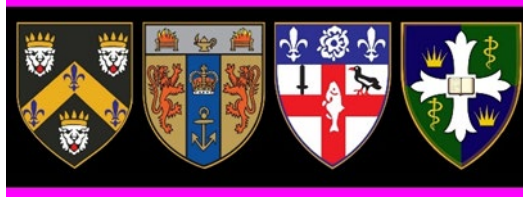


Dental Alumni Association



Annual General Meeting Saturday March 2nd 2024

Minutes

Attendees: (Committee)

Charlie Spedding

Prof Michael Escudier

Vincent Barrett

Prof Francis Hughes

Helene Williams

Tarik Shembesh

Jonathan Turner

Nima Kazempour

Stephen Challacombe

Melanie Nassepouri

+4 alumni

1. Welcome from the President of the KCLDAA- Charlie Spedding

2. Apologies for absence

none formal

3. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on March 4th 2023

Minutes accepted

4. Matters arising

Ninety alumni contributed to the Floor 31/32 project. Latest development is that due to not being able to meet current fire regulations for evacuation, this project has been stopped by the trust. Therefore donors will now be contacted once a new project has been chosen, with options for the donors to withdraw their donations.

5. President's report- Charlie Spedding

The new format of hybrid committee meetings seems to be working well. Various subcommittees have also proved helpful.

We have altered the alumni weekend programme a little this year with 2 days lectures and will see how effective this is at increasing support.

Our main goal is to continue to reconnect with alumni. We are endeavouring to forge relations with the students as they qualify and thanks to Samy Darwish we have Year Reps now to help connect alumni from all of the constituent dental schools. Hopefully our database will soon increase significantly in size. We are also trying to attract more staff, which is a slow process.

We are reminding alumni to update their contact details with the alumni office.

We were sorry to see Agnes Kwok move on to another role but are delighted to welcome Alex Groves who has been fantastic in ensuring the alumni dinner was a success, with help from Rae Daher.

I am planning to revisit the manufacture of alumni association merchandise, in particular scarves.

I am very grateful to my committee members but especially Jen Turner our Secretary and also Francis Hughes.

I am delighted that Jonathan Turner has accepted the trove of President Elect.

Melanie Nasseripour is also so committed and organised, and also the students have been great too. Thank you.

Thank you to Valerie Nicole and Diane Brook for all the y do year round but especially for this weekend.

Sadly we lost two alumni of 1992, Uchenna Okoye who was due to speak this Alumni weekend and Alex Morton. We offer our heartfelt condolences to their families and friends.

You will also have read the obituaries for Johnathan Greenspan and Newell Johnson I am sure.

It has been an enjoyable first year year for me, many thanks for your attention.

6. Executive Dean's report-Professor Michael Escudier

The past year has seen many achievements, opportunities and successes at the Faculty.

Last year we launched our ROAR project, where students and staff used the investigation of dinosaur teeth and evolution to inform and inspire awareness of study at university, STEM and healthcare subjects. The project has visited schools in the Medway region in South East England and continues to inspire young people into study with more visits planned.

Our international reach continues to expand with a new Memorandum of Understandings signed with the British University in Egypt last year.

Our staff continue to impress and have received many accolades and awards, including the Lister Prize, the Cozzarelli Prize, and prizes at the British Society of Oral and Dental Research to name just a few.

Professor Jenny Gallagher, was elected as the International Association for Dental, Oral & Craniofacial Research (IADR) Vice-President. Professor Gallagher has recently concluded a successful term as the Dean for International Affairs at the Faculty of Dentistry, Oral & Craniofacial Sciences at King's, and will continue to act as an Ambassador for International, Engagement & Service for the University.

In December, Awais Malik, a current student at the faculty was invited to speak at the first Inter-University Conference on Youth, Education and Research at the United Nations in New York. During his visit, Awais shared his expertise and insights and contributed to the development of strategic policies to help support the mission of improved youth education worldwide. We are incredibly proud to have Awais representing King's on this global stage. Our newly established Dental Therapy and Hygiene degree saw it's first cohort of students graduate in recent months. This programme combines the latest thinking in dental education with the clinical experience required for the future dental therapist and it was wonderful to see the new graduates embark on their careers outside the university. This year we also launched our very first FoDOCS Staff Awards. We've had over 175 nominations and it's been so heartwarming to hear about the wonderful activities our staff are involved in. I am incredibly privileged to lead such a vibrant Faculty. We will be holding an Awards Ceremony in April and will share with our alumni community the details of the winners in due course.

As you may be aware Professor Kim Piper, Dean for Education at the Faculty, has recently taken up the position of Academic Director for Student Success reporting to the Vice President (Education and Student Success) to drive forward institutional priorities around Widening Participation and Student Success.

Kim achieved much in her time as Dean for Education. She launched the new BDS curriculum, oversaw the introduction and accreditation of our new Dental Therapy and Hygiene (DTH) degree and expanded our widening participation and outreach activities. Her passion for education is only surpassed by her cake baking skills!

Her leadership, during the pandemic ensured our students could continue their education and graduate on time. This included the establishment of the high-fidelity haptic suite which won "Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year" at the Times Higher Education Awards 2021. There are many more achievements we could list, but Kim's ideology of kindness to all is one I hope will stay with the faculty.

On a different note, The Faculty and its alumni have a long tradition of philanthropy and donations have directly supported our students and our research, and it makes a tremendous difference. Whether that is mentoring a student, helping with a grant for someone struggling with the increased cost of living, or helping to purchase some new equipment which can be used day in day out, it is very much appreciated.

If you are inspired and would like to help, let me introduce you to Helene Williams, who is the Philanthropy manager. Helene is here and will be with us all day, so please take a few minutes to meet her and introduce yourself, and hear how you could help and support our activities.

7. Treasurer's report-Dr Tarik Shembesh

Please see the attached financial report

8. Secretary's report- Dr Jen Turner

There were 5 main meetings on a hybrid format, with 11-16 members at each meeting.

9. Alumnus of the Year Award and Distinguished Service Award: 2024 Winners

Alumnus of the year:

Nominees: Uchenna Okoye
Kathy Fan
Prof Jenny Gallagher
Winner: **Prof Jenny Gallagher**

Distinguished Service Award
Nominees: Jerry Kwok
Jerry
Mark Radford
Winner: **Mark Radford**

Discussion was held by Prof Escudier on Presentation of awards and inviting the shortlisted nominees to the dinner in advance. Regarding nominations- a comment passed to the committee was that improving communications to the wider alumni particularly the younger alumni, so that they can nominate and vote. A second suggestion within the meeting was to add an award for alumni less than 10-15 years after graduation. These points will be taken forward in future meetings.

10. Election of Officers- Announcement of President Elect candidate

Jonathan Turner has been proposed for the role as President beginning in April 2025.
All in attendance at the committee voted in favour of this.

11. AOB and date of next meeting (Saturday 8th March 2025)