



Alumni Profile: Dr. Daniel Richardson (D'02)

Sharing the Rewards of Giving Back

With a thriving oral and maxillofacial surgery practice and three school-age daughters at home, Dr. Daniel Richardson (D'02) doesn't have much free time. But when he was invited to join the Penn Dental Medicine Dean's Council last year, Richardson was glad to accept. "Penn has always had a special place in my heart," he says.

As a member of the Dean's Council — and the group's only oral and maxillofacial surgeon — Richardson is part of an external advisory board that consults with Penn Dental Medicine administration on topics that range from professional development and volunteer recruitment to fundraising.

"The purpose of the Dean's Council is to be an ear for Dean [Mark] Wolff," Richardson says, "and to keep your finger on the pulse of what's out there."

Richardson says he has delighted in the opportunity to interact with Dean Wolff and Penn Dental Medicine faculty, as well as former classmates who are also part of the Council. "It has put me more in touch with the school itself — the advances, the changes in the clinics, the programs, the student

admissions," he says. "It has given me the opportunity to be more exposed to the inner workings of Penn."

Richardson was just 20 years old when he enrolled at Penn Dental Medicine more than two decades ago and recalls finding a supportive community of faculty that helped him make the most of his Penn Dental Medicine experience. Even more importantly, he found his life partner here as well. As a second-year student, Richardson was asked by the admissions office to show a new dental student, a Los Angeles native and Columbia University graduate named Shanta Williams, around Philadelphia. Richardson and Williams married in 2001.

Richardson, who had wanted to be a surgeon since early childhood, discovered the

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world of oral surgery when he participated in the Careers in Dentistry program at Loma Linda University while in college. "I found it unique that you get a dental degree and medical degree," Richardson says he recalls thinking at the time. "It was something different."

Richardson applied to Penn Dental Medicine as an early applicant, even before graduating from Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) in Alabama. "Penn had a great reputation for producing specialists," he says. Richardson notes he was especially inspired to pursue a specialty in oral and maxillofacial surgery by then-Penn Dental Medicine Dean Dr. Raymond Fonseca, who is an oral surgeon.

After completing dental school, Richardson pursued his postdoctoral training in oral surgery at Harvard University, earning his medical degree there and completing his oral and maxillofacial surgical internship and residency at hospitals in Boston. A fellowship at the Posnick Center for Facial Plastic Surgery honed his specialty in dento-skeletal deformities.

Richardson opened his private practice, the Richardson Center for Oral and Facial Surgery, outside Baltimore, Maryland, in 2009. Dr. Shanta Richardson (D'03) has a private practice in pediatrics — Shiny Chompers Pediatric Dentistry — about seven miles north.

ABOVE: Dr. Daniel Richardson (D'02) and his wife, Dr. Shanta Richardson (D'03).

After joining the Dean's Council, Richardson says he learned about the Penn Dental Medicine Alumni Scholars program, in which alumni can fund scholarships to support current students. The Richardsons established a scholarship this year.

SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION

Through the Alumni Scholars program, either a DMD student or postdoctoral resident is selected as the beneficiary of the scholarship throughout his/her studies at Penn Dental Medicine with the alumni donors able to meet the recipients and follow their progress while at the School.

“My wife and I both got scholarships to go to Penn,” says Richardson. “Being minority students and having the chance to change our lives through education has been a great opportunity. If we can provide that to another dental student, we are honored to do so.”

The couple hope to contribute to the scholarship fund annually, Richardson adds, and to inspire their classmates to join them. “We have the opportunity to provide support because of the careers we now have as a result of our Penn Dental education,” he says. “It’s about giving back.”

ALUMNI SCHOLARS PROGRAM

To learn more about the Alumni Scholars Program, contact Sarah Burton-Flynn, sburton@upenn.edu.

www.dental.upenn.edu/alumnischolars



Class of 2022 OKU Inductees

Penn Dental Medicine’s ETA Chapter of the Omicron Kappa Upsilon National Dental Honor Society (OKU) welcomes its newest members, inducted from the Class of 2022 in May. New inductees are selected based on scholarship, exemplary traits of character, and potential qualities of future professional growth. The new OKU members from the Class of 2022 include:

Usama Al Abdullah

Alisa Lee

Kailin Baechle

Cristina Snachez.

Kevin Franz

Kylie Schlesinger

Phyllis Immitti

Kate Treischman

The faculty inductee this year was Dr. Temitope Omolehinwa, Assistant Professor of Oral Medicine.

ABOVE: Members of the OKU Class of 2022 inductees with Dr. Olivia Sheridan.