

AP NEWSLETTER

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Golden Gates!

Did you love it? I mean did you really, really love it? Of course you did. What's not to like anyway-San Francisco sits in a perfect location affording stunning views of the rugged coastline and serene bay waters. Undulating streets were a challenge for those of us accustomed to doing it on our own or an adventure for those taking a trolley; however, the distinctly San Franciscan neighborhoods and well-manicured gardens made every journey a lot easier on the legs and the psyche. Day trips to Sausalito and Sonoma were within easy reach and I hope you had an opportunity to take an out-of-town excursion.

The Dr. Louis Blatterfein Welcome Reception and Dinner, sponsored by Nobel Biocare USA and 3M-Espe, was a hit particularly because of the table decorations. Sourdough bread in any shape, even crab shape, is okay by me. The ambiance was outstanding and the Grand Hyatt hotel staff did an excellent job preparing and serving our dinner. I have never met Dr. Blatterfein, and it was not until the next morning that I learned about his passing. Academy Fellow, Dr. Gerald Barrack prepared some kind remarks to read on Dr. Blatterfein's behalf-made me wish that I known him as he sounded like a really wonderful person. On behalf of the membership and guests, we would like to extend our thanks to the Local Arrangements Committee of Tom and Sis Curtis, Bob and MaryLou Gillis, Britta and Ted Jacobson, Antonio and Mary Bello and Arun Sharma for putting together all the social events for the meeting. Our hats go off to you and we do appreciate your hard work. We also wish to thank all the corporate sponsors who contribute so much to this meeting every year; we greatly appreciate your generosity.



by **Geoffrey Thompson**

The 88th Annual Meeting of the Academy of Prosthodontics began with a call to order and a presentation of the gavel to President Jonathan Wiens. Dr. Wiens warmly greeted Academy members and guests and then eloquently shared the history of the gavel and his visions for the Academy. We were saddened by the loss of four Academy members since our last annual meeting in Scottsdale and because Academy Fellow, Dr. Aaron Fenton, Chair of the Resolution and Remembrance Committee, has found it difficult to determine a "status" for all of us and he asked that we provide him a "good contact number or address" so that we can stay in touch with each of you.

The Wednesday morning scientific program got off to an excellent start and never wavered. Again, we want to thank Academy Fellow, Dr. Rainer Bergman, Chair of the Audio-Visual Subcommittee and all its members for the fine support and for keeping us on track. The keynote lecture was presented by

Brian R. Hill who reminded all of us who we are and who we serve through his recount of a personal experience with oral cancer. Along that theme, Dr. Terry Kelly spoke about the relation between cervical lymphadenopathy and oral cancer, Associate Fellow, Dr. Tom Vergo presented treatment options for the hemimandibulectomy patient and we listened to Dr. Devin Okay speak about surgical restoration of maxillary defects. The last of the morning presenters were assembled by Academy Fellow and Past President, Dr. Howard Landesman to bring us information about diversity in education and the workforce. Those speaking were Dr.'s Regina Benjamin, Lonnie Bristow and Jay Alan Gershen.

In keeping with the theme of the last several

—Continued on page 6

Guest Editorial

by Izchak Barlizay

A VERY SPECIAL FEELING THAT ONLY A PROSTHODONTIST CAN UNDERSTAND: THE PROSTHOGASM

Feelings are difficult to describe and express at the best of times. Some of us are in tune with our feeling side while many of us have difficulties with this very basic emotional concept. I was treating patients the other day and noticed that when things went really well, I got this very nice feeling. You know, it is the feeling that one gets when a crown fits well, ceramics just look great, a denture needs no adjustment and patients want to pay more than they are actually charged. In our office, we call this experience the PROSTHOGASM. One might call this the ultimate feeling in the prosthodontic practice but in fact this feeling goes beyond the day to day practice of our specialty.

I started thinking about the many personal and professional relationships with my Academy colleagues. As I thought about certain past experiences, I found the same feeling come over me. It can best be described as a warm fuzzy feeling that one gets when one is comfortable and secure and everything is right in the world.

I first had this “special feeling” when I met my soon to be chairman and mentor Gerry Graser. I remember interviewing at Eastman and having Gerry take me under his wing (tough to do since I am much taller than he is) and show me some of the new implant work that was being done. I felt that here was someone who really cared and wanted what was best for his residents, the dental center, the patients and the profession. I knew immediately that I had a great role model. I had a “warm and fuzzy feeling”. There is no doubt in my mind that over the years, Gerry felt the PROSTHOGASM on different occasions.

Several years later when I returned to Toronto, I started to work with George Zarb. This “warm and fuzzy” feeling continued as I developed myself under his guidance. I could feel this large umbrella over me protecting me from the common issues that come up in a university environment. I always knew that there was someone out there looking for out for me. There were times when we may have agreed to disagree (talk to me over a beer and I may spill the beans), but constructive efforts were always in place to settle any issues. The feeling that I describe was always present in our University setting.

When I joined the Academy this “feeling” continued. I had the opportunity to meet many of the legends in prosthodontics and not only learn from them but meet with them at the social level. The general embrace of the Academy always left me with that warm and fuzzy feeling.

I continue to enjoy this feeling on a day to day basis.

What is interesting is that as I get older, the PROSTHOGASM takes on a different form. I now find myself giving to my students and residents in the same way that my mentors gave to me. My mentors are not limited to my Chairmen and those who taught me prosthodontics, but also to those who taught me how to live life to its fullest. Many in the Academy have been part of this process.

I always look forward to seeing all of you so that we may all enjoy in the PROSTHOGASM experience. This is a feeling that we will always share. (Do you think we can get it into the Glossary?)

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Secretary-Treasurer Notes

by Steven Eckert

If I had any doubts about my level of involvement as Secretary-Treasurer of the Academy of Prosthodontics these were laid to rest by the arrival of the four, casket sized boxes filled with important Academy documents. I am hopeful that the appearance of these containers is not foreshadowing my future after three years in this job.

In all seriousness, the transition from Steve Campbell to me is moving along quite well. We have had numerous communications and I believe that the transition will continue to be relatively painless.

It is interesting to see how much information transfers among members of a group like the Academy of Prosthodontics. Fortunately the transition from recording secretary to secretary-treasurer allows an individual to grow into the position. It is difficult to imagine what it was like in prior days when the secretary-treasurer started from scratch the day after the scientific session concluded.

The really good news is that the Academy continues to prosper. Meeting attendance has been strong among members and guests. Responses to questions regarding the quality of meeting routinely provide favorable responses. The Academy continues to attract interest among bright and articulate individuals who are looking for ways to become involved. Consequently we are growing.

At this year's meeting Cliff Van Blarcom moved to Junior Life Fellow status while Lawrence Green, Donna Hecker, Jamie Kaukinen, Christopher Marchack and Geoffrey Thompson were elevated to Academy Fellowship. The Academy added two new Associate Fellows, Drs. Brian Fitzpatrick and Debra Haselton. When you see any of these folks please feel free to congratulate them on their achievements.

San Francisco was a wonderful location for an Academy meeting. Social arrangements were handled in an exemplary fashion by the Local Arrangements Committee of Bob and Marylou Gillis, Ted and Britta Jacobson, Tom and Sis Curtis as Honorary Chairs, Antonio and Mary Bello and Arun Sharma. The Iron Chef Competition must have made quite an impression because Susan continues to talk about it. In addition, I know that I will

never wear another hat without thinking about the Beach Blanket Babylon. Of course, when I wear a hat it's to protect my head, as it is now devoid of natural protection, rather than to make a fashion statement.

In late November you should receive a dues statement. The dues statement will reflect the current JPD subscription rate. In addition the advanced meeting payment of \$250 will be included on the dues statement. This advanced meeting payment will not apply to Life Fellows of the Academy. Please note that the advanced meeting payment is not refundable but at this amount of money will be credited to payment for social events.

The next meeting of the Academy of Prosthodontics will be held in New York City. I know that the Local Arrangements Committee is already hard at work to ensure that this meeting will exceed our expectations. The committee consists of Harold and Sheila Litvak, Frank and Joan Panno as Honorary Chairs, Gerald and Adrienne Barrack, Larry and Bernadette Brecht, Jonathan and Maxine Ferencz, and Todd and Georgia-Sue Lerner. If you have any special requests please feel free to contact any of the committee members help meet those needs.

In closing this Secretary-Treasurer report I want to thank you for this opportunity to serve the Academy of Prosthodontics. If there is anything that I can do to help any members of this organization in any way please feel free to contact me and I will do my best to help. The best way to reach me is by e-mail at: seeckert@mayo.edu but all the other methods of communication also work. I look forward to seeing you all in the near future.

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Golden Gates Continued from Page 1

meetings, Academy Fellow, Dr. Roy Yanase brought us another prosthodontic living-legend. Masahiro Kuwata allowed us to walk in his shoes as he recalled the story of how metal-ceramic restorations came to be. He kept us entertained with many wonderful stories and recollections. That presentation was followed by complementary talks on continuing competency and continuing education given by Dr. Brian Kucey and the team of Academy Fellow, Dr. Kent Knoernschild and Associate Fellow, Dr. John Zarb. Rounding out the morning program, Associate Fellow, Dr. Donna Hecker spoke about dental health and prosthodontic care within the Native American population. Associate Fellow, Dr. Lawrence Green reviewed the mechanisms for intrusion of natural teeth coupled to an implant restoration. Associate Fellow, Dr. Lily Garcia, shared with us her experiences providing prosthodontic treatment to an underserved population in rural Texas through a community-university partnership clinic, and lastly, Associate Fellow, Dr. Jamie Kaukinen updated us on successful business practices.

The Wednesday evening social outing took us to the *North Beach Restaurant* followed by entertainment at a San Francisco trademark, *Beach Blanket Babylon*. The event was sponsored by Nobel Biocare USA. The restaurant had an interesting ambiance and provided an enjoyable dinner, while the evening's entertainment was slapstick fun at its best. The gathering of friends really is all that is required for having a great time.

Thursday morning's scientific session reviewed decision making for

and restoration of the mutilated posterior dentition. Academy Fellow, Dr. Kenneth Malament brought us up to date with his discussion on various core materials and restoration design as it affects longevity. Dr. Malament was followed by Dr.'s Syngcuk Kim and Gerald Glickman, endodontists who shared surgical philosophy and rotary instrument technology. Academy Fellow, Dr. Steven Morgano, reviewed the literature for contemporary evidence based dentistry to help take some of the confusion out of restoring the pulpless tooth. Dr. Carl Driscoll reviewed luting agents and their selection. Finishing up the morning was Academy Fellow, Dr. Charles Goodacre who discussed the evidence for deciding whether to perform endodontic therapy or place an implant.

The Presidential Reception and Installation Banquet were held on the mezzanine level of the Grand Hyatt San Francisco. Once again the planning and execution of the event by the Local Arrangements Committee certainly showed. President Jonathan Wiens introduced our next President, Dr. Gary Goldstein, as he was installed as our 84th Academy President. We also welcomed Dr. Rhonda Jacob as our new President Elect, Dr. Stephen Campbell as Vice President, Dr. Steven Eckert as Secretary-Treasurer and Dr. Sreenivas Koka as Recording Secretary.

The last day of this year's meeting gave us a look at implant restorations, implant quality and implant failures. The presenters were Dr.'s Keith Ferro, Academy Fellow and Past President, George Zarb, and Asbjorn Jokstad. Academy Fellow, Dr. Sreenivas Koka presented some timely information on bisphosphonates and the occurrence of osteonecrosis of the jaws. Associate

Fellow, Dr. Ben Wu showed us some cutting-edge research that directs the architecture of bone substitutes. Dr. Assad Mora demonstrated how chairside magnification has helped his practice of prosthodontics. The last presenter of the meeting was Academy Fellow, Dr. Steven Sadowsky who took a swing at some of the "cosmodentists" and shared some ideas for presenting a more balanced risk/benefit picture to our patients. We would like to thank the Scientific Program Committee, Chaired by President-Elect Dr. Rhonda Jacob for a fine assemblage of presenters during the meeting.

With the close of the 88th Annual Session we will have left San Francisco reinvigorated and refreshed and a little more capable of engaging our busy schedules again. Next year's session is in New York and it should be every bit as spectacular. See you next year.

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One-on-One with Eric Rasmussen

by Sreenivas Koka

Trivia question: 50% of people in the US live within 50 miles of what place? Well, the answer is not New York (even though it may feel like it to a visitor). The answer to this question is...their birthplace. Academy Fellow Eric Rasmussen is one of this propinquity-exhibiting group. Born the fourth child of what would ultimately be a family of 8 brothers and sisters, Eric was raised in Madison, Wisconsin and attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison for his undergraduate studies. He returned to Madison to private practice after attending Marquette University in Milwaukee for dental school and completing his prosthodontic graduate studies at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Eric describes himself as always being interested in mechanics and how machines and objects of any kind were put together. As a child, he would take things apart to see how they were assembled and then enjoyed the challenge of reassembly. He was also very interested in the materials

(metals) that were employed in different objects. Eric believes that it was this fascination that drew him to prosthodontics in dental school and to specializing in prosthodontics immediately after dental school. He was drawn to the combination of fabricating prostheses and the necessary understanding of how dental materials were engineered and best utilized. Given this background, it is not surprising that Eric's thesis work focused on the tensile strength of solder joints.

Eric's introduction to the Academy of Prosthodontics necessitated a trip to Europe! When he was attending a Branemark training program in Gothenburg, Sweden in 1983, he met

Academy Life Fellow Bill Laney while out to dinner. The two struck up a conversation and learned that not only did they live in neighboring states, but that they had summer homes in northwest Wisconsin that were only 9 miles apart. In 1985, Eric attended his first meeting Academy meeting in Hilton Head and presented the following year in Toronto with Academy Life Fellow Ronald Desjardins as his discussor. Having kept a low profile and his nose sufficiently clean, Eric was subsequently inducted into the Academy.

The Academy's Outreach program is a principal mechanism by which

and allied health staff who are involved. Clearly, Eric's passion for this program symbolizes his commitment to using his professional training to address the needs of underserved communities.

Eric's hobbies are varied. To me, Eric always seems to be calm and affable. Perhaps I should not have been surprised then, when he told me that he has been a practitioner of Tai Chi for over 12 years. Eric notes that Tai Chi helps with developing balance and core strength and with slowing down the body and the mind; Eric thinks of Tai Chi as "moving meditation". Other hobbies include welding. Eric took a

course from a commercial sculptor and has learned the art of oxy-acetylene welding to create kinetic sculptures. Two of his sculptures are at his home in Madison and another resides at the cabin near Cable, Wisconsin. Eric states that he enjoys welding because "your imagination is the only thing that limits you...and the time to do it!" Eric is also an avid outdoorsman and enjoys Wisconsin winters by cross-country skiing

and skate skiing. His physical exertions are not limited to hobby time. Eric bicycles to his practice (and home again) every day he goes to work.

Eric and his wife, Nanette, have three grown children. Erica, the eldest is a nurse; Nathan is a physician who is currently in his residency in urology; and Lauren is a Senior at (where else?) the University of Wisconsin studying Design. One grandson, Ty, makes life exciting for both grandparents.

I finished up our interview with a burning question that all Badgers are discussing. Eric was emphatic with his answer: "Of course, Brett Favre should retire at the end of the season. He probably should have retired last year".



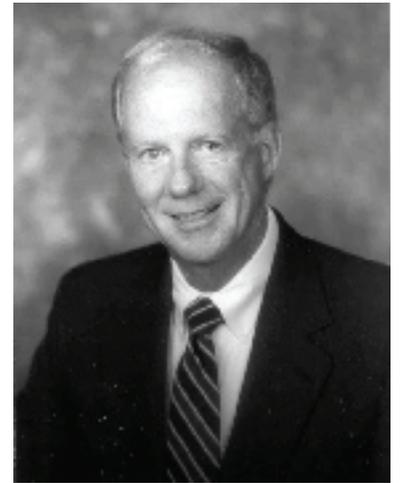
the Fellowship addresses its stated mission of service. Eric was one of the Academy Fellows who were involved in the first outreach program to Ada, Oklahoma. This initial experience was very successful and the initial caution on the part of the Academy and the Indian Health Service soon gave way to a realization that the Outreach program was a boon to both parties. Over the years, program locations have expanded to include Sitka and Juneau in Alaska, Browning in Montana, the Navajo tribe in Utah, and the Omaha tribe in Nebraska. Although each program has a unique feel, a common theme is the feeling of gratitude on behalf of patients and the feeling of satisfaction on behalf of dentists, technicians

Fellows in the News

Academy Fellow Charles Goodacre is the first recipient of the Dr. Kenneth Wical Award for Excellence in Prosthodontics. The Graduate Prosthodontics Program of Loma Linda University School of Dentistry established this award in recognition of the significant contributions of Academy Fellow Ken Wical. The award was created to recognize a Loma Linda University School of Dentistry faculty member for excellence in the teaching and service of prosthodontics. The criteria considered when selecting the recipient of the Wical Award include advanced clinical skills, treating patients as self, humility and integrity, contemporary knowledge, treatment based on evidence, commitment to lifelong learning, and a willingness to share and be involved. Congratulations Dr. Goodacre!



The University of Washington (UW) School of Dentistry recently announced the choice of Kyle K. Schmidt as the 2006 David H. Wands Fellow in Graduate Prosthodontics. Academy Fellow Wands, a former UW School of Dentistry faculty member in the Department of Prosthodontics, established a \$500,000 David H. Wands Endowment Fellowship in Graduate Prosthodontics in appreciation of his prosthodontics alma mater. The intent of the fellowship is to provide financial support for graduate students enrolled in the UW Graduate Program in Prosthodontics, leading to the award of a Certificate in Prosthodontics and/or a Master of Science in Dentistry. "At a time when there is a great demand for new dental educators, and an even greater need to offset the increased costs of a dental school education, Dr. Wands' gift will make a real impact on the lives of our graduate students," said Dr. Ariel J. Raigrodski, Director, Graduate Prosthodontics, UW School of Dentistry. Congratulations Dr. Wands!



To honor his contributions to the specialty of prosthodontics, the alumni and friends of the Division of Prosthodontics of the Mayo Clinic recently established the William R. Laney Endowment for Prosthodontic Education. The inaugural event was held in September, 2006 with Dr. John Brunski traveling to the Mayo Clinic to be the first William R. Laney Visiting Professor. Dr. Brunski shared his considerable expertise on implant biomechanics. At a luncheon to honor Dr. Laney, numerous alumni of the Mayo residency program in prosthodontics including many Academy Fellows (pictured at right), returned to Rochester to join Academy Life Fellow Laney and his entire family for the day's events. Congratulations Dr. Laney!

