

# DENTAL ALUMNI

Fall/Winter 2019



**MEET DR. RUSSELL TAICHMAN**  
(THE NEW DEAN)

In this issue: 2019 Fuller Award Winner Dr. Michael Edwards + 2019's Year on the Road

**DENTALUMNI**  
**UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA**  
**SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY**  
**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL & OFFICERS**

President:	Dr. Ben Cumbus ('72)
President- Elect:	Dr. Bruce Camp ('84)
Vice President:	Dr. Ben Ingram ('84)
Secretary/ Treasurer:	Dr. Melodie Jones ('92)
Past President:	Dr. Stanley Beard ('89)

**BOARD MEMBERS**

1st District Rep.	Dr. Charles Keith ('80)
1st District Associate Rep.	Dr. Beth Davis ('81)
2nd District Rep.	Dr. Leigh Anne Nevins ('93)
2nd District Assoc. Rep.	Dr. Kyle Trammell ('11, Perio '14)
3rd District Rep.	Dr. Allen Blackmon ('91)
3rd District Assoc. Rep.	Dr. Parrish King ('07)
4th District Rep.	Dr. Keith Miller ('91)
4th District Assoc. Rep.	Dr. Lori Gearhart ('82)
5th District Rep.	Dr. Michael Maddox ('82)
5th District Assoc. Rep.	Dr. Deborah Bishop ('79)
6th District Rep.	Dr. Glen Cowan ('86)
6th District Assoc. Rep.	Dr. Rain Blankenship ('98)
7th District Rep.	Dr. Douglas Beckham ('76)
7th District Assoc. Rep.	Dr. Maggie Law ('12)
8th District Assoc. Rep.	Dr. Richard Bedsole ('90)
9th District Rep.	Dr. Jason Etherton ('97)
9th District Assoc. Rep.	Dr. James Hawkins ('83)
Out-of-State Rep.	Dr. Jeffrey A. Kendrick (GA) ('97)
Out-of-State Assoc. Rep.	Dr. Kumar Patel (GA) (Pros '03)
Out-of- State Rep.	Dr. Teresa Johns (FL) ('83)
Out-of-State Assoc. Rep.	Dr. Edwin Yee (FL) ('83)
Out-of-State Rep.	Dr. Eric Herrington (MS) ('01)
Alumni By Choice Rep.	Dr. Barry Langley
Alumni By Choice Assoc. Rep.	Dr. Kent Palcanis

**DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI RELATIONS STAFF**

Mr. J. Scott Huffman, CFRE	Executive Director of Development & Alumni Relations
Mrs. Elizabeth Carlson	Director of Development
Mrs. Charlene Phillips	Development & Alumni Relations Coordinator
Mrs. Abby Vinson	Alumni Relations & Event Coordinator
Mrs. Christy Peters	Development & Alumni Relations Coordinator

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

President's Message	1
Dean's Message	2
UAB School of Dentistry News and Events	10
From the Executive Director	14
Development News	16
Alumni News	18
In Memorium	21

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Alumni Weekend in Birmingham, AL	Feb. 6-9
Alumni Association Annual Meeting	Feb. 6
IADR/AADR in Wash., DC – Dean's Reception	Mar. 18
Hinman in Atlanta, GA – Dean's Reception	Mar. 20
Graduation	May 30

**ON THE COVER:**

*UAB School of Dentistry Dean Russell Taichman*



**We care about your practice.**

*And, we have the solutions  
to help you succeed.*



**Henry Schein Dental Alabama & Northwest Florida**  
 511 Mineral Trace, Suite 100, Birmingham, AL 35244  
**205-987-8397**  
[www.henryscheindental.com](http://www.henryscheindental.com)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Alumni,

The summertime weather lingered a little too long this year (even for us fun-loving folks in Alabama who love our lakes, our rivers, and especially our beaches) through the fall and even up to Thanksgiving. 100 degrees in September is just too hot. A slight chill in the air certainly makes those football Saturdays a lot more enjoyable.

Your Alumni Association has not slowed down due to the heat, as our activities have continued on a hectic pace. As you all know, we welcomed our new dean, Dr. Russell Taichman, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, in July of this year. He has been quite busy as well, getting his family settled in the Birmingham area and acclimating to the heat and the new surroundings at the UAB School of Dentistry. We are so privileged to have Dr. Taichman with his outstanding record of more than 28 years at the University of Michigan in various positions including the Associate Dean of Research. He is quickly learning his way around the dental school and enjoys interacting with the students, the faculty, and with the deans from all the different disciplines at UAB. His first priority is to ensure high quality individuals to replace our former and retiring faculty. We have many positions to fill including an Associate Dean of Research, an Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs, a Director of Admissions, and a Chair for Endodontic Dentistry. Outstanding staff is a necessity for a world class dental school and we will continue to strive for that goal.

We are so pleased to announce that we have added Director of Development Elizabeth Carlson to assist Scott Huffman in his area of Development and Alumni Relations. She graduated from the University of Georgia in Public Relations in 2014 and has worked as Director of Development at the University of Texas at Tyler, Texas. We are so pleased and fortunate to have such a qualified and delightful new member for our team and look forward to working with her in the future.

Dr. Bruce Camp spoke at the White Coat Ceremony in Birmingham in August and we sponsored "Meet the Dean" receptions in San Francisco at the ADA Meeting and in Sandestin at the AGD Meeting. Both were well attended and certainly enjoyed by all. The Leadership Council meeting took place in October and The Alumni Executive Council met in November.

Please make plans to attend the annual Alumni Weekend - February 6-9, 2020 - at the Hyatt Regency Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit with old friends and make new ones, not to mention all that continuing education available. Please plan to join us.

Sincerely,



Benjamin J. Cumbus, DMD  
Class of 1972  
2019 UA SOD Alumni President



### GET TO KNOW DEAN TAICHMAN



Summer 1970, Port Carling, Ontario, Canada

I was born in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. My father was a periodontist and a faculty member at the University of Toronto and my mother was a homemaker. Together with my brother and three sisters, we had an idyllic life – surrounded by a large extended family, playing in the woods behind our house, hockey, dogs, stamp and rock collecting, boy scouts, and coming of age at a time when the world was filled with possibilities.

In 1972, our world was rocked when my father took the position of Chair of Oral Pathology at the University of Pennsylvania, School Of Dental Medicine and we moved to the suburbs of Philadelphia. At first, it was a traumatic experience. Leaving all we knew for a foreign country was a big deal but it gave us a chance to reinvent ourselves. Ultimately, the doors of possibilities were thrown wide open and overall it was a

very positive experience. Moving to Alabama has been a similar experience, but this time I am ready for it and my family is excited to try something new.

Growing up, I had the good fortune to attend Villanova (B.S.), UPENN School of Dental Medicine (D.M.D) (where my dad taught me), Harvard School of Dental Medicine (D.M.Sc, and Periodontics), and UPENN School of Medicine (Post-Doc) for my formal training. Ultimately, I joined the University of Michigan for my first faculty position. Michigan was a wonderful place to start a career as my chair and colleagues knew how to support junior faculty and provided the freedom to establish interdisciplinary science from the beginning. While I do not think I understood it at the time, I had joined a school that had big aspirations and an environment that could support the vision. Honestly, I never thought I would stay in Michigan for almost 28 years, but it was a gift. I started a family (Susan and our 15 year old daughter Gabrielle), made Ann Arbor our home, and learned to say "Go Blue."



The Taichman family in Ann Arbor, MI in 2018



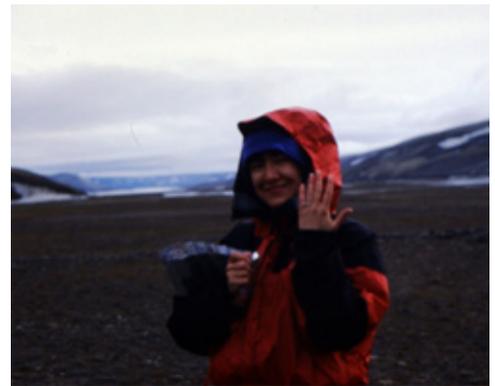
Russ at "Hell's Gate" on Devon Island, NWT in 1992

From an early age, I was able to explore and I took advantage of that opportunity. Whether it was hiking or reading about the outdoors, I became excited to learn about the early North American explorers and longed to see the country they saw. In college, I joined the mountain climbing club and while it was fun and I gained many friends, I learned that being 200 feet up a rock cliff was not of my liking. More importantly, I learned that I loved the high alpine meadow environment.

In 1991 after several trips to the Rocky Mountains, I realized you could reach an alpine environment by going north rather than up. This sat well with me as I was not able to breathe very well above 8,000 feet. With my father and brother, we joined an adventure travel company and went for a hike on Baffin Island in the Canadian Arctic. It was a transformative experience. Soon I found myself focused on learning everything about the Arctic and I even chose vacation spots in some of the remotest places on the planet. For the next 20 years I traveled from Alaska to Greenland, from the Arctic coast of North America to the tip of Ellesmere Island by kayak, dog sled, on foot or all-terrain vehicle. I visited places either off the grid, or where people of European descent

had never walked. To complement these trips I bought books of exploration. Now I have over 3,000 books focused exclusively on the Arctic and its exploration. Perhaps I have a problem...In fact, in 1998 I took Susan, my girlfriend at the time, to Bathurst Island Nunavut Canada on a Sierra Club outing. There, I proposed to Susan on the first night of the trip. Susan accepted because she had no other way off the Island and did not want to deal with the polar bear that walked through our camp by herself.

My obsession for reading about Arctic exploration lead me to learning about the Franklin expedition. On 19 May 1845, the Franklin expedition left England to find the Northwest Passage. Aboard the HMS Erebus and HMS Terror were 129 officers and men. The ships were extremely well-provisioned and the expedition was equipped with the most advanced equipment of its day. After sailing into Baffin Bay, where it was spotted by whaling ships on 26 July, the expedition was never heard of again.



Susan displaying "The Rock" she had to drag across Bathurst Island (June 1998).

From evidence gathered during rescue missions and archaeological excavations, we have learned that the crews ultimately spent the winter off King William Island, where Franklin died from unknown causes in 1847. Based on written messages, we know that the men abandoned their ships on 22 April 1848 and attempted to reach safety overland. They never made it out but did have interactions with the Inuit of the area. Ultimately finding what happened to the Franklin expedition became the Holy Grail of Arctic exploration.



The 2018 Bayne-Coleman Expedition in Erebus Bay on King William Island. Russ is in the red hat.

Inuit testimony pointed to a high ranking officer of the Franklin expedition having been buried on land so, in 2015 I joined the first of three expeditions (2015, 2016, 2018) aimed at finding that grave. During a 2015 aerial survey, we identified what we thought was very likely a structure made by Europeans in an area where there has been no history of human habitation. We have since tried to reach that spot, but have not been successful at landing near the site or traversing King William Island overland due to mechanical failures of our equipment. Last summer, using ATVs, we relocated the gravesite of Harry Goodsir M.D., surgeon and naturalist on the Franklin Expedition. Harry, by the way, contributed to the pioneering work on cell theory done by his brother John Goodsir and contributed to his brother's paper demonstrating that deciduous teeth are not the precursors of the permanent dentition. Harry Goodsir was later made "famous" as a central character in the AMC television show "The Terror". Goodsir's

gravesite was initially identified in 1869 by Charles Francis Hall, an American who recorded the Inuit testimony regarding the Franklin expedition burial. In part, this discovery was only made possible by my travels to the archives at the Smithsonian where Hall's original documents are housed. Finding Goodsir's grave was an amazing and thrilling discovery made more poignant by our laying a memorial at the grave at the request of the Goodsir family

When I am not traveling in the Arctic or spewing on and on about the Franklin expedition I enjoy serving as the laborer in Susan's garden, serving as a driver for Gabrielle's vibrant and booming social life, or visiting my family outside of Philadelphia and Toronto. One day I hope to learn to fly and perhaps, if I am lucky, go into space.

### Embracing the Future

Friends and Colleagues,

It is an honor to serve as your ninth dean. What an exciting opportunity to lead a great school with a proud tradition of producing dentists and educators who are well prepared to practice and to serve their communities. It has been an amazing time to join the fold as we welcome a new class of students beginning their journey into dentistry and a new group of alumni as they launch their careers.



UAB School of Dentistry is known for excellence and innovation. Under the leadership of Drs. Mike Reddy and Michelle Robinson the school's accomplishments have been numerous and remarkable. Together, they have given us a solid foundation on which to build future success.

I was immediately struck by the incredible passion and commitment to revolutionizing oral health that is shared by our faculty, staff, students, and alumni alike. With a collective vision for continued excellence and increased collaboration, I can see a future of many possibilities.

After all, how cool is a profession where by serving the public you can advance science and change lives for the better. Our clinics provide cutting-edge comprehensive care focused on improving overall health through better oral health. Developments in dental research including the oral microbiome and the discovery of links between oral and systemic diseases, the epidemiology of caries, the continued development of new materials and techniques, and the advance of practice-based research places dentistry on the cutting edge of discovery and patient care. Whether bench side or chairside, the beauty of dentistry is that no matter what path you take, it is a rewarding profession.

I look forward to getting to know you as we embark upon our journey together. I am eager to hear your ideas and harness your enthusiasm as we work to chart a course for our school's future. Your continued leadership and support are the cornerstone of our success.

Go Blazers!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Taichman'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Russell S. Taichman, DMD, DMSc

## FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Kari Bartlett



**Dr. Kari Bartlett**, adjunct faculty in Comprehensive Care, received her FAGD Award from the Academy of General Dentistry. Dr. Bartlett also recently moved her practice, Dental Arts, to a newly renovated building in Cullman, Alabama.

Maninder Kaur



**Dr. Maninder Kaur**, assistant professor in the Department of Periodontology, was one of 12 UAB faculty selected to receive the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching, which honors those who have demonstrated exceptional accomplishments in teaching.

Dr. Kaur is also in the inaugural class of UAB's Healthcare Educators Academy at UAB, which was created to support and enhance health profession education by providing resources and mentorship to promote teaching excellence, foster innovation and educational scholarship, and promote the careers and wellbeing of health profession faculty educators.

She was also selected as one of 10 participants in the American Academy of Periodontology's Leadership, Engagement, Action and Development (LEAD) program. She is the third UAB alumni to participate and, as a predoctoral periodontal educator, a critical ambassador for periodontics to student dentists at UAB.

Stephanie Momeni



**Dr. Stephanie Momeni**, a DART postdoctoral scholar in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, was awarded the inaugural International Association for Dental Research (IADR) Women in Science Network Promising Talent Award and the Oral Microbiology/Immunology Susan Kinder Haake Award during the 2019 IADR/AADR/CADR Meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia. Dr. Momeni was also awarded an AADR Bloc Travel grant to attend this year's meeting.

Jessica Scoffield



**Dr. Jessica Scoffield**, assistant professor of microbiology, is the first recipient of a new American Association for Dental Research fellowship to increase representation of young academic researchers from under-represented racial and ethnic groups in science and academia. The \$10,000 Underrepresented Faculty Research Fellowship was awarded to Scoffield June 19 during the 2019 IADR/AADR/CADR Meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia. Scoffield, whose research examines the role of commensal bacteria in polymicrobial lung and oral infections, has discovered novel antimicrobial mechanisms used by commensal bacteria that inhibit pathogenic bacteria.

## MEET SOD's NEW FACULTY

**Dr. Brian Kinard** has joined the School of Dentistry in the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery. Dr. Kinard graduated Harvard School of Dental Medicine with an Honors in Research in 2008. Dr. Kinard then completed medical school and general surgery internship followed by residency in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Emory University School of Medicine. He went on to complete a fellowship in orthognathic surgery with Dr. Jeffrey Posnick in Washington, DC with a focus on comprehensive diagnosis and treatment efficiency to fully address occlusion, the upper airway and facial esthetics.

Dr. Kinard specializes in orthognathic surgery, also known as corrective jaw surgery, for those with acquired or congenital dentofacial deformities. His clinical and research interests include comprehensive evaluation and treatment of occlusion, and upper airway obstructions and facial esthetics.



Brian Kinard



Shandra Keith-Coble

**Dr. Shandra Keith-Coble** is Assistant Professor as well as Predoctoral Director and Clinic Director in the Department of Endodontics. Dr. Coble received her DMD in 1992 and completed an endodontic residency in 1995 from the UAB School of Dentistry. She spent 24 years in private practice endodontics before joining the faculty.

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Give Kids a Smile

The UAB School of Dentistry's Department of Pediatric Dentistry hosted its annual volunteer initiative Give Kids A Smile® at the Sidney B. Finn Pediatric Dentistry Clinic on February 15. Event volunteers provided free, accessible dental care to 49 qualifying local children in need. The event raises awareness of the epidemic of untreated dental disease, while also enabling those who may not otherwise receive regular dental care the dental attention they needed. Patients, ranging in ages from 4-17, received dental services such as dental education, diagnoses and treatment planning, emergency care, and cleanings. More than 40 volunteers assisted in the charitable event.



### Dentistry awarded \$22.4M to continue leading national research efforts

The School of Dentistry has been awarded a seven-year, \$22.4 million grant from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, part of the National Institutes of Health, to continue its leadership for a national dental practice-based research network.

UAB is the National Administrative and Resource Center for the National Dental Practice-Based Research Network, a consortium of participating practices and dental organizations launched in 2012 to foster collaboration, innovation and transfer of knowledge between practicing clinicians and academic clinical scientists.

"The dental practice-based research network is a unique investigative union of real-world practicing clinicians and academic clinical scientists that aims to improve the nation's oral health by expanding the knowledge base for clinical decision-making and moving the latest evidence into routine care," said Distinguished Professor Gregg Gilbert, DDS, principal investigator and national network director.

Gilbert, who chairs UAB's Department of Clinical and Community Sciences, says the network operates within a different paradigm for conducting clinical research by tapping into the practical clinical wisdom in the dental community at large and including community practitioners as authors in peer-reviewed journals and presenters at national meetings.

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Honors Convocation

The annual Honors Convocation Ceremony was held on Thursday, May 30 and recognized students who excelled academically and in areas of leadership for the 2018-2019 year.

Alumni Association President Dr. Ben Cumbus presented the Alumni Award for Leadership to Lindsey Roberts and the Alumni Scholarship Awards to Rick Rampi, Kiara Garcia, Ray Dawkins, Farah Jiwani, Lauren Cabaniss and Cory Satterfield.



Alabama AGD Executive Director Dr. Gary Myers awarded Andrew Henniger and Ethan Sadowski the AGD Senior Student Dental Award.



ALDA President Dr. Stacey Gardner presented the ALDA Scholarship Award to Connor Kelley, Bhakti Desai, Amanda Przekora and Hayden Rathel.



Yunhee Choi received the Joseph F. Volker Award, which is selected by a vote of the senior class.

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Graduation

The School of Dentistry's 67th commencement ceremony awarded 66 new dentists with DMD degrees on Saturday, June 1.



*Dean's Medal recipient, Undine Davis*



*Guest speaker, ALDA President Dr. Stacey Gardner*



*Guest speaker, Alumni Association President-Elect Dr. Bruce Camp*



*Lister Hill Lecturer, ADA President Dr. Jeffrey Cole*

## SCHOOL NEWS

### White Coat Ceremony

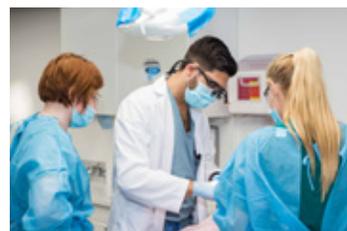
The annual White Coat Ceremony was held on August 22 and welcomed 63 students of the Class of 2023 to the dental profession.



### School hosts 7th "UAB Dentistry Cares" community event

Over 200 underserved and homeless people in the Birmingham area received teeth cleanings, fillings and extractions at no cost as part of the seventh annual UAB Dentistry Cares Community Day, which took place Wednesday, October 16, at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry.

Organized by the UAB School of Dentistry, several hundred volunteers took part in the charitable event, including partners from Cahaba Valley Health Care, Christ Health Center, Fortis Institute and other local dentists, health agencies and companies.



## STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

**Dr. Frederico Lima (Pros '20)**, pictured right, won the Donald C. "Ozzie" Asbjornson Scholarship, awarded to emerging leaders, dental students or residents, to attend The Pankey Annual Meeting in Key Biscayne, Florida. Pankey Scholarships are merit-based scholarships selected primarily on the basis of leadership potential in the field of dentistry, commitment to lifelong learning, and active participation in community service.



**Dr. Yousif Al-Aboosi (Perio '19)**, pictured kneeling in front, won the American Academy of Periodontology Foundation's Dr. and Mrs. Gerald M. Kramer Scholar Award for Excellence. The selection committee bases its selection on the applicant's demonstrated personal motivation for excellence in both character and academic achievement.



### OKU National Dental Honor Society

UAB School of Dentistry is proud to celebrate the newest members of the Omicron Kappa Upsilon National Dental Honor Society (pictured below): **Ryan Seeley, Tyler Smith, Dr. Luis Guzman, Maggie Misch Haring, Lisa Shi, Undine Davis, Maggie Kerper Grissom**. OKU represents the highest ideals of ethics and scholarship in the ever-changing landscape of oral health and dental practice.

**Kaitlin Byerly (D3)** was awarded the OKU William S. Kramer Award of Excellence for the UAB Chapter. The award recognizes an undergraduate dental student who has completed their second year, is ranked in the top 5 of their class and shows the greatest potential for future advancement of the profession and service to humanity.



### 16th Annual Miles for Smiles

The 16th annual Miles for Smiles 5k and 1 Mile Fun took place on September 14th in Homewood with an after-run celebration at The Grocery BrewPub. The run, organized by the UAB Chapter of the Alabama Student Dental Association (ASDA), benefits Cahaba Valley Health Care clinic. This year's race raised over \$6300 thanks to the support of local sponsors, donors, and participants. Almost one hundred runners participated in the 5k race and over thirty runners took part in the 1-mile fun run. Race organizers included Anna Marie Ronderos, Nia Taylor, Jessica Mitchum, Zachary Holcomb, Dr. James Broome, and Mrs. Shirley Jackson.



## STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



**Aileen Jong (D3)**, was elected as the Executive Chair of Student Professionalism and Ethics Association (SPEA), the highest officer rank. The Executive Chair serves as the official spokesperson for the association, works directly with the American College of Dentists, and ensures that all officers accomplish the organization's goals.

**Keriann Jimenez (D2)** was elected as Regent for Regency 3 (the Southern region) as a part of the SPEA national board. Regents serve as the primary communication contact between chapters and national SPEA and acts as a resource for all chapters. Keriann will be overseeing approximately six schools in the Southern region and will work on establishing new chapters at schools that do not currently have one.

*Pictured here are all UAB chapter representatives who attend the 9th annual SPEA meeting: **Andrea Fenton ('19, Hospital Dentistry '20), Aileen Jong as Chief Information Officer, Keriann Jimenez as Organizational Liaison, Paul Kim (D4) as Fundraising Chair, Toni Veltcheva (D1).***

### Celebrating 50 Years

"Celebrating 50 Years" was the theme for the UAB National Alumni Society's annual Homecoming Building Decoration Competition. The D1 class transformed the school's front entrance with a banner that embraced UAB's accomplishments through the years.



**Planning means bringing the future into the present so you can do something about it NOW!**

**Do you know what your future looks like?**

**H. Todd Doobrow**  
Certified Financial Planner®  
Retirement Income Certified Planner®  
205-440-4619  
tdoobrow@financialguide.com

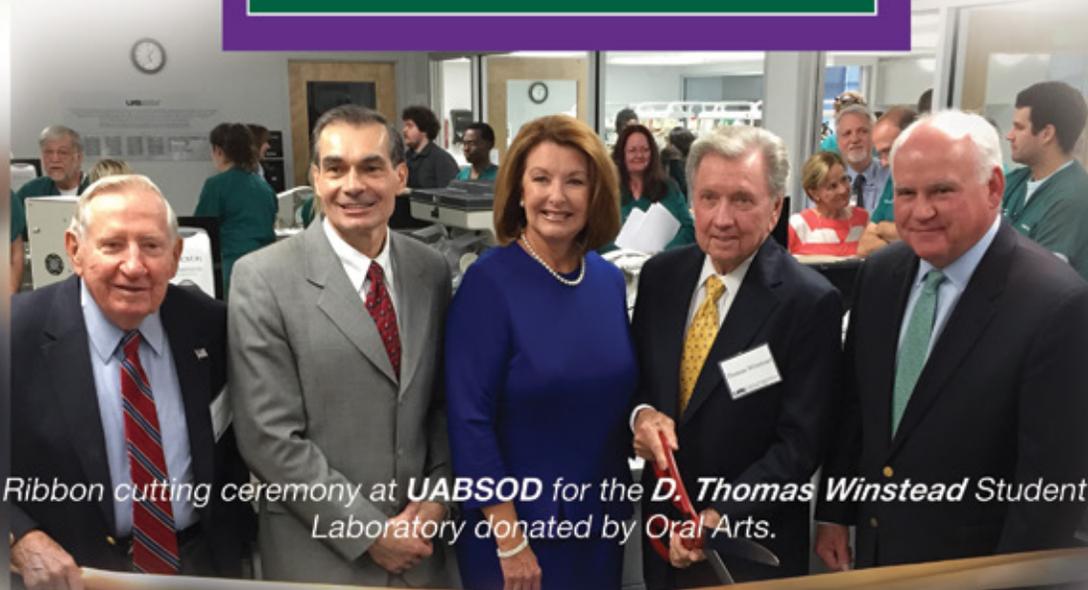


**OralArts**

Celebrating

Over 30 years  
of Partnership

**UAB** SCHOOL OF  
DENTISTRY



Ribbon cutting ceremony at **UABSOD** for the **D. Thomas Winstead** Student Laboratory donated by Oral Arts.

## Why choose **OralArts** as your lab?

- Family owned and operated full-service laboratory, established in 1970
- All devices are made in the U.S.A using advanced technology
- FREE Shipping both ways, 5 day turnaround
- Accepting scan files from all intra-oral scanners
- Our commitment to you is quality, technology, and service



**\$30**  
**OFF**

Your **Next** Case with **OralArts**  
DENTAL LABORATORIES HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

Send this coupon in with your next Oral Arts case. One coupon per dr and per practice.  
Coupon may be not be combined with any other discount or offer.

Coupon Code:CELEBRATE30

[www.oralartsdental.com](http://www.oralartsdental.com) • **FREE** Shipping • 866-929-9068

## Life on the Road

Someone recently asked me, "Don't you get tired of all that travel"? My immediate reaction was "no", but to be honest there are some pros and cons. This year marks thirty years I've worked in advancement or development in higher education, the past 15 plus years at the School of Dentistry. When my kids were growing up, I sometimes worried about spending time away from home. Fortunately, my wife, Susan, was supportive. I managed to coach my son's sports teams, attend most of his games, and our daughter's activities.

When it comes to traveling for the School of Dentistry, the positives far outweigh the negatives. First and foremost, we have been able to make so many wonderful friends. Like most of you, the dental profession has been good to me, although I'm not a dentist. Most of the time these travels don't even seem like "work". I've been fortunate enough to attend most ADA meetings, including those in Hawaii and Las Vegas. When the Alabama Dental Association meets in Orange Beach and the Alabama Academy of General Dentistry meets in Destin, FL, I may not be sitting under an umbrella, but who can complain about a meeting at the beach?

It's difficult to figure out how many miles I've logged through the air and on the ground. Last year, I figured I had logged 300,000 road miles with more than 3,000 alumni meetings. These include one-on-one meetings, and that's how I spend the majority of my time developing relationships with our alumni. Fundraising is a relationship business, and I enjoy what I do. Most of the alumni who know me understand my job is to raise money for the school. I see myself as a facilitator. I try to match up the school's needs with our donors' desires to help. The majority of our alumni reside in Alabama, so that's where I spend most of my time. I think I've been to or through every county in Alabama at least once.

We have a section in this magazine called "On the Road" where we share pictures of our various events. I've enjoyed working with all of our deans, and have especially enjoyed sharing time "On the Road" with our new dean, Dr. Russ Taichman. In just a few short months, we've already been from top to bottom of the state, including a "Meet the Dean" event in Mobile where we drove down and back the same day, getting back after midnight. I'll admit those trips are somewhat taxing, but it also gives us time to discuss a lot of issues which hopefully makes your school even better.

There are a lot of other School of Dentistry employees who are "On the Road" serving you. Our faculty frequently give continuing education lectures at district dental society meetings across the state. They also accompany students and residents to various sites, treating patients, promoting oral health, and serving as ambassadors for the School. We recently welcomed Elizabeth Carlson to our development team. She's also "On the Road" developing relationships with our alumni. Usually behind the scenes, our Development and Alumni staff comprised of Christy Peters, Charlene Phillips, and Abby Vinson, make everything run smoothly. If it weren't for them, life "On the Road" would be much more challenging.

Since we successfully concluded our \$25 million campaign, we haven't slowed down. We will continue to attend all the major meetings, hold our receptions, and meet with you one-on-one. Our goal is to serve the Alumni and the School. Please feel free to contact me personally at [shuffman@uab.edu](mailto:shuffman@uab.edu) or (205) 934-3601 if you would like to schedule a "Meet the Dean" event or a donor reception in your area. As always, thanks for all you do!

Regards,



J. Scott Huffman, CFRE  
Executive Director of Development  
Executive Director of the Alumni Association



## DR. BILL CHESSER – OPTIMIST AND PHILANTHROPIST



*Dr. Bill and Cris Chesser*

Dr. Bill Chesser (Class of 1967) and his wife, Cris, recently included the School of Dentistry in their estate plans. The Hueytown native has been giving back to his profession for more than fifty years. After graduating from the University of Alabama, he taught one year at Hueytown High School before enrolling in dental school. “It was tough, it was hard. My wife was still teaching. I worked all day and studied all night,” said Chesser. Even when he was loading box cars during the summer, and was under the watchful eyes of sometimes very demanding dental school professors, he always kept a positive attitude. Chesser said, “There was a great comraderie between the students. We looked out for each other. We still have that. Some of my best friends to this day are my dental school classmates”.

After graduating from the School of Dentistry, Chesser spent four years in the Navy, and was based in Guam for two years and Quantico for two years. After that he moved to Ozark,

AL where he embarked on a lifelong career in dentistry. Along the way, he has been a major contributor to the profession through his time, talents, and treasures. He has served as president of the University of Alabama School of Dentistry Alumni Association, the Alabama Dental Association, the Alabama Academy of General Dentistry, and the Alabama Board of Dental Examiners. He still serves as editor of the Composite, the Alabama AGD newsletter.

Chesser retired from his full-time Ozark practice a few years ago. He and Cris moved to Tuscaloosa. He still sees patients two and a half days each week for the Maude Whatley Health Service. “I love treating patients. They’re like family. That was the toughest part of retiring from my full-time practice. I missed my patients,” said Chesser.

Now that he’s not practicing full-time, he and Cris have time to travel and visit their three grown children and several grandchildren. They also continue to be involved with the School, Alumni Association, and organized dentistry. In addition to including the School in their estate plans, they donated an operator in the Comprehensive Care Clinic. Said Chesser, “the School of Dentistry allowed me to be a part of the profession I enjoy. I stay involved in organized dentistry because I want to look after the dental profession. It’s changing but it will survive well”.



**PARTNERSHIP.  
INTEGRITY.  
INNOVATION.**

Working hard to deliver the very best in patient experience and practice lifestyle.

At Patterson Dental, we are proud to connect you with innovative tools and resources so that you can focus on providing expert dental care.

Let us be your partner in providing everything you need to excel at dentistry.

**BIRMINGHAM BRANCH**  
289 B CAHABA VALLEY PKWY. N.  
PELHAM, AL | 35124



TPR039 (6/17)

## PALCANIS GIFT TAKES PERIODONTOLOGY TO GREATER HEIGHTS

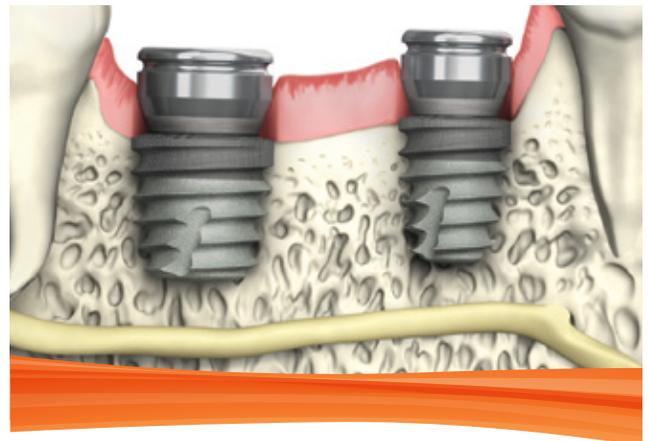


*Dr. Kent and Phoebe Palcanis*

Dr. Kent Palcanis and his wife, Phoebe, have pledged \$500,000 over the next five years to endow a professorship in the Department of Periodontology. Palcanis is a School of Dentistry Professor Emeritus and serves on the UASOD Alumni Association Executive Council as an Alumnus By Choice (ABC) representative. Although his dental degree is from Ohio State University and he did his perio training at the University of Washington, he said his strongest ties are with UAB and the Department of Periodontology. "Phoebe and I wanted to do something special for the school, and especially the department. I was fortunate enough to have a long career here on the faculty and to serve as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs," said Palcanis.

The Department of Periodontology already has another professorship that bears his name. The Weatherford/Palcanis Endowed Professorship is fully endowed. It is named for Dr. Tommy Weatherford and Dr. Palcanis, and is held by the department chair, Dr. Nico Geurs. Dr. Palcanis also made generous gifts to that endowment and worked with our Development and Alumni Relations office to secure other significant gifts. The Department of Periodontology has a long history of philanthropic support. The Marjorie Jeffcoat Clinic was made possible through generous contributions by alumni and dental corporations. The department also has the BioHorizons faculty scholar and another professorship that will be realized through the estate of Dr. Paul Weeks. "The Department of Periodontology owes a great deal to Dr. Palcanis and Dr. Weeks for endowing these professorships. Because of their generosity, we will be able to recruit and retain the best possible faculty," said Geurs.

According to Geurs, the department will continue to make fundraising a priority for endowed faculty positions and clinic renovations and upgrades. Plans are currently being made to renovate the Jeffcoat clinic. "The chairs in the Jeffcoat Clinic are twenty years old. We also need new flooring, and we need support to make the shift to digital dentistry where we can train the next generation of periodontists," said Geurs.



### Tapered Short Implants

BioHorizons Tapered Short implants offer a solution for cases with limited vertical bone height, potentially expediting treatment by eliminating the need for bone grafting.

For more information, contact BioHorizons Customer Care: 888.246.8338 or shop online at [www.biohorizons.com](http://www.biohorizons.com)

**BIOHORIZONS**<sup>®</sup>  
SCIENCE • INNOVATION • SERVICE

SPMP18153 REV A APR 2018

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESENTS FULLER AWARD TO DR. MICHAEL EDWARDS



*Drs. Michael Edwards and Kent Palcanis*

Michael D. Edwards, DMD of Wedowee, Alabama was named the 2019 H. Moren Fuller Award winner by the University of Alabama School of Dentistry Alumni Association. Dr. Edwards received the award on June 7, 2019 at the Alabama Dental Alumni Association Luncheon held during the Gulf Coast Dental Conference in Orange Beach. The Fuller Award is the highest honor bestowed by the Alumni Association in recognition of outstanding contributions to the dental profession.

Dr. Edwards is a native of Birmingham, Alabama and moved to Randolph County in 1979 to practice comprehensive dentistry. He attended college at Birmingham Southern College and the University of Alabama at Birmingham earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Natural Sciences and Mathematics. He earned his Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from the UAB School of Dentistry. Dr. Edwards received additional training in the United States Public Health Service and has earned his Fellowship and Mastership in the Academy of General Dentistry.

Dr. Edwards has been an adjunct clinical professor at the UAB School of Dentistry since 1995 in the Department of Hospital Dentistry and Comprehensive Care Dentistry. Dr. Edwards is very

active in the profession having served in all the offices of his Alabama district dental society and the Alabama Academy of General Dentistry, including president in 1995. Dr Edwards also served as president of the Alabama Dental Association in 2013.

Dr. Edwards served as past chairman of the ADA anesthesia committee and served on the ADA Council on Dental Education and Licensure. He has received numerous awards in dentistry including being inducted into the Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honor Dental Society, Fellowship in the Pierre Fauchard Society and Fellowship in the The American College of Dentists. Dr. Edwards was also awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award from UAB School of Dentistry.

The Fuller Award is named for Dr. Moren H. Fuller, of Centerville, Alabama, one of the first members of the School of Dentistry advisory board. Fuller was not well known by his Alabama colleagues but was highly respected by his community, which earned him his spot on the board. He spent a lot of time at the school during its early years. Many of the first students were World War II veterans with impeccable credentials to enter dental school, but could not find a spot in out-of-state universities. Because of his day-to-day involvement with the school from the beginning, the students saw Fuller as their personal benefactor and the Dental Alumni Association chose to honor Fuller and to make the award his namesake. In 1955, Fuller was the first recipient of the award.



ON THE ROAD

Hinman Dean's Reception, Atlanta - March 22nd



Birmingham Barons Young Alumni Event - May 30th



## ON THE ROAD

GULF COAST DENTAL CONFERENCE, ORANGE BEACH – JUNE 7TH

Alumni Luncheon & Book Signing,  
featuring Kris "Tanto" Paronto - former  
Army Ranger, Hero of Benghazi



Dean's Reception



IADR Dean's Reception, Vancouver –  
June 19th



ON THE ROAD

ADA Dean's Reception, San Francisco - September 7th



AGD Dean's Reception, Destin - September 8th



Birmingham Dean's Reception, courtesy of Dr. Robin Pruitt ('94) - September 26th



ON THE ROAD

Mobile Meet the Dean Reception – October 3rd



2nd District Dental Society, Montgomery – October 11th



Tommy Weatherford Alabama Periodontal Alumni Society, Chicago – November 4th



Alabama vs. Arkansas with Dr. Joel Hearn ('72), Tuscaloosa – October 26th



Alabama vs. LSU tailgate courtesy of Drs. Ken Kendrick ('68) and Jeff Kendrick ('97) with Allen Blackmon and Chris Taylor, Tuscaloosa – November 9th



**(‘54) William Robert (Bob) Roland** of Andalusia, died September 6, 2019. Dr. Roland attended Sewanee University and graduated from the University of Alabama. He was granted early admission to the University of Alabama’s third dental school class, graduating in 1954. Dr. Roland served as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Dental Corp for two years. He then opened his dental practice in Andalusia, where he skillfully and conscientiously served others for 35 years.

**(‘56) H. Ray Evans** died July 16, 2019. Dr. Evans was an Oral Surgeon in Montgomery and was very active in his professional organizations. He served as President of the Alabama Dental Association in 2002-2003, then Secretary-Treasurer and Chairman of the Budget and Auditing Council. His work as Secretary-Treasurer and Budget and Auditing Chairman was instrumental in the financial health of the Alabama Dental Association.

**(‘58) Thomas E. Sorrells** passed away in Orlando, Florida on July 15, 2019. Dr. Sorrells held a private dental practice in Orlando for over 50 years.

**(‘63) Charles T. “Tommy” Day** of Gadsden passed away July 12, 2019 following a long illness. Dr. Day graduated from the University of Alabama in 1958. He received his DMD from the UAB School of Dentistry in 1963 and was a practicing dentist in Gadsden for more than 51 years. Upon graduation from dental school, he was commissioned to the Army as a Captain and was stationed in Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. Dr. Day had a lifelong love of big band music and was a talented saxophone player. He was a member of the University of Alabama’s Million Dollar Band and Gadsden’s Kings of Swing.

**(‘70) William Carl Ray, Jr.** died on May 17, 2019, in Asheville, North Carolina, following a brief battle with brain cancer. Billy attended the University of Alabama and graduated from the UAB School of Dentistry in 1970, and following service in the United States Army in Tacoma, Washington, he completed his residency in oral surgery at Louisiana State University at Shreveport. Billy practiced oral surgery in Roebuck for more than 30 years. He retired to Bozeman, Montana.

**(‘72) James Caldwell Davis** suddenly passed away on September 27, 2019. He graduated from the University of Alabama, UAB School of Dentistry and completed his orthodontics residency at the University of California Los Angeles.

**(‘75) Jerry Lynn Boshell** of Jasper, passed away July 20, 2019. Jerry earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Birmingham Southern College, a PHD in Anatomy and a DMD from UAB School of Dentistry. He was an Associate Professor at the Medical College of Georgia Dental School before returning to Jasper to practice as an orthodontist.

**(‘83) Stephen Gregory Gargus** of Huntsville passed away June 18, 2019. Stephen attended the University of Alabama and received a bachelor’s degree in microbiology, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham where he received his Doctorate degree in Dentistry. Stephen then moved to Florida where practiced dentistry until he retired and later moved home to Huntsville.

**(‘62, Ortho ‘70) James L. Reed, Jr.** passed away August 8, 2019. James attended and graduated from The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina in 1952 and then moved to Selma, Alabama. During the Korean War, he was in the Air Force and stationed at Eglin Air Force Base, working in the climate hangar testing missiles and bombs. After he returned to Selma, he decided he wanted to become a dentist. James attended and graduated valedictorian from the UAB School of Dentistry in 1962, and then moved to Pensacola, Florida, where he began his dental practice. James soon decided to go back to UAB to become an orthodontist and after graduating, he switched his practice to orthodonture, providing people with beautiful smiles for decades until he retired in 1995. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be made to the charity of your choice, or to The Citadel or UAB.



On1™ concept

Preserving  
SOFT  
TISSUE  
attachment

[nobelbiocare.com/on1](http://nobelbiocare.com/on1)

Nobel Biocare USA, LLC.  
22715 Savi Ranch Parkway, Yorba Linda, CA 92887  
Toll free 800 322 5001  
Technical support 888 725 7100  
© Nobel Biocare USA, LLC, 2019. All rights reserved. (GMT 64306) Nobel Biocare, the Nobel Biocare logotype and all other trademarks are, if nothing else is stated or is evident from the context in a certain case, trademarks of Nobel Biocare. Please refer to [nobelbiocare.com/](http://nobelbiocare.com/) trademarks for more information. Product images are not necessarily to scale. All product images are for illustration purposes only and may not be an exact representation of the product. Please contact the local Nobel Biocare sales office for current product assortment and availability. Disclaimer: For prescription use only. Caution: Federal (United States) law restricts this device to sale by or on the order of a licensed clinician, medical professional or physician. See Instructions For Use for full prescribing information, including indications, contraindications, warnings and precautions.



The University of Alabama School of Dentistry Alumni Association  
SDB Room 217  
1720 Second Avenue South  
Birmingham, AL 35294-0007

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 1256  
Birmingham, AL

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**Hyatt Regency Wynfrey Hotel - Birmingham, AL**

**NEW IN 2020 - Thursday Lectures**

Registration now open - register online & save! [uab.edu/dentistry](http://uab.edu/dentistry)

**Renew your 2020 Alumni Dues & Register for Alumni Weekend in 1 transaction**