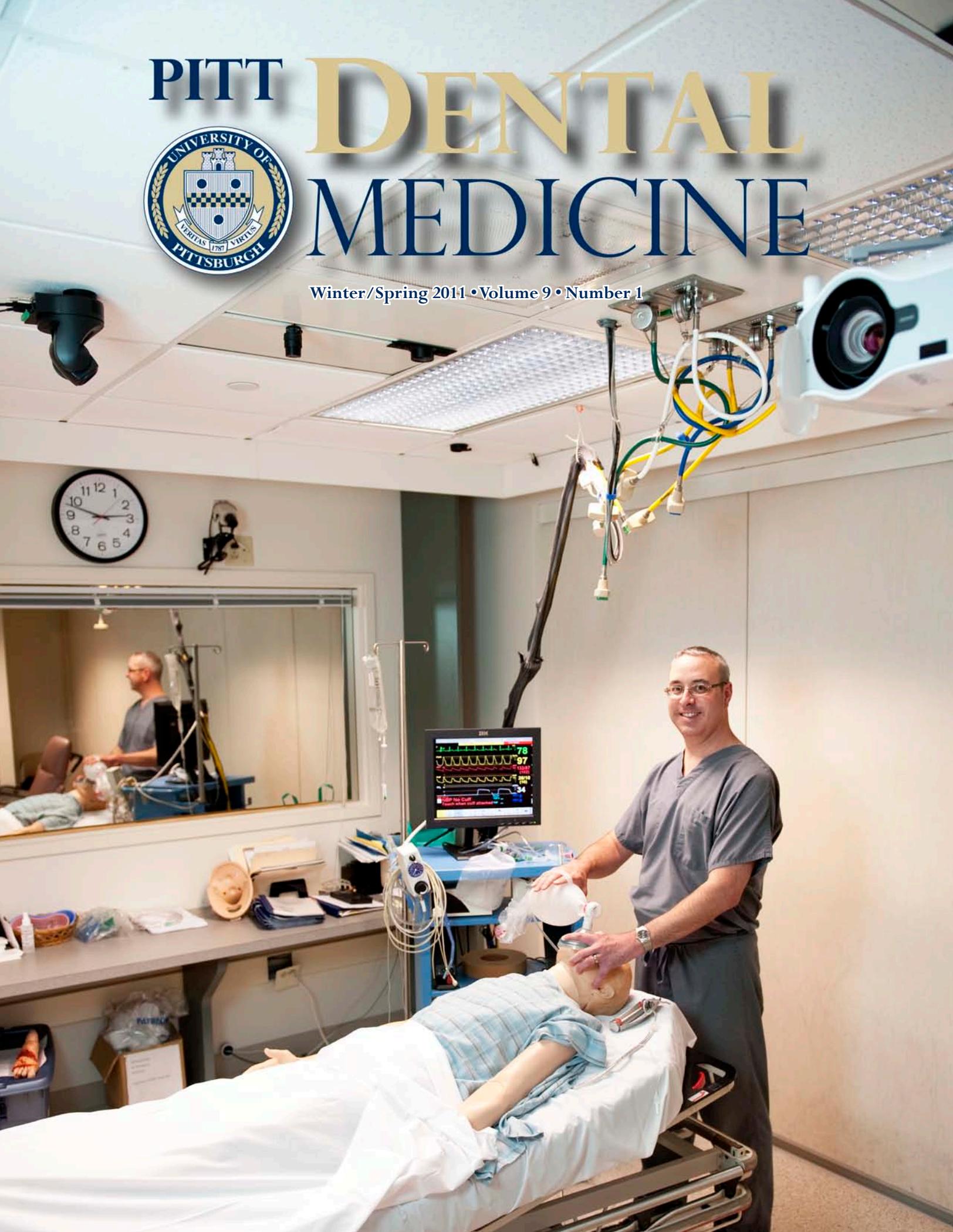


PITT DENTAL MEDICINE

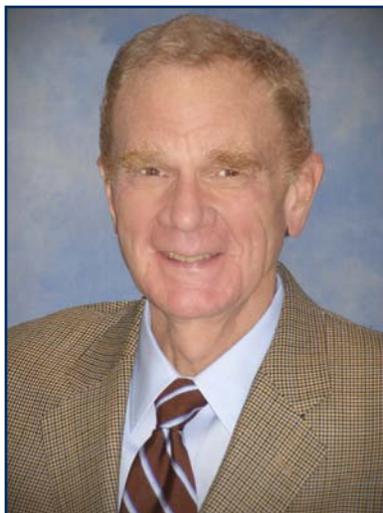


Winter/Spring 2011 • Volume 9 • Number 1



A Message from the Dean

Dear Alumni and Friends,



It is a great pleasure to report upon the remarkable progress taking place at the School of Dental Medicine. Since our last issue of Pitt Dental Medicine, construction has begun on the new research tower and commons area to be located behind Salk Hall. This is just one of many exciting developments that you can read about on page 14. In addition, we are renovating many of our existing facilities in Salk Hall including current research space, the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, and the Department of Dental Anesthesiology.

Our school also is making progress in dental public health with a recent U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration grant that will help us to examine ways of delivering care to underserved communities and keeping graduates in Pennsylvania to meet the needs of the region and beyond.

Our cover story features an innovative approach to educating our predoctoral students on how to effectively manage medical emergencies in the dental office. This course is offered at the University's Peter M. Winter Institute for Simulation, Education, and Research where students can gain hands-on experience through treating simulated patients with a wide range of medical emergencies. This course is comparatively unique for our predoctoral students and dramatically improves their ability to respond in the case of a medical emergency, much like our own Simulation Clinic improves the transition from didactic to clinical studies.

Since the creation of our Simulation Clinic in 2002, our school has been on the forefront of educational technology in dental medicine. Our innovative approach to education continued with an increased emphasis on evidence-based practice and the recent implementation of our Electronic Health Record system. To that end, we will be undergoing some significant administrative restructuring which I will discuss in our next issue so that you can be sure that our faculty, staff, and students are functioning in a contemporary way.

The School of Dental Medicine has come a long way since its establishment in 1896. It has evolved in ways that were unforeseen to its founders, yet its purpose remains: to improve oral health through teaching, research, and service to a diverse community. To find out more about this remarkable progress, please see the story on page 10.

While we collectively set our sights on the future of dental medicine education, I encourage you to reconnect with the school through our many events or a personal visit and tour. As a member of our extended School of Dental Medicine family I invite you to share our enthusiasm.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas W. Braun". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

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



On the cover: Dr. Michael Cuddy, assistant professor and director of the Dental Anesthesiology Residency Program, demonstrates a simulated medical emergency at the University's WISER center.

Dean

Thomas W. Braun

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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

Dental Med Notebook



Dental Alumni Association mentors: from left, front row: Dr. Michael Korch, Dr. Jennifer Dalton, Dr. David Sultivan; back row: Dr. Michael Dobos, Dr. Michael Hnat, Dr. David Mock, Dr. Jarrete Kalp, Dr. Arnold Peace

Dental Alumni Association Hosts Successful Mentoring Events

The Dental Alumni Association hosted two successful mentoring events on July 14 and November 4. During the July event for third- and fourth-year predoctoral students, 20 alumni and more than 80 students gathered at the University Club. This event was sponsored by PDAIS (the Pennsylvania Dental Association Insurance Services, Inc.). The mentors represented general dentists, specialists, military representatives, and women in dentistry, and shared valuable insights with students on a variety of topics. Faculty in attendance facilitated introductions between the students and alumni.

The Dental Alumni Association held a second mentoring event for first-year predoctoral students on campus in November with 8 alumni and 44 students in attendance. The mentoring activity mimicked speed dating. Students rotated from table to table to talk with each alum for a few minutes. During this event, several students made arrangements to job shadow a mentor. Because Dr. Adam Mychak (DMD '07) was not able to attend he sent a donation to cover the cost of pizza and drinks. The events were organized by Dr. Michael Dobos (DMD '79), assistant professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry/Comprehensive Care and president of the association. Mentoring is a key initiative of Dr. Dobos' presidency.

SDM Students and Alumni Provide Dental Screenings at PNC Park

On August 4, faculty members and residents collaborated with the United Concordia Diversity and Inclusion Division (UCCI) and Tickets for Kids at PNC Park to provide free dental screenings for 150 children and consultations with their parents prior to the Pittsburgh Pirates Game at PNC Park.

Faculty Member Appointed to Search Committee for a New NIDCR Director

Dr. Mary Marazita, professor and vice chair of the Department of Oral Biology and associate dean for research, was invited to join a search committee for a new director of the National Institute for Craniofacial and Dental Research by Dr. Alan Guttmacher, chair of the search committee. "It is an honor to be asked to participate in this process because the head of NIDCR is extremely influential in setting the course of dental and craniofacial research in the United States, and I am delighted to play a role in selecting the next director," Dr. Marazita said. Dr. Lawrence Tabak, past director of the NIDCR, recently assumed the position of deputy director of the National Institutes of Health, the parent organization of the NIDCR.



From left: Dr. Michael Dobos, Chris Wasko, PDAIS sales associate, Gilbert Davis, CEO of PDAIS; and Dr. Dennis Ranalli.

Inauguration of The Dental and Craniofacial CTRC

On October 19, an inaugural reception was held for the SDM's Dental and Craniofacial Clinical and Translational Research Center (CTRC) in room 458 Salk Hall. The center provides investigators with support for research endeavors that involve oral and craniofacial related topics. Dr. Alexandre Vieira, director of the center, plans to make it known throughout the University to increase collaboration and opportunities within the health sciences. Dr. Steven Reis, director of the Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute

(CTSI), and Dr. John Reilly, director of the participant clinical interaction resources core at CTSI, were guest speakers at the event.

Third Annual Steel City Dental Expo Builds on Success of Past ASDA Leaders

In its third year, the Steel City Dental Expo continues to shine as a example of the benefits of an active American Student Dental Association (ASDA) chapter. Over 500 students, residents, faculty, and local professionals attended the expo on October 7. Dr. Robert Lowe presented “World Class Restorative Aesthetic Dentistry” during the morning session at Scaife Hall. Lunch was served at the Campus View Club followed by a Vendor Fair with over 40 vendors in the Petersen Events Center. Dental hygiene students also attended a portion of the morning lecture as well as three shorter lectures relevant to dental hygiene by representatives from Procter & Gamble, Sonicare, and GlaxoSmithKline.

First-Ever Pittsburgh Oral Cancer 5K Walk & Run is a Success

Mr. Gaurav Shah, fourth-year predoctoral student and administrative chair of the first-ever Oral Cancer 5K, is pleased to report that the event raised more than \$6000 for the Oral Cancer Foundation. The successful event was co-hosted by the Pittsburgh Oral Cancer Society and Pitt’s ASDA chapter in conjunction with the Oral Cancer Foundation. Early on the morning of September 18, 190 registrants gathered at Riverview Park to participate in the run/walk made possible by support from Bionix, Colgate, Delta Dental, faculty, Henry Schein Inc., Hurley Associates, and Zila Pharmaceuticals. Several participants ran or walked in honor of a loved one who has battled oral cancer. Prizes were awarded for the top three finishers in each division. The race results are available on RunHigh.com.

Plans for the event had been underway for nearly a year. Mr. Shah worked closely



Pittsburgh Oral Cancer 5K Walk & Run

with the Pitt American Student Dental Association representatives Mr. James Martin, fourth-year predoctoral student and past president of the ASDA chapter, and Ms. Kim Masuga, fourth-year student

and past vice president.

SDM Welcomes Incoming Students at the White Coat Ceremony

During the General Assembly on August 30, the School of Dental Medicine ushered in 80 incoming predoctoral students and 34 incoming dental hygiene students. The school is increasingly integrating technology into education and activities and for the first time ever, video of the school’s annual White Coat Ceremony was streamed live at www.dental.pitt.edu/whitecoatceremony/.

The ceremony signifies entry into the profession for incoming dental medicine and dental hygiene students. The video, which is still available online, benefits alumni,



Dental medicine class of 2014 during the Annual White Coat Ceremony.



Dental hygiene class of 2012 during the Annual White Coat Ceremony.

Dental Med Notebook

family, and friends who could not attend as well as prospective students wanting to get a glimpse into student life. Dr. William Spruill, president of the Pennsylvania Dental Association, was the guest speaker at the ceremony.

With over 300 friends, family, and alumni, the ceremony had the highest attendance in its history. The White Coat Ceremony is sponsored in part by the Zohn-Feldman Endowment and also by donations from faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

The School of Dental Medicine also welcomed 25 specialty residents in July: three residents in the Advanced Education in General Dentistry program; two in the Dental Anesthesiology Residency Program; three in the Endodontic Residency Program; four in the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency Program; four in the Orthodontic and Dentofacial Orthopedics Residency Program; three in the Pediatric Dentistry Residency Program; three in the Periodontic Residency Program; and three in the Prosthodontic Residency Program.

High School Students Visit SDM for a Glimpse into Dental Careers

Two groups of high school students visited the SDM this past summer to learn about dental education and practice. The Health Career Scholars Academy Visit (formerly the Governor's School) brought 99 high school students to the school on July 6 to observe a class in the Simulation Clinic and watch a presentation by current students on careers in dentistry. In addition, the Southwest PA AHEC Summer Health Academy brought 50 9th and 10th grade students to the SDM on July 22 to observe predoctoral students in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry and watch a presentation by Dr. Deborah Studen-Pavlovich, chair of the department.

Dean's Summer Research Program

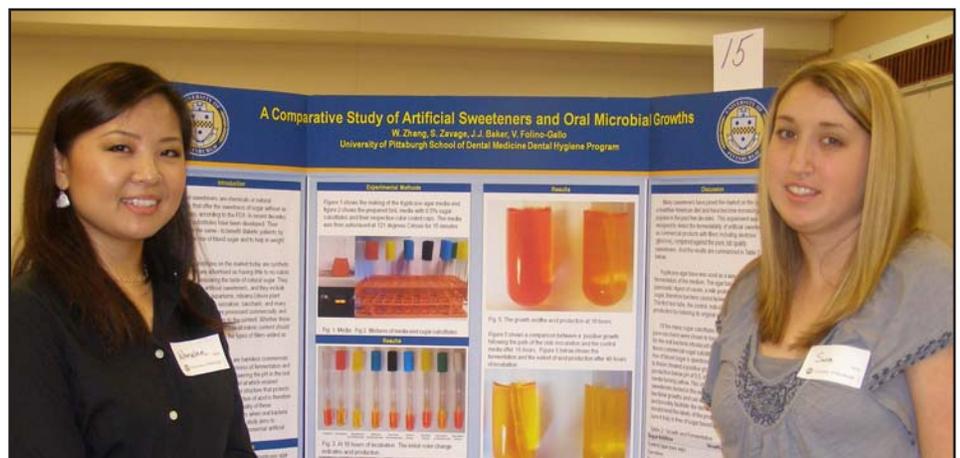
The Dean's Summer Scholarship program supports a three-month summer research experience for three incoming first professional dental students each year. A call for applications is sent out in late spring to all incoming students and they are required to submit a brief application describing their past type of research and the area of research they are interested in (oral cancer, tissue engineering, public health/epidemiology, genetics, physiology/oral function, dental informatics). A mentor is matched to the students based on their area of interest.

This past year, Ms. Barbara Graham researched Bioengineering Salivary Glands using Elastomeric Poly (glycerol sebacate) Scaffolds. She was mentored by Dr. Elia Beniash, associate professor in the Department of Oral Biology. Ms. Diane Ko researched Time-motion Study of Patient Care in Dental Offices. She was mentored by Dr. Thankam Thyvalikakath, assistant professor in the Department of Dental Public Health/Information Management. Mr. Matthew Maropis' research project is titled "Role of BMP-2 Peptide in the Mineralization of MC3T3 Cells by Examining Osteogenic Protein Production." He was mentored by Dr. Charles Sfeir, associate professor and director of the Center for Craniofacial Regeneration.

In the spring, Ms. Graham, Ms. Ko, and Mr. Maropis will present their findings at the Spring Research Symposium.

Dental Hygiene Students Win Annual Table Clinic And Prepare an Abstract

Each year, dental hygiene students participate in the Dental Hygiene Table Clinics to present research projects required as part of the first-year curriculum. The first-place recipients for this year's table clinic are Ms. Wanwan Zhang and Ms. Sara Zavage who presented A Comparative Study of Artificial Sweeteners and Oral Microbial Growths. Ms. Zhang said, "We conducted our research on several popular artificial sweeteners and found that glucose is added in many of the supposedly calorie-free sugar substitutes." Their results indicated that the majority of artificial sweeteners tested do contribute to oral bacterial growth and can aid in weakened enamel and caries susceptibility. Dr. John Baker, associate professor in the Department of Oral Biology, and Ms. Victoria Folino Gallo, instructor in the Dental Hygiene Program, served as faculty mentors on this project. An abstract is in preparation for submission for this project.



Ms. Wanwan Zhang and Ms. Sara Zavage present their research during the Dental Hygiene Table Clinics.

Pitt's ASDA Chapter Honored with Several Awards at the 40th Annual Session

The School of Dental Medicine's chapter of the American Student Dental Association brought more individual awards home from the association's 40th Annual Session during the spring of 2010 than any other dental school. The chapter was awarded the Ideal ASDA Award for Outstanding Advocacy, Best Website in Competition, Outstanding Newsletter Improvement, Ideal ASDA Honorable Mention for Outstanding Fundraising, Ideal ASDA Honorable Mention for Outstanding Involvement with Organized Dentistry, and the ADA Insurance Plans Enrollment Award. In addition, Mr. James Martin, fourth-year predoctoral student, was awarded the District III Delegate of the Year and elected to the ASDA Board of Trustees.

Orthodontic Resident Awarded Forestadent USA Scholarship

Dr. Simon Shung, third-year orthodontic resident, is the recipient of the very first Forestadent USA Scholarship in the amount of \$5,000. Dr. Shung was selected for his excellent academic achievement, commitment to his community, leadership, vision of excellence, and genuine compassion for his patients. Representatives from

Forestadent USA visited the School of Dental Medicine to present the award on October 26.

New SDM Events Calendar Launched and Available Worldwide

The SDM community is benefiting from a new school-wide calendar accessible online at www.dental.pitt.edu/sdm/calendars.php and the intranet. The SDM Events Calendar makes use of the popular Google Calendar and has been tailored by information technology staff for internal use as well as promotional purposes.

The online calendar identifies scheduling conflicts for events throughout the school. Because it is accessible to the public, it also can serve as an inside look at the many activities and events held throughout the school. While not all events are of interest to everybody and some events are by invitation only, it may still be of value to know when, for instance, the Promotions Committee will meet, or when applicants will tour the school, or to learn about upcoming continuing dental education courses.

"We believe it is beneficial to our school's mission to showcase to alumni, prospective students, the dental community, as well as the public in general, that there is actually a lot going on at our school," said

Dean Thomas W. Braun.

The SDM Events Calendar can be accessed in several different ways: via web browser, RSS feed, iCal, personal Google Calendars, or by mobile phone through the Pitt Mobile site: <http://m.pitt.edu> under Events Calendar.

Dental Hygiene Student Awarded Scholarship

Ms. Malika Stephens, second-year dental hygiene student recently was awarded a scholarship from United Concordia Dental for her outstanding clinical skills in the Dental Hygiene Program and for her commitment to community service.

"We're glad to offer a helping hand to students who one day will provide much needed primary dental care. Through scholarships and free days of care, we do our part to add to the availability of oral healthcare," said Jerome Blum, DDS, corporate dental director for United Concordia Dental.

Ms. Stephens is pictured below with her mentor Dr. Darlene Jeffries (DMD '82). Dr. Jeffries and her sister, Dr. Zena Jeffries (DH '85 and DMD '96) have a third generation dental practice in Shadyside. They have employed Ms. Stephens as a dental assistant for several years and look forward to her joining them as their new hygienist after she graduates.



Forestadent representatives present Dr. Simon Shung with a \$5,000 scholarship.



From left: Dr. Darlene Jeffries (DMD '82), Mr. Russell Rubin (United Concordia), Ms. Malika Stephens (DH 2011), Ms. Angelina Riccelli, Dr. David Anderson, Dr. Thomas W. Braun

SDM Receives Support for Dental Public Health Education

The School of Dental Medicine recently received a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to improve access to oral health care in underserved areas. This grant will support enhancements of the Student Community Outreach Program & Education (SCOPE) and the Multidisciplinary Masters of Public Health (MMPH) program.

"The whole theme of the grant, both the SCOPE and MMPH portions, is to get more students interested in serving in underserved areas so that the access issue is addressed," said Dr. Weyant, professor and chair of the Department of Dental Public Health/Information Management, associate dean of Public Health Outreach, and author of the grant.

Part of the grant will fund the expansion of SCOPE II, a selective course in which predoctoral students travel to rural or inner-city clinics to assist with treatment of underserved patients. Currently only 30 percent of predoctoral students participate in this program because of cost and schedule conflicts. However, funding from the grant will allow the fourth-year curriculum to absorb SCOPE II as a required course, designating time for predoctoral students to travel to an affiliated clinic and treat patients for up to two weeks. Each student's transportation and accommodation

costs will be covered by the HRSA grant.

The remainder of the grant will support the tuition for two predoctoral students to enroll in the MMPH program through the Graduate School of Public Health. Based on the University's tuition policy, full-time students can complete additional programs at no extra cost while they are enrolled. Previously, four predoctoral dental students could enroll in the MMPH program per year. After recent budget cuts, only two predoctoral dental students could enroll in the program. The HRSA grant will restore the MMPH opportunity to four predoctoral dental students per year.

Dr. Weyant is project director and hopes to hire a part-time administrator to manage the scheduling for SCOPE II, market the MMPH program and prepare a formal program evaluation. The HRSA grant is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. HRSA is known as the "access agency" and this grant will train students while simultaneously serving underserved populations.

"It's part of their mission to do this and we took advantage of that knowledge and used it to structure programs that are able to support that mission," said Dr. Weyant.

Access to care has long been a concern for Dr. Weyant



From left: Third-year predoctoral students, Mr. Mitesh Gandhi, Ms. Nicole Brobeck, Mr. Matthew Silverstein, Mr. Gaurav Shah, Mr. Thomas Draper



Dr. Richard Rubin, assistant professor in the Department of Dental Public Health/Information Management, instructs Briefings in Dental Public Health.

who is a past president of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry. For example, he mentioned that the average age of dentists in Pennsylvania is approximately 52 years. Many of those dentists will retire within the next 10 years. To exacerbate the issue, more graduating dentists are leaving Pennsylvania rather than staying and few are relocating here.

“So it’s conceivable that we would have half as many dentists practicing in 10 years as we do now,” he said.

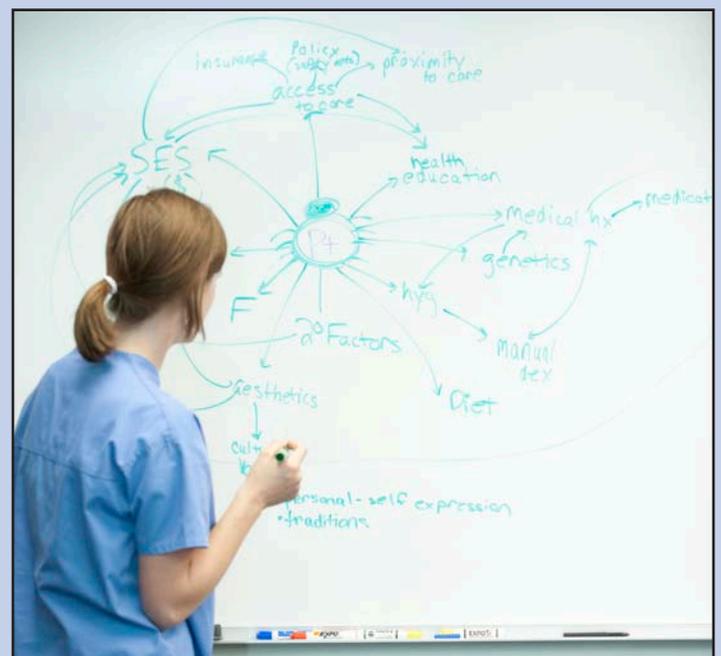
The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania offers loan repayment programs to dentists who relocate to underserved areas, paying as much as \$120,000 toward student loans. While the loan repayment programs are effective, Dr. Weyant said it is not enough. One of the reasons high-need, low-income populations are underserved is that Medicaid is the only source of income to cover dental expenses. For dental students who come from rural areas, it’s easy to adapt to big city life and the idea of returning to their rural communities becomes less appealing.

“One of the things that SCOPE does, is it allows students to go out into these communities and say, ‘yeah, that’s not so bad. I could live here,’” he explained. “So if they’ve never been there, they’ll never think about it, but if they spend a couple of weeks there as a student, they may consider settling there.”

Over the last five years, the First Professional Program curriculum has been revised to allow for earlier clinical experience. As a part of these revisions, the Curriculum Committee planned for SCOPE II to become a required course with the class of 2013 being the first class to experience that change during their fourth year. Dr. Weyant said that while the administration has been very supportive of the change from a selective to a required course, he was

concerned about requiring the students to take on additional costs for travel and accommodation. He found out about the HRSA grant when it was announced during the first week in May and made it a priority to apply for the grant in time for the May 31st deadline. The School of Dental Medicine received notice of the award in September.

“It’s great to be enabled by this grant to move into more of a focus on improving access in Pennsylvania,” said Dr. Weyant. “We, as a school, are working to actively recruit students who are interested and willing to practice in underserved areas.”



Fast-Forward: A Comparison of Past and Present at the School of Dental Medicine

Much has changed in dental education over the last 115 years. From the facilities to the curriculum, the current operation of the School of Dental Medicine would have been inconceivable for its founding fathers in 1896. At that time, the importance of oral health was often overlooked, much less recognized for its role in public health.

In his book, *75 Years of Dentistry*, Dr. Isaac Sissman writes, "It had not yet occurred to anyone that the state and federal governments might properly share in the costs of establishing dental schools and of training dentists. When a community like Pittsburgh needed a dental college, it could get one only through the enterprise of a group of private citizens." Through the founders' courage, a modest dental college took shape and grew beyond their imaginations. In tribute to that growth, this article offers a glimpse at some dramatic changes in demographics, facilities, tuition, and curriculum since the dental school's prudent beginnings in 1896.



Classroom in the McNally Building

Demographics

The first-ever class of 119 predoctoral students enrolled at what was then known as the Department of Dental Surgery of the Western University of Pennsylvania, established in 1896. The admission requirements were simple: completion of one year of high school and a \$5 matriculation fee. The first class was made up of only male students with the first female student, Ms. Mary L. Glenn, admitted in 1898.

In 1899, the first class completed the school's three-year

program with 60 students qualifying for graduation. A commencement was held at the Alvin Theatre on April 4, 1899.

Facilities

Lectures took place on the 6th and 7th floors of the McNally building, located at 711 Penn Avenue in what is now known as the Cultural District of Pittsburgh. The new building provided all of the modern conveniences including elevators, steam heat, electric, and gases for lighting and laboratory work. Vendors supplied operating and laboratory equipment on 30 days' credit so that the dental school could pay its fee with the tuition collected from the first class. After the success of its first year in operation, the Department of Dental Surgery's second course catalog advertised improved facilities with 95 fully equipped benches.

Tuition

Tuition was \$100 per term with \$45 in additional fees. Nearby boarding was advertised as starting at \$3.50 per week.

Curriculum

According to the school's 1896-97 catalog, there were seven professors, six lecturers/demonstrators, and 13 clinical demonstrators. Courses were offered in anatomy, physiology, materia medica, histology, pathology, operative dentistry, prosthetic dentistry, orthodontia, oral surgery, chemistry, and microscopy. The anatomy course included dissection of a cadaver. Students were permitted to extract and clean teeth during their first year.

Dr. James G. Templeton was the first dean. He was a founding member of the American Dental Association in 1859 and graduated from the Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery in 1870. Dr. Templeton also was a founding member of the Pennsylvania State Dental Society in 1968, for which he served as the fourth president between 1871 and 1872. Dean Templeton initiated the school's application for membership into the National Association of Dental Faculties and announced its acceptance in 1898.

Dr. Sissman also noted, "At a time when commercialism in professional schools was widespread, they avoided any such taint by seeking a university affiliation to ensure quality and prestige for their college. At a time when the overwhelming emphasis in dental education was on the mechanical and technical aspects of dentistry, they scheduled courses in anatomy, physiology, chemistry, pathology, bacteriology and other basic sciences. They pledged themselves to observe the rules of the National Association of Dental Faculties even before they applied for admission to that organization and then moved to join it at the earliest opportunity."

Fast-Forward to the Present

Today, the School of Dental Medicine can celebrate another successful accreditation as a result of the ADA's Commission on Dental Accreditation site visit last May.



Salk Hall, photo by Mr. Daniel Bair, fourth-year predoctoral student

Facilities

Salk Hall's facilities are comprised of lecture rooms and auditoriums, clinical classrooms, laboratories, and many educational centers including the Simulation Clinic, Multidisciplinary Implant Center, Center for Patients with Special Needs, as well as many renowned research centers including the Center for Craniofacial and Dental Genetics; Center for Craniofacial Regeneration; Center for Dental Informatics; Center for Oral Health Research in Appalachia; Dental and Craniofacial Clinical and Translational Research Center; and Dental Registry and DNA Repository. In addition, the school is equipped with a state-of-the-art Electronic Health Records system, for paperless operation. The school anticipates completion of a new addition in 2013 to accommodate growth in research and provide a commons room for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and guests.

Tuition

Today, annual tuition is \$35,108 for in-state students and \$42,412 for out-of-state students, with \$1,035 in University fees. The maximum living allowance afforded in student loans is \$20,000 each year.

Demographics

The class of 2014 is made up of 80 predoctoral students, 38 percent of which are female. The school actively recruits applicants from diverse backgrounds as part of its diversity and inclusion initiative. Students are selected from the top three percent of applicants. The students' average college GPA is 3.61 and the average Dental Aptitude Test score is 19.73 (out of a highest possible score of 30). Over 2,200 students applied for the 2010-11 academic year. Many students come from out of state, with only 35 percent of the class of 2014 coming from within Pennsylvania.

Curriculum

The First Professional Program is a four-year program with a competency-based curriculum that aligns with the core competencies outlined by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. During their first year, students are prepared to provide preventive care to patients in an effort to promote health and prevent disease. Didactic studies include concepts learned in the biomedical sciences. The clinical component for first-year students includes developing individualized preventive plans, performing prophylaxes, applying topical fluoride and sealants. During the second year, the curriculum continues the synthesis of biomedical and clinical sciences as predoctoral students begin to collect and utilize patient data to develop diagnoses of oral disease and formulate treatment plans. Second-year students begin clinical rotations in the various departments. During their third and fourth years, clinical instruction takes place in the Comprehensive Care Modules where delivery of care is supported by a faculty of general dentists and specialists. In addition, third- and fourth-year predoctoral students rotate through the specialty clinics as well as in the emergency and radiology areas.

The school is constantly modifying its curriculum to support new methodologies and technologies.

Since its founding in 1896 as the Department of Dental Surgery, the School of Dental Medicine has been educating highly qualified professionals to serve the oral health needs of Western Pennsylvania and society at large. Over the last century, the school has expanded its programs to educate a broad range of care providers from dental hygienists to dentists, in general dentistry and all specialties.

SDM Leadership in the Army Dental Corps



The School of Dental Medicine is fortunate to have many graduates serving in the armed forces. In fact, two of the highest-ranking officers in the Army Dental Corps are alumni. Colonel Priscilla Hamilton (DMD '82), pictured above, is the first-ever female to serve as the commander of the US Army Dental Command (only 15 percent of dentists on active duty are females), and Colonel Daniel Lavin (DMD '84), pictured above at right, serves as consultant to the Surgeon General for general and comprehensive dentistry. This article pays tribute to their accomplishments and explores their pathways to success.

As head of the Army Dental Corps, Col. Hamilton over-

sees 147 dental clinics around the world and over 5,000 personnel. That's a long departure from her first deployment to Camp Page, Korea, where she served alone as a general dentist to more than 1,000 soldiers stationed there. Early on in her career, Col. Hamilton focused her studies on general dentistry and completed a one-year program at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

"The purpose behind the Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) program is to fill our combat units and to prepare you to work independently in one- or two-man clinics anywhere in the world," she said. Col. Hamilton later completed a two-year AEGD program at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The two-year program prepares dentists to become competent in 85 percent of every specialty so that they can mentor more junior dental corps officers.

"We send people to very austere, often hostile locations around the world and they have to be able to function under great stress, under sub-optimal conditions for cleanliness, and still survive and be part of a team that fights and wins the nation's wars," said Col. Hamilton. "So it is an extraordinarily honorable calling to put on uniform and be a healthcare professional."

As a consultant to the Surgeon General, Col. Lavin serves as a liaison between general dentists and the Surgeon General, influencing the direction of the Army Dental Corps. More than a third of the dentists in the Army Dental Corps are general dentists.

"My job is to forge the way ahead and direct where we're going based on the changing environment." Col. Lavin is also in charge of appointing directors for the Army's AEGD programs. He previously served as director of the AEGD programs at Fort Hood, Texas and Hawaii.

"And that's probably the biggest influence that I have in addition to making sure that the general dentists have the ear of the chief so they know what our concerns are," he said.

"We send people to very austere, often hostile locations around the world and they have to be able to function under great stress, under sub-optimal conditions for cleanliness, and still survive and be part of a team that fights and wins the nation's wars," said Col. Hamilton. "So it is an extraordinarily honorable calling to put on uniform and be a healthcare professional."

Col. Hamilton's and Col. Lavin's shared experiences with the Army Dental Corps and the School of Dental Medicine aren't the only thing they have in common. These alumni also share strong role models who influenced their decision to pursue dentistry early in life. Their fathers played a major role in encouraging them to do what they were not able to do. Col. Hamilton's father served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, returned to Erie, Pa., to work and later retired as a professor from Penn State University, although he had always wanted to become a dentist.

Col. Lavin's father was a police officer and always encouraged his children to work toward the next goal and to seek out the education that he was not afforded.

At dental school, Col. Hamilton looked up to Dr. Kay Thompson in the Department of Behavioral Sciences.

"She went on to become the first female president of the Pennsylvania Dental Association," said Col. Hamilton. "She had a lot of hard-fought battles and was a very strong and intelligent woman." Col. Hamilton added that she also has had many mentors while on active duty including Major General retired William Lefler and Major General retired Patrick Sculley.

Col. Lavin noted guidance from Dr. R. Donald Hoffman, associate dean for education and curriculum, during his time at the school.

"He influenced me and guided me well," said Col. Lavin. "The experience at Pitt was wonderful." Col. Lavin also shared that he has found inspiration in knowing Col. Hamilton and Colonel Robert Manga (DMD '81), chief of graduate dental education at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

"I've been very fortunate that I interacted with them

"I've been very fortunate that I interacted with them while at Pitt and also in my career with the Army. They're people who I talk to just about weekly," said Col. Lavin. "The two of them have been very inspirational in my career."

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During their interviews, Col. Hamilton and Col. Lavin also expressed gratitude for their education at the School of Dental Medicine.

"Pitt has a great reputation with a strong clinical preparation. We're one of the few schools with dental students who actually saw patients in their first year, so we have a very strong clinical background that was backed up by great didactic foundation," said Col. Hamilton.

Col. Lavin agreed, "Pitt has always had a reputation of having a top-notch dental program, so I feel very fortunate to have attended such a premier dental school. I think the school did a very good job preparing me. My decision to attend Pitt's dental school has been very rewarding."



Col. Hamilton promotes Dr. Shan Bagby (DMD '93) to the rank of colonel.



Col. Hamilton and Col. Manga at the Dental Alumni Association's ADA Reception at The Peabody Orlando on Oct. 9.

A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE

We are delighted to share with you a recent announcement by the University that will result in the construction of a new research tower behind Salk Hall. The new research facility will include a commons area bridging the research tower with Salk Hall.

This much needed research facility will better accommodate the expanding research agenda for both the School of Dental Medicine and the School of Pharmacy.

In recent years, under the direction of Dr. Mary Marazita, associate dean of research, the success of the SDM research funding has expanded rapidly to the point where we are ranked 13th nationally among dental schools across the nation. This rapid expansion has out-paced the available research space in Salk Hall.

The School of Dental Medicine's Center for Craniofacial Regeneration will be one of the main centers occupying the research tower. Over the last several years, Dr. Charles Sfeir, associate professor in the Department of Oral Biology and director of the center, has been the prin-

cipal investigator on several projects aimed at regenerating dentin and bone. His latest project with Dr. Bernard Costello, co-principal investigator, is anticipated to begin clinical trials in 2011. The project is funded by the U.S. Department of Defense with the intent to bring this new technology to the aid of the armed forces.

In addition, initiatives that are on-site currently will occupy new facilities in the research tower. Our researchers can expect to move into a state-of-the-art laboratory facility designed to their specification. Each research floor will have its own smaller conference room, staff lounge, and offices for principal investigators. The offices will be accessible during school hours and the laboratories will be totally secured. 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 such as freezers, and locker room facilities.



Salk Hall will couple to the research tower with a beautiful, enclosed plaza. The Salk Hall Commons will offer a place for students, faculty, or alumni to meet, study, or relax in a spacious atrium with expansive glass exterior walls, high ceilings, and sky-lights that contribute to the feeling of openness and spacious accessibility. The new building will also provide a 40-chair conference room at ground level for the shared use of each school, and also a coffee and sandwich shop.

“Dental students often spend all day here,” said Mr. William Steinhauser, director of facilities for the School of Dental Medicine. The commons concept reflects the collective vision of our administrations, to provide a respite from the day’s academic demands. The centerpiece of the commons will be an original work of art by Virgil Cantini, Pittsburgh artist and professor emeritus at the University of Pittsburgh. The 13- foot by 20-foot mural is an abstract work on tile. Cantini was a personal friend of the dental school and is best known locally for the bronze and steel sculpture “Man” that adorns the front of Parran Hall at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health.

The project was recently approved by the Property and Facilities Committee of the University of Pittsburgh Board of Trustees. Construction is expected to be com-

The project will enhance student life, research, and dental education and it serves as a rare opportunity for alumni to make a difference in the school for years to come.

plete by December 2012 and the building will be ready for occupancy by January 2013. Over the course of the next two years, the rear entrance to Salk Hall will be closed. However, the entrance to the Center for Patients with Special Needs on Sutherland Drive will remain open.

The School of Dental Medicine has embarked on an ambitious capital campaign and we need your support. “The project will enhance student life, research, and dental education and it serves as a rare opportunity for alumni to make a difference in the school for years to come. Through their support, we’ll be able to make this a better place for students and alumni,” said Mr. Paul Casey, director of development. “It is an outstanding way for alumni to honor family members, former faculty, and others.” The campaign offers numerous opportunities for alumni to participate in creating a lasting legacy. For additional information on how you can support this important cause, please contact Mr. Casey at 412-383-7544 or pbc8@pitt.edu.



Aerial view of Salk Hall and the new addition



Rear view from Darragh Street



Commons interior

PLANNING FOR THE UNEXPECTED:

A NEW APPROACH TO TRAINING FOR MEDICAL EMERGENCIES IN DENTAL PRACTICE



How can you plan for the unexpected? That's a tough question considering what is unknown. For example, long distance runners train diligently in the months leading up to their race day. Meanwhile the conditions when it's time to compete cannot be controlled. Runners can prepare by training in the rain or heat, but an injury or unexpected lethargy can make it difficult to cope, let alone succeed.

As a dental professional, planning for medical emergencies can be daunting. Unlike training for a race, dentists cannot practice real life emergencies. Until the spring of 2010, the most a dental student could do to prepare for a medical emergency was read about or watch videos of common medical emergencies. That all changed with the introduction of state-of-the-art simulation using mannequins that can interact with the students and react to treatment thanks to the support of the University and Dean Thomas W. Braun.

Dr. Michael Cuddy (pictured above right), Dr. Joseph Giovannitti (pictured above left), assistant professor and associate

professor in the Department of Dental Anesthesiology respectively; and Dr. Edward Heinrichs, assistant professor in the Department of Periodontics/Preventive Dentistry, are directing a new course to supplement didactic training in medical emergencies: Dental Office Management of Emergency Situations (DOMES). The course takes place at the Peter M. Winter Institute for Simulation Education and Research (WISER), a world-class multi-disciplinary training and research facility. This may well be the first-ever course of its kind for predoctoral dental students.

During the spring semester of the third year in the First Professional Program, predoctoral students spend one half-day at WISER where they have the opportunity to respond to medical emergencies including anaphylactic shock, asthma attack, hypoglycemia, myocardial infraction, seizure, stroke, and syncope. The students work in small groups, mimicking a general practice with one student acting as a dentist and others as an assistant, a dental hygienist, a receptionist, and so on, rotating in the various roles. This was specifically designed to encourage a team ap-

proach to resolving a medical emergency.

Prior to the simulations, the students take a computer-generated pre-test so that the faculty can get a feel for the class average. A WISER technician provides an overview of the mannequin, showing students how to take a pulse, blood pressure readings, and give injections.

Once the simulations begin, the students are on their own. Faculty can observe the students through a mirrored window in the control room where they operate the mannequin. The simulation sessions are also videotaped for future reference.

“The students are not getting any input from us,” said Dr. Cuddy, creator of the course. “If they make a mistake, then we can make the mannequin react so that their vital signs become worse.”

The students begin by reviewing the mannequin’s or “patient’s” medical history and initiating a dental procedure. For example, if they inject a local anesthetic and the patient begins to develop an adverse reaction, the student can check the patient’s vital signs. The patient might say, “I’m not feeling very well” and lose consciousness or develop an obstructed airway. Then the students need to work as a team to determine what is happening with the patient and how to treat the condition. They are equipped with the same emergency boxes that are used in the clinics at Salk Hall so that they can administer the appropriate drug or intervention.

“You can actually see a medical emergency in real time, rather than just learn about it in class,” said Dr. Giovannitti. “The mannequins are very realistic and the students can get into the scenario, so that they don’t treat it like a mannequin, they treat it like a real patient.”

After the simulation, the students re-take the test. During the course offered in 2010, the average score improved remarkably after the students completed the simulation experience. The students also watch the video and debrief with the faculty member overseeing the simulation.

In the dental office, medical emergencies occur so rarely that most practices have little experience in responding to them as a team. When medical emergencies do happen, dental professionals with experience beyond their didactic studies are better equipped to respond.

“This is about the process of thinking through diagnosing and managing a medical emergency. It’s reinforced with a video and debriefing so that all of the students can see what’s going on from a different perspective,” said Dr. Cuddy.

“A dentists’ greatest fear in practice, I think, is that they’re going to have a medical emergency and they’re not going to know what to do,” said Dr. Giovannitti. “The classroom is just not enough. This is the best way that we can prepare our students to manage a medical emergency and see that their treatment actually has a response.”

DOMES is a mandatory course in the First Professional Program and the course directors hope to increase the predoctoral students’ exposure to medical emergencies simulations by adding a second visit to WISER in the fourth year of the curriculum. According to the course directors, the use of simulations for medical emergency training is just the beginning. This technology could be used for more complex medical emergencies, training in special needs dentistry, or in dental specialties such as anesthesiology and pediatric dentistry.



FACULTY UPDATES

Dr. Mohammad Abdulwahab was appointed as adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Dental Anesthesiology.

Ms. Gayle Ball, assistant professor of dental hygiene in the Department of Periodontics/Preventive Dentistry, was selected as one of the New Pittsburgh Courier's 50 Women of Excellence. The award recognizes some of Pittsburgh's most successful and influential African-American women for their commitment to professional excellence, as well as diversity and inclusion.

Dr. William Chung was promoted to associate professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

Dr. Bernard Costello was promoted to professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

Dr. Mary Ellen Cuccaro was appointed as the Program Director of the General Practice Residency Program at UPMC Montefiore Hospital.

Dr. Douglas Hutchinson was appointed as adjunct instructor in the Department of Dental Public Health/Information Management.

Dr. Sarah Husted was appointed as clinical assistant professor in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry.

Dr. Thottala Jayaraman was appointed as research assistant professor in the Department of Oral Biology.

Dr. Suzanne Kinnear-Adams was appointed as adjunct instructor in the Department of Dental Public Health/Information Management.

Dr. Anne Lemak was appointed as clinical assistant professor in the Department of Dental Anesthesiology.

Dr. Ariadne Letra was appointed as assistant professor in the Department of Oral Biology.

Dr. Christopher Lewis was appointed as clinical assistant professor in the Department of Dental Anesthesiology.

Dr. James Mancini was appointed as adjunct instructor in the Department of Dental Public Health/Information Management.

Dr. Jessica McKee was appointed as adjunct instructor in the Department of Dental Public Health/Information Management.

Dr. Laura McKee was appointed as adjunct instructor in the Department of Dental Public Health/Information Management.

Dr. Sean Noonan was appointed as assistant professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry/Comprehensive Care.

Dr. Paulette Paulin was appointed as clinical assistant professor in the Department of Prosthodontics.

Dr. David Pavasko was appointed as adjunct instructor in the Department of Dental Public Health/Information Management

Dr. Joseph F. A. Petrone, assistant professor and chair of the Department of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, was recently inducted into the American College of Dentistry.

Dr. Donald Pipko (DDS '60) is celebrating his 50-year anniversary as a faculty member at the School of Dental Medicine.

Dr. Ronald Proctor was appointed as adjunct instructor in the Department of Dental Public Health/Information Management.

Dr. John Reed was appointed as adjunct instructor in the Department of Dental Public Health/Information Management.

Dr. Renato Silva was appointed as assistant professor in the Department of Oral Biology.

Dr. Heiko Spallek was promoted to associate professor in the Department of Dental Public Health/Information Management.

Dr. Lynne Taiclet was appointed as assistant professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry/Comprehensive Care.

Ms. Maria Wassilchalk was appointed as instructor in the Department of Periodontics/Preventive Dentistry Dental Hygiene Program.

Dr. Kelly Williams was appointed as visiting assistant professor in the Department of Periodontics/Preventive Dentistry.

The Distinguished Alumni plaques were installed with two faculty member's names: **Dr. Deborah Studen-Pavlovich**, professor and chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry was honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award for Advanced Education; and **Dr. F. Eugene Ewing**, clinical assistant professor and director of Continuing Dental Education, was honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award for Dental Medicine.



From left: Dr. Deborah Studen-Pavlovich and Dr. F. Eugene Ewing

Dental Alumni Association Prepares for the Future

Dr. Michael Dobos (DMD '79)
President

What is your vision for the Dental Alumni Association?

My vision for the Dental Alumni Association is to facilitate the interaction of alumni and students by providing opportunities for mentoring and advising through different events.

Ms. Judy Gallagher (RDH '72, MEd '75)
Vice President Dental Hygiene

What is your vision for the Dental Alumni Association?

The changes in Pennsylvania's scope of practice should encourage practicing dental hygienists to return to their alma mater for training as well as updates. A dental hygiene appreciation event is in the planning stages with the goal of bringing graduates back to the school and to generate interest in their alma mater.

Q&A with DAA Student Representatives:

What is your hometown?

Ms. Rebecca Moore, dental hygiene: Camp Hill, PA
Mr. Lance Grant, dental medicine: Solvang, CA
Dr. Andrew Thompson (DMD '10), resident: Etters, PA - and I challenge you to find it on a map.

What are your career goals? Why?

Ms. Moore: After I graduate, I hope to practice as a dental hygienist in both a general dentistry and pediatric practice. I also have interests in obtaining my license as a public health dental hygienist, and maybe even pursuing my interest in becoming a school district dental hygienist!

Mr. Grant: I want to practice as a general dentist, because I want to be highly involved with the community in a small town.

Dr. Thompson: I would like to be a private practice orthodontist and part-time faculty member. This would allow me to do two things I love to do, orthodontics and teaching. I would like to add that if anyone reading this is selling their orthodontic practice, please email me at aht5@pitt.edu!

Why is it important for you to be a part of the Dental Alumni Association?

Ms. Moore: I'm passionate about the work that I do as a dental hygienist, and I'm so proud to be completing my education at the School of Dental Medicine. Being a part of the Dental Alumni Association will allow me to stay connected to the Dental Hygiene Program here at Pitt, and I hope to be able to influence my peers to stay connected also.

Mr. Grant: Being a part of the Dental Alumni Association keeps me connected to the school and faculty.

Dr. Thompson: Before becoming a board member, I didn't have



The Executive Committee of the Dental Alumni Association: Ms. Judith Gallagher, Dr. Michael Dobos, and Dr. Karin Bittner



The Dental Alumni Association. Student reps: Mr. Lance Grant, Dr. Andrew Thompson, Ms. Rebecca Moore.

an appreciation for how much the Dental Alumni Association focuses on current students' needs. There is a large amount of time devoted to raising money for scholarships, planning events with current students, and exploring possibilities for mentorship. I'm impressed by the commitment of veteran members and look forward to being a part of the association.

What brought you to the School of Dental Medicine?

Ms. Moore: When making the decision to attend the dental hygiene program at the University of Pittsburgh, the fact that it was affiliated with the School of Dental Medicine was the deciding factor for me. I'm confident that with the variety of experiences that I've had here, whether it be in a classroom or clinic setting, or on external rotations—my experience here is preparing me to be an integral part of a dental team after I graduate.

Mr. Grant: The breakfast buffet for prospective students was very impressive, but the low cost of living and cheap real estate sealed the deal.

Dr. Thompson: The Pittsburgh community, students, and faculty impressed me more than any school under consideration. Plus, Dr. Etzel's brunch at the Peterson Events Center on interview day sealed the deal.

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL T. F. BOWSER MEMORIAL LECTURE

Dental Products, Technology, Trends, and Techniques

Paul L. Child Jr. DMD, CDT

New products, techniques, and devices enter the dental industry each year with claims of being superior. How do you select dental products with so many choices and questionable marketing tactics? The products you use every day can make or break your clinical results. It is evident to clinicians that some products simply work better than others. The challenge is to know which products truly are superior.

Dr. Child is the CEO of CR Foundation, a non-profit educational and research institute. He conducts extensive research in all areas of dentistry and directs the publication of the Gordon J. Christensen CLINICIANS REPORT®, and their other publications. Dr. Child graduated from Case Western Reserve University School of Dentistry, completed a Prosthodontic residency at LSU, and maintains a private practice at the CR Dental Health Clinic in Provo, Utah.



Dr. Paul L. Child

March 26, 2011

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Scaife Hall, auditoriums 5 and 6

Credit: 6 hours

For more information, visit www.dental.pitt.edu/ce.

Tuition for this course is \$75 for dentists and \$50 for auxiliary staff. If you sign up for the Off-Campus Series of 4, the tuition is only \$25.

The Dental Alumni Association Annual Business Meeting will be held from noon to 1 p.m. in Room 458 Salk Hall. All SDM alumni are encouraged to attend.

Eleventh Annual Dean's Scholarship Ball

Please join us to support dental medicine scholarships, recognize our distinguished alumni, and enjoy an evening of entertainment at the Heinz History Center.

Saturday, April 2, 2011 • 6:30 p.m.
Senator John Heinz History Center

Master of Ceremonies
Mr. Steve Blass, Pittsburgh Pirates Broadcaster and Former Pirates Pitcher

Tickets are \$200 per person for this black-tie event, and seating is limited. Please call 412-648-8910 for additional information.

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

2011 Honorees Include

Col. Priscilla Hamilton, Distinguished Alumna - Dental Medicine
Judge Donald Machen, Distinguished Alumnus - Advanced Education
Professor Michele L. Darby, Distinguished Alumna - Dental Hygiene
Dr. R. Donald Hoffman - Award of Appreciation



Alumni Updates

Dr. Elaine Berkowitz (DMD '86) was recently profiled in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette before she was deployed for a second tour of duty in Kosovo with the Army Reserves. Dr. Berkowitz was also noted for her commitment to treating elderly and special needs patients between deployments in Pittsburgh.

Dr. George Bellios (DMD '92) was included in Pittsburgh's 50 Finest, a fund raiser for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation at the Omni William Penn. The black-tie 15th anniversary party raised more than \$200,000 for cystic fibrosis research.

Dr. Judith Davenport (DMD '79) was honored by Carlow University with one of five 2010 Carlow University Women of Spirit Awards at the August Wilson Center for African American Culture in Pittsburgh last September. Dr. Davenport was honored for her vision.

Dr. John Ference (DMD '00) was a Predoctoral Faculty Session Moderator on November 3, 2010 at the Annual Session of the American College of Prosthodontists in Orlando, Fla.

Dr. Bruce Haskell (DMD '73) was appointed as professor in the Department of Orthodontics, College of Dentistry, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY last year. He also was elected as vice president of the Kentucky Chapter of the American College of Dentists.

Dr. Gary Jeffers (DMD '75) was recently installed as the President of the Michigan Dental Association.

Dr. Greg C Mertes (DMD '01), pediatric dentist in Hudson, Ohio, recently opened a second location at Akron Children's Hospital.

Dr. John F. Rathbauer (DMD '82) was recently appointed as a part-time clinical instructor at New York University College of Dentistry.

Dr. Jay Wells (DMD '65) received the Pierre Fauchard Award at the Pennsylvania Dental Association's Annual Session in Hershey in April.

American College of Dentistry Inductees:

Dr. Dino R. Angelici (DMD '85)

Dr. Lance G. Rose (DMD '84)

Dr. Thomas E. Vrabec (DDS '55)

International College of Dentistry Inductees:

Dr. John Liang (DMD '80)

Dr. John J. Hankle (DMD '75)

Dr. O. Jack Penhall (DMD '73)

Dr. Thomas C. Petraitis (DMD '81)

Dr. L. Stanley Brysh (DMD '75)

Dr. Mark Sebastian (DMD '77)

Dr. Paul William Guevara (DMD '96, MDS '01)

Alumni Spotlight

Dr. Laura Murcko (DMD '89) is the current president of the American Association of Women Dentists (AAWD). She originally became involved with AAWD during her studies at the School of Dental Medicine and was encouraged by Dr. Kay Thompson, who served as a role model for many aspiring women dentists. In addition to her role with the AAWD, Dr. Murcko is on the editorial board of the Woman Dentist Journal.

Dr. Murcko also is a past-president of the Academy of General Dentistry where she currently serves as the organization's spokesperson and is a member of the Public Relations Council. In addition, Dr. Murcko is a past-president of the Colorado Academy of General Dentistry.

She practices at Southbridge Dentistry in Littleton, Colorado, not far from where she completed her residency in general practice at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Denver.

Dr. Murcko is the team dentist for the NHL Colorado Avalanche. She is a fellow of the American College of Dentists, Academy of Dentistry International, and the Pierre Fauchard Academy, and is an active volunteer with Junior Achievement, Donated Dentistry, Kids in Need of Dentistry, Smiles for Success, and Special Smiles.

When not practicing dentistry, Dr. Murcko enjoys skiing, hiking, running, cycling, cooking, watching Broadway musicals and spending time with her husband and their son.

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. **The deadline for submission of nominations shall be November 1.**

New Leadership in Alumni Affairs

Ms. Nancy Poe has been on staff at the School of Dental Medicine since 2007 and has increasingly taken on more responsibilities in the administration of the Dental Alumni Association. From organizing the Dental Dash to the Dean's Scholarship Ball, Ms. Poe has brought new energy to annual events and streamlined the operation of the Dental Alumni Association.

Her recent promotion to alumni affairs coordinator marks her third career. After obtaining her bachelor's degree in civil engineering, she moved to Knoxville, Tenn., where she worked for the Tennessee Valley Authority in the nuclear division. Ms. Poe met her husband, Michael, in Tennessee and they had the privilege to be married at Heinz Chapel since her father was a Pitt graduate.

After the birth of their son, Charlie, Ms. Poe transitioned to becoming a stay at home mom. Their daughter, Andrea, was born a few years later and they eventually moved to Pittsburgh to be closer to family.

Once her children enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh, Ms. Poe decided she would refresh her education before returning to her engineering career. She accepted a temporary position with the University and was assigned to the School of Dental Medicine.

"I loved the people and the atmosphere here and my focus switched to a concentration in non-profits," she said. Ms. Poe is now in the process of completing a certificate in non-profit management at the University.

As a result of Ms. Poe's vision for improving alumni relations, attendance at alumni functions has increased substantially over the last few years. She is working closely with the school's administration, the Dental Alumni Association officers, and the director of development to cultivate a thriving relationship between the school and alumni.

"There is tremendous potential to make our programs more enjoyable for everyone and increase attendance," said Ms. Poe. "Our homecoming events and reunions are growing every year." This past homecoming included six reunions which took place at the University Club, where a rooftop reception followed during the University's annual homecoming fireworks and laser show.

"I really enjoy meeting everyone at the PDA and ADA alumni receptions, but this homecoming dinner was the best gathering of alums that I have attended since I started," said Ms. Poe. "The classmates were so happy to see each other and catch up that it is easy to get caught up in their excitement." During homecoming, many alumni visited Salk Hall for a tour and were



Ms. Nancy Poe

impressed at how dramatically the facilities have improved over the years.

"I hope all alumni get the opportunity to come back for a visit, not only to see the many changes at the school, but to also meet the students," she said. "The impressive legacy that alumni have established at the School of Dental Medicine is in good hands with our students."

Perhaps her most pressing responsibility, is the Dean's Scholarship Ball. This past year was the Tenth Annual Dean's Scholarship Ball and it had a Pittsburgh theme with special guest Mr. Rick Sebak at the Heinz History Center.

The guests enjoyed Mr. Sebak's interactive Pittsburgh trivia game as well as the exhibits at the museum. The ball also provides an opportunity to honor the school's Distinguished Alumni.

"It is always impressive to hear about the Distinguished Alums and to learn about the amazing research and state of the art teaching at the school," she said. Ms. Poe's

pride in the school is evident through her interactions with alumni and students. She sees the current students as the future of the Dental Alumni Association and works diligently to build positive relationships with them by inviting them to get involved with the association while they're still in school.

As a case in point, she applied for and received a grant from the Pitt Alumni Association to host students at the homecoming reunions.

"I really enjoy meeting the students," she said. Ms. Poe noted that she also has enjoyed hearing from alumni and the stories they have to share about their time in dental school.

"I have learned that the Pitt dental school experience is 'unique' and many of the vivid memories have not faded even after many years," she said.

One of her priorities for the Dental Alumni Association is to generate more interaction online through email and new features on the association's web site. She encourages alumni to update their information with news and new contact information. In an effort to be more environmentally conscious and reduce the expense of costly mailings, Ms. Poe encourages alumni with email addresses to share them with the Dental Alumni Association via the Update Your Information form on the web site so that they can receive SDM news and information about events via email. In addition, the Dental Alumni Association's online calendar now features online registration for alumni events.

"We would like to make the Dental Alumni Association as user-friendly and welcoming as possible. We would love to hear from you about any suggestions you may have."

Dental Alumni Association Reception at the ADA Annual Session

The Dental Alumni Association hosted a successful alumni reception at the American Dental Association's Annual Session in Orlando on Oct. 9. Dean Thomas Braun and Dr. Dennis Ranalli, senior associate dean, welcomed guests to the reception which took place at The Peabody Orlando. Dean Braun also presented an update on the School of Dental Medicine including the construction of the research tower and commons room behind Salk Hall.

The annual SDM Alumni Reception is open to alumni and friends of the school. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres were served with over 100 guests in attendance.



Mrs. Tara McCargar, Dr. Jason McCargar (DMD '03), Dr. Matthew Blanton



Dr. Dennis Ranalli, Col. Hamilton (DMD '82) and Col. Manga (DMD 81), Dr. Thomas Braun



Dr. Peter A. Guevara (DDS '78), Dr. Paul W. Guevara (DMD '96), Mrs. Frida Guevara



Dr. Mary Ellen Cuccaro (DMD '95), Dr. Herbert Ray, Dr. R. Donald Hoffman (DMD '72)



Dr. Dennis Ranalli, Dr. Jean Malinic (DMD '83), Col. Priscilla Hamilton (DMD '82)



Dr. John Drumm (DMD 74) and Dr. Craig Eisenhart (DMD 74) and their wives



Dr. Sara Haines (DMD '09), MaKayla, and Dr. John Haines (Pharm '04)

2010 Home

Homecoming is always an exciting time at the School of Dental Medicine. The campus is buzzing with activity and alumni reunite and reminisce about their days in dental school. This year, the schedule was packed full of events including six reunion classes. The camaraderie at the reunion dinners and mentoring event was contagious.

Once again, Eastern Dentist Insurance Company (EDIC) awarded an educational grant to the school. The grant supported a homecoming breakfast and case study for residents and a student luncheon for predoctoral students with a discussion on dentistry and social media. The EDIC grant also supported an evening mentoring event at the University Club.

Alumni attended a full-day continuing dental education course presented by Dr. Nasir Bashirelahi, professor of oncology and diagnostic sciences at the University of Maryland Dental School on "The Role of Nutrition in Longevity and the Prevention of Diseases."

Once again, the Dental Alumni Association received a Gold Banner Award from the Pitt Alumni Association in recognition of the strength of the alumni association. This award will benefit the school's minority scholarship fund.

Many alumni returned to tour the school over the weekend for a look at how it has changed. Two members of the 50-year reunion class, Dr. Theodore Grabiak and Dr. Harvey Fox, mentioned several times how proud they were of their Pitt dental education and were amazed to see the new clinics and the new technology that has been incorporated at the school.

The classes of 1960, 1970, 1975, 1980, and 1990 met for reunion dinners in addition to the Golden Alumni reunion dinner for alumni who graduated prior to 1960.

"It was really great to be with some of my classmates from the SDM Class of 1960, and to do as much catching up as we could do after all of those years," said Dr. Petro Maropis (DMD '60).

Twenty-three alumni attended the class of 1975 reunion co-chaired by Dr. Karin Bittner and Dr. Linda Hamerski. From that class, two alumni traveled from California: Drs. Glenn Bickert and Arthur Green. They toured the campus during their visit and responded with heart-felt praise for the school for what they

felt was a superior dental education.

In addition to the class reunions, the Dental Panthers dinner also was held at the University Club. The Dental Panthers dinner was subsidized by a grant from the Pitt Alumni Association and included current dental students along with dental alumni who are Pitt Alumni Association members.

"It was great to be able to meet so many different generations of Pitt alums, and really see that the connections we make and relationships that we build while we're still in school do go on and last a lifetime," said Mr. Michael DeCoro (class of 2013). "Also, the dinner was simply amazing in all regards, and we clearly had some of the best seats on campus for the spectacular homecoming fireworks show. This experience really makes me look forward to being an active part of the Pitt alumni community in the future."

After dinner, alumni were encouraged to join the School of Dental Medicine reception, mingle with the Dental Panthers, and watch the University fireworks and laser show from the rooftop terrace of the University Club.

"We had a great time and enjoyed mingling with the youngsters," said Dr. F. Eugene Ewing (DMD '53). "The University Club, with its ambience greatly contributed to a very successful event."

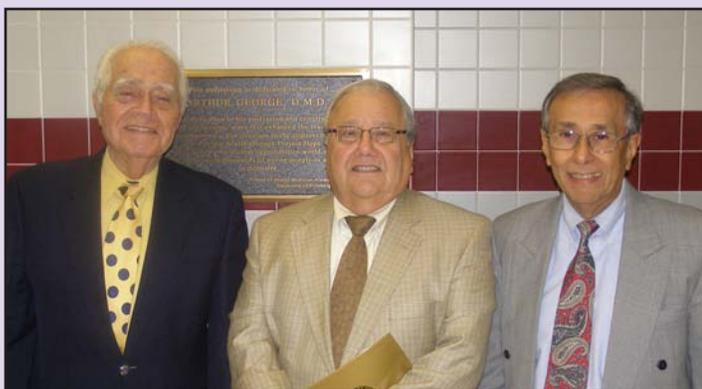
To top off a great weekend, Pitt beat Louisville 20-3 at Heinz Feild.



Case study presentation at the resident's breakfast



EDIC student luncheon – Dentistry and Social Media presentation



Dr. F. Eugene Ewing, Dr. Dennis N. Ranalli, and Dr. Nasir Bashirelahi, 2010 Homecoming CE speaker

coming



Dr. Charles Hapcook, EDIC president and CEO, and Dr. Dennis N. Ranalli



Class reunion coordinators (not pictured Dr. Margaret Gurtner)



Golden Alumni, graduates prior to 1960



Class of 1960



Class of 1970



Class of 1975



Class of 1980



Class of 1990



Dental Panthers and Pitt Alumni Association's dental alumni



Dental Panthers



Dental Panther Dr. Dale Cox (DMD '68) and Mr. Paul Casey



Members of the class of 1960



Members of the class of 1960



Members of the class of 1960



Members of the class of 1970



Dr. Robert Norkus and Dr. Jeffrey Mertens, Class of 1970



Dr. Frank Kewitt (DDS '53), Dr. Greg Kewitt (DMD '95), Dr. James Desetti (DDS '52)



EDIC Management team with Dr. & Mrs. Michael Dobos



Dr. Karin Bittner and Dr. Glen Bickert, Class of 1975



Dr. Linda Hamerski and Dr. Arthur Green, Class of 1975



Drs. D. Studen-Pavlovich, J. Shedlosky, D. Krinsky, F. Stricklin, C. Rosato - Class of 1980



Katherine Grabiak and Dr. Guy Grabiak (DMD 90)



Mr. Matthew Bateman (Class of 2011), Quinn Bateman, Dr. Kelly Bateman (DMD 10)



Guests enjoy the Fireworks and Laser Show from the terrace.

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: _____

Preferred fax: _____

Position(s): _____

Please complete and return to:

Nancy Poe, Alumni Affairs Coordinator
School of Dental Medicine
Office of Alumni Affairs & Development
3501 Terrace Street, 440 Salk Hall
Pittsburgh, PA 15261
tel: 412-648-8910
fax: 412-648-8219
email: poen@pitt.edu

**Don't forget to register at the alumni section of www.dental.pitt.edu to make sure the University of Pittsburgh and the School of Dental Medicine have your most current contact information.*

Five Things You Might Not Know About the Dental Alumni Association

1. All graduates of the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine are members of the Dental Alumni Association (DAA) and no dues are charged for membership. The goal of the DAA is to develop a network of dental medicine alumni, involve alumni in mentoring events, maintain communication between the school and its alumni, implement programs of continuing education, and provide opportunities to enhance friendships and camaraderie among dental alumni. The Pitt Dental Medicine magazine is published twice a year and mailed to all members. By keeping the alumni office updated with your correct mailing address we can make sure you receive the magazine. The e-newsletters are sent every trimester through the Pitt Alumni Association with the latest news and event information. If you send us your current email address, we can send news electronically and you can save the school mailing and printing costs and save a few trees.
2. The class reunions are planned by class officers or by a representative of the class. The alumni office is here to assist with planning and organization, but experience has shown that class members respond best to their classmates.
3. If you need a copy of your transcript, go to www.pitt.edu and click on the Alumni link on the left. On the Alumni page, click on the Request Transcript link on the right and you will be directed to the University Registrar site with information on how you can get a copy of your transcript. You also can reorder a copy of your diploma on the University Registrar homepage.
4. You can look up your classmates contact information on the Pitt Alumni Association (PAA) web site. (You don't have to be a member of the PAA to do this but you also can see the many advantages of membership in the Pitt Alumni Association on this site.) There is a wealth of information of services that are available as a Pitt graduate. For more information go to www.pitt.edu and click on the Alumni link on the left.
5. University yearbooks and commencement programs are just a few of the historic publications you can view at documenting.pitt.edu – an online resource with more than 100,000 pages of materials that provide a wealth of information about the history of the University of Pittsburgh.



Dr. Michael Dobos accepts the Gold Banner Award on behalf of the Dental Alumni Association.

IN MEMORIAM

DR. DAVID K. ATKINSON (DDS '43) 6/18/2010

DR. DOUGLAS G. BELL (DMD '57) 10/15/2010

DR. RUDOLPH A. BENNARDI (DDS '54) 8/26/2010

DR. RICHARD B. BORTNER (DDS '47) 9/01/2010

DR. WILLIAM A. CAMERON (DMD '76) 9/7/2010

DR. RALPH L. COHEN (DDS '52) 8/11/2010

DR. DON C. DONALDSON (DDS '45) 8/23/2004

DR. EDWARD S. FREEDMAN (DDS '53) 9/16/2010

DR. EDWARD A. GRONCESKI (DDS '54) 6/12/2010

DR. RICHARD L. HIBLER (DDS '61) 7/15/2010

DR. DONALD ISAAC (DMD '60) 8/24/2010

DR. WILLIAM JAFFEE (DMD '45) 1/04/2009

DR. CHARLTON L. MCCONNELL (DMD'53) 4/08/2007

DR. DANIEL L. NOZIK (DDS '65) 3/19/2010

DR. RICHARD A. PADOVANI (DDS '54) 3/15/2009

DR. C. BLAINE PERU (DDS '63) 7/12/2010

DR. GEORGE A. ROUSE (DDS '53) 10/2/2010

DR. EUGENE SCARAMUCCI (DMD '68) 11/25/2010

DR. KENNETH SMITH (DDS '43) 2/22/2010

DR. WILLIS L. SUPLER (DDS '56) 9/30/2010

DR. JOSEPH A. TAMBURO (DDS '30) 11/12/2009

DR. RAYMOND W. VREELAND (DDS '64) 7/23/2010

DR. DANIEL M. VERNINO (DDS '51) 3/23/2010

DR. SAMUEL F. ZEIGLER (DDS '37) 09/8/2010

Alumnus Posthumously Inducted into the Cathedral of Learning Society



The University of Pittsburgh celebrated the philanthropic support of 13 donors who were inducted into the Cathedral of Learning Society this past summer, including the late Dr. W. Harry Archer (DDS '27) and Mrs. Louise E. Archer. The Cathedral of Learning Society recognizes individuals who have given lifetime gifts to the University totaling \$1 million or more.

Dr. Archer earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from Pitt in 1927 and went on to become a leading surgeon who pioneered oral surgery practice and training.

Archer joined the Pitt faculty in 1927, serving as both a professor and department chair before retiring in 1975. He is credited with forming Pitt's Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, developing the first oral surgery master's degree program, and was instrumental in establishing the dental school's Department of Dental Anesthesiology. A renowned authority who had lectured at universities throughout the world, Archer was asked by the Smithsonian Institution to help create its Dental Exhibition and Reference Collection.

The late Louise "Billie" Archer also earned a degree from Pitt in 1927. She received the Elisabeth B. McCullough Award from Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC for having served as a volunteer in the hospital gift shop for more than 50 years. The shop's infant department – Billie's Baby Boutique – is named for her.

The Archers together with their son, William H. Archer, demonstrated their commitment to Pitt by making contributions to the School of Dental Medicine in support of the Oral Surgery Education Fund, the W. Harry Archer Oral Surgery Scholarship Endowment, and the William H. Archer Fund in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

Making a Difference: The Hoffman Family



Dr. Leslie Hoffman and Dr. R. Donald Hoffman

Scholarship and research support are vital for all students – especially those who pursue careers in the health sciences. Thanks to two faculty members at the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Nursing and School of Dental Medicine, students in these respective schools have the opportunity to pursue their academic dreams with less financial burden.

Faculty members recognize the significance of scholarships and funding to support research projects, but what makes Dr. Leslie Hoffman and Dr. R. Donald Hoffman unique is that philanthropy, for them, is a family thing. These two extraordinary health care leaders are brother and sister.

The Hoffman siblings grew up in Bedford County, 100 miles east of Pittsburgh. They watched as their father, a veterinarian (Penn ‘31), and their uncle, a fruit broker who lived in Gettysburg, Adams County, established trusts to make a difference in their hometowns. “Our father created a trust through the Pittsburgh Foundation to help Bedford and Fulton County high school graduates from farm families attend a college or a trade school. He valued all types of education,” says Dr. Leslie Hoffman. “Our uncle set up a \$7.2 million trust in Adams County to support many things from historical to cultural to health care,” Dr. R. Donald Hoffman explains. Impressed by the impact of these gifts, the Hoffman siblings decided to help students at the schools where they’ve taught for many years.

Dr. Leslie Hoffman, professor in Nursing’s Department of Acute/Tertiary Care, teaches doctoral and undergraduate courses and mentors students with research interests in critical care, pulmonary nursing and nursing administration. On the occasion of her 60th birthday, former and current students, along with colleagues, honored her commitment to the School of Nursing by

creating a research scholarship in her name – the Leslie A. Hoffman Endowed Acute Care Nursing Research Fund. “This was such a nice way for them to perpetuate funding for the pulmonary specialty – something that’s near and dear to my heart,” she says. “We have many wonderful scholarships at the School of Nursing, but this is the first that was research based, and that’s something I am really proud of.” She also is a contributor to this fund that supports PhD student and nursing alumni research.

Associate Dean for Education and Curriculum at the School of Dental Medicine, Dr. R. Donald Hoffman teaches students in restorative dental sciences. His scholarship blends his love for his hometown with the respect he has for dentistry’s future. “I want to encourage young men and women originally from Bedford County to come to Pitt for their dental education,” he says. “And, in doing so, I want to encourage them to take what they’ve learned here and return to Bedford County to offer quality dentistry to that community.”

Both Drs. Hoffman are proud to assist students through their scholarships. “The research award in the School of Nursing may be modest in terms of how large NIH funding can be,” Dr. Leslie Hoffman explains. “But, having this support can provide pilot data for a project funded on a larger scale.”

“Pitt has an excellent quality of education for students,” Dr. R. Donald Hoffman says, “and through this scholarship, I can contribute to their futures.” The generosity of this brother and sister enables students at the School of Nursing and the School of Dental Medicine to have the financial support necessary to achieve their academic goals today and make a difference as healthcare professionals tomorrow.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: DR. HUBERT AND MRS. GERTRUDE MARTIN



Dr. Hubert Martin (DDS '45) has a strong appreciation for his education at the School of Dental Medicine. So much so, that he and his wife, Gertrude, have established the Dr. and Mrs. Hubert E. Martin Student Endowment Fund, to support an award for second-year predoctoral students in need of financial support.

"I want to give back something in appreciation for what Pitt offered me," said Dr. Martin. "The education I received at Pitt has meant everything for my career." In addition, the Martins have supported the Steel City Dental Expo for the past two years. Dr. Martin fondly remembers a similar meeting that he attended as a freshman in dental school. He was selected as one of two students to have lunch with members of the society that organized the meeting.

"That was a big thing for me. I really appreciated it," he said. He often remembers his time at the School of Dental Medicine.

"I almost think of it daily, what a pleasant time it was. I'm all for Pitt," he said. "The school was very professional and if you needed additional help, all you needed to do was to ask for it."

Dr. Martin graduated from the School of Dental Medicine's accelerated program, offered during World War II. After graduation, he enlisted with the Army Dental Corps and shortly

"I want to give back something in appreciation for what Pitt offered me," said Dr. Martin. "The education I received at Pitt has meant everything for my career."

thereafter was deployed to Heidelberg, Germany as a first lieutenant toward the end of the war.

"Heidelberg has quite a history. It's a very nice city and it wasn't destroyed like most of the other cities," he said. "It was left almost intact, so I had a choice assignment there." While stationed in Germany, he met Gertrude who worked as an interpreter at the Army headquarters. After two years of service in Heidelberg, Dr. Martin was honorably discharged and returned to the United States as a captain. Not long after that, Gertrude joined him and they were married and settled in New York City. While there, Dr. Martin completed a program in orthodontics at the Dewey School of Orthodontics. The Martins relocated to Dr. Martin's hometown of Morgantown, WV, where he was the first orthodontist to establish an exclusive practice. He also served as a part-time faculty member at West Virginia University's School of Dentistry for 32 years.

Dr. and Mrs. Martin have three children and 7 grandchildren. Their son, Chris, is an associate professor in the Department of Orthodontics at WVU's School of Dentistry.

Thanks to Our Donors for Their Generous Support

The following names were installed on the School of Dental Medicine's Donors of Distinction plaque this fall:

Dr. and Mrs. David A. Anderson
Dr. Adolph F. Klingner III
Dr. and Mrs. Hubert E. Martin

Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Meyn
Dr. William M. Sulkowski

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ALUMNI CALENDAR *Save the Date and Reconnect to Pitt SDM in 2011*

- March 2** Alumni Association Executive Committee Meeting, Room 403, 4:45 PM
- March 2** Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting, Room 457, 6:00 PM
- March 26** Seventeenth Annual T. F. Bowser Memorial Lecture. Scaife Hall auditoriums 5 & 6
Dental Alumni Association Annual Business Meeting during lunch break, 458 Salk Hall
- April 2** 11th Annual Dean's Scholarship Ball, Heinz History Center, 6:30 PM
Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Steve Blass, Pittsburgh Pirates Broadcaster and Former Pirates Pitcher
- April 8** SDM Alumni Reception at the PDA Annual Session, Hotel Hershey 4:30-6:00 PM
- May 21** Diploma Presentation Ceremony, Heinz Hall, 1 PM
- August 29** White Coat Ceremony
- October 10-14** ADA Annual Session, Las Vegas, SDM Alumni Reception to be announced
- October** University of Pittsburgh Homecoming – date to be determined
SDM Homecoming Reunions and Reception