



# THE ART OF DENTISTRY

A PUBLICATION OF THE SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE



## Comprehensive Care: Putting Patients Front and Center

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# THE ART OF DENTISTRY

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CASE WESTERN  
RESERVE UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF  
DENTAL MEDICINE

Jerold S. Goldberg, D.D.S.  
*Dean*  
(216) 368-3266  
jerold.goldberg@case.edu

Heather M. Siegel  
*Executive Director of Development and  
Alumni Relations*  
heather.siegel@case.edu

Sara Y. Fields  
*Assistant Director of Alumni Relations*  
sara.fields@case.edu

Jennifer M. Wallace  
*Assistant Director of Development*  
jennifer.m.wallace@case.edu

Rebecca S. Hilton  
*Department Assistant*  
rebecca.hilton@case.edu

Office of Development  
and Alumni Relations  
Phone: (216) 368-3480  
Toll free: (877) 468-1436  
Fax: (216) 368-3204  
Web: <http://dental.case.edu/>

## THE ART OF DENTISTRY

Sara Y. Fields  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Ron Rajecki  
*Managing Editor*

Susan Griffith  
*Senior News and Information Specialist*

Academy Graphic Communication, Inc.  
*Design and Production*

Joe Darwal  
*Photographer*

Send correspondence to:  
The Art of Dentistry  
School of Dental Medicine  
Case Western Reserve University  
10900 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44106-4905  
dentalumni@case.edu

# MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



*Jerry and Michele Goldberg in Egypt.*

Dear Friends,

There are times of introspection for all of us when we step back to appreciate our successes and examine ways in which we can improve. Two events are affording us a wonderful opportunity for introspection at the CWRU School of Dental Medicine.

The first was our participation in a university-wide strategic planning process, which also involved a review of the dental school's strategic plan. The second is preparation for the upcoming site visit by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. These two events have caused us to take a very careful look at ourselves over the last few months.

The strategic planning process resulted in us resolving to continue doing the things that have led to our success, but also raised the bar in terms of our expectations. It served to ensure that we continue to be well-aligned with the university's priority areas: human health, particularly with regard to infectious disease; energy and the environment; ethics and social justice; advanced materials; and an interesting new commitment to design as a discipline unto itself. These are all opportunities where the School of Dental Medicine can make important contributions to the university.

We're always justifiably proud of the work done by our researchers, and we have reason for a little extra pride right now: our own **Suchitra Nelson, Ph.D. '92** recently was invited to the White House to receive the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (see page 19). The Presidential Award is the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on outstanding scientists and

engineers beginning their independent careers. We believe Dr. Nelson is the first person from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research and Case Western Reserve University ever to receive this prestigious award.

We are committed to continue supporting our research in 2009, with the anticipation of millions of dollars in new awards. Over the next 18 months, we plan to hire an additional research administrator and add two new members to our faculty. We also recognize the serious need to renovate our 1968-vintage laboratories and expand the space for continuing growth.

In the area of education we continue to implement the R.E.A.L. curriculum (Relevant Experiential Active Learning) curriculum, with apparent good results. In interviewing applicants, it is clear that this curriculum is attractive to those who are applying to dental schools. Once again we are on target to have more than 3,300 applicants for 70 positions.

Our efforts to create and maintain an outstanding curriculum do not go unnoticed. The CWRU School of Dental Medicine has been chosen to receive a William J. Gies Award for institutional innovation in education and global health. The award will be presented in March at the national meeting of the American

Dental Education Association.

Another area of university interest is internationalization, and we continue our efforts in that realm on a variety of fronts, including ongoing educational exchanges with Egypt, China, and our students' clinic in the Dominican Republic. We're also continuing our negotiations to establish a clinical treatment facility in China.

Because of our careful planning, we anticipate cautious growth and continuing commitment toward excellence despite the nation's financial challenges. We all need to keep in mind that our students' education does not diminish in relation to the economy.

So at this time of introspection, I share with you the opportunity I have had to celebrate our successes and reaffirm our commitment to greatness in our facilities, our curriculum, our researchers and staff, and, most importantly, our students.

**Jerold S. Goldberg, D.D.S. '70**  
**Dean, School of Dental Medicine**  
[jerold.goldberg@case.edu](mailto:jerold.goldberg@case.edu)

# THE SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE TODAY



## EFDA PROGRAM HELPS HYGIENISTS AND ASSISTANTS MOVE UP IN THE DENTAL PROFESSION

BY SUSAN GRIFFITH

A special program in Case Western Reserve University's School of Dental Medicine offers hygienists and assistants the educational opportunity to advance their careers in dentistry by becoming an expanded function dental auxiliary (EFDA). The EFDA Program, established in the early 1970s at the university, is one of the first of its kind in the country.

"EFDAs are a valuable member of the dental practice," says Shelly Feiwell, director of the Case Western Reserve EFDA Program. "In addition to expanding professional options, EFDAs can increase their incomes with the additional

educational and skills training."

Feiwell and her faculty assistants, **Karin Hein '92**, **Kristi Graham '76** and **Danielle LiPuma '03** teach the 40 students accepted annually in the program.

In the role of an EFDA, the individual is able to assist the dentist by learning the skills to place rubber dams, apply pit and fissure sealants, and perform restorations of amalgam and composite materials on teeth prepared by the dentist.

But this takes special training, which the university offers through the program, which follows the approved curriculum of the Ohio Dental Association Council

on Dental Education. The curriculum prepares students to meet the standards and requirements for the required tests for board certification.

Currently, the Case Western Reserve program offered is one of five programs in Ohio. What sets the campus program apart is that each student has an individual workspace. The area supports teaching tooth anatomy and dexterity skills with a state-of-the-art simulator of the dental patient, lighting, supplies and materials, a supply drawer, and use of instruments needed to gain the dexterity and skills for the profession.

Another unique feature is that each EFDA student begins continuous classes from August to graduation in May. Students attend class all day on either Wednesday or Friday—days when professional practices usually are closed. "Students can continue to work while they learn these new skills in placing restorations," Feiwell says.

During the second quarter of the program, students begin to work with patients in a number of locations from the dental school's clinic, MetroHealth Hospital and St. Elizabeth Hospital in Youngstown.

The program also provides training with mock board exams in an atmosphere that simulates the actual state examination.

For more information, contact Shelly Feiwell at (216) 368-3252 or shelly.feiwel@case.edu.

## Give Kids A Smile! Day

Faculty, students, and staff from the Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine were an integral part of a statewide effort to provide free dental care to hundreds of children. The School of Dental Medicine team joined members of the Ohio Dental Association and Colgate's Bright Smiles, Bright Futures mobile dental unit for the annual Give Kids A Smile! Day in February. About 250 children received free dental care.



*Cleveland Indians mascot, Slider, pays close attention as student doctor, Donald Murry, examines a child's teeth.*



## REFERENCE BOOKS MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR U.S. AND IRAQI MILITARY DENTISTS, SAYS SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE ALUMNUS

BY SUSAN GRIFFITH

"If only we had some reference books," was the message delivered by Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine alumnus, **Robert Gilliam '06**, a captain in the U.S. Army serving in Iraq. A donation of 13 books from the School of Dental Medicine answered that call for dentists such as Gilliam, who are serving at American and Iraqi Army Dental Clinics.



On duty in Taji, Iraq, Dr. Gilliam hears and sees the need as he works in partnership with Iraqi dentists. He is currently a Brigade Dentist for the 2nd Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division deployed out of Hawaii.

"From personal experience practicing in Iraq, I knew what an invaluable asset reference materials and texts can be," says Dr. Gilliam. "It occurred to me that if available, such texts would be a great asset for Iraqi dentists as well."

Those needs are evident to Dr. Gilliam and another military dentist as they coordinate and oversee the partnership between the U.S. and Iraqi hospitals in the areas of training, classes and social events.

He talked to his Iraqi peers about their needs and compiled a list.

"Since Case Western Reserve is my alma mater, and because of its history of service and charity, it was the first school I contacted," said Dr. Gilliam.

With Dean Jerold Goldberg's assistance, **Marsha Pyle '84**, associate dean for education, and John Smolik, director of finance and operations, located the resources and shipped the books to Iraq.

"It was my intention to contact other dental schools afterwards to acquire any texts still lacking, but CWRU actually provided everything on the list. In fact, the school donated more

than what was asked for and was very generous," says Dr. Gilliam.

The dental school went beyond filling the wish list and contacted Lexi-Comp, a company offering clinical databases on drugs, which provided drug manuals.

In addition to Dr. Gilliam, there are five dental school alumni serving at his home duty station in Hawaii: **Maj. Al Anderson '00**, **Capt. Andy Gilbert '04**, **Maj. Stephen Jensen '02**, **Capt. Brandon Johnson '05** and **Maj. Charles Lambert '02**.



# Overcoming Fears of Going to the Dentist

BY SUSAN GRIFFITH

Fear drives some children to kick, scream and fight all the way to the dentist. Those children are not alone in being fearful, because approximately 75 percent of the adult population also has anxious qualms about seeing the dentist, according to Masahiro Heima, a pediatric dentist and assistant professor of pediatric dentistry at Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine.

Dr. Heima and his colleagues are designing new methods to help patients conquer those anxieties in order to achieve better oral health. Prior to coming to the CWRU dental school from the University of Washington, he and his colleagues began to develop methods to help his small patients cope with their fears, and design techniques for dentists to employ chairside to settle their patients' fears.

Most techniques involve psychological techniques to change behaviors. One of the strongest fears of visiting the dentist is the lack of control of the situation.



Dr. Masahiro Heima

“There are many of techniques to prevent or control fear during treatment. However, sometimes unanticipated events occur; these techniques don't work or dentists fall into situations with their patients in which they cannot apply these techniques. Unfortunately, dentistry has not had any post-event techniques that have been proved,” says Dr. Heima.

He and his colleagues at the University of Washington have developed a simple technique for the post event. It is a restructuring memory strategy that applies the malleability of memory that is a well-known phenomenon in psychology. This new technique could wipe out children's negative memory of a previous dental visit.

The primary cause for most fears of visiting the dentist is a bad dental experience in the past. It could have been direct or indirect. Suddenly children find themselves in an oversized dental chair with a big, bright light focused on them. Sounds and smells are new and different from what the child may have ever experienced.

They also may be primed to be anxious because mom or dad tells stories about bad experiences after a tooth has been pulled or simply impart their dislike of going to the dentist and listening to the sound of the drill or having an injection.

Dr. Heima starts with the parents to find out their own concerns, worries and fears, and then asks about what bothers their child.

He returns some control to patients by acquainting them with the equipment and syringes for injections and letting them give mock shots in the mouth until

he sees they are comfortable. The next step is for him to go through a mock injection process, followed by an injection with a few drops of painkillers.

He also gives his patients control of the situation by allowing them to raise their hand and stop work to provide them a brief escape and rest, and he then resumes when they are ready. This was proved to be effective in a scientific study.

Most fearful people walk away from a situation and have negative stories to tell, but Dr. Heima says he is always finding ways to reward children with positive feedback. He praises the screaming child for opening the mouth to give him a chance to look at their teeth. He always thinks about how to make a success story for his young patients. He believes there are many techniques all over the world, but making a success story is most effective to overcome dental fear.

Dr. Heima says it may take more than one visit before he can even treat the child, but he wants the children to begin lifelong healthy oral practices.

If the fears are so embedded, Dr. Heima says a psychologist may be needed to help the family cope with the fears.

But Dr. Heima notes that it's unrealistic for most dentists to have a psychologist on staff or set aside special areas in waiting rooms for patients to settle down, play or cope. So dentists need to be equipped with the chair-side skills to help patients overcome their fears.

Email: [masahiro.heima@case.edu](mailto:masahiro.heima@case.edu)



*Student Doctor Eric Villarreal, Dr. Karyn Kahn and patient Carol Tyler Fox (seated)*

# Comprehensive Care: Putting Patients Front and Center

BY RON RAJECKI

Avishai Sadan, D.M.D., tries to be modest when he speaks of the School of Dental Medicine's Department of Comprehensive Care. But it's clear that he is very proud of the department and can't overstate its importance to the school and its students, faculty, and patients.

"We're doing unique things here, and the way we're doing them is quite special," says Dr. Sadan, associate dean of clinical affairs, and professor and chairman of the Department of Comprehensive Care. "We're giving our patients the highest quality services at very reasonable prices, and our students are working with techniques and technologies that at other schools are, at best, being taught on a theoretical level."

The Comprehensive Care Department was born upon Dr. Sadan's arrival at the school in 2004. He oversaw the merger of the departments of general dentistry and restorative dentistry, and the addition of new laboratories for biomaterials research, ceramics, and indirect composites. The department is responsible for teaching all the preclinical and clinical aspects of the restorative sciences (operative dentistry, fixed, removable,

and implant prosthodontics, and biomaterials) and implementing them under a general dentistry model.

"It's hard to beat our combination of being on the cutting-edge in the clinic and also the cutting-edge of research," he says. "The data we generate from our research is often implemented in our clinic the very next day."

The benefits of such research extend well beyond the school, according to Dr. Sadan. "Other schools look at the data we generate and use it to shape some of their clinical protocols," he says.

Over the past two years, the department has recruited significant new international talent that will help keep it at the forefront of research and clinical practice. New researchers/clinicians include Jin-Ho Phark, D.D.S., from the University of Berlin, and the



Dr. Karyn Kahn, Dr. Avishai Sadan and Student Doctor Eric Villarreal '09

*“The data we generate from our research is often implemented in our clinic the very next day.”*

experiencing something that’s not readily available at other schools.”

Another unique and powerful component of the Department of Comprehensive Care is the preceptor program. Preceptors help students bring together the research and clinical components of their studies.

Upon arrival at the clinic, students are assigned to a preceptor group that takes them through their years of clinical training at the school. The preceptors play a crucial role in teaching and shaping the students’ knowledge, clinical skills, and mindset.

**Karyn Kahn, D.D.S. ’78**, has been a preceptor at the school for seven years. She splits her time between the school and the Cleveland Clinic, where she performs general dentistry with emphasis on the diagnosis and management of pain and temporomandibular disorders.

Kahn says the preceptor program is a vital link in a comprehensive dental education. “Working with preceptors enables students to see cases from beginning to end,” Dr. Kahn says. “Students learn how to put together comprehensive diagnosis and treatment plans, and how to communicate with the other departments in the school. They learn what’s involved in each specialty.”

husband and wife team of Sillas Duarte Jr., D.D.S., Ph.D., and Fabiana Varjao, D.D.S., Ph.D., from the State University of São Paulo, Brazil.

As an example of how the research and clinical components of the Comprehensive Care Department work hand-in-hand, Dr. Sadan cites Dr. Phark’s field of ceramic materials. Research on all-ceramic crowns translates into clinical reality thanks to the presence of a master ceramist. Custom-made crowns are then provided to patients at a fraction of what they would cost outside the school.

“When it comes to ceramics, implants, and tooth-colored restorations, we’re as good as it gets. For our patients, it’s Hollywood-quality work at bargain basement prices,” Dr. Sadan says. “For our students, working with these materials and technologies is an experience they wouldn’t be able to get anywhere else as a predoctoral student. It’s a win-win. We serve as a great asset to the community by providing this type of care, and our students receive an added value by

According to Kahn, she and her preceptor group work with an average of about 18 third- and fourth-year students. For two years, these students function much like a group practice: they have a patient care coordinator who sets up appointments and manages their schedules. They not only learn dental procedures, but also gain experience in office management and long-term patient management. This is all part of putting the “comprehensive” in the Comprehensive Care Department.

“We want our students to be educated in all aspects of dentistry,” Kahn says. “Our students don’t learn dentistry piecemeal. They learn to put everything — diagnosis, treatment, materials, function, aesthetics, and practice management — into the perspective of the continuity of care. That continuity is so important, not only for the patients but also for our students’ educations. It enables them to correlate all they’ve learned in their preclinical studies with actual patient care.”

The students appreciate the unique opportunities afforded to them by the School of Dental Medicine and the Department of Comprehensive Care. Eric Villarreal is in his fourth year of studies, having come to the school from Pendleton, OR.

“I think the preceptor program is the biggest advantage here,” he says. “When I speak to my friends from other schools, it seems they’re not getting the same level of shared experience in clinic that we have here.

“The preceptors aren’t babysitters,” Villarreal adds. “But they’re experienced and help us learn how to work through issues that come up with patients in a logical, step-by-step manner. Plus, having our own patients, operatories, and clinical care coordinators is unique and very

rewarding. It really teaches you how to make your own decisions, coordinate care, and how to truly be a dentist.”

One of Villarreal’s pleased patients is Chagrin Falls resident Carol Tyler Fox, who is the director of the academic and writing support program at the CWRU School of Law.

Fox was having an unresolved generalized dental pain. She visited the school and was sent to see the pain expert in the Department of Comprehensive Care, Dr. Kahn. Dr. Kahn and Villarreal methodically worked with Fox, eventually discovering a tooth that was severely compromised under an old filling.

“I received good care here,” Fox says, “And it was interesting being part of the educational process and listening to the interaction among students and between students and instructors.”

Fox notes that the lower cost of care available at the school serves to balance out the additional time investment associated with receiving treatment in a teaching environment. But all of that is secondary to having her elusive pain correctly diagnosed and treated.

“Overall, I was very pleased with the experience, and it’s also nice to have all the various resources and specialties right here,” she says.

That availability of resources is another reason that Villarreal would highly recommend the school and the Department of Comprehensive Care to other dental students.

“There are so many different specialties here, and so many people you can learn from who are experts in their fields. If I go out and ask for help from the



*Dr. Avishai Sadan*

preceptors and other faculty, and am willing to put the effort into it, there’s nothing that I can’t learn here.”

With an eye towards the future, Dr. Sadan recognizes both opportunities and challenges ahead. By creating such a strong name for itself in the area of biomaterials research, the school must continue to grow and spend to take that research to the next level.

“There are three areas I think we need to look at if we’re to maintain our position as one of the leading institutions in dental education: updating our clinical facilities, continuing our excellence in the preclinic and clinic, and continuing our excellence in research. Doing those things will maintain our competitive edge,” Dr. Sadan says.

In the meantime, Dr. Sadan will continue to be justifiably proud of the school and the Department of Comprehensive Care. “This has been and continues to be a great school,” he says. “We have the highest quality faculty, staff, and students, and you can’t lose by working with people like that.”

# PORTRAIT OF A DENTIST IN TRAINING

## RUNNING DOWN A DREAM

AVID RUNNER ASHLEY GIBBS IS CLOSING IN ON HER GOAL OF BECOMING AN ORAL SURGEON

BY RON RAJECKI

The story of success that Ashley Gibbs is writing at the CWRU School of Dental Medicine is a story that spans generations. Gibbs, now in her third year of studies, spent two summers working in the office of an oral surgeon in her hometown of Canton, OH. Conversations with the surgeon and his colleagues in the area — all of whom are graduates of the CWRU Dental School — left little doubt in her mind about which school she wanted to attend.



*Ashley is a recipient of the Dr. Robert and Rosemary Racek Scholarship Fund established in 2006. Dr. Racek graduated in 1943 and designated the dental school in his estate plans. Scholarship funding is one of the crucial sources of support to the school. Gifts such as these allow us to continue to attract the best and brightest students and educate them for future careers in dentistry. If you'd like to do your part to support future professionals, please contact the development office at (216) 368-3480 or toll free at (877) 468-1436.*

“When I talked to my idols in Canton, every one of them said CWRU is a great school and recommended that I go here,” Gibbs says.

Among Gibbs’ idols in Canton is **Emil Poporad, D.M.D. ’72**. It was Dr. Poporad’s oral surgery practice in which Gibbs observed firsthand how she would like to run her practice someday.

“Dr. Poporad is an amazing oral surgeon,” she says. “He takes his time with patients, and has great patient-doctor relationships. He’s very gentle and very thorough. He taught me a lot. I started my first IV with him, and he taught me how to suture.”

Gibbs grew up in Canton, graduating from Glen Oak High School in 2003. An avid cross-country and track runner, she then went on to the University of Detroit Mercy, attracted as much by the athletic programs as the academics. She never stopped running on either the track or in the classroom, graduating in three years with a degree in biochemistry.

After graduation from Detroit Mercy, Gibbs’ dream of becoming an oral surgeon was at a critical juncture. One evening, while having dinner with her boyfriend, she received a memorable phone call from her father.

“My dad called and told me I had received a very generous scholarship to Case Western Reserve University dental school. I later learned it was from the Dr. Robert and Rosemary Racek Scholarship Fund. At first I thought he was joking,” Gibbs says, acknowledging that it wouldn’t have been a very funny joke.

“The scholarship changed everything, and I’m so grateful for it. Not only was I lucky to be able to attend school here, it also allowed me to do things that I probably wouldn’t have been able to do, such as working in the summers for Dr. Poporad and conducting research.”

She has loved the curriculum at the dental school, and the school’s hands-on approach. “Even from the very first year they have us cleaning teeth and working with patients. You don’t see that at most schools.”

Gibbs also likes the fact that the faculty regularly take research that goes on in the clinic and applies it to direct patient care.

In her research, Gibbs has worked with **Leena Palomo, D.D.S., M.S.D. ’00, ’04** from the school’s periodontal department to examine the relationship of bisphosphonates to osteonecrosis of the jaw. Bisphosphonates are drugs commonly used to treat people who have osteoporosis, and also by oncologists for cancer patients.

“Patients who get teeth extracted while taking these drugs can experience necrosis, or death of the jawbone,” Gibbs explains. “My research consisted of interviewing and surveying oncologists to see if they were referring patients to dentists before they prescribed these drugs. Oncologists need to understand the importance of referring, and dentists should remember to be aware of the overall health of their patients.”

Ultimately, Gibbs hopes to return to Canton and take over the oral surgery practice of her mentor, Dr. Poporad. Canton would be lucky to have another graduate of the CWRU dental school running the practice for a second generation.

“Continuing the excellence of Dr. Poporad’s practice is my goal, but I know there are no guarantees,” Gibbs says. “My parents have always told me, ‘Work hard now, play hard later,’ and I’ve always stuck to that.”

# THE CLASS OF 2012

*“With all the chaos that accompanied moving into a new place, beginning at a new school, and meeting new people, the white coat ceremony served as the official beginning of what I hope to be a long career in dentistry. The ceremony and speakers not only clarified what is expected of us as the class of 2012, but also the excitement and joy that being a member of the dental profession brings.”*



*“I chose CWRU because it stresses early clinical experience, integrative learning through the hybrid problem-based learning (PBL) curriculum, and community service and early exposure through the sealant program.”*

*“I decided to attend CWRU because I was impressed with the curriculum and excited to gain hands-on experience in the first year.”*

## LEGACIES

Student	Alumni Relative	Relationship
Chris Choi	Yun Ju Choi '00	Sister
Benjamin Cope	Lloyd Cope '65	Grandfather
Joanne El-Maasri	Jeannine El-Maasri '06	Sister
Kevin Faist	Jerome Faist '81	Father
Lyle Herman	Joseph Herman '90	Father
Kenneth Murry	Jerome Murry '67	Father
	Donald Murry '10	Brother

### Statistics on the class of 2012

26 female (37.1%),  
up from 32.9% in fall 2007.

44 male

Some of the states and  
countries represented:

13 – Ohio

6 – California and New York

5 – Michigan

3 – Florida, Georgia,  
Pennsylvania and Wisconsin

2 – Utah, Virginia and Washington

1 – Idaho, Maryland, Missouri,  
New Jersey and North Carolina

17 – International

*“The most positive learning experience so far has definitely been the sealant program. Not only does it give us an excellent real-life opportunity to develop our clinical skills right off the bat in the very first semester, it also offers us a chance to give back to the community by providing crucial preventive dentistry in areas that desperately need it.”*

# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Alumni of the CWRU School of Dental Medicine are well-known as being some of the finest practitioners of the dental arts in the world. This past November, we held an event that brought together our alumni and another well-known group of artists: Fabergé, Tiffany, and Lalique.

On November 7, more than 100 alumni, family, and friends met at the Cleveland Museum of Art to be dazzled by the works of these three great artists. At the exhibition, *Artistic Luxury: Tiffany, Fabergé, Lalique*, attendees had the opportunity to view their greatest masterpieces, reunited for the first time since the 1900 World's Fair in Paris.

As with so many alumni events, the joy of experiencing these works of art ran second to the joy of seeing so many alumni returning to celebrate old memories and to create new ones. Please be sure to join us for the fun and friendship of reunion weekend to be held this year May 15-17. Visit <http://dental.case.edu/alumni/2009weekend/> for details.

Those who attend the gala awards dinner during this year's reunion weekend will have the pleasure of helping us honor our 2009 Distinguished Alumnus. As you may know, every year your Alumni Association Board of Directors solicits nominations for the distinguished alumni of the year. Based on his outstanding accomplishments in the field of dentistry and dedication to the CWRU School of Dental Medicine, the 2009 Distinguished Alumnus Award will be presented to Kenneth Callahan of the class of 1955. Please join us to honor Dr. Callahan,

who will become the 49th alumnus to receive this prestigious award.

We all know that spring can come late in Northeastern Ohio, but even if winter hangs on a little too long it's not too soon to start dreaming about warm evenings under a moonlit sky. With that in mind, we hope you'll help us and the dental school's students as we root, root, root for the Lake County Captains, the South Atlantic League (class A) affiliate of the Cleveland Indians. Your Alumni Association is sponsoring a family-friendly night out Saturday, August 15th at 7 p.m. at the beautiful and intimate Classic Park in Eastlake. There will be fireworks after the game. Call the alumni office at (877) 468-1436 for details.

Finally, thank you to all the alumni who serve on our Board of Directors. Their efforts are truly appreciated. If you are interested in joining the board, please visit <http://dental.case.edu/alumni/resources.html> and fill out the Alumni Association Board of Directors application form. We will be adding new members soon.

**R. Malcolm Taylor, Jr. '92**  
E-MAIL: [mtay4219@aol.com](mailto:mtay4219@aol.com)

## THE 2008-2009 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE, CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

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### EFDA REPRESENTATIVE

Shelly Feiwell

### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Kari Cunningham '10

# RESULTS OF THE 2008 REUNION CHALLENGE

All gifts received between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009 counted toward the class giving total.

Your donation directly supports our dental students in a number of ways. With the expense of dental education quickly rising above what we receive from tuition, and research costs far exceeding what we acquire from grants, the school depends on alumni and friends, like you, to make up the difference. We appreciate your support.

The classes with the highest giving total amount are listed on the Reunion Giving Challenge Plaque. The classes of 1958 and 1973 had the highest giving total with \$266,200 and \$2,532,900, respectively.

The class of 1958 also had the largest increase in the number of donors. **Hats off to you!**

## REUNION GIVING CHALLENGE JULY 1, 2007 – JUNE 30, 2008

Degree Year	# of Active Alumni	# of 2007 Donors	Total 2007 Commitments
1948	24	6	\$1,450.00
1953	25	16	\$5,874.00
<b>1958</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>\$266,200.00</b>
1963	46	12	\$13,219.12
1968	45	15	\$6,575.00
<b>1973</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>\$2,532,900.00</b>
1978	92	26	\$25,875.00
1983	84	32	\$20,192.50
1988	72	16	\$5,185.00
1993	50	7	\$1,906.00
1998	56	6	\$800.00
2003	69	2	\$475.00
<b>Totals</b>			<b>\$2,880,651.62</b>



**58** *Front Row:* Tom Jacobs (standing), Silvio Petti\*, Terrence Martzial, Jr., Herb Mayers, Mel Coleman\*, Harold Purdy\*, Jack Diehn, Robert Ferreira\* (standing)  
*Second Row:* Dale Dixon, Ronald Morrow, Jack Love\*, John Kulick\*, Donald Robins, Phil Taylor, Harry Geiger\*



**73** *Front Row:* David Becker, James Ip, Robert Geary, Paul Person, D. Daniel Degesys, Frank Pace\*  
*Second Row:* Ron Stark, Jeffrey Utterback, Thomas Van Dyke, Tim Benich\*, Philip Gross, Ron Carmen  
*Back Row:* Brent Miller, Page Caufield

\*Class Representative

# CLASS NOTES

## 1944

**Bernard Isaacson** is a member of the board and a past president of the Stonefield Commons Home Owners' Association and a lifetime board member and past president of the Jewish Family Services of Rochester. He and his wife, Madlyn, live in Pittsford, NY.

EMAIL: [bri80@frontiernet.net](mailto:bri80@frontiernet.net)

## 1949

**Paul F. Ernst** practiced oral surgery for 45 years. After he retired, he became a coroner's investigator for Erie County, OH for an additional 12 years. He is now retired from that position as well.

## 1951

**Jack Amram** writes that he lives alone since Audrey's death five years ago. His two sons are dentists and his daughter is a veterinarian. He enjoys cooking and playing the piano.

EMAIL: [sramram@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sramram@sbcglobal.net)



**Harry Glatz** continues his singing career in Jamestown, NY, as a member of both a quartet and an octet. These guys are in a quartet called "3rd Generation" because they are all grandfathers and they have billfold pictures to prove it! Harry is the second from the right.

EMAIL: [hgglatz@netsync.net](mailto:hgglatz@netsync.net)

**Milton Hirsch** and his wife, Norma, have moved to a Continual Care Classic Residence by Hyatt in San Diego. He plays golf twice a week and volunteers as an ombudsman for a federally mandated program for the state of California in San Diego.

EMAIL: [Milton@san.rr.com](mailto:Milton@san.rr.com)

**J. Norman Johnson** remains a furniture builder for his family in Jamestown, NY, along with his wife, Ozzie.

EMAIL: [JnJoz@netsync.net](mailto:JnJoz@netsync.net)

**Dick Koch** still enjoys playing tennis but at a slower pace. He and Shirley have a garden that they both enjoy, as well as their bridge club.

EMAIL: [hodinbbaoy@yahoo.com](mailto:hodinbbaoy@yahoo.com)

**Richard Rice** continues to focus on the International Student Exchange Program for the International College of Dentists. "Our most recent exchanges have been with Scotland and Brazil," he writes. He also volunteers at church, trying to maintain a rose garden.

**A. Pat Sheehan** still golfs and delivers for Meals on Wheels in Norwalk, OH. He has a granddaughter who has a pedodontics practice in Richmond, VA.

EMAIL: [Patmare4@accnorwalk.com](mailto:Patmare4@accnorwalk.com)

## 1954

**Edward M. White** and his wife, Vicky, are living in Fort Myers, FL.

EMAIL: [emwvmw@aol.com](mailto:emwvmw@aol.com)

## 1959

**Donald Dunning** practices in Parma Heights, OH. He and his wife, Rosemary, live in Cleveland.



**Ronald Hudson** is retired and enjoys hunting and fishing all over the country. He and his wife, Kimberly, live in Port Lavaca, TX.

EMAIL: [khudsond@cs.com](mailto:khudsond@cs.com)

**Richard Lieberman** continues to do some work at nursing homes and spends his winters in Florida and California. He and his wife, Catherine, live most of the year in Centerville, OH.

EMAIL: [clieberman@wob.rr.com](mailto:clieberman@wob.rr.com)

**W. H. Pangborn** retired in November 2008 after more than 50 years in practice, including three in the U.S. Navy, 34 in private practice, and 13 in the California State Prison System. He and his wife, Evelyn, live in Long Beach, CA.

EMAIL: [pangjr33@verizon.net](mailto:pangjr33@verizon.net)

## 1960



**Hudson Heidorf** recently was recognized with the Passion for and Dedication to Dentistry Award on behalf of the Dawson Academy in Chicago. He continues to

practice comprehensive restorative dentistry and teaches at CWRU. In the past, he has served as the president of American Academy of Restorative Dentistry, founded and directed the Eagle Clinical Dentistry Study Center to help practicing dentists continue their education, and served as the director of the Craniofacial Pain and Jaw Disorder Center at the Cleveland Clinic.

EMAIL: [Hudlo96@aol.com](mailto:Hudlo96@aol.com)

## 1964



**Richard Benveniste** practices in Reseda, CA. He says his most memorable moment of dental school is “graduating from a school that really cared

for its students and prepared us to get through specialty training with the strongest background and ease.”



**Emilio D. Ferrara** retired at the end of 2008 and lives in Kent, OH, with his wife, Margaret.



**Edward Jacob** is retired and living in Duluth, GA, with his wife, Nancy. “We’re enjoying our five grandchildren here. We travel to California to be with our other two grandchildren.” He writes that he also enjoys golfing and traveling.

**Jack A. McIver** retired from practice in 2006. His son, Matt, assumed his practice. He also has another son, Scott. He and his wife, Dorinne, live in Amherst, OH.

EMAIL: 111638@centurytel.net

**Norman D. Mittleman** has been retired since 1998. He was certified in scuba diving three years ago and now has an advanced open-water certification. He has completed more than 200 dives, having gone to Honduras to dive with his wife,

Janet, seven times from April 2007 to October 2008. Their next trip is to be in April. Regarding business, he says he is looking after his personal investments, including his auto lease company. He doesn’t fly anymore and writes that he had both knees replaced in 2007.

EMAIL: stormmm1@aol.com



**Nelson M. Petrov** is working part-time with his daughter, Lisa, doing some veterinary dentistry at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, landscaping and growing orchids. In addition to Lisa, he has two other daughters, Monique and Alycia. He and his wife, Frances, live in Elyria, OH.

EMAIL: nelsonpetrou@gmail.com

**Allan Sheridan** teaches graduate orthodontics at UCLA and Loma Linda. He is an assistant professor and senior lecturer. He is an expert consultant for the California State Dental Board and a consultant and expert witness in orthodontic defense. He also captains sportfishing boats in Dana Point, CA. He and his wife, Florence, live in Orange, CA.

EMAIL: captainal\_92865@yahoo.com

## 1969

**Wilson Armstrong** spent three weeks in November 2004 in Peru doing dental treatments for those in need. In 2006 and 2007, he was in Fargo, ND, on a mission for his church. He and his wife, Judith, live in Blackfoot, ID.

EMAIL: wilsonrarmstrong@hotmail.com

**Terence C. Hilger** is a captain on active duty with the U.S. Navy and is expecting to retire in 2010. He is a prosthodontist and plans to teach part-time, play more golf, and enjoy spending more time with his family, which includes two children, Amy and Jericho, and his wife, Brenda, with whom he lives in Memphis, TN.

EMAIL: tclbjhi@comcast.net

**Thomas M. Janeczek** is living and practicing dentistry in Summerville, SC. He also designs offices through Dental Design Solutions Inc. (www.officeplans.com).

EMAIL: tmjdds41@yahoo.com

**Ronald S. Rosenblatt** is enjoying practicing in San Diego, spending time with his grandchildren, golfing, traveling, and swimming. He has two children, Brett and Adam, and lives with his wife, E.J., in Solana Beach, CA.

EMAIL: bigblatt@gmail.com

**John D. Roush** retired in 2007 and lives with his wife, Catherine, in Holland, MI.

## 1973



**Tim Hottel** is the new dean of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Dentistry in Memphis.

Formerly, he was executive associate dean

and chief financial officer at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale-Davie, FL, where he also was associate dean for academic and financial affairs, division chief for primary care, interim chairman of the department of cariology and restorative dentistry, and a prosthodontics professor.

1979

**Danute E. Abriani** practices in Wickliffe, OH, and lives in Highland Heights, OH. “This has been a very sad year for me,” she writes. “My 27-year-old daughter (Kristina) died on Oct. 29, 2008, after an 8-month struggle with cancer.” She and husband, Jerry, have three other children: Andrew, Alex, and Steven.  
**EMAIL:** [deabriani@aol.com](mailto:deabriani@aol.com)



**Kenneth Chance** writes that his youngest child, Jackie, is graduating from high school this year and then he will be an empty nester. He has four children and lives and practices in Lexington, KY.

**Keith A. Hoover** has been in private practice since 1982 after three years of service in the U.S. Navy. He plays guitar in a praise band in church and enjoys traveling—he went to China recently—and playing golf. He writes that he is trying to keep his handicap under five. He has two children, Kristen and Kevin, and lives in Hudson, OH, with his wife, Kathy.  
**EMAIL:** [fourkhs@aol.com](mailto:fourkhs@aol.com)



**Eugene Nolfi, Jr.** was inducted into the Warren (OH) High School Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame in May 2008. He was certified as a diplomate of the

American Board of Pediatrics in 2006. He and his wife, Linnea, live in Corpus Christi, TX, where he also practices.  
**EMAIL:** [thenolfis@aol.com](mailto:thenolfis@aol.com)

**Bryan Philip** writes that he is keeping busy with golf, his grandson, Tyler, and travel. He has four children—Brianna, Sean, Cole, and Kyle—and lives with his wife, Kathi, in Mentor, OH.  
**EMAIL:** [lizard1222@hotmail.com](mailto:lizard1222@hotmail.com)

1984

**Richard M. Benninger** lives and practices in Medina, OH. He has six children—Christopher, Bridget, Elizabeth, Kevin, Kathleen, and Ricky—and is married to Margaret.  
**EMAIL:** [centralincisor@aol.com](mailto:centralincisor@aol.com)

**John Lee Hardesty** is enjoying retirement by golfing, gardening, and traveling. He has two children, Victoria and John, and lives in Summerville, SC, with his wife, Elisabeth.

**Gregory Machnik** has been working for the California prison system for 15 years and expects to retire in about 10 years with a “great pension,” he writes. “Doing lots of traveling in the meantime.” He lives in Chino Hills, CA.  
**EMAIL:** [machnik@verizon.net](mailto:machnik@verizon.net)

1989

**John Thomas Damiano** is in private practice in Baldwinsville, NY, where he lives with his wife, Kathleen. He has three children—Rob, Matt, and Joanna—and enjoys playing the keyboard professionally.  
**EMAIL:** [jtdds@verizon.net](mailto:jtdds@verizon.net)  
[jtdds@onecommail.com](mailto:jtdds@onecommail.com)

**Anna Louise Hubler** practices in Glendale, CA, and lives with husband, Kevin M. Stone, in Canoga Park, CA.

1994



**Dorothy Drain Preston** writes, “My office, Lakeside Dental, is expanding. This is my third year in private practice. My daughter Brittany, 10, is acting and played in two episodes of *Law and Order*.”

**Linda Hippler Zwissler** is working full-time at a general dentistry practice in Lakewood, OH, and writes that she is “enjoying every moment” spent with her husband, Michael, and children, Chas, 11; Taryn, 9; Dempsey, 6; Reagan, 3; and Rylee, 3. They live in Avon Lake, OH.  
**EMAIL:** [dr linda99@hotmail.com](mailto:dr linda99@hotmail.com)

1999

**Jeffrey Allen Dryden** is in solo practice in Grants Pass, OR, where he lives with his wife, Tina. He has two children, Hannah and Jacob.  
**EMAIL:** [jdryden@ymail.com](mailto:jdryden@ymail.com)

2000



**Leena Palomo**, an assistant professor of periodontology at CWRU, received a Glennan Fellowship for 2008-2009 from the CWRU University

Center for Innovation in Teaching and Education. The fellowships are designed to reward excellence in tenure-track faculty and to nurture their growth as teachers and scholars. Appealing to the millennial generation, she is making a periodontal-related Web portal to allow School of Dental Medicine students to simulate treatment outcomes for patients. The goal is for students to use the portal to learn to synthesize patient information and develop recognition patterns centering on periodontal therapy. Doing so, she hopes, will allow students to understand the importance of preventive and surgical periodontics in the scope of comprehensive care dentistry.

2004

**Zygintas Binkis** practices in Cincinnati and lives with his wife, Deborah, in Mason, OH. He has three children: Nora, Ingrid, and Olivia. He writes that the most

memorable moments of dental school were Delta parties and graduation.

EMAIL: [z.binkis@lycos.com](mailto:z.binkis@lycos.com)

Ilya Dayn owns two practices and has seven employees. His practice is limited to cosmetic and implant dentistry. He was named to the America's Top Dentists list five consecutive years, 2005 to 2009, which relates to what he writes is his most memorable moment of dental school: "Receiving the most awards during graduation." Also, he writes, "We had a second child one and a half

years ago." Children Albert and Amelia live with Ilya and his wife, Mila, in Lone Tree, CO, where he also practices.

EMAIL: [ilya62@yahoo.com](mailto:ilya62@yahoo.com)

Keith Plain owns a solo general dentistry practice in Surrey, British Columbia, where he lives with his wife, Naomi. He has two children, Clara and Colin. He writes that the most memorable moment of dental school for him was a trip to Las Vegas right before first-year finals and a trip to West Virginia for a Delta Sigma Delta fraternity meeting.

EMAIL: [keithplain@shaw.ca](mailto:keithplain@shaw.ca)

#### SEND YOUR NEWS TO CLASS NOTES

Your classmates and colleagues want to read about you as much as you want to read about them. If you have news to share, we would love to include it in Class Notes. Photos are welcome.

Complete the form on our website at <http://dental.case.edu/alumni/resources.html>, email [dentalalumni@case.edu](mailto:dentalalumni@case.edu) with Class Notes Editor in the subject line, fax us at (216) 368-3204 or mail to Class Notes Editor, CWRU School of Dental Medicine 10900 Euclid Avenue Cleveland OH 44106-4905.

## Financial Planning Seminar

In light of the popularity of the financial planning seminar at the 2008 reunion (not to mention the thrills and chills of the 2008-2009 stock market), we will offer another no-charge seminar on financial and investment topics at this spring's Reunion Weekend on Saturday, May 16.

The speakers will answer questions from the audience, and are willing to continue to answer questions after the formal presentation is complete. The seminar will be held at 9 a.m. in Salon E on the second floor of the Cleveland Marriott Downtown at Key Center, 127 Public Square. Join us on second floor in the East Foyer at 8:30 a.m. for light morning refreshments before the seminar.

Speakers this year will be John F. Shelley and Irwin M. Feldman of CWRU's Office of Planned Giving, both of whom joined the university after distinguished careers as estate planning and health care attorneys at large Cleveland law firms.

Among the topics to be discussed at the program are the following:

*Setting the course for your personal and retirement plan investments.* This topic will include advice about setting investment goals, development of an appropriate investment allocation policy, how to monitor and reallocate investments as investment values change, and appropriate strategies for spending retirement plan dollars. Associated tax

issues will also be discussed, as well as the emotional challenges of dealing with investments in a challenging environment.

*How to select an investment advisor, stock broker, or mutual fund company.* There are literally thousands of service providers

out there. How can you pick the ones that are right for you and your family?

To what extent should costs affect these choices?

*Family issues associated with investing.*

They are almost always present. Issues which may be touched on include: How best to provide financial help to an elderly parent or other relative; how best to help with a child or grandchild's education; how to protect a spouse who is unsophisticated about investments (or disinterested in them) when the other spouse is gone; and what can be done for children with special needs.

**This program is open for anyone to attend, not only those celebrating their class reunion. Please contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations to reserve your space at (877) 468-1436 toll free, (216) 368-3480, or by email at [dentalalumni@case.edu](mailto:dentalalumni@case.edu).**

For those unable to attend but who would like additional information, please contact the Office of Planned Giving at (877) 477-1143 toll-free, (216) 368-4460, or [giftplan@case.edu](mailto:giftplan@case.edu).



# IN MEMORIAM

We mourn the loss of these School of Dental Medicine alumni and extend heartfelt condolences to their loved ones.

**E. Stephen Boden, D.D.S. '34**, of Sun City, AZ, died Sept. 6, 2008.

**Henry Cramer, D.D.S. '44**, of Syracuse, NY, died April 16, 2008, after a fall in his home the previous month. He was 89. He belonged to the Onondaga County Dental Society, the New York Dental Association, the Fifth District Dental Society, the American Dental Association, the Chicago Dental Society, the Pierre Fauchard Academy-International Academy of Dentistry, the American Association of Hospital Dental Chiefs, the Century Club-New York University School of Dentistry, and the New York and American academies of Dental Practice Administration. Dr. Cramer was preceded in death by his wife of 61 years, Constance, who died in 2004. He is survived by four daughters, a grandson, and several nieces and nephews.

**Glade Y. Creer, D.D.S. '61**, of Springville, UT, died Nov. 10, 2008. He was 76. He practiced dentistry in Springville for 39 years. He is survived by his wife, Nora, a son and a stepson, a daughter and a stepdaughter, and 11 grandchildren.

**David L. Curtis, D.D.S. '81**, of Geneva, NY, died Sept. 22, 2008.

**Bohdan Dubas, D.D.S. '70**, of North Royalton, OH, died December 10, 2008. He was 63. He is survived by his wife, Chrystine, four children, and a sister. Dr. Dubas was a preceptor at CWRU School of Dental Medicine for many years.

**Donald G. Hyatt, D.D.S. '50**, of Elyria, OH, died Nov. 18, 2008 at his home following a brief illness. He was 85. Dr. Hyatt was a member of the American Dental Association, the Lorain County Dental Society, and the Ohio Dental Association. He served as president of the county society for many years. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Lois Ann, one daughter, three sons, 16 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and a sister.

**George Kapnick, D.D.S. '45**, of Boca Raton, FL, died Sept. 25, 2008. He was 87. Dr. Kapnick practiced dentistry in Belleville, NJ, for 25 years. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Betty, one daughter, two sons, and six grandchildren.

**Herbert Mayers, D.D.S. '58**, of Pepper Pike OH, died in November 2008. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn, three daughters, one son, 13 grandchildren, and two sisters.

**John J. McCafferty, D.D.S. '49**, of North Olmsted, OH, died Nov. 2, 2007. He was 83. Dr. McCafferty served as a dentist in the U.S. Navy and in general private practice for 56 years. He is survived by his wife, Agnes, three daughters, five sons, 16 grandchildren, and five siblings. He was preceded in death by four siblings.

**Donald C. Perrine, D.D.S. '54**, of Akron, OH, died April 4, 1994. He was 65.

**Quincy B. Schuenman, D.D.S. '58**, of Las Vegas, died Jan. 13, 2007. His wife, Ruth, preceded him in death in 2001.

**Clarence J. Sketch, D.D.S. '60**, of Santa Ana, CA, died Nov. 22, 2008.

**Virgil J. Siebert, D.D.S. '46**, of Severna Park, MD, died December 31, 2008. He was 92. He was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Evelyn. He is survived by four sons, 12 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and one great-grand grandson.

**Oscar Stadler, D.D.S. '43**, of San Rafael, CA, died Nov. 22, 2008. He was preceded in death by his wife, Beatrice. He is survived by two daughters, one son, and eight grandchildren. He also was a 1942 graduate of the former Adelbert College.

**Robert A. Torgerson, D.D.S. '59**, of Fresno, CA, died July 6, 2006. He was 81. He practiced dentistry for 26 years. He is survived by his wife, Susan, whom he had married in 1947, a son, and four grandsons.

**Joe W. Walker, D.D.S. '55**, of Chagrin Falls, OH, died March 26, 2008. He was 78. Among those surviving him are his wife, Roberta, three daughters, and seven grandchildren.

## THE SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE LOSES A DEAR FRIEND



**Richard Collier**, president of Collier, Sarner & Associates, Inc., passed away in October 2008. He directed a national law firm limited to representing doctors in the business aspects of their affairs. He was editor and publisher of the bi-monthly Collier, Sarner and Associates *Doctors' Newsletter*, which has provided timely information regarding taxes, insurance, investments, practice transitions and much more to thousands of doctors for over 30 years. Mr. Collier lectured extensively on these subjects at Collier, Sarner & Associates, Inc. seminars to dentists and students

and as a featured clinician at national, regional, state and local meetings.

Mr. Collier believed in giving back and served on the boards of many organizations including the Visiting Committee of the Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine. He has a student award fund at the school that provides an annual award to the predoctoral student who has prepared the most outstanding business plan. He has been a wonderful supporter and ambassador of our dental school and he will be missed.

# ASDA UPDATE

BY KARI CUNNINGHAM

This past fall, dental students from across the nation gathered in Scottsdale, AZ for the 2008 annual session of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA).



*L to R: Alex Mellion, Elizabeth Brack, Kari Cunningham, Andy Ingersoll  
Holding Most Improved Chapter Award*

Case Western Reserve University was represented by the following members of the ASDA Leadership Team: **Kari Cunningham '10** – First Delegate; **Alex Mellion '11** – Second Delegate; **Andy Ingersoll '10** – Alternate Delegate, **Elizabeth Brack '11** – Alternate Delegate; and **Matthew Ellingson '11** – Legislative Liaison.

The 2007-08 CWRU ASDA year focused on structural changes within the chapter as well as increasing the number of community outreach activities. As a result, the ASDA chapter of CWRU was awarded the 2008 Ideal ASDA Most Improved Chapter Award. Immediate Past President Kari Cunningham describes, “Last year, I wanted our ASDA chapter to take a different direction by increasing membership participation and applying for a national award. Our leaders worked really hard to educate our classmates about ASDA and organized dentistry and provide opportunities to get involved.” The ASDA Leadership Team added more community outreach projects, had an article published in The ASDA News and held a golf outing that raised funds for the CWRU ASDA chapter.

CWRU ASDA continues to work hard at creating opportunities for our student body to get involved in ASDA and organized dentistry. The Leadership Team looks forward to representing the views of the students and advocating on their behalf. We are here for our members.

## STAFF SERVICE MILESTONES

The faculty and students of the School of Dental Medicine would like to thank the entire staff for their hard work and dedication. We are fortunate to have a devoted group of employees. Below we recognize those who reached years of service milestones in 5 year increments as of December 2008.

Greg Jagger – Community Dentistry: 5 years

Julia Kirlough – Community Dentistry: 5 years

LaSaundra Acre – Comprehensive Care: 5 years

Joyce Hester – Comprehensive Care: 5 years

Susie Horne – Comprehensive Care: 5 years

Karen Hein – EFDA: 5 years

William Henterly – Finance & Operations: 5 years

Kimberly Harwell – Periodontics: 5 years

Lucinda Kaye – Dispensary: 10 years

David Dalsky – Admissions: 20 years

LaVerne Vogel – Orthodontics: 20 years

Marcia Dunner – Endodontics: 30 years

Gladys McDowell – Endodontics: 30 years



BY RON RAJECKI

## A GIFT THAT LASTS

There comes a time in life when it just seems right to let go, delegate, and let other people handle the details. For Leo Pfeiffer, D.D.S. '43, who is a spry 91 years of age, that time is now. After creating the Dr. and Mrs. Leo Pfeiffer scholarship fund that has aided several students through multiple years of their schooling, Dr. Pfeiffer has generously named the CWRU School of Dental Medicine as a beneficiary of his charitable remainder unitrust. He has asked that his gift be used at the discretion of the dean.

"I can't tell them what to do with it," says the soft-spoken Pfeiffer. "They can use it for students who need help or for whatever the school needs most. They know that better than I do."

While it may seem unusual to give a gift with a "no strings attached" attitude, it's probably to be expected from a man like Pfeiffer, who has lived a long, happy, and admittedly frugal life. After World War II, Pfeiffer and his late wife, Clara, bought a four room house in Rochester, NY. Leo lives there to this day.

"The house cost us \$21,000," he recalls. "Our payments were \$92.50 per month and we didn't know how we were going to do it, but we did."

It has been an interesting road that Pfeiffer has traveled since being born in 1917. A first-generation American, both of his parents were born in Denmark. His father worked as a glassblower for a German pharmaceutical firm. One day, a visiting representative from Bausch & Lomb asked him, "How would you like to go to America?" "Well, my dad had never said 'no' to anything, so he and my mother came to America," Pfeiffer says.

Pfeiffer grew up in Rochester and was interested in dentistry, but was so unimpressed with the dental schools in the area that he thought he might consider other careers. A visit to Cleveland and the Western Reserve

University's School of Dentistry changed his mind and set him on his chosen career path.

"It was a really good school. When you came out of there you knew what you were doing," Pfeiffer says.

Pfeiffer was in the Naval Reserves through school, and upon graduating in 1943 he was called to serve. His first assignment was 11 months at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, SC. "I didn't know much about the Marines going in, but I had tremendous respect for them after serving with them," he says

Pfeiffer's subsequent military travels took him to Providence and Newport, RI, through the Panama Canal to U.S. Naval headquarters in San Francisco, and eventually to Guam, Okinawa, and back to San Francisco. While in San Francisco as a lieutenant senior grade, he was charged with checking and repairing the teeth of sailors and Marines to make sure they were healthy before departing on long missions in the Pacific. It was also here that he met his wife, lieutenant junior grade Clara Thorley, from Miamisburg, OH.

"I had already received orders that I was leaving San Francisco for Arlington VA, so I only knew the gal for a short time," Pfeiffer says. "But we corresponded with each other, and got married in 1946. We were married for 57 years, six months, and 12 days, and had a wonderful life together."

Pfeiffer was in general practice for 14 years, but decided that was becoming too routine for him, so he resumed his dental studies in Buffalo and then set up a specialty practice in orthodontia. His orthodontia practice received good support from Rochester-area dentists, and he found the work interesting and challenging.

"That's really the sum and essence of it," he says. "I did good work for reasonable fees, I made enough to get by, and we saved and invested our money. Now I'm fortunate to have enough money saved that I can give some back to CWRU and a few other institutions."

Pfeiffer, who will be 92 on March 27, says a simple lifestyle is the key to happiness. "Too many people today think success is bucks," he says. "I think success should be measured by the health and happiness of your patients. But I understand that it's a different ball of wax today."

Although most of Pfeiffer's friends and neighbors have moved away or passed on, he has a constant companion in Tasha Four, a mixed breed dog he adopted from a Rochester animal shelter. "She's a wonderful dog. She does everything I ask her to do."

And what about that name? "When you get to be my age it can be hard enough to remember things, so I just name all my dogs Tasha. This one is Tasha Four," Pfeiffer says with a laugh.

# SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR RECEIVES PRESIDENTIAL EARLY CAREER AWARD IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING, WHITE HOUSE HONORS

BY SUSAN GRIFFITH

Suchitra Nelson's dedication to advancing oral health in children was recognized during a recent White House ceremony. The Case Western Reserve University dental researcher, faculty member and alumna received the Presidential Early Career Award in Science and Engineering.

This award is one of the nation's highest honors for a scientist or engineer in the early stages of his or her career. The honorees were selected by the President's Office of Science and Technology Policy.

"It was a surprise," says Nelson, Ph.D. '92, associate professor in the Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine. She received a formal letter inviting her to the White House and a National Institutes of Health reception December 19 as part of the recognition.

Dr. Nelson, who could bring two guests to the ceremony, was accompanied by her brother and a niece. "It is important for young girls to know that they can be successful if they choose to work hard," says the honoree.

Earlier this year, Dr. Nelson learned from a program official at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research that the organization was nominating her for an award.

"I had no idea what this award was," she says.

Several months ago, she received a letter from the Office of Science and Technology Policy, which advises the President on the domestic and international impact of science and technology, for a background check.

"At first, I thought it was someone trying to get identity information," says Dr. Nelson.



*Dr. Suchitra Nelson (second row, first person on the left) and others who received the Presidential Early Career Award in Science and Engineering.*

After a quick check with the Office of the University Attorney, she was encouraged to respond. She later heard from the OSTP with the announcement of the award.

Dr. Nelson began her career path as a student at the university. She began work at the dental school in 1991 and officially became a faculty member in 1996.

Currently she has several research projects underway.

Her NIDCR-funded research on dental caries in low-birth weight babies is a longitudinal study that follows the children's oral health as they grow.

She also has a Health Resources and Service Administration-funded clinical trial of the use of xylitol in reducing dental cavities in school children.

Children receive gummy bear-like candy with sugar-free xylitol to see if it improves oral health.

In addition to her research, Dr. Nelson acknowledges the mentorship under Peter Milgrom from the University of Washington as critical in her success. "He is an equal recipient of this honor. It is important to recognize that behind every successful faculty member is a truly successful and exemplary mentor," says Dr. Nelson.



## North Coast Spring Meeting

May 7–8, 2009 will find dental professionals from across Northern Ohio joining together to celebrate their careers by attending the 2009 North Coast Spring Meeting at the I-X Center in Cleveland, OH. The NCSM works to create high-quality learning opportunities for dental professionals in N.E. Ohio.

For more details go to:  
<http://www.gcds.org/ncsm.asp>



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REUNION WEEKEND 2009  
CELEBRATE THE PAST, EMBRACE THE FUTURE



We'll see you there! You can reconnect with your classmates, the faculty and staff at the Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine on May 15-17, 2009. Reunion Weekend is your time to make new memories.

Plan to return to campus for three days of events including continuing education, tours, dinners, parties and commencement – many events are free. We are highlighting years ending in 4 and 9. The Distinguished Alumnus Award will be presented to **Kenneth Callahan '55** during the weekend. Events will be occurring at the Marriott Key Center and at the University.

Go to <http://dental.case.edu/alumni/2009weekend> for details.

# 2009 ALUMNI EVENTS

## April

### APRIL 30, 2009

Reception at the American Association of Endodontists  
Annual Session  
Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center  
Orlando, FL  
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.



## May

### MAY 2, 2009

Reception at the American Association of Orthodontists  
Annual Session  
Boston, MA  
6:45 pm. – 8:45 p.m.

### MAY 15-16, 2009

Reunion Weekend  
Highlighting the classes of 1939, 1944, 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, and 2004. The Distinguished Alumnus Award will be presented to **Dr. Kenneth Callahan '55**, during the weekend. Events will be occurring at the Cleveland Marriott Downtown at Key Center and at the School of Dental Medicine.  
<http://dental.case.edu/alumni/2009weekend/>

### MAY 17, 2009

Commencement  
The commencement ceremony for the Class of 2009 will occur at the Church of the Covenant at 2 p.m. Contact the Office of the Dean for reservations: (216) 368-3266.

### MAY 23, 2009

Reception at the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
Annual Session  
Honolulu, HI  
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

## June

### JUNE 12-13, 2009

First International Symposium on Comprehensive Care  
InterContinental Hotel  
Cleveland, OH  
You can receive up to 14 hours of continuing education credit. For more information, visit <http://www.quintpub.com/iscc/>  
Sponsored by Quintessence Publishing Co Inc. and Case Western Reserve University

## July

### JULY 27, 2009

Reception at the National Dental Association Annual Convention  
Hyatt Regency Jacksonville-Riverfront  
Jacksonville, FL  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.



## August

### AUGUST 15, 2009

Fun Evening for the Alumni, Faculty, Students, and Staff  
Lake County Captains baseball game at Classic Park  
Fireworks and picnic  
Eastlake, OH  
7:00 p.m.

## October

### OCTOBER 3, 2009

Reception at the American Dental Association Annual Session  
Honolulu, HI  
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.



# E V E N T S

For more information and to RSVP, contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at (216) 368-3480, toll free (877) 468-1436 or email [dentalalumni@case.edu](mailto:dentalalumni@case.edu). Additional event information is on our website at <http://dental.case.edu/alumni/events.html>



School of Dental Medicine  
10900 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106-4905

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*Why we give . . .*

*“The most exciting aspect of my time in dental school was working with the patients in the Clinic. Dentistry has been very good to me, and my support of the dental school is my way of repaying CWRU for giving me the career I loved.”*

EDWARD R. FALKNER, D.D.S., '55

**“The faculty and staff of the school are very good. As a recent graduate, I also understand how excellent the school’s labs and facilities are, and now it’s our turn to give back, so that the students there today will benefit from our generosity the way we benefitted from the generosity of those who came before us.”**

ANDREW J. DEAK, D.M.D., '07

*“They gave me the opportunity to become a dentist, to have the life I have today, and I realized that opportunity. As a student, I remember I was treated like an adult. In return, I’ve supported the school and helped to fund the simulation lab.”*

TIMOTHY A. BENICH, D.D.S., '73

*“We’re honored to be part of promoting the dental school and telling people about the great education we received there.”*

MARSHA PYLE, D.D.S., M.Ed., '84

**“As alumni, we are very fortunate – the education at CWRU and the leadership have been outstanding for decades. Personally, I look forward to doing my part to help CWRU stay in this leadership position.”**

LAWRENCE H. OSWICK, D.D.S., '73

*“Wherever I am in the U.S., I can talk about how CWRU is leading the nation in dental education. This is a tremendous source of pride for me.”*

RON LEMMO, D.D.S., '84

Since July 1, 2008 **514** alumni & friends have generously given **\$221,114** to the annual fund.

*Thank You!*