

Message from the Chairman

Richard Raad, DDS



The New Year brings time to reflect on the past and consider ways to improve in the future. I look upon the past year and have great memories of the PFA and all that was accomplished. I had the opportunity to visit the PFA National Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland on March 24-26, 2023. During my 3 day visit I had the pleasure of attending a leadership conference designed to develop skills we all have within us. I reflect on this as I call upon all PFA Fellows to be leaders; be a leader by bringing out the best in everyone you interact with, at the office with staff and patients, at home with family and friends. Become a mentor to recent dental school graduates and help to cultivate leaders within our profession.

Attending the Michigan Dental Association annual convention May 3-6, 2023, in Grand Rapids I had the honor of inducting a great class of new Fellows. These new Fellows are: **Dr. Peter Namou, Dr. James Karam, Dr. Linda Louise Dobis, Dr. Michelle Dziurgot, Dr. David Darany, Dr. Christopher Manduzzi, Dr. Darshika Shah, Dr. Elizabeth Knudsen and Dr. Rachel Sinacola.**

Looking forward to the New Year and my second year as our Section chair, my continued vision is to recognize all the great leaders within our profession. Again, I call upon all members of the PFA community to pass along worthy candidates that you feel should be recognized for their service as leaders and mentors. You can forward their names/bios by email to myself or any board member and we would be happy to start the induction process. Another pledge I made a year ago was to bring added value to our members. We've now sponsored 2 great CE seminars this past October/November. These seminars were provided free of charge to all current members and were well received! We, as a board, hope to continue with new CE offerings in '2024. As PFA members I again remind you to visit the PFA national website (www.fauchard.org) as a resource that is beneficial to all. There are great CE courses available (on leadership for e.g.) as well as many other resources. Check it out.

Congratulations to Dr. Ghabi Kaspo on his appointment as the Vice President-elect of the national PFA. I'm sure he will continue to serve the national PFA greatly with his vision. Good luck Dr. Kaspo

Finally, I must recognize the other members of our Michigan Section Board, who working behind the scenes, continue to offer great input to improve your Michigan PFA: **Dr. Michael Maihofer** (Editor), **Dr. William Berkowski** (Membership Chairman) and **Dr. Ben Underwood** (Treasurer). I am humbled to work alongside 3 great leaders serving the Michigan section and as always, we will continue to do our best to serve all our Fellows. Please feel free to contact me or any board member with any concerns you may have and most importantly if you have any interest in serving.



PFA Trustee, Ghabi Kaspo, Michigan Chair, Richard Raad inducted new Fellows Drs. Michael Zuroff, Donald Sherman, Tenzin Dadul and Romesh Nalliah at a special meeting last February.

News...

Our Michigan Section of the PFA will hold its **Spring Lunch Meeting** in conjunction with the 2024 MDA Annual Session in **Lansing**. Our meeting will take place at **11:00 a.m.** on **Saturday, April 20th** in the **Doubletree Hotel**. Several Michigan dentists will be inducted into PFA Fellowship at this meeting and we will also be honoring another five outstanding Michigan dentists with special PFA awards. All Fellows are encouraged to return their luncheon meeting attendance forms to our Treasurer, **Ben Underwood**, as soon as possible so we can have an accurate count for our meeting.

On Thursday, February 12, 2023, at a special meeting on metro-Detroit's west side, the following Michigan dentists were inducted into PFA Fellowship: **Drs. Michael Zuroff, Donald Sherman, Tenzin Dadul and Romesh Nailiah**. (See photo on page 1)

At our Spring Brunch Meeting in Grand Rapids, in April of last year, the following were inducted **Drs. Linda Louise Dobis, Rachel Sheridan Sinacola, Peter Namou, Christopher Manduzzi, James Karam, Darshika Shah, Elizabeth Knudsen and Michelle Dziurgot** into PFA Fellowship.

In keeping with the PFA's mission of recognizing outstanding dental professionals who have advanced our profession, our Michigan Section also bestowed four other special recognitions: **Dr Rogerio Castilho** of the University of Michigan, and **Dr. Ashish Patel** of the University of Detroit/Mercy –both faculty of their respective schools–received our Academy's *Special Appreciation Award* for their outstanding contributions to dental education. **Dr. Anantpreet Grewal** was the recipient of our *M. David Campbell New Dentist Award*. Additionally, **Dr. Margaret Gingrich** was honored with our 2022 *Joseph B. Harris Mentorship Award*.



Cheri Newman (L) and Richard Raad (R) with M. David Campbell New Dentist Award recipient, Dr. Anantpreet Grewal.



Dr. Bill Berkowski (L) presents the PFA Special Appreciation Award to University of Detroit School of Dentistry faculty member, Dr. Ashish Patel.



Deb Peters with new Fellow Rachel Sinacola



Dr. Richard Raad, Michigan Section Chair, with new Fellows: Linda Louise Dobis, Rachel Sheridan Sinacola, Peter Namou, Christopher J. Manduzzi, James J. Karam, Darshika Shah, Elizabeth Knudsen and Michelle Dziurgot



New Fellow, Dr. David Darany and Section Chair Richard Raad

Michigan Section Honors Scott Hodges DDS

With Joseph B. Harris Mentorship Award

The Michigan Section of the Pierre Fauchard Academy is proud to announce that it will honor **Dr. Scott Hodges** on Saturday, April 20th, during our Spring Lunch Meeting in Lansing. Scott Hodges DDS has continually distinguished himself throughout his professional career through his service to his profession in a variety of leadership roles. Those roles include dentist, dental educator and mentor and community advocate.



Uganda. Additionally, at home in Michigan, he has served as the Dental Chair for all four of the MDA Foundation's Missions of Mercy, often working tirelessly behind the scenes to keep patient care running smoothly.

Scott currently serves as an Adjunct Clinical Professor in the Graduate Endodontic Clinic at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry, as well as donates his clinical skills through the Donated Dental Services program, the Mel Trotter

Dental Clinic, Health Intervention Services and the Baxter Community Center.

Besides maintaining a large endodontic practice in Grand Rapids since 1988, Dr. Hodges has dedicated his life in service to others through his many mentoring roles including dental school instructor and patient outreach advocate.

Dr. Hodges has received a number of recognitions including the American Dental Association's Certificate of Recognition of Volunteer Service, the Michigan Dental Association's Public Service Award, the American Association of Endodontist's Lifetime Spirit of Service Award. Scott is a member of both the American and Michigan Association of Endodontists, the West Michigan Dental Society and the Pierre Fauchard Academy.

After serving two years (1986-1988) as a Staff Dental Officer in the U.S. Public Health Service in Arizona, Scott returned to Michigan to practice endodontics, but remained steadfast in his commitment to serving others. Over the past 35 years, Dr. Hodges has arranged, organized and participated in numerous dental mission trips to a variety of locations throughout the world. These have included multiple trips to Gyanna, multiple trips to Alaska, Lebanon, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Haiti, Ukraine and Costa Rica, Jordan and

In keeping with the mission of the Pierre Fauchard Academy of recognizing those individual who have made outstanding contributions to dentistry and service to the profession, our Michigan Section is proud to honor Dr. Scott Hodges with our Academy's prestigious, *Joseph B. Harris Mentorship Award*.

Plan to attend the
Michigan Section Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony

Saturday, April 20, 2024 at 11:00 am

at the Double Tree Hotel, Lansing

Reserve today!

Anyone interested in attending the lunch can RSVP via email at **underwbj@gmail.com** or see mail-in details on **page 5**.

M. David Campbell New Dentist Award

The M. David Campbell New Dentist Award was established by the Michigan Section to recognize a recent graduate who has been out of dental school for five or more years and has shown exceptional leadership in promoting our profession. The award is named in honor of past Michigan Section PFA Chair, past PFA Foundation President and student mentor, Dr. M. David Campbell.

Our Michigan Section is pleased to announce that **Dr. Daniel Miller** is this year's recipient of the *M. David Campbell New Dentist Award*. Dr. Miller received his DDS from the University of Detroit School of Dentistry in 2014 and then completed a General Practice Residency at St. Vincent Charity Medical Center in 2015. He served on the pediatric clinic faculty at the UDM School of Dentistry from 2015-2016. Dr. Miller received his Certificate in Pediatric Dentistry from NYU Langone-Southern California in 2018. He currently practices pediatric dentistry at Smile Dental Partners in Grand Rapids.



their Bulletin and currently serves as that publication's editor. Additionally he serves as a West Michigan Delegate to the Michigan Dental Association House of Delegates. For the MDA, Danny has served on numerous committees and taken on many responsibilities. These include participation on the MDA's Public Relations Advisory Committee, Government and Insurance Affairs Committee, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, as well as the MDA House Rules and Order Committee. He is a graduate of the MDA's

Danny has committed to serving his profession through a variety of roles through both his component society and the Michigan Dental Association. For the West Michigan District Dental Society he has served on the Editorial Committee of

Leadership, Exploration and Development Program and served on the MDA Foundation Board of Directors. Danny currently serves as a Ninth District (Michigan and Wisconsin) Delegate to the ADA House of Delegates.

Pierre Fauchard Foundation 2023 Award Recipients

The Pierre Fauchard Academy Student Award is given annually to a graduating student at each dental school.



Dr. Haley (Neal) Wilson is a recent graduate of the University of Michigan School of Dentistry. Originally from Jacksonville, FL, she earned her undergraduate degrees in Biology and Spanish from the University of Florida. She then went on to pursue dental training at her top choice program, U of M. Her father was largely her inspiration to pursue dentistry, as she saw the profession, its unique demands, challenges, and rewards demonstrated through him throughout her entire life. She continues to be his pupil in dentistry and life, as he instilled in her a sense of integrity and a passion for serving others.

During her time at U of M, she represented her class and served on the executive board for the schoolwide Honor System Review Committee with an aim to foster a culture of honesty and ethical decision-making among her peers. Her dental training sparked an interest in oral and maxillofacial surgery, which she pursued through leadership roles in the Oral Surgery Student Association, participation in an elective course that permitted extensive surgical experience with OMFS residents and faculty and serving on the planning consortium for the Women in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Leadership Symposium in 2022 and 2023. Following graduation, she joined a private practice in Dallas, TX where she focuses on cosmetic and restorative dentistry. Haley expresses her sincere gratitude to the Pierre Fauchard Academy for their recognition and continued support of new dental professionals through the *Pierre Fauchard Foundation Award*.



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Michigan Section Honors Dr. Christopher Smiley with Distinguished Dentist Award

The Pierre Fauchard Academy's Distinguished Dentist Award is given at the President's discretion to Fellows of the Academy who's actions and deeds reflect the highest examples of honorary dental service be it directly for the Academy, the community, education, mentorship and/or philanthropy. This year our Michigan Section is proud to announce that Dr. Christopher Smiley will receive this award during our breakfast meeting on April 20, 2024.

Dr. Chris Smiley has had a very remarkable career working for and advocating for our profession. After graduating from the University of Michigan with a BS in Biology in 1982, he went on to receive his DDS from Marquette University in Wisconsin in 1986. He then began working with his father who had an established dental practice in Grand Rapids. It certainly wasn't long after that that Chris began getting actively involved with his district dental society. Through the 1990's and early 2000's Chris took on a variety of roles for the West Michigan Dental Society. These included serving as Membership Co-Chair, then as a member of West Michigan's Task Force on Managed Care, their Legislative Committee, their Market Place Issues Task force, Editor of their Bulletin and even component president. He also served as either a delegate or alternate for West Michigan to the MDA House of Delegates during that period.

But his service to our profession would never stop there and Dr. Smiley continued to take on a large variety of roles for both the Michigan and American Dental Association. For the MDA, Chris has served as a member of the Committees on Annual Session, Dental PAC Board of Governors and the Committee on Governmental Affairs. He's served on the MDA Board of Trustees, been a contributing columnist and Journal Reviewer, as well as editor of the *Journal of the Michigan Dental Association*. Chris



was also a very valuable contributor to the MDA's COVID Response Workgroup facilitating Michigan's dentists return to work during the pandemic.

It can seem overwhelming when you begin to list some of Dr. Smiley's contributions and service to the American Dental Association. Besides serving multiple years as a delegate or alternate to the ADA House of Delegates, he's served as a member, consultant and even Chair of the Council on Dental Benefit Programs, as well as a member of the Evidence Based Dentistry Board Advisory Committee and has been recognized as an ADA Evidence- Based Dentistry Champion. As

such he's organized, moderated and chaired several evidence based dentistry panels and conferences sponsored by the ADA. He's additionally Chaired the ADA Quality Assessment and Improvement Subcommittee and served as a Representative and Chair to the Dental Quality Alliance .

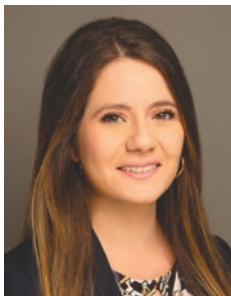
Dr. Smiley is a Fellow of both the American and International College of Dentists, as well as the Pierre Fauchard Academy and has been the recipient of numerous awards. These include the MDA's *Young Dentist Leadership Award*, the *Distinguished Service Award* from the West Michigan Dental Society and the *Evidence-Based Dentistry Practice Award* from both the ADA and the American Association for Dental Research.

Spring Lunch Meeting Registration Deadline March 30, 2024

Anyone interested in attending the lunch can RSVP via email at underwbj@gmail.com

Please mail a \$30 check, per person, made payable to: Pierre Fauchard Academy, Michigan Section
6213 Chicago Rd. Suite 100, Warren, Michigan 48092

Pierre Fauchard Foundation 2023 Award Recipients ... continued



Dr. Rita Benjamin was born in Chicago and raised in Michigan. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology at the University of Detroit Mercy. She continued her education in Detroit and attended the University of Detroit Mercy's School of Dentistry. During her time in dental school, she was a member of the American Association of Women Dentists, American Student Dental Association, and Alpha Omega dental fraternity. Through Alpha Omega, she led a dental mission trip to Brazil. Rita also helped organized numerous local dental outreach events and student dental clinics.

In addition to being awarded the Pierre Fauchard Academy Senior Student Award, Rita was awarded the School of Dentistry Outstanding Academic Achievement Award as well as the Dr. William S. Kramer Award of Excellence for being the top graduating student in her class. Dr. Benjamin has been awarded the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Dental Student Award and the American Academy of Oral Medicine Award. Rita has been an active member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Michigan Dental Association, and the American Dental Association and the recipient of the *Pierre Fauchard Foundation Award*.



Pierre Fauchard Foundation 2023 Scholarship Recipients

The Pierre Fauchard Scholarship is given annually by the PFA Foundation, to each dental school. The Foundation requests that the scholarship be given to an outstanding student who demonstrates promise for leadership within the profession and has financial need.



Tristan Clark began her dental journey in 2015 when she enrolled in the Dental Hygiene program at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry. During her 3 years in the baccalaureate program she served in many leadership roles including serving as President of her class and participating in meaningful community service. After graduating in 2018, Tristan continued her journey working as a registered dental hygienist for 2 years. She was then accepted into the University of Michigan School of Dentistry's DDS program, in 2020, where she continued to stay involved. In her third year of dental school, Tristan served as the schoolwide Student Council President and represented students on the Search Committee for the 15th Dean of the School of Dentistry while continuing to engage in many of the school's student organizations.

Tristan strives to give back to the community by volunteering when she can, including serving as a student representative for the Taft Clinic and tutoring fellow dental students. When Tristan is not busy being a student, she enjoys experiencing new restaurants, traveling, and spending time with friends and family. Tristan is honored to have been chosen as a recipient of the *PFA Scholarship* and would like to express her sincere gratitude to the Pierre Fauchard Academy.



Ja'Nay Jones is a fourth-year dental student at UDM hailing from Dallas, TX and boasts a distinguished academic journey. Her foundation was laid at Dillard University, where she pursued an undergraduate degree in Biology with a minor in Chemistry. Building on this, she furthered her education at William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine, attaining a Master's degree in Biomedical Science. This paved the way for her current pursuit at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry. Not only is Ja'Nay dedicated to her studies, but she's also assumed a pivotal role as the Student Government Association President. Her active involvement extends to various organizations and extracurricular activities, demonstrating a commitment that spans back to her second year in dental school, where she joined the executive boards of both the Student Government (SGA) and the Student National Dental Association (SNDA). Beyond her leadership roles, Ja'Nay passionately serves as a Student Ambassador for the University, relishing the opportunity to engage with pre-dental students. Whether fielding questions in Q & A sessions or offering insightful tours during visitations, she strives to make a positive impact.

Looking ahead, Ja'Nay envisions a future as a General Dentist post-graduation, eager to contribute to and educate the community she becomes a part of. Her gratitude extends to the Pierre Fauchard Academy for selecting her as the recipient of the prestigious *PFA Scholarship*, recognizing the honor bestowed upon her and acknowledging the Academy for this generous gift.



Michigan PFA Recognizes Outstanding Dental Faculty

In keeping with the mission of the Pierre Fauchard Academy of recognizing those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to dentistry and service to the profession, our Michigan Section is proud to honor the following outstanding dental faculty with our Academy's Special Appreciation Award.

Dr. James Geist has been on the faculty at the University of Detroit School of Dentistry since 1986, after serving four years as an Associate Instructor at the Indiana University School of Dentistry. A Diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology, Dr. Geist received his DDS from the University of Illinois College of Dentistry in 1979, and his MS in Oral Path and Radiology from the Indiana University School of Dentistry in 1986. After serving as Associate Professor and Interim Chairman of Radiology for many years, he was named Professor and Chairman and Director of Radiology in the Department of Diagnostic Services in 2004. In 2008 Jim was named Director of the Oral and Maxillofacial Imaging Center at UDM.



Described as soft spoken and humble, always kind and respectful, students say that Dr. Geist is always accessible and available for consultation with explanations that are clear and informative.

Besides his numerous teaching, research and committee responsibilities at the school, Jim has remained a very active member of the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology, having served on numerous committees including; Membership, Educational Standards and Award Selection. He was additionally honored to serve as its president from 2005-2007. In 2002 Dr. Geist served as Chair of the Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Section for the American Dental Education Association

(ADEA). He's also served on the American Dental Association's Standards Committee on Dental Products and as a member of the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

Dr. Geist has continued to lecture extensively to many groups throughout the state, the country and the world. Outside the

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Dr. Domenica "Nikki" Sweier, is a Clinical Professor in the Department of Cariology, Restorative Sciences and Periodontics at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry. She earned both her DDS and PhD in Oral Health Sciences from the U of M School of Dentistry (UMSD). She has been involved in pre-doctoral didactic, preclinical, and clinical education since 2004 in a variety of roles, as well as in graduate dental education as the Assistant Director of the AEGD Program from 2009-2013.



Dr. Sweier has training in oral health care for geriatric as well as special needs adults, and is an advocate for vulnerable populations, reflected in courses she directs such as the Geriatric Dentistry course for dental students. She received the *V.K. Volk Award* by The Michigan Society of Gerontology in 2012 for her contributions to the well-being of older Michigan residents and has been a Consensus Expert Panel member for the Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation. Additionally she shares, as part of a team of faculty, the University of Michigan Provost's

Teaching Innovation Prize for her contributions to the first campus wide Interprofessional Team Based Learning course. Currently, she is the Director of Predoctoral Clinical Education, and a Faculty Coach in the pre-doctoral clinical training program.

Dr. Sweier is a graduate of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Leadership Institute; the University of Michigan Medical School Rudi Ansbacher Women in Academic Medicine Leadership Scholars Program; the University of Michigan Medical School Patient Safety & Quality Leadership (PASQUAL) Scholars Program, as well as the University of Michigan Medical School Teach for Quality (Te4Q) Faculty

Development Program. She is a Risk Manager for the UMSD and Chairs the Quality Assurance Committee for the school, two roles that are strategic in informing teaching and patient

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Michigan Section Officers

Dr. Richard Raad

Section Chair
raaddental@gmail.com
(586) 774-6655

Dr. Ben Underwood

Secretary-Treasurer
underwoodbj@gmail.com
(586) 264-5410

Dr. William Berkowski

Membership Chair
berkowwi2@udmercy.edu
(313) 582-3900

Dr. Michael Maihofer

Newsletter Editor
mgmdds@wideopenwest.com
(586) 419-3905

Dr. Ghabi Kaspo

Region 4 Trustee
kaspo511@gmail.com
(248) 521-9827

All inquires should
be sent to the editor at:

Pierre Fauchard Academy
6213 Chicago Road, Suite 100
Warren, MI 48092

Michigan Section News Update
is published annually
by the
Pierre Fauchard Academy,
Michigan Section,
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Joe Harris with George Goodis



Senior U of M dental student
Jacob Zerka and Richard Raad



Michelle Tulak-Gorecki and
Melanie Mayberry

Michigan PFA Recognizes Outstanding Dental Faculty ... continued

Dr. James Geist ... continued

U.S., some of his over 100 lectures have been presented in Canada, Taiwan, Norway, Japan, Germany, Spain, India and China. His over 75 clinical and research authored papers have been published in a variety of peer reviewed publications such as the *Journal of Oral Pathology*, *Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery*, *Journal of Dental Education*, *International Journal of Pediatric Dentistry*, *Journal of Endodontics* and many others. He additionally serves as an Ad Hoc Reviewer for a variety of publications such as the *Journal of Clinical Research*, *Journal of Dental Education* and the *Journal of the American Dental Association*.

Jim has received many honors and awards throughout career. These include being named both *Outstanding Clinical Instructor* and *Didactic Instructor of the Year* by numerous dental school classes, as well as receiving the *President's Award for Faculty Excellence*. He is a Fellow of the Pierre Fauchard Academy and a member of Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honorary Dental Society.

Dr. Domenica "Nikki" Sweier ... continued

care in the pre-doctoral clinical training program.

Besides publishing numerous scientific and clinical articles in a wide variety of peer reviewed publications, Dr. Sweier has served as a Journal Reviewer for a number of publications including: *Gerodontology*, *the Journal of Dental Research*, *Journal of Dental Education*, *Journal of Oral Surgery* and *the Journal of Oral Surgery*, *Oral Medicine*, *Oral Pathology*, *Oral Radiology* and *Endodontology*. She is a member of of the Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation at U of M, as well as the American Dental Education Association and Omicron Kappa Upsilon's Chi Chapter.