A Closer Look at the Department of Surgical Services
The ushering in of a new year is often a good time for reflection. With this issue of Dental Images, we have taken time to reflect on the Marquette School of Dentistry’s past, present and future.

Continuing our series of “A Closer Look” at each of the school’s four major departments, this issue features the Department of Surgical Services. This department covers the full spectrum of dental care from disease prevention to extractions, with many important interventions in between to save teeth and preserve dental health.

In addition to his work overseeing Surgical Services, department chair Dr. Paul Luepke has led the charge to establish the MUSoD’s newest post-graduate program, in periodontics. This program was recently approved by the University, and once we have approval from the Commission on Dental Accreditation, the first class of two to three residents can begin studies.

Meanwhile, our periodontics area is fortunate to have researcher Dr. Andrew Dentino, relentless in his pursuit of new ways to chemically attack and conquer plaque. You can read about his latest research projects on page 3.

Speaking of research, we are very excited about the potential for enhanced efforts in dental research by our students and faculty made possible with the additional space our expansion project devotes, both to clinical and bench-top research.

Surgical Services also encompasses the discipline of oral surgery, led so well by seasoned practitioner and gifted educator Dr. James Glore. Encouraged by the growing interest in the specialty, Dr. Glore has started an oral surgery honors program for top students seeking to succeed in residency programs.

Two highly trained specialists, Dr. Sheila Stover and Dr. Lance Hashimoto, have taken the helm of our post-graduate and predoctoral endodontics programs, and are master collaborators in their shared goals of providing thorough training to our students and keeping our post-graduate program top among its peers. Under their leadership, our predoctoral students already have stronger requirements in endodontics, which will serve them well as general dentists.

And if you’re a regular reader of the WDA Journal, then you’ve seen the case reports from the MUSoD oral pathologist Dr. Ezedin Sadeghi, one of two oral pathologists and frequently consulted experts in the state of Wisconsin (the other is Marquette’s Dr. Denis Lynch).

When you’ve concluded our tour of Surgical Services, you’ll find the inspiring story of Drs. Ron and Matt Pruhs, alumni who, along with their family, have dedicated themselves to serving international populations with urgent needs for dental care.

In recognizing and supporting the service work of Dr. Pruhs and others throughout both local and international communities, we can advance the University’s service mission through our graduates. We also hope to provide our students with potential role models, and even mentors, that encourage them to remember that mission and aspire to carry it forward through generously sharing the special skills they possess as dentists.

The Pruhs’ descriptions of their time working in Haiti may even make you want to sign up with an international service organization and board the next flight to help the cause.

We also spotlight support of the dental school through the example of alumni Timmy and London Cooper, and celebrate diversity within our dental school community as represented by LaTonya Gillespie, the first ever dental student to receive the Cream City Medical Society Scholarship (among a company of all-female winners this year). As you will read, LaTonya’s goals of providing dental care back in her home community of Atlanta post-graduation are also service oriented, and she looks forward to acting as a role model in the dental profession.

As we continue to serve our first expanded class, which our building extension now enables, we are energized by our potential to ensure a rich supply of Marquette dental graduates for Wisconsin and beyond into the future.
A Closer Look at the Department of Surgical Services

The second of four Dental School department features.

PHOTOS

10 Reunions
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14 ADA Reception
15 Dean’s Circle Reception

On the cover: From the Department of Surgical Services, from left, are Dr. Lisa Hoang, Pros Res.; Dr. Tim Novak; and Assistant Mary McCusker.
Dental surgical services encompass the full gamut of dental care, from disease prevention, to saving teeth, to extraction when that’s the only way left to go. The Department of Surgical Services at Marquette University School of Dentistry is focused on training students in all phases of dentistry.

The department is chaired by Dr. Paul Luepke, a board-certified periodontist and retired naval captain who came to Marquette five years ago from Great Lakes Naval Station. Dr. Luepke was officially named department chair in March, after four years as interim chair.

“In their periodontics course the first year, students get their first taste of prevention and even instrument handling,” Luepke says. “We are probably the first impression as far as learning the best ergonomics, chair position, how they use instruments, and how to start caring for patients. Their first patient exposure is performing a cleaning on each other before starting on patients.

“Periodontics and endodontics are about trying to save teeth. We’re not based on cosmetics as much as some of the other specialties. It’s the health and disease piece, the foundation of the mouth. And we’re on the other end with the ultimate cure — extraction — as oral surgeons. So our department has the full spectrum of care.”

New Periodontics Post-Graduate Program

As department chair, Luepke is focused on strong faculty retention, and innovative and effective teaching (he was awarded the National Charles Craig Teaching Award in 2011 for innovation). He has been the driving force behind a new post-graduate program in periodontics, which was approved by the University Board of Trustees in early December 2013.

Luepke says Marquette has never had an Advanced Education Program in Periodontics, although Marquette formerly was a partner in the local VA Hospital’s program. Plans are to gain initial CODA approval and accept the first class in June 2015. The three-year program will take two residents per year.

Luepke says more students are pursuing specialty programs in periodontics as well as oral surgery. “In both areas in the last five years, we have had 18 students go on to residencies in periodontics and oral and maxillofacial surgery,” he says. “I think that’s a testament to how we are giving them a good feeling about the specialty, and we are hearing really good feedback from these students. Because we don’t have the specialties in house, they go out of state. Still, I think that is a good indicator of how you’re doing in teaching a specialty.”

Steadfast faculty

It is an ongoing challenge for any dental education program to sustain an adequate number of well-qualified faculty members, but Luepke feels that Surgical Services is in a good place today.

“I rely very significantly on my part-time faculty,” he says. “I make a strong effort to communicate well with them, and we’re rather good at working together toward a common goal. Lately we have had really good success and not much turnover, but it is good for our alumni base to know that we are always looking for good part-time faculty to join us in our efforts to turn out excellent general dentists.”
Periodontics researcher plots to outsmart plaque

Dr. Andrew Dentino likens plaque in the gum-tissue collar around the teeth of someone with severe gum disease to what you might see when standing on the edge of a dock, peering into the water at the dock posts.

“With all the junk and green algae that’s stuck to the post, even the biggest waves won’t remove it. It’s not going anywhere. These biofilms on our teeth are intensely hardy communities,” says Dentino, professor and periodontics program director in the Department of Surgical Services.

The periodontist and researcher came to Marquette School of Dentistry in 1992 from a research-intensive program at the University of Buffalo—SUNY, and has been pursuing plaque control ever since.

Believing mechanical plaque control had largely reached its zenith, Dentino began to look into chemical control. In the mid-’90s, he worked on a concept that involved using slow-release antimicrobials in the gum collars of those with severe gum disease.

“The concept was reasonable, but it didn’t work all that well,” Dentino says. “The biofilm on teeth, unless you physically, mechanically remove it, you’re not going to get rid of all of it. When you look at the bacteria in that community, there are a whole bunch of them that are just kind of sleeping. They’re just there. No antibiotics are going to bother them, because they’re not even metabolizing.”

Much like the gunk on the dock posts.

“So the question is, how do we get rid of that plaque? And that’s what most of the disease in periodontics is really about — a low-grade biofilm infection,” Dentino explains. “And our bodies deal with that, evolutionarily, by letting the teeth slowly fall out.”

For patients needing implants, Dentino more recently looked into another chemical approach, using an antimicrobial product called Arestin on and around the implant. Marquette is one of about 20 centers worldwide studying Arestin’s efficacy in peri-implantitis patients. The study is nearing its conclusion.

Creating “super surfaces”

Dentino is also exploring the design and development of substances and surfaces that can repel and potentially prevent plaque from forming. While working to explore whether altering denture surfaces would repel plaque, Dentino and an organic chemist colleague out of SUNY Buffalo began synthesizing polymers to create control surfaces, and testing them for plaque resistance.

Their work eventually attracted NIH funding, and Dentino had to lead the
project because his chemist colleague was retiring. The funding came in the form of an independent investigator grant or R01, a rare research grant of which there are just five on the entire Marquette campus today.

Dentino collaborated with a post-doctoral scholar from China on the grant, and “we came up with a fairly intense pellicle shield, a surface that every time bacteria came close to it, they would just pop,” he says. “We inoculated it with every oral bug under the sun and nothing, nothing would grow on that surface! That was exciting.”

Dentino eventually patented this phosphated acrylic and has published several papers about it, but did not have the time to renew the R01 grant and continue the research. Still, when he could, he collaborated with Marquette microbiologist James Maki, trying to make bacteria grow on the patented surface to satisfy his innate scientific curiosity.

And in 2013, industry came calling.

The head of basic science research at a Fortune 500 company had seen Dentino’s work and asked him to collaborate on taking it to the next level. Although Dentino had been considering retirement, the opportunity was too tempting.

“I feel that I have a responsibility to continue this work,” Dentino says. “Research is about making mistakes until you finally figure out something worth knowing, because you stayed with it.”

He and a new post-doc are planning to synthesize and change some variants of the patented polymers, and Dentino’s industry contacts believe that this novel technology could be applied in several key consumer applications.

“I’m excited because the patent we got is great, but it’s limited,” Dentino says. “Along with the resources for pursuing this work, industry collaboration brings the resources for obtaining additional patents.”

In leaving SUNY Buffalo to work in Marquette’s more clinically focused program, Dentino says he knew he would miss the lab, but he has managed to balance the clinical and research aspects of his position, along with his own periodontics practice in the greater Milwaukee area.

“I said to our Lord before I left for MU, ‘If you want me to do research there, you will put it in my lap,’” he says. “And now with everything that’s happening, I feel like my lap is pretty full!”

As oral and maxillofacial surgery programs grow more competitive and more dental students choose careers in oral and maxillofacial surgery, Marquette School of Dentistry is helping prepare students for success in residency programs.

Clinical Associate Professor Dr. James Glore, along with retired Adjunct Assistant Professor Dr. Thomas Radmer, started the Oral Surgery Honors Program to give predoctoral students serious about oral and maxillofacial surgery greater exposure to current research, literature and clinical casework.

The program started in 2010, as Glore and Radmer had begun seeing an uptick in the number of dental students applying for oral and maxillofacial surgery programs. Glore says he currently has 17 students interested in the discipline (nine from the class of 2015, and eight from the class of 2014), significantly up from perhaps three or four students in years past.

The basic premise for starting the Honors Program was “to help enlighten interested students as to what oral and maxillofacial surgery is all about and to start giving them more experience in oral surgery,” says Glore, a retired oral and maxillofacial surgeon who has taught at MUSoD for 10 years.

Glore and his colleagues, including the students’ group leaders, academic dean, and the clinic director, select top students in both the D3 and D4 classes for the group. Participants meet once or twice a month during lunch hours for roundtable discussions of current literature and also practice procedures such as airway management, intubation and starting IVs. They also perform additional and more complex surgeries, closely guided by faculty.
With oral and maxillofacial surgery programs already quite competitive, Glore says admissions are even more difficult with new policies that require prospective oral and maxillofacial surgery residents to take the first part of a national medical board exam in addition to the dental board exams. A high score on the dental boards can no longer distinguish a strong residency candidate, as these exams are now graded as pass/fail.

“The medical test is a little out of the realm for what dental students are exposed to in dental school,” he explains. “So part of what we’re trying to do is to better prepare the third-year students for this exam, and then the fourth-year students are doing more advanced clinical work.”

As a general teaching philosophy, Glore’s goal is to have every dental student become proficient at routine oral surgery, such as extractions. “We have a very friendly place [in the clinic],” he says. “I don’t want to intimidate the students because these can be difficult procedures to learn, in addition to learning how to manage the medically compromised patient. I want to make this clinic something they enjoy, and we work hard to make it a stimulating experience.”

Glore is too modest to directly credit his department’s teaching for the increased interest in oral surgery, but honors group participant Judd Smith, D4, says both the exposure to oral surgery in the predoctoral program as well as older classmates who raved about the honors program piqued his interest.

Smith was selected for the honors group and additionally has completed five externships with oral surgery residency programs across the country. His class of 2014 is the first class required to take medical boards to gain entrance to an oral surgery residency program.

Having applied to several residency programs, Smith feels the honors program will give him a leg up on admissions. But more importantly, he says, “It makes you more confident and more up to par, more likely to actually succeed in residency as opposed to just getting in.”

Though relatively new to their leadership positions at Marquette School of Dentistry’s endodontics programs, Drs. Sheila Stover, D ’97, Grad ’03, and Lance Hashimoto, D ’88, Grad ’90, Grad ’02, are no strangers to MUSoD. Both are faculty veterans with extensive training who have worn many hats and worked in various departments during their teaching careers.

“The bottom line is, we do whatever it is the school needs us to do,” says Stover, who was appointed as director of post-graduate endodontics in July 2013 and also retains responsibility as director of outreach programs, forging partnerships with community clinics and managing the school’s rural clinic partners.

Hashimoto, who holds graduate degrees in both prosthodontics and endodontics, has been director of predoctoral endodontics since July 2013, transitioning from the post-graduate prosthodontics program. With versatile clinical skills, he has also held positions in every MUSoD clinic.

“I was always placed where they needed me most,” he explains of his 23-year teaching career at MUSoD.

Both directors are passionate about continuing the momentum in the endodontics program and providing the best possible preparation for predoctoral and post-graduate students alike.
Immediately after dental school, Stover completed Marquette’s advanced education in general dentistry (AEGD) program. Since taking preclinical endodontics as a dental sophomore, she knew she wanted a career in that field. “I had a really great faculty member in Bill Kelly,” Stover says. “And in my AEGD program I had other good faculty, and I just really liked and enjoyed endo.”

After completing her graduate endodontics degree in 2003, Stover took a full-time faculty position as clinical assistant professor. Most recently as outreach director, Stover put her endodontics training to good use, teaching diagnosis and treatment planning for emergency situations in the outreach clinics.

Eventually, she decided that with all the required population planning, prevention programs and strategic resource allocation for underserved populations, she also needed a masters in public health, which she earned in 2008.

Stover wants to see Marquette in the top tier among the U.S.’s 49 post-graduate endodontics programs. “The Dean has been great in his commitment to our program;” she says. “He’s committed time and resources because he wants to see it move forward. He’s helped with advancement and fundraising,” such as working to secure funding for advanced microscopes that enable video capture and real-time surgery demonstrations for students.

The microscopes are part the directors’ shared goal to provide state-of-the-art education for residents. “It’s important to make sure they can try all the new materials and new technology so that when they graduate, they have a good, sound knowledge foundation to determine what they want to use and purchase for their own practice,” Stover explains.

The microscopes are also used in Hashimoto’s work with the predoctoral students. “We want all the students to be comfortable with treating cases under the microscope and with other magnification,” Hashimoto says. “I mean, root canals — it’s a tiny space.”

Sharing equipment, strategic planning and collaborating day to day is something Stover and Hashimoto are used to both at Marquette and at the private endodontics practice they opened outside Milwaukee together in 2006. “We share everything,” Stover says. “We definitely have our roles within the department, but we do everything together.”

This collaboration has helped to “really bridge the gap between the graduate program and the pre-doc program,” says
With the only two oral and maxillofacial pathologists in Wisconsin on the MUSoD faculty, Marquette Dental School is the hub of oral pathology expertise in the state.

Associate Professor and Director of Oral Pathology Dr. Ezedin Sadeghi and Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Dr. Denis Lynch have a combined 74 years of experience in the diagnosis and study of diseases of the mouth.

"Our main task here is to teach students how to diagnose and manage a simple lesion, like a canker sore, all the way through to a serious lesion, like oral cancer," explains Sadeghi, who trained at the University of Minnesota and has been on the Marquette faculty since 1978.

While Sadeghi stresses that future dentists need exposure to and familiarity with oral pathology, the field is small with a limited number of training programs in the country. Sadeghi shares his own expertise as a frequently consulted expert who has published case reports for the WDA Journal each month for the past 10 years. This exposure makes his a sought-after opinion, and professionals from around the state regularly e-mail images and questions to him for help with diagnoses.

"With email and digital images, I can get back to them and help them right away," he says.
Kathy Roth Elected to FDI Council
At its 2013 Annual Meeting in Istambul, Kathy Roth, D ’74, was elected to a three-year term on the FDI’s World Dental Federation’s governing council. As one of 10 councilors from around the world, Roth will represent MU and the United States as a voice for the global dental community.

Dennis Engel Receives Top 2013 WDA Honor
Dennis Engel, D ’75, received the Wisconsin Dental Association Lifetime Achievement Award for 2013 in recognition of his significant contributions of time, energy and expertise to organized dentistry throughout his 38-year career. According to the WDA, Dr. Engel has demonstrated significant personal commitment to the dental profession through leadership positions at the local, state and national levels. Active with the Greater Milwaukee Dental Association and Washington Ozaukee County Dental Society, he served as WDA president from 2003-2004 and three terms as WDA editor. He recently concluded a four-year term representing his 9th District colleagues in Wisconsin and Michigan on the American Dental Association Board of Trustees. A certified dental editor, he is also editor of the International College of Dentists - Wisconsin Section and serves on the editorial board for the Journal of the ADA. He is also a member of the American College of Dentists and a fellow of the ICD and Pierre Fauchard Academy.

Also recognized by the WDA with special honors:

Monica Hebl, D ’85
Outstanding Leadership in Mentoring Award

Debra Palmer, D ’87
Community Outreach Award

Ronald Stifter, D ’67
WDA Foundation Philanthropic Award

Jane Wright, D ’09, Grad ’11
New Dentist Leadership Award

Chris Kammer, D ’81, who started the Halloween Candy Buyback program that donates more than 127 tons of candy annually to U.S. soldiers overseas, was quoted in an article in TIME magazine last year about the program. He said that the troops also receive floss, mouthwash, toothbrushes and toothpaste because, apparently, you can eat as much candy as you want as long as you brush your teeth immediately afterwards.

Arnaldo J. Guzman-Garcia, D ’89, Past Clinical Dean and Associate Professor at UPR School of Dental Medicine, was appointed as reviewer for ADEA’s Journal of Dental Education. Dr. Guzman-Garcia also completed a project for the construction of a new clinical simulation laboratory incorporating the newest technology. Pre-clinical courses such as Fixed and Removable Prosthodontics, Operative Dentistry, Endodontics and Pediatric Dentistry will be taught in the new lab, which will also be used for the administration of licensure examinations.

Monica Hebl and Lakisha Arif-Holmes:
First Recipients of WOHC Warren LeMay Oral Health Champion Award
At the Wisconsin Oral Health Coalition (WOHC) Annual Meeting in September, the coalition awarded the inaugural WOHC Warren LeMay Oral Health Champion Award to Monica Hebl, D ’85, and Lakisha Arif-Holmes, D ’08, for their work to create meaningful change to improve oral health and access to care in Wisconsin.

Share your news!
Send submissions to dentalimages@marquette.edu.
Timmy and London Cooper: Partners in Life and at Work

Some people identify their professional calling early in life. Take for instance, Timmy Cooper. In eighth grade, he knew his path would lead to dentistry. After all, his father, Bob Cooper, D’72, was a dentist, and Timmy found it fulfilling to watch him establish relationships with patients in their community of Stevens Point, Wis.

As the son of a proud alumnus, Timmy also knew he would attend Marquette and enrolled as an undergraduate in the Pre-dental Scholars program, which helped pave the way to the Marquette University School of Dentistry.

“IT’s just something I knew I would do,” says Timmy, Arts ’99, D ’02.

Then there’s London (Anseth) Cooper. Growing up in Williston, N.D., she had her eye on two careers: dentistry and accounting. After studying natural sciences as an undergraduate at the University of North Dakota, she worked for a year with her dentist brother, Lloyd Anseth, D ’86. That’s when her decision was cemented: She would be a dentist.

She found her way to the MUSoD, thanks in large part to what she called an “incredibly welcoming” admissions department and a feeling of collegiality as soon as she arrived for a campus visit.

“Within a month, it felt like home,” says London, D ’02, noting that the differences between her town of about 14,000 people and Milwaukee were vast.

The two met as D1s and started dating the year after that. Between their third and fourth years, they married, something they say is common among dental students because of the close relationships formed during extensive class and clinic time.

After graduation, London worked for seven years at Stevens Point’s Ministry Dental Center, a state-funded clinic affiliated with St. Michael’s/Ministry Hospital, and Timmy began working with his father at Cooper Dental, which Bob founded in 1974.

In 2009, Bob retired, and Timmy took over. Four years ago, after the birth of their third child, London joined the practice on a part-time basis and works there three days a week. It’s a perfect situation for their family, they say.

“It’s really nice to have somebody you can go back and forth with about ideas. We’re very comfortable doing that. And we like each other,” London says with a laugh.

Much like when he was younger, Timmy, and now London, believe that providing oral health care for their neighbors is an investment in the community. Cooper Dental has always seen underserved patients, many of whom are on Medicaid, and that continues today.

“My dad’s philosophy was always that the best way to do things was to make a difference, and that’s woven into the fabric of what we do. It’s on us to do our part,” says Timmy, who serves on the board of directors for the United Way of Portage County, Wis.

London is on the St. Michael’s Hospital Foundation board of directors and served on Marquette’s Dental Alumni Association Board of Directors from 2007-13. When it came time to raise money for the Dental School’s expansion, which began construction in fall 2012, London felt compelled to join in.

After all, she and Timmy were part of the last class to use the old dental building and she knows how crucial the facility at 18th and Wisconsin Avenue is, especially technology-wise, to recruiting and retaining the dental leaders of the future.

“We owe Marquette. We received a phenomenal education,” London says. “Without a doubt, we wouldn’t be where we are today without the School of Dentistry.”


Row 1: Steve Albright, Christopher Blake, Linda Beyer Laabs, Patty Buehler, Christine Fischer, Richard Romenesko, Jim Conrardy and Roy Luecht <strong>Row 2</strong>: Mark Curran, Don Linneman, Roland Wolfsterlitter, Mike Newton, Mike Casey, Patrick Lloyd and Jim Lane <strong>Row 3</strong>: Jay Preston, George Cyra, Tom Brandt, Conrad Nenn, Dave Johnson and James Yuenkel
GATHERINGS

REUNIONS

Cheryl Galka, Nurs ’81, Frank Galka, Arts ’69, D ’73, Carol Polverini, DH ’74, and Peter Polverini, Arts ’69, D ’73

1963 classmates John Matteucci, Steve Senia and Fred Stout

Dan Holzhauer, D ’83, Grad ’85, Jack Hoeffleur, D ’83, Brian McSorley, Arts ’79, Lynn Lepak McSorley, Arts ’80, D ’83, and Glen Habermann, D ’83

1993 classmates Philip Friedman, Lynelle Ochowicz, Paco Fralick, Lou Cara and Robin Knodel
SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

Seventy students, faculty and scholarship donors celebrated this year’s scholarship awards.

Delta Dental of Wisconsin representatives Fred Eichmiller, Lois Joswick, Terry Higgins and Peg Kolbeck with the 2013-14 Delta Scholars.

Mark Mandel, D’70, and Class of 1970 student scholarship recipient Alexandra Frank.

Katie and Teresa Mears honor the late Charles Mears, D’79.

Dean William Lobb with sisters Colleen Lange, Patty Floyd and Kathy Doyle-Kelly, DH’85, D’90, honor the late J. Michael Doyle, D’63, and his widow Mary with student scholarship recipient Jessica Pasoni.
More than 100 alumni and friends gathered at the MUSoD reception at the ADA Annual Session in October in New Orleans.
Nearly 200 donors, students and guests gathered in the Sullivan Atrium at the dental school to take part in the Ninth Annual Dean’s Circle Donor Recognition event in September.

Lynn Lepak-McSorley, AS ’80, D ’83, Brian McSorley, AS ’79, Ross Dunkel, Mike Hanneman, D ’82, and Karen Dustrude, D ’83

Lynn Lepak-McSorley, AS ’80, D ’83, Kasey Bruch-Nenn, DH ’79, Brian McSorley, AS ’79, and Conrad Nenn, D ’78, enjoy the photo booth.

Neil Peterson, D ’67, Beverly Peterson, AS ’64, and Howard Dixon, D ’68, Grad ’70

Tiffany Smalkoski, HS ’02, D ’06, Lisa Koenig, D ’87, and Debra Palmer, DH ’72, D ’87.

David Barnes, Bus ’81, Dean William Lobb and Francesca DeRose, D ’80.
DID YOU KNOW...
MUSoD received applications from 50 states and 13 countries.

Total applicants: 2,522

Average age: 23
Mean GPA entering the program: 3.60

Top 5 Application Producing States for Marquette: 2012-2013

- Illinois: 303
- California: 256
- Wisconsin: 175
- Michigan: 174
- Minnesota: 149

White Coat Ceremony Class of 2017
When LaTonya Gillespie graduates from Marquette Dental School in May 2014, she’ll be the first doctor in her family. The Atlanta native already has some significant “firsts” under her belt. For one, she’s the first-ever dental student to receive the Cream City Medical Society Scholarship, offered to African American students pursuing doctor-level degrees in the medical, pharmacy, PhD or dental fields.

Milwaukee’s Cream City Medical Society was founded in 1927 by the son of Milwaukee’s first black physician. It is a charter chapter of the National Medical Association, the nation’s oldest and largest organization of African American doctors, and works to eliminate minority health disparities through building a strong contingency of minority youth in health care professions.

Gillespie was one of five Cream City Scholarship winners in 2013, and received a financial prize that she is applying to school costs including boards materials, instruments and testing fees. “That was really nice, as it was one thing less to worry about for this year,” she says, adding that it was worthwhile to take time to sit down and fill out the scholarship application, even with a jam-packed schedule.

In addition to keeping up with the rigors of dental school, Gillespie is the immediate past president of the Student National Dental Association and is extensively involved in the organization. She decided her legacy at SNDA would be to finally make its long-planned Oral Cancer Walk a reality.

“My predecessors had pretty much done all the background work, and I said, ‘OK, this is going to happen,’” Gillespie says. “So, we took care of business!”

Initially, Gillespie had a modest goal of attracting 50 attendees, but as planning went on, she realized she could aim for closer to 200. And on September 21, 2013, Gillespie added another “first” to her accomplishments, when 150 people participated in Marquette’s first Oral Cancer Walk. Funds were donated to the Head and Neck Cancer Program at Froedtert & The Medical College of Wisconsin, to help support patients undergoing treatment.

On the day of the walk, Gillespie and her colleagues also organized a continuing education course for dental students and offered free oral cancer screenings. She considers the event a strong success and has pledged to help out with and attend next year’s walk, even though she plans to be practicing dentistry in her hometown of Atlanta.

Pulling her back to the South are her strong family ties, her desire to provide both health care and community service in her hometown, and a mentor who believes in her talent and future – in fact, he is her dentist and would like to hire her, she says modestly. She is considering her options as she looks forward to starting her first real job.

With an interest in dentistry since childhood, Gillespie began shadowing dentists and even interned at a dental office while in high school. As she was finishing up undergraduate studies in biology and chemistry at Voorhees College in South Carolina, she learned of the Health Career Opportunities Program at Marquette and was accepted into the summer science enrichment program.

While Gillespie applied to and was accepted at other dental schools, she chose Marquette for two key reasons. One, she was impressed with the school’s technology. And two, she had felt comfortable during her summer experience, despite having attended a small, historically black college and not being used to the diversity of culture, race and backgrounds at Marquette. “It really felt like another home for me,” she says, “just one that was many miles away.”

When she thinks about the need for more black dentists – just six percent of dental school graduates in the U.S. are black, according to data from April 2013’s Howard University Symposium on United States Health Care – Gillespie believes the profession needs to be presented as a dynamic career option that is about helping people. Her own career plans include a heavy emphasis on community service.

“I already have it planned out, I want to have a day every week where my staff and I do charitable work in the community, at different elementary schools, doing screenings and talking to parents and kids about good oral hygiene,” Gillespie says. “I know I’m always going to be a community-service person. And I like the idea that kids in the community who may not have a life plan can see us doing this work and being role models in this profession.”
Many professors relish a quiet sabbatical spent doing research. But retired Chair of Pediatric Dentistry Ron Pruhs, D ’64, preferred to spend his precious semesters off venturing to faraway places to help people in dire need of dental care.

Fortunately, his wife, Ronni Pruhs, Nurs ’75, has always shared Ron’s passion for serving those in need. Over the years, the couple — often with their children in tow — have made dozens of trips to provide basic dental services to impoverished people in places like Brazil, Uganda and most recently and frequently, Haiti.

“Our family has always had a desire to do service internationally,” Ron Pruhs says. “What makes it a little more extraordinary in our case is that both Ronni and I are committed. It’s really a vocation for us. The rewards are so great. People ask questions like, ‘Why don’t you do more service locally? Why in all these strange places?’ And I always answer, ‘Well, we are called there.’”

Now 73 and retired, Pruhs is planning at least one more trip to Haiti in early 2014, accompanied by his wife and three of his six sons. General dentist Matt Pruhs, D ’99, and two of his brothers who graduated from Marquette Law School and have learned to assist Matt, will all accompany their parents.

The family will be piloting a week long extraction clinic at a mission hospital in Cité Soleil, a commune in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area known internationally for its extreme poverty. There are few resources, sporadic electricity and no sewage system or running water — but that doesn’t faze the Pruhs family. They simply take in what supplies and equipment they can — in two very large totes — to create a makeshift operatory, and the patients line up, grateful for the free help with their dental issues.

Seeking service outlets
As a young, married father of three, fresh from MUSoD’s master’s program in Pediatric Dentistry, Ron Pruhs found an opportunity through the Catholic Medical Mission Board to travel to Malawi and help set up a hospital dental clinic. He and Ronni jumped at the chance, packed up their family and stayed for two years. Matt was born in Malawi and was just six weeks old when the family returned to the U.S. in 1970. Ron took a full-time faculty position with Marquette, and Ronni began working on her nursing degree.

The couple began spending Ron’s sabbatics taking service trips through various mission organizations, including a year in Brazil through Project Hope, and a semester in Uganda through the Voluntary Missionary Movement.

Matt remembers one 10-day trip to the Dominican Republic, when he was a junior in high school in 1987, that inspired his career in dentistry.

“My dad set up a mobile extraction clinic,” Matt recalls. “He had the equipment, we just brought it all down with us. We stayed at a parish, and every day we would go out to different villages or locales, and he’d extract teeth and I would assist him — holding the flashlight for him, cleaning instruments, organizing people. And watching him work, I saw that he had an immediate positive impact on people. I thought it was great, and that’s what started me thinking about dentistry.”

Ron says getting administrative approval to pursue his interest in international dentistry during sabbaticals was never difficult.

“I think that’s a very distinctive aspect of Marquette, that they did ‘OK’ that,” he says. “I’ve always been grateful, because that’s where my heart was.”

Dean William Lobb says support for service work in both local and international communities helps define Marquette as a dental school committed to the well-being of others through improved oral health.

“We teach our students about their obligations as professionals to serve the needs of those with limited access to oral health care,” he explains. “The work of Dr. Pruhs and others illustrates this professional responsibility and puts this teaching into an action-based context.”
Connecting with Haiti

In 1994, the Pruhs family spent a semester in Haiti through Goodwill Industries, and came into contact with Nuestros Pequenos Hermanos International, which runs orphanages in nine Latin American and Caribbean countries.

NPH’s mission was right up Ron’s alley, as a pediatric dentist, and the family decided to start working in the Haitian orphanage, just outside of Port-au-Prince. In 1995, they set up a one-chair dental clinic in the orphanage, and proceeded to go back and provide service at least twice a year.

Both Ron and Matt stress that they get just as much benefit from international service as their many patients. Describing the range of emotions common to people in long-term, international mission work, Ron says, “The first few weeks you are there, there’s a real fire in your heart, and you think, ‘Gee, these people are so wonderful, and they’re so happy for our help. I love the work and I love being with them, and I want to do more.’

“Then after you are there about three months, you start thinking, ‘I gotta get outta here.’ It starts to catch up with you, the lack of amenities we’re used to in the United States, or maybe some loneliness, or some minor illness you experience.

“But once you make it through that, it gets to a point where you say, ‘I can do this.’ And you hang in there. And you really serve the people, and you grow together with the people you are in this with.

“The ultimate thing that happens is that you are equally comfortable there as you are here. That’s a leap, and it usually comes with learning the language and learning the culture. That’s when you have more of a real relationship with the people you are serving. Ronni and I are at that point with Haiti.”

NPH eventually built a children’s hospital, St. Damien’s, in Port-au-Prince, and Ron was instrumental in setting up a dental clinic there. Serendipitous timing with Marquette Dental School’s move meant the administration gave Ron first dibs on any equipment not slated for transfer to the School’s building — which turned to be enough for three operatories inside St. Damien’s.

“The Dental School was very generous,” Ron says. “And we had significant support from Holt Dental, a dental supply company in Waukesha, in putting together the equipment in Haiti, and supplementing with parts we needed.”

Once the clinic was opened, Ron retired from Marquette so he and Ronni could spend more time in Haiti. Eventually, Ron and NPH decided to hire a Haitian dentist and assistants to run the clinic year-round.

“It’s Always an Adventure”

With the St. Damien’s clinic running relatively well, the Pruhs’ next trip will be about taking the mobile extraction clinic to the notorious slum of Cité Soleil. Also, Matt Pruhs is pursuing a new path of service through the Haiti Medical Mission of Wisconsin (HMM).

“I’ve been to Haiti probably close to a dozen times now, I’ve been going for about one week every winter,” to work in the St. Damien’s clinic, Matt says. “But they don’t need me anymore! So I started to search out organizations in need of dentistry, and I found this group based out of Baraboo, Wisconsin. It was started by a surgeon, and he was focused on another town in Haiti named Thiotte.”

The surgeon found the funds to build a free-standing medical clinic with a surgical suite in Thiotte, a remote area in southeastern Haiti that lacks access to safe drinking water and basic health care. Eventually, the surgical suite became staffed by a Haitian physician, with volunteer physicians traveling to help out when they could. But the physician has told HMM that what’s really lacking now are ophthalmology and dental services.

“The timing was perfect,” Matt says, “I contacted them out of the blue, and they had just started to look for a dentist.”

Matt says HMM is well funded and well organized with a motivated board and volunteer base, but “they don’t know how to offer dentistry. They are unfamiliar with the equipment, what to buy, etc. I have some experience, having watched my dad do this in Haiti. They are willing to support a clinic, develop it, fund it, but what they really need is guidance, and American dentists to come down and oversee it.”

Matt took his first trip to Thiotte in February 2013. “I was very impressed, and excited. They are just getting started down this path, and so people who are in on it early can really leave their stamp on it.”

Because the Pruhs family keeps the mobile extraction equipment in Haiti, Matt will be able to take it to Thiotte to perform extractions. But first, he’s putting together a list of equipment that’s needed to build a dental clinic, in phases.

The busy father of four, in private practice in Menomonee Falls, Wis., says he can only go to Haiti about 10 days or fewer each year. “But I’m going to commit to HMM and to Thiotte.”

Matt says he absolutely got the drive to do mission work from his parents, but he doesn’t downplay the fact that he finds it fun.

“It’s always an adventure. You know, you’re riding in the back of a pickup truck through the streets of Haiti! It’s fun, it’s exciting, and you never get to do these things in the United States! And then, you get a real sense of fulfillment. You appreciate more where you are, and what you have. And, of course, you’re delivering a needed service, and you feel good about that as well.”

To learn more about getting involved with the Haiti Medical Mission, please visit www.haitimedicalmission.org or contact Matt Pruhs via email at mpruhs@sbcglobal.net.
### REMEMBERING OUR OWN

The Marquette University community joins in prayerful remembrance of those who passed away between July and December 2013. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Eternal rest grant unto them, Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>Clifford D. Tobin</td>
<td>Iron Mountain, Michigan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Carroll N. Schield</td>
<td>Port Richey, Florida</td>
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<td>1943</td>
<td>John E. Del-Zio</td>
<td>Boca Raton, Florida</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Roy E. Dusick</td>
<td>West Allis, Wisconsin</td>
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<td>1945</td>
<td>Herbert E. Cone</td>
<td>Sheboygan, Wisconsin</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gerard G. De Rosa</td>
<td>Malba, New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>James R. Sharpe</td>
<td>Penn Valley, California</td>
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<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>Owen J. Morrissey</td>
<td>Lake Charles, Louisiana</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Russell J. Salentine</td>
<td>APO, AE</td>
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<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Leo J. Groth</td>
<td>Madison, Wisconsin</td>
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<td>Neil E. Park</td>
<td>Hartford, Wisconsin</td>
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<td>John W. Plummer</td>
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<td>1954</td>
<td>Thomas G. Barrett</td>
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<td>William G. Kasten</td>
<td>River Falls, Wisconsin</td>
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<td>1956</td>
<td>William J. Clark</td>
<td>Albuquerque, New Mexico</td>
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<td>1958</td>
<td>Donald E. Taggart</td>
<td>Osprey, Florida</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Charles J. Wilson</td>
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<td>1962</td>
<td>William C. Derrickson</td>
<td>Newton Lower Falls, Massachusetts</td>
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<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>James J. Neff</td>
<td>Winsted, Minnesota</td>
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<td>1976</td>
<td>Thomas D. Holleback</td>
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<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>James A. Lutter</td>
<td>Ashland, Oregon</td>
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<td>1992</td>
<td>Andrew R. Apte</td>
<td>Cudahy, Wisconsin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Jerry Morana</td>
<td>Highland, California</td>
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### FEBRUARY
- **February 21**
  - Alumni Reception: — Chicago Midwinter meeting
    Hyatt Regency Chicago, 5-7 p.m.

- **February 25**
  - CE: The Dysfunctional Jaw: Part 1
    Kenneth Waliszewski

### MARCH
- **March 19**
  - CE Your Way: Review of Common Medical Conditions for Dentists
    Joseph Best

- **March 25**
  - CE: The Dysfunctional Jaw: Part 2
    Kenneth Waliszewski

- **March 28 & 29**
  - CE: Comprehensive Treatment of the Dentally Exhausted Patient
    Carl Drago, Geoffrey Thompson and Kenneth Waliszewski

### APRIL
- **April 3**
  - CE: Let’s Get Social
    Claudia Anderson
    Richard Mason

- **April 9**
  - CE: Teeth in a Day and More than a Day
    Abdulaziz Algahtani, Renos Argyrou, Leslie Garza,
    Lisa Hoang and Laura Lux

- **April 11**
  - CE: OSHA and Infection Control
    Katherine Schrubbe

- **April 25**
  - Dental Alumni Awards Dinner honoring
    Andrew Christopher, D ’47, and
    Thomas Raimann, D ’80

- **April 29**
  - CE: The Dysfunctional Jaw: Part 3
    Kenneth Waliszewski

### MAY
- **May 6 or 8**
  - CE: Radiology for Dental Auxiliaries
    Rod Daering, Sherry Ortiz and Vicki Romans

### JUNE
- **June 3**
  - CE: The Dysfunctional Jaw: Part 4
    Kenneth Waliszewski

### AUGUST
- **August 8**
  - Alumni Association CE and Brewers Tailgate Event

### SEPTEMBER
- **September 19**
  - Tenth Annual Dean’s Circle Reception

- **September 20**
  - School of Dentistry Class Reunion

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Watch the website or call 414-288-3093 for more information on these and other CE and Alumni Events.
Students and staff gather in front of the new clinic to express their gratitude to all of the donors who helped to make the expansion of the Dental School a reality.