

Jed M. Best, D.D.S. '79, M.S.



Never underestimate the power of a well-led campus tour: when New York City-born Jed Best came to CWRU for the first time, he had such an enjoyable and informative visit he knew immediately that he would attend. After graduating in 1972 with a degree in psychology, he returned to

New York and worked in his family's business for two years before deciding on a new direction.

After doing alternative healthcare research at the University of Wisconsin and being accepted into its Ph.D. program, Jed opted instead to attend CWRU's dental school. From the start of his dental training in 1975, he found in Dr. John Gerstenmaier, Jr. a remarkable role model who influenced his decision to specialize in pediatric dentistry.

During Jed's senior year of dental school, Dr. Timothy Hottel '73 (now Dean, College of Dentistry at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center), was his preceptor. Together, they were the first to embark on a simultaneous master's degree in biomedical engineering; although he did not complete the course, it was a groundbreaking educational endeavor.

Upon his dental school graduation in 1979, Jed went to the University of Minnesota for his pediatric dental residency where he earned his M.S. When deciding where to begin his dental practice, he and his wife Wendy Freedman (they met at CWRU) decided on New York where she could practice as an entertainment labor lawyer. After working with others for a number of years, Jed established his own Manhattan practice in 1990 where he remains today.

In addition to teaching at Minnesota while a resident, Jed has also taught at New York University and is a clinical associate professor at Columbia University's College of Dental Medicine. He is a published author, lecturer on children's oral health, and a certified Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry, as well as an active member of the ADA and American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

A member of CWRU's *Discovering the Future of Dental Medicine* capital campaign committee, Jed has been a loyal supporter of the dental school which he deems "dental education heaven." He recalls that 35 years ago his dental board examiner told him that CWRU was rated as among the best clinical dental schools in the country.

"There is something very special about our dental school—all of the faculty members are completely accessible with their doors always open. That the curriculum was cutting-edge and taught us how to practice dentistry in the real world is a point of great pride," he notes.

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John H. Gerstenmaier, Jr., D.D.S. '75 and John ("Jack") H. Gerstenmaier, III, D.M.D. '10,'12



In 1975, when John H. Gerstenmaier, Jr. opened his pediatric dental practice in Akron, Ohio, he could not have known that 37 years later his namesake son would join him. Today—still in the original office space—they enjoy a robust practice where they not only learn from each other, but have great fun. Although they both chose pediatric dentistry, they took their own paths to the specialty.

After graduating with a degree in chemistry from CWRU ('67), John attended Northwestern University Dental School ('71) followed by two years in the Indian Health Service (U.S. Department of Health & Human Services) in Chamberlain, South Dakota. Working out of a mobile trailer until a clinic was built, and traveling to Indian schools to treat children, it was here that he realized that pediatric dentistry was his calling.

Returning to CWRU for his pediatric dental residency (1973-75) under the guidance of Dr. Irving Tapper, John has maintained a seamless connection to the school ever since. Now in his 38th year of serving as a volunteer faculty member, he devotes every Wednesday to sharing

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Alumni Profiles (continued)

his knowledge with students—service that sets the highest standard for giving back.

Jack Gerstenmaier is one of John and Lois Gerstenmaier's three children; his brother is a physician and his sister a marine biologist. Not certain of his career path when he graduated from Holy Cross despite his major in pre-medicine and dentistry, Jack opted to work for a small biotech firm in Boston doing research and development. Because the field did not bring him the satisfaction he had hoped for his career, it confirmed his decision to attend dental school and he was accepted at CWRU in 2006.

During his undergraduate dental school years, Jack spent a good amount of time working with Dr. Gerald Ferretti in the pediatric dental clinic, as well as with Dr. Suchitra Nelson in community dentistry. Always fond of spending time with children and aware of the growing need for pediatric dentists, he came to his choice of specialty quite independently of his father's example. He and his wife Erica are the parents of two young sons—perhaps the third generation of the Gerstenmaier family practice is already on board.

"Speaking as a colleague and peer, the school of dental medicine did a wonderful job in training Jack," comments John. "Not only do I feel that I was well-trained," adds Jack, "but I have made great friends in the department which is a bonus."

Finally and most importantly, running the practice so efficiently would not be possible without Lois Gerstenmaier who has been the office manager for more than 30 years.

Gerstenmaier Pediatric Dentistry
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Save The Date & Join Us

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Annual Session 2013 May 23 – 26 in Orlando, Florida

A reception for CWRU Alumni and Friends will be held on May 25 from 6-8pm

Walt Disney Swan and Dolphin (on the Swan side of the hotel)
1500 Epcot Resorts Boulevard
Lake Buena Vista, Florida

RSVP BY MAY 20
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Pediatric Dentistry News 2013



Gerald Ferretti, D.D.S., M.S., M.P.H.

From the Chairman Honoring a Remarkable Colleague

Although I never had the privilege of working with him, I deeply appreciate Dr. Irving Tapper's multifaceted legacy. You will read here about this gentle, extraordinary man to whom we owe much and who will long be an inspiration to all.

Conversations with Dr. Charles Spitz and Dr. Donald Huebener—Dr. Tapper's first two graduate students—remind us of the importance of each generation giving to the next. Dr. John Gerstenmaier, Jr., who studied and worked with Dr. Tapper became, in turn, an admired mentor to Dr. Jed Best who continues his generous support of our school. Enjoy these examples of the "pay it forward" tradition that defines this department and thrives in the memory of Dr. Tapper.

Welcome to our incoming residents and best wishes to our second-years who have bright futures:

- Jackie Beard will start practicing in Cleveland after she and Ben welcome their first child in June. She and Clara Brannan continue to work on research with Dr. Heima through our Head Start outreach program;
- Clara Brannan (expecting her third child with husband Jesse M. Brannan '13) will go into private practice in Puyallup, Washington;
- Trista Onesti plans to go into private practice in Cleveland and will be part-time faculty for a hospital-based GPR program;
- Zenobia Tamboli is moving to Chicago to go into private practice after traveling to Thailand and Cambodia; and
- Meg Ferretti is traveling internationally and plans to continue her research and practice in Cleveland.

I would like to personally thank those of you who made philanthropic donations to our department this year—we could not succeed without your generosity.

Finally, I hope to see you in Orlando at the AAPD annual session—do plan to join me at the CWRU reception on May 25.

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Honor Roll of Donors

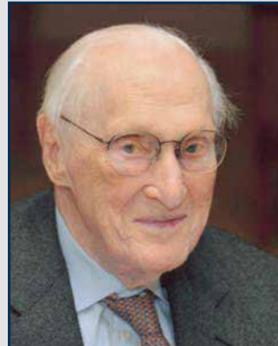
July 2012 to June 2013

The following individuals made generous gifts to the Department of Pediatric Dentistry to support the outstanding teaching, research, and clinical care that we provide—ensuring that we remain among the top-ranked programs in the country. Our sincere thanks and gratitude are extended to them.

- Jed M. Best, D.D.S., M.S.
- John W. Corcoran, D.D.S.
- Richard J. DePaul, Sr., D.D.S.
- Gerald A. Ferretti, D.D.S., M.S., M.P.H.
- John H. Gerstenmaier, Jr., D.D.S.
- Irene I. Lin, D.D.S.
- Ashley Paulus, D.D.S.
- Rebecca L. Robbins, D.D.S.

If you would like to make a donation, please contact Simon Bisson, Assistant Dean of Development and Alumni Relations for the School of Dental Medicine at simon.bisson@case.edu or 216.368.3923.





Dr. Irving Bernard Tapper

April 9, 1910 – February 21, 2013

In remembering Dr. Irving Tapper, the CWRU community's admiration for his outstanding leadership in pediatric dentistry is matched by its genuine affection for him. Described consistently as a caring and compassionate teacher and colleague, he leaves a legacy of kindness together with his noteworthy accomplishments.

Born in Akron, Ohio, Dr. Tapper graduated from the University of Akron, The Ohio State University School of Dentistry (1935), and received his postgraduate training in pediatric dentistry at the University of Michigan (1947). Following service as Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he maintained a thriving private practice in Cleveland for 53 years. During that time he served as president of the Cleveland Dental Society and Ohio Dental Association, as well as a representative to the American Dental Association.

Always an advocate for children— particularly for the underserved and those with special needs—Dr. Tapper affiliated with Mt. Sinai Hospital's Edward Reiter Cleft Palate Clinic in 1963. (Its work continues through a fund of the Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation created when the hospital closed in 2000.) In 1966, Dr. Tapper became the first director of the Pediatric Dental Clinic at University Hospital's Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital.

When the Pediatric Dental Clinic found itself at a turning point in the mid-1990s, it was moved to the dental school. Dr. Tapper worked diligently alongside Dean Jerold Goldberg to ensure that both the Clinic and the pediatric residency program remained vital.

Cleveland City Council members—who viewed the Clinic as essential to the well-being of Cleveland's children because of its accessibility—also joined the discussion.

At this critical juncture, Dr. Tapper and his wife, Jeanne Siff Tapper (who after 68 years of marriage predeceased him in 2008), made a significant contribution to the effort—the Irving and Jeanne Tapper Pediatric Dental Center opened in 1998. Located at Rainbow and uniquely equipped to care for young patients with special healthcare needs, the Center continues to welcome children of all ages. Throughout their lives, the Tappers were extremely proud of the Center bearing their names, although it was but one example of their generous philanthropy.

A CWRU School of Dental Medicine clinical professor emeritus, Dr. Tapper was 102 years old at the time of his death and living in San Francisco where he and Jeanne had moved 1997. A remarkable man who will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him, he will be especially missed by his children: Edward Tapper, M.D., Dorothy Tapper Goldman, and Barbara Tapper Vermut, and his seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.



Chuck Spitz (top) and Don Huebener were Dr. Tapper's first two graduate students in pediatric dentistry. They continued to visit even after his move to California, maintaining lifelong friendships.



"One only needs to think of the children whose lives have been and will be enormously improved because of our department of pediatric dentistry to understand how important Dr. Irving Tapper will always be to this community, univervisty, and our profession. "

- Dean Jerold S. Goldberg, D.D.S. '70

"I can remember my trip to University Hospitals for my residency interview. It was a snowy day in Cleveland with 11" of the white stuff on the ground. My flight from St. Louis was three hours late. I arrived at the dental clinic, only to find out that faculty and staff had left early because of the inclement weather. I called Dr. Tapper at home to let him know of my late arrival and, of course, my tardiness for the interview. He said, "I'll be right there—we are looking forward to meeting you— it may take me awhile, but I'll be there." About an hour later, Dr. Tapper appeared. I was very impressed that he actually made the normal 15 minute commute in such a snowstorm. I was equally impressed with his kindness and eagerness to talk to me. I thought to myself, this is a wonderful person who would be a great teacher and mentor. What a great guy."

- Donald V. Huebener, D.D.S., M.S. '71, M.A.Ed.

"Would Dr. Tapper be proud of me? Throughout my career, this has been an important measure of my success. I admired him because he was not only able to see a need in the community, but used his influence and determination to make it happen."

- John H. Gerstenmaier, Jr., D.D.S. '75

"I knew Dr. Tapper my whole life— he encouraged me to go into pediatric dentistry when I returned from Vietnam. He was a wonderful person, full of grace and dignity. Always giving in everything that he did, he was a true mentor and very inspirational to me."

-Charles "Chuck" Spitz, D.D.S. '67, M.S.D. '72

Incoming Fellow and Residents

Fellow

Fadia S. Bazina, M.D. Sci., B.D.S.

Hometown: Benghazi, Libya (born in Texas)

B.D.S. (Bachelor of Dentistry), Garyounis University (Benghazi) '01

M.D.Sci. (Master of Dental Science in Pedodontics), Alexandria University (Egypt) '07

As a fellow, I am working on research in collaboration with Dr. Suchitra Nelson and Dr. Gerald Ferretti. Previously, I was a general dental practitioner at The 7th of October Hospital, El-Sanownow Dental Clinic, and Benghazi Dental Clinic; I also served on the faculty of Garyounis University. I chose pediatrics because I love working with children and the CWRU fellowship allows me to further my knowledge and expertise.

Residents



Sarah Aref, D.D.S.

Hometown: Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

B.S., Biology, Wayne State University '09

D.D.S., Detroit Mercy Dental School '12

What drew me to CWRU was the diversity both within the University and also in Cleveland. The dental school has an excellent reputation for having an unmatched clinical experience. I chose pediatric dentistry because I love the prospect of working with kids and the different personalities that I will see throughout the day—it is a fast-paced yet fun environment.



Jonathon Konz, D.D.S.

Hometown: Hartsville, Ohio

B.S., Molecular Genetics, The Ohio State University '07

D.D.S., University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine '13

CWRU will be a homecoming for me after four years in Buffalo—I look forward to returning to Ohio and being closer to family. I also look forward to working with Dr. Ferretti and the team he has put together—they are a tremendous group of people. Not only do I love working with kids, but I think pediatric dentists are in a unique position to be at the forefront of education and the prevention of dental disease.

Residents (continued)



Jaron B. Perkins, D.M.D.

Hometown: Mesa, Arizona

B.S., Exercise and Wellness, Arizona State University '09

D.M.D., Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine '13

I chose pediatric dentistry because I want to help youth get off to a strong, healthy start orally and nutritionally. I have spent considerable time at the Tapper Center and have always enjoyed the fun atmosphere and the cool, down to earth residents. I knew that I would get great clinical and didactic experience at this program, and so I have always deemed CWRU as a frontrunner for pediatrics.



Emily Powderly Mellion, D.D.S.

Hometown: Belpre, Ohio

B.S., Pre-Dental, University of Dayton '07

D.D.S., The Ohio State University College of Dentistry '11

AEGD, Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine '12

During my AEGD and my current work at a Pediatric Public Health Clinic in St. Louis, Missouri, I have found my passion in pediatric dentistry—I find joy in treating every young patient whether they are telling me a hilarious story, crying hysterically, or trying to "be tough." I chose CWRU because it has a strong clinical reputation and community outreach programs that will help me transition into practice.



Kevin Woody, D.M.D.

Hometown: Seattle, Washington

B.S., Medical Biology, University of Utah '06

D.M.D., Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine '10

I chose pediatrics because while working as a general dentist for the last three years, I found working with children has been the best part. During the past year I have only worked with children and it has been the most enjoyable experience—I can honestly say work is fun. Because I attended CWRU for dental school, I knew choosing it for my pediatric residency was an excellent choice.

Contributions in Dr. Tapper's memory may be sent to:

Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine
Department of Pediatric Dentistry, 10900 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44106
or online at giving.case.edu.

Inquiries to the Office of Development and Alumni Relations are welcome
at 216-368-3480 or dentalalumni@case.edu.