John Blakemore ’75, and William Blood ’93, met during Dr. Blood’s dental school training at Case School of Dental Medicine. Dr. Blakemore was one of Dr. Blood’s teachers. “John always pressed on to the newest things and I learned a lot from him,” says Dr. Blood. “Both he and Jerry Goldberg ’70, offered me wonderful learning opportunities.”

Today, Drs. Blakemore and Blood practice together at the North Coast Jaw Center in North Olmsted, Ohio. It’s a partnership that both find very satisfying. Last summer the pair had freshman dental school students working with them in their office. “The students say that they learn a tremendous amount,” relates Dr. Blakemore. “I’ve been at this for thirty years and I love it,” he continues and adds, “we do a bit of everything.” Able to provide an historical perspective on his changing profession, Dr. Blakemore observed, “The best advances have been in orthognathic surgery. We do that differently now with shorter hospital stays.” In addition to his professional practice, he also teaches implantology and general anesthesia to residents at his alma mater. “The program there is top-notch,” he says. “It prepared me to be successful at what I do.”

Dr. Blood is equally enthusiastic about his training. “I wanted to be an oral surgeon from the first week in dental school,” he recalls. He says that the use of dental implants has changed the profession. “It’s a lot of what we do now and it can make a big difference in a person’s life. We also work on wisdom teeth and orthognathic surgery. Our practice is more insurance-driven now.” Dr. Blood is also a clinical instructor at the Case dental school.

Both are family men. Dr. Blakemore tells us, “I have nine children and ten grandchildren.” Dr. Blood just added the fourth child to his family in September. Both families reside in Westlake, Ohio.

E-MAIL: jblakedds@aol.com  E-MAIL: bblood@aol.com

LETTER FROM THE DEAN

These are exciting and challenging days in the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Department at Case School of Dental Medicine. The excitement comes from the department’s ever-increasing reputation as one of the nation’s best and from our plans to renovate our clinic in order to provide better service for more patients. An additional operating room and state-of-the-art operatories will help us to continue to expand our program and to draw the best and the brightest residents.

All of these opportunities mean challenges and change. We are embarking on a nationwide search for a department chair who will lead this effort. Faisal Quereshy ’97, has been doing a great job as program director and will serve as interim chair. This past summer we had a very well-attended faculty meeting to plan for the department as it goes forward. The enthusiasm and commitment for proposed change was most gratifying; however, effort and participation in addition to enthusiasm will be vital to its success.

• We need a higher level of financial support than ever in order to achieve our goals for the clinic renovation. This support will be an important message to the new chair.

• Our part-time faculty are incredible, but we continue to need more financial support for them in terms of sponsoring lectures and covering clinics.

Above all, we need your input about the future direction of the department. We also seek your ideas about suitable candidates for department chair.

We are committed to making this department better than ever and we look forward to hearing from you.

Jerry Goldberg ’70
Dean, Case School of Dental Medicine

The clinic renovation for the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Department has been designed by Smith Architects. It will allow maximum utilization of facilities for the most efficient resident education, increase department productivity, enhance faculty recruitment, and increase resident applications. The goal of creating a state-of-the-art oral surgery clinic will include the acquisition of new equipment such as lights, monitors and chairs.

The new clinic will be made possible by donations from our alumni and friends of the department. Your feedback about this project is very important. Contact the Development and Alumni Affairs Department for information about naming opportunities: Call (216) 368-3480 or toll-free (877) 468-1436.

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A WORK IN PROGRESS

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PROGRAM DIRECTOR’S CORNER

AAOMS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Boston, Massachusetts, was the setting for the 87th Annual American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Meeting and scientific sessions in September 2005. The Welcome Reception for all Case School of Dental Medicine OMS alumni and other Case predoctoral alumni completing OMS training at other programs was a huge success.

Presenters from your alma mater included: Dr. Charles Baldbush (Immediate Dental Implants); Dr. Faisal A. Quereshy ’97 (Rhinoplasty).

See you in San Diego in October 2006!