



american  
academy  
of  
gold foil  
operators

# Gold Leaf

August 2005

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## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

2004 Dr. David Bridgeman  
2005 Dr. Andy McKibbin  
2006 Dr. Edward Kardong  
2007 Dr. Henry St. Germain

## THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF GOLD FOIL OPERATORS BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, February 23, 2005 – Fairmont Hotel, Chicago, IL – 2:00 P.M.

### MINUTES

1. Call to order. Pres. Scott Barrett.  
2. Minutes of Council Meeting, November 3, 2004. Minutes approved as printed in the Gold Leaf.

3. Report to the Secretary/Treasurer, Bob Keene. (See attached Quicken Reports and Secretary's Report printed.) See Attachment A as printed.

Two long time members have died, Floyd Hamstrom and Ralph Werner.

A letter from Loma Linda students and from Lynne Martel was read into the minutes [see attachment C]. The gift to the dental school was used to help nine students attend the AOD meeting this year. It was noted that the audit by Dr. McKibbin was underway and his report will be ready for the next meeting. Dr. Hamstrom's \$10,000.00 gift to the academy was placed in a CD.

**Meeting Account** – A request for help to know how best to handle this account so that the Sect./Treas. current reading on the finances of the organization.

Andy explained the process for his auditing and expressed appreciation for Ron Harris' handling of meeting finances and coming out ahead by over \$1,000.00. Andy also suggested that the arrangements handling the Journal fee and dues was clearly hard and should be simplified. He suggested that we might just agree to pay the Journal a flat fee.

4. **Journal Report:** Mike Cochran – See Attachment [D]. The main news is that the Tucker Academy has agreed to join in support of the JOD. The details and payment of subscriptions still need to be simplified and Tim Carlson and Bob Keene will be working that out. Mike also announced that the past 29 years of the publication are now on CDs and will be available for sale at \$200 for the three-disc set. If purchased at the meeting the cost is \$150.00. Warren asked if the Foil Journals could be so archived. We do not have a complete set [missing two issues]. Discussion of cost and method did not reach a clear decision. The idea was floated for consideration in the future.

Mike further remarked that his tour is soon to finish and that his replacement needs to be located and then it would be best to have some overlap so training can occur.

Tim Carlson – JOD Finances, see his report [Attachment E]. He remarked that we are still producing the journal with an increased number of pages despite the flat line subscriber base. Also noted was the fluctuation in finances at the end of each year varies with collection of dues and subscriptions by the two academies.

**Dues statement** – A standard form is being developed so that members of the various academy pay the subscription and then a voucher slip would be included so that a gift subscription could be sent to a designee or if the members wish to have a refund they would have to mail the voucher before the 15th of February to the JOD directly. This would take the Sect./Treas. out of the loop. Scott suggested that in the last issue of the year a list of the names of the donors of gift subscriptions be posted.

**ASSET draw down** – Tim stated that he is hopeful that there will be only one more year where the JOD will operate in the red. Additional subscribers and corporate sponsors are being recruited. The board of directors has continued to support the JOD. Clearly cost cutting methods have helped reduce the overhead. Papers are now only being submitted electronically. Mailing to certain international locations is quite costly. Currently the JODs are being done electronically and with a search feature so people can purchase them at the end of the year.

5. **Annual Meeting Report** – Ron Harris. Scott Barrett stated that Ron Harris was not able to be present. He will be filing his final financial report to Bob.

**Clinic** – Dave Bridgeman – reported that our timing coincides with the last major football game. Members have to make sure that they reserve their rooms promptly since rooms will be at a premium. Ron House reported that we would be operating in the faculty clinic accommodating operators. Dave was hoping to have a double session so that castings could be included, but football game really precludes that happening. A concern was raised that if we are limited to 12 chairs it would be difficult to have students mentored.

**Lectures** – Dave Thorburn – is working to have 3 speakers. Ron would have Friday and Saturday afternoon for social activities. There was a brief discussion regarding changing the date, but too many members had conflicts. Ron House will not be able to attend Saturday's functions since he will be attending an ADA educators meeting that day.

Suggested locations for the following years:

Action: Voted the 2006 – Univ. of Washington (October 18–21, 2006). Scott will contact Ron Harris to begin action on that meeting.

2007 – San Juan, Puerto Rico – date and school TBD. Tim Carlson will attempt to make contact.

2008 – Scott asked that members of the council come to the meeting this fall with location suggestions.

**International Meetings** – Warren Johnson stated that he did not get a good response from the survey. Given the uncertainty of the membership's feelings plans will be delayed. Clearly establishing the members in Germany hosting such a meeting they would need to be contacted with enough lead-time to make the local arrangements. Also raised was the question as to whether it would be financially sound. After extensive discussion Warren agreed to continue to research the feasibility after contacting some of the local German members at the AOD meeting this year.

Jim Gourley pointed out that our Constitution needs to be updated regarding

### 6. Committee Reports:

**Literature and Research** – Fred Eichmiller. Nothing to report.

**Nominating** – Warren Johnson, Joseph Newell, New Jersey.

**Inter-Academy Liaison** – Scott Barrett. Nothing to report.

**Education and Clinical Seminars** – Bruce Small. Absent. Scott made contact post meeting and determined that he is working on a new format for the Master Class.

**Outstanding Clinician** – Wendell Foltz. No report.

**Distinguished Member** – Mel Lund. No report.

**Constitution and Bylaws** – Mel Lund. See copies of updates attached. Action Taken: Recommendations approved as printed. Changes will be warned to the members for this year's annual meeting.

**Gold Leaf** – Allan Osborn. Absent. No report.

### 7. Old Business:

a. Status of issuing New Member Certificates prior to payment of dues by new members.

b. Select an editor successor/trainee for the Gold Leaf. Action Taken: Bob Keene's offer to do the Gold Leaf after Allan Osborn retires from the editorship was approved. His duties will be coordinated with Allan.

### 8. New Business:

a. Discuss the change in New Member application fee.

Action: After discussion it was voted to raise the application fee to \$50.00.

b. Discuss the Hamstrom gift: A matter to consider during a strategic planning meeting. Donating instruments, scholarships were suggested, but no action was taken.

c. Discuss the policy regarding continued use of student/mentoring operations during the clinical portion of our annual meetings.

d. Discuss making financial gifts to dental schools hosting our annual meetings. Policy yes.

e. Discuss the dental student awards program. Continue.

### 9. Other Business

**Website:** Discussion centered on the work that had been done in the past and the cost incurred by the site managers. Von Hanks.

Action Taken: Voted to approve that Bob Keene negotiate payment for past work done as directly to the Foil Academy up to one half of the amount spent to date.

**Film Library:** Bob Keene now has the entire archive of the 16 mm films from Dr. Richard Hoard. A request was made to digitize those films that have as yet not been digitized – believed to be just one left.

Action Taken: Voted to authorize the cost of digitizing the remaining 'Study Club' film.

**Strategic Planning:** Andy McKibbin. Expressed the need for the council to gather for future planning for the success of the organization. It was suggested that Past Presidents be included in such a planning session. It was the sentiment of the group that this meeting be held sooner than later. Meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

Robert C. Keene, DMD – recorder



# News from the AAGFO Council

New Members – there are five new member applicants that are approved for presentation to the members. They are Dr. Susanne Grennell, Pleasant Valley, NY; Dr. Pamela Weitzel, Contoocook, NH; Dr. Ghias Jabbour, Eugene, OR; Dr. Grant Mason, Beckley, WV; and Dr. Jeffrey Hrvey, Beckley, WV.

I know that most all of these new applicants will be attending our meeting this year so please do your best to acknowledge them when you meet them.

A Long Range Planning session is planned for September 27th prior to this year's annual meeting at the West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV. Those members who have thoughts or ideas regarding the future of our organization are welcome to submit their thoughts and suggestions to the secretary prior to the 20th of September. Members who have been invited to attend this meeting are the current council, three past presidents, the president of the AOD and two members at large. A preliminary report will be made to the annual meeting that will be held on Friday morning during breakfast.

## Comments from your Secretary/Treasurer

It continues to be a challenge and privilege to serve as the headquarters to this fine organization. We have found that credit card payment for dues and other business has been appreciated by those members living overseas. We are discussing whether handling the annual meeting payments in a similar fashion makes good sense.

Please remember that as you change your email address or mailing address that your secretary needs to have this updated information.

Your dues statements will be mailed out around the end of November. I deeply appreciate all of you who so promptly paid your dues prior to the end of the year. Our journal personnel find this change in dues payment time to be VERY helpful to them as they manage the finances of our journal. Thank you!

## CASH FLOW REPORT

1/1/04 Through 12/31/04

### INFLOWS

Appl. Fee	175.00
Dues	16,468.00
Gift Received	10,000.00
Income Reg. Annual Meet.	39,308.76
Interest Inc.	43.21
New Member Fee	60.00
Op Journal	16,445.00
Other Inc.	
Trans. Former	26,267.76
Other Inc. - Other	<u>483.76</u>
<b>TOTAL Other Inc.</b>	26,751.51
Uncategorized Inflows	<u>5,610.04</u>
<b>TOTAL INFLOWS</b>	114,861.52

### OUTFLOWS

Award - Member	236.12
Directory	858.70
Gifts Given	1,160.00
Gold Leaf	4,519.72
Journal Refund	70.00
Journal Transfer	
Journal Donation	280.00
Journal Transfer - Other	<u>17,145.00</u>
<b>TOTAL JOURNAL TRANSFER</b>	17,425.00
MEETING EXPENSE:	
Printing	254.48
Refund	2,070.00
Speaker	1,030.00
Meeting Expense - Other	<u>34,281.43</u>
<b>TOTAL MEETING EXPENSE</b>	37,635.91
Misc.	0.00
Office Supplies:	
Office Equip.	63.63
Office Supplies - Other	<u>1,032.49</u>
<b>TOTAL OFFICE SUPPLIES</b>	1,096.12
Postage	504.00
Pres-Council:	
DM	868.44
Pres-Council Other	<u>571.19</u>
<b>TOTAL PRES-COUNCIL</b>	1,439.63
Remb Meet Reg	660.00
Sect-Council	1,904.60
Student Award	315.00
Telephone	20.00
Travel	959.32
Uncategorized Outflows	5,305.50
To CD #614422	<u>25,000.00</u>
<b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</b>	<u>99,109.62</u>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	15,751.90



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# Letter from your President

Summer 2005 came early to the Chicago area. It seems that all parts of the world are experiencing their own unusual climatic changes. Our Academy too is experiencing change. As an executive council member for the past six years, I have had the opportunity to listen to many concerns about the direction of our Academy from members with much greater experience than me. We have seen our own Student Awards bestowed upon graduates with admittedly no experience with direct gold procedures. They are grateful to receive the honor and a full year subscription to our prestigious journal, but often take no initiative in seeking out our Academy or its members for guidance. Many have little interest in renewing their subscription at years end.

Membership is the single most talked about topic by our board. We have long discussions about our role in stimulating students at the schools we visit to become interested in our Academy. In keeping with that theme, Dr. Bob Keene has been active in founding our 'Master Class' program. Our members volunteer their time to host an evening program for faculty, students, and interested dentists in the community. This program has had good attendance and acceptance, but frankly has again done little to add to our membership. We won't give up. This year Dr. Bruce Small is spearheading the program, and I am sure with his experience, it will be a good one.

We continue to ponder what to do about 'new' members that fail to pay their dues once they receive their certificate of membership. Many of these individuals leave our great organization after only one or two years of membership. Maybe we failed them by not doing enough to demonstrate our value, or they just don't get it. Either way, we all lose.

As I look around the room at our annual meetings, I see people returning every year to experience the camaraderie, friendships, and educational opportunities that our Academy is known for. They don't

necessarily attend because of the Gold, but rather they see a greater good that the American Academy of Gold Foil Operators has to offer. It is this opportunity that I would like to see each of us be proud of and reach out and invite others to become active in our Academy. In the end, we all win.

Our Academy is in good hands for the years to come. President-Elect, Dr. David Thorburn will undoubtedly lead us in the right direction. His skills and love for this organization will propel us forward. Vice President, Dr. Davis Bridgeman is hard working and comes from a dental family that understands the value and rewards of the AAGFO. Dr. Andy McKibbin is one to take the bull by the horns. He is the driving force behind our upcoming "strategic planning" session. He is passionate about our Academy, and we can count on his leadership to move us forward. Accolades must also be given to Dr. Bob Keene. The learning curve has been steep, but his diligence with the duties of secretary-treasurer is commendable.

A special Thank You is in order for Dr. Ron Harris and his remarkable spouse, Laverne. As our new meeting coordinators, they continue to do an outstanding job of organizing our annual meetings. The personal responsibility that the two of them take in providing all of us with a rewarding experience is appreciated by all. If the coffee is cold, or the bus is late, we are grateful to have Ron and Laverne there to take charge.

This has been a special journey for me, one that I will always remember. I thank all of you that have been such kind words for me. I could not have accomplished what we have done without all of the fine work of the board members before me and our current board. I look forward to our meeting in Morgantown, WY. Drs. Thorburn and Bridgeman have put together another outstanding program. I give you promise, you will thoroughly enjoy the meeting.



# SCENIC WEST VIRGINIA

## American Academy of Gold Foil Operators Annual Meeting September 28 - October 1

HEADQUARTERS HOTEL  
Radisson Waterfront  
Morgantown, WV

HOST CLINIC  
West Virginia University  
School of Dentistry

It has been a few years since we met in Morgantown, and as with everything else, there have been a lot of changes in the area. The school has grown and changed in appearance, and the city has blossomed. Our hotel was just opened last year and the downtown area is within walking distance. There is a paved walking and biking trail just outside the door that covers several miles along the riverfront. The Radisson Hotel at Waterfront Place boasts all the modern amenities.

West Virginia University has cordially invited us to use their clinic facilities, and Dave Bridgeman promises another outstanding clinical session. Dave Thorburn has lined up two half days of excellent speakers, and once again, the clinical slide presentation should be a stimulus to future operators.

There are a number of outside activities in which to participate and we will need to have firm numbers of participants to assure booking of these. Here are some example suggestions: Thursday afternoon - Mountain Biking to Cooper's rock at \$50 per person; Saturday afternoon - Rafting down the Cheat River Narrows at \$45 per person; Golf at Lakeview Resort Wed. a.m. and Sat. afternoon at \$25-\$70, depending on the course played (weekdays cheaper than weekends).

September is an excellent, and very popular time for spending leisure time in the mountains. Fall colors are supposed to be at their peak. The weatherman has promised ideal conditions. We are doing a tour for the whole group after lunch on Friday to Frank Lloyd Wright's creation - Falling Waters.

Reservations are on a "call-in" basis. Just call either 800-333-3333 or 304-296-1700 or go online to: [www.radisson.com](http://www.radisson.com) and mention the promo code "AAGFO". Rates are \$129 for king or double-double. Kids are welcome. This is a big football game weekend, and rooms will be snapped up from us as soon as the deadline arrives, so it is imperative that reservations be made in advance.

### AGENDA

#### WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 28

7:30 am Golf for those signed up. Lakeview Course  
2:00 pm Registration - Lobby  
2:00-5:00 pm Board Meeting  
6:00-9:00 pm Social - cash bar. Heavy hors d'oeuvres provided.

#### THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 29

6:30-8:00 am Breakfast for all attendees. Brief business meeting. Vote on new members.  
7:30 am Buses depart for Dental School  
8:30 am Spouses depart for tour and lunch  
12:30 pm Buses return to hotel.  
1:30 pm Lunch for members.  
Afternoon on your own. Optional: Single track mountain biking trip to Cooper's Rock State Forest.  
6:30 pm Dinner for all attendees at hotel.

#### FRIDAY - SEPTEMBER 30

7:00 am Breakfast.  
8:00 am Business meeting and Outstanding Clinician award.

#### Lectures:

8:30 am Dr. Mark Montana  
"Anterior Esthetics"  
9:00 am Dr. Mark Cruz  
"Decision Making"  
11:00 am Dr. Bob Keene  
"Film Clips from a Few Years Ago"  
12:00 pm Lunch at Hotel  
1:00 pm Tour to Falling Waters.  
Return around 6:00 pm.  
Dinner on your own.

#### SATURDAY - OCTOBER 1

7:30 am Breakfast.

#### Lectures:

8:30-10:00 am Dr. Terry Donovan  
"Posterior Filling Materials"  
10:00 am Drs. Wendell Foltz  
"Clinical Slides and Critique"  
Noon Lunch and afternoon on your own.

Golf and other activities for those signed up.

6:00 pm Social hour.  
7:00 pm Banquet.  
Distinguished Member Award.  
Installation of officers.





## ***Officers' Slate for the Ensuing Year***

President	David Thorburn
President-Elect	David Bridgeman
Vice President	Andy McKibbin
Secretary-Treasurer	Robert C. Keene
Councillor 2006	Edward Kardong
Councillor 2007	Henry St. Germain
Councillor 2008	Joseph Newell

**PLEASE NOTE:** It is always difficult to make last minute arrangements to accommodate members who suddenly appear at a meeting without having made advance reservations. Hotel reservations must be received by the Radisson Hotel no later than August 31. As in the past, in the case of our foreign members: if you plan to attend but have a problem paying in U.S. currency, you may return the reservation form below, indicating your preferences and then pay the fees at the meeting.

**Hotel Reservations should be made directly to the Radisson Hotel using the phone number(s) listed above.**

**Please indicate on the lower portion if you would be interested in operating next year in Seattle.**

## ***ABOUT THE LECTURE SERIES***

### **DR. MARK MONTANA ANTERIOR AESTHETICS**

In recent years we have experienced the phenomenon of cosmetic dentistry; articles, testimonials and advertisements in dental and mass media promote the whiter-brighter concept. The stampede to pave smiles in alabaster may overwhelm the subtleties of nature; a pause is needed to review the fundamental beauty of tooth shape. We perceive the value and the dimension of colour readily in a various types of illumination and are particularly sensitive to contrast. The silhouette; the contrast between incisal edge and embrasure is the first element of a smile that we appreciate. This presentation will discuss the frequent reformation of the "personality tooth" and compare with the original architecture.

Dr. Mark Montana is a graduate of USC in 1987 and completed his prosthodontic training at USC in 1989.

### **DR. MARK CRUZ "DECISION-MAKING IN DENTISTRY" STATE OF THE ART DENTISTRY: ARE WE B-S'ING OUR PATIENTS?**

What effect has the technological revolution had on dentistry? What exactly is the "Cosmetic Revolution"? Is it a good thing? If so, FOR WHOM? The Wall Street Journal recently had an article on "remake dentistry" as a burgeoning cottage industry. What effect might this have on our profession in the long term?

What do Dan Rather, Jason Blair, 5th Avenue Advertising Firms and the Readers Digest have in common? These questions will be addressed as well as a spirited discussion regarding possible solutions to our profession's most recent challenges.

Dr. Mark Cruz is a graduate of UCLA school of dentistry.

### **THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL GOLD FOIL MEETING IN GOETTINGEN, GERMANY**

A film made at the time of the first meeting in Europe will be shown to the audience. The duration is a little short of 1/2 hour. It includes the post congress travel along the Romantic Highway.

### **DR. TERRY DONOVAN A REVIEW OF POSTERIOR FILLING MATERIALS**

Dr. Donovan has conducted a very thorough and well-planned study of the efficacy of different materials in the posterior region of the mouth. He will include references from the literature, and has produced an inimitable reference scale for the longevity of the various modalities.

Dr. Donovan, a native of Saskatchewan, is now Professor of Restorative Dentistry at USC.

Please detach/copy and return no later than August 31, 2005.

**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF GOLD FOIL OPERATORS  
ANNUAL MEETING SEPT. 28 – OCT. 1**

Name (please type or print) \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's name (if attending) \_\_\_\_\_

Children attending and ages \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ (or country)

Telephone (including area code) Home \_\_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration fee (US dollars please):**

**Number**

**\$ Total**

Member @ \$300

Professional guest @ \$325

Spouse or other guest @ \$240 each

Children under 4 years no charge

Children 4–12 years @ \$200

Mountain biking @ \$50 each

River Rafting @ \$45 each

Late fee – received after October 3 @ \$25

**TOTAL ENCLOSED**

Golfing: Wed. 8:00 am \_\_\_\_\_ Sat. 1:00 pm \_\_\_\_\_ (pay at course)

**Return with check payable to AAGFO to: 256 Sand Brook Drive, Noblesville, IN 46062**

**Questions? e-mail to: [pipedoc@verizon.net](mailto:pipedoc@verizon.net)**

**Phone: 317-867-0414**

☐ I would like to operate next year.

**Note: Several members indicate at the last minute that they will not attend the Banquet.  
Please check here if you will not be planning to attend**



# LUNCHEON



*Dr. Ralph Stenberg and President Marc Tollefson entertain Dean Martha Summerman*



*Dr. Homer Dyer with Drs. Phil Madden and Bob Murray*



*Dr. Ed Kardong with Dr. Bob Murray*



*President Marc Tollefson makes introductions*



*Dean Martha Summerman raises a toast to excellence*



*Dr. Bob Murray lectures upon historical events in the study clubs*



*Dr. Bruce Smith introduces the new President and President-Elect Dr. Richard Tucker and Dr. Dan Saucy*

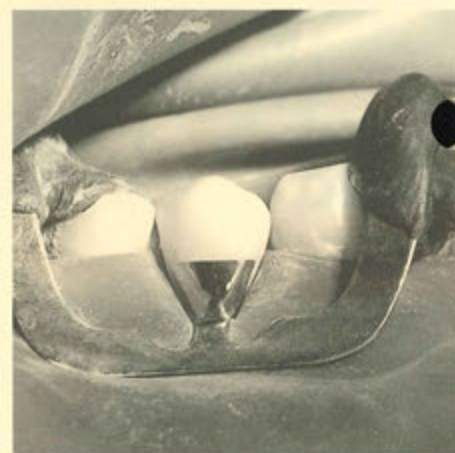
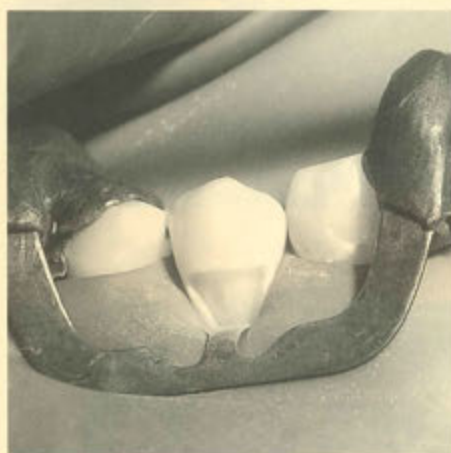
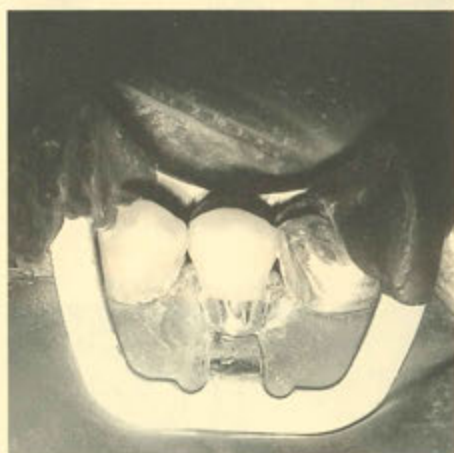
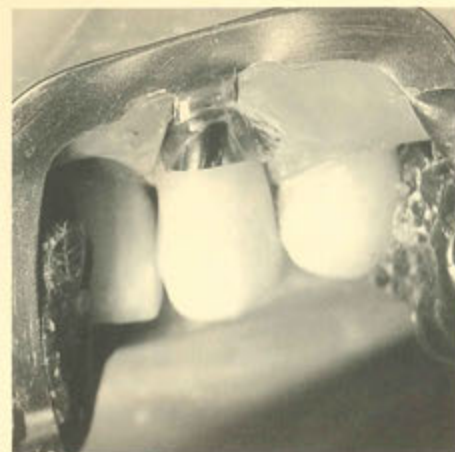


*Dr. Richard Tucker presents Past-President Plaque to Dr. Marc Tollefson*



*President Tucker thanks the Assembly of Study Clubs*

# CLINIC



*Dr. Dave Thorburn now acting as  
assistant and mentor*



*Drs. Ralph Stenberg, Dick McCoy  
and Richard Rotter*



*Drs. Warren Johnson, Bob Murray,  
Ian Hamilton*



# SESSION



*Dr. Dan Saucy observes Dr. Dick Tucker*



*Dr. Phil Radden inspects Dr. Jim Gourley and Dr. Bob Allen*



*Dr. Steve Sadansky demonstrates a fine finish*



*Dr. Phil Madden finishing and polishing*



*Dr. Rockwell Hammond completes packing*



*Dr. Robert Allen in progress*



*Dr. Michael Oswald*



*President Marc Tollefson under a watchful eye*



*Dr. Bruce Smith with Dr. Bob Murray*



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# OPERATIVE DENTISTRY: The Vanishing Discipline

When someone asks my occupation, I generally reply that I am a dentist and a member of a dental school faculty. If additional interest is expressed, I may say that I teach operative dentistry, since laymen often associate the term with dental surgery. This is an interesting phenomenon since "operative dentistry" is so clearly defined in my own mind and is, in fact, the very essence of my professional life. Unfortunately, this lack of understanding of the nature and importance of operative dentistry seems to be pervasive at all levels of dental education, organized dentistry and the practicing profession. I believe the reasons for this are many and merit close scrutinization, consideration and, hopefully, correction.

Those responsible for teaching the knowledge and skills necessary for the various disciplines within dentistry should have training and education beyond the basic dental degree. This usually requires that these educators focus their activities in a specified area to allow them to present information at a highly informed and current level. The dental specialties are very conscious of this and know that it has a direct influence on the capability of their residents. It would be rare for a school of dentistry to assign general practitioners the responsibility for the primary training of dental students in endodontics, periodontics or oral surgery, but many voices suggest that as the ideal for operative dentistry training.

As a discipline, operative dentistry has suffered over the years because we have not been as militant in stressing its importance in dental practice. This has resulted in limited availability of advanced training in operative dentistry, and the growth of an attitude that such training is not really necessary and that all dental school graduates and general practitioners are perfectly capable of teaching all restorative clinical procedures. This is akin to suggesting that a recreational snow skier, such as myself, can offer the same level of instructional expertise as a professionally trained ski instructor. In my opinion, the traditional values that accompany advanced education in all disciplines certainly apply to training and education in all disciplines certainly apply to training and education in operative dentistry. If there are logistical problems

for faculty in satisfying the need for advanced education, an excellent alternative in securing credentials beyond the minimum is the American Board of Operative Dentistry certification program. Preparation for the three-part examination (didactic, clinical performance and case presentations) encourages focused study on the part of the candidate and, upon completion, offers tangible evidence of advanced knowledge and skills.

Another area experiencing decline within our discipline is the interaction of operative dentistry teachers within and between educational institutions and other dental specialties. Historically, the importance of such interaction received strong emphasis with the formation of ACORDE (A Consortium on Restorative Dentistry Education) in the early 1970s. This project was funded by the US Department of Health, Education and Welfare and allowed all dental schools in the country to work together on a common project – developing expanded function auxiliaries. ACORDE influenced the scope of operative procedures and instrumentation for the duration of the existence. As the project concluded, the value of its communication format gained recognition and resulted in the formation of the Conference of Operative Dentistry Educators (CODE). Initially, the combination of sectional meetings and the distribution of a composite report to all North American dental schools was extremely positive in promoting discussions and consensus on the myriad aspects of teaching operative dentistry. Unfortunately, busy schedules and the pressures of academic life resulted in a decline in active participation by all schools and faculty over the years. Even the activity of the Operative Dentistry Section at the annual meeting of the American Dental Education Association has been cut from more than one-half day to two hours or less. This certainly makes it more challenging for operative faculty to justify the expense and time associated with attending this meeting.

What are some of the results of the problems discussed above? Anecdotal reports from dental faculty, various post-graduate programs, the Dental Services sections of the branches of our Armed Forces and some Dental Board



Examiners would suggest that the overall clinical ability of recent graduates is not at the levels we enjoyed during the '60s, '70s and early '80s. This is significantly problematic since the intelligence, educational experience and capability of today's dental student is certainly equal to if not better than that of earlier graduates. One must wonder whether the current trends in dental education are not contributing factors, including:

- the lack of emphasis on advanced training when hiring operative faculty.
- the fostered perception that since dental school is preparing general practitioners that generalists should supervise the bulk of the students' clinical training.
- the de-emphasis on the importance of operative dentistry as a discipline mirrored in the creation of large restorative dentistry or general dentistry departments with, at most, an operative section or division.
- the overall reduction in both laboratory and clinical curricular time for operative dentistry with, perhaps, an

overemphasis on cosmetic procedures and tooth-colored materials to the exclusion of more traditional and proven techniques.

- more and more reliance on continuing education programs that are industry driven to not only supplement dental education but also to provide needed funding for the dental school.

It seems obvious that in order to maintain a state of health, dental schools should encourage the maximum educational output of all the disciplines in dentistry. Unfortunately, this does not seem to be the direction operative dentistry is heading. Operative dentistry as a discipline appears to be an endangered species and may disappear if steps are not taken now. Certainly, the Academy of Operative Dentistry should be a prime mover in this task, along with CODE and the Operative Dentistry Section of the ADEA. It is time for these groups to stop worrying about being perceived as "interfering" with dental education and take aggressive, positive action to promote operative dentistry and return it to the position of influence it deserves.

Melvin R. Lund  
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*Beth Damas (left) recently earned her Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry. She also was honored with the Oral Biology Award and the American Academy of Gold Foil Operators Award. She is being congratulated by Dr. James Ricker (right), Clinical Associate Professor, Restorative Dentistry. Dr. Damas is from Lemont, IL.*

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