

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN



André K. Mickel, D.D.S.,
M.S.D., '91, '94

Over the years, I have learned the value of positive thoughts and actions. Sometimes the smallest deeds can have a big effect not only on our own lives, but on the lives of others as well. I'd like to share a few of my favorites with you. Use them freely and with a smile!

- Say "please" a lot
- Say "thank you" a lot
- Think big thoughts but relish small pleasures
- Have a firm handshake
- Return all the things you borrow
- Feed a stranger's expired parking meter
- Use the good silver
- Don't expect life to be fair
- Watch a sunrise at least once a year
- Strive for excellence, not perfection
- Be the first to say "hello"
- Plant flowers every spring
- Compliment even small improvements
- Rekindle old friendships
- Stop blaming others
- Avoid negative people
- Always accept an outstretched hand
- Live your life as an exclamation, not an explanation
- Be there when people need you.

Approach each day, each situation, and each person with a positive attitude. It won't take long for you to discover how powerful positive thoughts and actions can be.

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SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE
 CASE WESTERN RESERVE
 UNIVERSITY

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Endodontics News

VOLUME V SPRING 2010

mark your calendar

Please join your colleagues and alumni from the Endodontics Department at these upcoming events:

May 14-15, Reunion Weekend

May 15, Gala Awards Dinner

May 16, Commencement

Sept 30 - Oct 1 Alumni Weekend

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 dental_alumni@case.edu. Additional event information is on our website at <http://dental.case.edu/alumini/events.html>



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Endodontics News

Enjoy the Adventure of Learning, says Thomas A. Montagnese, D.D.S., M.S.

In a city where going to the other side of town often seems like visiting a foreign land, the path of Thomas A. Montagnese, D.D.S., M.S., from his hometown of Lorain to the CWRU School of Dental Medicine involved more than simply driving across the Hope Memorial Bridge.

Dr. Montagnese, assistant clinical professor in the Graduate Endodontic Program, was born and raised in Lorain. He graduated from Clearview High School in 1966, did his pre dental studies at the University of Cincinnati from 1966 to 1969, and graduated from The Ohio State University College of Dentistry in 1973.

After graduating from dental school he served with the United States Navy Dental Corps as a lieutenant at Subic Bay Naval Station, Republic of the Philippines, from 1973 to 1975. He returned to Lorain and worked in a general dentistry practice for a short while, but the wanderlust that he had felt ever since his childhood kicked in, and he moved to Shiraz, Iran, in 1976.

"Ever since I was a little boy I had always wanted to live in a foreign country and travel the world," says Dr. Montagnese. He got his chance during a conversation with the chairman of the prosthodontics department at Ohio State, who was a former Navy commander. It was then that he learned of a teaching opportunity at a university in southern Iran. "I was single, adventurous, and willing to go anywhere," he recalls. "I took the opportunity and did a lot of traveling in that part of the world while I was there."

Dr. Montagnese taught endodontics at what was then called Pahlavi University, renamed as Shiraz University following the Iranian revolution in 1979. He notes that he was not yet certified in endodontics, a degree he didn't earn from Ohio State until 1980.



Thomas A. Montagnese, D.D.S., M.S.

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Enjoy the Adventure of Learning *continued*

Life since then has settled down a little for Dr. Montagnese. He started his own private practice in his hometown of Lorain in 1985. He and his wife of 26 years, Kimberly, have four children and he enjoys golf, ice skating, and roller blading. He is also a fan of novels by thriller writer Ken Follett and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes. Like his fictional influences, Dr. Montagnese still lists "learning about things I don't know" as one of his favorite hobbies. Enjoying the thrill and adventure of learning, and the satisfaction of piecing together the clues to solve an endodontics patient's "case" are two of the most important qualities he would like to convey to his students.

"My message to undergraduate dental students is to remember that your education doesn't stop with graduation from dental school," Dr. Montagnese says. "When your experience is limited, there's a tendency to want to do only things you're comfortable with. But you should always be looking to gain knowledge about things you don't know as well."

In his role as a professor in the Graduate Endodontics Program, Dr. Montagnese practices what he preaches,

regularly bringing in attorneys, financial planners, and so on to prepare graduate students for things they may know nothing about, such as contracts, associateships, and handling the financial end of their practice.

"I also tell them to never forget about general dentistry," he says, "because endodontics relates to dentistry itself. I teach them to be thorough in their examinations, never to take anything for granted, and to stay in good communication with the restorative dentists, because the ultimate goal of endodontics is to restore patients' dentition so they can function with it."

Dr. Montagnese also wants his students to know that he appreciates teaching being a two-way street. "It's always rejuvenating for me to get questions from the graduate students that make me step back, think, and research a topic for myself," he says. "It's always gratifying working with the students here because they're really interested in learning, and they're all at different stages. It's a challenging and rewarding exercise for my interpersonal skills and my skills as a teacher and a clinician."

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Endodontics Abstracts

Residents of the Endodontics Department will present nine abstracts at the American Academy of Endodontics meeting in San Diego in April.

The topics are:

- Access to care and endodontics: Treatment rendered in public health clinics
- Accuracy of cone-beam computed tomography scans and direct digital radiography in detecting overinstrumentation of seemingly accurate instrumented teeth
- An evidence-based approach to treatment planning endodontics vs. implant placement
- An investigation of the relationship between TNF- gene polymorphism and susceptibility to persistent apical periodontitis following surgical root canal therapy
- Incorporation of implants into the post-doctorate endodontic curriculum: A survey of the endodontic program directors across the United States
- Overview of factors determining endodontic vs. implants
- Referral-based collaboration between endodontic and pediatric residency programs
- Root canal treatment: Is it a right or a privilege?
- Use of the surgical operating microscope to aid in the preservation of original canal anatomy during fiber post removal

Incoming Residents



Sheetal Kalokhe was born and raised in Pune, India. After completing five years of dental school at Dr. D.Y. Patil Dental College and Hospital in Pune, she worked both in private and hospital-based dental practices for nearly two years. Kalokhe became interested in endodontics during her third year of dental school. "I decided to pursue my master's in endodontics at the CWRU School of Dental Medicine not only because of the school's reputation, but also because the program is evidence-based and provides extensive clinical knowledge. I believe that I will be able to fulfill my goal of becoming an excellent endodontist here at CWRU School of Dental Medicine with my hard work and guidance from the faculty," Kalokhe says. Her hobbies include reading, listening to music, dancing, and learning to play the piano.



Liji Mathew was raised in the city of Cochin, in the state of Kerala, India, an area known for its scenic beauty. After completing her schooling and following her selection in the All India entrance exam, she earned her bachelor's in Dental Surgery (BDS) from Christian Dental College and Hospital, Ludhiana, Punjab, India. "CWRU was my choice ever since I had heard about the dental school from its graduates, and also from talking to students who are presently there," she says. "I learned from them that the pattern of education is targeted at bringing out the best in each individual." Mathew is interested in research on the materials used in endodontic restorations.



Ryan Reese is originally from Layton, Utah. He received his B.S. degree from Weber State University in Ogden, Utah. "CWRU was my school of choice because of the fantastic reputation the school has for training qualified specialists, and also the diversity that is found in its endodontic program," he says. Reese participated in a research project at the dental school that explored nanocomposite technology and its integration into the field of endodontics, and is interested in pursuing that research idea further. He enjoys spending time with his wife, Geneva, and their 18-month-old daughter, Addison. He also enjoys outdoor recreation including skiing, biking, and golf.



Jeremy Wilde says he loves all things pertaining to endodontics. The Provo, Utah native is an '09 graduate of the CWRU dental school, and is currently earning a one-year AEGD certificate from CWRU as well. "I chose the CWRU endodontic program because Dr. Mickel runs a very intense program that will prepare me for just about anything in the years to come," he says. In his spare time, Wilde loves to play with his four children. He especially enjoys telling them an ongoing bedtime story that he may publish one day.

Join Us!

Reception during the American Academy of Endodontics Annual Session

Thursday, April 15, 2010
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego
One Market Place
San Diego CA

R.S.V.P. by Friday, April 2, 2010
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SEND US YOUR News

If you have news to share, send it to us. Please include the following: name, class year, full address, phone number and email address. Send it by email to dentalalumni@case.edu or mail to Class Notes Editor; CWRU School of Dental Medicine; Office of Development and Alumni Relations; 10900 Euclid Avenue; Cleveland OH 44106-4905. Photographs are always welcome.