Observing the Academy’s Section Chair Caucus in San Francisco, it became obvious that each Section might take a different approach in addressing service projects and initiatives. President-elect Charles Eller, Trustees Karyn Stockwell and Daniel Castagna created a forum of twenty-four Academy leaders, including nine international Section Chairs, who participated in a give-and-take exchange of ideas. It was so successful, I strongly urge all Section Chairs to attend the San Antonio Caucus scheduled during the PFA/ADA Annual Meeting next year. A $300 reimbursement will be available to all Section Chairs who attend.

The Academy’s President is given the opportunity to visit PFA Sections to observe our Fellows in action. On October 14, 2007, I attended the Colorado Section’s Induction of twenty-four new Fellows and the recognition of Dr. Bonnie Ferrell for her service as Past Section Chair for Colorado. Those in attendance also received updates from Dr. Ed Leone, ADA Treasurer, and Dr. Jeff Hurst, Colorado Dental Association President-elect. Under Section Chair Terry Berwick, the Colorado Section is very active in their “Give Kids A Smile” Program as well as the “Mentor A Student—Careers in Dentistry Program.”

Building on past President Bill Winspear’s global efforts and thanks to the leadership of Region VII’s Trustee Ernesto Acuna, recruitment of qualified new Fellows in Latin America has flourished. During a November 1 ceremony in Mexico City, ten new Fellows were inducted and the Foundation Student Scholarship was awarded. Following this ceremony, Professor Carlos Flores Marini presented a cultural program “The Maya Pyramid of Chichen, New Wonder of the World.” Members of the Executive Council of the International College of Dentists also attended as guests of our Academy.

Last December in Quito, new Ecuador Section Chair Antonieta Swanson inducted seventeen dentists who exemplified high ethics and professionalism. The Ambassador of Ecuador to Mexico City served as Master of Ceremonies. A dinner reception followed, accompanied by a stunning performance by the Ecuador National Folkloric dancers.

Dr. Gilberto Henostroza, the Section Chair of Peru, inducted twenty-three outstanding candidates into Fellowship. These new Fellows also are notable members of our profession and many of them serve as faculty of the dental schools. The ceremony in Lima was opened with a stirring rendition of the National Anthem of Peru. It was most impressive.

As a result of the fine efforts of Trustee Ernesto Acuna, Ecuadorian Section Chair Antonieta Swanson, and Peruvian Section Chair Gilberto Henostroza, a once languishing PFA in Latin America is now alive and well. Our Section Chairs throughout the world are working hard to identify candidates deserving the recognition of PFA Fellows. I urge all Section Chairs to emulate the accomplishments we have seen recently in Latin America.

*James A. Englander*  
President
International Trustee for Canada Barry Dolman has invited all Fellows of PFA to attend their 2008 Canadian Awards and Installation Gala Dinner in Toronto, Ontario, at the Royal York Fairmont Hotel in the Upper Canada Room on Thursday, 10 April 2008 at 7:30 PM. You are invited to be present to honour Drs. Bernard Dolansky and James Brookfield when they are presented the 2008 Canadian Distinguished Service Award, and to honour Joel Neal with Honourary Fellowship in the Academy. The Installation of new Academy Fellows will also be held along with honouring the Student Clinician Participant Scholarship recipients. GSK-Sensodyne Brand has agreed to co-sponsor the event. To insure your place at this annual event, confirm your attendance to Dr. Aldo Bocca by 1 March 2008 by returning a check for $125 (U.S.) per person payable to DCF-PFA c/o Dentistry Canada Fund, SciCan House, 427 Gilmour Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K2P OR5.

The event will be held during the joint Canadian Dental Association Meeting and the Ontario Dental Association annual Scientific Meeting. So early reservations for the hotel is a must.

The last time PFA Canada held this event it was well attended by many Fellows, some coming from Europe to attend. Do not miss this gala happening and enjoy Springtime in Ontario where the earth warms for summer.

Fluoride Spotlight

*Scientific American*, January 2008 issue featured an article *Second Thoughts about Fluoride* (pp. 74–81) discussing community water fluoridation focusing on the environmental perspective. Author Dan Fagin is Director of the Science, Health, and Environmental Reporting Program at NYU’s Department of Journalism. He is also former President of the Society of Environmental Journalists.

The article described some research that indicates that a cavity-fighting treatment could be risky if overused. Recent studies “can raise the risks of disorders affecting teeth, bones, the brain and the thyroid gland.” “A 2006 report by a committee of the National Research Council recommended that the federal government lower its current limit for fluoride in drinking water because of health risks to both children and adults.”

While fluoridating community water supplies is presently in 46 of U.S. ’s fifty largest cities, affecting 60% of the population, and has spread to Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, and a few other countries, the practice is controversial elsewhere. The NRC (National Research Council) has recommended that the EPA lower their current fluoride limit from 4 mg per liter because it may cause teeth to discolor and disfigure, a situation called fluorosis in children.

In adults (the article claims) the same levels increase the risk of bone fracture and possibly moderate skeletal fluorosis—a painful stiffening of the joints. The concern is not just the EPA recommended dosage, but what additional fluoride sources are ingested from other foods, beverages, and dental products.

The NRC panel also noted fluoride might set off more serious problems such as bone cancer and brain and thyroid gland damage. The article states that these effects are still unproven and need more study.

Dr. Steven Levy at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry, Director of the Iowa Fluoride Study, has been closely monitoring fluoride use in some 700 Iowa children for signs of subtle effects over some 16 years. He feels that children are probably getting more fluoride than they need, but still supports the use of fluoride particularly in poor oral hygiene areas.

The Indiana University School of Dentistry faculty pioneered the stannous fluoride in Crest in 1955, and Colgate followed in 1967 with their mono-phosphated fluoride. Many community water supplies use a cheaper silicofluoride. The article casts dispersions on the use of hexafluorosilicic acid. And intones that the reason for the steep decline in dental decay with fluoride use may or may not be due to fluoride use. The author claims that “the consensus among dental researchers is that the decline was steep and that fluoride deserved much of the credit.” NO fluoride research studies for over 100 years are mentioned as to explaining the steep decline of decay beyond merely a “consensus.”

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention lists fluoridation as one of the ten greatest public health achievements. The ADA endorses the use of fluoride in drinking water, and this is supported by the U.S. Health Department.

The article is poorly crafted in that it offers no definitive scientific research on the “possible” negative effects. Yes, it is true that the excess fluoride is stored in calcium-bearing tissues such as bone and teeth, “raising fears that the chemical may produce malignant tumors.” “Fluoride appears to alter the crystalline structure of bone, possibly increasing the risk of fractures.” This is a significant scientific statement based on documented research studies?

One quoted study is a 1990 U.S. government National Toxicology Program found “a positive dose–response relation for osteosarcoma incidence in male rats.” “But other animal studies as well as most epidemiological studies in human populations have been ambiguous at best.”

Dr. Levy does note that most of the children are ingesting greater amounts of fluoride than recommended, but the most serious effect has been a mild fluorosis. This is not due to the fluoridation of the water supplies, but the excess intake of fluoride from other sources. However the NRC panel report (not unanimously endorsed by the entire panel) has given the anti-fluoride side reason to fight reducing dental decay in children.

This article is misleading. In the face of hundreds of reports and studies lauding the use of fluoride in drinking water to reduce dental disease, the NRC report, which merely says we should further study the side effects of all fluoride use, opens the
door for the foes of fluoride. This article purports the same conclusion while giving too much credence to the anti-fluoride position. On one hand there is solid research supporting fluoride and the author gives a similar but unreasonable balance to the studies where a possible conclusion against fluoridation may be possible. *Scientific American* embarrasses itself in publishing this article. It offered nothing scientifically concrete in doing so.

**ADA “Smile Healthy” Program**

The launch of the “Smile Healthy” certification program is aimed at helping consumers identify which foods and beverages are good for oral health. The Smile Healthy logo will first appear on one-gallon containers of fluoridated bottled water, but the ADA anticipates future product categories such as sugar-free foods, beverages, and dairy products. ADA President Mark Feldman noted that “Some people may live in areas where their drinking water is not fluoridated.” Water Source One, a large national bottles water manufacturer with fifteen facilities in the United States, is the first company to be granted a “Smile Healthy” license. Under the “Kid Pure” brand, the logo will appear this spring in Florida, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio.

The certification program criteria must have a specific identifiable oral health benefit, 2) the logo will not be exclusive as all companies may earn it, and 3) the ADA receives no revenue, but 1% of net sales will be received by the ADA Foundation.

The ADA has long supported the addition of fluoride in optimal amounts to water to help prevent tooth decay. Water Source One with its fluoridated bottled water was an ideal company to recommend to consumers.

**Prehistoric Dentistry**

Archaeologists working in Pakistan determined that individuals 9,000 years ago (predating the Egyptian dentists of 4,000 years ago) were drilling nearly perfect tiny holes. The work described in the journal *Nature* were complicated even to drilling on the distal aspect of molars. The “burs” were flint bits driven by a small bow. Simulated experiments by the archaeologists demonstrated that this could be done easily in under a minute. This technique was everyday dentistry for the time in the Baluchistan region and probably evolved from ornamental bead drilling practiced in the area. But the location of several hole-preparations were not decorative and must have had some dental purpose.

The holes were as deep as 3.5 mm. Skulls with “drilled” teeth were dated up to 5500 B.C. and were thought to be done to relieve the pain of cavities as well as ornamental. A purpose was served other than ornamental since a few of the holes were on the backs of teeth where they would not have been seen.

**In Russia, the Day of Dentistry Has Dawned**

One Russian dentist described the recent dental hygiene of the younger generation as a craze that has become a fad. Yekaterina Tkalenko brushes her teeth three to four times a day, has her teeth cleaned professionally twice a year, and carries floss with her. “When I look at a person the first thing I notice is their teeth” said the Moscow resident who works in the tourism industry, “When I see good teeth, I think this person has more chances in life, and he’ll be more successful than a person who has bad teeth.”

But just a short generation ago, going to a dentist for oral care was when a tooth hurt. Families shared toothbrushes, dental floss was a curiosity, and oral hygiene was a fad. Soviet-era teeth were bad in 1991 when the average 35-year-old had 12–14 cavities, fillings, or missing teeth, noted Dr. Vladimir Sadovsky, Vice President of the Russian Dental Association. Toothpaste was whatever was available at the time. Toothbrushes had hard bristles that cut the gums. The 1990 crowned Miss USSR Tkalenko was sent to Philadelphia right after winning the title to have her cavities filled and the front diastema closed.

But in recent years the dental market has taken off. Private dental clinics in large cities like Moscow have new equipment surpassing the quality of the under-funded municipal clinics. These new clinics are springing up everywhere. Pharmacy shelves are filled with the latest brands of Colgate, Aquafresh, and Crest, as well as yogurt-based paste in various flavors like Jazz of Lemon Mint. Anti-plaque rinses, mouth fresheners, flossing devices, whitening gels that run as much as $14 a tube for Rembrandt, are the rage. Oral hygiene product there have doubled since 2000. More of the population is willing to purchase high-end dental products such as electric tooth brushes.

The reason for all this has been attributed to an educational campaign in the school system. Often we read of dental personnel going into remote areas and teaching oral hygiene and how to brush one’s teeth. We think that this is redundant as everyone since Howdy Doody in the 50’s should know how to brush their teeth. But that is not fact. If no one has ever demonstrated how to brush, how to use a toothbrush, and stress the reasons for doing so, then a generation of children are lost to dental decay.

Fluoride in the water is still viewed with some skepticism. After all the John Birch Society as late as the 60’s claimed fluoride in the drinking water was a Communist plot against America to weaken the population. Some Russian dentists claim that fluoride makes their teeth turn brown. But the government funds the fluoridation of milk.

In Voronezh, Moscow, and other municipalities in 1994 a 12-year-old had an average of four cavities. Since the fluoride campaign there, Dr. Sadovsky has noted that in 2004 the number of cavities has dropped to 1.5.
In the United States in comparison, has nearly 60% of those aged 6 to 19 who have never had a cavity.

Dr. Giovanni Favero, an American dentist from California founded the American-Russian Dental Centre in central Moscow, in 1995 recalls seeing a Russian exchange student in his California practice that had 21 cavities. Editor Brophy treated a pair of Russian students in their late teens who had similar situations. He pulled a tooth on emergency and was paid with a bottle of Russian vodka. The rest of the fillings on the two were done gratis before they had to return home.

Many Russian clinics are not owned by dentists but by entrepreneurs looking to make a profit from the recent craze. And top shelf dentistry is still only in the reach of the money crowd. But the concept of healthier mouths is becoming a widespread desire of the younger population. Thus Russian dentistry is being dragged into the 21st century.

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**Limited Edition of Pierre Fauchard Statue**

The Oklahoma Dental Association is offering a limited edition (75) of the same statue of the “Father of Dentistry” that adorns their State Headquarters in Oklahoma City. The 16-inch miniature is also created by past ODA President Gary Gardner, a PFA Fellow, the original sculptor of the life size statue unveiled last April by the ADA President, the ODA President, and our PFA President William Winspear. The statues (large and small) were made to commemorate ODA’s Centennial Celebration. This one-time offer will cost $1400 each. PFA President James Englander and ADA past President Kathleen Roth have statues already.

Pierre Fauchard (1678–1761), the namesake of our honorary dental professional service organization, was a French dentist that practiced dentistry in Paris about 1715. He was influential in raising dentistry from a trade to a profession. He advocated the sharing of dental knowledge and wrote the book *The Surgeon Dentist* (1728), which was widely used for decades in many parts of the world as a dental reference text.

Send your name and address/phone number/fax/e-mail to the Oklahoma Dental Association, 317 NE 13th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73104-9901.

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**Southern California**

Amigos de los Californios is a beneficiary of the Foundation’s support. Californios are a unique population of families that live on scattered goat ranches in the rugged mountains of Sierra de San Francisco near the middle of the Baja California peninsula. They are descended from the soldier settlers who came to Baja California with the Jesuit priests in the 1600’s. They have very limited access to dental and medical care, until recently. A trip to the nearest town with a doctor requires a day’s mule’s ride out of the mountains and then a half day bus ride. A further barrier to any care is economic. Life in the mountains is a subsistence economy based on raising goats and making cheese from milk. Families rarely have enough cash to pay for transportation, let alone dental care.

In 1996 two San Diego dentists with a support group of six people and some very primitive dental equipment drove the 750 miles to Santa Marta to introduce dental care to the Californios. They were warmly received and appreciated. This group made a commitment to return each spring Their first priority was to serve the children and then to treat as many adults as possible. The program involved dental health education, tooth brushing instructions, application of fluoride and sealants, extractions, restorations, and a recent prosthetic service—acrylic removable partial dentures.

With generous grants from the PFA Foundation, in 1999, and again in 2001, they were able to purchase Aseptico folding patient-dentist-assistant chairs, supplies, and a lab motor for the dental technicians. Hayes Handpiece Repair built four custom dental units in one-foot cube boxes equipped with fiberoptic handpieces. Contributions from individuals and local Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs allowed them to add surgical headlamps, suction, compressors, and generators. In addition they assembled a portable kitchen capable of turning out 100 meals a day. The portable equipment is so complete that their clinic can go anywhere in the world and be self-sufficient. The only item the local community needs to supply is clean water.

In their most recent clinic trip in March 2007, the staff numbered twenty-four and included a physician, an optometrist, two nurses, two lab techs, an oral surgeon, and a pediatric dentist with two general assistants, an instrument processor, a receptionist, and a kitchen crew.

The five-day clinics in each of the villages treated about 160 patients. The government recently sent in a team of public health officials to Santa Marta to assess the community’s health needs. They were amazed at the outstanding dental health they found there.

The most recent initiative of the Amigos is collaboration with the dental students of the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California in Tijuana.

On a recent trip, using their portable equipment, some twelve dental students working under their pediatric professor Dr. Torres, rated 150 seven and eight-year-old children in San Quentin.
Amigos de los Californios is an all-volunteer organization with a mission to bring dental, medical, and health care to the underserved population of the Sierra de San Francisco of Baja, California.

Mississippi
Senior dental student Jason M. Jennings of the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry wrote a personal letter to express his thanks for the Foundation Scholarship Award.

From the Desk of the Foundation President Dr. M. David Campbell

M. David Campbell

The Bible tells us in Luke 12 that “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded, and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”

Most of us in the profession of dentistry have been truly blessed. Most of us have enjoyed a comfortable life style. Most of us live in a comfortable home, have been able to educate our children, and have enough to eat.

Perhaps now is the time to help your profession help others. Please consider a donation to the Foundation of the Pierre Fauchard Academy. Donate now, or later in your will. Donations of all sizes are welcome. Think of how many crowns you seat in a year. Would you consider donating your fee for ONE crown annually for five years? Would donating one crown a year really make a difference in your life style? That amount given to the Foundation could change the life of a child forever! I understand we are all asked to donate to many worthy projects, but we really do need your help and are careful to use donations wisely. If at this point in time, you are not in a position to donate, we understand and hope you will remember the Foundation and its good works in the future.

2008 Calendar

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<td>6–8 March</td>
<td>Pacific Dental Conference, Vancouver</td>
<td>British Columbia</td>
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<td>3–5 April</td>
<td>Western Regional Dental Convention</td>
<td>Phoenix, Arizona</td>
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<td>10 April</td>
<td>PFA Awards Dinner</td>
<td>Royal York Fairmont Hotel, Toronto, Canada</td>
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<td>10–12 April</td>
<td>CDA/ODA Meeting</td>
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<td>10–12 April</td>
<td>New Orleans Dental Conference/Louisiana Dental Association Annual Session</td>
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<td>10–12 April</td>
<td>Star of the North Meeting</td>
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<td>16–17 April</td>
<td>ISDS Spring Conference</td>
<td>Springfield, Illinois</td>
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<td>16–19 April</td>
<td>AADA Conference</td>
<td>Westin Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri</td>
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<td>2–3 May</td>
<td>Champion Conference on Evidence-based Dentistry</td>
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<td>4 May</td>
<td>International Conference on Evidence-based Dentistry</td>
<td>ADA Headquarters Chicago</td>
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<td>10 May</td>
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<td>15–17 May</td>
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<td>16–20 July</td>
<td>AGD 56th annual Meeting</td>
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<td>16–19 October</td>
<td>ADA Annual Session</td>
<td>San Antonio, Texas</td>
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SECTION NEWS

ECUADOR

President James Englander and Trustee for Latin America Ernesto Acuna E attended the Section Meeting in Quito last December where Chair Antonieta Swanson inducted some seventeen new Fellows into the Academy.

They were entertained by the Ecuador National Folkloric dancers.

MEXICO

International Trustee for Latin America Ernesto Acuna E reports that the Mexican Section held their annual Induction Ceremony last November to induct ten new Fellows into membership and to install one honorary Fellow. The ceremony was at the Centro Asturiano in Mexico City followed by a cultural presentation by Carlos Flores Marini on “The Maya Pyramid of Chichen Itza” which has been called a “new Wonder of the World” by a recent search for modern world wonders.

President James Englander and his wife Carole attended as well as the Dean of the National University of Mexico (UNAM) School of Dentistry Javier de la Fuente. Dean de la Fuente presented the recipient for the Foundation Scholarship Award Elizabeth Linares Francisco. The Section also hosted members of the ICD Executive Council who were

ITALY

Chair Andrea Pantarotto reports that they held an Organizational Meeting last November in Bologna with some twenty Fellows to discuss their PFA goals and programs and to whom to recommend for the dental scholarship. A celebrated Northeastern Italian Chef cooked for this rebirthing of the Italian PFA Section. The warm glow of the evening generated more nominees for Fellowship.
also holding their Council Meeting in Mexico City last November.

NETHERLANDS

Chair Annette Dony-Nabbe reports holding their Section Meeting in Noordwijk at Sea, a beautiful beach resort with a Space Expo exhibit. She will be stepping down and handing the gavel over to Dr. Joost van de Pol. Drs. Mies Buisman and Henk Donker will remain as officers. Peter Crielaers was honored for all his contributions to PFA with a Certificate of Merit.

Guest speakers were Dr. Tong Xi, who two years ago was a Foundation Scholarship recipient and now is a PFA Fellow, and Paul Ritico, Director of a modern dental laboratory in Shenzhen, China.

Dr. Xi did a presentation about Chinese dentistry that he observed during his dental internship at Wuhan University in China. Paul Ritico discussed his adventures in China and about the high quality of dental technical work he produces there.

PHILIPPINES

Newly installed Chairman Hermogenes Villareal hosted a successful Midyear Meeting and Christmas Fellowship at the G. Hotel last December while they released their news magazine, the Quill. Mr. Francis Kong spoke on “Living a Great Life.”

Their Community Outreach Program is scheduled for 260 day care students in Barangay Masikap in Pateros, Metro Manila.

Section Chair Villareal addressed the Philippine Dental Society/AFP 45th Founding Anniversary and the 3rd Quarterly Scientific Seminar with PCDS President Ramon Hebron (and PFA Fellow), AFP Dental President Jesselito Mabazza in attendance sponsored by Unilab to listen to his address on PFA. Dr. Villareal, a past PCDS President (1982–83), signed an accord of mutual agreement to foster mutual understanding, professional growth, and development for improvement for better oral health.
Dr. Villareal will be the 2011 General Chairman for the Asian Pacific Dental Congress in Manila.

The new officers for the Philippine Section are Chairman Hermogenes P. Villareal; Vice Chair Paul D. Achacoso; Secretary Ma. Cristina Aureea G. Garcia; Assistant Secretary Vivian Gabaldon; Treasurer Norma A. Tui; Auditor Olegario G. Clemente, Jr., PRO Manuel Centeno, and Directors Antonio Baldemor and Robert M. Tajonera.

Their immediate past Chairman is Dean Diampo Lim. Advisors are Rufino M. Achacoso, Primo E. Gonzales, and Sofrnio P. San Juan.

Primo Gonzales was selected as the Outstanding Professional in Dentistry for 2007.

**UNITED STATES**

**Illinois**

The Section held their annual Meeting with ICD and ACD during the 143rd Chicago MidWinter Meeting at McCormick Place. Our Secretary General Richard Kozal, a past Chicago Dental Society President, and Editor Jim Brophy attended the event.