

FROM THE DEAN



Do something for somebody every day for which you do not get paid.
ALBERT SCHWEITZER, NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER

Albert Schweitzer was born in 1875. The son of a Lutheran pastor, he earned degrees in theology and philosophy. He was also an accomplished organist and published books on building organs as well as books on theology.

Something was lacking, though: he wanted to provide direct service to humanity. At the age of 30, he enrolled in medical school, saying that he'd been "giving myself out in words" and wanted instead to work with his hands. For his work with his hands, he eventually won the Nobel Peace Prize.

As dentists, we have the skills and training to heal with our hands. This issue of Gator Dentist Today focuses on that aspect of our profession and the many ways we give—or give back—as volunteers to our community, other communities and to the college.

Those of you who serve on our college's Academy of Alumni & Friends Board of Directors, as Class Leaders, or on the Development Advisory Committee, strengthen our college by sharing your insight; by providing your support for our activities and programs; and by helping to develop and maintain a bond among the school, our alumni, and dentists in Florida.

About 400 dentists serve as courtesy faculty at the clinics in our Statewide Network for Community Oral Health, or by teaching D.M.D. students and residents at the college. You strengthen our curriculum and the professionalism of our students by sharing your experience, your time and dedication, as well as expanding access to dental care for people in need.

Our students have the opportunity to volunteer in many arenas during their time in the D.M.D. program. Some volunteer close to home by visiting schools and teaching children how to care for their oral health, or volunteering with the Special Smiles program of the Special Olympics or at clinics for migrant workers and their families. Others choose to spend their breaks on mission trips to developing countries where, in one week, they might provide care in orphanages, prisons or communities where no one has ever seen a toothbrush. Each of these experiences can change their lives and certainly the lives of others.

In the Gainesville area, the faculty, staff and students of our college reach out in countless ways, many of which I never learn about, to help our community. This past holiday season members of our college organized several collections for local food banks, ensured that more than 50 children in foster care had their gift wishes fulfilled, and arranged a Christmas Toy Drive for needy families through the Catholic Charities Bureau.

Many of our alumni, donors and friends make a difference in your own communities, in ways unaffiliated with our college. We'd like to know more about what you do and how you make a difference. To share your story, please e-mail your information to GDTodayeditor@dental.ufl.edu.

With the economic situation in the United States and Florida, the college has been heavily impacted by three years of state budget cuts. Yet we've continued to grow, excel and achieve in regards to all aspects of our teaching, research and service mission. This continued success is attributable to the people who work on behalf of our college from within—faculty, staff and students—and from without—our alumni, donors and friends. Together we are a strong force for dentistry in our state, our nation and in other parts of our world.

Best regards,

Teresa A. Dolan, D.D.S., M.P.H.
Professor and Dean

SOWING THE SEEDS of Volunteerism



SOWING THE SEEDS of Volunteerism

Timothy Garvey, D.M.D., took his first mission trip to the Dominican Republic in 1987, just seven years after graduating from the College of Dentistry. He's been back every year since, and is pretty certain that he's still sleeping in the same cot he first slept in more than 20 years ago.

Fortunately Garvey, a clinical associate professor in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, isn't there for luxury or relaxation. Twenty-four of the 25 communities where he and his teams provide care on these trips don't have dental facilities at all. Most don't have electricity or running water. But he keeps going back because "I got hooked," he said, "and you never run out of teeth to fix."

In 1987, he said, he had no idea what he'd gotten himself into when he agreed to be part of a dental mission trip to the Dominican Republic. Now, Garvey is one of several college faculty who help oversee the work performed by D.M.D. students volunteering on mission trips during their breaks.

Garvey said not much has changed since his initial trip, including that cot, but adds that the rustic atmosphere is part of the charm. That charm is what's drawn him—and many others—back year after year, to serve patients in need and help train tomorrow's dentists and volunteers.

In August 2009, Garvey led a group of 33 (26 students, five doctors, one dental technician, and one assistant) to the Dominican Republic on a seven-day journey coordinated with the Universidad Nordestana. The group split into five teams that traveled to different locations each day, ultimately providing care to 25 communities.

The destinations included a residential nutrition center for sick and malnourished children in Las Matas de Farfán, and a prison in San Juan de la Maguana. Just a month before the team arrived, a new road was plowed to a mountain community, Yacahueque. Previously the only access was by a six-hour hike. When the college's mission group arrived, it was the first time any dentist had visited that community—the first time some residents had ever seen a toothbrush or toothpaste.

The settings were rustic: 24 of the locations had no dental facilities, and there was typically no electricity or running water. Despite the challenges, the team saw about 600 patients and removed more than 1,500 teeth.

Charles Lesch, a dental technician at the college, accompanied the group this



"I believe it brings us back to the reason most of us wanted to be dental medicine doctors in the first place, to help others."

RALPH URBINO, D.M.D.

year for the third time. He established a rudimentary clinic outside the team's home base with two dental chairs, making it possible for some patients to receive restorative care.

Enrique Bimstein, C.D., a professor in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, is another faculty member who coordinates some of the college's mission trips and has led four: three to Mexico's Yucatán and one to Costa Rica.

After graduating from the Universidad Autónoma de México, Bimstein—along with the other graduates—was asked to work in underserved communities in Mexico City and remote, rural areas for one year without pay. When he joined the college, Dean Teresa Dolan asked him to develop humanitarian/educational trips to Mexico in cooperation with the Universidad Autonoma de Yucatán.

"I was amazed to witness the remarkable personal and professional effect of these trips on the dental students. They described the experience as life-changing," said Bimstein. "Therefore, as an educator, I became committed to working with these mission trips to contribute to the students' perception of dentistry and of life in general."

Susie Perez, Class of 2012, was a rising sophomore when she had the opportunity to go to the Dominican Republic last summer. Born in Cuba and raised in south Florida, Perez speaks fluent Spanish, which made her valuable to the team as a translator. "I would be working on one patient while translating for another patient," she said.

Each team had a mix of students from different classes so that the rising seniors and juniors could assist the rising sophomores. "The seniors taught us a lot," said Josh Perry, Class of 2012. "With their help and the help of the dentists on the trip, we were able to hone our skills and learn a great deal in a short time. And the patients were so grateful, so appreciative for our help."

Perry and Perez both plan to go back next summer—which, according to Garvey, is one of the key goals of these trips.

"In addition to the fact that the students' opportunity to learn is absolutely incomparable, part of what we're imparting to the students is about what you gain when you give of your talents and skills. Many of our dental students have never been exposed to a fraction of the need they see in these environments. It creates a long-term commitment to service for many of the students who participate," Garvey said.

Ralph Urbino, D.M.D., Class of 2004, serves as such an example. He has volunteered for six dental mission trips. His first was as a rising senior, his second as a resident and his last four were as courtesy faculty, including the most-recent trip to the Dominican Republic where he helped teach the students and oversee their work.

Why does he keep coming back? His first trip to Haiti as a freshman dental student convinced him it was something he wanted to continue doing for the

rest of his career. "The personal and professional satisfaction I feel when providing emergency dental care, with no reimbursement, for those who cannot provide for themselves, is part of what being a doctor is all about for me," he said. "Also, to be able to impart knowledge on dental students who are amongst the most eager to learn, is always a breath of fresh air, and I feel honored to have the opportunity to do so. The students challenge me with their questions, and I always learn from them as well."

Urbino recommends the experience to other practicing dentists. "I believe it brings us back to the reason most of us wanted to be dental medicine doctors in the first place, to help others. Often in the U.S. with our business and practice management obligations, I believe we lose sight of this," he said. "Also, it's always fun to go from practicing in an operator or a hospital operating room with all the bells and whistles, to performing emergency oral surgery under a tree on a broken wooden chair in a remote location. It reminds me of the amazing ability we have as dentists to help others, anywhere."

In 2010, there are three mission trips planned. The college will return to the Dominican Republic; is working with the Universidad San Francisco de Quito to coordinate a trip to Ecuador as part of Project Health; and is organizing a trip to Guatemala through the Christian Dental Students Association.



When the college's mission group arrived, it was the first time some residents had ever seen a toothbrush or toothpaste.

Wheeler Named Academy 100 Eminent Scholar



Timothy Wheeler, D.M.D., Ph.D.

On May 1, 2009, Timothy Wheeler, D.M.D., Ph.D., a professor and chair of the Department of Orthodontics and Assistant Dean for Advanced and Graduate Education, was appointed Academy 100 Eminent Scholar Chair.

Wheeler has been in clinical dentistry for 20 years. As Eminent Scholar, his duties include contributing to the clinical instruction of dental and advanced education students; providing at least one course in dental continuing education each year; and mentoring at least one junior faculty member in clinical or translational research each year.

Wheeler currently oversees graduate clinics and teaches several clinical courses to residents each year. Under his leadership, the program introduced new clinical techniques, such as Invisalign and I-braces, and offered the latest technology, such as all-digital records, in advance of other programs nationally. Wheeler also initiated the Orthodontics Fellowship Program, which is highly regarded among U.S. dental schools and has served as a model for similar programs.

Wheeler is active in clinical research, securing industry and National Institutes of Health funding. His research has included testing ways to biochemically accelerate tooth movement; improve treatment methods; and explore dental health both during and after orthodontic treatment.

In addition to Wheeler's education and research activities, he treats private practice patients in the college's Faculty Practice.

The Eminent Scholar Chair was created in 1984 by the Academy One Hundred scholarship society. The chair has been vacant since 2008.

Criteria include "outstanding professional reputation and outstanding contribution of scholarly activities." The selection process involved a search committee composed of senior college faculty, and nominations were solicited from faculty members.

During his tenure at the college, Wheeler has been a research fellow in the Department of Oral Biology; a resident in the Department of Orthodontics; an assistant professor in Oral Biology and Orthodontics; coordinator of graduate research in Orthodontics; an associate professor in Oral Biology and Orthodontics; director of postgraduate Orthodontics; Director of Advanced Education; Director of Advanced and Graduate Education; and an associate professor and chair of Orthodontics. He became professor and chair of Orthodontics in 1998 and Assistant Dean for Advanced and Graduate Education in 2001.

Wheeler has been a member of numerous local, state, national and international dentistry organizations. Past leadership positions include director of the American Association of Dental Research and councilor of the Orthodontic section for the American Dental Education Association. From 2004-2005, he was director for the International Association of Dental Research.

His list of honors and awards include membership in Omicron Kappa Upsilon, the Paget's Disease Foundation Annual Research Award and the UF Outstanding Achievement and Performance Award.

"Part of what we're imparting to the students is about what you gain when you give of your talents and skills."

TIMOTHY GARVEY, D.M.D.

Dental Fall Weekend 2009



Dental Fall Weekend attendees mixing and mingling at the Psi Omega pre-game tailgate.

Dental Fall Weekend coincided with UF's Homecoming celebration, so participants were able to enjoy the best of UF traditions while reuniting with classmates, professors and friends. Friday's events included meetings for AAF volunteer leaders including the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, Class Leaders and a general meeting. During the general meeting, the AAF presented the Outstanding Alumni and Alumnus Awards to Yvette Godet, D.M.D., Class of 1997, and Laurence Grayhills, D.M.D., M.S., M.A.G.D., Class of 1985.



The reunion was a time for old friends and classmates to reconnect.



The Iota Class (also known as the "Yoda Class" after a certain '80s Jedi master) had reunion T-shirts featuring the slogan "May the Floss Be With You."

On Saturday, 75 people attended the Continuing Education course "Diagnosing Oral Cancer," presented by Don Cohen, D.M.D., M.S., M.B.A., a professor in the Department of Oral Biology. About 300 alumni, friends and family joined the Psi Omega Dental Fraternity pre-game tailgate party before enjoying a tense and ultimately victorious football game against the Kentucky Wildcats. It was a successful, action-packed and memorable weekend for everyone who was able to join us. Make plans now to attend the 2010 Dental Fall Weekend, scheduled for October 15 and 16 during UF's Homecoming. More info: www.dental.ufl.edu/Offices/Alumni/

Mark your calendar

Spring Synergy Weekend

April 9 & 10, 2010
UF College of Dentistry, Gainesville
Continuing dental education; A Celebration of Science; poster presentations; ASDA vendor fair; plus the Orange & Blue Spring Game.
More info: www.dental.ufl.edu/Offices/CE/

Florida National Dental Convention

June 10–12, 2010
Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center, Orlando
The official meeting of the Florida Dental Association offers 115 CE courses and an exhibit floor with over 275 companies. The theme is "Approach to Success: Piloting Your Way to Dental Excellence."
More info: www.floridadental.org/pro/fndc/

Dental Fall Weekend

October 15 & 16, 2010
Gainesville, Florida
Dental Fall Weekend is scheduled for UF's Homecoming again this year, which means you'll have the opportunity to sit in the dental block for Gator Growl and the homecoming football game against SEC rival Mississippi State.
More info: www.dental.ufl.edu/Offices/Alumni/

Find us on Facebook

Become a fan of the UF College of Dentistry at www.facebook.com/UFDentistry.

Gators for Higher Education

President Machen and the University of Florida Board of Trustees are looking to the entire Gator Nation to help ensure support from the State of Florida. The Gators for Higher Education program was launched in February 2009 under the direction of President Machen and the University Board of Trustees. This grassroots advocacy network engages alumni, faculty, staff, students, parents, and friends to serve as advocates for the University of Florida to secure support from the state. With over 300,000 UF alumni worldwide, the impact can be tremendous. Membership is free and registration takes just a few minutes. Visit <http://gatorsforhighereduc.ufl.edu> today.

Gator Dentist Today

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Slow and steady wins the race

Margie Hartwig, D.M.D., Class of 1988, describes herself as "a tortoise, not a hare." She said her nature has always been slow, steady and determined and that, eventually, she reaches her goals. One such goal is to help create a lasting professional legacy for her friend and classmate. Claire Pitts Brown lost her battle with colon cancer in 1999, leaving a husband and daughter behind.

"She had such an upbeat, uplifting personality. She always had a smile on her face," Hartwig said. Hartwig and Brown were friends and study partners throughout dental school and remained in touch after graduation.

"She was a little different than the typical student of the time. She and I were both already married, and she also had a daughter, Lauren. Going back to school certainly created a financial hardship and scholarship funds helped Claire when she was in school. If she had lived, I am sure she would have wanted to give back to students like herself, which is why a scholarship fund seemed like a perfect legacy for Claire," Hartwig said.

Before starting dental school, Brown was a dental assistant in the military. After graduation, she moved back to her hometown of Ocala, Fla., near her parents, and established a dental practice. Hartwig said that Brown was an excellent student and very meticulous. "I know she was an amazing dentist and her contributions to our profession were cut short. I wanted her to have a dental legacy that she wasn't able to carry out herself."



Claire Pitts Brown, D.M.D.



Margie Hartwig, D.M.D.

In 2001, Hartwig worked with the Office of Development at the college to establish a scholarship fund in Brown's name: the Claire Pitts Brown Class of 1988 Scholarship Fund. Hartwig, still working to build a dental practice at the time, pledged \$10,000 to be given over 10 years. Today the fund has \$30,000 in pledges and a goal of \$100,000, at which point the fund is eligible for state matching funds at 50 percent. Once the fund matures, it will generate income that will be used to award a scholarship to dental students like Brown.

Hartwig is originally from Boca Raton, Fla. She moved with her husband, George, to Warner Robins, Ga., just outside of Macon, where she established a general dentistry practice and still lives today.

"Margie stands as an example of how smaller gifts add up over time and become very meaningful," said Teresa A. Dolan, D.D.S., M.P.H., dean of the college. "She also engaged her fellow classmates to join her in pledging. Together their giving will make a lifetime difference for some of our dental students."

Hartwig isn't done yet. She's hoping that through the generosity of her classmates, they'll reach \$100,000 by the 25-year class reunion in 2013.

Make a donation online

Visit www.dental.ufl.edu and click "Make a Gift Online" Select the "Claire Pitts Brown Scholarship," fund number # 011121.

To pledge or send a check, contact:
Catherine Jenkins, Senior Development Officer
UF College of Dentistry
(352) 273-5779 or cjenkins@dental.ufl.edu

To contact Margie Hartwig, D.M.D.:
(478) 953-0903 or mshdent@aol.com

Standing out in the crowd

The UF College of Dentistry Academy of Alumni and Friends has presented the Outstanding Alumni and Alumnus Awards to Yvette Godet, D.M.D., and Laurence Grayhills, D.M.D., M.S., M.A.G.D. The awards were established in 1991 to honor graduates in one or more of the following areas: service to the college, the profession or the community at large; development of innovations in clinical care; and advancements of dental research and education.

"Both of these recipients are truly outstanding professionally and personally. I am amazed by their drive, their warmth and willingness to give more than is expected to the profession and the college. I am very proud to count them among our graduates," said Teresa A. Dolan, D.D.S., M.P.H., dean of the college.

Godet graduated with the Class of 1997 and, even in school, she was known as an outstanding role model who quietly went about the business of excelling as a dental student without fanfare or fireworks—not seeking or expecting recognition for her efforts. After graduating,

Godet established a dental office in Gainesville, Fla. For years she has hosted pre-dental students in the Summer Learning Program, sharing her love and respect for dentistry and serving as a compelling and graceful role model for these students.

Grayhills, who graduated with the Class of 1985, is a tireless volunteer for the dental profession, the college and his community. He was an enthusiastic and inquisitive dental student and brings a sincere level of enjoyment and spirit to everything he does. He went on to found two dental practices in Wellington, Fla.: Grayhills Mohip Dental of Wellington and The Laser Dental Centre of Wellington.

In his community, Grayhills donates hundreds of hours annually to groups such as the Boys and Girls Club and the Heart Association of West Palm Beach. He also teaches dental hygiene and criminal justice courses at Palm Beach Community College. He has a special interest in forensic criminal science and served for 18 years as the Forensic Odontologist for the Palm Beach County Medical Examiner.

He can be spotted during many home Gator football games, driving an orange and blue golf cart in his signature orange flight suit embroidered with the UF College of Dentistry logo: a true, passionate ambassador for the college and the dental profession.



From left: Grayhills, Dolan and Godet during the Fall 2009 Academy of Alumni and Friends Annual Meeting.

Saluting our volunteers

Thank you to these volunteers who make a difference for our college, our students and our legacy.

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Class Leaders

1976 Paul L. Benjamin, D.M.D.
1977 Marvin Wells, D.M.D.
1978 David C. Sarrett, D.M.D., M.S.
James Haddix, D.M.D.
1979 Estaban Mulkay, D.M.D.
1980 Steven P. Bogdanoff, D.M.D.
Larry J. Cook, D.M.D.
1981 Bruce D. Manne, D.M.D.
Jacqueline G. Farnham, D.M.D.
1982 Jay Garlitz, D.M.D.
Shaun Graser, D.M.D.
Henry A. Sweeny, D.M.D.
1983 Mark Mautner, D.M.D.
Steve Parker, D.M.D.
1984 Jan Westberry, D.M.D.
1985 Laurence Grayhills, D.M.D.
1986 Matt McLellan, D.M.D.
1987 Hank Miller, D.M.D.

1988 Frank "Dusty" May, D.M.D.
1991 Rosario Aviles, D.M.D., M.S.
1992 Craig L. Oldham, D.M.D.
1993 Adam Strimer, D.M.D.
1994 Wanda Goodreau, D.M.D.
Gregory Goodreau, D.M.D.
1995 Shari Witkoff, D.M.D.
Scott Jackson, D.M.D.
1996 Twyla Roberts, D.M.D.
1997 Peter G. Lemieux, D.M.D., P.A.
1998 Jeff Ottley, D.M.D.
1999 Joseph C. Joyce, D.M.D.
2000 Eric Mohr, D.M.D.
Tamara-Kay Tibby, D.M.D.
Douglas Fabiani, D.M.D.
2002 Shawn Perce, D.M.D.
2003 Sheryl Brady Ely, D.M.D.
Stephanie Reeder, D.M.D.

2004 Brian Rask, D.M.D.
2005 Diane Hilton-Piper, D.M.D.
2006 Julie Geiger, D.M.D.
2007 Meenal Patel, D.M.D.
2008 Kristopher Harth, D.M.D.
2009 Yehuda Benjamin, D.M.D.

Volunteer—make a difference!

There are many ways for alumni, donors and friends of the college to volunteer.

In addition to the listed groups, we have about 400 courtesy faculty who treat patients and teach students in the clinics in our Statewide Network for Community Oral Health, or instruct students during courses.

If you are interested in volunteering for the college, please contact Rebecca Graves, Development & Alumni Affairs, (352) 273-5780 or RGraves@dental.ufl.edu.

Gator Bytes

Faculty Awards, Honors and Achievements

■ **L. Jeannine Brady, Ph.D.**, a professor in the Department of Oral Biology, was one of four recipients of the 2008–2009 Doctoral Mentoring Award given at the Convocation of the University of Florida Colleges of Medicine & Dentistry Interdisciplinary Program in Biomedical Sciences. The award recognizes excellence, innovation, and effectiveness in graduate student mentoring. Brady's application was also selected for consideration among faculty from all colleges for the university-wide award.

■ **Robert Burne, Ph.D.**, a professor and chair of the Department of Oral Biology, received the 2009 Research in Dental Caries Award from the International Association for Dental Research (IADR). Burne received the honor in recognition for his work in oral microbiology, applying molecular biology and molecular genetic techniques to the study of oral pathogens and, in particular, to the physiology and pathogenesis of *Streptococcus mutans*.

■ **Nereyda Clark, D.M.D.**, was selected as a semi-finalist for the 2009 Examples of Excelencia in recognition of her directorship of the Internationally-Educated Dentist Program. The Examples of Excelencia initiative identifies and honors programs and departments that are at the forefront of increasing academic opportunities and improving achievement for Latino students at the Associate, Baccalaureate, and Graduate levels.

■ **Sharon Cooper, Ph.D., R.D.H., M.S., M.Ed.**, an associate in the Department of Operative Dentistry, successfully defended her Ph.D. dissertation in Higher Education Administration, "Dental Faculty Perceptions of Workplace Environment and Career Satisfaction at the University of Florida College of Dentistry." Cooper's dissertation research investigated faculty perceptions of the academic work environment that best predicted career satisfaction at the college, and that would affect the recruitment and retention of dental faculty.

■ **Luisa F. Echeto, D.D.S., M.S.**, a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Prosthodontics, recently received the Florida Dental Association's Dental Educator Award. Echeto was nominated by student members of the Class of 2010 based on her "outstanding contributions to the quality of dental education."

■ **Richard Lamont, Ph.D.**, a professor in the Department of Oral Biology, received a MERIT Award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), an honor bestowed on less than 5 percent of NIH-funded investigators. Lamont initially received a five-year, \$2.4 million grant for his study, "P. Gingivalis Interactions with Gingival Epithelial Cells," which investigates the molecular dialogue between oral bacteria and host cells and has yielded ground-breaking insights into bacterial lifestyle within humans. In May the original award was named a MERIT Award, which upgrades the grant from a five-year to a ten-year term, and guarantees additional funding during the second five-year phase of the study.

■ **Henrietta L. Logan, Ph.D.**, a professor in the department of Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science and director of the Southeast Center for Research to Reduce Disparities in Oral Health, received a UF Research Foundation Professor award. Logan was selected for her notable record of research and strong research agenda likely to lead to further distinction in her field. This three-year award garners a \$5,000 annual salary supplement and a \$3,000 grant.

■ **Samuel Low, D.D.S., M.S.**, associate dean and professor in the Department of Periodontology, was installed as President of the American Academy of Periodontology Board of Trustees. Low is also an advisory faculty member to the Pankey Institute for Advanced Dental Education that focuses on hands-on educational experiences and a highly developed dental curriculum.

■ **Luciana Shaddox, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D.**, received notification that her study, "Mechanisms and Treatment Responses of Aggressive Periodontitis in Children," received \$ 2.1 million in funding over five years from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), part of the NIH. The co-investigators of this grant are Shannon Wallet, Ph.D.; Ikramuddin Aukhil, B.D.S., M.S.; and Clay Walker, Ph.D. Enrique Bimstein, C.D., and Ingvar Magnusson, D.D.S., Ph.D., also helped during the initial phases of the study. The study investigates innate inflammatory response and the role of specific bacteria before and after conventional periodontal treatment in children with aggressive periodontitis.

■ **Glenn Turner, D.M.D., M.S.D.**, director of the Maxillofacial Prosthetics Service and associate professor in the Department of Prosthodontics, recently ended a year of serving as president of the American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics and presided over the AAMP's 57th annual meeting in San Diego, Ca.

■ **Fong Wong, B.S.D., D.D.S., C.A.G.S., M.S.D.**, an assistant professor in the Department of Prosthodontics, was elevated to Full Fellow status in the American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics (AAMP) during their annual meeting in San Diego, Ca.

Excellence in Education

The Class of 2011 achieved a 100% first-time pass rate on the National Dental Board Examination Part I. Not only did everyone pass the exam, the class's collective performance far exceeded the overall national average and section averages!

This is a clear reflection on the students who prepared well for the exam and to the faculty who organized the curriculum and instruction.

Faculty Enhancement Opportunity Awards

■ **Thomas A. Brown, Ph.D.**, professor, Oral Biology. His award will allow him to gain advanced training in microbial biofilm analysis during a four-day Medical Biofilm Techniques Workshop at the Danish Technical University in Lyngby, Denmark, in August. Following the workshop, Brown will spend two months developing techniques for real-time imaging of biofilm growth in collaboration with Scott Grieshaber, Ph.D., using a confocal microscope in the Department of Oral Biology.

■ **Frank Catalanotto, D.M.D.**, professor, Community Dentistry and Behavioral Sciences. He will use his award to attend an intensive, internationally-known, five-day Bioethics Course at Georgetown University in June that introduces participants to the philosophical underpinnings of bioethics and current major topics in that field pertaining to medical practice, law and public policy. The course is designed to provide participants with a solid decision-making framework in clinical, research and policy arenas.

■ **Shannon Holliday, Ph.D.**, associate professor, Orthodontics. His award will allow him to work in an Oral Biology lab at the college with David Culp, Ph.D., on vectors required for the construction of a transgenic replacement knock-in mouse. He will focus on learning "recombineering," a molecular technique developed during the last decade that allows subtle alterations to be made in the mouse genome.

■ **Mary F. Stavropoulos, D.D.S.**, associate professor, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. She will use her award to participate in a fellowship program in the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program, a core program of the Institute for Women's Health and Leadership at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia, Pa. At the end of the fellowship, Stavropoulos will design an "Institutional Action Project" based on an institutional goal of the college.

Promotions & Tenure

■ **Indraneel Bhattacharyya, D.D.S., M.S.D.**, Oral and Maxillofacial Diagnostic Sciences, awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor

■ **L. Jeannine Brady, Ph.D.**, Oral Biology, promoted to professor

■ **Josephine Esquivel-Upshaw, D.M.D., M.S.**, Prosthodontics, awarded tenure

■ **Nancy Jacobson, D.M.D.**, promoted to clinical associate professor

■ **Roberta Pileggi, D.D.S., M.S.**, Endodontics, awarded tenure, promoted to associate professor, and appointed Graduate Program Director of the Graduate Endodontic Program

New Faculty

■ **Christopher King, Ph.D.**, research assistant professor, Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science

■ **Cuong Nguyen, Ph.D.**, research assistant professor, Oral Biology

■ **Gary Plymale, D.D.S.**, clinical associate professor, Prosthodontics

■ **Maggie Ribeiro-Dasilva, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D.**, research assistant professor, Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science