

Texas D1 Students Attend TDA Orientation Luncheons

TDA Financial Services Insurance Program sponsored D1 Orientation Luncheons at Texas A&M College of Dentistry in Dallas and UTHealth School of Dentistry in both Houston and San Antonio during the first week of August.

Local society members and staff, along with TDA Insurance staff members, welcomed the D1 students to the profession and organized dentistry. Members told personal stories about how they got involved in their state and local societies and shared available student resource information.

The D1 Orientation at the Woody L Hunt School of Dental Medicine in El Paso will be scheduled for the Fall. Visit <https://www.tdamemberinsure.com/> to learn more about the products offered for dentists, team members, and students! 📌

Texas A&M College of Dentistry in Dallas



TDA Perks General Manager Donovan Osio, Dr Partha Mukherji, Dr Gabby Dizon, and Dr Jon Vogel speaking to the D1 students at TAMUCOD.

UTHealth School of Dentistry Houston



Houston D1 students attend the TDA Orientation Luncheon.



Pictured at the D1 orientation lunch at the UTHealth School of Dentistry Houston are (L-R) Dr Sam Asthana, Dr Ron Hill, Ms Linda Estrada, Dr Matt Franzen, Dr Rita Cammarata, Dr Tommy Harrison, Dr Anna Munne, Dr Michelle Thompson, and Dr Eva Boldridge.



D1 Students gather for orientation lunch.

UTHealth School of Dentistry San Antonio



San Antonio D1 students attend the orientation lunch, sponsored by TDA Financial Services Insurance Program.



Dr Austin Lee, Dr Rich Potter, and TDA staff Rolando Guevara speak to D1 students in San Antonio.

COMPONENT CORNER

Each month, we aim to spotlight a state component society and the events happening in the area. For more information or to let us know what is happening in your TDA component society, please email Managing Editor Nicole Scott, nscott@tda.org.

SPOTLIGHT: Dallas County Dental Society

Dallas County Dental Society: Fluoride Town Hall

A fluoride town hall hosted by the Dallas County Dental Society (DCDS) on July 28 brought 120 dentists together virtually for an engaging discussion with Dr Johnny Johnson, president of the American Fluoridation Society. Dr Johnson shared clear, evidence-based insights on community water fluoridation, addressing common myths and providing tools for effective patient education. Attendees gained practical strategies to support informed conversations in their practices and communities. The interactive Q&A allowed participants to dive deeper into specific concerns and walk away with confidence in advocating for fluoride’s role in oral health. This event highlighted DCDS’s commitment to equipping members with science-driven resources and professional support.

SPOTLIGHT: Fort Worth District Dental Society

Fort Worth District Dental Society Installs New Officers

The Fort Worth District Dental Society (FWDDS) installed its 2025-26 officers on July 31 in Fort Worth. Approximately 50 members attended the event at the Taste Project Restaurant.

The new officers and directors are: President Dr James Fischer, President-elect Dr Nikki Green, Secretary-Treasurer Dr Francisco Nieves, Vice President Dr Gregory Luk, Immediate Past President Dr Dan Bekish, and Directors Dr Craig Harrison, Dr Keith Sonneveld, Dr Alex Fitzhugh, and Dr Raina Sorbarzo. 🇺🇸



The Fort Worth District Dental Society has a tradition of passing the silver President’s Cup to each incoming president. The silver cup was presented to FWDDS in 1923 by the Texas Dental Association and the names of each FWDDS president from 1921-1922 to 2025-2026. It is received this year by President Dr James Fischer.

We want to hear from your component society!

Have you met recently or had a membership event that might be of interest to your peers around the state?

Send the information to Managing Editor Nicole Scott, nscott@tda.org, and we will feature it in the next issue of the TDA Today.

Special Membership Awards Recognition Issue

July-August *Texas Dental Journal*

We hope you have enjoyed reading TDA members’ experiences and highlights in the special membership award recognition issue of the July-August 2025 *Texas Dental Journal*. Each year, we recognize current-year members for their continual membership and contributions to the Texas Dental Association (TDA) for the following categories: 10 years, Good Fellow (25 years), Life (30 years), 50 years, and 60 years.

In addition to recognition of the **current-year recipients** at the TDA House of Delegates in May 2025, the special issue features quotes and personal, professional, and membership experiences to further honor their involvement with TDA and within organized dentistry.



2025 Southwest Dental Conference



2026 SWDC Chairman Dr Tom Schlieve receives his chairman’s hat from 2025 Chairman Dr Gabby Dizon.

The 2025 Southwest Dental Conference brought together dental professionals from across Texas and beyond for 2 days of education, innovation, and community at the Hilton Anatole Dallas. Held August 22–23, the Dallas County Dental Society hosted 60 CE-accredited courses, a lively Exhibit Hall, and networking events that reflected this year’s theme: Elevating Dentistry: Excellence, Expertise, and Evolution.

Attendees explored topics from composites and implantology to anesthesia, infection control, and practice management. Renowned clinicians including Anthony Cardoza, Robert Margeas, and Thomas Viola drew packed lecture halls with their expertise and insight.

Outside the classroom, SWDC 2025 fostered connection through events such as Smiles and Snacks, alumni gatherings, and the Chairman’s Dinner, while exhibitors showcased products, demos, and practice-building solutions.

Special thanks to our exhibitors, sponsors, Silver Star Volunteers, and DCDS staff for making this year’s Conference a success. Mark your calendars for SWDC 2026, August 21-22 at the Hilton Anatole. 🇺🇸



The 2 day Exhibit Hall hosted 150 vendors.



Hands-on workshops encouraged skills that make a difference in everyday practice.



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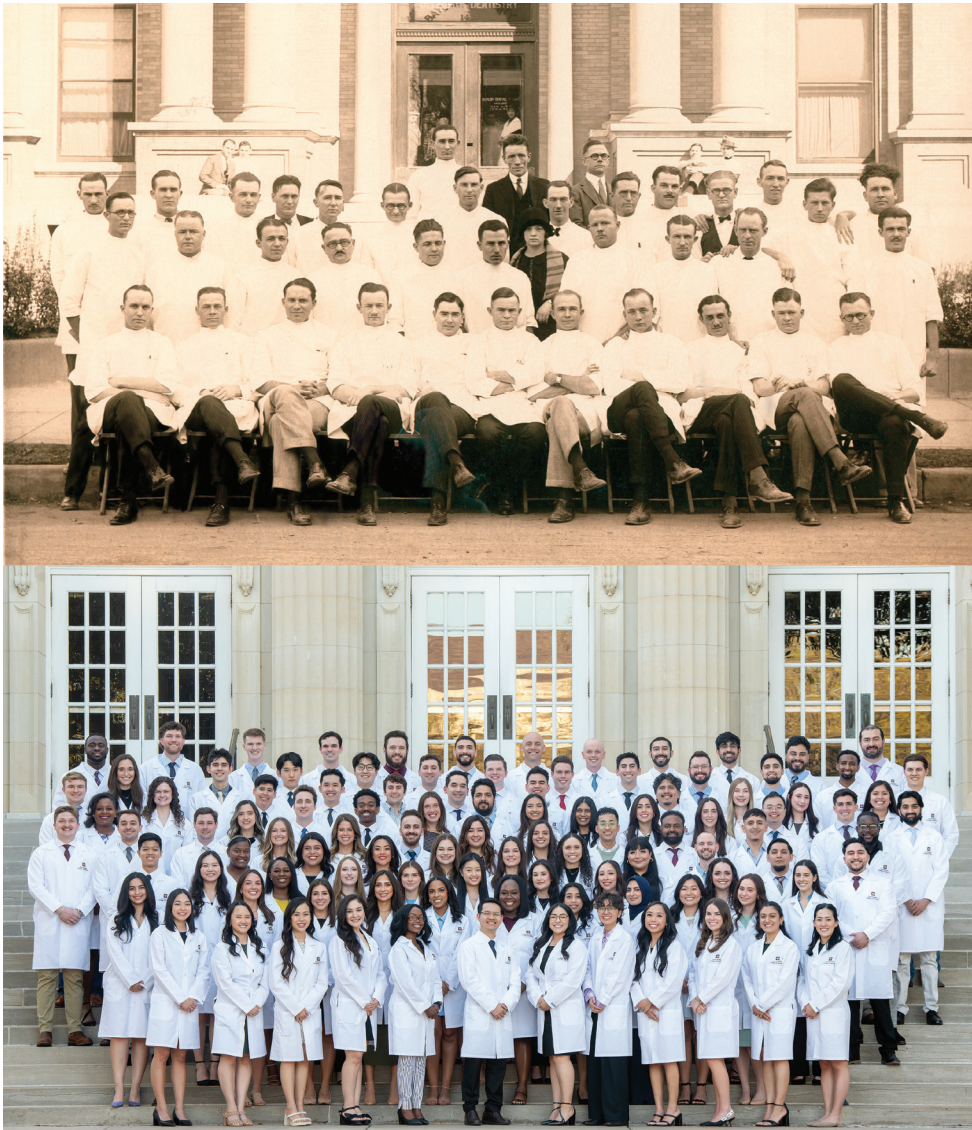
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Texas A&M University College of Dentistry Celebrates 120 Years of Dental Education



Pictured are the Classes of 1925 and 2025 for Texas A&M College of Dentistry in Dallas.

Texas A&M College of Dentistry in Dallas marks the end of its year-long 120th anniversary, which will culminate with a Boots & Burs celebration Friday, October 3, from 6-8 PM at Las Colinas Country Club in Irving.

Proceeds from the event will support 3 key initiatives: Expanding access to adult and pediatric dental care for underserved communities; supporting student mental health and wellness initiatives; and scholarships.

While it has operated under many names since it opened as State Dental College, Texas A&M College of Dentistry remains true to its mission of shaping the future of oral health through excellence in education, research and patient care.

Established as a private dental school, those first 40 students attended classes on the second and third floors of a downtown grocery store. The college graduated the

first class of dentists in the state of Texas in 1906. The 4 graduates—1 from Texas, 2 from what is now Oklahoma and 1 from Japan—completed the first 2 years of their dental education at other colleges.

Today, the dental college boasts nearly 600 dental, dental hygiene, graduate and specialty degree-seeking students. Dr Lily T. García, Class of 1984, returned to lead her alma mater in 2022 and has prioritized stability and morale with a people-centered approach, ensuring the college remains a leader in dental education.

“It all comes back to talent, culture and facilities,” García said. “They all play into and off each other.”

During the event in October, the college will recognize this year’s Distinguished Alumnus and Outstanding Young Alumnus. For more information, visit <https://tx.ag/BootsandBurs>. 



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