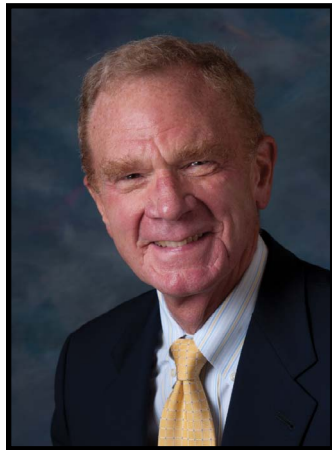




# PITT DENTAL MEDICINE

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*A Message from the Dean*

Dear Alumni and Friends,

The School of Dental Medicine is indeed fortunate to have the dedication and commitment of its faculty, staff, students, and alumni. From those who are consistently exploring the horizons of knowledge through research, to those who are revising our curriculum and clinic function with an eye toward the future of the profession as part of the total health care team, this edition highlights those people and their efforts.

We get glimpses of this dedication by two individuals who are retiring after years of unselfish service to the school and its educational programs. The continuing dental education area will undergo a change in leadership with the retirement of Dr. Gene Ewing (DDS '53) and with Dr. Bert Milligan stepping in to carry on our educational outreach efforts. The Dental Hygiene Program and the school have benefited from the tireless commitment, good judgment, and sense of humor provided by Ms. Judy Gallagher.

Perhaps the most subtle but representative of the school's "family" is the anonymous, generous gift of over \$1 million by a dedicated, committed, and altruistic donor.

The school has a continued admiration for our large military presence and our veterans. We commend these individuals for their service and thank them for their sacrifice. Our alumni, faculty, staff, and students have provided an impressive network of support for their exceptional commitments.

Assuring the advancement of oral health knowledge, our faculty and staff have diligently worked for over two years to accomplish a recently approved MS, PhD program in Oral Biology, which will begin in 2012. This will contribute to the next generation of academic dentists.

This year has also seen recognition of the school's initiatives and consistent commitment of its clinical and research faculty by the Board of Visitors (Brian Generalovich, DDS '68, chair) and the University of Pittsburgh Trustees Health Sciences Committee (Robert Lovett, chair).

Our students continue to be a source of pride, even so early in their careers, attaining research awards, committing their careers to the service of the less fortunate, and representing the school so well locally and nationally. We hope that you can join us to recognize our impressive students at the 12th Annual Dean's Scholarship Ball on March 31, 2012, which we are excited to announce will be held at Phipps Conservatory.

While the School of Dental Medicine faces substantial challenges in the coming year with reduction of the research budget by the NIH, reduction of the Commonwealth appropriation, and limitation of Medicaid dental services by the Commonwealth, I am confident that the same dedication and commitment that has advanced our school to this point will continue to carry us well into the future.

Sincerely,

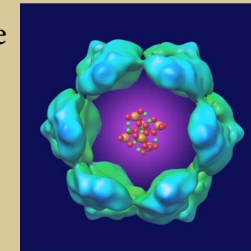
Thomas W. Braun, DMD '73, PhD '77  
Professor and Dean



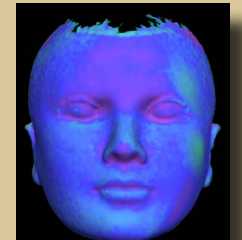
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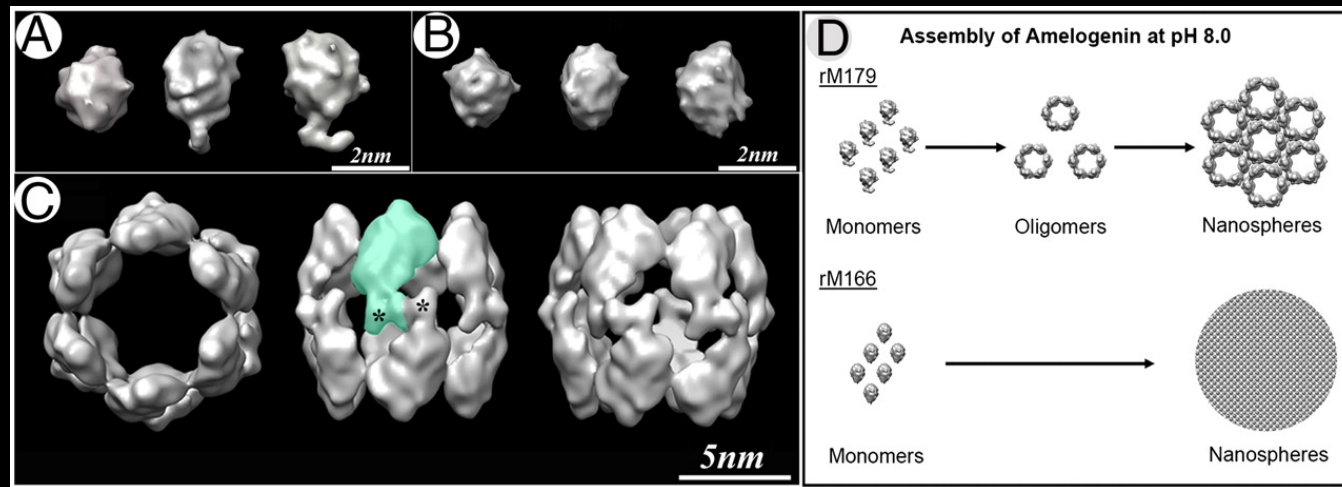
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Single-particle reconstruction models of rM179 (recombinant full-length murine amelogenin) monomers (A), rM166 (truncated version of rM179 that lacks the 13-residue C telopeptide) monomers (B), and rM179 dodecamers (C). Asterisks indicate the extension (C telopeptide) in monomers and dodecamers. Green shading roughly outlines the contour of one monomer in the dodecamer. (D) Models of rM179 self-assembly and rM166 aggregation into nanospheres.

## Researchers Work to Piece Together the Process of Tooth Enamel Biomineralization

Elia Beniash, PhD, associate professor of oral biology at the School of Dental Medicine, is conducting research to piece together the process of tooth enamel biomineralization. Dr. Beniash is breaking down the early steps of enamel formation to better understand the role of amelogenin, the key regulatory protein of enamel. He believes that this research could lead to novel nanoscale approaches to developing biomaterials.

Dr. Beniash explained that enamel is the most mineralized tissue in the body, possessing exceptional mechanical properties that combine high hardness with remarkable resilience, which are determined largely by its unique structural organization.

“In order to truly understand the basic mechanisms of enamel formation we must deconstruct and analyze this structural organization to comprehend the idea of how the enamel formation evolves this way,” he said.

To gain insight into the molecular mechanisms of amelogenin function in biomineralization, Dr. Beniash and his team conducted a cryoelectron microscopy study of amelogenin self-assembly and calcium phosphate mineralization. Through this study they found that amelogenin molecules self-assemble in a stepwise fashion via small oligomeric building blocks into higher-order structures. Similar to connecting a series of dots, amelogenin assemblies stabilize tiny particles of calcium phosphate, which is the main mineral phase in enamel and bone, and organize them into parallel arrays. Once arranged, the nanoparticles fuse and crystallize to build the highly mineralized enamel structure.

Enamel begins as an organic gel with tiny mineral

crystals suspended in it that form on a canvas 10 millimeters wide and then expands in a gel of protein. Once the minerals expand in the gel of protein the thickness of the enamel forms and the protein starts to degrade as the crystals begin to grow and attach to neighboring crystals. The number of crystals increases dramatically from 10 percent in the secretory stages to 95 percent crystals in the mature enamel, but the structure remains the same. Therefore, the enamel structure is laid out very early.

Dr. Beniash and his team believe their observations imply that the ability of protein to self-assemble is crucial to its function in the organization of the mineral phase. These results provide unique insights into the mechanisms by which biological macro-molecules regulate mineral formation at the nanoscale level and can aid in the design of bioinspired approaches toward bottom-up materials design.

“Crystals are extremely rigid, making it very hard to amend their shape,” he said. “However, by manipulating crystal growth at the nanostructural level the organisms are able to overcome this difficulty of amending the shape and create the design crystals that are needed instead of adopting to the shape of the crystals.”

An analogy of this situation would be building with concrete instead of bricks. When building with bricks, the shape and dimensions of the bricks are limiting. When building with concrete, which is similar to enamel in that it begins in a liquid form and becomes a solid, the concrete will adopt to any structure and then solidify, gaining mechanical strength.

The inspiration behind Dr. Beniash’s research is to design significantly better material for dental repair

and regeneration. “The problem with the polymer and ceramic materials currently used for fillings is that when the temperature changes, such as when you eat something hot, there is a thermal expansion and these filling materials tend to expand and shrink differently than the dental enamel,” he said. “The sheer stress to the interface causes a crack on the surface of the enamel that leaves an opportunity for bacteria to enter and form secondary caries under the filling.”

Constructing materials that will better interface with enamel will hopefully be the solution to this problem of caries forming between enamel and a filling. “We want to be able to design materials that can regrow enamel or at least design a material that is structurally and mechanically very similar to enamel,” he explained.

Dr. Beniash’s research is a new approach to biomaterial design. He believes that if they can harness the power of manipulating materials at the nanoscale, they will be able to create materials that require very low energy to produce, come from abundant sources, and will be much less expensive to produce.

Dr. Beniash is working on this research with Ping-An Fang, Department of Oral Biology, Center for Craniofacial Regeneration; James F. Conway, Department of Structural Biology, University of Pittsburgh; Henry C. Margolis, Department of Biomineralization, Forsyth Institute, Cambridge, MA; and James P. Simmer, Biological and Materials Sciences, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. A complete report of their findings can be found online in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Support for their research is provided by the National Institutes of Health Grants.

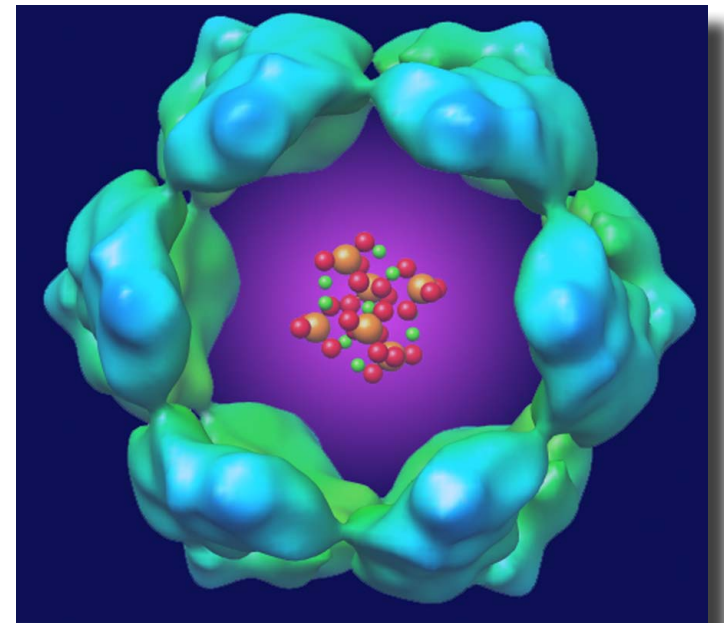
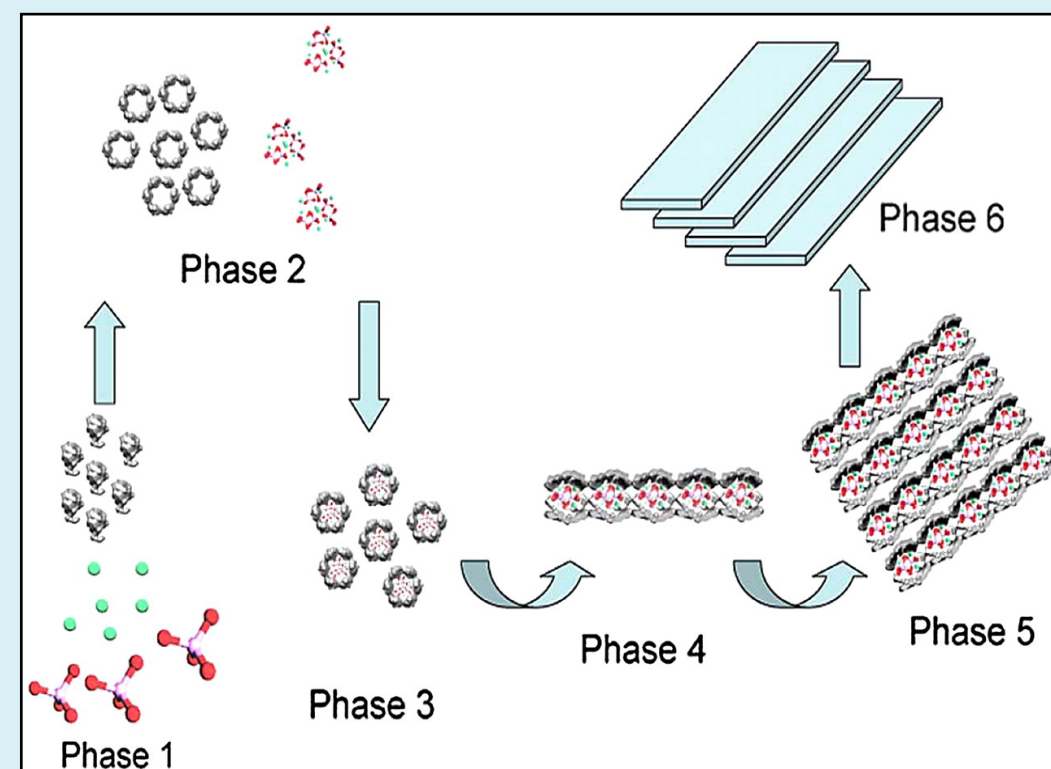


Image by Dr. Elia Beniash

Supramolecular assemblies of the major enamel protein amelogenin stabilize calcium phosphate prenucleation clusters and guide their assembly into linear chains organized into bundles. The prenucleation clusters in the bundles eventually fuse forming elongated crystallites. In forming enamel interwoven bundles of needle-shaped crystallites of carbonate apatite provide a structural template for mineralization.

*Some images in this article were originally published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences; Ping-An Fang, James F. Conway, Henry C. Margolis, James P. Simmer, and Elia Beniash Hierarchical self-assembly of amelogenin and the regulation of biomineralization at the nanoscale PNAS 2011 108: 14097-14102. The authors retain copyright to individual articles, and the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America retains an exclusive license to publish these articles and holds copyright to the collective work.*



A scheme depicting the proposed mechanism by which the amelogenin assemblies manipulate the arrangement of prenucleation clusters into organized mesostructures. (Phase 1) Mixing of mineral ions (calcium, green; phosphate, red) and the full-length amelogenin monomers. (Phase 2) At physiological pH values, amelogenin oligomers and mineral prenucleation clusters are formed. (Phase 3) Amelogenin assemblies and prenucleation clusters then assemble into the proposed composite structures. (Phase 4) Protein-mineral nanoparticles assemble into linear chains. This latter process will require some rearrangement of the amelogenin assemblies. (Phase 5) The linear protein-mineral nanoparticle chains organize into parallel arrays. (Phase 6) Prenucleation clusters fuse, leading to the formation of bundles of elongated crystallites of secretory enamel.



## The SDM Establishes New Graduate Program in Oral Biology

The Department of Oral Biology (DOB) at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine have received approval to establish a new graduate program in oral biology for post-baccalaureate students, predoctoral DMD students, and dental residents with an interest in research and pursuing academic careers. The program will offer either a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or Master of Sciences (MS) degree in oral biology. The faculty of the DOB will collaborate with faculty members from other departments within the School of Dental Medicine, School of Medicine, and various other University of Pittsburgh schools and institutes. The first class will be accepted for fall term 2012.

The new program will allow students to specialize in one of two areas of research concentration (ARCO) - craniofacial tissue engineering or craniofacial genetics. The SDM has a robust funding history in both of these areas. For fiscal year 2011, the Center for Craniofacial and Dental Genetics was awarded 36 grants and the Center for Craniofacial Regeneration was awarded 15 grants; combined the grants account for 89.2% of the SDM awarded funds. The graduate students in the new

program will have the opportunity to study the genetics of any medical disease or deformity that involves the head and neck. Examples of potential areas of study could be periodontal disease, caries, cleft lip, cleft palate, or temporomandibular joint dysfunction (TMJ). Faculty leadership for the program will be Dr. Mark Mooney, director of the oral biology graduate program and chair of the Department of Oral Biology; Dr. Mary L. Marazita, associate dean, Office of Research, and director of the Center for Craniofacial and Dental Genetics; Dr. Charles Sfeir, director of the Center for Craniofacial Regeneration; and Dr. Alex Viera, director of the Dental and Craniofacial Clinical Translational Research Center.

Students in the program will choose a faculty member as an advisor and will focus research on that advisor's respective grants. The Department of Oral Biology anticipates that this program will help to respond to the critical shortage of craniofacial biologists nationwide. This need was highlighted by recent reports from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) and the American Dental Education Association concerning an impending deficiency of

craniofacial researchers, clinician scientists, and dental educators in the United States. In addition, NIDCR has emphasized the need to establish training programs in craniofacial biology due to the decreasing number of researchers in this field and the increasing demand for oral biologists. The School of Dental Medicine currently is ranked 12th overall in research funding from the NIDCR. Out of 62 dental schools nationwide, there are 29 oral biology programs; 19 of which offer PhD and MS degrees, and 10 programs that offer only an MS degree. However, out of the 62 dental schools, the SDM will be the first to have a graduate program in both a Center for Craniofacial and Dental Genetics (CCDG) and a Center for Craniofacial Regeneration (CCR).

The major research focus of the Center for Craniofacial Genetics is identifying the genes that contribute to complex human phenotypes, primarily those involved in craniofacial and dental disorders. A majority of Dr. Marazita's grants are focused on birth defects, primarily cleft lip and cleft palate. Researchers at the CCDG conduct statistical and molecular genetic analyses to investigate the familial patterns of craniofacial and dental disorders. Dr. Mooney explained that students who choose this ARCO can become craniofacial geneticists. The research conducted in the graduate program could aid genetic counseling by providing the tools and skills to predict the likelihood that a parent will pass a genetic trait to their child. Researchers at the CCDG are able to take 3-D pictures of a person's face and see facial deformities that may not have fully developed to the surface. For example, these photos can detect if a person carries the gene for a cleft lip or palate in their facial makeup, regardless of the fact that it may not be outwardly noticeable.

The second ARCO, tissue regeneration, will be aided by the Center for Craniofacial Regeneration. The CCR was established to develop tissue engineering-based treatments for wounds and defects of the face or skull that restore function as well as appearance. Dr. Sfeir's and Dr. Costello's research from the Department of Defense's Office of Technology Transition would be an example of the type of grant graduate students could participate in during their time in the program. Their grant focuses on regenerating new bone in patients with tumors and trauma defects as well as congenital disorders. The CCR is directed by Dr. Sfeir, and is uniquely qualified to provide valuable graduate training to both basic and clinician

scientists interested in tissue engineering.

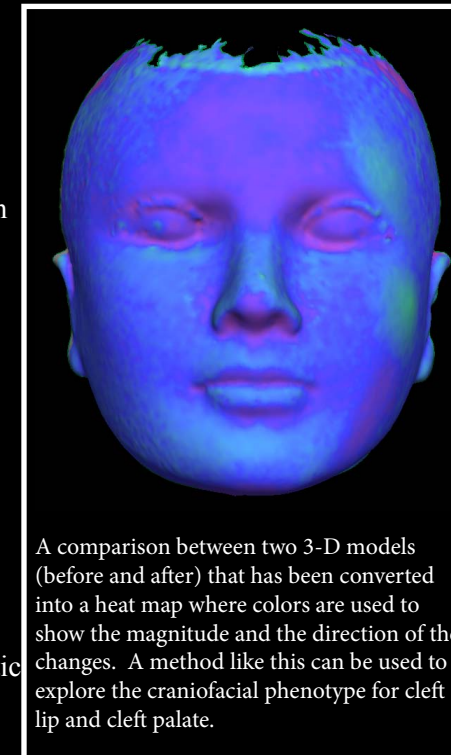
In a wavering job market, Dr. Mooney felt it was important to do some research to see what the projected job demand is for professionals with a graduate degree in oral biology. Dr. Mooney found that according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, craniofacial tissue engineers and craniofacial geneticists have an excellent job market and sound earning potential in the next decade. Of the 30-fastest growing occupations, biomedical engineer is number one and medical scientist is ranked number six. It is projected that 28,000 biomedical/craniofacial tissue engineers and 154,000 medical scientists/craniofacial geneticist positions will be needed by the year 2018.

In addition, a recent two and one-half year survey from Academic Keys, a Specialty Academic Employment company, showed that they posted an average of almost 40 jobs per year for basic science and clinical faculty positions in schools of dental medicine that requested an oral biology research background. This survey did not include academic positions in schools of medicine or public health. Also, oral biologists with both doctoral and clinical degrees are likely to experience

the best opportunities and will have a distinct advantage in competing for research funding, as certain opportunities are open only to those with both qualifications.

Dr. Mooney believes a great aspect of this program is that the research will be performed within the total context of the University of Pittsburgh. Pitt is ranked 5th in NIH funding for research and has many excellent facilities for the students to conduct their research. They will be able to benefit from the medical school faculty and advisors, UPMC's state of the art equipment, and most importantly they will be able to collaborate with university-affiliated institutes such as the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

The graduate program will operate as a stand-alone program for now; however, the Department of Oral Biology hopes to establish a dual-degree program in the future for predoctoral DMD students. Dr. Mooney anticipates accepting two PhD students into the program per year and about six students into the masters program per year. He said about 30 people already have shown interest in the program.



A comparison between two 3-D models (before and after) that has been converted into a heat map where colors are used to show the magnitude and the direction of the changes. A method like this can be used to explore the craniofacial phenotype for cleft lip and cleft palate.

*Picture on opposite page: A composite of a 3-D facial model from different perspectives*



School of Dental Medicine

Graduate School of Public Health

School of Medicine

School of Nursing

School of Pharmacy

School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences

## Interprofessional Education in the Health Sciences

“Interprofessional education is not a dental student and a medical student sitting in the same classroom,” said Jean O’Donnell, DMD, associate dean, Office of Education and Curriculum, University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. “Interprofessional education is students of different professions working in teams to provide comprehensive care and improve health care quality.”

Dr. O’Donnell is part of the University of Pittsburgh Schools of the Health Sciences working group on Interprofessional Education (IPE). Interprofessional Education is currently defined by the World Health Organization as: “When students from two or more professions learn about, from, and with each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes.” The School of Dental Medicine along with the five other health sciences schools within the University of Pittsburgh have established a working group to evaluate the following: the need for IPE; what already exists in each of the schools as far as IPE; and how we can form a collaboration among the schools to further incorporate IPE into Pitt’s curriculum.

Pitt’s first effort to introduce IPE to the students began a few years ago when it established the Interprofessional Forum for all first-year health sciences students. This year’s forum, “Educating Health Care Teams of the Future,” was held September 16 and drew an attendance of more than 700 students and faculty. A professional from each of the health sciences schools was present and participated in a panel discussion. During the panel discussion, each professional listened to Dr. Hollis Day (Geriatrician) interview a patient and then had the opportunity to discuss how his/her particular knowledge set

could have been beneficial to the patient’s care. This forum allowed students the opportunity to see what their peers do in practice and how interprofessionalism can improve patient care.

Dr. O’Donnell explained that the concept of IPE is being discussed more in-depth recently in light of the information in the past ten years about the crucial connection between oral health and general health.

“Traditionally, the education of physicians and nurses has not emphasized the oral cavity,” she said. “It is a part of the body that health care providers are just beginning to realize is integral to general health and that dentists can play a big role in overall patient health care.”

Throughout the conversation surrounding IPE, one idea is being emphasized, and that is the idea that there is a difference between collaboration and cooperation with patient care. Dr. O’Donnell explained that currently, physicians and dentists do talk to discuss a patient or a specific problem, but that is very different than being part of a team that works together to care for a patient’s multi-dimensional problems.

“By working together you make an impact on the overall care of a patient,” said Dr. O’Donnell. “If health care providers can’t see the relationship between their own work and their colleagues work, they aren’t going to be able to function together. And that disconnect is what can negatively affect patient care.”

In addition to the interprofessional forum and the working group, the SDM collaborates with other health care programs to allow students the opportunity to work with a more extensive group of professionals. Examples of this include a dental specialization in Pitt’s Graduate Certificate

in Gerontology and the Dual-Degree (DMD/MPH) Program in Dental Public Health. The hope for these programs is that students will build a broader health care perspective and learn about their colleagues respective roles in the health care team.

Dr. O’Donnell said students describe these programs as an eye-opening experience. They have expressed to her how valuable it has been to learn how to look more holistically at the overall health of a patient and not just the oral cavity. “The students hadn’t fully realized the complexity of caring for patients until they had this opportunity to discuss case studies with other health care professionals and hear their different perspectives,” she said.

Another effort the SDM is making that could have a potential IPE aspect is the fourth-year students’ work in underserved areas of the community. This has been done in the past; however, this is the first time it will be required for every fourth-year student to participate in community outreach. Each student will spend a period of up to two weeks seeing patients in a community dental facility. The members of the working group see this as an opportune situation for the students to potentially collaborate with a team of other health care providers during their time at these medical facilities.

A future possibility is to expose dental students to health care facilities where they currently do not have much of a presence, such as hospitals and nursing homes. Dr. O’Donnell believes these are places that dental students could really have an impact. However, before anything can move forward, she believes there needs to be awareness raising for both students and faculty as far as what interprofessional education is, why it is important, and what the role of each health care professional is. To do so, the Office of Health Sciences Diversity invited faculty and students to “Diversity in Practice,” a segment of the Brown Bag Speaker Series, on September 30. Senior Vice Chancellor of Health Sciences, Paula Davis, gave a brief introduction and Susan M. Meyer, PhD, and Loren H. Roth, MD, MPH spoke about the idea of interprofessionalism as diversity.

In addition to the need for increasing general awareness, there are a few more barriers to the development of IPE. These barriers include: the volume of students; coordination of the individual school’s schedules; and limited faculty to help the large volume of students work in smaller teams. To gain insight about how to overcome these barriers the working group has looked at what other schools are doing in terms of IPE. They found that some universities are assigning designated times for IPE. Whether that time is for in-class training sessions or another approach, the schools are making a point to set aside a few hours once a month to solely focus on IPE.

The working group has found that there are many ideas about how to approach IPE, and they are focused on formulating the best execution method to overcome the barriers and correctly integrate IPE into the system. “Our working group consists of very passionate professionals who really want to see this work,” she said. “I believe all these obstacles can be overcome, we just have to be a little creative.”



Mr. Martin Smallidge

### The Student Perspective

Mr. Martin Smallidge, a second-year joint-degree student in the School of Dental Medicine and the Graduate School of Public Health, is actively involved in the conversation about interprofessional education. Mr. Smallidge first became interested in the concept of IPE during his last year of undergraduate work at the University at Buffalo.

Similar to the working groups set up by the administrators at each of the six health sciences schools, Mr. Smallidge represents the SDM on the executive board for the student-run chapter of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Open School. Having this student-run chapter of IHI has started a dialogue among the students about interdisciplinary health care. Mr. Smallidge hopes to see dental and pharmacy students begin to collaborate on community outreach programs. One particular program, Operation Diabetes, he believes would be a great opportunity for interprofessional teamwork.

“This program would be a perfect opportunity because of the connection between oral health and diabetes,” Mr. Smallidge said. “The two health issues generally overlap, so we would be able to educate community members on the effects of both diseases on their health.”

Although all health professionals overlap in some areas, each profession brings its own perspective, and that’s where Mr. Smallidge believes the interdisciplinary component is needed. “In dentistry we have the unique perspective of observing the body through the oral cavity. By bringing this perspective to the health care team, dentists are helping to improve patient care,” he said. “At the same time, the skills that I am not specialized in can be complemented by other health professionals.”

For example, he explained that in his future practice, he may have a patient with periodontal disease and diabetes. As a dentist he can treat the periodontal disease, but the patient is not likely to have true success 10-15 years down the road unless the individual gets the systemic condition under control. “This is where I could use the help of a physician who would be better equipped to aid the patient in controlling the diabetes,” Mr. Smallidge said. “By working as a team, health care providers can use their collective skills and knowledge to combat disease and help our patients achieve health.”

This year, Mr. Smallidge put his interprofessional thoughts into action when he competed in the CLARION Case Competition. CLARION is a University of Minnesota student organization dedicated to improving health care through interprofessional collaboration. He was the first SDM student to represent Pitt in the competition. Mr. Smallidge worked with three other students, one each from the School of Medicine, Graduate School of Public Health, and a pharmacy management resident. The students had six weeks to work on a case study and present their analysis to a panel of interprofessional judges who evaluated their work in the context of real-world standards of practice.

Mr. Smallidge also was recently accepted into the Jewish Healthcare Foundation Jonas Salk Fellowship. The program is an interdisciplinary group of graduate students and recent graduates who meet to discuss issues in healthcare through a systems-based approach.

# Legacy Laureate



*"Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it. And, like any great relationship, it just gets better and better as the years roll on."*

*-Steve Jobs*

On June 12, 2005, CEO of Apple Computer and Pixar Animation Studios, Steve Jobs, gave a commencement speech at Stanford University; in his speech, he famously delivered the advice: "Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do." On October 13, 2011, an alumna who truly enjoys her career, COL Priscilla Hamilton (DMD '82), was honored as a University of Pittsburgh Legacy Laureate, the highest award the University bestows to an individual. COL Hamilton took the time during her visit to Pittsburgh to sit down and talk about her life, her passion for her work, and what's next.

## **The beginning**

"I knew I wanted to be a dentist a long, long time ago," said COL Hamilton.

COL Hamilton appeared relaxed yet professional as she shared stories about her father. "He was very influential in many of my career decisions," she said. "He had two big dreams in life; he either wanted to be a pilot or a dentist. Not so ironically, my brother became a navy pilot, and I became a dentist."

For as long as she can remember COL Hamilton grew up watching her father, a Seabee (construction battalion) in World War II, march in the Memorial Day parade, and report for his military duty every summer. "We were always just so proud of Dad," she said. COL Hamilton originally thought she might want to be in the navy, but explained that the opportunities for women in the navy at the time weren't very good. When her brother graduated from Officer Candidate School as a marine, she went to his graduation and distinctly remembers physically walking into a female marine. About 14 years old at the time, all she knew was that this marine was about 9 feet tall and really mean. It was at that moment COL Hamilton thought, "I'm not tough enough to be a marine," and so she pursued army ROTC in college. "It's been a great fit for me, it really has," she said. "Out of all the services, the army is most in-tuned with what I like to do."

*"...And, like any great relationship, it just gets better and better as the years roll on."*

As it turns out, the army was the perfect fit for COL Hamilton, because today she is Commander of the United States Army Dental Command (USA DENCOM), the highest-ranking officer in the DENCOM. She describes herself as the CEO of a large practice of about

5,000 members and 139 clinics around the world. Her days consist of about 14 hours of travel, e-mail, and policy or operation oversight. She travels three out of four weeks a month to meet with soldiers and leadership at different bases to learn the state of affairs and discuss any issues. COL Hamilton credits her Dad's early mentorship as planting the seed to her successful career in dentistry. She explained that her Dad helped her build model airplanes and little model cars to develop the hand-eye coordination and the manual dexterity needed for dentistry. While in high school, her Dad let her spend a couple days with a dentist to see what the profession entails, and she said it is an experience she highly encourages students interested in the dental profession to pursue.

Mentorship is a topic about which COL Hamilton feels very strongly. "I am finding more and more that our generation is not so much the unwilling, but the unwitting mentors," she said. "The truth is that people are watching us all the time to see how they should shape their lives, and when you look back and think about that, it's a really awesome responsibility." She went on to explain that some people don't even know there are dentists in the army, and she often is still referred to as a dental nurse because people don't know that women can be dentists. "So if people can see me in my uniform, my very presence is telling them that these accomplishments are possible," she said. "And there is tremendous power in that." COL Hamilton is a strong believer that students need to be mentored beginning in high school, because by college most students have already decided what they want to do with their life. "We need to reach students in high school, and for girls, in middle school," she said. "When girls are in 6th-7th grade is when they either begin to be excited by or intimidated by math and science." COL Hamilton hopes that reaching girls early in their academic careers will help break the stereotype that girls aren't good at math and science.

To honor COL Hamilton's award, military dental students were invited to the SDM homecoming dinner and class reunions at the University Club on October 14. COL Hamilton was able to meet and speak with dental students, and when asked what advice she would give the current military dental students at dinner she said, "They are entering in probably the most energetic, professionally rewarding experience of their lives. They will never do anything else that really exhilarates every sense of their development as being a dentist."

## **Behind the scenes with the COL**

Although she laughingly admits she doesn't have much spare time, when she does get some time to unwind she enjoys reading, knitting, and...riding motorcycles. The latter of the three was shocking, seeing as it was preceded by much tamer pastimes. COL Hamilton's love for motorcycles is a tribute to her late husband, who passed

away about 10 years ago, and was an avid motorcyclist. She explained that he would never teach her how to ride because he thought it was too dangerous. After he passed away, COL Hamilton decided she could either sit around and be sad or she could go out and define herself and think "I am strong, I can do this." In a fashion true to her character, she decided to be strong. COL Hamilton bought a motorcycle, took the safety course, and got her license to ride. She admits that she doesn't ride as often as she should, but when she does, she explains it as a metaphysical experience. "There is something about the stimulation of sensation, you smell the air around you, you feel the wind on your face, you feel cold, you feel the rain, you feel the bumps in the road...you are connected to where you are," she said. "And I think that's where we miss a lot of things in life, we do so many things virtually these days that we forget we need to experience life."

In the month prior to the interview, COL Hamilton had traveled to Mexico City and Las Vegas, and was off to Germany the next day. Being a whirlwind traveler, COL Hamilton shared what the one thing she really wanted to do on her short visit back to Pittsburgh was. "I want to take a tour of the new dental school," she said. "And if time permits, I want to take a walk through Schenley Park to enjoy the changing of the seasons."

Shortly after the interview, COL Hamilton was able to tour the new additions to the SDM and was impressed, proud, and excited for the next generation of dentists. She was thrilled to see how much the facilities have advanced and that the strong clinical-base of the curriculum was still in place.

It's safe to say COL Hamilton has come a long way since her days as a student in Salk Hall. In addition to the Legacy Laureate Award, COL Hamilton was recently named one of the Top 25 Women in Dentistry by *Dental Products Report*, and is a 2010 University of Pittsburgh Distinguished Alumni Award recipient. COL Hamilton's military command position is a defined two-year role, and she will be coming out of command in August 2012. As for what's on the horizon she said she does not have a job lined up for life after the army, but hinted that she is a resident of Alaska and would like to some day settle down there.

*Pictured on opposite page: (From left to right) Senior Associate Dean, Dr. Dennis N. Ranalli visits with COL Hamilton; Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg, COL Hamilton, Dean Braun, and Dr. Arthur S. Levine; Dr. Juan Taboas gives COL Hamilton a tour of the Center for Craniofacial Regeneration.*

# Homecoming 2011



The School of Dental Medicine had its largest turnout in recent memory for homecoming events this year. Events kicked-off for the students on Thursday with a lunchtime presentation from Eastern Dentists Insurance Company's Vice President of Risk Management, Barry Regan. Mr. Regan spoke to the students about "Legal Implications for Practitioners in the Information Age." EDIC presented the SDM with checks for an educational grant and a donation to the Dean's Scholarship Ball.

On Friday, the all-day CE course, "Drugs and Dentistry – Including Herbals and Natural Products," was an enormous success with more than 300 people in attendance. The course was presented by Richard L. Wynn, PhD, Professor of Pharmacology at the University of Maryland Dental School. Dr. Wynn discussed a spectrum of the most recent reports describing conventional drugs, herbal supplements, and nutraceuticals having impact on dental and dental hygiene practice. Delta Dental generously awarded an educational grant to the SDM to provide partial funding for this course. In addition to the CE course Friday, President of the Dental Alumni Association, Dr. Margaret Gurtner, accepted a gold-banner award on behalf of the DAA during a luncheon at Alumni Hall.

Later in the evening, alumni and guests gathered at the University Club for dinner and fireworks. This year marked reunions for class years 1961, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1985, 1986, 1991, and 2001. As usual, all alumni were invited regardless of their class year, and there was an excellent turnout. In honor of our Legacy Laureate, COL Priscilla Hamilton (DMD '82), military dental students, faculty, and staff were invited as special guests of the SDM. The Pitt Alumni Association provided a grant to support dental student attendance at the homecoming dinner.

As the evening came to a close, alumni and guests gathered on the rooftop terrace of the University Club for an excellent view of the fireworks and laser show. To view a complete album of photos from homecoming weekend, visit [www.dental.pitt.edu/alumni](http://www.dental.pitt.edu/alumni).



Mr. Barry Regan and Dr. Ranalli at the dental student session



Dr. Ewing and Dr. Wynn at the CE course



Dr. Arthur Nowak and Dean Braun at the homecoming reception



Dr. Dobos and DAA President Dr. Gurtner at the Banner Luncheon



Military affiliated SDM homecoming guests

## Reunion Classes



Class Reunion Organizers



Golden Alumni



Class of 1961



Class of 1971



*Class of 1976*



*Class of 1981*



*Class of 1985*



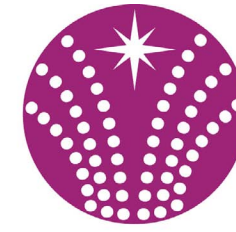
*Class of 1986*



*Class of 1991*



*Class of 2001*



Las Vegas

American Dental Association  
**ANNUAL SESSION**  
OCTOBER 10 - 13, 2011



Dr. Paul W. Guevara (DMD '96, MDS '01), Elaine W. Carpenter (Cert. '73), and Dr. Peter A. Guevara (DMD '02) were featured on the ADA posters which were placed throughout Mandalay Bay Hotel.

**Dental Alumni Association Reception at the ADA Annual Session**

The Dental Alumni Association hosted a reception at the American Dental Association's Annual Session in Las Vegas October 10. More than 100 alumni and friends of the SDM attended the reception at Mandalay Bay Hotel. Next year's ADA Annual Session will be held October 18-21, 2012 in San Francisco. Check [www.dental.pitt.edu/alumni](http://www.dental.pitt.edu/alumni) closer to the event for updates about the time and location of next year's Dental Alumni Association reception.



Dr. and Mrs. Lance G. Rose (DMD '84)



From left to right: Dr. Jaren Catlin (DMD '03), Dr. Deirdre Catlin (DMD '03), and Dr. and Mrs. William Octave (DMD '75)



## SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE NEWS

### Students Welcomed to the SDM Family at Annual White Coat Ceremony

The School of Dental Medicine held its annual General Assembly and White Coat Ceremony on August 29, 2011. Eighty first-year dental students and 32 dental hygiene students were welcomed by Dean Thomas W. Braun. More than 300 family, friends, and alumni were in attendance and there were 245 views via the live stream at [www.dental.pitt.edu/whitecoatceremony](http://www.dental.pitt.edu/whitecoatceremony).

Dr. Dennis J. Charlton (DMD '81), president of the Pennsylvania Dental Association and Dental Alumni Association board member, was the keynote speaker for the ceremony. Dr. Charlton provided the students with 34 tips for surviving dental and hygiene school in a list he titled, "Ready, Set, Survive!"

Dr. Margaret Gurtner (DMD '90), president of the Dental Alumni Association, welcomed the students on behalf of the alumni association. Dr. Gurtner spoke to the students about how the relationships they make in dental school will last a lifetime. She assured the students that they will have the support of the alumni during their time at dental school, and encouraged them to become active members of the Dental Alumni Association after graduation.

The White Coat Ceremony was supported in part by the Harry K. Zohn, (DMD '84), and Cecile A. Feldman, DMD, dean of UMDNJ, White Coat Endowment Fund, as well as contributions from alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends.



Dr. Charlton (DMD '81), president of the Pennsylvania Dental Association, addresses the students at the annual White Coat Ceremony August 29.



Dental medicine class of 2015



Dental hygiene class of 2013

### New Center for Craniofacial and Dental Genetics Imaging and Morphometrics Lab

The Center for Craniofacial and Dental Genetics (CCDG) has created a new lab to support image and morphometric analysis. The new lab will offer a variety of services such as: Training faculty/staff/students on 3-D facial surface imaging technology and other methods of hard and soft tissue data acquisition; Planning and study design for projects seeking to quantify aspects of craniofacial morphology; and training and collaboration on morphometric analyses of anthropometric, cephalometric, and 3-D craniofacial image data. The lab will be located in the Bridgeside building and will accommodate up to eight work stations. Additionally, the new lab will play a direct role in the training of students enrolled in the new graduate program in oral biology. To read more about the new program, see page 5.

## SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE NEWS

### Dental Hygiene Table Clinics

This August SDM's Dental Hygiene Program observed its first Dental Hygiene Appreciation Day in conjunction with the annual dental hygiene table clinic session. This year's session was entitled "Evidence-based Research: Hot Topics and Current Trends Effecting Oral Health Care." More than 30 dental hygiene alumni attended the event and received two free CE credits through the Pennsylvania Academy of Dental Hygiene Studies for viewing the presentations. Ms. Lindsay Eckstein and Ms. Norah Hoban were the first-place recipients of this year's table clinic award with their poster entitled "Mid-Level Oral Health Practitioners: Current and Proposed Models." Ms. Eckstein and Ms. Hoban went on to present their winning table clinic at the Pennsylvania Dental Hygienists' Association Annual Session in November.



Ms. Lindsay Eckstein and Ms. Norah Hoban the first-place recipients of this year's dental hygiene table clinic award

### Faculty Attend All-Day Implant Enrichment Course

Faculty recently had the opportunity to attend an enrichment seminar focused on implant dentistry. The purpose of the course was to standardize the evaluation of potential implant patients presented in the SDM and establish a standard of care for the execution of their dental needs. The presentations included the preoperative evaluation, surgical placement, prosthetic reconstruction, and potential pitfalls in implant therapy. The faculty members experienced hands-on exercises dealing with implant placement and participated in an interactive treatment planning session to reinforce the material learned. The seminar was facilitated by Drs. Kukunas, Ochs, and Narcissi. Fifty-nine faculty attended and 18 faculty and residents served as speakers and facilitators.



Steven G. Johnson, DDS, speaker; Mr. Dan Rolotti, ASDA President; and Dean Thomas W. Braun at the ASDA Steel City Dental Expo.

### Fourth Annual ASDA Steel City Dental Expo

ASDA held its annual Steel City Dental Expo on Thursday, October 27, 2011. More than 200 dental students attended and listened to a presentation by Steven G. Johnson, DDS. Dr. Johnson spoke to the students about personal development, leadership skills, and how to build a team-driven practice. Dr. Johnson has spoken to some of the top practices in the United States and Canada, sharing his successful business model for growth in a down economy.

### Two SDM Students Awarded NHSC Scholarships

First-year dental student Ms. Kaitlyn Burgess and third-year dental student Mr. Gabe Proulx have been awarded National Health Service Corps scholarships. NHSC scholars are committed to serve one year for each year of support at an approved site in a high-need Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) after they graduate, serve in a primary care residency, and are licensed.

Ms. Burgess and Mr. Proulx were invited to attend the New Scholar Conference in New Orleans October 27-29 to learn more about the opportunities through NHSC both in school and after graduation. Health professionals from all disciplines were present and more than 180 new scholars attended. The conference consisted of large group presentations, break out sessions, and networking events. "The conference gave me a healthy dose of perspective and left me re-energized," Ms. Burgess said. "With the support network of NHSC, I feel empowered to serve the patients who need it most."

## SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE NEWS



### Board of Visitors Meeting

Board of Visitors at the SDM

On November 14, 2011, the SDM hosted its annual Board of Visitors meeting. Visitors in attendance were: Ms. Connie Tanner-Bird (DH '76); Dr. Judith Davenport (DMD '79); Dr. Peter Polverini, dean, University of Michigan School of Dentistry; Dr. Leo E. Rouse, dean, Howard University College of Dentistry; Dr. William B. Trice, (DDS '53); Dr. Harold Wrigley, (DMD '67).

### Pennsylvania Dental Foundation Donates to "Give Kids a Smile" Day

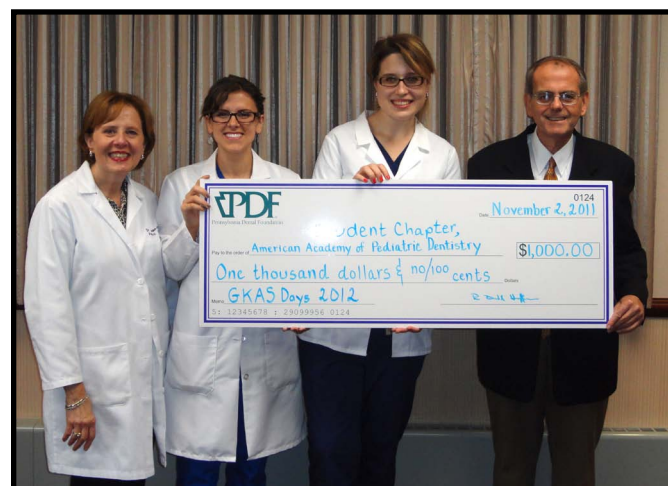
The Pennsylvania Dental Foundation donated \$1,000 to the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, Student Chapter at the SDM. Dr. Hoffman, faculty member of the SDM, is the current Treasurer of the Pennsylvania Dental Association and also Chair of the Budget, Finance, and Property Committee (BFPC). Dr. Hoffman and the BFPC recommended to the PDA Board of Trustees (BOT) that a grant of \$1,000 be given to each of the three Pennsylvania dental schools to support their "Give Kids A Smile" outreach activities in providing care to underserved children. The dates for the SDM's 2012 "Give Kids a Smile" day are February 3, 2012 and March 16, 2012. The BOT approved the request on September 24th.



The Student Chapter, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and Dr. Ambrosino

### High School Students Visit the SDM to Learn about the Dental Profession

Twenty high school students from the Sci-Tech Academy After School Health Education Club (AHEC) visited the SDM on Thursday, November 3, 2011. The students participated in a hands-on application of a dental sealant, learned about dentistry as a career, and talked with dental students about their reasons for choosing the dental profession. The Student Chapter, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) organized the event with support from Dr. Deborah Studen-Pavlovich and Dr. Joseph Ambrosino (AHEC). In addition to student officers and members of the AAPD, Pitt medical students volunteered and helped make the event a successful interprofessional learning experience.



Dr. Studen-Pavlovich, Courtney Walter, AAPD President, Alexandra Jensen, AAPD Vice President, and Dr. R. Donald Hoffman.

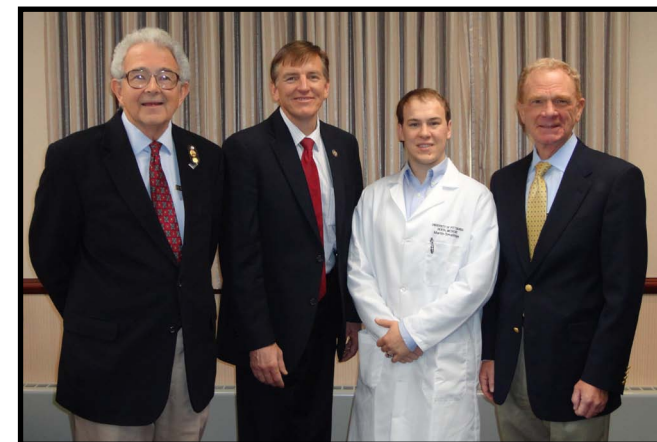
## SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE NEWS

### Student Wins Award for Research Presented at Hinman Research Symposium

Fourth-year dental student, Gaurav Shah, received an award at this year's Hinman Research Symposium for research he performed under the guidance and supervision of Drs. Costello, Sfeir and Ms. Fatima Syed-Picard.

Mr. Shah's research project focused on measuring expression of bone-specific proteins by a periotsteum-like tissue created from sheets of bone-marrow stem cells wrapped around calcium phosphate cement and implanted into mice. The project was done through the Center for Craniofacial Regeneration.

The seventeenth Hinman Student Research Symposium was held October 28-30, 2011 at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee. The Symposium featured oral and poster presentations of research projects by dental students and graduate students from dental schools across the nation. At this year's Symposium, 90 students represented 41 dental schools in 24 states, the District of Columbia, and 4 Canadian provinces. Eighteen dental students from the University of Tennessee presented their projects and acted as hosts for the symposium.



Dr. Jay Wells, Congressman Gosar, Mr. Martin Smallidge, and Dean Thomas W. Braun

### Congressman Visits the SDM

Republican Congressman Paul A. Gosar, DDS, visited the SDM on October 28, 2011 to speak with dental students and faculty about health care issues related to dentistry. Congressman Gosar was accompanied by Dr. Jay Wells (DDS '65). He addressed an audience of more than 50 people and then provided an open forum for questions. Congressman Gosar is one of two dentists in Congress. He hails from Flagstaff, Arizona and is serving his first term in the U.S. House of Representatives as the representative from Arizona's First Congressional District.

### Student Chapters of AAPD and ADHA Organize Toy Drive to Benefit the Alliance for Infants and Toddlers

The SDM's student chapter of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) had another successful year of collecting donations for The Alliance for Infants and Toddlers. This is the 8th year the Student Chapter of the AAPD and the Department of Pediatric Dentistry have held a toy drive to benefit this cause. This year the Student Chapter of the American Dental Hygiene Association (ADHA) participated as well, and made it a successful joint-effort. The two student chapters were able to provide gifts for 100 children through donations by students, faculty, and staff. The toys were delivered to The Alliance for Infants and Toddlers to distribute to families with low birth weight infants and children between the ages of birth and three years who have developmental concerns.

### Eighteenth Annual T.F. Bowser Memorial Lecture

The New Perio Medicine Hygiene Protocol  
Timothy Donley, DDS, MDS

April 21, 2012  
8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Scaife Hall, auditoriums 5 and 6

Significant numbers of patients are walking into our offices every day with legitimate periodontal treatment needs. This course will teach you about the links between periodontal disease and heart disease, diabetes, pre-term low birth weight, arthritis, obesity, etc. You will hear how to incorporate these findings into a risk-based approach to periodontal diagnosis and treatment that will work in your practice.

Dr. Donley is the former editor of the Journal of the Kentucky Dental Association and is an adjunct professor of Periodontics at Western Kentucky University. He is a lecturer with the ADA Seminar Series and Dentistry Today recently listed him among it's Leaders in Continuing Education. He is currently in private practice of periodontics and implantology in Bowling Green, KY.

For more information visit [www.dental.pitt.edu/ce](http://www.dental.pitt.edu/ce)



Above: View of the new research tower from Sutherland Drive; Top Right: Aerial view of Salk Hall and the new research tower; Bottom right: View of new research tower from Terrace Street.

## Alumna Explains her Motivation to Give to the SDM

“If you build it, they will come.”

This is the old adage that Mrs. Barbara Egnot (DH ‘75) referenced when explaining the motivation for supporting multiple facilities and research at the SDM through the years.

“My husband and I want the best and most educated professionals to be graduates of the University of Pittsburgh,” she said. “We realize it is important to have the highest quality facilities for the students to prosper in.”

Barbara and her husband, Dr. James Egnot (DMD ‘80), are both alumni of the SDM, and have been avid contributors to the research and facilities that have helped to progress the SDM over the years. Mrs. Egnot explained that she and Dr. Egnot always have taken a personal interest in research. They have an appreciation for what research can do for society and also for the University.

“It is easy to recognize that every development that occurs in a research lab is something that will improve a population’s overall health,” she said. “Some of the research that already has been started on the biological level such as re-building teeth and limbs, make it clear that the possibilities are endless.”

Mrs. Egnot is referencing Dr. Elia Beniash’s research in re-building tooth enamel, and Dr. Charles Sfeir’s several research projects aimed at the regeneration of dentin and bone. She believes that if a school builds facilities capable of doing top-notch research, there will

be student incentive. Holding true to her belief, when Mrs. Egnot heard about the new research building that will be an addition to Salk Hall, she felt very strongly about supporting its establishment.

“I believe once the research tower is built, the students will be coming away with a greater appreciation of hands-on research, which is an educational aspect that we weren’t as exposed to when I was in school,” she said. “We have a high school age daughter who has an interest in the medical sciences, and if she chooses to attend Pitt, I think it would be wonderful if she could benefit from a building such as this new research tower.”

In previous issues of *Pitt Dental Medicine*, we have described the University of Pittsburgh is commissioning construction of a five-story state-of-the-art building adjacent to Salk Hall to support the grow of research. The laboratories will include work spaces for research assistants and post-doctoral students, procedural benches, specialty labs, environmental cold rooms, cell culturing facilities, high-end microscope rooms, lab support equipment, and locker room facilities. This construction is to take place over the next two years.

*For information about contributing to the SDM, contact Mr. Paul Casey at [pbcs8@pitt.edu](mailto:pbcs8@pitt.edu) or (412) 383-7544.*



The School of Dental Medicine has many key community supporters. One such community supporter that has been significant to the establishment and progression of the Center for Patients with Special Needs, The Federation of Independent School Alumnae (FISA), which is celebrating its 100th anniversary as an organization. We recognize FISA for its contributions to the SDM and its commitment to removing barriers and promoting full access and inclusion for people with disabilities into the community.

“The School of Dental Medicine has really stepped up and seen the vision,” said Kristy Trautmann, executive director of the FISA Foundation.

The FISA Foundation envisions a community in which women, girls, and people with disabilities reach their full potential, are safe and healthy, and participate fully in community life; thus, enriching their own lives and those of others. Ms. Trautmann believes the School of Dental Medicine has made this vision a reality through its ever-present dedication to increasing accessibility to dental care for patients with disabilities.

The Center for Patients with Special Needs was established in 2008 to centralize and increase the capacity for the treatment of patients with special needs who were treated previously throughout clinics in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, the Advanced Education in General Dentistry Program, and the Dental Hygiene Program. As established by Dean Thomas W. Braun, special needs dentistry is one chief priority of the School of Dental Medicine. This effort is aimed at expanding the pool of trained dental providers as well as making special needs dental care more widely accessible.

This year as FISA is celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a foundation and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its inception as an organization, the FISA board has decided to go through a strategic planning process to determine what has been learned over the past 15 years. The board is evaluating which grants have had the most impact, how to build on their successes, and how it can continue to move forward with its commitment to increasing access to health care for people with disabilities.

During this evaluation process, Ms. Trautmann said it was clear that the School of Dental Medicine is one

relationship that has absolutely had a remarkable impact on the community. “I think that because there has been a re-thinking of the curriculum as well as the addition of the Center for Patients with Special Needs, this really has been one of the things we can look at and say, ‘Wow, we had a tiny part of this,’” she said. “Not only do people with disabilities have better access to dental care right now, but they have *permanent* better access to dental care because of the school’s comprehensive training of professionals.”

Over the course of several years, the FISA Foundation has awarded grants totaling \$160,000 to the School of Dental Medicine to expand the Center for Patients with Special Needs. Ms. Trautmann’s hope for these grants has been that through comprehensive training in the area of special needs dentistry, students will graduate and view the treatment of people with disabilities as routine practice. She hopes that students leave with the belief that treating people with disabilities is “no big deal,” the same way that having an elevator or a ramp in a building is not considered out of the ordinary.

“We recognize that through connections like we’ve had with the dental school that you shouldn’t aim low, don’t dream small dreams,” said Ms. Trautmann. “It’s a wonderful thing when we go out and talk to our colleagues in other regions about what the dental school is doing and are able to present the school as a model to the community,” she said. “I think it makes all the difference in the world to be able to have a success story like the dental school to point to and say, ‘this *is* possible.’”

Now that FISA has evaluated its past 15 years, when asked what she would like to see in the next 15 years, Ms. Trautmann said she would love to see the curriculum for the treatment of people with special needs embraced by all the health sciences schools at Pitt. The SDM and Pitt are dedicated to fostering an environment of interprofessionalism and hope to make aspirations like Ms. Trautmann’s a reality in the future.

The SDM’s plan for the immediate future is to continue evolving access to care for special needs children through an expansion that will include the addition of two anesthesiology suites in the Department of Pediatrics. These suites will be used to treat pediatric patients with special needs who require pharmacologic management for dental care.

## Alumni Updates

**Drs. Kelly and Matthew Bateman (DMD '10, DMD '11)** announced the birth of their daughter, Rylee Kimmel Bateman, on October 19, 2011. Rylee was born 8lbs 7oz, 19 inches long, and with two teeth!

**Dr. Elaine Berkowitz (DMD '86)** is an Army Reserve member who has been serving her second tour of duty in Kosovo.

**Dr. Justin Bordlemay (DMD '01)** recently started his own practice in Savannah, Ga. after serving in the Army Dental Corps for 11 years.

**Dr. Terry Buckenheimer (DMD '80)** was recently in the *ADA News* for his support of fluoridation in his community.

**Dr. Jeff Campbell (DMD '74)** is currently Secretary-Treasurer of the Greater Cleveland Dental Society (GCDS). Dr. Campbell has served on the GCDS Board of Trustees for the past seven years and has represented the GCDS at the annual ODA meeting as a delegate. In addition, he represents District 7 at the ADA on the Communications Council where he chairs the Reputation Management Committee and sits on the Social Media Workgroup.

**Drs. Chas and Charles Carpenter (DMD '96, DMD '73)** recently had their practice, Carpenter Dental, profiled in the *Northeast Pennsylvania Business Journal* for providing leading-edge comprehensive care.

**Drs. Amy and Brian Davidson (DMD '02, DMD '03)** had their practice, Professional Dental of Clarkston, voted "Best of the Best" dentist for the second year in a row. Residents from the three surrounding areas of Clarkston, Mi., were polled for the award.

**Dr. Stephen Kondis (DDS '53)** was recently honored by the University for being the longest continuous season alumni ticket holder for Pitt football (54 years +).

**Dr. Stephen M. Miller (DMD '80)** is a 2011 recipient of the Academy of General Dentistry Lifetime Learning Service Recognition award.

**Dr. Peter K. Moy (DMD '78)** was named the first holder of the Nobel Biocare Endowed Chair in Surgical Implant Dentistry by the UCLA School of Dentistry.

**Dr. Adam Mychak (DMD '07)** was named one of "Pittsburgh's 50 Finest" by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. These outstanding individuals are selected on the basis of their activity in the community and success in their careers. In addition, Dr. Mychak has been selected as the newest Dental Alumni Association board member.

**Dr. Joseph E. Ross (DMD '83)** was recently elected vice president of the Pennsylvania Dental Association (PDA).


**Dr. William M. Trently (DMD '86)** has published his second book titled *Snapshot: Ship's Dentists*. This book is a snapshot of an adventure in the United States Navy Dental Corps. Dr. Trently published his first book, *The World is Around You, but You are in Your Car* in 2009.

### 2011 International College of Dentistry Inductees:

Dr. George A. Bullock (DMD '78)  
 Dr. Lance G. Rose (DMD '84)  
 Dr. Richard M. Scanlon (DMD '74)

### 2011 American College of Dentists Inductees:

Dr. Ronald M. Bellohusen (DMD '78)  
 COL Peter H. Guevara (DMD '92) (ADCT '93)  
 LCT Paul W. Guevara (DMD '96) (MDS '01)  
 Dr. William A. Octave (DMD '75)



### OKU UPDATE FORM

If you are an OKU member and would like to be included in our new list serve, please send us the following information:

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Degree(s) and year(s) of graduation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preferred e-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and return to Dr. W. H. Milligan c/o:  
 School of Dental Medicine, Office of Alumni Affairs and Development, 3501 Terrace Street, 440 Salk Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15261,  
 -OR-  
 E-mail information to Dr. Milligan at [wim2@pitt.edu](mailto:wim2@pitt.edu)

## Alumni Spotlight



Dr. Gary Kopesky

Upon graduation from the School of Dental Medicine in 2001, Dr. Gary Kopesky moved back to Northeastern PA and started working for his childhood dentist. In 2005, he bought the practice and established Hamlin Dental Center. A few years later in 2009, he asked School of Dental Medicine classmate, Dr. Thomas Hart (DMD '01), to join him in practice.

Dr. Kopesky is very active in the Scranton District Dental Society where he has served on the Board of Directors since 2007. He is currently vice president and continuing education coordinator of the Scranton District Dental Society. Coupled with his role as CE coordinator, Dr. Kopesky works in conjunction with Dr. Ewing as an off-campus course coordinator for the Scranton site. This will mark his third year as vice president and his first year as CE coordinator. Additionally, Dr. Kopesky is an active member of both the Academy of General Dentistry and the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry.

A strong believer in post-graduate education, Dr. Kopesky is an alumnus of the Dawson Academy, a post-graduate educational and clinical research facility in St. Petersburg, Fla. In addition to his work on the board, Dr. Kopesky has served as the Wallenpaupack Area School District dentist since 2005.

Most recently, Dr. Kopesky coordinated his 10-year class reunion, which was held at the University Club homecoming weekend. Dr. Kopesky and his wife, Jackie, reside in Tafton, PA. They have five children and are expecting a sixth in March.

### ALUMNI UPDATE FORM

Please send us information about your career advancements, papers presented, honors received, appointments, and further education. We will include your news in future issues of Pitt Dental Medicine as space permits. Please indicate names, dates, and location. Photos are welcome. Also note changes of address, phone, or e-mail.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Degree(s) and year(s) of graduation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Business address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Business phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preferred e-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Position(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**News:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete and return to:** School of Dental Medicine, Office of Alumni Affairs & Development, 3501 Terrace Street, 440 Salk Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15261, Attn: Nancy Poe

*\*Don't forget to register at the alumni section of [www.dental.pitt.edu](http://www.dental.pitt.edu) to make sure the University of Pittsburgh and the School of Dental Medicine have your most current contact information.*

## Checking in with your Dental Alumni Association

Your 2011 DAA Board of Directors are listed below. New members names are in bold.

**Walter Ackah (DMD '09)**  
 Antonia Ambrosino (DH '73)  
**David A. Anderson (MDS '84)**  
**Susan Ban (DH '80)**  
 Dennis J. Charlton (DMD '81)  
**Julie G. Guerriero Chetlin (DMD '93)**  
 Mary Ellen Cuccaro (DMD '95)  
 Michael Dobos (DMD '79)  
 Terry Griffin (DMD '85)  
 Margaret Gurtner (DMD '90)  
**Michael Korch (DMD '04)**  
 Stephen Miloser (DMD '83)  
**Adam Mychak (DMD '07)**  
 Jean O'Donnell (DMD '90)  
**Arnold Peace (DMD '86)**  
**Cheryl Rosato (DMD '80)**  
 Aaron M. Valasek (DMD '07)  
 Christine Wankiiri-Hale (DMD '02)



The Dental Alumni Association Board of Directors and SDM faculty worked together to host a successful mentoring event for first-year students on November 14.



## We Salute Our Troops

### SDM SUPPORTS MILITARY

The SDM has been exceptionally active in supporting Veterans and active military members over the past several months. On July 31, 2011, 75 volunteers from the SDM assisted with the 31st Veterans Wheelchair Games. Volunteers gathered at the Greater Pittsburgh International Airport to provide lift teams, directional support, and hospitality crews to welcome the veteran wheelchair athletes to Pittsburgh.

On November 11, 2011, Veterans Day, faculty, students, and staff were asked to “please remember the vets” to support veterans returning from their “in country” deployment and receiving grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for housing, but are still in need of basic everyday essentials. A few of our SDM veterans “passed the hat” to support the returning veterans. SDM faculty and staff were generous in their donations. SDM Vietnam Veterans Mr. John Close, Dr. Robert Engelmeier (DMD '70), and Mr. Robb Classens coordinated both of these efforts.

As described in the Homecoming story on page 14, COL Priscilla Hamilton, was honored as a Legacy Laureate by the University, and military dental students were invited as guests of the SDM to homecoming dinner. In addition to the military dental students in attendance, two Pittsburgh-based military personnel were invited to attend the dinner.

Most recently, the SDM received the Pennsylvania Patriot Award. The Committee for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve of Southwestern Pennsylvania (ESGR) gives this award to recognize the SDM's outstanding support of our brave men and women serving in the Guard or Reserve military forces. The SDM was nominated for this award by former employee and member of the military, Douglas H. Waxler, SrA, USAF.

The above photos feature SDM alumni, faculty, and students who are military affiliated.

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI GUIDELINES

The University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine Distinguished Alumni Awards may be presented in each of the following categories: Distinguished Alumnus-Dental Medicine; Distinguished Alumnus-Dental Hygiene; and Distinguished Alumnus-Advanced Education Program, to individuals who have excelled in one or more of the following areas:

1. One whose contribution of time and effort to the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine has been exceptionally significant, beyond that which would normally have been expected.
2. One whose significant attainments and high professional standards have been of such character as to have materially aided and advanced the art and science of dentistry.
3. One whose public life and activities have been of such a nature as to reflect great credit upon the profession and the School of Dental Medicine.
4. One who has contributed to original research in the dental profession.

A one-page biographical sketch of each candidate must accompany the nomination and should be sent to the DAA Awards Committee, 3501 Terrace Street, Suite 440, Pittsburgh, PA 15261.

**Deadline for nominations: November 1st**

## Faculty and Staff Updates

**Dr. David Anderson**, former assistant professor in the Department of Prosthodontics and former director of diversity and inclusion, was selected as the recipient of the 2011 National Dental Association Foundation/Colgate-Palmolive Faculty Recognition Award in the category of Administration/Service. In addition, Dr. Anderson received a \$10,000 scholarship from the Ethics Scholarship Program of the American College of Dentists Foundation.

**Dr. Elia Beniash** has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with Tenure in the Department of Oral Biology. In addition, Dr. Beniash and a team of researchers have been piecing together how tooth enamel forms. Their findings were reported online in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. To learn more about Dr. Beniash's research, see page 6.

**Dr. Mary Marazita**, professor, associate dean for research, and director for the Center for Craniofacial and Dental Genetics, and her team had their Primary Dentition Caries Genome-Wide Association Study (GWAS) accepted for publication by the Journal of Dental Research. This study is the first-ever GWAS of dental caries.

**Dr. Heiko Spallek**, associate professor in the Department of Dental Public Health and Information Management and associate dean for faculty development and information management, received \$190,000 from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research to explore how to share clinical research with practicing dentists quickly and effectively.

**Dr. Charles Sfeir**, associate professor in the Department of Oral Biology and director of the Center for Craniofacial Regeneration, and **Dr. Steven Little** have received a grant from the National Institutes of Health for their project entitled: "Treatment of Periodontitis via Recruitment of Regulatory Lymphocytes."

**Dr. Elizabeth Bilodeau** has been appointed to the rank of Assistant Professor in the Department of Diagnostic Sciences.

**Dr. Raquel Braga** has been appointed to the rank of Instructor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry/Comprehensive Care.

**Dr. Gina Bufalini** has been appointed to the rank of Visiting Instructor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry/Comprehensive Care.

**Dr. Michael Dobos** has been appointed Interim Chair of the Department of Restorative Dentistry/Comprehensive Care.

**Dr. Sally Farah** has been appointed to the rank of Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Prosthodontics.

**Ms. Victoria Green** has been appointed to the rank of Visiting Instructor in the Department of Periodontics/Preventive Dentistry Dental Hygiene Program.

**Dr. Thomas Kunkle** has been appointed to the rank of Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Prosthodontics.

**Dr. Karessa Kuntz** has been appointed to the rank of Clinical Instructor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry/Comprehensive Care.

**Dr. Lawrence Mauro** has been appointed to the rank of Clinical Instructor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry/Comprehensive Care.

**Dr. Suzann McGeary** has been appointed to the rank of Clinical Instructor in the Department of Diagnostic Sciences

**Dr. Christopher Mucci** has been appointed to the rank of Clinical Instructor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry/Comprehensive Care.

**Dr. Marnie Oakley** has been appointed as the Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs.

**Dr. Jean O'Donnell** has been appointed as the Associate Dean for Education and Curriculum.

**Dr. Feng Ping** has been appointed to the rank of Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Oral Biology.

**Dr. Timothy Snyder** has been appointed to the rank of Clinical Instructor in the Department of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics.

**Dr. Juan Taboas** has been appointed to the rank of Assistant Professor in the Department of Oral Biology.

**Dr. Paul Taiclet** has been appointed to the rank of Adjunct Instructor in the Department of Dental Public Health.

**Dr. Lynne Taiclet** has been appointed as the Director of the Center for Patients with Special Needs.

**Dr. Konstantinos Verdelis** has been appointed to the rank of Assistant Professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry/Comprehensive Care.

**Dr. Alexandre Vieira** has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with Tenure in the Department of Oral Biology.

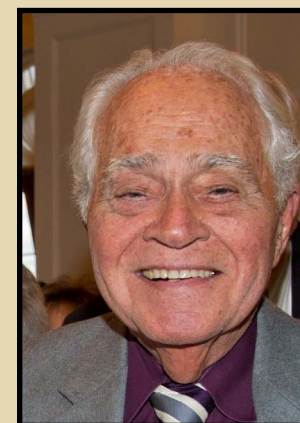
**Dr. Seth Weinberg** has been appointed to the rank of Assistant Professor in the Department of Oral Biology.

**Dr. Kelly Williams** has been appointed to the rank of Assistant Professor in the Department of Periodontics/Preventive Dentistry.

**Dr. Mark Wrigley** has been appointed to the rank of Instructor in the Department of Diagnostic Sciences.

**Dr. Jennifer Zavoral**, has been appointed to the rank of Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Periodontics/Preventive Dentistry.

## Retirements



Dr. F. Eugene Ewing (DDS '53)  
Director of Continuing Education

When asked about his upcoming retirement, Dr. Ewing said that the quote, "Memories were given to mortals so there would be roses in December," most appropriately explained his feelings about leaving the

SDM. Although he is sad to end his more than 25 years of work at the SDM, Dr. Ewing explained that his happy memories of his time spent at the school will help him to move on. Dr. Ewing will continue to practice one day a week at Dr. Randy Resnik's (DMD '88, MDS '91) office, but other than that he plans to relax and enjoy his figurative "December."



Ms. Judy Gallagher (DH '72, MEd '75), faculty, Dental Hygiene Program

Ms. Gallagher worked at the SDM for 26 years as a faculty member of the Dental Hygiene Program.

"Teaching was a great profession and a great way to keep current with the changing scope of practice for a dental hygienist," she said.

Currently Ms. Gallagher is filling temporary positions in offices near her home and said she is truly enjoying retirement. She is looking forward to a ski trip she has planned to Vail, Colorado at the beginning of December.

## Twelfth Annual Dean's Scholarship Ball



Please join us to support dental medicine scholarships, recognize our distinguished alumni, and enjoy an evening of entertainment at Phipps Conservatory.

Saturday, March 31, 2012 - 6:30 p.m.  
Phipps Conservatory

Master of Ceremonies  
Mr. Andy Masich, President and Chief  
Executive Officer of the Senator John Heinz  
History Center

Tickets are \$200 per person for this black-tie event, and seating is limited.

Please visit [dental.pitt.edu/alumni](http://dental.pitt.edu/alumni) for updates on this event or call Nancy Poe at 412-648-8910 for more information.

### 2012 Honorees Include:

Dr. Terry L. Buckenheimer (DMD '80) - Distinguished Alumnus Dental Medicine  
Dr. Richard J. Crout (DMD '73, MDS '73, PhD '78, MDS '80) - Distinguished Alumnus Advanced Education Programs  
Dr. Caroll Johnston Deuben (DH '65, MS, SHRS '78) - Distinguished Alumna Dental Hygiene



### Andrew E. Masich, Master of Ceremonies

Andy Masich is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Senator John Heinz History Center. The History Center is the largest history museum in Pennsylvania, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, and accredited by the American Association of Museums. Since 1998, he has provided leadership for the operation of the 275,000 square-foot History Center and its staff of 125 as well as the Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum, the Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Museum of Rural Life and the Meadowcroft Rockshelter archeological site, the oldest site of human habitation in North America, (near Avella, PA), and, most recently, the Fort Pitt Museum. Under Andy's leadership, the History Center has become known nationally for its award-winning exhibitions and innovative educational programs. He has forged strategic partnerships with organizations as varied as the Smithsonian Institution, the Allegheny Conference for Community Development, Civic Light Opera, Neighbors in the Strip (NITS) and Boy Scouts of America, Pittsburgh's 250th anniversary celebration (Pittsburgh 250), and Pennsylvania Civil War 150.

Prior to joining the History Center, Andy served as Vice President and Acting President of the Colorado Historical Society in Denver. There, he managed the operation of regional museums and museum support centers as well as the Society's headquarters museum in Denver. He also served as project director for the Vatican Treasures exhibition and The Real West, a precedent setting collaboration with the Denver Art Museum and Denver Public Library. Andy began his career with the Arizona Historical Society (1978-1990) serving as director of both the Yuma and Phoenix museums.

Pitt Dental Medicine  
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### Dean

Thomas W. Braun

### Senior Associate Dean

Dennis N. Ranalli

### Editor

Lauren Borys

### Dental Alumni Association

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Margaret Gurtner

#### Vice President, Dental Affairs

Jean O'Donnell

#### Vice President, Dental Hygiene

Susan Ban

#### Secretary

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#### Alumni Affairs Coordinator

Nancy A. Poe

Cover: Homecoming 2011 fireworks

### Send correspondence to:

School of Dental Medicine  
Office of Alumni Affairs &  
Development  
3501 Terrace Street  
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*Pitt Dental Medicine* is published semiannually by the Office of Dental Alumni Affairs and Development as a service to alumni, students, and friends. Its purpose is to facilitate communication among alumni, students, and friends. This publication holds itself not responsible for opinions, theories, and criticisms therein contained.

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## A Letter from the Editor

Lauren is a recent graduate from Ohio University's E. W. Scripps School of Journalism. She has been working at the SDM since August 1.

### Calling All Young Alumni

As a young alum myself, I am very familiar with the sigh of relief that is simultaneous with graduation. I walked in similar shoes just a few months ago, and I am fully aware that the platform is there, ready, and available to run straight into your career and never look back. Therefore, I am interested to know, what would make you look back? As young alumni, what would you like to see established at the school that would entice you to come back? Maybe your answer is as straight to the point as "nothing can make me go back yet." This is understandable, but how about contributing ideas? I am curious to know how you would like to get involved. Here are a few of my ideas to get your wheels turning:

### Social Media

It is no secret that social media has exploded in the past ten years. Students interact about everything via Facebook, Twitter, or another social platform. Whether it was your first year of dental school and there was a chat about what books to buy, or where the study group would meet; or a message thread now about where classmates will all meet on homecoming weekend; I am positive these messages were happening on some social media platform. This being true, how can we use this to our advantage? Would young alumni be interested in a Facebook site with CE course listings, Homecoming event updates, job postings, and other information?

### Mentoring Events

Do you have an interest in speaking to current students about what comes after graduation? Maybe your life post-graduation is different than you expected, maybe you had no expectations and are pleasantly surprised, or maybe you had a plan that worked flawlessly; whichever way it happened for you, there are over 300 dental students at the SDM who are eager to know. The Dental Alumni Association holds mentoring events a few times a year and would love to see some recent graduates attend and offer guidance to the current students.

These are just two main areas that I believe have a lot of potential for young alumni to become involved in the Dental Alumni Association and with the SDM. I encourage you to e-mail me at [lab162@pitt.edu](mailto:lab162@pitt.edu) and share comments, ideas, or suggestions about this topic.

I hope you enjoyed this issue of *Pitt Dental Medicine*.

Sincerely,

### Lauren Borys

Editor, *Pitt Dental Medicine*  
Communications Specialist, SDM



Please recycle this magazine when you are through enjoying it.

The School of Dental Medicine gratefully acknowledges our 2011 additions to the Donors of Distinction.

*Dr. & Mrs. Robert L. Ciarallo*  
*Dr. Barry L. & Mrs. Margaret Lappan Green*  
*Dr. & Mrs. Paul F. Hess*  
*L. Michael Menapace, DMD 1987*  
*James F. Petraglia, DMD 1983*  
*Bonnie Ann Uehara, DH 1979, DDS*



Each year, the names of alumni and friends whose lifetime giving to the School of Dental Medicine is \$10,000 or greater are added to the Donors of Distinction wall over homecoming weekend.

Donations to the school help in a variety of ways. Whether your contributions are directed toward scholarships, facility advancement, or to the general fund, please know that you are making a difference here at the school. Thank you to the Donors of Distinction. Your gifts are truly appreciated.

To find out your giving history and how close you are to being added to this distinguished plaque, please contact Paul Casey at 412-383-7544 or pbc8@pitt.edu.

### *An Altruistic Deed Bestowed upon the SDM*

An SDM alum, whom prefers to remain anonymous, has qualified for inclusion in the elite Brackenridge Circle. The Brackenridge Circle was established in 2010 by the University of Pittsburgh and is composed of individuals whose planned gifts, pledges, and other contributions to the University total \$1 million or more. Planned gifts are made by including the University in estate planning through bequest pledges, naming the University as a beneficiary of life insurance policies, or establishing charitable trusts and gift annuities.

The Brackenridge Circle was named for Pitt founder Hugh Henry Brackenridge, who envisioned a great seat of learning west of the Allegheny Mountains and secured the financial support of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the establishment of the Pittsburgh Academy, the progenitor of today's University of Pittsburgh.

This particular donor has planned contributions of \$1 million or more solely to the SDM. In a situation like this, it is generally of interest to understand the donor's motivation for the gift. When speaking with this particular donor, no explanation was provided, the donor is seeking no glory or recognition. This person has a true appreciation for the education received from the SDM. This education has enabled a prosperous career that has extended over 40 years. This donor's planned giving is possibly as close as one can get to completing an altruistic deed. The donor believes that the money donated will help the SDM provide the highest standard of education and enable students to graduate with as much training and knowledge as possible.

This donor's gifts will benefit scholarships, the new research tower, SDM facilities, and student support for years to come. The SDM is thankful to this generous donor for contributing to the school's continuing success.

### *In Memoriam*

- Dr. Todd M. Angelo (DMD '01) 11/24/2011
- \*Dr. Billy N. Appel (DDS '60) 11/4/2011
- Dr. Robert C. Bauman (DDS '62) 6/3/2011
- Dr. Denis D. Brault (DDS '47) 11/16/2011
- Dr. John A. Brungo (DMD '81) 11/9/2011
- COL Richard Gerald Campolio (DMD '63) 10/10/2011
- \*Dr. Daniel Cianflone (DMD '77) 7/24/2011
- \*Mrs. Stephanie V. Coletta (DH '66) 7/19/2011
- Dr. Thomas E. Cressley (DDS '51) 9/22/2011
- Dr. Charles E. Dimmick (DDS '43) 8/19/2011
- Dr. Anthony P. Giammusso (DMD '46) 11/9/2011
- Dr. Manny S. Golnick (DMD '71) 6/29/2011
- Ms. Brenda Sue Hillard (DH '70) 8/14/2011
- \*Dr. Floyd A. Holstein (DDS '59) 11/25/2011
- Dr. John F. Hornyak (DDS '50) 6/30/2011
- Dr. Nathan William "Bill" Hurtt (DDS '54) 9/11/2011
- Dr. William J. Jasper (DDS '49) 8/7/2011
- Dr. Elmer Maranacci (DDS '55) 1/23/2007
- Dr. Edward C. McAllonis (DMD '52) 8/18/2011
- Dr. George Osborne McDade Jr. (DMD '66) 11/18/2011
- Dr. Daniel J. McDonald Jr. (DDS '56) 11/19/2011
- Dr. Samuel Peterman (DMD '53) 9/7/2011
- Dr. Joesph A. Petrone (DDS '54) 9/29/2011
- Dr. Sidney Starman (DDS '63) 10/15/2011
- Dr. Kenneth E. Thompson (DDS '51) 10/30/2011
- \*Dr. Lisa J. Vecchione (DMD '00, MDS '03) 8/7/2011

\*Denotes former SDM faculty members

**Dr. Billy N. Appel** was an emeritus associate professor in the Department of Diagnostic Sciences. Dr. Appel specialized in Oral Pathology.

**Dr. Daniel Cianflone** was a part-time faculty member in the Department of Behavioral Sciences and was a contributor to the teaching effort in the Dental Fears Clinic.

**Mrs. Stephanie V. Coletta** was a full-time associate professor and the former Director of the Dental Hygiene Program.

**Dr. Floyd A. Holstein** was a full-time associate professor who served as chairman of the Department of Resorative Dentistry. Dr. Holstein specialized in endodontics.

**Dr. Lisa J. Vecchione** was an adjunct professor in the Department of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics.



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## ALUMNI CALENDAR 2012

- February 13** DAA Executive Committee Meeting, 430 Salk Hall, 5:00 p.m.
- February 13** DAA Board of Directors Meeting 457 Salk Hall, 6:00 p.m.
- March 31** 12th Annual Dean's Scholarship Ball, Phipps Conservatory
- April 21** 18th Annual T.F. Bowser Memorial Lecture, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Scaife Hall
- April 21** DAA Annual Business Meeting, Scaife Hall, 1 p.m.
- April 27** SDM Alumni Reception at the PDA Annual Meeting, The Hotel Hershey
- May 20** SDM Diploma Ceremony

### Useful Telephone Numbers:

Admissions/Student Services 412-648-9806  
Dental Alumni Affairs 412-648-8910  
Office of the Dean 412-648-8880  
Transcripts 412-624-7620