



# DENTISTRY

WINTER 2014



Dr. Eric McCormick ('85) with daughters Laura (D4), left, and Alice (D2)

Dr. Eric McCormick

## Dental Legacy

Progeny return to parents' alma mater, establish family tradition

By Ruth Cummins

The School of Dentistry at the University of Mississippi Medical Center opened its doors in 1975 – some might say a generation ago. That's certainly the case for approximately 30 of its graduates. One or more of their children have either graduated from the dental school or are enrolled there now. In some of their cases, it was all but predictable; in others, serendipity.

"It is a testament to what a great profession dentistry is when so many of our graduates' children choose dentistry as their profession," said Dr. Gary Reeves, dean of the School of Dentistry. "Also, the parents want their children to receive their dental education at UMMC, because they know there is none better."

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# Parent-child dentistry tandems share thriving occupational connections

— Continued from cover page

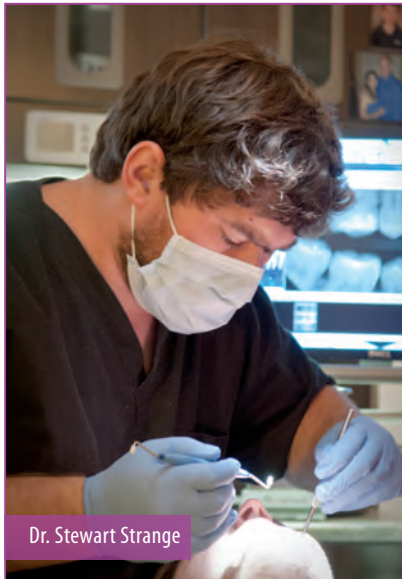


Here are the stories of three such graduates whose child or children are carrying on the legacy of learning that makes dentistry such a respected profession.

Divorced and mother of three children under 5, Paula Stewart in 1991 decided to go to dental school after working as a dental hygienist for 16 years.

That year, Thad Strange also became part of the Class of 1995 at the School of Dentistry. The two married, and Strange adopted Stewart's children.

Paula Strange's oldest child, Stewart, was just 4 when his



Dr. Stewart Strange

mother went back to school. Paula's brother, Clarke Stewart, also is a dentist.

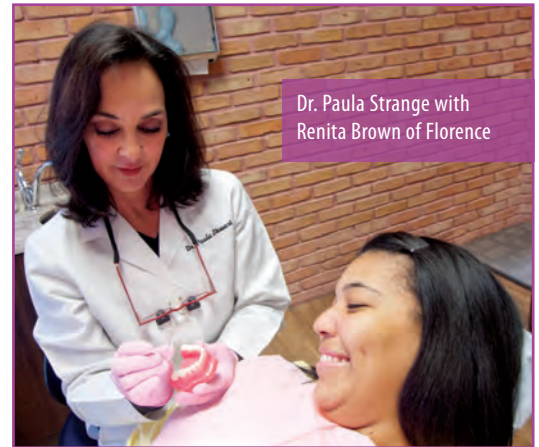
"Stewart grew up in the path of least resistance," Paula said. "When he was a child, he was up in the lab with me all the time. He was at the dental school when I was studying and doing teeth."

It's no wonder, Paula and her son say, that Stewart followed in the footsteps of so many family members, graduating in 2012.

"When he was little, he wanted to be a pumpkin and Christmas tree farmer, but the only thing he was ever exposed to was dentistry," his mother said.

"It probably would have been fun," Stewart said of a farming operation. "But with both parents and an uncle who are dentists, being at least in the medical profession is always what I wanted to do."

Two days a week, Stewart practices at his mother's office at Highland Village in Jackson. She practiced for more than a decade in Clinton before making the move to Jackson several years ago. Stewart works the rest of the week



Dr. Paula Strange with Renita Brown of Florence

at the offices of Dr. Teena Horn ('83) in Houston and Dr. Richard Akin ('79) in Hazlehurst – both of whom are School of Dentistry graduates.

"When I got out of school, I was almost too familiar with dentistry," Stewart said. "That was all our family vacations and our dinner talk. I wanted to see something different and go to rural Mississippi, and I've really enjoyed it."

Thad Strange is a Flowood endodontist. Paula, who resides in Raymond, and Stewart, a Madison resident, say their office partnership is, in a word, wonderful.

"I love working with him," said Paula, who serves as president of the Mississippi Dental Association. "He's very respectful, and he and I are very like-minded. He's got a delightful personality."

Said Stewart: "It's great. We're easy. We don't have any trouble. She's a fun mom, and it makes for a nice working environment.

## Legacy of Achievement

The following lists the School of Dentistry's "family" alumni:

Andrew Abide Sr. ('82) of Greenville; sons Andrew Abide Jr. ('07) of Southaven and David Abide ('10) of Greenville

The late Bryan Blakeney ('84) of Gulfport; son Stephen Blakeney, D1

Thomas Byrd ('88) of Florence; son Adam Byrd ('13) of Florence

Tim Carney ('86) of Brandon; son Daniel Carney, D4

Michael Carter ('79) of Ridgeland; daughter Catherine Ann Carter Sledge ('11) of Ridgeland

Charles Caskey ('80) of Ridgeland; son Curtis Caskey ('10) of Ridgeland

Jeff Cumberland ('86) of Richland; daughter Lynsey Cumberland ('14)

David Curtis ('86) of Columbus; son D. Kennon Curtis ('11) of Southaven and daughter Katie Lee Curtis, D4

Andy Dulaney ('86) of Byram; son Andrew Dulaney ('14) of Byram

Michael Ellis ('83) of Vicksburg; daughter Kaitlyn Ellis, D3

John Goolsby ('97) of Clinton; son John Goolsby ('02) of Clinton

Lewis Grubbs ('83) of Jackson; sons Lee Grubbs ('09) of Clinton and Clay Grubbs ('03) of Clinton

Mike Harkins ('84) of Clinton; son Michael Harkins, D3

David Henderson ('83) of Carthage; daughter Laura Kathryn Henderson, D2

Carey Johnston ('82) of Ridgeland; son Daniel Johnston ('13)

Felda Jones ('85) of Forest; son Trey Jones ('14) of Forest

Theresa Jones ('83) of Gulfport; daughter Brittany Jones Varney, D2

Michael Keel ('82) of Long Beach; son Stephen Keel ('14) of Long Beach

John Lamberth ('86) of Tupelo; daughter Lisa Lamberth, D2

David Lee ('84) of Greenville; daughter Ellen Brister Lee, D3

Eric McCormick ('85) of Bay Springs; daughters Laura McCormick Dixon, D4, and Alice McCormick, D2

Marty Myers ('81) of Kosciusko; son Warner Myers ('13) of Kosciusko

Roger Parkes ('79) of Jackson; son K.B. Parkes ('09) of Nashville, Tennessee

Paula Stewart ('96) of Jackson; son Clarke Stewart Strange ('12) of Houston

Raanne Tindle ('87) of Cleveland; daughter Trevor Tindle, D4

Edward Wheeler ('83) of Gulfport; son Tyler Wheeler, D1

Lloyd Wolfe ('84) of Jackson; daughter Alyssa Wolfe, D1

Charles Young ('80) of Tupelo; daughter Elise Young ('12) of Tupelo





“We have a fun, joking family.”

Stewart said the variety of experience he’s getting is “an incredible opportunity.” And that’s just what she’s wanted for him, Paula said.

“I like interacting with people, a lot of new people every day,” Stewart said. “I can make a difference in their lives.”

It’s a dental dynasty in the family of Jackson dentist Dr. Lewis Grubbs (’83): son Clay Grubbs (’03) is a dentist in Clinton, where his brother, Lee Grubbs (’09), is an endodontist.

Daughter Mary Grubbs Garner, a 2007 graduate of UMMC’s School of Health Related Professions, is a dental hygienist in her father’s office.

“I never pushed them in any direction,” Lewis said. “I just wanted them to get a good education. Once they said that was what they wanted to do, I backed them up.”



Dr. Lee Grubbs

Lewis said Lee initially leaned toward medical school, “but at the last minute, he said he just didn’t want that kind of lifestyle so far as being on call. He wanted to be with his children.

“Their families were all here,” added Lewis, who has seven grandchildren. “And if you have a Mississippi (dental) school, you support that school.”

Lee said part of his decision to go to dental school was the example his father set.

“He could go to all of our sporting events,” Lee said. “Everywhere we went, everyone always spoke very highly of Dad, and still do.”

Clay not only got a feel for dentistry from his father, but he also received an early acquaintance with the UMMC campus as a childhood cancer patient during his elementary school years.

“I spent a lot of time in my dad’s office, and saw that the patients who came there really loved Dr. Grubbs,” said Clay, who was recently chosen by Incisal Edge magazine as one of the “40 under 40” young dentists who excel in their respective fields. “I saw how much he loved his job.

“I love people, and my dad and I are a lot alike there.”

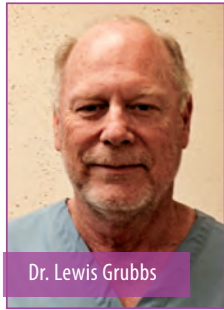
Lewis and his boys all had similar experiences in the School of Dentistry. Lewis let them find their way.

“Not everyone breezes through school with courses like pharmacology and gross anatomy,” the elder Grubbs said. “It was like déjà vu. I’d just laugh and tell them to suck it up.”

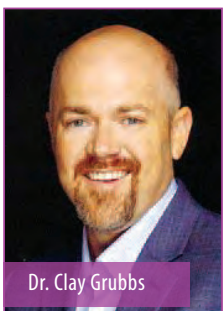
Mary, who received her bachelor of science in dental hygiene, worked for brother Clay before joining her father’s staff.



Mary Grubbs Garner



Dr. Lewis Grubbs



Dr. Clay Grubbs

“I think we make a joke of it,” she said of the family’s career path. “But, Dad was always there for everything we did.

“He didn’t work Fridays. I don’t remember having a sport or contest or choir performance where he wasn’t there.”

What does Lewis say to people who discover just about the whole family spends the day working on teeth?

“Not everybody knows, but the ones closest to us think it’s pretty cool,” he said. “My wife (Chyrl) gets left out quite a bit when we talk about dentistry, but she’s been through it all with all of us. She’s actually very knowledgeable.”

A career in dentistry has afforded a full life, not just for Dr. Eric McCormick (’85), but for his entire family.

He and his late wife, Lanae, raised three daughters in Bay Springs, where Eric has operated his own clinic for 30 years. Two of their three girls – Alice McCormick, D2, and Laura McCormick Dixon, D4, are enrolled in the School of Dentistry. The youngest, Caroline, chose a career in speech pathology.

“They always saw that dentistry allowed me to have freedom, and rarely issues of coming to work at night,” Eric said. “It allowed me to be beneficial to the community.

“We took a lot of wonderful trips and traveled everywhere with our kids. It allowed us to have a good lifestyle and plenty of family time.”

It’s nice, he told his daughters, to have a career where you can be your own boss.

“They were exposed to dentistry,” he said. “They were around the conversation. When they were small, they’d come to the office with me if I had an emergency.”

Alice said her teachers aren’t limited to her professors. She said her little sister, Laura, is both her comfort and her coach.

“It was my sister who taught me how to drill a cavity,” Alice said. “She spent hours with me in the lab. She taught me to do a crown prep and a root canal.

“Being with her has helped me so much. We eat lunch together every day. We look so much alike that everyone gets us confused.”

Said Laura: “It helps me to realize that I’m learning when I know enough to teach her. It helps me to see my progress, and it’s nice to have someone you feel comfortable around.

“She gets it.”

Having a dentist as a father “definitely had major pull in my decision to go to dental school,” Laura said.

“I’ve seen how dad’s patients react to him and feel like they are part of our family. I wanted to be like him.”

Eric has fielded a number of calls from the girls seeking advice.

“In clinicals, she’s called about dealing with patient management and trying to get compliance with patients,” he said of Laura. “We talked this morning about a crown she was putting in a patient’s mouth.”

Laura and her husband live in Ridgeland. That would make it difficult for her to work side-by-side with Eric, a dream he’s always had. But Alice might be a possibility.

“I’m keeping my options open,” Alice said. “I know all his staff and the ins and outs of the office.”

“I’ve always thought that one of them, at some point in time, might be able to come over and take over my practice,” Eric said.

“That might come to fruition yet.” 🍷



# Latest stats indicate SOD grads stick close to home

Where are our School of Dentistry graduates? Several of our faculty members have asked.

We are still able to say – after years of graduations – that 74 percent of our graduates have stayed in Mississippi. Thanks goes to the hard work of those in the office of Dr. Wilhelmina O'Reilly, professor of pediatric community oral health; Becky

Smith, education administrator; and Rajdeepsinh Dolia, dental lab aid, who researched all the alumni to try to locate them.

We are happy to introduce a new section of our e-newsletter that highlights our alumni: the "Class Notes" section. I encourage you to send us your news so we can share it with our readers.

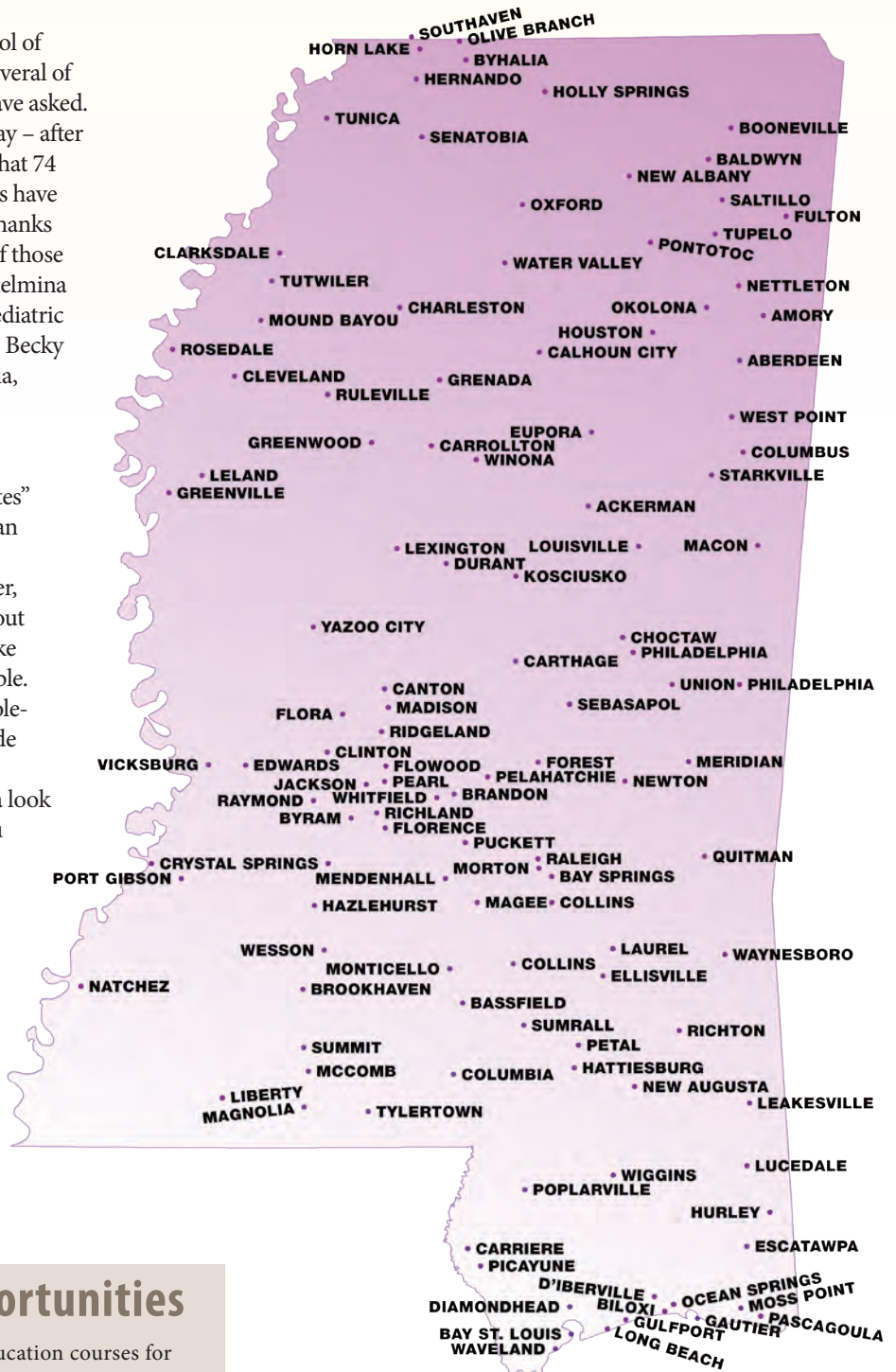
Most of us enjoy being connected to our alma mater, and there is no better way to do so than by reading about a classmate, faculty member or friend who helped make your time at the UMMC School of Dentistry memorable. Please email your news items to Bruce Coleman at [bcoleman@umc.edu](mailto:bcoleman@umc.edu) – we will be more than happy to include them in our next publication.

As you read through this e-newsletter, please take a look at our list of upcoming events. There may be some you may have missed in the past but would now like to attend. Or there may be events you never attended because you always found out about them when it was too late to register.

No matter the reason, I hope you'll consider joining us and your fellow alumni who make all of our events extra special.

I hope you enjoy this publication.

Gary W. Reeves, D.M.D.  
Dean, School of Dentistry



## Continuing Education opportunities

We are working on several upcoming Continuing Education courses for 2015 pertaining to the following:

- OMS – Tumor resection and jaw reconstruction
- Pharmacology course
- Restorative course
- OSHA course
- Risk management
- Dental team course: "How to Start a Practice and Make a Profit"

Watch for upcoming registration information.

**UMMC Alumni**  
(currently practicing in MS)

Mississippi cities and towns in which School of Dentistry alumni currently practice.

UMMC Dentistry is published by the Division of Public Affairs at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Dean  
School of Dentistry:  
Gary W. Reeves, D.M.D.

Chancellor  
University of Mississippi  
Dan Jones, M.D.

Vice Chancellor for  
Health Affairs:  
James E. Keeton, M.D.

Editor:  
Bruce Coleman

Lead Designer:  
Derrick Dyess

Photographer:  
Jay Ferchaud

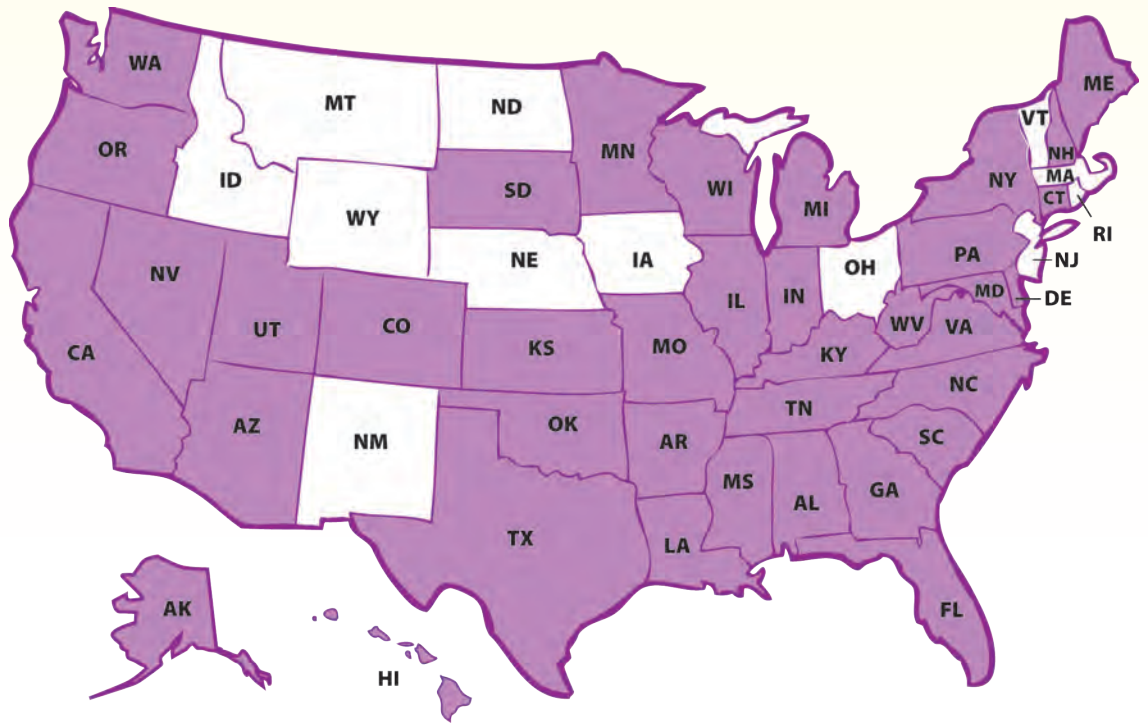
Director of  
Alumni Affairs  
April Mann



## UMMC Alumni

(currently practicing in U.S.)

Shaded states indicate places School of Dentistry alumni currently practice.



## Where They've Landed

Where the School of Dentistry's most recent alumni – the Class of 2014 – are now practicing or continuing their education

(Information available as of May 2014)

### Practicing

<b>R. Conner Bills</b>	Rowan Family Dental	New Albany
<b>Andrew Dulaney</b>	Dulaney Family Dentistry	Byram
<b>Trey Jones</b>	MHS Dental	Brandon
<b>O. Randy Jones</b>	Bonner Dental Clinic	Waynesboro
<b>Stephen Keel</b>	Keel Family Dentistry	Long Beach
<b>M. Keith Klaus</b>	Michael Ellis Family Dentistry	Vicksburg
<b>Patrick Lamb</b>	Family Dental Care	Laurel
<b>Ricardo Lemus</b>	Joplin	Missouri
<b>Eli Lowry</b>	U.S. Navy Camp Lejeune	North Carolina
<b>Lynsey Giachelli Phillips</b>	Sunflower Dental Clinic	Ruleville
<b>Letasia Poyadou</b>	Cronin Family Dentistry	Hattiesburg
<b>Sherry Jones Racey</b>	Collins Family Dental Care	Sumrall
<b>Arielle Spivey</b>	Northcutt Dental Group	Fairhope, Alabama
<b>Jessica Bosarge Taylor</b>	Willis and Parker Family Dentistry	Pascagoula
<b>Yolanda Jackson Taylor</b>	Kool Smiles	Biloxi
<b>J. Patton Webb</b>	Spraberry Dental Clinic	Gulfport

### Postgraduate Education

<b>Megan Blackman</b>	Advanced Education General Dentistry Residency	Mississippi
<b>Kayla McCarver Bryant</b>	Pediatric Dentistry Residency	Mississippi
<b>David Carter</b>	General Practice Residency	Louisiana
<b>R. Lynsey Cumberland</b>	Advanced Education General Dentistry Residency	Mississippi
<b>Kristen Mullins Douglas</b>	Pediatric Dentistry Residency	Tennessee
<b>Kefei Duan</b>	General Practice Residency	Michigan
<b>Matthew Foster</b>	Oral-Maxillofacial Surgery Residency	Missouri
<b>Karla Haik</b>	General Practice Residency	Mississippi
<b>J. Brian Jackson</b>	Oral-Maxillofacial Surgery Residency	Mississippi
<b>Austin McMurphy</b>	Pediatric Dentistry Residency	Louisiana
<b>T. Brice McMurphy</b>	General Practice Residency	Louisiana
<b>Emilee Peebles Milling</b>	Pediatric Dentistry Residency	Florida
<b>Jonathan Nichols</b>	Pediatric Dentistry Residency	Mississippi
<b>Dustin Pambianchi</b>	Advanced Education General Dentistry Residency	Mississippi
<b>Lawson Parker</b>	Advanced Education General Dentistry Residency	Mississippi
<b>David Perez</b>	Advanced Education General Dentistry Residency	Mississippi
<b>Julie Strong</b>	Endodontics Residency	Missouri
<b>Adriane White</b>	Orthodontics Residency	Washington, D.C.
<b>John Wikle</b>	Advanced Education General Dentistry	Alabama
<b>Richard Witty</b>	General Practice Residency	Nevada

# ESPECIALLY CHALLENGED

## Oxford dentist flourishes while serving children with greatest needs

By Ruth Cummins

There's a huge tree growing out of the floor in Hayden Perkins' Oxford office.

Against one wall, a bank of video game systems, mobile and standard, beckons his eager clients. A huge saltwater aquarium serves as a divider between two waiting rooms.



Dr. Hayden Perkins with his helpful dog, Sophie.

And as if the furniture in bright primary colors isn't enough, original artwork and hundreds of photographs brighten the office at every twist and turn. The ceilings are vaulted. It's airy and full of sunshine.

A large Golden Retriever patrols the halls, collecting love pats, totally unruffled by the commotion and chatter.

And on most days of the week, the Children's Dental Center brims with 80 to 90 children, from toddlers to teens. Perkins is their pediatric dentist, and his patients come from as far north as Corinth and far south as the deep Delta.

His staff is crazy about him. So are his patients and their parents, especially those whose children cope with health challenges, including autism, paralysis, Down syndrome, seizure disorders and congenital heart failure.

"Special-needs parents are saints," said Perkins, 38, a 2004 graduate of the School of Dentistry who received his undergraduate degree in biology from the University of Mississippi in 1999.

His practice includes a specialization in caring for disabled patients, and to many of those families, Perkins is likely seen as a godsend: Unlike a lot of dentists in the state, he accepts Medicaid and the state Children's Health Insurance Program.

"A lot of pediatric dentists just won't take that. There's not much money in it," said Dr. Frances Gordy ('79), professor of care planning

and restorative dentistry. "I admire him for taking and treating those patients."

Perkins stands apart in Mississippi's pediatric dentistry community, and it's not just because of the patient-friendly comforts of his office or his choice to care for children from low-income families who may have nowhere else to turn. His career is a calling, and his goal is to educate parents so that all children begin good dental hygiene in their first year of life.

The Hollandale native was in the first kindergarten class that went all the way to graduation at Deer Creek School in Arcola. He was a 15-year-old ninth-grader when the truck he was driving flipped, robbing him of the use of his legs. Perkins enrolled at Ole Miss, but had no immediate plans for dental school.

"I started off in computer science, of all things, because someone told me it would be good for someone in a wheelchair," Perkins said during a chat in his private office, a comfy lair that shows off the fruits of his family hunting trips.

"I took my first calculus class. That cured me."

But he loved biology and chemistry, and soon found himself shadowing Dr. Andrew Abide Sr. ('82), his dentist in Greenville.

"I decided I wanted to do something in the health field, and after observing him, I got my mind set on it," Perkins remembered.

He spent a year after graduation teaching high school biology, physics, chemistry and algebra in Rossville, Tennessee, as he studied for his dental school acceptance exam. After graduation, he completed a two-year pediatric residency at Batson Children's Hospital.

"Even before I started dental school, I was leaning toward pediatrics," Perkins said. "I love kids."

While wife Jessica worked, Perkins sometimes had to take their twins, John Seton and Ashton, now 13, to class. Their oldest son is Preston, now 16.

"They'd be under my feet, or sitting in a corner playing. The dental school folks knew them well," Perkins said.

Treating special-needs children, Perkins said, "is a big part of pediatric dentistry."

"In my residency program, almost all of our patients were special needs," he said. "Every pediatric dentist in the state . . . if they had someone they couldn't handle, they sent them to UMMC."

"Hayden was an outstanding resident and probably worked harder than anyone," said Dr. Bill Duncan, professor emeritus and interim chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry and Community Oral Health. "He's gifted in terms of communicating with children. He's always gravitated toward children and has a big family of his own."

Gordy, who Perkins counts among the professors who had the biggest impact on his career, said he made her proud.



"We didn't cut him any slack, but we made it so that he could have wheelchair access with everything needed in his reach," Gordy said. "He probably thought I was a witch who rode him. We didn't, but he did such a good job."

Perkins also singles out Dr. Neva Penton Eklund, former associate professor of pediatric and public health dentistry, as a mentor who helped shape his future.

"She was the one that introduced me to the joys and rewards of taking care of these 'special babies,' as she would often say," Perkins said.

Perkins' practice is divided between seeing patients in his office and performing dental surgery three mornings a week at the Oxford and Batesville hospitals. He shares office space in Oxford with his two partners, pediatric dentists Dr. Clyde Musgrave ('00) and Dr. Jason Coleman ('99). Perkins and Musgrave together staff a clinic in Grenada.

On a typical day, Perkins sees approximately 10 children with disabilities.

"It's such a huge spectrum," he said of their health challenges. "We love taking care of those kids, and there's not a lot of places they can go."

"Dr. Perkins is the one who taught Barkley how to do wheelies," said Kelli Melton of Charleston, whose 8-year-old son, Barkley Criswell, a paraplegic, is one of Perkins' patients. "He even taught him how to get back in his chair if he falls out. He's an inspiration."

Melton, whose 11-year-old daughter, Cheyanne Criswell, also is a patient, added: "He is the most extraordinary man you could ever be around. He and Barkley kind of share the same injury."

"Before anything gets worse, he takes care of it," said Angela Hawkins of Water Valley, mother to patients Bradley and Caleb Ferguson, 10 and 7 respectively, and Lauren Hoskins, 12. "He gets them not to be shy or scared. The kids love to go there."

Perkins and his staff make a priority of educating parents on proper dental health. The vast majority of his surgery patients, most not yet school-aged, have "rampant dental decay," he said.

"We have to do a lot of crowns and extractions. It's a huge problem in Mississippi and in states that are considered poor."

He finds that some parents with lower education levels put their children to bed with a bottle or sippy cup.

"It wears their teeth out," Perkins said. "Unfortunately, sometimes the damage is done."

"We stress that kids visit us at age 1. That gives us the chance to educate parents, and that child will have less likelihood of problems down the road."

Tempering that a visit to the dentist can be scary for some kids is the fact that Perkins' Oxford office is just plain delightful. He said he's had to replace pint-sized chairs "tons of times" that parents have broken as they enjoyed the video games.

His patients draw pictures displayed across the office walls, as are their photographs. The tree? It's custom-made by a California company, and frequently decorated by his staff.

"We try to make it fun," Perkins said. "We want them to be excited to come see us. We see them from infant to teenagers, around 16 or 17. The boys are ready to go then, but the girls won't leave. I tell them when they graduate from college or get married, they've got to go."

"What's difficult is that you're working with kids. It's hard to reason with a 3-year-old. You learn how to talk to a child and how to calm their fears. From 8 to 5, there's somebody crying in the office. Some come in and they're hurting. We get them through it and try to make it as easy and pleasant as possible."



Perkins' young dental patients aren't confined to single closed rooms.

His patients at first are intrigued by his wheelchair.

"I have kids who want to ride," Perkins said. "They are inquisitive, and they don't have a filter. I tell them I hurt my back a long time ago in a car wreck, and I wasn't wearing my seat belt – and that's why Mama makes you wear yours."

The office's open bay has 12 chairs. "I wish I had 18," he said. "Here, the kids are right beside each other. They don't care about being in their own little room. They give each other confidence."

Sometimes, Perkins said, children will be children.

"I get bitten all the time, but I know how to get in there and get out pretty quickly."

And then, there's Sophie, the mild-mannered, laid-back family pet who reports to work with Perkins several days a week. Look at Perkins' website, [www.oxfordpediatricdentistry.com](http://www.oxfordpediatricdentistry.com), and you'll see photos of children sprawling across Sophie, shaking her paws, or giving her tight hugs.

"I had two Golden Retrievers, but the oldest died when Sophie was 2," Perkins said. "She'd just gotten through with obedience training, and she seemed sad at home, so I brought her here. Within two days, she was trained."

"When she hears my keys jingle at the house, she grabs my duffel bag and is ready to go."

On one of Barkley's visits, Sophie was taking a break in Perkins' personal office, but spied Barkley coming through.

"She came out and got in front of him and put her head in his lap. She knew," Kelli Melton said.

Perkins fills a need – and a loving space – in his patients' lives, those around him say.

"Hayden does have a soft spot in his heart for kids from all walks of life," Duncan said.

Every family on his patient registry gets a card with his cell phone number on it.

"If a child has an emergency, we fit them in, no question," Perkins said. "I'm always on call for my patients." 📞

# GROWING *our* OWN

## Rural scholars program helps Mississippi's future dentists return to their roots

By Jake Donald, associate director of the MRDSP

Since its inception in 2013, the Mississippi Rural Dentists Scholarship Program (MRDSP) has been extremely active, both on campus with UMMC's School of Dentistry and around the state, visiting every two- and four-year institution, recruiting students at the undergraduate level.

The MRDSP, which is funded directly by the state, is a unique longitudinal program that identifies rural college students who aspire to return to their roots to practice general or pediatric dentistry.

Academic enrichment, faculty and dentist mentoring plus solid dental school financial support through the MRDSP enable capable young Mississippians to provide adequate dental care in rural areas of Mississippi.

MRDSP's three phases include: Initial (before matriculation to dental school), dental school training and actual practice. Maintaining a high level of awareness and involvement in Mississippi's rural health care is a constant in every phase of training. Channeling scholars into general dentistry or pediatric dentistry will improve access to dental services in rural areas.

To jump start the flow of general or pediatric dentists into the pipeline in 2013, three School of Dentistry students were awarded state-funded scholarships valued at \$35,000 each for 2013-14. Each scholar embraced his or her small-town values and culture, sharing a common passion for making a difference in rural communities.

This year, MRDSP accepted its first undergraduate class of five students and currently has six dental students receiving scholarships

for the 2014-15 year. After graduation, its students will practice in towns of less than 10,000 population where a need exists.

In October, MRDSP had its first scholarship ceremony at UMMC, recognizing the six dental students receiving scholarships. They were joined by their friends and families as well as others who have played instrumental roles in getting them to this point in their lives.

A big supporter of the program, Mississippi State Rep. Sam Mims delivered the keynote address and issued checks to the students.

Program administrators look forward to many more scholarship ceremonies to recognize dentists that will make such a positive influence on the state's oral health care.

Even though the program is a little more than a year old, it celebrated the first scholar to begin practicing in the state – Dr. Lynsey Giachelli Phil-

lips of Indianola. Phillips was welcomed with open arms as she began her career as a general dentist at Sunflower Dental Clinic in Ruleville.

When asked about her experience being back home, Phillips said, "Practicing in Ruleville has been a great experience. The clinic I work with is owned by North Sunflower Medical Center and this has opened up so many avenues of treatment for the people of this community.

"I work closely with an oral surgeon who comes once a week as well as a pediatric dentist. We are able to work together and meet



### *Growing Our Own Dentists*





MRDSP scholar Suzanne Chance, front row left, a fourth-year dentistry student from Silver Creek, receives a \$35,000 scholarship from the Mississippi Rural Dentists Scholarship Program from the Mississippi Legislature to help improve access to dental service in rural areas of the state. Chance is accompanied by fellow MRDSP scholars Kyle Neely, front row, center, a second-year dentistry student from Star; Ashley Greco, front row right, a first-year dentistry student from Benoist; Chris Pace, back row, second from left, a third-year dentistry student from Summit; Mary Catherine Hoover, back row second from right, a first-year dentistry student from Winona; and Rebecca Wright, back row right, a third-year dentistry student from Holly Springs. The MRDSP scholars were joined at the ceremony by Dr. Lynsey Phillips, back row left, a practicing general dentist at the Sunflower Dental Clinic in Ruleville, and Rep. Sam Mims, back row center.

all of our patients' needs without them having to seek treatment anywhere else."

Phillips plans to be in Ruleville long-term, serving the people that made such a big influence on her life.


She said she decided to apply for the MRDSP scholarship "because I am from Indianola and had always dreamed of returning to my hometown area to practice. I couldn't think of anything more amazing than receiving a scholarship that was encouraging me to go back to a place like the Delta."

Not only does the scholarship serve as a benefit of being involved in the MRDSP, but through mentoring and networking, the students can gain so much more.

"I believe the biggest benefit of being an MRDSP scholar is going to be the awareness that it brings to other potential scholars," Phillips said. "Being the first MRDSP scholar who has graduated and entered the workforce, I think it is encouraging and reassuring to other students that they, too, can complete dental school and practice in a rural community if they want to and still be successful."

Program administrators say they are very proud of Phillips and are excited that she is living out the mission of "growing our own" in Mississippi.

The program has had a successful recruiting season, and through social media outlets and local civic club presentations, administrators are working diligently to reach out to as many people as possible. They've partnered with the Mississippi Dental Association to reach dentists across the state that could provide resources for the undergraduates and dental students.

MRDSP administrators appreciate all supporters of the program and look forward to working with more of you as they continue to strengthen an already outstanding program. Please look for ways to recruit for the program and send interested students their way to learn more about the program. 

For more information on the MRDSP, call Dr. Wahnee Sherman, executive director, or Jake Donald, associate director, at (601) 815-9022, or visit [www.umc.edu/mrdsp](http://www.umc.edu/mrdsp).

## Reaction to staged burglary broadcast nationally

While enjoying a leisurely meal, you notice someone walk up to a parked car, appear to force a door open and begin to rifle through the vehicle's contents.

Every instinct you have indicates that the person is committing a burglary, but no one



Magee

else seems to notice and there's no security in sight.

What would you do?

Dr. Steve Magee's response to that very scenario was broadcast to a national television audience last May on the ABC

newsmagazine "Primetime: What Would You Do?" hosted by John Quinones.

In the hidden camera-format show, actors portray scenes of conflict or illegal activity in public while bystanders' reactions are recorded. Once the ruse is revealed, Quinones interviews the bystanders about the incident.

Quinones and his crew visited Jackson April 3 and furtively set up the "car burglary" scenario at a local restaurant. So when Magee, assistant professor of dentistry, and three of his colleagues from the Department of Care Planning and Restorative Sciences happened to have lunch there that day, they fell right into the television producer's "trap."

"It was my first time to go (to that restaurant), and the parking lot was packed," Magee said. "We were just having lunch, talking about the things we're always talking about. I didn't pay any attention to the car at first."

Magee's party had been seated at a table on an outdoor terrace that was separated from the street by an exterior wall. A woman in a brand-new black automobile had driven up, parked mere feet away from where Magee was sitting and gone into the restaurant.

A few minutes later, Dr. John Smith, associate professor of dentistry, noticed something out of the ordinary: a man in a jacket walked up to the car and started to peer into its window. Smith began snapping his fingers to summon assistance.

"I was trying to get somebody's attention, but nobody would respond," Smith said. "First, I saw the guy look in the car, then he started digging around, and then I saw him

pick up a purse. He went around the car and I think he pulled out a guitar case.

"Finally, Steve did something."

What Magee did was confront the would-be burglar.

"When John looked up and said, 'That guy's getting something out of that car,' I turned around to look. That's when I heard the trunk lever click open," Magee said. "The guy continued to walk around to the trunk. He was looking in and behaving like he was getting something out of the trunk."

When Magee said something, the intruder pulled his hoodie up over his head and continued his work undeterred.

"That was an obvious sign that he was trying to hide his face from us," Magee said. "I had tried to get his attention, but he was ignoring us. At this point, I thought he was starting something."

So Magee picked up his stool and started after the intruder.

"It all happened in a matter of seconds, but one thought I had was, 'if I swing this chair and miss this guy, I might mess the car up and that would probably cost more than what the stuff he got out of it cost,'" Magee said. "But right away, he started yelling 'It's my car' and tried to defuse the situation."

It wasn't until Quinones and the cameramen appeared that Magee realized the scenario wasn't real.

"I've seen the show before, and I recognized him (Quinones), but I wasn't expecting them to be here in the South," Magee said. "I was really glad I didn't take a swing at the guy."

After being interviewed by Quinones, Magee and his party were seated elsewhere for their "real" meal, and the scene was reset for another unsuspecting table of diners. Magee observed them as they watched the intruder rifle through the car, pull out all manner of contents and slink away with the goods.

"They giggled about the guy until the lady came back later, and they told her someone had stolen stuff out of her car," Magee said. "I couldn't believe that. It's amazing how many times people (in that situation) do almost nothing."

Which may be the point of the show – and Magee may be an exception, someone who will come to a stranger's assistance, even if he or she isn't around. 🙏

## Arrivals

The Medical Center is pleased to announce the following faculty have joined the School of Dentistry:

**Dr. Deepti A. Janorkar**, a general dentist from Jackson, has joined the Medical Center faculty as an assistant professor of dentistry.

After receiving the B.D.S. from MG V Dental College and Hospital, University of Pune, India, Janorkar did a rotatory internship there. Janorkar then served as a general dentist in Nasik, India, for several years before coming to the Medical Center for a general practice residency and an advanced education in general dentistry residency.

Janorkar has served as a general dentist at the Family Health Care Clinic, Brookhaven, and at Mission First, Jackson.

Janorkar is an active member of the American Dental Education Association and the Indian Dental Association.



Janorkar

**Dr. Richard Ted Rice**, an associate professor of endodontics at Roseman University, Utah, has joined the Medical Center faculty as an associate professor of endodontics.



Rice

After receiving the D.D.S. from the University of Iowa College of Dentistry in 1974, Rice served as a general dentist in the U.S. Navy from 1974-77 before entering private practice in Colorado. He did an endodontics residency at Loyola University, Chicago, from 1983-85 and first joined the Medical Center as an assistant professor of endodontics from 1985-87.

Since that time, he has been in private practice in endodontics in Houma, Louisiana, Ocean Springs/Biloxi and Moline, Illinois (as Locum Tenens), and has served as an associate professor of endodontics at West Virginia University and at Roseman University.

The author or coauthor of 10 articles in peer-reviewed professional publications, Rice is an active member of the American Dental Association, the American Association of Endodontics, the American Dental Education Association and the Mississippi Dental Association.



# Events highlight busy School of Dentistry academic calendar



## Event gives budding dental researchers head 'UPSTART' on discovery presentations

Students who gave presentations on scientific topics during the School of Dentistry's Undergraduate and Professional Student Training in Advanced Research Techniques (UPSTART) Program Symposium in July and their faculty mentors include, front row from left, Justin Matthew, Casey Staten, Niketa Thompson, Alena Casella, Katherine L. Curtis, and Ashley King; middle row from left, Brandon McClain, Logan Didier, Dr. Yuanyuan Duan, Ian Blakely, Bryant Salmon, Will Fontaine, and Alisha Li; and back row from left, Dr. Scott Williamson, Dr. Amol Janorkar, Patrick Bierdeman, Rodney Kipchumba, Dr. Nan Black, S. Eric Johnson, and Dr. Jason Griggs.

## Tops in Class of 2014 receive honors at banquet



Dr. Gary Reeves, dean of the School of Dentistry, congratulates Adriane Chanel Wright for a successful academic career in the School of Dentistry during the 2014 Senior Honors Convocation and Banquet March 16 in the Norman C. Nelson Student Union.

## Faculty Kudos

Dr. Tracy M. Dellinger, professor of advanced general dentistry, and Dr. Harold Mark Livingston, professor of advanced general dentistry, were invested with their respective Fellowships in Special Care Dentistry from the Royal College of Surgeons-Edinburgh during its Diploma Ceremony Sept. 5 in Symposium Hall in the heart of Edinburgh's New Town District.



Dellinger



Livingston

Dellinger and Livingston have each been members of the college since 2001.

The Royal College of Surgeons-Edinburgh has a 500-year history of education and advancement of surgical practice, with more than 20,000 fellows and members worldwide. The Faculty of Dental Surgery comprise approximately 3,000 of this number.

Special Care Dentistry is one of the 13 dental specialties recognized in the United Kingdom related to the oral health care for adolescents or adults with either disability or impairment.



## Incoming SOD class signs pledge, devotes career to ethics



Dr. Ralph Didlake, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs and director of the Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities, Dr. Gary Reeves, dean of the School of Dentistry, members of the American College of Dentists and School of Dentistry faculty gather alongside the Class of 2018 just minutes after the Ethics Signing Ceremony Oct. 16, in which each member of the class signed the Ethics Code and received the ACD Ethics Wallet Cards.

## ADA members gather in 'Longhorn Country' for alumni reception



Dr. Gary Reeves, center, dean of the School of Dentistry, visits with alumni and guests, from left, Yvonne Knight, Dr. Lynn Van Pelt, Dr. Roddy Scarborough, Dr. and Mrs. Jay Fandel, and Dr. Deidra Jones at a Dental Alumni Chapter reception during the American Dental Association meeting Oct. 11 at the Hilton Palacio del Rio in San Antonio, Texas.



# Class Notes: highlighting news and events in the lives of SOD alumni

CLASS  
of  
'79

After 35 years of practicing dentistry in Pascagoula, **Julius A. "Jay" Willis, D.M.D.**, sold his practice and retired. For the last few years, he has been doing dental practice transition consulting through his new company, Willis and Associates, L.L.C. The company facilitates all types of dental practice transitions in Mississippi, including appraisals, sales, purchases, mergers, partnerships and associateships on a flat-fee basis. To find out more about his company, visit [www.drjaywillis.com](http://www.drjaywillis.com). One of the big joys of Dr. Willis' retired life is spoiling his four grandsons.

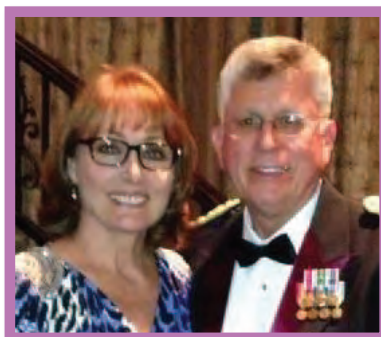


Four members of the UMMC School of Dentistry Class of 1982, including **Helen Lee Campassi, D.M.D.** (front row, right), **Robin Campassi, D.M.D.** (back row, right), **David Gilmore, D.M.D.** (back row, second from right), and **Wade Hankins, D.M.D.** (Back row, second from left), recently went on a continuing education cruise on the Rhine River. They were joined by Mary Gilmore (front row, left) and Claudia Hankins (back row, left).

CLASS  
of  
'82

CLASS  
of  
'83

**Phillip Patridge, D.M.D.**, is about to retire from active duty service in the U.S. Army. He will have had 31 years, nine months and 11 days of service on April 1, 2015. He will live near Savannah, Georgia. While on active duty, Patridge completed a one-year AEGD and a two-year GPR. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of General Dentistry. He and his wife, Ellen, a dental hygienist, have been married for 43 years and the couple has four children and four grandchildren. Patridge is a big fan of the University of Alabama.



◀ **Albert Singletary, D.M.D.**, welcomed his first grandchild, Emma Grace Fortenberry, born June 16.

**Edward S. Wheeler, D.M.D.**, has played an instrumental role in the annual Thumbs Up for Bill 5k Run in Gulfport, named in honor of Dr. Bill Gasparrini, a local psychologist and beloved member of the local running and cycling community in south Mississippi who fought a courageous battle against cancer. The fourth TUFB 5K event took place Nov. 22 with several members of the 5th district

dental community in attendance. The 5K generated approximately \$5,000 in funds for the Memorial Hospital at Gulfport Oncology Special Needs Fund, which helps cancer patients with out-of-pocket costs beyond their medical treatment, such as food, transportation and medicine. For more information about the Thumbs Up for Bill Run or the Memorial Hospital Foundation, call Dave Estorage or Dana Lamey at (228) 865-3048.

CLASS  
of  
'84

**Barbara B. Mauldin, D.M.D.**, pictured with her husband, Dick, received third place for ballroom dancing in the 2013 Dancer's Cup Tour in Nashville, Tennessee,



in January. The award is based on accumulated points at various ballroom dancing competitions throughout the year. Mauldin competed against more than 500 dancers in her age and ability levels. Mauldin also served as 2013-14 Rotary District Governor for District 6840, which includes Southeast Louisiana and South Mississippi. Mauldin practices dentistry in Petal.

CLASS  
of  
'84

**Gary W. Reeves, D.M.D.**, is dean of the School of Dentistry at UMMC. He has two new grand-daughters who just celebrated their first birthday on Nov. 13.



CLASS  
of  
'85

**Ronnie Cummins, D.M.D.**, is married to Iris Cummins and the couple has two children, Cynthia and Rebekah. Dr. Cummins has a solo practice in Corinth. He received an Academy of General Dentistry fellowship in 2001 and an Academy of General Dentistry mastership in 2010. His hobbies include the outdoors at his Kosciusko farm, woodworking, beekeeping and foreign missions.

**Charles C. Cooper, D.M.D.**, recently received accreditation status with the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (AACD). A partner with Dr. Debra Gray King at the Atlanta Center for Cosmetic Dentistry, Cooper has been married to Elizabeth Horne Cooper for 28 years. The couple has two sons: Chandler, 18, a freshman at Mississippi State University, and Lawson, a junior at St. Pius High School.

CLASS  
of  
'86

CLASS  
of  
'87

After completing a general practice residency at the University of Florida, **Tara T. Hackney, D.M.D.**, has worked as a public health dentist in Florida for the last 25 years. She was recently named one of 66 Florida Public Health Heroes for her work with programs that expanded dental care for children in her county. She is a member of a team of community dentists that obtained funding and built an all-volunteer clinic in St. Augustine and she also regularly volunteers there, donating more than 160 hours to treat uninsured adults. She and her husband, Mike, recently celebrated their 26th anniversary. Their two children, Noah and Rachel, attend the University of Florida, but are also Mississippi State Bulldog fans, having attended MSU football games and watched them on TV through the years.

**Raanne Ray Tindle, D.M.D.**, is looking forward to the graduation of her daughter, Trevor Tindle, from the UMMC School of Dentistry in May 2015.

**Noel K. "Trey" Toler III, D.M.D.**, is still practicing in the same location since graduation: 104 Lakeland Plaza Building, 2600 River Ridge Road, Jackson.

CLASS  
of  
'88

CLASS  
of  
'89

**Roddy Scarbrough, D.M.D.**, has devoted his life to organized dentistry, calling it "my wife, love and children." He serves on the MSBDE, the MDA as a delegate to the ADA, the NERB and as a STRA examiner for dental boards around the country. He continues his private practice in Richton and is a life member of the USM and UM alumni associations. He is a continual supporter of the School of Dentistry.

**Jimmy Hollingsworth, D.M.D.**, has a practice in Newton and currently serves as president-elect of the Mississippi Dental Association. Chairman of the Board of Trustees of East Central Community College, he is a member of the Dean's Advisory Council at Mississippi State University, Meridian. He and his wife, Sharon, have a daughter, Abby, who is a freshman at MSU.

CLASS  
of  
'93

CLASS  
of  
'96

**Christopher H. Henry, D.M.D.**, is an orthodontist and pediatric dentist who practices in his own orthodontic office. One day a week, he works in a pediatric dental office. He had been in Alaska since 2003 and enjoys hunting, fishing, flying and running. He has recently served as Alaska's dental state president and continues to be involved on a task force.



**Nathan A Burns, D.M.D.**, received his pediatric certificate from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 2005. After finishing his residency, he has practiced pediatric dentistry in Nashville, Tennessee, for the last nine years. In June 2014, he and his wife, Vanessa, moved to New Orleans to be closer to family. Dr. Burns purchased an existing pediatric dental practice in Metairie, Louisiana, and is thrilled to be in New Orleans. He looks forward to starting a family there.

To view more information about his practice, visit [www.greatbigmiles.com](http://www.greatbigmiles.com).

CLASS  
of  
'03

**Jennifer House, D.M.D.**, completed a pediatric residency at Boston University in 2006 and moved to Nashville, Tennessee, that year. A founding partner in Cumberland Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics, she and her partners currently have five offices in middle Tennessee with plans to open two more in 2015.

CLASS  
of  
'04

**Trey Sutton, D.M.D.**, and his partner, Dr. Clyde Spraberry Jr., have changed the name of their practice to Gulf Coast Dental Care. They hosted an open house to showcase their newly renovated office and the new products they offer to patients on Sept. 26. They are pleased to have added their newest associate to the practice, Dr. J. Patton Webb Jr., an Ole Miss graduate.

CLASS  
of  
'06



**Wendy Hawkins Lewis, D.M.D.**, and her husband, Jay, welcomed their second child, Landers Jane Lewis, born on June 23, 2014. Big sister Lida Hawkins is pleased with the addition.

CLASS  
of  
'08

CLASS  
of  
'13

**Zach Crawford, D.M.D.**, is now practicing at Oak Grove Family Dentistry in Hattiesburg.







April Mann

# MORE LIKE HOME

UMMC brings new alumni director  
closer to family, friends

By Gary Pettis

For April Mann, the University of Mississippi Medical Center has an emotional, as well as a professional, pull.

In her new position directing the Office of Alumni Affairs, the Birmingham native is living closer to family and friends, while serving the people she has cared most about in her career: students, past and present.

Throughout her career in higher education, Mann has sought jobs that kept her close to students.

At UMMC, she found one that also keeps her closer to her loved ones.

On Oct. 1, Mann took over as director of alumni affairs, replacing Geoffrey Mitchell, who retired in May.

She earned her undergraduate degree at Mississippi State University and arrived in Jackson from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, moving here with Lily, her 9-year-old Yorkshire terrier.

"This is the closest I have lived to family and friends since college," said Mann, former director of UNC's Office of New Student and Carolina Parent Programs.

"It's a great professional and personal move for me."

Professionally speaking, she now leads a six-member office, including Ginger Daniels, longtime associate director. The staff's goal is to keep former Medical Center students connected and deeply engaged with their alma mater.

"For some folks, that may be speaking at an alumni luncheon, or volunteering for an alumni board, or serving as a student mentor, or giving back financially," said Mann, who received her Master of Education degree from the University of South Carolina and is pursuing her Doctor of Education.

"What's important is that we at Alumni Affairs provide that array of opportunities for them, whether they live in Jackson or anywhere in the world."

That's one of her two major goals. The other is producing publications for all Medical Center alumni from all schools.

Personally speaking, Mann is living much closer to her family in Birmingham. Her fiancé and many of her college friends from Starkville are now in the Jackson area.

For that reason, UMMC had an emotional pull on Mann, who has lived as far away as Miami and who worked for the last seven-plus years in Chapel Hill overseeing programs, events and newsletters centered on students' and their families' needs.

"It's similar to working in alumni affairs," Mann said, "although the audience is a little different."

Still, her office will step up efforts to reach out to current students and young alumni as well, she said.

It is Mann's fondness for students that almost led her to a teaching career.

"But then I realized there are other opportunities to work closely with students; through policy, you can have a big impact on them as well."

At Mississippi State, she received another eye-opener that will serve her well in her new position here.

"I was in the Alumni Delegates Program, which connected students and alumni. It was then that I began to understand the valuable role alumni play in any institution by giving back.

"It meant a lot to me as an undergraduate student. We hope to provide those same experiences here at UMMC."

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## Mark Your Calendar for

### Upcoming Continuing Education Opportunities :

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#### Friday, Feb. 13

##### American Dental Association Give Kids a Smile Day

**8 a.m.-noon**

School of Dentistry Clinics

#### Tuesday, Feb. 24

##### School of Dentistry Research Day

**8 a.m.**

Guest speaker, room R153

**10-11:30 a.m.**

Poster presentations and poster judging, Norman C. Nelson Student Union gymnasium

**11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Award luncheon, Norman C. Nelson Student Union

#### Friday, Feb. 27

##### American College of Dentists White Coat Ceremony

**6 p.m.**

UMMC Conference Center at the Jackson Medical Mall  
Thad Cochran Center

#### Thursday, April 16

##### John H. Hembree Honor Society Banquet

Time and location to be determined

#### Friday, April 24

##### Dental Alumni and Friends

**6:30 p.m.**

Cocktails

**7:15 p.m.**

Dinner

Old Capitol Inn in Jackson

#### Thursday, May 7

##### Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society Banquet

Time and location to be determined

#### Friday, May 8

##### Mississippi Dental Association Senior Honors Banquet

**6 p.m.**

Marriott Hotel Downtown, Jackson

#### Friday, May 22

##### Commencement

**10 a.m.**

Mississippi Coliseum