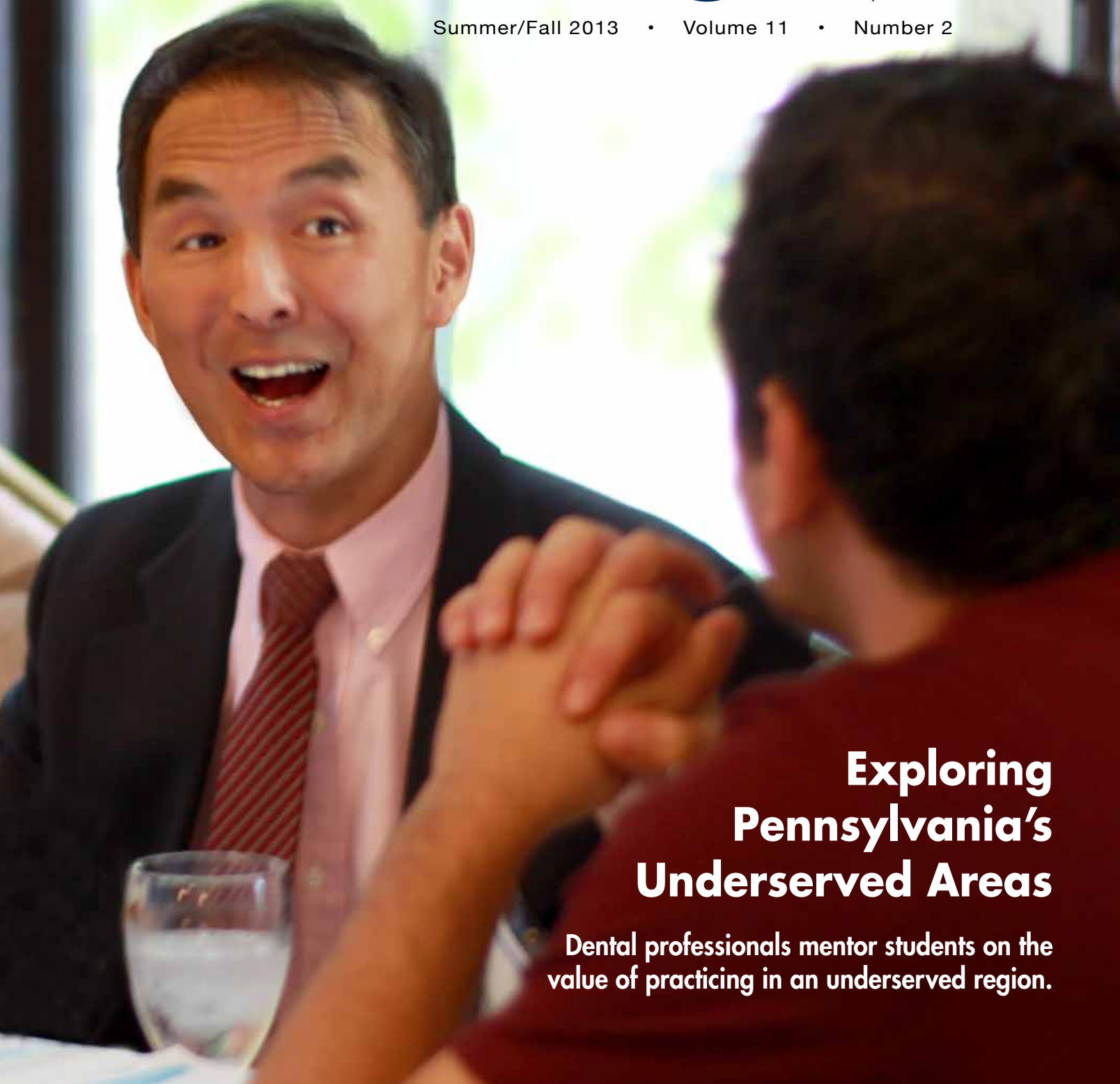


PITT



# DENTAL MEDICINE

Summer/Fall 2013 • Volume 11 • Number 2



## Exploring Pennsylvania's Underserved Areas

Dental professionals mentor students on the value of practicing in an underserved region.



Dean  
**Thomas W. Braun**  
Editor  
**James Rosendale**

**Dental Alumni Association**

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**Jean O'Donnell**  
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**Susan Ban**  
Secretary  
**Michael Korch**  
Alumni Affairs Coordinator  
**Nancy Poe**

School of Dental Medicine  
Office of Alumni Affairs  
and Development

Salk Hall, Suite 440  
3501 Terrace Street  
Pittsburgh PA 15261

[www.dental.pitt.edu](http://www.dental.pitt.edu)

**Pitt Dental Medicine** is published semiannually by the Office of the Dean as a service to alumni, students, and friends. Its purpose is to facilitate communication among alumni, students, and friends of the School of Dental Medicine. This publication holds itself not responsible for opinions, theories, and criticisms therein contained.

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On the cover: Dr. Phillip Woo, '83, practices in Ebensburg, Pa., one of many regions in the Commonwealth defined as medically underserved by Health Resources and Services Administration. He is shown participating in a mentoring session at the School of Dental Medicine to educate students on the benefits of practicing dental medicine in an underserved area.

Read more on page 4.

It is a pleasure to provide you with this copy of Pitt Dental Medicine Magazine. In it you will see described a number of articles including an update on construction of our new research tower, completion of new student locker and lounge areas, and the Pediatric Dentistry Center for Patients with Special Needs. These physical attributes compliment the activities of our faculty which have permitted us to be ranked as number seven among all dental schools in the most recently released findings of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research. Our faculty continue to be recognized nationally and internationally for their teaching and service activities.



It is often easy to become enmeshed in the progress of the school and our graduates and not clearly recognize the important role of providing practicing dentists to Pennsylvania and the surrounding areas. The problem is multi-faceted and includes a number of demographic and financial considerations, including a declining population of young individuals in Pennsylvania and much of the northeast. While significantly underserved and often rural areas exist in Pennsylvania, other urban areas have an adequate or even a surplus of practicing dentists. With the "baby boomers" aging as well, it is expected that a significant number of retirements will be occurring over the next decade. Combined with that, there has been a decline in the number of dentists graduating. For example, in 1982 to 1983 there were 5,756 graduating dentists. According to the American Dental Association, over the next 20 years as the population increased by almost a third, the number of graduates of dental schools decreased falling to approximately 4,700 by the year 2007. Several dental schools closed in the 1980's and early 1990's, although that trend appears to be reversed with the opening of several new dental schools around the country. One aspect which is constantly a consideration for any dental school is that unlike medicine where medical students do most of their clinical training in hospitals or in practice experiences, most dental schools have university-run clinics. This results in an extraordinary expense and typically, the income is inadequate to offset the cost. Pennsylvania indeed has underserved areas and this magazine will attempt to address some of the concerns that are raised because of this. Our school is attempting to address this in our admissions process and opportunities that are provided to graduates, but this is a very complex problem and one rooted, as well, in the debt burden attained by students in their college and dental school years. The University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine looks forward to continuing its quest to be a clinical, research, and service center and maintain our upward trajectory but with a constant mind to the societal obligations which exist in the commonwealth and in underserved areas everywhere.

Sincerely,

**Thomas W. Braun, DMD '73, PhD '77**  
Professor and Dean  
University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine

FROM THE DEAN



## EXPLORING DENTAL PRACTICES IN RURAL AND UNDERSERVED AREAS IN PENNSYLVANIA

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has established criteria for any region across the United States wishing to apply for classification as a health professional shortage area (HPSA). Dental HPSAs are underserved areas with regard to access to dental care. Dental HPSAs can be found in many areas of Pennsylvania. To establish a HPSA designation, a region (e.g., community, or county) must document that there is a deficiency of dental health care providers available to serve the population. Dental professionals who live or practice in one of these areas within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania can be impacted by this designation, as it provides for potential eligibility for state and federal dental school loan forgiveness.

Many dental care providers and dental students living or working outside of one of these areas, may not be aware of the severity of the shortage of dentists in many regions of Pennsylvania.

To provide you with an inside look at this problem several dentists, currently working in underserved areas in Western Pennsylvania, were interviewed for this article. Here, they share their personal perceptions of the dental provider shortage, some of the conditions that they believe influence the shortage and finally, offer some advice for what next steps they would like to see the dental community take with regard to how a shortage of dental professionals may impact the commonwealth as a whole.

Some of the dentists who are practicing in an underserved area believe the severity of the shortage is inversely proportional to population density and per capita income of the area. Some practicing dentists have had such successful practices, and such busy schedules that they have opened satellite offices. “People who don’t live in a rural area are not well informed about how understaffed the area is with dental and medical professionals. At my satellite dental office I was the only dentist when I opened that office. Within six months the office was open six days per week and we had to hire an associate,” said Dr. James Keith Ramsay (DMD ’77), who has an office in Boswell, Somerset County, partway between Ligonier, Johnstown, Somerset and Bedford, Pennsylvania.

Similarly, Dr. Dennis Charlton (DMD ’81) has had a very busy schedule, reflecting the lack of oral care providers in the region. Dr. Charlton said, “I’ve been in practice in rural Mercer County for 32 years since my graduation from the School of Dental Medicine. My entire career has been serving the public in this underserved area. I’ve never had a day that my schedule was less than full. Patients drive for 25-30 miles each day to visit my office. The services I provide are wanted, needed and appreciated, and since I’m always busy there must be some level of need for more dental service. I’m not sure that we need more dentists in the rural areas right now but I fear that a true shortage will develop very soon as the aging population of dentist begin to retire. I’ve heard that the average age of a licensed dentist in Pennsylvania is about 57 years old. Over the next

8-10 years many of those dentists will reach retirement age and greatly reduce or eliminate their work hours. The dental workforce needs to make the shift to these rural areas to backfill the existing dentist population.”

Dr. Jon J. Johnston (DMD ’89) shares his point of view on the perceived shortage of care: “I’m not convinced the current shortage issue is caused by a lack of dentists. The problem I see is that dental care seems to be a low priority. Low incomes make affordability for even routine dental care an issue. Over time, however, if new dentists refuse to locate in rural and inner city areas which are most likely to be HRSA designated, then there really will be a shortage in those areas.”



Photo above: Dr. Paul Rees, '81, and his wife mentor dental students about working in an underserved area. Dr. and Mrs Rees live and work in Ridgway, Pa., an area defined as underserved by HRSA. Photo opposite page: Dr. Joseph Yanko, '78, practices dental medicine in Bloomsburg, Pa. and is shown mentoring a current dental student.

### LOOKING OUTSIDE OF DENTAL CARE FOR THE ANSWERS

More than a decade ago, a study looked at nursing care to underserved areas and generally concluded that within the nursing profession, experiences and connections to rural communities played an important role in whether a nursing professional choose to practice in a rural area.<sup>1</sup> All of the dentists interviewed for this story agreed to varying degrees that experience with rural or inner city living would contribute to a dentist returning to practice in those areas. “Absolutely, I have observed that the majority of professionals entering rural or underserved areas have grown up in similar areas,” said Dr. Kevin Moore (DMD ’81), who is practicing dentistry in Clarion, Pa. Dr. Ramsay offered an alternative way to fill the need for more practitioners in underserved areas and still allow them to maintain a lifestyle to which they are accustomed. “A connection to a rural, small town environment would be helpful in recruiting dental professionals to these areas but is not an absolute must. As I have explained to many dental students, you don’t have to live in the area, only work there. If you are willing to make a commute to work you can live where ever you wish. I commuted 45 minutes one way to my office and there was no traffic with which to contend. On the way to work I could sip a cup of coffee and prepare for the day. In the evening I could unwind from the day with a pleasant drive. When I arrived home the troubles of the office had already been taken care of in my mind.”

Dr. Charlton, who recognizes that many dentists move into underserved areas, said, “I was not connected to this community before I came here but I’m certainly fully engaged in my community now. Many dentists from Mercer County did not grow up here but there are some who did.”

Dr. Johnston offers a possible reason for a lack of interest in relocating to a rural underserved area along with a potential solution: “I think there is a perception among both established and new dentists that one can not generate enough income in many areas to satisfy the requisite financial obligations and that there maybe too many compromises in quality of life to make practicing in a “shortage” area attractive. I believe the latter to be of greater concern for new dentists because of the influence of a significant other who may have a social or cultural background that is not amenable to living in that environment. Certainly recruitment of professional candidates from rural or inner city areas would improve the likelihood of that person returning to practice but there is no guarantee without creating other incentives such as loan forgiveness or tuition reimbursement for example.”

### ROBUST RECRUITMENT IN RURAL REGIONS

When asked if more robust recruitment in underserved areas would help to mitigate the shortage of dentists, responses were similar, acknowledging one possible solution to the problem that underserved areas pose. Dr. Ramsay said, “I think that a more robust recruitment of dental students to underserved areas would be helpful, especially if they were able to see the economic benefit of going there. And if they could get some forgiveness on their student loans it would be even more enticing.” Dr. Moore added, “Robust recruitment alone would not significantly affect the shortage, as many rural students are wanting to live in urban areas. Scholarships during schooling and financial incentives would provide attractive incentives for rural students willing to commit to practice in rural areas long term.” Dr. Charlton offered more insight for dental students by stating: “I was recruited by a committee that was formed approximately a year before I graduated from dental school. The local business leaders formed the committee to attract a physician and a dentist to Sandy Lake. The committee was successful in getting both professions to the town of Sandy Lake in the early 80’s. I responded to the call that appeared in an article in a Mercer County newspaper.



Any recruitment must be centered on the education of student dentists. Small rural communities are a great place to live and raise a family. As a doctor in a small town, one gets to know and be known by a large part of the population. Being a dentist in my community is a respected position. I believe the respect and position in the community need to be communicated to students.”

### IS THERE REALLY A SHORTAGE?

Many residents in both urban and rural underserved areas don’t see access problems for dental care (they know where the dentist or clinic is and know how to make an appointment). Some rural residents, however, have cost-related concerns, perceived or real transportation problems, or have cultural / lifestyle issues (such as poor role models or a fear of dentists) that keep them from seeking preventive dental care. Instead,



they wait till an emergency happens. There is the possibility that a population in Pennsylvania is so isolated that there really is a hardship in traveling to receive dental care. Dr. Johnston adds, “without providing transportation for them, or establishing a mobile dental delivery system, there is no way to adequately address that population’s needs. Other parts of the country are more sparsely populated and the travel issues may be more significant when people require emergency care or are unwilling, or unable, to plan for care. In the end, I think that it is the patient’s responsibility to get to the provider just as they get to the grocery store.”

Dr. Moore doesn’t see a simple or immediate solution. “This becomes a complex, multi-faceted issue. Lower incomes become a hurdle for patients seeking care (food vs. fillings). The shortage of dentists over time reinforces a culture where emergency, minimal or no care becomes the norm. People will only do what they want and have the ability to do. Education, improved access and affordability over time may swing the pendulum towards improved care,” he said.

“People in general don’t see the benefits of dental care if they have not had the proper education regarding its benefits; whether that education comes from home, school, health professionals or whatever. The people in rural areas who want dental care will get it; right now driving great distances to get it. You can make inroads into educating the people of a rural area through school program, prenatal programs etc., but just setting up more dentists in a rural area won’t help if a certain percentage of the population won’t seek out dental care. With the proper education their children will seek out dental care. Parents are all alike no matter where they are from; they may not use a service themselves but they will make sure that their children have the care that they need,” said Dr. Ramsay.

#### IS THERE A SOLUTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

Some alternative models for delivering dental care in underserved areas have been presented and discussed recently. Could it be that the current, or upcoming shortage of dental professionals, nationally, means it’s time to consider a model of providing care beyond the traditional fee-for-service model? Is there a solution already contained within the traditional patient care model that just needs better support? Here are potential solutions from some regional dentists.

Dr. Charlton believes that Pennsylvania has the best dental delivery model. “The use of RDHs (registered dental hygienist, EFDAs (expanded function dental assistant), and CDAs (certified dental assistant) with the dentist as the team leader insures that our patients are receiving quality care by properly trained, supervised and educated professionals. Educating patients to help them realize that preventive dental

care is essential to good oral health would make the biggest difference. Over the 32 years of practice, I’ve successfully reached many emergency patients with my message of regular cleaning and checkups,” he said.

Dr. Ramsay offers another solution, “... One alternative model is outreach clinics in rural areas. The University may staff these with instructors to oversee dental students who would gain experience and exposure to the underserved area, while the underserved area would get dental care. It could be a government run clinic where new graduates, under a clinic director, can get some experience and loan forgiveness at the same time; sort of like a GPR program but in a rural area. The only reason rural areas are underserved is because the newer dentists don’t understand the economic model of running a rural practice.”

Dr. Johnston sees the current model, which is to flood the market with a variety of dental providers in order to create a competitive marketplace and drive down costs, fails to address two issues: the cost of dental education and the creation of multiple tiers of care. Providers will still locate in those areas they feel they can achieve their desired standard of living, leaving the undeserved to rely on potentially less trained and lower skilled practitioners with less supervision. He said, “The one thing that universally has worked to increase access for underserved populations has been to reimburse providers and encourage participation in governmentally funded programs.”

For the time being, if dentists are willing to modify current practice models the populations in underserved areas probably can be adequately served. The traditional solo practitioner model may not be a sustainable model in the current environment. Utilization rates, changing demographics, insurance company intervention and a variety of other factors will force most solo practitioners to change their approach and potentially move into a group practice model or a model that utilizes more auxiliaries.

While the country’s health care is in transition, any one or more of many potential outcomes is possible. There is much more discussion to take place to come closer to a resolution of this actual or perceived problem. ■

If you have an interest in helping to bring positive change to Pennsylvania’s underserved areas, please contact Dr. Richard Ruben at **412-648-2069**.

<sup>1</sup> “Nurse Practitioners: A Comparison of Rural-Urban Practice Patterns and Willingness to Serve in Underserved Areas,” Kenneth E. Martin PhD, *Journal of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners*, Volume 12, Issue 12, pages 491–496, December 2000

#### SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

##### **Prevention of Disease Transmission in the Dental Office: Patient and Staff Safety**

**W. H. Milligan III, PhD, DMD**

Friday, September 20, 2013, 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

##### **Comprehensive Patient Health Care: Back to the Future**

**W. H. Milligan III, PhD, DMD**

Friday, September 20, 2013, 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.

##### **The Medically Complex Patient: Preoperative Assessment and Management**

**Daniel E. Becker, DDS**

Friday, September 27, 2013, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

##### **A Review of Radiologic Procedures for the Dental Professional: DEP Recommendations**

**Marie D. George, RDH, MS**

Friday, October 4, 2013, 9 a.m. – noon

##### **An Introduction to Rotary Molar Endodontics: A Hands-On Simulation Patient Experience**

Friday, October 11, 2013, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

##### **Optimal Aging: Living to be 100!**

**Barbara J. Steinberg, DDS**

Saturday, October 26, 2013, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

##### **The Geriatric Health Care Delivery Team**

**Edward Cheppa, DMD**

Friday, November 8, 2013, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

##### **Self-Discovery of Effective Instrumentation for the New Age of Periodontal Debridement**

**Marie D. George, RDH, MS**

Friday, November 15, 2013, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

##### **Managing Caries: From Fluoride to Fillings, and Everything in Between**

**John Maggio, DDS**

Friday, November 22, 2013, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

##### **Contemporary Periodontics**

**Edward P. Heinrichs, DDS**

Friday, December 6, 2013, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

##### **Simple Secrets to Attract More Quality Patients and How to Communicate Quality in a Difficult Economy**

**William Van Dyk, DDS**

Friday, December 13, 2013, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Most Continuing education courses meet in the Edward J. Forrest CDE Center, 2148 Salk Hall, 3501 Terrace Street, Pittsburgh PA, 15261 Please visit the Web site for location details.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

### BOWSER LECTURE REVIEW

The Nineteenth Annual T. F. Bowser Memorial Lecture Series was held this year on May 4. Dr. Howard S. Glazer presented **What’s Hot and What’s Getting Hotter, A program about real dentistry for real people by a real dentist, a review of new and clinically appropriate dental products.**



Photo, left to right: Dr. W. H. Milligan and Dr. Howard Glazer

Dr. Glazer is a leading clinician and educator who presents regularly throughout North and South America, Europe and Asia, on topics such as cosmetic dentistry, forensic dentistry and patient management. He is a past president of the Academy of General Dentistry and a former assistant clinical professor at the Albert Einstein college of Medicine in Bronx, New York.

The T. F. Bowser Memorial Lecture Series was established in 1995 by Dr. Ellsworth T. Bowser to honor his father, Dr. Theodore Bowser (DDS '24). The series has featured notable speakers on a variety of topics and is the School of Dental Medicine Center for Continuing Education’s most well-respected and well-attended continuing education event.

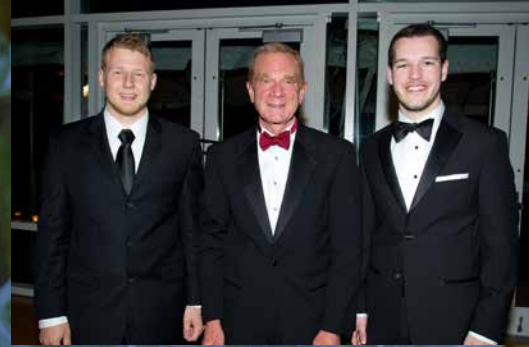
For a complete list of courses, including online and off-campus courses, please visit the School of Dental Medicine Web site at [www.dental.pitt.edu/ce](http://www.dental.pitt.edu/ce)

For more information, or to register for a CE course, please contact Diane Fleishman at **412-648-8370**



# 13th Annual DEAN'S SCHOLARSHIP BALL

University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine 13th Annual Dean's Scholarship Ball took place on Saturday, May 11, 2013 at Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh.



2013 Dean's Scholarship recipients Mr. Kurt Washnock and Mr. Brian Belsterling with Dean Braun



Distinguished Alumnus Advanced Education Programs Award recipient Dr. Louis B. Jannetto DDS, MDS and Dean Braun



Distinguished Alumna Dental Hygiene Award recipient Ms. Judith E. Gallagher, DH, MEd with Dean Braun



Dr. Thomas Braun, Dean of the School of Dental Medicine, with Distinguished Alumnus Dental Medicine Award recipient, Colonel Robert K. Manga DMD



Dr. Deborah Studen-Pavlovich and Mr. George Pavlovich



Dr. Paul Gaffney, Ms. Linda Kearns, Dr. Brent Kanar, Ms. Paige Pfeffer and Dr. William Young



Ms. Irene Damratoski and Dr. Danielle Damratoski



Dr. Lya Sharpley and Mr. R. J. Hixon



2009-2013 Dean's Scholarship recipients



Ms. Kristi Colangelo, Mr. Anthony Colangelo and Ms. Alys Murdoch

225  
YEARS  
OF BUILDING  
BETTER LIVES  
1787-2012

## 225 YEAR ANNIVERSARY MEDALLION RECIPIENTS

Medallions have a long history in academia and are used to commemorate special times and honor special people. The University of Pittsburgh celebrated 225 years of building better lives in 2012. As part of that celebratory year, Chancellor Nordenberg commissioned the 225 Anniversary Medallion.

The Chancellor often says the University makes many of our most important contributions through the work of our alumni. The 225th Anniversary Medallion commemorates a special year by recognizing alumni who are making outstanding contributions to their professional fields and contributing to the progress of the University and the students. These are alumni who have created a legacy of building better lives during the past 25 years.



Photo, University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine 225 Medallion recipients are shown, from left: Dr. Mark Ochs, '83, Dr. Hal Wrigley, '67, Col. Priscilla Hamilton, '82 and Dean Thomas Braun, '73.

The 225th Medallion depicts the progress of the university from cabin to cathedral. It also shows the names of three people who helped build better lives for the people of the region: William Pitt, for whom this city and University are named; Hugh Henry Brackenridge, the founder of the University; and finally, the name of recipient of the 225 Medallion.

School of Dental Medicine 225 Medallion recipients are: Dean Thomas Braun, '73, Dr. Mark Ochs, '83, Dr. Hal Wrigley, '67, and Col. Priscilla Hamilton, '82.

University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine thanks our 225 Medallion recipients for their leadership in dental medicine, for being role models for dental students and for supporting the University and the dental school.



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS DENTAL MEDICINE AWARD  
**COLONEL ROBERT K. MANGA DMD**



Colonel Robert K. Manga is a highly accomplished dental professional who has served in the United States Army Dental Corps since he graduated from University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine in 1981. He is considered a prominent dental educator in the Army Dental Corps and his scholarship, personal accomplishments and unwavering dedication to duty have brought great distinction to the University of Pittsburgh and the School of Dental Medicine.

Notably, Dr. Manga was appointed the first dean of the Army Postgraduate Dental School. More recently, he was appointed as the Chief of Army Graduate Dental Education. He served as a member of the Dental Corps' Executive Council and participated in the American Dental Association's Continuing Education Recognition Program (ADA CERP)— providing oversight of continuing dental education (CDE) for the entire U.S. Army Dental Corps.

*"Reflecting on my 31 year career as a member of the US Army Dental Corps, the School of Dental Medicine provided me with great foundation; with the keys to open many doors in the profession of dentistry and the US Army. It's funny, looking back to see how many people influenced me and most would have no idea of the role that they played in making me a better student of the profession. It's people like these that made the dental school what it is today: A place of learning and providing a great foundation and giving each graduate the keys to success."*

From 2005-2008 he was the director of the Advanced Education Program in General Dentistry at Fort Benning, Georgia. His seemingly countless achievements also include serving as a Dental Officer in Alabama, Alaska and Korea; serving as the Officer in Charge of Dental Clinic Number One at Fort Irwin, California; and serving as commander of the 618th Medical Company in Korea. Additionally he was the United States Army's Exchange Officer to the Royal Army Dental Corps in the United Kingdom from 1997-1999 and served as a consultant in General Dentistry for the U.S. Army's Surgeon General.

Dr. Manga is the recipient of the 2009 Texas Academy of General Dentistry's Lifelong Learning and Service Award and in 2010 was inducted as a Fellow in to the American College of Dentistry.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS  
 ADVANCED EDUCATION PROGRAMS AWARD  
**LOUIS B. JANNETTO DDS, MDS**



Last year Dr. Louis B. Jannetto was recognized with the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine Faculty Appreciation Award. This year we honor him with the Distinguished Alumnus Advanced Education Programs Award.

Dr. Jannetto is a lifelong educator in the School of Dental Medicine's undergraduate program. He joined the faculty in 1984 as a clinical professor, bringing a wealth of experience to the dental school. He is the vice chair of the Department of Prosthodontics, a position he has held since 2009.

*"I am honored and thankful to receive the Distinguished Alumni Award for the Advanced Education Programs."*

*I want to acknowledge my two employers during the last 52 years - the Veterans Administration and the School of Dental Medicine. I have been mentored by many at the VA and Pitt and continue this collaboration as a faculty member.*

*I want to thank my wife of over 50 years and my family for their patience with ten moves in 23 years before returning to Pittsburgh in 1984.*

*I am grateful to the students and residents who have provided me with the stimulation and best continuing education I could imagine."*

Dr. Jannetto is a 1961 graduate of the School of Dental Medicine. He received both a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and Master of Dental Surgery degree from Pitt. Immediately after completing his DDS at Pitt, Dr. Jannetto joined the VA Medical Center in Bronx, New York. He held similar positions at VA Medical Centers in Lexington, Kentucky; Washington, D.C.; Cleveland, Ohio; the VA Central Office in Washington, D.C. and finally in Pittsburgh. Concurrently, Dr. Jannetto held faculty appointments at Columbia University College of Dental Medicine, University of Kentucky College of Dentistry, Georgetown University School of Dentistry, Howard University College of Dentistry, Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine and University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine.

Dr. Jannetto is very generous with his time and knowledge, often making prosthodontics literature available to graduate prosthodontic residents. He shares his energy and passion for dental medicine with students in the school's undergraduate program, in the undergraduate modules and preclinical labs.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA DENTAL HYGIENE AWARD  
**JUDITH E. GALLAGHER, DH, MEd**

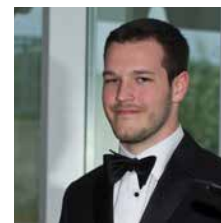


Ms. Judith E. Gallagher received her Dental Hygiene Certificate (RDH) from University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine in 1972. She acquired a BS in education from California State College and MEd from University of Pittsburgh. She joined Community College of Allegheny County as an instructor and in 1985 joined School of Dental Medicine Dental Hygiene Program as an assistant professor, where she taught until 2011.

Ms. Gallagher has published many examinations of dental treatment for elderly and homebound patients and comparisons of traditional and Web-based classroom instruction methods. She successfully joined these two areas of study when she developed and implemented the first-ever online geriatrics course for the Dental Hygiene program.

As evidence of her further achievements she served as the School of Dental Medicine, Dental Hygiene Senior Clinic co-coordinator;

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT  
**MR. BRIAN BELSTERLING**



Mr. Brian Belsterling, a native of Pittsburgh, received his BS in biology and anthropology, Magna Cum Laude, from University of Pittsburgh.

Several early-life experiences led Mr. Belsterling to an interest in how things are constructed. Participating in the Boy Scouts of America taught him how to be a mature, responsible leader, and volunteering as a church lector improved his communication skills, confidence and public speaking ability, which positively impact his career as a dentist.

*"... the one thing everyone should look for in a career is personal satisfaction, and it is in dentistry that I see myself being happy."*

As a young man he volunteered his time as an assistant Scout Master for the Boy Scouts, in the work crew for Appalachian Outreach and as a soccer coach for at-risk youth with Pittsburgh Soccer in the Community. He has shadowed a general dentist to confirm his dedication to a career in dentistry; a career that fits his skills, personality, work ethic and leadership abilities.

*"Brian is very intelligent, tremendously hardworking, persistent, open-minded and he is blessed with exceptional people skills."*  
 —Gabriella Lukacs, Assistant Professor  
 Department of Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh

collaborated with Dr. Pouran Famili's toothbrush study; presented "Radiography Review For Dental Assistants" continuing education courses and presented her publications at numerous ADEA, and AADS Annual Sessions. She also actively participated in organized dentistry and held numerous positions in Western Pennsylvania Dental Hygienists' Association.

During her years as an accomplished teacher, Ms. Gallagher showcased her clinical proficiency by working as a dental hygienist dedicated to high-quality patient treatment.

*"I am honored to receive this recognition. As a graduate of the Dental Hygiene Program I never thought I would still be practicing 41 years later. My education gave me the skills to work in private practice and hospital-based dentistry, and as a faculty member I was able to pass those skills on to students."*

*As a retiree I feel fortunate to be able to still practice in this interesting phase of life, and have the pleasure of working with former co-workers and students."*

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT  
**MR. KURT T. WASHNOCK**



A native of Southwestern Pennsylvania, Mr. Kurt T. Washnock spent a good deal of time during his childhood playing ice hockey and left high school early to play with a Junior A-level hockey league. He earned a scholarship to play NCAA Division I hockey at Mercyhurst College.

Mr. Washnock shares with Albert Einstein the belief that only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile.

A serious ankle injury and family issues led to the difficult decision to forego his hockey career. Determined to succeed, he considered a number of new career paths, and after researching dentistry and shadowing his family dentist he was confident that dentistry was the right profession for him.

*"only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile."*

Still passionate about hockey, he's considering a career in sports dentistry.

*"Mr Washnock is one of those rare young people who has the character, intellect, fortitude and a genuine thirst for knowledge that are needed for success. We can all be inspired by his selfless manner in taking care of his loved ones and assured that this will be the way in which he handles his patients."*

—James Ramsay, DMD, MAGD  
 Latrobe Dental Arts, LLC



## NEW PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am honored to be the new Dental Alumni Association president. I first want to extend my thanks to our past president, Dr. Maggie Gurtner, for her unselfish and dedicated service to the University and School of Dental Medicine.

During my term I want to share with you the value of being involved and engaged in the Dental Alumni Association. Remember, you are already a member—there are no dues to pay and no forms to fill out—and I invite you to connect with your fellow alums to make your experiences with the association more meaningful and rewarding.

On behalf of the alumni association, I extend my congratulations to the School of Dental Medicine graduating class of 2013. I hope all of you will give a warm welcome to these new members when you see them at some of the upcoming alumni events.

OUR REMARKABLE ALUMNI ARE WORLD LEADERS IN PRACTICE, RESEARCH, COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND EDUCATION.

This year we honored three dental school alumni with Distinguished Alumni Awards at the 13th Annual Dean's Scholarship Ball. These alumni have shown themselves to be



pioneers, not only as dental professionals, but as mentors who encourage and inspire students at the dental school. Please be sure to read more about them on pages 8-11 in this magazine.

On August 26 a new class of dental students will begin their educational journey at the dental school's White Coat Ceremony. Our guest speaker this year is PDA President Dr. R. Donald Hoffman (DMD '72, MEd '82, PhD '88). You are welcome to attend the ceremony and your financial support of this annual event is appreciated.

You will certainly want to mark your calendar for University Homecoming School of Dental Medicine events the weekend of September 26-28, 2013. We invite you to attend the Continuing Dental Education event on Friday and enjoy the dental school's

homecoming dinners and class reunions later that evening. Also being planned for this coming year is a first-year-student mentoring event.

For up-to-date information on any of these events, please contact Ms. Nancy Poe, at 412-648-8910 or poen@pitt.edu.

BUILDING AN ORGANIZATION THAT SERVES ALUMNI, STUDENTS AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY

Supporting this alumni association is my way of building stronger bonds with my colleagues and showing my appreciation for, and giving back to, an institution that has given so much to me.

I hope to build on the proud tradition of the Dental Alumni Association and further cultivate a strong and loyal spirit to the School of Dental Medicine among alumni and current students. Your thoughts and opinions are valuable to the school and I invite you to communicate with me about what activities you would like to participate in or what clinical, research or other topics you would like to hear more about.

I am excited about serving as your Dental Alumni Association president for the next two years. Please do not hesitate to contact me at jao4@pitt.edu. I look forward to seeing you soon at an upcoming alumni event.

Sincerely

**Dr. Jean O'Donnell** (DMD '90)  
President, Dental Alumni Association  
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs

Greetings dental hygiene alumni! I've just returned from the festive 100th anniversary celebration of the dental hygiene profession at the ADHA National Conference, in Boston. The event featured actor Geena Davis, who spoke on gender equality in the media, a motivational speech by activist Erin Brockovich, and included continuing education courses on myriad subjects. Dr. Esther Wilkins, dental hygiene icon and pioneer who received her certificate in 1949, garnered attention as an attendee at the conference. Also in attendance were three of our current School of Dental Medicine students. Two of these students, Sara Galko and Be-Ut Li, presented their table clinics in the student competition alongside students from across the country. The students who attended were particularly interested in the products on exhibit from vendors in the massive exhibit hall.

On the heels of the ADHA's anniversary celebration comes another significant milestone: The University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine Dental Hygiene program will mark its 50th anniversary May 2-3, 2014. I hope you will mark your calendar for that date and make plans to participate in a weekend of continuing education courses, tours of the dental hygiene and simulation clinics, and a celebration dinner on Saturday evening.

Once again, alumni are invited to attend "Evidence Based Research in Support of Hot Topics in Dentistry," August 5th, 2013, from 9 a.m.–noon, to view the student table clinic presentations. There will be free CE credit for those attending this year's event. Students enjoy interacting with practicing hygienists, and alumni get a glimpse of what's going on in dental hygiene education at Pitt. Light refreshments will be served.

Please e-mail me at [sub26@pitt.edu](mailto:sub26@pitt.edu) to reserve your spot. I look forward to seeing you there.

**Ms. Susan Ban** (RDH '80)  
Vice President, Dental Hygiene

## VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Photo, above, from left: Dr. Michael Dobos (DMD '79), past President  
Dr. Christine Wankiri-Hale (DMD '02), outgoing Secretary,  
Dr. Margaret Gurtner (DMD '90), outgoing President,  
and Dr. Jean O'Donnell (DMD '90), current President

Photo, below, The School of Dental Medicine's newest  
Dental Hygiene alumni: The Dental Hygiene Class of 2013



## IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Antonio Abay (DMD '68) • September 17, 2012  
Dr. Richard A. Allias (DMD '58) • March 10, 2013  
Dr. George Nicholas Ban (DDS '60) • June 24, 2013  
Dr. Robert Bender (DDS '73) • April 25, 2013  
Dr. Dennis Derda (DMD '74) • March 06, 2013  
Dr. George Fleisher (DMD '43) • May 20, 2012  
Dr. Joseph Anthony Helfrich, Jr. (DDS '58) • January 26, 2013  
Dr. Robert Otis Hoskin (DMD '45) • May 29, 2013  
Dr. Robert A. Jockers (DDS '58) • May 18, 2013  
Dr. Thomas S. Jubach (DMD '79) • October 06, 2012  
Dr. Joseph James Lazorick (DMD '67) • May 22, 2013  
Dr. Thomas M. Nardozzo (DDS '58) • February 12, 2013  
Dr. Robert F. Niedererr (DDS '56) • May 23, 2013

Dr. Robert M. Raemore (DMD '67) • February 09, 2013  
Dr. Richard L. Reichel (DDS '57) • November 10, 2012  
Dr. Jack R. Rickard (DDS '61) • December 28, 2012  
Dr. Arthur H. Rittenhouse (DDS '50) • March 03, 2013  
Dr. Lester Rosenbloom (DDS '43) • March 19, 2013  
Dr. Ellis L. Schechter (DMD '49) • December 26, 2012  
Dr. Simpson I. Schechter (DDS '38) • July 21, 2013  
Dr. Dale E. Smith (DDS '52) • February 27, 2013  
Dr. John Calvin Taylor (DDS '49) • January 31, 2013  
Dr. David Lee Thomas (DDS '64) • January 16, 2013  
Dr. Henry C. Thompson (DDS '56) • May 15, 2013  
Dr. Robert C. Vanderburg (DDS '56) • July 15, 2013  
Dr. Robert H. Whitten (DDS '51) • January 11, 2013

### Are you a member of the Class of 1974 or Class of 1959?

You can help prepare for **next year's 40th reunion** for the class of 1974 and **55th reunion** for the class of 1959.



Classmates of the class of 1974 are asked to contact **Dr. John Drumm** so that plans can be made for the celebration. Dr. Drumm may be reached at [DrJohnDrumm@aol.com](mailto:DrJohnDrumm@aol.com), or by phone at either **301-279-2646** or **301-520-1056**.

Classmates of the class of 1959 are asked to contact **Dr. Ted Rohm** at [roh6@comcast.com](mailto:roh6@comcast.com), or by phone at **412-364-6704**.



## 13TH ANNUAL SPRING RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Several notable speakers presided over the Thirteenth Annual Research Symposium at the School of Dental Medicine on Wednesday, May 15, 2013. Dean Thoman Braun and Dr. Mary Marazita, Associate Dean for Research, spoke proudly of the high-quality research taking place at the dental school. Dr. Alexandre Vieira, Director of Clinical Research and Director of Student Research, briefly spoke about the advancements being made by student researchers and then announced the recipients of this year's student research awards. A detailed list of the award recipients follows.

The symposium's keynote speaker was Dr. Martha J. Somerman, Director of National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Chief of the Laboratory of Oral Connective Tissue Biology at the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases. Dr. Somerman began her presentation by noting that for 2012/13 the School of Dental Medicine ranked sixth out of 62 accredited dental schools for NIDCR grants to U.S. dental institutions. She then presented a very detailed history of NIDCR and NIH, highlighting some of the exciting research areas it supports. Current and future research topics range from basic to translational to clinical and include the human microbiome project, HPV-related oropharyngeal cancer and public health challenges such as acute and chronic temporomandibular joint pain.



Photo above, from left to right: Dean Thomas Braun, Guest Speaker Director Martha J. Somerman and Associate Dean Mary Marazita.

### PITT DENTAL RESEARCH

This well attended symposium also provided an opportunity for several Pitt Dental researchers to share their recent work with attendees. Each presenter highlighted the clinical applications and value that their laboratory work will have for dental practitioners.

Dr. Trish Parsons presented the 3-D Facial Norms Project, which aims to create and expand a public database of 3-dimensional facial images and measurements of healthy humans. Currently, the image database includes some 1,000 subjects,

permitting immediate address of a wide range of topics such as sexual dimorphism and changes throughout the lifespan. In addition to the data set's ability to answer fundamental questions about the ranges of normal human variation, the project can act as a resource for control comparisons when investigating pathological conditions.

Dr. Hongjiao Ouyang discussed the applications of her research on osteoporosis and aging. Her lab has been studying how the accumulation of oxidative DNA damage may contribute to age-related deregulation of osteoblastic and osteoclastic cells.

The final presentation was by Dr. Manika Govil and was an interesting communication about non-syndromic orofacial clefts. A heterogeneous trait, orofacial clefts have a variable prevalence across ethnicities and known environmental risk factors. Her research expands recent work on these environmental factors and risk-conferring genes and explores sub-clinical and extended phenotypes. ■

### STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS

**Ms. Serena Hsin**, a first-year student, is the recipient of the **ADA Caulk/Dentsply Student Clinician Program**, which recognizes outstanding clinical or basic science research by first-, second- or third-year dental students.

**Mr. Matthew Pham** was chosen as the winner of the **Travel Award** which enables him to compete in the Hinman Student Research Symposium, held at the University of Tennessee.

**Mr. Pham** also was the recipient of the **AADR Pittsburgh Chapter Student Research Award**.

The three recipients of the **O. Jack Penhall Award**, which recognizes outstanding clinical research by a dental student, were **Ms. Serena Hsin**, who received first place; **Mr. Sojin Kim**, the second place winner; and **Mr. Kyle Howell** who was the winner of the third place award.

Each year **ASDA Awards** go to three dental students for outstanding clinical or basic science research. This year, first place was awarded to **Mr. Kenneth Kim**, second place to **Mr. Jason Yong** and third place went to **Ms. Christine Chung**.

The **Gerald Orner Award** is for a fourth-year student who is likely to succeed in postgraduate academic dentistry. This year the award went to **Mr. Shahryar Khaliq**.

Fourth-year student **Ms. Kate Raffensperger** is the recipient of the **Quintessence Award for Research Achievement**, which is given in recognition of individual research achievements.



Photo above, left to right: Dr. Manika Govil, Mr. Matthew Pham, accepting his Travel Award to compete in the Hinman Student Research Symposium, and Dr. Hongjiao Ouyang; Photo left, left to right: Dr. Alexandre Vieira and Mr. Shahryar Khaliq, who received the Gerald Orner Award.

## DR. AL SEYEDAIN RECEIVES 2013 FACULTY TECHNOLOGY AWARD



It is a pleasure to announce the recipient of the 2013 University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine Faculty Technology Adoption Award, made possible by support from Dell computers. This annual award recognizes outstanding and innovative use of instructional technology to improve the learning outcomes of our students.

The purpose of the award is to:

- recognize efforts by individual faculty to adopt technology in their teaching;
- make the adoption of instructional technology more visible; and
- contribute to discussions about what constitutes efficient and effective use of technology for teaching.

Richard Hansen, Account Executive with Dell computers, joined Dr. Heilo Spallek, Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs, to present this year's award to Dr. Al Seyedain.

Dr. Seyedain was selected for his "demonstrated enthusiasm and initiatives toward integrating digital technologies into the practice of periodontics. He takes an active interest in promoting student knowledge by creating how-to videos for students on proper usage of clinical equipment." In fact, Dr. Seyedain was nominated by a student.

The 2012 award was received by Dr. Steve Wendell.



2013 FACULTY AND STAFF AWARDS

2013 FACULTY RECOGNITION

**Dr. Mary L. Marazita**  
The William J. Gies Award for Vision, Innovation and Achievement

**Dr. Bert Milligan**  
American Dental Education Association's Presidential Citation  
Southern Illinois University- Edwardsville School of Dental  
Medicine Alumni Hall of Fame Inductee

**Dr. Mark P. Mooney**  
2012 International Association of Dental Research Distinguished  
Research Scientist in Craniofacial Biology

**Dr. Paul A. Moore**  
American Dental Society of Anesthesiology  
Heidbrink Award

**Dr. Jean A. O'Donnell**  
National Academies of Practice  
Distinguished Scholar Award

**Dr. Alexandre R. Vieira**  
2013 International Association of Dental Research  
William J. Gies Award

FACULTY AND STAFF APPRECIATION AWARDS

Awards for outstanding faculty and staff members chosen by the students

Class of 2013  
Faculty Award **Dr. Louis Jannetto**  
Staff Award **Ms. Leah George and Ms. Nicole Jones**

Class of 2014  
Faculty Award **Dr. Timothy Weber**  
Staff Award **Ms. Judy Randall**

Class of 2015  
Faculty Award **Dr. Marin Mandradjiff**  
Staff Award **Ms. Aileen Brasacchio**

Class of 2016  
Faculty Award **Dr. Timothy Matuszak**  
Staff Award **Ms. Aileen Brasacchio**

Photos, from top to bottom: Dr. Michael DeCoro, president, class of 2013, with Ms. Nichole Jones; Mr. Kiarash Saba, president, class of 2014, with Ms. Judy Randall; Mr. Kenton Andryc, president, class of 2015, with Dr. Mandradjiff; Mr. Ryan Orlosky, president, class of 2016, with Ms. Aileen Brasacchio.



**Dr. William Chung**, associate professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, and Dr. Bryan N. Brown, assistant professor at McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine, presented their TMJ matrix research project to The Wallace H. Coulter



Foundation for Translational Medicine in 2011. They did not receive the \$100,000 award that year, but they were selected to receive a partial award to continue their work the following year.

This year, after the third presentation of their study, they were selected to receive the full \$100,000 award. The money will be used to fund the next phase of their study which includes submission of an application for human trials.

**Dr. R. Donald Hoffman (DMD '72)** was elected president of the Pennsylvania Dental Association (PDA). Dr. Hoffman's plans include encouraging the state to improve access to dental services for all state residents. He also wants lawmakers to reinstate funding for the Donated Dental Services Program, which provides dentistry to people who are not eligible for public assistance.



**Dr. W. H. Milligan III (PhD '72)** is the recipient of an American Dental Education Association (ADEA) presidential citation. ADEA President Gerald N. Glickman, D.D.S., M.S., M.B.A., J.D., awarded Presidential Citations to 13 leaders who have demonstrated exceptional service to the Association and dental education community. Awards were presented at the 2013 ADEA Annual Session & Exhibition, held in March, 2013, in Seattle, Washington. "Each of the 2013 ADEA Presidential Citation recipients has shown extraordinary dedication to dental education," says Dr.. Glickman. "I am pr oud to honor them and

to recognize the major contributions they have made to ADEA and to dental education."  
W.H. "Bert" Milligan, D.M.D., Ph.D., is the Director of Continuing Education at University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. Dr.. Milligan has led efforts to develop innovative programming about gender issues and the cost of dental education. He serves as Councilor of the ADEA Section of Business and Financial Administration.

FACULTY NEWS

**ASDA Steel City Dental Expo**

**Oct. 17, 2013**  
**Wyndham Pittsburgh University Center**

Presentation begins at **8 a.m.**

Vendor Fair from **1-4 p.m.**

Join us for the 6th annual ASDA Steel City Dental Expo.



This year's presenter is nationally recognized speaker **Markus B. Blatz, DMD, PhD**, Chair and Professor of Restorative Dentistry at Penn Dental Medicine. The morning presentation by Dr. Blatz will be followed by a vendor fair in the afternoon. The vendor fair may be attended independently from the lecture.

**Vendor space is limited – Alumni are invited to present at this event as vendors.** Vendors may include in their presentations: job and associate positions for students, mentoring opportunities, a chance to showcase the unique traits that make Pennsylvania a great place to work and live, and much more.

If you would like more information about renting a space at the vendor fair, please contact Anthony Colangelo at [asc44@pitt.edu](mailto:asc44@pitt.edu).



## SENIOR STUDENT AWARDS PRESENTATION 2013

Awards for First Professional Program graduates were presented at a ceremony held in May, 2013.

### Academy of Osseointegration Award

**Tannon Newland**

The senior student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the field of implant dentistry

### American Academy of Craniofacial Pain Award

**Nicholas Lieb**

The senior student who has demonstrated an interest in the area of occlusion and TMD

### American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry Award

**Lya Sharpley**

The senior student who has demonstrated the most clinical proficiency and greatest interest in esthetic dentistry

### American Academy of Implant Dentistry Award

**Scott Santoro**

The senior student who has demonstrated the most interest academically and clinically in implant dentistry

### American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Award

**Nicholas Riccio**

The senior student who has demonstrated exemplary aptitude and achievement in oral and maxillofacial pathology

### American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Award

**Brandon Humberger**

The senior student who has demonstrated exemplary aptitude and achievement in oral and maxillofacial radiology

### American Academy of Oral Medicine Award

**Tessie Buraczewski**

The senior student who has demonstrated proficiency in oral medicine

### American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Award

**Courtney Uselton**

The senior student who demonstrated the most promise in pediatric dentistry

### American Academy of Periodontology Award

**Mona Monzavi**

The senior who displays outstanding performance in periodontics

### American Association of Endodontists Award

**Bryan Hays**

The senior student who has demonstrated above average skills in the area of endodontics

### American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

**Dental Implant Award**

**Steven Cudney**

The student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement and performance related to the placement and restoration of dental implants

### American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

**Dental Student Award**

**Garima Sinha**

The senior student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement and performance in oral and maxillofacial surgery

### American Association of Oral Biologists Award

**Steven Cudney**

The senior who has demonstrated achievement and potential in oral biology

### American Association of Women Dentists

**Eleanor J. Bushee Award**

**Alexandra Jensen**

The senior dental student who has demonstrated academic excellence and outstanding leadership

### American College of Dentists Award

**Nicholas Lieb**

The senior student whose academic record most exemplifies a combination of outstanding scholastic performance and demonstrated leadership

### American Dental Society of

**Anesthesiology Horace Wells**

**Senior Student Award**

**Breanna Weiland**

The student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the field of dental anesthesiology

### American Student Dental

**Association Award of Excellence**

**Daniel Rolotti**

The student who has demonstrated leadership in the American Student Dental Association

### Lathe Bowen Student Award

**Brandon Humberger**

The senior dental student who exemplifies most the professionalism and strong moral and ethical values of Dr. Lathe Bowen

### Herman H. Langkamp Award

**Alexandra Jensen**

**Elliott Brodie Award**

**Cody Pewarchuk (Delta Sigma Delta)**

**Gabriel Proulx (Non-Fraternity)**

The student representatives of dental fraternities who have demonstrated academic excellence and achievement

### Delta Dental Student Leadership Award

**Michael De Coro**

**Daniel Rolotti**

**Kyle Dumpert**

**Breanna Weiland**

The students who embody the traits of strong leaders and community members

### Dentsply Merit Award in Removable Prosthodontics

**Kathryn Mucha**

The senior student who has shown accomplishments in removable denture prosthodontics

### W. Arthur George Prosthodontic Award

**Kurt Eriksson and Bryan Hays**

The two senior students who have shown outstanding accomplishments in removable and fixed prosthodontics

### International College of Dentists Award

**Elena Kureichyk**

The graduating student who has demonstrated outstanding leadership

### International Congress of Oral Implantologists Award

**Elena Kureichyk**

The senior student who displays the greatest interest and commitment to oral implantology



### Northeastern Society of Periodontists Award

**Amy Perlow**

The outstanding student who has excelled in the field of periodontics

### Gerald Orner Award

**Shahryar Khaliq**

The senior student for their proficiency and dedication to dental research

### Pierre Fauchard Academy Certificate of Merit

**Lya Sharpley**

For outstanding leadership and dedication to the advancement of the profession

### Quintessence Award for Clinical Achievement in Periodontics

**Kyle Howell**

The senior student in recognition of scholastic and /or clinical excellence in periodontics

### Quintessence Award for Research Achievement

**Sarah Raffensperger**

In recognition of scholastic and/or clinical excellence in research

### Quintessence Award for Clinical Achievement in Restorative Dentistry

**Matthew Wendahl**

The senior student in recognition of scholastic and/or clinical excellence in restorative dentistry

### Robert Rapp Award of Distinction in Pediatric Dentistry

**Alexandra Jensen**

The student who has excelled in the practice of pediatric dentistry

### Whip Mix Corporation Prosthodontic Award

**Paul Pryor**

The senior student who has excelled in the study and clinical application of prosthodontics

### Omicron Kappa Upsilon

**Kyle Howell**

**Alexandra Jensen**

**Michelle Kim**

**Elena Kureichyk**

**Nicholas Lieb**

The top twelve percent of the graduating class who rank highest in scholastic, technical, clinical and professional achievements during the entire four year dental curriculum

**Amy Perlow**

**Cody Pewarchuk**

**Gabriel Proulx**

**Courtney Uselton**

Awards for Dental Hygiene graduates were presented during a luncheon in May, 2013.

### Western Pennsylvania Dental Hygiene Association

**Outstanding Dental Hygiene Graduate Award**

**Alicia Wicks**

Based on outstanding academic and clinical performance as well as professional demeanor.

### Hu-Friedy Golden Scaler Award

**Karly Keller**

Presented to the student who exhibits outstanding clinical dental hygiene performance

### Dr. Clark J. Hollister Award for Dental Health Education

**Be-Ut T. Le**

Awarded to an outstanding graduating student who has shown ability and achievement in Dental Health Education

### Elliott (Steve) Brodie Award for Clinical Competence

**Alicia Wicks and Tiffany Murphy**

Presented to the student who demonstrates outstanding clinical skills and comprehensive treatment planning

### Sigma Phi Alpha

**Alicia Wicks and Rachael Mangel**

Sigma Phi Alpha, the National Dental Hygiene Honor Society, elects graduates who rank highest in scholarship and character and who exhibit potential qualities for future growth. Membership is limited to the upper 10% of the graduation class.

### S.T.A.R. Award (Student Total Achievement Recognition)

**Emily Hansen**

Presented to the student exhibiting dedication and enjoyment of the dental hygiene profession; compassion in patient care; and enthusiasm for community service







University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine  
Diploma Ceremony took place on May 18, 2013  
at Heinz Hall for the Performing Arts in Pittsburgh.

# DIPLOMA CEREMONY 2013



**27** resident graduates



**DMD 76**  
graduates



**29** dental hygiene graduates







Photo, The Special Olympics volunteer team from the School of Dental Medicine was made up of students and faculty. Shown from left to right, back row: Dr. Lynne Taiclet, Mat Pham, Elaine Ellenberger, Kurt Ellenberger; front row: Dave Teitelbaum, Justina Pope, Greg Sencak, Gabe DiCostanzo, Megan Buhler

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Started in 1968, Special Olympics has helped participants to benefit physically, mentally, socially and has improved the community at large through a better understanding of people with intellectual disabilities. This year, Special Olympics celebrates its 45th anniversary. Allegheny County took part in the annual event by holding a Special Olympics at Baldwin High School on Saturday, May 11. For the past several years, University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine students, faculty and staff have volunteered to help the athletes and other attendees.

*“... this will have a lasting impact on me throughout my career. It has given me a different perspective on compassion and is beneficial to me in the clinics and classroom at the dental school.”*  
 – quote from a student’s SCOPE community service diary



Dr. Taiclet, Director of the Center for Patients with Special Needs at the School of Dental Medicine, noted that many of the athletes they saw during the event are patients of the Center. Mr. Sencak hopes to expand the screenings next year.

Many of the dental students who volunteered to assist athletes on the field were able to fulfill part of their community service requirement. SCOPE, the dental school’s community

service program, requires that all dental students complete 50 hours of community service before the end of their second year. Helping directly with the special needs community and their families in this manner really develops communication skills, empathy and a true desire to help special needs patients in the future within their professional careers. ■

Mr. Greg Sencak, president of the University of Pittsburgh student chapter of the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry (AADMD), coordinated about forty dental students to help athletes during the events. An additional six dental students, working under dental faculty member Dr. Lynne Taiclet, performed dental screenings for the athletes. This was the first year that dental students performed dental screenings.

The screenings, which included dental screenings as well as vision tests, hearing exams, and recording vital signs,

performed by Pitt medical school colleagues, were part of an event called Health Meet. Health Meet is coordinated by Achieva, a Western Pennsylvania non-profit organization committed to providing care for people with intellectual disabilities. Dental care is the number one unmet healthcare need for people with disabilities. Coordinated efforts such as these help Achieva and School of Dental Medicine address and combat this problem.



## CENTER FOR PATIENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS 5TH ANNIVERSARY AND PEDIATRIC SUITE DEDICATION

In the autumn of 2008, after more than 50 years providing multidisciplinary care for patients with special needs, University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine formally dedicated the Center for Patients with Special Needs. This fall we celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Center and the grand opening of a new Center for Patients with Special Needs anesthesia facility in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry. This illustrates once more why this school is one of the nation’s leading dental schools and has been at the forefront of providing care to patients with special needs as well as educating students, residents, faculty, staff and clinicians within the community.

Led by Dean Thomas Braun, many past and present faculty, students and staff have been successfully caring for this population for decades. Supported by services provided by the School of Dental Medicine’s Department of Anesthesiology, and applying a multidisciplinary approach for adult and pediatric patients, the Center is able to treat a wide variety of disabilities, including elderly and medically complex patients. Expanding the facility to include a pediatric-specific treatment area will alleviate the increased demand and growing volume of patients.

According to Dr. Deborah Studen-Pavlovich, chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, “Two years ago, due to the increased number of pediatric patients with autism and other neurobehavioral disorders, I believed that a designated area within the Department of Pediatric Dentistry would be optimum in providing care to special needs patients.”

Dr. Studen-Pavlovich also believes “that special needs dentistry in general is growing, and growing rapidly because of all of the medical advances and technology that have provided these individuals with longer and more productive lives. Our current structure allows for a multi-disciplinary approach to caring for special needs patients.”

Dr. Lynne Taiclet, Director of the Center for Patients with

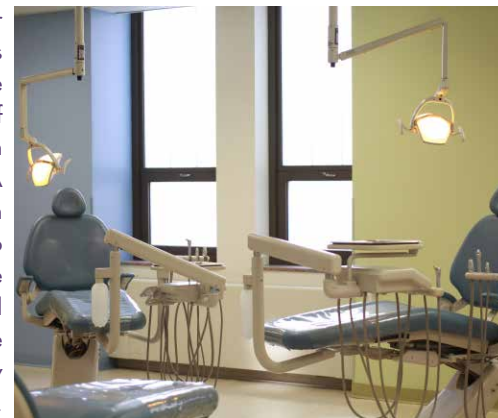
Special Needs, which focuses on adult care, agrees and adds that “... 6 to 10 new patients are calling every week. The need for care has sparked the need for the growth of programs to educate providers and the growth of facilities to enable care.” The focus at School of Dental Medicine has been on providing students with experience and skills in special needs dentistry. Dr. Taiclet coordinates the special needs curriculum for the school and hopes to expand the student experiences to include educational opportunities for clinicians in the community. “Many of the students that have graduated in the past few years are already providing care for special needs patients” Dr. Taiclet said, reflecting on the outreach of special needs dentistry

The future of special needs dentistry offers many possibilities, and, as Dr. Studen-Pavlovich said, “working together has really made a difference in the last half century.” ■

*“... the multidisciplinary approach, where participation from oral and maxillofacial surgery, endodontics, comprehensive care and restorative dentistry, allow patients with disabilities to be treated in a safe and competent manner.”*

– Dr. Studen-Pavlovich, Chair, Department of Pediatric Dentistry

The new pediatric area for patients with special needs was made possible through the continued vision and support of Dean Braun, with funding from the Highmark Foundation, FISA Foundation and funding from the University of Pittsburgh. To support special needs dental care at University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine, please contact Mr. Paul Casey at **412-383-7544**.



### AAP Academy Awards



Each year the American Academy of Periodontology recognizes the most promising dental students and dedicated educators.

The Dental Student Award for Achievement in Periodontology is awarded to a senior who displays outstanding performance in periodontics. In 2013, the Academy granted 65 recipients this award.

The 2013 University of Pittsburgh Dental Student Award Recipient is **Dr. Mona Monzavi**.

The Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring in Periodontics Award is awarded to a periodontal educator demonstrating a commitment to excellence in providing education in clinical periodontics. In 2013, the Academy granted this award to 50 recipients.

The 2013 University of Pittsburgh Outstanding Educator Award Recipient is **Dr. Andrejs Baumhammers, DDS**.





## DELTA SIGMA DELTA STANDS UP TO BULLYING



In May, 2013, the School of Dental Medicine chapter of the dental fraternity, Delta Sigma Delta, through their foundation Take the Pledge, and in cooperation with the Boys and Girls Club of Shadyside, held a very successful, first-ever event to foster understanding and decrease bullying among school-aged children. Called *Take The Pledge: Stand Up To Bullying*, the one-day event was pulled together quickly and on a shoestring budget.

Mr. Ryan Hirsowitz, Delta Sigma Delta president, developed the anti-bullying event to fulfill the fraternity's community service needs. "If we are going to be dentists, and are privileged enough to have these careers, we need to start giving back to our communities" he said. The impact this event had on the children helped Mr. Hirsowitz understand the need for such intervention in today's world. "I grew up playing baseball in the Boys and Girls Club league and it was a really positive influence. It is heartbreaking to witness suicides and other tragedies as a result of senseless bullying and I want to give them some good news about standing up to bullying" said Mr. Hirsowitz.

Children learned team building techniques while playing soccer, basketball and baseball, and a certified Olweus trainer taught the children and adults techniques to deflate bullying.

Many local companies supported this years event. According to Mr. Hirsowitz, teaching kids about team sports "teaches them the meaning of teamwork, sportsmanship and respect: respect for their coaches, teammates, opponents, parents and most importantly, themselves." ■

If you would like to help make next year's event more successful and make a positive statement against bullying through Delta Sigma Delta's foundation, please contact Ms. Rose Mangold at **412-648-8437**.

## RESEARCH TOWER CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES

It's come a long way since it began more than two years ago, but the research tower expansion project behind Salk Hall is not quite finished.

The tower, which will provide roughly 81,000 square feet of additional space for the School of Dental Medicine and the School of Pharmacy, will be dedicated to research. On the first floor, adjacent to Salk Hall, will be a large atrium area with a coffee shop and meeting areas for students, faculty and staff.

Research is a major priority at the School of Dental Medicine, which currently is ranked seventh in NIDCR funding. Research taking place here helps to shape the school's international reputation, impacts both curriculum and clinical practice and most importantly, it discovers new knowledge for future clinical implementation. ■

Construction at this scale is very ambitious. Your support of the research tower communicates your commitment to the positive impact of research at the School of Dental Medicine. To make a difference and help support this massive construction project, please contact Mr. Paul Casey at **412-383-7544**.



Photo above: Massive columns defining the new atrium-like, commons area of the research tower illustrate the intimate connection between Salk Hall and the new tower, immediately behind it.



# HOMECOMING

University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine • September 27-28

### Friday, September 27

#### Homecoming Continuing Education Course The Medically Complex Patient, "Preoperative Assessment and Management"

Presented by **Dr. Daniel E Becker, DDS**, Associate Director of Medical Education, General Practice Dental Residency, Miami Valley Hospital, Dayton, Ohio  
**8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**, Edward J. Forrest Continuing Education Center, Salk Hall, 6 credit hours

Patients having complex medical histories and receiving multiple medications are a formidable challenge. A series of case studies will be presented to lead an analysis and discussion of patients presenting varied medical conditions. For additional information or to register, please visit the Continuing Education Web page, [www.dental.pitt.edu/ce/index.php](http://www.dental.pitt.edu/ce/index.php), or please contact Ms. Lori Burkette at [llb4@pitt.edu](mailto:llb4@pitt.edu) or Ms. Diane Fleishman at [dif8@pitt.edu](mailto:dif8@pitt.edu), or call **412-648-8370**.

### Friday, September 27

#### Homecoming and Reunion Dinner

Please join us for the Homecoming and Reunion dinner at the University Club at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Individual Class Reunions (see at right) will be held for years ending in 3 or 8. For additional details, please contact Ms. Nancy Poe at [poen@pitt.edu](mailto:poen@pitt.edu) or call **412-648-8910**

### Saturday, September 28

#### Homecoming Football Game: Pitt vs. UVA, Time TBA

Single-game home tickets will go on sale to the general public on September 3, 2013. Call **1-800-643-PITT**. Hotel Information may be found at [www.alumni.pitt.edu/homecoming/hotels.php](http://www.alumni.pitt.edu/homecoming/hotels.php)

### Class Reunions

#### All Alums Welcome!

For more information about your class reunion, please contact your class representative

Golden Alumni (Class of 1962 and earlier)  
please contact Ms. Nancy Poe at **412-648-8910**

Class of '68 45th reunion  
Dr. David Fall: **412-422-8285** or [2th4a@msn.com](mailto:2th4a@msn.com)

Class of '73 40th reunion  
Dr. Thomas Braun: **412-648-1938** or [twb3@pitt.edu](mailto:twb3@pitt.edu)

Class of '78 35th reunion  
Dr. John Charletta: [jjc44@pitt.edu](mailto:jjc44@pitt.edu)

Class of '83 30th reunion  
Dr. Joe Ross: **724-654-2511** or [jerossdmd@gmail.com](mailto:jerossdmd@gmail.com)

Class of '88 25th reunion  
Dr. Steve Gurtner: [gurt236@gmail.com](mailto:gurt236@gmail.com)  
Dr. Eric Kern: **724-443-2721**

Class of '93 20th reunion  
Dr. Mark Shaw: [shawsteiner@msn.com](mailto:shawsteiner@msn.com)

Class of '98 15th reunion  
Dr. Sharon Freeland Harris: **804-794-5808**  
or [dentool@aol.com](mailto:dentool@aol.com)

Class of '03 10th reunion  
Dr. Johanna Nogay: [jnogaydmd@yahoo.com](mailto:jnogaydmd@yahoo.com)

Class of '88, Dental Hygiene 25th reunion  
Ms. Shelley Bosanac: **412-486-4026**  
or [shelleyrhd@msn.com](mailto:shelleyrhd@msn.com)

For additional information about Homecoming 2013, please contact Ms. Nancy Poe at **412-648-8910** or [poen@pitt.edu](mailto:poen@pitt.edu).

### Homecoming Dinner RSVP

Please complete and return this form by **September 6** to: Ms. Nancy Poe; University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine; Salk Hall, Suite 440; 3501 Terrace Street; Pittsburgh PA 15261. Dinner is \$45 per person. Please make check payable to: *University of Pittsburgh*.

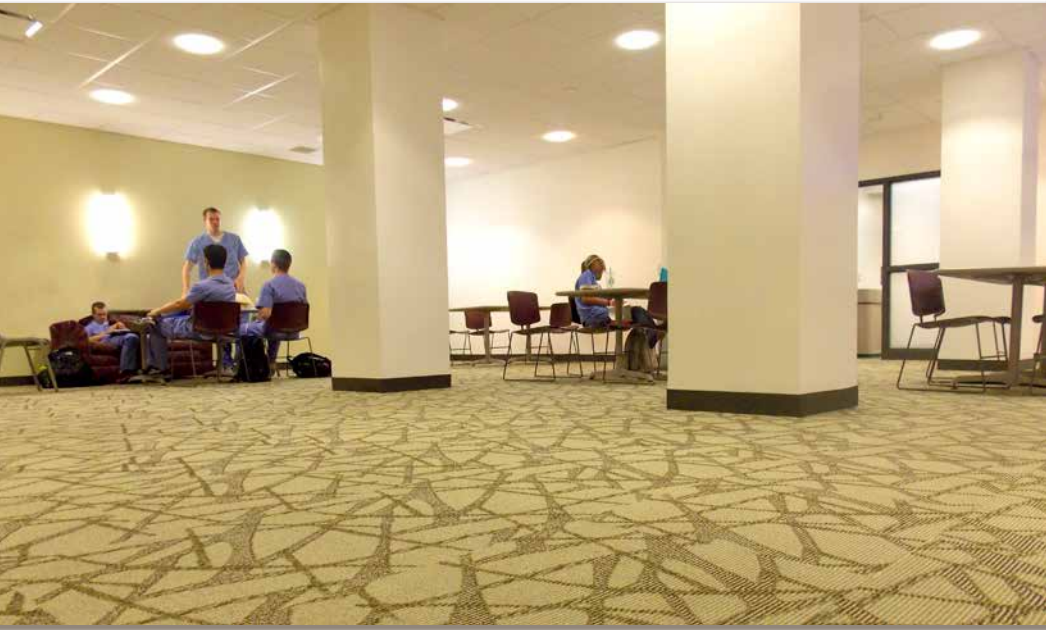
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Breast Asiago or Pecan Crusted Orange Roughy  
Guest \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Breast Asiago or Pecan Crusted Orange Roughy  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Class \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle a dinner selection for you and your guest.

SDM homecoming activities are supported in part by a grant from Eastern Dentists Insurance Company (EDIC).



## STUDENT LOUNGE REDESIGN



During the past few years, the School of Dental Medicine has embarked on an ambitious building campaign that includes the construction of the Dental Implant Center, The Center for Patients with Special Needs and the recently completed Center for patients with Special Needs Department of Pediatric Dentistry Anesthesia Suite. The largest building project in more than forty years, the new Research Tower and Atrium, which includes a coffee shop and meeting area for students, faculty and staff, is also ongoing.

To create a more relaxing space for students to use between and after classes, the school is renovating the student lounge area and student locker rooms. The new, larger student lounge offers students a community space for relaxing and studying in comfortable space outside of the classroom. To keep students connected, there will be abundant charging centers for electronic devices such as iPhones and laptops. A new kitchen and dining area will be a great place for students to snack, share meals, or just relax.

The school is adding 375 new lockers for students on the second floor of Salk Hall. A smaller locker room will remain in the Salk Annex.

As this project comes close to completion, our goal is to have the lounge space completed and ready for your visit during Homecoming 2014. Naming opportunities for the lounge and locker areas still exist for you to provide your legacy to the School of Dental Medicine. ■

For more information about the locker and lounge renovations or naming opportunities, please contact Mr. Paul Casey at **412-383-7544**



Photos, top: the new student lounge area is mostly complete; bottom: the new locker room provides a clean, spacious, modern area for students to store necessities or a change of clothes.

*Thank you for your support*

## WHITE COAT CEREMONY 2013

University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine White Coat Ceremony is an exciting part of the general assembly held at the beginning of each academic year. During this espoused tradition, students receive their first white coats, signifying the beginning of their careers in dental medicine and dental hygiene. Your donation of \$50 not only supports the School of Dental Medicine White Coat Ceremony but gives a warm welcome to our newest class of predoctoral and dental hygiene students.

In addition to supporting the 2013 White Coat Ceremony, alumni are encouraged to write an incoming predoctoral or dental hygiene student a short note that can inspire and energize as they begin this intense study and personal growth period.

Family members, friends, faculty, and alumni are invited to attend this profound ceremony. If you are not able to attend in person you can watch a live streaming broadcast on our Web site. Please visit our Web site for details and directions to view this exciting event.

The 2013 White Coat Ceremony will take place on Monday, August 26 at 3 p.m. in Scaife Hall, Auditoriums 5 and 6.

*The White Coat Ceremony receives support in part from the Harry K. Zohn (DMD '84) and Cecile A. Feldman, DMD White Coat Endowment Fund as well as contributions from our alumni and friends.*



*I Want To Be Part of The Tradition*  
MY WHITE COAT CEREMONY GIFT

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to *University of Pittsburgh*.  
Please mail this completed form and your gift of support to:  
**Ms. Nancy Poe**  
**University of Pittsburgh**  
**School of Dental Medicine**  
**Salk Hall, Suite 440**  
**3501 Terrace Street**  
**Pittsburgh PA 15261**

For more information, please contact Ms. Nancy Poe at **412-648-8910** or **poen@pitt.edu**.

*Donations received by August 9, 2013 will be acknowledged in the White Coat Ceremony Program.*



Photos, top: Mr. David Cole (Class of 2016), Mrs. Maureen Cole, Dr. Elizabeth Cole Curtis (DMD '10) and Mrs. Cassie Cole; bottom: Dr. Michael Korch (DMD '04) and Mr. Nicholas Lang (Class of 2016)





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2013

**General Assembly and White Coat Ceremony**

August 26 • 3 p.m.  
 Scaife Hall Rooms 5 & 6

**Dental Alumni Association  
 Executive Committee Meeting**

September 18 • 5:30 p.m.  
 Salk Hall Room 457

**Dental Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting**

September 18 • 6 p.m.  
 Salk Hall Room 457

**Mentoring Session for First Year students**

September 18 • 6:30 p.m.  
 Room 457

**Homecoming CE Course, Dr. Daniel E. Becker,**

September 27 • 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
[www.dental.pitt.edu/ce](http://www.dental.pitt.edu/ce)

**SDM Homecoming & Reunion Dinner**

September 27 • 6:30 p.m.  
 University Club

**Homecoming Football Game vs. Virginia**

September 28 • time TBD  
 Ticket Office 1-800-643-PITT

**Deadline for submission of  
 Distinguished Alumni nominations**

November 1

**SDM Alumni reception at the ADA Annual Session**

November 2 • 5 – 7 p.m.  
 Hilton New Orleans Riverside

**Dental Alumni Association**

**Executive Committee Meeting**

March 5 • 5:30 p.m.  
 Salk Hall Room 457

**Dental Alumni Association Board  
 of Directors Meeting**

March 5 • 6 p.m.  
 Salk Hall Room 457

**PDA Annual Session**

April 25 - 26  
 Hershey, PA

**Dental Hygiene Program**

**50 Year Anniversary Celebration Weekend**

May 2 - 3

**14th Annual Dean's Scholarship Ball**

May 10 • 6:30 p.m.  
 Phipps Conservatory

2014

**50th Reunion Labor Day Weekend**

August 31-September 1, 2013  
 For detailed information, please contact  
 Dr. Ed Braun (DDS '63) at **724-443-0888**  
 or at **geegee99@comcast.net**

For additional information, please contact Ms. Nancy Poe  
 at **412-648-8910** or **poen@pitt.edu**.