

UIC Faculty Dr. T.M. "Tom" Graber Remembered

The program is in great loss with the passing of orthodontic professor emeritus, Dr. Graber. It must be acknowledged that he is one of the elite few who have left an indelible mark on



Drs. Terry Pracht, Carla Evans, Tom Graber and Terry Sellke

the orthodontic profession. Those who graduated from the program within the past decade have had the privilege to meet, associate with and learn under Dr. Graber. Even though he was in his 80's, Dr. Graber had the energy and passion to make the UIC Dental School the headquarters of the AJODO and the World Journal of Orthodontics.

Dr. Evans was instrumental in recruiting Dr. Graber to the UIC orthodontic program in 1994. His Thursday afternoon seminar series "Orthodontic Forum" was always entertaining and informative and he was influential in attracting many of



Graber Room

the top lecturers and speakers of the day. With admiration and respect, even the most experienced of presenters felt honored to have Dr. Graber in the audience among the residents. As in the days of the Roman Coliseum, we (the residents) were encouraged to challenge the speaker's claims in this forum. "It is the resident's responsibility to

make sure claims are evidence based..."

Even though Dr. Graber was an iconic figure to the profession with numerous accolades and achievements throughout the world of orthodontics, he always treated the orthodontic residents with respect, kindness and always encouraged them to GET INVOLVED. We were very fortunate to have had him as part of the faculty and legacy of Illinois.

A fund has been established for the Graber Room should you wish to make a donation in his name in the renovation of the clinic.

Future Orthodontic Alums Seeking Employment Opportunities

Are you in the process of transitioning your practice or looking for an associate or partner?

It is never too early to start looking for the

right person and the best way to start is by networking directly with the residents.

You are encouraged to contact them directly.



Front Row (Left to Right)

1. Darshana Novick, dsubba1@uic.edu, Chicagoland area
2. LiHong Lin, lihong@uic.edu, Chicagoland area
3. Tonya Volk, tvolk80@yahoo.com, Chicagoland area

Back Row (Left to Right)

1. Michael Albazzaz, malbaz1@uic.edu, Chicagoland area
2. John Lippincott, sessions76@aol.com, Chicagoland area
3. Abullatif Sheshter, ashesh2@uic.edu, Kuwait
4. Darren Pakravan, eldorado@alumni.northwestern.edu, Chicagoland area
5. Jamal AlSanea, jamalalsanea@aol.com, Saudi Arabia
6. Louis Whitesman, toothmover@hotmail.com, Chicagoland area

Orthodontic Alumni Association of Illinois Newsletter

The Department of Orthodontics
of the University of Illinois at Chicago,
College of Dentistry



THE QUEST TO BE THE BEST

Fall/Winter 2007

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UIC Orthodontic
Residents Ends**

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Bernard J.
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Dear Alumni, Colleagues and Friends,

As we come to the end of another year, I am reminded that we should all count our blessings and reflect on how much of our success is because we were fortunate enough to choose orthodontics as our profession. As I look back over the past 11 years since I became an orthodontist, I constantly reflect on the importance of supporting the orthodontic program that has been so kind to all of us. We must also ensure that the future of our profession is secure with an orthodontic education program at UIC that is strong and creates graduates that are well prepared. The department prepared us well, but it could not have done so without the private support of alumni and friends.

While much lip service has been given to the importance of State assistance to education, the reality is that education, and especially higher education, has become one of the areas to be sorely deprived of financial support. The University of Illinois College of Dentistry is only a "State" school by name, with assistance from the State contributing to only 14% of the total dental school budget. Do you think that the State of Illinois will make it a priority to remodel the dental school or the orthodontic clinic? If we do not support our profession and the future of orthodontics, then who will? I fear that if we take a blind eye as a profession to the support of the UIC orthodontic program, then nobody will take an interest (see AJODO editorial September 2007).

Tuition Waiver for UIC Orthodontic Residents Ends

I am saddened to report that the tuition waiver for the UIC orthodontic residents that Dr. Evans initiated in 1994 has ended. Citing financial problems and a current dental school operating budget deficit of \$1.6 million, the UIC College of Dentistry Dean, Dr. Bruce Graham, has decided to remove tuition waivers from all postgraduate (orthodontics, endodontics, periodontics and prosthodontics) programs and start assessing tuition starting for the incoming classes of 2008. The tuition for the incoming resident to attend the orthodontic program at UIC will be \$20,000, plus fees, instruments, computer, camera, memberships, etc. Dr. Graham stated that there will be an opportunity for the residents to

offset some of the expense based upon the clinic productivity of the individual resident and that future tuition increases would be at least 7-9%. As of 2005, out of the approximate 60 orthodontic programs in the country, UIC was one of 11 programs that had tuition waivers with other programs charging between \$3,300 (University of Nebraska) to \$49,000 (University of Pennsylvania) per year. Two year orthodontic programs, Indiana University and Marquette, were at \$17,258 and \$29,400 respectively. According to Dr. Graham, the cost to attend other programs has increased markedly since 2005 and since other schools have no problems filling the postgraduate residency programs, this should not affect the applicant pool applying to the program at Illinois.

1st Annual Dr. Bernard J. Schneider Golf Invitational

Watch out Tiger Woods! Third year resident Dr. John Lippincott and fellow residents helped organize a golf outing on July 21 honoring Dr. Schneider at his home course. Twenty friends, former students, colleagues and acquaintances of Dr.



Schneider shared in the camaraderie for the afternoon. We are please to say that hackers were plentiful and that the group donated a fair number of balls to the course. We were also appreciative of sponsor donations including the coveted Vegas Slot Machine which went to Dr. Howard Choi. Many thanks to those who attended and we look forward to next year!

Upcoming Alumni Events

Orthodontic Alumni Association of Illinois

Quadrennial Meeting - 2008

September 5-6, 2008

The alumni association is pleased to have Char present a 2-day presentation. A staff presentation will be on Friday and a doctor's only presentation on Saturday. She has been a highly sought after consultant to help orthodontists manage and grow their practices in these most challenging of times. Char is the founder and CEO of Profit Marketing Systems, a Dental/Specialty Communication Enhancement firm that specializes in the development of systems for the progressive Orthodontic team. Char strives to create a positive platform for each team member to be accountable in their job design and to communicate to the team, patient, general dentist, specialist and the community at the highest level. Char has an extensive background in communication and leadership training. All those who have used her services sing her praise. We promise a new and innovative program to help motivate the orthodontic team as well as offer many practice management pearls to the experienced orthodontist. This seminar is FREE to all active dues-paying alumni!



*Practice Management
Pearls for the
Orthodontic Team with
Char Eash*

Welcome UIC Orthodontic Class of 2007

On May 4th the University of Illinois Department of Orthodontics held its annual graduation banquet at a Maggiano's Restaurant in Chicago. Many faculty, family and friends attended to help celebrate the evening and welcome new graduates into the alumni association. One could feel the excitement after many years of being in school, completing their research and looking forward to starting their profession as orthodontists. Howard Choi, class president Ameerah Mansour and the other graduating residents put together an entertaining DVD presentation titled "Collide" to review the past years of the orthodontic program and to acknowledge and thank the faculty for their guidance and support. (Check it out on the website:

<http://www.uic.edu/depts/dort/alumni.html>) Not to be outdone, faculty member Dr. Budi Kusnoto used a high-tech presentation combined with karaoke to put on a "superman" show acknowledging the friendships and accomplishments of the graduating class. Dr. Evans then complimented the graduates and challenged them to be critical and independent thinkers as well as leaders of the profession. The evening was reminiscent of the joy and exuberance that I am sure all of us remember experiencing. Congratulations and welcome to the Alumni Association: Osama Abualnaja, Rasha Al-Sanea, Derek Bock, Howard Choi, Clara Chow, Maria Therese Galang, Silvana Gonzalez Manzur, Carrie Hedin, Matthew Isreal, Neal Kravitz, and Ameerah Manour.



Class of 2007 with Faculty



President Dr. Ameerah Mansour