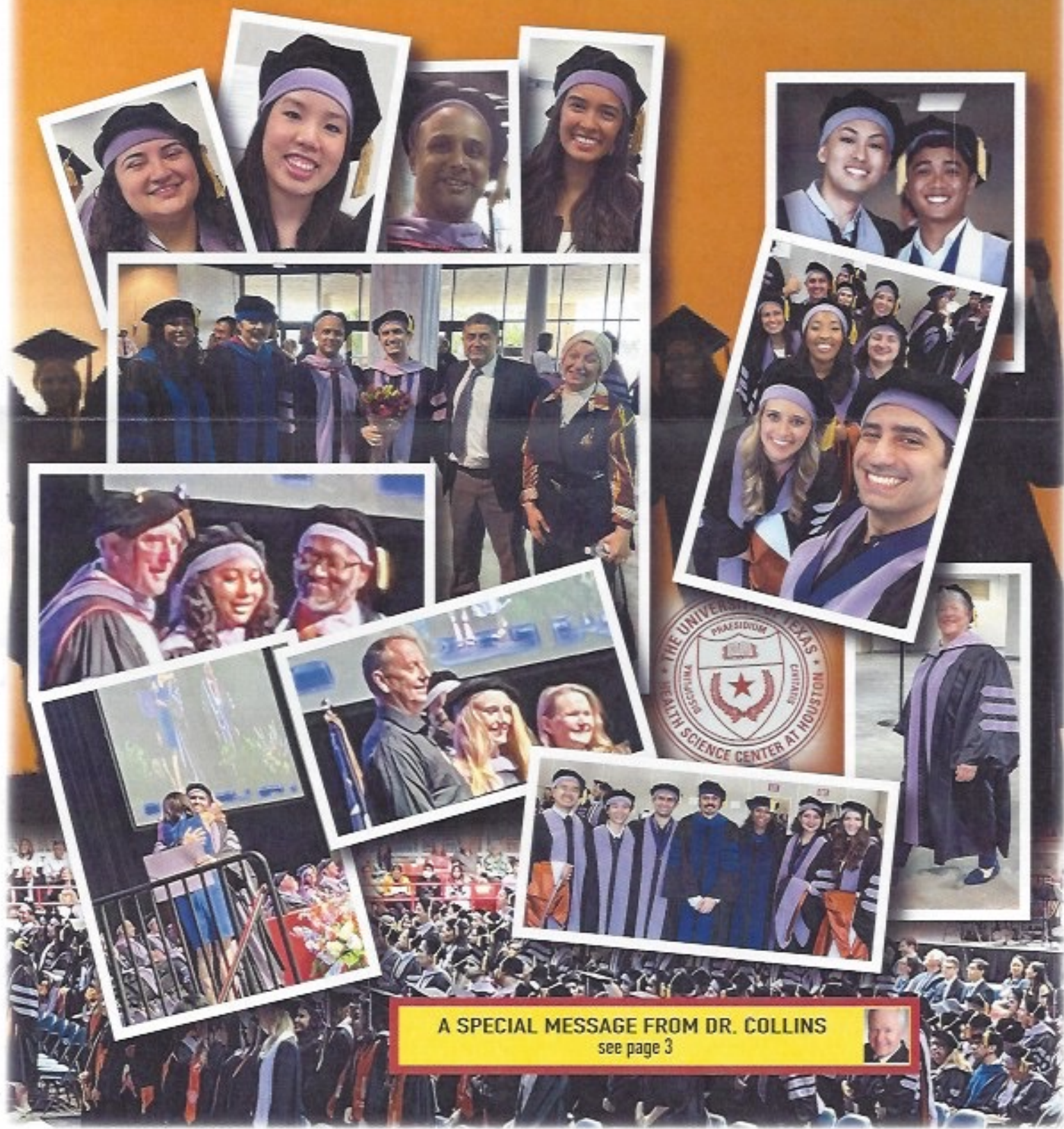


Bonds & Bridges

a newsletter from The Alumni Association, University of Texas School of Dentistry, Summer 2023

**The Class of 2023 Graduates.
Welcome the Newest UTSD Alumni!**



A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM DR. COLLINS
see page 3



Dr. Wayne Radwanski Starts A New Life Chapter

It's mid-morning and Dr. Wayne Radwanski is reeling from his retirement party held the previous evening. After 41 years in dentistry, he's sold his practice and is starting a new life chapter. But new dental commitments await while he plans a summer of fun. "What can I say?" he chuckles. "I'm just a guy who can't say no."



Radwanski looks forward to a road trip, a pleasure he hasn't experienced since 1976. He and his wife, Linda, will drive to see family on the west coast before returning through Colorado to visit friends. He also will fish and ride the waves of Lake Travis in his 45' yacht, *Dream Catcher*. Balancing rest and relaxation will be mentorship projects at The Koos Dental Education Center in Seattle and duties as Texas Division of The American College of Dentists vice president and TSBDE Advisory Committee on Dental Anesthesia chairman.

The second of six siblings, Radwanski spent his early childhood in Pensacola before moving with his family to Houston in 1968. He graduated in 1970 from Sharpstown High School, noting that fellow alumnus Dr. Duc "Duke" Ho also studied there. He then joined the US Coast Guard, serving in the North Atlantic on board the USGC Taney, a vessel famous for surviving the WWII attack at Pearl Harbor.

As he sailed the seas, Radwanski developed a new hobby, making small wooden carvings. He relates the learned skills to those required in dentistry. "I used my hands much in the same way I would as when I work in people's mouths."

While on leave in Jamaica, Radwanski met someone whose efforts intrigued and inspired him to help others in lands near and far. An American dentist had constructed a makeshift clinic on the shore. "He was from Connecticut and recently graduated," recalls Radwanski. "There he was, in the hot sun, working hard to give people relief. Many patients had been chewing sugar cane and developed issues with their teeth. He was the one who ignited my passion for dentistry, and, sadly, I don't even know his name."

Not long after that experience, during a 1974 camping trip on the beaches of South Padre Island, Radwanski met his future bride, Linda. He and his Australian buddy rescued Linda and her friend as their car wedged in the sand. "Yep," he smiles, "they actually got stuck a few times. We dug out that car more than once." He married Linda later that year.

Radwanski next pursued higher education, studying biology and chemistry at Southwest Texas State University from 1975-78, and then attending the University of Texas School of Dentistry (Group D), graduating in 1982. He moved to Austin and, in 1983, opened his private practice, South Austin Dental. During the following years, both his patient base and family grew. He proudly refers to a certificate presented to him by former patient, Senator John Cronyn.



With Linda and four daughters in tow, Radwanski became like the American dentist in Jamaica, traveling abroad to provide care for those in need. From 1992-2013, he also visited Panama, Nicaragua, and Guatemala more than 15 times in Christian medical missions. In 2007, he received the American Dental Association's service award for his achievements. "I'd take the girls with me, and they would watch me in action," he says. "But, unlike many families with generations of dentists, my daughters chose different career fields. Maybe the image of their dad sweating and yanking teeth in the jungles wasn't very glamorous." He laughs.

Radwanski again found a special calling, one made possible through St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Austin. Already a spiritual leader at the parish, he started in 1999 and continues through today assisting Kairos prison ministry. In 2005, he was named president of Kairos of Texas Liaison Hughes Unit and then Kairos chairman, 2010-15, for the Hughes Unit maximum security area.

Mentoring UT-Austin pre-dental students is another way Radwanski gives of himself. "It's neat to see people get fired up about dentistry," he comments. "Once I had three students working with me in the office. It was challenging but very rewarding. I highly encourage veteran dentists to become mentors." Radwanski still teaches twice yearly at The Koos Dental Center in Seattle.

Reuniting annually with UTSD Class of 1982 (Group D) friends is near and dear to Radwanski. He enjoys hosting them on his yacht and rooting together for the Longhorns. He proudly supports his Alma Mater as a UTSD Alumni Association board member (2013-present) and member of the Texas Exes Association and UT Longhorn Foundation.

Radwanski remains active, assuming leadership roles in numerous dental organizations. He has been named CADS Dentist of the Year in 1999 and 2005 and Manos de Cristo Clinic Volunteer of the Year in 1997. He contributes to dentistry development,

A Message from the UTSDAA President

I recently asked the board of directors to revisit our mission and vision asking them to "think outside the box". I also asked each member to think about the following three areas when it comes to reasons why the Alumni Association exists.

The three questions I asked us to answer were:

Who are we?

And most importantly,

What do we do?

Why do we do what we do?

The first question seemed easy enough and it was generally agreed that we are an organization of graduates of The University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston. Officially our name is The University of Texas School of Dentistry Alumni Association. However, an evolution of names for the dental school has included the University of Texas Dental Branch (UTDB), the University of Texas School of Dentistry (UTSD), the UT Health Houston School of Dentistry and most recently suggested the UT Health Science Center School of Dentistry at Houston. We also use the abbreviated name UTSD Alumni Association. Although we are a separate independent association, we do work with the school's office of Alumni Affairs on numerous events for the benefit of students.

The second question was answered by a long list of supporting accomplishments:

FOR STUDENTS

White Coat Ceremony

Student orientations

Senior Socials

Special events (e.g., crayfish boils)

Dental Proms

Senior Awards

Table Clinics

Senior Veteran graduation sashes

Student delegates/alternates to TDA

Vendor Fairs

Student Scholarships

Golf Tournaments

Job offering connections

FOR ALUMNI

Class Reunions

Financial Support to the school
from the Founder's Fund

Continuing Education

Newsletter "Bonds & Bridges"

Member's data base

Booth at the Star of the

Website management

South/TDA convention

Public Relations

ADA/TDA Alumni Reception

Table clinics

Job Board on the website

Distinguished Alumnus of the Year

Recognition of Deceased Alumni

at the annual Gala

Answering the third question could be consolidated simply as:

We do, what we do, because we are an organization that cares about our graduates and our profession.

Yes, we support our school, graduates and students in many ways wishing to graduate the finest dentists possible. Graduates become practicing dentists as well as teachers, administrators, researchers, service members and others. Many become respected leaders throughout our profession. Additionally, there is something in the ongoing relationships with our peers that forms a special bond of fellowship-often for a lifetime. I think for most of us as alumni we do what we do because we indeed care about our profession and we want it to continue to be, if not the finest, at least one of the finest professions there is. Whether you are a student pursuing graduation, a recent graduate or a longer-term alumnus, I want to encourage you to continue staying connected to your professional family in our association. Without your continued membership we cannot remain a viable organization.

As an association we cannot hope to be who we are, do what we do, and believe in why we do it, unless we support our organization. That is why I encourage you to be a continuing member, at least at the minimum level of membership, to sustain our Alumni Association for the next generations of our professional family.

Ron Collins DDS
Class of 1971



UTSD Alumni Association Board of Directors

Dr. Ron Collins, *President*

Dr. Elizabeth Hunsaker, *President-Elect*

Dr. Carol Price Dupuis, *Secretary/Treasurer*

Dr. David Fray,

Immediate Past President

Directors-at-Large

Dr. Matthew Franzen

Dr. Lynn Hammond

Dr. Karen Walters

Tricia Fullerton, *Executive Director*

Kathy Zwiag, *Assistant Executive Director*

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Upcoming Events

September 22-23, 2023

Lone Star Dental Conference

Georgetown, Texas

October 5-7, 2023

ADA Meeting

Orlando, Florida

November 17, 2023

"Dinner with Friends"

Distinguished Alumnus Award



Contact your Alumni Association for Class Reunions in 2023

In Memoriam

1961

John E. Weatherford

1964

Bob W. Holland

1965

John M. Stovall, Jr.

1967

Claude W. Eddy

1968

Joe J. Dusek
James W. Orr

1971

Richard D. Rowntree

1977/79

Daryl W. York

Chew on These Fun Facts!



Fighter Sharks



The iconic, toothy-shark nose art decorating A-10 Thunderbolt Attack Aircraft can be found on planes in the 74th and 75th Fighter Squadrons of the 23rd Fighter Group. As well, shark designs are featured on the noses of aircraft in the 76th Fighter Squadron, once part of the 23rd Fighter Group but now included in a Reserve unit at Moody Air Force Base.



"Crooked Teeth"

"Crooked Teeth," a song released in 2005 by indie rock band Death Cab for Cutie, tells the tale of a couple trapped in a dead-end relationship. The lyrics, "...made the skyline look like crooked teeth in the mouth of a man devouring us both," were inspired by the stories of writer/poet Raymond Carver.

Dr. Radwanski continued from page 2

serving as a board member for Paratus Diagnostics (diagnostic materials for periodontal disease), crafting articles for the Texas Dental Journal, and presenting to the Capital Area Dental Society on dental office fraud.

Although Radwanski is now retired, he certainly isn't slowing the pace. He dedicates himself wholeheartedly to his family, profession, and passions. Whether it's traveling by land or sea, mentoring young dentists, improving the lives of patients, or ministering inmates, he approaches his projects with gusto. With Radwanski, "yes" is always the answer.

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