

AP NEWSLETTER

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Presidential Address

No, this is not a picture of me! I thought instead of the usual Presidential photo I would highlight our guest speaker for the opening session on Thursday morning, Governor George Pataki, the former Chief Executive Officer of the State of New York. The first Republican-Conservative Governor in New York history, he served for 12 years and distinguished himself as a leader, innovator and spokesperson for the state. He helped guide New York through the tragedy of September 11th and is considered a major political figure in the United States. We are lucky to have him share his time and thoughts with us and, as is Academy tradition, all significant others and family are invited to hear him speak. It will be an exciting start to our 89th Annual Meeting in the Big Apple, New York City.

The Scientific Program Committee, under the leadership of Stephen Campbell, has invited a group of speakers that will ensure that this meeting will be scientifically memorable. Our Local Arrangements Committee, headed by Chairs Harold and Sheila Litvak, has planned a series of outstanding social events. At the Blatterfein Dinner on Wednesday we will be treated to the music of the NYU Faculty Jazz Band. They are superb professionals who play at major venues and will be a smooth start to the planned social events. Our Social Outing will be a bus and boat ride to Ellis Island for a multi-cultural lunch overlooking the New York skyline followed by a tour of the museum. We anticipate having you back at the hotel by 6.00 or 6:30 PM so you will be able to enjoy a second free night in New York. The spouses' outing will be a luncheon at Sarabeth's and a tour of the Whitney Museum. The committee has been sending out e-mails with theaters, opera and ballet, etc. My sincere

thanks go out to Todd Lerner, our local member of the Local Arrangements Committee, for the PDF tome on NY that he put together. He spent an enormous amount of time on this and the results show. I hope you have taken advantage of these mailings and made your plans in advance. For those of you that tend to wait until the last minute please contact Howard Kirshenber, at Colony Tickets (212 245-2345) and mention the Academy. He is a ticket broker who promises to keep things reasonable.

This year we arranged a special event to enhance your stay at The Grand Hyatt. On Thursday evening we will be hosting a NY evening at the hotel. It will run from 9:30 to 11:30 PM and we will be serving desserts, coffees and teas, as well as cordials and other after dinner drinks. There will be entertainment provided by Luke Celenza Quartet, featuring Vinnie Celenza on drums and his son on piano. I know you have enjoyed listening to Vinnie lecture, but that is nothing compared to his musical talents and his son is even better.

So after your dinner, show or concert please come join us for a fun evening. You must register so we know how many people to plan for.

We are right next door to Grand Central Station and 4 blocks from the United Nations. Despite being in one of the most expensive cities in the world, the costs of our events are reasonable and our room rate is rock bottom. I would like to thank all of our corporate partners for making this possible. Our meeting is at a great time of the year and I am sure you will enjoy the excitement, diversity and energy that make New York so special. As I worked my way up the ladder to the Presidency I knew my goal would be to lead the Academy towards financial stability. Cliff Van Blarcom, during his Presidency, outlined

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Education, Cheating, Apathy and Hope

An education is historically seen as a major step along the path towards economic independence for an individual; the proverbial “college education” will open doors of opportunity. Indeed, immigrant families in all parts of the world seek to improve the prospects for succeeding generations by emphasizing education. Today, more and more students and their parents see receiving an education as a right purchased by in most instances hard currency, and in some instances by political favour. The shift from education being perceived as a gift to its current state has significant implications for the culture of education. The paranoia that insists on objective measures has vaulted grades to the pedestal and, as a consequence, a good grade is now an end that justifies many means. Unfortunately, unethical or illegal means have somehow become ethical and legal based solely upon the merit (end) of getting a good grade. Today, when you look at a class of students in front of you, it is likely that most of those bright-eyed and apparently eager-to-learn professional students cheat, and, worse yet, many do so without remorse.

Cheating is nothing new in the University setting. Faculty and students alike feel pressures of competition and they fear the consequences of failure. According to research by Dr. Donald McCabe, 82% of engineering students admitted to cheating when he conducted a survey in 1996. Statistics such as these normally lead to arm-

waving and reminisces of the good-old days. However, Dr. McCabe’s work also showed that almost 60% of engineering students made a similar admission in 1964. Certainly, cheating has become more widespread and also probably more frequent by those that do. There is evidence that those who cheat in health care professional school are more likely to resort to improper conduct in private practice. However, the larger issue may be that the consequences of cheating have diminished so that dismissal from an educational program and the ensuing embarrassment that were likely consequences decades ago, now have been replaced by warnings and mere threats of a grade reduction. Society’s heightened propensity to litigate and the resulting cost of defending oneself have led institutions to amble along the path of least inconvenience when confronted with difficult issues. In turn, students are given the green light to cheat more. Situations rarely improve because of apathy. For all of the consternation and “What is the world coming to?” commentary, there is a sense of resignation, an air of the inevitable. And yet we all know people who have not been seduced by this dark side of human nature.

I strongly believe that most people want to do the right thing; each of us would like nothing more than for our moral compass to “point North.” The challenge to stay this course, though, is daunting. But to not even try means that the bottom of the bottomless abyss only gets deeper. To show us the way there are those who have taken on the challenge, who have fought hard, and who may have paid a price to keep their compass pointing towards their North. Our Academy has lost three such individuals very recently. Our memories of Dr. Tom Curtis, Dr. Charlie Swoope and Dr. Al Yurkstas give us hope that integrity still has real meaning; and proves to us that one’s integrity is the ultimate definition of one’s character. The papers, the presentations, the offices and titles held are wonderful for filling curriculum vitae. But curriculum vitae have a category neither for strength of character nor for how much one will be missed. Our collective sadness represents not just our longing to have them back, but also our awareness that the world really needs them and what they represent. We are all better for having known them.

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Sec/Treas

Secretary-Treasurer Notes

By Steven Eckert

One certainty that we all face is the passage of time. Indeed, time is moving relentlessly towards our next meeting at the Grand Hyatt in New York City. This year we will avoid most graduation dates, Mother's Day and Memorial Day by having our meeting in April. Although I'm sure you all remember the dates, I'll just mention once more that the meeting begins on Thursday April 26 and ends on Sunday the 29th with the second business meeting. To attend the business meeting you should schedule departure for the early evening on Sunday. The Welcome Reception and Blatterfein Dinner will be on Wednesday evening the 25th and it promises to be a great start to our festivities.

One of the advantages of holding a meeting in the most exciting city in the world is that there are many things to do once you arrive. Our local arrangements committee, chaired by Harold and Sheila Litvak, has provided us with incredible events.

The spouses and guests are invited to attend a tour and luncheon on Thursday at the Whitney Museum of American Art. The Whitney is one of those treasures that might be missed if it were not for our astute local planners' efforts to show us what this city is all about. Thursday evening is open for theatre, dinner or sight seeing. President Goldstein has arranged a "Manhattan Evening" on Thursday in the hotel beginning at 9:30 (that's PM for the Midwesterners like me). Folks can stroll in for after dinner cocktails and get re-acquainted with friends in this wonderful environment.

Friday afternoon will be the social outing. The trip combines a short bus ride with a ferry to Ellis Island. We will be able to tour the area and will be treated to a delicious international lunch. We will return to the hotel by early evening so there will be more time to see what Times Square has to offer.

The Presidential Reception and Installation Banquet promise to be a truly gala events. They will be held on Saturday evening with a full band and wonderful dinner. It's not too late to get in a few dancing lessons because this evening will provide plenty of opportunity to trip the light fantastic.

It all sounds great doesn't it? Well, a large portion of the costs for these wonderful events is provided by our corporate sponsors. Neoss sponsors our "Get Acquainted Breakfast", Nobel Biocare sponsors the Social Outing and Luncheon, Straumann sponsors the Presidential Reception and Ivoclar Vivadent sponsor the Installation Banquet. These corporate sponsors, along with all the other corporate donors, allow this meeting to run at a manageable fee. Remember, the fees that we pay for all of the events are discounted, relative to the actual cost of the event, by as much as 50% because of this corporate support. I hope that everyone remembers this and takes an opportunity to thank the corporate representatives for their help at the meeting. Without them our business meetings would be much longer and drearier as we would then have to face dire budgetary concerns.

Now that I have covered the events and the major funding it is time to get down to the business of the Academy. Most of the members have paid their dues. Thank you. Another "Thank You" needs to go out to our new administrator, Ms. Lea Alexander. Lea is a creative genius who really provides tremendous support to the Academy.

Academy of Prosthodontics Associate Fellows and Fellows need to remember that, as you send confirmation and payment for the social events, you should deduct \$250 from the total if you are staying at the meeting hotel, which, of course, everyone is. We have a spread sheet to give us the correct totals but if

you check your math before writing the check it makes life easier. In addition to registration for the meeting you also need to book your hotel rooms as soon as possible. Rooms are filling quickly! The rate that we have at the hotel is guaranteed only for the numbers of rooms that we have contracted and for the contracted dates of April 25-29. So if all those rooms are gone you can only get the \$209/nt rate if the hotel "gives" you that rate. Although the Grand Hyatt is being good to the Academy, they are a business and you never know when their generosity runs out. Be safe, guarantee your room early.

The hotel is at Park Avenue at Grand Central Terminal. When making reservations, please be certain to make the hotel aware that you are staying as part of the Academy of Prosthodontics meeting. When scheduling a room make sure you are within the dates of our

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One on One: Fellow James DeBoer

by Sreenivas Koka

James DeBoer was born and reared in Omaha, Nebraska. After attending the University of Nebraska for 2 years of undergraduate studies, Jim was accepted into the newly expanded dental class at the University of Nebraska College of Dentistry in Lincoln. It was during dental school that Jim met his future wife, Gail, another Nebraska native. When I asked Jim who his prosthodontic teachers were at Nebraska, he listed Dr. Ray Steinacher, Dr. Jack Knodle, Dr. Vern Rinne and Dr. Steve Leeper. Jim noted that none of these gifted teachers had actually received formal prosthodontic training and that he was not aware that prosthodontics was a specialty until he graduated and spent two years in the United States Army at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Jim entered private practice in Madison, Nebraska for 4 years before returning to the US Army in 1977. When I asked Jim why he chose prosthodontics he offered one of the more interesting replies I have heard: “Well, surgeons and endodontists had crazy lives so that was not appealing. I didn’t smoke and since all the periodontists I knew smoked, well that meant I couldn’t be one of them! Prosthodontics seemed a fun way to spend some time. It seemed to me that from what I could see in the US Army, prosthodontists were left alone and that bureaucracy seemed to pass them by.”

Jim had numerous assignments in the US Army. His prosthodontic residency training took place at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington D.C. under the guidance of Bob Brady and Bill Griswold. After finishing his residency in 1982, Jim spent three years in Panama. He completed the requirements for certification by the American Board of Prosthodontics in 1985, the same year he moved to Fort Jackson, South Carolina. It was here that Jim shared an office with Academy Fellow John Agar as they taught removable (Jim) and fixed (John) prosthodontics to general dentistry residents. Jim’s last eight years in the US Army were spent at the Beaumont Medical Center in Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas (five years) and Fort Carson, Colorado where Jim was in charge of the dental clinic for a portion of his assignment. Upon retirement from the US Army in 1995, Jim returned to private practice, this time in El Paso, Texas. Jim still practices actively and provides dental services in removable and fixed and implant prosthodontics and he intends to “keep practicing as long as it’s still fun”!

Jim’s acquaintance with the Academy of Prosthodontics stemmed from a dental implant course presented in San Antonio by Life Fellow Ronald Desjardins and Dr. Dan Tolman who had traveled from the Mayo Clinic. Jim invited Life Fellow Desjardins to be a consultant for the program at Fort Bliss and the offer was accepted. At a dinner with Jim, Gail



and Life Fellow Desjardins, an invitation was extended for Jim and Gail to attend an Academy of Prosthodontics meeting. Jim remembers his first presentation discussed a decision tree for prosthodontic options, a tree that Jim readily acknowledges “is pretty obsolete now”. Life Fellow Edward Plekavich acted as discussor for this first Academy presentation. As an Associate Fellow, Jim was counseled that a second presentation with a stronger research flavour would be desirable. Jim conducted a survey of prosthodontists and general dental practitioners to determine the degree to which each group was engaged in dental implant therapy. Fellow Brock Love was Jim’s discussor for this second paper. At his first meeting as a Fellow of the Academy of Prosthodontics, Jim described being hailed by Life Fellow Richard Grisius to join him in conversation with Fellow Noel Wilkie. Life Fellow Grisius congratulated Jim on his elevation to Fellow and informed him that he was the first active duty member of the US military to be inducted into the Academy of Prosthodontics since the elevation of Noel Wilkie himself. Through his time in the Academy, Jim feels especially fortunate to have enjoyed mentorship from Life Fellows Desjardins, Plekavich and Hart Long, as well as from Fellows Jim Brudvik and Brock Love.

Jim and Gail have two sons. The eldest, Jim, is a Major in the US Army and recently returned from a one year assignment to Afghanistan where he commanded a company of 10 Apache attack helicopters. Jim is now enrolled in the Master of Science in Aeronautical Engineering program at the University of Washington with ambition to ultimately become a test pilot. Their younger son, ?????, is an accountant who lives near Olathe, Kansas. For hobbies, Jim likes to play golf and watch old movies. And the kid in him is still alive and well when he takes his Jeep out to challenge the rolling terrain of Texas.

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Presidential Address

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the problems and laid the groundwork for success. Steve Campbell, as the past Secretary-Treasurer and Steve Eckert, as the current Secretary-Treasurer, have worked hard to move the plan forward. This year, with Kenny Malament as Chair of the Corporate Liaison Committee, we will be making a major statement in ensuring our future. I will have more to say on this at our Business Meeting.

There was a time when we were the only prosthodontic organization and the world was much less complex. Our current membership requirements dictate that all of us are involved in multiple areas related to the specialty. We teach, lecture, conduct research, are consultants to industry, and serve as officers in other organizations. As such, I have asked Cliff Van Blarcom to Chair an Ad-Hoc Committee to design a Conflict of Interest Statement which will be signed by all of the officers and Executive Council members at our first meeting on the 24th. While I, and all of our Fellows, have confidence that our Executive Councilors and officers are primarily dedicated to the Academy and make all of their decisions with that in mind, the time has come for us to do what other organizations have done and ask that they comply with the same requirements we ask of our speakers.

I want to thank the Executive Council for making my job so pleasurable. The issues are more and more complex and the constant e-mails allow us to communicate and reach decisions in a timely manner. Their hard work and responsiveness speak to their dedication.

For the last few years our organization has had an ongoing discussion about what our relationship is and should be in the expanding environment where multiple excellent Journals are available. This issue is raised at Policy hearings, cocktail parties and coffee breaks and has taken up an inordinate amount of time at Executive Council meetings. This past

year the background noise was cacophonous. As a result, the Executive Council decided to appoint an Ad-hoc Committee to explore and define our relationship with the scientific journal community. Tom Taylor Chaired the Committee and will present his report at the Business Meeting.

I have asked Howard Landesman to Chair an Ad-hoc Centennial Committee. While that seems far away, we all know how time flies and need to start planning now to ensure that the site and events are memorable. If there are any ideas that you would like to share with Howard, I am sure he will be most receptive.

Jerry Andres and his committee have revised our By-Laws and Policy to make them seamless. He has eliminated Policy statements that conflicted with By-Laws and organized things in a more readable fashion. At the request of the Executive Council, there are substantive changes for Life Fellowship with all categories being merged into one. Years ago, the tiered Life Fellow categories were designed to move up Active Fellows with the intent to open spots for new members. Unfortunately, the effect was detrimental to our fiscal stability as it reduced our dues income. Our By-Laws now allow us to expand our membership by a vote of the Fellowship to make room for a qualified candidate, if necessary, so the Life Fellow category was reworked to be consistent with other organizations. There was also a change in requirements for Active Fellow. A clause was added to use evidence of exceptional service to prosthodontics in leadership, teaching, or service in lieu of or in addition to a second presentation. You have already received a copy of all the changes and I encourage you to read them carefully and come to the meeting prepared to discuss and vote on the changes.

I thank you for the honor of serving as your President and look forward to greeting everyone at the Hyatt in New York City.

Secretary-Treasurer Notes**Continued from page 3**

contract. The group code is "CPRO" and the toll free reservations number is 800-233-1234. Or, reserve your room online: <http://grandnewyork.hyatt.com/groupbooking/nycghcpro2007>.

Check on the Academy of Prosthodontics website for any registration material that you may have misplaced. Find information at www.academyofprosthodontics.org. In the meeting brochure you can find directions to the hotel and approximate charges for transportation from the airports. There will also be information on the website for area restaurants, shows and events in the city while we are there. Once again the Local Arrangements Committee has been hard at work getting all this information ready for us.

Sree Koka will be sending requests for committee reports. The Academy went to an electronic board book a few years ago and this has provided substantial savings since the organization no longer needs to create and distribute 200 page documents. By using electronic methods we need only move electrons through the ether. Of course this process still depends on timely arrival of committee reports so be kind to the Recording Secretary and respond in a timely fashion.

I have sad news to report. The Academy lost three of its Life Fellows within the last few months. Dr. Al Yurkstas passed away in the late fall of 2006 and Dr. Charlie Swoope and Dr. Tom Curtis passed away in February of this year. Our revered colleagues will be recognized at the annual meeting. I am sure that you join me in extending our condolences to their families.

If there is any information that I can provide regarding the Academy in general, or the meeting specifically, please feel free to contact me. The best option remains e-mail at seeckert@mayo.edu. See you in New York City!

In Memoriam: Past-President Charles Swoope**by Life Fellow David Wands**

Charles C. Swoope, aged 72, passed away February 13, 2007 in Bellevue, Washington surrounded by his wife Lynne of 50 years and his two sons Douglas and Scott. His death was due to complications following a fall from a ladder at home. He retired in 1998 from a busy removable prosthodontic practice in Bellevue to enjoy his family, many friends and his favorite pastime fishing. Charlie led a very active retirement life giving back to his church, spending time with his grandchildren, and helping build homes for Habitat to Humanity.



Charlie was born in 1934 in Jersey City, NJ to Charles and Mae Swoope. He graduated from Jersey City Union High School and received his undergraduate education from the

University of Florida, where he met his wife, Lynne. In 1959, he graduated summa cum laude from the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, where he received many honors including membership in OKU. Charlie then served an internship with the US Public Health Service in Seattle, WA, followed by service at the USPHS Outpatient Clinic in Mobile, AL and at the USPHS Hospital in Boston, MA. He earned an MSD Degree from the University of Washington in 1964 and was then stationed at the USPHS Hospital in New Orleans, LA. In 1967,

Charlie left the USPHS and returned to Seattle to join

In Memoriam; Dr. Swoope

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the Prosthodontic Faculty at the University of Washington as Director of Graduate Prosthodontics, eventually achieving the rank of Professor. During his teaching career, he mentored many masters degree research projects, developed innovative procedures for treating complete denture patients, especially for patient management, and was extremely active in prosthodontic specialty organizations.

Dr. Swoope served as President for all three founding organizations of the *Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry*, and was a Past President of the American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics. He felt very proud and honored to serve these four major prosthodontic organizations, which prospered from his leadership. The opportunity to serve his profession, not his personal status, was

Charlie's motivation for accepting these positions. While an active member of local prosthodontic organizations, Charlie continued to be a positive influence well after his presidencies. He was widely published in journals and textbooks, mentored a study club for over 20 years, and served on countless committees throughout his professional career.

We have lost a great prosthodontic leader, but most of all, a wonderful friend. Fellowship with him created a very special feeling within all of us because of his compassion, understanding and humanitarianism. He was a great fishing partner. Charles Swoope was indeed a very remarkable man, loving husband and father, professional role model and we shall all miss him.

In Memoriam: Past-President Al Yurkstas

It is with great sadness to report the passing of one of our illustrious fellows, Aligardas Albert Yurkstas, on November 28, 2006. He was elected an Associate Fellow of the Academy in 1959 and became an active Fellow in 1962. Al brought a new dimension to the Academy and the field of prosthodontics because of his deep interest in research. Prosthodontics at that time was primarily an art, emphasizing technical excellence. Most discussions were based on empirical judgments. Al sought scientific objectivity to assess varied approaches and practices in prosthodontics. His work with Richard Manly, Past Director of Research at Tufts University School of Dentistry (TUSDM), devised methods to assess mastication and its various components. Subsequently, these techniques were used by other national and international dental investigators. Al mentored and inspired many postgraduate students



by Life Fellow Krishan Kapur

at TUSDM to pursue research in prosthodontics. His investigations included assessments of different occlusal schemes, biting pressures, jaw movements, denture esthetics, efficacy of various types of denture prostheses and accuracy of methods for establishing jaw relations. He was awarded the Research Scientists Prosthodontics Award of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) and the Jerome M. and Dorothy Schweitzer Prosthodontic Research Award from the Greater New York Academy of Prosthodontics.

Al founded the I.R. Hardy Prosthodontic Conference which evolved into the Northeastern Prosthetic Society. Among the many positions he held, he was a past president of the Robert R. Andrews Society, Omicron Kappa Upsilon, Greater New York Academy of Prosthodontics and Northeastern Prosthetic Society. He was a member of numerous other professional organizations

In Memoriam: Dr. Yurkstas**Continued from page 7**

including the American Association for Dental Research, IADR, Massachusetts Dental Society, American Dental Association, American Prosthodontic Society, American Academy of Dental Science, American College of Dentists, and International College of Dentists. He was also active in many community organizations.

Born on November 25, 1921 in Lawrence, Massachusetts, Al lived over 55 years in Quincy and Scituate and received his education in the Boston area. After service in the US Army in World War II, he entered TUSDM and upon graduation in 1949, he joined the faculty there as a Research Associate. He became Professor and Chairman of Complete Denture Prosthodontics and

remained at Tufts until his retirement. Al made numerous presentations before regional, national and international dental organizations. Besides his many publications in scientific journals and significant contributions to dental education, he provided clinical care to many appreciative patients in his private practice for over 50 years.

Al was a very conscientious, hardworking individual who devoted his life to his family, community and dentistry. His door was always open to students, patients and colleagues in need of help. His positive attitude and his jovial personality added to his effectiveness as teacher and mentor. It was a pleasure to see Al and his wife Lee enjoying friends and colleagues at the various Academy functions. His presence will be greatly missed.

In Memoriam: Life Fellow Thomas Curtis

Tom Curtis was a native of the San Francisco Bay Area, who led a full and wonderful life; he was a gifted athlete, a war hero, a scholar, a devoted husband and loving father, who left an enduring legacy for his family, community, profession. He did more than his part to make this a better world for us and for future generations.

At Berkeley High School, he was a three-sport varsity athlete and received multiple college scholarship offers. At the age of 17, he signed a contract to play baseball in the Cincinnati Reds farm system. He completed one semester of college at Cal Berkeley before entering the U. S. Army, where he served in the elite 10th Mountain Division. For his combat service he received two Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star and Silver Star metals for bravery.

In 1945, Tom entered undergraduate school at the University of California at Berkeley. He graduated from UCSF School of Dentistry in 1951 with the highest academic awards. He joined his father, Harold Curtis, in practice in Berkeley. About that time, Tom met, courted and married Leota "Sis" Moulton, forming a bond of love and support that spanned over 55 years.

Tom was an accomplished scholar who published over 50 scientific articles and was a co-author of the de-

finitive textbook in Maxillofacial Prosthodontics. He received the highest levels of recognition at every stage of his career, including membership in OKU Dental Honor



Society, President of the Berkeley Dental Society, President of the American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics and President of the American Board of Prosthodontics. Tom received the Ackerman Award from the Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics in 1980 and the first Fred Gulic Award for Distinguished Life Members from the Pacific Coast Society of Prosthodontics. He also started the Graduate Prosthodontic program at UCSF in 1980.

Tom was especially active in the Academy of Prosthodontics and Pacific Coast Society for Prosthodontics, where he and Sis formed lifelong friendships with members of both groups. In retirement, fish-

ing trips to Mexico and to Alaska with prosthodontic colleagues were the basis of continuing and lifelong friendships. One of his proudest achievements was catching and releasing a 200 lb. blue marlin on a fly rod while fishing in Zihuatanejo, Mexico.

Tom left a significant professional legacy, but he left an even greater legacy as an outstanding husband and father, and being the type of man with whom everyone enjoyed participating in Fellowship.