A Farewell Message from the Dean

It is with a great sense of gratitude and pride that I step down as Dean and retire from the James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine. I am proud of all that we (I truly mean we) have accomplished over the years. When I assumed the role of Dean, I was fortunate enough to inherit a number of faculty whose commitment to the school and the students was absolutely second to none. Many of them had been here since their days as students. They were supported by a terrific staff many of whom had also been here for decades.

Additionally, I was fortunate to inherit an outstanding group of alumni and a state dental society led by successive presidents and two great executive directors that always “had our back”. Together, we overcame some monumental challenges to build a modern facility, expand our predoctoral student body, add residency programs and develop a research program that has garnered national and international recognition. This year, thanks to everyone’s efforts, we enjoyed tremendous legislative success and it looks like we will receive the recurring funding to pay off the debt on our new Clinical Education Center. So from my vantage point, it looks like we are in a much better place than we have ever been. Now that our 50th anniversary is upon us, we can certainly celebrate our accomplishments. I would encourage everyone to also look toward the future. The best is yet to come.

As I depart, I am very pleased that Dr. Pat Blanton has been appointed interim Dean.

I, personally, am humbled by all of her accomplishments. I know that with your help and cooperation the James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine is destined for true greatness!!

John J. Sanders
Alumni Weekend 2016

Thank you to everyone who attended Alumni Weekend 2016! The weekend included a schedule with traditional events in new locations. From the Dean’s Welcome Reception in the Clinical Education Center to the Saturday evening party on the Yorktown, lots of fun was had by our alumni, faculty, staff, students and their guests.

Classmates Harold Jablon and Chuck Hanna from the Class of 1971

MUSC President David Cole and wife Cathy with MUSC former first lady Ann Edwards (Legacy Soc.)

The Class of 1976 held a class party at the Renaissance on Charleston Harbor in Mount Pleasant

The Class of 1986 hosted a party on Shem Creek

The Class of 1991 reconnects at the Dean's Reception

The Dean's Welcome Reception was held in the College's Clinical Education Center in celebration of the new building's birthday

Alumni enjoy dinner, games, and dancing on the Yorktown

Alumni Weekend 2017 marks the final year of the James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine 50th anniversary celebration. Mark your calendars for April 28-30, 2017! Alumni Weekend will coincide with the 148th Annual South Carolina Dental Association's Annual Meeting which will enhance the CE offerings available to alumni attending the weekend. More details to come. Contact the Alumni Affairs office at 843.792.7979 or alumni@musc.edu with any questions.
SAVE THE DATE!

18th Annual Dr. Carlos F. Salinas Dental Program for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Individuals with Special Health Care Needs
Friday, September 30, 2016, 7:30 am to 4:00 pm
North Charleston Convention Center
North Charleston, South Carolina 29418

Sponsored by the MUSC James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine and the South Carolina Dental Association
For more information contact Dr. Ted McGill at mcgillt@musc.edu

Course Founder
the late
Dr. Carlos F. Salinas
(Class of ’85)

Celebrate!

THE LUCY HOBBS PROJECT CELEBRATION

2016 Industry Icon Award Winner
Theresa Gonzales, DMD, MS, MSS
2015 Woman to Watch Award Winner
Amanda Seay, DDS

September 22, 2016 • 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Registration begins at 5:30 p.m.
Francis Marion Hotel
387 King Street • Charleston, SC 29403

CE & Keynote Speaker: Dr. Patricia Blanton, Interim Dean, Medical University of South Carolina, James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine

Register today at:
lhp-charleston922.eventbrite.com

Cost to attend is FREE! Seating is limited.

The MUSC Chapter of the American Student Dental Association hosted its annual Senior Banquet on Friday, April 22nd at the Cigar Factory’s Cedar Room in Charleston.
The event was sponsored by the MUSC Alumni Association, Henry Schein Company, and Patterson Dental.
Photo courtesy of Zach Schurch (Class of ‘17).
Pediatric dentist and husband support MUSC clinic for patients with special needs

By Allyson Crowell, writer
Office of Development and Alumni Affairs

Patient rooms decked out to look like robot repair shops or the ocean floor make Coastal Kids Dental & Braces more inviting for the patients seen there.

Coastal Kids, founded by pediatric dentist Dr. Isabel Driggers, operates five locations around the Lowcountry. And while every inch of every office comes across as kid-friendly, the Coastal Kids team also welcomes another patient population: adults with special needs.

“There are very limited places for adults with special health-care needs to be seen,” Dr. Driggers said. “Adult dentists are not used to behavior management, and though these patients are the physical age of an adult, they are often the mental age of a child.”

Some patients with special needs travel hours to Coastal Kids for dental care. And some of those patients exhibit violent behavior.

“It’s a child-friendly office, which makes it an issue in scheduling an adult patient with special needs – who may have behavioral problems – next to a family with small children,” Dr. Driggers said. “To accommodate, we schedule these patients at different times and have extra staff on hand.”

Sometimes, patients with special needs refuse to get out of the car. In those situations, Dr. Driggers meets them in the parking lot for an examination.

Despite the additional effort, Coastal Kids receives little reimbursement from Medicaid, if any at all. But even as a dental student, Dr. Driggers knew that these patients fell into a care gap. She learned first-hand just how much that gap separated people from the care they needed when she completed her residency at the University of Louisville in Kentucky and worked in its special-needs clinic.

Long before MUSC’s James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine welcomed its first patient to the Special Care Dentistry Clinic, Dr. Driggers and her husband, Jacob Driggers, got behind it. Dr. Driggers graduated from the dental school in 2002. Even with three young boys of their own, she and Jacob pledged $100,000 to offset operational expenses at the clinic for 20 years.

MUSC saw about 12 patients with special needs before it opened the Special Care Dentistry Clinic in January 2015, according to Advanced Education in General Dentistry Director Dr. Michelle Ziegler. She said the clinic now sees more than 200 patients and in late 2015 expanded from one day a week to two.

While Dr. Ziegler hopes eventually to offer clinical services five days a week, she said gifts from donors such as Isabel and Jacob Driggers keep operations running in the meantime. The couple’s gift provides the clinic with everything it needs to see patients—from dental and filling materials to lighting.

“It’s certainly allowing us to treat more patients,” Dr. Ziegler said. “When we first started the clinic, we were only doing cleanings. Thanks to their donation and other donations, we’re doing whatever patients need – extractions, fillings and even dentures in some cases. We’re now providing any services that they need.”

When the clinic expanded to twice a week, it also expanded as a learning environment and became a mandatory part of the dental school curriculum. “It’s a requirement now that dental students and residents are comfortable managing these patients,” Dr. Ziegler said.

That’s what Isabel and Jacob Driggers want to hear.

“MUSC has a beautiful place for these patients,” Dr. Driggers said. “I think it’s great if they can teach new students what to do. A lot of dentists are just scared to treat patients with special needs.”
Students Hone Skills and Help Others through DCF

by Whitney Simons, Class of 2017

This past March, Dental Community Fellowship (DCF), an organization directed by Dr. Bill Sasser (Class of Dec. ’73, part-time faculty, Alumni Assn. past-pres.), organized a mobile dental team comprised of 90 members to serve in Quito, Ecuador. “Dr. Bill,” as he is affectionately known, has been traveling across the globe to provide dental work to the underserved for more than 20 years. When asked about his work with MUSC dental students, Dr. Bill said “Fifteen years ago, I felt called to include MUSC dental students, founding DCF as a student chapter of the Christian Medical and Dental Associations (CMDA).”

While DCF teams typically participate in eight international trips each year, the Quito, Ecuador one is the largest one scheduled concurrently with the College’s spring break each year. This year’s team included 20 dentists (three periodontists, an oral surgeon and an endodontist), two dental hygienists and more than 30 dental students, as well a vital group of assorted “helpers” that supported the team. The goal from a dental perspective is to provide each patient the best treatment available within the limitations of a portable setting. The team was privileged to serve large crowds each day and by the end of the week had performed more than 1,000 dental procedures with the majority being preventive and restorative in nature. In addition to clinical dental procedures, groups also visited area schools providing oral hygiene education along with new toothbrushes, fluoride and a bit of play with the children. The team distributed 6,500 toothbrushes to delighted Ecuadorian students.

These trips are tremendously meaningful to not only the patients, but often more to the team members themselves. The community aspect builds deep, lasting relationships among the students and our hosts. It is an honor to serve the Ecuadorian people who are very gracious and thankful for the services that the team provides.

For dentists, trips like this provide an incredible opportunity to mentor dental students and share experience and expertise. DCF welcomes and appreciates people willing to give of their time to come along on a future trip anytime during the year. Please consider joining us! For more information about DCF and its work, visit dentalcommunityfellowship.net.
News and Announcements

MUSC Names Interim Dean for College

Patricia L. Blanton, D.D.S., Ph.D., has been appointed interim dean of the James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine. This is contingent upon MUSC Board of Trustees approval, which will be sought at its August 2016 meeting.

Dr. Blanton has been a professor in the Department of Stomatology since 2014, while also serving as a practicing clinician. She spent a large part of her academic career at the Baylor College of Dentistry and the Baylor University Graduate School, where she is now professor emerita. During her tenure at Baylor, Dr. Blanton demonstrated notable achievement as an academic administrator, educator, extramurally funded researcher and clinician. Her primary fields of academic and clinical interest are periodontics, oral medicine and anatomy, in which she has mentored numerous colleagues at the start of their academic career and has published numerous scientific articles.

She enjoys national respect in her profession of academic dentistry and has served in many leadership roles, including president of the Dallas County Dental Society, president of the Texas Dental Association, vice president of the American Dental Association, president of the American College of Dentists, commissioner with the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), consultant for the American College of Dentists Foundation Board, a member of the ADA Presidential Taskforce on the Commission on Dental Accreditation, and a member of the editorial board of The Journal of the American Dental Association and the Journal of the Texas Dental Association, among many other accomplishments.

Dr. Blanton is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions during her tenure at Baylor University, including nomination to the Texas Women’s Hall of Fame for Health and Research, the Baylor College of Dentistry Distinguished Alumni Award, the Dallas County Dental Society Dentist of the Year Award, Dallas County Dental Society Lifetime Achievement Award, the Student Clinicians of the American Dental Association Lifetime Achievement Award, the American Association of Women Dentists’ 2008 Woman Dentist of the Year/Lucy Hobbs Taylor Award, the Commanders Award from the Europe Regional Dental Command, the Texas Dental Association Gold Medal, and the Baylor College of Dentistry Hall of Fame Award. The Texas A&M Health Science Center Baylor College of Dentistry biomedical sciences library was named in her honor.

McPherson named Vice-Chair of Oral Rehabilitation

Dr. Karen McPherson (Class of ’97) has been selected to serve as vice-chair of the Department of Oral Rehabilitation effective February 1, 2016. Dr. McPherson is a 1993 graduate of the College of Charleston where she studied biology. She then attended the Medical University of South Carolina College of Dental Medicine where she was awarded her DMD. Afterward, she was commissioned as a dental officer in the Navy and completed a one-year program in advanced education in general dentistry at Camp Pendleton. After serving in the military for four years, she practiced general dentistry and continues to hold four state dental licenses. She currently serves as course director for Dental Morphology, Fixed Prosthodontics I and Early Clinics.

Dr. McPherson is a member of a number of professional associations including the American Dental Association, American Dental Education Association, The Academy of General Dentistry, South Carolina Dental Association, and the Coastal District Dental Society. She is a fellow of the American College of Dentists, the Pierre Fauchard Academy and a member of Omicron Kappa Upsilon. She also serves as the Delta Sigma Delta faculty advisor.

Dr. McPherson returned to the College in 2011 as faculty and has served in the Division of Restorative Dentistry since her appointment. She is not only active in pre-clinical and clinical education but also is active in continuing education. She maintains a general dentistry practice in the College’s faculty practice.

New Faculty Join College

Dr. W. Carter Brown (Class of ’82, Legacy Soc.) is assistant professor in the Division of Restorative Dentistry

Dr. James Loe is assistant professor in the Division of Restorative Dentistry

Dr. Dalton Wilson is assistant professor and division director for Removable Prosthodontics
Steinkamp Wins at AADR

The Department of Oral Health Sciences was well represented with trainees’ awards at the annual American Association of Dental Research (AADR) held in Los Angeles March 15-19. During the Hatton Award presentations for student and postdoctoral trainees, MUSC had a total of 28 finalists selected from submitted abstracts in the junior (dental student), senior (graduate student), and postdoctoral categories; nine per each category. Postdoctoral trainee Heidi Steinkamp, DDS, PhD, won second place in the Hatton Competition and will represent the AADR and MUSC in Seoul, Korea this summer for the IADR Hatton Competition. Her winning poster is entitled “Trisetraproline is Required for Alveolar Bone Homeostasis.” In addition, Joy Kirkpatrick and Alex Rogers won AADR Student Research Fellowships.

Kirkwood Selected as Member of AADR Fellows Program

Associate Dean, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Oral Health Sciences Dr. Keith Kirkwood was chosen by the American Association for Dental Research to join the inaugural class of its Fellows Program for 2016. The program is designed to recognize leaders of AADR and individuals who have served AADR in various ways throughout their careers.

Cray Receives Award Grant from the Cleft Palate Foundation

The American Association for Dental Research announced that assistant professor of Oral Health Sciences Dr. James Cray is the recipient of the 2016 Cleft Palate Foundation Cleft Lip/Palate and Craniofacial Anomalies Research Grant, which is a one-year $10,000 grant. The award recognizes his research titled “Thyroxine Exposure Depletes Stem Cells of the Cranial Suture.” More information about this research grant is available at www.cleftline.org/healthcare-professionals/research/cpf-grants.

Miller recipient of 2015 AAP Award

Dr. Preston D. Miller, Jr. (part-time instructor, Legacy Society), was awarded the Clinical Research Award at the 101th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Periodontology for his article entitled “An evidence-based scoring index to determine the periodontal prognosis on molars.” The award is presented to the most outstanding published article with direct clinical relevance in periodontics.

Rawls Honored with Establishment of Trident Dental Partners Scholarship

Dr. J. Eric Layton (Class of ’11) and his colleagues at Trident General Dentistry have pledged to fund an annual scholarship in honor of Dr. Douglas S. Rawls (Class of Dec. ’73). “Dr. Douglas S. Rawls retired at the end of 2015, after 42 years of practicing dentistry,” said Dr. Layton. “His patients overwhelmingly describe the love they have for him every time they come in to our offices. Our whole team owes so very much to Dr. Rawls.”

The Trident General Dentistry Annual Scholarship is donated by Trident Dental Partners to an MUSC dental student showing interest in organized dentistry and exhibiting excellent clinical promise. The 2016 recipient is Dr. Katherine Logan Rutland from Marietta, Georgia, who is now enrolled in a general practice residency program at Palmetto Health Richland in Columbia.

A similar donation in honor of Dr. Rawls’ wife, Joyce Rawls, RDH, is also being made by the partners to the Dental Hygiene Program at Trident Technical College.
Some dentists enjoy working with adults, while others prefer working with kids. As for myself, I love working on dogs. After graduating from MUSC in 2013, I became an active duty dentist in the U.S. Air Force and attended an Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency (AEGD) at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. As part of my AEGD, I was trained on dental care for canines, as there are hundreds of military working dogs that fulfill an important mission for the Air Force. Though many active duty dentists are trained on dogs, very few utilize those skills in their career. From July 2015 through February 2016, I was deployed as the sole dentist to an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia as part of the U.S. Air Force’s 386th Expeditionary Medical Group in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, and my training on military working dogs (MWDs) was vital to my expeditionary mission. As part of preparation for deployment, all military personnel, including MWDs, are required to undergo a dental examination to ensure fitness for duty. While deployed, a dentist’s job is to provide dental care to servicemen and women, including the MWDs, to ensure that they can remain deployed and contribute to the mission.

During my deployment, I worked roughly 50 hours per week and was on call 24/7 for dental emergencies—human or canine.

Each MWD has a dog handler who is responsible for the dog’s training, care and overall well-being. Military working dogs are trained to detect explosives and drugs as well as quickly take down those who pose a threat to base security. The dogs’ ability to bite forcefully and maintain bite strength is of utmost importance to the MWDs’ mission. If a dog is having tooth pain, then his bite is directly affected, and the MWD is subsequently scheduled to see a dentist. During my time overseas, I worked closely with the deployed Army veterinarian to provide Comprehensive Oral Assessments and Treatment (COATs) for the deployed canines that did not receive their exam before deployment or showed signs of decreased biting strength. The process included deep sedation, followed by full mouth radiographs, periodontal charting and ultrasonic cleaning. Based on radiographs and probing depths, I would then proceed with whatever treatment was necessary, which could range from root canal treatment to extractions. In total, I treated about eight of the 12 deployed MWDs and extracted three teeth. Best of all, my patients didn’t complain once.

**The road less traveled**

by Natalie Hahn, Gift Administrator, Office of Institutional Advancement

Dr. William B. Edwards (Class of ’85, Legacy Soc) dabbled in other medical fields before settling on the dentistry profession. “People ask me, with a degree in psychology and a master’s in counseling, how I could end up dentistry,” Dr. Edwards said. “And I say, ‘Well, teeth are in people’s heads.’”

After graduating from Clemson in 1972 with a psychology degree, Dr. Edwards went on to get his master’s in counseling from the University of South Carolina in 1980. Upon completing his second degree, Dr. Edwards worked as a psychologist in a children’s program at Georgia Regional Hospital. He later returned to his roots and helped with the family hardware business, started by his grandfather and his grandfather’s brothers. “My dad, who was in the class of 1938 at the Citadel, had to leave six months before graduating when his uncle passed away,” Dr. Edwards recalled. “My grandfather said to him, ‘John, if you have any plans to return to Johnston in the family business, we need you now.’”

Although their family needed his father to sustain the business, Dr. Edwards realized that his father might have chosen another career path, if he had been given the opportunity. One day, Dr. Edwards asked his father what else he might have pursued, and his father told him he had considered becoming a dentist. “Well,” Dr. Edwards replied, “I am, too.” His father assured Dr. Edwards that their family would support him. Dr. Edwards said the values that his family instilled in him played a significant role in shaping the person he became.

Dr. Edwards’ contribution will benefit the dental school for many years, just as the College has left a lasting impression on him. “Walking through the dental school brings back memories of faculty and friends that still mean a lot to me today,” he said. “Times were sometimes tough, but there were many good times that will last in my memories forever.”

If you are interested in learning more about making a planned gift, please contact Natalie Hahn at 843-792-0002 or Hahn@musc.edu.
2016 Annual Awards Luncheon

The MUSC Dental Alumni Association’s annual awards luncheon was held once again in conjunction with the South Carolina Chapters of the American College of Dentists (ACD), the International College of Dentists (ICD), and the Pierre Fauchard Academy (PFA) during the 147th South Carolina Dental Association Annual Session in Hilton Head in April. Congratulations to our recipients!

ACD AWARDS

Outstanding Faculty Award:
Dr. Theresa S. Gonzales
(Class of ’84, prof.)

Outstanding Student Award:
Dr. Zakery James
(Class of ’16)

ICD AWARD

Student Leadership Award:
Dr. Rebecca Shamis
(Class of ’16)

MUSC AWARDS

Student Leadership Award:
Dr. Jordan Berry
(Class of ’16)

Honorary Alumnus Award:
Dr. Staci N. Gaffos

Young Alumnus Award:
Dr. Robert H. Nieders
(Class of ’02, Residency ’08)

Distinguished Alumni Service Award:
Dr. Christopher T. Griffin
(Class of ’93)

Alumni Award of Honor:
Dr. Harold W. Jablon
(Class of ’71)

PFA AWARDS

Distinguished Dentist Award:
Dr. Julian “Hal” Fair
(Class of ’78)

Student Award:
Dr. Christopher Ricker
(Class of ’16)

Staci Gaffos receives the MUSC Honorary Alumnus Award.

Dean Jack Sanders presents Rob Neiders with the MUSC Young Alumnus Award.

Dean Jack Sanders awards the MUSC Distinguished Alumni Service Award to Dr. Chris Griffin.

Dr. Harold Jablon (right) receives the Alumni Award of Honor from Associate Dean and Professor Tariq Javed at the 2016 Honors Convocation.
Dean Jack Sanders Retires

By Dr. Gene Atkinson, Class of Dec. ’73, College historian

Dr. Jack Sanders retired on June 30, after 12 years as the dean of the James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine. He has had an outstanding career in dentistry, from being a leader in the Navy to being a well-respected professor in dental education, to being an exemplary dean at the College of Dental Medicine.

Dean Jack Sanders came to the helm at the dental school in very challenging times. State funding had been severely cut, the school was experiencing serious budget woes, and a new clinical building for the College had been approved, but without adequate funding. The original cost of our sorely needed clinical building was around $30 million. The Legislature was unable to make any immediate commitments beyond the initial one third of the $20 million that had been promised over three years. The school had a very successful campaign that raised the other $10 million needed. With only partial funding, the project laid dormant for several years. Then, in 2006, a creative funding plan by the state treasurer emerged, and the groundbreaking occurred in August, 2006. This beautiful new facility was occupied in July, 2009. Unfortunately during the interim, the construction costs escalated significantly to more than $60 million.

Enter Dean Sanders, who has been considered to be the most fiscally savvy dean in our College’s experience. He hit the ground running and has never let up since. Faculty members have touted him as the best administrator in the history of our school.

In addition to his financial talents, Dean Sanders has created a world-class research facility at the CDM, as well as state of the art simulation laboratories for preclinical work. He started new residency programs in orthodontics and endodontics, and created a strong DMD/PhD program. The AEGD residency was restarted during his tenure. Dr. Sanders enlarged the class size by 25 percent, and he developed and expanded various outreach programs. At the last accreditation evaluation for the CDM, the report was so good that no recommendations for improvement were given. Our College has continually produced some of the finest dental clinicians in our country.

Philosophically, Dean Sanders always felt that if he helped develop the students’ hearts, heads and minds, that the students would become a success.

Dr. Jack Sanders grew up in the Buffalo, NY, area and graduated from Georgetown University School of Dentistry in 1972. After dental school he served in the U.S. Navy Dental Corps for more than 20 years, and obtained his periodontal residency during his military career. Dr. Sanders began his educational career here at MUSC in 1993. He became the interim dean in 2004 and the permanent dean in 2005.

Dr. Sanders has always been involved with dentistry from the local to the national level. He has always participated in the SC Dental Association DAD project endeavor that treats indigent patients across S.C.

Dentistry has been forever blessed with the outstanding leadership and vision of Dean Jack Sanders through the years. His talents will be sorely missed at the James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine.

Well done, thy good and faithful servant.
DeChamplain Society

The MUSC Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery was pleased to host Dr. Phillip Pirgousis, M.D., B.D.S. (D.M.D), FRCS, FACS, currently assistant professor Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Gainesville, Florida, through the generous support of the DeChamplain Society donors and members. Dr. Pirgousis presented on “Difficult Challenges in Microvascular Reconstruction of Head and Neck Defects.”

The DeChamplain Society was established in honor of Dr. Richard W. DeChamplain and was founded to provide a forum to:
* Cultivate an enduring relationship among the trainees, students and faculty of the MUSC Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, past and present.
* Enrich, excite and instill pride in the MUSC OMFS Residency Program.
* Facilitate networking and build camaraderie among alumni and faculty.
* Provide an avenue for dissemination of information and advancement of Oral and Maxillofacial surgical research and technologic advances.
* Promote growth of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery through communication, education and financial support.

Lecholop involved in translational effort

Dr. M. Kinon Lecholop (Class of ‘08, Residency ‘12) assistant professor in the MUSC Dept. of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, is involved (along with other department faculty and residents) in a novel translational effort in concert with Dr. Hai Yao’s laboratory within the joint MUSC/Clemson Bioengineering program developing a database mapping the muscles of mastication aimed to improve our knowledge of myofascial pain.
Congratulations to the Class of 2016!

The Link is a publication of the MUSC James B. Edwards College of Dental Medicine. For more information, contact Stephanie D. Oberempt, senior director of Development and Alumni Affairs at Oberempt@musc.edu or (843) 792-6933.