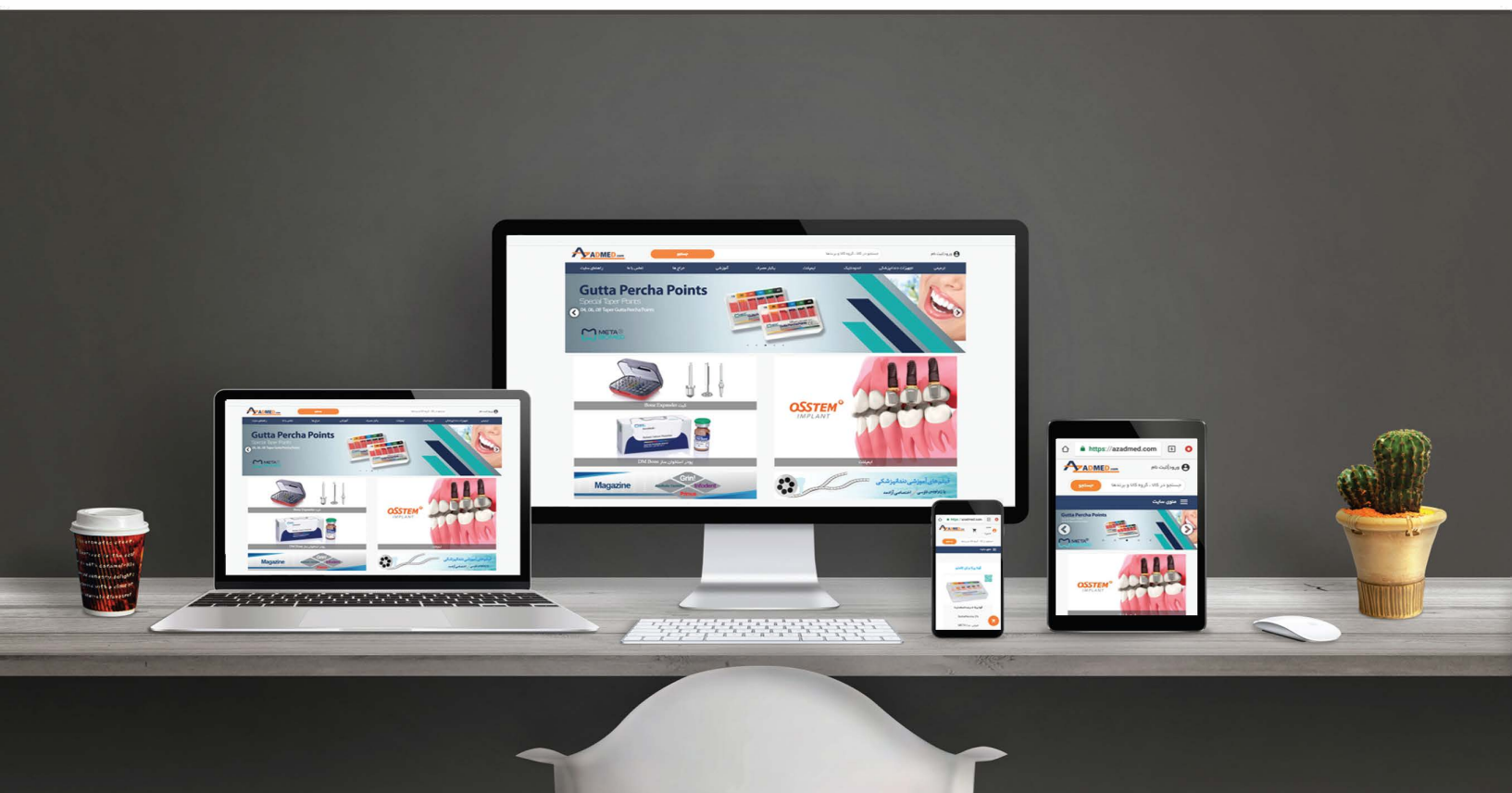




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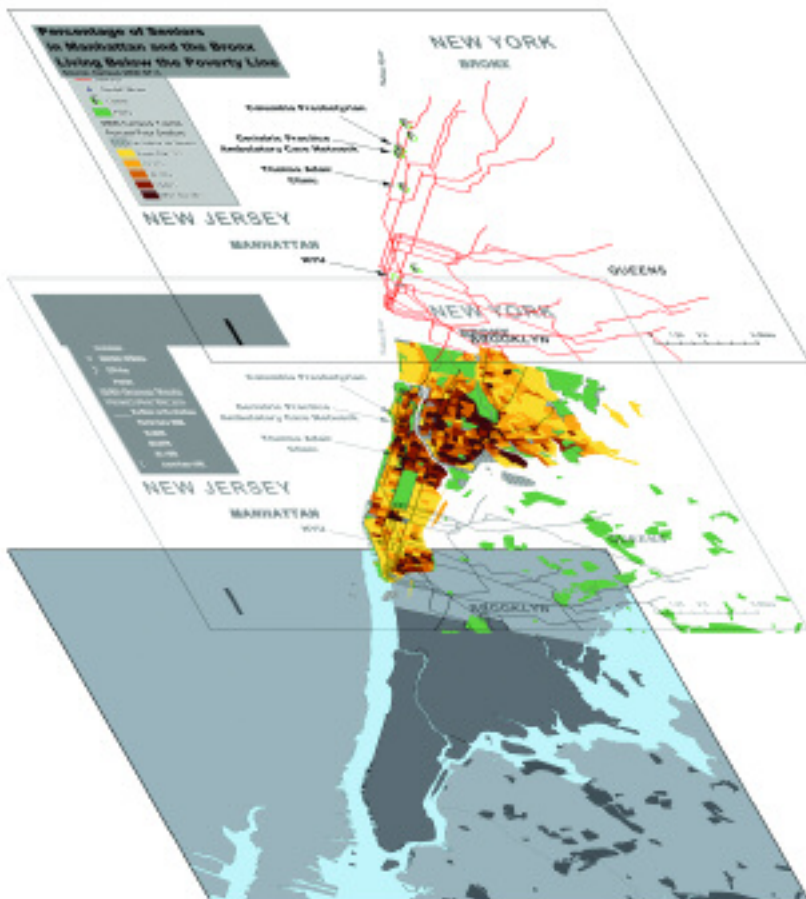
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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

*School of Dental and  
Oral Surgery*

primus  
fall 2005 vol 11



Digital mapping software  
gives the dental profession  
a multi-layered analysis  
of where it is helping  
geriatric patients – and  
where it needs to do  
more. p. 11

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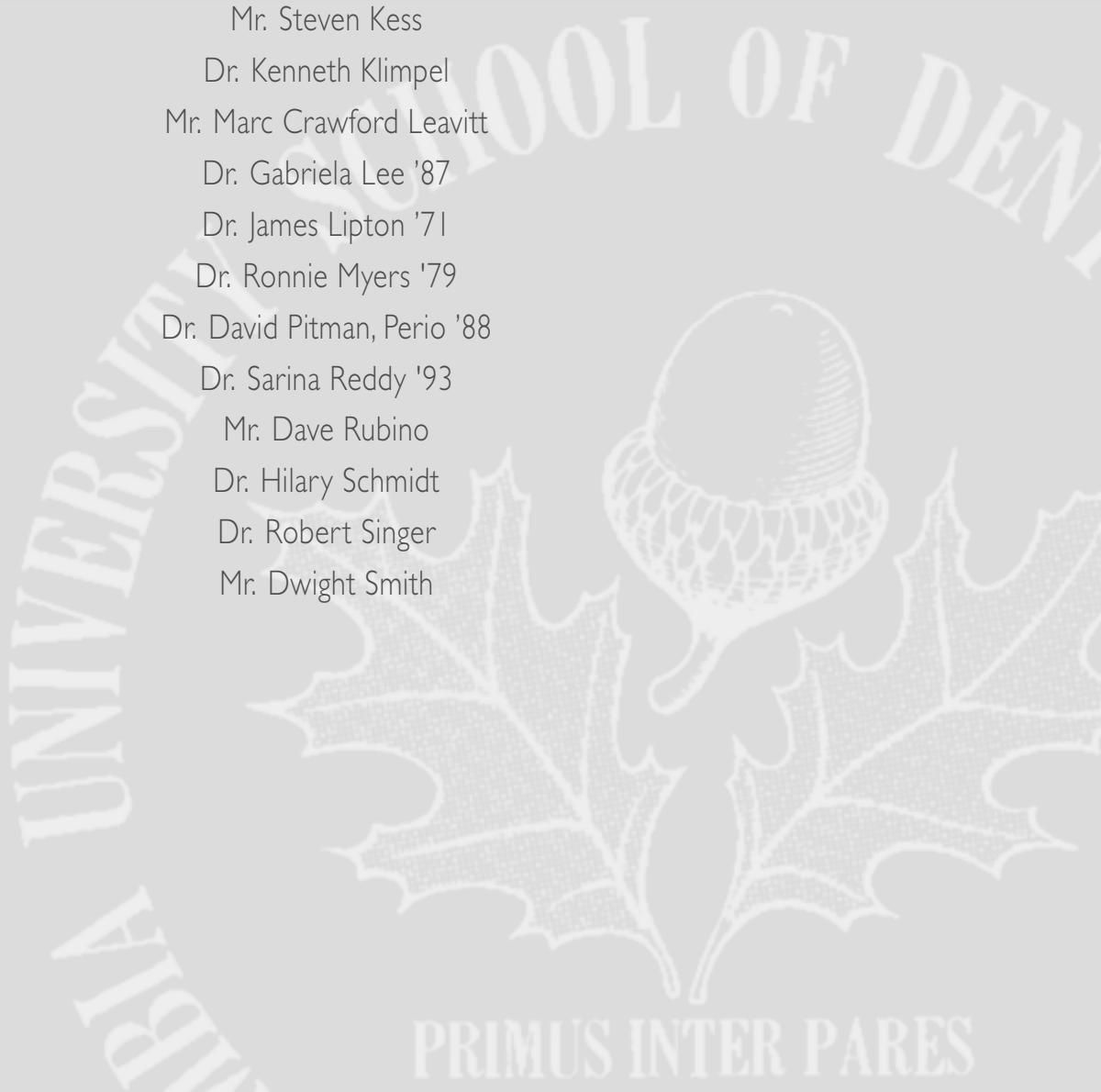
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# primus

fall 2005 vol 11

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## from the Dean's Desk



Dear Alumni and Friends,

This issue of *Primus* focuses on the School's introduction of a comprehensive program to address the oral health care needs of older patients. Our initiative, which we have named "ElderSmile," has four components: clinical care, education, research, and policy. To help in creating ElderSmile, I have appointed a working group made up of members with expertise in at least one of these areas. Our group believed that, at its inception, we should think of the program in broad terms. This concept has allowed us sufficient room to introduce appropriate and creative specifics to each component as we continue to develop and implement ElderSmile. Why is it important for the School to introduce such a program? There are many reasons, but let me review a few.

**AN AGING POPULATION.** We are all aware that the population in the United States is "graying;" by 2040, one-in-five Americans will be 65 or older. There is a real need for providing oral health care services to elderly patients, which will only continue to grow as the numbers of this group keep increasing.

**THE COMPLEXITY OF THE AGING PATIENT.** Treating oral health care needs in the elderly requires a full understanding of all aspects of their health. At Columbia, we are fortunate that dental education places a strong emphasis on biomedical training, making our dental students particularly well-prepared for this challenge.

**THOSE WE NOW SERVE.** Analysis reveals that the percentage of the population over age 65 in the School's catchment area is larger than national statistics for the same group. In some of our surrounding communities, more than 50 percent of the population is 65 or older.

**OUR RESPONSIBILITY.** Geriatric oral health care is marked by a lack of defined and coordinated programs. Medicare provides no dental services, and while some ambulatory seniors can afford oral health care, the poor, the homebound elderly, and those in long-term care facilities, among others, have no access to these services. I believe it is the responsibility of our nation's dental schools to assume leadership in the treatment of these patients.

We acknowledge that there are real challenges in establishing a meaningful oral health care program for the elderly. Nevertheless, as seen in the following pages, the School has taken some strong strides towards addressing what will certainly be one of the most important areas in health care in the current century.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ira B. Lamster".

Ira B. Lamster, DDS, MMSc  
Dean, SDOS

# from the President

Greetings Alumni.

I want to take this opportunity to update you on an exciting new development regarding alumni relations at Columbia University. This past June, Columbia's trustees announced the establishment of the first university-wide Columbia Alumni Association (CAA). Aiming to reconnect all alumni with the University, and to strengthen the bonds between Columbians of all schools worldwide, the organizers said that the CAA will make it possible for alumni to "contribute their collective knowledge and perspective to the life of the University."

Our new association will bring wider opportunities for collaborative programs across the various clubs, associations, and affinity groups representing the University. There is also a new University-wide, on-line alumni directory, where you can log in to update personal and business information and share news. Starting in January, you will also be able to search online for friends and contacts from all schools, with whom you may have lost touch. Be sure to visit the Columbia Alumni Association website at [alumni.columbia.edu](http://alumni.columbia.edu) to learn more about CAA.

On the Dental School's home front, we enjoyed two successful events in October: the annual Fall BBQ and the Professional Society receptions. There have also been alumni receptions and study club meetings held across the country over the past few months. More events will be coming soon, so be sure to check your mail and keep up-to-date with the online SDOS calendar.

I look forward to seeing you at future School gatherings.

Sincerely,



Sarina A. Reddy, DDS '93  
President  
Association of Dental Alumni





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below: Dr. Gregory N. Bunza, assistant professor of Clinical Dentistry, watches as his team of SDOS AEGD residents fit an Isabella Geriatric Center patient with a new denture.

# SDOS at Work



# An Oral Defense for our Elders

FOR FAR TOO MANY OLDER AMERICANS, ORAL HEALTH CARE IS A LUXURY. ...LIMITED ACCESS TO ORAL HEALTH CARE POSES ONE OF THE GREATEST CRISES FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF AMERICA'S ELDERLY.

These lines introduce "A State of Decay: The Oral Health of Older Americans," a survey published in 2003 on the current state of maintaining and improving oral health care among seniors in the United States. After assessing statistics in all 50 states and the District of Columbia for dental coverage, including private insurance and Medicaid, and for reimbursement rates of oral health procedures in the adult population, the report delivered a discouraging conclusion. Many states failed to provide even a modicum of oral health care for the elderly, a majority were given 'D,' and only six states made a barely passing grade of 'C.'

Former US Surgeon General Dr. C. Everett Koop famously declared "You are not healthy without good oral health." That statement was expanded on by one of his successors, Dr. David Satcher, in the landmark 2000 report revealing "troubling disparities" in access to oral health care between Americans from the lower socioeconomic strata of society and those with greater assets. Dr. Satcher described the result of this inequality as a "silent epidemic." Although public health officials and private dental providers had initiated measures to insure advancements in the delivery of oral health care some decades before the report was released, their efforts were directed almost exclusively toward the needs of children. Sixty years ago they took a major step in reducing tooth decay with the introduction of fluoride into drinking water supplies across the country. In the same decade, the American Dental Association (ADA) established its annual Children's Dental Health

event, now highlighted by "Give Kids a Smile Day," when hundreds of thousands of American children across the country experience what may be their first visit to a dentist. Simultaneously, federal, state, and local programs began to produce a body of regulations and funding covering the administration of dental care for children. Choosing to treat and educate children about the prevention and care of dental problems has had growing success and helped succeeding generations to understand the importance of maintaining their oral health. The elderly, however, have received little, or none, of the same popular attention, and essentially no public health or public policy intervention on their behalf. But, now, when centenarians are shown to be the most rapidly growing segment of the population, it seems clear that appropriate oral health programs for their benefit must be made easily available.

**A Looming Crisis** Ira B. Lamster, DDS, MMSc, dean of the Columbia School of Dental and Oral Surgery, addressed the distressing lack of geriatric oral health care available to Americans with a "call to action" in the May 2004 issue of the *American Journal of Public Health* (AJPH), reprinted by the *New York State Dental Journal* in

December of the same year. Warning of a "looming crisis" in geriatric dentistry, Dean Lamster said that although "The country's been successful, and rightly so, in convincing people that teeth can last a lifetime ... aging teeth and gums have special healthcare needs." Calling on the dental profession to provide leadership, he suggested that





dental educators cooperate with groups such as the ADA and American Dental Education Association (ADEA) – which has recently made strong recommendations for establishing new aid in geriatric training for dentists – as well as with federal, state, and local health authorities, and with national organizations and foundations. In his proposal, Dean Lamster outlined initiatives in dental education, new dental services, public policy changes, and the introduction of prevention measures, emphasizing that “the needs of the nation’s seniors do not mesh with the availability of services for them.”

Dean Lamster voiced the concerns of many in the health sciences who know that infectious, progressive, and often painful oral diseases are a leading cause of chronic conditions affecting the elderly. Since publication of his article in 2004, for the first time ever, several national events, including an unprecedented Forum on Oral Health held by the US Senate Committee on Aging and an Oral Health Summit sponsored by Boston University, have also focused on this problem and its consequences. While it is true that, compared to earlier generations, greater numbers of seniors now retain their teeth, they still have significant oral health problems. Nationally, nearly 33 percent of adults who have kept most of their natural teeth also have untreated dental caries, and 56 percent of them have advanced periodontal disease. Years of exposure to oral bacteria and “wear and tear” can increase the risk for tooth migration and fracture. Many seniors are on regimens requiring as many as six-to-ten different drugs daily. One or all of such medications may reduce salivary flow with its protective minerals and antibacterial agents, thereby causing severe oral and dental afflictions. Poor oral health can also affect facial nerves, bringing on painful and potentially debilitating conditions that are more common among the elderly. Mood, sleep, and oral-motor functions such as chewing and swallowing may all deteriorate health. Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s, and Huntington’s diseases, as well as stroke, are all neurological disorders associated with age, impacting oral sensory and motor functions and limiting the ability to care for oneself. Perhaps most worrying of all are statistics showing that adults 65 and older are

seven times more likely to be diagnosed with oral cancer than younger adults. Additional evidence noted by Dean Lamster shows poor oral health can be “a risk factor for potentially life-threatening systemic health problems.” As he explains, “Either bacteria from gum infections, or the body’s response to bacteria in the bloodstream, can increase development of fatty plaques that cause heart attack and strokes.”

In addition to the pain and worry of serious disease, elderly men and women who have difficulty in eating, speaking, and smiling because of missing teeth, frequently suffer loss of self-esteem, followed by sharply decreased social interaction. This series of events is likely to have a profound impact on their quality of life.

## No Insurance

Older Americans with the poorest oral health are found most often among economically disadvantaged members of racial and ethnic minorities who lack insurance. While Medicare insures people over 65, the program was not designed to provide routine dental care, and many states have reduced or eliminated the adult Medicaid benefits that can reimburse costs of some dental procedures, although the situation is more favorable in New York State. Older people, who may have been lucky enough to have dental insurance through their work, usually lose it at retirement. The situation is worse for aging women, who generally have lower incomes and seldom have dental insurance. The likelihood of oral disease occurring in this group – especially among those who have lost all their natural teeth – is compounded by the fact that older people may take long absences from seeing their dentist, or stop going at all, probably because of their inability to pay and often due to a lack of mobility. Some simply stop caring about oral hygiene, or think it’s unimportant because they no longer go out in public. While 61 percent of the population as a whole have made at least one dental visit in the past year, only 45 percent of seniors over 75 say they have done so. By failing to make regular visits to their dentists, seniors lose the potential benefit of a long-lasting relation-



Associate Dean Stephen E. Marshall at the new dental care center adjoining NewYork-Presbyterian's offices for geriatric medical services on the Columbia University Medical Center campus.

ship with a trusted healthcare adviser.

Disabled, homebound, or institutionalized seniors are at even greater risk for the ravages of poor oral health than their peers who live independently. The oral health prognosis for frail elders in long-term care facilities may also be gloomy because nursing and medical care often take precedence over dental care, which can be nonexistent. Dean Lamster was first struck by the difficulties facing this population when his mother, living in a nursing home, found herself without appropriate attention for her own oral health.

But it should be noted that the current failure of assuring oral health care for seniors begins with the fact that there is a marked shortage of dental practitioners formally trained to identify, report, or meet the needs of elderly patients. Geriatric dentistry is not a recognized dental specialty and there is no obvious source of support for training a new group of gerodontologists.

## Columbia's ElderSmile Initiative

Columbia has a strong history of providing dental care to the underserved, with special concern for the oral health problems of aging patients. Offering increased attention to the geriatric needs of its surrounding community is a natural continuation of the dental school's existing outreach services. Recently, Columbia's growing network of dental school sites that offer special help to seniors in its nearby neighborhoods became known as the ElderSmile Initiative. The ElderSmile sites currently include: the two-chair Mobile Dental Center, a collaborative effort between the Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery and The Children's Aid Society Department of Dentistry, which brings comprehensive diagnostic, preventive, and restorative dental care to preschool-aged children in the Washington Heights/Inwood and Harlem communities of northern Manhattan; a collaboration of the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital to supply dental services through the Hospital's Ambulatory Care Network (ACN); the DentCare Program, a partnership of Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery with the Harlem Hospital Center Department of Dentistry; the Heilbrunn Center for Population and Family Health of the Mailman

right:  
Director of Home Care at the  
Isabella Geriatric Center Tracey  
Sokoloff demonstrates proce-  
dures for nurses who will help  
homebound patients with dental  
care.

below, right:  
Assistant Professor of Clinical  
Dentistry Kavita P. Ahluwalia,  
from the SDOS Division of  
Community Health, provides  
training for Isabella Center  
homecare providers to the eld-  
erly whose oral health may be in  
jeopardy.



School of Public Health, and community-based organizations, offering intermediate and high school students prevention services including examination, education, treatment, and teeth sealants; the Thelma C. Davidson Adair Medical and Dental Center located in the Mannie L. Wilson Senior Residency Towers in Harlem, where primary health care is available to all ages, but places a special emphasis on meeting the oral health priorities of the elderly with a full range of medical and dental services at one site. The newest ElderSmile dental facility is preparing to open soon at the Fort Washington ACN site on the Medical Center campus. The four-operator dental service will complement the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital's geriatric medical practice already in place. The ACN dental/medical offices will not only share a

waiting room, but patients and their health records as well, to facilitate a more thorough understanding of their overall physical condition. Dr. Stephen E. Marshall, associate dean for extramural programs, is overseeing the implementation of this site and other components of Columbia's plans to expand delivery of geriatric oral health care services in northern Manhattan and the Bronx. Dr. Marshall and his colleagues, Drs. Kavita P. Ahluwalia, Gregory N. Bunza, Luisa N. Borrell, Mary E. Northridge, Marguerite J. Ro, and Lynn M. Tepper make up Dean Lamster's ElderSmile Initiative planning committee.

The Columbia ElderSmile Initiative also extends to the School's partnership with the Isabella Geriatric Care Nursing Center in the Washington Heights/Inwood area, where Dr. Gregory Bunza of the Section of Adult Dentistry, Division of Operative Dentistry at SDOS, oversees AEGD postdoctoral students each week in the delivery of dental care to both outpatients and those who are residents at the home. Such experience is invaluable for the trainees; even ordinary restorations and minor surgical procedures take on a new challenge when the patients under consideration are seniors who may be physically fragile or who have difficulty in expressing their feelings, or understanding their treatment. In addition to the dental appointments available to Isabella's ambulatory patients with Dr. Bunza and his residents, a second service focuses on homebound Center clients. Assistant Professor of Clinical Dentistry Kavita Ahluwalia from the School's

Uninsured Americans with  
severe oral disease often end  
up in hospital emergency  
rooms, where the problem is  
addressed through painkillers  
and/or tooth extractions, both  
of which are only a temporary  
fix, wasting millions of tax-  
payer dollars annually.





Division of Community Health partners with Isabella's Home Care Department in a pilot training program for nurses who visit the at-home patient. There are many reasons – both physical and mental – that such patients do not, or cannot, follow a regular schedule of oral health care. Arthritis, for instance, may make it difficult for them to open their mouths wide enough for brushing and can also stiffen their fingers so that it is difficult, if not impossible, to hold a toothbrush.

## Why Dentists are the First Line of Defense

The role of dentists in improving oral health for aging Americans is of the utmost importance and ought to become the first line of defense against illness that begins in the mouth. Dentists may be the first medical professionals to recognize signs and symptoms related not only to oral disease, but to possible systemic issues. When this occurs, the dentist can make the appropriate referral or encourage the patient to talk to a physician about any potential problem. The dentist can also bring the patient's attention to oral health at an earlier stage in life, with the probability of helping him or her maintain complete, or near-complete, dentition. Dentists should routinely screen for oral and throat cancer, and many are being trained to educate patients of all ages about the dangers of tobacco and alcohol to their oral health.

In the opinion of the dental profession's leaders, including Dean Lamster, it is essential to increase the number of dentists prepared to rectify the oral health care problems of the senior population, especially those who are poorest. Educating caregivers, such as workers in homes for the elderly, and alerting general medical practitioners on what to look for are also mandatory. Dean Lamster feels that Columbia can have a major influence on the future of geriatric oral health, taking a leadership position in establishing an effective training program and hands-on experience that will give dental students and residents a new appreciation of the need for providing such care. Columbia's dental school has included courses on gerontology and geriatric den-

tistry in its curriculum for many years. Dr. Lynn M. Tepper, who directs this program, describes it as "...an introductory overview of the processes and concerns of aging," which "integrates [its] biological, dental, psychological, and social aspects." Among other things, Dr. Tepper emphasizes that geriatric specialists should recognize the great diversity among older adults and be aware that, individually, they are more likely to have multidisciplinary needs. She also cites the importance of understanding the concerns and perceived needs of aging patients and of evaluating their ability to tolerate stress of treatment, as well as their functional capability and resources for maintaining oral health. One element of Dean Lamster's plan to prepare SDOS graduates for treating their older patients is an expansion of the number of hours available for Dr. Tepper's curriculum. Eventually, he believes, the postdoctoral specialties will need to incorporate geriatric treatment techniques as a part of their postdoctoral residencies. "Endodontics, periodontics, and prosthodontics, which address many of the oral health disorders most common in the elderly," says Dean Lamster, "are likely to be in the forefront of such a movement."

Any education model devoted to geriatric oral health, notes the dean, must provide commensurate services to be credible. Because New York is one of the few states that allows Medicaid reimbursement for some dental procedures, Columbia is in a better position to offer a geriatric oral health care service pro-

Clinical services provided during special clinic hours for older patients are overseen by geriatric dental care expert Dr. Lynn M. Tepper.



gram than most institutions in the United States. In its evolving blueprint for ElderSmile, the dental school is first designing a prevention service component. Activities at these sites will be population-based and data-driven, presenting seniors with a combination of health promotion, screening, and disease prevention activities at churches, food programs, and other locations where older adults gather. The new initiative proposes two visits annually by ElderSmile personnel to each prevention site. With a training program in place, the dean calculates that the school could soon create a team of third- and fourth-year students, residents, and faculty, numbering between two and three hundred, to provide varying levels of preventive measures and geriatric oral health care for the Columbia catchment. The eventual goal is to screen 1,500 individu-

programs that expose them to fluoridated water and toothpaste, for instance, is known to improve dental health regardless of a person's age. Columbia's ElderSmile outreach will focus on brushing and flossing, care of prosthetic devices, potential oral health problems among the elderly, and how to choose oral healthcare products.

The School plans to search for a full-time clinical and administrative director, who will assume leadership of the network. Some of the goals for this leader and others involved with the geriatric dental training and services will include: defining the target population and treatment needs; carrying out risk assessment exploration to help determine who is best suited to provide services; setting priorities in treatment; creating the most effective service delivery model; and preparing a method for outcomes assessment.



Millions of elderly people across the globe are not receiving the oral health care they need because governments are not aware enough of the problem. By 2025, there will be about 12 hundred million people aged 65. Failure to address oral health needs today could develop into a costly problem tomorrow.

Dean Ira B. Lamster with members of his planning committee for the School's ElderSmile Initiative: left to right, Dr. Stephen E. Marshall, associate dean for Extramural Programs; Dean Lamster; Dr. Lynn M. Tepper, director of SDOS's gerontology and geriatric dentistry courses; and Dr. Mary E. Northridge, associate professor of clinical Sociomedical Sciences, Mailman School of Public Health, and editor of the *American Journal of Public Health*.

als a year at 13 prevention sites. They will be linked to community-based dental practices that are already a part of the ElderSmile Initiative. Both activities will be able to facilitate referrals and help in developing beneficial relationships between patients and providers.

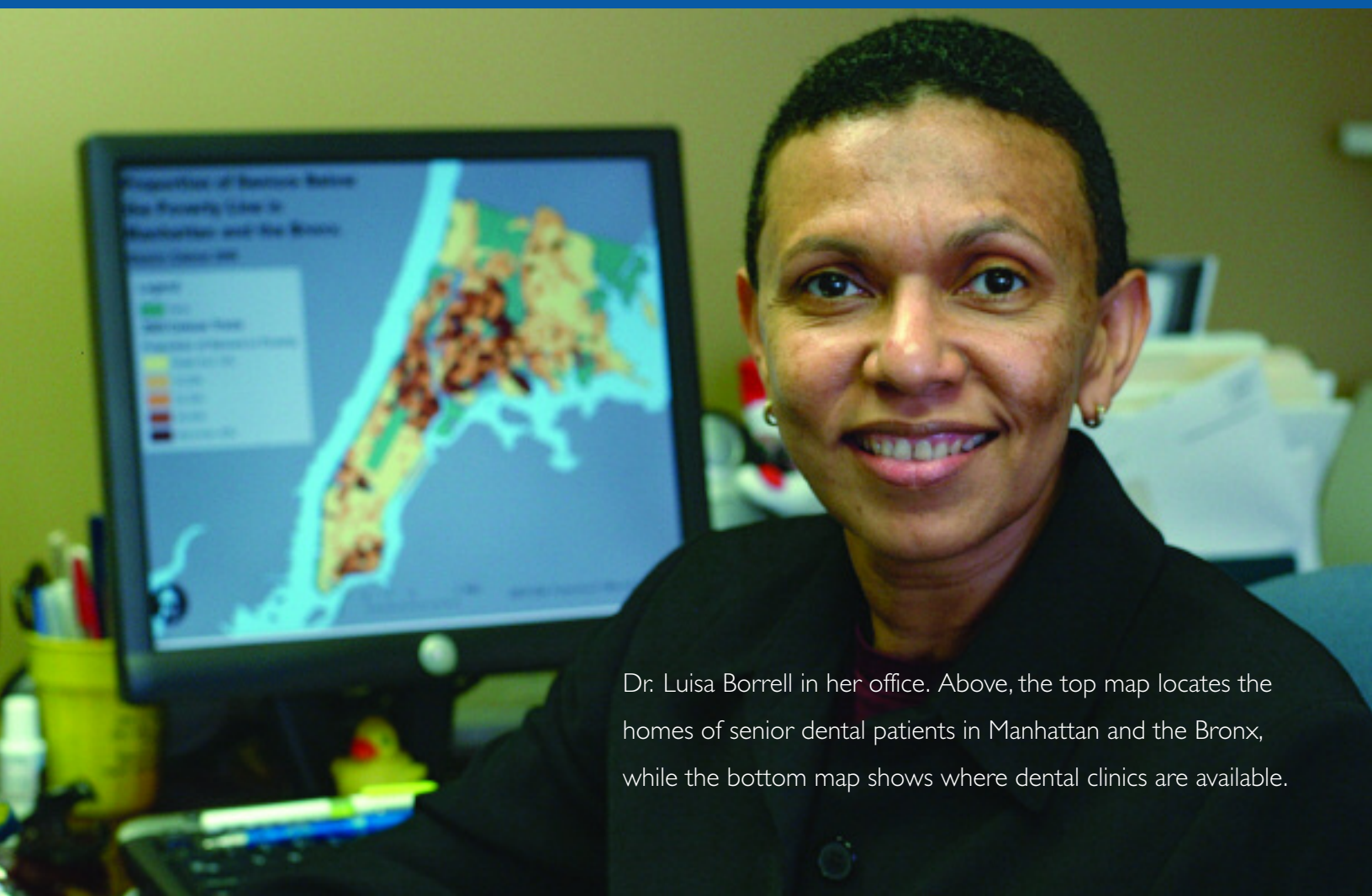
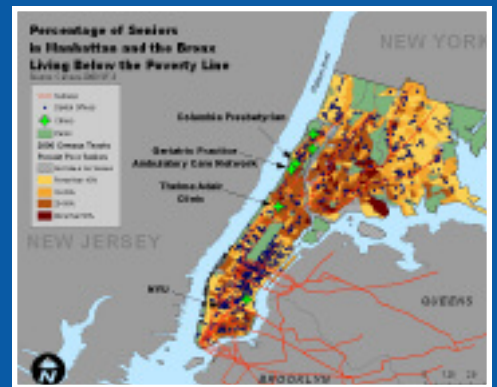
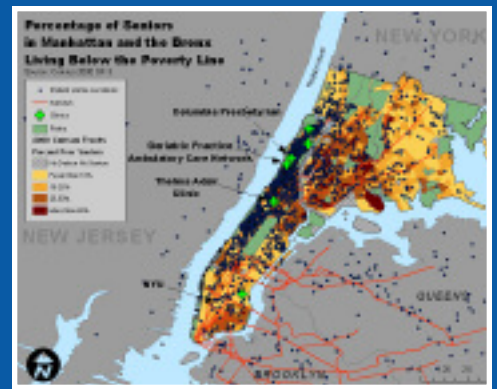
There is a tendency to think that if one is old, there is little chance to change lifelong habits in terms of tooth cleaning or diet, or to make other behavior modifications in order to be healthy. But experience gained in some countries has shown that it is possible to achieve healthy lifestyles and positive outcomes in old age through the efforts of health education and intervention programs. Something as basic as starting people on dental care

Dean Lamster recognizes that Columbia's ElderSmile Initiative is only a beginning to solving the entire scope of this growing concern. With a rapidly aging population, he asks, "How are we going to manage treatment at the scale necessary to help all who are, or soon will be, in need? Who's going to pay for it? These are unresolved issues." He is hopeful that there will be a nationally coordinated effort, saying, "It's the responsibility of the entire profession to address this need," but adds, "It's going to be a tremendous challenge."



# ARCGis: LAYERS AND LAYERS OF DATA

These maps were created by a Columbia team led by two members of the Mailman School of Public Health faculty: Luisa N. Borrell DDS, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Epidemiology, and Mary E. Northridge, PhD, MPH, associate professor, Department of Sociomedical Sciences, both of whom serve on Dean Lamster's ElderSmile Initiative planning committee. Using architectural (ARC) geographic information system (gis) software, Drs. Borrell and Northridge worked with other specialists to produce individual and overlay maps offering a spatial approach to the analysis of data gathered on oral health care access disparities by race/ethnicity among seniors in northern Manhattan and the Bronx. The juxtaposition of the ARCGis maps displays these data in a manner that can help inform the Committee's ongoing development of oral health care delivery systems to seniors in the Columbia catchment area.



Dr. Luisa Borrell in her office. Above, the top map locates the homes of senior dental patients in Manhattan and the Bronx, while the bottom map shows where dental clinics are available.

# Fourth-Year Clinic at SDOs

## GOOD PATIENT CARE MAKES THE 'PERFECT PRACTICE'



Ruba Fakhoury in the Fourth-Year Clinic with her younger sister, Hanieh, who thinks she might like to be a dentist, too.

For me, fourth year is a time when I constantly realize that I know more than I thought about dentistry, but still have a lot to learn. Every clinic day, I learn something new, or a way of doing something differently. • Last year, I remember coming to visit my fourth-year friends in clinic, and wondering why everyone was always moving, always on the go, always trying to multitask. Now I find myself doing the same thing, speaking to students who are interviewing, at the same time that I'm mixing alginate, taking impressions, or restoring a tooth. • Fourth is a time when, working consistently with the same professor, you earn respect, and gain confidence that you are capable of doing dentistry. Our faculty take the time to show us how it is done in their practices and in the real world. Fourth year also allows you to build a relationship with your peers and the faculty as future colleagues. Fourth year is not a joke. It is hard work, and there are days when you're tired of going to class at 8:00 am and staying in clinic 'til after your evening patient leaves at 7:00 pm. But when I make that walk home, I have the biggest smile on my face, because I know my patient is at home talking about her dental appointment and smiling to show what was done... then I think to myself... I DID THAT! I'm a DENTIST - (or will be soon enough)! • Ruba Fakhoury '06



According to Dr. Vicky Evangelidis, director of the School's Fourth-Year Clinical Program since 1994, Columbia was the first dental school to choose a truly comprehensive care model over a purely discipline-driven program in preparing students for clinical dentistry. This bold step abandoned the traditional "practice makes perfect" theory that made students eligible for graduation only when they had performed a set number of approved procedures. Unfortunately, under that system, students would sometimes be tempted to perform the procedures they "needed" to graduate, whether or not those choices addressed the chief complaint of their patients. The program introduced at Columbia assigned all fourth-year clinic students to a roster of patients for whom they would provide total care, covering a wide variety of dental problems. It soon became clear that Columbia students were able to complete an equal – or even larger – number of procedures in the new patient-centered curriculum than under the old regime, but that this activity did not, by itself, create a competent dentist. So, without compromising the acquisition of technical skills that were the chief focus of former programs, SDOS's model was able to produce a dramatic increase in patient satisfaction as well. Through this experience, students learn that "doing what's best for your patients" is the surest way to a successful professional practice.

Columbia's predoctoral students are at the top of the applicant pool in terms of their GPAs and Dental Board exams. They select Columbia because of its strong basic sciences and its reputation for placing them in the most competitive residency programs in the country. In their first two years, they engage in a very vigorous basic sciences program, attending classes with medical students, while also gaining some exposure to preclinical dentistry. In their third year, they begin to see patients, and are tested on basic skills competency prior to entering comprehensive care training in May.

The clinic prepares fourth-year stu-

dents for the hands-on experience of working in a group practice. Two students share the use of a chair and its equipment in a space that becomes their own operatory. During the year, each student works on 30 to 40 patients with chairside supervision from the same clinical faculty member throughout the clinic experience. Faculty are assigned to ten chairs in all. Before beginning treatment for a patient, the student consults with one of the clinic's group leaders to decide which procedures are appropriate and if a specialist's opinion is needed. Then patient, student, and group leaders all read and sign off on the treatment plan. No care goes forward without approval from the group leaders, and a report on the case goes to Dr. Evangelidis when it is completed.

Dr. Evangelidis attributes much of the program's success to intensive diagnosis and treatment plan sessions, held in early morning, twice a week, during the summer. To begin with, the faculty presents



Vicky Evangelidis, DDS, director of the Fourth-Year Clinic.

cases, but by mid-year students have cases of their own for group discussion. Decisions are made about which procedures are best – to laminate or crown, for instance. Or, about cultural issues that are unfamiliar, like that of a patient, who, though a 25-year-old adult, comes from a background where treatment decisions for grown children are still made by their parents.

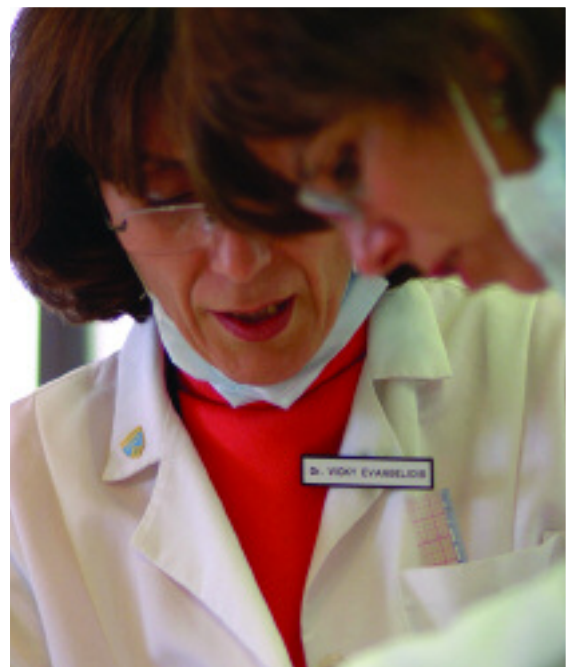
Almost a decade after being introduced, this successful teaching model undergoes constant reevaluation, outcomes assessment, and quality assurance reviews. Dr. Evangelidis and the clinic's group leaders have gradually introduced more than 100 hours of group discussion, case presentation, and literature review, covering all issues of patient care – procedural, medical, socioeconomic, cultural, and ethical. Cutting-edge techniques have also been added to the program, giving predoctoral students an opportunity to work with implants and certain surgical procedures, as well as with advances in esthetic dentistry, but without compromising on more traditional care. Each student's progress is evaluated through frequent person-to-person meetings and portfolio reviews.

"Columbia's dental students are very enthusiastic," says Dr. Evangelidis, but "get awfully stressed

out, because the learning curve spikes up so terrifically in fourth year." Dental learning, however, cannot stop for these students, even after they earn their DDS; Columbia makes it clear that they must be "lifelong learners." The fulfillment of this lesson begins at graduation, when almost 100 percent of SDOS students go on to further training.

Dr. Evangelidis, who loves her job, finds interacting with her colleagues, the faculty, the students, and the administration all extremely rewarding. For her, working at Columbia is like "being part of a closely-linked family." She adds that the success of the fourth-year clinic experience would not be possible without the dedication of volunteer faculty. Some of them are young themselves, some have been working at the clinic for 35 years, and some of them were Dr. Evangelidis's own teachers! And, she says, the clinic's four group leaders, are absolutely indispensable in maintaining the program's structure.

Group Leader Mary Lee Kordes '86 has been with the fourth-year clinic for ten years, as well as working in the faculty practice, where everyone else in the clinic is also required to teach. Dr. Kordes says that doing both breaks up what could be a mere routine and credits the dialogue she enjoys with colleagues as extremely important to



her professional life. There is, she points out, always something new to learn by sharing experiences and knowledge or new techniques. “We bounce off each other,” she says. She also finds the questions and ideas posed by her students, “who are brighter each year,” so stimulating that she learns right along with them. “Their enthusiasm keeps you from going stale.” Those feelings are echoed by Dr. Folarin Odusola, also a clinic leader for ten years, who says, “Student clinical activity is a microcosm of real life experience in the science and art of dental care delivery.”

The two newest group leaders in the fourth-year clinic are Drs. Ira Rosner and Michelle Mirsky '77. Dr. Rosner says, “I want to give students a sense of how to present information about treatment so that patients understand what is needed and get the best solution they can afford.” Although many clinic patients are on Medicaid, he says students must also be able to think outside the Medicaid box, asking “what can we do under the best of all possible circumstances, where money is no problem, and the solution can be ideal?” Dr. Rosner also brings up the fact that dental students “have to learn to explain matters to patients who are non-native speakers.” This kind of interaction, he adds, is part of the clinical

students' exposure to good practice management. He is pleased that, because SDOS is relatively small, the group leaders can make more intimate connections with individual students, working on any of their special needs – like gaining self-confidence. Dr. Mirsky, who has only recently returned to professional life after raising a family, is now recycling her years of experience as a general practitioner to give fourth-year students the insight and training needed in this rehearsal for a successful dental career. She describes her pleasure in sharing the clinic experience, saying, “It’s a decision-making process for our students, a time of self-evaluation, and they are eager to take the next step.”

**far left: Richard Fernandes '05 with a patient.**

**second from left: Dr. Evangelidis consults with fourth-year clinic Group Leader Mary Lee Kordes.**

**second from right: Dr. Jessica Hilburg, a volunteer faculty member, gives Toral Gandhi '05 guidance in carrying out a treatment.**

**right: Dr. Robert Tauber, a part-time faculty member, discusses procedures with fourth-year students.**





# COMMITTEES & COMMITMENT

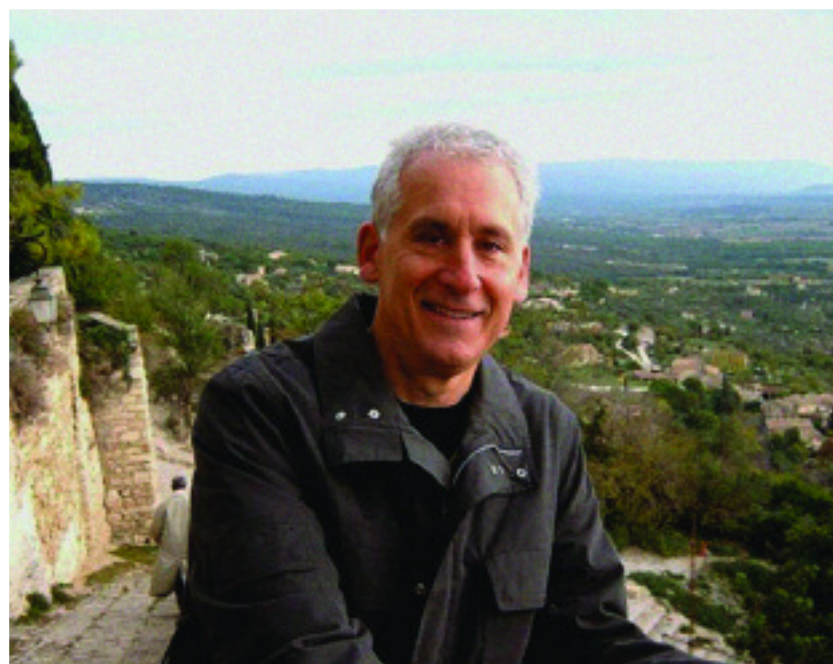
VOLUNTEERISM PLAYS A LEADING ROLE AT COLUMBIA'S DENTAL SCHOOL, NOT ONLY ON THE FACULTY, WHOSE VOLUNTEERS ARE ABSOLUTELY INDISPENSABLE, BUT IN MANY OTHER AREAS OF IMPORTANCE. MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF DENTAL ALUMNI'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, FOR INSTANCE, HELP SHAPE STRATEGIES FOR KEEPING GRADUATES IN TOUCH WITH THE SCHOOL AND INVOLVING THEM IN ITS FUTURE.

Executive Committee member **LOIS JACKSON '77, PEDS '80** is the Alumni Association's current vice president and president-elect. Dr. Jackson, who holds a bachelors degree from Barnard, feels an abiding loyalty and gratitude to Columbia because of the help she received from the University in achieving a successful professional career. Her appreciation is embodied in the effort that she has made to return something of benefit to Columbia. Though Dr. Jackson believes financial support is an important expression of thanks, she also thinks that the gift of time is a significant contribution. She has been particularly interested in encouraging the entrance of women into dentistry, setting an example through her own career and volunteer activities.

**RENEE LITVAK '02** has also remained close to her *alma mater* since graduation, both by teaching in the senior clinic and working on the Alumni Executive Committee. Dr. Litvak explains her feelings for SDOS, saying, "I spent six years at the School, first for my DDS and then for training in Endodontics. When I graduated, it felt like I was leaving home. But, I stayed in Manhattan for my practice and that let me be active at the School." One of Dr. Litvak's major efforts on behalf of SDOS is the organization of young alumni activities that help keep graduates in touch with "the many new avenues of progress Dr. Lamster has opened," because she believes that she and her fellow alumni are "the lifeblood of the School's future."



**GUNDA BRAKAS HYG '58, MS '71** is the Alumni Executive Committee's single representative from Columbia's former Dental Hygiene Program. Like so many of her fellow graduates from that program who have distinguished themselves in their careers (see p.19), Ms. Brakas has stamped her influence on the discipline she loves. She has, in fact, done so in several countries. Born in Europe of Danish and Lithuanian parents, it appealed to Ms. Brakas, once she had completed her bachelor's degree at Columbia, to initiate her dental hygiene practice in Zurich. Ms. Brakas was next asked to help the Danish government on a project bringing good oral hygiene into the public schools of Morocco, an assignment she enjoyed immensely. Returning to the United States, she earned her MS at Columbia, and then accepted a second invitation to Zurich, where she helped to set up a training program for dental hygienists. She has spent many years in teaching, first at Bergen Community College in New Jersey and now at New York University College of Dentistry. But her first love is Columbia, and she brings both loyalty and energy to the Alumni Association, with the goal of keeping her *alma mater's* reputation strong.



**PAUL KAMEN '75** is an associate professor of clinical dentistry at the dental school, with a private practice in periodontics, who believes that volunteerism is "the right thing to do." Dr. Kamen thinks of his work on the Alumni Executive Committee as giving the administration a window on alumni interests, as well as allowing him access to the administration's ideas and needs. "It's a two-way street," he says, and clearly one he sees as a conduit for mutual satisfaction. Dr. Kamen also thinks of volunteerism as a way of enhancing personal and professional growth, and as a model for keeping his students and new graduates interested in SDOS's future. His activity as a mentor for current students is another area of volunteering that gives him a sense of service in an excellent cause.

**MARGOT JAFFE '80, PEDS '81, ORTHO '85**, seems to know no bounds in her enthusiasm for volunteerism, serving not only on the Alumni Executive Committee, but also on the Admissions Committee and on the Campaign Committee for the upcoming SDOS fund-raising drive. With three Columbia degrees, Dr. Jaffe feels very strong ties to the School, particularly because her class made the first big jump in women's enrollment, almost doubling it from the preceding year. She remains an enthusias-

tic mentor for new women in dentistry, interesting them in exploring careers in academics, as well as going into practice. Dr. Jaffe believes Columbia made her successful career possible and is deeply grateful. SDOS graduates work in her office, she recommends Columbia dentists to her young patients' family members, and was a part-time faculty member for nine years. She also persuaded 50 percent of her graduating class to attend their 25th reunion this year! Dr. Jaffe "loves the Admissions Committee," and has worked on it for many years. Recently, her zeal for helping at Columbia convinced another graduate, who had been out of touch with the School for years, to join her as a volunteer for interviewing SDOS applicants.

*Volunteers at the Dental School will continue to be the subject of articles in future SDOS publications.*

**left to right:**  
**Dr. Renee Litvak**, an enthusiastic SDOS alumna and school volunteer.


**Dr. Paul Kamen**, away from his volunteer duties, vacationing in France.

**Dr. Margot Jaffe** shows a patient how to get the best results from brushing her teeth.



# Columbia's Dental Hygiene Program

(1917-80)



Columbia's first graduating class of dental hygienists showed their flare for fun in this wildly costumed theatrical venture, "War on Dental Caries."



# YESTERDAY'S STRONG FOUNDATION: TODAY'S STRONG LEADERS

WHEN COLUMBIA OPENED ITS DENTAL SCHOOL IN 1917, THE CURRICULUM INCLUDED THE FIRST PROGRAM FOR DENTAL HYGIENE BASED ON EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS. IN ADDITION TO THE BACCALAUREATE, STUDENTS COULD ALSO EARN THE FIRST MASTER'S DEGREE EVER OFFERED TO DENTAL HYGIENISTS: HALF A CENTURY LATER, THE MAJORITY OF DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM DIRECTORS IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY HELD AN MS FROM COLUMBIA.

By raising the bar for dental hygienists in training, Columbia produced generations of knowledgeable, skilled, and progressive professionals in the dental office. Some of those graduates are now recognized for achievements won both as hygienists and practitioners in the dental profession. Others are highly placed academics, scholars, clinical and research scientists, organizers and administrators, professional and public service leaders, governmental policy makers, and consultants to industry, to mention just some of the ways in which they chose to shape their careers. Many of them recall their years at Columbia, particularly under the leadership of Dental Hygiene Division Director Patricia McLean, as a time of inspiration that helped propel them toward the success they have attained.

The Dental School and the University take immense pride in the success of all its dental hygiene graduates. In its most recent issue of *PrimusNotes*, the School's newsletter, Anna Pattison MS '68 was selected as the *Primus-Notable*, a regular feature recognizing SDOS graduates who have been trailblazers in their field. In the limited space of these pages, we can report on only a few from among many to represent this extraordinary group.

**CAROLYN GRAY**, President, Gray Consulting, Inc., embodies many of the roles mentioned above. A graduate of Temple University and a former Peace Corps volunteer in Micronesia, she earned both a BS and MS, with emphasis in public health, in the Dental Hygiene Program at Columbia. Her early career was spent on the faculties of Fairleigh Dickinson

University (FDU) and Virginia Commonwealth University, where she taught dental professionals health legislation and health care planning in the Department of Community Dentistry. Adding a certificate in government relations from George Washington University to her credits, Ms. Gray went on to combine her educational experience with organizational oversight, working for nearly two decades with the American Association of Dental Schools (AADS). During her years with AADS, she managed, directed, and established organizational



programs, for which she also found funding sources. She completed her tenure at AADS as Deputy Executive Director. Today, she presides over a successful consulting firm, serving a number of distinguished clients, among them the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), for whom she helped to organize the first Surgeon General's Conference on Oral Health in 2000. Gray Consulting, Inc., services include: preparing dental and allied dental programs for accreditation site visits; researching and writing position papers for schools or organizations; advising on and/or preparing public relations programs; federal grants management; and planning special workshops. Ms. Gray is the recipient of numerous national awards in her field.

*Three of Columbia's Dental Hygiene Program graduates have been prominently involved in health sciences education at Old Dominion University (ODU) in Virginia.*

ODU Professor Emeritus **LINDSAY L. RETTIE** received both her BS and MS in Dental Hygiene

top:  
Carolyn Gray

bottom:  
Lindsay L. Rettie

top:  
Michelle Darby

bottom:  
Margaret Lappan-Green

from Columbia University, where she was also a clinical lecturer, and completed her EdD degree at The College of William and Mary. In 1985, Dr. Rettie became Associate Vice President for Academic and Financial Affairs at ODU. When the university decided it needed a College of Health Sciences, Dr. Rettie was chosen to establish the new College and became its founding Dean in 1986. During her tenure as dean, she helped to make the College a strong, nationally ranked academic center: Under Dean Rettie's leadership, all of the programs in the college were accredited, and the disciplines of Nursing, Medical Technology, and Community Health became pioneers in the delivery of distance learning classes throughout Virginia. When she stepped down as dean in 2000, Dr. Rettie decided to go back to teaching, saying, "I started here as a faculty member in dental hygiene, and this is a chance to return to what I was brought here to do." She remained at ODU until 2003 as Professor of Community Health and Director of the Management/Policy Concentration for The Master of Public Health Program, which she helped to establish. On the occasion of her retirement two years ago, Dr. Rettie was honored with the University's prestigious Tonelson Faculty Award for her outstanding teaching contributions to the University. Dr. Rettie's research interests have often focused on organizational theory and ethical issues in health care. She has been an active member of many professional and community boards in Eastern Virginia.



years as chairman of Dental Hygiene before accepting the position of graduate program director, which she still holds. She has been recognized many times for her excellence in teaching, which has been described as "without parallel," most notably with title of Eminent Scholar, an honor held by only a few of her ODU colleagues.

In 1991, Dean Lindsay Rettie nominated Professor Darby for the Tonelson Faculty Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the intellectual development of the University. In 1993, she received the Virginia State Council on Higher Education Faculty Award. The American Dental Hygienist Association (ADHA) showed its respect for Professor Darby's achievements in education with its Faculty Advisor Award for her work with the Student American Dental Hygienists Association and with the Warner Lambert-ADHA Award for Excellence in Dental Hygiene. Professor Darby was also made a charter member of the Dental Hygiene Advisory Board to Oral B Laboratories, Inc. Known for her research as well, Professor Darby has published three important books and many articles in her field, has been on the editorial advisory board of *The Journal of Dental Hygiene* since 1978, and has been an associate editor of the *International Journal of Dental Hygiene* since 2003. She has lectured throughout the United States, in Serbia, Moldova, Korea, the Netherlands, and Italy and was a member of the first delegation of dental hygienists to visit the People's Republic of China.

**MICHELLE DARBY**, Eminent Scholar and Professor at the Gene W. Hirschfeld School of Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting at ODU, completed her dental hygiene certificate at the University of Pittsburgh, and her BS and MS degrees at Columbia University, where she was also an instructor. After becoming a full-time faculty member at ODU, Professor Darby served seven



As one of the Columbia graduates remaining in private practice, **MARGARET LAPPAN-GREEN** of Yorktown, Virginia, is highly respected among her colleagues and has been active in advancing their field. Ms. Green, who is the 2005-2006 president-elect of the ADHA, earned her MS, with a concentration in dental hygiene administration, curriculum, and instruction, from Columbia in



1971. She holds a BS from California State University and dental assisting and oral hygiene certificates from the University of Pittsburgh, School of Dental Medicine, where she received the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2000. For the past 26 years, she has worked with her husband, Barry Green, DMD, MS, in their private periodontal practice in Newport News. Her extensive career includes clinical, educational, and public service roles. She has served two terms as ADHA vice president and district III trustee and has been president, president-elect, vice president, foundation director, and treasurer of the Virginia Dental Hygienists' Association. As a three-time gubernatorial appointee, she was vice president of the Virginia Board of Dentistry, Southern Regional Testing Agency examiner, and represented the Board of Dentistry on the Virginia Board of Health Professions. She has been a consultant to NIDCR, the Universities of Kentucky and Maine, Florida's Board of Dental Examiners, and the ADA National Board Test Construction Committee. She has published numerous articles in refereed journals and, like Dr. Rettie



and Professor Darby, has ties to ODU, where she is an adjunct professor and has been clinical director and curriculum coordinator of the Gene W. Hirschfield School of Dental Hygiene. Ms. Green is a clinical trials examiner for the University's Dental Hygiene Research Center.

**MARLENE KLYVERT, BS, MS, MED, EDD**, who earned all of her advanced degrees at Columbia, also found her lifelong professional home there. She has been a member of the SDOS faculty for 36 years! Many who took her classes speak of the strong influence she has had on their careers, calling her a much-valued mentor. Dr. Klyvert expanded her early training in dental hygiene with further studies in Science Education at Columbia Teachers College, where she earned both an MEd and an EdD. In addition, she was

awarded two public health traineeships. During her career, Dr. Klyvert has demonstrated that dental hygiene studies can provide a bridge to more advanced sciences. Her professional presentations have ranged from topics such as "Techniques in Radiation Hygiene" and "Myofunctional Therapy" to her doctoral dissertation on the "Influence of Specific Masticatory Muscles on Non-Associated Micro-Skeletal Units." A co-author with Dr. Letty Moss-Salentijn of *Dental and Oral Tissues: An Introduction for*

*Paraprofessionals in Dentistry*, Dr. Klyvert also teaches histology with Dr. Moss-Salentijn at Columbia's dental and medical schools. She has been a director of the dental school's Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP) for high school students interested in entering dentistry and, until recently, was assistant dean for special projects

and multicultural affairs at SDOS. She is now senior adviser to the Office of Multicultural Affairs and a special lecturer at the School.

A number of Columbia's Dental Hygiene graduates have been concerned during their careers with the health of economically disadvantaged and multicultural populations. **DR. DIANA GALVIS**, who came from such a background herself, was selected as a young student in Puerto Rico to participate in the federally supported Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP). The opportunity allowed her to participate in a highly competitive



program for expanded-functions dental assistants, followed by a second year of study to become a certified dental hygienist. Dr. Galvis went on to earn both a BS at FDU and an MS at Columbia before becoming a faculty member in the Dental Hygiene Program at New York University College of Dentistry (NYUCD). Her interest in promoting cultural diversity in oral health evolved further when she became the principal investigator on a project exploring this area of need in the Dominican Republic. As president

top:  
Marlene Klyvert

bottom:  
Diana Galvis

top:  
Cheryl M. Westphal

bottom:  
Joan Phelan

of the Hispanic Dental Association (HDA) in this country, Dr. Galvis recruited Hispanics into the oral health professions, developed a national outreach campaign for oral health screenings in Hispanic communities across the United States, and was an HDA spokesperson for improving the oral health of Hispanics. Her research interest remains in the area of minority oral health, involving not only Hispanics, but also Asian-American, Haitian-American, and Indian and Pakistani groups in New York City, and she has published widely in the field. In 2002, Dr. Galvis, supported by a full academic scholarship, completed her dental degree at NYUCD.

In 1990, **CHERYL M. WESTPHAL, RDH, MS**, became clinical associate professor; director of the Dental Hygiene Programs, and, soon, assistant dean for Allied Health Programs at NYUCD. Earlier in the same year, Dean Westphal had been director of the dental hygiene program at FDU, a program she moved in its entirety to NYUCD when loss of state funding closed down FDU's dental school. The transition of the program from one side of the Hudson to the other, and from one semester to the next, was so smooth that students never missed a class. Dean Westphal, who earned her MS at Columbia, is now working for her doctorate in Educational Leadership and Change through the distance learning program of the Fielding Graduate University in Santa Barbara, California. Her research and academic interests focus on culturally competent care and health beliefs. She was a fellow of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Institute in 2001, and has been active in mentoring for the ADEA Allied Dental Directors Leadership conferences. A past president of ADHA, Dean Westphal serves on advisory boards, journal reviews, and committees for ADHA. She is a contributing author and editor for *Comprehensive Periodontics for the Dental Hygienist* and author of the accompanying student CD for the



textbook. She is also co-editor for the instructor website to accompany the textbook *Clinical Practice for the Dental Hygienist* by Esther Wilkins.

When **DR. JOAN PHELAN** realized she really didn't like being a closely scheduled person, she knew that oral pathology research would suit her better than treating

patients in a dental office. "I loved looking through a microscope," she says. Dr. Phelan, who earned her BS at Columbia when the dental hygiene program was directed by Frances Stoll and returned five years later for her MS under Director Patricia McLean, has traveled back and forth among a number of New York area institutions during her academic career. After completing her dental degree at the School of Dental Medicine, SUNY, Stony Brook, and residencies in general pathology and oral pathology at Catholic Medical Center, Dr. Phelan joined the faculty at NYUCD. In 1983, she began her research career studying oral manifestations of HIV infection at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx. She continued this research while on the faculty of NYUCD and then at Columbia University, with Drs. David Zegarelli and Ira Lamster. In 1993, she moved to the VA Hospital in Northport, Long Island, where she headed the Dental Service and was, for a short time, co-chief of staff at the hospital. She returned to NYUCD in 2000, where she is now professor and chair, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, Division of Biologic Science, Medicine and Surgery. Nationally recognized for her extensive research concerning HIV and its effects on oral health, Dr. Phelan is the author of many papers

and of a highly regarded textbook, *Oral Pathology for the Dental Hygienist*, written with Olga Ibsen, also a Columbia graduate.



# Alumni and School News

Pediatric dentist Jed Best, a long-time volunteer at the School, both as faculty and on the Admissions Committee, is also an accomplished photographer who was recently recognized on the Adobe Photoshop website for his work with their software. Dr. Best travels around the world to find interesting subjects for his camera. He recently did a series in the Netherlands, where he captured this windmill image, and is off to Antarctica with fellow photographers over the holiday season.



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# Robert P. Renner, DDS

## A CHILDREN'S ADVOCATE, "RETIRED" TO VOLUNTEERISM

Although "retired," Robert P. Renner '68, Prosth '71 devotes himself full time to dental volunteerism. Dr. Renner teaches prosthodontics three days a week at UTHSCSA Dental School in San Antonio, Texas, where he now lives, and where he is a dental advocate for local Hispanic children. But he also runs a dental practice in El Salvador and will soon open a second and third in Nicaragua and Guatemala, each serving eight to-nine hundred children.

While a student at SDOS, Dr. Renner traveled to the Southwest, where he saw abject poverty among the Navajo. The experience later inspired him to establish dental programs in remote Native American communities, staffed by students from the Dental School at SUNY, Stony Brook, where Dr. Renner was a founding faculty member. In 2002, Save the Children, an organization with which he had worked over the years, invited Dr. Renner to visit El Salvador, where he assessed the oral health of 25 children who had never seen a dentist. Using standard DMF (Decayed, Missing, Filled) forms and notations on each child's condition, he reported that all but one had dental caries, 56 percent had a severe DMF score, indicating rampant dental decay

requiring immediate attention, and all but one had dental plaque and stains on their teeth, consistent with never having brushed them.

A strong commitment to oral health, especially in children younger than 12, motivated Dr. Renner to offer his time and personal resources to Save the Children's Central American Early Childhood Development (ECD) program. ECD activities impact the child's overall development, focusing on education, while making health and nutrition crucial to their upbringing.

In October 2004, "Dr. Bob," now retired in Texas, returned to see **all** children in El Salvador's ECD programs. With Save the Children field office staff support and his own financing, Dr. Renner examined 709 children from 14 rural communities, and provided training on dental health and prevention measures. On his next trip, Dr. Renner, assisted by the local public health dentist, evaluated 820 children, performed 68 extractions and 36 fillings, provided fluoride treatment for all children, gave them crayons and coloring books on tooth care, presented information on good oral health practices to families and community audiences, and scheduled six-month follow-up visits. As a result of his El

Salvador visits, an ECD Guatemalan program for children's dental care will be initiated early in 2006, with Nicaragua soon to follow.

Dr. Renner hopes that his personal enthusiasm for this work might help to "enlist interested Columbia SDOS dentists in my Central American activities and encourage all our alumni to consider volunteerism as part of their professional lives."

Dr. Robert Renner caring for El Salvadoran children at Save the Children's clinic there.





# Adam Freeman DDS, FACD, FICD, FACD

## DENTAL DETECTIVE; READY RESPONDER

Adam Freeman '92 doesn't need to step into the nearest phone booth to change clothes when he switches from general practice dentistry to his alternate role in the profession. But he is ready to make that switch at a moment's notice, becoming "Adam Freeman, Forensic Odontologist" when his Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team (DMORT) unit is called to an emergency.

In 2003, Dr. Freeman became a Fellow in Forensic Odontology at the University of Texas in San Antonio, traveling to Texas every month for a year. His studies earned him membership in the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and made him eligible for certification by the American Board of Forensic Odontology. With these qualifications, Dr. Freeman joined DMORT, a division of the Department of Homeland Security that responds to major disasters like the bombing in Oklahoma, the tragedies of 9/11 and flight 800, and this year's hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods.

On his most recent tour of duty, Dr. Freeman was deployed to Gulfport, Mississippi, three days after Hurricane Katrina struck. There, he took over as postmortem chief of the portable morgue set up to identify victims of the winds and high waters that swept through the area in late August.

Conditions for the DMORT volunteer team were not easy. They had no shelter but the refrigeration trucks in which the dead would be kept, and slept on bare boards without blankets. In spite of these conditions, Dr. Freeman's team, 42 other dentists and two pathologists working together for 15 days, was able to identify 62 of the 200 bodies in their charge. Forensic methodology for identification may include DNA matching, photography, and pathology research, but, according to Dr. Freeman, dental restorations are by far the most productive avenue of inquiry. He points out that, "Everyone who died in Katrina drowned, so in that instance pathology was less important." Teeth, he goes on to say, are – by comparison with other body parts – a stable element, and tooth restorations are both long-lasting and unique. "With five surfaces on each tooth, and 32 teeth to a mouth," he adds, "the possibilities for identification through dental examination are huge."

Because many cemeteries below sea level in New Orleans were destroyed by Katrina and the floods that followed, Dr. Freeman believes the work of identifying those once buried there will go on for at least a year. He is scheduled to return to the area this winter for ten days, again as chief of post-mortem in the portable morgue. Meanwhile, he may be busy in his capacity as Director for the State of Connecticut Disaster Identification Response Team.

While Dr. Freeman's other life in dentistry is possibly less exciting than his DMORT assignments, it is, as he says, "how I make a living." He is a partner in a thriving Westport, Connecticut, practice that includes his father, Dr. Stanley Freeman, a part-time faculty member at SDOS for more than 30 years. Like father, like son, Dr. Adam Freeman has also been an instructor at the School, in both Restorative and Pediatric Dentistry. He was a member of the SDOS Infection Control Committee, as well. His most recent specialty, however, is the study of bite mark patterns as evidence in differing types of crime.



Dr. Adam Freeman working after hurricane Katrina in the DMORT portable morgue.



# Alumni Notes

right: Sara Gross Wigdor, Dental Hygiene Class of 1930, received special recognition from Dean Lamster and Sarina Reddy at the Reunion Day program.

below, left: The Third Annual Young Alumni reception was held last February at Metro 53. Students, faculty, and alumni who graduated within the past 10 years attended. Pictured are: Justin Boyd '01, Norman Boyd '01, and Paul Gorczyca '00.

below, center: At the Alumni, Faculty and Student reception held at the Greater New York Meeting in November 2004 are Matt Neary '80, Al Thompson '60, James Abjanich '83, and Eugene LaSota '62

below, right: Dean Lamster and Alumni President Sarina Reddy welcomed over 40 alumni at the Alumni Reception held at the Boston Yankee Dental Congress last January. Seen left to right are: Sarina Reddy '93, Dan Zedeker '83, Joseph Worthington '83, John Herzog '83, Joe Ciccio '81, Karam Ashoo '03, Dan Simon '02, Matt Lann '00 and Brad Lipkin '01.

SARA GROSS WIGDOR HYG '30 was honored on the occasion of her 75th Reunion at the SDOS Class Reunion Day in May. Ms. Wigdor worked as a hygienist in New York City and volunteered at Hecture Pavilion, treating needy children. She married Dr. Louis Wigdor, a New Jersey optometrist, and was an active leader in many local organizations. Ms. Wigdor, who is 94, has three children, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.



CARMEN FASANO '52 is living in Florida. He has enjoyed practicing dentistry aboard Holland American Cruise lines as the ship's dentist, and volunteers at Nova University Dental School in a program that treats elderly and handicapped patients.

ALFRED CARIN '55 is semiretired, working two days per week. He had a hip replacement in the spring, but planned to return to playing golf shortly afterwards.

MARJORIE YOUNG HYG '60 reports that she and her husband are fully retired and travel frequently. She is very involved with volunteer work at their local church, and is enjoying being a grandparent.

Health Week for the State of California.

MALCOLM GRAHAM '65 is a member of the New York State Dental Society. He is past chair of the American College of Dentists, New York Section, and past president of the New York Academy of Dentistry and the 9th District Dental Society. He is enjoying general practice in White Plains, New York.

LELAND FITZGERALD '73 is practicing with his friend, Greg Johnson '72, in Solana Beach, California.

RICHARD HOODENPYLE '75 continues to practice periodontics, with offices in Franklin and Brevard, North Carolina. He lives in Asheville, where he is part-owner and president of the Asheville Aces, a professional hockey team in the Southern Professional Hockey League.

JOHN FEENEY '75 is an oral and maxillofacial surgeon with offices in Sea Girt, Bricktown, and Toms River, New Jersey. He has been president of the New Jersey Foundation of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities for the past six years. Under his direction, participants in the Foundation's Donated Dental Services Program have expanded to 776 volunteer dentists across the state. The program has



CHARLES GROSS ORTHO '62 has been named to the Advisory Board of Directors at ZAP, Zero Air Pollution®, a leader in advanced transportation technologies. Dr. Gross is a media entrepreneur with an extensive background in marketing and business promotion and a history of community and statewide public health activism. He is a past president of the San Fernando Valley Dental Society and was chairman of the National Children's Dental

provided \$10.1 million in services since its inception. Dr. Feeney received the Certificate of Meritorious Service from Dr. Gordon Christenson of the National Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped at its 2005 meeting in Denver.

JEFFREY BERKOWITZ '80 plays tennis and coaches girls' basketball. He maintains a private practice in Ossining, New York. His wife, Rhonda, who trained at P&S, has a dermatology practice in



Briarcliff Manor. They have two children.

**MICHELLE VERHAVE '85** is ranked number one in the United States in Fencing (Veteran Women's Foil). She represented the United States in the World Maccabiah Games last summer in Israel.

**JACK MCCABE '85** is chairman and associate professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska. Last spring he completed his military mobilization at Fort Carson, Colorado, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He and his wife, Barbara, who is a psychiatrist, have three children.

**FRANK PALMACCIO '88** will be President-Elect of the Nassau County Dental Society in January 2006. He is chairman of the New York State Board of Dentistry and alumni representative of the SDOS Long Island Alumni Study Club.

**ANNA MATSUISHI PATTISON MS '68** was honored by the University of Southern California Dental Alumni Association as Alumnus of the Year at ceremonies held in October for her contributions to the school, to organized dentistry, and to the community-at-large during her long career as a dental hygiene educator and oral health advocate. Pattison joined the USC faculty in 1968, after completing her master's degree in dental hygiene education at Columbia University.

**ERNEST McCALLUM '95** has three children, Angela, Ernest, and Mary Kathryn, and lives in Greenwood, South Carolina.

**SHAILA GARASIA '95** is the dental director at Westside Health Services in Rochester, New York. She was one of 12 candidates selected to participate in an American Dental Association Institute for Diversity Leadership Program; her training project addressed the issue of the shortage of clinical dentists at community health centers.

**JONATHAN SHENKIN, '96 MPH '96**, was Keynote Speaker for "Oral Health in Maine: Planning for the Future," a day-long conference held on November 14, sponsored by the Oral Health Program of the Maine Health and Human Services, Department of Public Health. Dr. Shenkin is a pediatric dentist in private practice in Bangor.

**RICHARD YANG '97** was inaugurated as president of the Chinese Dental Association at its Annual Session and Banquet, held in October.

**SONIA VARLAMOS '00** has a periodontal and implant practice in New Rochelle, New York.

**BRAD LIPKIN '01** is the proud father of a daughter, Alexis Donna Lipkin, born to him and his wife, Lauren, on April 29.

above, left: Linda Siegal '88, John Schaf '88, and Frank Palmaccio '88 were among the many attendees welcomed by Dean Lamster at the Alumni Reception held at the Greater Long Island Dental Meeting in Huntington, Long Island, in April.

above, center: Al Homicz '71 and David Christensen '71 reunite at the Alumni Reception of the ADA Annual Session held in Philadelphia in October.

above, right: The Eleventh Annual Dental Alumni Evening Seminar, sponsored in April by the Alumni Association, featured a presentation on "Conservative Restorative Dentistry" by Dr. Joel Berg, Professor and Chair of Oral Health in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry at the University of Washington. Alumni Association President Sarina Reddy '93 (left) and Vice President Lois Jackson '77, Pediatric Dentistry '80 (right) are shown with Dr. Berg.

# Obituaries

HAROLD BRENNAN '27

LESTER EISNER '35

LOUIS SKOLNICK '39

ARNOLD HARRISON '40

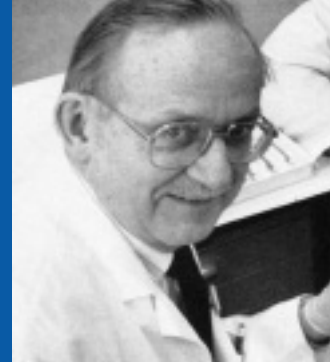
**STANLEY BRZUSTOWICZ '43**, Professor Emeritus in the Division of Operative Dentistry, served on the faculty at SDOS for nearly 60 years. A former course director for preclinical operative dentistry, Dr. Brzustowicz was a devoted alumnus and educator. Stan leaves a legacy of dedicated service to countless students and to the profession.

**RICHARD SCHNEER '43**

**JOSEPH TRIPODI '51** practiced endodontics in Olean, New York, for more than 50 years, and was also a real estate developer there. A member of several local organizations, he received numerous awards for his leadership in the community. Dr. Tripodi was a founding member of the SDOS Advisory Council.

**DAVID DRUCKER '59**

**LYNN LAGER '63**, a graduate of Brooklyn College and SDOS, was a respected dentist with a successful practice in Dix Hills, New York, for more than 30 years. Dr. Lager was a member of several professional organizations and received numerous awards in recognition of her outstanding ability and community service.



When Dr. Brzustowicz retired, the Class of 1989 dedicated their yearbook to him with these words:

*'This Class will begin at 8:00 am every Monday morning, I will be here on time and I expect the same of you.'*

*With these fateful words, Dr. B. as he is affectionately known to his students, introduced us to the world of Operative Dentistry. It's due to Dr. B. that we managed to tackle those first patients with some semblance of confidence. His patients will miss him sorely and so will we. Thanks for all your help.*

## COLUMBIA CONNECTION

In November, Columbia University Alumni Relations launched the first University-wide online alumni directory. With just a UNI and a mouse, alumni can go to [alumni.columbia.edu/directory](http://alumni.columbia.edu/directory) to update personal information, control mail preferences, RSVP for events, and share current news. Starting in January, alumni will also be able to search the directory for old friends and new contacts from all University schools. Stay connected!



# Reunion Day

Reunion Day was expanded this year to include Continuing Education lectures at the start of the day and an all-class dinner as the concluding event. During dinner, a representative from each class was invited to say a few words about past experiences at SDOS. **JOHN FEENEY '75** shared the following:

*Columbia University SDOS stands alone. These hallowed halls are rich with the legacy of excellence in compassionate health care. The four years spent here were not limited to the pursuit of expertise in academics and the honing of technical skills; there was a unique third element that bound the matrix of our overall education. It was the development of a social conscience. We graduated in 1975 with the confidence of competence and the Hippocratic obligation of conscience, "to do no harm," and be ever vigilant advocates for the well-being of our patients.*

A few classes held their own dinners, and the Class of 1980 reported a record turnout of 30 classmates. **ANTHONY LOPRESTI '80** sent a note of reminiscence prior to the reunion, which read:

*After practicing dentistry for over 25 years, I look back with fond memories of my time spent at Columbia. At graduation, I received awards in Oral Surgery and Restorative Dentistry and I went on to receive my MS from the Institute of Human Nutrition at the College of Physicians and Surgeons. I am currently an instructor at SDOS and an assistant in oral surgery at Presbyterian Hospital. I also volunteer on the Admissions Committee. In addition to being section chief in the Center for Craniomandibular Disorders in the Department of Maxillofacial Surgery, which I founded at Staten Island University, I am also in private practice on Staten Island and in New Jersey. I am so motivated by the field that I have chosen for my career. I am constantly making positive changes in the lives of my patients, and that is such a wonderful reward.*

*Special thanks go to the class representatives who rallied their classmates to attend the Class Reunion Day events.*

**top left:** The Class of 1970: left to right, Lawrence Gardner, Roger Santise, James Gold, Thomas Cleary, Barry Bienstock, Dennis Morea (Class Representative), Gordon Huntress, Leonard Gellella, Jeffrey Uhl, Dean Ira Lamster, James Olson, Frank Petronella.

**top right:** Members of the Class of 1965 with Dean Lamster: Barry Feldman, David Schwartz (Class Representative), Joel Leeb, John Weber, Martin Taubman, Michael Zullo, and Ralph Neuhaus.

**below left:** Thanks to the efforts of class representatives Margot Jaffe, Tony LoPresti, Matt Neary and Steven Syrop, the Class of 1980 came out in droves for Class Reunion Day. They are pictured here at their Class Dinner in Windows on the Hudson Restaurant at Milstein Hospital.

**below center:** Syngcuk Kim '76, Endo '78, was presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award. Dr. Kim, shown here with Alumni President Sarina Reddy, is professor and chairman of the Department of Endodontics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine.

**below right:** A few members of the Class of 1995 gathered for a final photo after the Reunion Day Dinner in the Winter Garden: left to right are: Mary Grigoratos, Mary Cresseveur-Reed, Meredith Blitz and Ida Soleimani (Class Representative).





# School News

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation announced on November 1, 2005, that Columbia University School of Dental & Oral Surgery, as well as the College of Physicians and Surgeons, have once again been funded for the [SUMMER MEDICAL AND DENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM](#) (SMDEP). SMDEP is a collaboration between the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) to create a more diverse medical and dental workforce and to help reduce disparities in access to health care. Columbia's schools will receive \$300,000 per year for four years, with all grantees providing a dollar-for-dollar match in cash or in-kind. Each site can accept 80 students per summer. The SDOS program is designed to help students gain acceptance to medical or dental school and to succeed once they are admitted.

[THE COLUMBIA DENTAL REVIEW](#), the SDOS student clinical journal, has been chosen to receive the 2005 Meskin Award. Named in honor of Lawrence H. Meskin, editor of the *Journal of the American Dental Association* for 11 years, this award is presented annually to a dental student publication in the United States or Canada in recognition of overall excellence in publishing, including editorial content and design. Dr. Letty Moss-Salentijn is faculty advisor for the publication.

The Division of Pediatric Dentistry presented its fourth annual [SOLOMON N. ROSENSTEIN](#)

[VISITING PROFESSOR LECTURE](#) in November. Dr. John Rutkauskas, Executive Director of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry in Chicago, Illinois, was this year's invitee. Dr. Rutkauskas spoke on "Special Care Patients in Dentistry; Public Policy Needed," addressing an audience which filled the auditorium to capacity. Prior to his public presentation, Dr. Rutkauskas conducted a morning seminar for residents and faculty on "Societal Trends Affecting Pediatric Oral Health Care." The seminar attracted strong interest, with one of the largest groups ever in attendance for such a special event.

## SDOS Salutes

[LISA ARCHER, RN, BSN](#), has been named the new Nurse Supervisor of the Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Clinic. She is ICU Certified, with experience in pediatric and adult emergency rooms.

[DAVID A. ALBERT, DDS, MPH](#), [VICKY EVANGELIDIS, DD, MPH](#), and [JOHN ZIMMERMAN, DDS](#), all associate professors of clinical dentistry known for their excellence in teaching, were named as members of the Glenda Garvey Teaching Academy's first class. The Academy honors the memory of Dr. Garvey, who spent her entire career at the Columbia University Medical Center and received many awards for distinction in teaching, as well as for her clinical expertise. The new academy will recognize and support faculty members who,

In July, a delegation of 40 senior administrators, faculty and alumni of Osaka Dental University in Japan participated in a week-long implantology conference at SDOS as part of an educational and research agreement between the two universities.



like Dr. Garvey, are dedicated to the Medical Center's educational mission.

STEVEN CHUSSID, DDS, director of the Division of Pediatric Dentistry, and RENUKA BIJOOR, DDS '03, PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY '05, were recognized in the runner-up category for their poster, "Multidisciplinary Approaches to the Management of Cleft Lip/Palate Patients," at the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Annual Session in Orlando in June.

MARTIN DAVIS DDS '74, PEDS '75, associate dean for student and alumni affairs, has been honored with the 2005 American Student Dental Association Advocate Award in recognition of outstanding service to dental students and organized dentistry.

Under the direction of BURTON EDELSTEIN, DDS, MPH, chairman and director of the Division of Community Health, the SDOS HIV/AIDS team in the Section of Social and Behavioral Sciences is developing a new course and accompanying CD on dental management for people living with HIV/AIDS. The work is supported by a three-year grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration/Bureau of Health Professions. The grant also provides funding for the development of a classroom course for fellows in the AEGD program, as well as for offsite training of residents, for engaging dental students, and for an expanded liaison with Harlem United.

GUNNAR HASSELGREN, DDS, PHD, director of the Division of Endodontics, presented the Dean's Lecture on "Dentin Sensitivity Revisited" at the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine last January.

SHANTANU LAL, DDS, assistant professor and director of Predoctoral Pediatric Dentistry, spoke at a conference on "New Technologies in Restorative Dentistry for Children" at the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry annual meeting in Miami in May. In the same month, during SDOS graduation ceremonies, Senior Associate Dean Letty Moss-Salentijn presented Dr. Lal with the 2005 Edward Zegarelli Teaching Award for "dedicated and inspired teaching."

DEAN IRA LAMSTER, DDS, MMSC, spoke on "Oral Infection and Systemic Disease" at the 35th Annual Meeting of the Turkish Society of Periodontology in Istanbul in May.

MARC MICHALOWICZ, DDS, MSC, assistant professor of clinical dentistry, was honored in June during the CEO Awards ceremony at Helen Hayes Hospital where he is chief of the hospital's dental and oral surgery service. Dr. Michalowicz was cited for developing a "nationally renowned center of excellence in the care of patients with special needs and in the training of dental residents," many of whom are SDOS graduates. Dr. Michalowicz is also the host for the SDOS Westchester/Rockland Alumni Study Club meetings, held at Helen Hayes.

below, left:  
Helen Hayes Hospital Chief  
Executive Officer Magdalena  
Ramirez presents a 2005 CEO  
Award to Marc Michalowicz,  
DDS, MSc., chief of Dental &  
Oral Surgery.

below:  
Shantanu Lal, BDS.





DENNIS MITCHELL, DDS, MPH, who is assistant professor of clinical dentistry and assistant dean for diversity multicultural affairs at SDOS, was awarded the 2005 National Dental Association Foundation/Colgate Faculty Recognition Award for his excellence in research. He was presented with the award in Las Vegas, Nevada, in July.

LETTY MOSS-SALENTIJN, DDS, PHD, formerly associate dean for academic affairs, has received a change of title to senior associate dean for academic affairs. Dr. Moss-Salentijn's new title more appropriately represents the range of her many responsibilities in the Dental School and the University.

JOHN SCAROLA DDS '60, clinical professor in the Division of Prosthodontics, received the Allan J. Formicola Volunteer Faculty Teaching Award from Senior Associate Dean Letty Moss-Salentijn at the Postdoctoral Graduation Ceremony held in June. Dr. Scarola was honored for his dedication to teaching, having served on the faculty at SDOS for over 43 years.

NEILL SERMAN, DDS, has retired as professor of clinical dentistry and director of the Radiology Program at SDOS, where he has served on the faculty since 1987. Dr. Serman was the keynote speaker in August at the 25th Anniversary of the Medunsa Dental School, giving a lecture entitled, "Radiology is Not an Island." Dr. Serman helped to design and equip Medunsa when it was established at Witwatersrand University in South Africa, where

he was head of the Department of Diagnostic Sciences prior to coming to SDOS.

JOHN ZIMMERMAN, DDS, assistant dean for information resources and associate professor of clinical dentistry and clinical biomedical informatics, who directs the clinical, research, and educational informatics initiatives at the dental school, recently represented SDOS on a visit to the University of Kuwait Dental School, whose dental students may, at some time in the future, apply for advanced training at Columbia. Although Dr. Zimmerman made the trip with a group organized for Middle Eastern studies students, he was also able to tour dental clinics and to give a lecture at the dental school. He says, "I really enjoyed the trip, learned a lot, ate great food, and the people were very friendly. There is a real commitment to high quality education, and Kuwaiti students are dedicated to rebuilding their country and improving the schools. I was impressed."

SDOS faculty members JOSEPH MCMANUS, DDS; RONNIE MYERS, DDS; MURRAY SCHWARTZ, DDS; STEVEN SYROP, DDS; and DANIEL ZEDEKER, DDS have been inducted into the American College of Dentists (ACD). The ACD is a nonprofit professional organization of dentists who demonstrate excellence through their outstanding leadership and exceptional contributions to dentistry and society. The mission of the ACD is to promote quality, ethics, professionalism, and leadership in dentistry.

near right:  
left: John Zimmerman, astride a camel during his Kuwait visit.

far right:  
John Scarola '60 receiving the Allan J. Formicola Volunteer Faculty Teaching Award from Senior Associate Dean Letty Moss-Salentijn.





# Student News

**ALIA KOCH '05** received an American Association of Women Dentists Award (AAWD) at the 84th Annual AAWD Meeting in Washington, DC, in July. She is a first-year resident in the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Program.

**SALEEM JOSEPHS '06** was selected by the National Board of the Student National Dental Association (SNDA) as the recipient of the Darryl Hawkins Memorial Scholarship for his work with the advancement of minorities in dentistry. He was also chosen to represent SDOS at the American Medical Student Association 2005 Primary Care Leadership Training Program at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston in July.

**FREDERICK LIU '08** and **STEPHEN PETTY '08** were selected to participate in the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) Dental Student Award Program during the summer of 2005. Only 12 students nationally from 3,400

*Several events, planned by and for students, took place in October:*

The Mobile Dental Center and the Student National Dental Association (SNDA) participated in the annual **TAKE TIME FOR HEALTH DAY**. During the well attended event, the Mobile Van staff completed screenings for more than 100 children and adults, answered clinical questions, and gave referrals to other clinics within the community. SDOS students were also an integral part of the event, setting up a table in front of the van, where they provided oral health education and patient management information to participants, as well as face painting for children.

More than 100 middle and high school students attended SNDA-sponsored **HEALTH CAREERS DAY** in October. The program, which is designed to educate minority and/or economically disadvantaged students about the health professions, fea-



first-year students in the nation's 56 dental schools are invited.

**MARK LIU**, second-year SDOS pediatric dentistry resident and MPH candidate, was selected from more than 300 applicants as recipient of the Kellogg Fellowship for Emerging Leaders in Public Health. The fellowship supports the recipient for nine months at the North Carolina Institute for Public Health in Chapel Hill.



tured faculty presentations and a panel discussion by students from the Medical Center.

The Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs and the Student National Dental Association (SNDA) were co-hosts for the first annual **SYMPOSIUM ON ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY**: "Where Medicine Meets Dentistry." The event, intended for premedical and dental students who might be interested in pursuing this area of surgery as a career, drew more than 150 college students. The program included presentations from SDOS and Harlem Hospital oral surgeons, as well as representatives from the Armed Forces and the National Health Service Corps.

far left:  
At the Professional Society reception, faculty and students are provided with an opportunity to meet and get to know one another outside of clinic and classroom situations. Talking with students are Thomas Boyle and Philip Terman '62, assistant clinical professors in the Division of Operative Dentistry.

left:  
Professors Gunnar Hasselgren and Letty Moss-Salentijn judge a student table clinic at Birnberg Research Day held in April.

# 2005 SDOS Commencement

## CHAMPIONS OF ORAL HEALTH

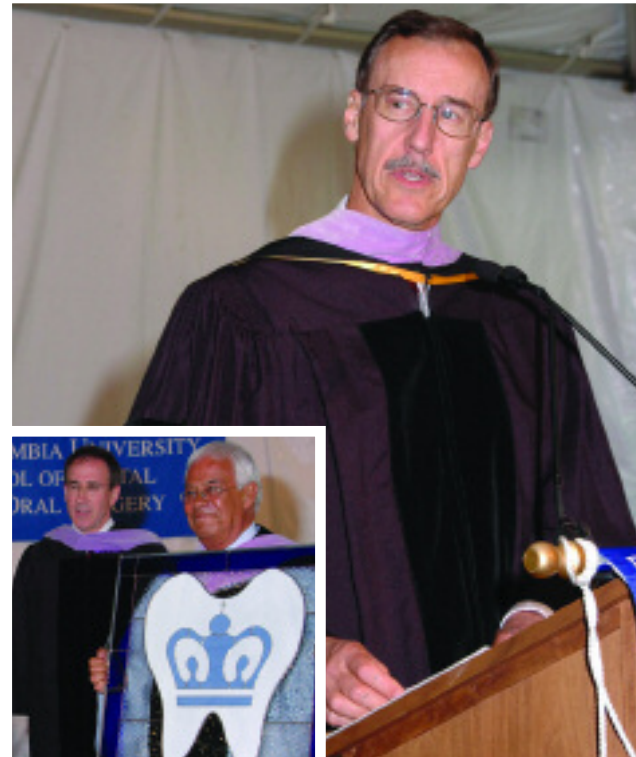
right: William R. Maas, DDS, MPH, giving the 2005 SDOS Commencement address.

right, inset: Dr. Lichtenthal holds a work of stained glass presented as a class gift by Class President Richard Fernandes. It is displayed in the seventh-floor clinic.

below, left: 2005 graduates Jodi Parker, Rachel Kreiner-Tuzman, Monique Sukkar (Student Council President), Cory Turk, and Andrea Smith.

below, right: The SDOS Commencement Procession.

William R. Maas, DDS, MPH, director, Centers for Disease Control, Division of Oral Health, who gave the 2005 SDOS Commencement address, reminded the new graduates that they were one of the first classes to enter dental school after 2001, the year in which US Surgeon General David Satcher gave the first national address from his office on the state of oral health in America. Dr. Maas emphasized that meeting the call for equal access to oral health among all patients will have vital consequences in many areas that affect our progress as a society. Urging the 2005 class members to be lifelong learners, Dr. Maas also asked them to be unfailing champions of oral health throughout their careers.





# Events Calendar & CE Courses

Friday, January 20	Practical Infection Control/CPR Re-certification Columbia University Medical Center, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. [3 CE Credits per session]
Friday, January 27	Alumni Reception Yankee Dental Congress, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Marriott Copley Place, Boston, MA
Wednesday, February 1	Risk Assessment in Dentistry 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Columbia University Club of New York [3 CE Credits]
Saturday, March 18	Patricia McLean Symposium for the Dental Hygienist 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Columbia University Medical Center [5 CE Credits]
Wednesday, April 5	Birnberg Research Program Poster Presentations 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Columbia University Medical Center
Thursday, April 6	Birnberg Research Program Lecture and Awards Presentation 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., Columbia University Medical Center
Friday, April 21	Sinus Elevation Surgery 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Columbia University Medical Center [6 CE Credits]
Tuesday, April 25	Alumni Reception: Greater Long Island Dental Meeting 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Hilton Hotel, Melville, NY
Monday, May 1	5th Annual Henry Chang Jr. '74 Memorial Golf Outing, Benefiting the Henry Chang Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund at SDOS. Rockland County Country Club, Sparkill, NY
Friday, May 5	Class Reunion Day for 5 year reunion classes 1936 to 2001 Columbia University Medical Center
Wednesday, May 17	Columbia University Commencement
Thursday, May 18	SDOS Graduation Ceremony
Friday, June 2	Benjamin Tenenbaum Lecture in Periodontics Columbia University Medical Center
Friday, June 16	Gerontology and Geriatrics: Dentistry for an Aging Population Columbia University Club of New York

For further information regarding these events and courses, please contact Melissa Welsh at 212-305-6881 or mmw7@columbia.edu.

## Chang Memorial Golf Event RAISES DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS

The Henry Chang Jr. Memorial Golf Outing will be held for the fifth year this coming May. The event benefits a scholarship fund at SDOS established in memory of Dr. Chang, a 1974 graduate of the School, who was a member of the volunteer faculty in clinical dentistry for more than 20 years. Dr. Chang's daughter, Penelope Chang '96, the tournament chair, says, "I can think of no better way to celebrate my father's life than by combining the advancement of dentistry with a good round of golf – two of his greatest joys." She adds that the event's organizers are grateful to the many private and corporate sponsors\* whose support makes the Chang Outing possible. Save Monday, May 1, 2006, to join the fun on the greens at the Rockland Country Club, Sparkill, New York, and help support an SDOS student.

\* major sponsors are listed in the Development Report section of *Primus*



Dr. Henry Chang '74



Dr. Dennis Morea, Dr. Martin Davis, Dr. Frank Pandolfo, and Dr. Frank Mellana, all SDOS alumni and friends of Dr. Chang.



# SDOS Development Report 2004-2005



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# Lester L. Eisner '35

## MAKING MUSIC

Remembering her husband, Lester L. Eisner '35, Judith Eisner says that everything he did – whether creating dental restorations or playing a Bach composition for two violins with her – was described by his patients and friends as having “great beauty.” Dr. Eisner, a general dentist who practiced in Manhattan for 51 years, performed for more than 20 years with the New Jersey Symphony, for which he also chaired the board of trustees. His dual career in music and dentistry, which he described as symbiotic relationships, must have been doubly satisfying to Dr. Eisner, who lived to the age of 94.

In 1976, Dr. Eisner and his wife, who met through their shared passion for playing chamber music, founded the “Interludes Strings.” The group, consisting of the Eisners’ two violins, a violist, a harpist, and a cellist, was dedicated solely to playing benefit concerts for their parent organization, the New Jersey Symphony, and delighted classical music lovers throughout the state. In spite of his intricate schedule, Dr. Eisner never kept either his audiences or his patients waiting. Dental appointments, rehearsals, and performances received equal attention, and the results never disappointed. His symphony colleagues, who called him their “resident dentist,” applauded both his music and his treatments.

President of the Eastern Dental Society, a life member of the New York Academy of Dentistry, and a fellow of both the International College of Dentistry and the American College of Dentistry, for which he was the New York chair. He also belonged to many other major professional organizations. A veteran of WWII, Dr. Eisner was a dental surgeon with the Fourth Armored Division under General George Patton and was awarded the Bronze Star with an Oak Leaf Cluster for meritorious service. His war duty was honored with burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

Lester Eisner was an avid supporter of the Columbia dental school, served as president of its alumni association, and faithfully attended class reunions throughout his long life, dying only shortly before his 70th reunion. But, his loyalty to SDOS will live on in his legacy of \$25,000 left to the School to support young men and women entering dentistry. This thoughtful gift will help to provide opportunities like those Dr. Eisner received at Columbia and then built upon to achieve his rewarding life.



left to right:  
Dr. Lester Eisner and Judy Eisner,  
violinists; Beth Robinson, harpist;  
Dan Schuman, violinist; and Arthur  
Cook, cellist



# 1852 Society

Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery (SDOS) traces its origins to 1852, the year in which the New York State legislature chartered the New York College of Dentistry, subsequently renamed the New York College of Dental and Oral Surgery. When the University accepted dentistry as an integral and important part of the health sciences and a true university discipline, Columbia created SDOS by absorbing the College and, later, creating mergers with other dental institutions from the area.

The 1852 Society's name commemorates the earliest date connected with the history of the School and recognizes the School's most honored benefactors. It is composed of SDOS alumni and friends who make gifts of \$1,000 and more to SDOS during the fiscal year, of the School's newest alumni, whose contributions for the year are from \$250 to \$499, and of those who have been graduates for between six and ten years, whose annual gifts are between \$500 to \$999.

## LEADER'S CIRCLE (\$25,000 AND ABOVE)

American Heart Association  
Laura S. Bardach, D.D.S. '80 & James Geduldig, D.D.S. '82  
Children's Dental Health Project  
Diamond Spring Dental Associates  
Melvin M. Feldman, D.D.S. '53  
3i Implant Innovations, Inc.  
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation  
Nobel Biocare USA, LLC  
The Procter & Gamble Company  
Estate of Ruth G. Zimmer

## FOUNDER'S COUNCIL (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

American Association of Orthodontists Foundation  
Active Media Services, Inc.  
Lorraine and Alexander Dell Foundation  
Alexander Dell, D.D.S. '59  
New York State Dental Foundation  
William W. Rathke, D.D.S. '62  
Tom's of Maine, Inc.

## DEAN'S CIRCLE (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

ADA Foundation  
Arrow Electronics, Inc.  
Flagler System, Inc.  
Philips Oral Healthcare, Inc.

## AMBASSADORS (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Anonymous #398  
Associates in Implant and Cosmetic Dentistry  
Michael L. Barnett, D.D.S. '67  
Mr. Stephen M. Bragin  
Mr. Robert Klatell  
Albert J. Kurpis, D.D.S. '74  
Thomas J. Magnani, D.D.S. '80  
Henry I. Nahoum, D.D.S. '43, '52  
Ms. Marilyn Yablon

## BENEFACTORS (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Robert H. Alexander, D.D.S. '33, '41  
Dr. Michael C. Alfano  
Allan Silverstein Family Fdn., Inc.  
Howell O. Archard Jr., D.D.S. '55  
Paul N. Baer, D.D.S. '45, '55  
Paul S. Bilgore, Esq.  
Norman Wingate Boyd Jr., D.D.S. '68  
Daniel S. Budasoff, D.D.S. '78  
Peter H. Cain, D.D.S. '73, '74  
Vincent P. Capasso, D.D.S. '79  
Amos C. Chang, D.D.S. '86\*  
Ms. Catherine Chang\*  
Heera K. C. Chang, D.D.S. '98  
Francis Hyunjin Chung, D.D.S. '95  
Jessica M. Chung-Levy, D.D.S. '90, '93  
Gwen Stacey Cohen, D.D.S. '96\*  
Samuel D. Cohen, D.D.S. '74  
Thomas J. Connolly, D.D.S. '77, '80  
Richard S. Corbin, D.D.S. '89  
George M. Coulter, D.D.S. '54  
Anthony J. Curinga, D.D.S. '66  
Martin J. Davis, D.D.S. '74, '75  
Allan S. Deutsch, D.M.D. '76  
Vicky Evangelidis-Sakellson, D.D.S. '87, '93  
Allan J. Formicola, D.D.S.  
John M. Fox, D.D.S. '76  
Paul J. Ganjian, D.D.S. '97  
Eric Paul Gibbs, D.D.S. '83, '85  
Gilbert H. Sokal, D.D.S. '70  
Steven Scott Glassman, D.D.S. '84  
Robert B. Goldman, D.D.S. '74, '75  
Robert Gottsegen, D.D.S. '43, '48  
Ms. Carolyn F. Gray, Hyg '73, '75  
Dr. John T. Grbic  
Keith Hunter Hasday, D.D.S. '85  
Gunnar Hasselgren, D.D.S. '89  
Timothy J. Hobbs, D.D.S. '74  
Alphonze J. Homicz, D.D.S. '71  
Louis B. Izower, D.D.S. '82  
Margot H. Jaffe, D.D.S. '80, '81, '85  
Norman Kahn, D.D.S. '58, '64  
Ralph S. Kaslick, D.D.S. '59, '62  
Dr. Mitchell Kellert '79  
Syngbum Kim, D.D.S. '84  
Mr. Garrett Kirk Jr.



The Jacques & Margot W. Kohn Foundation

Evanthia G. Lalla, D.D.S., M.S. '97

Ira B. Lamster, D.D.S.

John J. Lanzetta, D.M.D. '91

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below, left:

Murray Schwartz '53, Perio '58,  
Marilyn Yablon, and Virginia  
Mitchell '87 at the 1852 Society  
Recognition Dinner held in  
October.

below, right:

David Momtaheni, associate clinical professor in the Division of Oral Surgery (center), was honored for his leadership gift to the Capital Campaign by Campaign Chairman Thomas Connolly '77, Perio '80 (left) and Dean Ira Lamster (right) at the 1852 Society Recognition Dinner.



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# PRIMUSnotable

**Q.** You are an SDOS graduate, class of '58, and were recipient of the School's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2004 in recognition of your international reputation as a leading research scientist on the neurobiology of pain. Who or what inspired your first interest in this topic?

**A.** As a dental student, I realized that dentists are the primary-care practitioners for chronic pain conditions of the face and mouth, making me aware of pain's importance to both the dentist and patient. I was also influenced by one of my SDOS professors, Dr. Laszlo Schwartz, a pioneer in studying temporomandibular pain and its relationship to neural mechanisms in the trigeminal region.

**Q.** Why did you decide to study neuroscience after completing your dental education?

**A.** I realized that understanding and managing the problem of chronic pain had to be based on a thorough knowledge of how sensory information is processed in the nervous system.

**Q.** You have said that pain research led the way in encouraging multidisciplinary cooperation among basic and clinical investigators?

**A.** Yes. When I was chief of the Neurobiology and Anesthesiology Branch at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research at the National Institutes of Health, I directed a group of more than 30 bench scientists and clinical researchers, who regularly shared their discoveries on the mechanisms of pain. They became the first major scientific group to practice what has become known as translational research.



RONALD DUBNER  
DDS '58, PHD '64

**Q.** In 1993, you endowed the Ronald Dubner Research Prize. What is its scope and intent?

**A.** It is a cash prize awarded triennially by the International Association for the Study of Pain for the best clinical or basic science research paper, or thesis, published by a trainee under the age of 35, in the field of pain.

**Q.** In addition to your years in pain studies at NIH, you have chaired a department of biomedical sciences, with a strong focus on pain, at the University of Maryland's dental school for the last decade; edited the journal *Pain* for 12 years, been president of the American Pain Society, received numerous awards for your achievements in researching pain, and published widely on this topic. What do you think is the most important contribution to your field?

**A.** With the advent of new research modes, such as molecular biology and brain imaging, scientists have gained unprecedented insight into the underlying mechanisms of acute and chronic pain. We now understand that, even without the corresponding organic signs, pain symptoms should not be ignored. We know

that acute pain should be treated with steady "round the clock" relief, rather than "as needed" analgesic administration, and have come to realize that pain is not merely a passive symptom, but a disease in itself. We must now move toward new treatments that take advantage of modern technology.



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