A Window of Opportunity through Dental Research
t is hard to believe another year has come and gone. Unfortunately, 2010 was a tough year for many. The news is constantly filled with stories of unemployment and other devastating events. Here at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, we experienced our own losses. Joseph P. Cappuccio, DDS ’46 passed away in May, 2009, followed by Harry W.F. Dressel Jr., DDS ’45 in August. I invite you to read our story in tribute to these titans of dentistry.

There is some exciting news campus-wide. On July 6, 2010, the University of Maryland, The Founding Campus welcomed Jay A. Perman, MD as our new president. Dr. Perman joins us as the former dean and vice president for clinical affairs at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine. He succeeds President David J. Ramsay, DM, DPhil and Acting President E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA. Please join me in welcoming President Perman.

Also in this edition, we feature some important aspects of our alumni, students and faculty. Our school has a rich history of family legacies within our alumni base, which we are extremely proud to acknowledge by highlighting the Eskow and Morini families. We also feature two interviews with Robert E. Deery, DDS ’73 and former dean Errol Reese, DDS (1974–1990), both of whom I had the pleasure of spending time with.

As always, our students are constantly reaching new heights in dentistry, as seen by our Senior Awards and various community outreach activities. The Student Spotlight section highlights our growing Dental Hygiene Program, as well as the expanding Office of Global Operations. One final note, be sure to read the article featuring the 2011 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year, Melvin F. Kushner, DDS ’66, who was honored during reunion weekend.

Despite the uncertain time, the University of Maryland School of Dentistry continues to march forward. Despite these setbacks, we have much to be proud of. The faculty, staff and alumni have really pulled together so we can continue to provide the highest quality dental education, oral health care and research.

Christian S. Stohler, DMD, DrMedDent
Dean
Dr. Charles Brandenburg and the Legacy of George Washington

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In Memorium
Dr. Charles Brandenburg, DDS ’54 and his wife, Elizabeth (Libby) are living life to its fullest, balancing professional, personal and business endeavors better than most adults half their age. Married for 60 years and more than 80 years young, this couple is on the move and continues to make major contributions to dentistry and the preservation of American history.

Brandenburg, a practicing dentist, still has an office in Rising Sun, Md., located in Cecil County. Larry opened this office back in 1956 and has provided oral healthcare to local residents for more than 50 years. If this were not enough, he somehow finds time to volunteer twice a week at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry as a Dean’s Faculty member in the recently built Perryville clinic, near his home. The Perryville location was established to meet the oral healthcare needs of underserved populations in the county. Serving the poor and needy is not something new for Larry and Libby. Devout Christians, both have spent their lives on the mission field sharing their faith, resources and talents with the less fortunate. During a visit at their home in Cecil County, the Brandenburgs shared their extraordinary experiences as lifelong partners in the service of others.
On a Mission

Making the commitment to care for the sick and the indigent was not always an easy task. As young parents raising six children, they traveled throughout the world with healthcare teams, treating diseases and dental problems that are more common in developing nations. Dr. Brandenburg traveled with his entire family on his airplane which he piloted himself. He maintains an active pilot’s license and still occasionally flies.

While on the mission field, Libby and Larry have actually witnessed what they call “medical miracles.” For example, in 2007 the Brandenburgs traveled with a medical and dental team to the Galapagos Islands and provided medical and dental services to island natives at a small, local hospital. While treating patients at this hospital, the team was visited by an American female tourist who was dying from a severe hemorrhage. The medical facility on the island was extremely small and lacked any form of imaging equipment—making it virtually impossible to diagnose the source of the injury. “We had a country physician from Kentucky traveling with us and he was accustomed to treating patients in rural areas where imaging equipment was not available. The closest medical facility with an MRI or X-ray machine was in Ecuador, many miles away.

Through a brief visual examination, the country doctor was immediately able to diagnose the source of the bleeding,” explains Dr. Brandenburg. The attending physician from Kentucky informed the medical team that he had seen this type of hemorrhage many times in his practice and was certain that the woman was suffering from a ruptured aorta. The team quickly moved into action, blood typing each practitioner in an effort to save the woman’s life. Six out of nine medical team members had the same blood type and they miraculously performed primitive blood transfusions by connecting tubes from their arms to the arm of the patient.

The team was finally able to fly the woman to a major medical facility in Ecuador the next morning, where the diagnosis was confirmed with imaging equipment and follow-up treatment was provided for a ruptured aorta.

Larry works on his single-engine airplane.

Larry and Libby with a patient during a mission trip to India

THE DENTAL PROFESSION HAS GIVEN THE BRANDENBURGS AN OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN LEGACIES, WHICH INCLUDE THE LOVE OF FAMILY, GOD AND COUNTRY.
Held Hostage
On another mission trip in 1993, the Brandenburgs were held hostage by a group of communist sympathizers on the South American border of Ecuador and Peru. “We were providing medical and dental services in a rural village when we got word that an insurgent group trained by communist China was on the way to attack us.” The mission team members distributed books, dolls and other toys to residents in the community they were serving. The insurgents confiscated the items into a huge pile and burned them in front of the entire village. “They said, ‘American imperialists from the north, go home,’” explains Dr. Brandenburg.

The team was not able to leave the village because “we were surrounded by a hostile group of people who did not want us there,” says Libby. The mission team began to pray for safety and a way of escape. Then a miracle happened. “A nearby tribe of Quichua Indians (descendants of the Incas) came to our rescue and escorted us out of the town to safety. We were all afraid for our lives,” says Mrs. Brandenburg.

Preserving History
The Brandenburgs are passionate about history. “It is important to know where you come from and you can accomplish anything if you have a good root system,” Libby explains. Mrs. Brandenburg is fascinated by genealogy and has traced her family tree back to Norway. “I just think that discovering one’s ancestry is like solving a mystery,” declares Libby.

In 2005, Libby and Larry purchased a house that is registered in the historical trust of Charlestown, Maryland. The house, officially named the Indian Queen, was built in 1750 and is located in the Charlestown historical district on Market Street. Those who study the history of this area surmise that George Washington must have frequented the house when it was a tavern in the 1700s. Market Street in Charlestown laid on a major artery during this period. Washington would have used this road to travel from Washington, D.C. en route to Philadelphia. Libby notes that the writer of the “Star Spangled Banner,” Francis Scott Key, also lived across the street from the Indian Queen at one time. The Brandenburgs open the house once a year for public tour groups. The entire family spends time at the house on some weekends. Libby and Larry have 15 grandchildren and six great grandchildren. “The children love to spend family weekend vacations at the house. They really enjoy playing at the park and visiting the North East River, both of which are close to the house,” says Libby.

The dental profession has given the Brandenburgs an opportunity to establish their own legacies, which include the love of family, God and country. The miracle is that Libby and Larry are not finished yet. This vibrant couple will, more than likely, continue the tradition of making a difference well into their 90s. Stay tuned...
When Theo Eskow watched her grandson, Adam, graduate from the University of Maryland School of Dentistry on May 21, 2010, she swelled with a feeling of family pride.

“I’m very proud of Adam, always have been,” remarks Theo. “It’s wonderful that he carried on the tradition of the family that began with his grandfather in 1933.” Jack passed away 11 years ago and, if he’d lived long enough to see his grandson graduate from his alma mater, it would have been “the icing on the cake,” quips Theo. Adam is the 15th dentist in the Eskow family. As an alumnus of the class of 1974, Adam’s father, Roy, had the honor of hooding his son at graduation.

Jack’s interest in dentistry was cultivated at a young age, when he would accompany his mother on dental visits. After a few trips, young Jack set his mind to dentistry and never looked back. He later enrolled in the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, formerly known as the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, on the advice of a friend.

After graduating, he started an office in Perth Amboy, N.J., and practiced for more than 50 years until he retired. Jack was a hard worker and dedicated to learning more about the profession. Rarely closing his practice, Jack once shut down the office for three weeks so he could attend a continuing education course in periodontics.

“He wanted to stick with what he thought was vital to dentistry, which was saving teeth,” says Theo. Jack imparted that wisdom into their two sons, Roy and Robert, both of whom went on to become periodontists. Jack also taught his children the importance of giving back to the school. He stayed active in the local chapter of the alumni association and made a habit of donating to the school regularly. Two lecture hall plaques honor Jack’s legacy of philanthropy. “He received a very good education and he enjoyed it, so he wanted to give back,” Theo remarks. Roy continues to be active in the school by serving on the Dean’s Faculty.

When Theo attended her grandson’s graduation, she was impressed by the new facility. She is certain that Adam received a high quality education, just like his grandfather did 77 years ago. Theo knows Jack would be proud that the family has its 15th dentist.
Three generations of Morini dentists were onstage when Chelsea Morini graduated from the University of Maryland School of Dentistry on May 15, 2009. She was hooded during the graduation ceremony by her father, A.J. Morini Jr., DDS ’81, and her grandfather, Alfred J. Morini Sr., DDS ’44.

“I’m so close with my family and having my dad and gramps present me with my hood meant the world to me,” Chelsea says. For generations, dentistry has been an important part of Morini life. While Chelsea was growing up, she watched her father run a successful practice and heard stories of her grandfather’s dental career. Seeking a rewarding job, Chelsea decided to enroll at the school of dentistry to follow in their footsteps.

Although each Morini attended classes in different buildings over the years, the school of dentistry acted as a cornerstone for the family. Alfred began the tradition when he enrolled on the advice of a friend. Dr. Morini not only received a stellar dental education, but he also met the woman of his dreams.

As a young dental student, he met and married Mary Sullivan. They were arranged on a blind date and now have been married 67 years.

Alfred’s tales of dental school encouraged A.J., who decided to become a dentist while in the fifth grade. The University of Maryland School of Dentistry was the only dental school he applied to and its challenging curriculum prepared him for the demands of private practice. Both A.J. and his father have stayed close to the school, watching it continue to evolve. They were impressed by the technological advances of the new building. The new school opened during Chelsea’s sophomore year.

That facility’s realistic simulation labs and state-of-the-art clinics helped Chelsea become well prepared for her dental practice in Baltimore. Now that she’s begun a rewarding dental career, she’s hoping more Morinis will continue the family tradition. “It would be great to see future generations attend the University of Maryland School of Dentistry,” she says. “We will have to see what the future brings.”

Chelsea Morini is hooded by her father, A.J. Morini Jr., and grandfather, Alfred J. Morini Sr.
A team of students, faculty and staff visited the state capital on Feb. 10, 2011, talking to legislators about issues that impact dental education. Dean Christian S. Stohler, DMD, DrMedDent, and University President Jay A. Perman, MD, led a 20-member delegation from the University of Maryland School of Dentistry.

The delegation, which met in the Senate Finance Committee Chamber, was greeted by Sen. Thomas Middleton (D-District 28). Small groups including students, faculty and staff met individually with representatives from both chambers. Legislators were astonished to learn that school of dentistry clinics served nearly 30,000 patients last year and provided $16.5 million in uncompensated and undercompensated care. “The senators and delegates were truly interested in hearing about the strides University of Maryland School of Dentistry is making and how it plans to continue to improve access to care issues,” states dental hygiene student Kelly Abbott.

Students expressed the need for more scholarship funding, since the average debt for most graduates is $146,000. “I think it is important for us to participate in this event because legislators really do want to hear what we have to say. We are the future of this country,” explains Emily Dashiell, a dental hygiene student.

Senators and delegates applauded school representatives for their commitment to meet statewide oral health care shortages. Delegation members urged legislators to support Gov. Martin O’Malley’s budget for the University of Maryland.

Dental student Jonathan Soistman and his colleagues saw government at work while observing an active session of the legislature. “I was impressed by the number of delegates who took the time to meet with us individually and discuss some of the issues we are concerned with in dentistry,” says Soistman. Del. Keith Haynes (D-District 44), in a private session, commended the school for its commitment to education and service to the community.

“The current state of the economy of our country made this year’s Advocacy Day a special one. Good things come out of tough times and surely this year’s Advocacy Day was a big step toward a better future,” remarks dental student Salar Sanjari.
Dr. Bernard Levy brings a world of experience to his new position as director of global operations.

Dr. Levy, who joined the school of dentistry in 1969 as an assistant professor of oral pathology, will oversee Global Health Operations. Since taking over as director on July 1, Dr. Levy has added two countries to a list of 18 that includes Honduras, the Dominican Republic and Ireland. As director, Levy establishes relationships with schools and clinics in foreign countries and develops externships. Once an institution officially becomes affiliated with the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, Levy lists the program for interested students.

On a recent trip to Honduras, nine students set up a dental clinic outside an orphanage. “The idea is to have a hands-on experience in a different culture,” he explains. “It’s enrichment on both sides.”

Dr. Levy is working to expand externship opportunities to include serving clinics that provide care for underserved populations and conducting cutting-edge research in premier research facilities on all continents. He envisions a vibrant program that offers overseas teaching opportunities and hosts visiting scientists from around the globe.
Student Spotlight

On the evening of Tuesday, May 18, 2010, the school of dentistry celebrated An Evening with the Stars. This annual event recognizes excellence and achievement of members of the graduating class. The awards were presented to the Class of 2010 in areas by department and program as well as school-wide. The University of Maryland School of Dentistry is proud of each of its students, who are dedicated to superior academic performance, community service and patient care.

Edna Barbara Buckle  
Karyn Elizabeth Carr Porter  
Anthony Jerrard Carter  
Molly Jan Carter  
Caroline Leigh Corrigan  
Melody Daroogar  
Francine Amy Drummond  
Gabriela V. Duraes  
Omar E. El Banhawy  
Adam Jason Eskow  
Brent Alan Fleming  
Dorie Allyson Frank  
Diana Nora Barbara Gabriel  
David Charles Gordon  
Jennifer Lynn Graham  
Kristen Elizabeth Harvey  
Hisham M. Hatoum  
Meredith Kyle Hoek  
Jenny Lee Howell  
Amanda Noelle Imm  
Brian J. Kirkwood  
Sara Elizabeth Kramer  
Erin Kay Ladwig  
Harriet Jemutai Lagat  
Elisabeth Mihyun Lee  
Jessica Jinhee Lee  
Jim Ming-An Lee  
Mindy Young Lee  
Noah Ezra Letwin  
Julia Marie Lokitis  
Jessica Morgan McGrattan  
Kari Lynn Moss  
Mohammadrez Nabavi  
Zahra M. Omar  
Dede Wiba Orraca-Tetteh  
Patricia Anne Park  
Amar Bhupendra Patel  
Christina Louise Platia  
Edgar Maximillian Radjabli  
Sarah Marie Raymond  
David Jacob Richman-Raphael  
Ross Andrew Rickoff  
Jesse L. Ritter  
Ryan Kent Rush  
Abraham N. Safer  
Nicole Marie Selby  
Janelle Elizabeth Sender  
Kyle Andrew Smits  
Leah Jean Soucy  
David Takashi Sugiyama  
Andrew Charles Światowicz  
Hillel Yedidiah Well
The Frank C. Jerbi Memorial Award
To the student who excels in removable partial prosthodontics
Julia Maria Lokitis

The Delta Dental 2010 Student Leadership Award
To show appreciation for those students who have contributed to the community-at-large, even while focused on their studies and practical experience in dental school
Anthony Jerrard Carter
Jessica Jinhee Lee
Erin Kay Ladwig
Andrew Charles Swiatowicz

The Leonard Rapoport Memorial Award
To the senior who displays outstanding academic achievement in pharmacology related to dentistry or craniofacial/oral science.
Noah Ezra Letwin

The honorees epitomize the core values of our institution and serve as role models for other students and professionals. We congratulate their accomplishments, commitment and devotion to the profession of dentistry.
“I have banned the use of the c-word. We don’t just ‘clean’ teeth. We provide dental hygiene care,” says Jacquelyn L. Fried, RDH, MS, director of the division of dental hygiene at the school of dentistry.

On day one, students enrolled in the dental hygiene program learn that philosophy. The division continues to innovate, providing an extraordinary curriculum that prepares hygiene students for expanding roles in oral health care. For example, the program was the first in the state to teach senior dental hygiene students how to administer local anesthesia to patients.

Last year, dental hygienists in Maryland were officially authorized to provide local anesthesia. Now, certified hygienists no longer need to stop procedures so dentists can anesthetize their patients. This change improves practice efficiency and helps maintain patient comfort during a dental hygiene appointment, explains Fried. “It adds another layer of accountability and it raises our status,” she states.

The Class of 2010 was the first to provide local anesthesia to the public. A new anesthesia course, which is also offered as a continuing education class, is just one example of the division’s focus on comprehensive oral health care. Students learn to take health histories, screen for high blood pressure, document soft tissue findings and conduct head and neck exams to screen for oral cancer. Hygienists also play a pivotal role in teaching patients about diet and nutrition. “Health education is one of the major services that we provide. I would describe us as the preventative arm of dentistry,” Fried explains.

The public is developing a new awareness about the importance of dental hygienists, remarks Fried. This recognition has led to an enrollment boom. The number of entry-level students has grown by over 50 percent in six years, while the number of graduate students has nearly tripled in only four years. University of Maryland School of Dentistry offers the only dental hygiene baccalaureate program in the state, which attracts students who value higher education, says Fried.

The launch of two satellite programs in Perryville and the Eastern Shore has also further increased the rate of enrollment. Travelling to class in Baltimore would be impossible for many students who live in rural areas, says Lisa Bress, RDH, MS. “It is a real win-win situation. Not only are they providing dental hygiene services to patients in remote areas, they are also able to get a bachelor’s degree they would not be able to get otherwise,” Bress says.

Cecil County and areas of the Eastern Shore have the highest rates of dental caries in the state. In addition to providing direct patient care, hygienists offer oral health care education to school nurses, social workers and teachers.

“We want all Marylanders to receive the care they need and deserve. Access to care is...
our goal,” states Marion Manski, RDH, MS. Outreach is a vital part of achieving that goal. Students are required to perform 90 hours of community service and many exceed that requirement. They have served breakfast at the Ronald McDonald House, performed screenings at health fairs and provided care for the homeless.

As healthcare reform evolves, Fried predicts that roles for dental hygienists will blossom. Hygienists will become even more essential as new technologies are implemented. For example, hygiene students are now learning about salivary diagnostic techniques that are used to detect the presence of the HPV virus, explains Fried. Cancer detection methods are continuously evolving, and hygienists have an important role in early detection. “The community at large is embracing dental hygiene. There’s a recognition that dental hygienists could help fill the gap in providing care for the underserved,” concludes Fried.
Q. How did you become interested in dentistry?

a. While I was at Duke, I studied abroad for a summer in Costa Rica. For my research project, I decided to study dental care for children in indigenous areas. After researching dentistry, it really sparked my interest as something I would be able to do well. I wanted to learn more about dentistry, so I started the Duke Pre-dental Society to meet other students with a common interest in dentistry.

Q. How did you become involved in research at the school of dentistry?

a. Before my first year of dental school, I participated in the Summer Research Training Program. I realized that, as a dental student, I wouldn't have time to continue my involvement in research. I wanted to make research a part of my career, so I decided to apply for the DDS-PhD program. That program made the most sense for me in terms of time, cost and learning integration.

Q. What research do you conduct?

a. My research is related to functional anatomy. For my PhD, I am studying swallowing and the oral-motor interactions during feeding. I enjoy studying anatomy because it is very hands on. The clinical relevance of some of my research is very direct.

Q. How have you directed the Student Research Group since you became president?

a. The mission of the Student Research Group is to provide professional development and community for student researchers. We have redirected the focus to graduate students, residents and post-doctoral fellows. We are trying to offer more programming aimed at professional development. For example, we recently held programs about networking and applying for grants. We also hope to sponsor more social events so graduates in different departments have an opportunity to interact.

Q. What are your career aspirations?

a. After I graduate, I would like to do a post-doctoral fellowship and specialty training. For my career, I would like to be in a faculty position where a large proportion of my time is dedicated to research. I enjoy research because I like to delve deeply into one area. I don't like only learning facts; I like to apply my knowledge, ask questions and learn more. Conducting research allows me to expand the field of knowledge about a subject and find answers to my questions.

Q. What is the most important issue facing dental school graduates?

a. Dental school graduates need to be exposed to as much dental research as possible. It is important because they will need to critically analyze literature as a part of their careers. Even though the fundamentals of dentistry haven't changed, there are constantly new materials, new techniques and new technology that could help us treat patients better. It is important to have critical thinking skills to evaluate findings from researchers and integrate them into practice.

Q. How has the University of Maryland School of Dentistry prepared you for a career?
The unique, DDS-PhD program has been great. The students in the program receive much support from faculty. It is great to be at a school where the research facilities are top-notch and recognized across the nation. I am excited about the new Office of Research, which provides a central location for many of the resources student researchers need.

Q. What do you enjoy about the school?

A. I’ve enjoyed interacting with the students in my class. The instructors are very dedicated to teaching and preparing us to think critically about treatment. The state-of-the-art facility also trains us very well. What really stood out for me about the school is its focus on constant innovation. It is always creating new classes, new programs, and is continuously striving to keep up with the latest and greatest technology.
Compassionate and driven, Dr. Li Mao uses research to change the landscape of dentistry. Mao explains, “I want our dental students to view their patients as a whole individual and not just teeth.” Mao, recently appointed research dean for the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, is also the chairman of the Department of Oncology and Diagnostic Sciences.
One of Mao’s research studies reveals that abnormalities in the oral cavity may lead to the early detection of lung cancer. The study demonstrates that the oral cavity could be a mirror to indicate or diagnose diseases in other parts of the body.

Compassion is a trait Mao developed early in his career. He graduated from the Nanjing Medical University in 1982 and later joined the university hospital staff as a surgeon. As a burgeoning practitioner and researcher, Mao focused his work on surgical oncology and understanding the biology of cancer. His initial training led to the development of customized treatment plans based on the findings of his research.

Early in his career, Dr. Mao expanded the idea of transforming research into practical medicine while treating patients with cancer and cardiovascular disease. He describes his despair for one of his female patients who died following traditional surgical treatment for early stage breast cancer. She was only 34 years old. “That type of tragedy stays with me specifically because of her age,” reflects Mao.

Later, he uses a customized plan to treat an elderly patient who had both cardiovascular disease and breast cancer. Six months later, the patient was cured. This success emphasized the importance of personalized medicine for Mao.

After arriving in the United States in 1992, Dr. Mao joined the research team at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. Later, he became an assistant professor at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, where he began teaching students about the relationship between patient care and research. “I began to see that the future was to understand biological defects that lead to cancer development,” reflects Mao. “As a surgeon, I was limited in what I could do for my patient. When technology and research is validated in a clinical setting, patient care automatically strengthens.”

Dr. Mao brings his research focus to the University of Maryland School of Dentistry. Over the past year, he has immersed himself into understanding the challenges facing the dental profession. His goal is to introduce practical research concepts that inform dental practice. “Since 70 percent of individuals visit a dentist regularly, dentistry could play a major role in prevention and early detection,” says Dr. Mao.

For example, one of Mao’s research studies revealed that abnormalities in the oral cavity may lead to the early detection of lung cancer. The study demonstrates that the oral cavity could be a mirror to indicate or diagnose diseases in other parts of the body. “If we can prove that the oral cavity is a window to the whole body system, then there may be a good chance that the dental profession could play a pivotal role in health care.”
Have you ever wondered what it would be like to go back to your old job 35 years later? Former dean Errol Reese recently took this trip back to the future.

Dr. Reese returned to school on Monday, June 8, 2009, as Dean for a Day. He was the second honoree to receive this distinction.

Reese joined the University of Maryland School of Dentistry faculty in 1968 as associate professor and was named dean in 1974. During his tenure, he appointed the school’s first female full professor, established satellite learning centers in the Baltimore area and supported the launch of the advanced general dentistry program.

As Dean for a Day, one of Reese’s obligations was to preside over a Faculty Council meeting. “I looked into the audience and was pleasantly surprised to see so many familiar faces,” says Reese. “Dean Stohler has done a remarkable job in bringing everyone together. A true team spirit is evident.”

As the day progressed, Dr. Reese had a Q&A lunch with current dental students. “The interesting thing was these students asked some of the same important questions that students asked me 20 years ago,” recalls the former dean.

On a more solemn note, Reese gave a moving tribute to Dr. Joseph Cappuccio at a memorial service held that afternoon. “It was so touching to be involved in that part of the day. Dr. Cappuccio was like a father to me. He truly was a champion for me and the school of dentistry.”

Dr. Reese, who served as dean for 15 years, was thrilled by not only the physical structure and clinics of the school of dentistry, but also the more profound changes. “The emphasis on simulation is positive to see and the in-depth research is extremely exciting. I encourage Dean Stohler to keep up the progress. It was a great honor to be invited by Dean Stohler.”

Christian Stohler, DMD, DrMedDent, launched the Dean for a Day program two years ago as part of the school’s alumni outreach. Leonard Henschel, DDS, a member of the Class of 1956, was honored as the first Dean for a Day on August 25, 2008.

The Dean for a Day program is designed to give distinguished alumni and friends the opportunity to see the new facility and learn about innovative parts of the curriculum. The program is open to all alumni who graduated at least 50 years ago.
Barely five years old, the new building of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry stands firm. Yet, a complex history permeates its corridors. As students, faculty and staff navigate in and out of classrooms and offices, the influence of those who came before lingers. It is this lasting presence of the most honored alumni, like Joseph Patrick Cappuccio, DDS ’46 and Harry W. F. Dressel Jr., DDS ’45 that guides the conduct of future and current students. Cappuccio and Dressel have left an indelible mark at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry.
appuccio's strong passion for the field of dentistry was evident by his tireless work for over 50 years as a practitioner and educator. He began teaching in 1948 and remained until his retirement, practicing and teaching oral surgery.

Dean of the School, Christian S. Stohler, DMD, DrMedDent, said that Cappuccio was the “conscience of the school, holding us all accountable for achieving excellence in everything we do.”

Students such as John C. Braun, DDS, MD ’72 recall their professor fondly: “I remember the lectures like they were yesterday. He would end the class with his hands raised to the ceiling and say ‘these hands are golden.’”

Cappuccio saw the University of Maryland School of Dentistry as being not only a place in which to educate future dental professionals, but as a place where students could have access to the best facilities. His daughter, Mary Louise Cappuccio says of him: “He was a trail blazer! He acquired so many pins and plaques; it’s somewhat overwhelming to figure out where I should put them.”

“It is easy to see my father’s profession was so much more than a job to him,” his daughter attests. “He made lasting friendships for 40 or more years. He had people who would go to bat for him; they were almost like kin to one another. Even now, when I hear people speak about him sometimes, they tear up.”

Ms. Cappuccio explains her father and his fellow alumni “were professionals who held deep bonds with each other and genuinely cared about one another. We should all be so lucky to have those kinds of friendships.”

Harry W. F. Dressel Jr., DDS ’45
While sifting through her father’s belongings, Ms. Cappuccio was emotionally moved after finding a piece of tree bark. Upon closer look, she realized it was inscribed with the words “the oath of dentistry.” The oath’s inscription describes how dental faculty are obligated to treat their patients and students as if they were part of their own family. “It is very clear that he lived according to that standard. My father was very concerned with the betterment of the profession,” says Ms. Cappuccio.

Dr. Cappuccio’s daughter also remembers her father’s obsession with the telephone. Former colleague Dr. Ben Swanson says the lengthy phone calls with Cappuccio were legendary. Over the years and the hundreds of phone conversations with Cappuccio, Dr. Swanson devised what he said was a clever plan for preparation: “I would make sure I did not have lunch or dinner scheduled for at least two hours, did not have another pressing engagement for that period of time, and had gone to the restroom. Before the advent of caller I.D. it was rather difficult to get these preparations in place,” Dr. Swanson says.

Cappuccio’s fellow alumnus, Harry W. F. Dressel Jr., DDS ’45 was also well respected in the dental community. Dressel pursued dentistry due to encouragement from his own childhood dentist.

Dressel’s professional path led him to serve time in the Navy as a dental officer. After his tour of duty, he ran a 40-year general dentistry practice in Catonsville, Md. Dressel’s passion for educating future generations of dental professionals kept him serving as a faculty member at his alma mater and at the Community College of Baltimore.

Those who knew Dressel describe him as a soft-spoken, grandfatherly type. However, he was also called a quiet storm because of his fierce commitment to the highest standard of dental care and technical ability.

Dr. Stohler recalls that “he gave his money to the University of Maryland School of Dentistry because we embraced those standards. He believed that technology was the key to education and training outstanding dental professionals, and was tireless in his effort to raise the necessary funds to bring cutting-edge technology and programs to our school.”

He earned a reputation for incorporating the latest technology into his practice, such as high-speed air driven drills. Dressel became one of the first dentists in Maryland to use a lounge-type chair for his patients.

“Whenever we went to the International College of Dentistry convention, they would always have large auditoriums filled with the latest technology and instruments,” recalls Dressel’s long-time companion, Hilda Golen. “The most important part of that meeting to Harry was to go to those exhibits and find the best equipment and technology for the school of dentistry. He was always thinking about the school first.”

“Dr. Dressel was a donor of convictions, which is why he was so successful in getting others to contribute,” explains Stohler. “Every alumnus with whom he spoke knew that Dr. Dressel was only asking them to follow his lead because he knew that money would have an invaluable impact on the school and the future generations of matriculating dentists.”

“Losing both Harry and Joe within four months of one another leaves a true void in our school community,” observes Stohler. “I sincerely hope, as I know Harry and Joe would, that others will step up and carry on their legacies into the next generation—this kind of leadership is critical to our mission.”
Melvin F. Kushner, DDS '66, has been named the 2011 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year. Dr. Kushner was honored during the Opening Reception of the All Alumni Reunion on Friday, June 3.

The Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award is conferred upon a dental leader who exhibits exceptional professionalism, community service and philanthropy. Dr. Kushner was selected for his dedication to the school, commitment to furthering dental education and service to others.

He supports the school as chairman of the All Alumni Reunion Committee, encouraging University of Maryland School of Dentistry graduates across the country to join him at reunion. Alumni affairs have been Dr. Kushner’s priority since he attended his first reunion in 1976. “Once you come to the school, see what’s going on, meet some of the students and the dean, I think you can’t help but get excited,” explains the Pikesville, Md., resident.

Dr. Kushner joined the leadership of the Alumni Association, serving terms as secretary-treasurer and president. He now focuses on encouraging active participation and oversees a mentoring program that connects alumni with current students. Mentors provide professional advice, friendship and academic encouragement to students. “We want to expose them to life in real-world dentistry,” he states.

Helping students is rewarding for Dr. Kushner, who wanted to be a teacher before he followed a career in dentistry. He contributes to dental education by administering licensing exams for the Northeast Regional Board of Dental Examiners. Dr. Kushner also served on the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners for eight years. “I believe strongly in education. I’m thankful for the things that I’ve been able to do in my life and I owe it to my dental education,” he remarks.

Currently, Dr. Kushner serves on the Board of Visitors, while remaining active in education beyond the school. Drawing upon his experience in the Navy Dental Corps Reserve, he now teaches boating safety courses as a licensed Coast Guard Captain. Whether he is on the water or at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, Dr. Kushner thrives on helping others. “I get back much more than I give,” he concludes.
“If it wasn’t for the school of dentistry, I wouldn’t be where I am today,” reflects Robert E. Deery, DDS ’73 on a recent visit to the University of Maryland School of Dentistry.

After taking a tour of the new building with Dean Christian Stohler, DMD, DrMedDent, he fondly remembers being in the first class to experience what was then considered a state-of-the-art cubicle. “I feel that the university was always on the cutting edge,” he says. Dr. Deery considers himself fortunate because he was able to complete post-graduate cases during his senior year. “I brought my mother in and did a three-part bridge,” he recalls. The personal interaction he had with his instructors made it possible.

Drs. Wilbur Ramsey and Russell Gigliotti were two instructors Dr. Deery held in high regard. “Ramsey and Gigliotti were good role models,” reflects Deery. Their guidance helped him see dentistry as a practice to allow for financial independence and philanthropy. Dr. Deery contributes annually to the Russell Gigliotti Memorial Student Loan Fund in honor of his late instructor.

Upon graduation, Dr. Deery went into the Air Force for a two-year commitment. He was stationed at Okinawa where there was a large dental clinic. There were 28 dentists in all specialty areas. “I was board certified and was responsible for all crown and bridge work,” tells Deery. “We even ventured into the local villages and provided dental care.” This whole idea of giving back would remain with Deery for years to come. Afterwards, Dr. Deery transferred to Rome, N.Y. for one year at Griffiss Air Force Base before he relocated to Florida.

When Dr. Deery went into private practice in the 1970s, he had the distinction of being the first dentist within the city limits of Port St. Lucie, Fla. He would remain there throughout his career until he retired in 1991. Although Dr. Deery no longer practices, he maintains his license and remains active on a number of fronts.

Since 1980, Dr. Deery has been the dental director of Florida for the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. In addition, for the last 10 years, he has also served as associate director for the Southern Union Conference. He describes himself as a “facilitator” to recruit dentists of the region. He feels strongly that dentistry allows for individuals in the field to give back locally as well as globally. Dr. Deery has gone on mission trips to Central America and continues to speak at Loma Linda University in California two to three times a year. He specifically lectures about practice management to senior dental students.

“A person should not just focus on oneself, their finances and life because giving back allows another aspect of fulfillment in life,” reflects Deery. With that said, Deery feels that hard work will allow for one to get more value out of life and work. “The future and technology of dentistry has changed so drastically that it has increased such a focus in the field.”

Dr. Deery is “all impressed” with the direction of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry, especially when he heard about the new site in Perryville and the focus of the school there. “I feel that giving back to the school or community is just a way of giving back a gift that was given to me.”
Retired Admiral Carlton McLeod, DDS ’56

Retired Admiral Carlton McLeod, DDS ’56, built a career on dentistry and service to his country. He rose through the ranks during 30 years of service in the Navy, drawing on the dental education he received at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry.

McLeod joined the Naval Reserves during the Korean War, while he was still a dental student. He was put on active duty during his senior year and later served as a Senior Dental Officer onboard the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise during the Vietnam War. As the largest Navy carrier, the Enterprise was a hectic environment during wartime. “I kept very busy. There were 5,700 sailors and five dentists, so we had a captive audience,” he recalls.

In addition to offering comprehensive oral care, McLeod and his colleagues trained to become part of the medical team during battle. During a training mission off the coast of Hawaii, an explosion ripped across the deck of the Enterprise, destroying 15 airplanes. McLeod and his fellow dentists sprang into action and saved the lives of many wounded sailors.

McLeod’s talents were recognized and he was promoted. As Inspector General of the Navy Dental Corps, McLeod enjoyed traveling the world, inspecting the Navy’s 23 dental hospitals. Trips to Hong Kong and New Zealand were memorable, but McLeod says his favorite inspection involved a visit to Keflavik, Iceland. “We had to go way up north and that was an experience. We flew so low over Greenland that we could see polar bears,” he remarks.

McLeod’s patriotism is so important that he instilled this value in his three children. Both sons, Bruce and Gregor, served in the Navy. Bruce followed his father into dentistry, graduating from the University of Maryland School of Dentistry in 1984. McLeod is proud of his family’s service to their country and professions. He jokes that his only failure was not being able to convince his daughter, Heather, to enlist. “I tried to get her to join the JAG (Judge Advocate General’s) Corps because she is a lawyer. She said, ‘You’ve got two of them in short hair and blue suits, quit while you’re ahead.’”

Service to the school is also McLeod’s priority. A generous donor, McLeod was honored as the 2001 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year. He stays close with his classmates and has organized several reunions near his home in Citrus County, Fla. “We were a very close class. Even 55 years later, we are all friends and that is still very important,” he says.
Looking Back … to the Future

One of my first responsibilities as president of the Alumni Association of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry was to give a welcome address at the White Coat Ceremony. As I sat there in the historic and prestigious Davidge Hall, in the midst of deans and presidents, waiting for the arrival of the incoming freshman class, I was contemplating what pearls of wisdom I could bestow on these young, impressionable minds. As I watched the procession of the Class of 2014 enter that hallowed hall, I was taken back to 1971, some 40 years ago, when I entered dental school. I briefly recalled feelings of excitement and fear, uncertainty and prestige, just as, I’m sure, every freshman did on this day. Much to my surprise, the next four years of dental school provided me with a profession that offers a lifetime of extraordinary friends and colleagues, the ability to help those in need, an opportunity to change a life, a respect for the community, the satisfaction of accomplishment and rewards of dedication, commitment and hard work. What more could one ask for?

As I watched the White Coat Ceremony, I thought these future dentists and dental hygienists were extremely fortunate. In a few years, they will join the ranks of an honored profession and have the privilege to carry the torch for those who came before them. It made me think back to my four years of dental education and those who provided me these opportunities. Those memories brought a smile to my face.

The school of dentistry I attended has been replaced by a facility beyond compare, one that every alumnus should be proud of. Often, our busy lives cause us to forget the time of humble beginnings and the extraordinary education we acquired.

So, my message to all who once called the school of dentistry “home” for four years is, “Welcome home again!” Take some time to reacquaint yourself with your school, your classmates and your new Alumni Association. What a great way to look back and say thanks, and to look ahead to the future of dentistry.

Ron Carter, DDS ’75
President
Alumni Association of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry
2010 All Alumni REUNION
Reunion weekend
June 4–6, 2010

Opening Reception
Orioles Baseball Game
50-Year Class Brunch and Tour
Alumni Receptions

2010

National Dental Association Convention • July 18, 2010, Honolulu, Hawaii

Chesapeake Dental Meeting • Sept. 24, 2010, Ocean City, Maryland

Nation’s Capital Dental Meeting • April 9, 2010, Washington, D.C.

Yankee Dental Congress • January 29, 2010, Boston, Massachusetts
On March 1, 2010 five members and their spouses enjoyed each other’s company for a 52-year reunion on the Celebrity cruise ship, Century. On board for a five-night trip departing from Miami, Fla., to Key West and the Grand Cayman Islands were: Dr. Enrique Capo, his wife, Judith, from Ponce, Puerto Rico, Dr. Joseph Bodo, his wife, Caroline, from Tampa, Fla., Dr. John Lessig, his wife, Rose Mary, from Orange Park, Fla., Dr. William Washuta, his wife, Lila, from Debary, Fla., and Dr. Barbara Greco-Donoghue with her husband, Gerald Donoghue, from Lake Worth, Fla.

Flanders has also served with Project HOPE, an international health foundation. During his dental career, he was appointed Illinois State Dental Director and served as a faculty member at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Flanders has published over 35 articles and a collection of short stories. He and his wife, Anne-Liss, live in Williamsburg, Va.

Raymond A. Flanders, DDS, MPH

Warren M. Morganstein, DDS, MPH, MAc, LAc, and his wife, Janice, welcomed...
three new grandchildren to their family. In July, Warren, Janice and their son, Jonas, traveled to Ethiopia to officially adopt Jules Habtamu Shoemaker Morganstein. A second grandson, Milo, was born to Jonas and his wife, Marcy, in July. Warren and Janice’s daughter, Sarah, gave birth to another grandchild, Miriam, in May.

1978 Barry W. Rosenthal, DDS, and his wife, Terrie, welcomed their first grandchild, Sarah Kady Schmidt. The proud parents are Shayna and Brandon Schmidt. Class of 2012 candidate, Brian Rosenthal, is the proud uncle.

1980 Ronald Attanasio, DDS, published the first book resource on an interdisciplinary and comprehensive approach to diagnosing and treating sleep disorders from a dental perspective. The book is entitled, Dental Management of Sleep Disorders. Dr. Attanasio is a professor in the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry’s Department of Adult Restorative Dentistry and director of the Temporomandibular Disorder and Facial Pain Clinic.

1984 & 1988 Brian Henry, DDS, and Kathy Frankle, DDS, attended the Canadian Endodontic Academy Annual Meeting in Victoria, British Columbia. Endodontic Residents, Peter Bellingham and Kevin Li were also in attendance.

Send us your personal and professional news for the Class Notes section of Mdental.

Information may be e-mailed to Azewe@umaryland.edu or sent to: University of Maryland School of Dentistry, Office of Development and Alumni Relations Room 6207 650 W. Baltimore Street Baltimore, MD 21201
In Memorium

We are saddened by the loss of the following alumni:

Joseph R. Beard, DDS ‘45
Sterrett P. Beaven, DDS ‘41
J. E. Belford, DDS ‘29
Fred S. Blake, DDS ‘43
Harry V. Borg, DDS ‘44
Robert C. Burroughs Jr., DDS ‘55
James M. Callahan, DDS ‘50
Joseph P. Cappuccio, DDS ‘46
Robert R. Chesney, DDS ‘60
Aaron J. Chmar, DDS ‘56
Phillip L. Chmar, DDS ‘41
Laurence G. Clagett Sr., DDS ‘50
John E. Cockayne, DDS ‘44
James L. Corthouts, DDS ‘36
William H. D’Abbraccio, DDS ‘47
Bernard de Hosson, DDS ‘47
Thomas E. Dooley, DDS ‘52
John R. Dopson, DDS ‘63
Harry W. F. Dressel Jr., DDS ‘45
Irving M. Edelson, DDS ‘52
Fred Ehrlich, DDS ‘47
Morton M. Ehudin, DDS ‘60
John W. Farrish Jr., DDS ‘79
Conrad C. Ferlita, DDS ‘59
Arthur I. Ferrante, DDS ‘52
George E. Garrington, DDS ‘53
Constant J. Georges, DDS ‘54
Jack T. Gibson, DDS ‘53
George A. Graham, DDS ‘44
Raymond J. Graves, DDS ‘32
Jesse J. Greenberg, DDS ‘37
John M. Hyson Jr., DDS ‘50
William E. Kidd, DDS ‘53
Thomas A. Kornegay, DDS ‘52
Donald F. Laird, DDS ‘53
John J. Lavelle Jr., DDS ‘52
Gerard J. Lemongello Sr., DDS ‘53
Alvin B. Lifting, DDS ‘46
James A. Liszewski, DDS ‘55
William L. Lovern, DDS ‘60
John F. Lynch, DDS ‘55
Charles A. Lynn, DDS ‘49
John M. Martin, DDS ‘65
Kenneth S. McAttee, DDS ‘43
Donald J. McElroy, DDS ‘50
Richard S. Mehring, DDS ‘43
G. Richard Minnick, DDS ‘54
John Morley, DDS ‘52
Morris H. Nathan, DDS ‘33
James E. Palmer, DDS ‘61
Albert R. Perrelli, DDS ‘54
Thomas J. Pfau, DDS ‘74
Allie G. Phifer, DDS ‘50
Harold E. Plaster, DDS ‘39
Sylvan Pleet, DDS ‘51
Alben R. Pollack, DDS ‘59
Erwin S. Raffel, DDS ‘61
Claude B. Ramsay, DDS ‘53
James T. Reilly, DDS ‘43
William S. Sartorius Jr., DDS ‘70
Alvin H. Savage, DDS ‘42
Carl S. Singer, DDS ‘57
Andrew M. Smith Jr., DDS ‘54
Theodore S. Sobkov, DDS ‘62
Anthony Sollazzo, DDS ‘59
George Spiegel, DDS ‘49
John W. Staubach, DDS ‘63
Dennis M. Thome, DDS ‘66
Linn S. Tompkins Jr., DDS ‘58
Michael H. Ventura, DDS ‘50
Richard H. Warren, DDS ‘57
Frederick Weinstein, DDS ‘46
Fred C. Wesberry, DDS ‘84
Louis Wiseman, DDS ‘45
Thomas E. Wolf, DDS ‘51
Sheldon J. Wollman, DDS ‘63
Mission The University of Maryland School of Dentistry seeks to graduate exceptional oral health care professionals, contribute to the scientific basis of treatments for diseases of the orofacial complex, and deliver comprehensive dental care. These accomplishments will promote, maintain, and improve the overall health of the people within Maryland and have a national and international impact, adopting the spirit of the University-at-large.

Future Vision As we strive to achieve our goals, we envision the future: Reflecting on its heritage, the University of Maryland School of Dentistry will join in full partnership with other campus entities. The resulting multidisciplinary ventures will contribute to our prominence in scientific discovery, scholarly activity, and service to the community. Global outreach efforts of faculty, students, and staff will be mutually rewarding. An atmosphere of collegiality and intellectual stimulation will prevail, nurturing students, faculty, and alumni.

Administrative support will help foster creativity and responsiveness to a range of opportunities. The School will create and maintain an organizational structure that enhances our ability to achieve our goals. Students, faculty, and staff will provide the highest quality oral health care. The world’s first dental college, established in the 19th century, will take its place as the premier dental school of the 21st century.
Dean Christian S. Stohler cordially invites you to:

American Dental Association Annual Session
University of Maryland School of Dentistry Reception

SAVE THE DATE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, FROM 6 P.M. to 8 P.M.

Room 312
MGM Grand Hotel
3799 Las Vegas Boulevard South
Las Vegas, NV 89109

For more information, please contact Noah Saposnik
at nsaposnik@umaryland.edu or 410-706-4298.