Winter 2010

Explorer, Winter 2010

College of Dental Medicine

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Alumni Reunion Weekend Event
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Winter 2010
The end of the holiday season and the start of the New Year bring a flurry of activity to the university. The graduating seniors are finalizing plans, taking National Boards, practicing for state licensing exams and looking for jobs all while trying to finish competencies and course work. The third year students are becoming more comfortable with treating patients and are finally figuring out the ins and outs of the clinic. D2 students are in the home stretch of their heavy course load and starting to look forward to treating their first live patient this summer. The first year students seem relieved to have that first semester under their belt and they are ready to move on to the next step in their dental career.

Our post graduate Endodontic Department has always been on the forefront. This department is strong and cohesive with a loyal alumni base. Their annual alumni weekend is the most highly attended CE event within the CDM. They’ve maintained strong ties to one another and continue to support and assist each other.

Many of the CDM’s original leaders have ties to Endodontics including our original Dean, Dr. Oliet, and myself. We’ve worked hard to develop and maintain the relationships with these graduates. They are the first department within the CDM to kick off a fund raiser to establish an Endowed Term Professorship. As of today, the Department of Endodontics has raised an amazing $390,000 towards their goal of $500,000.

We continue to work hard to engage our DMD alumni. With the 10th anniversary of our first graduating class, we look forward to hosting a reunion this year. We’re hoping the 30 graduates of that class will be able to join the celebration along with graduates of other classes also attending.

When I reflect on the progress over the last 10 years, I am grateful for so many of the contributions made by our faculty, staff, students and alumni. Your commitment is the driving force behind our continuing success.

Robert A. Uchin, D.D.S.
Dean

From the Dean
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May 8 Dental Risk Management and Record Keeping
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May 15 Caries Management by Risk Assessment: An Evidence Based Approach
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June 5 Utilizing Technology To Achieve Optimal Esthetic Results
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Nova Southeastern University
College of Dental Medicine
Fort Lauderdale, FL
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THE EXPLORER
Winter 2010

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Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sex, age, non-disqualifying disability, religion or creed, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school, and does not discriminate in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.
As one of the top dental schools in the nation, NSU’s College of Dental Medicine has continued to provide top-quality education, exceptional dental care, and pioneering research over the past year.

Our distinguished faculty are providing quality curriculum to dental students who yearn to be top-notch dental professionals.

These students are among the 105 students the college matriculates each year from a pool averaging over 3,500 applicants. Their curriculum includes classroom instruction, laboratory work, and hands-on clinical dental procedures.

An example of this education process is the college’s Extramural Primary Care rotation for fourth-year students. This course allows them to work with underserved patients at the college’s community-based sites such as the Palm Beach Department of Health, Ryan White Clinic in Oakland Park, Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital in Hollywood, and others.

Students in this rotation provide quality dental care to patients of all ages with varying medical, social, or psychological needs. These students, and every other student at the College of Dental Medicine, make us proud with their academic accomplishments and tireless work with the community.

The college’s exceptional curriculum is complimented by its trailblazing research. Endodontics professor Dr. Peter Murray and his team of researchers are cloning new teeth using adult stem cells harvested from existing teeth. The researchers have secured $1.7 million in grants from the National Institutes of Health and other sources for their dental stem cell research.

Meanwhile, Dr. Jeff Thompson was awarded an NIH grant to investigate the use of thin-film surface coatings, specifically zirconia-based films, to enhance the fatigue and fracture resistance of dental ceramic restorative materials.

I am proud of the fact that the College of Dental Medicine continues to receive public and private funding to carry out its community dental projects. The college recently received an additional grant of $697,840 from the Broward County Commission to expand dental services for HIV-positive patients at its Ryan White Clinic and main dental clinic at NSU’s Davie campus.

Under the direction of the college’s Associate Dean, Dr. Stephen Abel, the college has continued to receive annual funding from the nonprofit Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation, Inc. This year, the college received $58,000 to provide free dental services to 400 North Miami Beach elementary students at our North Miami Beach clinic.

Finally, I am proud of the leadership provided by Drs. Abby Brodie and Dominick DePaola, who serve as assistant and associate dean, respectively. Additionally, Drs. Kenneth Namerow, Oscar Bolanos, and Murray have guided our endodontics department in the right direction in terms of robust research and academic curriculum.

As always, we thank you for your continued support and we are eager to keep you posted on successes of our college, which has been a vast resource for the community and a producer of high-quality dentists.

Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D
Chancellor
Health Professions Division
**Faculty Facts**

**Publications**


**Awards and Accomplishments**

Dr. Stephen Abel has announced that the College has received an additional grant from the Broward County Commission in the amount of $697,840.00 to continue and expand the dental services provided to Ryan-White eligible persons at our Oakland Park and Davie clinical facilities. This brings the total Ryan White Award for 2009-10 to approximately $1,400,000

Dr. Stephen Abel has received notice of the awarding of a two year $58,000.00 grant from the MacDonald Foundation to continue our pediatric services of sealants to 2nd grade students in the North Miami Beach campus.

Dr. Paul Bradley was awarded Honorary Membership of the World Federation for Laser Dentistry (WFLD) for “exemplary services to the field of Lasers in Dentistry and as an expression of high esteem” at the Congress of the WFLD European Division in Istanbul where he was principal guest speaker.

Drs. Audrey Galka and Luana Wright have received notification from Delta Dental of California of their support to the sum of $50,000 for each of two clinical grants. One on nursing home patients and the second a lolli-pop study involving young adults.


Dr. Sergio Kuttler gave a presentation at the Greater New York meeting in November 2009

Dr. Peter Murray presented an update on Regenerative Endodontics at the AAE’s APICES conference in Seattle.

Dr. Sharon Siegel was selected as their Professional Alumnus of the Year at McDaniel College (formerly Western Maryland College).

Congratulations to Drs. Jack Seeberg and Joel Hauptman

Dr. Jack Seeberg, former Assistant Dean of Clinical Affairs accepted a new position at the University of Tennessee.

Joel Hauptman, DDS, former Assistant Professor in Prosthodontics, accepted in a new position at the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

Good-Bye & Good Luck

We’ll Miss You!!
The history of NSU College of Dental Medicine can be traced back to March 26, 1996 when Seymour Oliet, D.D.S. a Professor Emeritus from the University of Pennsylvania, moved to Florida for his retirement. Unexpectedly, he was brought out of retirement by his former colleagues: Drs. Morton Terry and Arnold Melnick who appointed him to lead a NSU task force which was established to determine the need for a College in Dental Medicine in South Florida. After a year of diligent research, the task force determined that enough demand existed from students and patients to locate a new College of Dental Medicine in South Florida.

The NSU board of trustees agreed unanimously to build our College and at the same time decided that Dr. Oliet should be the founding Dean. “They asked me to leave the room for a moment,” Dr. Oliet said. “And then called me back in and to my surprise, informed me I was the new Dean of the NSU College of Dental medicine. As a reward, they gave me a tiny office with a secretary.” The College was rapidly constructed from January to June 1997. Dr. Oliet said “Dr. Peter Keller took over the design of the building as if it were his own.” Each year the College receives around 4,000 applications from dental students, has graduated over a thousand highly qualified dentists, and treats over 80,000 patients, but this success was not assured. Dr. Oliet says: “NSU took a fifty million dollar gamble and it was worth it, because the College has been extremely successful.”

Dr. Oliet refers to founding the College as a “pioneering project” because no other Colleges of Dental Medicine had been established in the U.S. during the previous 26 years. Indeed, the previous trend had been to close down Dental Colleges rather than to open a new one. Dr. Oliet recruited dental faculty and dentists from around the country to come to work at our College. Some of the most experienced faculty had a similar story to Dr. Oliet, because they had also moved to South Florida for their retirement. Many former students of Dr. Oliet donated their time to College for the sake of their love of teaching dentistry and were never paid properly. The situation worked out because we were all determined in our mission to train the best new generation of dentists.

Amazingly, in the early years of the College, Dr. Oliet juggled his Dean responsibilities with teaching students and providing endodontic treatment to patients. It was only after the College income grew, that he was able to hire some full time endodontic faculty to take over most of his teaching and patient commitments. Dr Oliet has always enjoyed educating dental students and treating patients so this change in his role was taken with both sadness and joy.

Dr. Oliet was awarded the American Association of Endodontics (AAE) highest honor, the Edgar D. Coolidge Award in 2008. The citation honor read: “Dr. Oliet has displayed exemplary dedication to dentistry and to endodontics, and who has been active in the AAE throughout his professional lifetime. This year’s recipient, Seymour Oliet, D.D.S., of Pompano Beach, Fla., has been an active participant in organized dentistry for over 50 years, serving both as a leader within the Association, and mentor for a generation of endodontists as an educator and researcher.

The highlights of Dr. Oliet’s national and local leadership includes president of the American Board of Endodontics (1979-1980); founder of the Pennsylvania Academy of Endodontics; charter member of the Louis I. Grossman Study Club; and president of the Eastern Dental Society and the American College of Dentists–Philadelphia Section. His leadership extended into the academic world, where after serving 41 years in a variety of teaching and administrative positions at the University of Pennsylvania Dental School, Dr. Oliet led the creation of the Nova Southeastern University School of Dental Medicine, of which he continues to serve as dean emeritus and professor of endodontics. In addition, Dr. Oliet’s clinical research led to groundbreaking papers on gutta-percha characteristics and the endodontic-periodontal relationships. He co-authored the 11th edition of one of the specialty’s leading textbooks, Endodontic Practice, as well as more than 25 research articles.”

Dr. Oliet can be seen actively educating and sharing his wisdom with our endodontic residents. He currently holds two seminars a week sharing his fifty years of experience as a clinician and educator. He retired as the College Dean in 2001, but at the request of Dean Dr. Uchin and NSU former President Ferrero, he has remained active within the College. “I will stay here as long as it gives me pleasure,” says Dr. Oliet. “When it starts giving me grief is the day I’ll leave.”
Chief of a Successful Team

The post retirement career of Kenneth Namerow, D.D.S. who serves as Division Chief of Surgical Sciences, which encompasses Endodontics, Periodontology, and Oral Maxillofacial Surgery has been remarkably successful. He and his wife, Marcia, moved to Florida in 2000. “I came here to work on my golf handicap,” Dr. Namerow said. “And ended up being Chair of the Section of Endodontics and a Division Chief of Surgical Sciences.”

Dr. Namerow received his BS and DDS from Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey and did his specialty training in Endodontics at Columbia University in New York. After serving as captain in the army for two years, he practiced the specialty of endodontics for 32 years in Ridgewood and Westwood, New Jersey and was an adjunct instructor at Columbia University and Fairleigh Dickinson University. “I was inspired to come work in the College, similar to many of the endodontic faculty by Dr. Seymour Oliet, the founding Dean,” Dr. Namerow said.

A feature of Dr. Namerow’s office is the photographs that hang on the walls of the smiling happy faces of Endodontic residents, with messages of appreciation and thanks. Until recently, Dr. Namerow was the Post-Graduate Endodontic Program Director, a role now held by Dr. Bolanos. “Although my job can be difficult, it has also been extremely rewarding,” said Dr. Namerow. “I can see our teaching improves the skills of the students, and the successes they have in treating patients and winning awards.”

The Section of Endodontics has grown tremendously under the leadership of Dr. Namerow and its post-doctoral program has achieved much-deserved respect throughout the country. Both the Endodontic faculty and residents have completed prize-winning research recognized by the American Association of Endodontics (AAE). The faculty and residents have become leaders in developing futuristic materials and treatment protocols that will benefit future dental patients.

“As part of my focus on future technology Dr. Peter Murray and I have developed and published research on an exotic plant juice, which can be used as a natural and safe alternative to current disinfecting solutions,” said Dr. Namerow. During recent years, Dr. Namerow has been the co-author on twelve publications in peer review journals. The section currently holds research funding from the National Institutes of Health, dental materials companies, NSU and the AAE. The research successes include developing the new field of regenerative endodontics, file systems, and disinfectants.

Endodontic residents, who are fortunate enough to be accepted into the postgraduate program, travel internationally to places such as Barcelona, Spain, Mexico, and Peru to perform microsurgical endodontics.” During an externship, residents have the opportunity to perform 10-15 surgeries during the week, where most residents might only perform two or three in their entire two year program.” Dr. Namerow said. “It’s an enormous incentive for students applying to our program.”

Dr. Namerow has worked diligently with NSU on a campaign that kicked off in April 2009 to raise funds to establish an Endowed Term Professorship in Endodontics at a level of $500,000. “This professorship will be set up to help supplement a young educator’s salary,” Dr. Namerow said. “This is our way of showing appreciation to young educators who have the desire to devote their careers to education.” The recipient of the professorship will hold the position for a two-year term. Through the combined support of our Endodontic Alumni and other interested parties, the total funds raised to date is $390,240. This success is an example to encourage other sections to establish their own fund-raising campaigns, which can also build an excellent alliance with the post-doctoral alumni.

Dr. Namerow admits to taking his job very seriously but also stresses the importance of family time. He has been married to Marcia for 47 years, and has three children and five grandchildren. Their most recent grandson was born in October 2009. The proud grandparents are tickled to have the baby and his parents staying with them for a while. “It’s very important to me to devote time to my family. Dr. Namerow said. “I love my work but my family will always come first.”
Extraordinary Endodontic and Educator

Richard Gelman, D.M.D. is an assistant professor in the Department of Endodontics. He started his dental career at the University of Pittsburgh with a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree. The U.S. was involved in the Vietnam War when he was started and Dr. Gelman enlisted in the Army. He spent eight years in the reserves and active duty as a general dental officer. General practice called next and Dr. Gelman spent the next four years working as a General Practitioner in Deerfield Beach, Florida. Endodontics became a passion and he enrolled in an endodontic residency at the Medical College of Virginia and received a certificate in endodontics in 1979. He has been married for forty one years and has two children.

He practiced endodontics in Kendall (South Miami-Dade County) for more than two decades. While in private practice he integrated teaching into his busy schedule having taught at Miami Children’s Hospital, the University of Florida, and Mt Sinai Hospital. He had been on the part time faculty when NSU’s College of Dental Medicine was just starting up in 1997 and joined the full time faculty in 2002. Dr. Gelman was also active in the component dental societies having gone thru the chairs and served as President of the South Dade Dental Society.

Teaching at NSU has been very invigorating for Dr. Gelman. He teaches in Davie, North Miami Beach and at Miami Children’s Hospital. He supervises endodontic residents, dental students and Advanced Education in General Denistry residents. He teaches endodontic trauma at Miami Children’s Hospital and participates in NSU’s international surgical rotations. The surgical rotations have been wonderful experiences for our residents. They have seen many interesting and challenging cases. They will take those experiences into private practice and will be prepared to tackle any surgical problem. “The years teaching have been very satisfying for both me and the students I have been privileged to teach.” Dr. Gelman said.
Exceptional Postdoctoral Director Raises the Bar

Oscar Bolanos, DDS, MS is loyal to his family roots and Central American culture, although he always knew his destiny was to become an exceptional endodontist and extraordinary educator in the US. Dr. Bolanos grew up in the República de El Salvador literally meaning “Republic of the Savior.” It is the smallest and also the most densely populated country in Central America. It borders the Pacific Ocean between Guatemala and Honduras.

Dr. Bolanos joined the NSU’s College of Dental Medicine as a Professor in 2008, and shortly afterwards was appointed Director of the Postgraduate Endodontics program. Previously, he was Director of the Postgraduate Endodontics program at Temple University in Philadelphia, while still maintaining his own endodontic practice. Dr. Bolanos says, “Our College is very progressive especially now that the clinic has gone paperless, the dental training environment is much more streamlined.”

Dr. Bolanos enjoys his job, especially the clinical training of his twelve postgraduate endodontics residents and the endodontic fellow. He says, “The new residents are introduced to the clinic during the first week in September each year. I tell them they have 250 treatments to complete, several surgical cases, a research project, literature reviews, core courses, conference presentations, and foreign externship in surgical endodontics. I expect all the residents to be successful even though they have a lot to accomplish. It is very gratifying to see the residents develop their skills and become highly-trained and accomplished endodontists.”

Over the last 31 years, Dr. Bolanos has lectured in many foreign countries. He shares his experience and skills to bring foreign students and practicing dentists up to date with the latest technology that is practiced in the U.S.

Dr Bolanos organizes the postgraduate endodontic surgical externship program. He takes great pride in guiding the residents to perform surgeries in the under privileged areas, so that they learn community service while enhancing their skills. The surgical externships take place in Barcelona, Spain, Lima, Peru and Tlaxcala, Mexico. “For many residents the externship is the highlight of their endodontic training, because it pushes them to clinical limits they never thought they could cope with, and they recognize the high-quality of training they have received in our program,” says Dr. Bolanos.

Dr. Bolanos has enjoyed his clinical and academic career. “I have always liked teaching and I’m happy at NSU.” He says, “It will be rewarding to see my first NSU residents graduate this year.”

Dr. Oscar Bolanos, Post Doctoral Director of the Department of Endodontics

A Fresh Face in the Endodontics Department

The newest member of the Department of Endodontics, Melissa Marchesan, DDS, MS, Ph.D. came to the College of Dental Medicine from University of Ribeirao in Brazil where she was an instructor for six years and will be teaching endodontics to post and predoctoral students as well as continuing her research in endodontics and lasers. The author of sixty articles in peer reviewed journals.

Dr. Marchesan is excited about being exposed to the latest technology that the college has to offer such as the 3D Micro CT Scan, SEM, and Profilometer. “I am thrilled to have Dr. Marchesan join our department,” say Dr. Namerow, Chair of the Department of Endodontics. “She will be an asset to our team.”
Robert Seltzer, DMD, is the Predoctoral Director of the Endodontics program at our college. He hailed from the University of Pennsylvania where he taught many of our College’s leading faculty including Drs. Abby Brodie, Steven Haas, and Steven Kelner.

Dr. Seltzer spent most of his professional career working in private practice in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Dr. Seltzer was actively involved in the state and local dental societies. His interest in state politics began when he became a member of the state dental association’s legislative committee where he learned how the legislative process worked. In 1999, he was asked to run for State Assembly. “I ran and came in third,” Dr. Seltzer remembered.

Although Dr. Seltzer maintains a strong interest in politics, his full-time status at our college since 2004 keeps him too busy to run for office in Florida. He admits that when he took over the position of predoctoral director he didn’t expect to have to work so hard. He felt it would be less stress than running his own practice. Dr. Seltzer says: “This job takes up more time than all of my former jobs combined. I have a different kind of stress compared to running a dental practice. Now I feel responsible for meeting the needs of 360 students.”

Dr. Seltzer’s goal in the second year is to take students out of the lab and into clinic where they can experience and understand patient care. He would also like to see his students treating more molars. Currently, students have more difficulties with treating molars because they are complicated and difficult to treat. The student needs to recognize a problem before it becomes a problem. “Before 2004, the dental students rarely treated molars,” Dr. Seltzer said. “Last year’s class only treated 65 molars in the clinic. They need to be able to differentiate between the molars they should treat and the ones they shouldn’t treat.” Dr. Seltzer brought the treatment of selective molars to the fourth year students and feels it’s been very successful.

Dr. Seltzer is very happy with the clinical performance of the students. “The strength of our college reputation is based on the quality of training provided to our students, he says. “In the future, I would like endodontic predoctoral students to spend more time in the clinic and assist the residents.”

Dr. Seltzer believes it would be beneficial for young endodontists and colleagues to return to our college soon after graduation to become adjunct faculty members. Sixty to seventy percent of the graduates stay and practice in the area, so we are accessible. Dr. Seltzer stresses the value of supporting the college after graduation: “The graduates should work at the college next to their former mentors who will now be their colleagues. When their children see one of their parents as a dentist and a educator, it encourages academics for the younger generation.”

Dr. Seltzer has established a reputation for being a most dedicated and caring endodontics educator. He says: “I’ve been lucky with having smart students, but they learn from example. My message to our alumni is to always spend some time to teach and to give back to education. Please be responsible for your own education and to those dental students who need your help.”

According to Dr. Seltzer, working in the clinic, lecturing, and dealing with the students and faculty is the easy part. The difficulty recruiting faculty members, Dr. Seltzer said. “Every dental school has to rely on adjunct faculty. I don’t understand why so few of our dental graduates both predoctoral and postdoctoral don’t return to volunteer their time? If you are an alumni reading this article and are willing to give some time to teaching, please contact me.”

The postgraduate endodontics program in Turkey is also different from this country. A PhD is needed to complete the Turkish certification, so students have to spend six or seven years in a residency program. While most of the postgraduate endodontic programs in the U.S., can be completed in two or three years. Having a longer program can definitely have its advantages according to Dr. Sayin. “Having more time enables students to perform more in-depth research. Which can be a valuable asset to their education.”

Dr. Sayin also notices a big difference in the attitudes of dental students between the U.S. and Turkey. The government in Turkey pays the full cost of student tuition, which can lead to a more relaxed atmosphere. Dr. Sayin says, “In this country, the students are more disciplined. Probably because they have to pay their own tuition costs and are more anxious to go to work immediately after graduation to repay loans.” Dr. Sayin said, “I have been teaching since 2001. I had to be a tougher professor in Turkey but I was still as happy to work with them as I am with the students at NSU.” Dr. Sayin said: “I keep in contact with my previous students using the internet. It’s fun to see how they are doing.”

Dr. Sayin says his quest is to improve our student’s clinical education by striving to find more patients for them to treat. He said, “I believe we are giving a very good dental education to our students but there is always room for improvement and growth.”
As an alumnus of Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine’s Endodontics program, I was able to receive an excellent education that provided me with the tools to be successful in the field of Endodontics. I am dedicated to this program and have been fortunate enough to return to serve as an adjunct professor.

However, NSU graduates who have the best training and are best suited to teach, often go into private practice due to the income disparity between private practice and academic salaries. Consequently, this leaves fewer professors with the ability to teach new students and to conduct groundbreaking research. Creating an Endowed Professorship will help fill this void by allowing for new academic professionals from all over to not only teach future NSU students but also to provide them with an opportunity to conduct innovative research.

I am grateful to the Endodontics program and I am continually looking for ways to give back, promote the program and ultimately provide support for new professionals in the field. I am a proud supporter of the creation of the Endowed Professorship and encourage my colleagues and fellow alumni to join me in this effort. We all need to work together to support the field of Endodontics.

Undoubtedly, dental health is critical to the overall well-being of patients. Your help in establishing this Endowed Professorship in Endodontics will not only help meet the future educational needs of our students but will also make an impact on the field of Dental Medicine for years to come. For more information on how you can join us, please contact Dr. Namerow at 954-262-7326 or knamerow@nsu.nova.edu or visit www.nova.edu/giving

Taras Roud, D.D.S. '00
Adjunct Assistant Professor
President Post-Graduate Endodontics Alumni Association
Elizabeth Feldman (05) has been selected as our Distinguished Alumni of the Year and will be recognized at our Celebration of Excellence. Elizabeth leads the Dental Section as part of the Thoracic/Head and Neck Cancers Department at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Orlando where she provides maxillofacial prosthodontics/dental oncology services.

Brent Goldthorpe (07) was in private practice in Idaho for two years and before that a contractor for the Department of Defense at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio. He and his family bought a home on an acre of land and they are now living in Deer Lodge, Montana where Brent is working at the Montana State Prison (not as an inmate, he wants us to know!) He and his wife, Karen, have 4 children. Twin girls who are 7, a 4 year old boy and a 1 year old little girl who bring them great joy.

Amanda Sindledecker (07) was appointed to serve as the representative to the Committee on the New Dentist for the Atlantic Coast District Dental Association. Amanda was appointed by the ACCDA president and will serve as a representative to the Florida Dental Association committee. The purpose of the committee is to address issues specific to doctors who have been practicing 10 years or less.

Marni Hansill and Carlo Litano (05) will be spending five weeks in Arequipa, Peru in December relaxing and take classes in language, metal mining, and cooking. Arequipa is at the foot of a 20,000 foot volcano.

Paul Seider (03) was recognized by the Broward Research Clinic as a distinguished section chair. Following his graduation from NSU, Dr. Seider interned at Miami Jackson Memorial Hospital and completed his residency in OMFS in June 2009 at St. Luke’s Roosevelt/Columbia University. He is currently a candidate for membership in the AAOMFS and the Florida Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

Emmanuelle Zennie (09) is a native of Haiti and had returned home for the holidays. She was still in the country on January 12 when the earthquake struck. Luckily, her family does not live in Port au Prince and is safe.

Emma emailed us several times and she has been volunteering with some medical personal at a clinic helping the wounded and those in need.

After volunteering with the USNS Comfort during the summer of 2008 where she received a commendation from the Navy, Emma’s interest in helping the underserved piqued. She returned to NSU-CDM in July of 2008 and began a Masters program in Public Health to complement her DMD degree.

As we go to print, NSU is putting together a group to travel to Haiti to help.

Alumni Connections

Who is Doing What?

Congratulations to our newlyweds!

Jessica Shireman (09) and Scott Hewett (08)
were married on December 19, 2009 in Kansas City, Missouri. Jessica is in a post graduate oral pathology program at UNC. Scott is in private practice in Chapel Hill.

Kara Yu (07) and Tom Ha (08) were married in San Francisco September 26, 2009. They are both practicing general dentistry in the area.

Sarit Nathwani (08) married Komal Unadkat in Nairobi on December 12, 2009.

Todd Eppel (08) and Carla Munion (08) were married, joined the Navy and they are now living in South Carolina. They’ll be heading to Okinawa next year after the birth of their baby!

Darren Pike (05) and Talia Puma (06) married on December 19, 2009. Darren will complete the PG perio program at NSU in June 2010. Talia is in her first year of Pediatric dentistry at NSU.
Alumni Connections

Look Who’s Had Babies

Gina Cozzarelli (07) and Dr. Ivan Moldaur celebrate the birth of Leah on December 02, 2009, pictured here with her brother, Steven.

Rose Ann Habib-Chiang (04) gave birth to her second child, a daughter, on November 17, 2009. Sienna Faith Chiang and mom are doing well. After living and practicing in Manhattan for a few years, she and her husband (also a pediatric dentist) opened their own office in central New Jersey.

Saman Mowzoon Freedman (07) and Matt Freedman (07) celebrated the birth of Myles, on August 11, 2009.

Kristin Cavanah Mirza (06) gave birth to Sadie, in August 2009.

Jeffery Greene and his wife welcome the newest additions to the family. Kolton and Kamryn (twins - boy and girl) were born June 26th, 2009, four days before moving to Phoenix to start a new job.

Lisa Powell Slingbaum (03) PG Ortho (07) & Joel Slingbaum (PG Endo 2000) gave birth to a son, Chase Logan on December 23, 2009. His sister, Jayden, is also in the picture with mama.
Angelica Cardenas Mansur (03) hosted a Casino night at her home on December 5, 2009. The event was attended by around 20 Alumni, mostly from earlier years (2000-2003). The evening started with hors d’oeuvres and drinks following by a fantastic gourmet dinner. After dinner, the guests spent the evening playing blackjack and poker, and reconnecting with one another.
Student Impact

Alex goes to Indianapolis, but definitely not for the Indy 500…
ASDA Central Regional Meeting by Alex Flores

So many of you ask “what is ASDA and what are my member benefits?” I have been posed with that question, and I used to give a detailed response explaining every little bit of why becoming a member was key to your role as a soon to be Healthcare Provider, and I still give you that same detailed response; however, post Indy, I also think to myself “if only everyone had the opportunity to partake in regional meetings…”

Now as you skim through this article, I know your next question is “what is a Regional Meeting?” My answer to that would be “where stuff gets done with great people while also having a lot of fun; work and play.” I had the humbling opportunity to attend the Central Regional meeting in Indianapolis this past month representing our ASDA Chapter, and I have to admit that it was potentially one of the best experiences I’ve had in Dental College. It goes without saying that in counting it as a great experience, I’m choosing to leave out the night I spent in Hartsfield International Airport in Atlanta, but I digress.

ASDA Regional Meetings serve the purpose of bringing all of the chapters together to discuss their updates; you know the good, the bad, and the ugly. Most importantly however, Regional Meetings also serve to enlighten ASDA members of all of the intricacies and “behind the scenes” workings of ASDA at the National level, and even its close relationship to the Big Dog, a.k.a. the ADA.

I am sure you are all well aware of how lucky you are to be part of an autonomous profession. Organized dentistry wouldn’t be so without the power of the ADA, and more so without the power of the future of the ADA, ASDA. And so this is where the story begins, it begins in places like Indianapolis, with involved students who strive to spread the word about the importance of maintaining the reign of their profession amongst them. They work hard, they meet several times a year, and even annually in our Capital to lobby for our rights, for your rights, for the rights of one common person, the Dentist, the future Dentist, you!

The business aspect of Regional Meetings consists of meeting with students like you who desire to maintain a unified voice for our profession and for the rights and common interests of Dental Students. But it isn’t all work and no play. We meet to discuss what we ought to discuss to maintain the pillars of our ASDA chapters, but our discussions after hours involve touring the city and dining out at local restaurants while meeting amazing people. I can honestly say that the most rewarding thing about being involved with an organization like ASDA and attending a Regional Meeting is the people you meet. The ASDA Central Regional Meeting in Indianapolis was nothing short of motivational, educational, and a great deal of fun with amazing individuals. The Indy 500 Race has nothing on ASDA Central Regional Meetings, although it definitely does on spending a night in Hartsfield International Airport.

Pre-Dental ASDA Day a Huge Success!

On October 17th, ASDA hosted its annual Pre-Dental ASDA Day. Over 140 undergraduate students from all across Florida attended the event—the most students to ever attend! Schools that participated include Broward College, University of Florida, University of Central Florida, Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University, and Nova Southeastern University. After breakfast, students were given presentations by ASDA members about the NSU ASDA chapter and National ASDA, and Kaplan, the event sponsor, made a presentation on the Dental Admissions Test.

However, the moment every student was waiting for was the question/answer session with Drs. Hal Lippman, Abby Brodie, and Mark Schweizer. They gave the students insight on how to become a better applicant to dental school, the tips and tricks to use on interview day, and even held a mock interview with a student volunteer. The day wouldn’t have been such a success without the help of our dental students, who gave tours of our facilities. Thanks to everyone for all their help to make the event a success!
Dr. Abby Brodie and student Lori Lazar (11) attended the ADEA meeting in Dallas on October 22-24. Lori attended as the NSU representative on the Council of Students and is joined by representatives from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Sheila Mazar (12) and Christina Wiggins (11) participated in the ADA Student Ambassador program which was held in Dallas in conjunction with the ADEA meeting.

Alexandra Flores (12) attended the ASDA Central Regional meeting as the NSU representative. Christina Wiggins (11) who serves as the 17th District Trustee helped to organize the event in Indianapolis. The purpose of the regional meetings is to bring all the chapters together to discuss updates and to enlighten ASDA members of all of the intricacies and “behind the scenes” workings of ASDA at the national level.

Danny Torres (’06 and PG4) presented at an outstanding poster at AAOMS 91st Annual Meeting: Scientific Sessions and Exhibition in Toronto, Canada. The title of the poster was “Minimally Invasive Alternative for Treatment of Recurrent Temporomandibular Joint Dislocation,” Daniel Torres DMD, Joseph McCain, DMD Nova Southeastern University - Broward General Medical Center Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

The following students and Alumni were matched for an PG orthodontic program:

- Kolton Erickson (10) University of Colorado
- Avanthi Kopuri (10) University of Colorado
- Pavel Ivanov (10) NSU
- Michelle Palmer (10) NSU
- Elliott Jolley (10) University of Pennsylvania
- Amy Bouvier (09) NSU
Realities of Dental Access in the State of Florida

by Mark Schweizer

According to recent data from the Florida Department of Health, 69% of Adults reported a visit to a dental office or dental clinic compared to the national average of 71.3%. Florida ranked close to the bottom third of all states in the nation for number of dental visits. The percent of Children age (0-17) in Florida who had a dental preventive care visit in the past 12 months is 65% compared to a national average of 72%. More alarming is that Florida ranked in the bottom ten of all states in the nation for preventive care visits. Despite legislative efforts to provide dental care through both Medicaid and CHIP (Children’s Health Insurance Program), Florida’s ranking among states remains in the lower percentiles related to access to dental care. With Obama’s personal commitment to provide health care to every single American, what additional steps can be taken in the State of Florida to meet this commitment?

Our college in conjunction with a two year grant from the Health Foundation of South Florida is trying to address some of the unmet dental needs of local underserved populations. Through this grant, four state of the art portable dental units were purchased and rotated though several sites in Broward County. The first site was a community center that served both children and senior citizens. After a six month period the program relocated to a Hispanic Community Center that serves the medical, economic, and cultural needs of the community. As well as providing dental services at this site, several community health fairs, educational events, and dental screenings have been provided. Future sites include another community center that will serve an additional group with unmet dental needs.

Partnerships were developed with local community organizations for patient referrals. The college has partnered with Memorial Healthcare Systems (MHS) which has hospitals and healthcare centers throughout South Florida and has been providing care to the community for over fifty-five years. We have been working closely with Memorial’s HITS (Health Intervention with Targeted Services) to reach individuals in communities with greater unmet needs for improved oral health care.

Four to six senior dental students are rotated to each site to provide dental care under the supervision of our faculty members. The program provides preventive dental care and home care education as well as routine restorative procedures to people age 5-18.

An important component of this program is that all patients are screened for services that may be available from Federal and State Programs including Medicaid and Kids Care. In addition, Memorial Hospital’s participation in this program includes the goal of reducing hospital emergency room visits due to dental emergencies. According to a recent study the cost of going to the emergency room for a dental problem is $450.00-$500.00. The average cost of a preventative dental visit is $50.00-$135.00.

Our goal is to increase awareness of the need for routine dental care and to assist individuals with unmet dental needs in finding a “dental home” where ongoing dental services are available.
Accomplishments of the Endodontic Residents and Alumni

Over the past decade the alumni of the NSU Section of Endodontics have all become successful endodontists. The faculty and residents in the program appreciate their continued and valuable support and assistance. We honor and respect the accomplishments of all our alumni and residents, we are proud of their success.

Our most skilled endodontists

The following alumni have distinguished themselves by becoming Diplomates of the Academy of Endodontics:
- Rod Barden
- Shaul Dwosh
- Manish Garala
- Raphael Garofalo
- Rob Goldberg
- Brian Kardon
- Taras Roud
- Craig Shapiro
- Rico Short

Our highest trained endodontists

The following alumni and residents have undertaken a Master’s of Science in Dentistry
- 2007 Mohammed Elseed B.D.S., D.M.D., M.S.D., with a thesis titled: “Investigation of periodontal stem cell attachment to dentin and dental pulp stem cell migration.”
- 2010 Cameron Howard, D.M.D., preparing a thesis titled: “Regulation of dental pulp stem cell migration and regenerative endodontics.”
- 2011 Mark Limonsani, D.M.D., preparing a thesis titled: “Stem cell therapy to bioengineer new teeth.”

Our award-winning endodontists

- 2005 Andrew Rigberg D.M.D., M.S.D. was awarded a research grant from the American Association of Endodontists.
- 2006 Mohammed Elseed B.D.S., D.M.D., M.S.D., was awarded a research prize from the American Association of Endodontists.
- 2006 Eric Gotlieb D.D.S., M.S.D., was awarded a research prize from the American Association of Endodontists.
- 2007 Matt Gebhardt, D.M.D., M.S.D., was awarded a research prize from the American Association of Endodontists.
- 2007 Karla Ring, D.M.D., was awarded a research grant from the American Association of Endodontists.
- 2008 Sheila Chandrathasa, D.M.D., was awarded a research grant from the American Association of Endodontists.
- 2008 Giorlimar Llavanaugh, D.M.D., was awarded a research grant from the American Association of Endodontists.
- 2009 Cameron Howard, D.M.D., was awarded the #1 resident research prize from the American Association of Endodontists.

Our recent resident publications
