



The CALIFORNIA ACADEMY of GENERAL DENTISTRY

GP NEWS

The Magazine for the General Practitioner

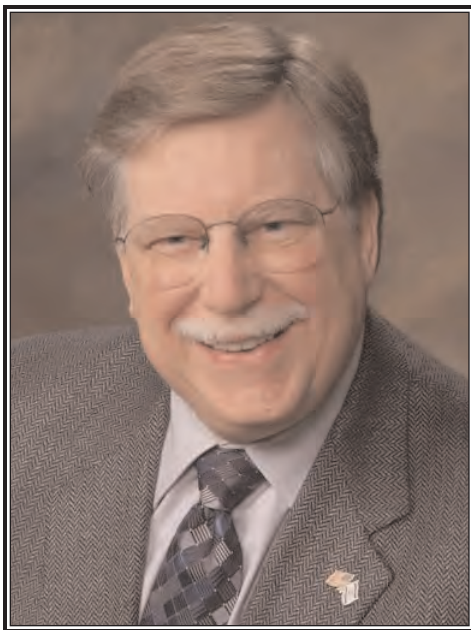
Volume 34, Number 3

October, 2010

Dr. Steven Skurow of West Covina Is Spirit of Leadership Awardee

The California Academy of General Dentistry has named Dr. Steven I. Skurow as the recipient of the prestigious Dr. Deon Carrico Spirit of Leadership Award. The award is in memory of our revered member and executive director, Dr. Deon Carrico. The criteria states that this award goes to a member who has consistently contributed time, effort and talent for the betterment of the organization. Dr. Skurow fits the criteria, and then some. This award holds very special meaning to Dr. Skurow as he had a long-standing and close relationship with Dr. Carrico.

Steve was born in Cincinnati, Ohio in July of 1943. Most of his schooling was in Cincinnati (grammar school and high school). He attended Kentucky Military Institute in Louisville, Kentucky for the seventh and eighth grades. After graduating



DR. STEVEN SKUROW

from Walnut Hills High School in 1961, Dr. Skurow took general education, economics and pre-dental courses at Ohio State University. After only two years of undergraduate work, Dr. Skurow was accepted to the College of Dentistry at Ohio State University in 1963. While at the College of Dentistry, Steve met the love of his life, Marlene, to whom he has been married to for forty-four years. Steve and Marlene have two daughters: Teri, who is married to Howard Naftalin. They have three children, Ethan (14), Isaac (12) and Adina (8), all living in San Diego. Sheri, who is the Vice President of a manufacturing firm in downtown Los Angeles, lives in West Los Angeles.

After graduating from dental school, Steve entered the United States Army and did his Medical Officers Basic Training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. He was then stationed at Fort Hood, Texas until he received orders for duty in Vietnam, where he served for one year, returning stateside to be stationed at the Yuma Proving Grounds near Yuma, Arizona. Steve left active duty in January of 1970, but continued to serve as a reserve officer in the California National Guard, where he reached the rank of Major. Steve was Chief of Dental Services for the 143rd Evacuation Hospital in Santa Monica, California until he resigned in 1977. When he left active duty, Dr. Skurow also worked at the Wadsworth Veterans Administration Hospital in Westwood, California as Chief of Outpatient Dental Services until 1973. He then left the VA Dental Services to go into private practice in Covina, California where, for thirty-five years, he was a highly-respected dentist in the community until his retirement in 2008 after total of forty-two years of practice.

During his long career, Dr. Skurow found time to be involved in many services to the community (*health screenings, fund raising for boys and girls clubs, donation of dental equipment, serving on the Board of Trustees of the Citrus Valley Health Foundation, staff member of five local hospitals, a hospice and a surgery center, a long-time member of the Covina Sunrise Rotary and serving as board member and then President of Temples Beth Ami and Ami Shalom of West Covina*).

Dr. Skurow has been involved with the California Academy of General Dentistry since 1973 when Steve met Dr. Carrico who was ultimately responsible for Steve joining the California and Southern California Academies and becoming involved in leadership as a board member, an officer and eventually, President in 2003 of CAGD. Prior to that, Steve served the Southern California AGD also as a board member and then as their President. Steve (see *SKUROW* on page 4 for more)

The Southern California AGD Presents

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Friday, November 5, 2010 at 27030 Malibu Hills Road, Calabasas Hills, Ca. 91301 818-444-3300

Saturday, November 6, 2010 at 16661 Ventura Boulevard (8th Floor), Encino, Ca. 91436

* Instructors: Dennis Smiler, DDS, MSD; Muna Soltan, DDS;
August de Oliveira, DDS; Brian Banton, MDT; Robert Garfield, DDS

Registration by Phone or Fax or Mail

Name _____ AGD # (if member) _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip code _____
Telephone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____
VISA / MC / AMEX / Discover # _____ Expiration _____ Amount \$ _____
Credit card billing address _____ Zip code _____

Mail or fax registration to SCAGD c/o Robert E. Garfield, DDS, 2720 Aqua Verde Circle, Los Angeles, California 90077

Fax: 310-472-6729

Telephone: 310-471-4916

DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

Calabasas Location: 134 Fwy., 5 Fwy. or 405 Fwy. to the 101 Fwy. West ("north"). Proceed west past Woodland Hills. Exit on Las Virgenes Road in Calabasas. Proceed south to Agoura Road. Right on Agoura Road one mile to 27030 Malibu Hills Road (park at Implant Direct, LLC).

Encino Location: 134 Fwy., 5 Fwy. or 405 Fwy. to the 101 West ("north"). Proceed toward Encino. Exit on Hayvenhurst Avenue. Proceed south to Ventura Boulevard. Right on Ventura Boulevard to Petit. Right on Petit and into the parking lot for 16661 Ventura Boulevard.

HOTELS/MOTELS:

Courtyard by Marriott, 15433 Venture Boulevard, Sherman Oaks, 91403	818-981-5400	\$ Variable?
East West Suites Motel, 15485 Ventura Boulevard, Sherman Oaks 91403	818-981-0500	\$80
Tokyo Princess Inn Motel, 17448 Ventura Blvd., Encino, CA 91316	818-788-3820	\$85

All of these hotel/motels are within one mile of the Encino location. The Calabasas location is about seven miles west ("north") on the 101 Fwy. ("north" refers to the fact that the 101 North is actually going west in the region where we will be located.)



The
G.P. NEWS
 CALIFORNIA ACADEMY
 of GENERAL DENTISTRY

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SKUROW (continued from page 1 . . . more on page 20)



Steve with his Mom, 1943



Capt. Skurow at Bien Hoa, Vietnam, 1968



Lynda Skurow and big brother, Steve



Big sister Sandi and Steve



First Class working conditions in Vietnam, 1968



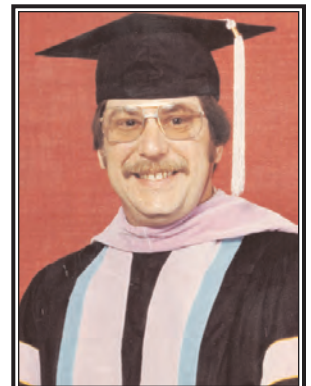
Just after their wedding ceremony in 1966



Steve and Marlene, 2009



Skurow Family in 2004
Sheri, Marlene, Steve and Teri



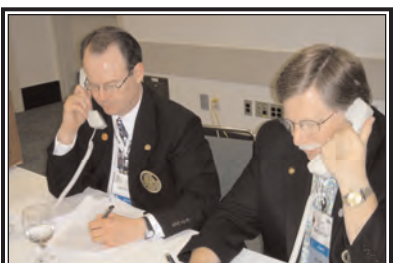
Steve's AGD Fellowship,
San Diego, 1980



Steve's first visit to "The Wall"
Vietnam Memorial, Wash., D.C., 2005



Wild Boar Hunt in 2004



AGD Smile Line, 2004



Skurows, 1967



DR. WILLIAM LANGSTAFF
Villa Park

California AGD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Being Aware of Regulations

California has certainly had challenges over the last few years. Even the governor couldn't come close to balancing the budget, yet this is the greatest state in the union. This is the only state that is diverse enough to be a country.

In 2008, a bill was passed in the California legislature and is now law. The law is of great concern for the public safety and for the current model for the delivery of dental care. There are those who think that the law can be corrected by simple regulation by the Dental Board of California. Unfortunately, all do not share this point of view.

I am writing this message to the membership of the CAGD to inform them of the efforts of our academy. Our "Watchdog" Committee, formed to be aware of regulations and laws created to protect the public and the profession, is on top of these important issues and they represent you well. *Be appreciative of their efforts.*

California is fortunate to be a multi-cultural community. The Academy wouldn't be complete without welcoming all who are licensed. Our organization's members have wonderful talents and passion. CAGD members who weren't born in this country give us a dimension far greater than if they were not part of the organization. I want to thank those members for their extraordinary contributions to the CAGD and to the profession.

I would like to share with the membership some of the accomplishments CAGD has made on their behalf. For the first time in many years, we have connected the leadership of CDA and CAGD. We welcome a long and successful future working with our colleagues. CDA leadership joined the CAGD board for a visit while at the convention in May. The CAGD voice is being heard.

Our new website cagd.com is a comprehensive source of current information and is constantly being improved and utilized by all members. Components are listing CE courses on the calendar that can be accessed immediately. Registration is through PayPal. Soon, students from six California dental schools will be able to access their school's AGD organization on line, and use the site for communication and for the listing of student CE courses. Every month, a different member-dentist is featured on the face of the website as "Member of the Month" to share the importance of our members.

Many more additions are possible because of the flexibility of this website. *Please refer to the back page of this issue for more information.*

I look forward to sharing our progress in the next issue.

"CAGD has...
connected with
the leadership
of CDA...and
the CAGD
voice is being
heard!"





Dr. Nita H. Largoza
Chula Vista



Dr. Kimberly Q. Hubenette
Santa Rosa



Dr. Peter K. Pang
Sonoma



Dr. Kevin S. McCurry
Roseville



Dr. John S. VanderWerff
Redding



Dr. Chaulong T. Nguyen
Menlo Park



Dr. Stephen H. Chou
Fullerton

California's New Masters

The seven California practitioners pictured qualified to receive the Academy of General Dentistry's prestigious Mastership award in New Orleans at the AGD's Annual Meeting held in July. The seven practitioners shown on this page qualified by attending a curriculum outlined by our national Academy.

Mastership is the highest honor available in the Academy of General Dentistry and one of the most respected and recognizable designations in the dental profession. Less than one percent of the general practitioner population have ever achieved this lofty goal. We currently have only 149 actively practicing in our state (*out of over 20,000 general dentists*). To achieve Mastership, individuals must complete a minimum of 1,100 hours of approved continuing dental education. Most dentists who reach this level have achieved many more hours of continuing education. At least 400 hours must be accrued in participation (*hands-on*) courses, those that involve actual participation and the presentation of a technique or skill under the supervision of highly qualified experts. Masters have been trained by the best to be the best.

If you are interested in being included in the next program toward achieving Mastership status, see pages 16 and 17 herein. The next class starts in late October and, as of today, there are two seats left.

California's New Fellows

DR. WILLIAM CONTENTE III, *Fresno*

DR. EVAN AFSHIN FARR, *North Hollywood*

DR. MONICA A. GARNACHE, *Mill Valley*

DR. SIMON K. HONG, *Yorba Linda*

DR. GLENN E. JOHNSTON, *Danville*

DR. FLORENCE H. LI, *Rio Vista*

DR. PHIL J. RA, *Fontana*

DR. TODD SCHOENBAUM, *Los Angeles*

DR. RAMON SUMABAT, *Palm Springs*

DR. TITUS TANG, *Millbrae*

DR. DARRYL B. TKACHYK, *Loma Linda*

DR. WILLIAM F. WIGHT, *Dana Point*

DR. JOHN YAUNG, *Pleasanton*

Candidates for Fellowship in the Academy must have been members for at least three years prior to becoming a Fellow. They must complete five hundred hours of continuing education over a ten-year time frame, as required for Fellowship, as well as passing a comprehensive 400-question examination.



Academy
of General Dentistry

AGD's Annual Meeting ♦ *New Orleans 2010*

"The Annual AGD meeting in New Orleans was unique this year as LSU Dental School hosted an Outreach Dental Program for adults in New Orleans. Over sixty AGD dentists along with RDAs from around our nation and LSU dental students participated in helping over 180 needy citizens from the local area with free dental restorative, preventative, and extraction needs. AGD members and the AGD staff rose to the occasion to help the underserved. THE AGD CARES! I am very proud to be an AGD member and I am grateful to offer a gift of dentistry to those less fortunate!"

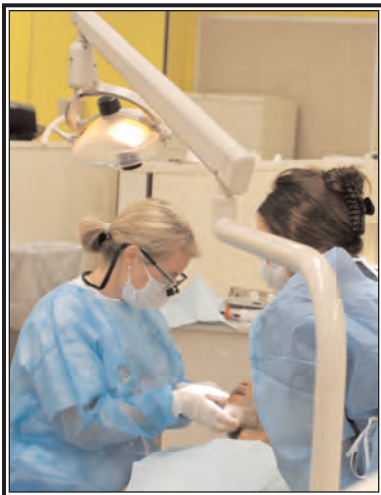
Stephen E. Lockwood, DMD, MAGD, La Jolla



Fellows, Masters and Life Long Service awardees (new and old) who were in attendance at AGD's Annual Meeting in New Orleans



Back row, LLSR awardee: Dr. Pat Tormey; Mastership awardees, also back row: Dr. Kevin McCurry, Dr. Peter Pang, Dr. Stephen Chou, Dr. John VanderWerff; front row, Masterships: Dr. Kimberly Hubenette, Dr. Nita Largoza, Dr. Chaulong Nguyen



Dentist from Texas at work on a patient in the Outreach Program at Louisiana State University, School of Dentistry



California's Delegation to the AGD House of Delegates. Left to right: Mike Lew, Tim Verceles, Howard Chi, Darryl Tkachyk, Lynn Peterson, Sun Costigan, Anita Rathee, Jay Thompson, Rohit Keshav, Steve Skurow, Rich Ringrose, Guy Acheson and Mike Bromberg



A homeless patient presented with his upper central as shown above. "I want my tooth fixed so I can get a job."



Dr. Stephen Lockwood of La Jolla and assistant, Roxanne Sutke (with him for 18 years)



Direct composite crown by Dr. Lockwood who treated the patient at the far left under the Outreach Dental Program

THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL SKI and LEARN SEMINAR by the SCAGD

Snowmass/Aspen, Colorado

FEBRUARY 12-19, 2011

Our Thirty-first Annual Ski and Learn Seminar will be held in Snowmass/Aspen, Colorado from February 12-19, 2011.

Our program will begin with a Sunday Night Wine and Cheese Party. There will be a mid-week Nastar Race. The final event will be our Friday Night Awards Banquet.

We will be staying at the Top of the Village Condominiums, a ski-in, ski-out location. Our accommodations will be largely two- and three-bedroom units. The units will have daily maid service, VCRs, DVDs, washers and dryers in each unit, outdoor pools, whirlpools, sauna, steam room, fitness center and daily coffee service . . . *to name only a few of the amenities.*

The trip will include round-trip air and bus transportation, seven nights lodging and lift tickets for five out of the six days. The cost for the package will be \$1560, the same as last year,

We will have four outstanding scientific sessions, our morning coffee and video. The seminar will afford sixteen hours of continuing education state and AGD credit in Category One. Seminar fees are: Dentists @ \$245; Auxiliaries @ \$110.

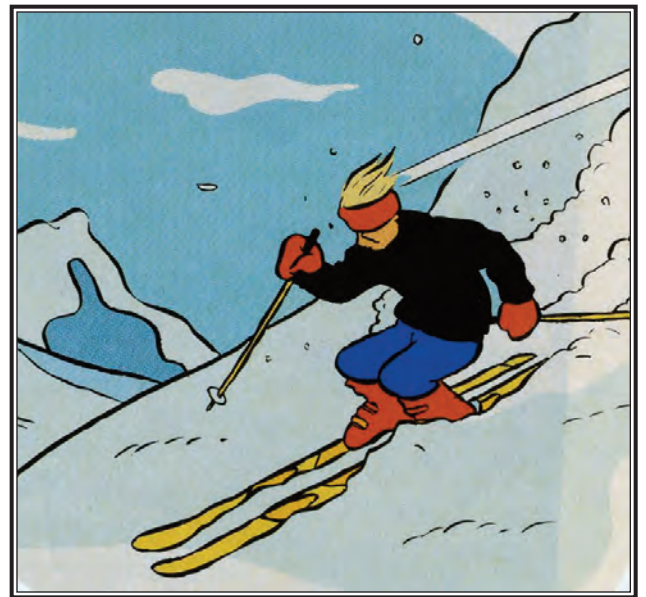
The CE programs are as follows:

* **Joseph Cain**, DDS, Professor Emeritus, Removable Prosthodontics,
University of Oklahoma, College of Dentistry
TOPIC: *Overcoming Mistakes with Dental Implants*

* **Bruce Houser**, DDS, MS, Board Certified Periodontist,
Scottsdale, Arizona
TOPIC: *Improved Function and Esthetics with
Pre-Prosthetic Periodontal Surgery*

* **Bradley J. Sandvik**, DMD, FAGD, General Dentistry,
Phoenix, Arizona
TOPIC: *Beyond Single Tooth Implant Restorative
Techniques and Treatment Planning
for the Edentulous Arch*

* **Brant Bradford**, DDS, Col., U.S. Army, Chief of Prosthodontics,
Ft. Irwin National Training Center, California
TOPIC: *Cosmetic Approach To Prosthetic Rehabilitation*



Our last ski seminar held at Snowmass/Aspen, Colorado in February, was a great success and enjoyed by all. Reservations are coming in now for the upcoming trip to Snowmass/Aspen, Colorado. Our participants voted to return to Snowmass/Aspen.

Ski.com, once again, will be handling our travel arrangements. They can be reached at 800-525-2052, Ext. 3045. Ask for Martha Perez.

For reservations, send a deposit of \$500 to Ski.com at 2349 Honolulu Avenue, Montrose, California 91020. Mark it to the attention of Martha Perez. The cost will be approximately the same as our 2010 trip. *This is by far the best value in the ski CE industry...!*

Tuition fees are to be sent to Ski.com (*formally Sportours*) or contact Dr. Robert Garfield, Executive Director, SCAGD at 2720 Aqua Verde Circle, Los Angeles, California 90077 or call 310-471-4916.



DR. MICHAEL LEW
Novato

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Our Changing Roles

Autumn is a wonderful time to think and plan for the future. The weather and the leaves begin their transition, education is in full gear, and politics continues to change the direction of our society through its biennial fall dance. But this change is not only the time of year, it is the season of our lives.

Our economy challenges us to be innovative and prepare for the potential winters of 2011 and 2012. California will have the chilling choice between two widely divergent gubernatorial candidates. And organized dentistry in California will face a most difficult decision in structuring our profession:

Whether the dentist will remain the head of the dental team by exclusively retaining the privilege of diagnosing the dental needs, creating the treatment plans, and delivering the irreversible aspects of our patients' dental care or will this responsibility be diluted by allowing dental providers with minimal training to discern, diagnose, plan, and provide "simple" dentistry to Californians who have barriers to receiving dental care.

I have felt the apprehension from friends who stated that having non-dentists construct the treatment plans for their patients—treatment plans the dentist would have to deliver care on, even if the doctor felt it was not the best care for the patient, is bad. I have heard colleagues voice their concerns that “mid-level” providers will lower the standard of dental care. I have seen the discussion online that we must be engaged in the legislative discussion to increasing access to dental care or laws will be created to increase access without our participation. I have dined with dentists who welcome the opportunity to grow their dental practice by hiring “expanded function auxiliaries.”

Our historical AGD core value is to improve our service to the public through continuing dental education. We have always responded to our changing environment through acquiring new dental techniques, improving our management skills, and enhancing our medical knowledge. The AGD has a new core value, Advocacy—representing what we believe to be the best interests of the patients and the general dentist.

Your challenge in our changing world is to participate in the change. I do ask you to please e-mail me your points of view—*or become involved*. Inform me as to what you want for your future. in which educational classes do you want greater exposure—a further array of dental techniques, updates in dentistry/medicine, business and management training. Which areas of practice frustrate you? What is your opinion about mid-level providers? Do you welcome the concept or are you fearful?

My e-mail is MLewFAGD@comcast.net Please mail me your comments and concerns so that we in the AGD may advocate to create your Spring of opportunities and bounty!

Michael Lew, DMD, MAGD, Regional Director for CAGD



“Please
e-mail me
your
comments
and
concerns...”

Facts and Foolishness of the Mid-level Provider Concept

Stephen Lockwood, DMD, MAGD CAGD President Elect, AGD 2011 LAC Chairman, La Jolla

The conversation regarding mid-level providers continues to provoke a strong emotional response as general dentists learn that they are not as influential in regulating their profession as they assume. I recall learning in dental school that the dental profession is responsible for regulating itself. Over the past several decades, however, our profession has yielded much control to insurance companies and lobby-influenced state legislators. I scratch my head when I hear that Alaska and Minnesota have passed laws allowing non-dentists, termed “mid-level providers,” to practice dentistry. This alteration of professional boundaries has sympathetic supporters who believe that practicing dentistry with limited dental education will allow more underserved persons to receive care.

For example, there are some states which allow denturists to practice legally despite strong opposition among dental professionals and the silent opposition from the overwhelming majority of states which prohibit denturists from practicing altogether. The majority of lawmakers in Alaska and Minnesota have voted to lower the training and education of this new workforce provider so the cost of such care would be “reasonable and therefore more accessible.” Herein lays the conflicting perceptions of how to best provide access to care. I know I am not alone as a volunteer for improving access to care. Thousands of caring dentists donate valuable care to the underserved each year. But the need is so much greater than what volunteers can provide, and this brings me back to the real issue behind mid-level providers. There is a need for more access to care, better government funding, particularly from the federal level. As dentists we must advocate for residencies for general dentists in underserved areas, improved federal support for dental services, tuition support plans for dental students committing to public service, etc. We must be part of the solution. The solution is not to reduce the standard of care for the public, however.

Providing care is sometimes more complicated in remote and unfamiliar settings. *I cannot even imagine care being competently provided with anything less than formal dental school training.* Legislators have been persuaded that dental mid-level providers are similar to the care-stretching models in medicine. *Dentistry is much more complicated than writing a prescription. Spatial relation skills and training are necessary to perform dentistry as well as knowledge of pharmacology, infection control, dental anatomy, dental materials, growth and development, oral medicine, anesthetics, restorative dentistry, diagnosis and treating dental trauma, and managing medically compromised patients.* The current model of the Dental Team concept (dentist, RDH, EFDA, RDA, and administrator) has evolved in our state and exists in many states with minor differences in auxiliary utilization. The Dental Team concept has been recognized and duplicated as the best model to safely deliver dental care. Professional dentistry has evolved and attained a standard of care that has provided the public with safe and comfortable dentistry.

I once heard that if you want to really understand the motives behind something, you simply follow the money. Who stands to profit by the move to mid-level providers? Large group clinics, community medical and dental clinics may employ the mid-level providers to leverage their facilities. In this scenario, mid-level providers would be a cheap labor force and clinics could still bill the insurance companies or the state for dental treatment reimbursement. The fact is that intense interest in this new workforce comes from outside professional dentistry (outside of the ADA, CDA, AGD, CAGD, and university-accredited programs). Regardless of how our profession responds to the mid-level provider issue on a legal basis, the ultimate test will be the marketplace. The marketplace may not choose the care from mid-level providers. These providers may seek refuge in less discriminating markets such as community medical or dental clinics where quantity of patient visits produces reimbursement revenues regardless of the quality or appropriateness of care. Relative ethics becomes the new standard of care and a second tier of care is created.

One solution for the G.P.s who are against the mid-level provider concept is for them to continue to advance their own value to the marketplace. General dentistry has evolved from barber-surgeons, to tooth-carpenters, to doctors of the mouth, providing a variety of clinically sensitive and aesthetically demanding services. Being actively involved in a dental organization committed to excellence in general dentistry is essential to individual professional development. The AGD is such a group and it has encouraged the CDA to be stronger co-advocates in preserving our profession. For the benefit of public health and safety, the CDA and CAGD must have the political will and courage to control any potential erosion of our profession and the safe delivery of dental services to the public. Moreover, the deans of our six dental schools are needed to provide perspective and leadership on this issue. Dental schools must continue to maintain the standard of care through educational requirements and student competency.

Whether or not the mid-level providers issue is a perceived threat or an opportunity to evolve, the current profession of dentistry is in the highest ethical position to responsibly regulate itself. I urge you to join the AGD and help strengthen our efforts.

Sacramento-Sierra AGD News

Howard Chi, DMD, MAGD, *President, SSAGD, Stockton*

Hey, y'all are reporting back from "Nawlins." I just returned from a trip as a delegate to New Orleans. What an experience it was to be in the House of Delegates. You learned so much about resolutions and parliamentary rules. All of those by-laws that will take effect on what AGD will be able to achieve. Looking at the schedule, it was daunting: House of Delegates meetings, reference committee meetings and caucus meetings. I thought I would never be out of meetings, but they turned out to be great with lots of information about the inner workings of the AGD. It was also helpful to have great leaders in our group that helped us understand these policies, especially with Mike Bromberg's wise insight.

In spite of all of those meetings, we were able to get together for a meal or two and for some good fellowship. We merged as one united, strong region. New Orleans, with all of its difficulties, was an extremely good host. The people of New Orleans were very courteous and welcoming. We were able to sample Creole cooking and beignets. Being a "foodie," I was able to sample local specialties such as the muffuletta sandwich from the General Grocery Store Co., a Ferdi sandwich with debris from Mother's (*for breakfast*) and Deanie's Seafood specialty barbecue shrimp. This was not typical BBQ fare, but rather giant prawns bathed in oil (*not that kind of oil*) and Creole seasoning. It was a very tasty and messy dish (*see bibs that had to be worn*). We also had a chance to visit the Frenchmen area where live bands play. We were fortunate to listen to a jazz band headed by one of Wynton Marsalis's brothers, Delfeayo Marsalis, at the Snug Harbor. Good times indeed.

As you know, the AGD has three charges: education, advocacy and membership. For education, SSAGD and NCAGD are teaming up for this coming Fall. As far as we know, this is a first for any constituent and an exciting adventure of collaboration between both groups. The groundwork has been set; the exciting topic of implants will be our feature. We will have Dr. Michael Chen as our speaker. He has spoken across the United States and recently in China. He brings a non-threatening approach to implant dentistry for the general practitioner, from surgery to restoration. The morning session will be lecture and the afternoon session will host a breakout session for the participants where they are to bring in cases from their offices for implant treatment plan discussion. This will be an exciting event! We will have this course on October 23rd. If you are interested, please go to the SSAGD or NCAGD website to register. In addition to other collaborations, the SSAGD is

also forming a joint continuing education course with San Joaquin's Seattle Study Club group. We will keep you informed as this comes together.



CAGD Treasurer, Guy Acheson, and SSAGD President, Howard Chi, enjoying BBQ shrimp



Guy Acheson, Howard Chi, Darryl Tkachyk and CAGD president, Bill Langstaff



Pacific AEGD dental residents at one of our dinner study club meetings



Marsalis leading his jazz band

Finally, membership recruitment and retention is an issue in many organizations, including our very own. At the SSAGD, we still have our dinner study club meetings. This year, we have invited the AEGD dental residents from the University of the Pacific in Stockton to attend. Having these residents there is a great opportunity for them to network and learn more about treatment planning, lead by our own great Dr. Guy Acheson. They also learn what the AGD is all about as well. By having this early exposure to the AGD, these residents have signed up to be members! As we open our doors to these young, bright individuals, the exposure to the AGD is invaluable, a win-win situation for all.

Until next time, y'all stay cool and have a beignet on me!

My Dental Journey

A STORY OF COMRADERY AND
OF COMMON PURPOSE

Dr. Darryl Tkachyk, SCAGD Vice President, AGD Annual Meeting Chairman and Student FellowTrack Contact for Loma Linda University

I was raised in the oil and gas town of Calgary “Cow Town” Alberta, Canada. My father is a practicing dentist who also farms the fertile soils of the Canadian Shield. From the time I was about ten years old, I was hanging out in my dad’s office developing radiographs, washing instruments and even assisting. I was also getting older and strong enough to really work on the farm. I was generally trying to get paid to buy all the things that are important to a ten-year-old. You know, fishing rods and tackle, bikes, ball gloves and bats, 22 shells, and spare quarters for video games. It was from these early experiences that I realized if you want to help people and succeed in life, you need to work hard. So, from those early times, I knew, eventually I would become a dentist. It was a long and rocky road to finally realize that dream.

Some great dental friends, my Dad Dr. Peter Tkachyk, Dr. Rodney Shewchuck and Dr. Roland Haryett (*WWII pilot, orthodontist and the founder of the University of Alberta School of Orthodontics*), helped me realize what it means to become a professional. So, after years of shenanigans and play, I had a BSc. in Zoology and Biochemistry from the University of Calgary and was on my way to Loma Linda University School of Dentistry. The four years at LLU were so fulfilling it really is hard to describe. I had a new family of ninety-two classmates who shared the common goal of graduating. The comradery was something everyone needs to experience in life. I became our class president and excelled clinically and academically. The highlight in my life, at that point, was giving the commencement speech to the Loma Linda University School of Dentistry’s Class of 2002. I had been offered a residency position in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. I decided that the primary reason I went into dentistry was to be a general dentist and to help families over a long and prosperous career, so I declined the position.

Dr. Robert Garfield spoke to our class shortly after this and explained the AGD and the possibilities of Fellowship and Mastership with that organization, which is devoted to the interests of general dentistry. *I joined right then.* The Summer of ’02 seemed to take forever to get my license and when it came (August 27), I thought “What the heck have I done!” The first two years of private practice were very difficult times for me. I struggled to keep up with a schedule while providing quality dentistry. I forgot about the AGD and CE, although I had maintained my membership. My dad helped me over the phone with all the stress of dentistry, but I was still missing the camaraderie of colleagues. I accidentally took a course put on by the SCAGD and, for the first time in over two years, thought “this is what’s been missing.”

I started to attend many of the AGD courses, as well as other PACE-approved courses. I was on the path to Fellowship! With the great CE and rediscovered camaradery, dentistry was getting easier and more rewarding as well.

My wife, Jocelyn, and I were blessed on November 25, 2006, with healthy twins, Brooke and Thomas. Now that is really what life is about. Shortly after this, at the CAGD annual meeting, I had lunch with Dr. Bill Langstaff. We had a great conversation about life and dentistry.

I expressed my dismay with a referral guideline paper that was put out by the American Academy of Periodontology. Bill invited me to an SCAGD board meeting and showed me that leaders are needed and do make a difference. I have since grown with my position on the SCAGD board to vice president and was invited to become the annual meeting chairperson at the state level CAGD. These two positions have not only helped fulfill my professional life, but personal life as well. I have made friends that will last a lifetime.

I have been given guidance and support from great leaders in dentistry such as Chikka Raju, William Langstaff, Robert Garfield, Jay Thompson, Steve Skurrow, Jeff Lloyd, Mike Bromberg, Rich Ringrose, Guy Atcheson, Steve Lockwood, Yolanda Mangrum, Micheal Lew, and Bob Hubbert. There are many others, too, who I’m sure I have overlooked mentioning, but you know who you are.

Last year, after attaining more than the needed 500 hours of CE, I was given the opportunity to take the 400-question Fellowship exam with only one week to prepare! I dug out my old board exam review material, got the Fellowship study guide materials from the AGD, and thought to myself, this is happening “on a wing and a prayer.” It seemed like forever for the results to arrive, and when they did with the CONGRATULATIONS on top, I was ecstatic to say the least. I promptly sent in my Fellowship application and was approved.

At the same time, my roles on the SCAGD and CAGD boards were growing. I was asked to be a delegate for the 2010 AGD House of Delegates in New Orleans. This was turning out to be a very promising trip to the “Big Easy.” Being a first-time delegate was absolutely the most bonding thing I have done in dentistry. The CAGD people stuck together and enjoyed each other over the week. We ate, laughed, played, argued (*not with each other, of course*), and drank. We donated to the AGD Foundation and Advocacy fund, taking home the award for the region with the highest percentage of donors. We really got to know each other. We made a difference for the future of dentistry. We went to award dinners and enjoyed the company of former California Dental Association presidents, Dr. Russ Webb and Dr. Carol Summerhays.

The HOD ended and I was pleased to have been asked by the Speaker of the House, Dr. Mark Donald, to make a
(continued on page 26...JOURNEY)



DARRYL AND JOCELYN TKACHYK

FellowTrack Activities

Sun Costigan, DDS, MAGD, *FellowTrack Contact for UOP and UCSF, Novato*

The California AGD FellowTrack program held a student leadership meeting with the CAGD board members and mentor dentists in May, 2010. We have capable new student leaders and will be able to offer great student activities and CE programs. Last year, with student involvement, Northern California FellowTrack offered implant, endo, sedation and practice management courses. I want to thank all FellowTrack members and leaders for a successful year. I am looking forward to working with our new leaders and students in offering student activities and CE programs beginning in the Fall of this year.

FellowTrack Programs are educationally-based constituent activities designed to recruit and retain dental students and provide them both an early start and incentives toward earning an Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) Fellowship. Moreover, the goal of this program is to instill in them a philosophy of lifelong learning, expand AGD's membership base of young members, and help build a productive relationship with their local communities and its members. The FellowTrack offers and organizes CE lectures, hands-on courses, and events that dental students would not normally have access to.



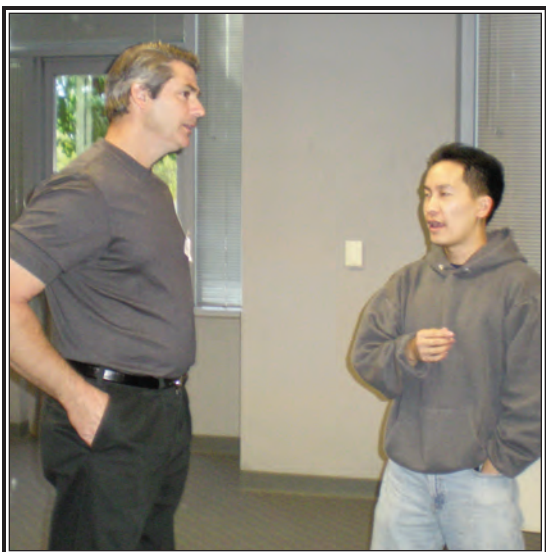
UCSF and Dugoni student leaders with mentors (*back row*): Ramya Balasubramanian, Shauna Woody, Krystie Morrisey, Ryan Colletta, Stephanie Moniz, Vikram Tiku, Dr. Paul Schafer; (*front row*): Alison Adachi, Catherine Lau, Jeremy Bonander, Dr. Sun Costigan, Dr. Mike Lew



Arthur Dugoni School of Dentistry Student Orientation. Ruben Sandu, FellowTrack Student President (2009) with Dr. Dinu Gray, a mentor-dentist, prior to the student hands-on course.

New FellowTrack Continuing Education Policies for Students. As a result of student and mentor requests, recently the House of Delegates approved that all AGD student members, regardless of year, can now submit up to fifty hours of FAGD/MAGD-approved CE credits. Students must be AGD members to participate; under the newly enacted policies, they can now turn in their own CEs in the same manner as other members. Great job and thanks to all members involved in these policy changes!

(continued on page 14)



President of NCAAGD, Dr. Lou Triccerri, with student, Than Thanh, Immediate Past President at UCSF.



Student Implant Course: UCSF students are enjoying lunch during implant hands-on course at Micro Dental.

FELLOWTRACK *(continued from the previous page)*

Other benefits for FellowTrack student members include the following:

Student and Recent Graduate Transitional Manual. This free manual provides you with instant access to practice management tips you may not have learned in dental school, such as goal setting, financial planning, marketing, and printable worksheets to keep you on track! Members can download this at

http://www.agd.org/membership/dental_students/da_manual.asp

Reduced Membership Fees/Student FellowTrack Website: The new Student Section of the Website at www.cagd.org offers student members Facebook, Twitter and CE information. You will also be able to download the California Academy of General Dentistry's publication, the GP News, and articles from other sources.

Refer a Classmate Program: Students may now earn individual credit for recruiting their classmates through the all-new Refer a Classmate Program. In this program, student members who recruit their classmates between May 1, 2010 and April 30, 2011, can earn iTunes gift cards and AGD travel mugs for their efforts. Additionally, the student who recruits the most classmates by the end of the program, will win the title of Top Student Recruiter and will receive a 32GB iPod Touch, plus funds for hosting their own Lunch and Learn or other student events coordinated with the assistance of their local constituent leaders. More information about the Refer a Classmate Program can be found at

www.agd.org/students/membership/refer.asp

Premier Publications: Subscriptions to AGD's publications General Dentistry and AGD Impact are included in your membership fee! Articles are available to download at the AGD website.

Free Annual Meeting and Exhibits Registration: AGD Career Center. Simplify your search! Get a jump on graduation by starting your job search early. The Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) has information and resources specific to the needs of dental students.



Endodontic Hands-on Course: Students at work at Micro Dental in Dublin
"A very informative and well-run course"



Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry
Student Orientation: Felicia Frizzell
and Ruben Sandu (2009)

*From advice to
discounts, the AGD
can help you
through dental
school and beyond!*



Especially attentive students at the Endodontic Hands-on Course
held at Micro Dental in Dublin

Northern California AGD Activities

Timothy Verceles, DDS, MAGD, *President, NCAGD, Mountain View*

June was a busy month for the NCAGD. On June 18th, we presented a lecture and hands-on course entitled "Ridge Preservation Techniques for the GP" given by Dr. Frank Martinez, periodontist. The attendees learned state of the art techniques in atraumatic extraction, ridge preservation and bone grafting. They were then able to apply the techniques on fresh swine jaws.

The NCAGD board wants to thank our course sponsors Osstem, Piezosurgery, DoctorBase and Tulsa Dental Specialties for supporting the course. That same evening, the NCAGD board held a dinner meeting at Maggiano's at Santana Row in San Jose to celebrate the success of the course and to present Jennifer Leonard of Modus Solutions and Dr. Lou Tricerri, past NCAGD president, achievement awards for their outstanding contributions to the success of the NCAGD. A good time was had by all!

Finally, the NCAGD hosted a Santa Clara Study Club on June 24th at Chef Yu restaurant in Sunnyvale. Dr. Mike Lew gave a presentation on "How To Be a Success in Dentistry." The lecture was well received and we look forward to holding more study club events in the future.



Jennifer Leonard, Dr. Lou Tricerri, Dr. Dinu Gray, Dr. Larry Wilder, Dr. Vera Polintan, Dr. Chitra Shikaram, Dr. Craig Crispin, Dr. Shanthi Madireddi and Dr. Frank Martinez

Please join us for our next course "Dental Implants for the GP" given by Dr. Mike Chen and co-sponsored by SSAGD on Saturday, October 23, 2010 at the University of the Pacific in Stockton (see ad below). Register at www.ncagd.com (continued on page 26, photos)

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AND SACRAMENTO-SIERRA AGD COMPONENTS PRESENT

Dental Implants for the General Practitioner

MIKE CHEN, DDS

Saturday, October 23, 2010

Registration at 8:00 a.m.; meeting 8:30 a.m. till 4:30 p.m.

University of the Pacific, Health Sciences Building
757 Brookside Road, Stockton, California 95207

Tuition: AGD Members @ \$99; Non-Members @ \$149;
Residents, Students and Dental Auxiliaries @ \$79

This course is designed for general practitioners to incorporate dental implants into their practices with a practical approach from surgery to the final restoration.

Attendees are invited to bring radiographs, study models and photographs of their potential implant cases for discussion.

Continental breakfast and lunch will also be provided. Register early as attendance is limited.

Questions? Call 916-539-2764 or e-mail to ssagdgroup@yahoo.com

Seven hours of CDE lecture credit will be awarded upon completion of this course.

REGISTRATION FORM Mail the form to: SSAGD, 8 River Garden Court, Sacramento, California 95831
or, fax the form to: 209-946-7484

Name _____ AGD # _____ Non-Member

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

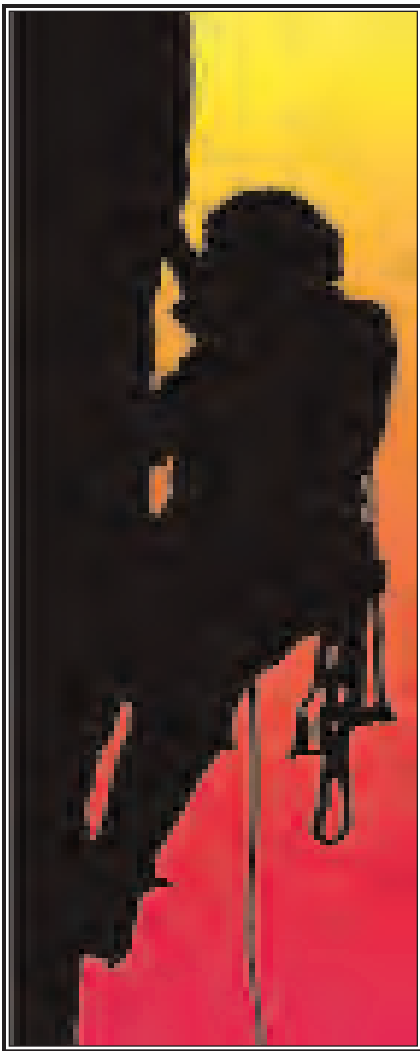
Telephone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Credit Card No. _____ Expiration Date _____ Amount \$ _____

VISA MC AMEX DISCOVER Signature _____

Yes, e-mail me about upcoming AGD courses





TAKE IT TO THE TOP!

“Achieving the AGD Fellowship, and especially AGD Mastership status, are goals that deserve the attention of every general dentist.” —DR. GORDON CHRISTENSEN

Achieving Mastership is a professional designation within the Academy of General Dentistry beyond Fellowship and reflects a general dentist’s on-going commitment to provide quality care through education. Members achieving this distinction have completed a challenging course of study in sixteen dental disciplines, totaling 600 hours of continuing education, 400 hours of which must be hands on.

The California Academy of General Dentistry offers a MasterTrack program to satisfy the requirements for the hard to obtain 400 hours required to earn this award. What you achieve through this program will be yours for a lifetime. The cost is \$28 per hands on unit. The protocol format is used. Participants will combine lecture material with work done in their offices to prepare a presentation for the group and instructor.

Locating all the courses and units necessary to complete this requirement can be time consuming and expensive for individuals seeking to accomplish this outside of an organized MasterTrack program. Doctors who have achieved Mastership on their own have estimated that it took them over ten years at a cost of over \$50,000. That is why the CAGD has organized the subjects and arranged for excellent speakers at a convenient location, all at a very affordable price.

Courses and curriculum are scheduled a year in advance to accommodate your schedule. The four-year program is held twice a year for four days, Thursday through Sunday. The cost of a school year is \$2,800. The new MasterTrack program will be held in Oakland at the beautiful Waterfront Hotel in Jack London Square, providing easy access to shopping, dining and entertainment opportunities within waking distance from the hotel or by ferry in San Francisco for participants and their family members.

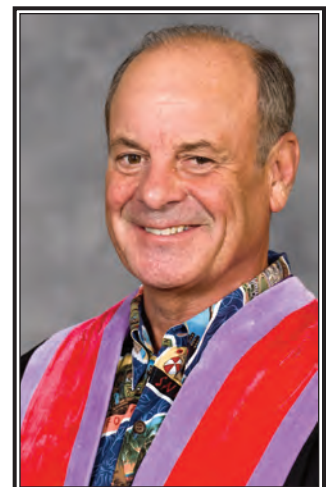
The new MasterTrack four-year program starting in October is currently full. If you would like to be on the cancellation list, you will need to act quickly. In the event there are no cancellations you will be given first consideration for the next program.

Ralph Hoffman, DDS, MAGD participant: “Thank you for one of the most, if not the most, rewarding experiences of my entire career.”

Grace Sun, DDS, MAGD participant: “This MasterTrack experience has to be rated number one among many others for reaching higher places.”

Treva Lee, DDS, MAGD participant: “A better experience than my GPR. No one was an expert at everything, and everyone was an expert in something.”

Sun Costigan, DDS, MAGD participant: “The best learning experience I have ever had!”



Rich Ringrose, DDS, MAGD
Director, Clearlake

For more information,
contact our Executive Director,
Lynn Peterson at **877-408-0738**

*Achieve
the
highest
AGD
honor...
become a
“Master”*



MasterTrack Curriculum (YEAR ONE)

FIRST SESSION—October, 2010

October 21 **PHOTOGRAPHY, DIGITAL IMAGING & POWER POINT** Dr. Guy Acheson

This course will provide the basis to allow participants to present protocols to the group. AACD guidelines will be covered and the latest equipment and techniques will be discussed. Dr. Acheson is a founding member and past president of the Sierra-Sacramento Component of CAGD. He received his MAGD in 1998. He has lectured in Photography and Digital Imaging in the Sacramento area has acted as a moderator for case presentations. *This session of eleven hours of lecture will, with homework, give you thirty participation units in Electives.*

October 22-23 **OPERATIVE DENTISTRY** Dr. Harry F. Albers

This course will focus on tooth-colored restorations. The emphasis will be on material selection to achieve restorative goals in operative dentistry. The major types of direct and indirect resin restorations, resin bonding and bonded porcelain restorations will be covered. Dr. Albers is one of the leaders in postgraduate dental education. He received the "H. Weclaw Honorary Fellowship Award" from the Academy of General Dentistry and was awarded a "Masters of Esthetics" from the **Journal of Esthetic and Restorative Dentistry**. He was the first recipient of the Academy of Cosmetic and Adhesive Dentistry's "Lifetime Service Award." He is the author of the widely used textbook **Tooth-Colored Restoratives**. He has lectured internationally on cosmetic and restorative dentistry. He maintains a private practice in Santa Rosa. *These two days of sixteen lecture hours will provide, with presentation, thirty-two hours of participation credit in Operative Dentistry.*

October 24 **ANATOMY OF ORAL ANESTHESIA** Dr. Alan Budenz

The pharmacologic mechanisms and delivery techniques of local anesthesia will be covered. Appropriate use of various local anesthetics and how to solve some of the difficulties that arise in obtaining profound anesthesia will be discussed. Dr. Budenz is a Professor of Anatomy and Chair of the Department of Diagnostic and Emergency Services at UOP. *This six-hour lecture, with homework, will provide twelve participation units in Basic Science.*

SECOND SESSION—March, 2011

March 24 **PROTOCOL PRESENTATIONS** Dr. Albers, Dr. Acheson and Dr. Budenz

Participants will present and discuss homework projects from the previous session in operative, anatomy and photography. Participation is necessary to receive full credit in these categories. Those who do not present will be given hour for hour lecture credit only. *This eight- hour presentation will provide thirty participation units in Electives.*

March 25 **REMOVABLE PROSTHETICS** Dr. Mark Dellinges and Dr. Fritz Finzen

This course will help participants meet the challenge of providing predictable complete and partial dentures in a timely manner. Diagnosis, treatment planning, simplified component selection and design considerations for complete and partials will be covered. Valuable tips and time saving techniques will be presented. Both Dr. Dellinges and Dr. Finzen are Clinical Professors, Division of Prosthodontics at UCSF as well as Diplomates of the American Board of Prosthodontics. Dr. Finzen also serves as the Chair of the Division of Prosthodontics.

March 26 **REMOVABLE PROSTHETICS**

Dr. John DiPonziano

This is an in-depth course, which will illustrate implant prosthetic treatment planning as well as indications for the various restorative components and techniques available today. Topics will include impression taking for stud and bar overdentures as well as fixed-detachable prosthesis. Clinical tips and trouble shooting of common implant prosthetic problems, and how to avoid them will also be reviewed. Dr. DiPonziano is a Master of the Academy of General Dentistry and a Certified Dental Technician. He maintains a private practice, with the emphasis on comprehensive implant and restorative treatment in San Leandro.

March 27 **ORAL DIAGNOSIS** Dr. Alan Budenz

A potpourri of diagnostic problems will be discussed and the newest thinking in oral medicine will be covered. Dr. Budenz is Chair of the Department of Diagnosis and Management at UOP. *This six-hour lecture with protocol presentation will yield twelve units of participation in Oral Diagnosis/Oral Medicine.*

RECAP

Subject Category	Participation Credits Given	Participation Credits Needed
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ELECTIVES	30	30
OPERATIVE	32	30
BASIC SCIENCES	12	12
ORAL DIAG./ ORAL MEDICINE	12	12
REMOVABLE PROSTHETICS	32	30



Approved PACE Program Provider
for FAGD and MAGD credit
Approved 2010 for Initial Recertification
by a House of Provincial Council of
Dentistry of AGD endorsement
B.C. 2009 (Rev. 01-1-2010)
AGD Provider ID: K219281

The approval of sponsors does not imply endorsement by the California AGD of course content, products or therapies presented. The participant must make the decision as to the merit and practicality of the materials to which they are exposed.

Disability Insurance for California Dentists

★ Coverage in One's
Own Occupation

★ Association Discount

★ Higher Limits—New!



CALL OR E-MAIL:

SIMON & ASSOCIATES, INC.

(714) 974-3311 (Paul)
Paulmsimon2@aol.com

(626) 905-1642 (Chris)
Chris@rivettclark.com

ENDODONTIC HANDS-ON WORKSHOP

December 5, 2010 (Sunday)...8 CE units

Dr. Wyatt D. Simons

Diplomat of the American Board of Endodontics and founder of "Signature Specialists" teaching center in San Clemente. On faculty at the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry.



You will receive hands-on training in the following:

Diagnosis and treatment planning, case selection, canal preparation and anesthesia, proper canal access, rotary instrumentation, carrier-based warm gutta percha vertical obturation, preparation of the treated tooth for the final restoration.

Embassy Suites Hotel/Anaheim South

11767 Harbor Boulevard, Garden Grove 92840 (just south of Disneyland)

Tuition includes breakfast and lunch. Registration 7:00-8:00 a.m. Program from 8:00 till 5:00 p.m.

Speaker sponsored by
SYBRON ENDO
Sybron Dental Specialties

AGD member @ \$195, non-member @ \$245; RDA/DA/RDH @ \$130;
Dental students @ \$150; at the door registration @ \$300. Tuition is due by
November 26 with registration after due date an additional \$30

Registration by Phone or Fax or Mail

Name _____ AGD # (if member) _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip code _____
Telephone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____
VISA / MC / AMEX / Discover # _____ Expiration _____ Amount \$ _____
Credit card billing address _____ Zip code _____

Mail or fax registration to SCAGD c/o Robert E. Garfield, DDS, 2720 Aqua Verde Circle, Los Angeles, California 90077

Fax: 310-472-6729

Telephone: 310-471-4916

Welcome To New CAGD Members

Dr. Ashley Abrams, *Moreno Valley*
Dr. Jared Adams, *Loma Linda*
Dr. Drew Addt, *Los Angeles*
Dr. Prabidhi Adhikari, *Marina del Rey*
Dr. Maria Victoria Agustin, *Chula Vista*
Dr. Kathy Ansarinia, *San Jose*
Dr. Megan Arman, *Los Angeles*
Dr. Alison Austin, *San Diego*
Dr. Baljot Bains, *Tracy*
Dr. Christian Balarie, *Downey*
Dr. Gurvinder Bhatti, *Los Angeles*
Dr. Courtney Burrill, *South Pasadena*
Dr. Peter Cacos, *Palos Verdes Peninsula*
Dr. Steven Chang, *Los Angeles*
Dr. Cindy Chen, *Los Angeles*
Dr. Sungwoon Cho, *Loma Linda*
Dr. William Choi, *San Bruno*
Dr. Tracy D'Antonio, *Manhattan Beach*
Dr. Stephen Davis, *Torrance*
Dr. Joyce De Leon, *Loma Linda*
Dr. August De Oliveira, *Encino*
Dr. Anthony Deza, *San Bernardino*
Dr. Rocio Deza, *Moreno Valley*
Dr. Erik Dunkelberger, *Los Angeles*
Dr. Aragon Ellwanger, *San Francisco*
Dr. Kevin Fakheri, *Encino*
Dr. Alaina Fenton, *Marina del Rey*

Dr. Michael Fow, *Hermosa Beach*
Dr. Jonathan Fu, *Irvine*
Dr. Smita Gala, *Fremont*
Dr. Tristan Galloway, *Los Angeles*
Dr. Andrew Goldenberg, *Ventura*
Dr. Estela Goldman, *Los Angeles*
Dr. Virinder S. Grewall, *Wilton*
Dr. Rupali Gupta, *Fullerton*
Dr. Joseph Hanna, *Granada Hills*
Dr. Nathan Hauck, *Los Angeles*
Dr. Jaimeson Hofkes, *Santa Monica*
Dr. Janet Hwang, *Palo Alto*
Dr. Cerisa Ignacio, *Los Angeles*
Dr. Simona Ivan, *Loma Linda*
Dr. Sherin Johnson, *Loma Linda*
Dr. Ardeshir Sadeh Khou, *Los Angeles*
Dr. Jee Kim, *Los Angeles*
Dr. James Kirkpatrick, *Bakersfield*
Dr. Kapil Kirpekar, *Los Angeles*
Dr. Angela Kuo, *Fresno*
Dr. Diem-Mai Lam, *Huntington Beach*
Dr. Cheung-Fai Lau, *San Francisco*
Dr. Jessica Lee, *Los Angeles*
Dr. Gregg A. Louk, *Reseda*
Dr. Benjamin Lu, *Arcadia*
Dr. Huan Lu, *Los Angeles*
Dr. Sital Mandalia, *Cerritos*

Dr. Jason Mashni, *Loma Linda*
Dr. Jerome McSwain, *Chula Vista*
Dr. Christina Mendoza, *Fairfield*
Dr. Gerard Mercado, *Downey*
Dr. Kiran Mistry, *Fullerton*
Dr. Geri Okamoto, *Pasadena*
Dr. Sajit Patel, *Winchester*
Dr. Christopher Petrush, *Danville*
Dr. Kevin Prates, *Loma Linda*
Dr. Steven Rabenstein, *Pasadena*
Dr. Bharat Rajpara, *Fontana*
Dr. Alphonse-Leander Ramos, *Los Angeles*
Dr. David Refae, *San Jose*
Dr. Paula Sones, *San Francisco*
Dr. Kai Steele, *Loma Linda*
Dr. Nina Tecson, *San Francisco*
Dr. Monika Tincher, *Moorpark*
Dr. John Tran, *Los Angeles*
Dr. Thanh Tran, *San Francisco*
Dr. Jenny Tsai, *San Diego*
Dr. James Walker, *Stockton*
Dr. Ryan Waring, *Colton*
Dr. Brian Withers, *Manhattan Beach*
Dr. Ankit Vasa, *Cypress*
Dr. Michael Yap, *Los Angeles*
Dr. Andy Yu, *Los Angeles*

PROVEN

Fundamentals of Endodontics

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2010

- * Meeting registration from 7:00 a.m. till 8:00 a.m. Lecture begins at 8:00 a.m. and concludes at 5:00 p.m.
- * Eight (8) hours of CE that is approved for California license renewal.
- * Continental breakfast and a lunch buffet included.
- * The meeting will have exhibitors with whom you can visit.

South San Francisco Conference Center
 255 South Airport Boulevard, South San Francisco, California 94080



Featuring: **William Henson, DDS**

Dr. William Henson graduated from Southern Methodist University and the University of Texas Dental School at Houston. He served in the U.S. Air Force before starting his private practice in the Dallas Texas area in 1973. He was a member of the Baylor University College of Dentistry faculty from 1987 to 1993, completing an endodontic fellowship there in 1998.

Learning Objectives / Course Content:

Upon completion, attendees will understand how to successfully diagnose, treatment plan, and perform root canal therapy utilizing modern, basic rotary techniques. Attendees will understand why each step and technique is important for achieving clinical success. Dr. Henson will review diagnosis and treatment planning, endodontic preparation and anesthesia tips, creating endodontic access, rotary instrumentation fundamentals, and successful obturation.

Who:

This program is presented by the California Academy of General Dentistry with the help and sponsorship of Delta Dental of California and Dentsply Tulsa Dental Specialties.



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Fees: \$85 for AGD, Delta Dental Members and Staff
 \$215 for Non-members
 \$85 for Dental Auxiliaries

Payment Method:
 TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT ENCLOSED: \$ _____
 AGD Member # _____ Non-member AGD

Card number _____

I am a Delta Dental member
 MasterCard VISA AMEX Check # _____
 (Payable to CAGD)

Name of cardholder _____

Expiration date _____ Security code (3 or 4 digit number on the back of your card following your card number) _____

Card billing address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail this registration form to: **CAGD** (Attn: Event Registration), 950 Glenn Drive, Suite 150, Folsom, California 95630

Fax this registration form to: **916-932-2209**

Questions, call: 916-932-2245

Or, register online (credit cards only) at: www.cagd.com





Marlene and Steve on their first Harley



Fun with the grandkids



Steve with Brandi and Napoleon 1994



Skurows and Carricos 2000



A morning's catch (if it flies, it dies)



Steve, Janie Chandler and Dr. Gordon Christenson



John Kanca, Steve and Marlene, 2002



Marlene and Steve tandeming near Solvang



Sandi, Steve, Lynda (SISTERS, BACK ROW)
Steve's father and mother (FRONT)



Skurows and Naftalins 2009



Dr. Bill Frank installing Steve as president of the CAGD

received his Fellowship in the Academy in 1980. On the national level, Steve has served at the AGD House of Delegates for thirteen years, the PACE Council for six years, the Dental Education Council for three years and two years on the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2004 Anaheim Annual Meeting.



John Chandler and Steve at the AGD meeting in Anaheim, 2004



Memorial Day weekend in Death Valley, 2006

Steve has a very broad spectrum of interests including: Motorcycle touring with Marlene, hunting, fishing, scuba diving, photography, dogs, traveling, spending time with friends. His newest passion is being a Patriot Guard Rider, his special way as a military veteran of paying tribute to fallen soldiers (*ask him about this great national organization*) and his most important interest...his family, especially his three grandchildren!

Dr. Skurow has continued his support of the AGD by staying involved (continued on page 26)

Watchdog* COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Guy Acheson, DDS, MAGD, *Chairman, CAGD Treasurer, Fair Oaks*

ADVOCACY: *The act or process of advocating or supporting a cause or proposal*

While advocacy has been a large part of what the CAGD has done for many years, we focused our efforts in 2010 on being in attendance at virtually every Dental Board of California meeting. The group of members who have volunteered to go to those meetings refer to themselves as the Watchdog Committee.

The DBC meets at least four times a year and divides their meeting locations between Sacramento, San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego. I am the chair of the Watchdogs and am committed to attending all the DBC meetings in northern California. The DBC meetings in southern California are covered by Watchdog members in that half of the state.

The initial goal of just attending, observing, and reporting has rapidly been overtaken by what we have learned about the changes in dental auxiliary duties that were legislated in AB2637. Some of you are aware that the way RDAs are supervised has changed as of January 2010. In addition, the list of allowable duties for RDAs and RDAEFs has been expanded as well as creating two new categories of dental auxiliaries.

AB2637 is sweeping legislation that dramatically changes the organization, training, and oversight of dental auxiliaries. It created two new dental assistant categories; Orthodontic Assistant and Dental Sedation Assistant. It gives RDAs the new duty of adjusting dentures. It changed the way RDAs are managed in that previously, the type of oversight for each duty by the supervising dentist was specified by the Dental Board. With AB2637 this changed to allow the supervising dentist to determine whether general supervision or direct supervision is indicated for each duty by an RDA.

The most far reaching effect of AB2637 is expanding the duties of the RDAEF to include placing direct restorations of all materials (amalgam, bonded composite, glass ionomer), the fitting, adjusting, and final cementation of indirect restorations, as well as fitting and cementing endodontic master cones and accessory points using lateral condensation. This definitely captured CAGD's attention. The most concerning part is that AB2637 even specifies the level of education and training that the RDAEFs need to become licensed and guess what, no clinical training on human patients is required! All the training is done on typodonts.

Most legislation concerning dental job categories and duties are written in fairly broad language and the DBC is tasked with determining the level of education and training to become judged to be competent. This legislation is unique in that it specifies the level of education and training to become judged to be competent which cuts the Dental Board out of its duty to protect the public. We, the CAGD Board, feel that this is wrong. The CAGD Board is now organizing to be able to respond to this legislation by providing input to the DBC and testifying at the DBC meetings. We are using existing AGD policies on dental workforce utilization as the basis to develop CAGD positions on dental workforce utilization which will help us communicate why this legislation is harmful to the public.

This article is to both inform you about what CAGD is doing to monitor the forces that are shaping the environment and rules within which we practice our profession *and a call for input from you*, the members of the AGD in California. I am asking you to spend the time to read the changes made in dental auxiliary law made by AB2637 and to *give me feedback*. Tell me what you like and what you do not like about these changes. Tell me about your concerns. I want to hear from you whether you think everything is fine or if you are concerned or upset. Did you know about these changes? This legislation was five years in the making, yet so many dentists are unaware of these changes. Do you feel this is a good change for general dentistry? The CAGD needs to hear from you so we know how to respond in a manner consistent with our members.

The current laws regarding dental auxiliary utilization can be found on the DBC website at:

http://www.dbc.ca.gov/formspubs/pub_statutes20090101.pdf

You can contact me at: drGuyacheson@gmail.com
or at: 916-214-6663

The AGD is THE organization *by and for* General Dentists. For it to work, we must know how you feel on everything to do with your practicing dentistry.

This is one issue that the CAGD Board feels has significant impact on our practice of general dentistry and we want to hear from you.

**Hear me growl...?*

A Student's Viewpoint

Gurvander S. Bhatti, Senior, USC

What an experience dental school is! It has been such a defining part of my life...!

I just started my fourth year as a student at the University of Southern California School of Dentistry. I have enjoyed the opportunity to study a wide spectrum of fields, ranging from esthetics to surgical implant placement. I have been lucky enough to be able to attend "selective courses" which strengthen my knowledge and clinical skills in specific areas in dentistry: Esthetics with Dr. Pascal Magne, advanced endodontics on multi-rooted teeth, and oral surgery procedures involving extraction of bony impacted third molars.



USC also offers several CE course on the weekends, open to students at a reasonable price. I have personally taken a year-long implant course that has given me more insight and hands-on practice with implant placement and restoration. We have informative classes that are relevant to our future, such as practice management, giving me a taste of the business aspect of dentistry.

Another great learning opportunity has come from my involvement in the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD). This organization has brought several different guest speakers to provide lectures in everything from Invisalign to implant placement. It has also opened the door to a wide range of CE courses throughout Southern California which have allowed me to learn more about advanced dental procedures such as bone grafting, crown lengthening, orthodontics. The list just keeps going on.

These are just a few of the many different learning opportunities I have been exposed to in my years in dental school. My clinical experience at USC has already enabled me able to assist with several implant placements, restoring implants, a veneer case, extracting completely impacted third molars, performing endodontic treatment on several molars, completing removable partial dentures, complete dentures, a fixed bridge and several PFMs.

Based on both my clinical experiences and the greater insight obtained through these "selective courses," CE courses, and organizations like the AGD, I have the confidence and courage to explore a deeper understanding into any avenue of dentistry that interests me. This experience has encouraged me to become a comprehensive dentist, which I believe will better serve today's financially struggling and rural communities.

The most amazing part of all this is that I realize that I have barely just begun. I'm just getting prepared to get started.

Californians Honored by the AGD

Since 2006, only nine California AGD Masters have been recognized for Lifelong Service and Learning to our profession by the Academy of General Dentistry. *They are:*

Dr. Carol Summerhays
San Diego (2006)

Dr. Chikka M. Raju
Chino Hills (2007)

Dr. Christopher Kleber
Coronado (2007)

Dr. Kirk M. Hobock
San Juan Capistrano (2008)

Dr. Guy Acheson
Fair Oaks (2009)

Dr. Joel S. Miller
Valencia (2009)

Dr. Donald P. Tormey
Fullerton (2010)

Dr. Suzanna Lee
Mountain View (2010)

Dr. Trinh Lee
Mountain View (2010)

Lifelong Learning and Service Recognition (LLSR) was created to recognize the achievements of those AGD Masters who clearly recognize the professional obligation to remain current in their profession and to create an example so that each member of the dental profession never loses sight of this obligation. Achieving the LLSR from the Academy of General Dentistry tells colleagues and patients of your continued commitment to lifelong learning and quality patient care.

LLSR Requirements:

1. Mastership in the AGD with AGD membership in good standing.
2. Completion of 500 hours of FAGD/MAGD-approved continuing education credit. Hours must have been earned since the date of Mastership was received or since a previous LLSR was received.
3. Continuing education credits must be earned in least eight of fourteen designated subject areas, although there are no minimums or maximums by discipline.
4. At least 150 continuing education hours must be earned in participation course attendance.
5. A maximum of 100 credits for teaching will be allowed.
6. A maximum of 100 credits for publication will be allowed.
7. Completion of 100 hours of AGD-approved dental-related community/volunteer service and/or service to organized dentistry. Hours must have been performed since the date of Mastership was received or since a previous LLSR was received.

To learn more about the LLSR Award, go to the AGD website at: www.AGD.org then select Awards from the tool bar, then LLSR.



Practice of Dentistry with the focus on **DENTAL MATERIALS**

Editor's Note: Dental practitioners and a laboratory owner share thoughts about the practice of dentistry and the choices regarding dental materials in today's dental world. The messages below are some of the thoughts and opinions expressed by them. How about you?

This is what started the ball rolling from a seasoned practitioner:

Well, guys, I did something today I haven't done in at least twenty years: I replaced an occlusal amalgam on #2 with **another amalgam**. There was an opening at a margin, so I removed the old amalgam—no crack, no decay, so amalgam was the choice.

I had lunch with a sophomore dental student at Michigan this week. I asked him about amalgams in Detroit. He told me that basically amalgams are required for posterior teeth. I celebrated my thirty-eighth year in dentistry yesterday, and have seen thousands of amalgams that have been there that long. *And so have you.* We have been sold out to the dental companies for years. What are you going to do for your own #2 or #15? Composite? Amalgam? Gold? Emax?

Pardon the overkill but, in my opinion, we collectively in dentistry are more like of a pack of prostitutes than we were thirty years ago. The Golden Age of Dentistry in the sixties is gone, but many of us are trying to keep it in place by doing more expensive (and inferior) restorations so we can stay current. *A pox on us all.*

If you do a websearch on lost wax, you will find that it dates back to B.C. for at least bronze. Cast gold remains the best material we have, just the wrong color. Many have abandoned reason and ethics in exchange for monetary gain.

My concern is that we start looking like a bunch of old curmudgeon dentists simply longing for 'the old days.' I've always thought we shouldn't bitch about something without having a solution.

Response from another dentist:

Good piece to get us thinking! The more dentistry you have had in your past, the more you will have in your future. I agree that alloys, especially the lathe cut variety, are capable of decades and decades of service. A gold onlay though, is the one restoration that I place that I truly believe will outlast the patient, whereas all others will probably need to be replaced in their lifetime.

Response from a very knowledgeable laboratory owner and an especially talented technician with decades of experience:

I, too, think that we are being whipsawed by the special interests of material vendors. Products like Captek, Lava, Cercon, EMax, generate huge profits for the developers. And they cloud a dental provider's judgment, or at least they try.

Amalgam was one front that they succeeded in establishing doubt in the minds of the dentist. And guess what? They had a better replacement product. And the dental community helps the vendors by collecting fees for standing at podiums and praising these new replacements.

Nothing really beats a good gold restoration in the posterior area. We have just recently began using full contour Zirconia for use as an alternative to gold because of the rising price of gold. Also, the

new material is attractive and half the price of a gold restoration. A gold crown never cracks, and gives many years of service. Hopefully, this new Zirconia material will also do the same.

If I was a young dentist today, I would be thoroughly confused by all of the vendors' claim's about their products. They need guidance from unbiased, experienced, wet fingered dentists . . . *not sales brochures mouthed by podium pounders.*

I continue to respect the work of Dr. Gordon Christensen, I wish he could reach more dentists' ears.

Response from still another dentist:

Thought provoking as usual! QUOTE: "*Freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose...*" —Kris Kristofferson

AND ANOTHER QUOTE: "*Those with the most personal choices have the least freedom to choose. Paradoxically, those with the fewest personal choices have the most freedom.*" —Avrom King

I guess that's just another way of saying we still do have a choice as to how we'll practice. If our philosophy is fuzzy, the choices are endless. Paradoxically, when our philosophy is the product of considerable thought, there are fewer choices to throw us off track. In working with younger dentists these days, no one has helped them really think about what they want from practice and from life. That's why I still hang in the Pankey Institute. It's still THAT ONE PLACE where this kind of thought process is encouraged.

I'm not standing on some kind of arrogant podium about this. I think after starting my forty-seventh year of practice, I'm just now starting to understand what these guys were writing about. We can choose how we will practice. We can choose what we put in a patient's mouth, as long as our personal integrity can live with it.

With most second molars, I simply don't have a lot of choices, so that begets a discussion with the patient regarding the risks they are willing to assume if they demand an inferior restorative material. Then, it's up to the dentist what he will do with that choice. Refuse to compromise because it's a violation of his/her definition of ethical practice, or cave in to the patient's demand. Many times, I find the patient challenges me to find out just how convicted I really am about something. *Something to think about!*

Response from another dentist:

Great article and I couldn't agree more. I recently talked with the young man who was my amalgam patient on the State Board in 1958. He was a sophomore dental student at the time. He tells me the Class II that I did on #13 is still in place and serving him well. That was fifty-two years ago!

There are two problems that come to mind, if not more. One, not many (if any) dental schools are teaching amalgam as the restoration of choice. Two, both dental students and the public have been sold the propaganda that tooth colored materials are state of the art and other materials are second rate. *Just some thoughts.*

SCAGD Presidents Report

Chethan Chetty, DDS, Los Angeles

The primary mission of the SCAGD has always been to provide quality CE at an affordable price. This year has been no exception. With the help of our hard working program committee, we continue to offer courses that allow the general dentist to be on the cutting edge of dentistry. We have had some really fun and interesting courses this year. One of the most popular is our on-going two-day implant workshops as they are wonderfully designed to give dentists the confidence to start placing implants right away. In the winter, don't forget to join us for our annual Ski & Learn trip, which is always chock full of fun, games, and yes, continuing education.

Don't forget to visit our website:

www.SCAGD.com

for information on our upcoming courses in addition to other valuable information.


These are interesting and concerning times for general dentists. There is a lot of talk and movement regarding the mid-level provider issue. If you have not heard about it, please call or e-mail us to get informed. I promise you that the decisions that are being made right now will change the course of general dentistry, and not necessarily for the better. The AGD is here to protect the rights of the general dentist. As president of the SCAGD, I personally thank you for supporting the our organization.

PLEASE TELL YOUR COLLEAGUES:

*The stronger our voice,
the more we will be heard.*


If you are interested in becoming more involved in your AGD, or general dentistry, please contact me. Our board of directors meets quarterly, and are always in search of dentists who care.

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Insuring Against Disability

Paul M. Simon, *Simon & Associates*

If you are disabled and can no longer work, disability insurance can help replace part of your lost income.

If you are between thirty-five and sixty-five years of age, you have a one in three chance of being disabled for ninety days or longer. One in seven will be disabled more than five years.

What should you look for in a disability policy?

First, you will want an individual policy that you control, and travels with you if you should change employers. Also, premiums never increase on an individual policy, as they can, and often do, on group or association coverage.

Second, as a dentist, you will want a policy that pays you if you cannot perform your specialty, whether it is in general dentistry or endodontics, or any similar specialty. This means that you will be paid in full if you cannot perform your specialty, even if you work in another dental specialty, or in another occupation, such as teaching in dental school. Do not be fooled by a "modified own occupation" policy, which is not the same. It can penalize you if you are working in another occupation.


Third, try to purchase a policy that offers Residual (or *partial disability*), a Guaranteed Purchase Option (allows one to buy more coverage later, regardless of health), Cost of Living (keeps up with inflation), and is Non-Cancellable by the carrier.

If you are a female, ask your broker about securing gender neutral rates, since females pay from 40% to 60% more than males.

Once you apply, you "lock in" the rate to age sixty-seven, so buying early is important.


Questions? More details on page 17 herein.

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JOURNEY *(continued from page 12)*

motion to adjourn the 2010 HOD. Most of the California delegates stayed for the following annual meeting. Great CE program, keynote speaker (*Jeff Taylor of Monster.com*), and great deals and information on the exhibit floor. Five of us went out on the town and partied to celebrate a birthday, as well as great friends and music. I can't think of anywhere else five dentists from different backgrounds and ages (*we covered four decades*) could cut loose while having each other's backs, except the AGD! Guy, Bill, Tim, and Howard, you are friends forever! A few days later, the hangovers were better and at 5:30 a.m. in the 98% humidity and high temperatures of Louisiana, "Team California" (*Mike Lew, Rhohit Keshav, Steve Lockwood, Guy Acheson and I*) ran the 5 km Foundation Run. Guy you are an animal! We didn't win, but had a great time "chasing our rabbits."

A busy day of oral cancer detection followed graduation rehearsal and pictures. *Then the big event:* full cap and gown and a hall full of family and friends watching the AGD Class of 2010 receive their Fellowships, Masterships and Lifelong Learning Service awards.

I reconnected with some old friends and was motivated by the leaders providing words of wisdom from the podium. I am very proud to be a dentist. Following the ceremony and all the pictures and handshaking, hugs and backslapping, the CAGD held a reception banquet in honor of the graduates, both past and present. Great party, Lynn Peterson, and thank you for all you do for the CAGD.

My wife, Jocelyn, was able to join me after a long overdue and well-deserved vacation. She was able to see me graduate and help me celebrate with my colleagues and friends. We went out for a fabulous dinner at Cochon's and ate alligator and some of the best pork I have ever had. Thank you, honey, for all you do and how you support me and our family.

On the flight home, I was able to reflect on how proud I am to be involved with the AGD. *Make no mistake about it—the future of dentistry is under much pressure to change. The good people of the AGD are dedicated to protecting the public, the general dentist and the time-proven practice model of dentistry that has served millions and millions of people so well.*

SKUROW *(continued from page 20)*

at the local and national levels. He is almost always in attendance at the SCAGD, CAGD, and AGD meetings. Many of these meetings find Steve present at his own expense, whether in-state or out-of-state.

Dr. Steven I. Skurow embodies the very meaning of The Dr. Deon Carrico Spirit of Leadership Award. He was the unanimous selection by the Awards Committee to be this year's recipient. *Congratulations Steve!*

NCAGD *(continued from page 15)*



26 Dr. Craig Crispin gets to know his patient



Jennifer Leonard, Dr. Tim Verceles, and Dr. Lou Tricerri



Santa Clara County Study Club attendees (*back row*): Drs. Mike Lew, Chitra Shikaram, Tim Verceles, Loc Nguyen; (*seated*): Sun Costigan, Vera Meyer, Paul Schäfer



2010 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

For more information, call us toll-free at 888.AGD.DENT (888.243.3368) or join on line at www.agd.org

Referral Information: If you were referred to the AGD by a current member, please note information below: MEMBER'S NAME CITY, STATE/PROVINCE OR FEDERAL SERVICE BRANCH

Member Information

FIRST NAME MIDDLE INITIAL LAST NAME DESIGNATION (e.g. DDS, DMD, BDS) INFORMAL NAME (if applicable) Type of Membership (check one): Active General Dentist, Associate, Resident, Dental Student, Affiliate Date of Birth (month/day/year) Do you currently hold a valid U.S./Canadian dental license? Current practice environment (check one): Solo, Associateship, Group Practice, Hospital, Resident, Faculty, Federal Services

Contact Information

Your AGD constituent is determined by your address (Northern California, Sacramento-Sierra, Southern California or San Diego) PREFERRED METHOD OF CONTACT: E-Mail, Mail, Phone PREFERRED BILLING/MAILING ADDRESS: Business, Home BUSINESS ADDRESS CITY STATE/PROVINCE ZIP/POSTAL CODE NAME OF BUSINESS (if applicable) PHONE FAX HOME ADDRESS CITY STATE/PROVINCE ZIP/POSTAL CODE PHONE PRIMARY E-MAIL WEBSITE ADDRESS

Education Information

ARE YOU A GRADUATE OF AN ACCREDITED* U.S./CANADIAN DENTAL SCHOOL? YES NO Currently Enrolled DENTAL SCHOOL GRADUATION DATE (month and year) Are you a graduate of an accredited U.S. or Canadian post-doctoral program? YES NO Currently Enrolled TYPE: AEGD, GPR, Other Post-Doctoral Institution STATE/PROVINCE Begin Date (month and year) End Date (month and year)

Optional Information

GENDER: Male, Female Are you interested in becoming a: MENTOR, A MENTEE ETHNICITY: American Indian, Asian, African-American, Hispanic, Caucasian, Other HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT US? AGD Member, AGD Website, AGD Constituent, Newsletter, Advertisement, Mailing, Dental Meeting, Other

Dues Information

Table with 2 columns: Dues Category and Amount. Includes AGD HDQTR. DUES (Active G.P., Associate, Affiliate, Resident Program, 2009 Graduate, 2008 Graduate, 2007 Graduate, 2006 Graduate, Student) and CALIFORNIA AGD DUES (Regular, First Year Graduate, All others). Includes 'plus' and 'equals' indicators and 'TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED'.

Payment Information

Check (enclosed), VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Diners Club, Discover Note: Payments for Canadian members can only be accepted via VISA, MasterCard or check Expiration PRINT THE NAME AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR CARD I hereby certify that all the information I have provided on this application is correct and, by remitting dues to the AGD, I agree to all terms of membership. Signature Date Return this application with your payment to: AGD, 211 East Chicago Avenue, Suite 900, Chicago, Illinois 60611-1999 Credit card payments, fax to: 312.335.3443



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As a member of the California AGD, you can think of this as your new website. You have exclusive access to member benefits and private website features by logging in to your personal account. You can do so by logging in to www.CAGD.com just like you do at AGD.org. In the blue "Login" box, type your six digit AGD number. Your "Password" is your birthdate as eight digits in a row with no dashes (DDMMYYYY).

We also have information and tools for the public, such as the "Find an AGD Dentist" search tool, where you can search by name, area, or even Fellow or Master skills.