

News @ One Kneeland

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE TUSDM COMMUNITY

TUSDM Alums and Residents Making a Difference in Maine

Dean Karimbux traveled to Maine recently to meet with alums who are practicing, and residents who are learning, in that state. The Dean was proud to see how these current and future dentists are playing active, positive roles in local communities.

Since 2014, TUSDM has offered the [Advanced Education in General Dentistry \(AEGD\)](#) program. Under the leadership of Program Director and Assistant Dean for Postgraduate Clinics, **Dr. Gina Terenzi**, the AEGD program is designed to expose residents to a variety of experiences in the classroom and in the clinic while addressing the dental needs of the underserved.

The AEGD program is a 12-month residency that accepts eight participants each year; four are assigned to Boston, and four to Maine. The residencies in Maine are conducted in partnership with [Maine Medical Center](#) and [Community Dental](#). Clinical instruction is provided at Community Dental offices in Portland, Biddeford, and Lewiston. Clinical rotations are held at Community Dental offices in Farmington and Rumford. Throughout the program, residents learn how to perform a wide range of services, from general dentistry to advanced procedures in specialties such as endodontics, periodontology, and oral surgery.



Dr. Gina Terenzi

Community Dental is a non-profit dental organization serving more than 16,000 patients each year in southern, central, and western Maine. They provide oral healthcare that is not only affordable and accessible but comprehensive and first-rate. A number of their providers are TUSDM alums, including **Dr. Genko Stanilov**, D11, and **Dr. Meghann Dombroski**, D10, DG14.

“Community Dental is the reason I dedicate myself to dentistry, meeting and helping people from so many different cultures and social backgrounds. I am glad that I can contribute,” said Dr. Stanilov.

In addition to her own practice, Dr. Dombroski also provides orthodontic care at Community Dental once a week. She is one of the few orthodontists in Maine who serves vulnerable populations due to her commitment to public health (she earned her Master of Public Health from Harvard in 2012).

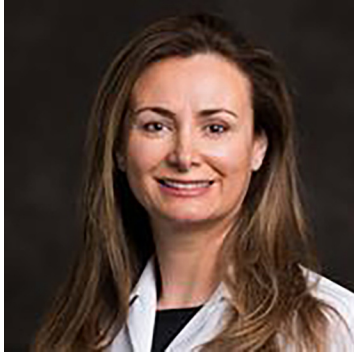


Dean Karimbux and Dr. Dombroski standing outside Nom Café, which is partially owned by Dr. Stanilov.

Dean Karimbux met with **Dr. Lewis Estabrooks**, D69, DG72, and his wife Ellie in Portland. Dr. Estabrooks has had a long and storied career as an oral surgeon.

“MAINE” CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Dr. Papathanasiou Appointed Interim Chair of Comprehensive Care



Dr. Aikaterini Papathanasiou

Dean Karimbux announced that Professor and Director of Advanced Education in Esthetic Dentistry, **Dr. Aikaterini Papathanasiou**, has been appointed Interim Chair of Comprehensive Care, effective Sept. 1. The Dean said he is looking forward to having her as a part of his leadership team.

Dr. Papathanasiou is currently a full-time faculty member in the Department of Prosthodontics. She earned her DDS from the University of Athens (Greece) School of Dentistry in 1995. She did her postdoctoral studies at the Aarhus University School of Dentistry in Denmark, where she earned a certificate in operative dentistry, and at TUSDM, where she earned a certificate in esthetic dentistry. Since 2007, she has been a visiting lecturer at the New York University College of Dentistry in their continuing-education program.

In addition to teaching, Dr. Papathanasiou has published articles in peer-reviewed journals, served as editor-in-chief of the Greek dental journal *Esthetic Dentistry and Implantology*, is a member of the editorial team of Reality Esthetics (a division of the Reality Publishing Company), and is on the editorial review board of the [Journal of Cosmetic Dentistry](#).

Dr. Papathanasiou is a [Fellow of the International College of Dentists \(ICD\)](#) and the [International Academy for Dental and Facial Esthetics \(IADFE\)](#). She is also a member of the university relations committee at the [American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry](#).

For many years, Dr. Papathanasiou ran a private practice in Athens specializing in esthetic and restorative dentistry. She currently practices part time in Brookline and Boston.

Congrats to Dr. Papathanasiou! •

SUBMISSIONS

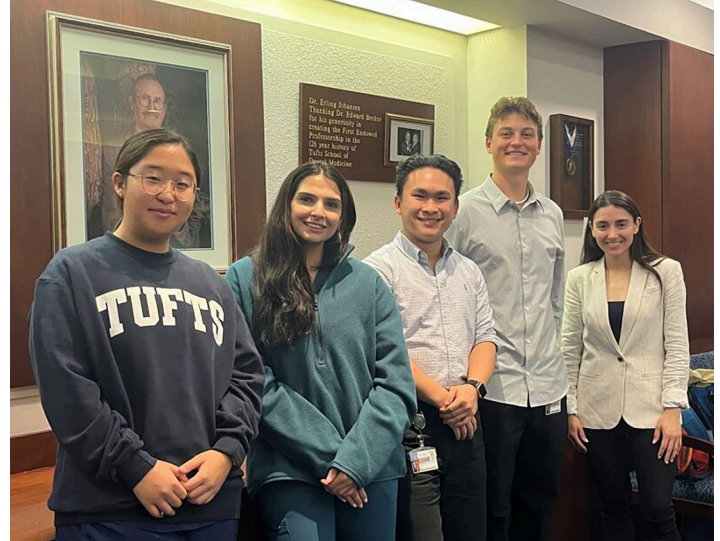
Do you have any **items of interest** you'd like to include in a future edition of...

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If so, contact **Tom Bernhard** before the 10th of each month.

THANK YOU!

Congrats to the Recipients of the Dean's Research Honors Scholarship



From left: Yenna Chu, Maha Shafiq, Michael Song, Alexander Nemeth, and Susan Procopio. Not pictured: Salma Shaker and Komal Wasif.

This year's recipients of the Dean's Research Honors Scholarship were announced recently, and they included **Yenna Chu, Alexander Nemeth, Susan Procopio, Maha Shafiq, Salma Shaker, Michael Song, and Komal Wasif**.

The Dean's Research Honors Scholarship is prestigious and highly competitive. It provides opportunity and support to incoming students with superior academic records and an interest in conducting research in the fields of basic science, clinical research, and public health. The scholarship also encourages recipients to conduct interdisciplinary research via collaborations with the Schools of Engineering and Medicine.

Recipients are paired with a faculty mentor in the fall semester, during which they meet regularly for one-on-one discussions about assigned readings. During the spring semester, the faculty mentor guides the student through the development of their research proposal. The student then conducts their research during the summer, prepares their presentation in the fall, and gives their presentation during the following spring's Bates-Andrews Student Research Day. The scholarship includes a \$3,000 merit award credited to recipients' second semester student account. Participation in this program is noted on students' transcripts. Students who successfully complete the program in their first year may reapply for their second, third, and fourth years.

Special thanks to **Dr. Eileen Doherty** for all the support she provides to this scholarship program and for all the leadership she provides to our student researchers. •

AAAS Inducts Dr. Yelick as Fellow

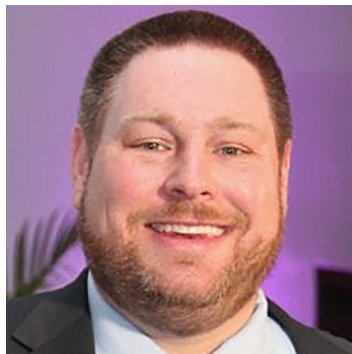


From left, Marcelo Freire, J. Craig Venter Institute; Azeez Butali, University of Iowa; Purnima Kumar, University of Michigan; Pamela Yelick, TUSDM; Sudip Parikh, AAAS President.

On July 14, Professor and Director of the Division of Craniofacial and Molecular Genetics, **Dr. Pamela Yelick**, was inducted as a Fellow of the [American Association for the Advancement of Science \(AAAS\)](#) in Washington, D.C. The event was attended by the leaders of many scientific disciplines, including the Director of the [National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research](#), Dr. Rena D'Souza, and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the [International Association for Dental Research \(IADR\)](#), Dr. Christopher Fox. •

Brighter World Surpasses Campaign Goals

On June 30, our [Brighter World](#) fundraising campaign came to a close. The campaign surpassed its goal of \$45 million by raising \$51,710,929. Dean Karimbux congratulated Senior Director of Development & Alumni Relations, **Stephen Muzrall**, and his entire team on the campaign's success and gave special thanks to the campaign committee, the [Tufts Dental Alumni Association](#), volunteers, and donors. Some of the funds raised will go toward offsetting the costs of educating the next generation of dentists. •



Stephen Muzrall

Dr. Arsenault Receives Project Funding

Assistant Professor and Clinical Program Director for Geriatric Dentistry, **Dr. Karin Arsenault**, announced that her project, *Walking in Their Shoes: Using Simulation to Promote Understanding of the Challenges Faced by Individuals with Disabilities, Including Older Adults*, had been selected to receive funding from [Tufts Springboard](#).



Dr. Karin Arsenault.

As indicated by its title, Dr. Arsenault's project will use disability simulations, i.e., exercises during which participants without disabilities attempt to experience the barriers people with disabilities may encounter. Dr. Arsenault and her team will examine how these exercises affect participants' perceptions of, and attitudes toward, people with disabilities. Her goal is to have participants identify and consider how to undo healthcare inequities patients with disabilities face. •

TUSDM Alum Is Named One of the Most Influential People in Dentistry

Dr. Abe Abdul, Do2, creator of [Dental Cupid](#), was named by Incisal Edge Magazine as one of the [32 Most Influential People in Dentistry](#). Dr. Abdul founded Dental Cupid during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic to address the imbalances in access to dental care. Initially, the platform was designed to connect patients in need with dentists who were able to keep their practices open; now, Dental Cupid works with hospitals to outsource urgent dental needs from their emergency rooms to local dental specialists. •



Dr. Abe Abdul

Run DMD



Members of the class of D25 who participated in Run DMD.

Run DMD is a program that provides mouthguards for athletes in low socio-economic communities to prioritize safety and dental well-being.

Started by **Jae Jung**, D25, in an effort to foster community outreach and team camaraderie, this year's event was the first held exclusively for D25 and more than half the class participated in the 5K run along the Esplanade. Jung said the event also held special significance by symbolizing the end of D25's didactic coursework and the start of their clinical coursework.

The Dean thanked TUSDM Professor **Dr. Mabi Singh** and **Dr. Irina Dragan**, both of whom assisted with organizing the event and taking photographs.

The Dean also said the success of Run DMD would not have been possible without the support of six key sponsors: the [Massachusetts Dental Association \(MDA\)](#); Assistant Professor **Dr. Poonam Soi**; Associate Professor **Dr. Carlos Kose Junior**; Dr. Rebecca Cochrane of [Cochrane Dental Associates](#); **Dr. Janis Moriarty**, D94; **Dr. Ancy Verdier**, D03, DGo6, and owner of [Concord Lexington Periodontics](#). •

A Reminder About Encryption

Attention new students and residents: If you use a personal device to conduct any TUSDM-related activities, e.g., sending an email, taking an exam, accessing a patient's records, etc., your device must be encrypted. Most tablets and cellphones come already encrypted; therefore, please confirm that your laptop is encrypted, if you have not already done so, and send your proof of encryption to TUSDMEncrypt@tufts.edu as soon as possible. Thank you! •

Tooth Day at Fenway



Members of the Tooth Day team at Fenway Park.

On July 8, [Fenway Park](#) hosted the ninth annual Tooth Day at Fenway, a community outreach program started by **Dr. Heidi Aaronson**, Do8—and organized in partnership with the [Boston Red Sox](#), the dental fraternity [Alpha Omega](#), and TUSDM—to raise public awareness of the health risks associated with chewing tobacco.

TUSDM faculty and students, as well as members of the [Boston chapter of Alpha Omega](#), offered free oral-cancer screenings and samples of donated toothpaste and toothbrushes to Red Sox fans as they walked through Fenway's gates.

The Red Sox invited members of the Tooth Day team onto the field to be recognized in a pre-game ceremony, during which Dr. Aaronson presented Red Sox mascot [Wally the Green Monster](#) with an oversized toothbrush in the shape of a baseball bat. •

Using Mindfulness to Ease Anxiety

On July 17, *Tufts Now* interviewed Assistant Professor and Director of Mind-Body Wellness, **Dr. Christina DiBona Pastan**, D91, DG94, in an article titled, [How Mindfulness Can Ease Your Dental Anxiety. Even If You Don't Love Meditating](#). In the interview, Dr. Pastan discussed how patients can use mindfulness, meditation, or breathing exercises to reduce their fears about seeing the dentist and emphasized anyone can use these techniques to help deal with any stress they might be feeling. •



Dr. Christina DiBona Pastan.

TUSDM and RAMUSA Collaborate to Care for Those in Need



Members of TUSDM and RAMUSA helping out in Framingham.

On August 12 and 13, TUSDM providers collaborated with [Remote Area Medical \(RAMUSA\)](#) to conduct a free dental clinic at Joseph P. Keefe Technical High School in Framingham for underserved and uninsured individuals. “All who participated in this event had a memorable experience that will impact him or her for years to come,” said Professor and Director of the International Student DMD Program, **Dr. Ronald Perry**, who, along with Assistant Professor, **Dr. Merelyn Hong**, lead the effort. “Our students and their patients got to exchange their personal stories and form bonds of mutual respect,” Dr. Perry said.

Most of the patients who attended the clinic were suffering from some type of oral pain. Dr. Perry said he was proud to see how the care provided by the collaborative team had a positive impact on people’s lives: “It’s difficult to put into words what this type of event does for you. Everyone becomes a better person in giving back. I’m looking forward to future opportunities such as this and to increasing the number of TUSDM students able to attend. We need people who can donate their time and talents to this worthy cause.” •

TUSDM Hosts 2nd Annual Chinatown Ice Cream Social

On Wednesday, August 9, TUSDM hosted its 2nd annual Chinatown Ice Cream Social. More than 170 Chinatown community members and Tufts leaders gathered at Tufts Community Commons to enjoy ice cream sandwiches from [Cookie Monstah](#). Dean Karimbux and **Dean Christina Economos** of the [Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy](#) were in attendance to greet our neighbors.

The [Pao Arts Center](#) hosted an arts and crafts activity for guests to enjoy during the event, while [Addressing Disparities in Asian Populations through Translational Research \(ADAPT\)](#), an academic-community research partnership between Tufts University and Chinatown, talked about their

MDS Selects Dr. Andrew Tonelli As the 2023 William McKenna Volunteer Hero

The [Massachusetts Dental Society \(MDS\)](#) recently announced that **Dr. Andrew Tonelli**, D14, had been selected as the [2023 William McKenna Volunteer Hero](#).



Dr. Andrew Tonelli

Since 1996, the MDS and the *Journal of the Massachusetts Dental Society* have recognized member dentists who dedicate their time and talents to the MDS and organized dentistry as William McKenna Volunteer Heroes. This recognition is named after the late Dr. William McKenna who was one of the founders of the [Yankee Dental Congress](#) and a model of volunteerism within the MDS. This title is the MDS’s way of thanking members who go above and beyond to help the MDS achieve its goals, inspire colleagues, and advance the dental profession.

Dr. Tonelli was the spokesperson for the Massachusetts Dental Care Providers for Better Dental Benefits committee at the MDS. The committee was created by the MDS in partnership with the [American Dental Association \(ADA\)](#) during the 2022 election cycle to encourage the Massachusetts electorate to vote “yes” on Question 2: Should Massachusetts regulate dental insurance rates? Dr. Tonelli’s expertise on this issue was a key factor in generating support for this first-in-the-nation reform of dental insurance from voters and established a path for other states to follow. •

latest study which is a collaboration with the [Asian Community Development Corporation \(ACDC\)](#), other researchers at Tufts University, and [Ponnappa Prakmakul](#), a local landscape architect and multimedia artist, to assess air pollution and heat stress across open spaces in Chinatown. •



Deans Economos and Karimbux speaking with members of the Chinatown community.

“MAINE” CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Dr. Estabrooks:

- was a founding member and owner of [Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Associates](#);
- was a staff member of Maine Medical Center and [Northern Light Mercy Hospital](#);
- served on the boards of insurance providers, including the [OMS National Insurance Company \(OMSNIC\)](#), [Fortress Insurance](#) (an OMSNIC subsidiary), Blue Cross Blue Shield, Delta Dental, and MedNet;
- and pioneered an insurance plan specifically for oral surgeons.



Dean Karimbux and Dr. Lewis Estabrooks.

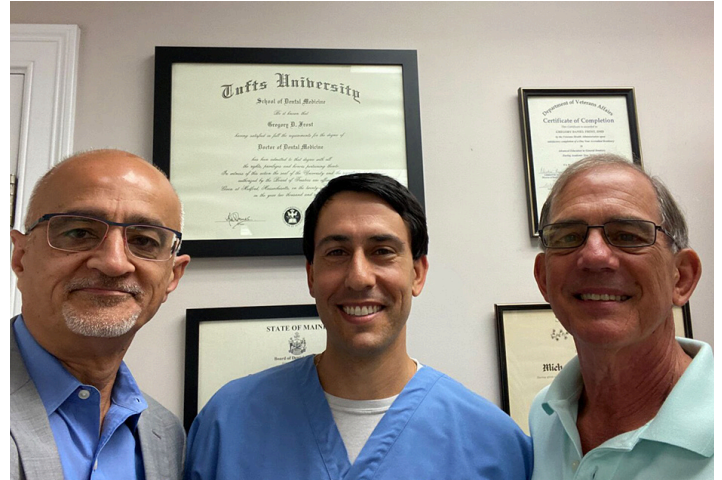
In recognition of what he has done for the profession, Dr. Estabrooks was awarded the Maine Dental Association’s President’s Award in 1993 and a fellowship in the National Academy of Dentistry in 2003.

The Dean met with [Dr. Nathan Oakes](#), D13, and [Dr. Laura Oakes](#), D13. Together, the married couple operate three [Aspen Dental](#) clinics in southern Maine. The Oakes said the edu-



From left, Dean Karimbux, Dr. Nathan Oakes, and Dr. Laura Oakes.

cation they received at TUSDM played a significant role in establishing their careers.



From left, Dean Karimbux, Dr. Gregory Frost, and Dr. Michael Frost.

The Dean also visited with [Dr. Michael Frost](#), D76, D16P, and his son, [Dr. Gregory Frost](#), D16, who practice in Cumberland and have been providing care to generations of local families (Gregory previously practiced at Community Dental). •

Welcome to TUSDM, Dr. Leigh Griffin

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Leigh Griffin to the Department of Diagnostic Sciences! Prior to earning her certificate in oral and maxillofacial pathology at New York Presbyterian Queens, Dr. Griffin graduated from Louisiana State University and practiced general dentistry for three years. Dr. Griffin will be involved in teaching, clinical practice, research, and diagnostic histopathology. Please feel free to stop by room 644 on the 6th floor and introduce yourself! •



Dr. Leigh Griffin

SUBMISSIONS

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THANK YOU!

Welcome Class of 2027!



Members of the D27 class gather in Merritt Auditorium.

Dean Karimbux would like to again welcome our newest students! He would also like to thank the Office for Admissions and the Office for Student Affairs for their efforts in recruiting the class of 2027, and the Office for Academic Affairs for putting together a challenging and exciting curriculum.

D27 by the Numbers: size: **204**; female: **135**; male: **74**; earned a master's degree: **85**; U.S. states represented: **33**; other countries represented: **4**; earned bachelor's or master's at Tufts: **11**; no. of undergraduate colleges/universities represented: **136**; no. of undergraduate colleges/universities who have >3 people matriculating at TUSDM: **16**; no. of graduate colleges/universities represented: **34**; no. of graduate colleges/universities who have >3 people matriculating at TUSDM: **6**. •

