
AP Newsletter

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A Look Back on the Millennium Meeting of the Academy of Prosthodontics

by Sree Koka



As I reflect on the 82nd Annual Session in Quebec City, there are three items or thoughts that leap out at me. First, the fellowship made a brilliant choice of location when they selected Quebec City as the meeting site. Second, the choice of Le Chateau Frontenac as the venue, with its architectural and historical splendor, was simply perfect. And third, the attendees seemed to thoroughly enjoy the meeting despite the fact that I was one of the speakers.

As the time for the meeting approached and I told others of the impending trip, I heard wonderful things about Quebec City. I was told that the city was a pleasure to visit, that Le Chateau Frontenac was the place to stay, and that the cuisine was marvelous. However, I had this nagging feeling, the cause of which lay rooted in my upbringing. As an Englishman I had quite some doubt that a place with a strong French influence

could really be that great. After all, the English do not use the words “French” and “wonderful” in the same sentence very often. Well it didn’t take long for me to realize that my “concerns du Francais” were completely unfounded. Quebec City is a charming city with something for everyone and the Quebecois people were gracious hosts. Walking the cobbled streets, window-shopping, riding the Funicular, touring La Citadelle or people-watching (or pet-trick watching) on the Boardwalk made for an eventful and enjoyable Canadian experience. We were also fortunate to have wonderful sunny weather during the meeting. For three straight days after the meeting, I can tell you from personal experience that the clouds hugged the ground and were far too eager to shed water.

If Quebec City was not attraction enough, Le Chateau Frontenac provided the perfect setting for our meeting. Dr.

Izchak Barzilay and the local arrangements committee deserve our thanks for manifesting such organizational skills. As part of the organized restaurant tour or perhaps on our own, we were treated to the fine cuisine of nearby restaurants like Gambrinus or La Continental or Le Saint Amour. The outing (the shortest bus ride in years!) to Les Folies de Paris offered entertainment that could be described as “different”, as well as providing some amazing photo-ops. Steve Parel, Ted Riley, Glen McGivney and Ron Jarvis exhibited photogenicity beyond words and I have the pictures to prove it. Now that I have been appointed Chair of the Photography Committee, I will have to find ways to make good use of these pictures (please feel free to make any suggestions). And as for the Installation Banquet, who can forget Dr. Howard Landesman’s emotion and poignant words during his “Call to Arms” as he

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Perspectives from the Editor

by Steven Eckert

Ideas, Retreats, Theories And Clues

Big things going on in Rochester. As is the case in most years, summer arrived soon after we returned from the AP meeting. With summer come our favorite pastimes of golf and competitive mosquito squashing. Interesting how some of those insects are so large that the first swat only stuns them and you have to resort to rhythmic stomping to completely do them in. Alas, neither of these subjects is the topic for this musing. No,

joining us at Mayo. Alan's arrival brings with it the realization that life changes and that we must be flexible in our responses to change. This means that we now need to reassess our programs in education, research and clinical practice. You know, it isn't all bad to reevaluate things from time to time. After all, Bill, Ron, Ned and I have been together long enough that we have all started to think alike. (I can almost see Bill, Ron and Ned cringing at the thought that I think that I think like them...once a resident, always a resident)

better to have a flawed theory than to have no clue at all."

And so it is. How often in life are we faced with situations in which we really don't know which way to turn? Sure we could follow Frost down the road less traveled but I frankly don't want to go somewhere totally off the beaten path. I prefer a little familiarity. It's nice to have the fuzzy comfort of knowledge; even if what I think I know is something

"It is better to
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this column is dedicated to change.

I'm happy to say that, despite the comments made in the last Perspectives, I am still here performing the task that the Academy has asked of me, diligently burning the midnight oil for your reading pleasure. But this still is not the purpose of this piece. No, the purpose is to relay some really profound thoughts that came from the changes in the workplace.

As many of you now know, Alan Carr is


The thing about reassessment is that it really takes some effort. Late nights, early mornings, meeting after meeting, retreats, this can be pretty grueling! Well anyhow, Alan and I were on a retreat a week or so ago when I managed to hook my drive into the adjacent cornfield (in Minnesota there is always an adjacent cornfield). Sure enough, this lost ball gave me the opportunity to try out that new swing that I had recently read about. So, with head down, palm grips, strong right hand, stiff left arm, short back swing, little lower body movement, and late release I was able to slice one into the oncoming fairway. The change in theory brought about a remarkable change in results, of course neither one was very favorable but there was a difference.

It was about that time that my colleague, Dr. Carr, said "Steve, I guess that you'll have to re-think that theory, won't you?"

Not wasting a beat I repeated a comment made by my old Uncle Joe: "It is

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Secretary-Treasurer Notes

by Jonathan Wiens

Bonjour! The scientific program in Quebec was well organized by Dr. Richard Grisius. During the Banquet the “baton” was passed as new officers were installed. A debt of gratitude is extended to all and in particular to Dr. Gary Rogoff as the “ball and chain” was firmly attached to my ankle. We welcome Dr. Stephen Campbell to the Executive Council as our new Recording Secretary and applaud Dr. Ed Plekavich who now becomes our Immediate Past-President but will never be forgotten for a job well done!

At the meeting in Quebec the Academy Roster (three-ring binder year 2000 version) was distributed. This reflects the most up to date information that is available for the members of the Academy. Rosters will be mailed to those who were not present or did not receive one.

Labor Day weekend took on a new meaning for me as 17 boxes of Academy archives arrived from Boston. Exploration of the historical files led to an appreciation of the previous Secretary-Treasurers’ organizational efforts and an unspoken invitation to continue the painstaking process. Dr. Rogoff has been an excellent coach and has provided many wonderful suggestions to make the transition seamless. Although the Secretary-Treasurer’s office has been officially transferred, solace is taken in knowing that help is nearby.

As we look at the future of the Acad-

emy we must consider the members who will propel the organization. In that regard, Fellowship Nomination forms are available from the Secretary-Treasurer. Remember the deadline for submission is this December. Please note the sidebar with the various methods in which you may reach me.

The Academy’s Articles of Incorporation have been located, corporate application made, new stationery developed and account opened. President Landesman has set goals, made charges and appointed the various committee chairs and members. The Executive Council will meet on October 21, 2000 in Chicago to address the needs of the Academy and to organize the activities for the upcoming year. Your suggestions are encouraged for the good of the Academy and fellowship.

A few members noted that they were not receiving their Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry subscription. Contact has been made with Ms. Gail Robertson at Mosby to find a solution. We were successful in reestablishing continuity of their subscription. A new JPD database list was just received and is being cross-checked against our membership records to make certain that they are congruous. Please call me if you are not receiving your JPD subscription for some reason or if your subscription has lapsed. Keep in mind that if you are a dues-paying member in more than one sponsoring organization you may be entitled to a refund directly from Mosby of the additional subscription amount.

Lastly, we will be mailing requests for any changes in membership information and dues statements this November. Do not hesitate in contacting me if you have any questions or comments. I am looking forward to serving as your Secretary-Treasurer.

Side-bar information

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AP Foundation

Contributions and Memorials
should be made to the
**Academy of Prosthodontics
Foundation**
and sent to:

Dr. Donald C. Kramer
Secretary/Treasurer

One on One**Continued from page 8**

you also have developed a private foundation. How is that going and what sort of activities does this foundation support?

Leslie and I decided many years ago that one of our most important gifts to our children would be to complete their educational careers entering the workforce debt free. We have done that for all three sons. We have seen too many children inherit and squander both inherited money and their own lives to make us feel that transfer of money to them on our death would be of any benefit. Hence, we have asked them to participate in the distribution of our assets to the good of other less fortunate children. They are members of the Board of Trustees of our private foundation. We have done about the same thing I did with the

AP Foundation in terms of its design. The mission statement of the foundation is clearly oriented toward healthcare initiatives and educational pursuits for children. This year, our foundation contributed to a local inner city missionary project run by another Methodist deacon friend of ours. It will clothe several hundred kids this winter. Also, the foundation has sent a sizable gift to an orphanage in Guatemala for the drilling of a water well. They currently have no source of uncontaminated water other than from a polluted stream. Two good projects. Next year we are looking to help out with the local Immunization Collation here in KCMO for kids. That is what we are about. Our own kids will reap the benefit of being the participants in real life of “The Millionaire” show! Good for them!

Leslie’s ministry is growing, how does

it feel to be the deacon’s spouse?

Heavenly! Well, that is a joke. It is an honor for me to be “clergy spouse.” Leslie is very involved in the Methodist church at the national level. She is helping to define the role of the deacon in our church. Recently she was elected to be one of the official delegates to the quadrennial Jurisdictional and General Conferences of the United Methodist Church. It was both a challenging and rewarding experience for her, and rewarding for me to be able to share in that work with her. I could not be prouder of her and the work she does both nationally and with our local congregation. She is a very gifted speaker in the pulpit and insightful with her parishioners. We work as a team and I feel it is a privilege to be part of the effort she makes for raising the spiritual health of those with whom she is in contact. No regrets here!

Perspectives**Continued from page 2**

less than the total truth. Embracing the flawed theory simply feels better than having no idea of what is going on. It’s even possible argue the flawed theory because it is what we need to know more so than what we do know.

It happens in the office, with the residents and in the laboratory. We attend courses to hear folks espouse philosophies that seem so logical that they simply must be true. It’s only when we return home that we start to reflect. Too bad that it’s now too late to ask those probing questions that would have cleared up all the confusion. After all, the speaker really wasn’t all that much smarter than I, just a better communi-

cator and that ability to communicate was enough to have me convinced, temporarily, that the theory du jour was the theory for a lifetime.

“Steve, are you ever going to hit again or should I buy property right here?”

“Huh? Sorry Alan, I must have drifted off in thought after the last slice.”

So I raised my seven iron to the sky and lifted my second shot over the trees and back to the fairway. As I did this I noticed Alan shaking his head and thought I heard him say: “I left Columbus for this?”

Newsletter Staff

The AP Newsletter wishes to acknowledge the efforts of Drs. Donna Dixon and Steve Riedy who are moving on to other duties within the Academy. Their efforts have been instrumental in the development of this newsletter. As these two individuals leave their positions will be filled by Drs. Roman Cibirka and Sree Koka. Please thank Donna and Steve for their efforts and welcome Roman and Sree as they embark on this new activity.

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began his term as President of the Academy of Prosthodontics?

The Scientific Program, put together by Dr. Dick Grisius, blended basic science with clinical application and the fusion was anything but cold. We were left reassured that there are prosthodontists who are engaged in thoughtful and meaningful investigations into clinically relevant areas. We heard about a variety of topics and whether they were bone physiology or the inflammatory response to retraction cord medicaments or the efficacy of the zygomaticus implant or the use of microscopes in the dental office, the scientific program offered high quality presentations that left us intrigued with the advances in patient care that lie ahead. The basic science presentations exposed the philosophical changes our prosthodontic membership is chal-

lenged to make to develop future treatment strategies that utilize new molecular biology tools, while those presentations with a strong clinical flavor gave us valuable information to take back immediately to our practices. And Rhonda Jacob, Aaron Fenton and their merry band of facilitators built on last year's well-received evidence based-dentistry session to introduce us to the concept of "Harm" and



Break-out session for Evidence Based Dentistry Program

to further prepare us to comprehend the scientific literature.

So once again, the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Prosthodontics offered an unique atmosphere that combined education and social interaction and genuine friendship in a manner not found in any other organization. May 2001 and Santa Fe cannot arrive soon enough... are we there yet?



The band played on prior to the annual banquet

In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Dr. Harold Schwartz. Dr. Schwartz, a Life Fellow of the Academy, died on June 30th following a brief illness. He leaves behind his wife Joyce, children David, Evan and Billy, their wives and children. We express our deep sympathies to Mrs. Schwartz and their loved ones.

Outreach

by Jim Chandler

OUTREACH PROGRAM COMPLETE EIGHTH YEAR

The ongoing goal of the Academy of Prosthodontics throughout its history has been to study, investigate, disseminate and promote the art and science of prosthodontics. At the core of this goal is the continuing commitment to the care and well being of Prosthodontic patients. In 1993, the Academy began an ambitious program of delivering Prosthodontic care to under served areas.

The Indian Health Service (IHS) was approached and welcomed as our first Outreach group to the Carl Albert Indian Health Care Center in Ada, Oklahoma. This Clinic serves the Chickasaw Nation and had a waiting list of two thousand edentulous patients—a wait of up to three years. During a one-week visit, eight Academy members treated 29 medically compromised patients and the Outreach project was considered a success by all involved. The patients were well served and much was learned about providing prosthodontic care to an under served population. For instance, Indian Health Service clinics are too small to support large visiting dental groups effectively. On the basis of this first program, it was decided to reduce the group size and increase the variety and number of locations. This change allows more effective Outreach teams and reduces the strain on the routine of these small clinics.

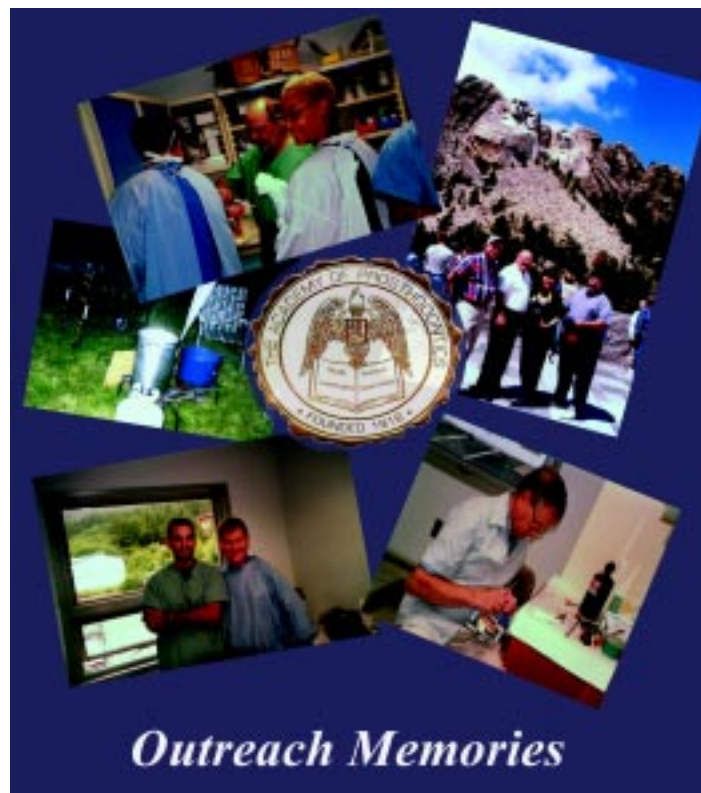
The following year, an Academy group returned to Ada, Oklahoma, as well as, a Browning, Montana site serving the Blackfeet Nation, and Fort Duchesne, Utah serving the Ute Nation. In 1995 a new site, Juneau, Alaska, was added to the Academy's Outreach Program. By 1996, 19 Academy fellows had treated

day period. Another group of three Academy members provided care at the Okmulgee, Oklahoma IHS dental clinic servicing the Creek Nation. Twelve Patients were treated during four days. This treatment was especially valuable because there is a routine six-month waiting period in the clinic. The Academy also returned to the Juneau, Alaska outreach site and treated twelve patients.

Based on the success of these Native American outreach programs and the continuing support from the Academy of Prosthodontics Foundation, it was suggested that an inner city site be chosen as our first urban site. The University of Illinois graciously allowed the use of their facility. In the summer of 1997, three Academy fellows along with prosthodontic graduate students treated patients from the Illinois Foundation for the Handicapped, as well as local nursing home residents and patients within the University of Illinois College of Dentistry who could not afford complete denture care. This Outreach location was particularly well suited because the State of Illinois eliminated the

Support of adult dental care 1995.

The Academy 1997 Outreach Program was very successful and gained some media attention. Articles describing the Academy's activities were published in Dental Products Report and Dental



175 patents with a benefit of over \$200,000 to the Indian Health Service.

In 1997, four Outreach projects were completed. Three Academy members treated patients in Browning, Montana at the Indian Health Service Clinic. Twelve edentulous patients were provided with complete dentures over a four-

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More scenes from Quebec City



Outreach

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Laboratory Products Report. This media attention has resulted in donations of supplies and equipment for future projects.

In 1998, the Academy returned to Juneau, Alaska; Chicago, Illinois; Browning Montana and added a new site, Pine Ridge, South Dakota serving the Lakota Nation.

In 1999 the Academy returned to

Alaska, Montana and South Dakota and this year's groups went to Utah and Alaska. The Montana trip was canceled due to severe forest fires in the area.

Academy Outreach programs is a rewarding experience for the participants, the Academy and for the patients. The opportunity for service, challenge, camaraderie and Learning is an inviting combination. If you are interested in participating at an Academy Outreach site in 1998 please contact the Outreach Committee Chair, Eric Rasmussen. Fax: (608) 222-2532

Executive Council Meeting

A meeting of the Executive Council will be held in Chicago on October 21, 2000. Please contact Secretary/Treasurer Wiens with any concerns or suggestions for the Academy in the upcoming year.

One on One

by Steve Eckert

...with Cliff Van Blarcom

You know the sort of person that we're discussing this issue. It's the type of person whose presence is recognized before they are ever seen. In politics you know that the president is there by seeing the secret service agents. In show biz you know that the starlet is there by the flashing bulbs from the paparazzi. In prosthodontics you know that Cliff Van Blarcom has arrived when you hear his laugh. There's something about Cliff's laugh that makes it recognizable. It might be the pitch, it might be the volume but for most of us it is the sincerity. It comes from a man who is enjoying life, a man who is happy being who he is.

So how did he get here? Cliff spent his early years in the Detroit area of Michigan later attending college at Alma College. During dental school at the University of Michigan, Cliff and Leslie married and soon began their family of three boys: Kip, Jeff, and Andy. A Navy assignment in Iceland provided time for the family to decide on the next career move. It was then that the decision was



Two generations of Van Blarcoms, Cliff and Andy, in Browning Montana

made to move to a warmer climate for graduate training. With many programs to choose from, the Van Blarcom family moved to the tropical climate of Rochester Minnesota to attend the prosthodontic program. This was the beginning of close friendships with Cliff's senior resident, Ron Desjardins and his program director, Bill Laney.

Following training in combined prosthodontics and maxillofacial prosthetics, a practice was started in Prairie Village Kansas. Unlike many, Cliff started with a small practice and elected to keep the practice small. It's impossible to talk about his practice without mentioning the efforts of his assistant, receptionist and all around right hand person, Ginger Hager. The practice has succeeded through this team's efforts.

With the Academy, Cliff and Leslie have shown a strong spiritual side. His efforts were critical to the initiation and development of the Academy of Prosthodontics Foundation. Now on the Executive Council, Cliff looks forward to working even harder with this organization.

Cliff, you have taken a different road towards developing a private practice and it has worked well for you. Do you think that it is still possible for a prosthodontist to succeed in a small practice?

Absolutely! In fact, I think that our future may well lie in that venue. The success



Dr. Van Blarcom on a "mission" to the Greek Isles

of this practice is built on doing the one thing others can not offer: personal attention and the joy of saying to the patient, "I made this for you!" While not always appreciated, most people, when the chips are down, want to know that their healthcare practitioner is "on their team." At each consultation, the clincher is simple: it will take time before I can see you because mother told me I should have been twins... since I make everything myself, you will need to be patient. When they hear that, it is just... how long? I think that there will always be room in our specialty for those who decide to offer of themselves in this unique manner. And the rewards are very apparent. Our "overhead" in the office can not be beaten... we put into salaries and benefits for our two employees over 70% of what we take in. Hurrah.

We all know about your efforts with the Academy of Prosthodontics Foundation but not everyone knows that

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