Alumni Profiles

Jed M. Best, D.D.S. ’79, M.S.

As among the best clinical dental schools in the country.

his dental board examiner told him that CWRU was rated

A member of CWRU’s Discovering the Future of Dental Medicine capital campaign committee, Jed has been a long-time supporter of the dental school in which he deems himself “dental education heaven.” He recalls that 20 years ago his dental board examiner told him that CWRU was rated among the best clinical dental schools in the country.

In 1972, when John H. Gerstenmaier, Jr., opened his pediatric dental practice in Akron, Ohio, he could not have known that 37 years later his namesake son would join him. Today—still in the original office space—they have known that 37 years later his namesake son would

John H. Gerstenmaier, Jr.
D.D.S. ’75 and John (“Jack”) H. Gerstenmaier, III, M.D. ’10,12

Although I never had the privilege of working with him, I deeply appreciate Dr. Irving Tapper’s multifaceted legacy. You will read here about conversations with Dr. Charles Spitz and Dr. Donald Huebener—Dr. Tapper’s first two graduate students—remind us of the importance of each generation giving to the next. Dr. John Gerstenmaier, Jr., who studied and worked with Dr. Tapper became, in turn, an admired mentor. It was Dr. John who fostered in his generous support of our school. Enjoy these examples of the “pay it forward” tradition that defines this department and thrives in the memory of Dr. Tapper.

Welcome to our incoming residents and best wishes to our second-years who have bright futures:

• Jackie Beard will start practicing in Cleveland after she and Ben welcome their first child in June. She and Clara Brannan continue to work on research with Dr. Mehma through our Head Start outreach program;
• Clara Brannan (expecting her third child with husband Jesse M. Berman ’18) will join in private practice in Rapid City, South Dakota. Working out of a mobile dental office, she will be part-time faculty for a hospital-based GPR program;
• Jenesha Lambiye is moving to Chicago to go into private practice after traveling through Africa for two years;
• Meg Ferretti is traveling internationally and plans to continue her research and practice in Cleveland.

I would like to personally thank those of you who made philanthropic donations to our department this year—we could not succeed without your generosity.

Finally, I hope to see you in Orlando at the AAPD annual session—do plan to join me at the CWRU reception on May 25.

gerald.ferretti@case.edu

If you would like to make a donation, please contact Simon Brown, Assistant Director of Development and Alumni Relations for the School of Dental Medicine at simonbrown@case.edu or 216.368.1103.

In addition to teaching at Minnesota while a resident, Jed

“Speaking as a colleague and peer, the school of dental

There is something very special about our dental school—all of the faculty members are completely accessible with their doors always open. That the school—all of the faculty members are completely accessible with their doors always open. That the

Alumni Profiles (continued)

his knowledge with students—service that sets the highest standard for good to give.

Jackie Beard will start practicing in Cleveland after she and Ben welcome their first child in June. She and Clara Brannan continue to work on research with Dr. Mehma through our Head Start outreach program; Clara Brannan (expecting her third child with husband Jesse M. Berman ’18) will join in private practice in Rapid City, South Dakota. Working out of a mobile dental office, she will be part-time faculty for a hospital-based GPR program; Jenesha Lambiye is moving to Chicago to go into private practice after traveling through Africa for two years; Meg Ferretti is traveling internationally and plans to continue her research and practice in Cleveland.

I would like to personally thank those of you who made philanthropic donations to our department this year—we could not succeed without your generosity.

Finally, I hope to see you in Orlando at the AAPD annual session—do plan to join me at the CWRU reception on May 25.

gerald.ferretti@case.edu

If you would like to make a donation, please contact Simon Brown, Assistant Director of Development and Alumni Relations for the School of Dental Medicine at simonbrown@case.edu or 216.368.1103.

In addition to teaching at Minnesota while a resident, Jed

“Speaking as a colleague and peer, the school of dental

There is something very special about our dental school—all of the faculty members are completely accessible with their doors always open. That the school—all of the faculty members are completely accessible with their doors always open. That the

Alumni Profiles (continued)

his knowledge with students—service that sets the highest standard for good to give.

Jackie Beard will start practicing in Cleveland after she and Ben welcome their first child in June. She and Clara Brannan continue to work on research with Dr. Mehma through our Head Start outreach program; Clara Brannan (expecting her third child with husband Jesse M. Berman ’18) will join in private practice in Rapid City, South Dakota. Working out of a mobile dental office, she will be part-time faculty for a hospital-based GPR program; Jenesha Lambiye is moving to Chicago to go into private practice after traveling through Africa for two years; Meg Ferretti is traveling internationally and plans to continue her research and practice in Cleveland.

I would like to personally thank those of you who made philanthropic donations to our department this year—we could not succeed without your generosity.

Finally, I hope to see you in Orlando at the AAPD annual session—do plan to join me at the CWRU reception on May 25.

gerald.ferretti@case.edu

If you would like to make a donation, please contact Simon Brown, Assistant Director of Development and Alumni Relations for the School of Dental Medicine at simonbrown@case.edu or 216.368.1103.

In addition to teaching at Minnesota while a resident, Jed

“Speaking as a colleague and peer, the school of dental

There is something very special about our dental school—all of the faculty members are completely accessible with their doors always open. That the school—all of the faculty members are completely accessible with their doors always open. That the

Alumni Profiles (continued)

his knowledge with students—service that sets the highest standard for good to give.

Jackie Beard will start practicing in Cleveland after she and Ben welcome their first child in June. She and Clara Brannan continue to work on research with Dr. Mehma through our Head Start outreach program; Clara Brannan (expecting her third child with husband Jesse M. Berman ’18) will join in private practice in Rapid City, South Dakota. Working out of a mobile dental office, she will be part-time faculty for a hospital-based GPR program; Jenesha Lambiye is moving to Chicago to go into private practice after traveling through Africa for two years; Meg Ferretti is traveling internationally and plans to continue her research and practice in Cleveland.

I would like to personally thank those of you who made philanthropic donations to our department this year—we could not succeed without your generosity.

Finally, I hope to see you in Orlando at the AAPD annual session—do plan to join me at the CWRU reception on May 25.

gerald.ferretti@case.edu

If you would like to make a donation, please contact Simon Brown, Assistant Director of Development and Alumni Relations for the School of Dental Medicine at simonbrown@case.edu or 216.368.1103.
In remembering Dr. Irving Bernard Tapper, the CWRU community’s admiration for his outstanding leadership in pediatric dentistry is matched by its genuine affection for him. Described consistently as a caring and compassionate teacher and colleague, he leaves a legacy of kindness together with his noteworthy accomplishments.

Born in Akron, Ohio, Dr. Tapper graduated from the University of Akron, The Ohio State University School of Dentistry (1935), and received his postgraduate training in pediatric dentistry at the University of Michigan (1937). Following service as Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he maintained a thriving private practice in Cleveland for 53 years. During that time he served as president of the Cleveland Dental Society and Ohio Dental Association, as well as a representative to the American Dental Association.

Always an advocate for children—particularly for the underserved and those with special needs—Dr. Tapper worked continually alongside his wife, Jeanne, throughout his career. They formed the underserved and those with special needs—Dr. Tapper worked continually alongside his wife, Jeanne, throughout his career. They formed the Tapper Pediatric Dental Center opened in 1998. Located at Rainbow and uniquely equipped to care for young patients with special healthcare needs, the Center continues to welcome children of all ages. Throughout their lives, the Tappers were extremely giving and generous with their time and resources, which was matched by their genuine affection for him. Described consistently as a caring and compassionate teacher and colleague, he leaves a legacy of kindness together with his noteworthy accomplishments.

Cleveland Council members—who viewed him as “the loveliest of Cleveland’s children because of its accessibility”—also joined the discussion. At this critical juncture, Dr. Tapper and his wife, Jeanne Sif Tapper (who after 60 years of marriage preceded him in 2020), made a significant contribution to the effort—the Irving and Jeanne Tapper Pediatric Dental Center opened in 1998. Located at Rainbow and uniquely equipped to care for young patients with special healthcare needs, the Center continues to welcome children of all ages. Throughout their lives, the Tappers were extremely proud of the Center’s names, which was the example of their generous philanthropy. A CWRU School of Dental Medicine clinical professor emeritus, Dr. Tapper was 102 years old at the time of his death and lived in San Francisco where he and Jeanne had moved 1997. A remarkable man who will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him, he will be especially missed by his grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

His death and living in San Francisco where he and Jeanne had moved 1997. A remarkable man who will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him, he will be especially missed by his grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

“The only need is to think of the children whose lives have been well and will be enormously improved by” the work of our department of pediatric dentistry to understand how important Dr. Irving Tapper will always be to this community, university, and our profession.”

— Dean Jerold S. Goldberg, D.D.S. ’70

“I can remember my trip to University Hospitals for my residency interview. It was a snowy day in Cleveland with 27 of the interviewers at the big hospital. My flight from St. Louis was three hours late. I arrived at the dental clinic, only to find out that staff and students had left early because of the inclement weather; called Dr. Tapper at home to let him know of my late arrival and, of course, my sadness for the interview. He said: ‘Well, be right there’—so we’re going to forward to meeting you—it may take me a while, but I’ll try.” About an hour later, Dr. Tapper appeared. I was very impressed that he actually made the normal 15 minute commute in such a snowstorm. I was equally impressed with his kindness and empathy to me. ‘I thought to myself, this is a wonderful person who would be a great teacher and mentor. What a great guy.’

— Donald V. Huebener, D.D.S., M.S. ’71, M.Ed.

“Would Dr. Tapper be proud of me? Throughout my career, this has been an important measure of my success. I admired him because he was not only able to do what he loved, but also to do it well. He recognized that he was a part of something important and that he actually made the normal 15 minute commute in such a snowstorm. I was equally impressed with his kindness and empathy to me. ‘I thought to myself, this is a wonderful person who would be a great teacher and mentor. What a great guy.’

— John R. Genten investigators, M.D., D.S. ’75

“I knew Dr. Tapper my whole life—he encouraged me to go to pediatric dentistry when I returned from Venezuela. He was a wonderful person. Full of grace and dignity. Always giving everything that he did, he was a true mentor and very inspirational to me.”

— Charles Chuck Sipit, D.D.S. ’82, M.S. ’82

“I was born in Akron, Ohio, Dr. Tapper graduated from the University of Akron, The Ohio State University School of Dentistry (1935), and received his postgraduate training in pediatric dentistry at the University of Michigan (1937). Following service as Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he maintained a thriving private practice in Cleveland for 53 years. During that time he served as president of the Cleveland Dental Society and Ohio Dental Association, as well as a representative to the American Dental Association.

Always an advocate for children—particularly for the underserved and those with special needs—Dr. Tapper worked continually alongside his wife, Jeanne, throughout his career. They formed the Tapper Pediatric Dental Center opened in 1998. Located at Rainbow and uniquely equipped to care for young patients with special healthcare needs, the Center continues to welcome children of all ages. Throughout their lives, the Tappers were extremely proud of the Center’s names, which was the example of their generous philanthropy. A CWRU School of Dental Medicine clinical professor emeritus, Dr. Tapper was 102 years old at the time of his death and lived in San Francisco where he and Jeanne had moved 1997. A remarkable man who will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him, he will be especially missed by his grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

His death and living in San Francisco where he and Jeanne had moved 1997. A remarkable man who will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him, he will be especially missed by his grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.