

“Dr. Jeansonne’s reputation as a clinician and researcher is exemplary. An endowment is a permanent way to recognize her many accomplishments.”

Henry A. Gremillion, DDS, MAGD  
Dean



Back row (l-r): Drs. Callie Smithson, Jeffrey Beacham, Joshua Reaves; Middle row (l-r): Dr. Jonathan Schubert, Mark Scott, Kayla McDaniels; Front row (l-r): Drs. Jared Mason, Conrad Johnson

To make a gift or a pledge to the Billie G. Jeansonne Scholarship in Endodontics, contribute online, by mail or call the Office of Advancement. Pledges can be fulfilled quarterly, bi-annually or annually.

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LSUHSC School of Dentistry  
1100 Florida Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70119 • (504) 619-8500

*Billie G. Jeansonne*  
**SCHOLARSHIP**  
Endodontics

**Education First**  
*committed to the highest standards in clinical teaching*

An alumni committee, chaired by Drs. Rodney Isolani, Mark Camp and Alan Simmons, aims to raise private funds to establish the Billie G. Jeansonne Endowed Scholarship in Endodontics. The purpose is to establish a permanent fund to benefit current and future endodontic residents, while honoring Dr. Jeansonne's nearly 30 years of dedication and commitment to dental education.



The initial corpus of the endowment will remain intact, while the annual interest income will be used to benefit residents in the form of scholarships, fellowships, or experiential opportunities, including internships, externships, conference travel, and fieldwork.

For every \$60,000 raised in private funds, the school is eligible to apply for a \$40,000 match from the Louisiana Board of Regents (LBOR). For example, if \$180,000 is raised, requesting a \$120,000 match is possible. The Department of Orthodontics has been successful at this level with its four professorships. Matching funds can be applied for as early as July 2015.

Requesting matching dollars is a competitive process. Preference will be given to scholarships for residents in high-demand professional programs which target Louisiana's workforce needs as defined by the Workforce and Innovation for a Stronger Economy (WISE) Fund. A \$300,000 endowment is estimated to result in \$15,000 annually, which can be used to support resident educational opportunities.

## Billie G. Jeansonne Endowed Scholarship

Billie G. Jeansonne, DDS, PhD, earned her doctor of dental surgery from Loyola University of the South School of Dentistry in 1968, a doctorate in physiology and biophysics from the University of Alabama in Birmingham in 1973, and her certificate in endodontics from the LSUHSC School of Dentistry in 1981.

A dedicated instructor and mentor, she began her career as a professor of biology and physiology at the Louisiana State University Medical Center in New Orleans, and then as the course director of dental physiology for the same institution. She began teaching endodontics at the dental school in 1977, first as clinical assistant professor, then as clinical associate professor, and finally as professor and coordinator of the endodontics postgraduate program.

Dr. Jeansonne served as coordinator of the Collaborative Master of Science program from 1998 to 2004, and as coordinator of the Master of Science in Oral Biology program from 2000 to 2004. During her tenure at LSUSD, she was the primary research advisor for residents, served as the principal investigator for three grants, and authored or co-authored over 50 publications and abstracts.

Dr. Jeansonne served on numerous LSUSD academic committees and taught nearly 20 different courses to pre- and post-doctoral students. During her career, she was active in local and national professional organizations, including the Louisiana Dental Association, New Orleans Dental Association, American Dental Association, National Institutes of Health: Division of Research and Grants, the American Board of Endodontics, the American Association of Endodontists Foundation. Dr. Jeansonne is also a member of Omicron Kappa Upsilon, the national dental honor society, and the Victor Vignes Odontological Society.

Dr. Jeansonne became a diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics (ABE) in 1992 and an ABE Director in 1997 where she played an instrumental role in revising and standardizing the oral examination portion of the ABE board certification process. Much of her effort with the American Association of Endodontists (AAE) was focused on educational programs and standards. In 2010 she received the AAE's most prestigious award, the I.B. Bender Lifetime Educator Award, which honors extraordinary educators who have demonstrated excellence through selfless commitment to full-time educational pursuits and whose guidance has instilled in students the desire to pursue excellence in their careers.



**“Billie has been a teacher, colleague and friend to me over the years...I cannot think of a more deserving person to be honored in this manner.”**

Van Himel, DDS  
Department Chair, Endodontics

After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Dr. Jeansonne played a key role in helping continue the endodontic program after the dental school relocated to Baton Rouge. She subsequently served as interim department chair from 2007-2009. In 2014 she retired after 26 years of service. At the request of Dr. Van Himel, department chair, Dr. Jeansonne continues to serve as a gratis faculty member, assisting students with their clinical training and research activities.

“Billie has been a teacher, colleague and friend to me over my career in Endodontics,” said Dr. Himel. “Her passion for education, commitment to research and dedication to national service have been remarkable. I cannot think of a more deserving person to be honored in this manner.”