Recognizing individuals most deserving in all phases of dentistry, community service and leadership.

2023
AWARDS

North Carolina Dental Society

We remember our dental colleagues who have passed away in the last year. A memorial contribution to the North Carolina Dental Society Foundation has been made in each's honor.

Consider Your Peers
For 2024 Awards

We ask that you carefully consider your peers, coworkers, classmates and friends who are deserving of accolades and recognition through the NC Dental Society Awards program. If you nominated someone for this year who didn't win, consider nominating them now for 2024. Nominations for 2024 awards are now open: tinyurl.com/2024NCDSawards

Student Leaders in Organized Dentistry

Each of the state's dental schools select a deserving fourth-year dental student in good academic standing who has shown exceptional leadership and interest in organized dentistry. Often, they have been involved with the NC Dental Society or other professional dental organizations while in dental school and display outstanding potential for future leadership in organized dentistry.

Dr. Joshua Cook // ECU School of Dental Medicine
Dr. Josh Cook (Fayetteville) earned a B.S. in Cell and Molecular Biology from East Carolina University and participated in the School of Dental Medicine's Pre-Matriculation Summer Scholars Research Program before completing his D.M.D. at the ECU SoDM. His exceptional achievements both academically and clinically include the study community oral health risk tracking (COHORT) data, volunteerism as part of the school's Sonríe clinic, his role as President of the Class of 2023 and his election to President of the SoDM's Student Government. Dr. Cook is entering the AEGD residency program at the VA Hospital in Fayetteville.

Dr. Olivia Nillissen // UNC Adams School of Dentistry
Dr. Olivia Nillissen (Chapel Hill) was raised by both a dentist and dental hygienist and knew from an early age that she was in it for the long haul. Originally from Wisconsin, Dr. Nillissen graduated from Duke University with a degree in Biomedical Engineering and earned her D.D.S. from UNC Adams School of Dentistry. She became involved in organized dentistry through UNC ASDA, eventually matriculating to President of the school's chapter. She was heavily involved and attended District 4 meetings, the National Leadership Conference and ADA Dentist and Student Lobby Day in Washington, D.C. Dr. Nillissen is heading to UT Health San Antonio School of Dentistry for an AEGD residency program.

Dr. Jim Baucom, Charlotte
Dr. Richard Bowling, Hendersonville
Dr. Jack Brinkley, Taylorsville
Dr. Charles Byerly, Durham
Dr. Clifton Crandell, Chapel Hill
Dr. Lee Currin, Louisburg
Dr. Diane Dilley, Raleigh
Dr. Claude Drake, Chapel Hill
Dr. John Edwards, Sylva
Dr. Julian Fisher, Durham
Dr. Bruce Gustafson, Winston Salem
Dr. Randolph Hall, Raleigh
Dr. John Hanson, Winston Salem
Dr. Jack Harrell, Kinston
Dr. Ronald Roe, Browns Summit
Dr. Eugene Sandler, Chapel Hill
Dr. William Satterfield, Weaverville
Dr. Murray Simon, Charlotte
Dr. Perry Stubbs, Concord
Dr. Harold Twisdale, Matthews
Dr. Robert Warren, Boone
Dr. Leland Webb, Chapel Hill
Dr. Michael White, Rockingham
Dr. Matthew Wood, Chapel Hill
Agenda

Lunch

Welcome and Introductions
Dr. Joseph Hendrick, Jr.
President, NC Dental Society

Dr. George Shepley
President, American Dental Association

Special Recognitions
Dr. Tommy Morgan
Immediate Past President, NC Dental Society

2022 Annual Session Chair – Dr. John Williams
2022 Annual Session Program Chair – Dr. Ethan Nelson
2022 Annual Session Exhibits Chair – Dr. James Purvis
2022 Student Trustees – Dr. Joel Anil, Ms. Sarah Dobson

Presentation of Awards and Special Mentions
Dr. Brad Morgan
Chair, Awards Committee

ADA Humanitarian Award – Dr. Bill Milner
ADA ADPAC Lifelong Legacy Award – Dr. Gary Oyster
NC Dental Society Executive Director – Dr. Alec Parker

Outstanding Young Dentist Award
Citizenship Award
Meritorious Achievement Award
Distinguished Service Scroll
Student Leaders in Organized Dentistry Award

Sponsor Remarks
Dr. Tiarra Rorie
President, NC Services for Dentistry

Closing
Dr. Brad Morgan

A Special Thank You to our Awards Luncheon Sponsor, the North Carolina Dental Society Healthcare Plan
CONGRATULATIONS,
2023 NC DENTAL SOCIETY
AWARD RECIPIENTS

Outstanding Young Dentist Award
Nominees in this category must be member dentists in good standing of the NC Dental Society, under the age of 40 and have practiced dentistry for fewer than 11 years. They should demonstrate outstanding leadership qualities, involvement and service to the NC Dental Society.

DR. JAMES PURVIS
Dr. James Purvis (New Bern) earned his B.S. in Biology from Campbell University and his D.D.S. from UNC Adams School of Dentistry, where he was the recipient of several awards for academic excellence and leadership. While transitioning from student to professional membership, Dr. Purvis became involved in the Craven Jones Pamlico Dental Society and assumed his first appointment as Arrangement Chair with the Fifth District Dental Society. Today, he’s the Fifth District’s President-Elect, the 16th District Representative on the ADA New Dentist Committee, an Alternate Delegate for the 16th District and a member of the ADA Council on Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs. While in Chicago for an ADA New Dentist Committee meeting last year, Dr. Purvis and his wife, Veronica, stepped in to provide critical emergency care to save the lives of two individuals. Dr. Purvis consistently recruits members older than him to organized dentistry, donates his time to bettering his community and is a shining example of who young dentists should aim to emulate.

Citizenship Award
This award recognizes dentists who render outstanding service to their fellow man or woman, either related to a specific event or over a period of years. Areas of achievement may include civic affairs, community or public service, or cultural, humanitarian and religious activities. They must be a member in good standing of the NC Dental Society.

DR. JOHN GRAVITTE
Dr. John Gravitte (Mount Airy) graduated with honors from Lees McRae College, completed his B.S. at UNC Wilmington and attended Indiana University School of Dentistry. While superb treatment and patient relationships are pillars of his dental practice, his passion outside of professional organizations (ADA, NCDS, AAID, AGD, ICOI, IUPUI Study Club, Gordon Christensen Study Club and collegiate associations, to name a few) lies in community involvement. To show appreciation for his hometown of Mount Airy, Dr. Gravitte hosts an annual ‘Dentistry with Heart’ free dental day. He’s also partnered with Smile for FREEdom to provide complimentary care for veterans and pivoted to providing care packages and food distribution for more than 800 families during the pandemic. Dr. Gravitte hosts student internships, provides support to future oral health professionals, works with CTE and HOSA programs, delivers hygiene kits to local schools and sponsors Mount Airy’s first Blue Star Memorial Highway, among other community and professional initiatives. Beyond caring for his neighbors, Dr. Gravitte’s dental office was the first to become members of the NC Audubon Society and he’s partnered with the Pollinator Partnership and National Wildlife Federation to become an official waystation for monarch butterflies and host to a Certified Wildlife Habitat.
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Meritorious Achievement Award

*These honorees demonstrate significant contributions to dentistry, including lifetime achievements in leadership, academics, research, health care delivery, professionalism or service to organized dentistry. They must be a member in good standing of the NC Dental Society.*

**DR. KENNETH SADLER**

Dr. Kenneth Sadler (Lewisville) graduated with his B.A. from Lincoln University, earned his D.D.S. at Howard University College of Dentistry, completed his residency in the U.S. Army where he attained the rank of Colonel and received his MPA from Golden Gate University. His dedication to our profession spans patient care, dental board service and a commitment to organized dentistry through years of volunteer leadership and service to his colleagues. For more than 40 years, Dr. Sadler provided personalized patient care in his multi-specialty private practice. Today, he provides consulting services for dental practices across the state. Dr. Sadler’s impact on dentistry knows no bounds; he’s dedicated significant time to the NC State Board of Dental Examiners, American Dental Association, NC Dental Society, American Academy of Dental Group Practice, Old North State Dental Society and Academy of General Dentistry, among other professional affiliations. A steward for his community, Dr. Sadler’s served more than two decades on the Lewisville Town Council and donates time to Boy Scouts of America, Forsyth Technical Community College, Winston-Salem State University, Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, Winston-Salem Forsyth County Community Appearance Commission, North Carolina Parks and Recreation Authority and Truist Bank.

Distinguished Service Scroll

This is the NC Dental Society’s most prestigious award. Nominees may be dentists, auxiliary or lay people and need not be a resident of our state. They should be nearing or have completed careers during which they demonstrated outstanding service, leadership and dedication to the profession of dentistry and/or the improvement of health for the people of North Carolina.

**DR. THOMAS BUTTLER**

Dr. Thom Butller (Raleigh) earned his D.D.S. from The Ohio State University College of Dentistry, served three years honorably as Captain in the U.S. Army Dental Corps and completed his endodontic residency at UNC Adams School of Dentistry. By establishing private practice in Raleigh, Dr. Butller became the eighth endodontist in our state. He retired from 25 years of excellent patient care after multiple back surgeries and has been supervising and providing dental hygiene coverage for local colleagues, as well as teaching future North Carolina dentists at the ECU School of Dental Medicine and UNC Adams School of Dentistry ever since. Currently, Dr. Butller is Treasurer of the NC Dental Society. He previously served as Past President of the Tarheel Endodontic Association, Past Chair of the Southern Endodontics Study Group, Past President and Past Executive Director of the Raleigh-Wake County Dental Society, among many other volunteer leadership roles. Dr. Butller donates his time to Give Kids a Smile, Missions of Mercy clinics, Wake Smiles and is an avid participant in ADA Student Lobby Day.
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For information, please contact: NC Dental Society Awards Program
1600 Evans Road, Cary, NC 27513; 919-234-4027

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NORTH CAROLINA DENTAL SOCIETY

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