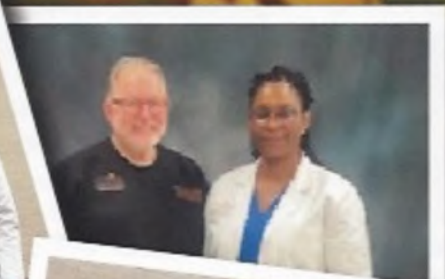


Bonds & Bridges

a newsletter from The Alumni Association, University of Texas School of Dentistry, Spring 2022

Your UTSD Alumni Association Honors an Illustrious Past and Celebrates the Renewal Spring 2022 Brings.



Meet Sal Salazar, DDS/MS



see story on page 2

UTDB Class of 1960...

After a Distinguished Career, Sal Salazar Now Uses His Dental Skills to Build Intricate Model Ships



sometimes work until my hands are tired. I'd really like to build a Titanic model next."

The middle of six children, Dr. Salazar was born in San Antonio, Texas, to Mexican immigrants, a bus driver and a homemaker. He was determined from an early age to attend college in spite of financial and cultural obstacles. As a teen, he forged an agreement with a friend to drive him outside of his neighborhood to Jefferson High School, where he pursued an academically rigorous curriculum. Upon graduation, he earned money unloading cargo at the Piggly Wiggly and started classes at San Antonio College. In 1950, while the Korean Conflict developed, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. He was stationed in Illinois, where he learned pharmacy technician skills. He was then deployed to Japan for two years of service in the pharmacy of a large tanker.

After completing his service in 1954, Dr. Salazar attended St. Mary's University with the desire to enter dental school. To help pay for his education, he unloaded trucks at Brown Express. Just shy of three credits from obtaining a chemistry degree, he was accepted into the University of Texas Dental Branch (UTDB) in 1956. He moved to Houston and was soon joined by his young wife, Dolores, and their first child. He worked evenings and weekends as a lab technician at St. Joseph's Hospital, and Dolores worked at Macy's. Dolores' father then gifted the couple a used car, citing the proverb, "Gold and money can go away, but a good education can never decay."

"My good friend, Dr. Frank Santos, who also lives now in San Antonio and attended UTSD, drove with me to take our boards," reminisces Dr. Salazar. "We were so spoiled in the new, air-conditioned school in Houston. The Baylor facility in Dallas didn't have that luxury. We were worried that our wax teeth impressions would melt in the heat!"

Dr. Salazar graduated from UTDB in 1960. Now with two children, he and Dolores took to Refugio, Texas, where he tried unsuccessfully to start a dental practice. With loans and the financial needs of a growing family

Cervando "Sal" Salazar, DDS/MS, has always been recognized for being precise, meticulous, and methodical. Even at 90 years old, he still addresses life and projects with a studious approach. Nowadays the retiree routinely wears his magnifying glasses and uses his orthodontic instruments to carefully construct minute details on model ships in his private collection. Indeed many of the projects take more than a year to create.

A quiet, thoughtful man, Dr. Salazar reflects on the depth and scope of his hobby. "As a boy, I would build model airplanes. Now that I'm retired and my wife has passed, I have a lot of free time. The ship models are so much larger and require tremendous focus. I'll



Endowment Fund Scholarships Awarded



Congratulations to the recipients of the UTSD Alumni Association Endowment Fund Scholarships for first-year dental students: Haya Alani, Allison Day, Nour Hilal, Emma Pickup, Sarah O'Connor, Jeffrey Orchard, Shreyas Suresh, and Cara Zou.

Dr. Salazar *continued*

he decided to re-enter the Air Force, serving as a military dentist in California, the Aleutian Islands, and then back again to California at Hamilton Air Force Base in Novato. He ascended through the ranks, eventually becoming a colonel. And, while he enjoyed his role, he again was called to dentistry, this time specifically to orthodontic practice. Now with four children in tow, Dr. Salazar and Dolores once again returned to Houston in 1968, fully determined and aware of the sacrifices necessary to turn this dream into reality. In 1970, the dream was fulfilled. Dr. Salazar, the only Hispanic in his class, became one of Texas' first Hispanic orthodontists.

That year, Dr. Salazar started practicing orthodontics in an office near San Antonio's Lackland Air Force Base. He continued his work until his retirement in 2011 and tended to Dolores who had taken ill before she passed.

The soft-spoken Dr. Salazar has inspired younger generations of family and friends to attain college degrees and pursue medical vocations. Because of his influence, there are relatives with careers in dentistry, geriatrics, and family medicine. "Any time I can, I push the value of education," he says. "If I can make a difference in the life of a young person, I consider myself lucky."

From correcting and improving patients' teeth to encouraging youth to achieve lofty goals to creating replicas of ornate shipping vessels, Dr. Salazar certainly leaves a broad legacy in his wake.



UTSD Alumni Association Board of Directors

Dr. David Fray, *President*
Dr. Ron Collins, *President-Elect*
Dr. Liz Hunsaker, *Vice-President*
Dr. Carol Price-Dupuis, *Secretary/Treasurer*
Dr. David Gonzales,
Immediate Past President
Directors-at-Large
Dr. Matthew Franzen
Dr. Lynn Hammond
Dr. Karen Walters
Tricia Fullerton, *Executive Director*

Bonds and Bridges is a publication of
The Alumni Association, UTSD
P.O. Box 56667
Houston, TX 77256
.....

Upcoming Events

May 14
Graduation
Minute Maid Park
Houston, Texas

July (exact date TBD)
CE Program
Breaking the Cycle
Human Trafficking Training
for Dental Professionals

August (exact date TBD)
White Coat Ceremony
Class of 2025

October 13-17
ADA Annual SmileCon Convention
UTSD Alumni Association Reception
GRB Convention Center
Houston, Texas

October (exact date TBD)
Senior Social
Class of 2023

November 4, 2022
"Dinner with Friends"
Distinguished Alumnus of the Year
Announcement

In Memoriam

¹⁹⁴⁶
William L. Glenn, Jr.

¹⁹⁴⁷
James Quincy Barnes

¹⁹⁶³
James F. Fairleigh, III

¹⁹⁶⁴
Noel W. Giesecke

¹⁹⁶⁸
James Q. Barnes

¹⁹⁷³
Jack E. Burroughs

¹⁹⁸⁵
Billy L. Powell, Jr.

¹⁹⁹⁵
Blake G. Sinclair

Chew on These Fun Facts!



Swamp Chomp

The Saltwater Crocodile is the animal with the strongest bite force—37,000 pounds per square inch. Humans can only generate a bite force of approximately 200 pounds per square inch.



Brace Yourself

Aulus Cornelius Celsus, an ancient Roman, is the first documented orthodontist. He reported his success to straightening teeth by applying pressure with his hands at regular intervals.



Smile for the Camera

Edgar Buchanan, famous for playing Uncle Joe Carson in 1960s television sitcoms Petticoat Junction, Green Acres, and The Beverly Hillbillies, left his dental practice in 1939 after receiving his first movie role and pursuing a full-time acting career. His wife, Mildred, a fellow graduate of North Pacific College (now Oregon Health & Science University School of Dentistry), took over the business.



73 P1 757
Dr. Leslie O. Fullerton
14 Greenway Plz # 30C
Houston, TX 77046-1400

NON PROFIT
POSTAGE
US POSTAGE
PAID
HOUSTON, TX
PERMIT 833

P.O. Box 56667
Houston, Texas 77256

ALUMNI
association
ntsd