

Legacy of Dr. Robert Schattner, D'48, Continues to Move School Forward

Plans Set for Main Clinic Renovation, Schattner Pavilion Addition

With the passing of Penn Dental Medicine alumnus and Overseer Dr. Robert I. Schattner (D'48) on January 29 at the age of 91, the Penn Dental Medicine community lost one of its most accomplished and devoted graduates; yet, thanks to his generosity, his legacy is continuing to move Penn Dental Medicine forward. Plans are set for the next major facilities improvements at the School — the renovation of the Main Clinic and a two-story addition to the Robert Schattner Center — both to be made possible through support from Dr. Schattner. Both the clinic renovation and work on the Schattner Pavilion are scheduled to begin in mid-May 2017.

In 2015, Dr. Schattner contributed \$10 million — at the time, the largest gift from a living donor in Penn Dental Medicine's history — toward these two building projects. And just this past fall when visiting the School to review the projects' plans, he made an additional \$5 million gift toward costs for making these new spaces a reality. This \$15 million combined with his other support over the years, including the \$5.5 million gift made in 1997 toward the construction of the School's Robert Schattner Center and surrounding Fonseca Gardens, brought Dr. Schattner's lifetime contributions to Penn Dental Medicine to more than \$20.5 million.

"It is impossible to overstate the transformative influence of Dr. Schattner on Penn Dental Medicine, and he was similarly generous in his advice and encouragement to me personally," says Dean Denis Kinane. "His vision of the importance of these projects for the future of the School was an inspiration and his commitment to dental education will be long remembered by future generations."

MAIN CLINIC RENOVATION

The School's 11,520-square-foot Main Clinic, which has been the hub of DMD clinical instruction and patient care since the Thomas Evans Building's construction in 1915, will undergo a complete renovation for an improved student and patient experience.

To be named the Robert I. Schattner Clinic, it will feature new state-of-the-art equipment, more than 70 individual operatories designed to maximize privacy and comfort, new flooring and lighting, enhanced radiographic capabilities, and a redesign to optimize operational flow, including improved instrument distribution and collection. Adding a dramatic element to the space, are plans to reveal the original, historic windows that line the north side of the clinic, bathing the space in natural light.

The Main Clinic renovation will be completed by the end of December 2017 and will complete the transformation of the historic Thomas Evans Building, which recently has undergone renovations throughout through the Evans Building Centennial Renaissance project (see story, page 2).

SCHATTNER PAVILION

The second project to be made possible through Dr. Schattner's support — the Schattner Pavilion — will build upon the unified Penn Dental Medicine campus achieved with the Robert Schattner Center's construction. When the Schattner Center opened in 2002, becoming the School's main entrance, it linked the Evans Building and Leon Levy Center for Oral Health Research. The Schattner Pavilion



ABOVE: To be named the Robert I. Schattner Clinic, the Main Clinic will undergo a complete renovation. Rendering by Ewing Cole.

RIGHT: The two-story Schattner Pavilion will extend beyond the existing atrium of the Robert Schattner Center and enclose a portion of the courtyard area behind it. Rendering by Ewing Cole.

will enhance this connection, further joining all three buildings that make up Penn Dental Medicine and facilitating interaction among faculty and staff within them.

The 2,100-square-foot Pavilion will extend beyond the existing atrium of the Schattner Center and enclose a portion of the courtyard area behind it, creating a dynamic new space on two levels for public gatherings and interaction. This space is intended to become a central meeting and reception area for faculty, staff, patients, and visitors to the Penn Dental Medicine campus. The second-floor patient waiting area will improve wayfinding for patients being treated in the Schattner Clinic, and the second-floor connection to the Leon Levy Center will provide a straight line of access from the Evans Building through the Schattner Center to Levy. The Pavilion will open into a faculty collaboration space within Levy.

The Schattner Pavilion has a projected completion date of mid-June 2018.



REMEMBERING ROBERT I. SCHATTNER, D'48 1926-2017

Robert I. Schattner, a 1948 graduate of Penn Dental Medicine and member of the School's Board of Overseers since 2002, was a man of many talents. A dentist, inventor, and entrepreneurial businessman whose long career led to 70 patents and trademarks and whose hard work, wisdom, and success in business and investing allowed him to become a tremendous philanthropist as well. Over his lifetime, he contributed more than \$20.5 million to Penn Dental Medicine and *The Washington Post* columnist and business reporter Thomas Heath noted in his March 10, 2017 article that when Dr. Schattner's will is probated, the nine-figure deposit to the Robert I. Schattner Foundation, should make the charity one of Washington, D.C.'s richest.

Dr. Schattner — who played the drums as a teen, performing in a band with his brother at a resort in the Catskills — grew up in the Bronx. He earned a degree in chemistry at the City



University of New York before coming to Penn Dental Medicine. After graduation, he served for one and a half years in the U.S. Public Health Service, then opened his own practice in Bayside, N.Y. A serendipitous conversation at a cocktail party in 1952 would change the trajectory of his career, leading to the world of business and product development as Dr. Schattner went on to develop Chloraseptic, the popular sore-throat anesthetic. After 10 years in private

practice, he sold his practice to devote himself full time to his company, moving it to the Washington, D.C. area, and eventually selling Chloraseptic to Norwich Pharmaceuticals.

Dr. Schattner's research and development didn't stop with the sale of Chloraseptic; he started a second venture, developing the hospital disinfectant Sporidex and a host of other antimicrobial products before selling Sporidex Intl. in 2008 and retiring from a long career of innovation. Among a variety of other interests, Dr. Schattner bid a number of times on ownership of professional sport teams and served as a Director on various banks' boards.

The inscription beside Dr. Schattner's photo in his Class of 1948 Penn Dental Medicine yearbook read: "A prodigious operator of no low degree, constantly on the job achieving his purpose and goal in his own quiet fashion. Bob's achievements in the field of dentistry are equaled only by his adaptability in music — the Gene Krupa of our class. Bob will undoubtedly go a long way in his chosen profession." Indeed, he did.