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Dentalgram

A monthly publication of the dean's office
for students, faculty, and staff of
Loma Linda University School of Dentistry

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JUL 13 2000

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Masters degrees awarded at commencement

by Christy K. Robinson

At the Loma Linda University Graduate School commencement service held on June 11 at the Drayson Center, 14 dental specialists received their Masters degrees in several disciplines of dentistry.

The Master of Science candidates received their specialty certificates at the School of Dentistry commencement services on May 29, and were recognized at that time.

After the colorful procession of faculty, robed in the colors appropriate to the disciplines they represented, the students entered, and the program began.

Guests and graduates were welcomed by Lisa M. Beardsley, PhD, MPH, executive vice president of the University. Calvin Rock, DMin, PhD, chair of the Board of Trustees, gave the commencement address, an adaptation of the Gettysburg Address. After the conferring of degrees by University President Lyn Behrens, MBBS, diplomas were awarded to the graduates.

The dental graduates receiving MS degrees in orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics were: Mark Batesole, DDS, Marc Dunn, SD'98, Sonja Finnie, SD'98, Margaret Kowalczyk, DDS, Anitha Nair, DDS, Camille Neagu, SD'97, and David Sy Nguyen, DDS.

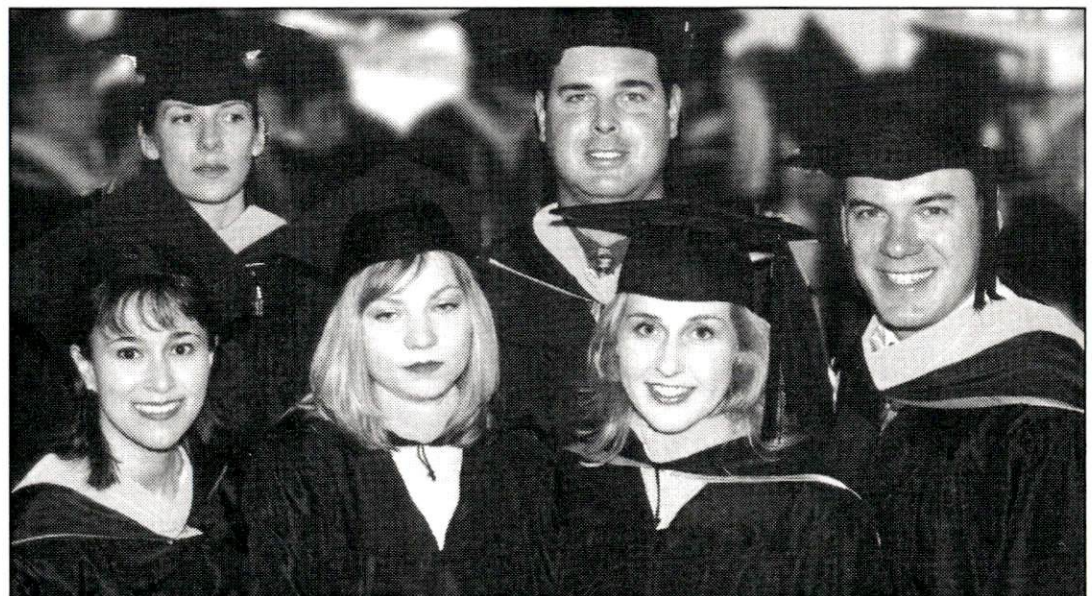
In endodontics, David Junn, DDS, and Geoffrey Okada, DDS, earned the MS degree. James Edward Stich, DDS, received his MS in March.

Melba Zuniga Mayes, SD'96, and Dean Walker, SD'97, each received an MS in pediatric dentistry.

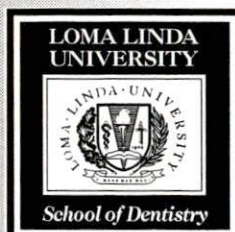
In oral surgery, David Gilbert, SD'95, PG'99, obtained his MS.

Joseph Y. K. Kan, SD'90, earned his MS in implant dentistry, as did Marcia P. Figueiredo Pereira, DDS.

A dentist who earned her Master of Arts in biomedical and clinical ethics, was Tricia Lynette Williams, SD'97.



Graduates gather for the commencement service of the Graduate School of Loma Linda University. Clockwise from top center: Marc Dunn, Mark Batesole, Sonja Finnie, Margaret Kowalczyk, Melba Zuniga Mayes, and Camille Neagu.



Longtime SD faculty and staff retire

Robert Riegel, DDS, MS, professor of restorative dentistry, retired on March 1, 2000, and School colleagues and friends honored him with a party. The plaque presented to him by Douglass Roberts, SD'66, MS'77, chair of the department, read: "Loma Linda University School of Dentistry wishes to recognize Robert Riegel, DDS, MS, Chief, section of removable prosthodontics, Department of Restorative Dentistry, and wishes to honor him for 10 years of exemplary caring Christian service to students, patients, faculty and staff."



Dr. Riegel

Ellis Rogers, videographer, served the School of Dentistry for 39 years, and was a pioneer of multimedia educational presentations. He operated the first TV camera on campus, beginning on his first day of work in 1961. "He assisted me in dental ceramics lectures for some 10 years, using two video cameras," says Robert Kinzer, SD'59, professor of restorative dentistry.

Ellis Rogers, School of Dentistry videographer, has served the School of Dentistry for 39 years.

"A lot of it was tabletop classroom demonstrations, where we had to improvise sometimes," says Mr. Rogers. He also worked part-time, repairing the PA system and even the towel dispensers.

He retired on June 30, and plans to be a "full-time grandfather" to his 10 grandchildren.

Willis Schlenker, SD'57, MS'80, associate professor of orthodontics, is headed for the golf course after June 30, when he retired from 25 years of teaching service to the School of Dentistry. Dr. Schlenker is a member of the first class of dentistry, who graduated in 1957.



Dr. Schlenker

He's known for his sense of humor, and a hot alto sax performance, particularly at the annual Christmas breakfast.

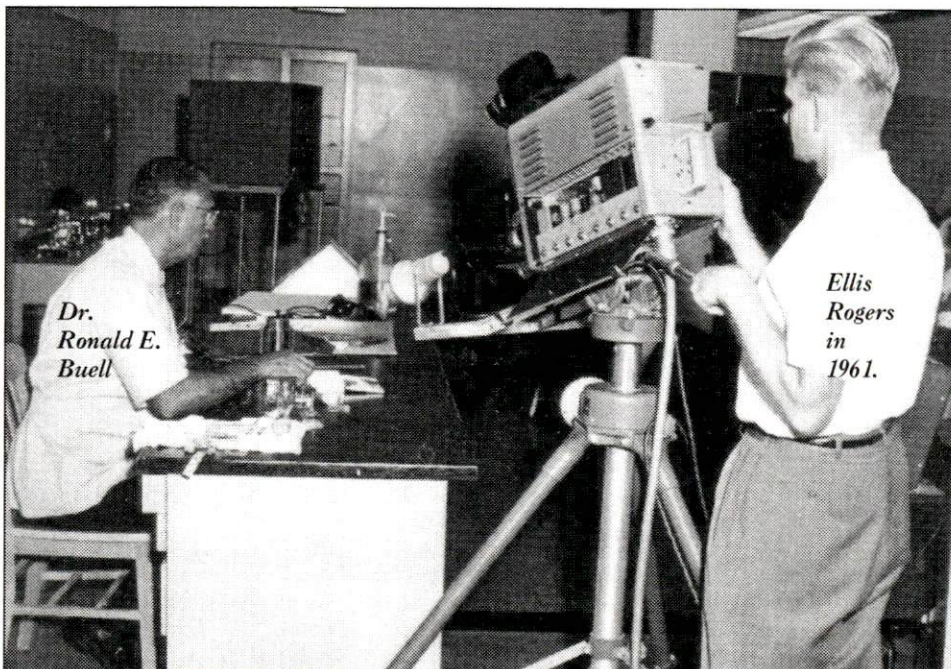
Dr. Schlenker was honored with a well-attended luncheon in Prince Hall. Joseph Caruso, SD'73, MS'75, chair of orthodontics, presented him with an enormous tennis racquet in addition to the "official" gifts.



Dean Charles J. Goodacre, SD'71, MSD, congratulates Don Beglau, SD'62.

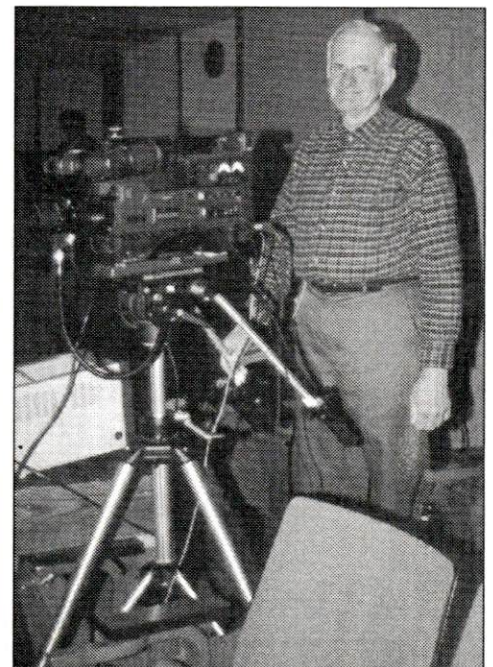
Donald Beglau, SD'62, associate professor of restorative dentistry, has a golf tee time set for his first day of retirement, July 3, 2000. He will keep his private practice of restorative dentistry in Yucaipa, five days a month; and will be teaching continuing education courses throughout the next year. He also plans spending more time with his seven grandchildren; putting miles on both the motorhome and his sturdy hiking boots; and "wetting the fishing line."

Before coming here, he taught at the Medical College of Georgia. For the last 25 years, Dr. Beglau has taught at LLUSD full time.



Dr. Ronald E. Buell

Ellis Rogers in 1961.



School of Dentistry employees honored for service to University

Loma Linda University faculty and employees were honored for years of service to the institution during the Faculty and Employee Recognition Banquet, held Thursday, May 4, in the Wong Kerlee International Conference Center. Following is a list of the School of Dentistry employees who were honored:

Honored faculty

35 years

Robert L. Kinzer
Donald L. Peters
W. Eugene Rathbun
Douglass B. Roberts
R. Bruce Wilcox

30 years

James R. Dunn
Robert D. Kiger
Merrill E. Schmidt
Karen A. Simpson
Jonell A. Stephens
Lane C. Thomsen

25 years

David L. Anderson
Donald L. Beglau
Gary C. Bogle
Ronald J. Dailey
Mary C. Quishenberry

20 years

William H. Heisler
Hilbert Lentz
Steven G. Morrow
Willis L. Schlenker

15 years

Bernard G. Gantes
Thomas C. Rogers

10 years

Gunther Blascio
Milos M. Boskovic
Duane C. Grummons
Bruce S. Heinrich
Jaime L. Lozada
Roland D. W. Neufeld
Shahab Noorvash
Larry D. Trapp

5 years

Hamid R. Abedi
Nicholas Caplanis
Susan Cartwright
Dena M. Devlin
Michael J. Fitzpatrick
Mario Flores
R. Michael Foulston
Gary J. Golden
Oliver Hanisch
Carlos Muñoz-Viveros
Per Nygaard-Ostby
Sungjin J. Park
Jenny T. Sy-Muñoz
Wayne K. Tanaka
Leonardo Trombelli
Barbara Valadez
David L. Wilkinson
Ellen B. Young
Harvey Zalsman

Honored employees

30 years

Donna J. Samson

25 years

Odineia Fontoura

20 years

Richard L. Cross
Ruth A. Summers

15 years

Marina Alvarez
Trini Briano
Lauri A. Harding
Ruben Hernandez
Donna Minder
Dawn E. Pellerin
Stella M. Suba
Miriam R. Yanez

10 years

Judy L. Adams
Jennifer M. Christian
Cornetta M. Craighton
Ruth Dearen
Lucille J. Denger
Carol L. Lenchner
Carol J. Matchett
Senaída R. Perez
Linda J. Roddick

5 years

Janell K. Campbell
Heidi Thomsen Cooley
Gracie Cuevas
Betty R. Jimenez
Kathleen Kinder
Catherine A. Moore
Carl B. Panaguiton
Victoria E. Quihuis
Yolanda R. Richardson

Dr. Bruce Pence recovering from health challenges

from an e-mail by Ron Dailey, PhD

June 23: My office has had many inquiries regarding the status of Dr. Bruce Pence. As many of you know, Dr. Pence went into the Medical Center on June 9 to have a valve in his heart replaced. The surgery went well as did his recovery and he was discharged from the hospital on Wednesday, June 14. His plan was to continue his recovery with his wife in their motor home, which is parked near the University, until he felt sufficiently recovered to return to their home in Ventura.

On Thursday morning, June 15, he developed a severe headache and returned to the hospital for treatment. It was

determined that he had a mild stroke. His motor and communication functions are all normal and nearly all cognitive ability is intact. However, he is having some difficulty with a narrow range of cognitive function.

I visited with him this morning and he is very appreciative and touched by the outpouring of concern and goodwill from his dental school family. Considering what he has been through over the past two weeks, he is in remarkably good spirits.

I am also passing along to you two requests from Dr. Pence's family. First, please do not go to the Medical Center to visit him or try to contact him by

telephone. The medical staff and family feel strongly that he needs to focus all his energy on his recovery at this time. You may direct your inquiries to the International Dentistry Program office or to my office. In addition, I will periodically keep you updated via e-mail on Dr. Pence's progress.

Second, please keep Dr. Pence and his family in your prayers. Although he continues to feel blessed with a highly competent medical team and a strong network of family and friends, health challenges are always frightening and we need to remember nothing is beyond the reach of our Heavenly Father.

Students on the Move

ADA recognizes service learning caregivers

American Dental Association
1999 - 2000

Twenty-five School of Dentistry students have been recognized by the American Dental Association, Council on ADA Sessions and International Programs, for performing volunteer service in foreign countries.

Following are the students' names, their service site, and the dates of service.

Abaro, Ronald

Vatuvonu, Fiji, June 16 - June 30, 1999

Abbott, Glen

Pohnpei, Micronesia, June 16 - June 30, 1999

Abrew, Joseph

Vatuvonu, Fiji, June 16 - June 30, 1999

Black, Brian

Amazon, Brazil, June 16 - July 6, 1999

Busi, Ravi

Pohnpei, Micronesia, June 16 - July 6, 1999

Choi, Jangwon

Seoul, Korea, June 12 - July 11, 1999

Costa, Michael

Amazon, Brazil, June 16 - July 6, 1999

Elloway, Kerisa

Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, June 12 - July 4, 1999

Gibbs, Jonathan

Vatuvonu, Fiji, June 16 - June 30, 1999

Hampton, Kip

Amazon, Brazil, June 16 - July 6, 1999

Hsu, Shelton

Amazon, Brazil, June 16 - July 6, 1999

Kavanagh, Jack

Pohnpei, Micronesia, June 16 - June 30, 1999

Khoo, Kenneth

Vatuvonu, Fiji, June 16 - June 30, 1999

Kim, Calvin

Vatuvonu, Fiji, June 16 - June 30, 1999

Lee, Jerome

Moscow, August 4 - August 30, 1999

Lee, Myong

Vatuvonu, Fiji, June 16 - June 30, 1999

Listello, Trent

Pohnpei, Micronesia, June 16 - June 30, 1999

Oh, Tae

Pohnpei, Micronesia, June 16 - June 30, 1999

Park, Jennifer

Amazon, Brazil, June 16 - July 6, 1999

Pierson, Ken

Pohnpei, Micronesia, June 16 - June 30, 1999
Moscow, August 4 - August 30, 1999

Ramirez, Juan Carlos

Moscow, August 4 - August 30, 1999

Sanz, Elena

Pohnpei, Micronesia, June 16 - June 30, 1999

Wonenberg, Bret

Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, June 13 - July 4, 1999

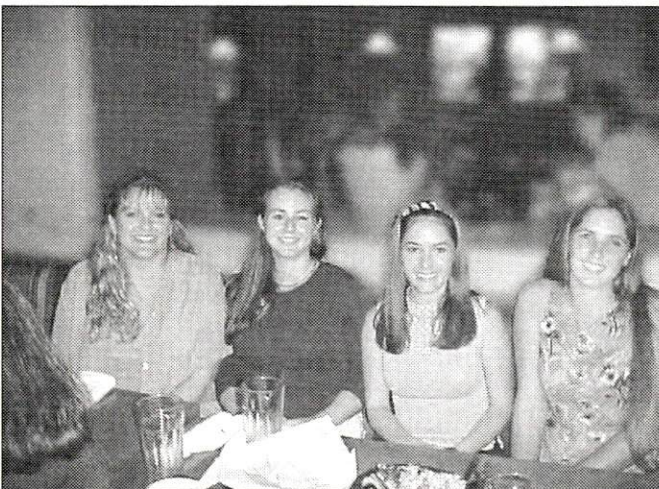
Young, Todd

Amazon, Brazil, June 16 - July 6, 1999

Zaninovic, Periza

Vatuvonu, Fiji, June 15 - June 30, 1999

LLUSD admissions officers fete La Sierra University students



La Sierra University students who are accepted to the School of Dentistry met at El Torito to celebrate. Pictured are Debbie Dunn, pre-professional adviser, and Christina Atkins, Heather Wallace, and Apryll Freeman, who will become part of the dental hygiene Class of 2002.



La Sierra University pre-dent students who will become members of the Class of 2004: from left, Edwin Chung, Jim Chaffin, Brad Briggs, David Park, Kimberly Jefferson, Scott Grivas, Edmund Guo, and Arthur Huang.

Advanced education students enter LLUSD roster

Twenty-eight dentists have begun their advanced education or residencies at Loma Linda University School of Dentistry. Their education program will lead to professional certificates or a Master of Science degree.

Anesthesiology

Devin Anderson, SD'99
M. Todd Christensen
Trisha Leolani Jen, SD'00
Eugene B. Pester, SD'85
William A. Pope

Endodontics

Wallis Andelin
David Browning
G-Hong Robert Hsu
David D. Roland, SD'78

Implant Dentistry

Miguel Estrella
Alvaro Farnos
Kyotaka Umezu

Oral Surgery

Brett King

Orthodontics

Timothy Elison
Shelton Hsu, SD'00
Marc Larson, SD'00
Adam Lutt, SD'00
Noel Moser
Aaron Rondon, SD'99

Pediatric Dentistry

Stephanie Brandli
Kevin C. Hsieh, SD'98
Jeremy C. Wiggins, SD'00

Periodontics

Oliver Hoffman
Pilseong Kim
Sangmoo (Scott) Lee

Prosthodontics

Kainaz Byramjee
Young Ho Cha
Mauricio A. Malo

Dentalgram

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Joy Pastor
Dawn Pellerin
Kena Shaddox
Karen Simpson
Florence Wetmore

<http://www.llu.edu/llu/dentistry/news.html>

IDP welcomes new class

Eight students joined the International Dentist Program on June 17. They will receive their American DDS degrees in December, 2001.

Teodora Buda-Gordon is from Romania and received her DMD in 1992.

John Domingo is from the Philippines and received his DMD in 1993.

Eunsun "Sunny" Kang is from Korea and received her DMD in 1998 from the Philippines.

Luis Martines is from Brazil and received his DDS in 1994. He also holds an MS in orthodontics.

Miguel Meگو is from Peru and received his DDS in 1991.

C. Orjuela Mercado is from Mexico

and received her DDS in 1996.

Liuning Lynn Yu is from Beijing, China and received her BM in 1992. She also holds a PhD in biomedical sciences from New York.

Jinying Zhang is from West China and received her MB in 1985, and an MS in oral medicine in 1988. She also holds an MS in pharmacy from Oregon.



From left:
Teodora Buda-Gordon
John Domingo
Eunsun Sunny Kang
Luis Martines



From left:
Miguel Meگو
Orjuela Mercado
Lynn Yu
Jinying Zhang

Department News

Clinic Administration

• **Antonio Jose Garcia** of sterilization, has recently become an American citizen.

• Congratulations to **Yolanda Hernandez**, who graduated from UCR on June 18 with a degree in biology. She will attend dental school this September.

• **Hilda Yacoub** and husband Phil Fokas became parents on June 21, with the birth of their son Demetrios.

• Welcome to new employees:

Eliana Lara, RDA, patient care coordinator.

Gloria Ramirez, RDA, CDA, is the new assistant clinic manager in the Clinical Services Division. Gloria is taking the place of **Marina Moore**, who is now focusing her energies on Quick Recovery issues.

Kathy Biller of dental insurance is replacing **Robin Fierro** as patient care coordinator; Robin will be a records analyst.

Dental insurance and the patient business office welcome **Carrie Edleson** and **Tracee Henderson**.

Katherine Jimenez, dental assistant, Faculty Dental Offices.

Tiffany Medford, Loma Linda Endodontics and clinic administration

Tracy Medford, FDO and clinic

Graham Friesen, clinic

David Blough, sterilization

Jennifer Cranfill, FDO and clinic

Daniel Appel, receptionist, pediatrics

Computing Services

• Dental Computing Services welcomes **Travis Tramel** to its department. Travis will be concentrating on hardware and software troubleshooting for the clinical system. Travis can be reached at beeper number 3220, or in the Dental Computing Services office, at the desk previously occupied by Carl Imthurn. Carl's new office space is in the room between Dental Computing Services and the "cold room."

• The new entrance to the Dental Computing Services suite will be through door 1116, directly off the hall.

Dental Hygiene

Dental hygiene "just graduated" seniors will be taking their California State Boards on Sunday, July 9, at USC in Los Angeles. Please remember them in your prayers.

Since the early 90s, Japanese dental hygiene students have been visiting our School and campus. This year's class will visit on July 11, and will be hosted by Sam Toguchi, SD'91.

Educational Support Services

Congratulations to **Ellis Rogers**, as he begins a new lifestyle: retirement! He and his wife are going on a cruise, July 11. We wish him the best. We thank Ellis for his faithful service in taking care of the AV equipment here at the School.

Richard Cross, photography coordinator for the School of Dentistry, in addition to most of his current responsibilities, will now take care of the AV equipment, including equipment checkout, setup and training, and maintenance (bulbs, batteries, etc.). You can reach Richard Cross at: x48260 (Ellis Rogers' old phone number) or x44605 (Educational Support Services.)

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

• **Alan Herford**, SD'95, has assumed a full-time faculty position in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Dr. Herford obtained his MD degree from Southwestern University in Dallas, Texas, and will be working primarily with the residents in OMFS.

We welcome Dr. Herford on board.

• Our welcome is also extended to Dr. **Brett King**, who be joining the department as the new first year resident. He comes from Northwestern University. Dr. **James Hong**, from the University of Southern California, will also be joining the OMFS department as an intern.

• **Marissa Moreno** will assume the position of sterilization technician in the OMFS clinic.

• **Philip Boyne**, DMD, MS'61, professor of oral surgery, was a major speaker at the Genetic Engineering Conference sponsored by the University of California at Davis, held in Lake Tahoe, California, June 7 - 11. He also attended a meeting by Genetics Institute in Charlotte, NC, to plan a program for the use of BMP genetic engineering proteins in the bone regeneration of cleft palate children.

• Dr. Boyne received the Faculty of the Year Award at the annual banquet of the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Loma Linda University Medical Center. The award was given for his achievement as clinical faculty in support

of the graduate program in plastic surgery.

• Congratulations to **Joann Guerrero** for passing her RDA OSA examination.

• Congratulations to Dr. **Liviu Eftimie** and his wife Adina at the birth of their second child, a baby girl they named Mara. They have another daughter, Alexandra.

• A belated congratulations to **Janine Jensen**, formerly Frede, on her wedding February 26, 2000 to Richard "Rick" Jensen.

• Dr. **Hooman Zarrinkelk**, fourth year resident, completed his residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery on June 30, 2000. We want to wish him the best as he starts his new private practice in Ventura, California.

Oral Diagnosis, Radiology, Pathology

Ronald Blank, DDS, assistant professor, has accepted the position of Chair of the Department of Oral Diagnosis, Radiology, and Pathology, effective July 1.

Says Charles J. Goodacre, SD'71, MSD, dean of the School of Dentistry, "Please join me in congratulating him as he assumes this important responsibility and thanking Dr. Susan Richards for her many years of excellent service to the School."

There will be an article about Dr. Blank in the August *Dentalgram*.

Orthodontics

• The Eleventh-Annual Student-Faculty-Alumni Banquet honoring the graduating orthodontic students was held June 8, 2000 at the Castaway Restaurant. Students receiving the Masters of Science degree in orthodontics are: Drs. **Mark K. Batesole**, **Marc C. Dunn**, SD'98, **Sonja F. Finnie**, SD'98, **Margaret B. Kowalczyk**, **M. Camille Neagu**, SD'97, and **D. Sy Nguyen**. **Richard A. Simms**, DDS, MS'63, was the keynote speaker. The Roland D. Walters Research Award was presented in recognition of research performed and the development of research protocols that will be useful in future projects at Loma Linda University. This year's recipient was Dr. Mark K. Batesole.

• The new class in orthodontics, comprised of **Timothy B. Elison**, DMD, University of Louisville, '00; **Shelton Hsu**, SD'00; **Marc R. Larson**, SD'00; **Adam G. Lutt**, SD'00; **Noel C. Moser**, DDS, University of the Pacific, '00, and **Aaron**

C. Rondon, SD'99, began the study of orthodontics on June 26, 2000. A welcoming picnic by faculty, second year students and staff was held for them at Sylvan Park on Wednesday, June 28.

• We would also like to welcome our new fellowship student, **Gabriela Garcia**, DDS. She received her dental degree in 1998 from the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Honduras and earlier this year completed a two year post-graduate program in orthodontics at Centro Latinoamericano de Estudios Ortodonticos.

Summer reruns

If you enjoy the *Dentalgram's* mix of news, features, and photographs, you can see it all over again. The *Dentalgram* is archived on the School of Dentistry's website -- in color! Visit

<http://www.llu.edu/llu/dentistry/news.html>

If you were featured in a story or photo, you can paste the URL into e-mails and send them to friends or relatives you want to impress. For instructions, call Christy Robinson, x44984, and start surfing.

July Birthdays

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Kimberly Bock | Orthodontics |
| Leroy Leggitt | Orthodontics |
| Debi Gerger | Dental hygiene |
| Pablo Carrillo | Clinic supply |
| Vivian Davis | Clinical services |
| Joseph Melgoza | Clinic admin |
| Evie Roach | UrgCare/Screening |
| Kris Wilkins | Dental Hygiene |
| Kellie McNeil | Pediatric dent |
| Trini Briano | Housekeeping |
| Mary Melki | Pt Business |
| Andrew Yakush | Computer Services |
| Lindsey Troia | Radiology |
| Debbie Earll | Periodontics |
| Cheryl Ford | Periodontics |
| Jennifer Christian | Clinic admin |
| Shelley Slater | Periodontics |
| Dee Scheuerman | Restorative dent |
| Katherine Jimenez | Faculty Dent |
| Ada Beltran | Implant dent |
| Nancy Norris | Periodontics |
| Paula Williams | Periodontics |
| Mick Illich | Dental Lab Services |
| Maria Elena Melgoza | Implant dent |
| Tracee Henderson | Pediatric dent |
| Antonio Garcia | Sterilization |
| Ruthy Goodacre | Grad Pros, Anesthesia |

Alumnus named AAPD parliamentarian

John R. Liu, SD'86, was officially installed as parliamentarian of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) at its 53rd Annual Session in Nashville, Tennessee.

"This position carries a great deal of responsibility and allows me to carry my commitment to children and their oral health one step further," stated Dr. Liu.

Since 1994, Dr. Liu has been in a

private practice partnership in Issaquah, Washington. From 1992-1994, Dr. Liu was the dental chief for the Odessa Brown Children's Hospital. He was assistant professor of pediatric dentistry at Loma Linda University School of Dentistry from 1988-1992, after having completed his certificate in pediatric dentistry from the Children's Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati.

Wise men from the East have reason to smile

by Christy K. Robinson

In June, three professors from Kabul, Afghanistan, visited Loma Linda University, re-establishing ties with LLU that went back 30 years. Visiting here were Afghanistan's Minister of Higher Education, the associate dean of the Medical University of Kabul, and Dr. Waheedullah Momand, associate clinical professor of cardiology and internal medicine at Kabul Medical Institute.

Afghans are rebuilding their universities after the Russian occupation of their country and the civil unrest which has followed. The three educators visited Loma Linda University for general information, and to learn how to redevelop their medical and dental schools at the University of Kabul.

During their visit, Joan Coggin, MD, MPH, professor of medicine and special assistant to the President of Loma Linda University, asked David Brodeur, SD'71, MPH, assistant professor of restorative dentistry, to provide some partial dentures to Dr. Momand.

Dr. Momand was imprisoned for two years during the Russian occupation, and was beaten regularly, resulting in the loss of many teeth.

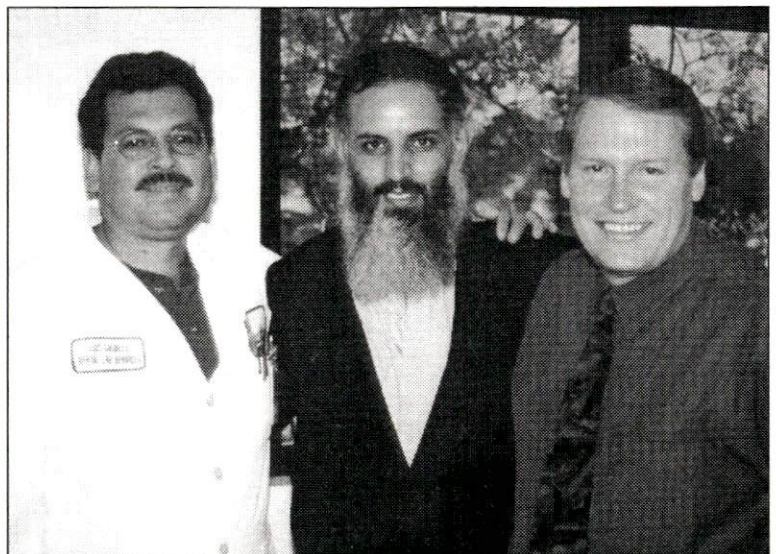
"With the help of Louis Calvillo, dental laboratory services technician, we were able to provide him with greatly improved upper and lower partial dentures in only two days' time," says Dr. Brodeur.

"I want to express my best thanks to Dr. Brodeur. I think that he is really a good humanist, and I thank his fellows that helped him regarding my treatment," says Dr. Momand.

"They were very grateful and the minister has extended an

invitation for Dr. Heisler and me to come and visit Kabul and the University in the future," says Dr. Brodeur.

Luis Calvillo, Dr. Waheedullah Momand, and Dr. David Brodeur celebrate the completion of the dentures.



More recent graduates would join the ADA/CDA if they offered these things:

by G. Royce Nicola, SD'00

All the hype is over, the Y2K bug curled up and died before its time, and now we are actually moving quickly toward the real millennium celebration in 2001. What has changed in organized dentistry? Are we automatically 21st century dentists because we own a 2001 membership card from the CDA? What theory, technology, and techniques must a 21st century dentist utilize in order to provide an optimum level of care to his/her patients?

The answers to these questions should be available at your local dental society, or at least at the state level. As a new graduate, I believe that more recent graduates would join the ADA and the CDA if membership offered a preceptorship program, a 6-month working residency program, a dental technology model office, new dental material evaluation programs, and insurance billing training programs for office staff and dentists. Is my wish list too long? I don't think it is!

As all dentists know, practice makes better. I don't think any dentist believes they are perfect yet, but certainly those with years of experience have an edge on new graduates. When I open my first practice I would really appreciate someone who has done this once or twice before, explaining the process to me. I would also enjoy a preceptor in my area, someone who has experience in the area and is willing to answer questions I may have as I begin practice. I believe the local dental societies are usually the best places to meet and learn from other practicing dentists in an area, but the CDA and ADA should not be excluded from the process. With a list of dentists who have practiced in an area for 8-10 years and are willing to spend some time with new dentists, this program could foster professional relationships and encourage cooperation among local dentists.

Another idea that I have for new graduates who feel ready to work, but not on their own, is the 6-month working residency program. Many graduates spend 6 months to a year in an informal working residency program, working as associates or employees of local dentists before launching their own practices. This process has been described as a useful way to build experience and knowledge, but often not a positive experience overall. I

believe with the sanction of the ADA and a database of pre-screened dentists looking for temporary help, the local or state dental association could provide new graduates with valuable experience and practical methods for practice in a positive, non-threatening environment. Dentists who accept the help would gain motivated, energetic temporary associates willing to learn, work hard, and share new techniques they bring from dental school.

Recent advances in computer technology, dental imaging, office management, computer charting and billing programs have left many dentists unaware or unable to spend the time necessary to compare systems, features, and prices for the newest technology available. I believe the California Dental Association should be at the forefront of new technology development and testing, and a model office should be established where the latest dental technology can be showcased. This model office should be set up for portability between the CDA headquarters and the yearly conventions in Anaheim and San Francisco. Manufacturers who wish to participate in this model office must furnish working equipment that can be tested by dentists visiting the office. As dentists test the equipment, they will offer valuable feedback to the manufacturers regarding ergonomics, functionality, and utility of the technology. This feedback should be available to other dentists to aid in purchase decisions, and can be used by manufacturers to improve the equipment as well.

In addition to new equipment technology, dental materials are improving rapidly as well. The California Dental Association can be a leader in this area by linking manufacturers to a network of clinicians willing to participate in trials of new materials, and able to provide positive and negative feedback to the manufacturers. This network of clinicians should be linked by the latest internet technology to allow them to compare notes on performance of new materials, submit test results for comparison in the *CDA Journal*, and provide direct feedback to the companies involved with marketing new materials. This process will benefit dentists by providing a source of unbiased clinical test results, facilitate clinical testing for manufacturers, and once again

place the CDA on the forefront of new dental technology.

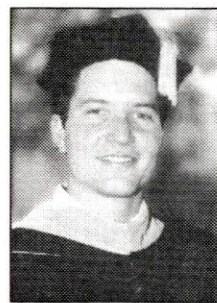
Another area in which I believe the CDA should be a leader is the education of dentists and their staff in ethical, effective methods of dealing with third-party reimbursement for dental treatment. Recent graduates will benefit most from this type of instruction, but many practicing dentists and their staff can benefit from practical courses on insurance billing. By leading the way in this area the CDA can directly increase the efficiency and ethics of third-party reimbursement.

Perhaps my ideas are lofty and idealistic; maybe I can't see the flaws yet, but I believe that all dentists can benefit from participation in organized dentistry. Membership has its privileges, they say, but taking an active role in our profession is the only way we will preserve our privileges, improve our prospects, and ensure our success.

Recent dental grad wins essay contest

G. Royce Nicola, SD'00, entered an essay contest, and won \$1,000 for his efforts.

The California Dental Association/TDIC sponsored an essay contest for



California dental students. The theme was, "More Recent Graduates Would Join the ADA/CDA if They Offered These Things."

Dr. Nicola is a deferred mission appointee to

Guam SDA Clinic, which is sponsored by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. He and his wife Lori Nicola, SN'00, will serve a six-year term, starting this month. Lori will be working at the clinic or hospital.

Dr. Nicola is no stranger to mission service. He was born and lived in Pakistan for six years, while his father, Quint Nicola, SD'69, (now assistant professor of ODRP) served as a missionary at the Adventist dental clinic in Rawalpindi, Pakistan.