Greetings! I came to Case in September, 2005, from the University of Kentucky, where for 25 years I was committed to service, education and research related to pediatric dentistry and health services administration and policy. I intend to use that experience to foster a strong Pediatric Dental presence at Case through local, state, and national efforts. Several exciting projects are now in progress:

The didactic course activity for the student dentists will be an interactive, Web-based format that will utilize classroom and independent learning to achieve a mix of problem-based and traditional education. Clinical experiences will range from evaluation and prevention training for children at risk for early childhood caries through onsite care at WIC, Early Head Start and Head Start programs to application of more traditional clinical experience in the student clinic for young school-age children.

As of this July, we will have permanently increased the residency program from four to eight residents. To support that increase, we have added two additional assistants, a second receptionist, and a dental hygienist/clinic coordinator to the Tapper Clinic staff, and substantial funds have been allocated to upgrade the clinic’s operation capabilities.

Fortunately, I have several part-time faculty who are going above and beyond the call of duty during these times of growth. Nonetheless, as the only full-time member of the department, I can only go so far in facilitating the didactic and experiential growth of the residency program. Thus, I am in the process of recruiting two new full-time faculty members. The expansion of our department will allow us to have an even greater impact on the community in which Case’s residents learn.

Finally, knowing that physicians and nurses see a child 12 to 14 times before a child may have a first dental visit, we are also working to expand our positive impact on the health of children even further by partnering with our Medical School and Children’s Hospital colleagues to integrate oral health education into the curricula and training of medical students and residents.

I look forward to meeting you in the months and years to come, and to working together toward the continuous support, growth, and recognition of our Pediatric Dentistry Program at Case.

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CLASS NOTES

2001

After her residency, Irene I. Lin joined a group practice with Charles Liu, DMD, a general dentist who has been in practice for about ten years. “I enjoy working with children,” says Dr. Lin, who found the clinical experience she gained from a hospital-based residency program to be invaluable to her in private practice. “I love showing them how they can have perfect teeth and grow up to be someone who is caries free and not be afraid of the dentist.” They should all learn to be comfortable in a dental setting. It should be fun visiting the dentist!”

In addition to working together, Dr. Lin and her husband are kept busy at home by their 19-month-old daughter Teresa.

MEET THE CLASS OF 2007

Katie Lubitz Stewart studied zoology at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, before attending dental school at The Ohio State University College of Dentistry. She looks forward to residency at Case as “a program with great opportunities” and says she chose to become a pediatric dentist because of “the love of children—they make each day exciting, challenging, and fun!”

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**STUDY CLUB TO BRING TOGETHER AREA PEDIATRIC DENTISTS**

There are about 50 pediatric dentists in Northeast Ohio, and Department Chair Gerald Ferretti is hoping to get to know every one of them. On a weeknight evening every other month beginning in July 2006, the Pediatrics Department plans to host a “study club.” All pediatric dentists in the area—a mix of alumni and non-alumni alike—will be invited to hear a brief presentation on something new or controversial in the field, followed by discussion and a wine and cheese reception.

“I hope this study club gives us an opportunity to become a cohesive group once again and to have a meaningful relationship among the children’s hospital, the School of Dental Medicine, and the practices in the community to benefit everyone,” says Dr. Ferretti. “The study club would give participants an opportunity to share techniques, to plan events, and to find out how to get involved in our program at Case on a volunteer basis.”

For more information, contact Department Chair Dr. Gerald Ferretti directly at gerald.ferretti@case.edu.

**PROFILE OF CHANDRA HARWARD**

**CHANDRA HARWOOD EXPANDS FUNCTIONING OF PEDIATRIC CLINIC**

An Expanded Function Dental Assistant and dental hygienist, Chandra Harward brings 19 years of experience to her new role as Clinic Coordinator for the Pediatrics Residency Clinic housed at University Hospitals. Having worked with Department Chair Dr. Gerald Ferretti for five years in Kentucky, Ms. Harward came to Case last fall to oversee the updating of a clinic that had fallen on hard times and to increase both the efficiency of the dentist-assistant relationship and the education level of hygienists and dental assistants. The result of both is an increase in the quality of the care delivered to patients.

Ms. Harward’s first priority in the lab, where she has been full-time since January, was to update aging equipment. This year’s residents are enjoying the use of brand-new handpieces, and Ms. Harward is working to get a number of supply companies to donate a variety of new materials.

Ms. Harward, who has two Associate of Applied Science degrees, one in Dental Hygiene and one in Dental Laboratory Technology, has no problem getting respect from the residents. “The residents get quiet when I walk in,” she says. “I’ve worked with Dr. Ferretti long enough to know what he expects, and I expect the same quality.”

Residents also appreciate the increased effectiveness of the hygienists and assistants under her leadership. “I teach hygienists and assistants to try to think ahead of the dentists in terms of what they’re going to need next—to save on time and increase efficiency and quality,” says Ms. Harward, who also works with assistants on their demeanor with patients.

Ms. Harward, who at one time ran her own orthodontics lab out of her apartment, balanced her work in Kentucky between a public health setting and a high-end dentist’s office focused on cosmetic reconstruction, so she is familiar with the full range of patient needs and concerns. “I felt like I’d met my challenges in Lexington, and I wanted to be challenged again, so when Dr. Ferretti offered me the job at Case, I said yes.”

She is working this semester to convert her Kentucky certification to Ohio, after which she plans to continue her own formal education, completing the necessary requirements for a B.S., and—despite the encouragement of many colleagues to become a dentist—most likely pursuing a Master of Public Health.

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**MEET THE CLASS OF 2007**

“During my visit to Case, I felt the genuine excitement of all the residents about Dr. Ferretti and the new direction of the program,” says Phillip Kwan Liu. “I feel that Case will be able to provide a balanced training in all areas of pediatric dentistry, both in the university and hospital environment.” The UCLA Bruin (undergraduate and dental school) is currently completing a one-year GPR at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, NY. “I’ve found that working with pediatric patients is uniquely challenging and rewarding,” says Liu of his decision to specialize.

**E-MAIL:** philu@ucla.edu

Milwaukee, WI, native Christy Maciolek majored in psychology at Washington University in St. Louis before attending the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry. After a one-year GPR at Kentucky, she chose Case for her residency for “the opportunity to work with Dr. Ferretti and the excellent resources available at Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital.”

**E-MAIL:** maciolek56@yahoo.com

**Miltiadis Alexandros Ntragatakis,** who goes by “Milton,” is finishing up dental school at Case this spring. He decided to pursue pediatric dentistry because it fits so well with his personality. “I can relate so well to children that I often find myself becoming one, without being annoyed by their occasional unpleasant behavior,” he says. Having had a chance to get to know the department during dental school, Dr. Ntragatakis chose to stay at Case for residency because he believes that Case “has one of the very few Pediatric Dental Residency programs in this country that will let you experience all that a pediatric dentist can be.”

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