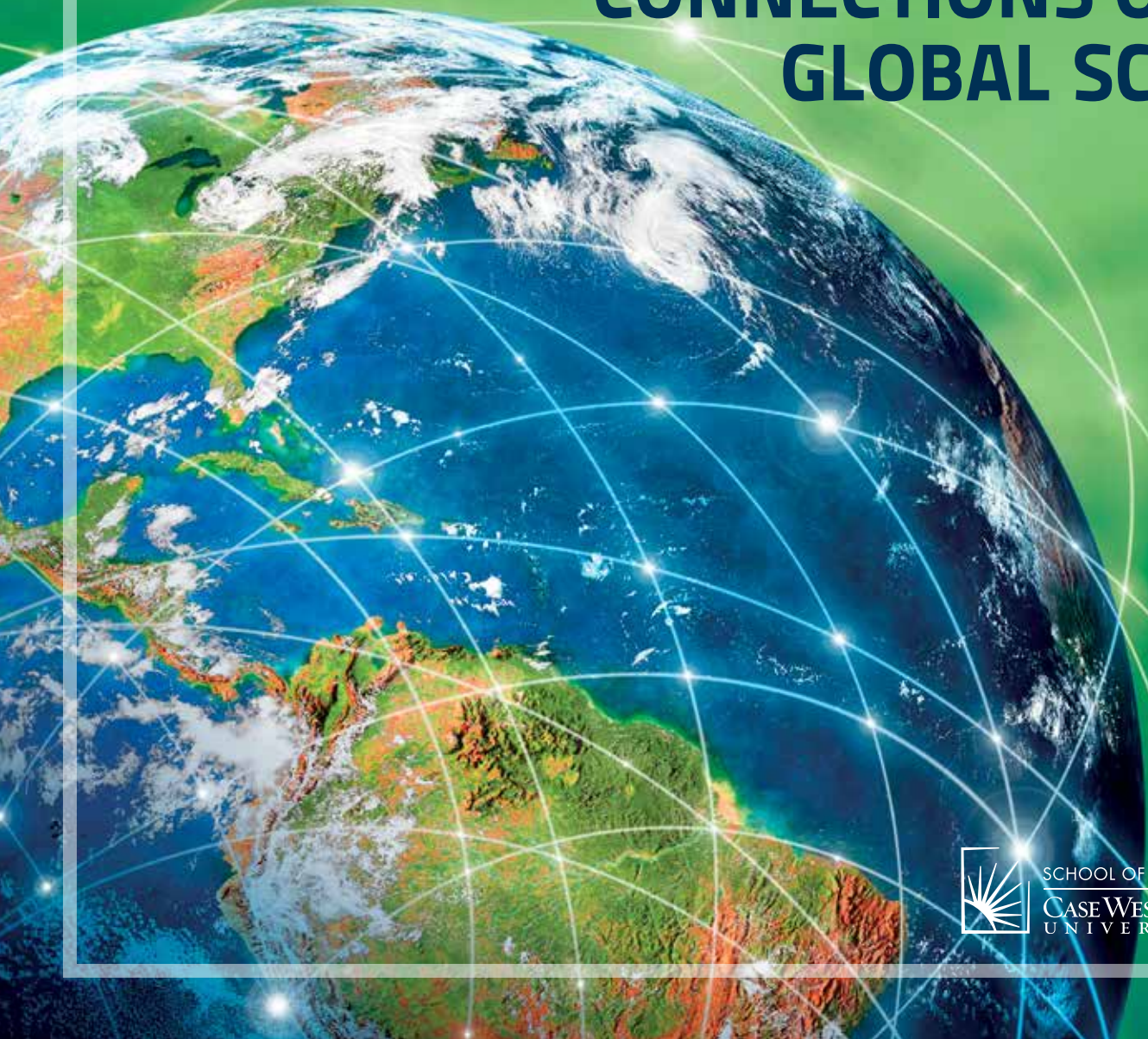


CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF **DENTAL  
MEDICINE**

FALL 2015 | VOLUME 15 | ISSUE 2

**IMPACT AND  
CONNECTIONS ON A  
GLOBAL SCALE**



SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE  
CASE WESTERN RESERVE  
UNIVERSITY

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## Alumni and Friends,

In today's busy and complex world, each of us strives constantly to make connections. Technology has given us so many opportunities to connect faster than ever with more people than once thought possible. Yet, despite these advances, our relationships don't often ring true and as a result, we don't always feel connected.

What does being connected mean? In its deeper sense, it means working toward a shared vision or common goal. Here at the School of Dental Medicine, our goal is to encourage a sense of connectedness among our alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends.

In our school, connectedness means having respect for one another and being willing to see each other's point of view. It means establishing relationships that enable us to improve the quality of our teaching, our research and our programs. It's a desire to be a part of another person's journey in life—whether it's through family, faith, education, or work.

We strive to bring these ideas and practices into everything we do at the dental school. We welcome our new students and work hard to make sure we are providing them with the best curriculum taught by an engaged and dedicated faculty. We provide them with opportunities to care for patients and serve the greater world, instilling our shared sense of commitment to others.

Our connections are continuing to move beyond our school, our university, our community and our nation. With a growing emphasis on global outreach, the dental school has expanded its footprint with collaborative relationships, research projects, student outreach and more. We continue to set the global standard of excellence and we are excited to be able to share our expertise and learn from others.

In our profession, connections across communities, both within our boundaries and beyond, can bring tremendous benefits. Sharing evidence-based methodologies, faculty development opportunities, best practices in teaching and research—all of these concepts work together to propel oral health to the forefront of the global healthcare agenda.

Thinking beyond the walls of our school opens our collective mind to new opportunities, new ways of looking at problems and situations, and new ways of teaching and learning. While we are thrilled about sharing our expertise and knowledge with others, we are equally as excited about opening our school and our minds to new ideas and perspectives. It is this connectedness between learning and growth that fuels our desire to achieve excellence in all that we do.

As dental practitioners, we work diligently to ensure that our profession is at the forefront of health science education and practice. With the groundbreaking for the new Health Education Campus and the announcement that the dental school will have its own dedicated facility for its clinics, we are ushering in a new era. I am thrilled that you—our alumni and friends—will be standing with us, connected in stronger and more meaningful ways than ever before.

We have a tremendous opportunity to impact and influence the world around us through the dedication and quality of our faculty and staff, the intelligence and drive of our students, and the support and commitment of our alumni and friends. I invite you to join me on this global journey. I'm truly excited about what we'll discover together.



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# Health Education Campus groundbreaking ushers in new era in health sciences education



*CWRU President Barbara Snyder, Dean Kenneth Chance and other university and Cleveland Clinic representatives participate in the groundbreaking for the Health Education Campus on October 1.*

On October 1, the School of Dental Medicine, along with our colleagues at the School of Medicine and the School of Nursing, celebrated a historic moment in the future of health sciences education. The groundbreaking for the new Health Education Campus has ushered in a new era in interprofessional education in the health sciences, marked by collaborative teamwork and the escalation of oral health to the forefront of the curriculum.

The plans for the Health Education Campus have continued to evolve to reflect best practices in teaching, treatment and research. As such, the project has expanded to include a separate dental clinic on the Health Education Campus, which will be located on Chester Avenue, just north of the main building.

This new state-of-the-art facility will allow for all the space that is currently needed to provide world-class dental care, with room for future growth in programming.

The patient experience will be noticeably improved with increased visibility, access and parking. The student experience will be enhanced with the latest technology, ample workspace and the opportunity to work alongside colleagues from the other health science disciplines.

And according to Dean Kenneth Chance, "Perhaps most importantly, the clinic will give the School of Dental Medicine its own facility and identity on the Health Education Campus." ■

# Healthy Smiles, Happy Kids

Innovation in the classroom and in the clinic is well-known at the CWRU School of Medicine. Innovation in community outreach may not be as recognized, but it is equally as impactful.

Since 2001, the school's Healthy Smiles program, under the leadership of James Lalumandier, professor and chairman of the Department of Community Dentistry, has provided dental care to more than 87,000 children in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. Additionally, more than 270,000 children in the district have received oral health education.

"For a research-intensive university like ours to do this type of community outreach and service is highly unusual," says Dr. Lalumandier. "It's all about providing a much needed service and giving our students a terrific hands-on learning experience."

In 1999, Dr. Lalumandier and then dean Jerold Goldberg approached the St. Luke's Foundation for funding of a pilot program that would bring dental care to students at their schools. According to Dr. Lalumandier, the dental school did bring children in from schools in close proximity to the dental school to be seen in the clinic. "It was working," he says, "but we were able to see only a limited number of students and we knew there had to be a better way of providing this service."

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**"We are providing excellent care to the young students, and we're also providing our first-year, first-semester students with an opportunity to treat patients."**

– Dr. James Lalumandier

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Dr. Lalumandier figured that if the dental care could be provided in the schools, it would eliminate the time away from the classroom and allow the care to be provided in a comfortable environment for the young students. "We also thought there would be great value in enabling our dental students to see these children in their communities, where they live and go to school," he says.

The program started with a pilot that involved a handful of schools, one part-time coordinator and a few fourth-year students. "Everybody loved the program from the start," Dr. Lalumandier states. "The dental students loved the hands-on practice, the children were comfortable, parents were happy, and the teachers and administrators were thrilled."



*Dental students gain clinical experience in their first-year through the Healthy Smiles program.*

With additional funding from the St. Luke's Foundation to expand the program to serve all schools in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, Dr. Lalumandier knew that the dental school's curriculum would need to be modified to ensure the best experience for the dental students and their young patients.

"We set out to make this program a continuum throughout the four years of dental school," he says. "We developed a course in the fall semester of the first year that prepares our students for a three-week experience in which they are out in the community doing exams and providing sealants. We also carved out time for second-, third- and fourth-year students to also be out in the schools."

When he initially presented these ideas at a faculty retreat, most of his colleagues were concerned about its impact on other curriculum necessities and the time students would spend away from the classroom and the clinic.

Ultimately, the program was approved and has thrived ever since. "It's a great example of 'disruptive innovation,'" says Catherine Demko, associate professor of Community Dentistry. Today, Dr. Demko assists the program by overseeing the research that is so vital to the program's success. "We see this program as integral to our curriculum and to our students' education," she says.

In fact, data collected through Healthy Smiles has helped the program evolve to better serve the children who participate. "Early on we provided sealants to second and sixth grade students only," explains Dr. Demko. "But our research showed that we needed to expand to include third and seventh grade because we missed treating some of the molars. Expanding gave us enough time to catch all of those teeth that we wanted to seal."

Healthy Smiles also provides an opportunity to gain additional statistics that can provide vital information on community



health. “We are able to gather critical data about how often children are seen by dentists and where,” says Dr. Demko. “Although it will take three to four years to gather a significant amount of valid data, we do know that at least 30 percent of the children we treat do not receive regular dental care.”

In addition to the exams and sealants, the children and their parents receive oral health information, and referrals to dental providers if follow up care is needed.

From the dental student’s perspective, the program is a win-win. “We are providing excellent care to the young students, and we’re also providing our first-year, first-semester students with an opportunity to treat patients,” Dr. Lalumandier says. “In fact, our first-year students provide about 100 hours of patient care. This is not common among dental schools and our students love it.”

“Treating kids through the Healthy Smiles program during my first year of dental school was one of the best experiences I have ever had,” says Britni Skoda, now a second-year student. “Not only was the clinical experience amazing, but being able to give back to the community by treating these kids who so desperately need dental care was just an incredible feeling.”

Many students are drawn to opportunities to serve others and the Healthy Smiles program allows them to do so in a very direct and impactful way. “Many of our dental students are individuals who are drawn to service to others and are delighted when they find out that they can work with a vulnerable population in such a direct way,” Dr. Lalumandier says.

### HEALTHY SMILES BY THE NUMBERS

- 270,000 school children annually educated
- 87,000 children examined
- 225,000 sealants placed
- \$4.8 million in care provided by dental students

Dr. Demko agrees. “This is one of several outreach opportunities here that open our students’ eyes to the extent of oral disease and unmet dental need in a community, not just an individual,” she says. “Healthy Smiles helps students see the bigger picture—when you see a community experiencing the problem, hopefully it inspires you to ask why and to find issues common to everyone that might be contributing to disease.”

For Skoda, the opportunity to serve the community also opened her eyes to a potential career path. “I loved working with the kids,” she says. “It’s made me realize what an awesome job it would be to be a pediatric dentist or to have a practice that treats patients of all ages,” she says.

Dr. Lalumandier is very appreciative of the St. Luke Foundation and others who have provided funding for the Healthy Smiles program. Today, support is provided by Delta Dental, whose ongoing funding is helping to continue this vital program to so many children. ■

## Mobile Care **Benefits Seniors**

Students and faculty are treating Cleveland-area seniors in a dentist’s office on wheels—a 38-foot van that has been retrofitted to provide full-service oral care.

The “Lifelong Smiles” van—believed to be the first of its kind in Northeast Ohio—also serves as the teaching tool for dental students, who began clinical rotations on the van this fall semester as part of a new curriculum requirement.

“There’s almost no difference between our van and a traditional dentist’s office,” says Nicole Harris, visiting assistant professor in the Department of Community Dentistry.

Dental students, under supervision of faculty, provide oral exams, digital X-rays, cleanings, fillings, dentures, extractions and cancer screenings on the van for many patients who haven’t visited a dentist in years. The van is driven and parked outside Cleveland-area nursing homes



and assisted-living facilities for residents to come aboard. In addition, two portable dental chairs are set up in facilities for those patients who cannot get on the van.

The van is the centerpiece of a new dental school initiative known as the Geriatric Dental Program. Third-year students take classes in providing oral care to seniors, while fourth-year students complete clinical rotations in the van. Completing the geriatric program is mandatory for all dental students.

"There's a perception it's more difficult to treat seniors, which has kept many dentists in their comfort zones, avoiding these patients," says James Lalumandier, professor and chairman of the Department of Community Dentistry. "We want to reverse that—and need to—given our current and future dental needs."

The Geriatric Dental Program was created, in part, as a response to changing demographics nationally, says Dr. Lalumandier. The nation's senior population—ages 65 and older—is expected to surpass 72 million by 2030—more than double the number from 2000, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"Often, underserved elderly populations cannot go out and get care on their own. So we're building a model where we go to them," says Suparna A. Mahalaha, visiting assistant professor in the Department of Community Dentistry and co-director of its new Geriatric Dental Program, along with Harris. "At the same time, by providing students experience with older patients, we're planting a seed in them to serve seniors during their careers."

Soon, Case Western Reserve medical, nursing and social work students also will accompany dental students in assessing patients in facilities where the van is parked, as part of a university-wide emphasis on increasing interdisciplinary training in the health sciences.

"It used to be people just lost their teeth. In today's world, seniors are retaining a good portion of their teeth and need specialized care that's in fitting with their overall medical histories," says Dr. Lalumandier. "Across the health sciences, students are opening their eyes to the idea that oral health is key to a patient's complete wellbeing."

The van pays weekly visits to two assisted-living residential day programs in Cleveland, and the dental school is looking to expand the number of locations students serve. Program leaders also are recruiting active and retired dentists willing to volunteer on the van in various roles.

The Ohio Department of Health donated the vehicle to the university after reviewing competing proposals from across the state. Funds for the van's overhaul were provided by the McGregor Foundation, the Dental Trade Alliance Foundation and others. ■



*Suparna Mahalaha, left, and Nicole Harris, co-directors of the Geriatric Dental Program.*



*The treatment space in the Lifelong Smiles van.*



# CWRU School of Dental Medicine study receives \$4.6 million NIH grant

## Reducing oral health disparities in children is study's aim

Convincing more parents and caregivers to take their young children to the dentist begins with persuasive pediatricians—the belief behind a new Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine research project testing a novel approach to reduce cavities and improve the oral health of low-income children.

Studies show only one in three children from low-income and some ethnic backgrounds visit a dentist in their early years and are more susceptible to oral diseases, including tooth decay. Black children and Hispanic/Latino children are nearly twice as likely as white children to have untreated tooth decay in baby teeth, according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

"Many parents believe, since baby teeth fall out, there's no need to take kids to a dentist," said Suchitra Nelson, assistant dean for Clinical and Translational Research and professor, Community Dentistry. "But cavity-causing bacteria remains even after losing baby teeth and can lead to problems persisting beyond childhood."

Dr. Nelson adds that nationwide, 74 percent of children under the age of six visit a pediatrician for well-child visits, but only 24 percent in the same age group receive a preventative dental visit. "By drawing on the influence of pediatricians, we believe there's tremendous potential to eventually reduce oral health disparities."

The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), a branch of the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), awarded the project up to \$4.6 million over the next five years.

During routine well-child visits, nearly 90 Northeast Ohio-area pediatricians will apply a fluoride varnish to the teeth of nearly 3,700 participating children. They will also deliver core oral-health messages to parents and guardians, including the importance of baby teeth and information on how untreated cavities can lead to problems in the permanent teeth, serious infections and pain, trouble with eating and speaking, loss of time in school and other negative effects.

Pediatricians will also give prescriptions for children to visit local dentists that accept Medicaid, which will cover basic dental expenses.



The study is especially relevant to Northeast Ohio, which has one of the highest rates of untreated cavities among poor and minority children under six years old, according to Nelson.

By the project's end, researchers hope to pinpoint messages that most effectively sway parents and caregivers to take their children to the dentist. They will then translate their findings into a scalable model that could be adopted by pediatricians across the country.

The research team in Cleveland includes representatives of the schools of dental school, medicine, nursing and social work, along with staff from University Hospitals—a true example of interprofessional cooperation at work for the benefit of the community. "We have put together a stellar team," says Dr. Nelson. "Each member will bring their unique perspective. With dentists, physicians, researchers, nurses and social workers involved, we are bringing the concept of multi-disciplinary thinking to this project in a very significant way."

The research grant is one of 10 the NIH recently awarded to research institutions nationally, with the goal of reducing inequalities in access to dental care and improving the oral health of children.

Grant awardees, which include the University of California at San Francisco, Boston University and others, will each try a unique approach but work collaboratively as part of the newly established Multidisciplinary and Collaborative Research Consortium to Reduce Oral Health Disparities in Children, an initiative of the NIH and NIDCR. ■



# Treating gum disease **reduces prostate symptoms**, CWRU researchers find

Treating gum disease reduced symptoms of prostate inflammation, called prostatitis, report researchers from Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine and the Departments of Urology and Pathology at University Hospitals Case Medical Center.

Previous studies have found a link between gum disease and prostatitis, a disease that inflames the gland that produces semen. Inflammation can make urination difficult.

"This study shows that if we treat the gum disease, it can improve the symptoms of prostatitis and the quality of life for those who have the disease," said Nabil Bissada, chair and professor, Department of Periodontics and the new study's corresponding author.

The researchers reported their findings in the *Dentistry* article, "Periodontal Treatment Improves Prostate Symptoms and Lowers Serum PSA in Men with High PSA and Chronic Periodontitis." Naif Alwithanani, a graduate student in the dental school, led the investigation as part of his residency in periodontics.

Dr. Bissada explained that gum disease not only affects the mouth, but is a system-wide condition that can cause inflammation in various parts of the body. The dental school has previously found a link between gum disease and fetal deaths, rheumatoid arthritis and heart disease.

Researchers studied 27 men, 21 years old and older. Each had had a needle biopsy within the past year that confirmed inflammation of the prostate gland, and a blood test that showed elevated prostate specific antigen (PSA) levels—possible signs of inflammation and cancer.

The men were assessed for symptoms of prostate disease by answering questions on the International-Prostate Symptom Score (IPSS) test about their quality of life and possible urination issues.

Researchers found 21 of the 27 participants had no or mild inflammation, but 15 had biopsy-confirmed malignancies. Two had both inflammation and a malignancy.

The men also had to have at least 18 teeth and were examined for signs of gum disease, such as increased levels of inflammation and bleeding and/or loose teeth due to attachment and bone loss.

All the men had moderate to severe gum disease, for which they received treatment. They were tested again for periodontal disease four to eight weeks later and showed significant improvement.

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"This study shows that if we treat the gum disease, it can improve the symptoms of prostatitis and the quality of life for those who have the disease."

– Dr. Nabil Bissada




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During the periodontal care, the men received no treatment for their prostate conditions. But even without prostate treatment, 21 of the 27 men showed decreased levels of PSA. Those with the highest levels of inflammation benefited the most from the periodontal treatment. Six participants showed no changes. Symptom scores on the IPSS test also showed improvement.

Dr. Bissada is now conducting follow-up research to support the first study's findings. He hopes to make periodontal treatment a standard part of treating prostate disease, much like cardiac patients are often encouraged to visit their dentist before undergoing heart procedures and a dental checkup is advised for women who are pregnant or considering pregnancy.

Case Western Reserve dental researchers Nishant Joshi, Catherine Demko and Robert Skillicorn; and University Hospitals Case Medical Center researchers Donald Bodner, Lee Ponsky, Sanjay Gupta and Gregory T. MacLennan contributed to the study. ■

# Education level and dental habits of low-income parents linked to their children's oral health

*Researchers hope to improve dental health by changing caregiver behavior*

Studies have long associated low-income areas with poor oral health. But dental researchers at Case Western Reserve University and University of Washington sensed that other factors related to income may be at work—in particular, education level.

So they recently investigated how a parent or other caregiver's education level and dental habits affect children's dental health.

With data from 423 low-income African-American kindergarteners and their caregivers from a CWRU dental school study in 2007, researchers tested the hypothesis that a caregiver's education level influences how often they and their children brush their teeth and visit the dentist for routine checkups, and how those habits result in decayed or filled teeth.

The results supported the hypothesis:

- Caregivers who completed high school were 1.76 times more likely to visit the dentist, compared with those who did not graduate high school.
- The children of caregivers with high school diplomas were nearly six times more likely to visit the dentist routinely.
- Children who visited the dentist regularly had about one-fourth as many untreated cavities as those who didn't.
- The education level of caregivers was directly associated with about a third fewer untreated decayed teeth, and 28 percent fewer decayed or filled teeth among the children they cared for.

The findings, reported in the *Caries Research* article, "Caregiver's Education Level and Children Dental Caries in African Americans: A Path Analytic Study," confirm the role of caregiver education in child dental decay and indicate that the caregiver's behavior influences a child's oral health habits.

As a result, researchers hope to encourage parents to become better role models for their children, who pick up on both the positive and negative habits of their caregivers.

In the past, improving oral health has focused on educating children about good dental habits. The research team has provided children in the study with dental examinations, tooth sealants,



toothbrushes and toothpaste. Children also received lessons on proper care of their teeth.

When dental problems were found during annual exams, letters were sent to parents to tell them their children needed follow-up dental care. But not all caregivers sought help for their children, according to Masahiro Heima, a pediatric dentist and faculty member at the CWRU School of Dental Medicine.

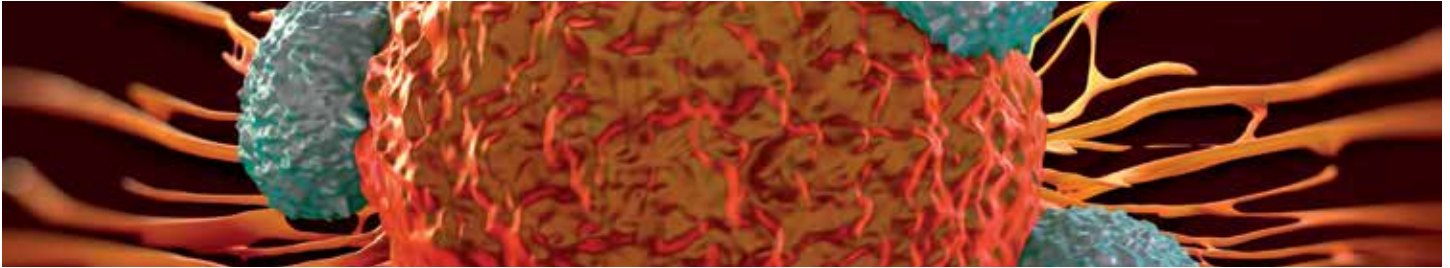
And nearly 100 of the study's participants—with or without a high school education—did not seek routine dental care at least once a year.

So it was clear the message wasn't getting through.

"Changing their ways with literature and instructions, didn't always work," said Dr. Heima. "So we need to focus on behavioral changes."

Lee Wonik and Suchitra Nelson, from Case Western Reserve School of Dental Medicine, and Peter Milgrom, from University of Washington School of Dentistry, contributed to the study.

Health Resources and Service Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau (R40-MC07838) and the National Center for Research Resources' Clinical Translational Study (UL1 RR024989) funded the study. ■



## Case Western Reserve University **dental researchers discover** some disease-fighting cells may actually convert to **prolong inflammation**

Researchers at Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine have unraveled one of the mysteries of how a small group of immune cells work: That some inflammation-fighting immune cells may actually convert into cells that trigger disease.

Their findings, recently reported in the journal *Pathogens*, could lead to advances in fighting diseases, said the project's lead researcher Pushpa Pandiyan, assistant professor, Department of Biological Sciences.

A type of white blood cell, called T-cells, is one of the body's critical disease fighters. Regulatory immune cells, called "Tregs," direct T-cells and control unwanted immune reactions that cause inflammation. They are known to produce only anti-inflammatory proteins to keep inflammation caused by disease in check.

But using mouse models, the researchers studied how the body fights off a common oral fungus that causes thrush. They found that these harmful invaders activate a mechanism in Tregs that could transform the inflammation-fighting cells into cells that allow the disease to flourish.

When the immune system functions normally, disease-fighting T-cells produce inflammatory secretions—proteins that can cause symptoms, such as soreness or swelling at the infected site. This process is evident, for example, when a cut or glands swell from the infection's inflammatory reaction.

Once the invader is gone, the disease-fighting cells—with help from Treg cells—normally shut down those proteins to control long-term inflammation.

But the researchers found that, during oral thrush, yeast sugars on the surface of the disease-causing fungus act as a binding agent and can activate a small population of Treg cells to make

inflammatory proteins themselves. (The researchers are calling this novel subset of malfunctioning cells Treg-17 cells).

"An excess of these malfunctioning cells can lead to the inflammatory disease process instead of stopping it," Dr. Pandiyan says.

Other binding agents normally found in the body may create these cells and contribute to continued inflammation, the researchers concluded.

Other researchers have reported the presence of these cells in many human inflammation conditions, such as psoriasis, periodontitis and arthritis. Until now, however, the mechanisms of how these cells developed were not completely understood, Dr. Pandiyan says.

The findings will help researchers understand the origin of cells they suspect may keep the disease active or, at a minimum, don't battle inflammation. Dr. Pandiyan believes the knowledge could lead to new ways to fight diseases, such as:

- Using the converting Tregs (Treg-17) to identify chronic inflammation, including oral inflammation.
- Using the persistence of Treg-17 cells to indicate an excessive amount of the inflammatory proteins.
- Using the presence of the binding agent that triggers the cell's conversion as a point to use medicines to block its connection to Tregs.

Future studies will investigate whether these cells are actually perpetrating inflammation.

The study, "TLR-2 Signaling Promotes IL-17A Production in CD4+CD25+Foxp3+ Regulatory Cells during Oropharyngeal Candidiasis," was recently reported in *Pathogens*.

CWRU Department of Biological Science researchers Natarajan Bhaskaran, Samuel Cohen, Aaron Weinberg and Yifan Zhang contributed to the study. ■

# Impact and Connections on a Global Scale

We live and work in an increasingly connected world in which collaboration and partnership on a global scale is becoming increasingly common in education, healthcare, business, the arts and human services.

Like so many educational institutions, Case Western Reserve has embraced a global approach. The university's strategic plan that was adopted in 2008 was the genesis of the school's internationalization and its drive to develop its students into "global citizens."

Just as the university itself has centralized its efforts to increase its reach globally through the development of the Center for International Affairs, the School of Dental Medicine has begun to view and manage its own international outreach and partnerships in a more cohesive manner.

"Many of our faculty members have developed and nurtured extremely beneficial international relationships with regard to research and the exchange of ideas related to curriculum," says Kenneth Chance, DDS '79, dean of the School of Dental Medicine. "Additionally, we have several resources within our school that are being utilized by a wide international network."

As Dean Chance points out, our students are taking advantage of opportunities to serve others abroad through mission and service trips that take them across the globe to hone their skills and make a positive contribution to the health and well-being of a truly international community.

And on an even larger scale, the School of Dental Medicine has recently formalized collaborations with Future University in Egypt and Qassim University in Saudi Arabia, which will bring many benefits to all the partners.

"Since the world is becoming more interconnected, partnerships between institutions of higher and professional education are now possible," said Nabil Bissada, professor and chair of the Department of Periodontics. "As a result of the growth in cross-cultural communication, it is imperative to take advantage of the ease with which we can propagate ideas and knowledge."

## **Alignment with university's plan**

According to David Fleshler, JD, CWRU's associate provost for International Affairs, the Center for International Affairs aims to cultivate a dynamic international presence and to inspire a culture of global understanding and responsibility. "The work we are doing with the dental school is very much a part of this vision," he says. "Our office provides a lens that allows our individual professional schools to gain a more global perspective."

This collaboration works both ways. As Fleshler explains, "The schools—including the dental school—share with us those impactful and vital relationships that their faculty and staff hold. Working together in a strategic way enables us to work toward our goal of becoming a truly international university."

The Center for International Affairs is not only responsible for providing CWRU's international students with the supportive services and assistance they need, but also for linking students with opportunities to study abroad during their time at CWRU. "This is hugely important and appealing for our students," Fleshler explains.

Fleshler is excited about the dental school's current and future international outreach. "As we become a more diverse society here in our own country and within our university community, we need to be able to understand different cultures and peoples," he says. "Our dental students and faculty will have opportunities to learn about new teaching methods, exchange ideas about curriculum development, research and patient care."



### ***Creating international partnerships***

The dental school's recently formalized relationships with both Future University and Qassim University will open numerous opportunities for cross-cultural learning, ultimately bringing benefits to each of the universities.

Future University in Egypt, located in New Cairo, is home to just over 5,000 students. In addition to its school of oral and dental medicine, it includes programs in business, computer and information technology, economics and political science, engineering, and pharmaceutical sciences.

The university's dental medicine program, located in a five story educational dental hospital devoted to dental medicine, emphasizes clinical training and experience. Students gain practical experience providing basic dental care and complete a yearlong internship at the hospital.



*Future University's dental students complete their residencies at the school's dental medicine hospital.*

As part of the collaborative relationship, the CWRU School of Dental Medicine will review Future University's curriculum, provide faculty to co-teach courses, participate in annual international joint scientific and research conferences, conduct shared research and cooperatively supervise postgraduate students at Future University.

This partnership will provide invaluable opportunities for the exchange of ideas through curriculum development and review, faculty training opportunities and more, according to Dr. Bissada. "The benefit of faculty development and diversity nurtures the growth of the educators in every corner of the world," he says.

Qassim University, located in the AlQuassim province in the center of Saudi Arabia, was established in 2004 and has grown to include more than 50,000 students who study the judiciary, Arabic and humanitarian studies, arts and sciences, applied sciences, and health sciences.

The university's College of Dentistry aims to prepare and graduate dentists to serve patients in the area, raise awareness of community oral health issues, conduct research to find appropriate solutions to oral and dental health issues and prepare students in specialty areas through its graduate program.



*Qassim University's College of Dentistry is housed in this medical complex.*

Through the collaboration with CWRU, up to eight qualified Qassim faculty members will be accepted into the CWRU dental school's one-year Fellowship of Advanced Clinical Education program. Additionally, one or two Qassim students who have passed the FACE program will be accepted into CWRU's advanced specialty training programs.

The exchange of ideas and information will benefit students as well as faculty. "The cooperation between schools in different areas of the world also gives invaluable and positive cultural exposure to the students who participate in these partnerships," emphasizes Dr. Bissada.

### ***Impacting research around the globe***

Today, dental educators and practitioners around the world are able to take advantage of resources and programs offered by the CWRU School of Dental Medicine.

One such place is the Craniofacial Imaging Center, which is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year. "Our school is a pioneer in imaging," says Juan Martin Palomo, professor and director of the Craniofacial Imaging Center. He cites the invention of the cephalometer at the school by Birdsall Broadbent in the 1920s as the start of the school's visionary work in 2D and 3D imaging.



*One of more than 12,000 images available through the Craniofacial Imaging Center.*

Today, Dr. Palomo oversees a global research database containing more than 12,000 three-dimensional images that can be used by researchers and practitioners worldwide. "Making these images available allows us to contribute to



worldwide knowledge. We are proud, in particular, to drive research and diagnosis for those patients, mostly children," says Dr. Palomo.

Researchers in countries such as Korea, Turkey, Serbia, Brazil, Italy and China have accessed images for various published projects. Cynthia McConaughy, the Imaging Center coordinator has been involved from the beginning, and plays an integral part in such collaborations. "We could never have done it this far without her," says Dr. Palomo. "She is always finding solutions to every obstacle we face, and is the face of our Center."

As oral health is increasingly viewed as a barometer for other health issues, the use of images from the database have expanded to include research in the areas of anesthesiology, intubation issues, airway problems, sleep apnea and early identification of respiratory issues. Locally, the Center staff has worked in award winning projects with medical divisions of the Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals. "The position of the jaw and the growth of the jaw can be linked to other systemic issues, and can serve as clues to more in-depth problems," Dr. Palomo says. "Use of these images by researchers around the world can lead to a more holistic approach to treatment and serves to connect various disciplines. We are glad to be able to do our part."

The School of Dental Medicine has long held international research relationships in many different areas of study. According to Aaron Weinberg, associate dean for research and chair, Department of Biological Sciences, two of the most promising research projects currently being conducted are in Uganda and Taiwan.

These studies are related to the current study being conducted by the dental school and the Department of Otolaryngology at University Hospitals that measures the amount of naturally occurring antibacterial proteins in the mouth which may be able to predict if someone will develop head and neck cancer, as well as detect the disease much earlier.

The work in Uganda has its origins in the late 1980s, when Frederick Robbins, Nobel Laureate and Emeritus Dean of the CWRU School of Medicine, established a partnership with the government of Uganda to research an epidemic that was ravishing its country. The resulting multidisciplinary research collaboration included faculty from the medical school, the College of Arts and Science and the School of Nursing. Today, the partnership includes initiatives by faculty at the School of Dental Medicine to research the complications of HIV and oral diseases. The university's partnership has now expanded to include the School of Engineering and the School of Law is exploring a partnership as well.

On the health sciences front, this collaboration has led to a decrease in multiple infectious diseases in that country, including HIV. Through Dr. Weinberg's involvement, an oral health clinic was established in the Joint Clinical Research Center (JCRC), an internationally renowned center for HIV treatment and research in Kampala.



According to Dr. Weinberg, CWRU is the only dental school in the world to have an oral health clinic in Uganda that addresses the oral health needs of those dealing with HIV. "We are the only school that is addressing the oral complications from HIV in Africa," he says. He notes that patients are referred to the JCRC clinic from six separate regional health centers in Uganda.



Currently, Dr. Weinberg is overseeing a pilot study in conjunction with the JCRC, the Uganda Cancer Institute and Makerere University that is studying the incidence of HPV-related head and neck cancer in patients who have HIV. This research connects to the study being done here at home with physicians at University Hospitals.

When representatives of the Republic of Taiwan and Taipei Medical University came to CWRU to meet with university leadership here as part of a larger partnership, Dr. Weinberg met with them and shared information about the dental school's research in Uganda.

The incidence of head and neck cancer in Taiwan is approaching epidemic levels due principally to the habit of chewing of a plant called betel-quid, which in 20 percent of cases can lead to oral cancer. As in Uganda, health officials and researchers in Taiwan are interested in finding ways to detect head and neck cancers early.

This November, the pilot study received funding from the Clinical Translational Science Collaborative, which involves translational science between CWRU, Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals, and Taipei Medical University, to conduct the work in Taiwan as part of the research being done in Cleveland.

"Essentially, we are conducting similar research in three separate areas of the world with three separate populations, which will give us a very solid data set, which could then lead to multi-center studies, both here in the U.S. and abroad," Dr. Weinberg says.

### ***Providing care on the international front***

Students at the CWRU School of Dental Medicine are given opportunities to provide direct care to patients as early as the first semester of their first year. As these opportunities expand along with the students' knowledge and competencies, so too do opportunities to provide patient care.

Dental mission trips are one such opportunity. "For many years, our students have been drawn to mission trips, which not only provide them with a tremendous experience to provide care to patients, but also provides them with an opportunity to make a very positive impact on the world," says Dean Kenneth Chance.

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"When you ask a student who has just returned from a mission trip whether he or she plans to do another one, the answer is almost always a definitive yes."

– Dean Kenneth Chance

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Dean Chance emphasizes that students return from these trips energized and fulfilled. "When you ask a student who has just returned from a mission trip whether he or she plans to do another one, the answer is almost always a definitive yes," he says.

The students not only gain valuable experience in the field, but they gain an appreciation for the environment in which they learn and practice here at home. "These students are often working in very primitive conditions," says Dean Chance. "They learn to improvise and think on their feet, which are skills that are very useful in the real world, even in the best working conditions."

With global connections and outreach continuing to expand, the School of Dental Medicine is well on its way to creating an environment that emphasizes global citizenship and broad understanding of our world's diverse cultures.

All involved in creating and implementing these international collaborations agree that the dental school stands to benefit from the increased international exposure. "We are pioneers in our field here at home," Dr. Bissada says. "It is only right that we share this with the world."

Adds Dean Chance, "We have already distinguished ourselves as the center of dental education excellence here in the United States and beyond. We are eager to explore future collaborative relationships to broaden our reach and level of awareness on an international stage." ■



*Dr. Kenneth Chance delivers the opening address at the Second Annual World Congress of Oral and Dental Medicine in Dalian, China.*

## **Dr. Chance Speaks to Global Audience in China**

Kenneth Chance, DDS '79, dean of the School of Dental Medicine, delivered the opening keynote address at the BIT's Second Annual World Congress of Oral and Dental Medicine in Dalian, China on November 1. The BIT Group Global Ltd. is an international conference organizer in the Asia Pacific Rim.

Dr. Chance's address, "The Changing Role of Dentistry in the United States Healthcare System," covered many economic, political, social and legislative changes that are impacting the face of healthcare in the United States. As Dr. Chance explains, "As part of the healthcare system in our country, dentistry is in the midst of significant change." His presentation explored some major shifts in dentistry that are on the horizon, including workforce issues, dental spending, environmental changes and major transitions in dental practice models and dental education.

Dr. Chance provided an overview of some of the programs, initiatives and building efforts currently underway at CWRU, including the Health Education Campus and interprofessional education. He challenged the audience to redefine themselves as dentists and "new valued" participants in the broader healthcare systems of their respective countries. This message was both well received and discussed by attendees throughout the three-day conference.

As a former Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellow (1991-92), Dr. Chance drew on his experience and knowledge of health policy to enlighten the attendees about this important facet of dental care and education. Dr. Chance's fellowship was conducted by the National Academy of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and he has also served on its board.

# Mission of hope and caring brings smiles to caregivers and patients



*CWRU dental students provide care to patients in Clarendon and St. Thomas, Jamaica during their mission trip this past summer.*

This summer, seven current students had the opportunity to travel to Jamaica to provide dental care to children and adults in several small towns where access to dental care is almost nonexistent.

Organized by the CWRU chapter of the Student National Dental Association and Zion Care International, the goal of the trip was to promote and preserve the health, welfare and physical well-being of residents who live in areas where there is limited access to dental care and oral hygiene education.

Over the course of their five-day trip, the students treated over 600 patients with 872 procedures, including extractions, pedodontics, prophylaxis, fluoride treatments and oral hygiene education. According to Syeda Zavin, '17, the conditions were less than ideal. "The buildings that were used for the temporary clinics did not have the luxury of modern technologies," she says. "For many of our services, headlights were used to light the field to work in the mouths and plastic cups were used instead of suction."

Working in these primitive conditions was eye-opening for the students. "We were constantly reminded of the ongoing need to improve access to dental care facilities," Zavin says. "We faced challenges every day, but we worked hard to improvise and change people's lives for the better."

Since the clinics in the communities of Clarendon and St. Thomas are only available when visiting groups of students are available to staff them, many residents have to wait many months for treatment. "Helping to relieve the patients' often prolonged pain, while boosting their self-confidence, made the whole experience even more rewarding," says Zavin.

Zavin and her fellow students also learned that the success of a dental mission is not measured only by the dental care provided. "It was a marvelous experience to interact with people from another culture and provided all of us with an amazing opportunity to help the underprivileged. It was an honor to be able to donate our time, skills and passion for a good cause," she says.

Joining Zavin on the trip were fellow students Lyndon Andrews '16; Ashley Dawes '16; An Ta '17; William Barber '17; Hai Huynh '17; and Jonathan Phan '16. ■



## Student **Wins** ADA and Ohio Dental Association **Contest**



Laura Martin, now a fourth-year dental student, was named the winner of a contest that asked third-year students to write effectively about oral health awareness for the public. Her essay, "Diabetes and Your Smile," answers the question, "What does diabetes have to do with that 'smile of yours?'" She included information about the symptoms of untreated diabetes, why people with diabetes are more prone to periodontal disease and how dentists can help patients fight diabetes.

"Communication skills are one of the most essential aspects of dentistry," Martin says. "It is important to be able to communicate effectively with people who may not have any background in science or dentistry, because we need our patients to understand their health and different treatment options."

According to Sorin Teich, associate professor and associate dean of clinical affairs, the intent of the contest was to provide students with the opportunity to research the topic—diabetes and oral health—using evidence-based science and then write an essay targeted to the public, using health literacy principles.

Martin's essay was posted on MouthHealthy.org, and she received an iPad courtesy of the American Dental Association (ADA). She was also invited to attend the Ohio Dental Association (ODA) Annual Session in September, with travel expenses paid for by the ODA.

Dr. Teich hopes the contest can expand to other universities, in essence creating a national health literacy event driven by students. ■

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## EFDA Program Graduates 31

On May 13, certificates were given to 31 students who completed the program. The Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary (EFDA) program trains certified dental assistants and registered dental hygienists in the art of restorative dentistry.

Students Nikki Eastman and Mary King represented the class as graduation speakers. Also addressing the graduates and their families were Kenneth Chance, DDS, '79, dean, and Ronald Occhionero, DDS, '61, associate dean for administration. ■



*Some members of the 2015 EFDA graduating class.*



## Student pianist uses social media to help others

Jacob Kim, '16, decided to pursue dentistry so he could serve others and improve their well-being. As the son of immigrant parents who ran a convenience store, he was motivated to pursue a career that focused on helping people. Like most students who enter the health sciences, Kim is daunted by the overwhelming educational debt that accompanies his dream.

"I decided to look into ways to supplement salaries and paychecks to provide additional funds so that I might be able to provide free or low-cost services to my patients some day," he explains. His research led him to social media as a way of earning extra money. An accomplished pianist, Kim has created a YouTube channel in which he offers piano tutorials. "I've created a channel that features me playing the piano, and I plan to expand my channel to other types of videos in the future to have more variety."

The YouTube funding model is based on advertisements that are shown before each video. Based on the total views for a certain video, the creator of the channel receives revenue directly from YouTube. "I haven't made much yet," says Kim. "However, as I plan to make more tutorials and recruit others to get involved in making videos, this channel could see big potential."

To view Jacob's piano tutorial videos, visit [www.youtube.com/jhkoreacanada](http://www.youtube.com/jhkoreacanada). ■



# *Congratulations* to the Class of 2015

Anthony Adams  
Navid Akbarzadeh  
Dante Amelotti  
Jagrup Bal  
Anthony Benza  
Paul Bermudez  
Ajapal Bhangu  
Emily Booker  
Thomas James Brown  
Guifang Cai  
Yan-Jung Chang  
Tuan Chau  
Kent Cherry  
Michael Chien  
Austin Cope  
Sarah Curry  
Thomas Dakermanji  
Danielle Daoud

Omar Darwish  
Matthew Earich  
Shaina Foor  
Ana Cristina Ghibu  
Chris Giblette  
Nathan Graves  
Elias Haddad  
Dong Wu Han  
Sarah Hansen  
Marc Harrison  
David Holmes  
Maryana Horokhivska  
Benjamin Hurd  
Anthony Huron  
William Jacobson  
Minki Jung  
Matthew Jurcak  
Piotr Karwowski

Do Yeon Kim  
Eric Kim  
Hee Jung Kim  
Julie Kim  
Hiren Korat  
Taeyoung Lee  
Nicholas Lias  
Natalie Longay  
Nikita Madhyani  
Kyung Sik Moon  
Yeganeh Naghib-Zadeh  
Meredith Owen  
Luke Owens  
Hyunkyu Park  
Zivin Park  
Zachary Perman  
Dominica Portman  
Srividya Prabhu

Simrati Rahi  
Jonathan Redditt  
Zachary Rodriguez  
Samuel Seo  
Hun Shim  
Tyler Smith  
Khlea Sumani  
Oliver Sun  
Marie Vitullo  
Patricia Walworth  
Yun-Ching Wang  
Avi Willis  
Kristina Wolf  
Janet Wong  
Hyun Nyun Woo  
Lusha Xu  
Chelsea Yanda  
Christopher Yang

# Case Western Reserve **graduate takes unlikely path** to dental school doctorate

It was an unforgettable few days for Dante Luis Amelotti. On Sunday, May 17, he received a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree during commencement ceremonies at Case Western Reserve University.

And, shortly after that, Dr. Amelotti became a commissioned U.S. Army captain before reporting to Fort Benning, Georgia, on June 15 to begin a 12-month Advanced Education in General Dentistry residency program.

"I've worked all my life for this moment," says the 32-year-old Argentinian native.

The dual achievement is the result of a circuitous path—one that demanded extremely hard work and perseverance.

"My road has been bumpy," he says, "but it makes you a better person."

An immigrant from Córdoba, Argentina, Dr. Amelotti was 13 years old when he first came to the United States to be with his father, who was living in Miami at the time. The teenager attended middle school there until his visa expired four years later, sending him back to his mother in South America. (She's now a dentist in Spain.)

It was also about that time when he developed a curiosity about medicine and in helping people. But it would be decades before that interest would manifest itself in any tangible way.

There were stops along the way. He returned to the United States and worked for a while as a bank teller in Florida. When his father's work took him to Ohio, Dr. Amelotti followed him north and was preparing to begin studying at Kent State University.

Then 9/11 happened. Instead of enrolling in college, he joined the U.S. Navy.

"All I wanted to do was go to Afghanistan and go to war," he says. "My educational goals were nonexistent."

While in the Navy, Dr. Amelotti became a U.S. citizen in 2003 and later earned associate of arts and bachelor of science degrees from George Washington University. He also received medical training and worked at the Armed Services Blood Bank Center at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Washington, D.C.,



*Dr. Dante Luis Amelotti is completing his residency at Fort Benning, Georgia.*

as a medical laboratory technician, and at the Naval Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida, as a cytotechnologist.

Dr. Amelotti enters the Army after serving a total of 10 years in the Navy as a hospital corpsman. He ended his naval service after being accepted into Case Western Reserve School of Dental Medicine. He plans to serve another 10 to 20 years in the military and retire.

But on commencement day, with his parents in the audience, Dr. Amelotti realized an unlikely accomplishment, considering where his story began.

"I came from a place that did not give you much," he said. "As an immigrant, I am very fortunate." ■

# White Coat Ceremony

On August 7, a new class of future dentists was welcomed by the School of Dental Medicine at the Amasa Stone Chapel on the campus of Case Western Reserve University. The traditional donning of the official CWRU School of Dental Medicine white coat and recitation of the Hippocratic Oath marks the official entrance into the school for incoming students.



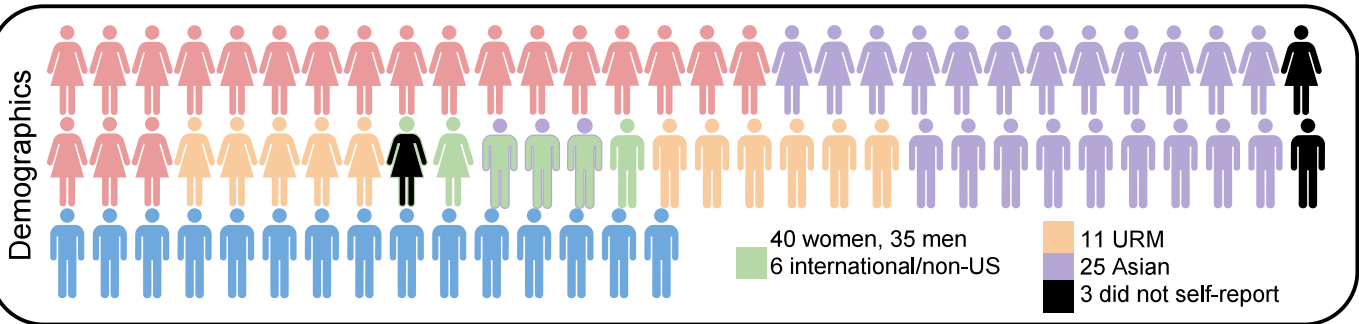
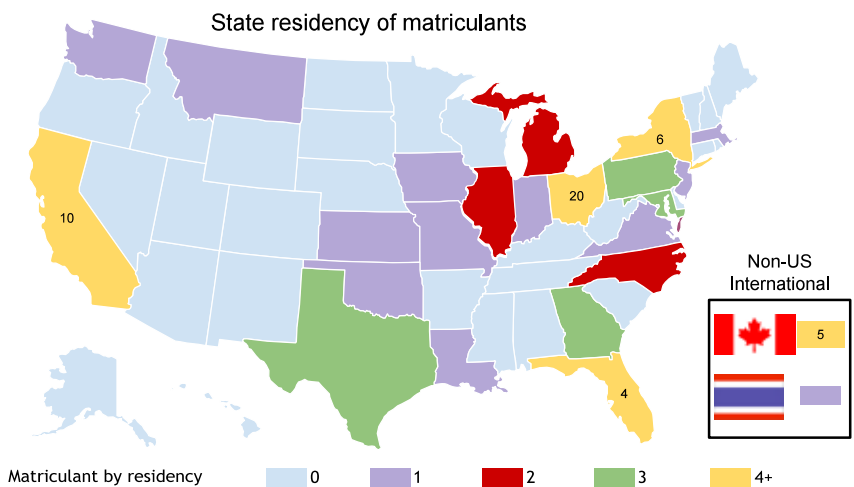
The CWRU School of Dental Medicine Class of 2019

## DMD Class of 2019

11253  
AADSAS 2015

2680  
CWRU applications

75  
enrolled students



Metrics by Midrange	Min	Range	Max
Age	22.3	23.7 median, 25.0 average	26.9
Overall GPA	3.43	3.62 average, 3.66 median	3.87
Science GPA	3.37	3.55 average, 3.60 median	3.83
DAT AA	19	20.3 average	22
DAT PAT	18	20.2 average	22

**22**  
students who have family members who are training or work in dentistry.

Rev. September 2, 2015

# Continuing the Legacy

We acknowledge the talented students who selected CWRU, the alma mater of parents or other family members, in a tradition that strengthens our institution by linking generations and providing a continuity of achievement. Here are family relations the Class of 2018 shared with us.



Laura German



Dan German '83  
*Father*



Alison Kolosionek



Mark Kolosionek '85  
*Father*



Cara Fawcett '85  
*Mother*



Jerry Kolosionek '91  
*Cousin*



Kaitlyn Kolosionek '16  
*Sister*



Jonathan Light



Devon Holeman, '05  
*Uncle*



Chris Nemeth



William R. Nemeth '81  
*Father*



Sean Roberts

William Gordon  
Kennedy '32  
*Great-Grandfather*



William Gordon  
Kennedy, Jr. '59  
*Grandfather*

## Street of Dreams Dental Office Tour

In October, the Ohio Dental Association (ODA) along with the Greater Cleveland Dental Society (GCDS) and the CWRU School of Dental Medicine hosted the Street of Dreams. This is a program where third and fourth-year dental students tour the dental practices of area dentists to gain knowledge of various dental practice models. This year, Steven Katz, GCDS president, opened the doors of his practice along with our alumni Jerome Faist '81, Stuart Katz '69 and Tom Kelly '89. The students were able to ask questions to learn more about setting up a practice, how to look for associateships, and more. The event concluded with a networking reception which allowed the conversation to continue with other alumni and GCDS leaders. Based on the students' comments, they were happy to have the opportunity to tour the offices because it helps them begin to think critically about their future opportunities. ■



## Lifebanc Gift of Life Walk & Run



Faculty, staff and students of the CWRU School of Dental Medicine participated in Lifebanc's Gift of Life event on August 8.

**D**ue to their first-hand experience with organ donation, Dr. Tania Markarian, '97, '14, and staff member Cheryl Silas, put together a team of faculty, staff and students to participate

in the Lifebanc Gift of Life Walk & Run on August 8. The event raises awareness about saving lives through organ, eye and tissue donation. ■

## Dr. Pinto receives National Dental Association Foundation Award



Andres Pinto, chairman and associate professor, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences, has been selected as the recipient of the 2015 National Dental Association Foundation (NDAF) and Colgate-Palmolive Co. Award for Outstanding Minority Faculty in the category of research. The NDAF, in collaboration with the National Dental Association (NDA) and the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) have awarded

these annual honors for the past 18 years. They recognize excellence in the categories of teaching, research, and service within dental education. The award was presented to Dr. Pinto at the National Dental Association's 102nd Annual Convention in Chicago in July. Dr. Pinto has been a tenured faculty member at CWRU since 2013 and led the creation of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences. ■

## SIMPLE WAY TO STAY IN TOUCH

Find us on Facebook/Follow us on Twitter

You'll find alumni news and photos from events. Post a memory or ask us questions.



CWRU School of Dental Medicine Alumni Association



@CWRUdentalalum

# Dr. Mark Hans Receives **Fulbright Specialist Award**

Mark Hans, DDS, MSD, professor and chairman of the Department of Orthodontics, has been selected by the United States Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board for a Fulbright Specialists project in Greece at National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.



Dr. Hans, a recognized expert in human facial growth and development, will work with colleagues at the University of Athens to establish a center for the treatment of patients with craniofacial deformities such as cleft lip and palate.

Dr. Hans is one of over 400 U.S. faculty and professionals who will travel abroad this year through the Fulbright Specialist Program. The Fulbright Specialist Program, created in 2000 to complement the traditional Fulbright Scholar Program, provides short-term academic opportunities to prominent U.S. faculty and professionals to support curricular and faculty development and institutional planning at post secondary, academic institutions around the world.

The Fulbright Program, America's flagship international educational exchange activity, is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Over its 60 years of existence, thousands of U.S. faculty and professionals have taught, studied or conducted research abroad, and thousands of their counterparts from other countries have engaged in similar activities in the United States. ■

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## **Suchitra Nelson** named Assistant Dean for Clinical and Translational Research



Suchitra Nelson, professor, Department of Community Dentistry, was named Assistant Dean for Clinical and Translational Research on November 20. Dr. Nelson will be responsible for fostering and maintaining clinical and translational research programs by building on current strengths within the school, university and the community. Dr. Nelson joined the school in 1991 and received her Ph.D. in Epidemiology in 1992 from CWRU. ■

# Dr. Ali Syed awarded **Active Learning Fellowship**

As one of 16 Case Western Reserve University faculty members chosen to receive an Active Learning Fellowship, Ali Syed, assistant professor, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Medicine and Diagnostic Services, will participate in a unique opportunity to enhance instructional practices by leveraging technology and mandating the active involvement of both instructor and students.

The fellowship is coordinated by the university's Information Technology Services in partnership with the Office of the Provost and other campus organizations. Dr. Syed is part of the fall cohort; to accommodate the interest in this year's fellowship, the 16 faculty members were separated into two groups, fall 2015 and spring 2016.

All participants receive a grant of \$5,000, as well as in-kind support to redesign their courses, training in using new technologies, and developing an institutional review board approved Action Research Project. The goal of the faculty's research project is to assess the effectiveness of their revised curriculum, using ITS' consultation and data analysis services. ■

# Celebration *of Philanthropy*



Dean Chance with Edith Miller, daughter of the late Robert P. Dressel, DDS, a member of the dental school faculty for 45 years. The Robert P. Dressel Memorial Scholarship is awarded each year to a first-year dental student.

Alumni, friends and supporters of the School of Dental Medicine gathered at the Tinkham Veale University Center on July 12 for a celebration of thanks and appreciation. "We are so thankful to our dedicated alumni and supporters for their sustained giving throughout the years," says Kenneth Chance, DDS '79, dean of the school. "The impact of this support cannot be underestimated."



Allyson McClendon, '17, a featured speaker at the Celebration of Philanthropy.

To illustrate just how impactful donor and alumni support is, Manish Valiathan '99, associate professor in the Department of Orthodontics, shared how the department is making a profound difference in the lives of children with special needs who have craniofacial defects.

Kristin Williams '89, assistant professor in the Department of Community Dentistry, gave an impassioned overview of how the dental school is improving the oral health of thousands of children in Greater Cleveland through the Healthy Smiles and Give Kids A Smile programs. Additionally, she shared information on the new geriatric care being provided to area seniors through the new mobile clinic.

Allyson McClendon, '17, thanked those in attendance for their scholarship support, which has enabled her to pursue her dream of education and a career that will allow her to give back to the community. ■

## Interprofessional **education gains support** with **\$2.27 million commitment** to scholarships

Northeast Ohio's Bonacker and Warburton families exemplify the spirit of interprofessional health care. Now, their foundation will advance a similar spirit in education.

In June, during a panel discussion featuring Kenneth Chance, DDS '79, dean of the CWRU School of Dental Medicine and the other health sciences deans and students, CWRU President Barbara R. Snyder announced a \$2.27 million commitment from the Ralph T. and Esther

L. Warburton Foundation to support scholarships for students in dental medicine, medicine and nursing. This award joins an earlier grant of more than \$700,000, putting the family foundation's total commitment to health sciences scholarships at \$3 million.

"You are allowing our students to live their dreams," President Snyder told the foundation's leaders, Sally Bonacker Warburton and Phillip Warburton.



The award became possible, in part, because experiences at Case Western Reserve University helped the parents of Sally and Phillip achieve their own aspirations. Phillip's father, Ralph Warburton, graduated from Case Western Reserve's medical school in 1933, while Sally's dad, Herbert Bonacker, earned his degree in dental medicine the same year. Each one went on to marry a graduate of the Mt. Sinai School of Nursing, at the time an affiliate of the university.

Herbert's wife, Elisabeth Schiltz, first spent time as a United Airlines' flight attendant (at the time, all of these women were required to be nurses to work on the eight-passenger planes) before her engagement to Herbert brought her back to Cleveland. Ralph, meanwhile, wed Esther Lewis, and the two set up practice in his hometown of North Canton. At first, Esther's nursing role included dialing the office phone to help make the place appear busy to the practice's initial patients. But before long, the calls came flooding in on their own. By the time Ralph retired, nearly 5,000 people gathered to thank him for the care and comfort he provided.

The families' shared commitment to the fields of dental medicine, medicine and nursing made Case Western Reserve's health sciences students a natural fit for their philanthropy. In addition to the existing medical school gift for the Ralph T. and Esther L. Warburton Scholarship Fund, this commitment also creates the Bonacker-Warburton Interprofessional Scholarship in Dental Medicine and the Lewis-Schiltz Interprofessional Scholarship in Nursing. The scholarships are designated for students who are residents of Stark and Summit counties.

The announcement came as part of a larger session designed to give attendees a deeper understanding of interprofessional education and how Case Western Reserve and Cleveland Clinic will advance such preparation in the new Health Education Campus. President Snyder and Cleveland Clinic CEO Toby Cosgrove have emphasized that the project will offer state-of-the-art teaching, technology and more. ■



*Dr. James Simmelink was recognized for his 50 years of service at the dental school's Celebration of Philanthropy event.*

## Still sailing after 50 years

Dr. James Simmelink, adjunct clinical associate professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, recently celebrated 50 years at the School of Dental Medicine. He was recognized for this remarkable achievement at the Celebration of Philanthropy event on July 12.

An avid sailor, Dr. Simmelink has had his students sign an old sail from his boat at the conclusion of the class. In fact, he recently visited his own dentist, Dr. Trudy Amstadt, '82, a former student, and asked her to sign the sail as well.

After sharing his knowledge with his students and conducting research for 50 years, Dr. Simmelink has learned a thing or two. What stands out for him? "Everyone needs a mentor," he says. "No matter what path we choose in life, it is so important to have a mentor to guide and advise," he says. He points out the importance of his own mentor, former dean Dr. David Scott, in his own career path.

"Dr. Scott helped me start my research, which has been so important and has impacted my life in so many ways," Dr. Simmelink says. A highlight of his career was the sabbatical year he spent in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1983-84, along with his wife and then two young sons. He was a visiting professor in the Department of Oral Pathology at the Karolinska Institute, which was chaired by Dr. Simmelink's sponsor, Lars Hammarstrom.

Dr. Simmelink has no plans to retire completely. He'll continue to lecture and will serve on a soon to be formed CWRU Emeritus Faculty group, where he will serve as the dental school's representative. He and his wife will continue to travel, one of their great interests. ■



*Student notes and signatures provide a visual history of Dr. Simmelink's career on the sail from his boat.*

I am very excited and honored to have been elected as the president of the CWRU School of Dental Medicine Alumni Association Board of Directors. It is a privilege to represent so many successful alumni of our great school, and I look forward to working with many of you over the course of the next couple of years.



## MESSAGE from the alumni association president

I would like to congratulate the alumni association award recipients who were recognized recently at our homecoming reception: Joe Mirci, Kari Cunningham, Phil Aftoora and Joe Niamtu. You can read more about their accomplishments in this publication.

As I have been preparing for my upcoming tenure, I have paused to reflect on our great institution. Each time I reconnect with our school it reminds me of coming home!

Coming home! What does this mean? Coming back to the CWRU School of Dental Medicine is like coming home. This is where we found who we were and what we believed, where we learned responsibility, met lifelong friends and discovered our passion for dentistry and in my case, oral and maxillofacial surgery. And, like most dental students, we also had our fair share of fun, most of it legal, and came away with more than a few stories to tell...but not in this message.

Throughout history, authors, poets, artists and philosophers have attempted to articulate what it means to be "home."

"Home is where the heart is." In *The Wizard of Oz*, Dorothy, clicking her ruby slippers together stated it very clearly: "There is no place like home. There is no place like home."

I look with pride at all of you—our alumni—and the many ways in which you lead lives of excellence and contribute to society. I marvel at today's dental students—our colleagues in waiting—who are preparing to provide dental care for the next generation.

CWRU is our home—it is where we learned and where today's students learn through cutting-edge programs, outstanding faculty and soon to be exceptional and state-of-the-future facilities.

Our shared home is going to be undergoing some exciting changes. I look forward to sharing more information about the Health Education Campus in future issues of the magazine and in my conversations with many of you.

In 2017, the School of Dental Medicine will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. The school and the alumni board are in the process of planning a celebration that we hope you will attend. Stay tuned for more news!

I encourage all alumni to stay connected or to reconnect to the School of Dental Medicine, your home. Whether your connection is through supporting the school financially, mentoring students, giving lectures, or just plain recruiting other classmates to reconnect with our great institution, these are all vital and will ensure the continuation of our great institution.

As alumni, we are part of an extraordinary community and network...one that will stay with us throughout our careers, in our hearts and minds, across the miles and over the years!

We have all been blessed by CWRU and I personally look forward to witnessing what is in store for the future of this place we call home.

Donald P. Lewis, Jr., DDS '76, '80  
dlewis7109@aol.com

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## 2015 Alumni Association Award Recipients



*Phil and Kathy Aftoora, Kari Cunningham, April and Joe Niamtu, Bonnie and Joe Mirci*

### 2015 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

#### **Joseph G. Mirci, DDS '82**

A superb practitioner. A dedicated dental educator. A leader in organized dentistry. A mentor. All those terms describe Joseph G. Mirci, DDS '82, the 2015 Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine Alumni Board Distinguished Alumnus.

Dr. Mirci is a private practitioner in Salt Lake City, Utah, and an associate clinical professor at the University of Utah where he directs the pre-dental curriculum. He serves the Western Regional Examining Board as an examiner, and has served in many capacities in the Utah Academy of General Dentistry and the Utah Dental Association. Dr. Mirci's peers in Utah recognized him by naming him dentist of the year in 1996 for the Utah Academy of General Dentistry, the same year he was elected a fellow in the Academy of Dentistry International. He also has been elected to fellowship in the Pierre Fauchard Society and the International College of Dentists.



*Joe and Bonnie Mirci with Dean Ken Chance*



In addition, Dr. Mirci is a two-time recipient of the Academy of General Dentistry's Lifelong Learning & Service Recognition.

"I am proud to nominate Joseph. G. Mirci," says Phil Aftoora, director of student services. "Dr. Mirci is an asset to his profession and a leader among his peers. His ability, experience, and true commitment to excellence distinguish him as an outstanding dentist, dental educator, and CWRU School of Dental Medicine Alumnus."

Dr. Mirci humbly says he simply tries to practice general dentistry as best he can.

"This award is a great honor, but I'm really fortunate and blessed to be doing something I always wanted to do," he says. "We just want to take care of patients and have fun. We have patients as young as two years old, and our oldest patient is 104. We have a number of four-generation families and it's fun to be a part of their lives."

Dr. Mirci also treats patients for sleep apnea, and is involved with a number of organizations in Salt Lake City that provide dental services to the underprivileged.

"It's very rewarding to help people who need help," he says. "We're aligned with several charitable organizations and when they have needs they know they can call us and we'll do our best for them."

Dr. Mirci credits the CWRU School of Dental Medicine for helping lay the foundation for his career. He completed a general practice residency immediately after graduation, and since then has mentored hundreds of students toward dental school and helped many get started with their dental careers after they graduated.

"CWRU gave me the opportunity to become a dentist, for which I'm very grateful," he says. "To help pay that back, for the past 28 years I've been teaching a dental school preparation course at the University of Utah. I tell the students to learn as much as they can while they're in school because this will serve as their foundation. I also share with them a key piece of advice: Make patients your priority. Make sure you're always taking good care of them, and make sure that if there's a balance it's always tipped in the patient's favor."

Dr. Mirci's plans for the future don't include retirement. He and his wife have five grown children, all of whom are "on their own and self-sufficient," he says. Two of his sons are dentists, and one recently joined him in his practice. Dr. Mirci says he intends to continue practicing, perhaps eventually slowing down and spending time volunteering at some of the low- or no-income clinics in the area.

"I think it would be best to phase out of work," he jokes. "If I were to just quit one day and be at home all the time, it might ruin a good marriage."

As Aftoora concludes in nominating Dr. Mirci, he is a credit to his profession as well as to the Case Western Reserve School of Dental Medicine.

"I frequently hear that his students want to go to the dental school Dr. Mirci attended," Aftoora says. "That is perhaps the greatest compliment that students can pay their mentor."



*Kari Cunningham with nominators Francis Curd and Lenny Weiss*

## OUTSTANDING NEW DENTIST

### **Kari Cunningham, DMD '10, '12**

Giving back to their communities is important to many health care professionals, and that is the case for Kari A. Cunningham, DMD '10, '12, recipient of the first-ever CWRU Alumni Board Outstanding New Dentist Award.

A native of Euclid, Ohio, and a 2002 graduate of Euclid High School, Dr. Cunningham had the opportunity to visit Japan, China, Thailand, Vietnam, India, Tanzania, South Africa, Brazil, and Venezuela as part of the University of Pittsburgh's Semester at Sea program. The people and places she visited while at sea for 100 days made for a life-altering experience, yet also convinced her that she would like to pursue a career in community-based dentistry.

"After traveling the world, I realized the disparity that exists in the utilization of oral health care beyond our borders, and that made me feel as if my calling is to be more of a community dentist serving underserved populations." Dr. Cunningham says, "I wanted to be part of the 'primary care' aspect of dentistry by helping people understand the importance of their dental health, especially as it relates to overall health."

After graduating summa cum laude from the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Cunningham returned to her hometown and

enrolled in the Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine, where she was awarded a National Health Services Corps Scholarship. Her experiences with the Healthy Smiles Sealant Program led to her completing a pediatric dental residency at CWRU/Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital.

"I could see there were opportunities to bring a primary care focus from a community aspect to the pediatric dental population in our area," she says. "In my freshman year I was fortunate enough to receive the National Health Service Corps Scholarship, which allowed me to do just that."

Always a leader, Dr. Cunningham served as the Council Chair on Education and was a member of two American Dental Association committees during her final two years of dental school. In addition, she became the dental anatomy instructor for the Summer Medical and Dental Education Program (SMDEP) – a role she holds to this day.

"I just finished my eighth year with SMDEP teaching dental anatomy and helping students prepare for their Dental Admission Tests to help solidify their interest in pursuing dentistry," she says. "It's fun and rewarding."

Dr. Cunningham serves as the dental director and pediatric dentist of Lorain County Health and Dentistry – a community health center. In addition to continuing to volunteer her time to the SMDEP, she is an assistant clinical professor for both the Department of Community Dentistry and Department of Pediatric Dentistry at the CWRU School of Dental Medicine.

Dr. Cunningham was nominated for this award by Lenny Weiss, DDS '63, and Francis Curd, DDS '77.

"I had an amazing experience at the CWRU School of Dental Medicine," Dr. Cunningham says. "I was supported by our faculty and mentors to be involved with student leadership on both the local and national levels."

Looking ahead, Dr. Cunningham envisions a future in which she is still involved in dental education, but also expends some of her considerable energy helping general dentists become more comfortable treating the pediatric dental population. To that end, this June she began setting up pediatric dental practices within Hudec Dental's network of private practice offices in the Greater Cleveland area.

"There are not going to be enough dentists to treat the pediatric population that's going to have coverage under the Affordable Care Act," she notes. "So I can see a future still serving others, especially underserved populations, as a pediatric dentist, while also empowering general dentists with the tools and resources to provide pediatric dental services within their own practices. Helping general dentists provide more care to children is a way I can make a very positive impact on the community and the profession."

## ALUMNI BOARD SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

### Philip C. Aftoora, Director of Student Services

Servant leadership is a philosophy and set of practices that enriches the lives of individuals, builds better organizations, and ultimately creates a more just and caring world. The phrase is generally credited to author Robert Greenleaf, but servant leadership is a timeless concept, with references to its tenets found in ancient Chinese manuscripts.



*Phil and Kathy Aftoora*

At the Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine, servant leadership is embodied by Philip Aftoora. The director of student services has been a familiar face at the school for more than 40 years, during that time serving nine deans and thousands of students.

In nominating Mr. Aftoora, Lenny Weiss, DDS '63, said, "I have known Phil during his entire employment at our school and have never seen or heard of him being upset with anyone. Talk with any of our graduates and they all speak highly of him; talk with any of our students and they will tell you that he is considered a friend, a confidant, and an advocate."

Aftoora started his career at the School of Dental Medicine in March of 1974 as a clinical administrator. He served in that role for several years, then became director of admissions. In 1988 he became director of student services and the rest, as they say, is history. And, who knows, he may simply be completing his first 40 years at the school.

"I'm still enjoying what I do very much," Aftoora says. "The dental school is a special place. There's a great relationship between the students, the faculty, and the staff. People here are working toward a common goal of helping talented individuals graduate and become great doctors."

"I'm excited to be here, I'm excited to work with the students, and I get tremendous professional and personal satisfaction out of it," Aftoora adds. "It's great to watch these young people grow and become successful doctors and professionals."



As someone who has had the opportunity to work with the students as closely as Aftoora has, he also knows there is much more to it than just earning a degree.

"Sharing in some really nice people's lives really means a lot and I'm lucky to have had that opportunity," Aftoora says. "I've had children named after me, and I've participated in weddings — either by walking the bride down the aisle or as the celebrant. Talk about fulfilling, I don't know any other job that could possibly match that."

As Dr. Weiss concludes: "Through good times as well as any trials and challenges that our school has gone through, the one thing that has been stable is Phil Aftoora's dedication and loyalty."

Robert Greenleaf said, "[Being a servant leader] begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve. Then conscious choice brings one to aspire to lead. The best test is: do those served grow as persons: do they, while being served, become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, more likely themselves to become servants?"

The profound effect of the servant leadership of Phil Aftoora is clearly evident in the high quality of the students and alumni of the CWRU School of Dental Medicine.

## ALUMNI BOARD SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD Joseph Niamtu III, DMD '78

Sometimes listing degrees and professional accomplishments — however impressive — still falls short of capturing the essence of an individual. That is truly the case with Joseph Niamtu III, DMD '78.

Dr. Niamtu is well-known in international cosmetic surgery circles as a surgeon, teacher, and author,

and is regarded as a key opinion leader by academics and clinicians worldwide. He is board certified by the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, and is a fellow of the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery and the American Society for Lasers in Medicine and Surgery.

He lectures internationally on cosmetic facial surgery, has taught on six continents, and has written four textbooks and contributed 31 chapters to other textbooks. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including lifetime achievement awards from the American Academy

of Cosmetic Surgery and the American College of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. He has been named "Best Cosmetic Surgeon" by local magazines and newspapers more than 10 times.

"I have personally known Dr. Niamtu since he arrived on the campus of Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine," says Donald P. Lewis, Jr., DDS '76, '80. "I have watched him grow and mature into a leader in the fields of oral and maxillofacial surgery and cosmetic surgery. He has been a true pioneer in both fields and is recognized throughout the dental profession."

Although Dr. Niamtu's list of achievements and accolades goes on, what truly defines him is his extensive charitable work. He regularly performs pro bono surgeries for individuals who have facial birth defects or trauma-related injuries, such as victims of domestic violence.

Dr. Niamtu, who has two sons with cerebral palsy, says he doesn't want to see any child live with a deformity because of finances. He has limited his practice to cosmetic surgery since 2004.

"My charitable work was influenced both by my sons as well as some oral surgeons I knew back home in Canton, Ohio," he says. "Bad things sometimes happen to good people, and I've made it a lifelong commitment to give back to the community whenever possible — especially those who are disenfranchised."

Dr. Niamtu laughs when he reminisces about his early experiences at the CWRU School of Dental Medicine.

"My whole professional dental education was an experience in improbability," he says. "I was an alternate and I didn't get into dental school until two days after school started. But I'm glad it worked out the way it did. CWRU was a great school. I received an excellent education and had some mentors who really influenced me, such as Jerry Goldberg and Don Lewis. I came out of dental school very well prepared."

"There is no more deserving professional, no more deserving person, for this special recognition award than Joseph Niamtu III, DMD," says Sheldon Cohen DDS '78. "The reputation of the CWRU Dental School has been enormously enhanced by the worldwide efforts of Dr. Niamtu."

Dr. Niamtu is honored to receive the Alumni Board's Special Recognition Award, but he understands that success isn't predicated on awards and honors, but rather on enjoying what you do every day.

"I'm really honored by this award and it means a lot to me," he says. "And I'm very fortunate that I've always loved working. I feel happy and excited to come to work. I speak to many high school students and they usually equate success with monetary things. But I tell them that success is going to bed on Sunday night and being excited that you're going to work on Monday. In that regard, I've had much success, and it all started with the CWRU School of Dental Medicine." ■



Joe Niamtu and wife, April

# class notes

## 1945



**Albert Lemberger** retired in 2003 and lives in Tarzana, California. At age 91, Dr. Lemberger enjoys golf and spending time with his wife, Beverly.

## 1955

**Edward Falkner** retired after 52 years of practicing endodontics. He lives in Shaker Heights, Ohio, with his wife, Joan. While he is grateful that his career enabled him to send three children and seven grandchildren to college, he had "always hoped that at least one of them would go into dentistry, but it never happened."



**Edwin Hatch** is retired and enjoying life in Villa Rica, Georgia. He enjoys spending time with his grandchildren and continuing his active interests in aviation and space, photography and motorsports. In looking

back at his dental school education, he appreciates the fact that it prepared him for a fulfilling career and a position of positive influence in the community. He and his wife, M. Louise Hatch, have been married for 48 years.

## 1960

**Donald Amy** lives in Edmond, Oklahoma, with his wife, Sue. He is enjoying his retirement and keeps busy with golf and gardening. He has three grown children: a son who is an orthodontist in Edmond; another son who is an air traffic controller in Texas; and a daughter who lives in Arizona. He offers this reflection of dental school: "When Dean Boyle told our class that the dental profession was a constant learning process, I didn't understand. After 22 years in the Air Force, I discovered that those four years of dental school were solid building blocks for the future."

**Lloyd Elkowitz** and his wife, Deanna, FSM '60, live in Bridgehampton, New York and Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. They have been married for 54 years and have three children, all of whom are in the medical profession. Their daughter is a radiologist and their two sons are both plastic surgeons. Dr. Elkowitz practiced for 45 years in Great Neck, New York.



**Norman Golovan** is still practicing three days each week, along with his son, Bruce, '85, in Woodmere, Ohio. He and his wife, Arlene, live in Pepper Pike, Ohio. His son, Gary, '87, is an orthodontist and son Ronald is a physician. A longtime Cleveland sports fan, Dr. Golovan still loves the Indians, Cavs and Browns. "My dental school education allowed me to help many people, earn a fine living and enjoy a wonderful profession," he says.

**Val Jensen** practiced dentistry in Carson City, Nevada for 33 years and retired in 1999. He and his wife, Donna, raised five children and have 10 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. They are active in the Mormon Church; Dr. Jensen served for five years as a Bishop. Donna is an accomplished glass artist and they both enjoy golf and tennis. "We had an outstanding class," Dr. Jensen says. "I enjoyed everyone and am very proud of our school."

**David Maddox** retired from practice in 2006. He and his wife, Sybil, live in Zanesville, Ohio. His son David S. Maddox II is a pediatric dentist in Chicago.

**Burt Saidel** lives in Dayton, Ohio, with his wife, Alice. He maintains a very busy life. He creates major wood art pieces for churches, synagogues, schools and symphony orchestras. He loves being a grandfather to his grandson who lives in New York City. He credits his dental education with allowing him to "enter into a marvelous profession!"

**Paul Sidlo** and his wife, Peggy live in Tampa and are enjoying a very active retirement. Two of their daughters live nearby. He credits his education for the lifestyle he and his wife enjoy today and wishes his classmates the best.

**David Stevenson** is a clinical professor in Prosthodontics at the University of Southern California School of Dentistry. He has been on the faculty for 49 years and also serves as a clinical screening dentist for Denti-Cal, a California Dental Program, which he has done for 40 years. He has also spent many years in Alaska with the U.S. Public Health Dental Service, treating Alaskan natives. He and his wife, Susana, have two children and five grandchildren. "It was the happiest day of my life when I received an acceptance letter from the Case Western Reserve University dental school in June 1956," he says.

**Edward Stibbe's** education meant a great deal to him. "I loved the contact with patients and being of service to them," he says. He is grateful that his career has allowed him to support and raise his



family and provide for retirement. He and his wife, Jeanette, live in Solon, Ohio during the summers and spend their winters in Florida. He keeps busy with golf and serving on various committees, both in Florida and Ohio.

**William Tuchek** has been retired for the past 15 years and lives on a golf course in Medina, Ohio. He spends winters at his home in Arizona and some time in the summer at his cabin in Canada. He was initiated into the Medina High School Hall of Fame, even though he was not a graduate of the school. His three sons are graduates and Dr. Tuchek was involved in the athletic program for 45 years, including serving as Booster Club president, heading a committee to build a new stadium complex, and chairing a scholarship committee.

**Alfred Uveges** and his wife, Mary Lee, live in Coweta, Oklahoma and Arcadia, Florida. He recently underwent surgery on both eyes and had a total knee replacement. His children are all in the health care field—one son is a dentist in North Carolina; a daughter and her husband are both dermatologists in Nevada; and another daughter is a dental hygienist in Cleveland.

**Gerald Waxman** lives in Beachwood, Ohio, where he also has a dental practice. Dr. Waxman says, "My education has allowed me to provide comfort, health and education to my family and to better the health and appearance of individuals from every occupation as well as from every part of the world." He and his wife, Roleen, have two children and three grandchildren. Outside of his practice, he enjoys spending time with his family, tennis and photography.

## 1965

**Ilze and Andrew Bekeny** have both retired from private practice. After retiring from practice, Ilze also retired after 27 years on the CWRU faculty in 2007. They have three grandsons and one granddaughter, all of whom live close to them. "We enjoy sharing in their lives," Andrew says. They live in Westlake, Ohio and enjoy traveling in the United States and Europe.

**Charles Courtad** of Golden, Colorado, recently retired from his orthodontic practice, but is continuing his work as the director of the Renewable Energy Demonstration Center. His wife, Jeanette, is the university dentist at the Colorado School of Mines. They have two children, one in college and one in high school and both active in German and Irish dance groups. "The camaraderie between classmates, faculty and administration at the dental school was fantastic," Dr. Courtad says.

**Stephen Goldstein** resides in Bay Shore, New York. He is a member of the ADA-NYSDA-Suffolk County Dental Society and past president of the Suffolk County Dental Society. He is an associate professor at Stony Brook University School of Dental Medicine and a member of the Forensic Odontology Team with the Suffolk County Medical Examiner. He has two daughters and three grandchildren. "I am grateful for my dental education," he says. "Without it, I never could have attained the life, family and accomplishments that I have."

**David Hertel** and his wife, Nancy, live in Fort Meyers, Florida for seven months of the year. He enjoys golfing and reading. The Hertels have two children and five grandchildren. He looks upon his dental education fondly. "It was a wonderful experience with great classmates," he says.



**Gerald McDonnell** and his wife of 52 years, Lorraine, live in Novi, Michigan. They enjoy spending time with their six grandchildren. "My dental education has provided me with a great source of gratification in that it has allowed me to help others, relieving pain and discomfort."

**Gary Resnik** is retired from dentistry and is now "working on enjoying life!" He lives in Twinsburg, Ohio and has two children, a son who lives with his family in Ravenna, Ohio, and a daughter who lives in California.



Inducted in the Pierre Fachard Academy in September 2015: Kristin Williams '89, Kari Cunningham '10, 12 and Jennifer Schnettler '89

## 1970

**Leonard Tomsik** retired from the U.S. Army Reserve Dental Corps (Colonel) and sold his practice in 2013. He was appointed an Assistant Professor of Comprehensive Dental Care at CWRU in 2014 and also serves on the Admissions Committee, interviewing dental school candidates.

## 1979



**Thomas Broderick** has been named president of the Georgia Dental Association. "I am honored and privileged to be elected president of the association," he

says. "We are at an exciting moment in our 156-year history. I look forward to working with our dentist members and other stakeholders as we shape the future of the association for decades to come." After completing his degree, Dr. Broderick served three years as an officer in the United States Navy Dental Corps and for 22 years in the Navy Reserve, retiring as a captain. He received his MS degree in orthodontics from Saint Louis University. Dr. Broderick has practiced in Savannah since 1984, currently with Broderick, Desek & DeLeon.

## 1980

**Lawrence Porteous** lives and works in Danville, California, where he and his wife, Linda, RDH, practice together in their three offices in the Bay Area. He views dental



school as a turning point in his life. "I don't believe one day goes by that I don't think about something that happened during those four years," he says. Dr. Porteous and his wife enjoy many outdoor activities including waterskiing, snow skiing and snorkeling. Dr. Porteous' son, Lance, is a fourth year dental student at CWRU and will join his father's practice upon completion of his education. His daughter, Lea, is pursuing a career in nursing.

## 1985



**Donna Barbaglia Olsen** lives and works in Mooresville, North Carolina. She practices with her husband, Richard, and daughter, Laura Taylor, DMD '14, who recently joined their practice. Their home is on Lake Norman and their practice just eight miles away. They enjoy waterskiing, sailing and kayaking in their free time. "I enjoy helping patients and educating them to better health," Dr. Olsen says.



**Daniel German** was inducted into the American College of Dentists during its recent annual meeting. Dan and his wife, Teri, have seven children and their

daughter, Laura, is a member of the CWRU dental school's first-year class.



**Karen Klocko** has many fond memories of her dental education. "My experience at CWRU was overwhelmingly positive," she says. "I am just so thankful

that Phil Aftoora gave me a chance." Karen lives in Crofton, Maryland, with her husband, Andrew Barresi. They have



# CWRU ON THE ROAD



*Alumni gathered at the National Dental Association convention.*



*Some of the attendees of our reception held during the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.*



*Reception during the American Dental Association Annual Meeting.*



*Reception during the American Dental Association Annual Meeting.*

three daughters, two of whom have gotten married. She practices in Gambrills, Maryland.



**Mehrdad Vajdi**, lives and practices in the Washington, DC area. He keeps busy with work, travel, food, wine and the gym. "I felt prepared for my career," he says. "I

think I got the best education one can get for the money. Although this is not as apparent during dental school, it became evident as I started my career."

**Scott Werner** has been practicing with Dental Associates of Newton Falls in Newton Falls, Ohio since graduation. He lives in the community as well with his wife, Jayne. Both of his daughters have continued their graduate educations at CWRU. Kelsey is a 2014 graduate of the School of Dental Medicine and Karey is a third-year law student.

## 1990

**Sara Nazco** moved to California, where she practices in Cudahay and lives in Long Beach. She looks back fondly on her time in dental school. "I love my alma mater, love Ohio, Lake Erie and all of my friends."

**Mark Price** lives and works in Rutland, Vermont. His part-time work schedule allows him plenty of time for skiing, cycling and sculling. He is very active professionally and in his community. He and his wife, Lisa, have three children.

## 1995

**Alex Mihailoff** lives in Maineville, Ohio and has an endodontic practice in Cincinnati. He and his wife, Daniela, are the proud parents of twin boys.

**Andreas Plaitis** lives and works in Toronto. He says he will always remember the "amazing times with good friends, both in class and out."

## 2000



**Alfred Anderson** and his wife, Jennifer, have five children. He recently moved to Vicenza, Italy, where he will be the commander of the Army dentists and

staff in that country. "I am thankful for my education and those who made it possible," he says.

**Yvonne Bilo Kinkopf** lives in Aurora, Ohio, with her husband and two boys. She practices in Mayfield Heights. "My boys are growing up quickly!" she says. In her free time, she and her family enjoy gardening, attending her sons' sporting events and spending time with friends and family.

## 2005

**Christina Kulesa (LaCute)** recently celebrated the fifth anniversary of owning her own practice in Westerville, Ohio. She lives in Lewis Center with her husband and

two daughters. "All of my fondest memories of dental school surround the lifelong friendships that were made during that time," she says.

**Michael Mack** of Sylvania, Ohio, is married with three children. His practice is in Holland. His most striking memory of dental school is the "amount of information absorbed, retained and utilized."



**Michael Rodriguez** completed his service commitment as a dentist in the U.S. Air Force in 2008 and returned to Northeast Ohio with his family. He worked in private practice in Mentor, Ohio for four years and then joined the Painesville Dental Group in 2012. He and his wife, Julie, welcomed their eighth child in October. "Our big, beautiful family keeps us busy!" he says.

## 2010

**Andrew Bruner** was married over Labor Day weekend to Elizabeth Brenner in Philadelphia. He is a general dentist at the University of Pennsylvania dental school and Elizabeth is director of website design for the medical school there.

# CWRU ON THE ROAD



*A few of those attending our reception at the American Association of Orthodontists Annual Session.*

## IN MEMORIAM

**Ryan Reese** lives and works in Wilsonville, Oregon, where he is in a full-time practice limited to endodontics. "I enjoy being able to use my dental education every day, and it is rewarding to have a job that not only helps others, but allows me to support my family while doing what I love to do," he says. He and his wife, Geneva, have three children.

**Ashley Zerweck** has been married to her husband, Nick, for three years and is expecting her first child. She lives and works in Canton, Ohio. "Besides marrying my husband, going to CWRU for dental school was the best decision I have made," she says. "I left with a strong foundation to enter residency and start my career."

### 2015

**Avi Willis** was married on July 30 to Yonit Green, a fashion stylist from San Diego. They are living in Philadelphia, where Avi is working at a pediatric dental practice.



### Send us your news

Let your classmates know what you are doing! If you have news to share, we would love to include it in the next magazine. Photos are welcome. Complete the form on our website at <http://dental.case.edu/alumni/resources> or email us at [dentalalumni@case.edu](mailto:dentalalumni@case.edu) with Class Notes in the subject line.

**Adnan Abu-Bakr, '82**, passed away on August 12, 2014. He lived in Gold River, California.



**Richard Anderson, '60**, died on December 30, 2014 at the age of 83. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Mary, three sons, one daughter and five grandchildren. Dr.

Anderson practiced dentistry in Jackson, Michigan for 36 years. He enjoyed building and flying airplanes and served for four years in the United States Navy during the Korean War.



**Richard Bellino, '94**, died on August 15 at the age of 53 at his home in Essex, Vermont after a ten-year battle with brain cancer. A native of Youngstown, Ohio, Dr.

Bellino practiced dentistry in Essex from 1995 until his retirement in 2013. He enjoyed boating on Lake Champlain, skiing and hiking. He is survived by his wife, Lucinda, a daughter and his parents and siblings.

**James Berry, '50, '52**, of Lake Lure, North Carolina, passed away at the age of 90 on December 30, 2014. A native of Burnsville, West Virginia, Dr. Berry attended Akron University for his undergraduate studies, Otterbein College for his master's degree and CWRU for his doctorate. He served during World War II with the United States Army with the "Liberators" at the Battle of the Bulge. He practiced dentistry in Akron, before retiring to North Carolina. He is survived by his wife Priscilla, two children, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**Seymour Bilfield, '47**, died in September 2014. He is survived by his wife, three children, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Malcom Birrell, '67**, passed away on April 27, 2014 in Denver, Colorado. He is survived by two daughters and a grandson.

**James Boyce, '54**, died on January 5 in Avon, Indiana. A native of Alliance, Ohio,

Dr. Boyce graduated from Mount Vernon College. After dental school at CWRU, he served his internship with the United States Naval Hospital in Great Lakes, Illinois. He practiced oral and maxillofacial surgery in Defiance from 1978 until his retirement in 2004. He is survived by his wife, Penny, six children and 15 grandchildren.



**Harold Copperman, '51**, passed away at the age of 92 at his home in Lorain, Ohio. He volunteered with the United States Army during World War II and also

served in the Korean War as a First Lieutenant in the Dental Corps. He started his dental practice in Lorain in 1953. There is was active in several professional societies and received the Early Implant Dental Treatment Award from the Cleveland Dental Society. He leaves behind his wife, Denise, three children, and five grandchildren.

**Glade Crowther, '84**, passed away on August 3, 2014 in Ogden, Utah. He and his wife, Faye, had seven children. One child preceded him in death. He served the Church of the Latter Day Saints as a first Bishop in the PC7th ward. He was an avid fisherman who enjoyed spending time outdoors with his family.

**Philip DaMore, '70**, died at his home in St. Marys, Pennsylvania, on January 29, 2012. He graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a degree in biology and a minor in teaching. After graduating from dental school, he served the United States Navy Reserves for 14 years. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, three children, and five grandchildren.

**Paul Ernst, '51**, passed away on June 14, 2014. He was a resident of Sandusky, Ohio and is survived by his wife, Diane.



**Nicholas Ferencz, '74**, died in October after a three-year battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Marlene. He was the father



## IN MEMORIAM

of a son and a daughter; his son was a U.S. Marine who was killed in an air combat exercise in 2000. He also leaves behind three grandchildren. Dr. Ferencz was a graduate of Hiram College and earned his MS and Ph.D at The Catholic University of America. After graduation from dental school, he joined the faculty of CWRU and began his private practice. He enjoyed fishing, photography and reading and earned his private pilot's license in 1980.

**Robert Forche, '57**, of Toledo, Ohio, died February 7 at the age of 83. He practiced dentistry for 48 years. Following his retirement, he volunteered in the University of Toledo Medical Center pastoral care office. He is survived by his wife, Lou Ann, three children and 13 grandchildren.

**James Frank, '66**, passed away on August 23, 2012. He was a resident of Indianapolis, Indiana and is survived by his wife, Jacqueline.

**Arthur Goldenberg, '60**, died on January 4, 2014 at the age of 83. He practiced endodontics in White Plains, New York, for 52 years. He served in the United States Army Dental Corps in Japan and later served as chairman emeritus of Sydenham Hospital. He enjoyed photography and participated in several juried exhibitions. He is survived by two children, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Gordon Hausser, '55**, died on July 17, 2014. A native of Cleveland, Dr. Hausser made his home in the Columbus area. He served with the United States Air Force and Air Force Reserves. He practiced dentistry for 43 years in Columbus and taught part-time at the Ohio State University College of Dentistry. Dr. Hausser is survived by his wife of 37 years, Cathy, five children, 11 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

**James Helm, '86**, passed away unexpectedly on May 3, 2014 at the age of 64. Dr. Helm was a general dentist for Saidel & Associates and later worked for Dr. John Mitakides. He was an avid fisherman who spent a great deal of time in Michigan. He is survived by his three children and seven grandchildren.

**Eric Hughes, '08**, died on August 8, 2015 at the age of 37 in Birmingham, Alabama. Dr.

Hughes received his undergraduate degree at Birmingham Southern College, his DMD from the University of Alabama School of Dentistry, his MPH from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and his MSD in orthodontics at the CWRU School of Dental Medicine. He was the owner of Tuscaloosa Orthodontics. Dr. Hughes is survived by his wife and three daughters.

**James Kerrigan, '46**, of Bethesda, Maryland, died on June 19, 2012. He was the husband of Patricia Kerrigan and a World War II Army veteran. He practiced orthodontics in the Washington, DC area for 40 years.



**Richard Koler, '80**, passed away on May 18, 2014 in South Euclid, Ohio. Dr. Koler practiced dentistry in Cleveland for over 30 years until his retirement in 2013. He is survived by his four children and two grandchildren.



**Jack Landau, '59**, died on May 23, 2014 at the age of 80. He is survived by his wife, Carol, four children and five grandchildren.



**David Maddox, '55**, of Zanesville, Ohio, died on July 14, 2015. A native of Akron, Ohio, Dr. Maddox served in the United States Army and graduated from Miami University in 1950.

He served his internship and residency at the Eastman Dental Dispensary and the Genesee Hospital in Rochester, New York. Dr. Maddox was a pediatric dentist who practiced for 50 years in private practice and as the school dentist for the Zanesville City Schools dental program. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, one son and three grandchildren.



**Philip Mark, '67**, of Aurora, Ohio, died on June 24 at the Cleveland Clinic. He is survived by his wife, Shirley, two children, and two grandchildren.



**W. Frederick Marshall, '59** passed away November 15 at the age of 81. He was an active member of many professional organizations including the American Dental

Association along with his local dental associations. His commitment to youth was seen in his life-long involvement with the Boy Scouts of America. Dr. Marshall is survived by his wife of 59 years, Marilou, four sons, grandchildren, a sister, two nephews and one niece.



**Bernard McGivern, '62**, passed away on August 27, 2015 in Ocean Breeze, Staten Island, New York. Dr. McGivern held numerous positions and fellowships with the American

Dental Association, the New York State Dental Association, the Richmond County Dental Society, and the New York Society of Forensic Dentists. He was also part of the disaster team that worked with New York's Chief Medical Examiner after 9/11. He designed the McGivern retractor, an instrument used in oral surgery, lectured and published in several professional journals. Dr. McGivern's wife of 54 years died in 2014. He is survived by his daughter, Ryan McGivern.



**John "Jack" McMahon, '53**, passed away on June 10, 2014 at the age of 86. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Dorothy, four children, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



**John Modic, '74**, passed away on October 10 at the age of 67. A resident of Hollywood, Maryland, Dr. Modic is survived by his wife, Faith, two children and three grandchildren. After completing his dental residency with the U.S. Army in Fort Jackson, south Carolina, he served in the Army as a dental officer in Korea and Colorado. He opened his private practice in Mechanicsville, Maryland in 1978, where he worked in general and cosmetic dentistry.

**Victor Mungo, '44**, died on September 19. Dr. Mungo was born in Italy in 1920 and immigrated to the United States at the age of eight. He attended the University of Akron before dental school, where he was a member of the Psi Omega Professional Fraternity. He was a member of the Akron Dental Society, the Ohio Dental Society and the American Dental Association. Dr. Mungo

served in the U.S. Navy during both World War II and the Korean War. At the age of 86 he was the oldest practicing dentist in the state of Ohio, having served his patients for over 64 years.

**David Papuga, '63**, died on January 12 in Norwell, Massachusetts. He was preceded in death by his wife and two children and is survived by a son, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. A native of Cleveland, Dr. Papuga attended the University of Dayton and received a BS from Ohio University. He received his specialty training in periodontology at the Boston University School of Dental Medicine.



**Dewey Patterson, '50**, passed away on April 22, 2014 at the age of 92. He was a dentist in the Firestone Park area in Akron, Ohio for 24 years. He is survived by his wife of 27 years,

one granddaughter and two great-grandchildren.

**Eugene Pawlicki, '45**, died on April 13, 2013 at the age of 90. He was predeceased by his first wife, Babe, and is survived by his wife, Barbara, six children and eight grandchildren. A United States Navy veteran of World War II and the Korean War, Dr. Pawlicki was a family dentist in Sodus, New York for many years. He also served on the Sodus Central School Board, Village Board and Town Board. He was a founding member of the Sodus Town Ambulance Corp.

**Nolan "Gene" Petry, '55**, died on February 19. He is survived by his wife, two children, four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Dr. Petry grew up in Akron and began his dental practice in 1955 there and retired in 1986. He served as president of the Akron Dental Society. His son and grandson, both dentists, continue his practice. He traveled on mission trips to bring dental services to Africa and the Dominican Republic.

**Arthur Phelps, '48**, died on August 11. Dr. Phelps served the United States Army during World War II and the United States Air Force during the Korean War. He served for many years as an adjunct faculty member in the department of orthodontics at CWRU's School of Dental Medicine. He practiced orthodontics in Cleveland for over 60 years.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, four children, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



**John Rossetti, '63**, passed away on November 6, 2013. A native of Canton, Ohio, he lived and practiced orthodontics there until his recent retirement,

when he moved with his wife, Diana, to Dublin, Ohio. In addition to his wife, he is survived by four children, two stepchildren and nine grandchildren. Dr. Rossetti served as a dentist in the United States Air Force after completing his dental education at CWRU. After his military service, he completed the orthodontic residency program at the Ohio State University College of Dentistry. Dr. Rossetti was the first president of the Ohio Association of Orthodontics and served as the president of the Stark County Dental Society.

**William Shie, '55**, passed away on August 16, 2014. He was preceded in death by his wife Joanne and his survived by three children and two grandchildren. Dr. Shie was a veteran of the United States Navy.



**Glenn Smith, '61**, died on May 10, 2014 at the age of 84 in Layton, Utah. He was preceded in death by his wife and is survived by his three children, 11 grandchildren, and eight

great-grandchildren

**Robert Spettel, Jr., '57**, of Naples, Florida, died on August 15 in Norwalk, Ohio. Dr. Spettel was a veteran of the United States Air Force Dental Corps. He received his certificate of periodontology from Tufts University and practiced periodontics in Norwalk, Sandusky and Fairview Park, Ohio from 1966 until his retirement in 1997. He served as an Ohio State Dental Board member and was a member of the North East Regional Board of Dental Examiners. He helped found the Ohio Academy of Periodontology. Dr. Spettel is survived by his wife of 59 years, Maureen, six children, 19 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**Donald Strauss, '58**, died September 5, 2014 in Chesterfield, Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Rosanna, three children and three grandchildren. Dr. Strauss practiced dentistry for over 30 years. He was a Kiwanian and

volunteered for Habitat for Humanity. In his free time, he enjoyed playing the piano and trumpet, boating, skiing and fishing.



**Samuel Unger, '68**, died on July 4 in Jackson, New Jersey. Dr. Unger practiced dentistry in Brooklyn, New York and served as president of CWRU's New York Alumni Association

Chapter. A survivor of the Holocaust, Dr. Unger was around seven years old when Nazis raided his and other Polish towns. His family fled into the forest, spending the next four years surviving there and in farmers' barns. This summer, CWRU's Think magazine featured an essay Dr. Unger wrote about his experiences during the Holocaust. The article was originally written for Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity, the oldest international Jewish medical organization. Dr. Unger is survived by his wife of 61 years, Isabelle, and his family.



**Richard Waters, '57**, died January 30 at the age of 81 in Ashtabula, Ohio. Dr. Waters practiced dentistry for 42 years, retiring in 1999. He also served as a dentist in the United

States Air Force in Lincoln, Nebraska. He was active in his community of Jefferson, and served on the school board there. He enjoyed travel, camping, hunting, fishing, photography and history. He is survived his wife, Norma, seven children, 14 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.



**John White, '54**, passed away on September 15, 2014 at the age of 84. He was a dentist in Berea, Ohio for 51 years and was a veteran of the United

States Air Force. He was the husband of the late Nancy and is survived by three children, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



**Seth B. Canion**, former chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry from 1998-2005, passed away on June 14 at the age of 68. He is survived

by his wife, Maureen, a daughter, son-in-law, and four grandchildren.

# Jefferson Jones, DMD

Long-time Endodontics Department Chairman Jefferson Jones, DMD passed away on November 14. Dr. Jones joined the school July 1, 1967 as an instructor and became chair of the Endodontics Department in July 1974, where he served until November 2008 when he became ill. Dr. Jones retired after 42 years of service to the dental school in April 2009.



Dr. Jones came to Case Western Reserve University in 1967 on a one-year contract. In the over four decades since, he worked hard to build the Endodontics department into a first rate program. Indeed, not only did Dr. Jones found the graduate residency program, but on one occasion he saved the program from extinction. In 1984, when the professor scheduled to teach the graduate students in the recently created residency program accepted a Chair position elsewhere, the dental school dean at the time told

Dr. Jones he would have to shut the program down. After much persuasion, the dean relented, and Dr. Jones ended up teaching the graduate course himself until he could find a replacement. Dr. Jones selected Dr. André Mickel '91, '94 for the role.

Dr. Jones never forgot the generosity and encouragement of the mentors and benefactors who helped him make it through college and beyond, and he committed himself to creating similar opportunities for others. When he looked around the university in the early 1970s and saw no other African Americans on the faculty nor in the dental school student body, he set out to solve the issue. During his time at Case Western Reserve University, Dr. Jones served five years as Chair of the President's Committee to Combat Racism and 24 years as President of the African American Faculty and Staff Organization. In 2002, Dr. Jones was recognized for 35 years of teaching excellence by Case Western Reserve University. Dr. Kimberly Linquist, who graduated from the Endodontics program in 2005 tells us that Dr. Jones treated his residents as part of his extended family. He was always willing to listen to concerns or questions, or share his wisdom from his many years of private practice.

He is survived by his wife, Sylvia; two children, Jacqueline Nance and Sargent Jefferson H. Jones; his grandchildren; and many other family members, friends and colleagues. ■

*Some excerpts taken from 2008 article in dental school magazine.*



*Jefferson Jones with then Interim University President Gregory Eastwood, André Mickel '91, '94, Francis Curd '77 and Ken Chance '79 at the Health Legacy Award & Scholarship Dinner in 2002*



*Ace Goerig '71 with Jefferson Jones at the 2006 Endodontics Annual Session in Hawaii.*



*Jefferson Jones receives award from then dean of CWRU School of Dental Medicine, Jerold Goldberg '70, in this undated photo.*

# HOME COMING & REUNION CELEBRATION

students ▪ alumni ▪ parents & families

Alumni, students, faculty, staff and guests returned for homecoming and reunion with a four day celebration of community featuring a block party, sporting events, presentations, tours, parties and more. Seeing old friends, sharing memories and reliving past events was special. There was an opportunity to honor the recipients of the Alumni Association awards. Homecoming and reunion is a time to remember the past and give hope to the future. Please enjoy the upcoming pages filled with memories of this fun event. Check out our Facebook page where you can browse the photos taken during the weekend. Our page name: CWRU School of Dental Medicine Alumni Association.

- 1) Jane Dodson '82 and Stan Bowe
- 2) University President Barbara R. Snyder with Outstanding New Dentist award recipient Kari Cunningham '10, '12
- 3) Francis Curd '77, Roma Jasinevicius '76, Allen Park '00, Andrew Skorobatchyj '00
- 4) Some members of the Class of 1985 enjoying the photobooth
- 5) Dental student selfie
- 6) Oral surgeons Don Lewis '76, '80; Jerold Goldberg '70, '74; Joe Niamtu '78; Dale Baur '80; Faisal Quereshy '97, '99; Keith Schneider '08; Don Yezerski '78 and Endodontist Chris Space '78





1955



1960



GOLDEN YEAR REUNION



1980



# REUNION WEEKEND 2015

## 1955

*First Row:* Edward Stibbe, Ronald Bell, Burnel Pinkerton, Jerry Waxman

## 1960

*First Row:* William Tuchek, Norman Golovan, R. William Cornell

## 1965

*First Row:* Alfonso Rossi, Carl Riemenschneider, Charles Courtad, Jack Savage, Gary Resnik, Andrew Bekeny  
*Second Row:* John Szemer, James Mikula, David Hertel, Ilze Bekeny, Peter Gordon, Stephen Goldstein, William Frank

## 1970

*First Row:* Casimir Majcher, Barry Jaffe, Sheldon Persky, Henry Fioritto  
*Second Row:* Joseph Duda, Robert Mandel, Jerold Goldberg, Leonard Tomsik, Gary Galicki

## 1975

*First Row:* Donald Yeager, Dale Wagner, Murray Berkowitz, Nick Palmer

## 1980

*First Row:* Craig Preis, Cynthia Slack, Bradley Doi  
*Second Row:* Neil Brofman, William Schwartz

## 1985

*First Row:* Mehrdad Vajdi, Barry Lazar, Patricia Wilson, Hiliary Soller, Celeste Mohr, Therese Bonamer, Thomas Leatherman, Dan German  
*Second Row:* Gregory Fillion, Loren Frumker, Cara Fawcett, Mark Kolosionek, Donna Olsen, Ronald Orr, Karen Klocko, Timothy Vala, John Vaselaney, Sean McNeeley, Perry Sarle





1965



1970



1975



1985



1990



1995

**1990**  
*First Row:* Marcelle Lawas, Sara Nazco  
*Second Row:* Peter May, Michael Belton, Cameron Hewitt

**1995**  
*First Row:* Gino DiGiannantonio, Adrianna Russ, Nancy Bishay, Rajesh Baji

**2005**  
*First Row:* Alison Allin, Nicole Fioritto, Christina Kulesa, Erica Wazney  
*Second Row:* Glenn Shtarkman, Jill Weber, Tatyana Dankulich-Huryn, Amy Richter, Benjamin Garr

**2010**  
*First Row:* Chung-Wei Kao, Kari Cunningham, Chung-Lei Kao



2005



2010

# 2016 AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends of the School of Dental Medicine are invited to submit nominations for the awards which are presented each fall during Homecoming & Reunion.

Only the information you provide will be reviewed and considered for your candidate. The Alumni Office is not responsible for requesting CVs or additional information for your nominee. Once submitted, a nomination remains active for three years.

**AWARD YOU ARE NOMINATING CANDIDATE FOR:**

- Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award
- Outstanding New Dentist Award
- Alumni Board Special Recognition Award

See our website for award criteria: <https://dental.case.edu/alumni/staff/alumni-awards/>

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Nominee Graduating Class (if applicable)

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Street Address

---

City State Zip code

---

Home/Cell Phone E-mail Address

---

Nominated By Graduating Class (if applicable)

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Street Address

---

City State Zip code

---

Home/Cell Phone E-mail Address

Please submit the following documents by **Friday, April 22, 2016:**

1. Nomination Letter outlining achievements and why the candidate should be honored
2. Curriculum Vita of Nominee if appropriate
3. This completed Nomination Form noting proposed award

Return the completed form to:  
**Case Western Reserve University**  
**School of Dental Medicine**  
**Alumni Association Board of Directors**  
**10900 Euclid Avenue ~ Cleveland, OH 44106-4905**  
**E-mail: dentalalumni@case.edu**



# 2016 EVENTS

## JANUARY

### January 26, 2016

Reception with CWRU President  
Barbara R. Snyder  
Royal Poinciana Club  
4000 Goodlette Road N.  
Naples, FL 34103  
4:30pm – 6:00pm

### January 29, 2016

Reception at the Yankee Dental  
Congress  
The Westin Boston Waterfront  
425 Summer Street  
Boston, MA  
5:30pm – 7:30pm

## FEBRUARY

### February 26, 2016

Reception at the Chicago  
Midwinter Meeting  
Hyatt McCormick Place Hotel  
2233 South Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.  
Drive  
Chicago, IL  
4:30pm – 6:30pm

## MARCH

### March 18, 2016

Reception at the Hinman Dental  
Meeting  
Omni Hotel  
100 CNN Center  
Atlanta, GA  
5:30pm – 7:30pm

## APRIL

### April 7, 2016

Reception at the American Association  
of Endodontists Annual Session  
Marriott Marquis  
780 Mission Street  
San Francisco, CA  
6:00pm – 8:00pm

## MAY

### May 1, 2016

Reception at the American Association  
of Orthodontists Annual Session  
Hyatt Regency Orlando  
9801 International Drive  
Orlando, FL  
4:30pm – 6:00pm

### May 5, 2016

Reception at the Ontario Dental  
Association Annual Spring Meeting  
Intercontinental Toronto Centre  
225 Front Street West  
Toronto, ON  
6:00pm – 8:00pm

### May 15, 2016

Class of 2016 Diploma Ceremony  
Cleveland Museum of Art  
Followed by Reception in  
Kelvin Smith Library (on campus)  
11:15am

### May 28, 2016

Reception at the American Academy of  
Pediatric Dentistry Annual Session  
Hotel TBD  
San Antonio, TX  
6:00pm – 8:00pm

## JUNE

### June 8, 2016

Oral Surgery CE and Graduation Dinner  
Chagrin Valley Country Club  
4700 SOM Center Road  
Chagrin Falls, OH  
CE 3:00pm – 6:00pm  
Presenter Joseph Helman, DMD  
Dinner 6:00pm – 10:00pm

### June 24, 2016

Celebration of Philanthropy  
By Invitation Only

## JULY

### July 23, 2016

Reception at the National Dental  
Association Convention  
Marriott Marquis  
265 Peachtree Center Avenue  
Atlanta, GA  
6:00pm – 8:00pm

## AUGUST

### August 5, 2016

White Coat Ceremony  
Amasa Stone Chapel  
2:00pm – 3:00pm  
Reception ~ BRB  
3:30pm – 5:00pm

## SEPTEMBER

### September 16, 2016

Reception at the Ohio Dental Association  
Annual Session  
Hyatt Regency  
350 North High Street  
Columbus, OH  
5:00pm – 7:00pm

## OCTOBER

### October 13-16, 2016

Homecoming & Reunion Celebration  
Events will be held around the university  
and in downtown Cleveland at the Westin  
Hotel. Homecoming is for the entire dental  
school community - alumni, students,  
faculty and staff. There will be class dinners  
for those class years ending in 1 and 6 that  
are celebrating a reunion.

You do not have to attend a  
conference to attend its reception.

For more information and to RSVP,  
contact the Office of Development &  
Alumni Relations at 216.368.5758,  
toll free 877.468.1436 or email  
dentalalumni@case.edu



SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

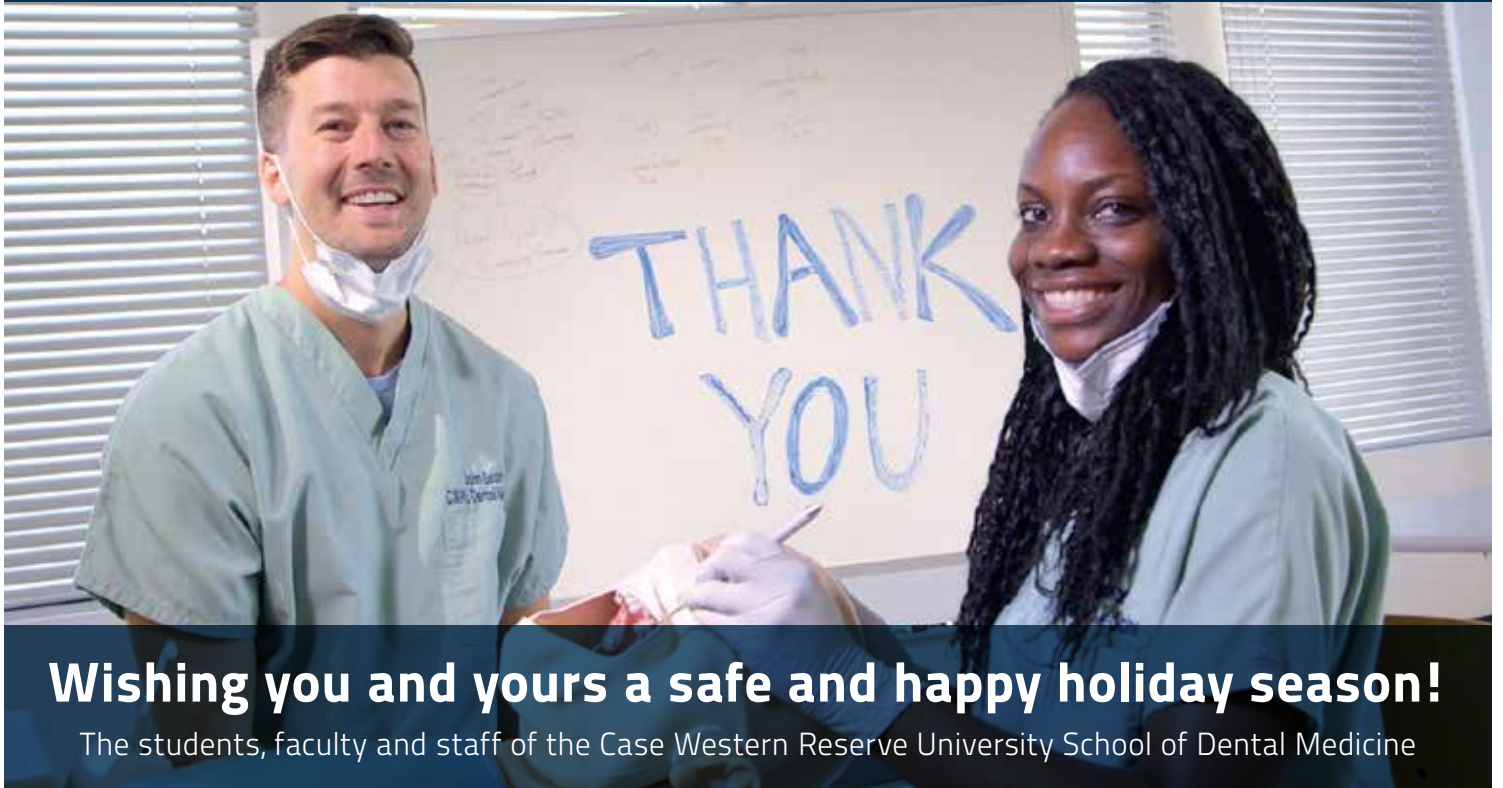
CASE WESTERN RESERVE  
UNIVERSITY

10900 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106-4905

**Parents:**

If this issue is addressed to your daughter or son who has established a separate permanent address, please notify us of the new address: (877) 468-1436 or dentalalumni@case.edu

*Thank you  
for your continued support.*



**Wishing you and yours a safe and happy holiday season!**

The students, faculty and staff of the Case Western Reserve University School of Dental Medicine