

Spring 2016



# DENTAL ALUMNI

*In this issue:*  
Alumni Weekend in Review  
Remembering Dr. G. Michael Maitre, Sr.



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**SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY**  
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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

AGD in Destin, FL – Dean's Reception	Aug. 5 <sup>th</sup>
Birmingham Barons – Young Alumni Event	Aug. 18 <sup>th</sup>
White Coat Ceremony in Birmingham, AL	Aug. 25 <sup>th</sup>
UAB Dentistry Cares Community Day	Oct. 5 <sup>th</sup>
ADA in Denver, CO – Dean's Reception	Oct. 20 <sup>th</sup>
Alumni Executive Council Meeting	Nov. 18 <sup>th</sup>

**ON THE COVER:**  
Class of 2016 Graduation

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Alumni,

As I write this column, we are preparing to graduate a new class of very talented and dedicated young people into our profession. You have new skills and great dedication and all of you want to be good dentists.

Since my graduation from the University of Alabama School of Dentistry in 1975, I can assure you that there has been "a lot of water over the dam". Our profession has grown by leaps and bounds in all sorts of ways. Techniques have improved, products have gotten better and more abundant, new procedures are constantly being introduced and the things that we used and learned are slowly being phased out with the reality of a future that is even bigger and better.

As I look back on these changes, I am pleased to realize that one major ingredient in the true pleasure of our profession has not changed very much. i.e. what it takes to be a FANTASTIC dentist. Not a good or average dentist, but a "FANTASTIC" dentist.

Think about it. When you ask yourself, "What do I really admire about my doctor?", what comes to your mind? Is it, how wealthy he is, what kind of car he drives, how big his house is? Are you impressed with how many procedures he offers, or how fancy his equipment is? I'll bet not.

Since I have gotten involved in leadership and organized dentistry, I tend to concentrate more on listening and appreciating what people say about their doctor relationships. Very infrequently do I hear the things mentioned above. Instead, it is how he treats me as an individual, how he cares about my family. I like his concern for my comfort while in his office and how he calls at night to see if I am doing OK. He is a good member of my community and gives back to church and his fellow man. He is involved in Scouts and little league, and he believes in trying to make things better in the world around him. In short, it's not the worldly things that endear people, but the human things that makes him a FANTASTIC dentist.

Our beloved Alma Mater does a very good job of providing us with above average skills to go out into the world and become good dentists. We can take continuing education courses to learn more techniques and skills to be better dentists. But, where do we learn to be FANTASTIC dentists?

Well, here is my theory. First of all, for the most part, our parents gave us the basics of ethics and hard work. As we grow older we realize that more and more. They should be commended. Secondly, the professors in school didn't only teach technique and skill but they tried to transfer some of their wisdom as they went along, you just wont be tested on it until you get into practice. They should be commended. Thirdly, your classmates are the cream of the crop and they also have much to offer. Communicate and share your experiences often. Finally, your peers, whom you are about to join in this FANTASTIC profession are waiting for you to join them and they are eager and willing to share their life experiences with you. Join Organized Dentistry on many levels and partake of this plethora of knowledge.

Your Dental Alumni Family congratulate you and welcome you to your new life calling. We are pleased to include you and we will do our best to help you on your journey to being a FANTASTIC Dentist.

Yours for the profession,



Gary L. Myers, DMD, MAGD

President, Alabama School of Dentistry Alumni Association

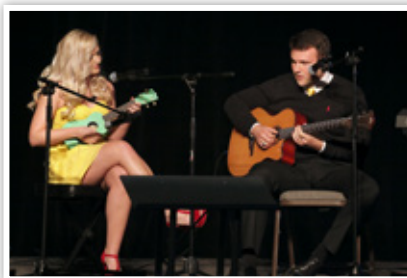


# ALUMNI WEEKEND 2016

## ALUMNI WEEKEND IN REVIEW

The 2016 Alumni Weekend, which was held at the Hyatt Regency Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham, was a success thanks to the support of our alumni, exhibitors, speakers, faculty, students and volunteers.

All joined together for two days of lecture courses which offered more than 40 hours of continuing education, various events and an exhibit hall that featured more than 45 exhibitors and sponsors. The annual President's Reception honored Dr. Ray McLaughlin for serving as President for the past year, as well as council officers and new council members. Twenty raffle prizes, donated by generous alumni, were awarded to lucky winners. A must-see event, the 4th Annual Showcase of Student Talent, hosted and directed by dental students, entertained alumni and guests with a variety of live acts and videos.



Mark your calendars for the 2017 Alumni Weekend - February 2nd-5th in Birmingham

# ALUMNI WEEKEND 2016

## DISTINGUISHED DENTIST AWARD WINNERS



**Dr. Lyldon Strickland** was the recipient of the 2015 Distinguished Alumnus Award. After graduating from the School of Dentistry in 1958 and serving as an Air Force Dentist, Lyldon and his wife, Martha Jean, settled in Huntsville where they started one of Alabama's legendary dental pipelines. Their son, Greg, now owns the Whitesburg Drive office where he practiced with Lyldon. Their daughter, Stacey Gardner and son-in-law, Steve Gardner, also practice in the Rocket City. Lyldon's brother, Joe is an orthodontist, and everyone remembers his other brother, the late Dr. Chalmus Strickland. Lyldon's nephew, Scott, is

another North Alabama protégé.

Strickland was a pioneer of the Alabama Dental Alumni Association, serving as President in 1964. He was one of the first members of the UAB Dentistry Leadership Council, and also served as President of the Alabama Dental Association and the Alabama Academy of General Dentistry. He's a member of the International College of Dentists, the American College of Dentists, and the Pierre Fauchard Academy.



**Dr. Day Gates III** was named the 2015 Outstanding Young Alumnus. Gates graduated with his D.M.D. from the UAB School of Dentistry in 2007. As a student at UAB, he won the William Lionel McCracken Award. He then went on to the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry to earn a master's in prosthodontics, a certificate in the advanced study of prosthodontics, and the surgical implant fellow in prosthodontics.

Day grew up in Mobile, where he lives with his wife, Andrea, and their two young sons. He practices with his father, W. Day Gates II, but credits his mother, Linda, for much of his success. He is active in several organizations and currently serves as treasurer of the Mobile District Dental Society.

## CLASS REUNIONS



*Classes of '52-'62 Medallion Club*



*Class of '66*



*Class of '71*



*Class of '76*



*Class of '81*



*Class of '86*



*Class of '91*



*Class of '96*



*Class of '01*



*Class of '06*



*Class of '11*



*Dental Hygiene*

Class reunions are hosted every five years. The upcoming 2017 Alumni Weekend will celebrate classes ending in the number "2" or "7". If you are interested in helping plan your reunion or need more information, contact Abby Vinson at [abbyv@uab.edu](mailto:abbyv@uab.edu).

## DEAN'S MESSAGE

### A Rich History Of Collaboration

Our school has a rich tradition of collaboration in education, research, and outreach to our society. Today's student experience is enriched through a wide variety of joint ventures, from intra-university partnerships to cooperative relationships with individuals and groups in the community. These collaborative endeavors are integral to success in education today.

UAB's academic health center delivers world-class health care education across many health care disciplines. Our school works in partnership with sister schools across campus in educating the next generation of health care providers. One such enterprise, our interdisciplinary educational partnership with UAB's Joint Health Sciences, helps make basic sciences relevant to the dental clinical experience.

We also continue to strengthen our interactions with other health care delivery systems by establishing relationships with community-based healthcare systems across our state and by expanding our research collaborations. Our tradition of biomedical discovery, translational research, and other scholarly activities is perpetuated through this wealth of internal and external partnerships.

Alumni, of course, are the foundation of our educational experience. One of the greatest benefits to our students is the depth and breadth of opportunities for interaction with our graduates. From events like Alumni Weekend, now the largest dental meeting in the state, to educational programs like our annual Ethics Seminar, to community rotations, our students gain valuable experience by collaborating with their practicing counterparts.

As you read through this issue, a focus on how collaborations enhance our student experience will help the articles take on an even deeper meaning. That's because relationships help us maintain a level of excellence and the benefits of a broad, collaborative educational experience extend far into the future for our students. These connections establish a sound platform for enriched learning and professional development into the future. As our tradition and oral health care leadership continue to evolve, collaboration must remain at the forefront of our educational programming.

Best wishes,



Michael S. Reddy, D.M.D., D.M.Sc

# UAB SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS

## FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

**Dr. Nicolaas (Nico) Geurs**, Professor and Chair of the Department of Periodontology, has been named the first holder of the Dr. Tommy Weatherford/Dr. Kent Palcanis Endowed Professorship in Dentistry. The appointment was approved by the Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama. As one of only four endowed professorships established at the UAB School of Dentistry, this is one of our highest honors. The endowed professorship acknowledges the notable careers of Dr. Weatherford and Dr. Palcanis, two outstanding educators and terrific people who have made a difference in our profession. It is given in recognition of a full-time periodontist who has a distinguished career in academics and has demonstrated a commitment to and excellence in the areas of teaching, research, and service.

**Dr. Nathaniel (Nate) Lawson**, Assistant Professor in the Division of Biomaterials, received the 2015 John W. Stanford New Investigator Award by the American Dental Association for his research project examining methods used to measure effectiveness of new dental composite materials used in crowns, cavities and other dental repairs. The prestigious ADA award acknowledges the original research that dental students and new dentists produce in the area of dental standards. Before becoming an assistant professor, Lawson earned both his DMD in 2011 and his Ph.D. in biomedical engineering in 2012 at UAB.

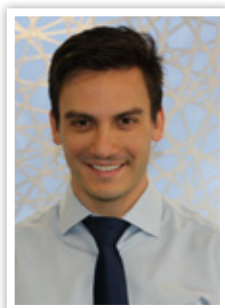
**Dr. Celin Arce**, Assistant Professor of the Restorative Sciences Department, has become board certified by the American Board of Prosthodontics, earning the title of Diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics and Fellow of the American College of Prosthodontists. He will be awarded in October 2016 at the American College of Prosthodontists annual meeting in San Diego, California.

**Dr. Ejvis Lamani**, Assistant Professor of Orthodontics, received the 2016 American Association of Orthodontics Foundation's Martin "Bud" Schulman Post-doctoral Fellowship award for her project regarding genetic markers in orthodontics.

**Dr. Nada Souccar**, Assistant Professor of Orthodontics, received the 2016 American Association of Orthodontics Foundation's Fred and Dianne Garrett Biomedical Research award for her project regarding volumetric analysis of the midface and lips at rest and upon smiles in females and males of various ages and ethnic backgrounds.



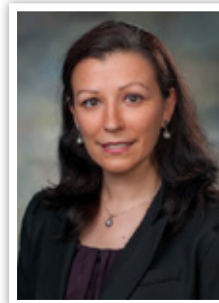
Nico Geurs



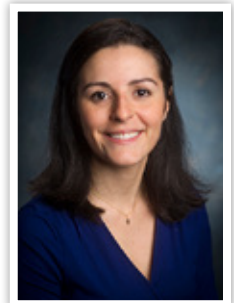
Nate Lawson



Celin Arce



Ejvis Lamani



Nada Souccar



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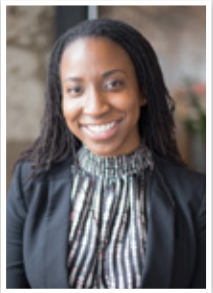
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# UAB SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS

## STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



*Aissatou Barry-Blocker*

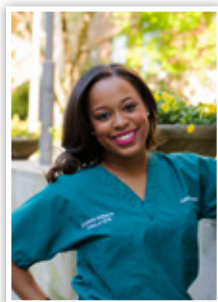
**Aissatou Barry-Blocker (D1)** was recently selected as one of 11 Schweitzer Fellows of the inaugural class of the Alabama Chapter of the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship (ASF). The mission of the ASF is to prepare the next generation of professionals to “serve and empower vulnerable people to live healthier lives and create healthier communities.” Each of these UAB graduate students will spend the next year partnering with a community-based organization to identify an unmet health need, design a year-long, 200-hour service project, and implement their project in the community (all while keeping up with their academic studies). Aissatou is partnering with Cahaba Valley Health Care (CVHC) to teach simple steps in personal nutrition that can improve oral health, and potentially reduce heart disease and diabetes, in the Hispanic and Latin communities. The nutrition education sessions will coincide with the regularly scheduled health screenings CVHC conducts in these target communities.

### ASDA’s District 5 Cabinet Appoints Six

Six UAB dental students were recently appointed to the 2016-2017 ASDA District 5 Cabinet, which serves one level under the National ASDA Board to lead organized dentistry in the following states: Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi. They will assist in planning the District 5 Meeting in the fall and connect with the four schools to enhance predoctoral experience, community outreach, and fundraising to better ASDA each chapter. This is an opportunity for students to further involve themselves in ASDA, work and make connections with students from other schools, and gain great leadership experience.



**Mechay Rush (D2)**  
*Meeting Chair*



**Donielle Williams (D2)**  
*Predental Meeting Coordinator*



**Chijioke Ulasi (D1)**  
*Contributing Editor*



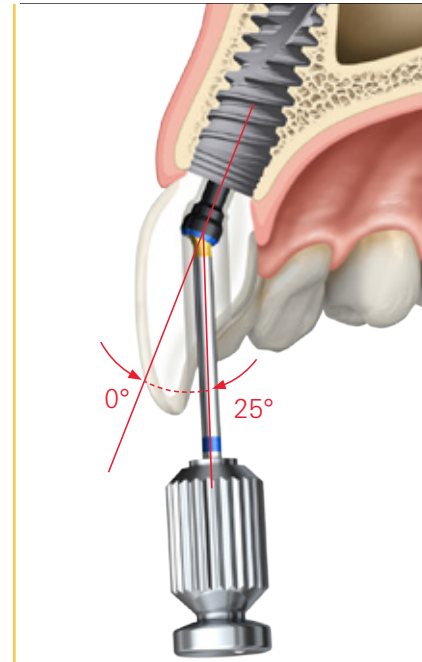
**Nick Kim (D3)**  
*State Legislative Coordinator*



**Kai Huang (Predental)**  
*Predental Chair*



**Lisa Shi (D1)**  
*Predental Committee Member*



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 Young Alumni Dues (Years 2-5 out of school) \$35  
 Alumni Assoc. Endowed Professorship \$\_\_\_\_\_  
 Dean's Fund \$\_\_\_\_\_  
 Joy White Fund \$\_\_\_\_\_  
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Questions about dues should be directed to Abby Vinson at 205.934.3575 or [abbyv@uab.edu](mailto:abbyv@uab.edu).

# UAB SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS

## STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



### 2016 Project Homeless Connect

On Saturday, February 27, six faculty and 26 dental students, as a part of UAB ASDA, partnered with Project Homeless Connect to help reach out to hundreds of homeless and impoverished members of Birmingham's community. The event gave the participants access to a variety of services, including healthcare, state identification services, legal assistance, veteran's services, employment services, haircuts, and more. Over the course of the day, ASDA volunteers provided oral screenings and neck exams and distributed approximately 400 oral hygiene bags and provided 167 oral screenings. As a result of the screenings, eight patients were referred to the school for biopsies of potentially malignant lesions.



### Lessons in a Lunchbox

UAB's Student National Dental Association hosted a "Lessons in a Lunchbox" program at Robinson Elementary School in Birmingham, Alabama on Monday, February 29. They taught the kids how to brush and floss, discussed healthy snack options, and gave each student a lunchbox which showed proper food group proportions on a plate. The lunchbox also had other dental essentials including a new toothbrush!



### ASDA Annual Session

ASDA's 2016 Annual Session was held in the big city of Dallas, in the BIG state of Texas from March 2nd - 5th. The executive cabinet, Ronna Rowland, Kim Do, Andrew Mills, Mechay Rush, Amanda Morris, and Ashlee Turner, were able to attend and represent UAB's ASDA chapter. The theme for the conference was "Dream Bigger ASDA"! The conference started off with a keynote speaker Chris Bashinelli who recounted his journey of becoming a world traveler for National Geographic. He encouraged the attendants to ignore the noise and see what happens when we put each other's needs in front our own. ASDA is truly an outstanding platform that has the dental student body in its best interest. Furthermore, this organization always encourages every member to dream bigger to ensure that our dental student experience and future dental careers will improve year after year. Dream bigger ASDA!



### CMMA Mission Trip to Honduras

During Spring Break, March 12-19th, a team of 30 individuals participated in a mission trip to Choluteca, Honduras, where they were able to serve more than four hundred people in four days. They performed three hundred and twenty-five cleanings, three hundred and eleven extractions, and seventy-eight fillings. They worked in a clinic provided by the church; however, only one of the operatory chairs was in the provided clinic room. Two mobile units were provided by the Birmingham Rotary Club to perform operative throughout the week. The other treatment areas were set up outside in the one hundred and six degree heat in cleared classrooms with plastic chairs. It was a hard week of service, but one filled with enlightenment and fulfillment for those involved.



### AAWD First Light Women's & Children's Shelter

For the third consecutive year, UAB Dentistry's chapter of AAWD (American Association of Women Dentists) had the pleasure of serving breakfast to the residents of First Light Shelter for homeless women and children in downtown Birmingham on Saturday, April 16. Approximately 20 volunteers made a variety of breakfast dishes that were served to the residents as early as 7:00am that morning. Student volunteers enjoy fellowshiping with the residents and offering oral health care advice but, more importantly, they appreciate the opportunity to prepare a hot meal for an incredibly gracious population who are currently in need of a little extra support.

# UAB SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS

## SCHOOL EVENTS

### Field Day

Each dental student class year participated in the 4th annual Student Field Day competition on March 24, 2016. Traditional activities included the hotdog eating contest, where Nathan White (D3) consumed eight hotdogs in less than three minutes; the pentathlon race, including a wheelbarrow relay race in full PPE (personal protective equipment – gowns, gloves and mask) gear; and the traditional tug-of-war which even featured a faculty versus faculty battle. After the kickball tournament at the end of the afternoon, it was the D3 class who reigned as this year's champions.



### Honors Convocation

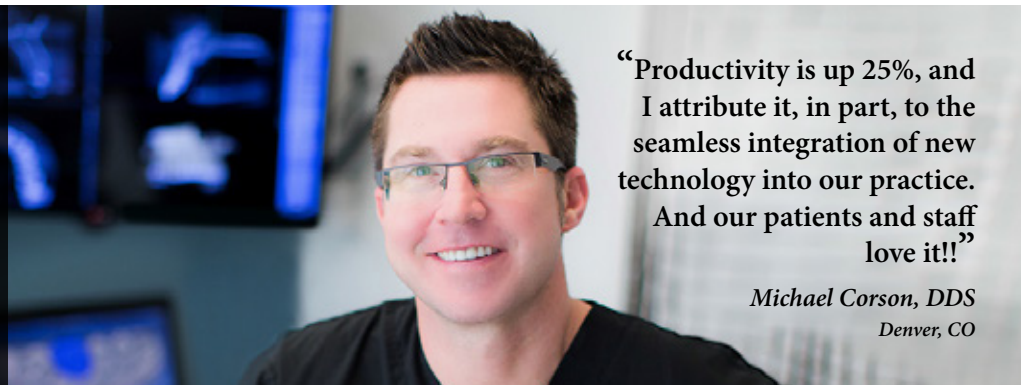
More than 50 awards were presented to dental students who were recognized for outstanding academic and leadership achievements at the annual Honors Convocation Ceremony on June 2, 2016. Alumni Association President Dr. Gary Myers, presented two alumni awards. The Alumni Award for Leadership was given to Sean Gunnels, D4, who was selected because of his leadership qualities by a vote from his peers. D2s Mechay Rush, Ashlee Turner and Donielle Williams along with D3s Lee Maniscalco, Octavio Olivia and Ronna Rowland were presented with the Alumni Scholarship Award. The OKU Award was given to Kimi Spencer Butts for completing four years of dental studies with the highest GPA.



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# UAB SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS

## SCHOOL EVENTS

### Scholarship Luncheon

On June 3, 2016, the 3rd annual Scholarship Luncheon was held at the UAB National Alumni Society House to recognize the dental students and endowed scholarship donors for the 2015-2016 academic year. In attendance was Mr. Bob Gray, who recognized D2 Mercy Blalock for the Robert C. Gray Endowed Scholarship, in memory of his father. Dr. Gary Myers represented the Alumni Association who awarded \$12,000 in scholarships to D3s Lanre Meeke, Aarika Mitchell, David Sollenberger and D2s Kevin Bell, Austyn Grissom, Cassandra Winterrowd. Dr. Ben Cumbus presented the Second District Dental Society Endowed Scholarship to D3 Frank Litchfield and Dr. Duglad McMillan presented the Fifth District Dental Society Endowed Scholarship to D2 Matt Slaughter.



### 2016 Graduation

UAB School of Dentistry held the 2016 graduation ceremony on June 4 at the Alys Robinson Stephens Center. Doctor of Dental Medicine diplomas were awarded to 59 graduating seniors. Dr. Carol Gomez Summerhays, president of the American Dental Association, was the featured Lister Hill Lecturer for the commencement address. Other featured speakers included Dr. Bill Ingram, president of the Alabama Dental Association and Dr. Bob Jones, president-elect of the Alumni Association. Highlighting the ceremony was the presentation of the Dean's Medal, known as the most coveted honor presented to a member of the graduating class. Personally selected by Dean Reddy, the award was given to Rachel Harvey Strait, who will now be attending Vanderbilt University for an Oral Surgery residency.



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Unlocking The Future With A Special Key

At the School of Dentistry, we are always planning for the future, and looking to make it better. I remember in his first year as dean, Dr. Mike Reddy, made planning for the future a high priority. He emphasized the importance of strategic planning and challenged the faculty, staff, and students to examine all aspects of the School of Dentistry to improve what we do. In fundraising, the initiatives we raise money for address the present and future. Endowments ensure we adequately address the needs of our students, patients, faculty and staff.

We know the costs for student tuition, faculty salaries, equipment, and patient services will continue to rise. In all likelihood, the dollars the School receives from state funding will not rise. That's why fundraising for endowments is critical to our survival. Take faculty support for example. As the nation's top rated dental school, we are renowned for having the best clinical instruction anywhere. To retain our master clinicians and recruit new ones, we must compete with other dental schools. By having endowed chairs, professorships, and other faculty positions, we send a message that our faculty are important. In the past few years we have endowed the Alumni Association Professorship, the Weatherford-Palcanis Professorship, the Peter Waite Professorship, the Hinman Professorship, the Tom Jones Professorship, and the BioHorizons Scholars to name a few. All of these funds will either help pay for or supplement a faculty member's salary, travel, or research.

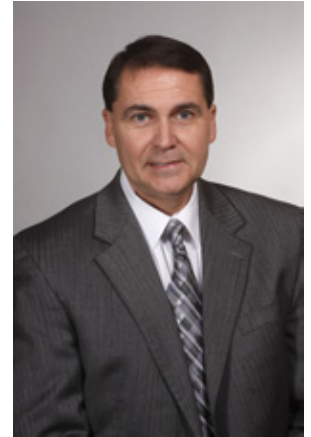
Endowments for students are also vital for our growth. According to the American Dental Education Association, the average dental student graduates with upwards of \$250,000 in student loan debt. There was more than a 65 percent increase in the last decade. Endowed scholarships are one solution to lessen the burden on our students. Many of our district dental societies have endowed scholarships, which is a great help. Our alumni have also chosen to provide this much needed assistance. The David Greer Endowed Scholarship is our largest scholarship, with nearly \$400,000 in its corpus.

Nearly all the specialty programs have at least one endowed support fund. These funds provide a "margin of excellence" for departmental initiatives. The funds could be used for student, resident, or faculty travel, equipment, or purchases where there just isn't enough money in the budget. We also have endowment funds for research and outreach. The School of Dentistry has approximately \$14 million in endowments. When you think about it, that isn't much for a school of our stature. I ask you to consider leaving an estate gift to establish an endowment or contribute to an existing one. Your generosity will help ensure our future. For more information on endowments, please contact me at [shuffman@uab.edu](mailto:shuffman@uab.edu) or (205) 934-3601.

Regards,



J. Scott Huffman, CFRE  
Executive Director of Development & the  
UASOD Alumni Association



## DEVELOPMENT NEWS

# General Dentistry and Prosthodontic Clinic Renovations Need Your Help

With a little more than two years remaining in the Campaign for UAB, the School of Dentistry has plans for two major clinic renovations. The scope of the projects will partially depend on contributions by alumni and friends. The Comprehensive Care Clinic, known to many former students as the Second Floor Clinic or General Dentistry Clinic, hasn't been fully renovated since the 1970s. Through the years, new dental chairs have been purchased and the sterilization facilities have been upgraded but the Clinic looks much like it did forty years ago. The project will cost approximately \$2 million.

Matching funds are available for \$25,000 operatories. Individuals may give \$12,500 in one lump sum or pledge that amount over a period up to five years. Their gift will be matched to name an operatory for an individual, dental practice, or someone the donor wants to honor or memorialize.

According to Dr. Mike Reddy, Dean of the UAB School of Dentistry, "every dentist who has graduated from the University of Alabama School of Dentistry has been trained in our Comprehensive Care Clinic. Our curriculum reflects state of the art digital dentistry and it needs to reflect the contemporary concepts of oral health care. Combined with world class faculty instruction, the Clinic will have an interactive hands-on learning environment that will provide the best possible care for our patients. In the Clinic, our D3 and D4 students work in teams within a bay with two dedicated faculty group managers and additional faculty members who provide specialized skills".

The renovation will include new flooring, new cabinetry, and a new esthetic look. The Clinic will reflect the art deco character of the building with a contemporary feel that will stand the test of time. Refurbished dental chairs, a new sterilizer, and enhanced lighting will also modernize the Clinic.

### Naming Opportunities

\$2 million Comprehensive Care Clinic  
\$50,000 Waiting Area  
\$12,500 Operatory\*

\$100,000 Bay (8)  
\$25,000 Sterilization Area  
\$7,500 Coordinator Office

\*The School of Dentistry has secured matching funds for donors who wish to contribute toward an operatory. Donors who make a gift or pledge of \$12,500 or more may designate an operatory in his/her name or in memory/honor of someone.

The second major renovation project planned is the Prosthodontics Clinic. The renovations will exceed \$1 million. A fundraising committee chaired by Dr. Jean O'Neal has established a goal of \$500,000 for alumni contributions. Nearly \$200,000 has already been gifted or pledged.

The new Prosthodontics Clinic will be moved to the former Endodontic Clinic space on the fourth floor. Each operatory will either be 10x10 for toe-in & toe-side or 10x12 for toe-out, providing better doctor/patient monitoring. The dental units will have matching color scheme, doctor and assistant chairs, and modern cabinetry with new electrical, water, and gas. Raised flooring for electrical and plumbing access will feature concrete-base tiles and laminate overlay.

The UAB Dentistry Prosthodontics Clinic treats patients throughout Alabama and the Southeast. Renovations will increase clinic size and improve our third and fourth year students' integrated activities, especially for advanced treatment. More modern facilities will not only enhance education and patient care for complicated prosthodontics, but also give our alumni and other dental practitioners a state-of-the art teaching-learning environment. All donors who contribute \$5,000 or more will be appropriately recognized on clinic signage.

For more information on how you can help with either project, contact J. Scott Huffman, CFRE, Executive Director of Development at (205) 934-3601 or [shuffman@uab.edu](mailto:shuffman@uab.edu)

## DEVELOPMENT NEWS

### Honoring Those Who Give Back to the School of Dentistry



Dr. G. Michael Maitre, Sr. of Mobile was surrounded by his family at a special room dedication held at the UAB School of Dentistry on May 20, 2016. A third floor conference room was named in honor of the former Alumni Association president through a generous gift made by his son, Dr. Mike Maitre, Jr.

**See memorial for Dr. Maitre on Page 16**

*Pictured (L to R): Dr. Ship Maitre ('09), Michael Maitre III, Kathy Maitre, Dr. Mike Maitre, Sr. ('66), Dr. Mike Maitre, Jr. ('92), Will Maitre, Shannon Maitre, Caroline Maitre.*



Mark R. McIlwain, DMD, MD gathered with friends, family and colleagues on May 18, 2016 for the dedication and sign unveiling of the Mark R. McIlwain Resident Conference Room in the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery. "The people here who truly cared about me were lighting my path. They showed me the way I needed to go," McIlwain reflected. Now, through philanthropy, he is doing his part to light the way of students and residents.

*Pictured: Dr. Mark McIlwain & his wife, Connie.*

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# ALUMNI NEWS

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Dr. Ed Mullins – More to Life than Dentistry

It all started in the small town of Clanton, Alabama. Dr. Ed Mullins ('66) grew up there. He attended Vanderbilt University for a couple of years then transferred to the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. He says one of his father's best friends was a dentist and influenced him to consider dentistry. "My father told me if I was coming back to Clanton, I needed to either be a preacher, a physician or a dentist. Preacher was out. Back then physicians made house calls, so I chose to be a dentist."

He was accepted into the UAB School of Dentistry and studied there from 1962 through 1966. "The first year was tough," he recalled. "But, we all pulled together. Overall, it was a great experience. I developed a lot of close friends, who I still stay in contact today." Dr. Mullins said things were different back then. "At the time, there were no women in my class," he explained. "I believe there was one in the class before us and a few in the classes behind us."

Dr. Mullins was a member of the Navy Reserves while in school. Like many dental school graduates during the Vietnam era, he didn't want to open a practice, pay for a building and instruments, only to be drafted to serve for two years. Upon graduation in 1966, as a Navy Lieutenant, he was assigned to the Marine Corp Recruiting Depot at Paris Island, South Carolina, and volunteered for duty with the First Division in I Corps South Vietnam in 1967-1968. After rotating out of Vietnam, he completed his Navy career and was discharged from the Pensacola Air Station in 1968.

Dr. Mullins retired from his Prattville practice after thirty years. "I mostly enjoyed the interaction with the patients," he said. "I don't really miss the everyday procedures, but I miss the patients and I miss my staff. Most of them were with me some 25 and 30 years. I've always felt good dentists need to be compassionate and competent. That was always my goal. My patients and I really bonded and seeing different generations of family members was very rewarding."

Dr. Mullins is a super patriot and is always ready to help and serve "those who wore the cloth of the nation." Since having served in the military, Dr. Mullins always had a soft spot for veterans. He had heard of an "Honor Flight Network," for World War II Veterans from Huntsville. Organizations receive donations for companies, individuals and schools to fly World War II vets to Washington, DC to visit their memorial which had been dedicated in 2004. Dr. Mullins helped initiate the Honor Flight out of Prattville.

Before long, he and two of his associates secured donations, and for several years flew well more than 240 veterans to DC. "Other than church and family, it was the most rewarding thing I ever did," he explained. "All that was back in the early 2000's, but I still get hugs. It meant so much to me to be able to touch so many old lives, to offer something they treasured at the end of their life. It made me more appreciative of the veterans and their sacrifices during the war." The seed of Honor Flight that Dr. Mullins planted resulted in more than 2,000 WW II veterans making that "field trip of a lifetime". They traveled to Washington, D.C. from Montgomery, Mobile, and Biloxi, Miss.

Keeping in touch with his classmates has also been gratifying and enjoyable for Dr. Mullins. He recently attended the 50th Year reunion of his class of 1966. Among the attendees was Dr. Barry Booth of Spanish Fort, Ala. Booth and his classmates honored Mullins for his commitment to the Honor Flight Program. Booth referred to his classmate as "one of the greatest Americans of our generation". Recounting their years together has made a lasting impression on Mullins. "I've tried to make all of the reunions," he said. "I've kept in touch with many of my classmates. A few hadn't been to many, so it was nice catching up with them." Dr. Mullins laughs when he recalls earlier reunions. "We were younger and we would see all of these elderly dentists," he said. "We would kid and ask how they could still be standing. Now here we are."



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## ALUMNI NEWS

### IN REMEMBRANCE: Dr. George Michael Maitre, Sr.

Dr. George Michael Maitre, Sr. died peacefully at home on June 9, 2016 at the age of 77. He was born in Dallas, TX on February 15, 1939 to Elwin Herman "Red" Maitre and Mary Martha Blankenship Maitre. Mike and his parents moved to Mobile in 1940.

He attended Old Shell Road School, Barton Academy, and graduated from Murphy High School in 1957. Mike's high school years were packed with activities...baseball, football, track, the M Club, Key Club, Ushers Club, and Student Council. Mike attended Tulane University from 1957-1959, where he was a member of the baseball team. His first time at bat, he hit a double and drove in 3 runs. While at Tulane, he was also a member of the T Club, the Air Force ROTC, and the drill team.

Mike finished his college career at the University of Southern Mississippi. He graduated in 1962 with a bachelor of science degree in biology and psychology. While at Southern Miss, he was a member of numerous intramural teams. He also was elected president of his fraternity, Alpha Tau Omega. Mike was also a Dean's List Scholar and was named to Who's Who Among American Universities and Colleges.

In the fall of 1962 Mike entered dental school at the University of Alabama. While there, he served as Secretary of the Student Government Association. He was also a member of the Psi Omega honor society. After graduating from dental school in 1966, Mike entered the Air Force and served for 2 years. During his short career in the Air Force, Mike was the chief of hospital dental services. He earned the rank of Captain and received an Air Force Commendation medal.

In 1968, Mike returned home to Mobile, to begin his private dental practice. Mike loved Mobile and, like his mother, Martha, was committed to bettering his community in numerous ways. He served as vice-president of the board of Mobile Youth Football conference and the Loop Athletic Association President. He also served on the Board of directors for the National Little League and the International Babe Ruth Baseball League. He also served on the Mobile County Recreation Commission and the Mobile Chamber of Commerce Sports Commission. He was also a charter member of the UMS Athletic Association and served 2 years as its president. He also served as chairman of Mobile Parks and Recreation Board for 9 years. Mike was also one of the founders of the Alabama-Mississippi All Star Classic and served as its chairman for the first two years. Mike was a long standing member of the Mobile Sports Commission. He was on the Board of Directors for the Mobile Sports Hall of Fame. From 1989-1993, he served as the Associated Game Captain for the Senior Bowl. He served as Game Captain in 1994 and 1995 and was an advisor to the All-Star Classic Game.

Mike loved Alabama football. He was a member of the Mobile Touchdown Club and had served on its board of directors. He was an active member of Mobile's Red Elephant Club since 1968 and served on the board of directors. He also served as its president in 1977-78. He served as an official athletic representative for the University of Alabama.

Mike was an active member of the dental community in Mobile and in the state of Alabama. He was a member of the First District Dental Society, the Alabama Dental Association, and the American Dental Association. He also served as the president of the University of Alabama Birmingham Dental School Alumni Association president.

Mike served on the Board of Trustees for UMS-Wright Preparatory School for many years. He was also a member of the Country Club of Mobile. He grew up attending Ashland Place United Methodist Church and served as chairman of the board and as financial chairman for many years. He also served on the vestry of Christ Episcopal Church. And he was involved with Team Focus for several years.

After 43 years of private practice, Mike retired from dentistry...but not for long. He began providing dental care for senior citizens through Senior Dental Care of Alabama.

Mike was an outstanding athlete, an avid reader, a hunter, a golfer and great fisherman. He was a wonderful storyteller and shared his joy positivity with all. He loved his patients. He loved his church (The River), and he loved his friends. He was fiercely devoted to his family, especially his wife, Kathy.

Mike was predeceased by his parents, Red and Martha Maitre, his brother, Thomas Elwin Maitre, and his daughter, Mary Rachel Maitre. He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Katherine Snow Maitre, his sons, Dr. George Michael Maitre, Jr (Shannon), and Dr. Robert Blankenship Maitre (Julia). He also leaves behind 5 grandchildren who will greatly miss their Pop: George Michael Maitre III, William Hogan Maitre, Mary Caroline Maitre, Mary Sisson Maitre, and Elijah Blankenship Maitre.



## ALUMNI NEWS

### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 2016 OFFICERS

The UASOD Alumni Association elected its 2016 officers at its annual meeting during Alumni Weekend. Dr. Ray McLaughlin ('80) of Ozark, who presided over the association last year, will remain on the Executive Council as immediate past president. The 2016 officers are highlighted below.



*2016 Alumni Officers pictured from left to right:*

*Dr. Stanley Beard (Vice President),*

*Dr. Gary Myers (President),*

*Dr. Bob Jones (President-Elect),*

*Dr. Ben Ingram (Secretary/Treasurer),*

*Dr. Ray McLaughlin (Immediate Past President)*

#### **Dr. Gary Myers ('75) - President**

Dr. Gary Myers, the 2016 Alumni Association president, didn't follow the usual path to dental school. He graduated from Miami of Ohio with a degree in chemistry and zoology. Soon after, he was hired as a consulting engineer for a large company, which did among other things industrial water and sewage treatment. He worked for them for approximately five years and was sent to Birmingham. He wasn't completely happy, so he needed to make a change. He just didn't know what else he wanted to do. His landlord was on the faculty at UAB and suggested he become a dentist. "He said you have the hands and the talent, so I interviewed for a position in the class," he explained.

After some convincing and jumping through some academic hoops, he was admitted. As a student, he learned the importance of participating in outside dental associations. "When I was a freshman, I won an award from the American Dental Association, he noted. "They sent me to San Francisco to present a paper. As soon as I graduated, I became a member of the Alumni Association. He eventually moved his practice to Forrestdale, where he spent most of his professional life. He recently retired from active practice. "It was 30 years to the day that I began my practice that I delivered the last bridge to the last patient."

Dr. Myers says he feels the main goal of the Alumni Association is to support the School of Dentistry and those who graduate from it. He said his main goal as president is to mesh all organized dentistry into one voice. "There's not that many dentists," he explained. "If dentistry doesn't take care of itself, somebody else will. I'd like to see the dental organizations around the state work as one, with common goals and objectives. One quote that he has followed all his life is as follows: "You're not born a winner, nor a loser. You're born a chooser." "And, I choose to be a winner by participating as much as I can and try to make a difference. "

#### **Dr. Bob Jones ('82) – President Elect**

Dr. Bob Jones, the 2016 president-elect of the Alumni Association, knew what profession he wanted to go into from the time he was a child. "My dad was a dentist," he said, "So, I knew exactly what I wanted to do from a very early age. I wanted to follow in his footsteps." After completing his undergraduate studies, he applied and was accepted into the School of Dentistry.

He looks back and says his undergraduate studies were somewhat stressful. "I knew I had to keep my grades up to be accepted into dental school," he remembers. "I just wanted it so bad, that once I was accepted, I could breathe a little easier. He laughs and says that doesn't mean that studying dentistry wasn't difficult. It was. "Our teachers really challenged us to be our best," he said. "At the time, the instructors and administration weren't as close to the students as they are now. But, that did help create a bond between the students and we got through it together."

"I'm proud to be a graduate of UAB School of Dentistry," he noted. "I truly feel we have one of the best schools in the country. We all receive a great education." Dr. Jones currently practices general dentistry in Montgomery. He has been a member of the Alumni Association for a number of years. "The school needs the support of the alumni," he explained. "It's very important to keep a healthy relationship between the two. It's good to see that the alumni, the faculty, and the dean are all on the same page and have common goals." He said as an officer, he feels helping the Alumni Association grow its membership is one of his primary goals. The greater the membership, the healthier it is for both the association and the School, itself. For those graduates who are thinking about joining, Dr. Jones explained, "It's not a huge financial commitment. Basic membership is a minimal expense, and there are numerous benefits. Alumni membership is a win win for the alumni and the school. The school needs your support and you need the school's support."

## ALUMNI NEWS

### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 2016 OFFICERS

#### Dr. Stanley Beard ('89) – Vice President

Dentistry had always been a family affair in the Beard household. Dr. Stanley Beard's father was a dentist, and the newly elected vice president of the Alumni Association, always knew he wanted to follow in his father's footsteps. "I was raised in a small town, so I could pal around with local doctors," he recalled. "I enjoyed these experiences, but felt more connected to dentistry."

He said that following undergraduate school, he earned a merit scholarship to the Dental School. "I now sit on the committee that chooses current merit scholarship winners," he said. "It is very unique that this has come full circle for me and it's rewarding to see the bright students who are choosing to attend our School of Dentistry"

Beard noted his father, Bobby Beard ('64), had always been active in organized dentistry, so it was very natural for him to be involved in dental organizations, associations and continuing education. "Early in his career, he spent three years in post doctoral work at the Foundation for Advanced Continuing Education in San Francisco.

Since then he has continued his education at LSU in New Orleans, in Texas and a residency for implants through the Alabama Institute in Birmingham. "Continuing education is extremely important, especially in dentistry," he explained. "You learn the more you know the more you don't know. There have been a ton of changes, especially with digital. And the more you learn, the comprehensive services you can provide your clients."

"I feel strongly about our obligation to be involved, following graduation," Dr. Beard explained. "It's important to keep up with colleagues. But, more than that, it's extremely beneficial to mentor young and upcoming dentists. You can't do that if you stay within the four walls of your office. Being involved with the Alumni Association gives us the opportunity to share our knowledge and experience. Plus a lot of people don't realize how much such organizations do for us, such as fighting battles over issues as compliance laws and privacy acts. I'm proud to be a part of it."

#### Dr. Ben Ingram ('84) – Secretary/Treasurer

It all started with a drawing of a tooth in the fourth grade. According to Dr. Ben Ingram, Secretary/Treasurer of the Alumni Association said that's when he knew he was hooked. "The drawing was my project for Dental Prevention Week. I have it hanging in my office to this day," he said. "I would go to our family dentist and I was fascinated with the instruments and that's when I knew what I wanted to do for the rest of my life."

Dr. Ingram graduated from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. He attended the School of Dentistry from 1980-1984. "It was challenging, but I enjoyed it. In undergraduate school, you're used to taking 15 or 18 hours a semester. In dental school, you're taking 35 hours a semester. So, that's your job. You find study buddies and put in the work and the hours. But, I loved it."

He returned to his hometown of Piedmont to begin his practice. "I started from scratch. I bought a building and equipment. I didn't have any patients. A local minister said he would pray for me because he said he didn't think I'd make it. But 31 and a half years later, I have a great practice." Dr. Ingram said it's the patients that get him out of bed every morning.

"It's the relationships I enjoy," he said. "I enjoy seeing the end results with the patients. Now, we're seeing three or four generations of families and that is very rewarding." It's testament to Dr. Ingram that many of his office staff have been with him since he started. "It's very rewarding that my staff has been with me for so long."

Dr. Ingram has been a member of the Alumni Association since he graduated in 1984. He says it's important because of the continuing education efforts. But, it is not only that. It is important to have an impact, based on your experience. And, it creates continuity. "You can influence others the way others influenced you when you were in school. As far as being Secretary/Treasurer, he says, "I have a responsibility to steward someone's money as if every penny were my own."



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## ALUMNI NEWS

### WHERE ARE THE 2015 GRADS NOW?

**Dr. Steven Oliver** is currently finishing an AEGD residency with the Air Force at the U.S. Air Force Academy and will be moving shortly thereafter.

**Dr. Lauren Drake Wallace** went into private practice in Decatur, Alabama with her older brother, Dr. Josh Drake ('06), at Josh Drake Family & Cosmetic Dentistry

**Dr. Eleanor Harper Patterson** is currently in private practice, Dental Care of Clayton, in Clayton, Georgia. She lives with her husband, Chip (AEGD '12), in Toccoa, where he practices with his father at Patterson Family Dental. They are expecting their first child, a girl named Avie James Patterson, in May 2016.

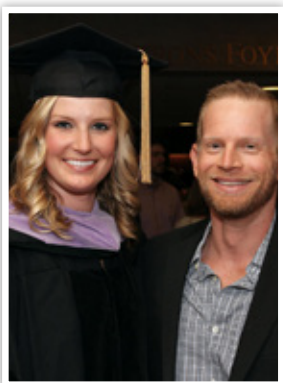
**Dr. Matt McLaughlin** is in an OMFS Residency at the University of Florida, Jacksonville. He will finish his intern year this summer and begin medical school in the fall. He and his wife, Lauren, have a son, Thomas, who is one-year old.

**Dr. Emily Simpson Carter** married Jared Carter (Ortho '14) on May 2, 2015. They met during Jared's second year of residency and Emily's D2 year. Emily works as a general dentist at Rainsville Pediatric Dental Village and Jared started his own practice in Rainsville, Alabama. Jared also recently added a satellite office in Scottsboro, Alabama. They have a puppy named Charlie.

**Dr. Claire DeShazer Leverton** is finishing a GPR Residency at Palmetto Health Richland Hospital in Columbia, South Carolina. She will be moving to Pell City in July to start practicing dentistry there.

**Dr. Devon Cooper** is beginning his 2nd year residency in pediatric dentistry at the University of California, San Francisco, while also working to receive an MS in Oral and Craniofacial Sciences at UCSF.

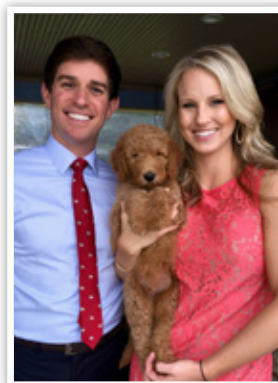
**Dr. Zack Rolen** is working an associate in Montgomery and Prattville, Alabama. He is engaged to Samantha Freeman ('16).



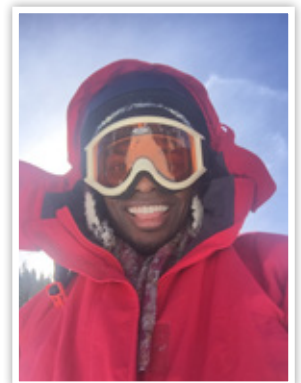
*Dr. Lauren Drake Wallace  
Pictured with Dr. Josh Drake ('06)*



*Dr. Eleanor Harper Patterson  
Pictured with Dr. Chip Patterson  
(AEGD '12) and family*



*Dr. Emily Simpson Carter  
Pictured with Dr. Jared Carter  
(Ortho '14)*



*Dr. Devon Cooper*

## ALUMNI NEWS

### WHERE ARE THE 2015 GRADS NOW?

**Dr. Emily Anne Latta Grisham** is working as an associate in Dothan, Alabama at Professional Lane Dental with Dr. Nancy Hein ('01).

**Dr. Daniel McCullough** is an associate dentist with Great Expressions Dental Centers in Monroe, Michigan. He and his wife are expecting twins in July.

**Drs. Beau Ballard, Barrett Hundley, Tyler Rushing, Matt Strange, Ben Woolnough and Michael Mac William** are current AEGD residents at the Foundry in Bessemer, Alabama. Pictured is the entire AEGD residency class at a continuing education weekend in Sarasota, Florida from September 2015.



*Dr. Emily Anne Latta Grisham  
Pictured with Dr. Nancy Hein ('01)*



*Dr. Daniel McCullough*



*Drs. Beau Ballard, Barrett Hundley, Tyler Rushing,  
Matt Strange, Ben Woolnough and Michael Mac William*

GOT GREAT NEWS OR UPDATES TO SHARE?

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## IN MEMORIUM

**(‘55) Robert Harold Freeman**, 90, of Hoover went to be with his Lord on January 12, 2016. He served in the U. S. Army Air Corp during World War II as a tail gunner on multiple B-24 liberators. After graduating from Florence State Teachers College (UNA) in 1951, he and his wife, Bettye, moved to Birmingham where he earned his Doctorate in Dentistry at the University of Alabama in 1955. Dr. Freeman practiced dentistry for 55 years in Southside and then Hoover, Alabama.

**(‘55) Ralph Wesley Powell**, 86, of Mobile, died peacefully on June 3, 2016.. Ralph received a BS in 1951 from Birmingham Southern College. He graduated from the University of Alabama School of Dentistry in Birmingham, Class of 1955, receiving a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree. After briefly practicing in Elba, AL, Ralph moved to Mobile where he established a successful dental practice until his retirement. He was active in the Alabama Dental Association, member of the American Dental Association and was inducted into the American College of Dentists in 1988.

**(‘59) John D. Crawford**, USN Captain retired, 86, of Huntsville, Alabama, passed away peacefully at home. John served as an enlisted Marine, and US Navy sailor, prior to attending college. He was a graduate of Auburn University and the University of Alabama School of Dentistry. In 1974, he completed a fellowship in Oral Surgery at the Naval Region Medical Center in Charleston, South Carolina. John was stationed throughout the United States and overseas as a dental officer and was the commanding officer of several Naval dental clinics. His combined service to our country was 27 years.

**(‘60) Billy Cornelious Dorminy**, 88, died January 28, 2016 at his residence in Waycross, Georgia after a short illness. Dr. Dorminy was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and attended the University of Alabama where he received his undergraduate degree. Afterwards, he attended the University of Pennsylvania and received his doctorate degree. Dr. Dorminy was a practicing Orthodontist in Waycross for many years beginning in 1965 and then retiring in 1989.

**(‘62) John Williams Hollis**, age 85, went to be with Jesus Christ on March 8, 2016. Dr. Hollis joined the Air Force during the Korean War. He became a fighter pilot flying the most elite jet craft existing at that time, the F87. He graduated from the University of Alabama School of Dentistry in 1962 and practiced dentistry in Huntsville, Alabama.

**(‘63) Bobby Terrell Underwood**, 84 of Jasper, passed away peacefully at his home on Friday, June 10, 2016. Dr. Underwood enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1951 where he was stationed at Lackland Air Force Base. Afterward he enrolled at the University of Alabama and graduated dental school in 1963. He practiced in Atlanta for six years before moving to Jasper, Alabama where he and Dr. Jerald Sherer started the Dental Arts Clinic. He was President of the Alabama Dental Association fifth district. After retiring from dentistry, he opened his first Dreamland Bar-B-Que Restaurant in Birmingham in 1993.

**(‘65) Benny Ray McAnnally**, age 78, passed away on April 3, 2016 with family at his bedside. He was a retired dentist.

**(‘67) Howard Gamble**, age 74, of Sheffield, went home to be with the Lord on Friday, December 25, 2015, after an extended illness. Dr. Gamble was a proud graduate of the University of Alabama School of Dentistry. Dr. Gamble was a veteran of the United States Air Force. He was a member of the Academy of General Dentistry, having served as National President and in other leadership positions. Howard also served on the Alabama Board of Dental Examiners.

**(‘70) Michael O’Brian Kilpatrick**, 71, of Auburn, Alabama, passed away on January 12, 2016. He graduated from Auburn University with High Honor and the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry. In 1981, he returned to UAB where he completed a Master of Science and a certification in post-graduate Orthodontics. In 1983, he moved the family to Auburn, Alabama where he practiced orthodontics until his retirement in 2007. He was certified by the American Board of Orthodontics and also served as president of the Alabama Dental Association.

**(Pedo ‘75) Jerome Scales**, age 73, of Birmingham, passed away Thursday, May 26, 2016.

**(‘77) Alfred Marshall Crook**, 65, passed away peacefully at his Fairhope residence on January 25, 2016. He graduated from the University of Alabama and UAB School of Dentistry. After dental school, he studied and achieved his Fellowship and Mastership degrees in the field of Dentistry. He was fondly known as Dr. Fred in Atmore, Alabama, where he practiced dentistry for 26 years.

**(‘78) David Glenn Yokley**, age 67, passed away at Huntsville Hospital on Saturday, February 13, 2016. He grew up in Florence, Alabama, and proudly served in the US Navy. He earned a BS degree at UNA, then a DMD degree at UAB. Dr. Yokley practiced in Gadsden, then for more than 30 years in Huntsville and Madison with his partner, Dr. Donald G. Porch, Jr. He moved to Lake Guntersville in 2012 and retired in 2014.

**(‘78) James Lenwood Cole**, 64, passed away on February 20, 2016 at his residence. Dr. Cole practiced dentistry 37 years in Anniston and Oxford. He graduated from UAB and University of Alabama.

**(‘79) Mark Walker Evans** of Guntersville died Thursday, February 4, 2016, having fought stage IV cancer for 10 years. Dr. Evans graduated from Birmingham-Southern College with a B.S. in Biology. He then followed his father into dentistry by studying at the UAB School of Dentistry. After graduating, he established an office in Albertville. He had served as president of the Alabama Academy of General Dentistry and was a member of the Alabama Dental Association and the American Dental Association for many years.

**(‘91) Jairus Adams** passed away on January 12, 2015. No obituary available.

**(‘97) Shane Whitehead**, 45, of Hoover, Alabama, passed away Saturday, May 7, 2016. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of North Alabama, DMD from the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry and received The Award for Pediatric Dentistry. He practiced dentistry in Muscle Shoals for 18 years as the owner of Shane Whitehead Family Dentistry.

**(UAB Dentistry Faculty) Donald Wayne Legler**, known as “Don” died December 9, 2015 in Gainesville, Florida after coping for many years with Alzheimer’s Disease. Dr. Legler graduated from the University of Minnesota Dental School. Upon graduation, Don entered the Air Force serving as a dental officer at radar sites achieving the rank of Major. Upon discharge, Don established a dental practice in Estes Park, Colorado. After several years his interest in dental education led him to sell his practice to enter a PhD program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and teach pediatric and preventive dentistry. He received his PhD in microbiology and physiology in 1966 and served on the faculty for 18 years.