Mission: Esthetics
Dr. Gerard Chiche
Thomas P. Hinman Endowed Chair of Restorative Dentistry
Excellence is our goal in everything we do at MCG, and we build on our excellence every day in many ways. Our students are extraordinarily talented and compassionate, our faculty is growing in numbers and expertise in a wider range of clinical and scientific knowledge, and our staff and administrators are simply the best! So you may be saying, “Yeah, yeah, Drisko, there you go bragging about MCG again.”

Well, we really have something to brag about, as you’ll see in this edition of Word of Mouth. The cover story, for instance, features a world-renowned esthetic dentist, Dr. Gerard Chiche, who will hold the inaugural Thomas P. Hinman Endowed Chair for Restorative Dentistry. The Center for Esthetic Dentistry he will oversee ushers in a whole new dimension of dental treatment and research at MCG.

Dr. Chiche is but one of the many new faces that will be gracing our campus in the next few months as our faculty recruitment efforts intensify. As author Jim Collins advised in his book, Good to Great, it is important to get the right people on the bus going in the right direction. We are doing just that! Over the last five years, we have recruited a diverse faculty, including funded researchers, experienced clinicians from private practice and very dedicated and irreplaceable volunteer faculty.

We continue to have a great working relationship with organized dentistry, particularly the Hinman Dental Society and the Georgia Dental Association, along with many other study clubs and professional organizations that have been so supportive of our school, most notably through our building fund initiative. (Read more about our students’ participation in organized dentistry on page 6.)

To date, we have received $110,831 in donations from alumni through the Class Initiative, bringing us considerably closer to our goal of occupying a new facility by 2011 or early 2012. And, last but not least, we have continued to exceed our goals of increasing research funding, clinical income, faculty practice and service learning activities. Those activities now span 14 locations statewide, including public health and indigent-care clinics.

So what about the effect of the economic downturn? Needless to say, our financial situation has been challenging the past year and will be more so in upcoming months to accommodate budget cuts without sacrificing quality. We have had to give up a few faculty positions (we hope to regain them in better times), but have managed to tighten our belt without shortchanging our educational programs.

Unfortunately, some of the budget shortfall will have to be made up with a tuition increase levied by the Board of Regents; however, we are still one of the best values in dental education when you compare our costs to other public and private schools.

We are dedicated to moving forward. We have successfully completed our five-year strategic plan and are embarking on a new one.

Thanks to your support, we will continue to achieve excellence in all we do at MCG.
OPENED WIDE

Mission: Esthetics
Dr. Gerard Chiche

Lifetime Achievement
Dr. George Schuster

Game Plan
Dr. Roman Cibirka

2009 Distinguished Alumnus
Dr. Ed Green

Faces of Support
Dr. Jeannie Moran

Leading the Way
6
CEOs Get Down to Business
10
2009 Graduation
16
Homecoming
29
Dentistry’s Got Talent
30
A Million-Dollar Gift
32
A Lasting Impression
39

DEPARTMENTS

Student BITES
12
Student Voice
20
Faculty BITES
22
Research BITES
26
Development
34
Alumni BITES
40
When Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans in August 2005, the Louisiana State University School of Dentistry, where Dr. Chiche chaired the Department of Prosthodontics, suffered significant damage. The school shuttered its doors and, within two weeks of the storm, relocated 80 miles away to Baton Rouge.

“From one day to the next, we had to report to work in Baton Rouge,” says Dr. Chiche, who joined the MCG School of Dentistry faculty July 1 as the Thomas P. Hinman Endowed Chair of Restorative Dentistry and director of the new Center for Esthetic and Implant Dentistry.

In Baton Rouge, Dr. Chiche focused on managing what was left of the prosthodontics department he’d spent a decade building. All of the faculty members lost their New Orleans homes, and many left LSU for other positions. Those remaining drew strength from knowing that they were all in the same boat.

“We all pulled together under a very determined dean and his administration, together with very resilient faculty, staff and students,” he says.

Two classes of dental students graduated from the makeshift campus in Baton Rouge before the LSU School of Dentistry was able to move back home to New Orleans. Dr. Chiche got busy rebuilding his department to pre-Katrina levels. “It was a spiritual rebuilding. Everyone had to make accommodations for everyone else’s situation. You try to hold on to your job with a school that tries to survive; you leave your home temporarily and you make it work because of the exceptional faculty,” he says.

“I made up my mind that I wasn’t leaving LSU until the department was rebuilt. When I hired the last young faculty member, I looked at the department and knew it was self-sufficient. I could turn the page,” says Dr. Chiche.

Dr. Chiche retired from LSU in March after 28 years on the faculty, but his ties to the school are even longer.

The French native came to LSU for graduate school in 1977 after

continued on page 4
earning his dental degree from Paris 7 University, now Paris Diderot University. He returned to France to practice for a year after graduate school, but he missed New Orleans, LSU and Lynn, his wife-to-be. When he was offered a job teaching prosthodontics at his alma mater, he jumped at the chance to return to academia full time. “Teaching has really been my focus since then,” he says.

Education and clinical esthetic dentistry are Dr. Chiche’s passions. He taught undergraduates for 20 years but now feels he can make the greatest contribution to residents. His hands-on, practical approach to clinical dentistry is integral to his role at MCG, School of Dentistry Dean Connie Drisko says.

“Dr. Chiche is an extraordinary teacher and his experience and success as a mentor to prosthodontic residents and faculty is unmatchable,” she adds. “Because of his talent and reputation, Dr. Chiche was able to rebuild his department at LSU in an incredibly short period of time. That's a great asset for MCG when it comes to building our center.”

His goal is to create a team to teach interdisciplinary esthetic and implant dentistry to as many residents as possible. “I feel that all the parts are in place at MCG to create an esthetic program with great potential. I look forward to developing the center and making it soar,” he says.

Another goal is optimal patient care—a goal the new building will facilitate. “The new facility is an opportunity to put in place the best technology in the best possible clinical setting so that everything can be optimized,” Dr. Chiche says. “We’ll be able to plan the center from the ground stage to incorporate the latest and greatest.”

He is also eager to integrate computer-assisted technology into everyday dentistry. “Once you start to connect dentistry with computer technology, there’s no end to what you can do.”

Implant dentistry already incorporates technology such as computer-assisted designs from CAT scans. Dr. Chiche anticipates using computers to deliver crowns and implants simultaneously and make those crowns as lifelike as possible.

“I envision a clinical team whose research parallels the esthetic and implant trends,” Dr. Chiche says. “You have to have the vision of where to go several years ahead of the curve.”
Getting to Know
Dr. Gerard Chiche

- He was born in Casablanca, Morocco while it was still a French protectorate. When he was 2, his family moved back to Paris.

- Dr. Chiche and his brother Dr. Frederic Chiche, a dentist with an implant practice in Paris, were inspired by their uncle, a dentist in Monte Carlo. “My mother’s dream was for us to work together, but fate has it that he’s in Paris with the rest of our family and I’m in the States,” Dr. Chiche says.

- Dr. Chiche and his brother have parallel paths in organized dentistry: He is past president of the American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry; Frederic is past president of the French Society for Esthetic Dentistry.

- He has written two textbooks on dental ceramics and esthetics and numerous articles for refereed journals. He lectures worldwide and serves on the editorial advisory board of the Journal of Esthetic and Restorative Dentistry.

- He received the 2003 LSU Alumnus of the Year Award, the 2003 Seattle Study Club Educational Award for Best Dental Educator and the 2007 Greater New York Academy of Prosthodontics Foundation Distinguished Lecturer Award.

- He has been featured as a Leader in Continuing Education by Dentistry Today magazine four times.

- Dr. Chiche met Lynn, his wife of 27 years, during his residency. Lynn is an audiologist who runs a foundation to protect animals and was named Woman of the Year by the Alliance for Good Government for her work rescuing and relocating hundreds of animals post-Katrina. They have four cats of their own.

- True to his French heritage, Dr. Chiche is a big soccer and rugby fan. Another hobby is music. His influences include the Beatles and Rolling Stones. He owns several guitars and enjoys rock and roll, bluegrass, blues and country.
Leading the Way

For Jack O’Neill, school isn’t just about academics – it’s about involvement outside the classroom.

“That’s something I always felt was important,” says the junior dental student. “And the bottom line is I wanted to be involved in more.”

He did so early on as freshman class president, which led him to attend an American Student Dental Association meeting in 2008. It was there he found his niche and learned the importance of organized dentistry.

Jack became a regional legislative coordinator for ASDA’s Legislative Grassroots Network, then became the chair in March. He helps guide and direct activities of the council—anything pertaining to government affairs, including legislation at the state and federal levels. He also manages all of ASDA’s legislative liaisons.

Those leadership responsibilities have helped him become well-rounded, he says.

“As professionals, we can tend to develop tunnel vision and scrutinize our clinical skill, but a well-rounded clinician who can relate to his patient and see the big picture will ultimately serve as a better health care provider,” Jack says. “That was one reason I thought ASDA was a great opportunity, and that’s why I think it’s important for students to get involved in organized dentistry.”
Founded in 1970, the American Student Dental Association is the largest national student-run organization solely dedicated to dental student concerns. With 17,000 members and a $2.5 million annual budget, the association endeavors to protect and advance the rights, interests and welfare of dental students as well as to introduce them to lifelong involvement in organized dentistry.

Structured as a network of local chapters based at each of the 59 U.S. dental schools, ASDA is uniquely geared to respond to the concerns of its members at the local, regional and national levels. Two delegates from each chapter serve as voting members in the ASDA House of Delegates to voice concerns of their constituents and propose action in the form of resolutions.

As a result of these resolutions, ASDA publishes policy statements on dozens of issues, including dental education, the rights and fair treatment of dental students, dental research, dental student representation and education financing, among others. ASDA notifies groups or individuals, such as dental school deans, dental associations, state boards of dentistry and lawmakers, of its position on particular issues.

Between meetings of the House of Delegates, the Board of Trustees—dental students elected at the association’s annual meeting—administer all association programs and activities and enact interim policy.

More than 87 percent of all dental students have joined the association, and membership is offered to pre-dental students. Visit www.asdanet.org for more information.

What is ASDA?
“I’m hoping all five schools will come together to serve the community more. We’re already doing many great things, like volunteering for the CSRA Wounded Warrior Care Project,” she says. “But I would love for us to broaden our horizons and outreach to veterans through music and art. There are so many talented MCG students who are also musicians and artists.”

In addition to reaching out to the community, Dawnyetta hopes to also address several issues at school.

“We will focus on parking, insurance and technology issues,” says Dawnyetta, who earned a medical degree at MCG in 2006. “It’s important that we address these issues because they are important to everyone. SGA serves as an outlet of information not only to students, but to faculty and administration as well.”

Shivane Gupta’s role also serves as an informational outlet to students. He’s an MCG ambassador, giving tours of major buildings on campus each semester to prospective students and visitors.

“I’m able to put myself in their shoes and remember where I was four years ago and having a good feeling knowing there are other students out there who can help,” Shivane says. “It’s nice to give back and be able to help prospective students.”

It was light summer reading that inspired Adam Goldberg to reach out and help in a big way.

“After we took our board exams last August, I went on vacation and read Stephen Covey’s The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, and I thought, ‘I’ve got to do something good,’” the senior says.

He contacted his sister-in-law, Susan, a pediatrician at Aiken Regional Hospital.

“I asked her what was under-funded, and she said kidney disease,” Adam says. “I then got in touch with Dr. Luis Ortiz here.”

Dr. Ortiz, MCG section chief of pediatric nephrology, put Adam in touch with Mary Harris, a nurse who “really got the ball rolling.”

Adam created the Changing Lives Foundation for children with kidney disease and initially provided blood pressure cuffs to the Department of Pediatric Nephrology.

“Hypertension is such a big concern for these kids with kidney failure, so I thought the blood pressure cuffs were a good start,” he says. “I wanted to do something more and decided to host a 5K to raise money.”

The race, held in March in downtown Augusta, had more than 100 participants and raised $5,000.

“We had wonderful volunteers come out and help, and I’m hoping next year will be even more of a success,” Adam says. “If everyone did something similar to this, it sounds clichéd, but it would make the world a better place.”

The experience also gave Adam a different sense of purpose at school.

“I didn’t feel like I was just a student coming in for tests,” he says. “It gave me a whole new perspective on giving back and helping others.”

Giving back and helping others is nothing new to David Elrod. The junior has been involved in fundraisers since undergraduate school and wanted to continue when he got to dental school.

Last year, he and a team of MCG volunteers created the first Night of White dinner and silent auction to raise funds for the MCG Health Children’s Medical Center. This year, he extended a helping hand to pediatric dental patients.

“Oral health is obviously something I believe is important, so I was excited that half

Ten dental students and one resident are MCG ambassadors:

- Brian Bragassa (Class of 2010)
- David Ensley (’12)
- Azy Esfandiari (’12)
- Shivane Gupta (’10)
- Zeyad Hassan (’10)
- Bradford Huffman (’12)
- Shaunta’ Jones (’10)
- Chris Kragor (’12)
- Bethany Loushine, endodontics resident (2008-09 MCG Ambassador of the Year)
- David Quintero (’10)
- Francesca Seta (’11)
The world is full of people who are grabbing and self-seeking. So the rare individual who unselfishly tries to serve others has an enormous advantage.

He has little competition.

—DALE CARNEGIE

Be a Cheerleader

BY DR. WILLIAM BENNETT (’10)

T he world needs more cheerleaders. I am not speaking of the pom-pom-waving variety, although I can attest to the tickle of joy I experienced in my chest and the nearly painful smile that spread across my face as I watched my 6-year-old niece sneak an excited wave to me from the sidelines last fall. I am speaking of a deficit in American society today, a silence that is most deafening at the heights of human accomplishment.

I drew this conclusion after a recent trip to Athens, Ga., to visit one of my mentors, Dink NeSmith. Dink is one of the most successful men I know, yet strangely, he is probably the only adult I do not address as “Mister.” This arises from a lesson he taught me early on: “Titles should not be what is important to you; they can prevent you from getting close to people . . . call me Dink.”

I took his advice in my medical practice when people would address me as “Doctor;” adding, “My mama called me William . . . that’ll do.” Dink’s most recent quote to me: “People’s lives are affected most by the books they read, the people they meet and the choices they make.” He also told me he was proud of me. Even when things aren’t going my way, Dink is on my side.

The best job description I have ever heard for a leader is that of a floor servant. It does not matter what needs to be done, a true leader does not mind doing it. We could all cite thousands of examples, but one I love is a story of University of Georgia’s Dean William Tate excusing himself while walking through campus with colleagues to borrow a shovel from a groundkeeper’s truck to remove a pile of dog manure from the sidewalk. If he hadn’t moved it, he explained, a young lady might have gotten it on her shoe. That is the kind of leader I want to be. That is the kind of leader I want to follow. That is the kind of leader I want to be.

As a professional, each of us has reached the pinnacle of material success. Just think, the average dentist makes more money in one day than more than 100 million Americans make in a month. Our position requires leadership skills on a daily basis in the office. Our calling offers limitless opportunities to lead in the community.

The beautiful thing about volunteering is that it is doing what you choose to do. You do not have to break your back, take time away from your family or open your wallet. The work should be enjoyable. Trust me, the results will be.

The most important volunteer job each of us is capable of doing, yet is grossly understaffed, is that of cheerleader. Taking the time to listen to another human being, discovering what is important to him and helping him achieve it is one of the most valuable things you can do for someone.
In the fundamentals of reading and writing, Dr. Kevin Frazier found new passion for education and new purpose for his dental students.

The dental school clinical faculty was looking to be a better educational leader by pursuing a specialist degree in education at Augusta State University. A class project required working with children and adults at Augusta State’s Born to Read Literacy Center. “It was a humbling and inspiring experience to help people with these essentials that really open the world of learning.”

Dr. Frazier wondered how he could translate his excitement to dental students.

“I thought, ‘What a great community service project for MCG students,’” he says. “[Teaching people to read] ultimately will benefit our students because tutoring and educating will make them better health care providers.”

He partnered with Dr. Paulette Harris, center director and ASU Cree-Walker Professor of Education, and senior Sara Dyer to start a new MCG student organization called Community Education Outreach, or CEO, to recruit students as volunteers at the literacy center. The CEOs began tutoring children and adults in January.
If you ask three MCG dental students whether they enjoyed their spring, they’re likely to respond, “C’est tres beau!”

Jonathan Bullard, Lauren Lee and Alan Myers spent part of the month of May in Nice, France to observe dentistry in a different culture. The intercontinental field trip was sponsored by the Georgia Section of the International College of Dentists—a longtime supporter of the dental school.

“The ICD through the Georgia section has been very supportive of the MCG School of Dentistry for a number of years, and we are extremely appreciative,” said Dr. Carole Hanes, associate dean for students, admissions and alumni.

Drs. Marie Schweinebraten and Chris McFarland initiated a program several years ago inviting students from Nice to observe dentistry in Georgia, including at MCG. Last year for the first time, the visits became reciprocal when three MCG students visited Nice for about 10 days during the spring. The Georgia Section helped defray the expenses for the students’ trip.

“This exchange program is a wonderful opportunity to meet other young professionals and learn about the practice of dentistry in an entirely different environment,” Dr. Hanes said. “They learn not only the differences, but also the many similarities in dental education regardless of location. The opportunity to see how others do things and to see the world as less threatening and smaller is a tremendous gift.”

The program has grown in scope with each passing year. For instance, this year, Nice dental student Jerome Martin spent three months at MCG, participating in clinics and classes January through March. “Jerome was an excellent student,” Dr. Hanes said. “The faculty and students really enjoyed having him here. We hope this opportunity can be continued and someday broadened to include MCG students to spend a similar amount of time in Nice.”

The exchange program is but one example of the ICD’s generosity, Dr. Hanes said, noting that the Georgia Section also supports MCG through White Coat Ceremony co-sponsorship with the Georgia Section of the American College of Dentists and the MCG School of Dentistry Alumni Association. The Georgia Section of the ICD also provides an annual leadership and professionalism luncheon for third-year dental students and annual cash awards to a third-year student and faculty member who exemplify leadership and professionalism.
He's already shown that a blue curing light stunts tumor growth. Now the senior in the Medical College of Georgia School of Dentistry is trying to identify the proteins responsible.

Alpesh Patel recently placed first in the American Association for Dental Research National Student Research Group DENTSPLY/Caulk Basic Science Research Competition. Only seven students nationwide are selected to participate annually.

He found that blue curing light, used to harden dental fillings, activates signaling pathways that can cause cancer cells to die.

Alpesh, who has primarily been working with Dr. Jill Lewis, associate professor of oral biology in the School of Dentistry, found that oral cancer cell growth was reduced in mice treated with blue curing light compared to untreated mice. Now, he's studying which proteins cause this response in hopes of improving treatment for oral cancer.

Today’s treatment generally includes surgery, radiation and chemotherapies. “Oral cancer survivors often suffer significant morbidity due to impaired speech, swallowing, taste or facial disfigurement following treatment,” Alpesh says. “No substantial advances have been made in oral cancer treatment for years, but using a blue curing light to shrink or destroy oral cancer cells could be a very effective and less-invasive treatment alternative.”

After graduation, Alpesh plans to specialize in orthodontics and is eager to continue researching during his residency.

“After I had braces, I saw how much of an effect they had on my self-esteem, and I would love to help others not only fix their smiles but also improve their confidence,” says Alpesh. “I've also always been interested in research and how it can help patients.”

The American Association for Dental Research National Student Research Group is a student-run organization that supports student research.

Alpesh earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from the University of Georgia.

Amy Connell
Wine with a Smile

Travis Fiegle and his fellow MCG dental students raised over $2,400 for the Give a Smile Foundation by hosting a March 31 wine tasting at the Augusta restaurant, Crums on Central. The students founded the nonprofit foundation in 2007 to help fund dental treatment for patients who otherwise couldn’t afford it. Over 200 people, including numerous faculty and staff, attended the wine tasting. Andrew Crumrine, the restaurant’s owner, donated extensive time and resources to make the event a success. Also pitching in were Joe Stevenson, who provided live music; TakoSushi restaurant, which donated over 200 pieces of sushi; and Toast Wine and Beverage store, which donated over $50 in gift cards.

Special Recognition

Sara Akeel, a second-year Ph.D. student in oral biology, received an Excellence in Research Award on Graduate Research Day April 15. Her research focuses on angiogenesis as a key factor essential for bone formation and fracture healing and recent developments in bioengineered bone.

Seniors Ryan Cox, Ryan Davis and Sabina Gupta were inducted into the 2009 class of Alpha Upsilon Phi during a May 5 convocation. AUPhi is an MCG service organization recognizing graduating students for their philanthropy efforts.

Hinman Scholars

Hinman Scholarships were presented March 21 at the 97th Thomas P. Hinman Dental Meeting in Atlanta to MCG dental students Robert Crawford, Travis Fiegle, Alaina Pancio and Alpesh Patel and dental hygiene students Adrienne Jones, Sarah Jo Labrador and Jennifer Wallace. The scholarships are sponsored by the Hinman Dental Society, a nonprofit organization founded in 1911 to promote the highest standards of dentistry. The dental students are pictured with Dr. Jim Bob Williamson (left) and School of Dentistry Associate Dean Carole Hanes and Dean Connie Drisko (right).
The Virtual Dental Implant Training Simulation Program will assist students in diagnostics, decision-making and treatment protocols. It was designed by MCG School of Dentistry faculty and students and BreakAway, Ltd., a developer of game-based technology for training, experimentation and decision-making analysis.

“There’s a lot of enthusiasm in the global dental and medical communities to use virtual reality and simulation as a tool to convey and reinforce information and ensure competency levels,” says Dr. Roman Cibirka, a dentist and MCG vice president for instruction and enrollment management and the program’s project director. He presented the game and its 18-month development process recently at the fifth annual Games for Health Conference in Boston.

Dental implants are tiny screws surgically placed in the jaw to act as artificial roots for prosthetic teeth. About 25 percent of adults 60 and older no longer have any natural teeth, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the need for this procedure is expected to increase with the country’s aging population.

Dr. Cibirka’s highest priorities were instructional effectiveness, patient safety and a fun learning environment. Research shows that health care providers who
practice clinical skills via simulation have better patient outcomes than those who don’t.

The implant simulation game uses multiple patients and clinical scenarios that can be randomly selected, letting students interact with virtual patients by asking about their medical history, examining them and arriving at a diagnosis. Like humans, the virtual patients have different personalities, and students must tailor treatment based on the mental, physical and emotional needs of the individual.

If the virtual patient is a candidate for implant therapy, the simulation ventures into a virtual clinical treatment area, where students decide the type, location and orientation of the implants, type and location of anesthesia and tools for surgery.

“It’s realistic. If the student doesn’t place anesthesia in the right spot, the patient screams,” Dr. Cibirka says.

The game uses Pulse!! Virtual Learning Lab, developed by BreakAway in partnership with Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi through funding from the Office of Naval Research. As effective as the learning tool is, it is intended to supplement—not replace—actual clinical training.

“It’s anytime, anywhere education; a classroom without walls,” Dr. Cibirka says. “I think it really fortifies the entire educational experience and capitalizes on the needs of this generation.”

To ensure the game reaches the millennial generation, Dr. Cibirka brought students into the design process. Sarah Padolsky, a second-year MCG dental student, served as the student project manager. Student reviews have been overwhelmingly positive and added great value to the final product, says Dr. Cibirka, noting he also worked with a team of faculty experts to ensure accuracy on individual subjects.

The program was funded as part of a $6.2 million contract between MCG and Nobel Biocare, a leading manufacturer of implants and equipment, which also established the School of Dentistry as a Nobel Biocare Center for Excellence.

The program is now being evaluated by more than 20 dental schools in the Nobel Biocare University Partnership Program. This summer it will be launched at 25 universities worldwide, potentially reaching 15,000 dental students, Dr. Cibirka says.

In most instances, the program will be used during the third and fourth years of dental education, depending on the curricula of each institution. Dr. Cibirka hopes it will be part of MCG’s dental curriculum soon.

“We want the students that we graduate to be the best dentists they can be because they have learned better and feel more confident in the techniques they’ve learned, and this is another tool to do so,” Dr. Cibirka says.
School of Graduate Studies Dean Gretchen Caughman exhorted graduating MCG dental students to “celebrate success wherever you find it along the way” as guest speaker during the School of Dentistry’s May 8 Hooding Ceremony.

The ceremony represented the initiation of the school’s 60 graduates into the ranks of dentistry. Many will further their educations with residencies and/or specialty programs before beginning their careers, but their D.M.D. credentials are now firmly in place.

MCG commencement followed the Hooding Ceremony, with University System of Georgia Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr. challenging the graduates to accentuate the positive.

He acknowledged that the country faces so many challenges today, MCG graduates might be tempted to bemoan the timing of their entry into the workforce.

“But I think your timing has never been better,” Chancellor Davis said during his commencement address.

He recognized the uncertainties inherent amid a climate of emerging health threats, economic tumult and global strife, but Chancellor Davis noted that the world has never needed the graduates more.

“You have chosen wisely with a great sense of service and compassion,” he said. “Americans are a people of unbounded zeal and unlimited expectations, and those expectations are for you to fulfill. You are needed.”

Indeed, whereas a sputtering economy has threatened the livelihood of countless U.S. workers, MCG graduates are in heavy demand. Chancellor Davis cited shortages in virtually every segment of health care.
and lauded MCG’s excellence in shaping the finest of allied health professionals, biomedical researchers, dentists, physicians and nurses. “Your skills are needed, and we hope you stay in Georgia to practice,” he said.

He urged the graduates to consider their careers not just sources of income, but vehicles to advance the hopes and dreams of the support system that made those careers possible. “As of today,” he said, “you are no longer just a hope. You are an investment, an investment of our society, our human and intellectual capital. Society is now looking for its dividends, a return on its investment.”

He expressed great faith that MCG graduates are more than up to the challenge, advising them to heed the words of Chinese philosopher Lao-tzu: The journey of a thousand miles begins with but a single step.

“Go forth not so much to multiply,” he said, “but to add … to add value to humanity.” Chancellor Davis also took the opportunity to acknowledge MCG President Daniel W. Rahn as he officiated his final commencement as MCG president.

“Dr. Rahn has led MCG with great distinction and vision,” he said, wishing Dr. Rahn well in his upcoming tenure as chancellor of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. “MCG graduates today and all MCG graduates in the future owe a great debt of thanks to Dr. Rahn for his leadership and, certainly, his perseverance.”
The following student and faculty awards were presented in May.

**Georgia Dental Association/American Student Dental Association Outstanding Faculty Award**
Dr. Frank Caughman

**Georgia Dental Association/American Student Dental Association Outstanding Student Award**
Mary Wolfe

**Senior Class President Certificate**
Joshua Whetzel

**Delta Dental Rural Health Award**
Ryan Davis
Carrie Klinger
Margareta Watkins
Joshua Whetzel

**Atlanta Business Bank Award**
Erin Arnold

**Wilford Haile & Associates Financial Management Award**
Candace Lauderdale

**American Academy of Dental Practice Award**
Amy David

**Quintessence International Award for Clinical Excellence**
Scott Carter

**American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry Award**
Joshua Whetzel

**Academy of General Dentistry Award**
Eric Hall

**Georgia Academy of General Dentistry Award**
Eric Hall

**Ronald Goldstein Esthetic Dentistry Award**
James Hicks Jr.

**Senior Comprehensive Care Case Award**
Anna Vu

**American College of Prosthodontists Achievement Award**
Jonathan Owens

**Teledyne Water Pik Prosthodontic Award**
Bethany Loushine

**Dentsply International Merit Award**
Garett Seeba

**American Equilibration Society Award**
Suzanna Aguilera

**Academy of Operative Dentistry Award**
Scott Carter

**American College of Dentists Professionalism Award**
(Students)
Joshua Whetzel
(Dr. Rafik Abdelsayed)

**Omimron Kappa Upsilon Induction**
Katie Anthony
Scott Carter
Ryan Cox
Amy David
Sabina Gupta
Brent Herrin
Eric Sterett

**OKU National Board Part II Award**
Amy David
Jane Gleim

**American Association of Oral Biologists Award**
Garett Seeba

**Quintessence Award for Research Achievement**
Ryan Davis

**American Academy of Oral & Maxillofacial Radiology Award**
Katie Anthony

**International College of Dentists Award**
Ryan Cox

**American Academy of Oral Medicine Award**
Ryan Davis

**Pierre Fauchard Academy Award**
Garett Seeba

**American Academy of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology Award**
Ryan Cox

**Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology Achievement Award**
Amy David
Jane Gleim

**American Association of Orthodontists Award**
Ashley Moss
Erin Arnold

**American Academy of Orofacial Pain Award**
Scott Oberg

**American Academy of Craniofacial Pain Award**
Eric Sterett

**American Academy of Periodontology Award**
Tommy Peterson

**Quintessence International Periodontics Achievement Award**
Brent Herrin
Welcome to MCG Class of 2013

Christen Lynn Adamson  Alpharetta, Ga.
Anushka Amin  Conyers, Ga.
James E. Barron II  Johns Creek, Ga.
Clinton David Baugham  Ellaville, Ga.
Andrew Phillip Benfield  Woodstock, Ga.
Robert Clayton Cannon  Alphany, Ga.
Wendy Ellena Cardenas  Macon, Ga.
Daniel Joseph Carlon  Kennesaw, Ga.
Lindsey Anderson Clark  Roberta, Ga.
Karín Yvonne Davis  Morrow, Ga.
To-Nga Thi Dinh  Dallas, Ga.
Meagan Powers Flournoy  Duluth, Ga.
David Christian Forrest  Martinez, Ga.
Shiven Gandhi  Tybee Island, Ga.
Jorge Carlos Griswold  Savannah, Ga.
James Wylie Gustin  McDonough, Ga.
Emily Elaine Hahn  Macon, Ga.
Brandon Lane Hammond  Duluth, Ga.
Alex Christopher Harvey  Wrightsville, Ga.
Megan Michelle Henry  Morrow, Ga.
William T. Herring  Young Harris, Ga.
Nhi T. Ho  Griffin, Ga.
Jeremy S. Holloway  Macon, Ga.
Charles Thomas Hopkins  Kennesaw, Ga.
Brittany Rose Hudson  Valdosta, Ga.
Samira M. Jafari  Tifton, Ga.
Jennifer Randall Kendrick  Athens, Ga.
Dustin R. Kilby  McComb, Miss.
Jamie Youngshine Kim  Valdosta, Ga.

Amanda DeMercy Kossick  Norcross, Ga.
David Alexander Langer  Decatur, Ga.
James Mwangi Maina  Alpharetta, Ga.
Naghmeh Majdi  Augusta, Ga.
Matthew Brian Martin  Augusta, Ga.
Brian Preston Martin  Enigma, Ga.
Jesse Franklin McMillan  Snellville, Ga.
Kyslyne Renee Moore  Sandy Springs, Ga.
Jancy Allison Parkerson  Savannah, Ga.
Kaley Elynn Peek  Martinez, Ga.
Kimberly Anne Peters  Lilburn, Ga.
Ben Scott Peoples  Ellijay, Ga.
Samuel Posey  Atlanta, Ga.
Brock James Pumphrey  Atlanta, Ga.
Tyler Payne Rathburn  Smyrna, Ga.
Andrew D. Shoemaker  Duluth, Ga.
Matthew Oliver Smith  Monticello, Ga.
William L. Smith  Augusta, Ga.
Ivan James Stojanov  Tyrone, Ga.
Thomas Poshia Suijtz  Alpharetta, Ga.
Dana Rouba Swayze  McDonough, Ga.
Benjamin James Taylor  Thomson, Ga.
Jessica L. Varn  Atlanta, Ga.
Matthew Lawrence Vaughn  Augusta, Ga.
Devon Elizabeth Watson  Stone Mountain, Ga.
Nicole Brianne Youngs  Stone Mountain, Ga.

International Congress of Oral Implantologists
Predoctoral Achievement Award
Garett Seeba

Academy of Osseointegration Outstanding Student Award
Scott Carter

American Academy of Implant Dentistry Award
Andrew Bott

Alpha Omega Award for Academic Excellence Award
Scott Carter

American Association of Endodontists Student Achievement Award
Amy David

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Award
James Hicks Jr.

Georgia Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Award
Brent Herrin

Golden Forceps Award
Garett Seeba
Anna Vu

American Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons Student Award
Michael Pampalon

American Student Dental Association Award of Excellence
Ryan Davis

American Student Dental Association President Award
Mary Wolfe

American Academy of Public Health Dentistry Award
Kajuana Farrey
If you want to know where a person’s heart can be found, look how he spends his time and money.
During our years of dental school, my classmates have demonstrated that, although money is tight, they are willing to share what they have; and while time is limited, they share when they can. The question is: Once the diplomas are handed out and the residencies are completed, will our hearts remain on these paths of generosity and service?

The Good Samaritan Health Center in Cobb County, Ga., is perhaps the best example of acting on the desire to help that I have ever experienced. The clinic is based around the Biblical passage Matthew 25:35-36: “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”

Taking these words to heart, Dr. Steve Hansard, dental director, and his colleagues at Good Samaritan focus on providing the best dental and medical treatment possible for those in need. The clinic serves as a conduit, allowing people to give back where they have been blessed in their own lives. Volunteers do not seek accolades or awards; their reward is knowing the people they were called to serve will not go without care. That is a prize beyond anything that could be hung on the wall for all to see.

Dental school is a marathon. Just as a runner prepares his body for an endurance race, we spent years preparing our minds for this ultimate test. And, as a runner must often will his body across the finish line, a dental student is required at times to simply push through. As any great athlete knows, proper training will bring success, but a true champion is led by the heart. Perhaps the greatest test will be the years following dental school. For this, there is no schedule or curriculum, no map to show us the correct path. It is left to us to take the training we receive and blaze our own trail.

Back in the interview room, I’m sure we all said we looked forward to one day “giving back.” What does that mean? To Dr. Hansard, it means sharing a portion of what you’ve been gifted with. Some are blessed with money, others talents or skills, many only time. No matter how one feels led to give, it is important to act on that feeling.
Dr. Haywood Receives Award

Dr. Van Haywood, professor of oral rehabilitation and director of continuing education in the School of Dentistry, has received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the British Dental Bleaching Society.

The award, recognizing his 20 years of research contributions on tooth bleaching, was presented at the annual World Aesthetic Congress in London. He also received lifetime gold membership in the society.

In 1989 Dr. Haywood co-authored the world’s first publication on at-home bleaching and has researched and written more than 100 publications on bleaching and esthetics. His book, Tooth Whitening: Indications and Outcomes of Nightguard Vital Bleaching, was published in 2007.

Dr. Haywood is a fellow of the American College of Dentists and the International College of Dentists. He is a member of the American and Georgia Dental Associations, American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry, American Academy of Restorative Dentistry, Academy of Operative Dentistry and the Hinman Dental Society. He has been recognized as one of the top clinicians in continuing education by Dentistry Today for eight years.


Dr. Tay Receives Journal Appointment

Dr. Franklin Tay, associate professor of endodontics, has been appointed to a three-year term as associate editor of the Journal of Endodontics, the journal of the American Association of Endodontists.

Dr. Krishna Board Certified

Dr. Ranjitha Krishna, assistant professor of periodontics, has earned board certification in periodontics.

Dr. Krishna, a diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology, earned a dental degree from Bangalore University, a master of public health degree from Emory University and a master of science degree from Indiana State University.

Inaugural Faculty Senate Members

The School of Dentistry has named the inaugural members of its newly formed Faculty Senate. The senate, which serves as a liaison between faculty and administration, meets bimonthly. Senate members are:

Dr. James Borke, Chair
Dr. John Blalock, Chair-Elect
Dr. Jill Lewis, Secretary
Dr. Regina Messer, Basic Sciences Representative
Dr. Kalu Ogbureke, Basic Sciences Representative
Dr. Gary Holmes, Clinical Sciences Representative
Dr. Andrew Kious, Clinical Sciences Representative
Dr. John Stockstill, Clinical Sciences Representative
Dr. Jeril Cooper, Clinical Sciences Representative
Dr. Connie Drisko, Ex Officio Member
**Faculty Promotions**

Dr. Kalu Ogbureke has been appointed an associate professor in the Departments of Oral Biology and Oral Health & Diagnostic Sciences.

Dr. Amara Abreu-Serrano has been appointed an assistant professor in the Department of Oral Rehabilitation.

**New Faculty**

Dr. Kelly Hughes has been named a part-time instructor in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry. She is a 2003 School of Dentistry graduate.

**Vantage Point**

Two histology labs in the Research and Education Building recently were converted into a new and improved cadaver lab for dental students. The lab includes monitors and cameras mounted over each dissection table, enabling an instructor to project images from a single cadaver onto every student’s monitor. The new tables also can tilt and adjust for variables including student height. Pictured below touring the new lab are Department of Cellular Biology and Anatomy Chair Sally Atherton (from left), Professor Mohamed Sharawy, School of Dentistry Dean Connie Drisko and Anatomical Donation Program Director David Adams.

**Faculty Pass Board Exam**

Dr. Emily Chen, instructor of oral rehabilitation, and Dr. Aysegul Siranli, assistant professor of oral rehabilitation, recently passed Part 1 of the Prosthodontic Boards, the first step toward board certification.
Dr. Michael Myers, professor and chair of the Department of Oral Rehabilitation, received the 2009 School of Dentistry Outstanding Faculty Award at the Spring General Faculty Assembly and Research Awards Ceremony in April.

In a nomination letter from the School of Dentistry Class of 2011, Dr. Myers was applauded for regularly going above and beyond the call of duty.

“He is an outstanding example of how we should all strive to be consummate professionals, holding ourselves to the highest of standards, yet retaining our humanistic qualities of compassion, honesty and a good work ethic.”

Dr. Myers says his career in dental education is rewarding and enjoyable. “I enjoy seeing the light bulb come on when I explain something to the students and they catch a glimpse of something I think is exciting or interesting about dentistry.”

A faculty member since 1990, Dr. Myers came to MCG from the Eastman Dental Center in Rochester, N.Y., where he was assistant chair of the Department of Prosthodontics and a research and senior clinical associate.

Dr. Myers is active in dental school affairs, including serving on the school’s Student Academic Review Committee, Facilities Committee, Clinic Chairs Committee, Promotion and Tenure Committee and the Nobel Biocare Center of Excellence Operations Committee.

He received the Georgia Section of the American College of Dentists Professionalism Award in 1995, 2003 and 2007. The School of Dentistry class of 2000 named Dr. Myers Outstanding Clinical Instructor, and he received the school’s 2000 Teaching Excellence Award.

Dr. Myers is a diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics, a fellow of the American College of Prosthodontists and a member of the American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics.

Dr. Myers earned a bachelor’s degree from Clemson University. He earned a dental degree and completed postdoctoral training in prosthodontics at the Medical University of South Carolina.

Perio Primer

Dr. Glenn Maze, director of advanced education in periodontics, recently fulfilled a longtime dream of creating an externship for aspiring periodontists. Six candidates participated in the three-day program in May, which included observing at the dental school, the Charlie Norwood Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center and private practices in Augusta. Also included was a roundtable with residents, recent graduates and mid-career periodontists, featuring Dean Connie Drisko as guest speaker. Pictured with Dr. Maze (left) and Department of Periodontics Chair Philip Hanes (right) are the externship participants: Medical University of South Carolina student Trent Pierce (from left), MCG student Ryan Weldon, University of Colorado student Madeline Saunders, MCG student Darron Alvord, University of Iowa student Whitney Dunn and MCG student Jonathan Bullard.

Obituaries

Dr. Bruce H. Rice, 85, died April 6 in Loma Linda, Calif. Dr. Rice, a founding faculty member of the School of Dentistry, served as professor and chair of the Department of Oral Medicine from 1968 until his retirement in 1988. Before joining MCG, he practiced periodontics and endodontics in Riverside, Calif., and taught at the Loma Linda University and University of Southern California dental schools. In addition to his dental degree, Dr. Rice earned two master’s degrees from The Ohio State University and a Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of Arizona. Survivors include wife Alyse, son Richard, daughter Marjorie, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Memorial gifts may be sent to the Kinzer-Rice Award for Excellence in University Teaching at Loma Linda University.
Before “translational science” was a catchphrase, it was second nature for Dr. George Schuster, Chair Emeritus of the Department of Oral Biology and Ione and Arthur Merritt Professor Emeritus in the School of Dentistry.

A noted mentor, Dr. Schuster fostered research collaboration between the dental school’s clinical and basic science faculty. As a School of Dentistry founding faculty member, Dr. Schuster excelled in duties including teaching microbiology and, as the school’s associate dean for research from 2003 until his retirement in 2008, encouraging student and resident research through Student Research Group, which he helped form.

His efforts were honored with the 2009 MCG Research Institute Lifetime Achievement Award.

“[Dr. Schuster] has been a valued individual contributor to his field and has contributed to the development of countless others who continue to advance dental research,” wrote Dr. Jill Lewis, associate professor and graduate program director in the Department of Oral Biology, in a nomination letter. Dr. Schuster cited his success involving students and clinical faculty in basic science research as one of his greatest research accomplishments.

Dr. Schuster has published nearly 150 articles in peer-reviewed journals. He holds several patents and has been principal or co-principal investigator on numerous grants.

His research probed the effects of dental materials, such as resin, on cell membranes.

Dr. Schuster held significant leadership roles at the state, national and institutional levels. He served numerous roles on National Institutes of Health committees, including chairing an Oral Biology and Medicine 2 Study Session. He was a member of the MCG Human Assurance Committee since 1974 and chaired the committee for more than 22 years.

Dr. Schuster earned his dental and master’s degrees from Northwestern University and a Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry.
Filling in the Blanks

Decades of Research Attest to Safety of Amalgam

Dentist have used amalgam, an alloy of mercury with at least one other metal, in fillings for over 200 years. Amalgam fillings don’t contain enough mercury to cause potential health problems associated with larger doses, says Dr. Rod Mackert, professor of dental materials in the Department of Oral Rehabilitation.

“The dose makes the poison,” he says, quoting 16th century Swiss physician Paracelsus. A person would need between 265 and 310 amalgam fillings to suffer even slight symptoms of mercury toxicity. A person with seven fillings, which is average, absorbs only about one microgram of mercury daily. About six micrograms are absorbed daily from food, water and air, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

To create a dental filling, liquid mercury dissolves and reacts with a powder of silver, tin and copper, forming a compound that contains no free mercury. “Anti-amalgam activists say mercury is soaked into metal powder, like water into a sponge, and can come back out of the fillings, but that’s not at all true,” Dr. Mackert says. In fact, the evaporation rate of mercury from amalgam is a million times lower than from pure mercury.

Anti-amalgam activists also say dental mercury pollutes the environment. However, dental mercury accounts for less than a quarter of a percent of mercury re-entering the environment.

Dr. Mackert presented an overview of amalgam recently at the 87th General Session of the International Association for Dental Research in Miami. The amalgam controversy began in the 1970s, when a couple of mercury-related health scares heightened awareness that dental fillings contain mercury. In Japan, the release of methyl mercury into industrial wastewater caused a mercury buildup in shellfish and fish, leading to severe mercury poisoning and Minamata disease. Also, a grain covered in mercury fungicide was baked into bread and consumed in Iraq, killing hundreds. “Mercury poisoning was on people’s minds and in the press,” Dr. Mackert says.

Urban legends abounded, including erroneous reports linking vapors from amalgam fillings to kidney damage and degenerative diseases such as Alzheimer’s disease, multiple sclerosis and Parkinson’s disease. The only documented health effects of amalgam fillings are rare allergic reactions, Dr. Mackert says, but the controversy led many people to have their fillings removed in the misguided hope of curing neurological diseases.

That controversy continues today. “It’s mystifying that people persist on saying there’s cause for concern with amalgam fillings when there’s no evidence that they cause adverse health effects,” Dr. Mackert says.

He also disputes claims that ulterior motives have influenced the American Dental Association position attesting to the safety and effectiveness of amalgam fillings. Anti-amalgam activists link the position to patent interests, but the association had only two amalgam patents, now expired, and neither was licensed, according to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Most of the association’s 78 patents are for white filling materials, including composite resin, an alternative to amalgam.

But composite fillings have their own problems. They cost more than amalgam and often are not covered by insurance. Numerous studies have shown that amalgam significantly outlasts composite, while composite causes more secondary cavities and may contribute to plaque formation, Dr. Mackert says.

“The bottom line is people don’t need to be concerned with adverse health effects from any type of fillings—amalgam or composites,” Dr. Mackert says. Since beginning his studies of amalgam in the early 1980s, his position has never changed. In fact, he has amalgam fillings himself.
A Crystal Solution
Nanotechnology May Increase Longevity of Dental Fillings

Tooth-colored fillings may be more attractive than silver ones, but the bonds between the white filling and the tooth quickly age and degrade. A Medical College of Georgia researcher hopes a new nanotechnology technique will extend the fillings’ longevity.

“Dentin adhesives bond well initially, but then the hybrid layer between the adhesive and the dentin begins to break down in as little as one year,” says Dr. Franklin Tay, associate professor of endodontics in the School of Dentistry. “When that happens, the restoration will eventually fail and come off the tooth.”

Half of all tooth-colored restorations, which are made of composite resin, fail within 10 years, and about 60 percent of all operative dentistry involves replacing them, according to research in the Journal of the American Dental Association.

“Our adhesives are not as good as we thought they were, and that causes problems for the bonds,” Dr. Tay says.

To make a bond, a dentist etches away some of the dentin’s minerals with phosphoric acid to expose a network of collagen, known as the hybrid layer. Acid-etching is like priming a wall before it’s painted; it prepares the tooth for application of an adhesive to the hybrid layer so that the resin can latch on to the collagen network. Unfortunately, the imperfect adhesives leave spaces inside the collagen that are not properly infiltrated with resin, leading to the bonds’ failure.

Dr. Tay is trying to prevent the aging and degradation of resin-dentin bonding by feeding minerals back into the collagen network. With a two-year, $252,497 grant from the National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research, he will investigate guided tissue remineralization, a new nanotechnology process of growing extremely small, mineral-rich crystals and guiding them into the demineralized gaps between collagen fibers.

His idea came from examining how crystals form in nature. “Eggsheells and abalone [sea snail] shells are very strong and intriguing," Dr. Tay says. “We’re trying to mimic nature, and we’re learning a lot from observing how small animals make their shells.”

The crystals, called hydroxyapatite, bond when proteins and minerals interact. Dr. Tay will use calcium phosphate, a mineral that’s the primary component of dentin, enamel and bone, and two protein analogs also found in dentin so he can mimic nature while controlling the size of each crystal.

Crystal size is the real challenge, Dr. Tay says. Most crystals are grown from one small crystal into a larger, homogeneous one that is far too big to penetrate the spaces within the collagen network. Instead, Dr. Tay will fit the crystal into the space it needs to fill. “When crystals are formed, they don’t have a definite shape, so they are easily guided into the nooks and crannies of the collagen matrix,” he says.

In theory, the crystals should lock the minerals into the hybrid layer and prevent it from degrading. If Dr. Tay’s concept of guided tissue remineralization works, he will create a delivery system to apply the crystals to the hybrid layer after the acid-etching process.

“Instead of dentists replacing the teeth with failed bonds, we’re hoping that using these crystals during the bond-making process will provide the strength to save the bonds,” Dr. Tay says. “Our end goal is that this material will repair a cavity on its own so that dentists don’t have to fill the tooth.”

FDA Update
As this issue was going to press, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued a final regulation classifying dental amalgam as a Class II medical device, the same as gold and tooth-colored composite fillings, and stated that levels released by dental amalgam fillings are not high enough to harm patients. The American Dental Association agrees with the FDA’s decision not to place any restriction on the use of dental amalgam. “The FDA has left the decision about dental treatment right where it needs to be — between the dentist and the patient,” said ADA President John Findley.
Dr. Edward J. Green, a general dentist in Albany, Ga., and a 1983 School of Dentistry graduate, was honored as the school’s 2009 Distinguished Alumnus at MCG Homecoming in April.

“I have a lot of deserving colleagues, and I was shocked and honored that my name was even considered,” Dr. Green says.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry in 1967 from Albany State University and worked as a high school teacher and chemical engineer before entering dental school in 1979.

“As an engineer, I didn’t have the people contact I desired,” Dr. Green says, noting that he looked into professions as varied as commercial airline pilot and attorney before he decided to pursue dentistry. "Dentistry was the last career I looked into, and I liked it immediately. I’ve enjoyed every second of it.”

In dental school, Dr. Green was an honors student and received the Outstanding Student Achievement Award from the International College of Dentists. He was also awarded membership into the Kappa Lambda Chapter of Omicron Kappa Upsilon National Dental Honor Society.

His dedication to his studies also influenced his family life. Dr. Green had two daughters in elementary school at the time, and all three students shared their report cards when they were issued. "My wife was working, and she expected us to bring good grades home. We all lived up to it," he says.

Dr. Green’s wife, Lorraine, served as president of the Dental Dames his senior year and encouraged his involvement in organized dentistry after graduating and setting up his private practice, which he now shares with his daughter Erica, also an MCG alumna.

"All of my classmates ventured into different arenas such as continuing education, benevolence and organized dentistry, which is where I’ve hung my hat the longest,” he says.

Dr. Green is an honorable fellow of the Georgia Dental Association and a fellow of the Pierre Fauchard Academy, the American College of Dentists and the International College of Dentists. He is a past president of the Southwest District Dental Society and the Georgia Dental Association. He is past chair of the American Dental Association’s Delegation and serves on the association’s Council of Communications. ■
Some 800 alumni danced, dined and reminisced during MCG’s 2009 homecoming celebration in April. Activities included the 31st Annual Marvin Goldstein Lectureship and Luncheon, a School of Dentistry Alumni Association reception, a boat tour of the Savannah River, reunion dinners, a dance, campus tours, continuing education classes and many other opportunities for fun, fellowship and professional advancement.
Dentistry's Got Talent

Alaina Pancio

Anna Schultz

John Hansford
The School of Dentistry held its annual Talent Show April 16 in the Natalie and Lansing B. Lee Jr. Auditorium.
The MCG Dental Practice Group has donated $1 million toward construction of a new dental school facility.

“This gift from the Dental Practice Group is convincing testimony to the dedication of our faculty to MCG and its mission to provide high-quality dental care to the people of Georgia,” Dean Connie Drisko said.

This is the school’s second-largest gift to date.

“The practicing faculty wants to support the future of dentistry in Georgia, and this gift shows our commitment,” says Dr. Travis Smith, Dental Practice Group board president and assistant professor of general dentistry. “The atmosphere of the new facility will be better for teaching and individual patient care, and we are excited to help the growth and expansion of the school.”

The Dental Practice Group is comprised of 65 dental school faculty members who treat private patients in the school. The group’s facilities in the new building will be in a prominent, ground-floor location to ease patient access.

Financing for the $112 million facility, which will occupy the former Gilbert Manor housing project site, includes $75 million appropriated by the state: $5 million for building planning in Georgia’s 2008 budget and $70 million for construction in the 2009 state budget. An additional $27 million in bonds was approved by the Georgia Legislature in the 2010 budget, pending Gov. Sonny Perdue’s approval. Private gifts and pledges totaling $7.3 million have been received to date, and MCG is continuing to seek additional private support for the project.

Construction is slated to begin this fall and last two years. The new five-story facility, totaling 268,788 square feet, will be more than 100,000 square feet larger than the existing building, which opened in 1970 on Laney-Walker Boulevard.

The expanded space will allow the school to increase its predoctoral class size from 63 to 100 by 2016 and its residency positions from 44 to 72. The increase will make the MCG School of Dentistry among the largest in the nation; only 13 of the country’s 57 dental schools have a class size of 100 or more, according to the American Dental Association.

In addition to the expanded faculty practice, the facility will house the dental school’s eight specialty clinics, two large student clinics, simulation labs, the School of Allied Health Sciences’ dental hygiene program and an administration suite. Patient visits are projected to increase significantly.

The MCG School of Dentistry is the only dental school in Georgia, and approximately 80-85 percent of its graduates practice in Georgia. The growth should help alleviate the shortage of dentists in Georgia, which has 41.4 dentists per 100,000 citizens—considerably fewer than the nationwide ratio of 54.3 per 100,000, according to the American Dental Association.
Atlanta-based architectural firm HOK Group Inc. has been awarded a contract to design MCG’s Education Commons building. The University System of Georgia Board of Regents voted May 12 to authorize the $105 million project. The 186,000-square-foot building will house specialized teaching and administrative space for the School of Medicine and will feature classrooms, group study rooms and space for academic support and student service units that will be shared among the medical and dental schools. The building will be located on the former Gilbert Manor property.

“[The vote] is an important step in moving forward with expansion in Augusta, the city MCG has called home for nearly 200 years,” says William Bowes, MCG senior vice president for finance and administration. “We are extremely grateful that even in these strenuous economic times, our state and local leaders recognize the magnitude of this project and the lasting effect it will have on the health of all Georgians.”

Also included in the project is funding to renovate a 24,000-square-foot area in the Sanders Research and Education Building that houses anatomy labs used by most MCG students. Two histology labs on the building’s third floor were also recently converted to a new 3,100-square-foot anatomy lab. The recent renovation and planned conversion are necessary to accommodate increasing class sizes in the medical and dental schools.
(First) Class Initiative

School Pride Shines Through in Gifts to Building Fund

The School of Dentistry Class Initiative, a fundraising project in which alumni contribute to the building fund in honor of their class, had raised $110,831 at press time. Following are the donors thus far. Gifts listed are the result of the Class Initiative and the non-traditional gift letter and do not include additional gifts to the building fund.

Class of 1973: $2,000
Class Leaders: Bill Jopling and James Orrington
Robert Ackerman
Lee Bell Sr.*

Class of 1974: $9,500
Class Leader: Ralph Cohen
Stanley Anderson
Melvin Baker*
Vernon Greene Jr.
Marion Murrell*
Donald Nelson Sr.

Class of 1975: $2,500
Class Leaders: Dave Luckey and Jeannie Moran
Raymond Barnum*
Mark Garfunkel
Norris O’Dell*

Class of 1976: $3,000
Class Leaders: Gary Waugh and Richard Weinman
Ben Jernigan Jr.*
Eddie Pafford*

Class of 1977: $6,100
Class Leader: Stan Satterfield
Weldon Elrod
Craig Fievet
Gary Lewis
Carl Lockwood
John Mosca Jr.*
Michael Vennin

Class of 1978: $3,000
Class Leader: Mike Carr
Brad N. Ford
Robert N. Lowe*
Gay V. Plauka

Class of 1979: $250
Paul J. Krautmann

Class of 1980: $3,300
Class Leaders: Russ Alchley* and Clayton Davis
Charles Brunson
Lester Cohen
Ken Farrar
Judson Hickey*

Class of 1981: $5,981
Class Leader: Chip Mohme
Robert M. Gray
Philip Hooton
Mark Ingram
Curtis Standish *

Class of 1982: $1,100
Class Leader: Alex Bell
John Simmons IV
Karyn Stockwell

Class of 1983: $2,500
Class Leader: Ed Green
Cecil B. Bray III
Lindsay Holliday*

Class of 1984: $1,000
Class Leaders: Dale Miles and David Perry

Class of 1985: $2,000
Class Leaders: Jeff Foltz and George MacMaster
Mike Phelan*
Jerry Williams*

Class of 1986: $2,000
Class Leader: Charles Sauls
Chip Baggett
Michael Kinsley
Patrick Vancy

Class of 1987: $3,000
Class Leader: Juan Arue
James Farmer*
Janet Ellington Reed*
Lorie Miller-Stevens*

Class of 1988: $2,000
Class Leader: David Frankel
William G. Evans
Andrea Garmon *
Sergio Pausa *

Class of 1989: $4,600
Class Leader: Alfred Aguero
Kenny Hudson

Class of 1990: $1,000
Class Leader: Travis Watson
Ronald Reagin Jr.

Class of 1991: $6,050
Class Leaders: Travis Hampton and Dallas Margeson
Vincent Carey**
Patricia Noland**
Erick Pagan**
Stanley Prince
Kathy Sanders**

Class of 1992: $2,000
Class Leader: Mike Pruett
Forest Page
Susan Stockwell

Class of 1993: $500
Class Leader: Mike Wilson
Olof Blomberg

Class of 1994: $1,000
Class Leader: Alec Elchahal
Derek Schop

Class of 1995: $1,000
Class Leader: Ronald Jessup
Rod Barden

Class of 1996: $1,750
Class Leader: John Blalock
Laurie Deemer
Sherida Jacobs
Masood Kyani

Class of 1997: $2,500
Class Leaders: Richard Bennett and Matt Mazzawi

Class of 1998: $2,000
Class Leader: Brent Stehli
Demoine Shew
Robert Wyatt

Class of 1999: $1,100
Class Leader: Tracy Gay
Charles Barber
Brian Smith

Class of 2001: $2,000
Class Leader: Travis Watson
Ronald Reagin Jr.

Class of 2002: $1,700
Class Leader: Brittany Thorne
Kevin M. Kirkland

Class of 2007: $1,000
Class Leader: Brittany Thorne
Kevin M. Kirkland

Individuals: $18,400
Lou A. Best*, Southern Illinois
Janine Bethea
Andrew Chandler, Indiana
Brad Greenway, Emory
J. Dan Patterson, Emory
James Quarles*, Emory
Robert Repass*, Emory
Kent and Susan Simmons, Emory
Dennis Smith, Emory

* gift in memory of founding Dean Jud Hickey
** gift in memory of Dolly Hearn
Groundbreaking Progress

Recent fundraising efforts by the School of Dentistry’s development office have focused on the need for a new building. Due in part to these efforts, groundbreaking for the new school is being planned for this fall.

As you can tell from the latest list of gifts and pledges on the facing page, our alumni, friends, organized dentistry, and other supporters have been generous in their commitment to the future of Georgia dentistry. To date, $7.4 million has been raised through private contributions.

We continue our work to secure private funding for the new school, and earlier this year the Building Imperative Steering Committee initiated a class project to reach out to all our alumni. Class captains volunteered their time to contact classmates and offer the opportunity to participate in this endeavor.

Early results have been very encouraging and, at press time, $110,831 has been contributed through the class initiative.

We would like to thank those dedicated alumni who assumed leadership roles in the class initiative and also thank the alums who have stepped forward to support the school. As recognized in the list of gifts and pledges, many alums became involved early and made gifts to the building fund prior to the class project.

Each and every alumnus and every gift is important to the school. We cannot say “thank you” enough to our alumni, friends and supporters who are making the dream of a new dental school a reality.

If you would like to invest in the future of the School of Dentistry and dentistry in Georgia, please call the Development Office at 706-721-4156, or make your check payable to the Georgia Health Sciences University Foundation, Inc. (GHSUF, Inc.) and indicate the School of Dentistry Building Imperative, Account 1201.

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$1,000 West Georgia Dental Study Club

663 total donors Numerous contributors at MCG Club Giving Levels
Dr. Jeannie Moran remembers eating fast-food chicken livers as a cash-strapped dental student.

“They were very cheap and a good source of protein,” she recalls. “A pint of them could get me through a couple of days.”

Though the 1975 School of Dentistry graduate hasn’t eaten a chicken liver in three decades, she still recalls the financial struggles she faced as a student. Perhaps that’s why she has financially supported MCG dental students for the past 30 years.

After graduating from MCG and starting a periodontics practice in Naples, Fla., Dr. Moran had a lot of student loans to repay. “My last loan was $100 a month and when I made the final payment, I thought it would be a good opportunity to start giving back to MCG,” she says.

Dr. Moran called then-Dean Judson C. Hickey and asked if she could keep giving the school $100 a month indefinitely. “I’d been paying it for years; why stop there?” she says. Dr. Hickey suggested directing her gift to the student loan fund.

“I know how much I struggled as a student financially, and I wanted to help other students in any way I could,” Dr. Moran says. She’s contributed $100 a month for 25 to 30 years. Recently, she also donated $50,000 to establish a scholarship endowment and another $100,000 toward the new dental school building.

“I owe my entire profession to MCG,” Dr. Moran says. Dentistry wasn’t her first career. She tried careers in nursing and advertising before she became a dental hygienist and discovered her passion for dentistry. After a year as a hygienist, Dr. Moran realized she’d found her niche and wanted to take it further.

She says she feels fortunate to have been accepted into dental school. “I knew I had the ability, but they took a chance on me because I hadn’t taken the traditional path,” Dr. Moran says.

She was the last student accepted into her class, of which only six out of 60 were female. It was a different dynamic than nursing and dental hygiene, both predominately female fields at the time. “I was treated with respect and felt like my opinion mattered,” Dr. Moran says. “Dr. Hickey and the faculty had a totally different philosophy than what I’d been exposed to previously.”

Dr. Moran remembers attending the now-outdated dental building when it was beautiful and modern and much nicer than other dental schools she had seen. She thinks the new building will give future dental students that same feeling.

“It will be fabulous. It’s so important that the students have state-of-the-art equipment to stay on top of what’s going on in the profession,” Dr. Moran says.

She challenges other MCG alumni to give back to their alma mater. “Most everyone has student loans,” she says. “Once they’re paid off, celebrate by beginning to give back to the school that provided you with this wonderful education and that is allowing you to accomplish what you want in life.”

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**At a Glance**

**GROUNDBREAKER:** Dr. Moran was the first female periodontist in the Southeast.

**MORE THAN A JOB:** Although she retired last summer, Dr. Moran is still active in dentistry. She volunteers weekly in her neighborhood health clinic, treating pro bono patients in need of extractions or periodontal work.

**ACTIVE LIVING:** She enjoys golf, art, working out and traveling.

**ALL IN THE FAMILY:** Dr. Moran has two granddaughters who are dental hygienists and a niece who will attend the School of Dentistry this fall.
Dr. Kajuana P. Farrey still has dental models from the first impression she made 10 years ago.

She was on a field trip in the eighth grade visiting the School of Dentistry as part of the Impressions Program.

“Keep it and said, ‘I’m going to be a dentist, and this is going to be a reminder of what I need to do to achieve my goal,” Dr. Farrey says.

The Impressions Program exposes middle, high school and undergraduate students to different aspects of dental school. It was founded in 1999 by Dr. Kimberly Beal, a graduate and former president of the Student National Dental Association, and offers suggestions for gaining acceptance and succeeding in dental school.

The program has become the SNDA’s signature annual event, which each chapter is encouraged to host at their institution.

Dr. Farrey remembers her experience vividly.

“I loved every minute of it, especially the atmosphere with the professors and students,” the Albany, Ga., native says.

“They taught us about the different dentistry programs and how to apply to dental school, prepare for exams, enhance interview skills and make impressions and models. I made sure I attended the program every year. When I was accepted into dental school, I became an active part of planning the program.”

Little did she know when she began planning that she would find a photo of herself as the first program graduate making her first impression in the school’s Impressions Program scrapbook.

“The photograph is evidence of my passion for dentistry and gave me inspiration and encouragement during my time at MCG,” she says.

Ten years later, Dr. Farrey is practicing in her hometown, something that wouldn’t have been possible if it weren’t for her persistence and determination.

“Once I was in school, I knew I wanted to return home and serve my community,” she says. “So I applied for a National Health Services Corps scholarship.”

The National Health Services Corps helps areas deemed a Health Professional Shortage Area by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services become healthier by recruiting qualified health care clinicians who want to practice in underserved areas.

Dr. Farrey learned that Albany was not an approved site. She contacted the Georgia Statewide Area Health Education Centers Network, which aims to improve access to quality primary health care in medically underserved areas of the state, for help.

“The people at AHEC found out I wanted to be a dentist there, so they were ready to jump on the bandwagon,” she says. “They introduced me to Albany Area Primary Health Care Inc., and they were enthused about the addition of dental care to their network.”

Dr. Farrey’s willpower paid off. She will begin practicing in October at the new West Albany Dental and Medical Center, a part of Albany Area Primary Health Care Inc., which serves several southwest Georgia communities.

“I’m more than excited about this. This is what I’ve always wanted,” she says.

“I could not have done this without the support of MCG, SNDA and AHEC.”
Dr. Richard Weinman ('76) was named a 2009 Honorary Member of the Kappa Lambda Chapter of Omicron Kappa Upsilon. The vote was unanimous to accept his nomination, which was submitted by Dean Connie Drisko and Associate Dean Carole Hanes. Dr. Weinman practices in Atlanta.

In addition to Dr. Weinman, the following were also inducted into the national dental honor society at its annual convocation April 28:

Dr. Richard Callan, faculty
Katie Hughes Anthony
Scott Carter
Ryan Jeffery Cox
Amy G. David
Sabina Gupta
Brent E. Herrin
Eric John Sterett
Dr. Mohamed Sharawy, life member
Dr. Cephas Thomason, life member
Dr. T. Barrett Trotter, life member
Dr. Gary Whitford, life member

Dr. Thomas P Godfrey ('93), Atlanta, is president of Georgia Board of Dentistry. He has maintained a private practice in Atlanta for 15 years. He and wife Kelly have two children.

Honorary OKU members have made an outstanding contribution to the art, science, literature or advancement of dentistry. The 2009 OKU honorary member, Dr. Richard Weinman, exemplifies these criteria, said School of Dentistry Dean Connie Drisko.

Dr. Weinman, a 1976 School of Dentistry graduate, first returned to his alma mater in 1978 with an academic appointment in the Department of Oral Rehabilitation, and in 1983, the former Department of Community Dentistry. He has returned frequently to speak to MCG students about advocacy activities as chair of the Georgia Dental Association Legislative Strategy and Governmental Affairs Committees.

He has served as GDA president and chairs the American Dental Association’s Georgia delegation. He is a member of the Academy of General Dentistry and the Hinman Dental Society and is an honorary member of the American and International Colleges of Dentists and the Pierre Fauchard Academy.

Dr. Weinman and his wife, Dr. Becky Weinman, have a private dental practice in Atlanta. Dr. Weinman also has supported the Ben Massell Clinic, a community-based dental clinic, since 1978 and serves on its executive board.

Dr. Weinman is a lifetime member of the School of Dentistry Alumni Association and is a member of the fundraising steering committee for the new dental building.

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The mission of the Medical College of Georgia School of Dentistry is to educate dentists in order to improve overall health and to reduce the burden of illness on society through the discovery and application of knowledge that embraces craniofacial health and disease prevention. Its vision is to be a premier school of dentistry. MCG is an affirmative action/equal opportunity educational institution that prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, disability, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation or status as a Vietnam War veteran. The MCG School of Dentistry believes a diverse student body enhances the educational opportunities for all students and is beneficial to the dental profession, the School of Dentistry and the state of Georgia.
DENTAL GRAND ROUNDS

Esthetics: The Details that Matter
Dr. Gerard J. Chiche, D.D.S.

Friday, August 28, 2009  2:30-3:30 p.m.
MCG Natalie and Lansing B. Lee Jr. Auditoria Center—BC1040
Reception immediately following

Objectives:
■ Step-by-Step Analysis
■ Maximize Esthetics Predictability
■ Critical Occlusal Factors

Register online at www.mcg.edu/ce/dental.html or contact the Division of Continuing Education, 800-221-6437 or 706-721-3967.

August 21  General Dentistry Problem Solving
Atlanta, Ga.

September 4-6  Specialize Your General Practice
Jekyll Island, Ga.

October 2-4  Pedo at the Beach
Hilton Head, S.C.

October 16-18  Dental Update for the General Practitioner
Young Harris, Ga.

November 6  Current Concepts in Oral Medicine, Pathology and Radiology
MCG School of Dentistry

December 3-4  Last Chance Dental C.E.
MCG School of Dentistry

December 7-10  Dental Hygiene Clinical Re-entry
MCG School of Dentistry