

Florida AGD Current Events - News You Can Use!

by Rosie Small, FLAGD Executive Director

AGD Fellows and Masters may now advertise their AGD designations without adding the unwieldy disclaimer. This is the judgment of Circuit Judge Frank E. Sheffield, of the Second Judicial Circuit in Leon County, Florida, who ruled the Florida Advertising Law unconstitutional. For more information on this far-ranging legal decision, see the two articles inside, one on pages 10 and 11, and the other on page 14. The successful plaintiff's attorney in this case was **Frank Recker, DDS, JD**, an AGD member and author of the page 14 article.

Once again this year, the Florida AGD is holding its **General Assembly** in conjunction with the FNDC, on Friday, June 19, 2009, at the Gaylord Palms Hotel in Orlando, from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. There is **NO COST** for FLAGD members to attend this General Assembly and enjoy the **FREE** lunch. You are requested to register in advance, either by faxing

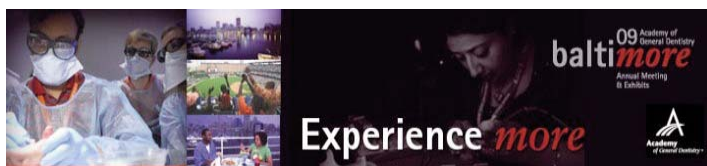
the form on page 5, or by sending an email to the FLAGD office at rsmall@flagd.org. During this General Assembly, FLAGD members will be asked to vote for Officers and Board Members for the 2009-2010 year, and to approve the newly amended FLAGD Bylaws.

There are two changes to the Bylaws for approval. The first of these describes one of the responsibilities of the Immediate Past President as Parliamentarian for all Board and membership meetings. The second change would allow the FLAGD Board, Committees and Councils to meet via teleconference or video conference when needed. The Bylaws are available online for review at www.flagd.org, then click on the link to the General Assembly on the navigation bar on the left side of the page.

A list of Candidates and the Agenda for the General Assembly can be found on page 5 of this newsletter.

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If you have not yet done so, now is the time to register for the 2009 AGD Annual Meeting on July 8 through 12, 2009 in Baltimore, Md. Speakers include Dr. Carl Misch, Dr. John Suzuki, Dr. Howard Glazer, Dr. Gordon Christensen, Dr. Roger Levin, Dr. Howard Farran II, Dr. Harold Crossley, Raymond Yukna, John Molinari and a great many more. With lots of social events - parties, receptions, meals and even a baseball game - the AGD Annual Meeting in Baltimore offers fun for all members of the family and the dental team.

President's Message



It's Been a Busy Year

By Dr. Harvey Gordon
FLAGD President

This is my second Report on the State of the Florida AGD. It has been a very full term of office thus far. We have had a significant number of issues come before us requiring the participation of the Florida Academy. Fortunately, someone once said "the mark of a good administrator is his or her ability to delegate". If this is, in fact, a true measure of the office, then by this standard I am doing a wonderful job.

I want to start out by thanking the members of the FLAGD Board of Directors for not only doing the job associated with their positions on the Board, but then going beyond that and volunteering to do so much more. But enough of these vague generalities, let's get specific.

First, I want to thank *Dr. Robert Gehrig*, our Membership Chair, for doing a fantastic job in facilitating our Strategic Planning Session in January. It was well worth waiting for you, Bob. From here I want to express my appreciation to *Dr. Rod Shaw*, our President Elect, for stepping up and adding the new Workforce Workgroup to his long list of responsibilities. And *Dr. Pat Shepherd*, Regional Director, covered the April 3rd teleconference meeting of this group along with Rod -- Thank you, Rod and Pat.

Additionally, I'd like to thank *Dr. David Stillwell*, our Immediate Past President, and *Dr. Don Thomas*, our Vice-President, for their Senior Student Membership recruitment efforts in Gainesville. Well done, gentlemen, well done. Next comes, the "tag team" of *Dr. Mel Kessler*, a Past President and current CE Chair, and *Dr. Al Underwood*, our Treasurer, for representing the Florida AGD with their participation at Table Clinic Day in Miami, in January. It was a wonderful event again this year. See the article and photos about it in this issue of the Florida Focus.

Then there is *Dr. Bipin Sheth*, one of our Directors at Large and again *Dr. Al Underwood*, who manned the FLAGD "booth" at American Dental Student's Day at Nova Southeastern University. They were very well received and signed up 82 new student members. Fantastic job, Bipin and Al.

I also want to acknowledge *Dr. Tony Menendez*, a Director at Large, for his hard work in "beating the bushes" (so to speak) in an effort to get other interested AGD members in southwest Florida to help reconstitute the SunCoast Component.

And last, but certainly not least, our gratitude once again, to *Dr. Mel Kessler* (our CE Chair) for negotiating our co-sponsorship with the Aesthetic Facial Dimensions, LLC to present up to three seminars at various locations throughout the State during 2009.

If there is anyone I left out, or an event that was not mentioned, I profusely apologize.

President's Message, continued on page 8

FLORIDA FOCUS

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Harvey P. Gordon, DDS, MAGD, President
Marc Tindell, DMD, FAGD, Editor
Rosalie A. Small, Managing Editor

Send announcements and correspondence to:
Florida Academy of General Dentistry
2380 NW 12th St., Delray Beach, FL 33445
Phone: (866) 620-0773 FAX: (707) 220-2861 Email: flagd@flagd.org

Send letters to the editor to:
Marc Tindell, DMD, FAGD
801 W. Fletcher Avenue, Tampa, FL 33612
mstdmd1@aol.com

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Editor's Message



Come to Baltimore and share in the AGD Experience

by Dr. Marc Tindell
Editor, *Florida Focus*

That's right! A chance to experience the Annual National AGD, packed with a terrific array of CE opportunities including participation courses at the new \$142 million facility at the University of Maryland Dental School.

Take hands-on courses in an environment utilizing the latest technology while developing skills in orthodontics, periodontics, oral surgery, implants and restorative dentistry. Add to your skill-set with procedures today's General Dentists are yearning to incorporate into their practices.

Come listen to 'The Iron Man of Baseball', Cal Ripken, Jr. speak at the Opening Session of seeking success and happiness in our careers and our lives.

Current Events, Continued from page 1

The Keynote Speaker at the 2009 Annual Meeting is Cal Ripken Jr. famed Baltimore Orioles player who was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2007 and is respected by fans around the globe for holding the record for most consecutive games played (2,632). He made 19 all-star game appearances and holds a place in the record books as one of only seven players in history to achieve 400 home runs and 3,000 hits.

Cal Ripken Jr.'s dedication to greatness on and off the field inspires professionals of all trades. His beliefs in hard work, dedication, and the importance of giving back to the community will inspire dentists and their dental team to practice the same honorable qualities both in and out of the office.

Another highlight of the AGD Meeting is the Hands-on Continuing Education at the University of Maryland Dental School on Wednesday, July 8th. The University of Maryland dental school is the direct descendant of the world's first dental college, the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery(BCDS), founded in 1840. The school

Experience downtown Baltimore with the National Aquarium, great shopping and superb restaurants. Go to an Oriole game Friday night and enjoy the Camden Yards atmosphere. And these are just a few of the ticketed events that are available through the AGD Meeting Planners.

Saturday Night is the Premier Celebration which will be held at the historic Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum. The AGD will have exclusive use of the Museum while you enjoy a wide array of crab delights and other great Maryland treats, sipping on a glass of wine and enjoying the sights of the Inner Harbor. And don't forget the Welcome Reception Wednesday night.

Come to Baltimore in July because you want to meet and discuss with the leaders of the AGD the issues that affect you and your practice. Become a Fellow or Master in the grandest organization anywhere known for preserving the interests of the General Dentist.

Come to Baltimore! I know you'll have a good time.

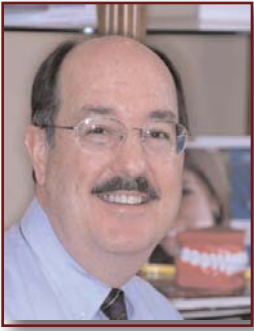
opened in the fall of 2006, after undergoing a \$142 million dollar reconstruction project. Only three years later, the state-of-the-art facility will host AGD Annual Meeting & Exhibits attendees for quality continuing education.

There's no CE like local CE! There are now five active Component AGD's holding meetings in Florida, and offering free or inexpensive Continuing Education to their members. The dues for these Components are extremely low, and your membership offers many opportunities for networking as well as top quality CE. The list of Component AGD's can be found on page 18. If your home or office is in one of the counties covered by a Component and you have not yet joined, consider giving a call to the President listed on page 18, and get in on the local program. Think globally, act locally - get your start with a Component AGD.

By the deadline for submission of annual dues to the AGD, March 31, 2009, the FLAGD had 435 members who had not yet paid their annual dues.

Current Events, Continued on page 18

President-Elect's Report



HRSA Workshop

by Roderick K. Shaw III, DMD, MAGD
President-Elect

I attended Florida's Oral Healthcare Workforce Workgroup meeting held at Nova University on Friday, January 30th. This group has a grant from the US Surgeon general and is charged with designing strategies and objectives to improve access to care for children and seniors. It is the intention of the Florida Department of Health to use the recommendations of this group to seek further funding from the Surgeon General and Federal government to implement trial programs designed by this group.

I was impressed by the members of the workforce as well as their discussion. The group included the Florida Surgeon General, Deans of the Dental Schools, Senator Peadon, BOD member Dr. Thad Morgan, Public Health officials, FDA, & FOMS. The workgroup is discussing many strategies to improve the access to care for Children and seniors.

The group is formulating strategies such as plans to attract more Dentists into Public Health facilities. Strategies to speed Medicaid payments, efforts to reduce the administrative burdens of Medicaid, raise Medicaid reimbursements to 75% of UCR, and attract more providers to the Medicaid system. Strategies are planned to increase volunteerism from the Dental Community. Concurrently with the increase volunteerism it has been suggested to modify Sovereign Immunity laws to better protect from liability those Dentists that so freely give this powerful public service. The Workforce is looking into methods to have early intervention with children within the Women Infants & Children's program (WIC). This program provides monthly baby formula to 500,000 low income children. The strategy is to get education and fluoride to these children as early as possible. The Dental health departments see so many children who have rampant caries by the age of three. The workforce is looking at practice models in which Fluoride varnish applied to one year old

children in the WIC program. Discussion of public education of the importance of good dental health and early intervention was discussed. In the next meeting, the workforce will be looking into modification of expanded duties to auxiliaries.

The Workforce grant will end on August 31. They have applied for a new grant to implement their strategies next year with pilot programs.

More information is available at

<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Family/dental/OralHealthcareWorkforce/>



The Academy of General Dentistry endorses Chase as its preferred Visa card, with low interest rates and an optional value Miles feature that can help you to earn travel miles on every purchase. Premiere Value Miles are good on major U.S. air carriers, with no blackout periods. Expanded destinations include Hawaii, Alaska and Europe.

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Announcing the Florida AGD 2009 General Assembly

Friday, June 19, 2009

12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

**at the Gaylord Palms Resort, Orlando
in conjunction with the FNDC**

**FREE LUNCH!
No Charge for
FLAGD Members**

\$50 for guests

AGENDA for GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Introduction of Board of Directors and Special Guests
Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation
Approve Minutes of 2008 General Assembly
Officers & Council/Committee Reports
Unfinished business from 2008
New business

Report of the Nominating Committee & Election:

President-Elect: Dr. Don Thomas (Winter Park, FL)
Vice-President: Dr. Michael Badger (Orlando, FL)
Secretary: Dr. Irma Tassi (Tampa, FL)
Treasurer: Dr. Harvey Gordon (Hollywood, FL)

Directors at Large:

Dr. Bipin Sheth (Margate, FL)
Dr. Tony Menendez (Port Charlotte, FL)
Dr. Jeff Oppenberg (Largo, FL)
Dr. Jason Lewis (Saint Johns, FL)

Fax this form to the FLAGD Office at 707-220-2861 or send email to rosiesmall@aol.com. (Please Print)

Name _____ AGD # _____

Fax number _____ Email Address _____

_____ Please reserve a place for me at the FLAGD General Assembly Luncheon

_____ I will be bringing a guest to the General Assembly

Name of Guest _____

Legislative Committee Report



*Dr. David Stillwell, Chairman,
FLAGD Legislative &
Governmental Affairs Council*

The Florida Legislature concluded its special session in January by reducing the current fiscal year budget of \$66 billion by \$2.8 billion (4.2 percent decrease). They will now undergo the same reduction exercise during the regular session which started on March 3rd. The expected reduction has been predicted to be as high as \$3.5 billion.

Governor Charlie Crist has released his proposed budget for Fiscal Year

2009-2010. Crist vetoed \$90.9 million in spending cuts and \$273.6 million in diversions from trust funds. He restored funding to several programs including \$28.9 million cut from education and \$22.8 million in cuts to health and social services. Amongst his recommendations is a \$12.7 million fee increase for children dental services and a \$3.3 million fee increase for adult dental services. The governor made a similar recommendation for a fee increase last year but the legislature failed to adopt the proposal.

Gov. Crist announced on December 15, 2008 the re-appointment of Dr. Robert Perdomo to the Florida Board of Dentistry. Ms. Tammy Baker was appointed as a hygienist member to replace Ms. Lourdes Fisher.

Florida Statutes, sections 466.021 and 466.032, were amended in 2008 with the changes taking effect two weeks ago. The new law requires dental laboratories “not physically located within a dental practice operated by a dentist” renewing their registration on or after July 1, 2010 to complete 18 hours of continuing education (CE). If this is your in-house lab, you do not need to attain the continuing education hours. Commercial labs will need to comply with this CE requirement. Note that the CE requirement does not apply to commercial labs located in

another state or country, because Florida law applies only to Florida-registered labs. After Thursday, July 1, 2010, you do not want to do business with a Florida lab that has failed to properly register and comply with CE requirements. When the Florida lab delivers the final product to you, verify that you also receive written disclosure of: 1) all materials used by the lab in manufacturing the appliance; 2) certificates of authenticity for each product manufactured; and 3) the point of origin of manufacture of each restoration, including the address and contact information of the dental lab.

The Lab CE mandate and the point of origin disclosure do not apply to your in-house labs. If you employ a dental laboratory technician who works in your office, under your supervision, and only for you; then neither you (nor your lab technician) need to be concerned about these new laws. Dentists may continue to do business with out-of-state labs if they wish. The legislation contains language stating that the new requirements do not apply to dental laboratories in another state or country.



Florida's State Capital

The Senate Health Regulation Committee has adopted SE 702 by Sen. Don Gates (R-Fort Walton Beach) with two technical amendments. The bill will: 1) add a dentist to the Florida Healthy Kids Board of Directors to be appointed by the governor; 2) prohibit prepaid limited health services organizations (PLHSO) from requiring dentists to sign exclusive provider contracts; 3) prohibit PLHSOs from requiring dentists to agree to terms of future contracts as a

condition of continuation or renewal; and 4) provide flexibility in the Volunteer Health Care Provider Program for continuing education hours to be accumulated on a biennial basis instead of each calendar year. The bill will be heard next in the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee. The House companion bill, HB 185 by Rep. Matt Hudson (R-Naples), has not been heard in committee.

The FDA announced a new member benefit program brought to its membership through FDA Services.

Legislative Committee Report, Continued on page 7



Lifelock, an identity theft protection plan, is now being offered to FDA members at a 10 percent discount. FDA members may access this program through the FDA Web site or the FDAS Web site (www.floridadental.org or www.fdaservices.com), through Lifelock at www.lifelock.com, or by calling 1-800-Lifelock. FDA members should use the promo code FDAI to receive the discount.

Following success in the City of Brooksville and Seminole County to maintain fluoridation of public drinking waters, the FDA and the Department of Health Public Health Dental Program's next challenge appears to be Port Orange in Volusia County. Staff from the FDA Dental Care and Health Office and GAO are working with DOH fluoridation program staff, local dentists and county public health department officials to prepare for possible hearings on this issue in Port Orange. Dr. Howard Pranicoff, a former member of the FDA Council on Dental Care, who has offices in Daytona Beach and Port Orange, is coordinating local efforts with the public health department. The FDA has posted on its Web site fluoridation information, talking points and guidelines for conducting an advocacy program.

Federal legislation reauthorizing the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) until 2013 was signed into law on February 4th. SCHIP legislation includes the following dental components: 1) a guarantee that ensures dental coverage will be offered as part of each SCHIP

program; 2) requires states through their SCHIP programs to provide information on dentists and dental services through the federal Insure Kids Now Web site and hotline (information updated quarterly); 3) instructs the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study on access to dental services for children under Medicaid and SCHIP. The Government Accountability Office report would include recommendations for how federal and state governments could address barriers to dental care, and the feasibility of using qualified mid-level dental health providers to improve access for children to oral health services and public health overall; and 4) provides a dental "wrap-around," which would allow states, at their option, to provide the dental benefits associated with their SCHIP programs to children who qualify financially but currently have medical insurance through their parent or guardians.

Trial was concluded last week on whether Florida's specialty advertising lawsuit is constitutional, and the Court ruled in favor of the Plaintiffs. The statute that prohibited dentists from identifying themselves as specialists in areas unrecognized by either the Florida Board of Dentistry or the American Dental Association (ADA), unless they so indicate in capital letters on the advertisement, was found to be unconstitutional. A definitive article about this case is available on page 10 of this Florida Focus.

The Florida AGD is proud to announce the winners of the AGD Senior Student Dental Awards for 2009

From Nova Southeastern College of Dental Medicine:

**Judith Cruz
Denis Dosphehoff**

From the University of Florida College of Dentistry:

**Michael DeLucia
Maureen Libby**

Report of the FLAGD Nominating Committee:

President-Elect: Dr. Don Thomas (Winter Park, FL)
Vice-President: Dr. Michael Badger (Orlando, FL)
Secretary: Dr. Irma Tassi (Tampa, FL)
Treasurer: Dr. Harvey Gordon (Hollywood, FL)

Directors at Large:

Dr. Bipin Sheth (Margate, FL)
Dr. Tony Menendez (Port Charlotte, FL)
Dr. Jeff Oppenberg (Largo, FL)
Dr. Jason Lewis (Saint Johns, FL)

Candidates for Region 20 Offices:

Region 20 Trustee: Dr. David Stillwell
Region 20 Director: Dr. Robert Gehrig
Region 20 Secretary/Treasurer: Dr. Patrick Shepherd



President's Message, Continued from page 2

Component Issues:

I am happy to report that the NE Component has put in place a very dynamic group of officers to reactivate the Northeast FL AGD. And, they will shortly hold, what is hoped, a very successful CE Seminar in Jacksonville.

Dental Student Recruitment & Retention:

I mentioned above the amazing job that was done in both Gainesville, with its unique challenges, and at Nova Southeastern. This is especially amazing considering that at NSU, only about 60% of the students were able to get to our table in the time allotted. Therefore, I will personally take it upon myself to approach all the seniors we missed in a further recruitment effort.

In the past, a source of concern for us was the fact that the AGD would reclassify students as Active members during the summer. Thanks again to Dr. Bob Gehrig, in his capacity as a member of the AGD's Membership Council, for bringing this to the attention of the AGD and trying to get this time-wasting process changed. Hopefully, now student members will remain in the AGD database throughout the year at the student price and with the student designation. As such, will remain members of the FLAGD. They will only be reclassified when they rejoin during the following Membership Year.

Continuing Education:

Not long ago, the FLAGD was criticized for not providing enough Continuing Education in the State of Florida. Through the efforts of many, particularly our former CE "Czarina", Dr. Laurel Casey, and our current CE Chair, Dr. Mel Kessler, we are once again a state-wide sponsor of CE. This effort has been further enhanced by several of our Components over the last two years.

During the next 3 months, the FLAGD and its Component AGDs are sponsoring no less than three separate Continuing Education events. Hearty congratulations to all.

Representation:

The Florida AGD has been approached in recent weeks by representatives of two separate Dental Organizations. One is a state-wide, volunteer non-profit organization like us - the Florida Society of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons. Apparently, they want us to help champion their cause for

"Specialty Licensure" for Oral Surgeons. I'm still waiting for their written material to take this matter before the FLAGD Board.

The second group to contact me was *DOCS*, represented by Dr. Michael Silverman. He requested that the FLAGD advance their cause of revising the Sedation Regulation requirements before the Florida Board of Dentistry. He maintained that there is a "ground-swell of grass-roots" support among the Florida members of the AGD. The Florida AGD Board of Directors considered this matter at their last meeting on April 4th, and, after due deliberation and discussion, passed a motion unanimously that the FLAGD will not take on this challenge at this time. This does not rule out a continued study of the Sedation Regulations, just not with DOCS and not at this time. Feel free to contact me with your input on this subject.

In Closing:

I just want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued membership and participation in the Florida Academy of General Dentistry. Although I did not make a specific call for volunteers in this Newsletter, let me assure you that your help in any capacity is always greatly appreciated. Just call our Executive Director, Ms. Rosie Small, to express your interest in getting involved.

One more note about Membership. I know we are all feeling the "pinch of the economy" on some level - some greater than others. We have all been very busy working on our practices to overcome the economic downturn of these times. As a result, some members from last year might have forgotten to pay their AGD Dues. The FLAGD Board decided to participate in a "phone-a-thon" to remind these members to pay their dues before their membership is dropped. If you are one of these late paying members, I hope that by the time you have received this Newsletter, one of our Board Members or other member volunteers has already contacted you. I would like to thank you for taking the call, and of course, for paying this year's dues. As I've said many times, the Florida AGD is strictly a volunteer organization. Your Board and Committee Members are the engine, but your Dues are the fuel that gives us the "energy" to carry out all our activities on your behalf.

Finally, please remember our upcoming General Assembly. This Annual Meeting of the Florida AGD, open to all members, is being held again in conjunction with the FNDC, on Friday, June 14, 11:45 AM sharp at the Gaylord Palms Resort. I am looking forward to seeing you all then.



The Removable Partial Denture Framework Try-In Procedure

by *K. David Stillwell, DDS, MAGD*
University of Florida College of Dentistry
TEAMS Clinical Care Program

This is part two of a series of three clinical articles on removable prosthodontics. Please see part one in Florida Focus, Summer 2006, Volume 16, No. 3, page 17-18, "Functional Impression Method for Distal Extension Cases". Part Three will appear in a future FF as "Altered Cast Impression Technique: Anatomic and Functional Considerations".

All dental restorations not done completely in the mouth will demonstrate varying amounts of inaccuracies. In spite of the most demanding care in the execution of clinical and laboratory techniques, these discrepancies will always occur in the indirectly constructed restoration. The more steps in the fabrication sequence, the more chance for errors and, therefore, discrepancies. For your part, you must exercise meticulous attention to detail in handling all dental materials and in observation of the patient's oral anatomy and physiology. Control of the impression materials, oral fluids, oral tissues, and your impression removal technique are all critical steps to your success. Most frameworks do not fit the mouth passively the first time they are tried in. You must expect to adjust the framework for an accurate and precise fit. Mentally prepare yourself before the patient arrives, and be prepared for a potential disappointment! Establish a set amount of time that you will allow to complete the chair side adjustment of the new framework. If the framework cannot be accepted clinically in that length of time, you should be physically and mentally prepared to make a new master impression. The framework try-in appointment usually will include additional clinical steps depending upon the classification of the RPD, such as: 1) altered cast impression making, 2) maxillo-mandibular relationship records, and 3) final prosthetic tooth selection with determination of occlusal scheme to be employed. A definite plan or protocol for procedures is needed in order to properly manage chairside time while perfecting the prosthesis' fit to the mouth.

It is prudent to request that the laboratory create a duplicate master cast prior to beginning the framework construction. Later, as the framework is returned from the laboratory, the metal work can be meticulously examined when initially inserted on the unaltered duplicate master cast. Before the patient arrives, examine the frame closely with the aid of magnifying loops. Certain areas can be adjusted immediately—some should be noted to be checked in the mouth. It is very important that you check that all rests fit

perfectly and simultaneously into the rest seat preparations in the master cast. Rests should not be over-contoured causing unnecessary bulk or over extension. Metal should not be under-contoured, over-adjusted, or over-polished causing weakness in the metal. Components of the framework metal should not prevent stone tooth contact to the opposing stone occlusion. Clasps should be perfectly adapted to the teeth. Retentive areas of clasps should be properly placed in reference to the height of contour. Remove the frame from the cast and examine the inside of the clasps for stone abrasion residue, ver-extensions of the rest seats, or inclusion of sharp angles at the marginal ridges. Check for minute bubbles (positive inclusions) or porosity on the casting. Abraded areas on the master cast, which may be the result of the frame being forced onto the cast in the attempt to obtain an apparent acceptable fit, may be observable. Check for rough areas on the casting that should have been polished by the laboratory. Check the relative smoothness (or over-polish) of areas that should have been left as cast, i.e. terminal 1/3rd of retentive tip. Areas of repair, soldering and questionable accuracy should be noted prior to patient try-in, and verified as acceptable during the try-in procedure.

The frame should fit in the mouth as it does on the stone cast. However, a certain amount of machining must be expected to be accomplished to obtain this same fit. Frames that appear to have a perfect fit at first insertion must still be evaluated critically. Frames that appear to fit can be as damaging as grossly non-fitting frames. Patients may not recognize that the frame is too tight, not passive, not seated fully, or "too high". Frames must be made passive so as to exert no excessive force on teeth or soft tissues. The only way to ascertain if the frame is fitting is to use a disclosing medium and judicious adjustment. Several commercial products are manufactured to disclose unfavorable tooth contact. Two excellent methods are: 1) Polishing rouge dissolved in chloroform and applied to the frame's tooth contact surface with a small brush, or 2) a light dusting of

Florida Judge Calls Advertising Law Unconstitutional

By Kathy Kincade, Editor-in-Chief, DrBicuspid.com

It took more than a dozen years and numerous trips to court -- nearly all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, in fact -- for Florida dentists to finally claim victory in their efforts to overturn a law restricting advertising of their credentials.

On April 3, in response to a lawsuit filed by Francis DuCoin, D.M.D., et al against the Florida state surgeon general et al, Circuit Court Judge Frank Sheffield ruled that Section 466.0282 of the Florida statutes -- which prevents advertising of membership in, or credentials earned from, any dental organization not recognized by the Florida Board of Dentistry (FBD) -- violates the First and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

The ruling could have national implications, according to Frank Recker, D.D.S., J.D., attorney for the American Academy of Implant Dentistry (AAID), one of the professional organizations that has lent its support to the plaintiffs in this legal action.

"These issues have been going on for a very long time all over the country," agreed Laurence Jerrold, D.D.S., J.D., legal editor for the American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics and dean of the Jacksonville University School of Orthodontics in Florida. "The state dental board is now going to have to figure out what they are going to allow and what they aren't going to allow."

Like dental boards in other states, the Florida dental board only recognizes credentials issued by specialty organizations recognized by the ADA. Thus, implant dentists in Florida credentialed by the AAID (or its certifying board, the American Board of Oral Implantology/Implant Dentistry (ABOI/ID) who wanted to advertise their credentials had to include the following "onerous disclaimer" about those credentials -- specifically (and in capital letters):

THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF IMPLANT DENTISTRY IS NOT RECOGNIZED AS A BONA FIDE SPECIALTY ACCREDITING ORGANIZATION BY THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION OR THE FLORIDA BOARD OF DENTISTRY.

The advertisement was also required to include "IMPLANT DENTISTRY IS NOT RECOGNIZED AS A SPECIALTY AREA BY THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION OR THE FLORIDA BOARD OF DENTISTRY."

These same requirements applied to dentists with credentials in other non-ADA-recognized special interest areas of practice, such as cosmetic dentistry (American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry [AACD]) or general dentistry (Academy of General Dentistry [AGD]).

While everyone acknowledges that public safety and welfare are paramount, the issues surrounding what constitutes fair advertising prompted the AAID, AGD, and AACD to get involved. Any dentist in Florida, for example, can advertise "implant dentistry," Dr. Recker noted. But if an AAID-certified dentist wants to include their credentials in the ad, they have to include the state-mandated disclaimer as well.

"This all started in 1994 when, on behalf of the AAID, I went to Tallahassee and appeared before the state dental board in a hearing to seek a formal declaratory order," Dr. Recker told DrBicuspid.com. "I demonstrated that my client had credentialing processes that were very strict and very rigorous, [and was] seeking permission to freely advertise them. Shortly thereafter, the board issued a formal Declaratory Order stating that dentists could advertise their bona fide credentials."

But the Florida Dental Association (FDA) "went ballistic," Dr. Recker said. "They tried to get the board to reverse themselves and, failing that, ultimately lobbied for the passage of a statute that was struck down by a federal court in 1998."

In 1999, the dental association again went back to the state legislature and lobbied for the passage of another statute (466.0282). That statute initially ended up in federal court, where the plaintiffs again won and the defendants appealed, Dr. Recker said. They won that appeal, and that's when the U.S. Supreme Court stepped in -- almost.

"In 2002, when the issue of whether our case should be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court was presented to the court, two justices (Ginsburg and Thomas) said they wanted to hear it, but they were voted down," Dr. Recker said. "So they wrote a minority opinion saying they dissented with the majority on whether or not to accept the case."

In March 2003, a new case in which several credentialed dentists were plaintiffs was filed in Florida state court, and, after six years of litigation, it went to trial before Judge Sheffield.

Advertising Law, continued on next page

Dental Groups Respond

In addition to his April 3 ruling that the statute is unconstitutional, the judge chastised the state legislature and state associations for not taking a stronger position with the ADA.

"Of great interest to the Court is that the challenged statute delegates to the ADA the sole discretion to designate what specialties or specialty credentialing organizations will be recognized by the FBD and enforced under the law of this state," Judge Sheffield wrote in his decision. "The ADA refuses to recognize the AGD, AACD, AAID, and ABOI as certifying boards, and consequently advertising those credentials, without the disclaimer, violates Florida law. In fact, under Florida law, the Legislature may not delegate unguided and uncontrolled authority to a private organization to determine prospectively the lawfulness of commercial speech."

"This is all about turf wars," Dr. Recker told DrBicuspid.com. "Virtually every state in their statutes defers to the ADA on some things, and this judge said, 'You cannot delegate the state's power to a private trade association.'"

In response to the ruling, Florida Dental Association President Ted Haeussner, D.M.D., issued the following statement:

Last week, a state circuit court in Leon County, concluded that Florida's dental specialty advertising law (section 466.0282, Florida Statutes) is unconstitutional. As a practical matter, the Florida Board of Dentistry has not enforced the statute since the lawsuit was filed in 2003. This order means the Florida Board of Dentistry is now permanently barred from enforcing the statute.

The state court ruling does not repeal or nullify other laws that prohibit consumer fraud or, for example, untrue statements made by dentists for the purpose of financially exploiting patients, he added. Also, the guidelines for advertising set forth in the ADA/FDA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct remain intact, he noted. However, the state court ruling does appear to contradict a previous federal court opinion that upheld the constitutionality of section 466.0282, Dr. Haeussner added.

"At this point, the Florida Department of Health has made no public announcement on whether it will appeal the decision," he noted. "The FDA is not in a position to appeal the ruling because it was not a party to the lawsuit." The ADA also issued a statement:

The DuCoin decision concerns an interpretation of Florida law, which is first a matter for Florida authorities to comment on. The American Dental Association provides ethical guidance to its members, but is not a regulatory agency. Whether an individual qualifies to practice dentistry and the rules governing dental practice are matters of state regulation flowing from the state's obligation to protect its residents.

For dentists in Florida with bona fide credentials in the AAID, AACD, and AGD, who had stopped advertising their credentials out of fear, Dr. Recker said, the ruling represents "a bright day." In fact, he hopes the DuCoin decision is appealed so that the case can again go before higher courts, potentially both state and federal.

"Effective immediately, [dentists in Florida] can advertise their credentials without the onerous disclaimers," he said. "In this day and age, to think about preventing public access to this information is embarrassing to the dental profession."

Reprinted with permission of Kathy Kincade, Editor in Chief, DrBicuspid.com - the site that provides dental information you can sink your teeth into.



DrBicuspid.com is a free, member-driven web site dedicated to general dentists, specialists, and other dental professionals. DrBicuspid's goal is to deliver useful, trustworthy, and relevant news, features, columns, and more, that will help you make your practice better, faster, smoother, and more profitable.

“Occlude Indicating Spray” to the tooth contact surfaces. Rub marks can be readily detected in a dry mouth, but a wet oral environment will significantly increase the difficulty in observing tight-fitting areas. Remember, there are areas on the framework that should contact the abutment teeth, and will therefore show favorable tooth contact rub marks.

Follow these suggested procedures during the chairside RPD framework try-in:

1. Coat the tooth contact areas of the frame with disclosing medium.
2. Seat the frame on the teeth by exerting minimum force in line with the path of insertion.
3. Note the amount of resistance, or lack of resistance, to seating the frame. Remove the frame. Examine the frames surface areas for small shiny spots similar to interferences in seating a crown.
4. Relieve the areas using high speed hand piece and small carbide burs, then re-polish with stones and rubber points.
5. Repeat, this time exerting an increased seating force.
6. The patient should be able to tell you if there is stress being placed on a certain tooth or area, and from which direction the force is being applied (does it move teeth as it is inserted, are teeth are being wedged apart or forced together).
7. Most frequent areas needing adjustment are:
 - a. Marginal ridge areas of rest seat - minor connector or guide plate junctions
 - b. Lingual embrasures and interproximal areas in lingual plating
 - c. Inferior edge of cast circumferential clasps
 - d. Proximal 2/3rds of cast circumferential clasps
 - e. Areas undercut to the path of insertion—i.e. lateral walls of rest seats, or crowded anterior teeth

8. **Continue adjustments until the frame seats fully and is passive!**

9. If the frame doesn't fit, it simply doesn't fit. Do not waste time and frustration—proceed to remake a new master impression. Remember, an over-adjusted frame may appear to fit well, but it may have lost all the necessities of proper reciprocation.

10. Assuming a proper fit to this point, the occlusion must then be carefully evaluated and adjusted. Without the frame in the mouth, mark the centric occlusal contacts with red indicating film. Insert the frame, and repeat marking the occlusal contact with black indicating film. Examine the occlusal surfaces—all the red marks should be covered by black. If not, the frame is preventing the necessary contacts and it must be adjusted.

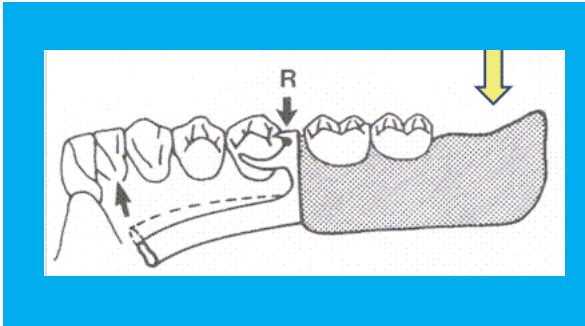
11. Adjust the black markings on the frame until you can repeat the marking sequence and show no red marks. The occlusion of the natural teeth must be the same with and without the frame in the mouth. The patient will normally be able to tell you when you are close.

If areas of the opposing occlusion must be adjusted, this is left best for the final insertion appointment—otherwise, the pre-adjusted teeth may over-erupt. Cast nickel-chrome alloys must have a minimum thickness or they will permanently deform under load. Therefore, rest seats, minor connectors, and clasp arms should never be reduced below 1.0 mm in thickness. Distal extension partial denture frames require particular attention. Measures must be taken to insure freedom of movement of the distal extension in a direction towards the basal seat without setting up secondary fulcrum sites at the guide planes or at the minor connectors (“Stress-release”). Binding of the frame at these areas can be readily detected with the disclosing solutions. The physiologic adjustment of the partial denture casting keeps the line of force within the long axis of the abutment teeth and should eliminate highly damaging binding points between the guide plates and the abutment teeth. Once it is determined that the frame fits properly and will have the appropriate tooth support, it is time to proceed to the next phase in the construction of the partial denture.



**Stay current on AGD activities
at www.agd.org**

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www.flagd.org**



Rotation through fulcrum “R” can allow unfavorable lifting of the major connector during function. Distal extensions must be functionally adapted to the edentulous ridge and these RPD’s require frequent relines to compensate for resorptive changes that occur during normal wear.



Mid-palatal strap reduces the available muco-osseous support compared to the full palatal plate. This complex framework will require careful chairside adjustment to insure passivity.



Combination of fixed and precision attachment RPD provides full-arch reconstruction. Functional soft tissue support should be considered a high priority to insure predictable long-term prognosis.

Central Florida Component of the AGD

by Michael T. Kelly, DMD, MAGD
2009 President CFAGD

The Central Florida Component held a continuing education meeting in Orlando this March with 30 dentists in attendance. The evening began with the presentation of scholarship monies to four deserving dental assisting students from the Orlando Vo-Tech Program. The scholarship was the project of our immediate past president, **Dr. E. Donald Thomas** of Winter Park. **Ms. Kelly Shoemaker, Ms. Susan Walker, Ms. Alexis Brackett, and Ms. Allison Ward** received a total of \$500 in scholarship monies to use toward their dental assisting education. CFAGD hopes to continue this scholarship by soliciting donations from our membership so that a perpetual gift can be generated. Donations can be sent to the CFAGD c/o Dr. E Donald Thomas at 201 N. Lakemont Ave., Suite 300, Winter Park, FL 32792. Following the scholarship presentation, Dr. Thomas provided a brief update of advocacy issues that are important to Florida dentists. The educational program was on Durathin Veneers and was presented by **Dr. Dennis Wells** with commentary and questions handled by myself. The evening ended with a dozen doctors gathering for dinner and fellowship. Five new members joined our component following this meeting including two attendees who will join the local and national organization. We are grateful to HDIQ Dental (www.hdiq dental.com) for the use of their educational program for this presentation.



Our new component is growing in number and voice. We are committed to providing “more than just another meeting” by incorporating high quality education, networking opportunities, advocacy updates, and relaxed fellowship. I am thankful for the support and hard work of the team of officers working with me toward this goal.

Our next educational meeting will be in September, 2009. We hope to see you there.

A Victory for Bona Fide Credentials

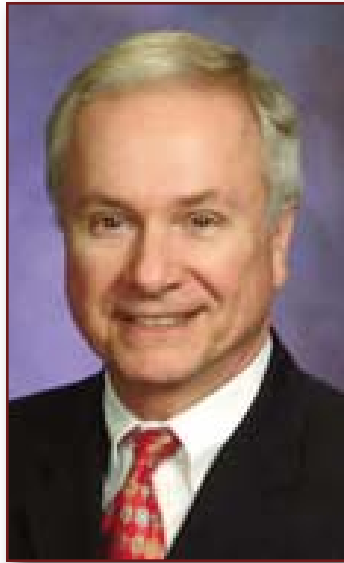
by Frank R. Recker, DDS, JD

On April 3, 2009, Circuit Judge Frank E. Sheffield, of the Second Judicial Circuit in Leon County, Florida, issued a decision that will have a broad impact on the advertising of bona fide credentials from bona fide credentialing organizations. The decision results from a trial conducted before Judge Sheffield from February 9-11, 2009.

Specifically finding that the American Academy of Implant Dentistry, the Academy of General Dentistry, and the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry were 'bona fide organizations' that issue 'bona fide' credentials, the Judge permanently enjoined the enforcement of Florida Statute 466.0282, which prevents the advertising of 'membership' in or credentials earned from any dental organization not recognized by the Florida Board of Dentistry, which in turn only recognized ADA specialty credentials. Any other credential, assuming it met the requirements of the statute, was required to contain specific 'disclaimers' in the advertisement. For example, if a "Fellow of the AAID" wanted to advertise that credential, the advertisement had to state:

"IMPLANT DENTISTRY IS NOT RECOGNIZED AS A SPECIALTY AREA BY THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION OR THE FLORIDA BOARD OF DENTISTRY.
THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF IMPLANT DENTISTRY IS NOT RECOGNIZED AS A BONA FIDE SPECIALTY ACCREDITING ORGANIZATION BY THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION OR THE FLORIDA BOARD OF DENTISTRY."

The Court found that these advertising restrictions were unconstitutional on many grounds, including the Florida Constitution's guarantee of the right to be rewarded for industry, first amendment violations, and fourteenth amendment violations, to name a few. The Court also held that the legislature could not constitutionally delegate such



matters (i.e., specialty, credentialing) to the ADA, a trade association.

The Court further concluded that **‘the evidence shows that they (AAID, AGD, AACD) are respected, legitimate organizations that provide substantial training in an area of dentistry, thus ensuring that the dentists that seek out such training are more proficient and competent. Such additional training is surely beneficial to the consumer.’**

The State of Florida is now permanently prohibited from attempting to enforce the above statutory provision, making it legal for dentists with bona fide credentials to advertise those credentials to the public, along with the names of

the organizations from which such credentials were earned, without the onerous disclaimers referenced above. It is expected that this decision will form the basis for other state challenges, if necessary.

Frank R. Recker, DDS, J.D. (recker@ddslaw.com), is a member of the AGD and FLAGD, and served as Plaintiff's attorney in the suit described above. His law firm, Frank R. Recker and Associates Co., LPA, has offices in Marco Island, Florida and Columbus, Ohio, with an emphasis on Dental/Legal Matters.

Dr. Recker is a graduate of Ohio State University College of Dentistry and the Salmon P. Chase College of Law, Northern Kentucky University. He is licensed to practice dentistry and law in Kentucky, Ohio and Florida.



Financial Lessons and the Art of Dentistry

By Cary B. Stamp, CFP®

The walls of my office are lined with worthless stock certificates registered to Meyer H. Schaffer, DDS. Dr. Schaffer was my inspiration to go into the investment business. After returning from serving in World War II, he abandoned his dream of becoming a surgeon, started a family and enrolled in dental school at the University of Iowa. In a few short years, he established a thriving solo general dentistry practice in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



-Live below your means.

-Fund your retirement plan every month with at least 10% of your earnings.

-Develop a diversified investment strategy that is appropriate for your age and risk-tolerance and do not waiver when the winds blow a different direction.

-Surround yourself with financial professionals you can trust.

-Keep debt to a minimum.

Dr. Schaffer invested in any new technology that came along, oil wells in Canada, real estate in small towns in Iowa and many small life insurance policies that he was told would provide him with income in retirement. Almost invariably, the companies he purchased would go out of business, the oil wells would dry up and the life insurance policies would implode. His retirement should have been very comfortable but in the end, he relied on his social security income and the sale of his treasured home (with his wood shop, jewelry making bench and even an area dedicated to tying his own flies for fly-fishing). He often told the story of his crazy friend that told him to buy stock in an Arkansas discount retailer in the 1970's, (yes, Wal-Mart). He took a pass on that one.

The past few months have challenged our faith in the government, the stock and bond markets and even the capitalist system. The challenge today is to ignore the financial media and the doomsayers and forge ahead with your financial plan. Dentists who work for themselves or with a small group need to remember that their retirement will be completely dependent upon their own efforts. Even if you are near the end of your practicing years, it is not too late to start planning for comfort in your golden years.

At age 74, Dr. Schaffer had a stroke while working on a patient in his office. He finished his work on the patient and went to the hospital. He spent the rest of his years in a wheel chair and could not play golf, go fishing or enjoy his retirement.

Cary B. Stamp is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ practitioner and Founder of Lincoln Park Financial Group in Chicago, Illinois and Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. www.lincolnparkfinancial.com Securities and Advisory Services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA, SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser

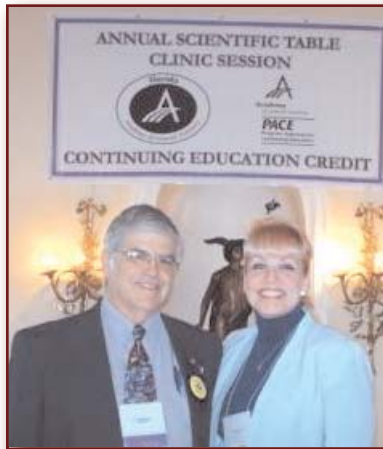
Dr. Schaffer was a great dentist, a well regarded lecturer on crowns and bridges, a kind man with a wonderful sense of humor and my grandfather. Even as a teen, I knew I wanted to go into the financial business and show people how they could use their money to allow them to accomplish their dreams in life. I especially wanted to teach this lesson to those who were self-employed and could not rely on anyone else to provide for their retirement.

As a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ practitioner, I have devoted my life to helping my clients to avoid Dr. Schaffer's financial legacy. A few key basic strategies have guided my advice:

2009 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC TABLE CLINIC SESSION

by Susan F. Socas, DMD

Once again this year, the Florida Academy of General Dentistry provided continuing education sponsorship for the 2009 Annual Scientific Table Clinic Session on January 22, 2009 at the Renaissance Ballroom in Miami. It was hosted by the American College of Dentists Florida Section and chaired by Dr. Susan F. Socas who has done taken on this responsibility for many years. The day's format of activities included a lecture, the table clinic competition, a raffle of dental products and the awards dinner. It was totally corporate-sponsored by the following companies and individuals: 3M, Dentsply Caulk, Colgate, Kiwanis International, Metlife Financial Services, OraPharma, Patterson Dental, Owens Business Systems, Mederos & Associates, Riviera Study Club, Drs. Pedro Castro, D. Georgina Garcia, Jorge Centurion, Judith Rodriguez-Bec, and Iris Torres-Rivera along with other private practitioners.



Dr. Mel Kessler, FLAGD Past President, with Dr. Susan F. Socas

Algaze; Broward College: Joyce Abraham & Lisa Long and Miami Dade College: Dr. Susan Kass & Duran Mootry. The lecture, "Achieving Natural Esthetics with Implants," was given by Dr. Anthony Sclar, a leader around the world in reconstructive and esthetic dental implant surgery.

The Table Clinic program consists of informal tabletop demonstrations of a concept, technique or procedure, related to dentistry. It is not an essay, lecture, or exhibit and is not an advertisement for any one product or company. Table Clinics are shown or demonstrated completely in no more than 5 minutes (timed) and repeated many times during the table clinic

period. A 2 minute (timed) Question & Answer session by the judges follows each presentation. Presenters (4 per table clinic) have a 3x5 foot self-standing stiff backboard with mounted photographic prints, or artwork, and any information as necessary to describe their topic. In addition, presenters have printed handouts of their table clinics to give to attendees.



Table Clinic Participants

In attendance on behalf of the American College of Dentists Florida Section was Dr. Paul Benjamin and the current treasurer of the American College of Dentists Florida Section, Dr. D. Georgina Garcia; the dean of the University of Florida

College Dentistry, Dr. Teresa Dolan; the past president and treasurer of the Florida Academy of General Dentistry, Dr. Mel Kessler and Dr. Al Underwood respectively. The program directors that participated were from University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital: Drs. Leo Dorado & Jaime Oliveira; Miami Veteran's Administration: Drs. Silvia Sorondo & Gerald J. Botko; Nova Southeastern University: Drs. Eyad Shehadeh and Diane Ede-Nichols; University of Florida-Hialeah Clinic: Dr. Roberta Diehl; Community Smiles: Drs. Lisa Campbell and Robert Wolf; Robert Morgan Educational Center: Aurea Hurtado & Marcela Shur; Miami Lakes Educational Center: Glenda

In the Table Clinic Competition, educational programs from the South Florida area - Miami-Dade County and Broward County - participated in four categories. The Resident Category, Student Category, Assistant Category and Hygiene Category where all were vying for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and winners in each of the categories received: 1) Cash prizes (\$100, \$75, \$50 respectively) to the group that won, 2) a Ribbon (for each winning table clinic), 3) a Plaque for each presenter in the winning groups and finally 4) A Trophy for the 1st place program winning table clinic in each category presented to the Program Director at the awards dinner. Three free continuing education credits were given to all attendees for the lecture and table clinic presentations.



One group of award winners

Scientific Table Clinic Session, Continued on next page

Scientific Table Clinic Session, continued from page 14

The raffle of dental products included thousands of dollars in products and gift cards to various restaurants generously donated by our sponsors.

The awards dinner was a formal sit down affair where all those that contributed and had some part in the vision of the table clinics as a stand-alone event were recognized and given plaques. The dinner program was started by Dr. Paul Benjamin, who said a few words about the mission of the American College of Dentists Florida Section. Following Dr. Benjamin, Dr. Mel Kessler said a few words about the Florida Academy of General Dentistry and benefits of membership. All the sponsors, volunteers, advisory board and the judges were acknowledged for their contribution to the session.



Dr. Socas and Dr. Kessler with other sponsors and participants

A donation was made on behalf of the Table Clinic Session to The Miami Care Foundation, a non-profit organization that assists children with head & neck deformities. It was established by Dr. Anthony Wolfe, the chief of plastic surgery at Miami Children's Hospital and Dr. Joe Garri for children with craniofacial deformities (congenital and traumatic). The surgeons donate their time and the funds raised go to pay for the children's hospital expenses when the parents cannot afford it.

In closing, the 2009 Annual Table Clinic Session was an even bigger success than in previous years. It was very well attended with more than 300 registrants. It continues to be an event filled with the contagious enthusiasm of our young colleagues and we had wonderful camaraderie, delightful interaction and worthwhile education for all in attendance.

TABLE CLINIC WINNERS

ASSISTANTS:

◆ **Third Prize:** Miami Lakes Educational Center--*Think Before You Put it in Your Mouth*

Presenters Names: Juleini Meneses, Yailin Perurena, Eveling Martinez, Laura Rubiano

◆ **Second Prize:** Miami Lakes Educational Center--*Brace Yourself*

Presenters Names: Betty Hernandez, Joseph Ramos, Janeth Barradas, Silvana Davila

◆ **First Prize:** Miami Lakes Educational Center--*Teeth, Soda, Oh My!*

Presenters Names: Wen Ng, Barbara Martinez, Cinthya Carmona, Robert Mondestin
Program Director: Glenda Algaze

HYGIENISTS:

◆ **Third Prize:** Miami Dade College--*Smoking and its Affect on Pregnancy*

Presenters Names: Bettina Duncombe

◆ **Second Prize:** Miami Dade College--*Osteonecrosis*

Presenters Names: Kellen Adams-Felix, Sommer Rogers

◆ **First Prize:** *The Wonder of Xylitol*

Presenters Names: Ana Puerto, Jany Guerrero
Program Director: Dr. Susan Kass / Duran Mootry

STUDENTS:

◆ **Second Prize:** UF- Hialeah--*Digital Impressions... The Future is Now*

Presenters Names: Jannet Gamboa, Jupe Kanyaratana Van Dyke, Sacha Piedrahita, Yanet Rey

◆ **First Prize:** UF- Hialeah--*Bone Graft Materials and Membranes Used in Ridge Preservation and Bone Augmentation*

Presenters Names: Debora I. Lopez, Alina Perez, Sara M. Aza
Program Director: Dr. Roberta Diehl

RESIDENTS:

◆ **Third Prize:** UF- Hialeah--*Key to Successful Crown Removal: Wam-Key vs. Conventional Techniques*

Presenters Names: Naima Liamani, Javier Mendez, Irenia Mendoza, Danae Vital

◆ **Second Prize:** NSU--*Effect of Bleaching on Color Change of Nano Composites*

Presenters Names: Maria C. Guia Rodriguez, Cleydes Dougherty, Silvia Casas

◆ **First Prize:** Community Smiles --*Tofflemire Versus G-Ring Retainers*

Presenters Names: Patricia Reategui-Rivera, Viviana L. Waich, Helen Olena Cardaciotto, Renata Ferreira-Cunha
Program Directors: Drs. Lisa Campbell & Robert Wolf



Current Events, Continued on page 3

This number is actually 100 higher than it was at the same time last year. Since the Florida AGD is an organization highly dependent on dues income, your FLAGD Board decided to divide up the list of unpaid members, and participate in a Phone-a-Thon to try to speak individually with each of these dentists.

By the end of April, all 435 unpaid members will have been contacted by a Board member, and we will have the results of their phone calls. A majority of these calls resulted in the member paying their dues (“Oh no, I just missed the cutoff date. I fully intended to retain my membership”). Some had bad phone numbers or email addresses and we were not able to contact them.

Members of the Florida AGD Board are aware that the downturn in the economy is affecting dentistry, and that dentists have a wide selection of professional associations to join and support each year. Please be aware that the FLAGD Board of Directors is very grateful to each one of you who has made the decision to rejoin and support the AGD as your professional association.

So a tip of the hat to all our conscientious and faithful members. You can be sure that we will try our hardest to provide you with the best possible service and make your membership in the Florida AGD beneficial.

In other news, the FLAGD Board has voted to support a grant application by Dr. Frank Catalanotto, former Dean of the University of Florida College of Dentistry to the Dental Trade Alliance for a program that will help provide access to care to underserved children.

And finally, the Board welcomes nearly 100 new Student Members into the AGD and FLAGD this year. The FLAGD pays the dues for junior and senior dental students who plan to practice General Dentistry or take a General Dentistry residency following graduation. We hope you will all decide to retain your membership into the future.

FLAGD Component Societies

Listed below are the Component Academies of the Florida AGD.

All of part of the counties listed are included within the Components.

Component Academies may include AGD members from counties in addition to those listed.

Gold Coast AGD

Dr. Robert Fish, President
*Glades, Hendry, Martin,
Okeechobee, Palm Beach,
St. Lucie, Broward Counties*

Northeast Florida AGD

Dr. Susan Amatrudi, President
*Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia,
Duval, Flagler, Hamilton, LaFayette,
Lake, Madison, Marion, Nassau,
Putnam, St. Johns, Suwanee,
Union, and Volusia Counties*

Southeast Florida AGD

Dr. Sandra Brand, President
Dade and Monroe Counties

Tampa Bay AGD

Dr. Jeffrey Oppenberg, President
*Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco,
Pinellas, and Sumter Counties*

Central Florida AGD

Dr. Michael Kelly, President
*Alachua, Marion, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola,
Polk, Seminole,*

Suncoast AGD

Inactive
*Charlotte, Collier, De Soto, Lee, Manatee,
and Sarasota Counties*

If you are interested in learning more about a component in your local area, or want information about how to initiate a component, please contact the FLAGD office at 866-620-0773.

2008-2009 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Officers

President

Dr. Harvey P. Gordon, MAGD
1051 N. 35th Avenue, Suite 202
Hollywood, FL 33021
Work: 954-963-3535
Fax: 954-964-7059
Email: flashfl@earthlink.net

President-Elect

Dr. Roderick Shaw, III, MAGD
317 N. Duval St.
Madison, FL 32340
Work: 850-973-6427
Fax: 850-973-9622
Email: rkshaw@embarqmail.com

Vice-President

Dr. E. Donald Thomas, FAGD
201 N Lakemont Ave Ste 300
Winter Park, FL 32792-3211
Phone: 407-644-1455
Fax: (407) 644-0592
Email: dt2thfxr@embarqmail.com

Secretary

Dr. Irma M. Tassi
2109 Bayshore Blvd. #403
Tampa, FL 33606
Work: 727-398-6661, ext. 7602
Fax: 727-319-1146
Email: Irma.Tassi@va.gov

Treasurer

Dr. Alfred H. ("Al") Underwood, FAGD
1399 NW 17th Ave., Suite 301
Miami, FL 33125
Work: 305-325-0050
Fax: 305-325-0935
Email: aunderwoodjr@msn.com

Editor

Marc Tindell, DMD, FAGD
801 W. Fletcher Avenue
Tampa, FL 33612
Work: 813-961-1727
Fax: 813-968-7220
Email: mstdmd1@aol.com

Immediate Past President

Dr. K. David Stillwell, MAGD
Room D8-38, PO Box 100412
Gainesville, FL 32610
Work: 352-273-6944
Fax: 352-392-5606
Email: kdstillwell@dental.ufl.edu

Delegates at Large

Dr. Bipin J. Sheth, MAGD
5239 Coconut Creek Pkwy
Margate, FL 33063-3964
Work: 954-979-8631
Fax: 954-979-8651
Cell: (954) 471-2377
Email: bipinsheth@msn.com

Dr. Tony Menendez, MAGD
4120 Tamiami Trail, Suite A
Port Charlotte, FL 33952-9241
Work: (941) 624-4575
Fax: (941) 624-4587
Email: smilesdds@comcast.net

Dr. Michael Badger, FAGD
9672 Camberley Circle
Orlando, FL 32836-5754
Phone: 407-370-0200
Fax: 407-370-0277
Email: drmbadger@cfl.rr.com

Dr. Jeff Oppenberg
11935 85th St
Largo, FL 33773-2718
Phone: 727-442-2358
Email: j3j2j1us@yahoo.com

Region XX Director

Patrick Shepherd, DDS
10748 St. Andrews Rd.
Boynton Beach, FL 33436
Work: 561-732-2711
Fax: 561-732-0287
Email: Shep5440@bellsouth.net

Region XX Trustee

Lawrence E. Scheitler, DDS, MAGD, ABGD
7391 Hunt Club Lane
Seminole, FL 33776
Work: 727-398-9361
Fax: 727-319-1146
Email: lawrence.scheitler2@va.gov

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Dr. Mel Kessler, Chair

Public Information Committee

Open

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Dr. David Stillwell, Chair

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Nominating Committee

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Dr. John Joffre, Chair



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