Mt. KILIMANJARO LOG

Destination: Uhuru Peak, Mt. Kilimanjaro
37 degrees 21.242 minutes East Longitude
3 degrees 4.587 minutes South Latitude

On Friday morning, February 25, 2011, friends Gerd Altmutter, George Bertram, Ed Brolly, Tom Gurtner, Jim Jacobs, Alex Shklovski, Franz Viehbock, Bob Wachtler, and I reached the summit of Kilimanjaro at 19,340 feet (5,895 meters). I could never wish for a greater group of hiking buddies. However, our saga actually began four and a half years earlier.

During a Kilimanjaro hike in 2006, I bonded with porter Caspar, and Bob Wachtler bonded with porter Hilliary. The porters work incredibly hard carrying a maximum of 44 pounds up very difficult trails, sometimes scrambling up rocks with hands and feet while balancing the loads on their heads.

Bob, much more observant than I, sensed Hilliary had potential and asked me to help put him through Guide Training School. I thought it was a crap shoot not knowing if he was even attending school with the money we were sending him. Turns out he graduated and became a guide. Last week he showed us his diploma and course grades, along with his overwhelming gratitude. It’s a great success story. Four years ago he had a dismal future, was despondent and the unmarried father of a young girl. Now he has a bright future and engaged to be married. He invited Bob for dinner prepared by his grateful mother on the Sunday night before Bob flew home.

In 2006, Caspar seemed focused with his life in order. He was 25, had four siblings, and was responsible for raising his 12 year old younger brother. He was appreciative of the respect our group showed him, commenting that porters are at a low level in the cast system. I always made a point of telling him he was my hero.
On Symbolism

Symbolism is found in a broad spectrum of fields and within institutions where the pursuit of high intellectual, spiritual and artistic achievement exists. Symbolism has variously played a significant part in the history of art, literature, culture and religion. Symbolism can be expressed in many forms. In literature it is frequently expressed or produced through metaphor and allegory. In art symbolism is invariably an image substitution or distortion of everyday objects, depicting scenes from nature, human activities, everyday objects and all other real world phenomena in a highly metaphorical and suggestive manner. The symbolic aspects of culture and religion are often manifested in ritual. It is often in the ritualistic side of everyday objects and activities that culture and religion most clearly manifests itself. In culture and religion symbolism is frequently depicted by dress or images of the Sun, Moon, stars, people, animals, birds, plants or abstract drawings, figures and signs. Symbolism can also be an act or gesture. Not surprisingly, symbolism can be found within our own academic institution - the Academy of Prosthodontics. The symbols that represent the AP are numerous and include our lapel pins which symbolise achievement, belonging and inclusiveness. The Academy Gavel is the historical symbol of power and authority – the instrument to call each scientific meeting to order. A wonderful example of symbolism can be found in the story published in this newsletter and entitled “Academy Medallion” by President David Eggleston who shared his diary notes concerning his recent assault on Mt Kilimanjaro. David has engaged each of us his readers with his experiences and recollections of the arduous ascent to the summit Mt Kilimanjaro. His act of climbing onto the rooftop of Africa with a group of friends is symbolic for numerous reasons and represents ambition, passion, endurance, courage, determination, perseverance, desire, mateship and the fulfilment of a dream – essential human qualities that are associated with expressions of high achievement. These qualities are each to be admired and invariable inspires others to “live the dream”, “reach for..."
Editorial continued:

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the stars” and to “realise your full potential”.
The Academy medallion, the symbol of highest office, the symbol of high perseverance and achievement, accompanied David to the top of Mt Kilimanjaro. As David readily acknowledges, this symbolic act was associated with risk – both personal and material. AP members can individually and collectively congratulate and admire Dave for his personal achievement and additionally bask in the reflected glory that accompanies this symbolic act of an AP President who can represent and symbolically lead this academic organization to great heights; is this the material that AP members and executive office bearers are made of?

Some could form the view that it was a reckless act – the “glass half empty” response. But most would respond with the “glass half full” view that heroic acts of personal endeavour are always associated with calculated risk. As we collectively reflect on this multi-layered story of success could it be asked: Is this symbolic act of high achievement an example of what comprises the driving ambition and those core personal qualities the essence of what constitutes an Academy Fellow?

Congratulations President Dave!

Fellows in the News

Academy Fellows Sree Koka and Brian Fitzpatrick joined a faculty of invited international speakers in Santiago, Chile in April for an International Congress on Oral Rehabilitation. The six speakers from USA, Canada, Italy, Netherlands and Australia each presented several papers. The successful meeting was co-sponsored by the ICP, AAMP and the ISMR with the express purpose of fostering international relations with our South American colleagues. Dr Claudio Brenner one of our local hosts accompanied the speakers to the Atacama Desert in the N-E of Chile for a few days of rest and recreation based for several days in the historic oasis town of San Pedro de Atacama at 2500m (7900ft) above sea level.

L-R: Sree Koka, Gass Gassino, Brian Fitzpatrick, John Wolfaardt, Peter Hamilton, Claudio Brenner, Harry Reintsema, Marg Fitzpatrick
The unprecedented earthquake and tsunami in Japan has overwhelmed all of us. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the citizens of Japan. On behalf of our membership, I sent the following message to our Honorary Member, Mr. Masahiro Kuwata on March 13, 2011:

**Dear Masahiro:**

The Fellows of the Academy of Prosthodontics convey their most sincere condolences to you and the citizens of your country for the tragic loss of life inflicted by the earthquake and tsunami. We pray you and your family are safe and well. We know the incredible strength of the Japanese people will overcome this enormous disaster. Please call upon your friends and colleagues in the Academy of Prosthodontics for assistance in any capacity we can provide.

Warmest regards,

David Eggleston

Roy Yanase received a reply from Masahiro on March 14th:

**Dear Roy and Regina**

Thank you very much for your most kindhearted email; luckily we are all OK!

But earthquake is inconceivable.

Thank you for your thoughts.

Masahiro and Hiroko

Roy Yanase has been in contact with dentists in Japan, including many who have attended Academy meetings.

To: OJ Members, Club 22, SJCD, JIADS

Message: Words cannot describe the sight of the damage done by largest earthquake experienced by Japan. We feel so helpless in California and want to help Dentists in Japan in some ways. We are sure that those of you in Japan are very concerned and even possibly experiencing extreme hardship and fear.

We hope the members of OJ, Club 22, JIADS, SJCD, and other organizations and guests have not suffered many losses or casualties in the aftermath. Our condolences if there are any lost family, friends, or property.

If there is anything we can do to help with the recovery efforts, supplies, or materials that are needed, please let me know and we will try our best to help you.

Our prayers are with you and wishes are for a rapid return to normal as soon as possible all over Japan.

Sincerely,

Roy T. Yanase

This is the reply he received from Dr. Yasu Miyamoto:

**Dear Roy,**

I’m OK, now.

I met the earthquake when I moved to Tokyo by Shinkansen. I was trapped in Shinkansen Super Express for 9 hours.
Presidential Message
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There is not so big earthquake damage in Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto area.
But in the north area the earthquake and following Tsunami did harm so big.
This devastating earthquake might kill more than 10,000 people.
Now, we discover the overwhelming destruction in the worst-hit area.
It is very difficult to do confirmation of the safety of OJ members.
However, as far as I know, there are no victims of our members.
Many thanks for your concern with our situations.
Best Regards,
Yasu Miyamoto

As citizens of the World, we all feel an enormous loss from the natural and manmade disasters occurring all around us. Faced with these tragedies, the very best of the human spirit can rise with expressions of bravery, compassion, and charity.

We know this is happening in Japan.
The New York Times printed the account of one young woman in the aftermath of the earthquake. She noted how the crisis brought out the best and the worst of the human race. As she was running for her life ahead of the tsunami, she saw some people pushing old people out of the way and knocking them over, while other people were stopping to help the elderly and assist them to safety. Interesting for the able body among us to stop and ponder how our individual, personal instinct would have reacted in this ultimate crucible... Has the nurture from our parents and our communities been sufficient to overcome the selfish nature of self-preservation? During the Hilton Head meeting, we will have an update on the status of our friends and colleagues in Japan.

Getting ready for the 93rd Annual Meeting of the Academy of Prosthodontics has been like preparing for a five day wedding along with state-of-the-art continuing education. Each moment of each day and evening is anticipated, and planned for, to occur in a seamless manner. From the minutest of detail to the overall big picture, the Committee Chairs, Officers, Board of Councilors, and Administrative Staff have put in their time and expertise to make sure we continue the tradition of excellence in our annual meetings.

My special thanks go out to my new best friend and sidekick, Sree Koka, for his enormous contribution to our Academy and help putting together this meeting. Larry Brecht has surprisingly and magnificently obtained corporate support for this meeting at a level similar to the best of times. Tom Taylor, as expected, developed a first rate Scientific Sessions Program. Dave and Susan Felton, along with Laraine, came through with social events sure to create the best of memories.

The myriad of tasks and detail for a meeting like this fall upon our Administrative Support. Fortunately, we have the very best in Lea Alexander and Nicole Bengtsson from RES, keeping us on track. We would literally be lost without them. We are looking forward to a great meeting in Hilton Head.
Hilton Head meeting, May 2-7, 2011

Preparations are well in order for our upcoming annual meeting and I look forward to seeing as many Fellows and their spouses or significant others in Hilton Head. President Eggleston and Local Arrangements Chair Felton, along with Laraine Eggleston and Sue Felton, have spent a tremendous amount of time and energy assessing our social options. Not surprisingly, there will be a water theme to many of our activities! We will undoubtedly have lots of fun and Hilton Head will be remembered as a super meeting.

The scientific program, put together by Vice President Tom Taylor, blends an eclectic mix of speakers. Assembling the program requires an awareness of many factors and Tom is to be commended for maintaining this awareness as he invited colleagues from near and far in order to provide an intellectually stimulating educational experience for us all.

Administrative Support

A quick reminder that the Academy has engaged with a new administrative partner: RES Incorporated. You may already have noticed the change on the Academy web site and our Hilton Head meeting will have a different feel to it as we make this transition. Ms. Lea Alexander will be in attendance in Hilton Head as well as Ms. Nicole Bengtsson from RES and the two have been working closely to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. Learning the nuances and traditions of the Academy quickly is no easy task and I am grateful to both Lea and Nicole for communicating closely and working hard to serve the best interests of the Academy. When you see Lea, please thank her for all of her service to the Academy over the past years. As much as I am looking forward to working with RES, I am also wistful to say thank you and bon chance to Lea.

Academy web site

I offer my thanks to the Fellowship for embracing the use of the Academy web site www.academyofprosthodontics.org. The web site has provided some valuable flexibility for me as Secretary-Treasurer both in terms of meeting announcements, but also for dues announcements and other information dissemination. You have likely received e-mails from me or Peter Stevenson-Moore throughout the year and we remain the two from whom you are most likely to receive correspondence. Since the current expectation is that as much Academy business will be conducted through the web site, please make sure to “allow” Academy e-mail correspondence into your regular inbox and not be assigned to SPAM or Junk mail where it will go unattended or else be deleted. Thanks for your vigilance. All the best,

Sree
with his amazing strength and abilities. Leaving Kilimanjaro in 2006, I gave Caspar my rather expensive sleeping bag (good to -20 degrees) and some other hiking equipment and clothing. We kept in touch with monthly emails as pen pals. I found him to be very intelligent, educated, and well versed in U.S. politics and events in Kenya and Tanzania. Off the mountain, I noticed he was frequently reading the newspaper. He believes Tanzania’s economic progress is severely hampered by monumental corruption and nepotism in the Tanzanian government.

Caspar fell on hard times when the economic crash of 2008 depleted the hiking tourists going to Kilimanjaro. He never asked me for financial assistance, but I knew of the drop off in Kilimanjaro tourists and sensed he was out of work. In hindsight I learned he was selling possessions to keep his younger brother in school. Primary school tuition was eliminated in Tanzania in 2002, but the families still have to pay for uniforms, testing fees, school supplies and school lunches.

The year was 2008 and two years after I last saw Caspar. I stopped by Federal Express on a serendipitous whim, put $300 cash in a FedEx envelope and sent it to Caspar’s address in Moshi, Tanzania. I notified him by email to look for a present in the mail. He sent back an email that he suddenly felt like a very important person to receive a message from Federal Express that they were sending a special currier to his house with a delivery. Shortly after that, I received the most appreciative email imaginable. In financial desperation, Caspar had pulled his younger brother out of school just 3 days before the delivery. Caspar is a devout Christian and he truly believes the gift was from Devine intervention. As he wrote the email he said his younger brother was getting dressed for school. His brother is now 17 and an accomplished student in high school.

Caspar obtained his hiking guide license on his own from his apprenticeship as a porter and other resources. He has become successful as one of the best, if not the best guides on Kilimanjaro at the very young age of 29. I specifically requested Caspar to be our head guide while making arrangements for the 2011 hike and Bob and I requested Hilliary to be a guide as well.

The difference between our 2006 trip and the current trip would fill chapters. This time, we had 9 for 9 reaching the top - not by accident.
We were better prepared with rigorous training hikes. Our favorite is to hike with 20 and 30 something kids. But the other major factor was the coaching and guidance from Caspar and Hilliary during the hike.

The success rate to the top of Kilimanjaro in 2006 was around 30%. Anyone with the slightest ailment was encouraged or badgered to turn around. Success to the top was achieved in spite of the guides, not with the help of the guides. The head guide we had in 2006 was in his 60’s. Not that there is anything wrong with that..., he was just ready to retire and had no passion to get us all to the top.

Caspar represents the new hiking guide model and the new success rate well over 70%. It is achieved with preparation, science, technique, encouragement, and the mindset of an athletic coach.

The first day, we were encouraged to hike “pole, pole” – Swahili for “slowly, slowly”. Although we went from 6,000 feet to 10,000 feet, it was a very easy walk spread out over six hours. The main achievement was getting above the African mosquitoes. Those little buggers loaded with malaria Plasmodia flap their wings as hard as they can, but they just can’t get up to 10,000 feet.

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The second day we had a challenging hike up and down steep trails to the Shira campsite at 13,000 feet. The new science of high altitude hiking is to hike during the day at a higher elevation than sleeping at night. So, when we arrived at the camp, Caspar said we could rest an hour and then we were up the side of the mountain 1,200 feet higher for an hour and a half, then back down to the Shira camp. None of this was in the brochure and it certainly was not part of the regimen in 2006. My former porter pen pal was now our Chief Guide Drill Sergeant.

The third day we made a difficult eight hour hike up to 15,000 feet at the Lava Tower landmark and then back down to 13,000 feet arriving at the Baranco camp. This route for the day fitted the “hike high, sleep low” formula.

The fourth day we had the challenging hike up the infamous “Baranco Wall” and continued on to the Karanga campsite at 13,000 feet. Caspar was at it again! After a short rest, we were back on the trail up to a higher altitude for acclimation and then back down to Karanga for the night. All nine of us had complete faith in Caspar, his passion to get all of us to the top, and we followed him and Hilliary like raw recruits.

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Academy Medallion
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The fifth day on the Machame trail has always been touted as a day of rest. A short three hour steep hike to the 15,200 foot Barafu base camp – the staging camp for the summit assault – and then the remainder of the day resting for the night climb to 19,340 feet. Not anymore! The “hike high, sleep low” protocol took care of that. We arrived at Barafu around noon and then continued up the trail past 16,000 feet, then back down for rest and preparation for the summit assault starting at 11 pm.

Another part of the new science and technique is the guides’ ability to distinguish between High Altitude Sickness and the potentially deadly High-Altitude Pulmonary Edema (HAPE) and High-Altitude Cerebral Edema (HACE).

Puking along the side of the trail with High Altitude Mountain Sickness is just part of the sport. If your tummy doesn’t feel good, just throw up and stay in the game. The nausea can be severe and somewhat debilitating, but it is not life threatening.

However, HAPE and HACE are obviously very serious. The symptoms include extreme fatigue, coughing up blood, inability to move or breathe properly, severe headache, etc. Death occurs from swelling of the brain or drowning as the lungs fill with fluid. The guides can diagnose HAPE and HACE and the treatment is immediate descent and a stay in the hospital for at least three days of observation to make sure the brain clicks back on and the fluid from the pulmonary edema dissipates without developing into pneumonia. Taking Diamox as a diuretic helps

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to prevent pulmonary edema by eliminating fluid from the body – basically, you pee like a race horse.

Laraine noted lots of questions during our hike: All of the food, tents, and cooking equipment are carried up by porters. Our group of 9 hikers had 34 porters. The porters carry what they need as well as 25 pounds of clothing and personal items for each hiker. The hikers are responsible to carry the rest of their stuff and water which usually weighs in around 17 pounds. There are no campfires allowed on the mountain and all the cooking is fueled by propane. Drinking water from the streams was boiled. High altitude cooking requires a pressure pot or extended time because water boils at a lower temperature. We were above the tree line on the second day. We were not allowed to hike on the glaciers, but there is plenty of room to hike between them to the top. The total length of the hike with the new regime of “hike high, sleep low” is about 60 miles. The porters are Christian and Muslim and they seem to get along just fine. The porters earn about $5 a day. Most of their earnings are from tips from the hikers. Our group of 9 tipped the porters, cooks, and guides a total of $4,680. They were very appreciative and I can say candidly - they earned it.

Kilimanjaro this year was extra special. I had the distinct privilege of taking the gold Medallion of the President of the Academy of Prosthodontics to the summit. I didn’t tell anyone about this because the Medallion has six ounces of gold in a country where people have meager wages. I had complete trust in Caspar and Hilliary, but there were 34 porters whom I had never met before and this was not something to announce in

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a Third World country. The very same porters who would risk life and limb to save one of the hikers down a cliff may be desperate to feed a family and hard pressed to turn away a life’s earnings in gold. I literally slept with the Medallion and never took it off my person in eleven days. Fortunately, the Medallion can be steam-cleaned at home along with me.

Hiking up a 46% grade on scree at 19,000 feet might affect the ability to think clearly. However, I found the opposite. After five days of hiking, the feet are on autopilot. The brutal eight hour assault at night from 15,200 feet to 19,340 feet leaves plenty of time for thinking in solitude. I thought about Laraine, how blessed I am to have her as a soul mate – the kids, the family, our wonderful friends, and the truly great people in my life who have passed. I found inspiration from my favorite composers – Rachmaninoff, Gershwin, Beethoven and the insight of Kipling and my favorite part of his poem “If”.

“If you can dream and not make dreams your master, If you can think and not make thoughts your aim, If you can meet with triumph and disaster and treat those two imposters just the same…”

Campsite - Hike high, sleep low.

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Hilton Head Island

93rd Academy of Prosthodontics Annual Meeting
Hilton Head Marriott Resort & Spa, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

Room Rates: Resort View $209, Ocean View $229, Ocean Front $249
Reservation information: 1-800-724-1980
Tuesday May 3 to Saturday May 7, 2011
Featured Speakers in Hilton Head

Janet Clarkson
Dr. Clarkson graduated in dentistry from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in 1987 and after 10 years at the University of Manchester, she joined DHSRU (Dental Health Services Research Unit) at the University of Dundee. Since 1998 she has been the Effective Dental Practice Programme Director, conducting high quality research in dental primary care. She is a founding member of the Cochrane Oral Health Group. Jan is Joint Principal Investigator in the FICTION trial and has successfully conducted more than 20 clinical research trials in primary dental care.

Dean Morton
Dr. Morton studied dentistry at the University of Sydney, and completed an MS and Certificate (Pros) at the University of Iowa. He was Director of Graduate Prosthodontics at the University of Florida, before joining the University of Louisville where he serves as Professor and Chair, Department of Oral Health and Rehabilitation. Dr. Morton has authored numerous peer-reviewed scientific articles, and was primary author of the ITI Treatment Guide.

Steve Parel
Dr. Parel was director for osseointegration training at the University of Texas Health Science Center School of Dentistry in San Antonio and professor at Baylor College of Dentistry—Texas A&M University System Health Science Center and director of the Center of Oral Maxillofacial Prosthodontics in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery/Pharmacology from 1998 until 2008. He presently is the director of Prosthodontics at a private Implant Specialty Clinic in Dallas, Texas.

Joerg Strub
Dr. Strub has been Professor and Chair of the Department of Prosthodontics at the Albert-Ludwigs University in Freiburg, Germany since 1988. He was a Visiting Clinical Professor of Fixed Prosthodontics at the Osaka University Japan in 1996 and Visiting Professor at the University of Pensylvania, Philadelphia in 2009 and in 2010 Sun Yat-sen University, Guanghua, School of Stomatology, Guangzhou, China and King Saud University, School of Dentistry, Riyadh, Saudi Arabien.

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Featured Speakers in Hilton Head: continued

Charles Goodacre
Dr. Goodacre has served as Chairman of the Department of Prosthodontics at Indiana University and is currently Dean of the Loma Linda University School of Dentistry. He co-authored the 4th edition of Johnston’s Modern Practice in Fixed Prosthodontics, has written textbook chapters for pediatric dentistry and endodontics, and served as an Editor of the International Journal of Prosthodontics for 10 years. He has over 100 publications, textbook chapters, and research abstracts and has given more than 300 invited presentations. Recent educational activities have focused on the development of interactive, navigable electronic education programs.

Scientific Program 2011

Wednesday, May 4

Janet Clarkson – “Getting Evidence Into Practice”
Gil Alcoforado – “Does Peri-implantitis Exist?”
Arun Sharma – “The UCSF Experience With Zygomatic Implants for Maxillary Defects”
Steve Wagner – “A One Appointment Final Impression Technique Using a Newly Designed Prefabricated Edentulous Tray”

Thursday, May 5

Lino Calvani – “Biomechanics and Biodynamics of Prosthetic Facial and Lip Support”
Dean Morton – “Integrating Contemporary Prosthodontic Options into Dental Schools and the Practice of Prosthodontics”
Avinash Bidra – “3D Esthetic Planning for Maxillary Fixed Prostheses”
Konstantinos Michalakis – “Restoring Partial Edentulism with Implant Supported Prostheses – Parameters for Success”
Ariel Raigrodski – “Zirconia-Based Restorations – What Have We Learned?”
Scientific Program: continued

Kenneth Malament – “Metal Ceramics – Does it Have to be a Chip Off the Old Block?”
Joerg Strub – “Digital Dentistry – Emergence or Recent Technologies for Improved Patient Care”
James Kelly – “Evaluation of Endosteal Implants Placed Prior to or During Non-Surgical Therapy in the Head and Neck Cancer Patient”

Friday, May 6

David Felton & Eric Rivera – “Exo or Endo – What are the Options?”
Martin Freilich – “The Combination of Tissue Engineering and Dental Implants to Guide Vertical Alveolar Bone Growth”
Dean Vafiadis – “CAD-CAM Dentistry – Implant Abutments and Ceramic Restorations”
Danielle Layton – “Lost But Not Forgotten”
Charles Goodacre – “CAD/CAM Fabricated Complete Dentures – Concept and Method of Obtaining Required Morphologic Data”

Saturday, May 7

David Gratton – “Digital Prosthodontics – Are You Impressed Yet?”
Cornell Lee – “Evolving Treatment Philosophies for Single Anterior Implant Crowns”
Brian Vence – “Space Appropriation – An Interdisciplinary Dentofacial Therapy Approach”
Steve Parel – “Immediate Loading for the Full Arch Maxilla – Critical Considerations and Profiling”
Kent Ochiai – “Relating the Keys to Facial Evaluation and Treatment Planning Concepts for Prosthodontics”
George Priest – “Contemporary Alternatives for Edentulous Implant Patients”
Jonathan Wiens – “Occlusal Stability?”