CLASS NOTES

52 Years and Going Strong

Since 1961 CWRU has been training dentists to be orthodontic specialists and our commitment to that mission continues, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the full- and half-time faculty for their substantial contributions to our success.

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From the Chairman

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Orthodontics News 2013

In addition to becoming program director in 2009, Associate Professor Martin Palomo has published more than 50 articles in peer reviewed journals and has established both himself and CWRU as world leaders in Cone Beam Imaging in orthodontics.

Thanks Rick for continuing the Broadbent legacy of leadership in orthodontic imaging.

His colleague, Manish Valiathan, Associate Professor and Craniofacial Abnormality Fellowship Director, leads our newest training program in Craniofacial and Special Needs Orthodontics. Over the last few years Manish has built a highly successful private practice while continuing his research in the area of orthodontic retention.

Add teaching a highly successful D.M.D. course in Dental Morphology and you have the rare “Triple Threat” educator in orthodontics. Thanks Manish for keeping CWRU a leader in the integration of research with clinical practice.

Working tirelessly to impress clinic operators, Associate Professor Dennis Bewson proves that academic life can begin after 60. Last year our clinic had more than 15,000 patient visits and residents from more than 500 dental schools.

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Thanks Rick and Bill for keeping CWRU a leader in innovation educational programs.

D. Douglas Ambaram, Clinical Professor, is the senior member of our full- and half-time faculty. He is one of a handful of Tip Edge practitioners who has lectured on three continents and recently returned from Beijing, China where he led the CWRU delegation in seminars with our sister program at Peking University. Doug also anchors the D.M.D. orthodontic instructional team for sophomore orthodontists. Thanks Doug for continuing the CWRU tradition of teaching more than just one appliance system.

Our newest half-time faculty member, Professor Bruce Latimer was recently featured at the prestigious American Academy of Science meeting for his landmark work on human evolution. With a Ph.D. in physical anthropology, Bruce bolsters our department’s research capacity in the areas of biology and evolutionary dentistry. Thanks Bruce for keeping biology integral of a CWRU orthodontic education.

Together with our 39 volunteer faculty these full- and half-time faculty sustain our reputation for excellence. I am proud to work with them to continue to keep CWRU orthodontics a recognized leader in orthodontic education for another 52 years. When you see them next please add your own words of thanks for their dedicated professional educators.

I hope to see you in Philadelphia.

Send your latest news and photos to dentalalumni@case.edu

Richard Valentine (Class of 1965)

Richard is an ardent tennis player and his wife runs her own interior decorating business. He values his CWRU education because it allowed “[my family] to be a wonderful life and contribute greatly to the communities we live in.” In 1989 Ryan graduated from CWRU with a BBA and currently lives in Cleveland as does their daughter Joy.

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American Association of Orthodontists Annual Session

May 3 – 7, 2013

Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia

RUSP by April 15, 2013
Phone 216-368-3480
toll free 877-666-1600
dentalalumni@case.edu
From the Craniofacial Fellowship Director

Trailblazing Craniofacial Leadership Summit Set for Fall


“Tasha acknowledges that she was raised in Indianapolis, Tasha came to the CWRU School of Dental Medicine where she was given the opportunity to work with Dr. Manish Valiathan and expand her interest in orthodontics. After her 2011 graduation with a D.M.D., she began her orthodontic residency at Indiana University and will serve our M.D.S. this year. Tasha acknowledges that she was fortunate to be actively involved in research, patient care, and serve as the chief resident of the program.

“It has been very rewarding to have experience, although limited, training within specialties with special needs during my residency. I am delighted to have the opportunity to learn how to better treat this patient population and become an active leader of a craniofacial team. I could not be more thrilled to be starting the craniofacial fellowship back at CWRU this summer,” she notes.

From the Craniofacial Fellowship Program

Residency Program News

Incoming Residents

Mohamed Bazina, B.D.S.
A native of Limpopo, Ghana trained at the University of Limpopo (Medunsa), where he found orthodontics passion for orthodontics. Upon graduation he was selected to work in the University’s orthodontics department given his exceptional experience assisting professors in the lab and clinic. He was awarded a scholarship from the Libyan Ministry in Higher Education to pursue advanced studies in orthodontics in the United States. “It has been very rewarding to have served as a resource for a patient support group. In addition, an oral abnormalities. For ease of access to information, a dedicated website for craniofacial orthodontists will be launched—it will also serve as a resource for a patient support group. In addition, an oral surgery faculty member will be made available to work with me to create a craniofacial curriculum for our residents. The advanced care for patients with craniofacial anomalies available through our Broadroot Institute for Craniofacial Care and Research well positions our school for this leadership role—it is a turning-point opportunity for this field. Finally, join me in welcoming Tasha Metzger, our craniofacial fellow, who will arrive in July. manish.valiathan@case.edu

Praporn Shantavasin, D.D.S.
Currently a department fellow, Praporn came to CWRU after graduating from Chulalongkorn University in her hometown of Bangkok, Thailand and practicing for three years in a Thai clinic. Her clinical experience gave her increased exposure to orthodontics where she came to appreciate how the fundamentals of growth and mechanics can be used to achieve successful outcomes.

“My experience as a fellow has given me great confidence in the dental school’s orthodontic residency program. Participating in this prestigious program will expedite the achievement of my professional goal to help patients achieve dramatic improvement in their quality of life, self-esteem, and overall health.”

Ioaannis Toulakos, O.M.D.
Raised in Larissa, Greece, Ioannis was influenced by his father (Iotakios Toulakos, D.D.S. ’91, M.S.D., Ph.D.) whose orthodontic academic and professional involvement were a part of the family’s everyday routine. His interest in facial aesthetics began in his youth with his own braces and successful outcome. During his extensive clinical training at Comenius University (Bratislava, Slovakia) Ioannis learned in studying the craniofacial anomalies. "It is the world-renowned for its research and clinical programs in dentistry—as well as its extensive contribution in models and growth abnormalities—and makes CWRU logical choice for me. I am eager to learn about innovative approaches that are different from those in Europe to enhance my skills and scientific perspective.

Craniofacial Fellow Selected

Born in P. Wyan, Indiana and raised in Indianapolis, Tasha Metzger remained in her home state to attend Purdue University for her undergraduate education, earning a B.S. degree in General Health Sciences, Pre-Dentistry in 2007. Actively involved in many organizations on campus, she still travels back to West Lafayette for sporting events whenever she has the chance. Upon graduating from Purdue, Tasha came to the CWRU School of Dental Medicine where she was given the opportunity to work with Dr. Manish Valiathan and expand her interest in orthodontics. After her 2011 graduation with a D.M.D., she began her orthodontic residency at Indiana University and will serve our M.D.S. this year. Tasha acknowledges that she was fortunate to be actively involved in research, patient care, and serve as the chief resident of the program.

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SSAFF STAFF

Stephanie Leasure Craniofacial Clinic Coordinator

Because she throws on multi-tasking and a fast pace, Stephanie Leasure is well-equipped to handle the recently created position of Craniofacial Clinic Coordinator. Prior to joining the dental school, the native Clevelander held a senior administrative position in a company where she gained six years of valuable experience. In addition to her work, Stephanie is completing her bachelor’s degree in communication management at Cleveland State University and will graduate in December.

“I feel privileged to be able to work with our patients and their families. Because I am often the first and last person there, it is important to provide empathy and a positive tone—this often includes welding our patients and their families together to create a positive experience.”

In clinic director Dr. Manish Valiathan, Stephanie has found an inspiring mentor. She notes that he was very approachable at all times, even while they were performing work on patients or facilitating treatment among departments—a lesson in the life skills that she appreciates. Being surrounded by a team of talented people who are willing to share their knowledge is another benefit of working at the dental school that is important to her.

Staying fit is a priority for the accomplished athlete who excelled from basketball player into a coach. A licensed massage therapist with a focus on pain management, Stephanie has always been interested in health matters, making the position at the clinic particularly well suited to her.