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As we enter the final quarter of 2010 and make plans for a new year, the School of Dentistry’s Alumni Association continues to be a strong voice for our profession and our beloved alma mater. We, as an Alumni Association, are 1300 members strong and we have approximately 3000 alumni across our state, nation, and world. Our school’s rich tradition of excellence in education, service, and research is world renowned. We must continue to demand excellence in all that we do at our school and in our profession.

This year has been filled with its ample share of challenges, as well as, opportunities for growth, learning, and leadership. Some challenges such as the “Gulf Oil Crisis” have had far-reaching effects upon our environment and even upon our dental meetings’ success; whereas, other challenges such as state budgetary constraints and proration have mainly impacted our dental school and the education of our future dentists. As we consider other issues before us in Alabama, such as proposed changes to the Dental Practice Act, it is crucial that we move forward in a spirit of cooperation and dedication to leave our profession better than it was before we began our journey. We can no longer tune out the daily alerts that remind us to take action and be involved in the solutions, because these challenges will only get bigger. Non-participation or apathy is no longer an option.

I know that I can never give back to Dentistry all that it has given to me; but I do try to give back through being active in organized dentistry. Without our active participation in organized dentistry, our voice as dentists and practitioners simply cannot be heard. When we stand together, we stand strong. There is truly great power in numbers and we are very fortunate to practice in a state where the dental school, its Alumni Association, the Alabama Dental Association, the Alabama Academy of General Dentistry and all other dental organizations work together for the common good and advancement of our beloved profession.

Even though she was deaf and blind, Helen Keller had great vision and insight. She knew the importance of an individual’s contribution and commitment to a higher purpose. She stated, “I am only one, but still I am one. I can not do everything, but still I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.”

You can do a very important something by renewing your membership or joining the Alumni Association. Go to our outstanding website (www.dental.uab.edu/alumni) and join today. Also, please plan to attend the 2011 Alumni Weekend and your class reunions scheduled for January 27 – 30th at the Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham. I look forward to seeing each of you in January as we embrace the New Year.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Alumni Association President this year.

Leigh Anne Nevins, DMD.

On the Cover: Freshmen students at the White Coat Ceremony
DEAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings! As you will see in this issue of DentAlumni, we have had another exciting year at the School of Dentistry and I am delighted to share with you some of our latest news.

We have now entered year three of our revised curriculum. During the first two years at school, our students participate in a variety of coursework dealing with ethics and the behavioral sciences, and have embarked on an earlier introduction to clinical dentistry. After two fundamentals classes in the first semester (multidisciplinary classes that focus on biochemistry and microbiology), they are taught the full gamut of basic sciences through a systems-based approach. All classes are still taught at Volker Hall under the auspices of the Joint Health Sciences faculty. We believe this approach better integrates their learning of the basic sciences in the context of clinical care and better prepares them for National Board exams. Our sophomores this year (leading class of the new curriculum) did exceptionally well on the National Board Part I exam, with almost a quarter of the class scoring 90 or above (three students scored 99%). The news was not so good with Part II, with our seniors experiencing a greater failure rate than normal the first time through. However, this was a national issue (overall pass rates for all schools fell from 95% to less than 85%) and resulted from a revalidation of the pass/fail score point by the Joint Commission on National Dental Boards. I am pleased to report that all seniors passed their retake exams!

All of these changes have occurred during a time of significant budget reduction at the school and have challenged students, faculty and staff alike. However, I am pleased to report that we have been able to retain all faculty positions and next year (the first in the past three) will be able to award merit-based pay raises to both faculty and staff.

Our Graduation ceremony in early June was a wonderful day. I really enjoyed having the opportunity to congratulate each and every member of the class, and to feel the excitement in the air as they shared this special time with their families and friends. This year’s Lister Hill Lecture was delivered by Rick Valachovic, Executive Director of the American Dental Education Association. Dr. Valachovic also had the opportunity to meet with a group of student leaders during his visit. On the Thursday before graduation, we held our Honors Convocation, a tradition established five years ago. The entire dental school class was in attendance and it is good that the underclassmen are able to see what awards and scholarships will be available to them. I know it will prove to be motivation for them to strive for the same excellence during their years here.

At the School, we said goodbye to the Class of 2010, but not before celebrating their accomplishments. The Senior Dinner, an event that is co-sponsored by the Alumni Association, the Alabama Dental Association, and the Academy of General Dentistry was held on May 13 at the Birmingham Country Club, and we recognized our top graduates at the OKU dinner on May 14. We welcomed another group of new dental students to our profession; fifty-four freshmen (av. GPA 3.68; av. DAT 19.9) were honored in our Class of 2014 White Coat Ceremony on August 19 at the Alys Stephens Center.

Alumni Weekend is coming up at the Wynfrey Hotel, January 27 - 30, 2011. The Alumni Association has a great line up of quality programs and events. This is one of the many instances that reflect the solid relationship between our school and its Alumni Association and this year’s event will be no exception. I look forward to seeing each of you in January! In the meantime, if any of you would like to contact me please do so at hft@uab.edu.

Sincerely,

Huw F. Thomas, BDS, MS, PhD
Dean

Mark Your Calendar!

Alumni Weekend 2011
January 27-30
Wynfrey Hotel
Birmingham, AL

UPCOMING EVENTS

SCHOLAR’S SYMPOSIUM
MARCH 2

PARENTS’ DAY
APRIL 22
International Exchange Program

UAB Students hosted Japanese students from Asahi & Meikai Universities in July. They had a great time showing the students around the dental school and the Birmingham area. The students had a wonderful time swimming and tubing on Lake Guntersville at the home of Drs. Deborah and John Bishop. The students also traveled to Atlanta to visit the Georgia Aquarium and the World of Coke. They also attended a Braves game while they were there. UAB students who participated are Ryan Blankenship, Brant Gentry, Katie Haynie, Ejvis Lamani, Lindsey Marecle, Ashley Nemec, Lizzie Pham, Brittany Reid, Melissa Roden, and Wade Whatley. UAB students will visit Japan in April.

School News

The Senior Dinner was held on May 13, 2010 at the Birmingham Country Club to honor this year's graduating class. The event was sponsored by the Alabama Dental Association, the Academy of General Dentistry, AL-D-PAC, and the Alabama Dental Alumni Association. The president of each organization addressed the seniors. Afterwards, each student stood and announced his or her plans after graduation.

The Colgate Research Scholarship Award is presented to Junior and/or Senior dental students, who have shown academic distinction and demonstration of excellence in research. Since 1980, Colgate has sponsored these awards, which encourage AAWD student member to excel in the field of research. This year two of our senior dental students who are in the DMD/PhD program have received a Colgate Research Awards for 2010. Congratulations to Ejvis Lamani and Melissa Roden.

The University of Alabama Birmingham received 22% of the total awards and was the only school with more than one award.

University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry Associate Dean John Bernard Thornton, D.M.D., M.A., was appointed Professor and Associate Dean Emeritus by the University of Alabama System Board of Trustees during its June 18th meeting.
The School of Dentistry held its Honors Convocation on Thursday, June 3, 2010 at the Margaret Cameron Spain Auditorium on campus. Students from all four classes were brought together for recognition of their outstanding achievement. The ceremony marked the sixth year that Honors Convocation and Graduation were held as separate events.

Awards ranged from departmental awards to acknowledgment of the newly inducted members of Omicron Kappa Upsilon, the Dental Honor Society. Several endowed scholarship given each year include the Deuel and Betty Christian Scholarship awarded to Hong Lao, the Charles E. Smith Award given to Brandon Snell, the Chau Lam Award given to Dr. Somsak Sittitavornwong, and the Benjamin Ingram Award presented to Wade Whatley. Dr. Leigh Anne Nevins, President of the Alumni Association presented the Alumni Association Scholarships and the Alumni Award for Leadership.

This year more than 60 students were recognized for their outstanding achievement and $127,090 in scholarships and awards were announced.
Graduation was held at the Alys Robinson Stephens Performing Arts Center on June 5, 2010. The Class of 2010 was comprised of 55 students who eagerly accepted their diplomas. Featured speakers included Dr. Richard Valachovic, Executive Director of the American Dental Education Association, who delivered the Lister Hill Lecture and Dr. Deborah Bishop President-Elect of the Alabama Dental Association. Dr. Tony Dollar, President-Elect of the University of Alabama Dental School Alumni Association encouraged the graduating class to get involved and participate in organized dentistry. Membership in the Alumni Association is complimentary for new graduates for the first year.

Dean Thomas presented the Dean's Medal, which is the most coveted honor presented to a member of the graduating class, to Tara Jernigan Wheeler. The Dean personally selects the recipient in recognition of outstanding scholarship and leadership.

After reciting the Dentist's Pledge and receiving a standing ovation, the graduates joined family, friends, and faculty members for a reception in their honor.
The School of Dentistry held its annual White Coat Ceremony on August 19 at the Alys Stephens Performing Arts Center. The entering freshman class consists of 55 students.

Guest speakers included Dr. Leigh Anne Nevins, President of the Alabama Dental Alumni Association and Dr. James R. Williamson, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Hinman Dental Society.

This year marked the third year that the freshman class composed their own ethics statement. Stephen Smith, Freshman Class President, presented the statement during the ceremony that each student signed prior to receiving their White Coats.

The White Coat Ceremony has been partially sponsored by the Alabama Dental Alumni Association since its inception in 1999. The purpose of the ceremony is to welcome the incoming class to the profession by presenting them with their white coats and a School of Dentistry lapel pin and to address the importance of ethics, leadership, and professionalism in the field of dentistry.

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Coach Gene Stallings was the keynote speaker at the Dentistry Alumni Association Luncheon at noon on June 11. More than 100 alumni and friends enjoyed this yearly event that is held at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, Alabama. This year's luncheon was sponsored by Henry Schein. Coach Stallings reminisced about his previous coaching days including winning a national championship at the University of Alabama in 1992. Most importantly, he talked about his son, John Mark and the impact that John Mark made on his life and others around him.

Dr. Zack Studstill, Dr. Mike Edwards, Dr. Leigh Anne Nevins, Coach Gene Stallings and Dr. Tony Dollar

Coach Stallings illustrates a play while he is talking about his former coaching days at Alabama

ALDA Reception

Dean Thomas hosted a reception during the ALDA Annual Session at the Perdido Beach Resort on Friday, June 11. More than 80 alumni and friends were in attendance. During the event, Dean Thomas presented Dr. John Thornton with a resolution for the Thornton Endowed Scholarship.

Dr. Doug Beckham, Dr. Pamela Sims, Lisa Beckham and Dr. Kevin Sims

Dean Thomas and Dr. Thornton
Dean's Reception at the Academy of General Dentistry

Dean Thomas hosted a reception in conjunction with the 37th Alabama Academy of General Dentistry Annual Session on Wednesday, September 8 at the Sandestin Beach Hilton in Destin, Florida. More than 60 alumni and friends were in attendance. Alumni enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and socialized with former classmates, Dean Thomas and the Development and Alumni Relations staff.

Bobsy Ingram, Dr. Bill Ingram, Rita Essig and Dr. Mitlon Essig

Dr. Jean O'Neal, Dr. Bud Rogers, Dr. Leigh Anne Nevins and Dr. Michael Reddy enjoy the reception

For 2009-2010 School of Dentistry giving totaled $1,526,422 as of September 28, 2010. An exact breakdown of gifts/pledges received for 2009-2010 will be available at the Alumni Association annual meeting during Alumni Weekend.
School of Dentistry alumni have numerous opportunities to be involved. Your participation is a win-win situation for you and the dental profession. The Alumni Association offers volunteer opportunities through service on the Executive Council, Alumni Weekend, and mentoring students. The School of Dentistry Leadership Council has approximately 40 members who volunteer to support the SOD through philanthropy, events, and advocacy.

I have had the great privilege to support several volunteer leaders: Current Alumni Association President Dr. Leigh Anne Nevins, and former Presidents Dr. Mike Edwards, Dr. Jim Lewis, Dr. Bruce Cunningham, Dr. Joe Hastings, Dr. Gaines Thomas, and the late Dr. David White. All of these leaders had much in common, including their love for the School and their desire to make it better. Working closely with the Presidents have been dedicated Executive Council board members. Many work several hours a year behind the scenes to make your Alumni Association one of the best. For example, Dr. Lori Gearhart has spent countless hours to insure our Alumni Weekend programming is the best continuing education forum in the state.

When your class celebrates a reunion, please consider working with your class president to plan a reunion or raise money for a Class Gift to the School of Dentistry. You’ll find that you are rekindling relationships with classmates, former faculty, and building new relationships with others. As a bonus, your Class Gift helps current and future students!

Another volunteer opportunity is through service on the SOD Leadership Council. I have been honored to work with our chairs: Current Chair Dr. Bud Rogers, and former Chairs Dr. Leigh Anne Nevins, Dr. Len Strickland, Dr. Kevin Alexander, and Dr. Lewis Chapman. The chair and entire Council have challenging jobs. They not only give to the School at the Dean’s Partner level ($1,000 and up annually), but they assist with the SOD fundraising program. Many host receptions, direct special fundraising projects, solicit their colleagues, and offer advice on the School’s development activities. As we know, these are challenging economic times, and theirs is a difficult task. Without the Leadership Council, the SOD would not have the success it has had (see chart on page 10).

There are many other opportunities to volunteer. Please feel free to contact us at the Alumni office (205) 975-1207 if you have some new ideas or want to plan something fun!

The last couple of years, I have used the Fall DentAlumni issue to predict the Alabama-Auburn score and so far my record is 2-0. But before I do, I want to invite you to our Alumni Tailgate at 10 a.m. on the rooftop of the Legends’ Condos in Tuscaloosa on Friday, November 26th. The event is hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Ken Kendrick of Fayetteville, GA and sponsored by Nobel Biocare. Drum roll please …. Playing the game in Bryant-Denny, I give the edge to the defending national champions: Alabama 37 Auburn 24

Sincerely,

J. Scott Huffman, CFRE
Executive Director/Sr. Director of Development

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**The Basics of Adult Oral Sedation**
Featuring Dr. Mike Edwards & Dr. John Coke
February 25 - 26, 2011
Birmingham, Alabama

**Mini-Residency In IV Conscious Sedation**
Featuring Dr. Patrick Louis
Birmingham, Alabama

**Infection Control**
Featuring Dr. Steven Filler
March 11, 2011
Birmingham, Alabama

**Indirect Restorations**
Featuring Dr. John Burgess
April 8 - 9 , 2011
Birmingham, Alabama

**The Science of Clinical Cariology**
Featuring Dr. Brian Novy
April 8, 2011
Birmingham, Alabama

**Direct Restorations**
Featuring Dr. John Burgess
September 9-10, 2011
Birmingham, Alabama
1. Dr. Jason Etherton and his staff in Valley, AL.
2. Dr. Tara Moncus in her office in Rainsville, AL.
3. Dean Huw Thomas, Dr. Larry Morris, Dr. Roberto Pischek, Dr. Larry Camp, Dr. Jim Shmaburger, Dr. Carol Merkle, Dr. David Rawson, Dr. Art Merkle and Dr. Edwin Yee at the Pensacola Dean's Dinner.
4. Dr. Calvin Sanders, Dr. Sam Holland, Dean Thomas, Dr. Tara Moncus, Dr. John Anderson, Dr. Stephen Brewer and Dr. Marvin Barron at the Fort Payne area Alumni Reception.
5. Scott Huffman visits Dr. William "Scooter" Eastburn at his office in Mobile.
6. Dean Thomas, Kathy and Dr. Mike Maitre at the Mobile Area Alumni Reception hosted by the Maitres.
7. Dr. Hugh Olgetree and Scott Huffman in Dr. Olgetree's office in Phenix City.
Alumni Spotlight: Dr. Glenn Porter ('84)

The Wakeboarding Dentist

by: Kimberly Crowe

Dr. Glenn Porter, who has practiced general dentistry in Mobile for 26 years, is preparing to take his wakeboarding skills to the US INT National Championship in Orlando this October. Having grown up on the river, Dr. Porter has always been involved in skiing and water sports, but it wasn’t until four years ago when he saw a wakeboarder that he decided to convert to the sport. Glenn, who competes with his daughter Baylee, travels and participates in six to eight tournaments a summer. At the age of 52, Dr. Porter competes in the 40+ age category known as the veteran’s division. Last year, he won his division at the INT Eastern Regional in Little Rock, Arkansas and has taken first place in twenty-three tournaments including three state titles.

Known as the “spin doctor” among his fellow wakeboarders due to some of the unique spins that he executes, Glenn’s passion for wakeboarding is not without injury. He has torn his rotator cuff and had a concussion. Even though, he had to take five weeks off from work due to his shoulder injury, he says that his patients love reading about him in the local paper. He keeps his trophies in his office. Dr. Porter even attracted a new patient due to his accomplishments - a wakeboarder who read about him in the paper. Glenn says that his wife, Sandy is very supportive despite his injuries and time off from work.

Dr. Porter has practiced dentistry in Mobile for the past 26 years. He and Sandy have three children, Brad (25), Brittney (22) and Baylee (17). Brad and his wife, Sara, welcomed a son, Brady Cline on September 23. This is Dr. Porter’s first grandchild.

Dr. Porter has lived along Dog River since age 4. A graduate of Theodore High School and the University of South Alabama, he graduated from the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry in 1984.
1977
David Sarver was named Citizen of the Year for Vestavia Hills, AL in February.

1979
Mike Edward's daughter, Kristin and her husband Cale Iorg (professional baseball player/ short stop on Detroit Tigers Organization) had a baby girl in July, Vayda Lynn Iorg. This is Mike's second granddaughter.

Mike was elected Vice President of the Alabama Dental Association in June 2010. He was appointed as faculty of the new American Dental Association course in Chicago- "Recognition and Management of Complications in Minimal and Moderate Sedation".

1993
Leigh Anne Nevins and her husband, Guy, welcomed their first grandchild, Harper Marlee Nevins, on April 14, 2010. She weighed 7lbs. 8oz. The proud parents are Holder and Kendra Nevins.

2000
John A Jennings and his wife Amy welcomed their third son, John Harrison Jennings on July 2, 2010. He weighed 8lbs and 15 ozs.

IN MEMORIUM
1974
Dr. Robert Lee Hallman, Jr. passed from this life into Glory on June 11, 2010. Dr. Hallman has had a dental practice in Montgomery for many years. He also treated needy families here and in Mexico. Dr. Hallman went to Mexico on mission trips for 10 years. He was raised in Bessemer, AL where he attended public schools from kindergarten through high school. He played trombone in high school and also at the University of Alabama. He graduated from the University of Alabama and went on to dental school at UAB. He served four years in the US Air Force from 1974 to 1978. His mother, father and aunt preceded him in death. He is survived by his loving wife, Linda, of 38 years. His oldest child Rachel June and her husband Jeff along with their two sons, Matthan and Micah, live in O’Fallon, IL. The next child, Georgia Leigh, lives in Minneapolis, MN. His only son, Robert Andrew, lives in Montgomery. He leaves behind many loving friends.

EMAIL YOUR NEWS!!!
You can email information that you would like to have included in the Alumni News section. We will even include your pictures. Send updates to Kimberly Crowe at kncrowe@uab.edu.

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DentAlumni Fall 2010
and patients. A memorial service was held at Heritage Baptist Church in Montgomery on Saturday, June 19, 2010. The family requests any memorials be designated to Mexico Missions at Heritage Baptist Church.

1985

Commander Philip A. Crockett, US Navy (Retired), D.M.D., passed away January 29, 2010 in Jacksonville, FL. He was 59. A celebration of Dr. Crockett's life was held at the Navy’s Mayport Chapel at noon on Friday, February 5, 2010. Dr. Crockett was born in Ardmore, OK, on March 7, 1950. As a child he lived in Arlington, TX, Headland, AL and Dothan, AL and graduated from Dothan High School in 1968. He attended the United States Military Academy at West Point, graduated in 1972, and served four years in the US Army. In 1982 he married Olivia Ann Campbell of Athens, AL. He earned an M.S. degree in zoology from Auburn University in 1983. Dr. Crockett graduated from dental school at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 1985. In 1988, he joined the US Navy as a dental officer, and retired in 2008. During his naval career he was stationed in Jacksonville, FL several times, where he served on the USS Forrestal, the USS John F. Kennedy and the dental clinic at Naval Station Mayport. From 2008 until his death, Dr. Crockett practiced as a civil service dentist in the medical clinic at Naval Station Mayport. He was a member of the American Dental Association and a number of other professional organizations. Dr. Crockett was preceded in death by his father, David Williams Crockett. He is survived by his wife, Olivia; his mother, Emily Sue Crockett of Dothan, AL; a brother, Dr. Frank T. Crockett and his wife, Olivia, of Dothan; two sisters, Dr. Melissa Crockett Northam of Dothan and Jennifer Crockett Joyner and her husband, Cliff, of Dothan; three aunts, Peggy Livingston and husband, David, of Headland, AL, Frances Crockett Frear of Pittsburgh, PA and Martha Crockett de Garcia-Llort of Barcelona, Spain; his mother and father-in-law, Juanita and Mack Campbell of Athens, AL; his sister and brother-in-law, John G. and Carolyn Mengelson of Tampa, FL, nine nieces and nephews, Thomas Crockett, Catherine Crockett, Elizabeth Crockett, James Crockett, John Crockett, Emily Joyner, Rachel Shunnarah, Ann Mengelson, and Elizabeth Mengelson and several cousins.
WHAT’S NEW?

DentAlumni readers want to know what’s new in your life! If you have recently received a professional or civic award or honor, been involved in a community service project, taken on a professional or civic office, please let us know! Or if you have moved, started a new practice, been married, or had a child, your colleagues want to know. Use this form and mail us your news to: Alabama Dental Alumni Association, SDB 215, 1530 Third Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35294-0007 or fax to 205.975.5364.

Please Update Your Membership Information

Class Yr. __________ Name__________________________  o Announcement  o Marriage  o Birth  
Spouse’s Name________________________________________  o Retirement  o New/Relocated office  
Specialty_____________________________________________  o Community or Professional Office/Award  
Mailing Address _________________________________________  
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