Greetings from the Department

Happy New Year, 2022! Another very eventful year has passed in the orthodontic program and the VCU School of Dentistry in general. We accomplished a lot and, also, continued to face a lot of challenges due to the pandemic. At this point, there are more aspects of the program that are still in transition due to COVID precautions than I would have imagined a year ago but, someday soon, I am still hoping things will get back as close to normal as possible.

A new Dean is scheduled to arrive at the VCU School of Dentistry in a few months and everyone is anticipating that his initial focus will be on finding a location for construction of a new dental school in the near future. In the meantime, during the holiday break, the orthodontic clinic underwent a facelift that included painting, new flooring, installation of some new cabinetry (to remove the old model box shelving), as well as an update to the front desk area. The project was designed to get us through to the time when a new school would actually be ready. Right now, we still need to get some décor up on the walls to brighten things and then the finishing touches will be in place.

Somehow, through this prolonged pandemic period, 2 classes successfully graduated and 2 new classes started and the program continues to attract new patients and finish those in treatment, mostly on schedule. Some of the part-time faculty were unable to return after the shutdown period and we miss seeing Drs. Anderson, Butterfoss, and Riley on their usual days. Also, Dr. Schufeldt stopped coming on craniofacial Fridays this past summer. On the other hand, we are excited to have Drs. Rogers and Shivar now, and I am anticipating being able to add a couple of new faces soon also.

I think one of our biggest accomplishments this past year has been in consolidating funding to cover all aspects of the department and residency program. Of course, the Virginia Orthodontic Foundation Endowment is perhaps the most flexible and largest endowment of its kind in the country, currently with a balance of $1.42 million and with a history of disbursing $677,000 to the department for the purpose of retaining faculty. The department also currently has two Professorships (the Paul Tucker Goad and Norborne Muir Professorships), disbursing a total of about $100,000 per year to the department and, this past year, used to support scholarships for the orthodontic residents. In addition, over the past 14 months, 3 new scholarship funds have been established through the MCV Foundation at VCU for orthodontic residents: the Steven J Lindauer Scholarship ($430,000), the Zachary and Gena Casagrande Scholarship ($100,000) and the Guy C Clayton DDS and Jean B Clayton Memorial Scholarship ($30,000). Together, this is a very impressive portfolio of support that will continue to serve the department into the future.

Thank you to Nick Lynch, who will be graduating in June, and Linda Powers, who is a first-year resident, for compiling this newsletter. Please contact me at sjlindau@vcu.edu with questions and comments.
### Endowment Fund Contributions

Thank you to the following individuals for your generous support of the Endowment Fund.

*Denotes pledge has been fulfilled.

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Would you like to contribute to the success of the department? Gifts to the Virginia Orthodontic Education and Research Foundation help promote education and provide funding to support the VCU Department of Orthodontics and its residents, and the scientific programs sponsored by the Foundation.
COVID-19 took a big ol’ bite right out of the middle of this group’s residency, but they continued full steam ahead by pioneering virtual learning at VCU and getting back into clinic as soon as possible. Fast forwarding to today, they’re all successful graduates who have secured awesome jobs in orthodontic private practices. From Virginia to North Carolina to Tennessee, they’re all succeeding in their post-grad professional lives, as well as their personal lives. New jobs, new children, new pets, and new cities are the name of the game for them - while we do miss them a lot, we’re so happy for them. They’ve already begun to give back to VCU with their time & resources, as well as acting as new mentors to our current residents. They’re undoubtedly continuing the VCU tradition of fostering a strong alumni community that extends a hand back to those following in their footsteps.

Class of 2021

Dr. Mason Bates
Mason is from Houston, TX and graduated with a B.S. in Biomedical Sciences from Texas A&M University. He then earned his D.D.S. from The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Dentistry and met his wonderful wife, Courtney. For his thesis, Mason assessed the perceived efficacy of extrusion of maxillary lateral incisors with Invisalign among orthodontists and general practitioners, including methods utilized to attempt to achieve the predicted extrusion. After VCU, he and his wife moved to Lynchburg, Virginia, to be near the Blue Ridge Mountains. There, Mason bought a practice - Blanchette & Bates Orthodontics. Not to mention, their beautiful baby girl, Brinley, was born in July! He expressed that he is “beyond grateful for the blessing of having attended such a great residency program to prepare him for private practice.”

Dr. Julia Giardina
Julia is from Cape Coral, FL and graduated with a B.S. in Biology from the University of Florida, where she met her amazing husband, Nick. She earned her D.D.S. from Virginia Commonwealth University. For her thesis, Julia assessed the efficacy of the Pediatric Modified- STOP BANG instrument to capture patients with a high-risk designation for pediatric obstructive sleep apnea. Upon graduating, Julia and Nick moved to Harrisonburg, Virginia, to purchase a practice and start their next chapter at Kray & Giardina Orthodontics with Dr. Frances Kray. And they recently brought home a new puppy, Jerry!

Dr. Jackson Griffeth
Jackson is from Gainesville, GA. He graduated with a degree in Sports Management from the University of Georgia and earned his D.M.D. from the Dental College of Georgia. He ventured away from the Peach State to come to VCU and will forever be grateful for the training and relationships he built. In addition to gaining a new VCU family, he and his wife Katherine have also been blessed with a daughter Rebecca and welcomed their son, Bear, to the family during their time in Richmond. For his thesis, he evaluated private practice patients’ perceptions of the value of face-to-face interaction with their orthodontist and preferences for the use of teledentistry in orthodontic treatment. After graduating, he and his family moved to Asheville, North Carolina, where Jackson is serving patients as an associate at Blue Ridge Orthodontics!

Dr. Anne Miller Harper
Anne Miller is from Kingstree, SC, and graduated from Clemson University with a B.S. in Health Science. After attending Clemson, she earned her D.M.D. degree from the Medical University of South Carolina. Her time as a resident at VCU has been amazing, and she and her husband, Walt, have loved all aspects of life in Richmond. For her thesis, she compared patients’ physical and virtual bite registrations to determine the accuracy and reproducibility of a virtual bite. Anne Miller and Walt moved to Johnson City, Tennessee, to associate at Sturgill Orthodontics with Dr. Jeremiah Sturgill and Dr. Allison Williams.
Almost there, Class of 2022!

As the first VCU Orthodontics cohort to experience 100% of their residency during “COVID times”, our experience has probably been rather different than that of previous VCU graduates. However, our faculty and staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that the quality of our program has remained top-notch. Both patient volume and resident camaraderie are as high as ever, and all four of us can attest that we feel very confident and competent to begin our careers. For now, we’re still incredibly busy with patient needs, presentations, thesis research, ABO exam studying, and job searching. Nonetheless, we’re very excited for all of the remaining conferences and fun memories that we have yet to experience. With that being said, we are definitely looking forward to graduating at the end of June and joining our colleagues as fully-fledged orthodontists!

Class of 2022

Dr. Nicholas Lynch
Born and raised in the little-known state of Kentuckiana, most of Nick’s life was spent in humble Midwestern suburbs. While working toward degrees in biology and Spanish at the University of Louisville, however, he caught the travel bug. Since then, Nick has spent as much of every year backpacking around the globe. Somewhere along the way he found himself back home, studying at the Indiana University School of Dentistry. After meeting people from all walks of life, Nick ultimately chose orthodontics as the best path. So here he is today, an orthodontist-to-be with a love of music, food, science, and all things international. Nick is incredibly grateful to be training at VCU Orthodontics and looks forward to a life full of smiles.

Dr. Justin Groody
Justin grew up just north of Charlotte, North Carolina, in Lake Norman and loved being near the water. He attended UNCW at the beach for college and the UNC School of Dentistry. Justin grew up playing football and lacrosse and he loves to stay active, whether it’s pick-up sports or daily CrossFit classes. In college, he was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, which has led him to focus on a healthy, active lifestyle and pursuing a love of cooking delicious, healthy foods. Justin is newly married to his high school sweetheart, Nicolette. The two love experiencing what Richmond has to offer and enjoy taking their adorable puppy Dahlia exploring. Justin found his passion for orthodontics halfway through dental school and couldn’t be more excited to learn this amazing specialty here at VCU. Justin will be moving back to his hometown of Lake Norman and is starting his own de novo practice.

Dr. Tonya Spangler
Tonya is from Richmond, and attended a small school in Weyer’s Cave following high school to study veterinary science. After working for several years as a veterinary technician, she decided to pursue dentistry and found her passion for orthodontics. She went to the University of Virginia for her undergraduate degree in biology, and then VCU for dental school. In her free time, she loves exploring the outdoors, spending time with her pup, Gilly, and staying up to date with the food scene in RVA!

Dr. Jordan Lamb
Jordan grew up in the Pacific Northwest on an island in the San Juan Islands called Whidbey. With close access to the ocean and the mountains he came to love being outdoors and eating fresh seafood. Jordan attended Brigham Young University for undergraduate studies where he got a degree in Neuroscience and met his wife, Chrissy, who is from North Carolina. After finishing his degree, he went to dental school at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. Jordan and his wife have three kids: Ezra, who is now five years old, Millie, who is three, and Eloise, who was born in Richmond during the first year of residency. As a family, they love going on hikes together and spending Saturdays at the beach or in the river playing in the water. Jordan and his family are so excited to be at VCU and to be a part of such a wonderful specialty in orthodontics.
Class of 2023 Going Strong

As the first Zoom-selected cohort of VCU orthodontic residents, we were excited to finally see the city and school in person when we moved to Richmond this July from Florida, North Carolina, and Maryland. The video tour during our online interview was not quite the same as walking through the rollercoaster adorned walls of the clinic and stepping into the conference room with Angle textbooks and *Seminars in Orthodontics* archives filling the bookshelves from floor to ceiling. Pandemic precautions had to remain in place, but we were still able to attain a sense of normalcy as we began our VCU orthodontic journey, just with some extra PPE and social distancing. We maintain a busy schedule with plenty of patients eager to seek treatment after the initial pandemic-driven lull. It seems like our introductory "bootcamp" was so long ago, since we transitioned to clinical activities within the first month of residency and have fully immersed ourselves in patient care ever since. There is still so much for us to learn, and we are excited to continue becoming better at what we do each day!

Class of 2023

**Dr. Scott Philips**

Scott was born in Charlotte, NC where he grew up playing football and basketball. He made his first stint in Virginia during his undergraduate education at Washington and Lee University, majoring in Neuroscience. It was in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains that he first discovered his love for nature and the outdoors. Following the call of his beloved Tar Heels, Scott then attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Dentistry. He loves to cook (but mainly to eat), to golf (most rounds), and to stay active, and he recently channeled his passions for exploration and fitness into running the Richmond Marathon this past fall! Scott is thrilled and grateful to be a part of VCU Orthodontics and is feeling incredibly inspired by the special people that comprise it.

**Dr. Victor Chan**

Victor, who goes by Vic, is from Orlando, FL. As a kid, he never missed an Orlando Magic game, listening on the radio while on the go or watching on TV from home. His most (and least) prized possession is a basketball signed by Dwight Howard in his prime. Victor has two siblings who are also in healthcare and a fiancé, Steph, who is a Family Medicine Physician Assistant. You can catch Vic saltwater fishing, weightlifting, or attempting to golf on the weekends, so naturally he is very excited to try his hand at fly fishing in Virginia. Victor is a gator and went to the University of Florida for both his undergraduate and dental degrees. He and Steph are honored to be a part of the VCU Ortho family!

**Dr. Linda Powers**

Linda was born and raised in a suburb just outside of Washington, DC. Her father is a general dentist, so she was surrounded by the world of teeth since before her primary incisors erupted, and knew that she was destined to be a tooth enthusiast, too. She is a proud alumnus of the University of Maryland, College Park as well as the University of Maryland Dental School, where she met her fellow tooth enthusiast husband, Karl. Following graduation, she did a GPR in Philly where she learned a lot, including that she wanted to pursue a career of curating smiles through orthodontics. After her own experiences with everything from a frenectomy and canine extraction to a lip bumper and RME, Linda feels connected with her patients. Outside of teeth, she enjoys baking, exploring new places, and biking. She is thrilled to be in beautiful RVA and continue her education at VCU!

**Dr. Benjamin Lowe**

Ben grew up in the suburban North Carolina city of Burlington. Here he was exposed to orthodontics at an early age in his dad's practice, and met his high-school sweetheart and future wife Maggie. Ben attended UNC Chapel Hill for his education, where he studied biology and religious studies. After finishing his undergraduate degree, Ben and Maggie got married, and he remained at Chapel Hill for dental school. After deciding to pursue orthodontics, he couldn't resist the impressive nature of VCU's program and the variety of all Richmond has to offer, so Ben and Maggie opted for a change of scenery and moved a few hours north this past summer for him to start residency. In his free time, Ben enjoys cooking, nerdy things, listening to Ariana Grande, and spending time with friends, family, and his beloved cat, Millie. Maggie works as a graphic designer for UNC Chapel Hill, and enjoys interior design, baking, and exploring Richmond. Ben, Maggie, and Millie are thrilled with Richmond and VCU's spectacular program, and have plans to move back home after residency so that Ben can join his father's practice.
Interviews

This year we had the opportunity to host in-person interviews once again! While some orthodontic residencies chose to remain virtual, there was an overwhelming preference from candidates for a live experience. With very thoughtful planning, we were able to safely offer an inside look into our program. From shadowing a clinic session with the second year residents to enjoying conversations with VCU faculty, residents, alumni and family members during the evening social, applicants could get a feel for why we are so proud of our program. As always, the process was intense, but we only put so much effort into it because we know that it yields the best results—which is evidenced by our amazing incoming group of residents!

Sneak Peek at the Class of 2024

Brandon Khor
Oregon Health and Science University, 2022

Katie Hayes
University of Missouri - Kansas City, 2022

Logan Passey
University of Utah, 2022

Alyssa Patterson
Columbia University, 2022

Welcome VCU Orthodontics Class of 2024!
**Staff Feature: Darlene Johnson**

In February of this year, Darlene celebrates her work anniversary as executive administrative assistant here at VCU—over 2 decades of service!

She was born and raised in Richmond, and lived south of the city in Chesterfield for most of her adult life, until moving to Glen Allen in the west end 6 years ago. She is the youngest of 3 children and has 1 daughter, Tiandra, who she loves dearly and visits often in Houston, TX. After 21 years of working at the VCU Department of Orthodontics, she can't imagine working anywhere else. She said, “I love working with Dr. Lindauer, Dr. Shroff, and Dr. Tufekci, as well as all the other faculty, residents, and staff. I have learned so much over the years and have met so many wonderful people through the meeting planning aspect of my duties for the Virginia Orthodontic Education and Research Foundation and the Angle Society North Atlantic Component.” She also enjoys traveling as part of her job and has had the opportunity to visit cities throughout the US, as well as international cities like Barcelona, Rome, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, and Tokyo.

She identifies herself as a die-hard Dallas Cowboys fan and a serious couch potato. On the weekends, you can usually find her watching the tons of shows on her DVR and just “Netflix-ing and chilling.”

This past December, Garick, the love of her life, proposed to her on her birthday. They have been together for seven years and will be getting married in January 2023. They are looking forward to spending the rest of their lives together.

Please congratulate Darlene on her engagement and thank her for her years of service! We appreciate you, Darlene!

---

Damaris Gochez
Clinic Helper

Damaris began working here in June 2021. Her favorite part about being a clinic helper at VCU is that it keeps her busy and there is never a dull moment! Outside of work, she is very musically gifted—she sings, plays saxophone, and also plays piano. Damaris is such a sweet addition to the clinic floor and we are so happy to have her.

Ana also joined the VCU Orthodontics crew in June of this year. She has an adorable 1-year-old daughter named Lyana, who she loves spending time with outside of the office. Her family enjoys the outdoors and playing with their dog. Her favorite part about working here is the team. She appreciates how friendly everyone is each and every day, and we appreciate how wonderful she has been at the front desk as well!

Ana Umanzor
Patient Care Coordinator

Baby Lyana
Clinic Renovations - Before & After

The VCU Orthodontics clinic underwent some exciting renovations over the winter break! We gained a brand new floor, a fresh coat of paint all around the walls, modifications to the cabinetry & storage, as well as a revamped front desk. Also, the walls will soon be decorated with a new theme - we welcome any creative suggestions!
Furry Faces in the Ortho Department
The 0018 VCU Bonding Agents were sent out on an important assignment to attend the 2021 Graduate Orthodontic Residents Program in St. Louis this summer. In addition to a great lineup of speakers and vendors, we were able to network with other residents from across the country and have some fun “bonding” with each other. We had a blast golfing, attending the 1920’s themed banquet, and even performing on stage with VCU Ortho alumnus, Cole Johnson. It was certainly a successful mission!
With the emergence of vaccines, came the emergence of live conferences once again! This past year our residents were able to enjoy spending time at the VAO meeting in Charlottesville, the VAOF meeting in Richmond, and the SAO conference in Charlotte! We also have more coming up, including AAO Midwinter in Orlando and AAO Annual Session in Miami. As many of you likely remember, conferences were an unforgettable part of residency, not to mention an invaluable way to network, learn, and make memories.
Orthodontic Department Annual Retreat

Last year the department retreat had to be cancelled, but this time around we were excited to resume our tradition of taking a break from bending closing loops to riding upside down on roller coaster loops! We were lucky to have a beautiful day for walking around the park, and also to visit Busch Gardens during its annual “Howl-O-Scream” event. In addition to the thrills of the high-speed rides, we had themed decorations and zombie actors spooking us throughout the night. It was a frighteningly good time!
As you know, the VCU Ortho program loves to celebrate Halloween with our young patients! School policies required that clinical areas be free of decorations, so we kept our jack-o-lanterns, cobwebs, and spider decor localized to the waiting area and reception hallway, and still managed to have some fun dressing up in clinic - don't worry, we were all able to don proper PPE over our costumes too! Although we did not go with a coordinated theme, we had a lot of fun representing a diverse set of notable groups from pop culture-- Harry Potter, Squid Games, Space Jam, and the classic Halloween favorite, Hocus Pocus.
Plenty of Holiday Cheer
Here at VCU Orthodontics

*masks only removed for photos!
Craniofacial Clinic Exposé

- After nearly 33 years of serving our special patients with the greatest needs, Dr. Lindauer has stepped down as primary orthodontic faculty overseeing our Friday morning Craniofacial Clinic. We are forever grateful for your dedication to our VCU patients. Thank you, Dr. Lindauer!

- We also want to extend our gratitude to Dr. Harlan Schufeldt, who spent nearly four decades serving our craniofacial patients and providing much-needed prosthodontic care for them. He stepped down this past semester, and we will miss him!

- And of course, we can’t forget about Dr. Anthony Peluso’s ongoing commitment to our craniofacial patients. He continues to generously dedicate his time and energy on Friday mornings with us.

- Last but not least, we would like to extend our sincerest congratulations to Dr. Shroff for stepping up to her new role as primary faculty for our Craniofacial Clinic. We know that she’s going to do an amazing job!
Academic Activities, Scholarly Stuff, & Pandemic Publications

Faculty Service (Regional, National, & International Committees)

- Dr. Shroff
  - National Secretary, The Edward H Angle Society of Orthodontists
  - Associate Editor, The Angle Orthodontist
  - Practice-Based Research Network Committee, American Association of Orthodontists
  - Grant Review Committee, Align Technology
  - AAO Predoctoral Publishing Committee

- Dr. Tufekci
  - Council on Scientific Affairs, American Association of Orthodontics
  - Board Member and Editor, Angle North Atlantic Component
  - Section Editor, Essentials of Dentistry
  - Vice-President, The Ohio State University, College of Dentistry Dental Alumni Society

- Dr. Lindauer
  - Editor, The Angle Orthodontist
  - Board Member & Treasurer, Angle North Atlantic Component
  - Review Committee for Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, ADA Council on Dental Accreditation

Research & Publications (Full-length Articles & Book Chapters)