The Final Word

Lecture superstars Dr. Dave Mathews, Dr. Vince Kokich and Dr. Frank Spear get ready for their last joint appearance

ALSO:
- DR. JIM STEINER
  An icon says goodbye
- PERIO AT 50
  A golden age
Join your classmates for two exciting events taking place in September. These are perfect opportunities to gather a group for the football brunch and game against USC or to gather a team for the golf tournament.

**UW DENTAL ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT**
Friday, Sept. 18, 2009
Washington National Golf Course
Tee time: 7:30 a.m.
Auburn, Wash.
Four-person scramble format, shotgun start
Barbecue and awards to follow
$145 per person

For more information on either September event or to register, please call the UW Dental Alumni Association at (206) 543-7297

**UW DENTAL ALUMNI FOOTBALL BRUNCH & GAME**
Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009
UW Huskies vs. USC Trojans
Brunch, entertainment and raffle prizes
Game and Brunch, $71 per person
Brunch only, $25 per person
Parking, $12 per car

HUB East Ballroom,
UW Upper Campus
Seattle
FEATURES

20. The 'I' team
Dr. Dave Mathews, Dr. Vince Kokich and Dr. Frank Spear, three of dentistry’s top interdisciplinary lecturers, plan their final joint appearance. They’ll go out with a bang — and a new endowment

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Dental Alumni Association
Making 2009 another banner year

It was a banner year in 2008 for the UW Dental Alumni Association. With a great response to our membership drive, we were able to donate $40,000 to student scholarships at the UW School of Dentistry. We also donated $15,000 to help remodel the student lounge and make it more enjoyable for the students. We created the Dental Alumni Endowed Student Scholarship Fund, which will allow us to increase the number and amount of scholarships in the future. We had a successful football homecoming event, another large gathering for the Ernest Jones Lecture, and a great ADA reception in San Antonio, and we helped the dental students by sponsoring the White Coat ceremony, mentor reception, vendor show, talent show, and winter ball. All of this would not have been possible without your support and active involvement.

We hope to make 2009 even better. I hope you were able to attend the Silver Anniversary Dean’s Club Dinner on April 25 at McCaw Hall. It was inspiring evening as we watched Dr. Jim Steiner receive the 2009 Distinguished Alumnus Award and Dr. Linda Edgar and Dr. Bryan Edgar receive the 2009 Dean’s Club Honorary Lifetime Member Award.

Please mark your calendars for some of the following events: We will have our football homecoming brunch on Saturday, Sept. 19 when the UW plays USC. We will also have our annual golf tournament on Friday, Sept. 18 at Washington National Golf Club in Auburn. More details are found inside the front cover of this issue for all of these great events.

We could not have the success we do without membership dues from our alumni. If you have not paid your dues for 2009, you can do so by calling Randy Newquist at the UW Dental Alumni Office at 206-543-7297. He will be happy to help you renew your membership over the phone.

Amid the current economic downturn, Dean Somerman (see Page 6) explains the serious challenges that the UW School of Dentistry will face in the next few years. This may sound surprising, coming so soon after the hugely successful Campaign UW. But much of the money raised is earmarked for specific projects and scholarships and can’t be used to support general operations and urgent needs. The School has been hit hard by state budget cuts and faces even greater financial pressure in the next biennium.

What can we do to help? Please consider an annual gift of $1,000 to the Dean’s Fund for Excellence or any other fund at the School. Your much-needed annual gift will make you a Dean’s Club member and helps give the School the critical operating funds that the state is cutting.

I am so proud of the great alumni we have at the School of Dentistry. We are No. 1 among all UW schools in alumni participation. Our continued involvement will help the School of Dentistry provide a world-class education to the dentists of tomorrow.

Ed Dolan (’00)
UW Dental Alumni Association President
We have hit some rough water around Lake Washington.

For months, administrators have been neck-deep in staff e-mails, memos and budget documents as we comply with the University’s request to identify areas to cut our expenditures.

The slumping economy’s impact has reached into every corner of the nation, and our School is no exception. The decline in state funding for the next biennium has hit us hard. We expect to lose several full-time faculty and staff positions, with ripple effects to be felt in every part of our School.

We have worked hard with valued partners such as the Washington State Dental Association to help mitigate the damage in Olympia as the state Legislature took up the budget. We want to ensure that the things that make this School unique – the depth and excellence of our clinical training, our community outreach, our broadly focused research – emerge from this crisis largely intact. In addition, we are taking the initiative with plans for new endowments that boost our efforts to retain, support and develop top-notch faculty.

It is doubly disappointing to find ourselves in this position after concluding a successful fund-raising campaign in which many of you participated. However, Campaign UW cannot help us with our current budget problems.

I realize that many of you are feeling the pinch in your private practice as patients delay or forgo care. But I also hope you will answer Alumni President Ed Dolan’s call (see Page 5) to help out as best you can while we try to navigate these unsettled waters in the coming months. We are all utterly devoted to our School, and this is the time of its greatest need.

It’s not all storm clouds, though – far from it. We have begun some wonderful new ventures, such as Regional Initiatives in Dental Education, which launched in Spokane last August.

The 2008 National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research funding report places us third nationally among dental schools, our highest ranking since 2005. We continue to shine on WREB passing rates.

So let’s hope that sometime not too far down the road we won’t be talking of cutbacks, but only of the great things our School is doing. With your help, we can make that happen.

Martha J. Somerman, Dean
Dean’s Club honors Edgars, Steiner

Dr. Bryan C. Edgar (DDS ’76) and Dr. Linda J. Edgar (DDS ’92) have been selected by the Dean’s Club Board of Trustees to receive the 2009 Dean’s Club Honorary Lifetime Member Award. The award was established to recognize a Dean’s Club member who has given outstanding service to the UW School of Dentistry. It was presented at the Silver Anniversary Dean’s Club dinner in Seattle on April 25, as Dental Alumni News went to print. (A full story and pictures will follow in the next issue.)

The Edgars have made an enormous impact on the School of Dentistry for over 30 years — as stalwart volunteers, effective fund-raisers and very generous contributors. They were Charter Members of the School’s Dean’s Club in 1983 and served on the Dean’s Club Board from 1984-2008, including a full term as co-presidents from 2002-2004.

From 2000-2008, they served as co-chairs of the most successful fundraising campaign in the history of the School, “Campaign UW: Creating Futures.” Their leadership and tireless efforts over the eight-year campaign helped to attract tremendous support for the School and exceed campaign goals by 47 percent.

With enthusiasm, commitment and conviction, the Edgars met with individual donors and organizations, and championed the UW at professional dental meetings and conferences throughout Washington state. Their direct involvement resulted in numerous individual major gifts as well as the largest scholarship of the campaign from the Washington State Dental Association membership (which was also the largest gift to the School in WSDA’s history).

They were enormously effective fund-raisers in part because they matched their words with deeds, establishing major endowments for all three priority areas of the School’s Campaign — an endowed professorship to support faculty; a special program endowment to fund innovative programs, and an endowed scholarship to support students. These endowments included digital photography and microscopic implantology.

The Edgars’ active involvement with the School extends far beyond fund-raising. Dr. Linda Edgar has also served on the WDSF Distinguished Professorship Committee, and Dr. Bryan Edgar has served for over 30 years as the 1976 Class Representative for the UW Dental Alumni Association. Both dentists actively contribute their time as well, as affiliate faculty members for the Department of Restorative Dentistry. They have a full-time private practice in Federal Way, Wash., and share a passion to make a “positive difference for dentistry.”

Dr. James C. Steiner (MS/Endo ’66) has been named the 2009 Distinguished Alumnus by the Dental Alumni Board of Trustees. The award recognizes alumni, who, by their professional achievements and contributions, have distinguished themselves, enhanced the profession, improved the welfare of the general public and brought honor to their alma mater. He was also honored at the Dean’s Club dinner.

The Ohio native started his 53-year career in dentistry with a DDS from Case Western University. After two years as an Air Force dentist, he returned home to Wooster, Ohio, and spent five years in private practice. He then moved to Seattle and received his MSD in Oral Biology and Certificate in Endodontics from the UW in 1966. Although he practiced endodontics for many years, he found his true passion to teach when he assumed the position of Assistant Professor, Graduate Program Director, and Acting Chair for one year in the Department of Endodontics. He left the UW in 1971 for faculty positions at Louisiana State University and later as Graduate Director of Endodontics at UCLA before returning to Seattle and the UW in 1992.

In 1997, Dr. Steiner was appointed Chair of the D-1 Multimedia Committee and helped guide the structural development and long-range planning for the D-1 Clinic, one of the nation’s first “state of the art” pre-clinical teaching facilities. In 1998, he was named the Washington Dental Service Endowed Chair in Dentistry to address the needs of graduates in practice management.

Dr. Steiner served as Acting Dean for the UW School of Dentistry in 2001. From 2002 until his retirement last October, he was Associate Dean for Student Services and Admissions. In this capacity, he found great joy in working with dental students to address their personal and professional challenges as well as helping them achieve their goals.

Students always knew that Dr. Steiner cared about them. He was a friend, teacher, mentor, counselor and much more.

Dr. Jim McGraw, of the School’s admissions board, said this about Dr. Steiner: “He’s inspirational — he makes students better than they could ordinarily inspire themselves to be. He is a rare, compassionate, considerate counselor of the highest order.”
Tajbakhsh named 2009 David H. Wands Fellow

Some children dislike going to the dentist. Some grudgingly accept it. And then there’s Sharareh Tajbakhsh, who as a girl growing up in Iran would fake a toothache just to go, because she loved watching the dentist work.

“As a kid, I never had any fear of dentists,” she says.

So it shouldn’t startle anyone that Dr. Tajbakhsh became a dentist. But the turns her life and career have taken are far out of the ordinary.

The latest is her designation as the 2009 winner of the David H. Wands Endowment Fellowship in Graduate Prosthodontics. Dr. Tajbakhsh, who is a first-year Prosthodontics graduate student at the School of Dentistry, says she was delighted to learn of the award last fall. Now 35, she had left a flourishing practice in California — she was president-elect of the San Mateo County Dental Society — to return to dental graduate school, at a considerable sacrifice.

“I put aside this whole life for three years,” she says. “I think they recognized that.”

She’ll also tell you that there’s plenty of reward to go with the sacrifice. She loves both the clinical work and laboratory work, which is what especially attracts her to prosthetic dentistry.

She calls it a form of artistry: “You’re not just working on one or two teeth — you see the whole mouth.”

Dr. Tajbakhsh came to SOD from California, where she graduated from the University of California at San Diego and earned her DDS at the University of the Pacific dental school in San Francisco in 2001. She began teaching at the University of the Pacific right afterward, and is still a member of the dental school’s board.

In 2002, she bought a practice in suburban San Francisco, continuing to teach one day per week. She also became dental director for the Samaritan House nonprofit in San Mateo, which furnished shelter, food and medical services to those in need. And even though she also became dental director for a second Samaritan House in Redwood City, “I needed to be challenged.”

She’d seen a lot of patients at Samaritan House whose cases were too complex for treatment there. Prosthodontics training was the solution, she thought, but it would require more than a continuing-education course or two.

“Do you want to have a couple of CDE’s under your belt,” she asks, “or stop your life and get your degree?”

Upheavals were nothing new for Dr. Tajbakhsh. Her family left Iran in 1984, in the middle of the war with Iraq, and moved to France. She finished high school in Paris and then came to the United States for an extra year of high school and additional English fluency in Irvine, Calif.

There she considered her career choices. Medicine was appealing; she’d always enjoyed working with her hands. “When she was 7, she’d sew clothes for her Barbie doll on her mom’s machine. She even wanted to be a seamstress at one point, but Mom emphatically said no.) But she also envisioned having a family someday and didn’t want to be on call all the time. So dentistry was the choice, she says, and when she finally entered dental school, she found she was “pretty good at it.”

Although she is now a U.S. citizen, she says, “I feel like a citizen of the world.” Fluent in English, French, Spanish and Farsi, she still cherishes her Iranian culture. She also still loves Paris, and returns to visit at least once a year.

Her current career goals reflect the aims of the Wands Fellowship, which seeks to encourage recipients to pursue academic careers in prosthodontics. Once she’s done at SOD, where she says the interaction with faculty and mentors has been outstanding, Dr. Tajbakhsh wants to pick up where she left off.

“I am planning to be an educator — if not full time, then at least part time,” she says. She’s thinking about a year of maxillofacial-prosthodontics residency after finishing the graduate program, then returning to a mix of practice, teaching and nonprofit work, most likely in California.

She’s been married since 2001 to Parhum Tajbakhsh, who owns a California-based literary promotion company, and her parents now live in San Jose.

The Wands Fellowship was created in 1999. In addition to endowing the fellowship, Dr. David H. Wands (MS/Pros ’72) is a member of the Dean’s Club Board of Trustees and has received the Dean’s Club Honorary Lifetime Member Award. He has been a clinical professor at SOD, serving as an affiliate faculty member more than 20 years, and is a Life Member of the Academy of Prosthodontics and Pacific Coast Society for Prosthodontics.

Dr. Wands explains his support for the fellowship and its goals in the most basic terms: “If we don’t have teachers in the dental school, then we don’t have graduates. It’s that simple.”
Happy 50th: Golden day for Perio

“Poppa Saul” Schluger didn’t know there’d be days like this. But he would have loved it.

SOD’s Periodontics department, which Dr. Schluger founded in 1958, marked its 50th year with an all-day symposium, gala dinner and wine tasting in Seattle in September.

The event, sponsored by the Schluger-Ammons Study Club, drew about 250 people to the dinner, which was held at Columbia Tower. Earlier in the day, participants at the Bell Harbor Pier 66 Conference Center heard presentations by Drs. Roy Page (’63 Cert/Perio), Ralph Yuodelis (’64 MS/Pros, ’65 Cert/Perio), Leonard Tibbetts (’69 MS/Perio), Mark Glover (’82 MS/Perio), Kirk Pasquinelli (’87 Cert/Perio), Ralf Schuler (’05 MS/Perio), Gordon Douglass (’69 DDS, ’73 Cert/Perio), Oded Bahat (’81 MS/Perio) and David Mathews (’74 Cert/Perio). The symposium also featured panel discussions and was scheduled to coincide with the annual meeting of the American Academy of Periodontology, also in Seattle.

It was a fitting celebration of the department, which became the first periodontics program west of the Mississippi when Dr. Schluger — known as Poppa Saul to all at SOD, where he became one of the school’s most highly regarded figures — launched it with the help of a grant from the National Institute of Dental Research. At Columbia University in 1946, he had already administered the first specialty program in periodontics, and then arrived at the UW in 1958.

Dr. Schluger saw the program he founded at the UW rise to international prominence before his death in 1990 at the age of 82. Before retiring, he also served as associate dean of graduate dental education and director of admissions. The inventor of instruments including the Schluger file, he also was a director of the American Board of Periodontology and president of the American Academy of Periodontology. His memory was honored by the establishment of the first endowed chair at SOD, as well as the study club that bears his name along with that of another Periodontics stalwart, Dr. William Ammons (’70 MS/Perio), who died in 2006.

One highlight of the golden-anniversary celebration was the commemorative book compiled by another longtime Periodontics mainstay and former department chair, Dr. Robert Johnson (’71 MS/Perio).

Dr. Johnson, who remains active at SOD as Professor Emeritus at age 72, collected 240 reminiscences and updates from and about Periodontics alumni throughout the department’s history. The book notes that their distinguished track record includes winning the Hatten Award, the Orben Prize and a series of awards from the California Society of Periodontists.

“The percent of alumni who have mentored dentists and hygienists in study clubs, and given cutting-edge lectures to their peers around the world, is remarkable,” Dr. Johnson notes in the book.

In addition to weaving a tapestry of memories, Dr. Johnson also collected comments from various alumni who showed the impact the department and SOD left on their lives:

“Bill Ammons and Saul Schluger are two of the brightest lights that guide my path.”

“Attending the UW program taught me to never hold back with questions that need to be asked and answered, and always look for alternative explanations that are not obvious to the lesser trained.”

“The Perio grad program in Seattle crystallized for me, very clearly, the difference between ‘training’ and ‘education’ and what makes good and bad educators.”

“I count my education and related experiences at UW as one of the biggest blessings of my life.”

Those who would still like a copy of Dr. Johnson’s commemorative book may contact him at rhjperio@u.washington.edu.

From top to bottom, left to right: Allen Chen (’97), Steve Pickering (’99); David Baker (’98), Victor Mak (’07), Bernice and Wally Kegel (’77); Ben and Jessica Swoboda (’07), Simone Verardi (’04); Wayne (’73) and Karole Ann Kaktahl, Ralf Schuler (’05); Byron Mizuha (’76), Tom Merchant (’68); (back row) spouses Lorri Bailey (’79) and Todd Smith (’93), (front row) Alice Tai (’92), Jeanne Bertino (’88), Murray Robinovitch, Donna Massoth (’85).
SOD names first Pacific Continental Bank scholar: Rob Piñón

By age 35, Rob Piñón had left his roots in Yakima far behind to work in Hawaii, hike in the Andes, work on a Caribbean cruise line, and study in Chile and Russia. But he felt that something was missing from his life.

As it turned out, the answers lay in two places: dentistry and Yakima.

Piñón, now 40 and a second-year SOD student, has been named the recipient of the first Pacific Continental Bank Partner in Diversity scholarship at SOD. The one-year award is given to a student who will seek to address oral health disparities.

“That’s Piñón’s aim, and it will take him back to his roots in Eastern Washington after he earns his DDS.

“The plan right now is go back to the Yakima area and practice,” he says. “The biggest thing is incorporating community service and reaching out to the people who can’t afford dentistry. I think general practice is the way to go — maybe develop a clinic.”

Headquartered in Eugene, Ore., with branches in Washington state, Pacific Continental Bank is heavily community-orientated and has been actively involved with the UW Dental Alumni Association for years, helping sponsor the alumni golf tournament and vendor show.

Dr. Sidney Gallegos (DDS ’81), a longtime bank client and Partner in Diversity committee member, launched interest in creating the scholarship through discussions with Private Banking Manager Rich Martinez. Joining in the discussions later on were Basant Singh, President and Director of the bank’s Greater Seattle Market; bank Vice President Leigh Sinni; and Dr. Jim Steiner, then SOD Associate Dean for Student Services and Admissions.

They worked out an award whose goal was to address the disparity in health care representation by providing funding assistance to minority students entering the oral health care profession. The scholarship also recognizes the importance of fostering a passion for community service early in a student’s academic life.

Scholarship recipients volunteer with or educate minority groups about the importance of proper oral health care. This can include educating school-age children about proper oral health care; volunteering services in a community health care organization; or providing assistance to nonprofit organizations that offer dental health care services to those in need.

The commitment to the nonprofit sector was especially important for Pacific Continental Bank, which focuses on banking nonprofit organizations and encourages employees to volunteer their time with local organizations. The SOD scholarship represents a five-year commitment.

The focus on service is familiar territory for Piñón, who was born in Provo, Utah. The family moved to Yakima when he was 2. But he returned to Utah to attend Brigham Young University, as had his father, and served as a Mormon missionary in South America from 1987 to 1989.

After studying international marketing and Spanish translation in college, he worked in Hawaii and Arizona in insurance and telecommunications, but his work ultimately left him unsatisfied. Looking for a new career, he found himself drawn to dentistry.

“Dentists seemed to be the happiest, the most fulfilled,” he says. “They had time to devote to their families and community service, and that was important to me.”

After joining the SOD pre-dental club and obtaining a biology degree at Central Washington University, he entered SOD. Busy from the start, he did summer research and also helped out on a campaign for fluoridation in northwest Washington. He has helped mentor high schoolers in Dental Camp, and has worked with the Washington Dental Service Foundation’s Smilemobile outreach.

Diversity benefit dinner held

The Partners in Diversity at the UW School of Dentistry held their second annual Diversity in Dentistry Dinner on May 15 at the Northwest African American Museum in Seattle.

Carver Gayton, a distinguished UW alumnus and noted Seattle consultant in education reform and workforce training, was guest speaker.

The $100-per-plate event was held to raise endowed scholarship funds to support underrepresented minority dental students at the University of Washington. A silent auction featured works by Dale Chihuly and other artists, practice management materials, dinners at local restaurants, sports tickets and memorabilia.

Sponsors included Washington Dental Service, Burkhart Dental Supply, Inc., Premera Blue Cross, Sea Mar Community Health Centers, United Concordia and Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic.
RIDE gets off the ground

The Regional Initiatives in Dental Education (RIDE) program, 10 years in the making, finally began with the enrollment of eight students who began classes at the Riverpoint Campus in Spokane last August.

RIDE, which works in conjunction with the UW School of Medicine’s regional WWAMI program (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho), represents a major expansion of the School of Dentistry’s community outreach. The program is designed to address the oral health needs of underserved and rural communities in the Northwest.

RIDE is creating regional training sites in areas lacking dental schools by working with partners including regional universities, dentists and dental associations and community health centers. In addition, RIDE works with other health professional “pipeline” programs to recruit dental students from rural and underserved areas.

“I am really so pleased to have had the opportunity to help plan and see the launching of the one of the most innovative dental education programs in the country,” says Dr. Wendy Mouradian, SOD Associate Dean for Regional Affairs and director of RIDE. “RIDE has the potential to strategically increase the pipeline of dental graduates to rural and underserved areas in the state, while strengthening our partnerships with community dentists, especially in Spokane other parts of Eastern Washington. It also starts a new collaborative partnership with Eastern Washington University, Washington State University and the UW School of Medicine, in a cost-effective strategy to expand dental education without major capital investments.

“We hope RIDE will create formative interdisciplinary experiences among dental, dental hygiene and medical students, so they will have the values and attitudes to work better together to the benefit of our patients.”

The course work students began last year is comparable to what is taught back at the SOD home campus in Seattle. Content is overseen by Dr. Art DiMarco, the on-site RIDE director in Spokane, along with UW affiliate dental instructors. This summer, students will serve a four-week summer rotation at a community-based rural and/or underserved practice site.

The students will spend most of their second and third years at SOD in Seattle. Then they will return to regional sites in the fourth year for clinical rotations with affiliate faculty preceptors.

The program applies some novel approaches. Students take interdisciplinary courses with medical and dental hygiene students, and also use video-conferencing and Web-based course materials.

The amount of time spent at a regional sites is expected to increase students’ knowledge of regional health-care needs. Hopes are that more students will eventually pursue further training or enter practice in these locations or similar ones.

Regional affiliate faculty are also expected to benefit through opportunities for continuing dental education via seminars, faculty development programs and academic affiliation with the School of Dentistry.

Work continues on ECOH building

Internal demolition has commenced on the Washington Dental Service Building for Early Childhood Oral Health (ECOH) at Magnuson Park (featured in Dental Alumni News, Fall/Winter 2008).

Scheduled to open in September 2010, Building 25 will be converted from the former Washington Dental Service and the Washington Dental Service tower to a regional center for pediatric dentistry. The $19.7 million project is a collaboration between the UW School of Dentistry and Seattle Children’s, and was catalyzed by a $5 million gift from the Washington Dental Service Building for Early Childhood Oral Health (ECOH) at Magnuson Park.

SOD among leaders in NIH funding

The School of Dentistry ranked third among all U.S. dental schools in grants awarded by the National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research in fiscal year 2008, according to a report by NIDCR.

SOD received $8.2 million, trailing only the University of California at San Francisco ($9.4 million) and the University of Michigan ($8.7 million). Overall, the University of Washington ranked first in NIDCR grants, with $12.1 million.

Noting that SOD is smaller in class size than about 85 percent of all U.S. dental schools, Dean Somerman said, “I think this shows how effectively our faculty and staff make use of their resources and talents.”

The rankings marked an improvement from fiscal year 2007, when SOD ranked sixth nationally. The school has ranked third, fourth or fifth in the rest of the last five fiscal years.
Mouradian co-chairs pediatric oral health summit

More than 100 oral health and policy leaders gathered in Chicago Nov. 7-8 for the first national summit on children’s oral health, with the meeting co-chaired by Dr. Wendy Mouradian, Associate Dean of Regional Affairs and Professor of Pediatric Dentistry at the School of Dentistry.

The meeting, held by the American Academy of Pediatrics, produced a new policy statement calling for pediatricians to take greater responsibility for educating parents about oral health and for monitoring dental problems in youth.

The AAP now recommends that pediatricians and other pediatric providers screen children for dental disease, provide dietary counseling and oral health hygiene counseling, apply fluoride varnish to at-risk children and make referrals to specialists.

Studies have shown that with only two hours of training, pediatricians can identify children with cavities in 85 to 90 percent of cases, Dr. Mouradian says.

“In the past, we’ve seen decreasing rates of cavities in kids. Currently, we have evidence of a reversal in that, especially in 2- to 5-year-olds,” Dr. Mouradian said in an interview with the Chicago Tribune.

“In the context of the current demographics of the U.S., there is significant reason for concern. Nearly half of children under age 5 are minorities. All together, 40 percent of children are low-income. These two factors put children at increased risk of dental disease and lack of access to care.”

Dr. Mouradian also cited a lack of understanding of the importance of oral health, telling the Tribune: “It’s just not on the top of people’s radar screens. And I believe that’s because dentistry and medicine have been separate and there is insufficient appreciation of oral health by people making health policy decisions. We’re very hopeful that will change with the new administration.”

Dr. Mouradian, who chaired the U.S. Surgeon General’s Conference on Children and Oral Health in 2000, also attended the AAP’s “Oral Health in the 21st Century” conference in Boston on Oct. 11-12.

Key SOD staffers mark their retirements

Two longtime mainstays of School of Dentistry administration retired last fall, while a third stalwart concluded her career in March.

Gwen Rikansrud, who was promoted to clinic manager within Clinical Services 14 years ago. A retirement party to honor her was held in October in South Campus Center. Terri Harker, Supervisor of Patient Services, was named to serve as manager, while senior dental assistant Pat Martin was chosen to serve in a lead capacity during the transition and be responsible for managing preclinical supplies and providing

Disparities Center funding renewed

The School of Dentistry’s Northwest/Alaska Center to Reduce Oral Health Disparities has won $5.6 million in renewed funding through May 2013 from the National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research.

The funds will support activities including a study of community-based intervention to provide dental services to low-income pregnant women in four rural Oregon counties.

The Oral Health Disparities center is directed by Dr. Peter Milgrom, who is also principal investigator; Associate director is Colleen Huebner; principal investigators for the Oregon study are Christine Riedy and Philip Weinstein; lead biostatistician is Lloyd Mancl.
Ex-Husky star Jones speaks at brunch

Former Husky football star Rod Jones was guest speaker at the Dental Alumni Association Football Brunch on Sept. 6 at the East Ballroom of the Husky Union Building. One hundred and twenty alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends attended the event before the UW-Brigham Young University football game.

Jones, a tight end for the UW from 1984 to 1986, also chatted with the brunch crowd, which appeared evenly split between those dressed in Husky purple and BYU Cougar blue and white.

Dental Alumni Association President Ed Dolan (DDS '00) was master of ceremonies. The event included great food, entertainment by the Greg Schroeder band, and a raffle.

The UW-BYU game ended up being the most exciting of the season. The Huskies scored a touchdown in the closing minutes to pull within one point, but BYU blocked the extra point and held on to win, 28-27.

The Dental Alumni Association extends special thanks to the Washington Dentists’ Insurance Agency for co-sponsoring this event.

Dean, others at ADA reception in San Antonio

Dean Martha J. Somerman hosted the UW School of Dentistry reception at the American Dental Association Annual Session in San Antonio, Texas, on Oct. 18. The event at the Hilton Palacio del Rio Hotel on the city’s scenic Riverwalk drew 75 alumni, faculty, students and friends of the School. Five members from the Class of 1984 attended and had a mini-reunion.

While socializing and enjoying excellent food, those attending could watch the University of Washington-Oregon State football game on a large-screen TV.

Washington State Dental Association President David Houten (DDS ’85) and other WSDA representatives attended the reception. Also representing the UW School of Dentistry was Randy Newquist, Director of Dental Alumni Services.
Dean Martha Somerman joined a panel of dental and community leaders in Seattle Dec. 10 to press for the continued inclusion of adult dental Medicaid in the state’s proposed 2009-2011 budget.

At the forum in Seattle’s Town Hall, Dr. Somerman warned of the impact the loss of adult Medicaid funding could have on the School of Dentistry’s clinics, where a Medicaid reimbursement shortfall of $2.4 million was recorded in fiscal year 2008.

“If we cut way back on clinical operations, we will likely see more patients show up for urgent or emergency care. That’s far more expensive and less effective than preventive or restorative clinical care. The ripple effect from this cutback would be felt throughout the safety net. And let’s not forget the painful cost in human suffering,” she told those attending the forum, which was covered by the Seattle Times.


The panel’s efforts were rewarded with the inclusion of adult dental Medicaid in the budgets proposed by Gov. Christine Gregoire in December and approved by the Legislature in April. However, lawmakers did trim about $16.5 million from the program for the next biennium, undoing increases enacted in 2007.

“The ripple effect from this cutback would be felt throughout the safety net. And let’s not forget the painful cost in human suffering.”
—Dean Martha Somerman

Vendors display products to students

The Annual Student Vendor Show was held on Jan. 23 at the Botanic Gardens Conference Center. Class of 2009 President Parker Haley, Ross Austin, Drew Heidergott, Noreen Ramji and Adam Welmink helped make the event a great success.

This popular event lets students talk to dental vendors and learn more about their products and services. Students receive product samples, enjoy great food and beverages, and hope to win raffle prizes. Two hundred students, alumni and corporate friends of the School attended.

The event is made possible with corporate support. Major sponsors for this show were Arnold Dental Supply, Issaquah Dental Lab, Nitrox, US Army Healthcare Team and Willamette Dental. All of the sponsors are thanked for making this event a great success.

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Willamette Dental Group

Yakima high-schoolers get taste of dentistry

Twenty-one Yakima-area high school students received an introduction to the oral health professions on Oct. 25 at the School of Dentistry’s annual Dental Camp.

The students who took the three-hour bus ride to UW early on a Saturday morning joined a group of more than 800 middle- and high-schoolers who have attended UW medical and dental camps in Seattle and Eastern Washington since 2002. The outing was organized by ConneX, a program for students interested in medical careers. It’s based at the Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic.

“We’re hoping to increase interest in oral health careers, but we’re also hoping to increase these students’ engagement in math, science and technology,” said Dr. Douglass Jackson of Seattle Children’s hospital.

Dr. Jackson, who was Associate Dean for Educational Partnerships and Diversity at SOD before going to Children’s as chief of its new Center for Diversity and Health Equity, is the camp’s principal coordinator. The camp is part of a shared effort by the UW School of Dentistry and the Washington Dental Service Foundation to expand the diversity of the state’s dental professions and shrink oral health disparities, he said.

The camp was developed in
response to work by the Washington Dental Service Foundation’s Educational Futures Task Force, which identified a need to diversify dental professionals. In 1998, African Americans and Hispanics made up nearly 24 percent of the U.S. population, but represented less than 10 percent of dentists nationally.

At the camp, held in the School of Dentistry’s Simulation Laboratory, students started off with a quick “dental IQ” quiz. Then they moved on to making dental impressions on patient simulators, preparing to cast full-mouth plaster molds. Students also practiced rebuilding teeth with dental wax and applying dental sealants.

Thirteen volunteer instructors monitored the students’ work and issued safety rules. The volunteers included UW dental students as well as dental assisting students from Seattle Vocational Institute and dental hygiene students from Seattle Central Community College.

Mentor Reception brings students, dentists together

The Annual Mentor Reception was held Nov. 7 at the UW Botanic Gardens Conference Center. The event brought together 150 UW dental students, mentor dentists from the area and professional dental leadership, plus alumni and friends of the School of Dentistry.

The evening included dinner and a short program featuring Washington State Dental Association President Dr. Dave Houten (DDS ’85), Dr. Dave Minahan (DDS ’75), Dr. Jason Bourne (DDS ’01, Dr. Bea Gandara ’84 MS/Oral Med), and dental students Daniel Bakko and Eric Cadwell.

The event, highlighted by the socializing between mentor dentists and students, is sponsored by the Washington State Dental Association, the UW Dental Alumni Association and the School of Dentistry.

The goal is to have each dental student assigned to a dentist in the community whom they can get to know and whose office they can visit, and feel comfortable asking questions as they prepare to graduate and enter the dental profession. The reception lets students talk to professionals who know the pressures they face and the career concerns they have.

If you are interested in mentoring a dental student, please call Randy Newquist at the Dental Alumni Office at 206-616-0716.
Join a practice-based research network

How do your colleagues treat hypersensitive teeth? What’s the best way to handle cracked teeth? As a Friend of NW PRECEDENT, you could help answer these questions.

NW PRECEDENT is a Pacific Northwest practice-based dental research network. It brings together dental practitioners who conduct clinical studies in their own practices, based mostly on ideas of interest to and generated by practicing dentists. Funding for the network is provided by grants from the National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research to the Schools of Dentistry at the University of Washington and Oregon Health & Science University.

The UW team is led by Principal Investigator Timothy DeRouen, PhD, Executive Associate Dean for Research and Academic Affairs for the School of Dentistry and Professor of Biostatistics for Public Health and Dental Public Health Services. Co-Investigator is Joel Berg, DDS, MS, Professor and Lloyd and Kay Chapman Chair for Oral Health of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry.

The network seeks to conduct important and timely studies within the normal confines of a busy dental practice, thus enhancing the relevancy of the outcomes to the general practitioner. The network is expanding to provide limited opportunities for dentists outside of the funded states to participate in this exciting activity.

Participation as a “Friend” of NW PRECEDENT involves answering brief online surveys regarding dental practice and patient care, as well as taking part in retrospective studies of patient treatment outcomes and patient and practitioner behavior. Friends will receive newsletters, study result summaries, and other important network information to stay abreast of current activities. In the future, there may be opportunities for Friends to become full members in the network and to conduct studies in their own practices.

Practitioners say they join PRECEDENT to contribute to dental clinical knowledge and give back to the profession. To find out more about becoming a Friend of NW PRECEDENT, visit the Web site at www.nwprecedent.net and follow the link to “Friends of PRECEDENT.”

Practice opportunities are knocking at SOD site

Looking for a dental job? A practice to buy, sell or lease? You can start with the Practice Opportunities Program, sponsored by the UW Dental Alumni Association and maintained by the SOD Office of Student Life and Admissions.

The site, which can be found at www.dental.washington.edu/general/pops/index.php, lets practitioners post information about practices for sale or lease, as well as open positions (associates, dental hygienists, assistants, etc.) and space available. Searches can be refined by state, opportunity type, and listing date. Best of all, the service is offered at no charge, and access to its information is unrestricted.

SOD research featured on NIDCR Web site

The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research Web site has featured a study outlining a new computational approach to protein function analysis.

SOD researchers Dr. Jeremy Horst, a DDS/PhD student in Oral Biology, and Dr. Ram Samudrala, adjunct associate professor in Oral Biology and associate professor of Microbiology, were part of a five-member team whose work was published Sept. 26 in the journal PLoS Computational Biology.

The researchers devised a meta-functional signature (MFS), which quantifies the functional importance of amino acid residues on the basis of sequence conservation, evolutionary conservation, structural stability and amino acid type.
Dr. Dan Chan had it all in Georgia — a rewarding job, a thriving family and a nice home next to a golf course. So why did he give all that up to become Associate Dean for Clinical Services at SOD last fall?

“This is my dream school,” he says simply. “We have top-notch students, world-class faculty and a progressive administration.”

For Dr. Chan, 55, this was a long-awaited return. In 1993, he participated in the second Summer Institute in Clinical Dental Research Methods under Dr. Timothy DeRouen. He came to his new post at SOD with a clear vision.

“We want to have a very efficient clinic where patients love to come and students can be trained,” says Dr. Chan, who had been at the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) School of Dentistry. There he served as Professor of Oral Rehabilitation and Director of the Division of Operative Dentistry, with a joint appointment in the Department of Oral Biology and Maxillofacial Pathology and the School of Graduate Studies. Before MCG, he was on the restorative faculty at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. He received his D.M.D. from the University of the Philippines and his D.D.S. and M.S. from the University of Iowa.

He wants the SOD patient clinics to take a more comprehensive approach. “There’s a disconnect,” he says. “In most dental schools, students treat patients under a specialty, but in general practice, it’s the whole person.” To reach this goal, he says, it’s essential to have the support of faculty and staff alike: “Everyone has to buy in.”

Dr. Chan showed his patient-centered approach in his first couple of weeks on the job: He spent them handling patient complaints. “Fees were the biggest one,” he says. It wasn’t simply patients grousing about paying too much, but also about the lack of more flexible payment options.

He sees a growing role for SOD clinics as the economic slump continues and public health cutbacks take effect. “We’ll likely serve a larger role in the community as disparities patients come to us,” he says. In the meantime, he is leading the SOD Comprehensive Care Task Force, which seeks greater efficiencies and better methods of delivering care.

One major challenge Dr. Chan faces is a lack of clinic space, which hampers efficient operation. So does aging equipment, with some dental chairs in their fourth decade of service. But he’s also cognizant of the current budget squeeze, and emphasizes that everyone doesn’t need his or her own new equipment — just sufficient access for proper training and delivery of care.

Dr Chan is a Fellow of the International College of Dentists and the Academy of Dental Materials. He was a councilor of the Academy of Operative Dentistry and serves on several editorial boards, and as a reviewer for dental journals.

He and his wife, Eva, enjoy hiking. He is also an avid stamp collector and plays classical guitar.
Dr. Greg Huang
Orthodontics chair

A tradition of clinical education, leadership training and strong research

When Dr. Greg Huang succeeded Dr. Greg King as Orthodontics Department chair last Aug. 1, he knew he’d inherited something special.

“One of our strengths is that we provide a really solid clinical education,” says Dr. Huang, 46. “At the same time, we are also very proud of our track record for training educators and leaders in the orthodontic field. Our challenge is to remain on the cutting edge of technology and research. We have to be really discriminating about what techniques and appliances have lasting value. … There’s lots of advances with new technology, materials, and appliances in orthodontics. We try not to get swept up in too much hype.”

The graduate program, he notes, has achieved an enviable reputation, having trained many department chairs. Competition for the five student openings has always been fierce, with 250 or more applicants a year.

Dr. Huang, who directed the graduate program before assuming the department chair, hopes to expand by restoring a sixth student slot, lost in the transition from a 2-year to a 2 1/2-year program eight years ago. The slot had been earmarked for foreign students.

“We’ve had a pretty profound influence internationally because of that policy to train international students,” Dr. Huang says. His plan entails adding space in the Orthodontics clinic for that sixth student.

Dr. Huang also plans to continue Orthodontics’ tradition of strong research. “We’ve always had at least one faculty member who is a basic scientist,” he says, with Dr. Sue Herring the incumbent in that role. In fact, he notes, faculty members Dr. King, Dr. Anne-Marie Bollen and Dr. Doug Ramsay all have PhDs.

Orthodontics will also continue its focus on interdisciplinary education, he says. Students rotate through Seattle Children’s hospital, treating craniofacial patients, and Orthodontics also works with Pediatrics Department grad students on mixed-dentition patients.

Dr. Huang also sees a need to identify replacements for senior faculty, and says the department must navigate the conversion to digital technology. He would also like to foster closer ties with area orthodontists. “I strongly believe we are a community of specialists,” he says.

Dr. Huang joined the SOD faculty as a part-timer in 1999 after practicing privately in Florida and teaching at the University of Florida, where he had earned his DMD. He started his dental career in a comfortable spot: next door to his father’s pediatrics office in Plant City, Fla. “I was very proud that at the time I was practicing, my dad was still practicing,” he says.

But “I wanted a little bit more of a challenge,” he says. So Dr. Huang returned to Seattle, where in 1989 he had earned his MSD and Certificate in Orthodontics at UW. On his return, he enrolled in the MPH program at Dr. King’s suggestion. After winning his latest degree — he has a special interest in epidemiology — he shifted to full-time teaching.

Dr. Huang served as the Chair of the American Association of Orthodontists Council on Scientific Affairs for the past two years, and last year was appointed as a consultant to the American Dental Association’s Commission on Dental Accreditation.

He has been married eight years to Shu-Fen Huang, and they have two young children. His hobbies include photography, along with racquetball and hiking in the Cascades. He also enjoys playing the piano, and sometimes is lucky enough to have his children ask him to play as they fall asleep.

He may no longer practice next door to his dad, but one of his three brothers does practice orthopedic surgery in Seattle. “I straighten teeth, he straightens bones,” Dr. Huang says with a grin.
Chan, Coldwell receive WDS endowed posts

**Dr. Daniel Chan** has been named to the Washington Dental Service Endowed Chair in Dentistry at the School of Dentistry, while **Dr. Susan Coldwell** was named the new Washington Dental Service Endowed Professor.

The WDS Endowed Chair had been held by **Dr. Jim Steiner** (’66 MS/Endo), who retired from the School of Dentistry in November. (See a profile of Dr. Steiner on Page 25.) The position reflects a commitment by WDS to excellence in oral health care, research in practice administration, and education at the pre-doctoral, post-doctoral, and practitioner levels.

“I am deeply honored to accept this endowment,” said Dr. Chan, the Associate Dean for Clinical Services. “I thank the leaders in Washington Dental Service and our University for the opportunity. The extra resource is critical, especially in this time of budget crisis.”

Discussing his vision for the chair, Dr. Chan said: “My immediate plan is to reorganize the pre-doctoral dental practice management course and move it earlier in the curriculum. The reorganization will allow the students more time to think and plan about their future and act accordingly. With the help of the endowment, we can invite more external speakers and incorporate new projects to help the students get a taste of the real business world.

“The longer-term plan is to have an annual continuing education program focused on practice management and geared toward new graduates and practitioners. Dental management is changing at a very fast pace, and we as a profession must learn to cope with the many new challenges.”

Dr. Coldwell’s position focuses on excellence in oral health care, research in issues associated with improving oral health disparities, and education at the pre-doctoral, post-doctoral and practitioner levels. It was previously held by Dr. Douglass Jackson, who left the School of Dentistry in July to become chief of the new Center for Diversity and Health Equity at Seattle Children’s hospital.

“Across the nation, untreated dental caries remains a significant problem in children aged 2 to 5 years,” Dr. Coldwell said. “Our state has been a leader in addressing the needs of this population through the Access to Baby and Child Dentistry program.”

The program is funded by grants from the Washington Dental Service Foundation, the Department of Social and Health Services, and through the efforts of local dental societies and the UW.

Dr. Coldwell added: “In collaboration with the Northwest/Alaska Center to Reduce Oral Health Disparities and the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, I have been working with other researchers and students to evaluate additional strategies aimed at increasing the use of preventive dental services by young children.”

“The Washington Dental Service Endowed Professorship will facilitate this and future studies of novel approaches to addressing oral health disparities. In addition, the Professorship is supporting efforts to increase the geographic, economic, and racial diversity of our dental students through dental pipeline efforts throughout our region.”

## Faculty, administrative appointments made

The School of Dentistry has made several key faculty appointments since last summer.

On Oct. 1, **Dr. Daniel Chan** became Associate Dean for Clinical Services at the School of Dentistry. He had been professor of oral rehabilitation and director of the Division of Operative Dentistry at the Medical College of Georgia School of Dentistry. There, he also held a joint appointment in the Department of Oral Biology and Maxillofacial Pathology and the School of Graduate Studies. (See a profile of Dr. Chan on Page 17.)

Also on Oct. 1, **Dr. Mark E. Engelstad** was named Clinical Associate Professor-Dental Pathway at SOD and Chief of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Harborview Medical Center.

On Aug. 1, **Dr. Susan Coldwell** was named Associate Dean for the new Office of Student Life and Admissions at the School of Dentistry, which merged the offices of Student Services and Educational Partnerships and Diversity. Dr. Coldwell is an associate professor in Dental Public Health Sciences. She has also served as director of training for the Northwest/Alaska Center to Reduce Oral Health Disparities.

Also on Aug. 1, **Dr. Greg Huang** became the new chair of the Department of Orthodontics. In addition to his DMD from the University of Florida and his Certificate in Orthodontics and MSD from the UW, Dr. Huang also holds an MPH in Epidemiology from the UW. Dr. Huang had been Director of the Orthodontic Graduate Program since 2005. (See a profile of Dr. Huang on Page 18.)

Among other new positions:

**Dr. Beatrice K. Gandara** was named Director of Educational Partnerships and Diversity on Aug. 1. Dr. Gandara holds a faculty appointment in Oral Medicine.

**Dr. Manoj Muthukuru** was named Assistant Professor in Periodontics on Sept. 1

**Dr. Devereaux Peterson** was named Associate Professor Emeritus in Pediatric Dentistry on Dec. 15.

**Dr. Robert J. Oswald** was named Clinical Professor Emeritus in Endodontics on Aug. 18.

**Dr. James C. Steiner** (’66 MS/Endo) was named Clinical Professor Emeritus in Endodontics on Oct. 4.

**Dr. Sul Ki Hong** was named Acting Assistant Professor in Periodontics on Sept. 1.

**Dr. Jacqueline Pickrell** was named Acting Assistant Professor in Dental Public Health Sciences on Dec. 16.
Maybe none of this ever happens if Ralph O’Connor’s kid has straighter teeth.

And then maybe a bunch of dentists never get together in Tacoma to kick around ideas for a different model of collaborative practice.

Then maybe three of them never become lecture partners and spend the next quarter-century spreading the gospel of interdisciplinary dentistry all over the world. Maybe.

But you doubt it.

Somehow, you get the feeling that the partnership among Vince Kokich, Dave Mathews and Frank Spear was inevitable. That the qualities that have made these UW-trained dentists into lecture superstars — their superb teaching skills, their love for the interplay of ideas — would have surfaced regardless and led them down this path. That sooner or later they would have linked up, because the simple truth is that these guys just plain like hanging out together.

Dr. Mathews (’74 Cert/Perio), 64, recalls an appearance last year in Bilbao, Spain: “I introduced us, and I spoke in Spanish, and everyone’s laughing. I got back [to my seat], and I told them I’d said you guys are dumb [unprintables].”

He pauses for a second and flashes a wicked grin. “I didn’t really, but…”

“I think our most fun is the night before the lecture,” says Dr. Spear (’79 DDS, ’85 MS/Pros), 56. “We’re usually in a hotel room, having dinner with each other. We sit around, put the lecture together, and it’s the creative process, getting the juices flowing — let’s do it this way or that way.

“Being together, just the three of us, whether we’re in Zurich or Tokyo or Barcelona, it’s just a fun time.”

“Being together, just the three of us, whether we’re in Zurich or Tokyo or Barcelona, it’s just a fun time.”

It won’t be quite as much fun from now on, though. Dr. Kokich (’71 DDS, ’74 MS/Ortho) has decided to give up being “somewhere else every Friday” and leave the lecture circuit. In September he’ll deliver a final talk in Croatia, his ancestral homeland.

Before then, the three dentists will give their final joint lecture on June 12 with an all-day program at Seattle’s Benaroya Hall, where they drew 1,400 listeners for the Ernest Jones Memorial Lecture in 2005.

Drs. Dave Mathews (from left), Vince Kokich and Frank Spear bow out as a team at Seattle’s Benaroya Hall on June 12.
It will be the last in a long string of enthusiastic crowds. Those who have attended one of their talks can tell you why the team has packed audiences in for more than two decades.

“They were amazing,” says Dr. Jonathan Sandler, conference chairman for the British Orthodontic Society, which hosted the trio in London in 2004. “We drew the biggest audience the BOS has ever seen at a spring meeting. … The three of them entertained and wowed the British audience. A number of my European friends also flew into London just for the meeting.”

“They’ve been great for dentistry,” says Dr. Don Joondeph (’70 Cert/Ortho) of Bellevue, Wash. While president of the American Association of Orthodontists, he hosted the trio at the AAO national meeting in 1992 in Seattle, where they gave the Mershon Lecture, the association’s highest form of recognition, to an audience of 3,500.

“They’ve gone a long way to improve patient care by stressing how important it is for dentists and specialists to interact together in the care and treatment of patients,” Dr. Joondeph says. “Treatment gets more sophisticated, and they keep their information very current. Their presentations are supported by evidence — not just anecdotal case reports.”

“They present in a very ordered, practical way,” says Dr. Bob London (’81 Cert/Perio), director of graduate periodontics at the UW School of Dentistry. And one more thing: “They are also each individually very nice guys.”

It all goes back to Ralph O’Connor, who planted the seeds of this collaboration a quarter-century ago. Like so many other medical professionals, the Tacoma dentist would swap services for his nine children with other providers, and he sent one of them to Dr. Kokich for orthodontic treatment in 1979.

But he made a demand: “OK, here’s the deal. You can’t take the braces off until I say the patient is finished — because I know what’s best for my patient.”

It didn’t faze Dr. Kokich. “I looked at him and said, ‘OK, makes sense to me.’ I said to myself, ‘You know, four eyes are better than two.’ ” Over the next few years, the two men formed a close bond.

In 1984, Dr. O’Connor thought of bringing Tacoma-area specialists together to form an interdisciplinary team. He formed a group of nine, with himself as general dentist. He enlisted two oral surgeons, an orthodontist (Dr. Kokich), a periodontist (Dr. Mathews), a pediatric dentist, two endodontists and a prosthodontist (Dr. Spear). Together they formed the Northwest Network for Dental Excellence.

At that time, the term “multidisciplinary” was often heard in dentistry. Dr. O’Connor made a subtle but critical shift in emphasis: “interdisciplinary.” Dr. Kokich explains the concept: “There is a way for those disciplines to interact in a productive manner, where they understand one another’s needs and can help one another. The patient benefits, but everyone also learns in the process. If I’m on that team, I’m going to learn a little bit more about endo or perio or restorative, just because I’m playing a part in the discussion.”

Dr. O’Connor had started developing the concept when he was dealing with complex cases. He’d interview patients in detail to determine what they wanted, but still needed to accompany them to interviews with specialists before and after office hours.

“I realized I had to play the quarterback, and that meant I had to have accountability for the process,” he recalls. “So I started presenting the patient’s history and asking the specialists what they could do for me. We would open it up for discussion, and that’s where the education process began. All these specialists started seeing the other person’s point of view.”

At the Northwest Network’s first meeting, Dr. O’Connor said, “I want you to remember this word: networking.” No longer would one dentist finish his work and simply hand the patient off to another. The whole course of treatment would be planned out carefully. Flexible options would be built in,
and nobody’s work would conflict with anyone else’s.

As Dr. Kokich says: “We’ve shown a demonstration where Ralph can lead us through the diagnosis and management. By the time we come out 45 minutes later, we have Plan A, Plan B and Plan C, and the flow chart, and all of a sudden it’s understandable. What we’re trying to do is show general dentists that if you want to do this, you can’t do it on your own — you have to have a team.”

“The challenge in dentistry was that a lot of specialists tended to have been raised in isolation,” says Dr. Spear. “In school, there was not a lot of interchange between specialty programs. The one exception was at UW, when I went through the grad program in periodontics and prosthodontics. But orthodontics and endodontics didn’t have any interaction with us. I think that separation just carried into the marketplace in practice.”

New endowment seeks to sharpen teaching skills

The lecture by Vince Kokich, Dave Mathews and Frank Spear at Seattle’s Benaroya Hall on June 12 will be much more than a swan song: It will be the foundation for a legacy.

“All of us wanted to leave something behind, with our names attached to it, just because of this wonderful relationship we’ve developed over the years, and our names are associated with one another,” says Dr. Kokich.

So the three hope to raise $250,000 and attract matching funds for a new professorship that will further elevate the quality of teaching at the School of Dentistry.

The endowment will support a new part-time teaching position, bringing an expert in faculty development and training to SOD to lead workshops and provide one-on-one consultation with faculty. The new professor could also offer courses to graduate students who want to teach, or even to dental pre-doctoral students looking ahead to training staff or delivering presentations to dental societies.

“We’ve learned from one another,” Dr. Kokich says of himself and his lecture partners. “We’ve seen what doesn’t work in teaching, and have been able to use that to teach people. We realized we never learned that in dental school. I never had the opportunity as a faculty member, if I wanted to improve my teaching skills, to be guided by people who do this for a living.”

Says Dr. Spear: “Historically, dentistry has been taught by a model that’s not the most nurturing or open-minded — not UW, but dental schools generally have a reputation of being dogmatic. It’s necessary to some extent, because you have to get people through.

“My vision is to take the instructors at the school and have them become more effective at nurturing and teaching.”

Dr. Mathews also sees a further benefit for academic dentistry, which faces a growing problem of attracting new blood: “We feel that if a student is touched by a great teacher here, he may decide that he wants to do that.”

All three can point to that kind of influence in their academic and professional lives.

Dr. Kokich says the people who taught him at the School of Dentistry left an indelible mark. Dr. Al Moore, onetime dean, taught him “a lot about history and how dentistry evolves — how looking back on history to see how that shapes things we do today was important.”

He says Dr. Dick Riedel, a successor to Dr. Moore as Orthodontics Department chairman, preached an evidence-based approach: “He was the one who was really open-minded and allowed us to look at all different things, and based on what we were taught, make judgments and select the thing that seemed to be most appropriate.”

The late Professor Emeritus Ben Moffett, who passed away last October, was Dr. Kokich’s research chair. Dr. Moffett taught him much about writing, but passed on an even more important lesson: “In a discipline like orthodontics, or anything in dentistry, the things I do on a day-to-day basis when treating patients have a biologic mechanism that allows them to work or not work.”

For Frank Spear, the role models started at home. His mother, a second-grade teacher, is “probably the most kind, nurturing person I ever met in my life. She believed in education.” His father, a mechanic he calls “brilliant,” would take the young Frank to work and explain everything he did painstakingly.

Dr. Mathews found inspiration from college instructors in anthropology and chemistry, but his skills as a communicator were sparked by two high school teachers in Van Nuys, Calif. “Mr. Frisius, who got me turned on to English literature — he was a real character who used words like ‘howsomeverly’ — and Mr. Kessler, who got me really excited about words.”

And that’s the main point of the endowment — creating a standard of inspirational instruction at the School of Dentistry. As Dr. Spear says: “Let’s teach people how to be more effective teachers and educators. If that happens, it changes the whole nature and character of a school.”
And in Dr. O’Connor’s vision, there was another key team member who had been overlooked all too often: the patient.

“What Ralph O’Connor always said was, ‘Don’t prejudge the patient.’ You might think that the patient wants just the Pinto, but you need to tell him what the Cadillac is. Tell him what the options are, and get down to the Chevy,” says Dr. Mathews. “Ralph was a master at creating the vision [for the patient] and then continually reminding the patient of the vision when he came in.”

“These are very complex cases — accident cases, people with major health problems — and they can run three to five years,” Dr. O’Connor says. “The goal and the time that it took was variable. I had patients that took over 10 years to achieve the vision they wanted.”

It was all about getting patients fully invested in their own treatment, and dentists understanding that “perfect” outcomes were not necessarily good outcomes.

“Perfection is a word that should never belong in dentistry,” says Dr. Kokich. “My emphasis is that if you have a patient that presents to you at 50 or 60 years of age, that has an existing malocclusion that’s worked for them, how can I make a judgment that that’s wrong when it’s worked for 50 or 60 years? I need to be realistic, to not change everything simply because it seems to be more ideal, when we can’t prove that.”

Says Dr. Mathews: “Perfection is a disease. I always fall a little short.”

The interdisciplinary approach isn’t problem-free. Practical questions can intrude, as with implants. Not only are they performed by endodontists, but also by periodontists, general dentists and oral surgeons. So if an interdisciplinary team is handling the case, how do you decide who does the implants (and gets the fee)?

Different cases may demand different answers, but it all starts with a willingness to look at an issue in multiple ways. Dr. Spear says he took that attitude from instructors at UW such as Ralph Yuodelis (’64 MS/Pros, ’65 Cert/Perio), Bill Ammons (’70 MS/Perio) and Bob Faucher (’77 MS/Pros).

“They were open to sharing multiple techniques or modalities of treatment, and then would explain why they chose the one they did, as opposed to being very rigid,” Dr. Spear says. “All of them were great thinkers, and they weren’t at all rigid or dogmatic. I think that’s one of Vincent and Dave’s and my strengths.”

Dr. O’Connor agrees. “They have trust in what the other person is doing, so they can disagree with each other in front of the audience, and yet not feel like they’re criticizing or demeaning. They’re letting the audience see the process of how it works. This is how this interchange has to happen. The
The “I” Team

“T eir influence across the country is just amazing.”

step,” he says. “It is a little bit time-consuming — it takes away from chair time.

“People tend to find that not a labor of love — just a labor. What they don’t realize is the importance of it to what they do at the chair. They could be wasting a lot of time at the chair doing things that are inappropriate, because the wax-up would show them that they’re going in the wrong direction. It is so fundamental.”

For these three dentists, so is a sense of humor. Dr. Mathews recalls one night before a lecture in Zurich, Switzerland, when a jet-lagged Dr. Spear, struggling to stay awake as the three planned their presentation, looked at Dr. Kokich and said: “I can’t understand why you’re doing this. You’re on an airplane every week. Don’t you get tired of this?” Dr. Kokich looked at him and said, “Because I’m a teacher.”

Says Dr. Mathews: “Frank was dumbfounded, and so we always throw that back at him: ‘Well, Frank, don’t you know that Vince is a TEACHER?’”

They can kid one another so comfortably because none of them has anything to prove. “One of the greatest gifts that Vince and Dave and I have had is that we’re all very competent, but our egos have never gotten in the way of each other, and we’re all very lucky that way,” says Dr. Spear. “We all graduated No. 1 in our class from dental school. Every one of us graduated No. 1 in our class from dental school. Every one of us was one of the best in the world for their age group. We were all very lucky that way.”

Dr. Kokich may be preparing to leave the team, but he’ll still be active. He edited extensively for journals early in his career, and would like to do more of that.

He’s also looking forward to more time for gardening, skiing, golfing, and kicking around his summer house at Horsehead Bay on South Puget Sound with his wife of 40 years, Marilyn. (Also of Croatian descent, she’ll travel to his Turkey in 2010, with their wives.

In the meantime, the lecture team looks to at least one more trip together — but this one will be all pleasure, to Turkey in 2010, with their wives.

“We truly are great friends,” says Dr. Spear.

Looking back, Dr. O’Connor says, “I didn’t care whether they were friends or not — I just wanted the best in the field at that time. My statement to them was ‘You have to be open to change.’ They had to buy into that. And they did.”

“Their influence across the country is just amazing.”
Not 10 minutes into a conversation with Dr. Jim Steiner, it’s already clear why he became one of the School of Dentistry’s most beloved figures before retiring last fall.

During a chat over coffee, he notices a passing cafeteria worker, a woman in her 30s wearing orthodontic braces. Immediately he stops her and starts asking questions: Who’s treating her? What made her decide to get the braces? How’s the treatment going?

She beams at him, delighted by his concern, and it’s as plain as the wires in her mouth: This man can’t help reaching out to people. For him, it’s as natural as breathing.

After serving as Associate Dean for Student Services and Admissions since 2002, Dr. Steiner concluded more than 21 years at the School of Dentistry when he called it quits in November.

At age 78, he decided it was time to ease back on the throttle and relax a little more at home in Edmonds.

But his mind remains quicksilver. Every conversation is verbal pinball as he bounces from one subject to another, his eyes dancing.

“To me, it’s like a blur — there’s all these wonderful young people; they’re like my family,” he says, looking back on his time at the School of Dentistry.

“He seemed like someone who could almost be my grandfather. He was engaging and he really took an interest in how things were going, where you were from,” recalls fourth-year student Dan Bakko, who met Dr. Steiner in the SURF student research program the summer before starting classes at SOD.

For Dr. Steiner, that connection to the students was by far the hardest thing to give up. “I consider myself to be more a friend than a parent,” he says.

But many of those attending his retirement reception Nov. 12 felt he filled those roles and more — teacher, mentor, counselor. He has also been an administrator, serving as Acting Dean for a year before Dean Martha Somer-man began her tenure in 2002.

At the reception, Dr. Jim McGraw of the School’s admissions board, who began his Endodontics residency at the School in 1967, not long after Dr. Steiner had joined the faculty, had this to say: “When things were bleakest, he was the one who encouraged you to keep on plodding. He’s inspirational — he makes students better than they could ordinarily inspire themselves to be. ... Jim is a rare, compassionate, considerate counselor of the highest order.”
“I don’t know if anybody can ever replace him.”

Dr. Doug Jackson, who was Associate Dean for Educational Partnerships and Diversity before leaving for Seattle Children’s hospital last year, said: “You could be having the worst day imaginable, and then there’s this guy who gives a sense that it’s all going to be OK.”

An emotional Carol Brown, manager of the Office of Student Life and Admissions, said: “Every time a faculty member would stop by to chat or complain, he was always there with open mind and open heart, always with solid advice.” She recalled walking into his office after he had a difficult meeting with a student, with tears in his eyes, he said to her, “This is what it’s all about. This is why we come to work each day.”

For that reason, perhaps it was the students’ tributes that carried the greatest weight. Third-year class president Eric Cadwell said, “Coming in and seeing Dr. Steiner so welcoming and smiling, it really meant a lot. Every time I see him, he’s so undeniably enthusiastic about the young people at the school.”

Oleg Shvartsur, second-year class president, told Dr. Steiner: “You always gave us good advice, and you never judged us.”

Dr. Sun Oh Chung of Oral Biology put it simply: “I don’t know if anybody can ever replace him.”

To hear Dr. Steiner talk, it’s just been a happy turn of fortune that brought him to this point. “I’ve done so much that I never planned to do that enriched my life,” he says.

The Ohio native started his 53-year career in dentistry with a DDS from Western Reserve University (now Case Western). After two years as an Air Force dentist, he returned to his home of Wooster, Ohio, and spent five years in private practice.

Then he packed up his wife and their three kids and drove to Seattle, where he’d never been before. At UW, he earned his MSD in Oral Biology (“I learned how to study spit”) and Certificate in Endodontics and went into teaching in 1966.

His first lecture was a disaster — the bulb burned out on the old-fashioned slide projector and he didn’t have any backup material. The new teacher learned a lesson: “I don’t trust anyone with any technology that I don’t supervise.”

After becoming assistant professor and acting chair of Endodontics, he left in 1971 to teach at Louisiana State University. He also took courses in social psychology at the University of New Orleans that proved to be quite helpful later on when he moved into the Student Services post at UW.

But although he loved Louisiana and folksy Southern ways, he still felt the urge to move on. He’d gone into full-time endodontics practice in Louisiana but grew bored with it, and when UCLA’s dental school offered him a chance to head the endodontics department, he grabbed it.

Even so, UW still called to him — “I love the people, I love the way the school is set up, I love Seattle” — and he finally returned in 1992 and rejoined the Endodontics Department.

In 1997, he was named chair of the D-1 Multimedia Committee and helped guide planning for the D-1 Clinic. In 1998, he was appointed to the Washington Dental Service Endowed Chair in Dentistry and began teaching Dental Practice Administration to fourth-year students.

The course covers practice management, information technology, health-care delivery systems, legal issues, regulations and ethics. It has been a highlight of his academic career.

Dr. Steiner put special emphasis on the ethical aspects of the course, homing in on dentistry’s inherent tension between professionalism and commercialism. There’s not enough training in dental school in the process of making ethical clinical decisions, he says.

He also has relished the job of helping turn callow students into confident clinicians: “When they get into the clinics and work on live people, it scares the hell out of them,” he says with a chuckle. The challenge, he says, is to teach students how to get past the problem of giving patients discomfort; the answer, he says, lies in focusing on patient outcomes.

But there’s no question what part of his tenure at UW he enjoyed the most. “Student Services was the most rewarding thing I’ve done in my entire life,” he says.

Dr. Steiner always found ways — some of them a little unorthodox — to connect with students. Dan Bakko remembers a pre-Halloween student social in 2006 when the Associate Dean for Student Services and Admissions showed up wearing a clown costume, clown makeup and a big red nose.

“Nobody even knew who he was at first,” Bakko says.

Now Dr. Steiner will spend more time with his family — wife Pauline, four children and two grandchildren — and his beloved dogs, and he’ll pursue an interest in genealogy. He’s already found three relatives who served in the Revolutionary War, and can trace his roots back to Mennonite farmers from Switzerland. He loves history, and has a special passion for the Civil War.

But his heart will always be in Montlake, where he hopes the School of Dentistry can continue both its educational excellence and community outreach.

“You watch these kids come in green, and four years later, it’s dramatic what happens to them,” he says.

“This place is special.”
Dr. David Houten (DDS ’85) has been playing trumpet ever since fifth grade. He’s still tooting a horn, but now it’s for the Washington State Dental Association – as president. Serving since last September, he has made access to care one of the association’s signature issues.

“The ongoing challenges are finding access solutions that make a difference and create opportunities for people to receive care,” says the genial general dentist, who practices in Kelso and lives in Longview.

“The things that work are when you get people into the office so they can have routine care and prevention, and by maintaining these regular and timely visits, we can keep their oral health up and give them the benefits of having no decay and no periodontal disease.”

Dr. Houten, 49, stresses the paramount importance of preventive care. “In the long run, prevention is the key to success,” he says. “Neglect is too costly.”

He came to the presidency with a long record of service to WSADA, especially in advocacy. He was a board member and WSADA legislative director, served on the Washington Oral Health Foundation board, and chaired the DENTPAC political action committee. He has also been active in advocacy for the American Dental Association, and was an action team leader for Rep. Brian Baird (D-Wa.) in the state’s Third Congressional District.

He keeps a keen eye on funding issues such as Medicaid reimbursement, where lagging rates have made it more difficult for patients to find providers.

“Dental dollars are so small compared to the medical side, so sometimes we get a little overlooked,” he adds. “But we’ll just have to keep explaining our value to people, in addition to the facts of being small businesses.”

What he truly enjoys about his work as WSADA president is the chance to meet the membership around the state. He’s been to Mount Baker, Walla Walla, Yakima, Sequim and the Olympic peninsula, and met with the dental societies in Lewis County and Clark County, among other WSADA components. “It’s been a lot of fun,” he says.

So was playing trumpet in the UW Husky Marching Band as an undergraduate during the glory days when Warren Moon was quarterback. He has fond memories of going to the Sun Bowl and Rose Bowl.

Married 22 years, he and his wife, Jennifer, have two children. Even while he fulfills his WSADA obligations, he has maintained a full commitment to his practice, and hopes he can continue to spread dentistry’s message loud and clear.

“One of the things I really want to see us do as a profession and organization is better communication,” he says.

Dr. Douglas Walsh (DDS ’78) is a man of action: political action, to be precise.

Working with dental political action committees, Dr. Walsh, 59, has played an active role at the state and national levels. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the American Dental Association’s ADPAC, working with five Northwest states on fund-raising and dental political advocacy. He has had numerous political fund-raisers in his home, where dental students are always welcome.

Working with the WSADAs Oral Health Foundation, he has also visited schools in Washington state to deliver talks on tobacco cessation and oral health care. “We targeted the schools we thought would be the greatest need,” he says.

The Seattle dentist cites the WSADAs adopt-a-school programs and other efforts to improve access to care. “It’s making a difference, and we’re going to keep doing it. … As a dentist, you realize, ‘Hey, I can make a big difference in those lives.’”

Dr. Walsh was instrumental in the purchase of Northwest Dentists Insurance Company, where he serves on the board. He also believes the WSDA would benefit by owning its own headquarters and is leading the search for a suitable building.

He and his wife of nine years, realtor Kathy Blain, love living on the water, with a getaway on Hood Canal and a beach home in Mexico. The two are foodies, wine collectors and adventure travelers, and have toured Europe in addition to Africa, Thailand and Turkey.

Last Christmas in Mexico, Dr. Walsh volunteered his dental services for an orphanage.

“It’s fun to work with any community where you’re helping people get care that wouldn’t be very easy for them to obtain,” he says.

One way Dr. Walsh has continued his ties to the School of Dentistry is by working with Dr. Phil Weinstein’s pre-dental school class, for which he hosts and mentors students volunteering in dental offices as part of the program. Dr. Walsh also received the ADA Golden Apple Award for Student Advocacy by creating a congressional internship program for dental students to work in the Washington, D.C., offices of the Senate or House of Representatives, where they develop their leadership and dental advocacy skills. The program is being used by other states as a successful model.

He also plays a vital role at SOD as a member of the Dean’s Club board, and is an unabashed proponent of the school and its mission of educational excellence.

“We must continue to support it,” he says. “It’s a tremendous asset to the state and to the whole dental community. We just simply can’t let this decline.”

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CLASS OF 1950
Martin J. Miller, Laguna Beach, Calif.: I graduated in 1950 from UW Dental School 1st in class. My son Mathew John Miller, DDS, graduated from UW Dental School in June 2008. I am real proud of him. My daughter Teresa E. Miller will graduate in June 2009 from Dental Hygiene School. I am also proud of her.

CLASS OF 1951
Sam Anderson, Hansville, Wash.: Thinking about giving something back to the community? Consider volunteering a little time to the Dr. Johnny Johnson Memorial Clinic for the Disabled. You will never regret it. For more info, please call Dr. Sam Anderson at 360-638-2751.

CLASS OF 1954
David E. Snyder, San Antonio, Texas: Retired from teaching at University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio Dental School. Now volunteer half-day a week, teaching in Sophomore Laboratory.

CLASS OF 1960
Curt Smith, Bellingham, Wash.: I'm still working a day a week for WDS as the Associate Dental Director. Retired from private practice in 2005 and now have gone back to it on a limited basis, running Meridian Dental Access, treating DSHS adults.

CLASS OF 1965
Jeffrey V. Merrifield, San Jose, Calif.: It took 30-plus years, but I finally found my niche. Once I returned to the clinical practice of dentistry in the late 1990s, I decided to limit my practice to “Endo.” Given that I was approaching 60 years of age, I didn’t think there was much of an opportunity, but I went ahead anyway to limit my practice to “Endo”. I have never regretted my decision. All is well!

Gregory E. Smith, Gainesville, Fla.: Greg retired from the University of Florida College of Dentistry in June 2007 after 40 years of teaching and service. Many of these years he was Chair of the Department of Operative Dentistry. He was awarded the title of Professor Emeritus. He remains active in the Academy of Operative Dentistry and presently serves on the International Board of Directors of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity which he was initiated into at the UW in April 1959. He and his wife, Patricia, reside in Gainesville.

CLASS OF 1967
Bruce L. Bindel, Hemet, Calif.: I sold my private practice in October 2008 and I am now semi-retired, practicing two days a week, ten months a year.


CLASS OF 1973
Jeff Burgess, Seattle, Wash.: Jeff is now involved in Fusion Photography. Jeff’s work has won several awards including a “silver” award from Create magazine and purchase award at the 25th annual national photographic exhibit at the Larson Gallery. His works have appeared in Create and Advanced Photoshop. They have been displayed in the Center for Fine Art Photography in Denver, Mark’s at the Garage in Honolulu, the Dunville Gallery in Seattle, and the Gallery 8 in Phoenix, as well as other venues. You can view the images at Fine Art America. Inquiries can be made through the email address: jb-hono@hotmail.com.

Glyn Anthony Fleury, Sedro Woolley, Wash.: Linda and I have celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary and have 11 grandkids. We have been spending more time in Arizona during the winter.

Bob Stephan, Spokane, Wash.: At last long, and without further ado, our research article “Resolution of Cavitational Osteonecrosis Through NeuroModulation Technique, a Novel Form of Intention-Based Therapy: A Clinical Case Study” is published in the January edition of the Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine. The article is available now online and you can download it at no charge prior to publication. The address is: http://www.liebertonline.com/doi/pdfplus/10.1089/acm.2008.0095

CLASS OF 1976
Richard W. Nash, Burlington, Wash.: Ann and I are happy to announce the marriage of our oldest daughter, Brooke. She and husband Kyle Goldthorp shared their vows on Aug. 16. Our daughter Laura Nash has returned to school at Western Washington University finishing her pre-dental classes and will apply for entering year in 2010. Our son Stuart has taken a civil engineering job with Stantec Corp. in Vancouver, B.C. He has joined a curling league and is enjoying the big-city life.

CLASS OF 1979
Darlene M. Chen, Seattle, Wash.: Celebrating 25 years as oral and maxillofacial surgeon, board certified, now a grandmother of Gabrielle and youngest daughter 21 years. Margret is a senior at Santa Clara University.

Douglas Leen, Petersburg, Alaska: I’ve just finished my eighth year as a private contractor in the public health sector from Barrow Alaska to the South Pole, Antarctica. Come visit us virtually at: www.dougleen.com/ontheroad or in person at Buoy 54, Wrangell Narrows, city of Kupreanof near Petersburg. We’ve just finished restoring a 10-acre log homestead with a guest house on the point.
CLASS OF 1980
Ross M. Fraker, Seattle, Wash.: Recently sold practice to his daughter, Dr. Sarah Fraker, Class of 1998. He continues to work in the practice two days a week and remains busy with his corporation, R&D Services, Inc., manufacturing and marketing models of The Amalgam Collector™. He is looking forward to the 30th reunion of his class in 2010. If you are interested in helping with the reunion planning, please contact Ross at rmfraker2002@yahoo.com.

Ty Mitchell Galvin, Renton, Wash.: Hi, Class of 1980 alumni. I am beginning to organize our 30-year reunion (yes, in 2010). If you have any suggestions, please e-mail me at: tmitch1096@aol.com. It will be a guaranteed good time for all!

Gary E. Heyamoto, Woodinville, Wash.: In July 2008, I became the Academy of General Dentistry’s Trustee for Region II. Currently, I am serving on WSDA’s Budget & Finance Committee. Also, it is with great pleasure to continue working as a statistician for the Seahawks and UW Husky football and basketball teams. In January, I began serving as defensive statistician for the Rose Bowl stat crew. Hopefully, one day soon, I can work a “home game” on Jan. 1!

CLASS OF 1981
Margaret J. Fehrenbach, Burien, Wash.: Recently has co-authored a new second edition of Saunders Review of Dental Hygiene (Elsevier, 2009) with Jane Weiner, RDH. Margaret has been a member of the NDHBE basic science committee in the past and has textbooks with the publisher on various dental topics that are used in many dental hygiene programs in the United States and abroad. Margaret also has enjoyed editorship of the Dental Anatomy Coloring Book and Mosby’s Dental Dictionary. She has now virtually re-entered academia via the Internet by presenting a course this spring. Educational Concepts, for St. Petersburg College’s online continuing education through dentassist.com. Unexpectedly, the review text is being used by licensed peers interested in lifelong learning as a good overall review of the profession.

CLASS OF 1981, ORTHO 1983
Charles Arthur Gilmore, Yakima, Wash.: This year I was honored for 25 years of service as Team Orthodontist for the Central Washington Cleft Palate Team. This has been a professionally enriching interdisciplinary experience involving a broad spectrum of health care providers. I continue to see several cleft patients every day in my private practice in Yakima. I have also enjoyed collaboration with former classmate Mark Egbert of Seattle Children’s hospital in providing this care.

CLASS OF 1983
Russell Tom, Honolulu, Hawaii: For all those attending the ADA in Hawaii this year, the Class of 1983 would like to have a reunion get-together. If you are planning to be in Hawaii for the ADA, please email Russ at rustomdds@gmail.com so that he can make plans and let everyone know.

CLASS OF 1984
Kerry S. Ishihara, Wahiawa, Hawaii: Class of 1984 - Starting to plan for 25th class reunion at ADA meeting 2009 in Hawaii. Contact Kerry Ishihara at: ishihara4@hawaiiantel.net if you think you want to or are able to attend.

Irene F. Hunter, Olympia, Wash.: Glen and I are recent grandparents and pretty excited about it. Our granddaughter Eliana was born Oct. 22, 2008 and is happy, healthy and of course perfect. Glen retires this year after 32 years of teaching. I, however, am not quite ready to give it up. We expect to take a bit more time away traveling and sailing, but I plan to practice a few more years.

CLASS OF 1985
David E. Houten, Kelso, Wash.: Elected President of the Washington State Dental Association at the 2008 WSDA House of Delegates in Walla Walla.

CLASS OF 1986
W. Reed Lytle, Vancouver, Wash.: 2008 has been quite a year. I turned 50, ran in the Athens, Greece Marathon and Newport, Ore. Marathon. And recently became the proud grandfather to a beautiful baby girl named Lana. I practice four days a week in Vancouver with Permanente Dental Associates. Wishing all my classmates well.

CLASS OF 1998, ORTHO 2006
Reid J. Winkler, Washington, D.C.: I am in my final year serving as Chairman of the Department of Orthodontics at the Naval Postgraduate Dental School in Bethesda, Md. In December, I will be leaving active naval service, returning to Seattle, and joining Dr. Peter Shapiro at Northcut Orthodontics in University Village. Looking forward to reconnecting with my UW Dental colleagues!

CLASS OF 2005
Lone M. Meyer, Ferndale, Wash.: Lane and his wife, Melissa, had their third child, Eliana Marie Meyer, on April 4, 2008, Lane and family now live in Ferndale, where Lane now has his dental practice.

CLASS OF 2007
Daniel A. Frost, Carnation, Wash.: I am working full time at my uncle’s private practice office (Ronald E. Frost, UW Class of ’74) located in Redmond, Wash. I also work part time (one day a week) at Lake Washington Technical College Hygiene School in their restorative clinic.

CLASS OF 2008
Christopher W. Steen, Marrero, La.: I graduated from the Louisiana State University School of Medicine in June ’08.
50th Reunion

The Class of 1958 met to celebrate its 50th anniversary on Sept. 20 at the Woodmark Hotel in Kirkland, Wash. Forty-three people were present, including class members, their wives, widows and a former instructor. A social hour was held prior to a sit-down dinner. Two picture boards displayed photos of the class at the beginning of dental school, and one showed survivors after four long, hard years. Also displayed were pictures brought by class members and photos of the 15 deceased class members, for whom a moment of silence was observed before dinner. The master of ceremonies, Dr. Ted Ramage, chaired the program after dinner. Dr. Ramage passed the mike to all who chose to speak and we heard many tales from the past. One of the most notable related to the rule during our time that we could never ride the elevator, even with our blue instrument box in hand. Our class was invited to the 2008 Dental School graduation by Dean Somerman, and following graduation we were given a tour of the dental school. When we approached the elevators, we all balked and explained to the Dean that we could not ride the elevator but she assured us that after 50 years it was OK. Those in attendance reluctantly used the elevator. Those graduates at the reunion were Drs. Bryant, Hublou, Tracy, Fraley, Westin, Ramage, Wilksie, Jorgensen, Brummitt, Quigley, Cuiikshank, Bollinger, Kumasaka, Duffin, Erickson, Bloom, Harbottle, Howard, Mohoric, Adams and Laxton. Dr. Ken Morrison and his wife were our guests and they added a lot to the celebration. On Friday, the day before the dinner, three foursomes of golfers met at Willows Run Golf Club and chased the little white ball. Some can still really play the game. Will we meet again? No decision was reached. —Richard Westin, Class Representative

30th Reunion

The Class of 1978 held its 30th reunion at Campbell’s Resort at Lake Chelan on the weekend of Sept. 12-14. We had an excellent turnout of 39 classmates. The Friday evening event was held at Tsillan Cellars, where we had hors d’oeuvres and a wine tasting. Name tags were required because after 30 years there were some subtle differences on what we looked like compared to our first-year photos. On Saturday a group played golf at Bear Mountain Ranch, with Jim Gagliardi showing us how golf is supposed to be played. The non-golfers went shopping, wine-tasting, mountain-biking, hiking, kayaking, and just relaxing. The exception was Mitch Hungate, who did a short 3-mile swim followed by a run, and then he went kayaking. Saturday night we had dinner at the resort and more reminiscing. Bill Larson compiled a survey of what everyone was doing. He reviewed some of the highlights and handed out the results. It was well appreciated by all of us. Sunday morning a lot of us gathered for breakfast and said our goodbyes. I want to thank Bill again for a great idea and his follow-up. I also want to acknowledge Carol Friedel for her support and her great organization skills. —Mike Hardy, Class Representative

25th Reunion

The Class of 1984 will hold its 25th reunion in conjunction with the ADA Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii this Sept. 30-Oct. 4. More details will follow. If you think you can attend, please contact Kerry Ishihara by e-mail at ishihara4@hawaiiantel.net.

5th Reunion

The Class of 2004 is planning its fifth reunion for Saturday, July 25 in conjunction with the Pacific NW Dental Conference. More details will follow. Jessica Swoboda (Smith), Irene Parkhill and Wendy Terry (Scott) are in charge of organizing the event. You can contact Wendy at wendmc78@yahoo.com or Jessica at jessicaswoboda@gmail.com.
in memoriam

■ DR. BENJAMIN C. MOFFETT, ORTHODONTIC FACULTY MEMBER
Emeritus Professor Benjamin C. Moffett died Oct. 1, 2008 after a long illness at the age of 84. He was born in Spring Lake, N.J., and is survived by his wife, two brothers, three children and two grandchildren. Dr. Moffett was an inspiring and well-respected Professor of Orthodontics at the University of Washington for nearly 30 years. He received numerous awards and held university and community administrative positions.

■ DR. ROBERT E. HAMPSON JR., CLASS OF 1950
Dr. Robert E. Hampson Jr. passed away peacefully at home on Feb. 11, 2009 with his family close by his side at the age of 86. He was devoted to his family; his beloved wife Barbara; his children Elizabeth, Charles (Gina), and Catherine; and his grandchildren, Sarah, Beverly and Will.

Dr. Hampson was born Jan. 4, 1923 in Seattle, to Mary and Robert E. Hampson. He graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1941 and went on to the University of Washington, where he belonged to the KKE fraternity. He joined the Navy V12 program and on completion had three years of Navy service as an ensign and then lieutenant on a destroyer. He returned to the UW and graduated with the first class in the new Dental School in 1950. He then joined in private practice with his father in the University District, and was a part-time clinical instructor at the School of Dentistry. He married Barbara Bunn of Red Deer, Alberta in 1951 and they celebrated their 57th anniversary July 14. Dr. Hampson practiced dentistry for 40 years and was a member of the Washington State Dental Association, and the Cascade Gold Foil Study Club, and he was a Fellow of the American College of Dentists.

He had a great sense of humor and enjoyed all sorts of outdoor activities, including traveling the world, golfing, skiing, and hiking the Cascades. He was a member of the Crystal Mountain Founders Club, where he spent many joyous weekends skiing. He also belonged to the Seattle Golf Club and the Northwest Seniors Golf Association. He was a member of the Troop 180 “Old Goats” patrol and went on many 50-mile hikes and canoe trips with the Boy Scouts of Laurelhurst. The family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to Rizalde Alejandrino for his tender care this past year.

■ DR. ROBERT MCCARTER, CLASS OF 1952
Dr. Robert McCarter passed away from complications of Alzheimer’s disease on Nov. 13, 2008. A native Seattlite, he was born June 7, 1921 to Robert and Myrtle McCarter. After receiving a journalism degree from the University of Washington, he entered the U.S. Army, and in 1946 was discharged as captain. He went back to the University of Washington, graduating this time from the School of Dentistry in 1952.

Following graduation, Dr. McCarter began his practice in the Medical Dental Building with his father. His passion for his profession led him to serve as president of both the Seattle-King County Dental Society and the Washington State Dental Association (1966). Dr. McCarter was also a delegate to many national meetings. He was a member of the Pierre Fauchard Academy, the International College of Dentists and the American College of Dentistry. He was a class representative for the UW Dental Alumni Association.

Dr. McCarter is survived by his sister Shirley, his former wife, stepchildren, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

■ DR. HARMON FREDRIC ADAMS, CLASS OF 1960
Dr. Harmon Fredric Adams passed away peacefully at his Bainbridge Island home on March 1, 2009 after a short but cruel battle with pancreatic cancer. He was born at home in Syracuse, N.Y. on May 27, 1936 and was the first child of Frederick George and Esther Harmon Adams. His family moved to Los Angeles in the winter of 1945 and to Seattle in 1948; there he graduated from Highline High School in 1954. He entered the UW School of Dentistry and graduated in 1960. During dental school, he met and married Patricia Jean Benson. As a captain in the U.S. Air Force, he spent the following two years practicing dentistry at Hill Air Force Base in Ogden, Utah.

Harmon and Pat moved to Bainbridge Island in 1962, and he established his dental practice in the old “Village”. In 1974, he began teaching at the UW School of Dentistry. For ten years, he taught restorative dentistry and directed student clinical activities. During this period, he was named outstanding instructor and published widely on numerous research topics. He was a founding member and longtime mentor of the Yakima Valley Crown and Bridge Study Group for dentists.

In the mid-1980s, he returned to a full-time dental practice on Bainbridge Island. Later, he and his son, Todd Harmon Adams who also graduated from the UW School of Dentistry, shared a practice. The elder Dr. Adams practiced, on a limited basis, until his cancer diagnosis in December 2007. He adored his family, friends and countless patients who honored him with their patronage during the past five decades. He was noted for his exacting dental standards and thorough approach to all he treated and called “friends”.

Dr. Adams was an artist with many passions. He enjoyed painting, creating mosaics, woodcarving, woodworking, photography, and gold, silver and bronze sculpture. His hobbies also included fly-tying, skiing, hiking, gardening, travel and horse racing, but his favorite was fishing with the boys.

He is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Patricia; sisters, Judy Corcoran (Brain) of Ukiah, Calif., Dale Dhoore (James) of York, Maine, and Susan Vaughn (Ted) of Lake Lure, N.C.; brother, John Adams of Ogden, Utah.
Newfield, N.Y.; sons, Michael (Mary) of Bainbridge Island, Jeff (Kari) of Grand Rapids, Mich., and Todd Harmon Adams (Yaroslavna) of Bainbridge Island. Dr. Adams so enjoyed his loving grandchildren Jeremy Young, 24, Jane, 15, Peter, 12, Quincy Harmon, 6, and Nora Adams, 4, as well as his special niece and nephews.

Reprinted from Bainbridge Islander

DR. JOHN A. MORRIS, CLASS OF 1960
Dr. John A. Morris, 88, died Aug. 23, 2008 from a fall at his home in Helena, Mont. He was born in 1919 in Lake View, Mont., which is now part of the Red Rock National Wildlife Refuge. Dr. Morris was drafted into the Army in 1941. He served with the Third Infantry Division, Fifteenth Infantry Regiment, in North Africa, Italy and France. He crossed the Rhine in the spring of 1945 and fought with his division across Germany and into Austria before the war ended. For his bravery and courage in battle, he was awarded the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars with Oak Leaf Clusters and the Combat Infantry Badge.

He married Joan Kountz in 1946. They were married for 48 years until her death from ovarian cancer in 1994. Dr. Morris attended Montana State University and later the UW School of Dentistry, where he graduated in 1960. He practiced dentistry in Whitehall and Butte, Mont., before his retirement in 1992, when he took up bronze sculpture. He loved fishing, art, classical music, his horses, a stiff drink, a good cigar and traveling to visit his children.

His survivors include his five children, Michele Morris of Park City, Utah, Michael Morris of Newport Beach, Calif., Sheila Morris of San Marcos, Calif., Jack Morris of Helena, Mont., and Brian Morris of Helena, Mont., and 10 grandchildren. He will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Condensed from Helena (Mont.) Independent Record

DR. LARRY L. SCHRADER, CLASS OF 1961
Retired St. Maries dentist Larry L. Schrader, 79, died on Jan. 5, 2009 in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho from complications after a cerebral hemorrhage. He was born Dec. 4, 1929 at Long Beach, Calif., to Robert E. and Esther (Fee) Schrader. He lived in Nevada with his family until 1941 when they moved to a farm on Placer Creek, northeast of Bonners Ferry.

Dr. Schrader graduated from Bonners Ferry High School in 1946. He then attended Idaho State University School of Pharmacy, graduating with his degree in pharmacology in 1950. He then worked as a pharmacist for Burnell’s Drug Store in Bonners Ferry from 1950 to 1951. In 1952, he was drafted into the Army as a second lieutenant and was honorably discharged the next year as a first lieutenant. He then moved to Kellogg where he worked as a pharmacist at a drug store. In the mid-1950’s, he moved to Seattle where he worked as a pharmacist while attending the UW School of Dentistry. He married Lorraine Parker in 1958 and graduated from Dental School in 1961 and moved back to St. Maries. In 1974, Dr. Schrader and Dr. E.M. Sullivan were instrumental in developing the medical facility where St. Maries Family Medicine is now. He was divorced in 1978. In 1979, Dr. Schrader married Golda Arhenius in Coeur d’Alene. In 1999, he moved his practice from the clinic building to his own office on Main Avenue. He retired and sold the practice to Dr. Keith in 2003.

Dr. Schrader enjoyed duck hunting, fishing, watching sports, watching his grandchildren play sports and woodworking. He also was an avid reader. He was a life member of the St. Maries Elk’s Lodge, a life member and past president of the St. Maries Gun Club, and a member of the Camas Prairie Trap Shooting Association. He also served as Secretary/Treasurer of the Dutch Tulip Investment Club.

Survivors include his wife, Golda; his son and daughter-in-law, Jerry and Robin Schrader of Spokane, Wash.; stepsons and their wives, Dewey and Tammi Arhenius of St. Maries, and Jim and Vicki Arhenius of Lewiston. He is also survived by his brother, Max Schrader of Troy, Mont.; and grandchildren, Dana and Josh Payne, Brett and Bree Arhenius, Bree and Brian True and Eric VanderWegen, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Reprinted from St. Maries (Idaho) Gazette-Record

DR. KEVIN LEROY CHANCELLOR, CLASS OF 1997
Dr. Kevin Leroy Chancellor died Monday, Dec. 8, 2008, in his sleep. He was 40.

He was born April 18, 1968, to Max and Carol Chancellor in San Jose, Calif. His childhood and early adulthood took him all over the world, including Hong Kong, Malaysia, Switzerland and Uruguay. His family settled down in San Francisco Bay, where he attended and graduated from Mission High School. From 1986 to 1993, he attended BYU and earned a B.A. in Spanish. From 1987 to 1989, he spent two years as an LDS missionary in Montevideo, Uruguay. As a result he spoke fluent Spanish, which was a great asset to the local community.

Dr. Chancellor studied at the UW School of Dentistry and received his DDS degree in 1997. After school, he practiced general dentistry in Salem, Ore. His life prospects brought him to beautiful Lincoln City, where he and his wife, Danielle, raised their family of two cute and spunky boys and two beautiful daughters. His life’s passions were his family, his work and fishing.

He is survived by his wife, Danielle; sons, Corben, 9, and Caleb, 7; daughters, Cassandra, 5, and Caitlyn, 2; parents, Max and Carol Chancellor of Salem, Ore.; grandmother, Audra Oleson of Claremont, Calif.; brothers, David (Stacy) of Parker, Colo., and Steve (Kori) of Salem, Ore.; and sister, Becky (Jason) McBride of Salem, Ore. His beloved grandmother Ruth and brother Matt died earlier.

Reprinted from The (Lincoln City, Ore.) News Guard
Since its founding in 1946, the UW School of Dentistry has benefited significantly from the generosity of countless individuals who have helped ensure that the School remains an institution of distinction. Through supporting students, inspiring faculty, developing innovative programs, and improving the School’s facilities, the leaders listed in the Volunteer Honor Roll have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in the study and practice of dentistry, and in oral health research.
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- **FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2009**
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  Benaroya Hall, Seattle

- **THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JULY 23-24, 2009**
  Pacific Northwest Dental Conference
  Washington State Convention Center, Seattle

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  Dental Alumni Golf Tournament
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