Mark your Calendar 1998

January 23
Alumni & Friends Reception, 5:30–7:30 p.m.
Wyndham Anatole Hotel
With the Dallas Mid-Winter Session

February 29–28
"Ski & Learn at Beaver Run"
Breckenridge, Colo.
Co-hosted by The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
Dental School and The University of Minnesota School of Dentistry

Upcoming Reunions
Class of 1976 Contact Greg Dahlberg, (210) 549-5715
Class of 1988 Contact Cinde Johnston, (409) 291-9261

We Want to Hear From You!

Keep in touch with what’s happening with the Dental School and fellow classmates. Update your mailing address or send personal and professional news to the Dental Alumni Association, UTHSCSA Office of University Relations, 7703 Floyd Curl Drive, San Antonio, TX 78284-7991. Fax news to (210) 567-3016, or Email alumni@uthscsa.edu.

Your Comments Are Welcome
Alumni Forum is published in the spring and fall of each year by the newsletter committee of the UTHSCSA Dental Alumni Association. Copies are mailed to alumni, former residents, faculty and students. Your comments are welcome. Forward comments to the UTHSCSA Dental Alumni Association, c/o Rissa Schultz, alumni director, 7703 Floyd Curl Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78284-7991. Or, Email your comments to ALUMNI@UTHSCSA.EDU.

We want to hear from you!
Alumni Visitation Program: A Success With Students

Information to describe a dental practice
Next we began, looking at high-sheer helix,
aerosolization, digital radiography..."
Another set of information concluded, "We're only miles from the Galveston Island beaches, fishing, the grayhound dog track, NASA, etc."

Is it possible that these ads target the same audience? You bet—both sets of information were submitted by alumni participating in the alumni association's Visitation Program for dental students. The information above highlights the practices of Todd McCracken '90 (Clarksdale, Texas) and Frank Berryman '85 (Santa Fe, Texas), two of approximately 150 alumni throughout the state of Texas who have signed up for the program. Students are provided with a newsletter containing names, addresses, specialties and telephone numbers of Visitation Program alumni volunteers. Additionally, a notebook listing alumni volunteers and available associate positions is maintained by Drs. Rich Lyman '85 and Jack Hardage of the dental school.

Fourth-year student Brian Westfall is interested in returning to the Fort Worth area to practice general dentistry. He has been visiting with Drs. Scott Thompson '95 (Plano), Mark Porter '95 (San Antonio), and Shiva Izaddoust '92 (San Antonio). Reported Brian, "I had a list of questions and felt like I was interviewing for a job." He walked through each of the offices discussing computer equipment, dental materials, patient care and office management. "Mr. Thompson's office was interesting because he has his own lab. We discussed the demographics of the metropolitan area, which consists of a lot of retirees." Added Brian, who researched the area before the visit.

There is no right or wrong formula to meet with students. Some of Brian's visits were conducted so he could observe the dentist with patients, while other visits were conducted during no patient days so full attention was focused on Brian and his questions. A graduate of Athletic Christian University with a degree in accounting, Brian decided to enter the dental profession because he "enjoys science, likes the 'own boss' aspects and is attracted to the artistic opportunities of dentistry.

Mark Porter '95 has participated in six visits with students since establishing his practice and gaining graduation. Stated Mark, "When I was looking for information, the dentists I visited were very encouraging and upbeat. They were a big help. He has visited in 15 states to date. Mark continued, "It's unusual for someone to own a practice right away after graduation." Each student receives a report and goals. Their confidence, speed and skills are weighed with the options of starting a practice or being an associate." Mark finds the students tend to ask similar questions. "They are amazed they can practice without being checked in and out and are curious about the materials selected for use by practicing dentists."

Dr. Porter has remained close to the dental school, participating on brown-bag lecture panels, visiting with students, and he attended the alumni association's South Padre Island C.C.E. course this summer. "Participating in the Visitation Program is an easy way to help students. It's an opportunity for the alumni association to support students and involve alumni," concluded Mark.

Meanwhile, before the start of the fall semester, Brian and Shiva visited the alumni office for a list of graduates in the South Texas area. Confided Brian, "I'm curious about practices throughout the State. I'm not sure returning to my hometown is what I really want to do."

To volunteer for the Visitation Program, complete the form included in this newsletter and forward it to the Office of University Relations. Alumni interested in establishing a practice or relocating are welcome to request a copy of the Visitation Program list of volunteers. Contact the Office of University Relations, (210) 567-5313.

Dental School Committed to Community

While interviewing Brian Westfall, a fourth-year student, he stated that having his visits with alumni participating with the alumni association's Visitation Program (see accompanying article) led him to an interesting observation of the dentists he had visited. He said, "Community service and the need to be involved in your community is important for dentists. It's not only good for your community, it's good for your practice."

The dental school has a strong tradition of encouraging community service activities. Students participate in extramural rotations and electives as opportunities for professional development and they volunteer for a variety of service activities during their tenure at the school. According to Dr. Elaine Neuman, associate dean for external affairs, community service is part of the mission of the dental school. She reports, "We are committed to expanding the number and types of service projects available for participation by students, faculty, staff and alumni.

Two service projects, involving our support of citizens in Guatemala and Mexico, are highlighted here. Our first trip takes us to Guatemala with Jeff Hicks '79, associate professor in general dentistry, 17 dental students and two additional dental professionals. For two weeks in May of 1997, the team established a base of operations in Chichicastenango, near Guatemala City, serving the needs of Quiche (Maya-Cherokee) Indians. Each morning they divided into two groups, traveling to one of 18 villages within a 20-mile radius to provide oral surgical and restorative dental care. In that time, they examined 4,000 people and delivered care to 2,500 patients. Explained Hicks, "It's a good experience for students to travel to a remote setting, one that has less-than-ideal conditions, and gain experience in providing dental care to a population in need. There is a tremendous cavity rate among the Indians because of their high sugar intake. The group focuses on extractions, with some amalgams."

Continued Hicks, "The areas have no known oral hygiene programs. Ideally, I'd like to teach hygiene and distribute toothbrushes. We often have 200-400 people standing in line each day. Our priority is with the children, then we treat adults." The team provides needed services to the Indian community, but the dental students gain as well. Hicks concluded, "The students develop skills in working with children, enhance their bedside manner, deal with a foreign language and build confidence. They learn to be emotionally tough in uncontrollable situations, and at the end of the two weeks experience a personal reward."

The trip was sponsored by the dental school as an elective course with students receiving course and dental credit. Oak Hill Church of Christ of San Antonio established the traveling expenses were paid by the dental students and donations from dental faculty. The next trip to Central America is scheduled for the summer of 1999. For information, contact Dr. Jeff Hicks, (210) 567-3422.

The second service project involves teams of oral maxillofacial surgeons and residents who travel 2-3 times each year to Mexico, focusing on the treatment of cleft palate patients. The program is coordinated by individuals on both sides of the border. Dr. Joseph Van Sickels, professor and senior surgeon, is the coordinator in the United States. Dr. Alejandro Arteaga, private practitioner, from Monterrey, Mexico, is the coordinator from Mexico. Drs. Van Sickels and Arteaga work closely as a team, not only as surgeons, but as organizers of this effort.

Trips in the past ten years have been to the same location: the city of Cordoba in the state of Vera Cruz. The most recent trip in late May of 1997, consisted of a team that examined 70 children and subsequently operated on 28 patients in four days. Reported Van Sickels, "You can't substitute for this kind of experience. With the help of local doctors and facilities, this is an ideal community service environment and educational arrangement for residents." Contacts in Mexico screen patients continued on page 2
News Updates

Carr Packages for Washington: Dr. Richard Carr, associate professor for students, packs the UTHSC SA packing list to go to Washington this May. He established an elective course in periodontal disease. The findings, published in the January 1997 issue of the Journal of Clinical Periodontology, point in a method of early identification and treatment of at-risk patients. "This is the first time a genetic factor has been identified for a common disease, affecting such a large segment of the population," said Dr. Carr. Statistical analysis revealed that more than 60 percent of non-smokers with severe periodontal disease and more than 30 percent of non-smokers with moderate periodontal disease tested positive for this genotype.

Memorial Fund Established for Kenneth L. Stewart: A campaign has been initiated to honor former faculty member Dr. Kenneth K. Stewart, whose contributions to the dental schools preclinical training programs passed away last fall. He established an elective course in implant dentistry for pre-doctoral students which was a three-year implant curriculum. His main area of research was in endosseous implants. Donations may be mailed to the UTHSCSA, c/o the Stewart Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 7777, San Antonio, Texas 78267-7777.

Periodontal Disease Update: Dental researchers led by Dr. Kenneth K. Stewart, periodontics, have shown that up to 30 percent of the population may be genetically susceptible to developing severe periodontal disease. The study, published in the January 1997 issue of the Journal of Clinical Periodontology, point in a method of early identification and treatment of at-risk patients. "This is the first time a genetic factor has been identified for a common disease, affecting such a large segment of the population," said Dr. Carr. Statistical analysis revealed that more than 60 percent of non-smokers with severe periodontal disease and more than 30 percent of non-smokers with moderate periodontal disease tested positive for this genotype.

Student News: Second-year dental student Nick Tolonen was named student president of the National Student Dental Hygienists Association. To Community

By C. Roger Macias, DDS '83

President’s Message

P icture this: it’s 6:30 a.m. and dark out- side; the sun has yet to rise. You drive to 7703 Floyd Curl Drive, park and walk the seemingly lonely walk from Dr. Macias to the dental school. You approach a building and squash into a sleeper, "Hi, I’m your (name), DS-II.” You smile with pride, for you have made it past the first year! No more gross anatomy or physiology. You think, "Maybe I’m on the way to becoming an ‘RD’ (real dentist).” On the 5M labs, when you get your desk, it’s a quick inspection and re- dressing. You get settled into your car, the first time you’ve had a car, the first time you’ve been proud! The grades are posted on the mail wall, everyone knows your super-secret num- ber anyway. You see the ever elusive and inspiring "4"? You know that you are approaching R&D status. The day goes on. You progress through labs and lectures, ending up at the library to study for your oral pathology final. "Only 300 dis- eases left to learn by tomorrow," you sigh. As evidenced by the boxes accompanying this column, the dental school has initiated a new program and many students have been cousinados with the teaching faculty. The trip takes you out of the library for a quick nap before leaving the library for home. In your cozy bed with a remote control and David Lettromen on TV, you realize that you never saw the sun today! Through all of this, you cultivated lifelong friendships. You had great times, you had some lousy times. Somehow, you achieved your diploma and license. You are an "RD.” Sound familiar? We’ve all been through it.

As I enter this new year of leadership with our alumni association, I am proud to say that all the hand work you have been doing is "RD.” It was worth it! It wasn’t easy, and no one said that it would be. But you’ve got a lot off your chest and you’re ready to move on to your graduation day. Now that we have ascended past the hallowed halls of the #1 Dental School in the uni- verse, the question remains: What have we done with ourselves to give back to our families, our school, our colleagues, our patients and our community?

In the 14 years that I have been a member of this alumni association, I have witnessed a growth in membership, pride, history and tradition. This is evident in the success of the student-alumni programs, the Hollers Memorial Lectures and Equipment Show, the South Padre Island CE Course, and the TDA alumni reception. If you haven’t attended any of these activities in the past, I recommend making plans to attend one—or two, or more—alumni events this coming year. The conversa- tions and friendships are well worth it.

When we consider that you have received from our pro- fession and our associ- ation, shouldn’t you consider that which we can give back? The options are endless. I’m looking forward to an exciting year and hope that you are, too. We encourage you to partici- pate in alumni programs.

Local and Texas-based Service Projects

Athlete Mouthguards, UTHSCSA. This is an injury prevention program for Bexar County middle and high school athletes conducted by the Department of Radiology.

Migrant Program: Senior dental students rotate to elementary and middle schools throughout the San Antonio Independent School District to provide primary dental care to migrant children. The UTHSCSA Mobile Dental Van serves as the clinical and dental service vehicle.

School-Based Preventive Medicine Program: Junior dental students provide dental sealants to elementary school children (with signed parental consent). Freshmen dental students implement the fluoride rinsing program. Care programs are conducted with the Edgewood Independent School District, South Texas Geriatric Education Center. Designed to train nurse aides and other individuals responsible for the care of patients in nursing homes.

Sur Round of San Antonio: The round of San Antonio, held annually, is an injury prevention program for Bexar County middle and high school athletes conducted by the Department of Radiology.

Student News: Second-year dental student Nick Tolonen was named student president of the National Student Dental Hygienists Association.

In advance, arrange for buses and accommodations, and reserve hospital access. Local doctors provide patient follow-up care within the month after surgery and patients treated by the team receive long-term follow-up on subsequent visits.

Van Sickels identified two motivating benefits: "It is a humbling benefit in that you’re doing something for people who have limited access to care. It also provides training to future dentists, and patients treated by the team receive long-term fol- low-up on subsequent visits.

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1976
John R. East, after 20 years of service, announced his retirement from the U.S. Air Force with the rank of colonel. He and wife Belinda reside in Anchorage, Alaska. He offers this “Pearls of Wisdom” comment: “The key to a military career is flexibility.”

1979
Tan Tischler of Austin, Texas, participated in a medical mission to villages by boat or canoe to treat indigent people. He practiced under a major remodeling process this spring.

1997
Michael Hill has been in the U.S. Navy Dental Corps for 18 years and is stationed in New Orleans.

1982 Gayle Glenn was nominated as Texas Dentist of the Year from the Dallas County Dental Society. She had two case reports published in the American Journal of Orthodontics (July 1982) and Orthodontics (February 1997). Her practice is in Dallas.

E. Brian Smith, Austin, Texas, is national chairman for the American Association of Orthodontists Committee for Direct Retainer Use.

1983
H. Whitney Faye, Jr., chief dental officer, Federal Correctional Institution, Seagoville, Texas.


1987
Mark A. Veniccius and wife Lisa announce the birth of their third child, Paul Anthony, April 29, 1997. The family resides in Plano, Texas.


1997 Ralf Zapata practices in New York. He has been selected for the Florida State Board of Examiners and is chairman, Military Affairs Committee, with the local Chamber of Commerce. With wife Rhoda, they announce the birth of their son, Craig, March 31, 1997.

1999 Paul Casmedes practices oral and maxillofacial surgery in Austin, Texas. He and wife Kathi, have three children.

1999 Michael M. Dillingham practices with Austin Orthodontic Specialists, Austin, Texas.


1999 Jill A. Wilson practices in Westlake, Texas.


1999 Dr. Terri Johnson joined the practice in Phoenix, Arizona. She has two daughters, Ashley and Katie, who graduated from dental school in 1999.

2000 Laura San Martin Pablos completed an orthodontic residency and will establish a practice in San Antonio.

Teresa Scott opened a dental office in Spring, Texas, August 1, 1997.

Darrel Gene Vaughn is stationed with the U.S. Navy with the Fleet Marine Force, Okinawa, Japan.

Laura San Martin Pablos completed an orthodontic residency and will establish a practice in San Antonio.

The class of 1987 gathered for a group photograph during their reunion in March 1997. Following a tour of former labs, lecture halls and cubicles, members of the class of 1987 revisited the bookstores.