

# Bonds & Bridges

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

**A Time for Celebration and Honoring  
UTSD Alumni...and Just Having Some  
Well-Earned and Much-Needed Fun!**



**Congratulations!**  
**Dr. Jennine Huet**

UTSD Alumni Association Distinguished Alumnus 2021



Meet Dr. Huet on Page 2



## Distinguished Alumnus of 2021...

### ***Dr. Jennine Huet Serves Her Patients, Her Country and the World***

The time: 1985. Jennine Huet was mustering out of active duty in the US Army with a nice bonus that many of her peers were putting toward continuing their education. Jennine bought a motorcycle.

Jennine never planned go to college and thanks to the training she got in the military, she had the skills to get a good job. When she signed up in 1983 to, as she says, "make enough money to pay her bills," Jennine passed on the clerical training. (She says she still can't type.) Instead, she signed up to train as a dental lab technician. She could not at that moment have known how that one decision would ultimately change her life, leading her to the ends of the earth and her selection as the UTSD Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumnus for 2021.

Back in 1985, Jennine was happy to take her motorcycle to her new job as an assistant in a dental clinic. She was good at her job. Dentists noticed the talented young woman and began to convince her to raise her sights. Her mentors, prime among them Dr. Billy Ray Clitheroe, made sure she believed in herself and encouraged her to continue her education and ultimately go to UTSD for her DDS.



Dr. Jennine Huet cares for patients on the island of Tarawa in 2019 as part of the Christian Dental Society mission. Her next trip will be to Guatemala in April. Her international service combines her love of travel with service to others.

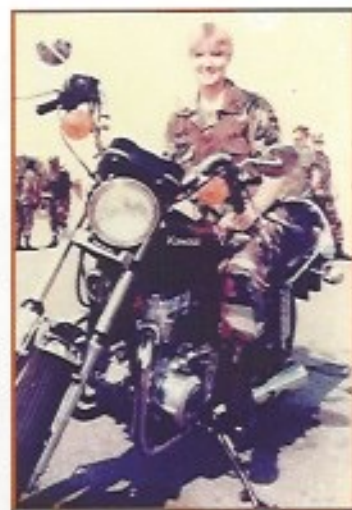


One of her most memorable trips was in 2019 to Tarawa, a desperately poor island in the Pacific Ocean. Most houses there are best described as huts with no proper walls and no bathrooms. The people are vegetarians because the plentiful fish, which could sustain them, are contaminated by human waste. Dr. Huet and her colleagues brought their own equipment, set up outdoor clinics, and provided dental care for the islanders.

Dr. Huet tries to make at least one CDS mission trip each year. She is scheduled to go to Guatemala in April. This trip will be special because her daughter Annie, herself a dentist, and her son Marc, an IT specialist, will be going with her.

Dr. Huet also serves closer to home. She participates in Texas Missions of Mercy. The Texas Dental Association outreach program sponsors pop-up dental clinics throughout Texas. Each pop-up can served as many as 800 patients in a week. Dr. Huet says she tries to limit her involvement in this project to locations within easy driving distance from her home in suburban Houston. Of course, she considers "easy driving distance" to be four to five hours on the road.

In all she does, your 2021 Distinguished Alumnus, Dr. Jennine Huet, has proven that she puts few limits on herself or on her dedication to her profession and those she serves.







## UTSD Students Are Keeping It All in The Family

Dentistry may not be the first profession that one thinks of as a family affair, but being a dentist just seems to run in some families. It doesn't take long to discover that's true. Talk to almost any dentist and you'll soon find their husband or wife, son or daughter, or even brother or sister is a dentist.

The current student body of the University of Texas School of Dentistry is making sure that tradition is upheld. Currently three sets of siblings are studying to take their place as dentists and proud UTSD graduates.



*UTSD Siblings, left to right, Chandler & Stanton Pruitt, Chance & Joyce Hunsaker, and Claudia & Natalie Pruneda*

## Annual White Coat Ceremony Will Honor Second-Year Students on Saturday, February 5

The White Coat Ceremony, a rite of passage for UTSD students, will be a bit different this year. Normally, the ceremony honors first-year students, but since the ceremony had to be cancelled last year due to Covid, second-year students will receive their prized white coats on February 5th.

Dr. Ken Horwitz, DDS, will speak on ethics and professionalism and lead the students in the dental oath.

Developed in 1998 by Les Fullerton, DDS, MSD, then Associate Dean of Continuing Education and Alumni Affairs, and UTSD Alumni Association members, the event honors students with fanfare and primes them for their career training and dental careers.

Approximately 100 students will receive the white coats featuring orange stitched monograms. Generously provided by the alumni association, the coats symbolize inclusion in a specialized network of professionals dedicated to honest and fair practice.

"When students wear these coats, they feel differently, behave differently," comments Dr. Fullerton. "This piece of clothing represents not only the individual but the entire collective of those committed to dental service."

The White Coat Ceremony was the first of its kind in the state of Texas when it began 23 years ago and was one of the first in the country. It is considered a model for similar programs around the country.

**Contact your Alumni Association for Class Reunions in 2022.**



### UTSD Alumni Association Executive Board

Dr. David Fray, *President*  
 Dr. Liz Hunsaker, *President-Elect*  
 Dr. Ron Collins, *Treasurer*  
 Dr. David Gonzales, *Immediate Past President*  
*Directors-at-Large*  
 Dr. Matthew Franzen  
 Dr. Carol Price-Dupois  
 Dr. Karen Walters

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 Tricia Fullerton, *Executive Director*

### Upcoming Events

February 5  
 White Coat Ceremony  
 Cooley Conference Room  
 UTHSC-School of Dentistry

March 4-5  
 Star of the South Meeting  
 Westin Galleria Hotel

March 4  
 UTSD Alumni Annual Luncheon  
 Place to be determined

April (*exact date TBA*)  
 Senior Social  
 Class of 2022

May 14  
 Graduation  
 Minute Maid Park  
 Houston, Texas

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

October (*exact date TBA*)  
 Senior Social  
 Class of 2023

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



## In Memoriam

1954

John F. Hanus

1956

Major Adolph F. Basse

1959

Richard G. Jetton

1961

Donald E. Hanna  
Willie H. Heitman

1964

Noel W. Giesecke

1966

Russell L. Bourquein

1968

Terry B. Bawcom

1969

Herbert (Herb) L. Wade

1976

Robert Shelton

1981

Coolridge Coleman, Jr.

## Chew on These Fun Facts!



### Giant Megalodon Tooth

*The largest verifiable megalodon tooth measures in at a whopping 7.48" long. Discovered in Ocucaje, Peru, the antiquity resides in a private South American collection.*



### Expensive Grill

*A diamond-and-gemstone-encrusted grill valued at \$1 million, worn by singer Katy Perry in her "Dark Horse" music video, is reputed to be the most expensive piece of mouth jewelry in existence. The intricate item is a design of Dr. William "Bill" Dorfman.*



### 80,000 Toothbrushes

*"Fastminar," a 40-foot tooth sculpture made of 80,000 toothbrushes is now noted in the Guinness World Records. The art piece, created by students attending Terna Dental College in Navi Mumbai, India, is the largest known representation of a body part.*



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