Endodontic Associations (IFEA). He was a member of the Royal College of Dentists and a fellow of the American College of Dentists and the International College of Dentists.

He was exceptionally proud to serve as chair of the 2007 IFEA World Endodontic Congress in Vancouver. As the Dental Tribune recalled, “To drum up excitement for that meeting, he dressed as a Royal Canadian ‘Mountie’ at several events leading up to it – something that friends and colleagues remembered for years.”

Above all of Fred’s accomplishments, his family remained his top priority. He is survived by his wife Heather, children Roxanne, Matthew (Cynthia) and Jason, and grandson Sam.
2018 ALUMNI OF DISTINCTION AWARDS EVENING

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2018
FORT GARRY HOTEL | COCKTAILS 6:00PM | DINNER 7:00PM

2018 ALUMNI OF DISTINCTION AWARD PRESENTATION TO
MARCEL VAN WOESEL B.SC.(DENT.)/94, DMD/94, LLB/02
GAYLE HALAS DIP.D.HYG./87, PHD/16

HONORARY UMDAA MEMBERSHIP PRESENTATION TO
DR. COLIN DAWES

TRIBUTE TO THE CLASSES OF 1968

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