VOLUNTEER FACULTY

Deepening the Educational Experience for Students and Finding Rewards for Themselves

Also inside:
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Up Close with Bill Bird and George Taylor
Faculty Profiles
All-Alumni Weekend and Class Notes
Mission, Vision & Values

Mission: Advancing oral, craniofacial and public health through excellence in education, discovery and patient-centered care.

Vision: To be a worldwide leader in dental education and public health, clinical practice, and scientific discovery.

Values: Our core values of excellence, integrity, respect, innovation, accountability, leadership and social responsibility guide us in our daily actions and decisions, as well as in our interactions with other.

The goal of the School of Dentistry Magazine is to advance the mission of the School of Dentistry. The magazine is published annually for the alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends of the UCSF School of Dentistry.

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ON THE COVER: Volunteer faculty member Jeffrey Sasaki instructs D2 student Stacey Hyun Joo Moon (see story, page 3).

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We’d like to know what you think!

Tell us what you think of the UCSF School of Dentistry Magazine: what you like, what you don’t like and what you’d like to see more of.
Please complete our anonymous survey:
dentistry.ucsf.edu/magazine2012
Dear Alumni and Friends of the UCSF School of Dentistry:

Since toasting our 130th anniversary last year, we have made much progress at the UCSF School of Dentistry even as our values and dedication to our mission have remained strong and constant.

The school has very successfully completed a rigorous accreditation process that began two years ago, and the final report is expected to show that we are performing at the highest levels across our academic, clinical and research programs, in an environment of excellence created by our great faculty and staff.

The quality of our students, in particular, was cited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) site visitors as “exceptional.”

Indeed, UCSF Dentistry students have gone from strength to strength over the past year, accumulating scholarships, awards and recognition of all kinds at an almost unprecedented rate for the remarkable quality of their work, recently receiving an astonishing 11 fellowships from the American Association for Dental Research (AADR) out of a total of 20 awarded nationwide. Recognition of the academic and clinical achievements of UCSF dental students is ongoing, as is acknowledgement of their tradition of dedication to public service.

In these pages you’ll meet George Taylor, the new chair of Dentistry’s Department of Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences, as well as innovative and inspiring faculty, such as Janice Lee, Sam Huang and Jeff Bush. You’ll read of the progress of our first-ever class of Master of Science in Dental Hygiene students as they move toward graduation in June 2012, and of the UCSF School of Dentistry’s very successful participation in the first-ever All-Alumni Weekend.

There is much to celebrate at UCSF Dentistry, but the times remain challenging for us all and our course is clear: working together, to continue disciplined management of our resources and to sustainably protect the academic, clinical and research enterprises that form the core of what we do so well. To accomplish that with maximum effectiveness, we need to engage the whole of our community, on campus and beyond, including our dedicated alumni. Please visit ucsfalumni.org to learn more about what alumni are doing to build and sustain UCSF and the UCSF School of Dentistry.

As always, I invite you to stay in touch via the Web (dentistry.ucsf.edu), via UCSF Continuing Dental Education (dentistry.ucsf.edu/cde), by joining us for the 117th Scientific Session at UCSF All-Alumni Weekend – Friday-Saturday, April 26-27, 2013 – and via social media at facebook.com/ucsfdentistry and twitter.com/ucsfdentistry.

Education, discovery, patient care. Please join us!

John D.B. Featherstone, MSc, PhD
Dean, UCSF School of Dentistry
Successful Conclusion to 2012 CODA Accreditation Process

At a lively special Dean’s Town Hall Meeting at noon on April 12, 2012, Dean John D.B. Featherstone announced the preliminary conclusions of the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), and they tell a profoundly positive story of the UCSF School of Dentistry in its 131st year.

At the end of the self-study process, the site visit team concluded that the UCSF School of Dentistry is in compliance with:

- All the predoctoral standards
- The postgraduate program standards for dental public health, endodontics, orthodontics, pediatric dentistry, periodontology, prosthodontics, oral medicine and general practice residency

More than this, the CODA site visit team identified multiple strengths within the school as a whole and within individual programs, singling out several program chairs for their leadership, and characterizing the quality of UCSF Dentistry students as “exceptional.”

The DDS (including IDP) Predoctoral Education Program was described by the CODA report in strongly positive terms:

- Exceptional students
- Basic science integrated and exceptional
- Research extremely strong
- Financial management and use of resources outstanding
- Spirit of cooperation at all levels exceptional – an environment of respect and cooperation, and the “humanistic nature” of the operation of the school overall

Speaking for half an hour, Dean Featherstone took time to single out multiple individuals for their contributions toward making the accreditation process a resounding success, including the Accreditation Steering Committee, the dean’s office staff, predoctoral clinic staff and faculty, IT staff and faculty, facilities staff and “special accolades for Associate Dean for Education and Student Affairs Dorothy Perry and her entire team,” after which Associate Dean Perry – who led the accreditation process again, having led a similarly successful process in 2005 – was given a standing ovation (pictured above left).

“All of us – everyone in the school, working together – made this wonderful outcome possible,” emphasized the dean.

MS in Dental Hygiene Program Completes First Year

The UCSF School of Dentistry’s Master of Science in Dental Hygiene (MSDH) program neared the completion of its first year as students presented their research at the Jean Poupard Memorial Lecture, described by the CODA report in strongly positive terms:

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Meet the Challenge

By Andrew Schwartz

A necessity in tough economic times, volunteers deepen the educational experience for students and find rich rewards for themselves

Mid-morning, the 80 dental stations in the UCSF General Dentistry Clinic on Parnassus Avenue are nearly all occupied. Student dentists in powder blue gowns, surgical masks, gloves and protective eyewear lean over their patients – a varied group that presents a range of clinical and management challenges.

There’s the woman who despite medication is struggling so much with pain in her teeth and jaw that she needs additional anesthetic before her procedure is completed. There’s the elderly man in the red Christmas sweater whose bleeding gums demand a strong understanding of both periodontal disease and diabetes – to say nothing of understanding how to handle the moment when his wife arrives to tell him they have to move their car.

To cope with such challenges, throughout the morning the student dentists pepper questions at roving faculty, clad in green. In a live environment, the students clearly crave the hands-on mentoring of experts.

In the General Dentistry Clinic, students have an enormous amount to learn even as they must meet very high standards for patient care. Consequently, volunteer faculty wind up teaching not just hand skills, but also academics, patient management and practice management.

That’s why despite constantly searching for volunteers, the school seeks more than just warm bodies. “We hold our volunteer faculty to the same standard as paid faculty, so this has to be a calling,” says Brear. Generally, the people who volunteer are lifelong learners with strong clinical skills, dedication to effective teaching, patience – there’s a lot of stress, a lot of conflict – and a willingness to undergo a staged training process.

During the training, each volunteer learns or relearns the tools and techniques the school holds dear, including Caries Management by Risk Assessment (CAMBRA), minimally invasive procedures and familiarity with the school’s electronic charts.

Mutual Benefits

The school is grateful to its volunteers for their many contributions, including:

- Helping to maintain a 1:8 faculty-to-student ratio
- Saving an estimated $35,000 per month in the General Dentistry Clinic alone, based on roughly 60 volunteer dentists covering about 100 clinical and preclinical sessions
- Offering students a wide range of perspectives on dentistry and the ways to approach private practice

Yet the program could not succeed if it didn’t offer the volunteers considerable benefits as well – even beyond the free campus parking and access to a web-based learning program that helps volunteers stay abreast of what students are learning. The biggest reward is often the peer interaction in an environment where volunteers can discuss different clinical situations and thereby continue their own learning.

In the General Dentistry Clinic, those peer interactions include regular face-to-face consults with specialists – periodontists, prosthodontists, endodontists, orthodontists and even a behavioral psychologist. In private practice, contact with these specialists is usually limited to email and fax referrals.

Don Coluzzi, DDS, who volunteers one or two days a week, cherishes all these interactions. “It keeps me connected with the profession,” he says. “I love the collegiality and I think every dentist should consider volunteering because it does people good to see what’s being taught, see who our new colleagues are going to be, and share some of what we know with them.”
Don Coluzzi
Laser Expert

While an undergraduate at UCLA in the 1960s, Don Coluzzi wondered how to mesh the manual skills he’d acquired working as a carpenter, welder and electrician in his father’s sign business with a growing interest in science. He considered medical surgery, but when a surgeon told him how he envied dentists’ opportunities to talk with their patients, Coluzzi, a self-confessed talker, was sold.

He graduated in 1970 from USC School of Dentistry and wound up in Redwood City, chasing a job offer. When that fell through, he started his own practice and ran it successfully for over 30 years, finally selling it to a UCSF alumnus in 2004.

By then, Coluzzi had spent 10 years as a volunteer faculty member at UCSF School of Dentistry, something that came about because of his pioneering clinical work with lasers. In 1990, he became one of the first dentists in the country to begin using a laser in his practice.

Through that work, he became acquainted with UCSF faculty member and laser researcher Joel White, DDS, who eventually asked Coluzzi to bring his knowledge of lasers to UCSF. Coluzzi, who is passionate about spreading the word, agreed; and to this day his expertise with lasers keeps him busy with writing and speaking engagements around the world.

“Several years ago I even ‘snuck’ the first laser up to the UCSF clinic,” says Coluzzi, chuckling. There, he often demonstrates the precision advantage that lasers offer for simple, soft-tissue surgeries. In other settings, he demonstrates the more complex laser surgeries.

In addition, since his retirement, Coluzzi has co-taught a seminar called Advanced Topics in Patient-Centered Care, has begun helping in the General Practice Residency and even gives the occasional in-service seminar on lasers to faculty.

He does confess that while he was still in practice, it was a challenge to fit in volunteer time and learn how to be a skilled and patient teacher. “But it was worth it to make that commitment, because every patient deserves the best care and every student deserves the best learning,” he says. “Besides, I enjoy students and I love this profession.”

“Every patient deserves the best care and every student deserves the best learning.”
George K. Merijohn
Bringing Patient-Centered, Evidence-Based Expertise to Postgraduate Education

Periodontal surgeon George K. Merijohn, DDS, is widely recognized for his passionate focus on putting the patient first in clinical decisionmaking and treatment, his innovative use of evidence-based decisionmaking in private practice, and his pioneering and refining of minimally invasive surgical procedures.

Yet he seems to take as much pride in giving back to his profession. To fulfill a commitment to his mentors to leave the profession a better place than when he arrived, Merijohn has served as a volunteer faculty member at UCSF School of Dentistry since September 2010. “The faculty, staff and administration are incredibly wonderful to work with,” he says. “They give me the flexibility and support I need to give back in multifaceted and innovative ways.”

His presence has made a significant contribution to the school’s periodontal program. He serves as an attending in postgraduate periodontics and assists in literature review, focusing on patient-centered outcomes and evidence-based clinical decisionmaking. He also upgrades core clinical resources within the dental school. Among his contributions:

- For the postgraduate perio program, he designed a comprehensive suite of informed consent and risk disclosure forms to better inform patient decisions, as well as decrease malpractice risk exposure for the UC Regents.
- Working with Network and Information Services and dental faculty, he modified the periodontal electronic exam module, enhancing and expanding diagnostic data to enable improved clinical decision-making.
- Under the guidance of Dean John Featherstone, Merijohn developed a novel screening tool for tooth decay risk assessment, which will be beta tested in postgraduate periodontics and endodontics.
- Within the clinic, the perio residents are learning Merijohn’s specialized surgical techniques of soft-tissue augmentation for the mandibular anterior lingual aspect. Soft-tissue problems in this area are associated with a variety of factors, including orthodontic treatment and tongue-piercing jewelry. This is a challenging, often overlooked treatment area, for which Merijohn spent years honing techniques to deliver predictable and successful outcomes.

All of this work is infused with what Merijohn refers to as “time-honored medical values.” These values include carefully listening to patients; examining comprehensively; enabling patients to make informed, risk-adjusted and evidence-based decisions aligned with their preferences and values; providing treatment in a conservative, methodical manner; and having the patience to assess conservative approach outcomes before advising more extensive therapy.

“I enjoyed a very successful private practice career and relish teaching, consulting, innovating and giving back to our profession,” says Merijohn, who earned his dental degree in 1979 from the University of Illinois College of Dentistry and received his certificate in periodontics in 1981 from the University of Washington. “I often reflect on the great mentors I was fortunate to have in my life and know I stand on the shoulders of giants. I hope that through my work with UCSF, I may give to future generations, as my mentors selflessly gave to me.”
Jeffrey Sasaki
Builds on a Family Tradition

In recalling his time at UCSF School of Dentistry, Jeffrey Sasaki, DDS ’98, talks fondly of his exposure to an outstanding preclinical and clinical education, a range of practice philosophies, and the model of his father, Richard (DDS ’71), who served as a volunteer faculty member for many years.

Seeing the joy his father found working with students and encountering ideas that keep a practice vital inspired Jeffrey Sasaki to continue the family tradition.

He decided to pursue dentistry while completing his undergraduate degree at University of California, San Diego. After graduation from UCSF, he joined his father’s practice in Los Altos and immediately returned to the school as a volunteer faculty member. Currently, he helps team-teach a course for second-year dental students two Fridays a month, in the simulation lab.

His presence is essential, says Daniel Mendoza, DDS ’84, who leads the class. “In tough financial times, we couldn’t keep our faculty-to-student ratio without our volunteers.”

In addition, he says, despite the challenges of working volunteer time into his busy practice schedule, it is always interesting and rewarding trying to find the best approach for each individual student.

He adds, “Being on campus is also a good way to stay in touch with other faculty and talk about what we’re doing in our practices; we also have the opportunity to hear guest lectures.”

“Dr. Sasaki...brings experience, camaraderie and a positive presence,” says Mendoza. “It’s a measure of how much students like him that there is always a line for his help.”

“As a student I realized there were faculty volunteering their time who were really helpful and it’s nice to give back to the school.”

The bustle of the recently revamped simulation lab – dozens of students working their way through projects and constantly seeking help – makes clear why keeping that ratio is so essential.

“The work varies, but the students might have a project with set checkpoints and we’re available throughout if they need help or have questions,” says Sasaki. “I’m happy to do it, because as a student I realized there were faculty volunteering their time who were really helpful and it’s nice to give back to the school.”

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William Bird, DDS, DPH, enjoys a good story – and he should; he’s got lots of them.

In the 40-plus years since he graduated from Loyola University’s Stritch School of Dentistry, Bird’s career has included stints as a bartender, researcher, public health administrator, professor, assistant dean and even a dentist, while living in world-class cities, small towns and Indian reservations. He’s raised a family, earned degrees in public health, piloted small planes, set a hot air balloon record and become an expert in natural horsemanship on his ranch in Glen Ellen, California.

Bird, who retired recently after 22 years at UCSF, says that amidst the variety, his love of teaching is the one thread that has run throughout. “My passion is helping people with potential to develop themselves.”

The First Flight

Bird graduated from Stritch in 1961, when the first American advisors were just arriving in Vietnam. After he applied for residencies in the Air Force and United States Public Health Service (PHS), the PHS offered him a job as a dentist on an Indian reservation in northern Wisconsin. “I’d grown up in Indiana farm country and the position sounded good,” he says. But a week before he was due to go, the Wisconsin service closed and Bird wound up in Eagle Butte, South Dakota, working with the Cheyenne River Sioux.

“There was a major car accident my first weekend, and I spent the entire time in the OR working on facial trauma with a physician and a pharmacist,” he says.

For the next two years, Bird provided dental care, mostly for children, and developed an interest in

Continued on page 8
preventing the onset of the kinds of dental problems many of these young people faced. He began implementing innovative, school-based programs that encouraged prevention and healthy teeth. “The teachers liked it, because it gave them a curriculum,” says Bird.

By 1963, his work had attracted the attention of his superiors, who offered Bird the opportunity to start a dental assistant education program at Haskell Institute, in Lawrence, Kansas, aimed at providing jobs for the Native American population. The program would become one of the first such accredited programs in the country. Just to fill the occasional spare hour, Bird also began pursuing a master’s degree in education at the University of Kansas.

Zigzagging Across the Country

In 1967, the PHS asked Bird to begin a general-practice residency program on Staten Island, in New York City, while also commuting to work at a clinic on Manhattan’s Lower East Side. A year later, he was off to Gallup, New Mexico, where he became assistant director of the Indian Health Service’s General Practice Residency program and, eventually, its director.

“At that point, I didn’t see solo dental practice as something for me; I was looking for other opportunities,” says Bird. Those other opportunities would transform him into what he calls a “super generalist.” Between 1963 and the mid-’80s, he would do mini residencies in general surgery, periodontics, orthodontics, restorative dentistry and prosthodontics.

“While I was in Gallup, I also got my pilot’s license, so I could fly around to clinics on the reservations in Arizona and New Mexico, rather than patients needing to come to us,” he says.

Eventually, the PHS brought Bird back to South Dakota, where he became chief of the dental service for seven states, responsible for dental programs, staff development and training. He spent two years there –
Bill Bird

Residency Program in the Southwest, and an assistant director in the Indian Health Service.

Teaching and Flying and Flying and Teaching
In 1983, Bird retired from the Public Health Service and for the first time in his career entered private practice. It was lucrative and it grew, but it didn’t take long for Bird’s love of teaching to make him restless again. In 1986, he took a position in the geriatric residency program at the University of Minnesota, even as he continued to manage his New Mexico practice, commuting monthly.

As if that weren’t enough, he began hot air ballooning, eventually becoming an instructor (teaching again) and assistant director of the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. “We even set an (unofficial) altitude record of 33,000 feet, in an open-cockpit hot air balloon with three passengers,” he says with evident pride.

Yet by the late ’80s, Bird was looking west. He arrived at UCSF in 1989, and in the 22 years since then, he’s filled positions that ranged from director of the Fellowship in Geriatric Dentistry and interim chair of what was then called the Department of Public Health and Hygiene to associate dean for clinic administration and long-serving interim chair of the Department of Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences (DPRDS).

In those roles, he was at the center of many of the school’s important achievements, including the establishment of a hugely successful community-based externship program, the significant growth of the DPRDS grant portfolio and the winning of one of 10 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grants for community-based dental education. In 2007, the American Association of Public Health Dentistry recognized his many decades of contributions with its Distinguished Service Award.

Retirement
Finally, in 2011, with the arrival of George Taylor to lead the Department...
“I want to develop a strong presence in the area of oral and systemic health, starting with diabetes, and also explore the connection between periodontal disease and kidney disease.”

– George Taylor, DMD, DPH, chair of the Department of Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences

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A Well-Rounded Dental Education

At Harvard, medical and dental students study together for the first two years. “This made you very aware of the whole human body,” says Taylor.

He also liked the way students completed all their requirements in the first three years, so in their senior year, they could pursue a wide range of elective opportunities, including rotating through many different elective sites. Taylor worked at community clinics and learned oral surgery, periodontics and psychiatry among other specialties. “When I finished, I hadn’t made up my mind about a specialty, but I was beginning to feel an interest in working with underserved patients in a large, busy residency,” he says.

Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center, in Brooklyn, New York, fit the bill. “You saw everything…you would hear music in the wards…and I loved playing basketball in the parks,” he says.

At the end of his residency, Taylor’s four-year ROTC obligation kicked in, and the Air Force sent him first to England, and then to the northernmost corner of Maine. Good experiences both, but when the obligation was up, Taylor was anxious to resume his work with underserved populations in a large urban area.

A Clinic in Detroit

The timing was right. In 1979, the University of Detroit Mercy was creating an extramural site in a large, developing health center affiliated with Wayne State University. “They had federal funding to build a 42-chair clinic that could focus on serving medically compromised patients,” says Taylor, who secured a job there as a staff dentist.

But when he arrived, the clinic wasn’t ready to open. Taylor wound up helping with clinic development –
order systems and helping to design systems – even as he began teaching in the dental auxiliary utilization program. When the clinic opened, he had gained valuable experience that he then enriched by delivering collaborative services with other specialties in the hospital.

“IT was a perfect fit,” says Taylor. “Many, if not most, of these patients would not have had access to care otherwise, so we were always thinking about the whole patient.”

As a general dentist, I often was quarterback for their health care and had to learn all about their systemic health, things that can affect how you provide dental care, or problems like diabetes or heart disease that demand a referral and follow-up.”

Taylor also found that he enjoyed teaching the students who rotated through the clinic.

Enhanced Responsibilities Reveal a Skill Gap

Yet Taylor also began to realize that he lacked the formal skill set to do everything he wanted to accomplish.

“I had clinician skill sets, but not what I needed to be the administrative leader of an organization that could make sure these patients got the care they needed,” he says.

It was then he had a conversation with David Striffler, the revered director of the University of Michigan’s Dental Public Health program, which was affiliated with the University of Michigan’s On Job/On Campus MPH program in medical care organization. Set up for working professionals, this program would allow Taylor to keep his job.

“I loved it,” he says. “It was a very rich learning environment, and there was never a class where the instructor was talking about something I hadn’t experienced or thought about in my clinic.”

He received his MPH in 1982, and by 1983 he’d become director of the clinic, as well as chair of the Department of General Dentistry at the University of Detroit Mercy.

He stayed in both positions for five years, enjoying the mix of clinical life, public health and teaching. But over time, says Taylor, “Certain questions would pop up, [for which] people didn’t seem to have answers.”

The Road to Research

These questions sparked a newfound interest in the world of research, which eventually led Taylor to return to the University of Michigan School of Public Health. With his young family in tow, Taylor moved to Ann Arbor to pursue a DPH in oral epidemiology.

The move into graduate student housing that drew families from all over the world was eye-opening.

“Where I grew up, in Virginia, there were things we couldn’t do and places we couldn’t go because we were African American,” says Taylor. “Living in Ann Arbor made me envious of the world my sons could grow up in, because they could develop a mind-set that allows them to transcend boundaries.”

The transcending of boundaries occurred in Taylor’s academic life as well, as he began to explore connections between diabetes and oral health after reading research about Pima Indians in Arizona. The work had demonstrated that diabetes adversely affects periodontal health; Taylor wanted to see if the opposite is also true. His pursuit of that question would launch him on a research path that continues to this day.

“Today, the evidence suggests that periodontal disease exacerbates the body’s local response to infection and leads to production of inflammatory molecules that can disseminate systemically,” says Taylor. “This has an effect on the body’s ability to use insulin, so people with periodontal disease have poorer glycemic control. And some studies have begun to suggest that treating periodontal disease leads to improvement in diabetes.”

While the studies continue as to whether periodontal disease contributes to diabetic complications or can even cause diabetes, Taylor notes, “They are both common chronic diseases with common risk factors, so if you want to make evidence-driven policy about managing diabetes, it makes sense to think about incorporating oral health care.”

Thanks in part to Taylor’s work, some insurance companies agree and have begun to cover periodontal care in the hopes of averting the high costs associated with diabetes treatment. Such work links to Taylor’s other research path, which examines the relationship between dental care service utilization and medical care costs for insured individuals who have diabetes and other systemic diseases.

The Move to UCSF

Taylor was happy at Michigan, pursuing those research questions while teaching and mentoring students and faculty colleagues; he says it took a special place to draw him away – and that UCSF is such a place.

“Jane Weintraub had described to me what goes on here, and I knew about John Featherstone’s work,” he says. “It intrigued me that there was a dean of a dental school doing clinical research. I liked that, and I figured if I was to go anywhere for an adventure, why not come to San Francisco?”

Once here, he was convinced. “They’re doing such great things, and there is this existing synergy among the schools that takes me back to my own training,” he says. “I saw an opportunity.”

Taylor is still assessing how to make the most of that opportunity. “My first goal is to become thoroughly familiar with the strengths of the department and the school,” he says. “But certainly, I want to develop a strong presence in the area of oral and systemic health, starting with diabetes, and also explore the connection between periodontal disease and kidney disease.” He has already had discussions about an interdisciplinary research program that addresses these topics.

He also is hoping to build on the existing work of the Center to Address Disparities in Children’s Oral Health (CAN DO). “We teach our students the best clinical skills for providing cutting-edge dental care, but not everyone can afford to have that type of treatment,” says Taylor. “The thing I struggle most with is how to close the gap. If we claim to be a place where the best minds and best technology reside, then we should be able to solve that problem.”

A Calling to Save Faces, Restore Lives

By Andrew Schwartz

Even for many in the health professions, malocclusion and cleft lip don’t typically register as significant population health concerns.

Yet more people have malocclusion than either hypertension or diabetes. The condition can cause joint problems, speech difficulties and depression and, in severe cases, can make it difficult to hold a job as people consciously or unconsciously develop a bias based on a person’s appearance. Cleft lip and cleft palate are among the most common craniofacial congenital anomalies worldwide and can have a significant effect on people’s physical and emotional lives.

Oral and maxillofacial surgeon Janice Lee, DDS, MD, is acutely aware of these facts and is driven to help people who suffer from conditions that affect the jaw and face. “We can have a dramatic impact on these people’s appearance and their lives,” says Lee. She believes that as effective as current procedures are, there are ways to make them safer and less invasive.

Two of her current research projects – one on the use of stem cells for bone regeneration, and the other on a type of virtual reality training for surgeons – reflect that belief.

The Medical and Psychological Importance of Appearance

Though she’s always been interested in dentistry and orthodontics, during Lee’s first week of dental school at UCLA, she saw a lecture on orthognathic surgery that dramatically focused her education.

“I was impressed by the changes in a person’s facial appearance made possible with surgery,” she says. “Faces are tremendously important in psychosocial development, and there are studies that show children automatically classify faces into normal and abnormal, categories that come with immediate good and bad connotations.”

Inspired, Lee finished her dental degree at UCLA, earned her medical degree at Harvard, completed her oral and maxillofacial surgery residency at Massachusetts General Hospital and did a two-year NIH Craniofacial Fellowship in Bethesda, Maryland. Today, as a member of the Craniofacial Anomalies team at UCSF Medical Center at Mount Zion and as a full-time faculty member in the School of Dentistry’s Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS), Lee focuses in her clinical and research work on facial reconstruction, maxillofacial pathology and craniofacial anomalies in both children and adults.

Can Stem Cells Obviate a Second Surgery?

Lee explains that all craniofacial skeletal reconstructions require the surgeon to obtain a bone graft from a second surgical site – usually the hip, leg or rib cage – which requires prolonged anesthesia and hospitalization. To obviate the second surgery and its risks, one of Lee’s research paths seeks ways to regenerate bone in the facial skeleton using dental pulp stem cells. Her studies characterize the regenerative capability of these cells, and compare the way bone regenerates in various skeletal sites across patients of varying ages.

“Consider a 20-year-old with a jaw tumor,” Lee says, explaining her vision for her work. “When the tumor is removed, the patient is left with an eight-centimeter defect. Our idea is that rather than taking bone from the hip or rib to reconstruct the jaw, a surgeon could transplant dental pulp stem cells or mesenchymal stem cells onto a scaffold placed in the defect and around which the stem cells will regenerate new bone.” And by studying the significantly better regenerative capacity in children compared with adults, Lee and her research team hope to learn how to use the scaffold to properly direct the differentiation and function of the cells.

Training Matters

Even as she pursues her dream of treating craniofacial skeletal defects in a less invasive way using tissue-engineering methods, Lee continues to train young surgeons to choose and then perform the appropriate surgery for each condition.

Like other surgeons, residents in OMFS learn by observing surgical procedures, but as Lee explains, “All the surgery that we do is through the mouth, which provides only a small
visual access point. With incisions often less than two inches long, observation is difficult.” Therefore, another research path for Lee focuses on making surgery safer by overcoming this unique challenge in training future oral and maxillofacial surgeons and dental students.

The move from 2-D imaging technology, like X-rays, to patient-specific 3-D images taken from a CT scan is the first step in addressing this unique challenge, because the surgery is, of course, three-dimensional. Seeing a particular surgical site in three dimensions before surgery allows trainees – and even experienced surgeons, for that matter – to better understand the spatial relationships involved.

Lee hopes that her current research project will bring training full force into the 21st century. Since the fall of 2009, she has been working in concert with BioDigital Systems, a company with strong experience in medical simulation, to create virtual environments that have both visual and “haptic” components. That is, trainees will not only be able to see the potential surgical site; they will also be able to feel what it would be like to operate in the area.

Lee and BioDigital’s first attempt at creating such an environment involves dental injections. When trainees practice with the haptic device and software under development, they are able to both see and feel what it’s like to inject the inferior alveolar nerve. As any dental student knows, this is one of the most difficult injections to master. Today, students learn the procedure by practicing on each other.

“We are one of the first to use a device that combines high-fidelity graphics and haptics for a dental application,” says Lee. “The work would not be possible without the support of Dean Featherstone, who sees the value of safer teaching methods with the most cutting-edge technology. And it is coming at a time when dentistry and medicine are looking at different training modalities, such as simulation and virtual environments, that will enhance the learning for students and provide immediate feedback, while limiting the potential risks and ethical dilemmas in trying procedures on each other.”

Far-Reaching, Patient-Centered Advances
When the project is complete, it can readily extend a powerful practice environment to new simulation applications in OMFS training – as well as many other situations where health care providers must administer difficult injections.

“There are lots of people beyond dentistry who may benefit in performing difficult injections,” says Lee. “People working in the ER, plastic surgery, ENT, dental hygienists – we’ll be able to share this with all of them.”

This excites Lee, whose entire professional life focuses on advancing patient-centered care. “I would like all my research to affect my patients…. It all goes back to patients’ lives being better in the safest and most risk-free environment.”

Janice Lee trains D2 student Matt Finzen on the haptic device.
The human face is “the mirror of the mind” and the core of our outward appearance. It makes us unique and identifies us to others. In the first years of life, a child’s growing perception of how she looks forms her sense of self.

Throughout the years, philosophers, artists, saints and scientists have all pondered the significance of the human countenance.

Joining this group of investigators is Jeffrey Bush, PhD, a UCSF assistant professor and developmental biologist in the School of Dentistry’s Department of Cell and Tissue Biology. He is trying to unlock the mysteries of why some children are born with defects such as cleft lip and palate and craniosynostosis that leave their faces and heads misshapen.

Bush’s research focuses on identifying the genetic mechanisms that go awry in early fetal development. By learning more about these mechanisms, he hopes to help find a treatment to prevent these defects – perhaps a simple intervention analogous to expectant mothers taking folic acid to prevent neural tube defects.

A Cross-Disciplinary Effort to Prevent Suffering

An average of 4,400 children are born each year in the United States with cleft lip with or without a cleft palate. In this country, these disfiguring gaps in the lip or roof of the mouth are usually corrected through multiple surgeries over the course of many years. But children with these defects often have difficulty eating and develop speech and dental problems. Studies also document that a child’s growing awareness of being disfigured takes a toll on self-esteem. Starting at a young age, they find themselves being stared at, talked about or rejected – and not just by other children but by adults.

“There can be a lot of suffering,” says Bush. “Even though current treatment is very good, these anomalies still have severe consequences for the patient and the family.”

Bush’s efforts to alleviate that suffering largely take place within the UCSF Program in Craniofacial and Mesenchymal Biology (CMB). This program brings together research labs and faculty and investigators from a range of disciplines. Like Bush, they share an interest in the development and function of the craniofacial complex and connective tissues, such as muscle, cartilage and bone. Bush’s colleagues include program director Ophir Klein, MD, PhD, whose research focuses on craniofacial and dental development, as well as experts in genetics, pediatric dentistry and plastic surgery.

Bush also teaches anatomy courses for dental students on craniofacial development. In both his teaching and his research, he keeps his eye on the bigger picture. He explains how the development of the human face, which begins at about four weeks in utero, reveals much about human development in general.

“The development of the face is a complex morphogenesis,” he says. “It involves almost every cell biological behavior you can think of. Anything that happens in development is represented in the development of the face. If you really want to understand the basic mechanisms of development generally, then studying the face gives you the opportunity to sample all that’s going on.”

Captivated by Human Development

As Bush tells it, he always loved science. But growing up in western New York, his interest was general. He had no clear idea of how he might one day pursue science as a career and had not considered the possibility he would one day be doing high-level studies at a top medical research institution.

When he started as an undergraduate at Rutgers, in New Jersey, he “was just going to college.” Then, as
a molecular biology and biochemistry major, he started learning about human development. The field sparked his imagination and intellect.

“It’s still fascinating to me, this question of how you make a human,” he says. “What are the forces in the genes that drive this whole complex process? What are the basic mechanisms that control how you take an undifferentiated clump of cells and turn it into a functioning human being?”

His interest in morphogenesis became specialized in graduate school at the University of Rochester. Bush was a member of a team led by Rulang Jiang at the Center for Oral Biology that discovered a link between a gene known as Tbx10 and cleft lip and palate in mice.

Bush’s studies on the genetic mechanisms in mouse embryonic development continued through his postdoctoral work in Philippe Soriano’s laboratory at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, in New York City. His focus was on mutations in the X-linked ephrin-B1 gene, which when mutated in humans causes craniofrontonasal syndrome, a disease that affects multiple aspects of the development of the face, including cleft palate. The gene regulates cell proliferation in the palate.

Bush arrived at UCSF in 2011, excited to join a department that was strong in basic science and in fostering translational research – that is, making discoveries applicable to patient treatment. His lab continues to study ephrin-B1, breeding mice with genetic mutations to look at ways in which the gene controls signaling in cells and coordinates morphogenesis. Mice with ephrin-B1 mutations display similar physical traits to humans with craniofacial anomalies. Bush is also delving into why mutations in this X-linked gene lead to more severe craniofacial defects in girls than in boys, when X-linked genetic disorders usually affect males more than females.

Why Basic Research Matters

As UCSF’s chief of plastic and reconstructive surgery, William Hoffman, MD, has treated many children with cleft lip and palate. Surgeries for these defects might start as early as 3 months and continue into the teens. He applauds researchers who are trying to solve the big puzzle of craniofacial defects.

“What Bush is doing is trying to solve a piece of that,” he says. “Obviously, if we can figure out what causes these disorders and intervene earlier, we might be able to avoid the numbers of surgeries that a child needs.”

Bush likes being involved in the solution. The scientist in him finds it exciting to find the answer to a difficult question.

“And little by little,” he says, “we’re working towards understanding craniofacial anomalies well enough to design preventative treatment.”
From the Lab to the Dental Office

Originally, CAD/CAM technology was relegated to use in the dental laboratory, where technicians employed it to design and craft conventional dental restorations that dentists would later bond into place in their office. The technology allowed for greater precision in crafting crowns, veneers and other restorations, but it was time-consuming. Recent advances in software and dental materials have changed that, allowing for much faster design and construction of restorations and making CAD/CAM a more attractive tool for chairside dentistry. What used to require several weeks can now take as little as an hour with the new technology.

While CAD/CAM technology has not yet been widely adopted in clinical care, its use is growing, and it is inevitable, asserts Huang, that it will become a common procedure. “This is the future,” he says, “so students need to be prepared.”

The advantages to dentist and patient over conventionally designed restoratives are significant. Rather than preparing a tooth for restoration, taking impressions, then putting a temporary prosthesis in place while the restoration is created over several weeks, CAD/CAM technology allows for faster and more precise fabrication.

Molding the Future of Restorative Dentistry

Sam Huang, DDS, associate clinical professor in the Department of Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences, credits an amateur interest in gemology for the latest iteration of his 26-year dental career. It was through gemology that he was first introduced to CAD/CAM technology. CAD/CAM stands for “computer-aided design/computer-aided manufacturing.” It has been used in various industries for decades, but only recently has it become a mainstream technology for chairside dental practice.

A New Direction

Huang began exploring technology during his years in private dental practice in Marin County, California. When Warren (Steve) Eakle, professor emeritus in the Department of Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences, invited Huang to return to UCSF to teach, 20 years after he received his DDS from the school, Huang leapt at the chance to share his knowledge, experience and enthusiasm with the next generation of dentists in training.

Then, what began as a part-time teaching appointment grew into something much larger. Huang has spearheaded an effort to get CAD/CAM technology firmly into the curriculum at UCSF, including the creation of a novel, simulation-based curriculum for use in the school’s Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) residency program, under the direction of Assistant Clinical Professor Ram Vaderhobli. The two also are working on incorporating CAD/CAM technology into UCSF’s dental clinics to provide students with early exposure to it.

“Our goal is to ensure that it’s fully taught in clinic,” says Huang, and he credits Dean John Featherstone with great courage for supporting the technology’s integration into the UCSF curriculum.

Faculty Profile: Sam Huang

Sam Huang, DDS, associate clinical professor in the Department of Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences, credits an amateur interest in gemology for the latest iteration of his 26-year dental career. It was through gemology that he was first introduced to CAD/CAM technology. CAD/CAM stands for “computer-aided design/computer-aided manufacturing.” It has been used in various industries for decades, but only recently has it become a mainstream technology for chairside dental practice.
It can take days or weeks in a dental laboratory, but the dentist using CAD/CAM technology can design the restoration using 3-D imaging software. The data are sent electronically to a milling chamber, where the restoration is created from a single block of ceramic material. The finished restoration can then be fitted and bonded into place during the same patient visit.

Research suggests that restorations made with CAD/CAM technology are comparable to conventional restorations in safety and durability. Another advantage is that the uniform look of a restoration constructed from a single piece of material, in contrast with a conventional ceramic-on-metal restoration, may be more pleasing to the patient. Moreover, says Huang, the precision and flexibility of the CAD/CAM process give the dentist complete control over the design and allow him or her “to be the artist.”

**Making Better Dentists**

In addition to its clinical benefits, students and faculty are also finding CAD/CAM technology to be a valuable teaching tool. The 3-D illustrations created for each restoration allow students and instructors to make in-depth evaluations of their designs before actually making the restoration.

Getting more data more often and sooner in the process helps dentists in training develop the judgment and efficiency that will make them better at aesthetic and restorative dentistry.

Huang regards teaching as the perfect opportunity to give something back to the profession he loves. He now instructs the next generation of dentists, imparting a wide spectrum of skills and knowledge gleaned from years of practice, including operative dentistry, fixed prosthodontics, endodontics and cosmetic dentistry. As vice chair of patient care simulation, he gives his students what he considers an invaluable chance to practice important hands-on skills before they meet live patients in the clinic.

“What’s unique about UCSF,” he says, “is the way they’re embedding technologies that bring real-world skills into the curriculum.” Through things like CAD/CAM and the patient care simulation lab, dental students encounter every aspect of dental practice before they graduate, including emerging technologies, Huang says.

Huang’s students emerge with what he calls an “education portfolio.” Everything they do is documented, so they end up with a sort of scrapbook that they can later revisit, reassess and share with other students and instructors. “I tell my students, ‘You’re my associates,’” Huang says. “These dentists are going to be colleagues in the profession, and creating a collaborative learning environment is one of the best ways to prepare them for the way dentistry is practiced now.”

In addition to his teaching and getting the CAD/CAM simulation lab and curriculum off the ground, Huang’s numerous hobbies reflect his passion for exploring the breadth of any topic that interests him. He has taken his gemology hobby further, purchasing a sunstone mine in Oregon, and making and selling his own jewelry. When his daughters took up horse jumping, he and his wife (an optometrist in private practice) eventually opened an equestrian training facility, which they ran for eight years before selling. Several years ago, he became interested in orchids, and has since hybridized several varieties in his hothouse.

Now retired from dental practice, Huang seems to be as busy as he ever was. While he asserts that he never imagined going into teaching, he’s delighted at the turn his retirement has taken. “For me, dentistry is pure joy,” he says.
Dentistry a Major Presence at First All-Alumni Event

The UCSF School of Dentistry and UCSF Dental Alumni Association (DAA) were part of a strong showing at UCSF’s first All-Alumni Weekend in April, incorporating the DAA’s 116th Scientific Session and Alumni Meeting, centered at the Palace Hotel in downtown San Francisco.

UCSF Dentistry attendance alone surpassed 550 registrants, by far the largest contingent among all of UCSF’s professional schools – a fact noted approvingly by UCSF Chancellor Susan Desmond-Hellmann in her address to the awards luncheon on the second full day of the event. The chancellor had positive words for Dean Featherstone, his administrative team and the entire UCSF Dentistry community – particularly alumni, for their continued engagement and commitment to the school’s future through challenging times.

The awards luncheon was also highlighted by the induction of two new UCSF Dental Alumni Association Medal of Honor honorees, Ted Camaisa, D ’89, and Peter Milgrom, D ’72, as well as a gift to the school of an endowed scholarship by the Class of 1961, presented by Pete Giers, D ’61, who led the effort, and a gift to the Master of Science Program in Dental Hygiene by the UCSF Dental Hygiene Class of 1962.

“It brings me so much joy when I think about my years at UCSF,” said Sahar Mirfarsi, DDS, a 2008 graduate of the UCSF School of Dentistry, in a story posted to the UCSF News Center. “This event is an amazing opportunity for me to…visit my colleagues, mentors and friends,” Mirfarsi said. “Not only is it vital for our profession, but also individually to stay in touch, exchange ideas and communicate with one another…. What a great event to combine it all. I cannot wait to see my colleagues, especially my favorite mentors.”

In addition to the event’s numerous social gatherings and class reunions – such as this year’s inductions of the Dentistry and Hygiene Classes of 1962 into the “Half-Century Club” – a diverse and exciting array of continuing dental education sessions were offered throughout the weekend, a highlight of which was the standing-room-only Jean Poupard Memorial Lecture “Current Research in Dental Hygiene,” presenting the work of the first-ever Master of Science in Dental Hygiene Class of 2012.

And for the first time, the all-alumni nature of the gathering afforded dentistry alumni the opportunity to celebrate with friends and classmates from across UCSF.

“It seemed like our council worked double time this year, and it was really appreciated,” said Roy Nesari, D ’06, of UCSF Dental Alumni Association, one of the main organizers of UCSF Dentistry’s participation. Noting the popular and ever-growing student research poster presentations, also known traditionally as the “table clinics,” Nesari said that “the students loved the poster session and really enjoyed engaging with the alumni.”

Looking ahead to next year’s Scientific Session and All-Alumni Weekend (April 26-27, 2013), Nesari noted that there will be “lots to improve upon, but there is still room to grow,” adding that “expectations will remain high in 2013!”
Class of 1961 Scholarship Fund

Pete Giers, DDS ’61, admits that it’s not unusual for a class to make a significant contribution to a school when it reaches its 50th anniversary year, as his class did in 2011. As graduates of UC Berkeley, Giers and his wife, Caroline, had personally experienced this tradition a few years earlier. What is unusual, however, is for a class to start planning its gift as far in advance as did the UCSF School of Dentistry Class of 1961.

“They needed to start early,” explains Chris Ruetz, Senior Director of Development, UCSF Foundation. “The magnitude of their financial goal was larger than had ever been attempted before.”

Hence, the Campaign for the Class of 1961 50th Anniversary Gift began in 2007, four years prior to the actual anniversary year. This allowed plenty of time for Giers to engage his former classmates, a task he took on willingly and with great enthusiasm. Giers admits that once in a while he had to twist an arm – but never too hard!

“Through the generosity of Dean Featherstone and the logistical support of Chris Ruetz and the development office, we were able to achieve our goal,” says Giers. “The class is extremely grateful.”

In order to establish an endowed scholarship at the UCSF School of Dentistry, the Class of 1961 had to raise a minimum of $50,000. It took the full four years to get there.

“The great thing about our class gift being an endowed scholarship is that we can continue to contribute to it,” adds Giers. “This gift will never go away, nor will it be used for any other purpose than to support the education of UCSF dental students – something it will do for years to come.”

The Class of 1961 Scholarship Fund will assist eligible dental students with the cost of tuition, fees, books, living expenses and more. Class Reunions are a fun way for classmates to get together and reminisce about their time at UCSF. They are also an opportunity for classmates to show gratitude to the school for the education and training received.

“Efforts such as Pete Giers’ and the other members of the Class of 1961 advance the mission of the school, which is to educate talented students,” says John Featherstone, professor and dean of the UCSF School of Dentistry. “Many students would not be able to attend UCSF without the benefit of scholarship funds like the Class of 1961 Fund.”

Gifts to an endowed fund can be made at any time, including by means of a bequest in a will or trust or through a charitable life income plan. Please contact Chris Ruetz at 415/476-3645 in the UCSF School of Dentistry to learn about ways to contribute to a class reunion gift. For information on leaving a bequest or establishing a charitable life income plan, please call the Office of Gift & Endowment Planning at 415/476-1475.

Dean Featherstone accepts the Class of 1961 gift from Pete Giers.

UCSF Dental Alumni Association

Message from the President

Our 116th Scientific Session was a weekend of camaraderie, collaboration and new friendships formed, as the Palace Hotel was filled with over 1,700 UCSF graduates. This inaugural All-Campus Reunion – encompassing medicine, pharmacy, nursing and postgrad alums – kept us aglow with pride. We all share the vision of doing our part to ensure that UCSF’s research and patient care can be its best. We are sensitive to the financial burden carried by our remarkable students, and strive to partner in providing support.

Following the earlier fundraising efforts of Darrell Chun, ’91, and Michael Lopez, ’74, Pete Giers, ’61, presented Dean Featherstone with a $50,000 check for the Dean’s Scholarship for Opportunity. The Dental Hygiene Class of 1962 joined in with a check presentation to Margaret Walsh for the new Master of Science in Dental Hygiene (MSDH) program. Generous donors such as Herb Gabriel, ’43, contributed significantly to scholarship. A complete list of donors can be found at UCSF’s online community and in the Honor Roll of Giving.

Ted Camaisa, ’89, and Peter Milgrom, ’72, received the DAA Medal of Honor for their extraordinary history of dedication and leadership. Carlos Cabrera, D ’52, was present as Meeting Dedicatee for his commitment to dentistry, UCSF and the alumni association. Our pre- and postdoc students presented their research posters and left our attendees in awe. The MSDH students presented excerpts from their research in memory and honor of Jean Poupard.

The Dental Alumni Association is embarking on a strategic plan to raise revenue through encouraging membership in our association, and directing that money back to students to improve their dental school experience and campus life.

We are proud and grateful to have alums who realize we are not the state-supported school of yesteryear, and who want to do their part to ensure that UCSF will continue to rank at the top. We embrace this new era of class giving, and look forward to a parade of class check presentations at next year’s Annual Luncheon!

We thank Roy Nesari, ’06, program chair, for orchestrating the epic success of our 116th Scientific Session, and invite each of you to become involved in planning our 117th Session.

Thank you for your support and commitment.

– Mary Sornborger Porteous, DH ’75, MSDH 12
Carol Tolen, BS, RDH – has worked in the same dental practice in Redwood City for 50 years but is on her second set of bosses. She works four days a week. She was president of the Northern California State Dental Hygienists’ Association in 1967. She was president of the Mountain View Tennis Club in 2001 and still plays USTA senior leaguers on the peninsula.

Robert Kennedy, DDS – retired from the full-time practice of periodontics in 1997 and now practices part-time. He and his wife of 53 years, Patsy, have traveled all over the world. One year, they were away from home so much that he actually got homesick. They have one son and three grandchildren.

Wayne Watson, DDS – taught part-time at UCSF for 13 years while opening offices in Berkeley and Walnut Creek. He was editor-in-chief of the American Journal of Orthodontics. His wife, Eileen, is a superb mother and homemaker. Their son is a physician in Texas, and their daughter a school principal in Seattle. Wayne’s love of the beach and bodiesurfing precipitated a move to La Jolla. He started running in races at age 45 and has not stopped. A pilot’s license fulfilled a dream but is no longer used because weekend flying is risky at best.

Linda Briggs Hoch, BS, RDH – has been on the San Anselmo Open Space Committee for 25 years, trying to preserve undeveloped lands. She volunteers at the San Anselmo library and at Guide Dogs for the Blind. She and her husband of almost 50 years, Peter, have two children and two grandchildren. Linda worked one day a week in San Rafael until about 20 years ago.

Jane Rossovan Raventos, BS, RDH – practiced dental hygiene for 40 years in San Francisco, Porterville, Grass Valley and Yuba City. She married Peter Raventos, DDS, in 1964 and had a son. She divorced and moved to Grass Valley. She retired in 2000 and subsequently moved to Rossmoor in Walnut Creek, where she reconnected with college friends and is enjoying life.

Sam Weeks, DDS – took a three-year tour of duty with the Army in Munich, Germany, before setting up practice in the trees and green of Montclair Village, Oakland, where he practiced for 32 years. He retired in 1999 but is still active in Grace Cathedral, ACT, pocket opera and Philharmonia Baroque. He maintains an 83-year-old landmark house and travels widely, having visited 115 countries so far.

Allen “Jim” Green, DDS – is proud to have been a faculty member of the UCSF School of Dentistry for 40 years. Jim is now semi-retired and teaches removable prosthetics one day a week at UOP. He loves the outdoors and fly-fishes with his sons, Jim and John, in Oregon. He and his wife, Joan, walk their golden retrievers daily and enjoy volunteering for the Norcal Golden Retriever Rescue organization.

H. Linda Warren, BS, RDH – enjoys bridge, gardening, golf, reading and walking. She lives in Cayucos, on the Central Coast.

Marilyn “Mar” Tucker, BS, RDH – feels blessed to live in Haleiwa, on the North Shore of Oahu. Now that she is retired, she has time to pursue her art career and operate her own gallery, Galería de Mar. With so much beauty in Hawaii, there is always something to paint. It can’t get much better than this. Thank you, God!

Donald French, DDS – practiced in San Jose for 12 years. He then moved to Antioch to join his classmate Lee Keller and Harry Wynn, ’61. He sold his practice in 2004. After a year, he began serving as locum tenens for dentists. He remarried in 1985, to Susan. They share five grown children and seven grandchildren. He flew many times to Baja California to work in the Rotary dental clinic. He is a temporary dentist in Indian Health Clinics in Northern California.

Jerry Osumi, DDS – was joined in his practice by his son, Dean, in 1998 and then retired in 2000. Now he travels a bit, plays some golf and gardens. What he enjoys most is watching his three granddaughters growing up. Grace is 2½, and the twins, Olivia and Camille, are 4 months old.

Kathleen Kirkman, BS, RDH – has been married for 50 years to Richard, who is an artist. They have two children and six grandchildren. She worked full-time for several years and then part-time. She also enjoyed teaching music privately, with her grandchildren being among her favorite students. Now she likes to read and garden, spend time with family and friends and travel with her husband.

Marcette Trimbell, BS, RDH – worked for a year and then married her dental school classmate Mike Trimbell. After
working in Ventura for 13 years, they left civilization, moving to 30 wooded acres in the mountains of far northern California, where their brood of five – three girls and two boys – thrived. They had a mom-and-pop orthodontic practice one day a week in the small town of Etna. In 1999, they retired and moved to Danville.

Shannon Wong, DDS – joined the U.S. Air Force after graduation. He completed the postgrad endodontics program at the University of Texas in Houston. He left active duty to join an endo practice in San Francisco and Marin. Shannon became a part-time faculty member at UOP. After 20 years of service in the Air Force, he retired with the rank of colonel. In 1996, he retired from private practice and became a full-time associate clinical professor at UOP, where he still works.

Angelo Cacciatore, DDS – married his wife, Pat, a registered nurse, in 1963. Angelo started his practice in San Francisco and moved to San Mateo in 1968. He practiced with his daughter, Angela, a 1992 UCSF graduate, until retiring in 2007 and handing over the practice to her. They both taught part-time at UCSF. Angelo and Pat enjoy taking care of Angela’s three children, who live next door, and visiting their son, David, and his three children in Davis.

Ralph “Lee” Keller, DDS – is still plugging away at the pace of about three days a week in Antioch, where he started his practice in 1962. He and his wife, Patti, moved to a single-story house 1½ years ago. They have six children, 11 grown grandchildren and four “greats.”

Quen Young, DDS – has been blessed with good health and good fortune, having attended the best dental school in the world. During the past 28 years of retirement, he has kept busy with travel, cooking, sports and visiting friends. His son, Glen, class of 1984, took over his practice, and his daughter Jennifer is a 1991 graduate of UCSF. His daughter Michelle went to medical school at USC.

John Johnston, DDS – is still at the chair after all these years. He is doing all the usual stuff: music, flying airplanes, fishing, riding Harleys and generally being a nuisance. He has no regrets.

Louise Unsoeld, BS, RDH – retired from dental hygiene 10 years ago. She was editor of the Journal of the California Dental Hygienists’ Association and now is a script analyst for Scriptwriters Network. She and George celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary in February. Her daughter, Marj, is married to the publisher of Forbes magazine. Her son, Chris, lives in Martinez. Louise and George have two grandchildren and split their time between San Rafael and Indian Wells.

Donna Brazzi Barnes, BS, RDH – graduated from UCSF twice, earning a PhD in sociology. She was the principal investigator of an NIH-funded team investigating social issues for women with HIV/AIDS. Her academic base was Cal State Hayward, where she taught half-time in Women’s Studies. She has been married for 43 years. Her daughter is a choreographer and dancer in New York City. Donna is retired as a narrative nonfiction writer.

Diana Bradshaw, BS, RDH – treasures her student experience at UCSF, where she made lifelong friends. She loved her 40-year private practice career in dental hygiene. She served as representative and officer in the Santa Clara Valley Dental Hygienists’ Association. She married her high school sweetheart 50 years ago; they have two children and four grandchildren. She is grateful that dental hygiene offered part-time work, allowing her to pursue a profession and a family. Now it’s all about family and retirement. Thank you, UCSF.

Donald Streutker, DDS – married Nanci Smernes after graduation. Following service in the Army dental corps, they settled in Santa Rosa. He has practiced in the same location since 1964; many of his patients span three and four generations of families. Don and Nanci have three sons and a daughter, Dawne, a 1990 graduate of UOP, who practiced with him for 17 years. Don became an accomplished polo player but recently traded his mallet for a set of golf clubs.

Joel Berger, DDS – practiced dentistry until 2004. He taught hypnosis, acupuncture and IV sedation. He is an avid skier and a student of military history. He has visited World War I and World War II battlefields and Holocaust sites in Europe. He is past president of his local Rotary club, co-chair of his dental society ethics committee and a participant in political debate and discussion groups. His wife, Judith, is a gourmet chef. They have a son and a daughter.

Janet Wong, DDS – is sharing this half-century event with her husband, William Henry Chan, who graduated from the UCSF School of Medicine in 1962. After graduation, they moved to Tokyo for three years to fulfill Henry’s duties with the U.S. Air Force. While there they had a son and twin daughters. Janet practiced in Palo Alto for three years while Henry completed his dermatology residency at Stanford. They then returned home to Sacramento to start their practices. They have nine grandchildren.
Another successful Dental Alumni Association Bear Bash was held at the Faculty Alumni House on Friday, October 14, 2011. The Bear Bash is an annual social event for all of the dental students. There were about 130 students participating, which included the first class of students from the new Master of Science in Dental Hygiene program. It was a fun evening for students, faculty and alumni, with food, drinks and raffle prizes for the students. The students were given a card with several questions to ask the alumni and faculty in order to get a raffle ticket. The raffle prizes were donated by alumni, faculty, and dental vendors. There were lots of prizes, including dental materials from the vendors and wine and gift cards for food and events from the alumni and faculty. The most coveted prizes and winners included the following: Thomas Nguyen D1 (2015) won a dinner with Dean Featherstone; Shilpi Seth IDP3 (2013) won the Adec Handpiece; Marvarid Khatibian IDP 3 (2013) and Ricardo Flores D2 (2014) won a dinner with Dr. Michael Lopez and Susan Lopez, RDH.

Donald “Tabo” Nakahata
Longtime UCSF Dentistry Professor Donald “Tabo” Nakahata passed away peacefully on March 15, 2012, in the company of his wife, Alice, and family, following a yearlong battle with pancreatic cancer.

Recalls UCSF Dentistry Dean John D.B. Featherstone, “Dr. Nakahata was a loved and loyal faculty member, who taught many students over all the years he was here at UCSF. I got to know him well during my time as chair of the Department of Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences. In recent years, when he came in only one day a week, I always knew it was Wednesday because Don was here and he would greet me with his cheery smile.”

A native of San Francisco, Nakahata grew up in the city, later living in Topaz, Utah, and Rochester, N.Y., before returning to San Francisco. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, and practiced general dentistry in San Francisco for almost five decades – first as a sole practitioner, then as a consultant with Delta Dental, and finally as an associate professor in clinical dentistry at the UCSF School of Dentistry. He always practiced dentistry in a hands-on way, taking time to discuss his patients’ issues and concerns. Most important, he wanted to teach his students to listen to, “touch” and care for patients. He passed on his chairside wisdom, mentoring his students in more than just dentistry. He was particularly proud of his work with the California Dental Association, creating a peer review process to oversee standards of care.

Don also had a lifetime passion for human and civil rights and social justice. As a young man, he and Alice fought against a California constitutional right to engage in racial
Robert F. Brigante

Longtime UCSF School of Dentistry faculty member Robert F. Brigante passed away after a brief illness on May 21, 2011. Born in Santa Ana, Calif., on November 28, 1923, he learned his love of dentistry assisting in his father’s dental lab. During World War II the U.S. Navy sent him to the UCSF School of Dentistry, beginning a lifelong association with the school. In 1947, after completing the accelerated V-12 program, Brigante was commissioned Lt. Junior Grade and stationed in San Diego. At this time he was also inducted into the Pacific Coast Society for Prosthodontists, an important milestone in his professional career in prosthetic dentistry.

He returned to the Bay Area in 1952 to join the UCSF Dentistry faculty, fulfilling Dean Willard Fleming’s prophecy on his graduation: “You will be back.” He also began a private practice in Berkeley, partnering with his friend and colleague Robert Ware, with valuable assistance from Diane Proto. A popular professor who taught prosthetic dentistry to thousands of students, Brigante also served as assistant dean for student affairs under Dean Ben Pavone in the 1970s. In that role, his proudest accomplishment was helping to create the Minority Program, which actively recruited students from groups underrepresented in dentistry.

One of his happiest times was his six-month sabbatical in Florence, Italy, in 1979, where he studied the aging process as depicted by the great Renaissance artists.

After retiring from UCSF in 1993, Brigante continued as an active professor emeritus in the Postgraduate Program in Prosthodontics. In 2000 he retired from his private practice as well, though he continued his Berkeley office, he still carefully maintained the office garden, a hobby he loved.

Brigante had many interests outside of his work, and one of his most enduring passions was sailing. He was a founding member of the South Beach Yacht Club and, with his partner Chuck Eliason, spent many happy hours on the San Francisco Bay and waters beyond. He also loved traveling, and with his wife, Linda, family and friends, boated through the many canals of England and France, traveled frequently to his beloved Italy and explored many other parts of the world. He loved touring California’s back roads. But he was happiest at home in San Francisco, where he could be found most afternoons walking his devoted dog, Arena, around the tennis courts of Golden Gate Park.

This kind and gentle man will be missed by all who knew him.

Predeceased by beloved son Ross, he is survived by his wife of 37 years, Linda Coda, and their son, Nicko, and additionally by two children from his first marriage, to Marjorie Burrows, Bebe and Lindy; five grandchildren and three great-granddaughters; and three stepchildren from his union with Dorae Diamond – Will, Wendy and Nancy – and their four children. He was a great friend to his father-in-law, Leo, and “Uncle Bob” to Linda’s large extended family.

A private memorial was held in Santa Ana on June 24, 2011, and a celebration of his life will be held at a date to be announced.

ALUMNI DECEASED

Dee V. Anderson, ’50
Robert F. Brigante, ’46
Wade P. Calvert, ’51
Wendell N. Cotton, ’49
John K. Hansen, ’47
Scott A. Holm, ’86
Glenn W. Jamieson, ’47
Gil C. McAdams, ’61
Kenneth L. Messenger, ’70
Joseph J. Molnar III, ’82
Donald T. Nakahata, ’60
Chan-Yong Pak, ’73
David R. Purrington, ’47
Cynthia Neff Pyka, ’72
Evelyn Montgomery Risedorph, ’45
Robert C. Stieg, ’67
Yutaka Toyoda, ’52
Ellis R. Van Dyke, ’42
Wilfred M. Wong, ’50
William L. Young, ’20

and religious discrimination in housing. Having been incarcerated by his own government during World War II, he spoke publicly about these experiences, including in the press, in schools and before the U.S. Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. He was also deeply involved in telling the story of Japanese immigration to the Bay Area and California via Angel Island, as detailed in a 2006 San Francisco Chronicle article.

He is survived by his wife, Alice, with whom he shared 52 years; his sister, Beatrice; his sons, Andrew, Peter and John; and six grandchildren: Eileen, Maura, Dashiel, Paxton, Kevin and Darren. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that donations in his memory be made to support Christ Episcopal Church (Sei Ko Kai), 2140 Pierce Street, San Francisco, CA 94115, or pancreatic cancer research at UCSF. Donations in support of pancreatic cancer research should be sent to UCSF c/o Sarah Krumholz, 220 Montgomery Street, 5th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104, with a memo stating “Ko/Nakakura research in memory of Donald Nakahata.”

Robert F. Brigante
advanced
innovative
conne
### Class Stats: 2011/2012 Graduating Seniors

*Source: UCSF School of Dentistry Educational Services Graduating DDS and IDP Seniors Survey*

#### Postgraduate Studies Plans

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#### Educational Debt (not including IDP)

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Simiade Fabiyi

DDS student, Dean’s Scholarship for Opportunity

Born in Lagos, Nigeria, Simiade Fabiyi developed an interest in dentistry after her mother was hospitalized for an oral infection. Her family found a way to send her to school in the U.S., and Fabiyi’s tenacity led her to UCSF. “This school embodies all that matters to me – multiculturalism, access, research, intellect. Sometimes I don’t think there are enough hours in a day to learn all UCSF has to offer. When I graduate, I will work with the National Health Service Corps to provide dental care to the underserved. There are so many in need and I can’t wait to help.”

To support the UCSF School of Dentistry, contact Chris Ruetz at 415/476-3645 or cruetz@support.ucsf.edu

Inspiring Leaders

Health Sciences Education at UCSF