

Bonds & Bridges

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

UTSD students receive their White Coats as they get one step closer to their Dental Careers



You may recognize these six UTSD students. They were featured in the Winter 2022 edition of *Bonds and Bridges*. The Pruitt, Hunsaker, and Pruneda siblings represent the long tradition of dentistry as a family legacy.



Dr. Bonham Magness: An Orthodontist for the Ages



With 60-plus years of teaching service in the UTSD, Professor W. Bonham Magness, DDS, has many stories to tell. The 90-year-old's eyes twinkle as he recounts his personal journey from star high school athlete to award-winning orthodontist.

Magness grew up in Vernon, Texas, a small town near Wichita Falls. As the son of a mail carrier, the boy admired and emulated his father's strong work ethic and Lutheran morals. He dedicated himself to his studies and sports, placing among the state's elite in both golf and basketball.

Magness' grandfather, a "horse and buggy" doctor in Honey Grove, Texas, introduced him to the medical field. "He'd go out to make a house call and would return with a sack of potatoes," he reminisces with a chuckle, detailing how payment and practices changed over the years.

Then, in 1950, shortly after high school graduation, Magness' life shifted dramatically. His beloved father unexpectedly died of a heart attack. The youth moved in with his uncle's family in Houston, helping at their hardware store and delivering newspapers to cover expenses at San Angelo College. He

saved his money and dreamed of pursuing graduate studies in dental school.

It was his uncle who devised a plan to turn Magness' vision into a reality. He arranged for his nephew to assist Dr. Marcus Murphey, a local orthodontist. Young Magness soon would be admitted and taking daytime classes at the UT Dental Branch, making impressions and retainers for Dr. Murphey from 5 to 10 p.m., and then connecting with a classmate in Bellaire to study into the wee hours.

"There were 60 in our class," shares a smiling Magness. "The clinic was upstairs. I remember we kept our books, models, and instruments in gunner boxes. We dragged those boxes up and down the stairs. It definitely was different from nowadays."

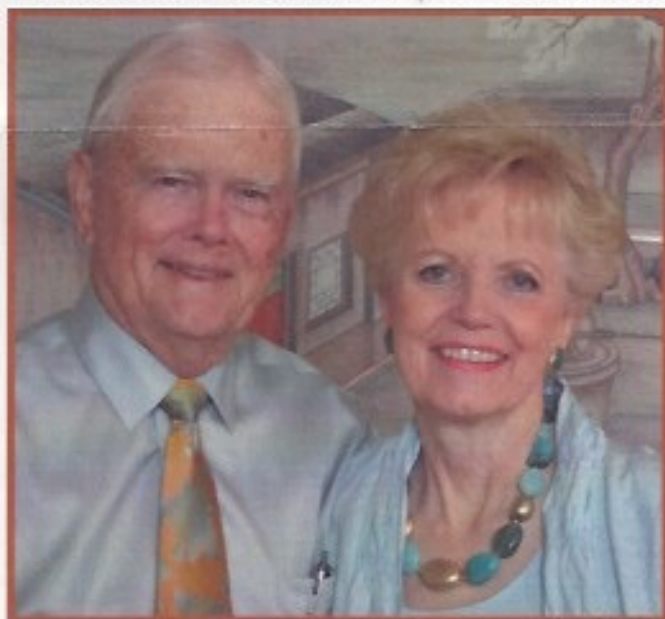
Upon dental school graduation in 1956, Magness would make more dramatic life changes. He married the love of his life, Marcille, a family friend and church mate from Trinity Lutheran. "We attended Sunday evening services together. I thought she was very pretty and sang beautifully," he comments with a loving look toward his wife sitting next to him. "I'm so lucky she's been by my side all of these years."

Also at this time, Professor A.P. Westfall, offered Magness the opportunity to advance and study orthodontics. Excited by the invitation, yet acknowledging economic limitations, Magness requested a delay of two years. He enlisted for a two-year commission in the United States Air Force, intending to apply salary funds to the tuition. Westfall agreed to the postponement.

At Lackland AFB, Magness and seven others examined nearly 15,000 new recruits and enlistees per month. Many soldiers had never visited a dentist. Magness recalls writing weekly to Westfall, routinely thanking him and requesting advice. He shakes his head and sighs. "Some of those men had only four teeth in their heads. They were so anxious. They didn't know about dental hygiene or what to expect. I made it my job to comfort and educate them."

To decompress after work, Magness enjoyed playing golf for free at the Lackland course. Always the exceptional athlete, he won an Armed Forces Tournament, beating competitors from all military branches.

Magness completed his service, returned to Houston, and, with four other graduate students, attended Westfall's orthodontics program. He recalls traveling and presenting before the American Board of



Orthodontics. To be considered, he was required to illustrate his most complex projects by using 15 models. He shares that, since he had no easy way to transport the models through the airport, he stuffed them into a gun case. With a hearty chuckle, he laughs about the airport security agents' surprised faces when opening the gun case and discovering not a weapon but orthodontic models.

Over the years, Magness' name became synonymous with orthodontic excellence. He was now teaching at UTSD and practicing at his office in Houston's far west side. In his forties, he was the youngest to ever serve on the American Board of Orthodontics. (He is now the oldest surviving member.) His award-winning article, "Begin with the End in Mind," chronicled the importance of conceptualizing final results in each patient's case before measuring and designing a course of action. He coined this method his "Visualized Treatment Objective."



Magness also received the prestigious Dale Wade Award, a national honor recognizing clinical expertise and patient treatment. He notes that he is always conscientious of his patients' feelings and ensures their trust and comfort.

The orthodontics graduate program has evolved throughout Magness' tenure. He emphasizes the increasing popularity of the field. "We now receive some 300 to 400 applications for only seven spots. And there are many women studying to become orthodontists. Before, we would only see men." He then proudly

acknowledges the Yellen-Schoverling Award, which he helped establish to honor outstanding graduates.

To stay current, Magness enjoys getting to know the residents and learning the latest technology. He credits his son, Marc, also an orthodontist, for assisting him with computer applications for treatment.

Family life is paramount for Magness. He beams with happiness while looking at photos of himself with Marcille, Marc, and daughters Marlene and Mary Lynn. That, along with his profession, fulfills him. "Being a dentist is so rewarding," he says. "It is a gift we can give to the people. And it's the best feeling in the world to see a satisfied patient return."

Marcille summarizes with a witty observation. "When Bonham comes home from work, he's tired but happy. When he comes home from golf, he's tired but grumpy. We're all happier when he's working."

There are countless many happier by knowing Dr. Bonham Magness. He continues improving smiles to this day.

Contact your Alumni Association for Class Reunions in 2023.



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2023 Events

- 6:00 pm, March 30, 2023
Senior Social
- April 6, 2023
Cinderella
Cooley Conference Center
- April 14, 2023
Casino Night
ASDA Social Event
- May 4-6, 2023
Texas 2023 Meeting
- 6:00-7:30 pm, Friday, May 5, 2023
UTSD Alumni Reception
San Antonio, TX
- 10:00 am, Friday May 19, 2023
2023 UTHHealth School of Dentistry Graduation
NRG Arena, One NRG Park
Houston, TX 77054
- August 2023
CE Course
Date and Place TBA
- September 22-23, 2023
Lone Star Dental Conference
Texas Dentist of the Year/Texas New Dentist of the Year
Georgetown, Texas
- October 5-7, 2023
SmileCon
Orlando, Florida
- November 2023
"Dinner with Friends"
Distinguished Alumnus Award

In Memoriam

Class of 1958

Dr. Fred F. Simmons

Class of 1959

Dr. B. Brooks Goldsmith

Class of 1960

Dr. Henry C. Moeller, Jr.

Class of 1961

Dr. Marvin L. Flosi

Class of 1962

Dr. Dom "Tony" Singletary

Class of 1969

Dr. Richard "Dick" Mogle

Class of 1992

Dr. Scott P. Musslewhite

Class of 2012

Dr. Brandon M. Braud

Chew on These Fun Facts!



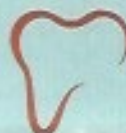
Jewels for Royalty

Queen Victoria of England commemorated her nine children in a unique way—she commissioned and wore jewelry embedded with their baby teeth. When her eldest daughter lost a tooth while vacationing in Scotland, the queen incorporated the dental gem into a golden brooch fashioned like a thistle. Other royal offsprings' teeth were molded into floral-shaped earrings and bracelets.



Straight From the Horse's Mouth

Horses can have receding gums just like humans. As the equines age, their gums recede and expose more of the dental roots. This is associated with the origin of the expression "long in the tooth" to describe someone old.



Olympic Gold or Dentistry?

While Olympian Mark Spitz made a huge splash in 1972 headlines for wearing only his gold medals, skimpy Speedo, and brushy mustache in an iconic poster, the competitive swimmer dreamed of becoming a dentist. He was accepted into dental school in the spring of that year but eventually chose a career in television as his popularity soared.

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