

## BUILDING DUAL—AND TRIPLE—DEGREE PROGRAMS

*SDOS Primus Notes*, a newsletter of the School of Dental and Oral Surgery, is published three times a year. It is the sister publication of the annual SDOS alumni magazine *Primus*.

2005  
WINTER

Multitasking is today's universal catchword, but few who claim that ability can match SDOS predoctoral student Saleem Joseph's achievements in this category. And few other dental schools but Columbia's could have offered him the opportunity to excel in this way.

Seeking three postgraduate degrees almost concurrently, Saleem entered SDOS in 2001, left dental studies temporarily in January 2004 to earn his MBA, then returned this year to continue working on his DDS, while also taking up studies for his MPH. He had already earned credits toward the public health degree while in business school and continued to see SDOS clinic patients throughout that same year. The first simultaneous triple degree candidate in the nation, Saleem will complete his trio of graduate credentials by age 27, when all three are granted to him at Commencement 2006.

A native of the Island of Jamaica, Saleem says he found the quality of programs he wanted only at Columbia, where the dental, business and public health schools all stand in the nation's top ranks. Despite studying in triplicate, Saleem is also busy with extracurricular interests, including development of a

Jamaican externship for SDOS students and becoming the first dental student on the US Secretary of Health and Human Services' committee for primary care in medicine and dentistry.

While Saleem's choice is unusual, SDOS Dean Ira Lamster and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Letty Moss-Salentijn hope that other SDOS students will take advantage of four current programs joining the DDS with a second professional degree from Columbia's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the Mailman School of Public Health,

the Graduate School of Business, or Teachers College. Dr. Salentijn points out that extra training enriches dental students' options, and "lets them tailor their learning to specific goals." She also cautions that, for the moment, none of the programs is staffed to accommodate more than one or two candidates in a given year.

The DDS/MBA is the most common dental dual degree program among United States universities. Business school courses can open the way to positions of command in companies that

*Drs. Martin Davis and Burton Edelstein, advisers for the DDS/MBA and the DDS/MPH, meet with multiple degree candidate Saleem Joseph.*



# from the DEAN'S DESK

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The predoctoral program at the School of Dental and Oral Surgery has been largely defined by two concepts. In their first two years, our students take basic science courses with students at the College of Physicians and Surgeons as preparation for treating oral health in the context of general health. In addition, since four years is inadequate

to graduate a fully-formed dentist, we urge students to continue on for postdoctoral education: better than 97% of them have taken this advice in the past few years.

Now I am pleased to introduce a third concept—an increase in dual degree training. We have recently reorganized several of these programs and are introducing a new degree. The DDS/MPH program, in existence for a number of years, has been expanded from four to five years; the admissions process for the DDS/MBA degree has been clarified, and a new DDS/MA program with Teachers College has been developed. There are now students in all of these programs. Working with Dr. Edward H. Shortliffe, chair of the Department of Biomedical Informatics at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, SDOS is also developing its first DDS/PhD program in the area of Bioinformatics.

Our progress in developing these programs is due in large part to the efforts of SDOS Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Dr. Letty Moss-Salentijn. The School has been motivated to increase educational and training opportunities for its predoctoral student body because of their enormous potential for becoming leaders in their profession.

Ira B. Lamster, DDS, MMSc, Dean

SDOS PRIMUS NOTES	WINTER 2005
EDITOR: Patricia Farmer	PHOTOGRAPHY
DESIGN: Graphyte Design	René Perez p. 1, 2, 3 Douglas McAndrew p. 2, 5

## for the RECORD

THE CLASS OF 2008 IS EXCEPTIONAL :

APPLICANTS	1,360
ENROLLEES	77
MEN	57%
WOMEN	43%
GPA	3.42
SCIENCE AVERAGE	20.8
DAT ACADEMIC AVERAGE	21.1

This outstanding class includes four Afro-American and two Hispanic students, groups widely underrepresented in dentistry. The Hispanic pair are husband and wife, originally from Cuba, who earned DAT averages of 23 and 22 and a 4.0 and 3.7 GPA from Florida International University. One of the Afro-American students has an MS in microbiology. There is also female MD/PhD in ophthalmology and a male PhD in biochemistry.

## student profile ABENA ASARE



Abena Asare clearly belongs in the exceptional SDOS class of 2008. Born to two physicians, a nephrologist father and an ob/gyn mother, Ms. Asare did not immediately opt for a medical education, but followed her Columbia BA

with a Columbia MA in educational psychology. On the heels of that degree, she went to work for the Center for New Media at Columbia, where she helped several members of the SDOS faculty augment their teaching with virtual technology. In that period, she also became the mother of a daughter, now 15 months old. She is enrolled in a United States Armed Service Program, which will help her through SDOS financially in return for four years of her time as a dentist. At some point, she intends to get a medical degree and, eventually, to become an oral surgeon.

## from p. 1, MULTIPLE DEGREE PROGRAMS

deal with some aspect of the dental profession, like insurance and pharmaceuticals, or businesses producing dental supplies. And, as Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Dr. Martin Davis, says, "The ability to manage knowledgeably is always an asset."

The DDS/MPH program has always interested dental students, and dental public health is on the American Dental Association's list of dentistry's eight specialties. Dr. Burton Edelstein, chair of the School's Section of Social and Behavioral Sciences and well-known for achievements in dental public health, says that restructuring Columbia's DDS/MPH program from four to five years, "offers a much more substantive curriculum and introduces a meaningful practicum that combines dentistry and public policy." It also allows students to design a program with fewer course constraints on their choice of courses. Assistant Professor Kavita Ahluwalia, who helped to increase dentistry's relevance to public health at SDOS, says that the reshaped DDS/MPH will give candidates "the best of both worlds," preparing them for leading roles in many fields.

SDOS's addition of an MA in science education to the DDS may, according to Dr. Salentijn, be the only degree of its kind in the country. A collaboration with Columbia's Teachers College, the DDS/MA addresses the nation's dental educator workforce crisis, which has left many major positions in the field unfilled. SDOS, for instance, has 84 full-time academic staff, compared to 400 part-time salaried or volunteer faculty. Together, Dean Lamster and his predecessor, Dr. Allan Formicola, have been able to double SDOS's full-time faculty in the last 25 years, but the creation of more dentists who want to teach full-time remains critical.

Roseanna Graham, a fourth-year student, has chosen the double degree in dentistry and science education. She wants to inspire other dental students to make a career in teaching dentistry. Dr. Laureen Zubiaurre, already a faculty member in the Division of Operative Dentistry, is also moving toward a degree at Teacher's College. Based on her new experience with a variety of teaching strategies, she hopes to help students learn in more interesting ways.

The newest dual degree soon to be offered by the School is a PhD in Bioinformatics for dental students. It will be nation's first DDS/PhD in this exciting new discipline and the only one of SDOS's combined degree programs to be interdigitational, providing simultaneous study in each field. It joins the DDS/MA in dental bioinformatics, first offered through SDOS in 1997.

Dr. Edward Shortliffe, chair of Columbia's Department of Biomedical Informatics, is working with Assistant Dean John Zimmerman, SDOS's informatics specialist, to create the new degree's dentistry-specific curriculum. Dr. Shortliffe has described dental informatics as "beginning to emerge as its own entity," adding that, "certain research questions in dental informatics require novel solutions not yet developed."

According to Dean Davis, prospective dental students express a strong interest in expanding their career choices into areas complementing oral health education. But, faced with multi-thousands of dollars in school debts, few feel free to ignore the potential income of private practice. Although the School wants to encourage predoctoral students to enter multiple graduate degree programs, finding a way to help support the cost of such extensive studies is mandatory if SDOS is to generate a meaningful increase in the numbers of dual degree candidates.



erate a meaningful increase in the numbers of dual degree candidates.

*Dr. Marlene Klyvert, assistant dean for special programs, who holds advanced degrees in education and dentistry, encouraged Roseanna Graham to study for the DDS/MA in science education.*

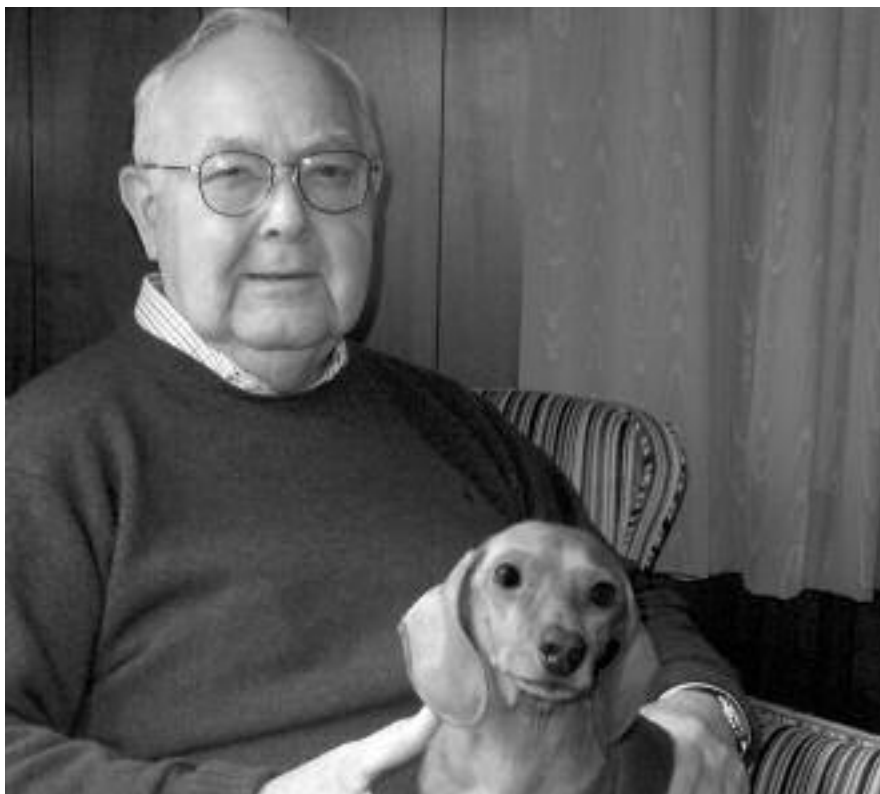
## tribute to a mentor from DR. GEORGE COULTER '54

Dr. George Coulter '54, a "one-man show" in Pawling, New York, for 42 years, really enjoyed being a dentist. He gives much credit for the pleasure he took in dentistry to Dr. Edward A. Cain, whom he assisted during his last two years as a student at SDOS. Referring to Dr. Cain's plain-spoken manner, he says fondly, "Ed either put you way up, or else he tore you down, and I admired that!" As a tribute to Dr. Cain, and to his own education at the School, Dr. Coulter recently placed a \$250 thousand gift in his estate for scholarships at SDOS. His legacy will not only honor his own education at SDOS, but Dr. Coulter's gift fund will continue to grow and contribute to the

careers of Columbia dental school graduates in the future.

Dr. Coulter might never have met Dr. Cain if he had followed his plan to become an architectural engineer like his father. Instead Dr. Coulter decided to study dentistry like his uncle. He applied to Penn, his uncle's alma mater, but to be safe also applied to Harvard, Columbia and Yale. Yale returned a polite letter saying they were flattered by his interest but had no dental school; Harvard's dental students were all going to be doctors, too, so he chose Columbia. Dr. Coulter never told his uncle he'd also been accepted at Penn.

Most of Dr. Coulter's patients were his old friends or relatives. Growing up in Pawling, he knew everyone, including the 40 or so first and second cousins he has there. Now, in retirement, he says he misses his patients, but loves his new pasttimes: running the town cemetery, answering questions at the Chamber of Commerce, and playing baseball with his "totally spoiled" miniature dachshund, Jessie.



### *Well* GIVING to build a LEGACY

A gift to Columbia University can honor you and your loved ones for generations. Today there are many options for planning your gift, including:

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Ask us how a tax-advantaged gift can benefit both you and SDOS. Contact: *Richard A. Rumsey, Director of Development, at 212-342-5612*



# primusnotable

## MAYRA SUERO-WADE DDS'88

**Q. DR. SUERO-WADE, YOU RECENTLY GAVE UP A PRIVATE PRACTICE, BUT STILL HAVE THOUSANDS OF PATIENTS. WHO ARE THEY?**

A. Well, I work with many social service organizations, like the Department of Juvenile Justice and the New York Foundling Hospital, to provide dental care for their enormous populations of underserved children.

**Q. WAS THERE ANY DENTAL CARE OFFERED BY THESE AGENCIES BEFORE YOU STARTED?**

A. Most agencies were not set up to provide it. I began by using collapsible dental units, which I could take into public schools and agencies for foster care. This transportable system let me bring oral health care and education to hundreds of children, some of whom had never seen a dentist. Social workers throughout New York began to hear about my work and have now linked me with many groups in need of this help.

**Q. DO YOU HAVE A LARGE STAFF ?**

A. I have a group of five dentists and four dental assistants who are trained to understand the special needs these children present. It would be difficult to carry out our work successfully without that knowledge.

**Q. DR. SUERO-WADE, IS IT TRUE YOUR FIRST CAREER GOAL WAS TO BE A FASHION MODEL OR DESIGNER?**

A. Yes, but I found that models spent a lot of time waiting to be told what to do, and decided that wasn't me. Now, in addition to my own work, I accompany my pediatrician husband to the Carribean and Central America where our foundation provides free medical and dental care. The need there is great and people line up for blocks to see us.

**Q. DO YOU HAVE OTHER GOALS TO ACHIEVE?**

A. Of course. I hope to encourage more dentists to engage in public service, and I would particularly like to persuade at least one of my three children to become a dentist.



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Oral Surgery*

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# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## for these UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, February 2**  
**INCORPORATION OF IMPLANT DENTISTRY INTO THE ESTABLISHED DENTAL PRACTICE**  
 Speakers: Dr. George S. White, Dr. Kunal Lal. 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Columbia University Medical Center. (3 CE Credits)

**Wednesday, February 2**  
**THE FUTURE OF DENTISTRY: WHAT LIES AHEAD?**  
 New York Dental Study Club Meeting. Speaker: Dean Ira B. Lamster. 6:30 p.m. Columbia University Club, 15 W. 43rd St. (1CE Credit)

**Thursday, February 10**  
**YOUNG ALUMNI & STUDENT RECEPTION**  
 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.  
 Metro 53, 307 East 53rd St.

**Friday, February 11**  
**PERIODONTICS AND RESTORATIVE DENTISTRY** Speakers: Dr. James B. Fine, Dr. Mark Docktor. 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Columbia University Club, 15 W. 43rd St. (3 CE Credits)

**Saturday, March 5**  
**PATRICIA MCLEAN SYMPOSIUM IN DENTAL HYGIENE**  
 Speakers: Dr. Michele Darby, Oral Risk Assessment, Dr. Olga A.C. Ibsen, Oral Pathology, Dr. Kristin Hodsdon, Evidence Based Care. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Columbia University Medical Center. (5 CE Credits)

**Tuesday, March 15**  
**CONSERVATIVE RESTORATIVE DENTISTRY ALUMNI EVENING DINNER PROGRAM**  
 Speaker: Dr. Joel Berg. 5:45 to 8:30 p.m. Columbia University Club, 15 W. 43rd St. (2 CE Credits)

**Wednesday, March 16**  
**OROFACIAL PAIN AND TMD DISORDERS: DIAGNOSTIC AND TREATMENT CONSIDERATIONS**  
 Speakers: Dr. Sidney Eisig, Dr. Tracey Rosenberg, Dr. James Uyanik. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Columbia University Medical Center. (4 CE Credits)

**Friday, April 1**  
**PRECISION AND SEMI-PRECISION ATTACHMENT: WHEN? WHERE? WHY?**  
 Speaker: Dr. George Bambara. 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Columbia University Medical Center. (3 CE Credits)

**Wednesday, April 6**  
**THE ROOT SURFACE: DIAGNOSTIC AND TREATMENT PROBLEMS**  
 Speakers: Dr. Gunnar Hasslegren, Dr. Letty Moss-Salentijn, Dr. David Albert, Dr. John Grbic, Dr. G. Shelby White. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Columbia University Medical Center (6 CE Credits)

**Friday, April 8**  
**ORTHODONTIC ALUMNI SOCIETY ANNUAL SPRING MEETING**  
 Topic: "The Orthodontist as CEO: Applied Principles to

**Achieve the Practice You Desire"**  
 Speakers: Dr. David Musich, Ms. Elizabeth Barrett. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Columbia University Club, 15 W. 43rd St.

**Wednesday, April 13**  
**BIRNBERG RESEARCH PROGRAM POSTER PRESENTATIONS**  
 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Columbia University Medical Center.

**Thursday, April 14**  
**BIRNBERG RESEARCH PROGRAM LECTURE** Speaker: Dr. Bruce Philstrom, Director, Clinical Research & Health Promotion, NIDCR. 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Columbia University Medical Center. (1 CE Credit)

**Tuesday, April 19**  
**ALUMNI RECEPTION GREATER LONG ISLAND MEETING**  
 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Huntington Hilton, Melville, NY.

**Friday, May 6**  
**BENJAMIN TENENBAUM LECTURE IN PERIODONTOLOGY**  
 Speaker: Dr. Jeffrey Ebersole, University of Kentucky. 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Columbia University Medical Center. (1 CE Credit)

**Friday, May 6**  
**CLASS REUNION DAY**  
 Five-year classes: 1940 to 2000. CE Program, Dean's Update, Tours, Reception & Dinner. 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Columbia University Medical Center.

**Wednesday, May 11**  
**FOURTH ANNUAL HENRY CHANG JR. '74 MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING**  
 9:00 a.m. Centennial Golf Club, Carmel, NY.

**Friday, May 13**  
**APPLICATION OF LASERS IN DENTISTRY** Speakers: Dr. Shantanu Lal, Dr. Allen Helfer. 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Columbia University Medical Center. (4 CE Credits)

**Wednesday, May 18**  
**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT**  
 10:00 a.m. Low Library Plaza. W. 116th Street & Broadway.

**Thursday, May 19**  
**SDOS CLASS OF 2005 GRADUATION CEREMONY**  
 11:00 a.m. Chapel Garden. Columbia University Medical Center.

**Friday, June 17**  
**GERONTOLOGY AND GERIATRICS: DENTISTRY FOR AN AGING POPULATION** Speakers: Dr. Lynn Tepper, Dr. Martha Baker, Dr. Joel Laudenbach, Dr. Paul Kamen. 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Columbia University Club, 15 W. 43rd St. (3 CE Credits)

For further information about these events contact Melissa Welsh at 212-305-6881 or [mmw7@columbia.edu](mailto:mmw7@columbia.edu). CE Course listings and registration form can be accessed at [www.dental.columbia.edu](http://www.dental.columbia.edu).

2005  
 WINTER



On September 10, 2004, a symposium was held to pay tribute to Dr. Irwin D. Mandel 45, SDOS professor emeritus of dentistry, for his lifelong achievements in dentistry. The distinguished panel of speakers, all former students from his laboratory who have risen to prominent positions in research and academics, was led by Dr. Syngceuk Kim from the University of Pennsylvania in planning the event.

BACK ROW: Syngceuk Kim, DDS, MPhil, PhD, Bruce Baum, DMD, PhD, Daniel H. Fine, DMD, Philip C. Fox, DDS, Lawrence A. Tabak, DDS, PhD, Roy H. Stevens, DDS, MS. FRONT ROW: Ira B. Lamster, DDS, MMSc, Dean of SDOS, Irwin D. Mandel, DDS, Martin Taubman, DDS, PhD.