A COMPETITIVE RACE: The Admissions Process
I continue to be amazed at the quality and talent of our students, and I want to publicly congratulate the Admissions Committee under the leadership of Dr. Carole Hanes and her dedicated team for their exemplary work in choosing our entering class each year. We continue to attract highly qualified students who want to come to MCG for their dental education. The only downside is that we can't take them all! Although it is frustrating and very disappointing to some, the good news is that if this trend continues, we will be able to sustain student excellence by having more than enough qualified applicants when we expand our class size in the new building.

Speaking of the new building... our fundraising efforts are moving along nicely, and we are anxiously awaiting Gov. Sonny Perdue's approval of our $70 million funding request for a new building. Once funding is identified and the planning process is complete, we will break ground on the new building in 2009. We hope you will join in our excitement of a new state-of-the-art facility incorporating the latest technology to deliver didactic and clinical programs. As I have said before, we need a facility that will reflect the quality of our faculty, staff and students.

The students have been very busy as usual, but have managed another first by establishing Student Law Day, co-sponsored by the School of Dentistry and the Georgia Dental Association. Forty students traveled to Atlanta to meet legislators and receive valuable mentoring in the art of advocacy by one of the best – lobbyist and GDA Executive Director Martha Phillips. In addition, MCG’s own legislative liaison, Julie Kerlin, updated the students on legislative processes and bills of interest to MCG. This inaugural day was especially meaningful because the students named it in honor of our good friend, Dr. John Freihaut, who passed away last year. Many thanks to the GDA for its generous support of our students throughout the year. We also appreciate their hosting the students for breakfast and lunch on Law Day and including a tour of the GDA office where they learned more about the workings of organized dentistry.

I hope you enjoy this issue dedicated to our outstanding students. Please support our school in any way you can to enable us to continue to attract the best and the brightest students.

Connie Drisko, D.D.S.
Dean and Merritt Professor
OPENED WIDE

A Competitive Race: The Admissions Process

Students Give Kids a Reason to Smile

Teeth in an Hour

Capitol Gain

The Gift of Learning

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ASDA Charity Winter Formal

Besides having fun together, students and faculty lightened their purses and wallets at the annual American Student Dental Association Charity Winter Formal Nov. 30 at the Marion Hatcher Center.

The formal raised money for Give a Smile and Santa’s Workshop.

Give a Smile, an organization created and managed by students, was formed by 2007 graduate Nathan Dallas after treating a patient who lost her four front teeth and couldn’t afford dental work. Give a Smile assists motivated patients by paying at least a portion of their bill. The organization’s funds, bolstered by an anonymous donation of $10,000 last year, are allocated through the School of Dentistry Business Office. Students and faculty donated $1,200 to the organization.

Santa’s Workshop began three years ago and was formed by MCG’s Dental Student Spouse Alliance. Members raise money for gifts for teen Children’s Medical Center patients. The alliance, serving spouses of student members of the Alliance of the American Dental Association, meets monthly to offer mutual support, discuss dental issues, organize service projects to inform the community about dental health and raise money for various organizations and the Dental Student Spouse Alliance Scholarship. Members raised $190 for Santa’s Workshop.

Students Continue to Give

Juniors and seniors might need to step up their game. The freshman and sophomore classes had higher participation during the ADPAC/GDPAC Drive in October.

One hundred percent of sophomores and freshmen contributed to both the American Dental and Georgia Dental Political Action Committees.

Seventy-five percent of juniors contributed to ADPAC, while 63 percent of seniors gave to the organization. The juniors had 75 percent participation in donating to GDPAC, and the seniors had 61 percent participation.

“As a school overall, we ended up with 85 percent participation that week,” said sophomore Darron Alvord, the school’s legislative liaison for the American Student Dental Association.

Contributions to ADPAC and GDPAC support campaigns for candidates of any party who support dentistry-related issues, Mr. Alvord said. “That is why it’s important to be involved now as students and in the future as practicing dentists,” he said.
**Strong Showing at Boards**

The Class of 2008 had a 100 percent pass rate on Part II of the National Board Dental Examination, with a class average of 83. The national average was 80.9. Final tabulation and comparison of results will not be completed and released until late fall; however, in past years, when MCG students performed approximately two points above the national average, the school usually ranked in the top five-10 schools nationwide. The 100 percent pass rate is especially noteworthy since a review of last year’s results indicated that only seven dental schools had a 100 percent pass rate and 24 of the 56 schools had a failure rate between 5 and 36.5 percent.

MCG students performed above the national average in disciplines including operative dentistry, pharmacology, prosthodontics and periodontics.

The faculty and staff take great pride in the performance of their students on this challenging national examination.

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**Advisory Council to Help Shape New Building**

The School of Dentistry has established a Patient-and Family-Centered Care Advisory Council to incorporate the perspectives of patients and families in health care planning and delivery.

The council, which was formed in December, consists of eight community members who bring unique perspectives to and about the dental school. Facilitating the council are Dr. Carol Lefebvre, associate dean for faculty development and strategic initiatives, and Jamie Griffin, patient- and family-centered care coordinator for the School of Dentistry. Pat Sodomka, director of patient- and family-centered care for MCG and MCGHealth, and Bernard Roberson, director of family services, are assisting.

"The collaboration mirrors that established by MCGHealth when the Children’s Medical Center was being designed," said Dr. Lefebvre. “The advisors’ suggestions, likes, dislikes and revelations of experiences will assist in shaping the new dental school.”

The advisors met with architects for the new dental school during the council’s February meeting. The architects, led by Beth Glasser of Francis Cauffman, asked the advisors to discuss their experience and suggestions for the dental school as well as the existing facility. Recommendations covered areas such as arrival/parking, way-finding, registration, patient/family waiting, amenities and clinical space.

"At a future meeting, advisors will explore several operatories with state-of-the-art equipment being considered for the new dental school," Dr. Lefebvre said.
Dr. Barry Hammond, assistant professor of general dentistry, and Dr. Andrew Kious, assistant professor of oral rehabilitation, are among 36 new and prospective dental educators to complete the American Dental Education Association/Academy for Academic Leadership Institute for Teaching and Learning.

The faculty development institute, conducted at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Dentistry in August and November, is designed to enhance the effectiveness of dental educators. It included intensive training in teaching methods and course planning.

“With approximately 50 percent of new faculty coming from private practice and many young educators leaving academia, the [institute] helps individuals become more effective educators while simultaneously assisting academic dental institutions in meeting their needs for recruiting and retaining outstanding faculty members,” says Dr. N. Karl Haden, president of the Academy for Academic Leadership.

Dr. Hammond came to MCG in 2006 following 15 years in private practice. He earned a doctorate of dental medicine from the Medical University of South Carolina in 1986 and completed a two-year general practice residency at the University of North Carolina.

Before coming to MCG in 2006, Dr. Kious spent 24 years as a dental officer with the U.S. Air Force. He earned a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the University of Iowa College of Dentistry. He completed a one-year Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency Training Program at Bolling Air Force Base and a two-year program at Keesler Air Force Base.

Dr. Aysegul Siranli, instructor of oral rehabilitation, comes to MCG from the University of Pittsburgh, where she served as an instructor in the Department of Prosthodontics and the Multidisciplinary Implant Center. She received a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from Hacettepe University in Ankara, Turkey, and a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree and certificate in maxillofacial prosthodontics from the University of Pittsburgh.

Drs. John Blalock, Richard Callan and Kevin Frazier in the Department of Oral Rehabilitation completed their education specialist degrees in educational leadership from Augusta State University in 2007.
Dr. James Borke, professor of oral biology, has received a $10,000 grant from the American Academy of Implant Dentistry Research Foundation to study the effects of advanced glycation end products on dental implant integration with bone.

Advanced glycation end products are molecules formed from proteins and sugars that accumulate in the body with aging and diabetes. The molecules are associated with a number of disorders common among the elderly, including cataracts, periodontal disease and Alzheimer’s. They also interfere with bone formation, which is problematic as more of the aging population opts for dental implants to replace lost teeth.

“These molecules have the potential of compromising the stability of dental implants by binding to the structures and inhibiting the activity of bone cells that are necessary for stabilizing the implant in the bone,” says Dr. Borke.

Dr. Borke will treat groups of animals with advanced glycation end products and control groups with saline for one month. He will then place one titanium implant in a prepared tooth socket of each animal.

For the four weeks following implant placement, X-rays of the bone and implant will be captured and the surrounding tissue will be examined for bone formation marker proteins and bone-implant contact ratio to determine if the bone is healing and integrating with the implant.

“When an implant does not integrate with the bone, it becomes loose and may fall out or be rendered useless,” says Dr. Borke. “Once we determine how the advanced glycation end products affect the integration process, we may find ways to protect the patient from poorly integrated implants.”

He hopes to expand the study with diabetic animals because of excessive advanced glycation end products in diabetic patients.
For 20 years, Rhonda Carey has worked at MCG surrounded by professors and students, but until 2004, she never had the opportunity to pursue her own college degree.

“My parents always emphasized getting my high school diploma, getting a good job and working hard,” says Ms. Carey, an administrative assistant to the associate dean for academic affairs. “Later, I realized that to accomplish what I really want in life, I needed to further my education.”

Finding a suitable major was a big problem her freshman year at Augusta State University, but everything clicked when she noticed the influx of Spanish-speakers seeking treatment at the School of Dentistry’s Sonrisas Sanas Clinic.

“Spanish is the perfect major for me. I have found my talent,” Ms. Carey says.

Tenisha Smith found her calling earlier in life, choosing a career in dentistry as a teen. She has taken X-rays, made mouth impressions and assisted with dental procedures for seven years as a dental assistant in the Dental Practice Group.

“I love my job and would never leave the field, but I want to spend more time with the patients,” Ms. Smith says. Her current position has motivated her to pursue a degree in dental hygiene.

Both Ms. Smith and Ms. Carey say their jobs in the School of Dentistry have led them to continue their education, and they’re not alone. Dozens of the school’s staff members are pursuing bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in everything from business administration and Web design to nursing and education. Several will even be dental students in the fall.

While working full time and taking classes on the side takes its toll, it’s also very rewarding, they say.

Ms. Carey typically takes two classes each semester and plans to graduate in a couple of years. “Most upper-level classes are taught only during the day, so I go to class for my lunch break,” says Ms. Carey.

Working in the School of Dentistry not only opened her eyes to a major she loves, it has also made a degree possible for her financially. “Tuition is outrageous these days. Without MCG’s tuition assistance program, I probably wouldn’t be going to school now,” says Ms. Carey.

Ms. Smith runs at full speed as well. When the workday ends at 5 p.m., she heads to class at Georgia Military College until 10 p.m. Chemistry is her final prerequisite for dental hygiene school, and she hopes to begin the program in the School of Allied Health Sciences next fall.

“As a dental assistant, I feel that I have the basics down for entering the program. I love working chair-side with the patients and I love making them smile. I can make a difference as a dental hygienist,” Ms. Smith says.

The daily grind of work, school and studying is a long path for both women, but they say their sacrifices will be worth it in the end. Says Ms. Smith, “I can’t think of anywhere else I’d rather be than on the path I’m on right now.”

Paula Hinely

Working in School, Going to School

Rhonda Carey

Tenisha Smith
Congratulations to the following School of Dentistry employees honored for their service by MCG President Daniel W. Rahn and School of Dentistry Dean Connie Drisko Oct. 18 during the 2007 Employee Service Ceremony:

5 years
Mohamed Al-Shabrawey, oral biology
Lisa Bascino, business office
Shannon Dunn, orthodontics
Artquia Gibson, oral rehabilitation
Susan Henry, practice group
Gary Holmes, oral rehabilitation
Marian Kendrick, oral rehabilitation
Norma Miller, patient services
Roy Rockman, pediatric dentistry
Mildred Wright, endodontics

10 years
William Browning, oral rehabilitation
Michael Budd, business office
Yvette Johnson, patient services
Robert Loushine, endodontics

15 years
Sharon Brown, endodontics
Devona Eastman, oral rehabilitation
Sonia Ellenberg, pediatric dentistry
Terrie English, academic administration
Gail Lemon, business office
Anita Maruca, pediatric dentistry
Maria Pelletier, oral rehabilitation

20 years
Rhonda Carey, academic administration
Robert Comer, general dentistry
Liz Cox, academic administration
Frederick Rueggeberg, oral rehabilitation

25 years
Dora Hawes, oral pathology
Sondra Luther, oral surgery
Veronica McCloud, oral biology

30 years
James Barenie, academic administration
Susan Gail Miller, Dental Practice Group
Gregory Parr, oral rehabilitation

35 years
Gary Whitford, oral biology

Love of Students Makes Blissit Awardee a Winner

Judy McWhorter, recipient of this year’s Erie P. Blissit Award for administrative assistants, has spent her entire MCG career working with students. She started in Student Affairs in 1985 and moved to the School of Dentistry’s Office of Associate Dean for Students, Admissions and Alumni in 1987. She loves it.

“It’s just like coming in with family every day – a big family setting. No two days are the same. I like being here with these kids and I enjoy working with the associate dean, Dr. [Carole] Hanes. It’s just been a real joy, it has. And I feel like we do make a little difference.”

Judging by the nomination letters submitted by students, even former students, making a difference is what Ms. McWhorter does best.

“It’s always been an open door, and I just listen. I didn’t know it was that important to them, but I guess it is. It’s important that they have somebody here to talk to. It’s hard trying to juggle dental school, patients and family. They can come and vent to me. It’s safe here; they feel much better and they can go on back to class.

“It’s been real rewarding, very satisfying.”

Ms. McWhorter intends to retire when she reaches the 25-year mark, in about two years. She looks forward to occupying herself with a new set of young people – she plans to work in the nursery at First Baptist Church of North Augusta and has three grandchildren to spoil.

Winning the Blissit Award caught her off guard, she says. “I just didn’t have a clue. I’m very surprised, very honored.”

Sharron Walls
Healthy Smiles Program

When Mary Wolfe received a large package full of toothbrushes and toothpaste, she knew just what to do with them.

The third-year dental student, who also is president of the MCG chapter of the American Student

Ms. Wolfe. “Crest/Oral B offered every ASDA chapter across the country toothbrushes and toothpaste and asked each chapter to develop a program for an area elementary school, and I saw this as a perfect opportunity.”

The program, Crest Healthy Smiles, targets children who have not yet received oral care education.

“It is not until first grade that many students are introduced to the importance of oral care,” Ms. Wolfe says. “I really believe that teaching them early will make a difference.”

Twenty dental students and two faculty members visited Windsor Spring last November, manning three stations for 123 pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students. The Department of Pediatric Dentistry and the National Children’s Oral Health Foundation donated educational materials such as puppets, worksheets and crayons.

At the nutrition station, students colored a handout of different foods. The station leader played a game of “I Spy” to assess whether each food was healthy.

Another station trained students how to properly floss. Dental students lined the children in a row, and using a jump rope, pretended to floss in between each student. Afterward, they learned what real dental floss looks and feels like.

Windsor Spring students were taught which foods cause “sugar bugs” at the caries development station. Dental students cut foods with a knife, showing foods that stick to a knife, like fudge brownies, are bad for teeth; foods that don’t stick to a knife, like apples, are good for teeth.

After all students visited each station, station leaders gathered the class for a final activity, says Ms. Wolfe. A “magic hat” was filled with a paint brush, hair brush, dishwashing brush and toothbrush, which was the “magic brush.” The children had to find the magic brush, and once they did, dental students discussed how and when to use a toothbrush.

“At the end of the program, each student received his very own toothbrush and toothpaste, and they were so excited,” Ms. Wolfe says. “We were so pleased that a relatively small contribution of our time had the capacity to make an enormous contribution to a child’s health.”

Dental Association, immediately began developing a program for Windsor Spring Elementary School students in Richmond County.

“One of ASDA’s goals this year was to become more actively involved in community projects, and I really wanted to branch out into the Augusta area,” says
Dental students, along with dental hygiene students from the School of Allied Health Sciences, provided free treatment to 280 elementary and middle-school students Feb. 1 in conjunction with Give Kids a Smile Day. The event, one of hundreds nationwide sponsored by the American Dental Association and Crest Oral Health Care, was initiated in 2003 to provide care and highlight the importance of access to dental care for low-income children.

Give Kids a Smile Day

Eighty students from Terrace Manor Elementary School in Richmond County were bused to the School of Dentistry where dental hygiene students provided preventive dental care such as cleanings, oral health education, fluoride treatment and dental sealants. Dental students traveled to Belair Elementary School and Riverside Middle School, both in Columbia County, to provide dental screenings to 200 students.

MCG Children’s Medical Center patients received dental screenings and oral health education. Several dental students also provided care to pediatric patients at the Toombs County Department of Health in Vidalia, Ga., in conjunction with the Georgia Dental Association.

“Give Kids a Smile Day is a wonderful service learning opportunity for dental and dental hygiene students to impact the dental knowledge and comfort level of children who may not have received dental care before,” said Dr. Steven Adair, professor in the School of Dentistry Department of Pediatric Dentistry.

Follow-up care for children from all locations will be coordinated if needed. For more information, contact Dr. Adair at 706-721-7190.

Amy Connell

She anticipates similar programs in the future because of the opportunity not only for the children, but for the dental students as well.

“It was refreshing to be out where the little kids are so excited to see you, and they’re excited to tell us about their teeth,” she says. “It’s a good way to give back. It lifted our spirits because you get burdened down sometimes in dental school, so when you get out and see the larger picture and really try to make a difference, it makes it all worthwhile.”

Amy Connell

Dental hygiene student Megan Vanover shows Tiffany Eubanks how to brush her teeth.
A COMPETITIVE RACE:
The race to dental school becomes more and more competitive each year.

Academics alone won’t guarantee admission to the School of Dentistry, says Stephanie Perry, director of admissions.

“Yes, you need to have a good Dental Admission Test score and grade point average,” says Ms. Perry. “You also must have an excellent personality and several hours spent shadowing a dentist. All of that makes you an outstanding candidate for admission.”

Sixty-two students are accepted each year into MCG’s dental school. The application process isn’t easy and continues to be more competitive each year. An Admissions Committee comprised of faculty, staff and students reviews applications and conducts interviews.

The school received 311 applications for the 2008 academic year and accepts only Georgia residents, says Dr. Carole Hanes, associate dean for students and admissions.

“We feel like we’ve been very well-supported by the state, and because we’re the only dental school in the state and have such a strong applicant pool of Georgia residents, we feel that’s fair,” says Dr. Hanes. “Our mission is to educate qualified, compassionate health care providers for the state, and we feel that if we accept applicants from Georgia, they are more likely to stay and practice in the state.”

So if you’re from Colquitt County and want to be a dentist in your hometown, you’re good competition for the other candidate from Atlanta who wants to practice in another state, says Ms. Perry.

“That is not to say that the candidate from Atlanta wouldn’t get into MCG, because they both may have excellent test scores, but where you want to practice when you graduate is another aspect we take into account.”
consideration. It’s all very competitive.”

The competitiveness is what junior dental student Sabina Gupta remembers most about the application process.

“I found it to be quite stressful, as it would be for any applicant,” says Ms. Gupta, a member of the Admissions Committee. “Each year, the standards at the school are raised. The average GPA and DAT scores continue to climb. However, I think it gets more difficult to apply each year because the School of Dentistry is so fortunate to have such a competitive pool to draw from for a relatively small class size.”

The Admissions Committee chose 159 of the 311 applicants to interview.

“Half did not even get an interview,” Ms. Perry says. “The primary reason is because they weren’t competitive enough from the beginning. Either their DAT and GPA scores weren’t high enough, they had little or no time shadowing a dentist or they did not have any community service.”

More than half of those interviewed were not accepted.

“Applicants can look great on paper, but then not interview well,” says Ms. Perry. “We look at that as well because you have to be personable in order to relate to your patients, so we feel like you may make a great student, but not for the School of Dentistry where much of your success is tied to your ability to communicate with patients.”

If your first interview wasn’t great, you still get a second chance, though.

Each year the standards at the school are raised.
The average GPA and DAT scores continue to climb.

However, I think it gets more difficult to apply each year because the [school] is so fortunate to have such a competitive pool to draw from for a relatively small class size.

Sabina Gupta, junior dental student

“If applicants don’t connect with their first interviewer, they get another interview,” Ms. Perry says. “Afterward, the committee meets again and discusses each candidate in depth.”

The committee is divided into two subcommittees. One subcommittee reviews files and decides who receives interviews. A second reviews recommendations and conducts interviews.

Before candidates interview, they have the advantage of meeting with the students on the committee.

“We have a pre-interview reception, and that’s one of our biggest roles on the committee,” says Amish Naik, a fourth-year student and committee member. “It’s very informal, and the
candidates can ask us anything. It’s a great opportunity for them to find out about the interviews, the atmosphere on campus, working with the faculty, etc.”

“We try to break the ice for them,” says Ms. Gupta. “We meet with the applicants twice, once during the pre-interview reception and once during lunch after their interviews. We serve as student liaisons between the applicants and the rest of the committee.”

When candidates are being considered for admission, student committee members are a tremendous resource for the rest of the committee, says Dr. Hanes.

“When we sit down and look at applications, they may see something that the faculty and staff don’t see,” she says. “Students are a huge benefit to the applicants because they are the ones who are already here in the trenches. They are the school’s greatest advocates, and I really appreciate the fact that they are a part of the committee, because they add a dimension that we would be missing without them.”

“I can remember what it was like when I was applying, and I try to keep that in mind when meeting with prospective students,” says Mr. Naik. “A good candidate is someone who is well-rounded, not just someone who’s all books. For me personally, I look for someone who carries himself well and at the same time shows maturity. I especially try to make sure I talk to those who have applied several times before, because I feel like they really deserve my attention.”

The rate of students who reapply each year keeps rising. Forty-five percent of those who will start in August have applied before, says Ms. Perry.

“This year was the first year we had someone who has applied six times before,” she says. “We do recognize their persistence, and it does play into the admissions process. If they apply but don’t get accepted, we sit down with them and talk with them about what they can do to improve next year’s application. Everyone’s situation is different.”

An example is a prospective student who has a 4.0 GPA, but did not perform well on the DAT. That’s “a no-brainer,” says Ms. Perry. “They need to study harder for the DAT.”

But then there is that student who has exceptional test scores, but hardly any hours shadowing a dentist. “If you apply with 20 hours of shadowing, you’re probably not going to get in, because you can’t determine anything with just 20 hours,” Ms. Perry says. “Your competition is the applicants who are working as dental assistants and dental hygienists who now want to become dentists and who have spent hours upon hours next to one.”

Having 100 to 200 hours of shadowing on your application will place you at an advantage. That tells me that the dentist had enough confidence in you to let you assist.”

Dr. Patrick Basquill, assistant professor of periodontics and committee member, says most applicants invited to interview would be accepted if the school had the space. “They are a cut above, the cream of the crop,” he says.

An increase in enrollment will happen far sooner than later, says Dean Connie Drisko.

“We will eventually be able to increase the class size from 62 to 100 once we have moved into the new dental building,” she says.

The admissions process for the School of Dentistry has been well-structured since the school’s inception, says Dr. Hanes.

“The biggest difference between then and now is the ever-growing number of well-qualified applicants and the competition to become a student in the School of Dentistry,” she says.

Dr. Basquill adds, “To be honest, I don’t know if I could get into dental school today, the candidates are that strong.”

Amy Connell
the Gift of Learning
Dr. Ronald Goldstein learned the benefits of philanthropy from his dentist father, Dr. Irving H. Goldstein.

“In his 54 years of practicing dentistry, I watched my dad help his patients, both physically and psychologically, and I saw the tremendous satisfaction felt by everyone involved,” says Dr. Goldstein, a world-renowned esthetic dentist and clinical professor of oral rehabilitation in the School of Dentistry.

As a dental student at Emory University in the 1950s, Dr. Goldstein founded a worldwide program for the U.S. Jaycees in mental health and mental retardation, then began integrating esthetic dentistry into service projects and pro bono dentistry.

Dr. Goldstein hopes to instill his philosophy in MCG dental students through a $300,000 contribution to the School of Dentistry. His generous gift will establish the Dr. Ronald E. Goldstein Learning Center in the school’s new building, a comfortable spot for students to congregate, study and engage in Web-based education. A portion of his gift will help preserve invaluable lectures and continuing education presentations.

“A learning center in the past is nothing like it’s going to be in the future, because learning is not necessarily out of books anymore,” says Dr. Goldstein.

In addition to computers and cutting-edge technology, the center will incorporate the past – a donation of Dr. Goldstein’s personal memorabilia and memoirs.

Digitized slides of his early lectures and course materials will be accessible. Also included are original manuscripts, notes and foreign editions of the first comprehensive book on the field, Esthetics in Dentistry, written by Dr. Goldstein in 1976, and his 1984 book, Change Your Smile, the field’s first consumer guide.

He hopes his memoirs will inspire students to become writers, teachers and better dentists.

“My main objective with the learning center is to motivate dental students to do more than just practice clinical dentistry. I want to motivate them to give back to dentistry and be a part of their communities,” says Dr. Goldstein.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for our future students to benefit from Dr. Goldstein’s many years of groundbreaking esthetic dentistry techniques and visionary leadership in the field,” says Dean Connie Drisko. “We’re looking forward to integrating the Goldstein Learning Center.”

As part of his commitment to lifelong learning, Dr. Goldstein frequently invites students to his practice to observe and participate. Recently, MCG prosthodontics residents visited his Atlanta office. Pictured are Drs. Ivelis Hernandez (from left), Kyriaki Georgiadou, Shayne Rozier, Ronald Goldstein, Yousef Marafie, Jimmy Londono and Aysegul Siranli.

“...”

Dr. Ronald Goldstein
Learning Center into the new dental school facility.”

The new building is an integral part of MCG’s ability to continue turning out superior dentists for Georgia, Dr. Goldstein says. “Modern esthetics began in Atlanta and there is so much excellent clinical dentistry both taught and practiced in Georgia, so we should be a continuous leader in dental education. With the new structure, MCG will represent the best in dentistry,” he says.

Dr. Goldstein began supporting MCG because of his uncle Dr. Marvin Goldstein’s friendship with founding School of Dentistry Dean Judson C. Hickey. “I liked that Judd established the school with the philosophy of helping each student gain not only scientific and clinical skills, but also building self-confidence at the same time. Graduates felt a sense of family and sincere appreciation for the education and nurturing attitude by the faculty that still holds true today,” says Dr. Goldstein.

Dr. Goldstein, a clinical faculty member since 1983, is a longtime supporter of student scholarships and continuing education in the School of Dentistry. He facilitates the school’s Marvin Goldstein Lecture Series that celebrates its 30th year of continuing education during 2008 Homecoming activities. It’s a tradition he has continued with his latest gift. “This is further evidence of the outstanding continuous support that Ron Goldstein has given the School of Dentistry. His leadership with the lecture series has resulted in exemplary continuing education offerings for our students, faculty, alumni and friends for over 30 years,” says Dean Drisko.

Dr. Goldstein has practiced dentistry in Atlanta for more than 50 years in the practice established by his father in 1929. He is a fellow of the American College of Dentists and the International College of Dentists and an honorable fellow of the Georgia Dental Association. He is a co-founder and past president of the American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry and the International Federation of Esthetic Dentistry.

Dr. Goldstein is an adjunct clinical professor of prosthodontics at Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine and adjunct professor of restorative dentistry at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. He has presented continuing education courses at more than 20 universities and lectured at approximately 500 dental meetings worldwide.

Paula Hinely

Dr. Goldstein intends to give his prized Coca-Cola collection to the School of Dentistry. It includes everything from unique Coke bottles to a yo-yo given to him by author Erma Bombeck.
Dr. Mahmood S. Mozaffari, associate professor in the Department of Oral Biology, is conducting studies focusing on the kidneys and heart.

“Whatever you can do to improve someone’s health status may eventually be reflected positively in terms of oral health,” he says. For example, poorly controlled diabetes may cause complications including periodontal diseases such as gingivitis and periodontitis.

With $400,000 in funding from the National Institutes of Health, Dr. Mozaffari will examine the effect of chromium picolinate on diabetic animal models.

Chromium picolinate, a nutritional supplement, improves glucose metabolism, ideally reducing diabetics’ risk of kidney disease.

Dr. Mozaffari will examine the long-term impact of chromium picolinate on glycemic control and renal function. His study focuses on the kidneys because chromium picolinate is cleared by this organ.

“If chromium picolinate is effective in improving the glycemic status of the animal, this improvement should reduce the severity of kidney disease in type 2 diabetic animals and may actually reduce DNA damage,” Dr. Mozaffari says.

In a second study with $154,000 in funding from the American Heart Association, Southeast Affiliate, Dr. Mozaffari is examining mechanisms that cause cardiac damage following low blood flow to the heart.

“The ultimate goal after ischemia is to restore blood flow to the ischemic areas, but this process, called reperfusion, causes tissue injury and cell death,” he says. “People with high blood pressure or systemic hypertension have a greater susceptibility to myocardial ischemic injury and we want to know why.”

Dr. Mozaffari will simulate an ischemic episode in one region of an animal’s heart, then restore circulation through the heart’s blood vessels and examine the impact of pressure overload on the heart.

“These studies are of relevance and significance for about 60 million Americans with high blood pressure who have increased susceptibility to heart attacks,” Dr. Mozaffari says. “We hope to learn what causes greater injury in a heart that is subjected to greater mechanical stress.”

Paula Hinely
Ryan Davis is a researcher at heart.

He spent much of his time during his undergraduate years as a research laboratory technician in the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine, culturing bacteria that produced a recombinant protein.

Mr. Davis made the transition into dental school because he wanted to work with people and his hands while continuing to do research.

“I’ve always enjoyed it. I went to the Student Research Group dinner my freshman year and talked to Dr. John Wataha, who has guided me through my research experience here,” says Mr. Davis, a junior.

Mr. Davis joined the group and began an ongoing project to examine dental and biological effects of titanium oxides and their derivatives.

He now serves as president of the group, a local chapter of the American Association for Dental Research’s National Student Research Group. The NSRG is a student-run organization that fosters an environment in every dental school to encourage students to enrich their dental education through research.

“As [the school’s] newly elected president, I would like for the group to host more events for students interested in research, provide more education on research design and development and offer additional information on future research opportunities and careers,” Mr. Davis says.

The Student Research Group meets monthly and annually participates in Table Clinic Day, an opportunity for students to present their research.

Alpesh Patel, the group’s vice president and a sophomore dental student, adds: “The NSRG is a great resource for undergraduate students who are interested in research. It provides a platform for students to present their research and network with other students and faculty.”
student, presented a poster on Table Clinic Day of his research project with second-year dental student Beth Rainwater. They work with mentors Dr. Jill Lewis, associate professor of oral biology, and Dr. Regina Messer, associate professor of oral rehabilitation and oral biology, on the potential anti-cancer benefits of the blue light used in dental-curing units. They found that blue light treatment induces apoptosis and suppresses cell proliferation in human epidermoid carcinoma cells grown in mice, inhibiting tumor growth.

"Table Clinic Day is really important for dental students who are conducting research," says Mr. Patel. "It gives us a chance to show our fellow students and faculty what we’re doing, and hopefully, other students will become interested and join the group.

"The group allows students to enhance their dental knowledge and pursue particular interests in the field, including both clinical and basic science areas," he continues. "It also keeps students informed about upcoming research conferences and competitions."

Mr. Patel and Ms. Rainwater were two of only seven students selected nationwide to compete in the basic science category of the 2008 American Association for Dental Research Student Research Group DENTSPLY/Caulk competition in April for their work with Drs. Lewis and Messer.

Sophomore dental student Frank Huff also will compete in the American Association for Dental Research/Johnson & Johnson Oral Health Products Hatton Awards Competition in April. He and his mentor, Dr. Stephen Hsu, associate professor of oral biology, are attempting to prove that oral salivary gland cancer can be stopped or at least slowed down by introducing green tea polyphenols to epithelial cells and inducing expression of caspase 14. If Mr. Huff wins the competition for his research, he will compete in the International Association for Dental Research/Unilever Hatton Awards Competition in Toronto in July.

"We are very proud of [these] students and their mentors for this recognition and for the opportunity to participate in these very prestigious research competitions," says Dean Connie Drisko.

Amy Connell

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AWARDS

Senior dental students Soon Kwon and Stephanie Moore recently received the Charles R. Morris Student Research Award from the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology. The $1,000 award honored their project evaluating microbiologic contamination on phosphor plates in a dental school. The national award is designed to encourage students to participate in oral and maxillofacial radiology research and to embark on a career in academic oral and maxillofacial radiology.

Stephanie Moore (left) and Soon Kwon
Once a student begins dental school, the phrase “free time” quickly transforms from enjoying a relaxing dinner with friends and family to gulping down a sandwich in the few minutes between classes. Loved ones often unwittingly bear the brunt of such a hectic schedule.

“When we first moved here, I didn’t know anyone,” said Angela Lucas, the wife of senior dental student Jason Lucas. “I was looking for a way to reach out to other spouses of dental students. The Alliance of the American Dental Association was looking for someone to start a student group at MCG, and I volunteered.”

Ms. Lucas founded MCG’s Dental Student Spouse Alliance in 2005. The alliance, serving spouses of student members of the AADA, meets monthly to offer mutual support, discuss dental issues and organize service projects to inform the community about dental health.

“The biggest adjustment for most of us is that your spouse is away from you so much, especially in the beginning,” said Ms. Lucas, past president of the alliance. “You have a lot of time at home. Some have children, so it can be a big struggle.”

In addition to raising money for the Dental Student Spouse Alliance Scholarship, awarded to a spouse each year, and local organizations (the group donated $500 to SafeHomes of Augusta in 2006), members decided a few years ago to provide gifts for teen Children’s Medical Center patients.

“We decided to focus on teenagers because oftentimes they are left out during the holiday season,” Ms. Lucas said. “We gathered more than 50 gifts this year, wrapped them in the Student Center and sent them to the CMC. We call it Santa’s Workshop.”

The alliance received a $50 Best Activity Involving Membership Award from the AADA in 2006 for Santa’s Workshop. Members raised $190 at the American Student Dental Association Charity Winter Formal in November for the event, and when gifts were being wrapped, a toothbrush and toothpaste were added.

Santa’s Workshop will continue, although Ms. Lucas’ term as president of the alliance has ended since her husband graduates in May. Jacquelyn Whetzel, wife of junior dental student Joshua Whetzel and current president, hopes to grow the alliance’s membership.

“Angela did a great job of planning a number of events I plan to repeat, including our biggest, Santa’s Workshop, along with Family Day, a Halloween party for children and monthly meetings,” said Ms. Whetzel. “We want more spouses to be involved in the alliance and become members.”

The alliance is planning a farewell barbecue for the senior class in April.

For more information about the alliance or to become a member for the upcoming year, contact Ms. Whetzel at jawhetzel@mail.mcg.edu.

Ms. Lucas founded MCG’s Dental Student Spouse Alliance in 2005.
Dental Student Empathizes with Patients

One minute, Mayur Nayee was keying in his alarm code to get inside his house. The next minute, the sophomore dental student was picking himself up off the floor.

The Zimbabwe native woke up in intense pain, called 911 and was taken to the MCG Medical Center emergency room. “I fainted and fractured my jaw when I fell,” says the student, his jaw still wired shut a month after the injury.

It turned out the source of the fainting was transient, but the result lasting. “Empathy is the best word to describe how I felt after this happened and after oral surgery. I think it’s fascinating that I injured myself in such a way that what I learn in school is directly applicable to me as a doctor and as a patient.”

Ironically, Mr. Nayee studies the area of the jaw most affected by his fracture – the temporomandibular joint, which connects the lower jaw to the skull.

“I became really interested in the TMJ and temporomandibular disorders when I shadowed two dentists in Atlanta,” says Mr. Nayee. “I also became interested in treating patients with chronic pain in the head and neck, something I’m now experiencing quite a bit.”

Mr. Nayee is working with Drs. Scott DeRossi, chair of the Department of Oral Health and Diagnostic Sciences, and Wayne Herman, professor in the department, to find a direct correlation between temporal tendonitis and migraine headaches. The temporal tendon, which is near the TMJ, spurs tendonitis when inflamed or stiff. The pain is similar to that of a migraine headache.

“The study includes palpating the inside of patients’ mouths to see if they have pain,” Mr. Nayee explains. “We look at the surveys patients filled out prior to palpation and see whether they get headaches, and then determine whether they have temporal tendonitis. Eventually, we’d like to treat these patients by injecting the tendon with pain medicine or by placing an appliance in the mouth to stabilize the jaw muscles. It’s amazing how a small piece of plastic can alleviate pain.”

Mr. Nayee wants to focus his career on treating temporomandibular disorders and says that studying dentistry in the U.S. has been a blessing and an opportunity he wouldn’t have had in his homeland.

“I moved to the U.S. at 18 to attend Oglethorpe University in Atlanta,” Mr. Nayee explains. “In the U.S., students are encouraged to say what they think as opposed to what is right on a social and cultural level. Socially, American students are much more outgoing and personable than students from other parts of the world. It was quite an adjustment for me academically, socially and technologically.”

But an adjustment well worth it, he adds.

Amy Connell
THE PERSONAL PROFESSION

In dentistry, who you know is just as important as what you know.

This great truth wasn’t very apparent when we started dental school. Back then, we were frantic to buy the right textbooks, study the right stack of handouts and memorize every minute detail for that first biochem quiz. Ironically, the way to avoid learning it was to study with friends in the Greenblatt Library. But as our dental knowledge increased with time, so did our awareness that, in spite of everything we know, our success in this profession depends just as much on others as it does on us. This is never more apparent than at 9:15 a.m. on any given day in dental school waiting rooms across the country, where a distressed dental student waits in vain for the competency patient who will never come.

Since interacting with others is so essential to doing well in dental school, success depends on understanding the four types of dental school relationships.

Fourth-year student Michael Weiler writes a regular column chronicling his experiences in dental school.
1. The Student-Student Relationship

This began not in cordial conversations over catered lunch on the first day of school, but in nervous smiles and sweaty handshakes exchanged on interviews, when we all sat in suits around the conference table and wished we had studied just a little harder for the DAT. Such a shaky start forges lasting friendships over years of collective suffering through late Friday-afternoon lectures, mandatory early-morning meetings and an endless battery of tests. But the hard times become good times as fond memories emerge from rotations to Warrenton and beyond, the excitement of dental prom and the din of class parties. Ideally, dental school is just the beginning of many wonderful relationships.

2. The Student-Faculty Relationship

While essential, this relationship is also complex, often resembling the classic “love-hate” relationship. For example, while the student may hate having his lab submission rejected for a second time, he loves producing absolute perfection the third time around. And while the faculty member probably hates being interrupted by a student needing one more thing swiped in AxiUm, she most likely loves the fact that with each swipe, the student is one step closer to moving on. In reality, these relationships are remarkably good, as evidenced by the high percentage of students who sign on for more training after graduation, not to mention the ease of tensions over appetizers at ASDA-sponsored student-faculty mixers on the dental school’s back porch.

3. The Student-Patient Relationship

Relationships with patients can provide some of the most rewarding experiences in dental school, such as when your 70-year-old patient gives you a box of chocolates on Valentine’s Day as a token of her admiration. Or when a patient likes you so much, he begs you to stay in Augusta after graduation so you can continue treating him. Apparently, this is a proposition many local practitioners found hard to pass up.

4. The Student-Family Relationship

Often the most neglected, this relationship is the most important. Some of us probably wouldn’t even be in dental school if not for family sacrifices. Many of us wouldn’t have any patients for the board exam without family volunteers. Definitely, none of us could finish this four-year marathon without the support and love of our families. They offer a soft shoulder to cry on after a particularly difficult day. They provide caring arms to embrace us no matter how badly we did on the exam. They lend an understanding ear as we moan incoherently about our lab work being rejected a third time. As we are so often on the receiving end of this relationship, we must be quick to express praise and gratitude for our families. I thank my beautiful wife, Brittany, whose support is truly the secret to my success.
Senior Student Stays Involved

Laneshia Camp knows more than her fair share about the dental school experience,

not only through first-hand knowledge but by helping innumerable peers nationwide navigate the process.

Ms. Camp, a fourth-year MCG dental student who recently completed a term as vice president of the Student National Dental Association, is happy to have contributed to an organization she highly values.

The SNDA originated in 1970 and is the largest U.S. minority student organization. It seeks to increase minority enrollment in dental schools and enhance access to dentistry, particularly among the underserved.

“One of my duties as vice president was to revise the organization’s constitution,” says Ms. Camp. “I enjoyed everything that came along with the role, from updating the goals of the organization to including our national programs, the Impressions Program and the Oral Cancer Walk, in the constitution.”

The Impressions Program was created by Kimberly E. Beal, former SNDA president and MCG alumna. The program explains the application process, from paperwork to interviews, for students interested in dental school.

“The program also exposes college and high school students to different aspects of dental school, such as applying and clinical experience,” Ms. Camp says. “Each SNDA is encouraged to host one Impressions Program event every year.”

Chapters are also encouraged to host an Oral Cancer Walk in their community to raise awareness about the illness and provide screenings and information on how it affects minorities.

“At the national conference each year, SNDA pushes for each region to implement the walk because it is so important for minorities to have information about this deadly disease,” says Ms. Camp. Incidence of oral cancer peaks in African-Americans 10 years earlier than in the general population, according to the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research.

Ms. Camp also planned the organization’s yearly national conference as well as the first annual leadership conference during her term.

“The opportunity to plan the first leadership conference was very appealing to me, and I took it seriously,” Ms. Camp says. “The event is primarily for chapter presidents and vice presidents to better develop leadership skills, implement chapter planning and further develop ideas for the national conference.”

Although her term ended last year, she is still an SNDA member-at-large, helping chapters of the Undergraduate Student National Dental Association, a branch of the SNDA that aids in increasing the number of minority dental students.

“I look forward to helping undergraduate chapters become a more prominent part of the National Dental Association and the SNDA,” she says.

Ms. Camp earned a bachelor’s degree in biology from Spelman College in Atlanta.

Amy Connell
If someone had asked me four years ago, at the onset of dental school, where I thought I might be today, I guarantee I would not have said Augusta, or even in a general practice residency. But here I am, receiving one of the best educational experiences I have had in dentistry. We do not know what the future holds, but we have the opportunity to make choices that affect our personal and professional lives.

Leadership Matters

by Brooke Loftis

One of my first choices in dental school was joining the American Student Dental Association. I knew it would be a great way to meet new colleagues and become engaged in dentistry, but I had no idea where my initial involvement would lead and how it would change my education and career.

Eighty-six percent of U.S. dental students are members of ASDA, the largest student-run, non-profit organization of dental students in the country. Local, district and national levels advance and protect the dental community. Its House of Delegates determines national policy during annual sessions. The Board of Trustees meets quarterly and governs the association between sessions. An annual nationwide Lobby Day in Washington, D.C. allows dental students to meet legislators and advocate for dentistry. Learning how grassroots influences can change, protect and advance the profession is an important lesson and was one of the most educational experiences I have had.

During my first year as class representative for ASDA, I attended an ASDA regional meeting in Chicago, the heart of organized dentistry. I was blown away with the group and with the impact dentists have on their profession. I knew I had to be involved. I served as San Antonio’s first delegate to the House of Delegates during my second year, then become involved on a national level, as District 9 trustee, in my third year. As a senior, I served as president.

Representing nearly 17,000 members to different organizations and associations has been a great honor and privilege. I wish every dental student could have comparable experiences.

ASDA is only the beginning for many of us – the beginning of a lifelong commitment and involvement within our profession. Through ASDA, I have been educated about issues I never knew were part of dentistry. I will continue to be involved in organized dentistry throughout my career. It is the only way I can ensure that my voice will be heard to protect and advance our profession. Although mine is just one voice, many voices together can make a difference.

I challenge you to be a leader within dentistry and strive to uphold the integrity and professionalism that many before us worked hard to preserve. It wasn’t by chance that I became involved in ASDA. I made a conscious decision to be an active voice for students and my profession. You, too, can make that choice.
Teeth in an HOUR

Surgery Gives Patients Something to Smile About

Dr. Solon Kao, oral surgeon, puts patient Thelma Clark at ease before performing the Teeth in an Hour dental implant procedure.
For 10 years, Thelma Clark has lived without teeth. Diagnosed with osteoporosis at 50, her teeth broke off one by one. She’s gone through four sets of dentures and bulk quantities of denture adhesive. “I’m so self-conscious about my appearance,” says Ms. Clark, a resident of Fitzgerald, Ga. “I catch myself holding my hand over my mouth when I smile.”

Thanks to a revolutionary procedure available at the School of Dentistry, she no longer hides her smile. Surgeons and prosthodontists used Nobel Biocare’s Teeth in an Hour™ technology to give Ms. Clark dental implants. 

“Implants, which support permanent prosthetic teeth, have revolutionized dentistry. This procedure really benefits people who don’t want to wear removable dentures and don’t want to go without teeth for extended time periods,” says Dr. Solon Kao, an oral surgeon and assistant professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

Through a $6.2 million contract between MCG and Nobel Biocare, a leading manufacturer of dental implants and equipment, surgeons and prosthodontists have access to the equipment, training and software needed for the procedure.

Teeth in an Hour™, which refers to the surgical time spent placing the implants, shortens the implant process from months involving multiple surgical procedures and recovery to weeks, culminating in a single surgical procedure using a minimally invasive technique.

“The conventional method is a tedious and more time-consuming process for the patient, whereas Teeth in an Hour™ is focused on treatment-planning and requires a minimal amount of the patient’s time,” Dr. Kao says.

The patient’s initial Teeth in an Hour™ appointment consists of a CT scan and having impressions made of the mouth, which are used to create a virtual 3-D model.

“With this virtual model, I can precisely determine implant location without the patient coming for an office visit,” Dr. Kao says. Once he has designed the implant placement in the virtual model, this “surgery blueprint” is sent electronically to Nobel Biocare to make a customized surgical template.

“The template is secured to the patient’s jaw during surgery, and it guides implant placement to the intended location,” says Dr. Kao.

Once the implants are in place, a restorative dentist or prosthodontist attaches the prostheses.

“We work as a team to synchronize the implant placement and the prostheses attachment, two procedures traditionally performed separately,” he says.

The benefits extend far beyond the convenience of a shortened process.

“There’s generally no need for sedation, and because there is no incision, no sutures are required and the patient usually experiences little or no swelling and pain,” says Dr. Kao. “A patient who comes with no teeth the morning of surgery can go home the same day with a full set and has the ability to have a normal dinner that night.”

Ms. Clark is eagerly anticipating eating solid food. “I’ve lived off instant potatoes and grits for six months, so I’m ready for a steak and baked potato. I just hope I haven’t forgotten how to chew,” she says.

Patients with strong bones are the best surgery candidates, Dr. Kao says. “When you’re building a house, you must have a solid foundation. The same is true for dental implants; you must have solid bone structure to provide support for implants.”

In Ms. Clark’s case, osteoporosis had decimated her jaw bone, so bone from her skull was grafted into her jaw over the summer.

“I’ve always been one to smile, but now I’m gonna smile a lot more,” says Ms. Clark.
The legislators aren't trained in dentistry, so they don't know how different laws may affect our profession. Law Day is an excellent opportunity for us to lobby for our profession.

Mary Wolfe, junior dental student
MCG Dental Students and Administrators Participate in Law Day

Forty students put down their dental tools and books and boarded a bus to the Georgia State Capitol in Atlanta Jan. 16.

The trip was part of the Georgia Dental Association’s Law Day, which enables dental students and practicing dentists statewide to meet legislators and learn more about the legislative process and issues affecting dentistry.

“The legislators aren’t trained in dentistry, so they don’t know how different laws may affect our profession,” said Mary Wolfe, a junior dental student. “Law Day is an excellent opportunity for us to lobby for our profession.”

The GDA treated the students to breakfast, where Martha Phillips, GDA’s executive director, gave an update on potential legislative issues such as Medicaid and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program. They also met with Gov. Sonny Perdue and legislators, sat in on a session and visited GDA’s headquarters.

“It is important for students to meet and be involved with legislators at all levels of government, and that is why we chose to get involved,” said William Moore, a freshman dental student. “Even as students, we have an impact on legislation that affects our future profession and many other arenas.”

Junior dental student William Bennett said he welcomed the opportunity to interact with legislators.

“One of the school’s primary goals is to obtain and sustain support and funding for the new dental school,” said Dr. Bennett, who earned a medical degree prior to dental school. “We need a larger space to train more students to become dentists in order to improve access to care. So meeting with elected officials and legislators gives us a chance to connect and show them the importance of supporting the school at many levels.”

Law Day will become an annual event for any interested MCG dental student, says Ms. Wolfe.

“We want current and future dental students to stay involved and continue to support the school, not only by donating money, but also by attending Law Day,” she says.

Amy Connell
Gifts Surpass Last Year’s Record $1 Million

In just the last issue of Word of Mouth, we were able to report charitable contributions to the school had exceeded $1 million for fiscal 2006-07, a record level of private support.

We are delighted to tell you that in just the first six months of fiscal 2007-08, which began July 1, we now stand at $1.4 million.

Our success is thanks to the countless alumni, friends and other supporters the school is fortunate to call “family.”

Our number-one priority – a new building to house the school – also is doing well in the initial stages of fundraising. As of press time, over $2.6 million has been committed to the new home for dental education. A list of contributions appears in this issue as does an article about our good friend, Dr. Ron Goldstein, who has contributed $300,000 to the school with $250,000 to create the Dr. Ronald E. Goldstein Learning Center in the new building.

Success and a growing base of loyal supporters have brought growth to the development office. Joining the fundraising team are Pam Witter as director of development and Marta Gouge as campaign coordinator. Pam has been with the Division of University Advancement for three years and Marta brings a wealth of experience to her new position.

When one of us calls on you and tells you about everything going on at the school, we hope you will be as pleased to see us as we are to see you. It is a genuine pleasure to meet so many dentists who share such a devotion to their alma mater.

Thank you again for your continued generosity – and for helping us remain a school you can take pride in.
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No Place Like Home

New Residency Program Allows Dentists to Offer Hometown Services

There’s no place like home for Matthew Carter. He has always known that when he’s finished with school, he’s heading back to his roots in Adel, Ga. And once he begins his practice, he wants to meet as many of his patients’ needs as possible, particularly considering the dearth of specialists in the area.

“I do want to be close to my family, so naturally, I want to return there and practice,” said Mr. Carter. “But I want to be able to treat my patients and not have to send them to Atlanta to see specialists.”

A new School of Dentistry residency program will optimize his ability to do just that. The Advanced Education in General Dentistry program, which began last July, provides advanced training in general and specialized oral health care, enhancing clinical skills and knowledge beyond the four years of dental school.

The program recently got a shot in the arm with a $1.3 million U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration grant.

“The grant will be used for stipends and salaries, as well as teleconferencing and travel expenses for the residents,” said Dr. James Barenie, associate dean for academic affairs and advanced education.

The one-year program covers endodontics, implant dentistry, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics, pediatric dentistry and periodontics.

“Graduates will be more comfortable and familiar with specialties in dentistry so they can handle cases that otherwise would have to be referred elsewhere,” said Dr. Jan Mitchell, program director and associate professor of oral rehabilitation. “The benchmark is to train high-quality general dentists to manage the care of patients with complex restorative needs.”

The program will eventually include two-week rotations in eight health sites in Georgia. “Sending the residents to these sites will give them an excellent hands-on experience,” said Dr. Barenie. “Overall, they will get a taste of each specialty and become more advanced in diagnostic skills as well as treatment-planning skills.”

“MCG now offers eight of the 10 residency programs accredited by the Council on Dental Education,” said Dean Connie Drisko. “Though we hope to eventually add public health and radiology residencies, we saw a more immediate need for the Advanced Education in General Dentistry program. Georgia is a large state, and many of our dentists go into small areas where specialists are hard to find. This program takes them beyond the basic skills they learn in dental school so they can address more complicated, advanced cases.”

The school already offers a general practice residency, “but it focuses more on surgery and medically compromised patients,” said Dr. Barenie. “It is usually more hospital-oriented.”

The programs share several seminars and workshops. But while general practice residents complete emergency room and anesthesia rotations, for example, residents of the new program focus on treatment-planning and complex dental cases.

Amy Connell and Kim Miller
The U.S. Postal Service issued a stamp Sept. 14, 1959 to commemorate the American Dental Association’s centennial celebration.

Mission and Vision

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 in 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.
4.25 Goldstein Lecture Series
Augusta Marriott, Augusta, Ga.
Dr. Dennis P. Tarnow, Chair of the New York University College of Dentistry’s Arthur Ashman Department of Implant Dentistry, will speak on “Biological and Clinical Factors for Ultimate Esthetics Around Implants.” Directed by Dr. Van Haywood

4.26 Dental C.E. with Faculty
MCG School of Dentistry
Dr. Roy Rockman, director of the Pediatric Dentistry Graduate Program, will speak on “Why Are We Striking Out? A New Approach to Preventative Dentistry in Children.” Dr. Sajitha Kalathingal will speak on “Cone Beam CT: Three-dimensional imaging for diagnosis and treatment planning.” Directed by Dr. Van Haywood

5.24–26 Clinical Advances in a Restorative Practice
Hilton Oceanfront Resort, Hilton Head Island, S.C.
Dr. Jeff Blank, adjunct instructor of dentistry at the Medical University of South Carolina will speak on direct bonding. Directed by Dr. Barry Hammond

6.27–30 Clinical Anatomy of the Head and Neck
MCG School of Dentistry
Directed by Dr. Mohamed Sharawy

6.29–7.4 General Dentistry Symposium
King & Prince Resort, St. Simons Island, Ga.
Directed by Dr. Kevin Frazier

7.18–20 Dental Hygiene Symposium
Savannah Marriott, Savannah, Ga.
Directed by Drs. Marie Collins and Keith Volkmann

8.22–24 Fifth Annual Hinman/MCG Fellowship
Ritz Carlton, Atlanta; MCG School of Dentistry
Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Ga.
Dr. Deider Dietsche, Switzerland, will present “Anterior and Posterior Direct Bonded Composite Restorations.” Directed by Dr. Van Haywood

8.29–31 Specialize Your General Practice
Jekyll Island, Ga.
Directed by Dr. Richard Callan

10.3–5 Pedo at the Beach
Hilton Oceanfront Resort, Hilton Head Island, S.C.
Directed by Dr. Steve Adair

10.17–19 Dental Update for the General Practitioner
Brasstown Valley Resort, Young Harris, Ga.
Directed by Dr. Gary Holmes

12.4–5 Last Chance Continuing Dental Education
MCG Alumni Center
Directed by Dr. Van Haywood