Penn Dental Journal
University of Pennsylvania
School of Dental Medicine
www.dental.upenn.edu

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A Message
FROM THE DEAN

In the past year, I have been welcomed into a new family, the Penn Dental family. There is really no need to tell you as alumni how special you are. Most of you are leaders in your chosen fields, many give your time to teaching, and some of you to research. One thing is for sure, Penn Dental, more than 125 years old, has shaped dentistry in the past, and you, our alumni, are pushing the envelope for the present and future. It is hard to imagine that each matriculating class of students is more talented every year, and this freshman class is no exception. Our residencies and postgraduate degree programs also have made and continue to make the field of dentistry what it is.

The *Penn Dental Journal* is designed to keep our alumni and friends up-to-date with the school, and we are pleased to debut this newly designed format. In this issue, you will find new initiatives, such as our White Coat Ceremony. Led by the Penn Dental Alumni Society, with Dr. Marc Ackerman as the 2004-05 President, this new event was a great success, and allowed alumni, faculty, and staff to welcome new students in our profession. Involvement of the alumni in this rite of passage not only improves the educational process, but also helps the students better understand the nobility of the profession they have chosen and that there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

There will be other exciting initiatives in the coming years. After all, Penn is a dynamic place, and the School of Dental Medicine is leading the profession in change. You will read about them in the *Journal*. I hope many of you will participate, because we are stronger with your involvement and support.

This publication is intended to meet the needs and interests of our alumni and friends. You will read about upcoming events, as well as coverage of events that have already happened. It is our hope that these chronicles of activities will encourage you to participate.

Regular features will include stories on academic and clinical programs and the School’s basic and clinical sciences research. Each issue will also include regular departments: On Campus, with news on Penn Dental clinical programs and faculty and students; Philanthropy, acknowledging gifts to Penn Dental; Alumni News, spotlighting events and programs specifically for alumni; Class Notes, with updates from your fellow alumni themselves; and Scholarly Activity, listing a selection of faculty achievements, publications, and grants.

Please let us know what you would like to see in the *Journal* — we will make every effort to accommodate you. I look forward to seeing you on campus or at one of our many off-campus alumni functions throughout the year.

Marjorie K. Jeffcoat, DMD
Amsterdam Dean and Professor of Periodontics
Feature

Riding the Wave of the Future

Electronic Patient Charting Debuts in Student Clinic

By Juliana Delany
Recent visitors to Penn Dental’s Myers Clinic may have noticed a subtle change — no more paper charts. That is because the clinic is in the midst of a pilot project to introduce the Dentrix Practice Management System, a state-of-the-art computer software program that effectively eliminates the need for traditional charting. Chosen for its small size and self-contained nature, the Myers Clinic, which now has a computer terminal at each of its 14 chairs, is setting the stage for a potential schoolwide overhaul that will bring the dental school clinics fully into the 21st Century.

“This technology is state-of-the-art,” says Dr. Judith Buchanan, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. “It will make the whole patient chart immediately accessible to all qualified parties. It’s the wave of the future, and the logical next step for Penn Dental.”

New to Myers, but not to Penn Many readers may already be familiar with Dentrix, the foremost dental practice management software in use today. A member of the Schein legion of dental products, Dentrix is Windows-based and utilizes Oracle database technology, the industry standard. Specifically, the Dentrix interface being piloted in the Myers Clinic will change the way that the clinic handles critical functions such as patient charting, claims processing, and the chairside use of digitized images, including x-rays.

Although Dentrix has never before been used so extensively at the School, it has been present since 2000, when the School’s faculty practice offices, the Penn Dental Care Network, purchased the software for back-office functions. (Dentrix replaced a homegrown character-based application that had become expensive and difficult to maintain). Last year, Dentrix was put to use in the School’s Coleman Clinic, where postdoctorate periodontal students have been equipped with wireless laptops and are using Dentrix for periodontal charting. However, the Myers project represents the first time that every patient’s entire dental record will be placed on the system.

Because the Myers Clinic is small in size and housed in a self-contained location, it seemed a natural setting for the pilot project. Currently, two of the School’s 13 primary care teaching units of roughly 15 students each have been trained on and are operating the Dentrix system.

For Schools and Practices, Multiple Advantages Saving space and allowing faster access to records are just two of Dentrix’s many benefits to the clinic, and to practices in general. In addition to storing complete patient records, Dentrix allows a user to schedule appointments, submit information and X-rays to insurance companies for payment, search through past records, input notes, and even present patients with detailed treatment scenarios and their costs — all from a chairside...
computer terminal. In addition, Dentrix’s graphic capabilities permit practitioners to upload and access x-rays and view full-color tooth charts for each patient. The software offers additional capabilities for educational settings — students can fill out patient reports at each stage of a procedure, then have a faculty member sign off on them online.

“From an academic standpoint, the benefits are obvious,” says Dr. Buchanan. “Students will be much better prepared to go into their own practices if they can master this technology before they graduate.”

Dr. Najeed Saleh, a faculty group leader in the pilot project, agrees. “By using Dentrix, students are acquiring new skills in electronic documentation,” he says. “This will add a new dimension to their organizational skills.”

There may be advantages for patients as well. “The Dentrix system will not influence patient care directly,” explains Dr. Saleh, “but the fact that patient information is always readily available will improve the quality of care for our patients. There will be no more possibility of lost charts, less need for chart maintenance, and possibly even less need for human resources. Clinical and financial data will always be accurate and up-to-date.”

This technology is state-of-the-art. It will make the whole patient chart immediately accessible to all qualified parties.

It’s the wave of the future, and the logical next step for Penn Dental.

DR. JUDITH BUCHANAN

And, in response to age-old complaints about hard-to-read handwriting among doctors and dentists, the system virtually eliminates the need for handwritten materials, reducing possible errors due to illegibility.

Perhaps the greatest advantage that the Dentrix Enterprise system offers, however, is the ability to handle data from several different practice sites at once. “Other similar programs can be used at one location only,” says Dr. Allan Olitsky, Director of the Penn Dental Care Network, who manages the Network’s three dental practices with two offices in West Philadelphia and one in Bryn Mawr. “If you see a patient in one office, and the next day that patient calls with a problem while you are working in another office, you simply go to a computer and pull up the records.” This multiple-site access holds particular promise for a dental community like Penn’s, with multiple clinics.

Putting a New Technology into Practice Dentrix is a simple, user-friendly system. However, introducing a new technology to an already busy group of people is not without its challenges. This task was undertaken by the School’s Information Services staff. Shelly Pollack of Information Services provided the clinic’s students with two eight-hour training sessions and worked individually with faculty members.

From the project’s genesis, it has been overseen by a committee made up of group leaders Dr. David Weinstock and Dr. Saleh, both Clinical Associate Professors of Restorative Dentistry, who have worked closely with Dan Shapiro, Director of Information Services, and his staff. Also represented on the committee are two students, Anthea Williams (D’05) and Elizabeth Rode (D’05).

“The hardest part of the project has been trying to create an electronic charting system in one clinic while the rest of the school operates on a paper-based system,” says Ms. Williams. “We’ve tried to predict every scenario that might arise. We were able to come up with solutions to many potential problems.” She feels that having students involved in the process has been critical to its success: “It’s the students who are using the new system. I believe that students help to bridge the gap between the administration and faculty.”

Turning Goals into Reality Since the Myers Clinic pilot project kicked off this September, administrators, faculty, and students throughout the School have eagerly awaited word on its progress. Preliminary reports show that the project is moving forward smoothly and successfully.

“It’s going tremendously well, better than I ever expected,” says Mr. Shapiro, who is overseeing the project. “The group leaders and the students have been very positive. Everyone is taking this new technology very seriously. I am gratified by the support we have received from both faculty and students.”

Reports Ms. Williams, “We are transitioning relatively smoothly into the electronic charting system. It takes time to learn, and we have many questions, but we have a very supportive staff that is working hard to troubleshoot any problems.” She adds, “My fellow students are very excited about Dentrix. Our work looks more professional, and the patients really enjoy the graphics.”
Despite the many advantages the Myers Clinic is encountering along the way, the ultimate goal of the project remains a long-term one — to assess the feasibility and effectiveness of installing the Dentrix system schoolwide.

"It is always smart to test something with a small group of students first," says Dr. Uri Hangorsky, who recently was appointed to the position of Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, after serving for many years as director of undergraduate periodontal education. "We will find out through the project which functions are suitable for use throughout the School." This will be accomplished, he says, through in-depth interviews with participating students and patients at the close of the academic year, as well as a comprehensive fiscal analysis. If all goes well, says Dr. Hangorsky, "The final outcome of the project will be that every student at the School of Dental Medicine will have access to a chairside computer."

"This is the future," he says simply, in reference to the many new capabilities offered by Dentrix. "This is where we need to be." 

Is Dentrix Right for Your Practice?

If you are already using Dentrix, you may know that it is the industry’s leading practice management software, currently being used by more than 21,000 practices worldwide. If you are not, you may want to learn more about it.

Penn Dental’s Myers Clinic is utilizing DxOne: The Dentrix Enterprise Solution, a comprehensive patient management system designed for use in practices with multiple offices. However, Dentrix also creates a software package for use in almost every type of practice. Among the system’s most useful features:

On-screen tooth charts can help you record treatments and conditions, presenting the inside of your patient’s mouth in vivid color. You may choose to print a copy for your patient to take home.

Intelligent Estimation provides a printable estimate of what a patient’s upcoming procedure will cost and how much will be covered by available insurance.

Quick Checkout allows you to print a statement for your patient summarizing the work you have just performed and listing any future appointments.

Perfect Day Scheduling helps you schedule appointments more efficiently, allowing time for emergencies while providing follow-up visits in a timely manner. This feature can save you and your patient time at the end of the visit.

Compatibility with emerging technologies, such as intraoral cameras, digital x-ray systems, and computerized blood pressure monitoring, can ensure that your practice is always up-to-date.

To learn more about whether Dentrix is right for your practice, visit www.dentrix.com.
Muscle Building:
A Scientific Workout for Dr. Elisabeth Barton

By Lisa J. Bain
Dr. Elisabeth Barton spends her lab time building muscle. But no, you won’t find her there lifting weights. This Assistant Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology is working out the science of muscle repair. From the repair of muscles in the face to those in the limbs, Dr. Barton’s research investigations are exploring the potential to help such diverse problems as temporomandibular dysfunction (TMD) and muscular dystrophy.
So, while Dr. Barton examines the basic questions in facial muscle biology, she is also studying whether or not the protein IGF-I can enhance muscle repair in the masseter muscle of mice, and if so, be used in humans to help relieve the symptoms of TMD. Dr. Barton launched this study last year with seed money from the Joseph and Josephine Rabinowitz Award for Excellence in Research. Dr. Barton was the first recipient of this award, which was established by Dr. Joseph Rabinowitz, Emeritus Professor of Biochemistry, to promote independent research among junior faculty.

Preliminary data from Dr. Barton’s lab shows that the masseter muscle does get larger in response to IGF-I; however, the pathway leading to the increase in muscle size appears somewhat different in the jaw muscle as compared to limb muscle. “Why does it respond in this different way?” asks Dr. Barton. “That is going to be part of my research for the next couple of years.”

Ultimately, Dr. Barton hopes the research may lead to gene therapy treatment for TMD or other muscle diseases. “The jaw muscle is a fairly localized region — much different in comparison to genetic muscle diseases where you might have to treat the entire body,” she explains. “Thus, the jaw is a good candidate for a targeted gene therapy approach — that is what I’m hoping will ultimately come out of this work.”

**Exploring Other Applications, Collaborations** Among Dr. Barton’s other research projects is a collaborative study with an orthopaedic team at Penn’s School of Medicine. It is looking at another promising target for IGF-I gene therapy — the rotator cuff. She is investigating whether IGF-I delivered to the damaged rotator cuff could promote regeneration and repair. ”It’s a similar problem to the masster muscle,” she notes. “There are a lot of people who have shoulder injuries; and again, it’s a clean model where gene therapy could be targeted to a limited, focused area.”

Dr. Barton explains that the challenge of using gene therapy to treat conditions that affect muscles throughout the body will be to develop an effective system for systemic delivery. Thus, testing and perfecting viral gene delivery in localized muscle, like those in the rotator cuff or the masster muscle, is an important step in advancing gene therapy overall. “If we can show that IGF-I gene therapy works in a particular local system, we not only get proof of principle, but we also have an application that can go into clinical trial quite readily,” says Dr. Barton. “Years down the line, when viral gene delivery is more accepted, we’ll then be able to move into systemic applications.”

It was the possibility of using IGF-I gene therapy to build muscle throughout the body, however, that brought notoriety to Dr. Barton’s early work on IGF-I. She first began studying IGF-I while a fellow at the School of Medicine with Dr. H. Lee Sweeney. They were looking at IGF-I as a possible therapy for muscle-wasting diseases, such as muscular dystrophy, or to prevent age-related muscle loss. In December 1998, she was the lead author on an article published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, in which she and her colleagues showed that both muscle mass and strength could be increased in mice by injecting the muscle with a virus genetically engineered to deliver IGF-I.

The encouragement I have gotten has been incredible, and that gives me the confidence to push forward in new directions…There is a genuine sharing of knowledge and resources within departments and across disciplines.

**Dr. Elisabeth Barton**

Soon after the journal publication and presentation of the research at a scientific meeting, news of the ”mighty mice” began appearing in the popular press around the world as the implications of the research for improving athletic performance became clear. The International Olympic Committee, the World Anti-Doping Agency, the National Human Genome Research Institute, and the President’s Council on Bioethics all weighed in with their concerns. Five years later, media interest continues, with Dr. Barton’s work featured in a January 2004 article in the *New York Times Magazine* and a CNN special, “Life Beyond Limits,” in May 2004. Dr. Barton herself has tried to steer clear of the controversy, focusing instead on the applications for which the technology was originally intended and extending it to new areas, as she is doing here at Penn Dental.
Fertile Research Environment  In coming to Penn Dental, Dr. Barton says she has found a unique and supportive research environment that fosters the professional growth of junior faculty members like her. "The encouragement I have gotten has been incredible, and that gives me the confidence to push forward in new directions," she notes. "Senior investigators talk to junior investigators. There is a genuine sharing of knowledge and resources within departments and across disciplines."

This supportive and nurturing culture is no accident, says Dr. Macarak. "We have a lot of things in place that are set up to help people, especially junior faculty just starting their career," he notes. A mentoring committee meets with junior faculty every six months to assess their research progress and offer advice on their professional development.

"Coming to Penn Dental and starting a lab has been a wonderful step for me. I enjoy working with such a diverse group of scientists and clinicians," adds Dr. Barton. "Everyone brings something different to the table and that creates a fertile learning environment and makes for the best type of collaborations that lead to more global applications. I’m looking forward to continuing to build upon my current research within the School and beyond."
Research has shown that pregnant women with untreated periodontitis are three to eight times more likely to deliver a baby prematurely.
Penn’s School of Dental Medicine has long been ahead of its time in the study of oral health and its implications on systemic health. Now, major new research launched at Penn Dental could take those implications to a new level — and have a profound, near-immediate effect on public health.

With a $5 million grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, researchers at Penn Dental and Penn’s School of Medicine have initiated the first large-scale multi-center study in our area of the effect of periodontitis on preterm birth. Leading the study are co-principal investigators Dr. Marjorie K. Jeffcoat, Dean of the School of Dental Medicine, and Dr. George A. Macones, Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Penn’s School of Medicine. This study will expand on Dr. Jeffcoat’s preliminary research on periodontitis and preterm birth — it showed that pregnant women with untreated periodontitis are three to eight times more likely to deliver a baby prematurely.

“One in ten babies in the United States is born too little, too soon,” says Dr. Jeffcoat. “It takes the most exciting time in a family’s life and turns it into a time of great uncertainty and potential trauma for all involved.”

Babies are considered premature if born during or before the 36th week of gestation (one week before full term) and weighing less than 5 lbs. 8 oz. Preterm birth is the most common cause of infant morbidity, mortality, and long-term neurological disability, according to pediatric research. And in addition to the painful human cost, the financial cost of low birth weight children is prohibitive — $5 billion annually according to the March of Dimes.

The March of Dimes reported this year that the premature birth rate in the U.S. has reached a historic high, increasing by 29 percent since 1981. “It’s a huge problem in this country,” says Dr. Jeffcoat. “But because it has been with us so long, people tend not to recognize it.”

But early on, Dr. Jeffcoat did. A graduate of the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, she came to Penn Dental as Dean in 2003 from the University of Alabama School of Dentistry where she was Assistant Dean of Research and Chair of the Department of Periodontics. She perceived a correlation between women with untreated periodontitis and preterm birth in the late 1970s while she was a fellow at Harvard. Since then she has studied thousands of obstetrics patients with periodontitis and published a pilot intervention study in the *Journal of Periodontology* in 2003.

Even accounting for other risk factors for preterm birth (such as maternal body mass index, prior preterm birth, fetal fibronectin, bacterial vaginosis, and smoking), the study’s outcome was stunning: Performing scaling and root planing during pregnancy in patients with periodontitis cut the number of preterm births in half.

**The Next Step** The new Penn Dental and Penn Medicine study will take the next step in examining the correlation between preterm birth and periodontitis. Starting this fall, dentists are checking consenting obstetrics patients at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Hospital, and Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia for periodontal disease. Researchers will then assign the patients to study groups: periodontically healthy; gingivitis-only; untreated periodontitis; periodontitis with scaling and root-planing treatment before delivery; or periodontitis with treatment after delivery.
Patients receiving regular care from their dentists are not eligible. A goal of the study is to give underserved women access to dental care, part of Penn Dental’s commitment to public service.

That is what especially excites Dr. Rose Wadenya, Assistant Professor Clinician Educator of Pediatric Dentistry in the Department of Preventive and Restorative Sciences and the School’s Director of Minority Affairs. She conducts research on oral health disparities and outreach to minorities and underserved populations, and is one of the Penn Dental faculty working on the periodontitis study with Dr. Jeffcoat. "Periodontal disease affects about 40 percent of reproductive-aged women in underserved areas," says Dr. Wadenya. "The possibility of reducing spontaneous preterm birth through screening and treating periodontal disease is a big step towards our outreach to this most vulnerable group."

Dr. Wadenya also treats children at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), another site participating in the study. "As I treat medically complex children at CHOP, I notice that many of them were preterm births. I cannot help but wonder how many could have been as a result of periodontal infection in the mother during pregnancy," she says. "One has to talk to these parents, and see these children, to realize how important it is to do something ... You can see the pain, fatigue, and sense of no hope in these families. These children are constantly in and out of the hospital. If, through this study, we can make even the slightest difference in reducing the numbers of preterm births, then we have an obligation — we must."

**A Catalyst for Action** Making this kind of difference has long been a passion for Dr. Jeffcoat. Her arrival at Penn engendered excitement both at the Dental School and across campus at the School of Medicine, where faculty researchers have long been working on identifying the roots of preterm birth. When he learned of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s RFP for pregnancy outcomes research, Dr. George Macones of Penn Med turned to his new colleague in the Evans Building. Drs. Jeffcoat and Macones won the grant and Penn is now one of three Centers of Excellence for research in pregnancy outcomes in the state.

Dr. Macones, Director of Maternal Fetal Medicine at Penn Med, has conducted clinical trials to identify molecular and genetic factors in infection-related preterm births. But this is the first project on periodontal infection and preterm birth at Penn Med and the first partnership of its kind between Penn obstetricians and periodontists. It is, Dr. Macones says, a “huge opportunity” and highlights the importance of Penn’s signature cross-disciplinary research.

If the findings of this large study support the conclusions of Dr. Jeffcoat’s earlier work, then obstetricians and dentists may be working together more frequently. "Ob/gyns will need to recommend that patients get their teeth checked before a pregnancy," says Dr. Macones. Toward this end, periodontal screening and preventive care are recommended for patients of all ages. Also, Dr. Macones points out, patients with the highest rates of periodontal infection are likely to have other infections and socioeconomic circumstances that lead to preterm birth. Those correlations could mean a change in the insurance industry — Medicaid currently does not cover periodontal treatment. "If we find that screening for and treating periodontal disease affect preterm birth, then insurance will have to cover it," Dr. Macones says.

Specialists at Penn Dental see the probable link between periodontitis and preterm birth as a catalyst for action that could measurably improve public health. "If it pans out that periodontal disease is a risk factor for systemic conditions, we
can do something about it,” says Dr. Jonathan Korostoff, Associate Professor Clinician Educator of Periodontics. His studies of immunological and microbiological factors in the pathogenesis of periodontal disease make him a natural for Dr. Jeffcoat’s research team.

He is excited by the opportunity. “I don’t think you can ask for a better situation,” says Dr. Korostoff. “The greatest asset the school has right now is Dr. Jeffcoat. She is a world authority.”

...The possibility of reducing spontaneous preterm birth through screening and treating periodontal disease is a big step towards our outreach to this most vulnerable group.

**DR. ROSE WADENYA**

History in the Making Dr. Jeffcoat is also adding a chapter to the Penn Dental legacy: Prior deans and faculty have made dental history by recognizing a relationship between oral health and systemic health. As early as the 1940s, Penn Dental faculty were conducting research on the effects of systemic disease on oral health tissues and the curriculum included the study of dentistry and its relation to internal medicine. On the graduate level at the time, dental students received instruction from faculty of Penn’s Graduate School of Medicine.

In 1964, the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania changed the name of the School of Dentistry to the School of Dental Medicine. Explained in a letter to alumni, the change aimed to reflect “the greater emphasis now placed on the acknowledged relationship between oral and general medicine in modern dentistry.” At the same time, University leaders also changed the degree granted to graduates of Penn’s School of Dental Medicine from a DDS to a DMD to reflect this movement in dentistry.

This noteworthy history inspires Dr. Thomas P. Sollecito, Associate Professor Clinician Educator of Oral Medicine, who will also be working with Dr. Jeffcoat on her new study. He calls the link between medicine and dentistry “the best part about Penn Dental ... we offer a unique perspective and opportunity for dental students and residents.” (Dentists in training also will have the opportunity to work on Dr. Jeffcoat’s study.)

Dr. Sollecito spends considerable time at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, treating patients with both complex dental and medical problems in departments as varied as otorhinolaryngology, transplant, emergency and trauma. “We are thought of as an integral part of the medical team,” he says. “At the Dental School, we all have the drive. We all have the want to understand the science behind the dentistry. We seek those answers for the betterment of patients and health in general.”

Alumni can help achieve this goal as well. As Dr. Wadenya puts it: “The alumni are our advocates out in the communities. Providers and consumers in the communities are not likely to call the Dental School asking about new findings or treatments, but they will call dentists that they already have a relationship with,” she says. “With the knowledge on this topic, alumni can also become more proactive in educating, preventing, and treating periodontal disease not only in pregnant women but in all women of reproductive age. They can lead by example.”

...The possibility of reducing spontaneous preterm birth through screening and treating periodontal disease is a big step towards our outreach to this most vulnerable group.
Penn Dental Holds First White Coat Ceremony

The Penn Dental Alumni Society welcomed the Class of 2008 to the study of dental medicine and the pursuit of professional practice through the School’s first white coat ceremony, launching what will become an annual tradition for Penn Dental’s incoming classes. Held August 23 in The Fonseca Gardens, the event drew approximately 330 attendees, including students and their families, along with alumni, faculty, staff, and members of Penn Dental’s Board of Overseers.

“From the time students begin their education, they are also learning what it means to be a professional practitioner — the trust, integrity, and ethics that form the foundations of the doctor-patient relationship. The white coat represents these principles, and with this ceremony, we hope to reinforce them as an integral part of our students’ education and development,” notes Dean Marjorie Jeffcoat. Through this annual event, the School also hopes to introduce new students to the Penn Dental Alumni Society, laying the foundation for building a strong relationship with alumni throughout their education and beyond.

The program opened with welcoming remarks by Dean Jeffcoat and Penn Dental Alumni Society President Dr. Marc Ackerman (D’98), followed by a history of Penn Dental and the white coat ceremonies by Dr. D. Walter Cohen (D’50), Dean Emeritus. Dr. Cohen explained that the first white coat ceremony was held at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons approximately 20 years ago and is now a practice in nearly every U.S. medical school and a growing number of dental schools.

“The wearing of the white coat for the first time is a milestone. A student wearing the coat is taking on the responsibility of a health care professional,” said Dr. Cohen in his remarks. “It signifies to patients that you will strive to regard them with the utmost respect as a result of the relationship between caregiver and patient.”

The ceremony culminated with the reading of the professional oath by the Class of 2008, followed by the individual presentation of the white coats. Each of the 116 students in the Class of 2008 introduced themselves after receiving their white coats from representatives of the Penn Dental Alumni Society, which included Dr. Marc Ackerman (D’98), Society President; Dr. Jeffrey Blum (D’80), First Vice President; and Dr. Orhan Tuncay (D’74).

Six students in this year’s freshman class received their coats from their parents, who are Penn Dental alumni. They included Thomas (T.J.) Filip from his father, Dr. Thomas Filip (D’73); Madeleine Goodman from Dr. Nelson Goodman (D’73); Noah Orenstein from Dr. Robert Orenstein (D’74); Justin Rashbaum from Dr. Jay Rashbaum (D’72); Courtney Seltzer from Dr. Alan Seltzer (D’78); and Lindsay Pfeffer from her mother, representing the late Dr. William Pfeffer (D’74).

In spite of the 90-degree heat, all students were smiling in their newly conferred white coats as the ceremony concluded with a reception for students and all attendees. In the future, alumni are welcome to attend.

Class of 2008 Facts & Figures

- The Class of 2008 has the highest GPA in the school’s history — a mean overall GPA of 3.59 and a mean science GPA of 3.54. The mean DAT scores for the class were 20 for academic, 17 for perceptual ability, 20 for reading comprehension, and 20 for total science.

- For the second year in a row, the freshman class includes more women than men, with the 116-member Class of 2008 consisting of 61 women and 55 men.

- The students have come to Penn Dental from 24 different states and eight foreign countries — Canada, Iran, Israel, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, New Zealand, and Taiwan.

Lindsay Pfeffer from her mother, representing the late Dr. William Pfeffer (D’74).

In spite of the 90–degree heat, all students were smiling in their newly conferred white coats as the ceremony concluded with a reception for students and all attendees. In the future, alumni are welcome to attend.
Three Academic Departments Merge into One

A new academic department was introduced this summer, merging Penn Dental’s Restorative, Pediatric Dentistry, and the Community Oral Health Departments. Now called the Department of Preventive and Restorative Sciences and chaired by Dr. Peter Berthold, the department combines more than 136 standing and associated faculty and is responsible for 28 courses offered across all four years of the curriculum. The Department of Preventive and Restorative Sciences is further divided into two divisions—the Division of Pediatric and Community Oral Health, and the Division of Restorative Dentistry.

“This is a fabulous opportunity and a daunting challenge to have been asked to chair this new department,” says Dr. Berthold, who served in the Department of Restorative Dentistry for 16 years and was chairperson for the Department of Community Oral Health for four years. “This new structure will allow us to focus resources in some of the most important areas of oral health. Even if health promotion has increased the oral health status among large groups of our society, children and adolescents in our underserved communities need increased access to care.”

Dr. Berthold explains that the department’s courses and programs bring together important sections of dentistry, allowing a deeper understanding of the interplay between research, care, and education in community settings, among children, and in restorative dentistry in general.

“Along with continuing to develop our educational resources in basic restorative dentistry, we will also be enhancing instruction in implantology and esthetic dentistry utilizing new preclinical and clinical technologies, such as virtual reality-based education and microscopes,” adds Dr. Berthold.

“Departments, like the curriculum, are not static entities,” notes Dean Marjorie Jeffcoat. “They will not change for change sake. But over time, departments and divisions may change to better reflect the talents of the Penn Dental faculty, and the state-of-the-art of the profession.”

Penn Dental Inducts New Members to OKU National Dental Honor Society

Penn Dental’s Eta Chapter of Omicron Kappa Upsilon (OKU), the national dental honor society, inducted its 2004 members at a special dinner, held May 6 at Penn’s Faculty Club.

The student inductees included graduating seniors Marlene Alexander, Laith Azzouni, Michael Cestone, Jamin Cho, Hye-Ran Choo, Sotirios Diamantis, Gultaj Grewal, Ann Colter Hosch, ThuyLinh Huynh, Neal Kravitz, Joseph Lamendella, Jessica Lorusso, Shan-Chuan Lu, Shawn Miller, Ghulam Murtaza, and Neil Vadecha. Faculty members Dr. Vicki Petropoulos, Assistant Professor Clinician Educator of Restorative Dentistry, and Dr. Rajnikant Shah, Clinical Assistant Professor of Restorative Dentistry, were also inducted, and an honorary membership was awarded to Senator Arlen Specter for the support he has brought to Penn Dental over the years.

Cory Resnick (D’05) was also honored last May as the recipient of the OKU William S. Kramer Award of Excellence, presented each year to a third-year student who exemplifies the OKU ideals of scholarship, character, and potential promise for advancement of the profession and service to the community.

Since 1916, Penn’s OKU Eta Chapter has honored students based upon scholarship and character. Each year, the upper 20 percent of the graduating class are eligible for election to OKU, from which 16 inductees are selected.

“Penn Dental’s OKU chapter is one of the oldest and most established in the country and remains a vital and active group,” notes Dr. Behnoush Rashedi, Assistant Professor Clinician Educator of Restorative Dentistry and President Elect of the chapter, who took office in August with Dr. Arthur Steinberg, Clinical Professor of Restorative Dentistry and chapter President. “We look forward to continuing to build new programs through our chapter and engaging members in the community of esteemed professionals and valuable resources OKU membership offers them.”

Student Research Program Provides Hands-on Learning

The Penn Dental Summer Research Program continues to provide students with hands-on learning opportunities, exposing participants to the many facets of research and the career options they offer. Having marked its 24th year this summer, this competitive program allows students to engage in basic laboratory or clinical research by either working on an ongoing faculty research investigation or proposing a project designed in collaboration with a preceptor.

Twelve students participated in the 2004 program. They chose from 35 faculty preceptors within the School of Dental Medicine and the Penn University at large. “The strength of this program is that it teaches students on a firsthand basis about evidence-based dentistry — that the procedures they will perform as dentists are based on clinical evidence and research,” observes Dr. Joseph DiRienzo, Assistant Dean for Student Research,
2004 Summer Research Program Participants

- Helena Rafailov (D’06), A comparison of three instruments in creating a centered platform for separated instrument removal, Dr. Mian Iqbal, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator, preceptor
- Ryan Tamburrino (D’06), Bone height and stresses in past and core restored teeth, Dr. Zahra Afsharzand, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator, preceptor
- Olga Volchonok (D’07), Watershed analysis of trabecular bone pattern, Dr. Linda Otis, Associate Professor of Oral Medicine, preceptor
- Paul Urban (D’07), Characterization of dentin using polarization sensitive optical coherence tomography, Dr. Linda Otis, preceptor
- Isaac Tam (D’05), Composite bonding to amelogenesis imperfecta affected teeth, Dr. Francis Mante, Associate Professor of Restorative Dentistry, preceptor
- Anna Shibanova (D’07), The lingual anatomical distribution of CN VII and CN IX, Dr. Richard Doty, Professor, University of Pennsylvania Smell & Taste Center, preceptor
- Elizabeth Prada (D’06), Type 2 diabetes mellitus in children is associated with poor oral health, Dr. Thomas Sollecito, Associate Professor Clinician Educator of Oral Medicine, preceptor
- Anna Mordinson (D’07), Evaluation and characterization of a co-culture system for studying expression of the cytolethal distending toxin of Actinobacillus actinomycescomitans, Dr. Joseph DiRienzo, Professor of Microbiology, preceptor
- Cyelle Kulkarni (D’07), The effect of IGF-1 on craniofacial muscle repair, Dr. Elisabeth Barton, Assistant Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology, preceptor
- Barton Coppin (D’07), Determination of roles of SNCR in binding to HIV-1 gp120, Dr. Daniel Malamud, Professor of Biochemistry, preceptor
- Hanh Bui (D’07), Telomerase defects in oral squamous carcinoma, Dr. Faizan Alawi, Assistant Professor of Pathology, preceptor
- Kerri Bourgeois (D’07), Hemostatic properties of articaine with 1:100,000 eiphenrine and articaine with 1:200,000 eiphenrine, Dr. Elliot Hersh, Professor of Pharmacology, preceptor

who oversees the program. “This year’s students also had a keen interest in how research might play a role in their dental career choices.”

In addition to providing hands-on experience, the program also keeps participants abreast of current research-related issues through a series of presentations from experts in the field. This year, Penn Dental alumnus Dr. Jeff Garber (D’71), who recently finished a masters in bioethics at Penn, presented a lecture on ethical concerns involved in human subject research as well as other ethical dilemmas, including underreporting of data and conflict of interest.

Students accepted into the program work full-time in July and August and many often continue to work with their preceptors throughout the academic year. This summer’s student researchers are listed above.

This spring, participants will make oral and poster presentations of their work at the School’s Oral Health Fair and Table Clinic, the winner of which will represent Penn Dental in the ADA/Dentsply Student Clinician Program at the American Dental Association annual meeting. Last year’s winner, Shalin Shah (D’06) recently presented his project, Type III Collagen-Deficient Mice Exhibit Altered Skeletal and Craniofacial Development (Dr. Sherrill Adams, Professor of Biochemistry, preceptor), at the ADA Annual Session, held September 30 to October 3 in Orlando, FL.

“The students gain valuable experience, not only in the lab, but also in presenting their research to a scientific audience,” adds Dr. DiRienzo. “Students directly interact with research faculty which no doubt broadens their consideration of career choices in dentistry.”

Summer Program Reaching Out to Prospective Dentists

Penn Dental is opening its doors to prospective dentists, offering a special summer course to gain a better understanding of dentistry and decide whether it is the right career choice for them.

The six-day course provides a multi-faceted introduction to dentistry. Students take impressions of one another’s teeth, chart each other’s mouths, meet with current dental students, and visit high-tech private practices of alumni and faculty. A large portion of the course also takes place in the School’s preclinical lab on virtual reality teaching units — high-tech stations that simulate a dental care environment with computerized patient mannequins, dental instruments, and related software.

The course is aimed at prospective dental students or those just beginning to consider a dental career, and is designed to explore the hands-on skills needed to drill a tooth or place a filling that are such a fundamental part of dental education and professional practice. No dental experience is required, and participants, who must be 18 years of age or older, get a valuable preview of the art and craft of dentistry, while learning psychomotor skills in a fun and enjoyable way.

The course was introduced this past summer, and Dr. Judith Buchanan, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs,
plans to offer two sessions next July and August. Each session can accommodate up to 20 students. "Dentistry is such a fascinating profession, and this course is especially good for individuals who haven’t been introduced to the field through friends or family members who are dentists," says Dr. Buchanan. "There are always a few students who come away intrigued by the idea of becoming a dentist."

**Student Clinics Get Fresh Look**

Two of Penn Dental’s clinics, the Paletz Clinic and Main Clinic, got a fresh look this summer, enhancing the patient care environment for students and patients alike. Paletz Clinic, located in the lower level of the School’s Thomas W. Evans Building, received the most comprehensive update.

“We basically undertook a total retrofit of the space, giving it a complete facelift,” says Facilities Manager Jerry Friel of the Paletz Clinic, which is used as a general restorative teaching clinic for third- and fourth-year students. The renovation work involved new flooring, a new ceiling, fresh paint, new instrument and supply storage cabinetry, a new sink, and the creation of an additional storage area. New windows were also installed on one side of the clinic and new mini-blinds were added throughout. In addition, all of the dental equipment in the 14-chair clinic was completely overhauled.

Within the school’s Main Clinic, repairs were made to the grand, original windows that line the clinic’s north wall, with the wooden frames replaced and painted as needed. Other work included cleaning and disinfecting the entire venting system, replacing loose or stained ceiling tiles, touch-up painting, and relamping of all the lighting on the clinic’s 25-foot-high vaulted ceiling. Finally, an overhaul was performed on all of the dental equipment that outfits this 76-chair clinic.

“We couldn’t have completed this work without the help and support of the University’s Facilities Department,” adds Tom Freitag, Associate Dean for Finance and Administration. “We are most grateful to them for helping us to improve the clinical experiences for our students and our patients.”

**New Community Service Award Honors Dr. Judith Rodin**

A new Penn Dental award has been established in honor of former Penn President Dr. Judith Rodin. The Judith Rodin Community Service Award, which pays tribute to Dr. Rodin’s work in building strong community ties, will recognize a Penn Dental student for extraordinary service in the West Philadelphia community. The award will be presented annually to a deserving student.

The creation of the award was announced by Dean Marjorie Jeffcoat during Alumni Weekend 2004. The first award was presented to Dr. Rodin herself for her dedicated service to West Philadelphia during her 10-year tenure as president of the University. Next year’s Judith Rodin Community Service Award will also be presented during Alumni Weekend, which will be held May 13–15, 2005.

“Penn’s urban initiative has become a model for university-community partnerships, and the School of Dental Medicine has been a big part of it,” said Dr. Rodin upon receiving the award. “The people of West Philadelphia have enormous respect for the dentists and dental students they meet at Penn, as do I. And as our graduates make their way in the world, they carry with them that all-important tradition of service.”

Community service has become an important part of Penn Dental’s educational priorities. Four courses involving community service are incorporated into the curriculum and students are required to fulfill at least 70 hours of community service prior to graduation, including rotations in the PennSmiles van, the mobile dental clinic that serves approximately 800 local children each year. During the 2003–2004 academic year, Penn Dental students and faculty visited 275 sites and provided oral health care services to approximately 21,000 community members.
Dr. Amy Gutmann Inaugurated as Penn’s Eighth President

Amy Gutmann, Ph.D., was officially installed as the eighth President of the University of Pennsylvania at an inauguration ceremony held in the University’s Irvine Auditorium on October 15. Dr. Gutmann comes to Penn from Princeton University where she served as Provost and was also the Laurance S. Rockefeller University Professor of Politics and the University Center for Human Values. She is President of the American Society of Political and Legal Philosophy, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the W.E.B. Du Bois Fellow of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, and a Fellow of the National Academy of Education. In 2003, she was awarded the Centennial Medal by Harvard University for “graduate alumni who have made exceptional contributions to society.”

Dr. Gutmann’s inauguration ceremony was part of a multi-day celebration, which included an array of events across campus. The celebration, which kicked off on October 9 with Penn-West Philadelphia Community Celebration Day, also included a concert, an inauguration dinner, an academic procession along Locust Walk, and a symposium focusing on issues central to Dr. Gutmann’s distinguished scholarship.

The symposium, titled *Rising to the Challenges of a Diverse Democracy*, featured experts on five panels, the majority drawn from Penn’s own faculty, who discussed and debated how universities everywhere, and Penn in particular, can rise to the challenge of upholding and strengthening core democratic values in a diverse global community. Penn Dental’s Dr. Judith Buchanan, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, was among the panelists for *Leading and Learning from Local and Global Communities*, which addressed how research universities like Penn can productively collaborate with and learn from the many different communities in which they operate. The other symposium panels included *Creating and Communicating Knowledge in an Unequal World*, *Improving Lives by Investing in Science and Technology*, *Educating Professionals as Engaged Citizens*, and *Making the Most of Our Cultural Differences*.

Dr. Gutmann has taken a great interest in the School of Dental Medicine. With a voracious quest for knowledge about Penn Dental, she has learned more about the School since her appointment than many of us know. “I am pleased to report that Dr. Gutmann is supportive of our mission, our students, and our faculty,” says Dean Marjorie Jeffcoat. “We are fortunate to be able to welcome her to the Penn Dental family.”

Faculty Appointed to Three New Administrative Posts

With the start of the 2004–2005 academic year, three Penn Dental faculty members were named to newly created administrative posts in admissions, clinical education, and postdoctoral study. Drs. Scott DeRossi, Uri Hangorsky and Edward Lally say they are looking forward to the student interaction and new responsibilities.

Dr. DeRossi, Assistant Professor Clinician Educator of Oral Medicine, has assumed the role of Assistant Dean for Admissions, overseeing admissions for both the Penn Dental predontal program and the School’s postdoctoral residency programs. His responsibilities include introducing prospective DMD students to the School and its academic programs during student visits, interviewing prospective students, and participating in recruiting events at various colleges and universities. He will also work closely with a newly formed Admissions Committee on student selection and will help to identify those students qualified to receive the Dean’s Scholarships.

Dr. Hangorsky, Clinical Associate Professor of Periodontics, has been appointed Associate Dean for Clinical
Affairs. In this position, Dr. Hangorsky oversees and manages the clinical education of DMD students in the School’s clinics. Working closely with the faculty in the clinical departments, he is responsible for the quality of the predoctoral student clinics and the coordination of specialty services in those clinics.

Dr. Lally, Professor of Pathology, has been named Director of the Masters in Oral Biology program. Designed for postdoctoral students interested in an academic career, this program can be pursued concurrently with graduate dental education. In this role, Dr. Lally oversees all aspects of program admissions. His responsibilities will also include assisting students in selecting a thesis supervisor, setting up and coordinating meetings of candidates with thesis committees, and hearing thesis defenses.

Dr. Martin D. Levin Named Board of Overseers Chair

Dr. Martin D. Levin (D’72, GD’74) recently assumed a new leadership role within the Penn Dental Board of Overseers, officially appointed as the new chairman at the Overseers meeting in early November.

Dr. Levin takes over this office from outgoing Chair Richard A. Collier (W’66, WG’67), who held the post since 1999. “Penn Dental is most grateful for the thoughtful leadership Richard has provided as Chair and equally appreciative to Marty for his commitment to the school in taking on this new role,” says Dean Marjorie Jeffcoat.

Dr. Levin’s ties to Penn Dental are many. He earned his DMD and postdoctoral certificate in endodontics from the School in 1972 and 1974, respectively, and has been an active member of the Board of Overseers and the Penn Dental Alumni Society Board for several years. Dr. Levin also co-chairs “The Hat in the Ring Society,” which raises funds to benefit the School’s endodontic residents.

Dr. Levin has a private practice in endodontics in Chevy Chase, MD. Among his other professional activities, he is a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics and is a member of the College of Diplomates and Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honor Society. Dr. Levin has authored numerous papers, lectured internationally, and is also a consultant at Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, DC, and an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Postgraduate Endodontics at Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine.

Dr. Andres Pinto Selected for ADA Institute

Penn Dental faculty member Dr. Andres Pinto (D’99), Assistant Professor Clinician Educator of Oral Medicine and Director of Medically Complex Patient Care, was selected as one of 12 participants for this year’s American Dental Association (ADA) Institute for Diversity in Leadership. The Institute, sponsored by the ADA Foundation, is a three-part leadership development program for dentists who belong to racial, ethnic, or gender groups traditionally underrepresented in leadership roles. Its goal is to provide dentists with the leadership skills necessary to help them make a positive impact in their communities, dental associations, and the profession.

Candidates for the program must have an active dental license, have practiced for a minimum of five years, and have demonstrated promise as a leader. This year’s participants were selected by the ADA Board of Trustees from a field of 60 applicants. They will attend three two-day leadership training workshops led by faculty from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in Chicago.

“It is exciting to see the ADA take an interest in cultivating the leadership skills of minority dentists,” said Dr. Pinto, who is originally from Columbia. After returning from the first of the series of workshops, he noted that the interactive workshops were extremely useful. “The program helps you develop skills you don’t learn in school, such as effective leadership techniques, negotiation, and persuasion,” he says. “I also had the opportunity to meet and share ideas with many interesting colleagues.”

Each participant will use the skills they learn at the Institute in a culminating project. Dr. Pinto’s project will focus on childhood obesity and oral health. The project will use the clinical setting to determine what parents know about the factors that cause obesity and poor oral health and will provide community education to promote awareness of the problem and change behavior.

Mr. Garvey, who assumed his new post in April, comes to Penn Dental from the William Penn Charter School, where he had been the Director of Development since 1993. At Penn Charter, Mr. Garvey managed all aspects of the development program, including alumni relations, marketing, and communications. He also directed two capital campaigns, raising over $25 million for the School.

“I’m grateful to be at such a top-notch university and at a school that has a deep commitment to excellence and is so rich in history and leadership in the dental profession. It’s inspiring,” says Mr. Garvey, who holds an MBA from Temple University and a BA degree from Connecticut College. He and his wife have three children — two daughters, 17 and 14 years of age, and a 12-year-old son — all of whom attend Penn Charter. Mr. Garvey can be reached at the Penn Dental Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 215-898-8951, or through email at jgarvey@ben.dev.upenn.edu.
Scholarly Activity

**Selected Publications**

A selection of work published in 2004 by members of the Penn Dental faculty, who are indicated in bold text.


**Dr. Yi-Tai Jou** (D’99), Assistant Professor Clinician Educator of Endodontics

- Recipient of the 2004 Earle Bank Hoyt Award for teaching excellence by a Penn graduate who is a full-time junior faculty member, presented by the Class of 2004. This is the fourth year in a row that Dr. Jou received this award.

**Dr. Nathan B. Kobrin,** Clinical Assistant Professor of Restorative Dentistry

- Recipient of the 2004 Robert E. DeRevere Award for excellence in preclinical teaching by a part-time faculty member, presented by the Class of 2004.

**Dr. Anna Kornbrot** (D’79, G’82), Clinical Assistant Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

- Recipient of the 2004 Alumni Award of Merit, presented by the Penn Dental Alumni Society.

**Dr. Steven Liu,** Assistant Professor Clinician Educator of Restorative Dentistry

- Recipient of the 2004 Joseph L. T. Appleton Award for excellence in clinical teaching by a part-time faculty member, presented by the Class of 2004. Dr. Liu is a third-term recipient of this honor.

**Dr. Vicki Petropoulos,** Associate Professor Clinician Educator of Restorative Dentistry

- Recipient of the 2003 Charles E. English Award in Clinical Science and Techniques, given by the International Congress of Oral Implantologists to the author(s) of the most significant article(s) within the Clinical Science and Techniques section of *Implant Dentistry.* Her two winning articles were:

**Dr. Andres Pinto,** Assistant Professor Clinician Educator of Oral Medicine

- Selected as one of only 12 dentists nationwide for the 2004–2005 American Dental Association Institute for Diversity in Leadership.

**Dr. Louis E. Rossman,** Clinical Professor of Endodontics

- Recently elected Treasurer of the American Association of Endodontists.

**Dr. Marjorie K. Jeffcoat,** Amsterdam Dean and Professor of Periodontics

- Installed as President of the Academy of Osseointegration.


Levine R, Beagle J. The ITI implant used as single posterior teeth: The "Tripod" dogma has been tested, questioned and nullified. *Implant Realities*. 2004;II(2):28-29.


**Selected Grants**

The following grants were awarded to date in 2004:

**Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology**

- Normal Human Cementum Cells in Citro and in Vivo. $7/04-12/04
- Funding Source: National Institutes of Health
- Principal Investigator: Dr. Wojciech J. Grzesik, Research Assistant Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology

**Department of Biochemistry**

- Regulating Osteoblast Proliferation and Differentiation. $8/04-7/09
- Funding Source: National Institutes of Health
- Principal Investigator: Dr. Hyun-Duck Nah-Cederquist, Research Associate Professor of Biochemistry

**Department of Oral Medicine**

- Use of Pilocarpine to Reduce the Incidence of Dental Caries in Patients With Sjogren's Syndrome: A Randomized Controlled Clinical Trial. $10/04-10/05
- Funding Source: MGI Pharma, Inc.
- Principal Investigator: Dr. Martin Greenberg, Professor and Chair of the Department of Oral Medicine
- Co-Investigators: Dr. Frederick B. Vivian, Dr. Burton Roxan, Professor Emeritus of Microbiology; and Dr. Andres Pinto, Assistant Professor
- Clinical Investigator: Dr. Andrew Cohen of Oral Medicine

**Oral Health Status of a Pediatric Type 2 Diabetic Population.** $10/04-10/05
- Co-Principal Investigators: Dr. Thomas P. Sollecito, Associate Professor Clinician Educator of Oral Medicine and Dr. Andres Pinto
- Co-Investigators: Dr. Rochelle Lindemeyer, Assistant Professor
- Clinical Investigator: Dr. Pediatric Dentistry, Dr. Sheena Maggee, and Dr. Elizabeth Prada

**Drexel University Partnership for the People Ryan White Title I.** $7/04-6/05
- Funding Source: The Philadelphia AIDS Consortium
- Principal Investigator: Dr. Thomas P. Sollecito

**The Effect of Rephresh Breath Drink on Food-Related Halitosis.** $8/04-9/04
- Funding Source: Tasker Capital Corporation
- Principal Investigator: Dr. Linda L. Otti, Associate Professor of Oral Medicine

**Site-Specific Osteogenic Properties of Human Bone Marrow Stromal Stem Cells and Therapeutic Applications in Osteoradionecrosis.** $7/01-8/31/05
- Funding Source: American Cancer Society and University of Pennsylvania
- Principal Investigator: Dr. Sunday Akintoye

**Department of Oral Surgery and Pharmacology**

- A Comparison of the Hemostatic Efficacy of 4% Articaine, $5/04-4/05
- Funding Source: Novocain Pharmaceuticals of Canada
- Principal Investigator: Dr. Elliot Hersh

**Department of Periodontics**

- A 9-Month, Multi-Center, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Clinical Trial Evaluating the Effect of Doxycycline Monohydrate Modified-Release Capsules qd in Combination with Scaling and Root Planing vs. Placebo qd in Combination with Scaling and Root Planing, 3/04-12/05
- Funding Source: Collagenex Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
- Principal Investigator: Dr. Alan M. Polson, D. Walter Cohen Professor of Periodontics

**Department of Preventive and Restorative Sciences**

- The Diversity Fund, 6/04-6/05
- Funding Source: Office of the Provost, University of Pennsylvania
- Principal Investigator: Dr. Rose Wadensya, Assistant Professor
- Clinical Educator of Pediatric Dentistry

**Office of the Dean**

- Rural Health Outreach Special Initiative, 8/04-7/05
- Funding Source: Health Resources & Services Administration
- Principal Investigator: Dr. Marjorie K. Jeffcoat, Professor of Periodontics and Dean of the School of Dental Medicine

**Periodontal Infection and Prematurity, 2004-2008**
- Funding Source: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- Co-Investigators: Dr. Marjorie K. Jeffcoat, and Dr. George Macones, Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Penn School of Medicine

**Peak Plasma Articaine Concentrations and Cardiovascular Responses Following Intraoral Administration of 4% Articaine, 9/04-8/05**
- Funding Source: Novocain Pharmaceuticals of Canada
- Principal Investigator: Dr. Elliot Hersh
**Philanthropy Highlights**

**Penn Dental Deanship Endowed**

Effective in July of this year, the deanship of Penn Dental was designated the Morton Amsterdam Chair for the Deanship at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, endowed through a $1 million gift given by the late Hon. Walter H. Annenberg (W’31, H’66) in honor of Dr. Morton Amsterdam (D’45), Professor Emeritus of Periodontics at Penn Dental. The gift was originally made to Penn Dental in 1990 and redesignated to endow the school’s deanship on the approval of Mrs. Annenberg in February 2003.

The chair was named in honor of Dr. Morton Amsterdam, a friend of the Annenbergs and a long-time member of the Penn Dental faculty, widely respected as a leader in periodontics and prosthodontics. Dr. Amsterdam first became part of the Penn Dental faculty in 1953 as a visiting lecturer. He served as Assistant Professor of Periodontics and Associate Professor of Periodontics from 1955 to 1959 and 1959 to 1963, respectively, and held the post of Professor of Periodontics from 1967 until his retirement in 1992. Dr. Amsterdam also served as director of Penn Dental’s postdoctoral program in periodontics and periodontal prosthesis from 1969 to 1973.

He presently continues to serve as a visiting professor at Boston University School of Graduate Dentistry and as a lecturer at Harvard University. Among his many professional honors, Dr. Amsterdam was the recipient of the 2004 Lifetime Achievement Award, presented at the 8th International Symposium on Periodontics & Restorative Dentistry, and in 2003, he received the Master Clinician Award from the American Academy of Periodontology.

Dean Jeffcoat adds, “Penn Dental is fortunate to have Dr. Amsterdam serve on the part-time faculty with emphasis on a field he pioneered, perio-prosthetics.”

**Class of 1955 Funding the Sigmund L. Seigel Alumni Center**

At the time of their 45th Reunion five years ago, the Class of 1955 raised more than $250,000 to fund the creation of the Sigmund L. Seigel Alumni Center at Penn Dental. It is named in memory of their classmate Dr. Sigmund L. Seigel, who died from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident in 1999.

“Through their generosity, the members of the Class of 1955 are not only creating a lasting memorial to Dr. Seigel, but also enhancing Penn Dental’s facilities with a special meeting space,” notes Director of Development and Alumni Relations Jim Garvey.

The Center will be located in what has been the S-1 Conference Room, situated at the back of the stairwell on the second floor of the Thomas W. Evans Building. This entire 780-square-foot room will undergo a complete renovation to create a state-of-the-art space that will be used for classes and lectures, as well as continuing education courses and other special programs and events. There will also be space for alumni to gather and relax when visiting the school. This room was the School’s original library when the Evans Building was constructed in 1915 and one of the design goals will be to reveal and incorporate some of the original architectural details into the renovation.

“Our plan is to create a state-of-the-art meeting space with a design that is sensitive to the historic integrity of the building,” says Tom Freitag, Associate Dean for Finance and Administration, who was overseeing the final selection of a project architect at press time.

The renovation of the space is expected to begin in early 2005 and be completed in the spring, when the Class of 1955 will be celebrating its 50th Reunion.
I n the spirit of great leadership and a tremendous sense of gratitude that we present our Honor Roll for the 2003–04 year. Listed below are the names of alumni, parents, and friends of Penn Dental who have chosen to demonstrate their support of the School by making generous gifts.

Gifts to Penn Dental, whether to our annual fund, endowed fellowships and professorships, or one of our current building projects, serve to make the school stronger — today and in the future. On behalf of the students, faculty, and administration, thank you for all you do to help make Penn Dental the best!

Benjamin Franklin Society
Gifts from members of the Benjamin Franklin Society comprise a substantial portion of the total amount raised each year in Annual Giving. The Society’s support is a vital and essential source of income to the School of Dental Medicine. The School is grateful to all of its donors, but special gratitude and recognition is extended to those who have contributed to the Benjamin Franklin Society and the Red and Blue Society.

Founder ($10,000 and above)
Strasman USA
Dental Associates of Rochester & Implant Innovations
Alton T. Boyd, D’71

Fellow ($5,000 to $9,999)
C. C. & S. K. Alpert
Philadelphia Park
McCay and Criscuolo
Anthony F. Moreschi, C'49,
D’54, GD’61
Laurence B. Brody, C’52, D’56
Russell G. Marroti, D’73
Steven Alan Schwartz, D’76

Associate ($2,500 to $4,999)
Michael J. Feldman Family
Philanthropic Fund
L. K. Management
MBNA Foundation
Irving & Lorain Rothstein Fund
Wyeth Pharmaceuticals
Morton Amsterdam, C’43, D’45
Robert H. Williams, ChiE’55, D’56,
D’67
Richard A. Collier, Esq., W’56, WC’61
Lawrence Kessler, C’66, D’70
Michael D. Ryan, GD’66
Gerald H. Kreinces, D’68

Red and Blue Society
($1,000 to $2,499)
Aventis Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Stanley & Marion Bergman Family Fund
Braseller USA Dental LLC
Foundation for the Carolinas Treis Inc.
Wyeth
Robert Litowitz, D’43
Eric A. Englund, D’55
Erricos Constant, C’52, D’54
Robert N. Reynolds, D’56
Alan E. Besas, D’58
William A. Billingham, D’59
John L. Coker, Jr., D’57, GD’65
Thomas T. Doran, D’54
Ilze Lakstiga, D’54
Vincent A. Gallery, D’56, GD’59
Lawrence E. Krutchik, D’57
Harry M. Hoffman, D’59
Jack Pietarsky, D’59
Daniel B. Green, D’60
Ronald M. Nakamura, C’61, D’65
Edward J. Beatty, Jr., D’64
William J. Jacoby, Jr., D’64
Frank E. Besson, D’64, GD’68
Richard E. Derrick, D’65
Alan H. Franken, C’67, D’67
Joseph E. Giani-Grasso, C’67, D’71
Sidney Cusins, D’68
William A. Bontemps, D’71, GD’77
Mathew A. Mandell, D’68
Robert E. Nist, D’70
William D. Olmsted, D’70, GD’77
Albert M. Price, D’70
Stephen A. Cooper, D’71
Robin David Harshaw, D’71
Mark A. Judi, D’71
Gary N. Anderberg, D’72
Martin D. Levin, D’72, GD’74

Thomas Evans Society
The School gratefully acknowledges and welcomes the individuals who have joined the Thomas Evans Society. In order to broaden our base of support, it is essential that we invite new members to the club and encourage current contributors to sustain or increase their level of giving.

Associates ($500 to $999)
Family Dentistry
Robert S. & Susan
Morgenstein Fund
Oral Surgery & Dental Implant
Anthony Quinn Charitable
Lead Trust

Southern Delaware Oral & Maxillofacial
E. Earl Doyne, D’45, GD’48
Richard C. Ferguson, D’46
Eugene G. S. Adams, D’50
Edwin R. McDevitt, Jr., C’50, D’53
Nevin C. T. Shaffer, D’51
Edwin S. Sved, D’59
Albert J. Anderson, Jr., C’52, D’55
Dorothy A. Kinney, D’52
Virginia K. Orrstrander, D’52
Jesse H. Hogg, Jr., D’53
John Allan Bier, D’54
Edward P. Henefer, D’54, GD’56
Vincent J. Smith, D’54
William L. Wessner, D’54
Charles H. Pestka, D’55
Daniel A. Bomberger, D’55
Aaron M. Hader, D’58
Leonard Abrams, D’59
James H. Greenbaum, D’59
Arnold L. Podel, D’59
Jacob A. Salzmann, C’59,
D’63, GD’64
Emanuel R. Tress, D’63
Fred C. Bergamo, D’64
Robert S. Hall, D’64
James D. Smallwood, D’64
William K. Dean, D’64
Theodore A. Soulitis, D’65
Francis J. Dermody, D’67
Michael J. Kim, C’67, D’71
Gary Lighter, D’74
Richard L. Rothstein, D’69
Jeffrey A. Bassin, D’70
William J. Bisignano, Jr., D’70
Robert S. Frankel, D’72
Douglas E. Peterson, C’72, GD’76
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Alumni Weekend 2004 Marks Special Beginnings, Endings

More than 200 Penn Dental alumni and their guests gathered for Alumni Weekend 2004, enjoying a host of educational and social activities and celebrating 12 class reunions (those classes ending in “4” and “9”), including the 50th for the Class of 1954. Held May 14 to 16, this year’s event also marked some important beginnings and endings for Penn Dental and the University, as Dr. Marjorie Jeffcoat participated in her first alumni weekend as Penn Dental Dean, and Dr. Judith Rodin experienced her last as Penn President.

Penn Dental recognized Dr. Rodin for her outstanding leadership of the University during the All-Alumni Reunion Luncheon, held at the University’s Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. There, Dean Jeffcoat announced the creation of the Judith Rodin Community Service Award at Penn Dental, honoring Dr. Rodin’s strong commitment to building community partnerships during her presidency. The award, which was presented to Dr. Rodin, will be given annually to a Penn Dental student (see story, page 17).

The 2004 Alumni Awards of Merit were also presented as part of the luncheon program. This year’s recipients included Dr. Martin Greenberg (GD’68), Dr. Anna Kornbrot (D’79, GD’82), and Dr. Edward P. Henefer (D’54). (see story, page 28). In addition, the Penn Dental Alumni Society voted on and accepted its 2004-2005 slate of officers, electing Dr. Marc Ackerman (D’98), President; Dr. Jeffrey Blum (D’80), First Vice President; Dr. Joshua Wolgin (D’98), Second Vice President; and Dr. Tara Lee Sexton (D’88), Treasurer. The outgoing president was Dr. Anna Kornbrot.

“It is my hope to continue revitalizing the Alumni Society and offer new opportunities for alumni to experience the evolving Penn Dental of tomorrow,” notes Dr. Ackerman on his role as the new Alumni Society President.

Among other highlights of the weekend was the Women’s Forum — an addition to the educational program that featured a panel discussing their dental career choices, obstacles they have encountered as women, and how they balance their professional and personal lives. Moderated by Dr. Judith Buchanan, Penn Dental’s Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and developed by Drs. Anna Kornbrot and Margrit Maggio (D’87), the other panelists included Dean Jeffcoat, Dr. Phoebe Leboy, Dr. Barbara Steinberg, Dr. Linda Himmelberger (D’79), and Dr. Tara Sexton. The forum was made possible by Dr. Linda Gilliam (D’89), a Penn Dental Overseer.

Two continuing dental education courses were also part of program offerings — Periodontal Disease and Preterm Birth: Does Therapy Work?, presented by Dean Jeffcoat, and Biodontics: The Integration of Biotechnology and Clinical Dentistry, by Dr. Edward F. Rossomando (D’64), Professor of BioStructure and Function and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine.

Members of Penn’s Dental Hygiene Alumni Society also gathered for a luncheon and continuing education course titled Take Five: Oral Cancer Screening. Dean...
Jeffcoat visited the lunch to give an update on Penn Dental and to take questions.

Plans are already beginning for Reunion Weekend 2005, which will be held May 13 to 15 and include reunions for the classes of ’00, ’95, ’90, ’85, ’80, ’75, ’70, ’65, ’60, ’55, ’50, and ’45. Among the plans for this year’s gathering will be a central location for all reunion dinners, which will be held at the historic Union League. In addition, a joint reception for all reunioners will be held at the Union League prior to the reunion dinners, enabling alumni to easily socialize with friends and colleagues from other classes than their own. For more information, contact Candy Elkind Emerson, Penn Dental’s Associate Director of Development and Alumni Relations, emerson2@dental.upenn.edu, 215-898-8951.

Dean Plans Alumni Visits

Around the Country

In an effort to get to know Penn Dental alumni in other parts of the country, Dean Marjorie Jeffcoat is traveling to many states, including Florida, New York, Massachusetts, and Texas, as well as Washington D.C. this school year.

These alumni gatherings are organized to coincide with various dental association meetings and plans are also underway for visits to be hosted in the homes of Penn Dental alumni, creating an inviting environment for graduates to meet the Dean.

“I am very much looking forward to meeting some of the esteemed graduates of Penn Dental,” says Dean Jeffcoat. “During my year-long tenure here, I have had the opportunity to get to know many of our newest dentists. Of course as a dentist myself, I know many Penn Dental graduates, but I look forward to seeing how Penn Dental has shaped the careers of previous graduating classes.”

This fall, Dean Jeffcoat made two visits to Orlando, FL. The first time gathering with alumni at a reception held during the American Dental Association 145th Annual Session in October. The second time in early November, when a special dinner was held in conjunction with the American Academy of Periodontology in memory of the Dr. Leonard Abrams, a highly regarded Penn Dental professor, who passed away in July. And in late November, the Dean visited with alumni in New York City at the Greater New York Dental Meeting.

To date, those alumni receptions with Dean Jeffcoat scheduled for 2005 include the following: January 28, 6 to 7:30 p.m., at the Marriot Copley Plaza, Boston, MA, in conjunction with the Yankee Dental Congress;

March 10, 5:30 to 7 p.m., at the Walt Disney Dolphin Hotel, Orlando, FL, in conjunction with the Academy of Osseointegration Annual Meeting; and April 7, 6 to 8 p.m., at the Wyndham Anatole Hotel, Dallas, TX, in conjunction with the American Association of Endodontists meeting April 6–9.

Alumni Society Presents 2004 Alumni Awards of Merit

The Penn Dental Alumni Society once again honored the achievements and contributions of Penn Dental graduates with its Alumni Award of Merit, presenting the 2004 awards to Drs. Martin Greenberg (GD’68), Edward Henefer (D’54), and Anna Kornbrot (D’79, GD’82). This year’s awards were conferred at the All-Alumni Reunion Luncheon, held May 14 during Reunion Weekend.

Presented annually, the award recognizes alumni who have maintained close ties to Penn Dental and who have demonstrated leadership in the dental profession and community.

Dr. Martin Greenberg, who earned his dental degree at Columbia University School of Dentistry and completed a residency in general dentistry at Queens Hospital Center, came to Penn Dental to continue his education and pursue his interests in oral medicine. He completed a residency in oral medicine and clinical research at Penn Dental in 1968, and since then, has been part of the faculty, rising to...
the position of Professor of Oral Medicine in 1982 and becoming Chair of the department in 1988. Since 1988, he has also been the School’s Associate Dean for Hospital Affairs. In 2000, he was recognized by the American Academy of Oral Medicine as the recipient of the Samuel Charles Miller Award for Outstanding Contribution to Oral Medicine — the highest award given in the field of oral medicine. He is currently the President of the American Board of Oral Medicine and a member of the Oral Cancer Protocol Committee with the American Dental Association. He also serves as the editor of the Oral Medicine Section of the Journal of Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology, Oral Radiology, and Endodontics.

Award recipient Dr. Edward Henefer, who this year celebrated his 50th class reunion as a 1954 Penn Dental graduate, has been a highly respected member of the Penn Dental faculty for more than 40 years. He joined the faculty in 1961 as an Associate in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, and he was part of the standing faculty from 1964 through 1984, holding the position of Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery from 1971 through 1984. Since then, Dr. Henefer has continued to teach on a part-time basis as a Clinical Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Dr. Henefer also maintained a private practice in oral and maxillofacial surgery in Bryn Mawr, PA, from 1976 to 1992. He was a fellow with the American College of Dentists for many years and has been active in numerous national and local dental societies throughout his career.

While affiliated with Penn Dental, Dr. Henefer has also taught residents at the Philadelphia General Hospital, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Presbyterian Hospital, and the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and was appointed head of the section of oral surgery at Pennsylvania Hospital from 1971 to 1980. Early in his career, Dr. Henefer was a Captain in the U.S. Army Dental Corps and the post oral surgeon for two years at Fort Rucker, Alabama. He also consulted at Fort Dix Army Hospital.

Dr. Anna Kornbrot earned her DMD from Penn Dental in 1979 and was the first woman to complete a residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery at the School in 1982. Since 1982, she has been a member of the Penn Dental faculty, sharing her skills and knowledge as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Presently, in addition to her private practice, she is also a clinical instructor at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. Her other administrative appointments have included Assistant Chief of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Graduate Hospital from 1983 to 1993 and Co–director of the Graduate Hospital Temporomandibular Joint Service from 1987 through 1993.

Dr. Kornbrot is a diplomate of both the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and the American College of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. Having maintained active ties with fellow alumni, Dr. Kornbrot served as the 2003–2004 President of the Penn Dental Alumni Society.

“This year’s recipients of the Alumni Award of Merit all share a love of teaching and a strong commitment to the School of Dental Medicine,” says Penn Dental Alumni Society President Dr. Marc Ackerman. The Society presents the Alumni Award of Merit annually and is currently accepting nominations for the 2005 awards. All nominations with a curricula vita should be sent to the Penn Dental Office of Alumni and Development Relations, 240 South 40th St., Philadelphia, PA 19104, by March 1, 2005.

Alumni Profile: Dr. Gregory Russell (D’03)

Just a few months after his graduation from Penn Dental, Dr. Gregory Russell had more than 3,000 patients in his care — deployed to Iraq as an Army brigade dentist. Dr. Russell, who attended Penn Dental through the Army’s Health Professional Scholarship Program, went on active duty for his four-year service requirement in July 2003, receiving a direct commission into the Dental Corps as a Captain. He was deployed to Iraq for eight months, returning to Fort Bragg, N.C., in April 2004, where he is now working in the dental clinic there.

“Although deploying was tough, it was a very good year for me as a dentist,” notes Dr. Russell. “Being on my own made me step up and put to use all of the knowledge and skills I gained at Penn Dental. I now know for a fact that I could not have had better training than what I received at Penn.”

While in Iraq, Dr. Russell was the dentist for more than 3,000 soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne Division. Stationed near Al Fallujah, he provided primary general dental care to all of the soldiers and civilians assigned within the Division’s Task Force Area of Operation. He also served as the primary coordinating triage officer in mass casualty situations and provided limited humanitarian dental care to the local population.

Patient treatment was performed in a mobile unit that could be broken down and moved to different locations as needed, and Dr. Russell notes that being set up in the middle of the desert had its challenges.

“Supplies were limited and orders could take weeks to months to arrive. We did, however, have all the equipment that a civilian dental office would..."
have except on a much smaller scale. Everything is designed to be packed into durable containers for safe movement if necessary,” says Dr. Russell. While the digital radiography and compact compressor and sterilizer were all high-tech, he adds that the dental chairs were quite primitive — a simple folding chair that when stowed away would measure only 2’ x 2’ x 4’.

As the only dentist in a 30- to 50-mile radius, he found his deployment situation a challenging and rewarding learning experience. “It is very dangerous to travel by air or ground, and therefore, I would not want to send a soldier out of my area for treatment,” notes Dr. Russell. “So I had to handle all types of cases on my own as they would present themselves. I feel that Penn prepared me very well for such an experience.”

While Dr. Russell is thankful to be home and enjoying daily life with his wife, Angela, and daughter, Alexandria, he is proud to have served in Iraq. “I am glad I got to serve with the men and women of the Armed Forces who put their lives on the line day in and day out for the freedoms of this country and others.”

Dr. Lewis E. Proffitt, Penn Dental Join in Sigma Pi Phi Centennial Celebration
Penn Dental alumni, Dr. Lewis E. Proffitt (D’73, WG’80), and a distinguished group of his fellow Sigma Pi Phi fraternity brothers gathered at Penn Dental on June 28 for a special luncheon as part of the fraternity’s centennial celebration, held this summer in Philadelphia.

Sigma Pi Phi is one of the largest and oldest African American fraternities in the nation with 112 chapters nationwide and more than 5,000 members. This year the fraternity returned to Philadelphia, the city of its founding, for its national meeting and 100th Anniversary. Dr. Proffitt convened the meeting in recognition of one of the fraternity’s original founders, Dr. Richard John Warrick, a dentist who graduated from the Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery. The Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery merged with the University of Pennsylvania Dental Department in 1909, which later became the School of Dental Medicine. Thus, Dr. Proffitt brought his fraternity home to Penn Dental.

“It was an honor and privilege to acknowledge the legacy and accomplishments of Dr. Warrick at Penn Dental,” notes Dr. Proffitt. “He and the other three founding members were social pioneers and the builders of a great fraternal structure.”

Dr. Proffitt hosted 17 other fraternity members from throughout the country at the Penn Dental luncheon, also attended by Dean Marjorie Jeffcoat, who shared in a discussion on Penn Dental’s ongoing commitment to minority recruitment and retention.

Since its founding, Sigma Pi Phi has become a virtual Who’s Who in Black America, and over the years, has counted among its members such leaders as W.E.B. DuBois, Martin Luther King, Jr., Arthur Ashe, and Maynard Jackson.

“Sigma Pi Phi is unique in that it brings together individuals from so many different areas and provides an unequalled chance to mentor and network on a multitude of levels,” adds Dr. Proffitt, who has held a variety of local, regional, and national offices within Sigma Pi Phi and is considering running for the national Grand Sire Archon (President) Elect in 2006.

Other Penn Dental alumni among the Sigma Pi Phi membership include Marshall D. Vaughters (D’51), Edwin C. Horne (D’52), Norman L. Clark (D’82, M’85) and Spencer Carl Saint-Cyr (D’97).

“Penn Dental was honored to host this distinguished group in many fields, ranging from dentistry to law,” notes Dean Marjorie Jeffcoat. “These men serve as role models for dentistry’s leaders of the future — our students.”
1930’s

P. Richard Wexler (D’32) and his wife, Helen, are enjoying retirement in Casa De Las Campanas, CA, a retirement community situated in the mountains near San Diego, and they welcome visitors! Dr. Wexler has been active on numerous committees there — from the Safety & Security (four years, two as Chair), TV Satellite, and Technology committees to the Men’s Investment Club (two years as Chair, one as treasurer), the Mac Computer Club (a founding member and two years as chair), and the Foundation and Awards Sub-Committee. The Wexlers are blessed with two children — Nancy and Stacy.

1940’s

Marion Mendenhall (nee Dunlap, DH’42) and Ralph, her husband of 60 years, are enjoying their retirement in the independent living section of a continuing care facility in Ocean City, NJ. They frequently travel to Scotts Valley, CA, and Arvada, CO, to visit children and grandchildren, and a third son visits them every Saturday (for dinner).

1950’s

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of Anthony J. Russo’s (D’52) dental practice in Milford, CT. His eldest son, Walter Russo (D’83), practiced with him since 1983 and continued the practice after Tony’s retirement in 1994. Tony’s daughter, Jane Russo (D’84), practices part time with Walter and his husband, Dr. Andrew Kurjanowicz, in his practice. Tony’s younger son, Peter Russo (D’88), practices orthodontics in Branford, CT.

John Allan Bier (D’54), Reunion Chairman of this class, wrote: “The Penn Dental Class of 1954 held its 50-Year Reunion on May 14 with dinner at the Union League of Philadelphia. There were approximately 35 class members in attendance, and an approximately equal number of family members. The opportunity to renew old friendships, reflect on experiences in the profession, and bring each other up to date on family affairs was thoroughly enjoyed by all, as at the same time we lamented the absence of those who were not with us. Regrettably, several class members wished to attend but were unable to do so due to illness, their own or that of family. To those, we sincerely send our best wishes for an uneventful recovery. To those class members who did not attend for whatever other reason, we hope to see you next time. Time goes faster and faster and the year 2009 will arrive all too soon. On behalf of the Class, our regards to all.”

Lee Cassella (D’55) retired from his oral and maxillofacial surgery practice in December 1986 and moved to Rancho Bernardo, CA, to be closer to his two daughters, who are both in the entertainment business. Six years after his wife’s death, he remarried, and has since dabbled in real estate; he currently owns two rental homes. On June 29, he celebrated his 80th birthday, pleasantly surprised by a party planned by his wife and four children. Dr. Cassella also has five grandchildren and looks forward to the 50th reunion of the Class of 1955.

Stephen Wotman (D’55) is Professor of Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science at the School of Dental Medicine at Case Western University in Cleveland, and Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the Medical School there. He is also the principal investigator for a $2.5 million grant to study dental practices. Over a three-day period, he will observe 20 dental practices in northern Ohio, accumulating the most comprehensive database about dental practices in the U.S.; analysis of the data will continue over a four-year period.

Matthew J. Cohen (D’57) retired from practice in March 1999. He is now an Adjunct Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the allied health and nursing programs at Delaware County Community College in Media, PA, and is a Lecturer in biology and nutrition in the nursing program at Neumann College in Aston, PA.

1960’s

Richard S. Altman (D’58) served in the US Navy for 21 years following graduation, deployed all over the world. While in the Navy, he received an MS degree in oral biology from George Washington University and a certificate in periodontics from the US Naval Graduate Dental School. After his navy career, he had a periodontal practice in Orlando, FL, for 25 years, retiring from it in July 2004. For the last 14 years, he practiced with his son, David. He has served as President of the Orange County Dental Society, the Central District Dental Association, the Florida Society of Periodontists, and the Southern Academy of Periodontology. He is a Fellow of the American College and the International College of Dentists. He and his wife, Peggy, live in Maitland, FL. They have a daughter, Joanne Tate, and four grandchildren.

Gerald L. Fine (D’59), retired from private orthodontic practice, maintains his skills by teaching at NYU and working at the local hospitals in the cleft palate departments and residency programs. In addition, he is the Chief of the Orthodontic Department at St. Charles Hospital and Mather Memorial Hospital in Pt. Jefferson, NY. He and his wife, Barbara, a Penn graduate, travel often, and play bridge and tennis. Dr. Fine also states, “We have two of the smartest grandkids that we love to watch.” Above: Dr. Gerald Fine and wife, Barbara, in Alaska.

Melvin Greenstein (D’60) sold his practice and retired five years ago, and this year, he also sold his dental marketing company, Direct Dental Services, Inc., which provides free dental work to communication workers unions using their dental insurance. The company employs over 250 dentists and provides services in 18 states. He now sells life, health, and variable annuity policies to dentists and physicians. Active in numerous community and dental associations, he has been honored by The Academy One Hundred of the University of Florida School of Dentistry, the Academy of General Dentistry, The Israeli Committee of Greater Miami, Ohr Somayach International, and The National Geographic Society. His son (D’88) is a practicing dentist in Miami and his daughter is a hygienist in Nashville. He has been married for 44 years and spends as much time as possible playing with his six grandchildren.
Edwin L. Granite (D’61) was recently elected Chairman of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Hospital Dentistry, Chief of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, and Program Director of the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency at Christiana Care Health Services.

Frederic Melnick (D’61) is President and CEO of Paris Dreams Ltd., www.anamericaninparis.com, which provides a complete guide to Paris—from hotels to day trips, it has all you need to know about visiting the City of Lights.

Walt Myers (D’61) just completed his 37th year in his oral surgery practice near Atlanta. Although he has sold the practice, he will continue to work part-time with his successor and another long-time associate. This past summer, he backpacked for 10 days in the Lewis and Clark wilderness in Montana. He hopes to continue in part-time oral surgery practice until he is well into his seventies. The rest of the time he builds furniture, hikes, swims, and spoils his five grandchildren.

Dennis T. Lindo (D’63) sold his practice three years ago and now practices twice a week with the Eisenmann Group. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of Banco del Istmo, the largest institution of its type in Central America and Panama. He is also on the Board of Directors at Inca University in San Jose, Costa Rica, famous for its business school and a branch of Harvard, and on the Board of a 91-year-old family business that focuses on logistics and warehousing. He still finds time for painting and travel, and he and his wife, Bonnie, have three daughters and eight grandchildren.

Betty Brusel Shamas (DH’63) retired from a 40-year career in dental hygiene, 31 years of which were with the same periodontist. She currently lives in St. Petersburg, FL, with her husband, Ed, and has three daughters. One daughter is married with two daughters of her own; one is a physician, and one is studying for her master’s degree in sign language/interpreting at Galaudet University. She is still on the Dental Hygiene Alumni Board, and cherishes her years at Penn and the lifelong friendships started there.

Lois Foster Hirt (DH’64) has contributed to two anthologies—Hot Chocolate for the Mystical Lover—101 True Stories of Soul Mates Brought Together by Divine Intervention and Small Miracles for Families—Extraordinary Coincidences that Reaffirm our Deepest Ties. It is the story of her 85-year-old mother and 86-year-old step-father who reunited after a 60-year separation, detailing how they met and why they weren’t married to each other’s first spouse. She is still writing her “fun” dental column for the Los Angeles and South Bay dental hygiene newsletters and the American Dental Hygienists Association.

Mickey Langsfeld (D’64) retired from a 40-year practice of general dentistry in Philadelphia, and now enjoys golf, tennis, family, photography, and his family tree. He says he had a great time renewing friendships at the 40th Reunion Weekend.

Cas Szymanowski (D’64) welcomed his son Jonathan to his periodontal practice in Sacramento, CA. Jonathan recently obtained his Diplomate status from the American Academy of Periodontology, and they have been practicing for three years, during which they established the Sacramento Dental Forum. As directors, they provide a multidisciplinary continuing education program for dentists. Another son, Damon, will complete an orthodontic program at Penn Dental in 2005 and will be married to Alison Juozokas, MD, the same year. His son, Jeremy, is a fourth-year radiology resident at the University of Southern California. Dr. Szymanowski’s activities include making tuition payments, golfing, cycling, skiing, and collecting fine wines. He and his wife, Jacqueline, a former nurse at HUP, will celebrate their 39th wedding anniversary on Christmas Eve.

Since 1998, Barbara Levy Tobey (DH’64) has been the Director of the Office of Women’s Health at the Indiana State Department of Health. Barbara has a strong concern for many areas of women’s health, particularly as they relate to underserved women. Under her direction, she has developed and implemented a mini-grant initiative, which provides funding for women’s health programming statewide. The office has developed and implemented programs in critical areas of women’s health such as cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, physical activity, girls’ health and obesity. Barbara has a BS from the University of Pennsylvania and a MS from Indiana University School of Dentistry.

Robert “Skip” Collins (D’67) is the President of the American Board of Dental Public Health for 2004–2005. Dental Public Health is one of the nine specialties in dentistry recognized by the American Dental Association.

In October 2004, Charles R. Weber (D’69) was elected to the American College of Dentists, and was named President of the Pennsylvania Dental Association in April 2004. Currently, he is also a member of the American Dental Association’s Council on Annual Sessions.

Allan D. Samuels (D’65) was recently awarded Life Membership in the ADA and the Pennsylvania Dental Association.
1970’s

Ivan Stangel (D’70) left a tenured academic position to start a life sciences company in the Maryland area as an outgrowth of his research. The company has completed its first technology, a robust adhesive for mineralized tissues that has been sold to dental professionals for extreme bonding to teeth.

Edward Landau (D’71) recently opened a new combined practice in pedodontics, orthodontics, and cosmetic/restorative dentistry in New Hope, PA, with David Reiss (D’80), an orthodontist, and Julia Mayzenberg (D’01), a pediatric dentist. The state-of-the-art facility has all of the latest technology designed for providing excellent patient care.


William F. Dudley (D’72) says that 2003 and 2004 have been exciting years in his family. His oldest son, Scott, graduated from Penn Dental; his son, Keith, graduated from Gettysburg College (May ’04) with a BA in economics; and his daughter completed her third year as a biology teacher after graduating from Bucknell in 2001 with a BS in biology. He and his wife, Lois, will ultimately retire in Cape May, but he plans to continue in solo practice for another 10 years. He enjoys fishing on his boat and still plays a lot of tennis.

Tom Filip (D’73) says he was proud to attend the first white coat ceremony for Penn Dental in August 2004. His son T.J. is a first-year student and Dr. Filip presented him with his first white coat.

Jeffrey G. Priluck (D’73) accepted a teaching fellowship at Emory Dental School after graduating from Penn, and for the past 30 years, he has been in private practice in Dunwoody, GA. He received his Fellowship in the Academy of General Dentistry, and in 2003, attained his Mastership in the Academy. He also served as President of the Georgia Academy of General Dentistry and now serves on the Board. Appearing on CNN as a commentator on new developments in dentistry, he is currently a candidate for membership in the Pierre Fauchard Dental Society. Two years ago, Dr. Priluck and his partner — both graduates of Las Vegas Institute, Pankey Institute, and the Rosental Institute at New York University — established a second practice, dedicated to the newest cosmetic procedures. His wife, Penny, serves as the office coordinator. They have two children — Jason, a talent agent in Hollywood, CA, and Shayan, a student at George Washington University.

Jocelyn Gleber (DH’74) was recently honored by the Pennsylvania Dental Hygienists Association (PDHA) as the recipient of its Community Dental Health Award. As Chair of the PDHA Public Relations Committee, she takes every opportunity to publicize community outreach programs and individually researched and developed plans for a state-wide sealant program. She also organized the “Greater Delaware Valley Dental Hygiene Conference,” the largest one-day dental hygiene conference in the Eastern United States. She is currently the Director of the Office of Continuing Professional Education at Thomas Jefferson University, and hosts interdisciplinary CE courses for dental hygienists, physicians, nurses, psychologists, and occupational and physical therapists. A Past President and Trustee of her component organization, she has participated at the national association level by chairing table clinic and research poster sessions, making multiple presentations, and acting as a state delegate during annual session.


Spencer Forman (D’73) still practices mostly geriatric dentistry in Jamesburg, NJ. His wife, Louise, is completing an MBA Program at Rutgers University, and his oldest son, Drew, just began a PhD program in Material Engineering at Cornell. His middle son, Robert, is a junior at Wharton (W’06), studying Marketing and Communications, and his youngest son, Jonathan, is currently applying to colleges. Dr. Forman has recently achieved the Level 4 coaching accreditation from the USA Hockey Coaching Education Program, enabling him to coach any precollege players.

Louis E. Rossman (D’75, GD’77) is an endodontist in Center City Philadelphia, and Clinical Professor of Endodontics at Penn Dental. He was recently elected Treasurer for the American Association of Endodontists.

Mark A. Stone (D’76) recently finished his term as the President of the Massachusetts Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, and celebrated his 25th year of practice. His daughter, Sara, was married on May 30, 2004 to Nathan Hefez.

William E. Harrell, Jr. (GD’77) serves on the Council on Information Technology (COIT) of the American Association of Orthodontics, the Standards Committee Dental Informatics (SCDI) of the American Dental Association, and is Chairman of the Board of Acuscape International, Inc., which produces 3D anatomic digital modeling for orthodontic/dental applications. He has been in orthodontic private practice in Alexander City, AL, since 1977. The author of numerous articles and book chapters, he is also involved in 3D research interests for orthodontic, dental and medical applications.
Rebecca Weber (D’77) retired 10 years ago from general dentistry, but her husband Ken Riso (D’75, GD’86) still practices endodontics in a group of four endodontists. Their practice area ranges from Boynton Beach to Jupiter, FL.

Frederic Barnett, (D’78, GD’81) is currently the Associate Editor of the Journal of Endodontics and serves on the Editorial Board of Dental Traumatology.

V. Lynne Cochran (D’78), who has had a solo general practice since 1978, was awarded an MBA from Waynesburg College in May of 2004, which she says has helped in managing her business and in her dealings with organized dentistry.

Cary Limberakis (D’78) completed a busy year that included continuing as Treasurer of the Montgomery Bucks Dental Society and President of the Suburban Study Club, which recently hosted the annual Consortium of Four Dental Study Groups. He was also recently honored by the Greek Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarchate with the title of Archon of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle.

Arthur N. Litowitz (GD’79) is currently the managing partner of Central Florida Orthodontic Specialists, a private group orthodontic practice. He is also a part-time Adjunct Clinical Professor of Orthodontics at the Dental School of Orthodontics at Jacksonville University. In his spare time, he is earning an MBA online from Nova Southeastern University’s Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship. Now retired from Pediatric Dentistry (1979–1993), he is enjoying life with his wife, Kit Kimb, a retired dental hygienist from the University of Michigan, and their daughter, Alaia.

1980’s

Jeffrey Blum (D’80) has been promoted to Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry at Penn Dental, and has been on the active faculty and staff of Children’s Hospital since the completion of his residency at Boston University. Dr. Blum is a Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry, a Fellow in the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, and past President of the Associated Pediatric Dental Specialists of Pennsylvania, the state component of the American Academy. He is on the Penn Dental Admissions Committee and on the Executive Board of the Alumni Association. Dr. Blum is a Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry, a Fellow in the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, and past President of the Associated Pediatric Dental Specialists of Pennsylvania, the state component of the American Academy. He is on the Penn Dental Admissions Committee and on the Executive Board of the Alumni Association. He practices in Wynnewood and resides in Merion with his wife, Cindy, and children Ethan, Abby, and Samantha.

David P. Bell (D’81) is in private practice in Newington, CT. He and his wife, Nadine, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary last June. Twins Brian and Sarah are seniors at Boston College and Quynnipiac College; Sarah is a psychology major and Brian is applying to dental school. His youngest son, Joshua, is in seventh grade and an avid fisherman and Yankee fan.

Stuart Lieblich (D’81) was elected to serve as a Director of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, the certifying board for oral and maxillofacial surgery. Following his OMFS residency at Kings County/Downstate Medical Center in New York, he was on the full-time faculty of the University of Connecticut. Now, he is in private practice in Avon, CT, and on the part-time faculty. Dr. Lieblich is married to Janet Bente (D’81), and they make their home in Canton, CT, where Janot practices family dentistry in a group practice. They have two children — Brett and Margot — pictured above.

Cheryl A. Lerner (D’82, C’79), who left private practice nine years ago, is currently the Vice President of Professional Relations at Dental Benefit Providers (DBP), a UnitedHealth Group company, located in Rocklin, MD. In addition, she serves as Vice Chair of the Marketing Committee for the National Dental EDI Council, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting and advancing electronic data interchange (EDI) within the professional dental community. She is also the Chair of the Mid-Atlantic Dental Directors’ Workgroup and the liaison to the payer community for the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners (MSBDE). Dr. Lerner is also pleased to have the opportunity to boast about her husband, a practicing dentist, and her three sons, each of whom excel in their respective endeavors!

Michael Lew (D’83) is a Trustee of the California Dental Association, where he has also served on the Strategic Planning Committee, the Committee on Rules, and as a Delegate to the American Dental Association. He will continue to serve California dentists on the Board of TDIC, the malpractice insurance company of the California Dental Association. He is also on the Board of the California Academy of General Dentistry and the Academy of General Dentistry Fellowship Committee. He anticipates receiving his Masters in the Academy of General Dentistry in 2007, having received his Fellowship in 1991. He is currently a Fellow in the Pierre Fauchard Academy and a Fellow in the American College of Dentist. He and his wife, Vivian, are the proud parents of a daughter in the dental hygiene program at the University of Pacific in Stockton, CA, and two sons in high school.

Donna Galante (D’84, GD’86) has been practicing orthodontics with her husband, Dr. Paul Cater (GD’92), in the Sacramento area since moving to California in 1993. They have offices in Rocklin, Roseville and Penn Valley. They are also the proud parents of two children — Carina and Nate. When not at the office, she and her family are enjoying waterskiing or tubing at their lake house in the Sierra Foothills, snow skiing in Tahoe, traveling to Hawaii and other locales, or spending time with family and friends.
Wayne Maibaum (D’84) felt compelled to thank an influential Penn Dental teacher by writing an article in the Jan/Feb 2004 issue of Dental Practice Report titled, “What would Dr. Maltz do?” He says he was thanked by Dr. David Maltz for his sentiments, but was reminded by his wife, Joan, that he was remiss in not mentioning the woman behind the man. Dr. Maibaum says, “I would like to correct this grievous omission and thank Joan for being my second family while studying at Penn and no doubt contributing to Dr. Maltz’ ability to be such a positive role model.”

Cheryl L. Andrews (D’85, GD’86) is running for her third term as a Selectman in Provincetown, MA, where the local press reported she was “taking a bite out of government.” She was re-elected and this year serves as Chairman of the Board. In May of this year, Dr. Andrews married her partner, Jennifer, and was featured twice on ABC Nightly News and appeared on the front page of the Chicago Tribune, May 18, 2004.

David Margulis (D’87) recently published an article in New Age Healing (July 2004) called, “Kaballah, Karma, and Cavities: Bad Teeth Today from a Poor Oral Hygiene in a Previous Life.” He has a busy private practice in Chicago with a strong emphasis on holistic dentistry, which incorporates art, dance, and pet therapy in helping the patient confront their dental condition. In addition, his rock band, Even Sh’siyah, continues to appear around the Midwest and plans to release its third CD this fall.

In May 2004, Dr. Joseph R. Ladner (D’89) was awarded Diplomate status by the American Board of Periodontology. He currently is the president of the Mercer County Dental Society and maintains a practice limited to periodontics and dental implants in Hermitage, PA.

Amy D. Field (D’90) is currently in private practice as an oral surgeon in Nashua, NH, working part-time and raising two toddlers, Anna and Andrew, with her husband John. She recently flew solo in a Cessna 172 on her quest for a private pilot’s license, and attended Karin Lamar’s wedding in July with Judy Kimmelman in Portsmouth, NH.

Nuntiya Kakanantadilok (D’95) was accepted as a Diplomate of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry in November 2003, and was appointed the Director of the Division of Pediatric Dentistry at Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, NY in 2003.

Kimberly A. Kochis (D’99) completed her endodontic residency at the University of Iowa in 1998 and received her board certification in May 2004. She also earned her MBA from the University of California, Irvine in 2000. She and her husband, Dr. Robert R McLachlan, Jr., a prosthodontist who practices in San Diego, have two children — Jensin and Carson.

Tim Bonniwell (D’96) is in his eighth year with the US Air Force and is a 2003 graduate of the US Air Force-sponsored oral and maxillofacial surgery program at Wilford Hall Medical Center. This winter, he successfully challenged the first stage of obtaining his board certification and is eagerly anticipating the oral exam to complete the process. He is on the teaching staff for the AEGD residency at Langley Air Force Base, VA, and he and his family live in Hampton, VA.

Marc Fenster (D’97) purchased a dental practice in Smithtown, NY, in January, and recently bought another practice in the area and combined it with his Smithtown office.

1990’s

Amy D. Field (D’90) and her wife, Jennifer, have been married for nine years and have three children — Richard, Harrison, and Jordyn. Dr. Selznick, who has three offices, is board certified in oral and maxillofacial surgery and is the Chief of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at University Medical Center in Las Vegas, NV. “Penn in hindsight is one of the single greatest academic institutions in the world,” he says. “It’s an honor to be an alumnus.”

Jay Selznick (D’90) and his wife, Jill Kanski Bruno (D’94, GED’94) and her husband Dr. James Bruno (M’96, GD’99) are opening offices right next to one another in Chevy Chase, MD. She will be practicing orthodontics — she earned her orthodontics license from Eastman Dental Center at the University of Rochester — and he will be practicing plastic surgery. Her husband completed a residency in plastic surgery at the Cleveland Clinic after finishing oral surgery at Penn.

Miguel Hirschhaut (GD’95) graduated as a dentist from Universidad Central de Venezuela in 1993 and earned his certificate in orthodontics at Penn Dental in 1995. He served as an Assistant Professor of Occlusion, Orthodontics and Periodontics at Universidad Santa Maria in Caracas, Venezuela from 1995 to 1998 and as Clinical Professor of Orthodontics at Universidad Central de Venezuela, from 1995 till present. He has a private orthodontic practice in Caracas, Venezuela with special focus on adult orthodontics. He has lectured and published extensively on orthodontics and served as the Secretary General of the Venezuelan Society of Orthodontics from 2000–2002 and was the Editor of the Venezuelan Journal of Orthodontics from 2000–2002.
Marc Ackerman (D’98), President of the Penn Dental Alumni Society Board, received the 2004 B.F. and Helen E. Dewel Award. Presented by the Editorial Board of the American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics (AJO-DO), this annual award recognizes the best clinical paper published by the AJO-DO. He and co-author Dr. David Sarver won for a two-part article titled “Dynamic Smile Visualization and Quantification: Part 1. Evolution of the Concept and Dynamic Records for Smile Capture,” and “Dynamic Smile Visualization and Quantification: Part 2. Smile Analysis and Treatment Strategies.”

Joel Laudenbach (D’98, GD’04) completed the oral medicine and geriatric dental medicine fellowship programs at Penn Dental and the Institute of Aging at theRalston-Penn Center in June 2004. He currently practices oral medicine and medically complex/geriatric dentistry privately in Center City Philadelphia. In addition, Dr. Laudenbach is an Assistant Professor and the Director of Geriatric Dentistry at the Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery.

G. Ross Segal (D’98) attended Temple University’s orthodontic program following his graduation from Penn Dental. For the past several years, he has been practicing orthodontics in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and is currently associated with Temple University’s Dr. Orhan Tuncay, in an exclusive Invisalign practice in Center City. In June of 2004, he lectured on the Invisalign appliance at The Liberty Dental Conference, and he continues to provide seminars on Invisalign to local study groups. He has been married for two years to Elana, also a Penn graduate, who gave birth to their first child, Alexa Haryn Segal, on August 3, 2004.

Vincent Mongiobi (D’99, GD’01) opened his solo orthodontic practice in December 2003 in Chadds Ford, PA. Email: mongioviortho@comcast.net

2000’s
Frederick A. Hartman (D’01) married Neile Jennifer Maloney, a 2002 Wharton MBA graduate, in Bristol, RI over Memorial Day weekend 2004. The wedding was featured on TLC’s daytime television show, A Wedding Story, on September 20, 2004. Those responsible for introducing the couple, Dr. Andrew Hoch, a Penn Dental graduate, and his wife Ellen, also a Wharton MBA graduate, were in attendance. Presently, the new Mrs. Hartman is the Director of Off-Air Marketing for Discovery Communication’s TLC Network in Silver Spring, MD. Dr. Hartman is completing his training in oral and maxillofacial surgery at the Washington Hospital Center in Washington, DC. The couple resides in the Cleveland Park section of the District.

Jennifer Schwartz (D’98) and her husband Jason are pleased to announce the birth of Daniel Judah. His siblings — Yoni, Eli, Meira, Gavi, and Kivi — are thrilled with their new brother. Jennifer is currently a general practitioner at Palisades Dental in Fort Lee, NJ.

Emanuel Wender, D’28
Brooklyn, NY October 1, 1999
Mortimer Obright, D’29
Rockville Centre, NY
Frank B. Gardner, II, D’30
Morehead City, NC, October 29, 2003
Julius A. Seemann, D’40
Edison, NJ, November 19, 2001
David C. Baker, D’41
East Hampton, NY, October 20, 2003
Lester R Swartz, D’41
Longwood, FL, May 27, 2004
Daniel Siegel, D’43
Lauderhill, FL, 2003
George Lynch, GD’47
Port St. Lucie, FL, October 7, 2003
Edward R. Martin, D’50
Melbourne, FL, August 14, 2003

Donald S. Gillespie, D’51
Belvedere, CA, September 24, 2004
Leonard Weissburg, D’51
Monroe Twp., NJ, September 27, 2003
Joseph J. Speicher, Sr., D’53
Cortland, NY, November 30, 2003
John J. Bosko, D’56
Tustin, CA, March 14, 2003
David F. Ditmore, D’57
Needham, MA, May 21, 2004
Richard D’Alessandro, D’65
Farmingham, CT
Mark Cherkas, D’69
Philadelphia, PA, April 21, 2004
C. Douglas Kaysor, D’69
Stoddard, NH, July 28, 2004
John H. Sarmeanas, D’85
Wichita, KS, November 14, 2003

In Memoriam

Dr. Leonard Abrams Remembered
Dr. Leonard Abrams, Adjunct Professor of Periodontics and part of Penn Dental for nearly five decades, passed away suddenly on July 6, 2004. “Dr. Abrams was an esteemed colleague to all,” said Dean Marjorie Jeffcoat on his passing. “More importantly, he had a major influence in the lives and careers of countless pre- and postdoctoral students.”

Dr. Abrams, who completed his postdoctoral training in periodontics at Penn, joined the Penn Dental faculty in 1958, and until 1963, served as an Instructor in Oral Medicine. He began teaching in the Department of Periodontics in 1959, first as an Instructor (1959–1964) and then as a Clinical Associate Professor (1964–1981) and Clinical Professor (1981–1993).

“Dr. Abrams was one of the truly great “thinkers” in the dental profession. He understood the stomatognathic system like few others and he had an uncanny ability to impart this knowledge to his students,” says Dr. Jonathan Korostoff, Associate Professor Clinician Educator of Periodontics at Penn Dental. “As I am sure my colleagues who were fortunate enough to have had Dr. Abrams as a teacher will agree, we are all better clinicians as a result of that experience.”

Dr. Abrams was an internationally recognized practitioner, author, and educator. This past spring, he was honored as the recipient of the 2004 Pennsylvania Dental Association Recognition Award for his extensive contributions to the dental profession, and in August, Dr. Abrams was to have received the Charles Pincus Award, the highest honor awarded by the American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry. He was a founding member and past president of the American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry and the Delaware Valley Academy of Osseointegration. He also received a Distinguished Lecturer award from the Greater New York Academy of Prosthodontics.

Dr. Abrams leaves behind his devoted wife, Ethel; two sons, Joseph and Jonathan; two granddaughters; and a sister. A Penn Dental alumni dinner was held in his memory during the American Academy of Periodontology meeting recently held in Orlando.
Welcome Class of 2008!

The University of Pennsylvania values diversity and seeks talented students, faculty, and staff from diverse backgrounds. The University of Pennsylvania does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, or status as a Vietnam Era Veteran or disabled veteran in the administration of educational policies, programs or activities, admission policies, scholarship and loan awards, athletic or other University administered programs or employment. Questions or complaints regarding this policy should be directed to Executive Director, Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Programs, 3600 Chestnut St., Sansom Place East, Suite 228, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6106 or by calling (215) 898-6993 (Voice) or (215) 898-7803 (TDD), www.upenn.edu/affirm-action.
Penn Dental Alumni Events and Receptions

November 30, 2004
Greater New York Dental Meeting
Marriott Marquis Hotel
New York, NY
5:30 p.m.–7 p.m.
www.gnydm.com

January 28, 2005
Yankee Dental Congress 30
Marriott Copley Plaza
Boston, MA
6 p.m.–7:30 p.m.
www.yankeedental.com

March 10, 2005
Academy of Osseointegration Annual Meeting
Walt Disney World Dolphin Hotel
Orlando, FL
5:30 p.m.–7 p.m.
www.osseo.org

April 7, 2005
American Association of Endodontists
Wyndham Anatole Hotel
Dallas, TX
6 p.m.–8 p.m.
www.aae.org

May 13–15, 2005
Penn Dental Alumni Weekend
University of Pennsylvania and Union League
Philadelphia, PA
www.dental.upenn.edu/alumni

For more information, please call the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 215-898-8951.

Continuing Education Courses

December 10 & 11, 2004
Beyond the Blade: Advanced Instrumentation and Innovative Treatment Approaches
Speakers: Nancy Lieberman, RDH, BS and Terri McCurdy, RDH, BS
Noon–7 p.m., Dec. 10, 7 CDE lecture credits
9 a.m.–5 p.m., Dec. 11, 7 CDE hands-on credits
Penn Dental, Evans Building, Seminar Room S-13, Philadelphia, PA

January 14 & 15, 2005
The Direct and Indirect Esthetic Restoration: Techniques for Success in Anterior and Posterior Clinical Procedures
Speakers: Alan M. Atlas, DMD and Steven Weinberg, DMD
9 a.m.–5 p.m., Jan. 14, 4 CDE lecture credits and 3 hands-on credits
9 a.m.–5 p.m., Jan. 15, 4 CDE lecture credits and 3 hands-on credits
The Gregg Conference Center, 270 South Bryn Mawr Ave., Bryn Mawr, PA

January 26, 2005
Maxillary Biomechanics, Esthetics, and Prosthetic Considerations Related to the Crown-Height Space
Speaker: Carl E. Misch, DDS
9 a.m.–4 p.m., 6 CDE lecture credits
Sheraton University City Hotel, 36th and Chestnut St., Philadelphia, PA

For more information on these and other Penn Dental continuing education programs, visit www.dental.upenn.edu/cde or call 215-573-9098.