From the Desk of the President

I was mindlessly watching a show on television that I can’t even remember, but do remember watching a commercial for the Android operating system for cell phones. I think the end result was basically “different but the same,” hinting at the fact, I guess, that all i-Phones are i-Phones and that there is a myriad of Android phones from different manufacturers using the Android system. I have absolutely no interest in starting a conversation as to which operating system is better or which phone works better for you and your needs. From my perspective, whatever fits your needs and budget is the best choice for you.

It did catch my attention though in how it relates to PFA. It seems that the bottom line to our relationships with Sections and the overall organization may be summed up in a similar fashion. We are all different, but the same. I was struck by this just recently by attending two vastly different induction ceremonies on two consecutive weekends. PFA, as opposed to the other honor organizations, allows Sections to determine the best method and setting for inductions into Fellowship. We don’t have a cap and gown convocation in one setting, once each year. PFA Fellows from around the world are inducted monthly. This allows cultural differences, along with budgetary concerns, to hold sway over the decisions on how individual ceremonies occur. Many use a cap and gown. Perfect! Many use a formal black tie affair. Perfect! Both settings fulfill a need.

The differences became crystal clear with my two recent inductions. The first occurred on Lake of the Woods on the US and Canada border in my home state of Minnesota. The induction ceremony was held in conjunction with a district dental society continuing education program. This is an extremely casual event with continuing education, wine tastings, fund raising, and ice fishing. We weren’t trying to catch ice – we were, however, five or six miles out on the lake on two feet of ice, fishing through holes drilled through the ice. The weather was actually pleasant for a change with a high of about 20° Fahrenheit. Many years we’ve been out there at -20° Fahrenheit. Four hearty souls were inducted into Fellowship out on the ice, just outside their heated shack, which was really just an insulated plywood box with holes in the floor to fish through. They were chauffeured to the induction ceremonies in special vehicles designed to travel over the ice. There were no black ties in evidence, but there was fun.

The second occurred at Lake Oconee in Georgia, US at a splendid resort. Past President Stockwell has built the Georgia Section into one of the premier sections in PFA. This conference, held in conjunction with the Florida Section, was a truly elegant affair. Michael Pruett, a PFA Fellow, presented a great program for continuing education and the meeting finished with a beautiful dinner and induction ceremony. It was good to see that my tuxedo still fits, and black ties were in abundance.

So what are we to learn from this? Well, I guess just how I started. We’re all different, but the same. Maybe consider how you do things. Are they working? Great, don’t change! If not, why not, and can you find a new way to do things? Does our push to induct younger members affect the way we do things? I don’t know yet, but it’s a place to keep our eyes focused. I’ll be attending more induction ceremonies over the next few months. I’m not able to attend every one I’m invited to, but sincerely appreciate your invitations. PFA Fellows’ hospitality is second to none and I appreciate all of your efforts on the Academy’s behalf.

Sincerely,

—Dr. Mike Schafhauser
President of the Pierre Fauchard Academy
Greetings to all Pierre Fauchard Fellows!

I hope you all had a happy and healthy holiday season! I thought this would be a good time to update you on what we accomplished at our 2015 annual meeting this past November in Washington, D.C. and what is currently happening. It was a very productive meeting and we were able to make several forward-thinking decisions.

We established a Treasurer position. The Treasurer will be a voting member of the Board of Trustees and will serve a three-year term. Having a Treasurer on the Board of Trustees will give us a clear and up-to-date financial picture of our Academy. It also brings us in line with other organizations that serve our profession. Dr. Dan Castagna was elected to this position. He will be working closely with Dan Jonker, CPA who is our Academy’s accountant, and the Budget and Finance Committee.

In order to make our recruitment of new Fellows follow our mission statement of recognizing and honoring future dental leaders, we deleted the rule of five years out of Dental School before being eligible for nomination as a new Fellow. We can now propose membership for a candidate who is a graduate of an accredited Dental School, with no time constraints. I personally have nominated two very recent graduates here in Washington State for PFA Fellowship and am proud to say they will be inducted into the Academy this coming June at our annual meeting.

The Academy has partnered with Serve Our Vets, a Washington State organization dedicated to providing dental care to prescreened military veterans who have served in a combat zone. This program differs from one day “stand down” type programs in that it aims to provide continuing care on an ongoing basis to qualified veterans who will then become paying patients in the participating dentist’s practice. By partnering with Serve Our Vets, we have the capacity nation-wide to provide care for this very deserving population.

Since our Washington D.C. meeting, I have also been highly involved in updating our International membership structure. This includes updating our International data base through our International Section Chairs and getting our paperwork, membership roster and contact information up to date, along with getting dues statements and other correspondence out in a timely manner. We have made significant progress in this arena.

In regards to the Oral Health Foundation of the Pierre Fauchard Academy, I want to remind you all that Grants to support worthy projects and activities are available through our Foundation. Applications must be received by the Foundation between March 1st and June 1st. I encourage you all to apply for these grants to support worthy programs in your communities.

In closing, I would urge you all to attend our next annual meeting, which will be held in Denver concurrent with the 2016 ADA meeting. The dates are October 20th-22nd. I hope to see you all there! Also, please look for qualified Fellowship candidates and get them nominated for Fellowship! Remember, there is no time constraint for nomination anymore!

Yours in Fellowship,

Barry A. Feder
President-elect of the Pierre Fauchard Academy
As I consider this report, I reflect on the passage of almost four months since the meeting in Washington. My home town of Adelaide in South Australia has seen a summer record set for the number of consecutive days over 40° Celsius, while the East coast of the USA suffered a record arctic blast which shut down many States for some days. We in the Southern hemisphere are heading for Autumn (Fall) as the Northern hemisphere anticipates Spring. I am looking forward to enjoying some of your Spring in Williamsburg while attending the Academy executive meeting as well as the budget and finance meeting. I am especially looking forward to the combined meeting of the ACD, ICD and PFA as they hopefully will encourage discussion of cooperation between the Academies into the future. This was a strategy from the future planning meeting in San Antonio that was arranged by Past President Karyn Stockwell at the beginning of her Presidency.

The budget and finances of the Academy have taken up a considerable amount of time during our monthly teleconferences. Our President, Mike, has placed a great emphasis on getting the numbers right to be able to better manage the Academy’s programs. The support given to him by our long serving Accountant, Dan Jonker, and our new Treasurer, Dan Castagna, as well as the inquiries from the rest of the committee, is ensuring this is an active process. A whole session is allocated to budget and finance at the Williamsburg meeting and that will be productive.

The greatest difficulty with creating a budget is the starting point, and depends on our database. How many Fellows are there in each Section and Region? Have they paid their dues? Are we able to communicate with them? This information is vital to us as we attempt to begin the budget process; without this data, we are guessing at what we can do for the Academy in the next year, what projects we support and how we can manage the growth in the Academy which we all want to see.

We live in a mobile society and it seems to be becoming more mobile as the “baby boomers” retire, downsize or become “grey nomads.” This results in address changes and a loss of Fellows from our database and that makes our job a little more difficult. I ask you to let us know if you are changing address so that we can keep in touch with you and better serve the Academy and our Fellows. Please also let us know about any email address changes you have, as more communication is electronic and this is an area in which change may be overlooked.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Williamsburg. I hope this inaugural meeting is a great success to encourage more joint meetings between the Academies.

Sincerely,

—Rick Sawers
Vice President of the Pierre Fauchard Academy

In 2014 at the PFA Annual meeting in San Antonio, the Board of Trustees participated in a Strategic planning session. During this strategic planning we adopted an updated Mission Statement for the Pierre Fauchard Academy.

“Our mission as Fellows in the Pierre Fauchard Academy is to recognize and grow leaders in the dental profession, their communities and society.”

I have met many PFA Fellows and I am always impressed with their level of professionalism and excellence. We have so many Fellows who are leaders in many ways and who mentor others to rise to positions of leadership in the PFA and other organizations, and in other areas of their lives.

Another change was adopted by the Academy in 2015 at our Annual Meeting in Washington DC – the decision to allow newly graduated dentists be nominated for Fellowship. Previously, there was a 5-year waiting period. Since our new mission statement is to “recognize and grow leaders,” this change enables us to acknowledge and include qualified young dentists who did great things in Dental School and immediately after leaving Dental School. We want those great minds in our Academy.

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader!”

—John Quincy Adams
We have more Fellows with great leadership skills than I can name individually. A few recent examples of PFA Fellows in leadership that you may know are Dr. Carol Gomez Summerhays (current ADA President), Dr. Steven D. Chan (current ACD President), and Dr. T. Bob Davis (current ADI President-elect). We want to congratulate and acknowledge them for their great leadership and dedication to the dental profession. I encourage all PFA Fellows to nominate dentists you know that demonstrate excellence and leadership in dentistry.

Sincerely,
—LORALIE LOWDER, Executive Director of the Pierre Fauchard Academy

From the Desk of the Editor

As we continue through 2016 we leave behind a successful Annual Meeting in Washington D.C. in late 2015, and more recently a successful Chicago Induction Ceremony at the end of February. This induction ceremony included a highly instructive and thought-provoking continuing education course given by Dr. Carlos Ramirez, prior to the induction and celebration of new Fellows who originated from six different countries. There will be many more induction ceremonies this year in PFA Sections throughout the world, held in different settings yet with the same goal – to induct worthy PFA Fellows.

Developments and advances in dentistry continue in multiple disciplines, from the prevention and control of oral diseases to dental materials and techniques, and public health initiatives. The sessions and abstracts at the AADR/CADR meeting in March in Los Angeles highlight research, progress and initiatives in many areas. This will be followed in June this year with the IADR Meeting which is being held in Seoul, South Korea.

We also see continuing work aimed at improving oral health globally and at providing safe and effective patient care. This work of course includes efforts to increase access to care, regular care and improved home care; it also includes the continued adoption and adherence to infection control recommendations and protocols. Last but certainly not least, we continue to see the valuable contribution of PFA Fellows worldwide in humanitarian programs and projects that help underserved people receive free or affordable dental care and advice. PFA Fellows involved voluntarily give of their time and expertise. These programs are recognized as valuable contributions, one project and one patient at a time, in improving oral health.

Sincerely,
—FIONA M. COLLINS, Dental World Editor

Upcoming Events

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<td>94th General Session &amp; Exhibition of the IADR</td>
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<td>July 14 – 17, 2016</td>
<td>Academy of General Dentistry Meeting</td>
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<td>July 22 – 26, 2016</td>
<td>National Dental Association Meeting</td>
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The third Chicago Induction Ceremony was held on the evening of Thursday, February 25, 2016 in conjunction with the Chicago Midwinter Meeting. The Induction Ceremony was again in the Preston Bradley Hall of the Chicago Cultural Center under its spectacular 30,000-piece Tiffany glass dome and mosaics. This year, the evening began with a 1-hour continuing education course. Dr. John Molinari, whose former students include many of the Fellows and inductees who were present, introduced our presenter. Dr. Carlos Ramirez, MD, DDS, a renowned expert in oropharyngeal cancer and microvascular reconstructive surgery, gave an excellent and very interesting presentation on oral cancer and HPV which included several cases and examples of advanced surgical options in the care of oral cancer patients.

The continuing education course was followed by hors d’oeuvres and cocktails, after which the induction ceremony began. The ceremony was presided over by Dr. William Demray, Section Chair for Illinois. We were also honored that Dr. Mert Aksu, Dean of the University of Detroit/Mercy School of Dentistry (UDM), was present to address attendees during the meeting.

Fourteen new Fellows were inducted into PFA Fellowship during the induction ceremony. The new Fellows originated from several states in the US, as well as the countries of Canada, India, Iraq, The Philippines and Turkey. This was truly an international event. Many of our new inductees are educators, serve public health in their communities, assist their dental schools by sitting on their Alumni Boards, are active in organizations that promote and elevate the standards of our profession, and volunteer in the Illinois Mission of Mercy, Big Brothers and Sisters, Boy Scouts, High School Mentoring programs, an Infant Mortality Advisory Council and on Mission trips. The new Fellows include: Dr. Salwa Atwan (born in Baghdad, Iraq; in private practice in Plymouth, MI and Associate Professor and Chair of the Pediatric Department at UDM); Dr. Monish Bhola (born in India, in private practice since 2001 and a speaker); Dr. Nathalie Dubé (born in Quebec, Canada and in private practice in Michigan); Dr. R. Graham Greenland (born in Grand Rapids, MI, a prosthodontist in Minnesota, author and speaker); Dr. Dincer Gurun (born in Ankara, Turkey; Chair of the Department of Restorative Dentistry at UDM and a hands-on presenter); Dr. Brent Jenkins (born in Detroit, MI and a general dentist for all enlisted Navy recruits on the Great Lakes Naval Base in Gurnee, IL); Dr. Reji Mathew (born in India, a faculty member of Midwestern University School of Dental Medicine and Chair of ADEA Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology); Dr. Melanie Mayberry (born in Detroit, MI; Co-chair of the Strategic Planning Committee at UDM and a Member of the State of Michigan Infant Mortality Advisory Council); Dr. Darcy Murphy (born in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada and in private practice in Vancouver, British Columbia as well as a volunteer doing dental identification for the British Columbia Coroner’s Service and providing dental treatment to indigenous people in Guatemala and Nicaragua); Dr. Elmer Newness (born in Cleveland, Ohio; in private practice in Ohio, Clinical Assistant Professor at UDM and Interim Assistant Dean for Academic Administration at UDM); Dr. Timothy Saunders (born in San Diego, CA; served as Consultant to the Office of the Surgeon General-United States Air Force, a specialist in prosthetics and maxillofacial prosthetics, and currently responsible for oversight of all clinical operations at UDM); Dr. Salvatore Storniolo (born in Oak Park, IL; an Advisory Board Member for DuPage County Health Department and Adjunct Faculty Member at Midwestern Dental School); and, Dr. Larry Williams (born in Knoxville, TN; a Member of the Skokie Board of Health, Immediate Past President of the Illinois AGD and currently in the MPH residency program at Northern Illinois University).

Dr. William (Bill) Demray presiding over the induction ceremony.
Dr. Theresa Lao was named the Distinguished Dentist from Illinois - an honor bestowed last year on Dr. Kevin King. Dr. Lao was born in The Philippines and earned her DDS from the University of Illinois in Chicago. She is an active Board Member of the Chicago and Illinois AGD, an instructor at Midwestern University, and a participant in the Illinois Mission of Mercy (MOM).

As in 2015, fourth-year students from Midwestern University and the University of Detroit/Mercy were invited to attend the induction ceremony and to address Fellows and Inductees. Wajiha Tariq represented Midwestern University, and began by congratulating Dr. Theresa Lao on her induction into PFA and her Distinguished Dentist Award, speaking of the influence and mentoring Dr. Lao had provided her during dental school, her direct manner and her desire to help students develop into the best dentists they can be. Wajiha spoke of professionalism and collegiality between a student and faculty, and shared that Dr. Lao upholds the prestigious values of the PFA and guides her students, and has been instrumental in who she would become in practicing the art of dentistry. Ashley D’Agostini represented the University of Detroit/Mercy and spoke of the different aspects and challenges that can shape the future of the dental profession, including the information provided by the ADA’s chief economist, Dr. Marko Vucijic, during a recent visit to the school. These factors include a perceived lack of need for dental care. Ashley highlighted the need to create value in dental services and to improve knowledge in the community about the importance of dental care, including for overall health. In closing, she referred to the great leaders and mentors, and the next generation of our profession, and their role in positively shaping the future.

Dr. Ghabi Kaspo, former Section Chair for Michigan, received a Special Achievement Award which was presented to him by Dr. Pat Boyle, current Section Chair for Michigan and Dr. Cheri Newman, Trustee for Region 4. During his time as Section Chair, Dr. Kaspo did much to build PFA in Michigan and worked with Dr. Demray to build collaboration between the Michigan and Illinois Section.

During the ceremony, Dr. Cheri Newman delivered the speech recognizing Dr. William (Bill) S. Demray as the recipient of a Special Achievement Award.
from PFA – for both his dedication to the organization and for his lifelong commitment to dentistry, community service and mentoring. In addition to the award, he was sent a congratulatory letter from our Representative in Washington DC, Congressman Dave Trott, who recognized his achievements over 40 years! Dr. Demray is a Fellow in the Academy of Dentistry International (ADI), the International College of Dentists (ICD) and the Pierre Fauchard Academy (PFA). Dr. Demray is an active member of the American Dental Association, Michigan Dental Association, Detroit District Dental Association, Illinois State Dental Society, Chicago Dental Society, Washington State Dental Association, American Academy of Periodontology, International Academy of Periodontology and the FDI World Dental Federation. He sits on the Alumni Board at UMD and is the Illinois Section Chair of the Pierre Fauchard Academy. Dr. Demray has strong ties to the community of Northville, Michigan where he was named the 2011 Citizen of the Year and has raised more than $100,000 for community non-profit organizations. Among his personal achievements, he is an Aviation World Record Holder recorded with the National Aeronautics Association and the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale. Region Trustees, Section leaders and all PFA fellows are invited to attend next year’s ceremony. Section leaders are also invited to bring inductee candidates to participate in this special event. Make plans to enjoy the fellowship of dental luminaries in Chicago during the Midwinter Meeting in 2017.

Sincerely,

—William (Bill) S. Demray,
Section Chair for Illinois

The Florida and Georgia Sections of PFA held a joint 3-day annual meeting from February 5th to 7th at the Ritz-Carlton at Lake Oconee in Greensboro, Georgia. Twelve new Fellows were inducted (10 from Georgia and 2 from Florida) at the meeting, which was hosted by Dr. Evis Babo (Meeting Chair) and Dr. Lou Ann Best (Georgia Section Chair). The meeting was also attended by Dr. Mike Schafhauser (PFA President), Dr. Geri Ferris (Region 3 Trustee), Dr. Terry Brewick (Region 10 Trustee), Dr. Reza Ardalan (Florida Section Chair) and Dr. Karyn Stockwell (Immediate Past President).

The meeting started on Friday morning with the Georgia Section conducting its own ‘Give Kids A Smile’ event at the Green County and Putnam County Schools. About 80 low-income children received free exams, cleanings, restorative work and extractions at the day-long event. The work was completed in mobile dental units donated by Georgia PFA Fellow Dr. Mark Shurett. Georgia Fellow Dr. Shirley Fisher organized this charitable event. On Friday evening, everyone gathered for a time of fellowship at a food/wine pairing event as the Inductees were introduced to existing Fellows. Georgia Fellow Dr. Tom David shared his exquisite knowledge of how food and wine can complement each other. Saturday morning was left free for Fellows, Inductees and guests to enjoy

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**Section News**

**Florida/Georgia**
the resort or the charm of the local communities; Saturday afternoon was devoted to a continuing education course, “Management of the Medically Complex Dental Patient,” taught by Georgia Fellow Dr. Mike Pruett. Saturday evening culminated in the Black-tie Gala Dinner and Awards Convocation. Ten new Georgia Fellows were inducted: Drs. Sarabess Baumrind, Louisa Berman, Matt Carpenter, John Coleman, Cameron Garvin, Amish Naik, Emmanuel Ngoh, Lewis Petree, Jason Sayer and Chris Shim. Drs. Andy Brown and Isabell Garcia were inducted as new Fellows for Florida. The Georgia Section also recognized two Georgia Medical College faculty members, Drs. Kurt Metzler and Ralph Pruette for their excellent efforts in educating our future Georgia dentists. The PFA Foundation Scholarship recipient from Georgia, Michele Paterson, was recognized, and two Mark Ritz Research Scholarship recipients, La’Quinta Elim, and Chas Plaisance, were also recognized for their research efforts. After the awards ceremony, all the Fellows were able to enjoy a night of 007 Casino Royale playing of cards, dice, roulette and dancing. The Shotgun Raffle Drawing also occurred. The Raffle is the fund raising event for the Georgia Section sponsored Research Scholarships. Sunday morning brought the presentations of the research by the two scholarship recipients. After each presentation, the awardees received their check for $2,000 each. A short business meeting and time of recognition of those who helped with the weekend finished our 3-day meeting. The Georgia/Florida Fellows will be looking forward to a great time next year as we recognize others that contribute so much to the profession of dentistry as it is practiced in Georgia and Florida.

Sincerely,

—Lou Ann Best
Former Section Chair for Georgia

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The Massachusetts Section held its Annual Induction Ceremony and Breakfast Meeting on January 29, 2016. We were honored to have Dr. Carol Gomez Summerhays (President of the American Dental Association) and Dr. Kathleen O’Loughlin (Executive Director of the American Dental Association) attend the meeting. Dr. Morton Rosenberg was the recipient of the Special Award of Appreciation, presented to him by Dr. David Becker. During our ceremony, 6 new Fellows were inducted into PFA. Our new Fellows are Drs. Abdullahrahim Abdulwaheed, Tevy Dines, Mark Joseph Doherty, Philip Howells, Joy Kasparian-Federico and Robert S. Leland.

Sincerely,

—David Becker
Section Chair for Massachusetts

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L to R: Dr. Carol Gomez Summerhays (President of the ADA), Dr. David Becker and Dr. Kathleen O’Loughlin (Executive Director of the ADA).

L to R: Dr. David Becker with Dr. Morton Rosenberg (recipient of the Special Award of Appreciation).
On January 30, 2016, the Minnesota Section braved the elements on a beautiful sunny day. We held our induction ceremony at Lake of the Woods in Baudette, MN and had a wonderful day of ice fishing. The Northwestern District Dental Society of the Minnesota Dental Association hosts an ice fishing and continuing education program every two years. A number of dentists from the Twin Cities are loyal fans, we rent a bus and travel to Baudette. This was a great event for the Northwestern District and is now also an enjoyable event for the Minnesota Section of the PFA. About 50 people were in attendance including dentists, auxiliaries and their families. Our Induction Ceremony was performed by Dr. Michael Schafhauser (President of the PFA). Our new Fellows are Drs. Ramon Aguirre, Brad Donabauer and Roger Sjulson from Minnesota, and Dr. Mark Humenik from Illinois. After our Induction Ceremony we celebrated with dinner at the Sportsman’s Lodge where we were staying.

Sincerely,

—Alekandro M. Aguirre
Minnesota Section Chair

L to R (New Fellows): Dr. Abdullaibrahim Abdulwaheed, Dr. Philip Howells, Dr. Mark Joseph Doherty, Dr. Tevy Dines, Dr. Joy Kasparian-Federico and Dr. Robert S. Leland.
The Rhode Island Pierre Fauchard Academy Fellows are gearing up for the fifth Rhode Island Mission of Mercy clinic on June 4th and 5th this year. Under the direction of Fellow Dr. Jeffrey Dodge we are all looking forward to another free clinic where we hope to surpass the 774 patients served with a value of donated services of $494,905. Many of our Fellows participate, donating their time and talent to serve a group of people who might not otherwise receive care. Other exciting news is that Rhode Island Donated Dental Services has received a matching grant of $25,000 with an additional grant of $6,000 to provide free dental care to the disabled and elderly. Fellow Dr. Martin Nager is president of the Rhode Island Donated Dental Services and goes above and beyond raising money for the group. Many Fellows in our group participate in this program. Plans are underway to invite and install a new group of Fellows. We are planning our yearly meeting and installation for the beginning of May.

Respectfully submitted,
—Barbara M. Cavicchio
Rhode Island Section Chair

Save the Date

- The Oregon Section Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Oregon Dental Associations annual meeting, at 7:00 am on April 7, 2016 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, OR.
- A joint ACD-ICD-PFA Continuing Education Conference will be held at the Williamsburg Lodge in historic Williamsburg, Virginia on April 8-9, 2016. The CE course topics are ‘Ethical Dilemmas in Action: A Video Tour with Analyses’ presented by David W. Chambers, MEd, MBA, PhD and Lawrence P. Garetto, PhD, and ‘Come In and Catch It: The Review that Sticks’ presented by John A. Svirsky, DDS, Med.
- The Michigan Section will join the ACD and ICD for the third annual joint dinner event in Novi will be held in conjunction with the Michigan Dental Association’s annual meeting. Our joint dinner event will be held on Thursday April 14, 2016 from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm at Meadowbrook Country Club, 40941 8 Mile Rd, Northville, MI 48167. Our annual induction breakfast meeting will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2016 from 7 am to 9 am at the Suburban Collection Showplace and Hyatt Place Hotel Grand River, Novi, MI.
- The Rhode Island PFA Section will hold its annual induction ceremony in May, 2015.
- The Utah PFA Section will be holding its Annual Meeting/Breakfast on the morning of April 21, 2016 at the Marriott Hotel across the street from the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, UT.
Focus on a Fellow: An Interview with Dr. Kevin King

Dr. Collins: As you reflect on your career and your involvement in dentistry, what have been some of the highlights for you?

Dr. King: I have had the opportunity to volunteer both within organized dentistry and with the access to care community. In my thirty years of practice I have found that our profession is made up of some very generous individuals, most of whom give of their time and expertise on an individual basis by helping out patients in their own offices when they feel that charitable care is appropriate. I have also witnessed the charitable giving of time and talent in numerous missions and clinics in many countries and within states.

In one of the clinics that I frequently volunteered at, the dental clinic was being discontinued, not due to a lack of need or volunteers but, rather, due to budgetary restraints forced upon the combined medical and dental clinic. I helped to organize a band of former dedicated volunteers to help reopen a clinic that served the same working poor population with the same level of spirit and integrity that we had had before. It was a struggle and took us over two years from initial planning to opening our doors for this dream to become a reality. I am proud to say that we did not waiver as we ran into obstacle after obstacle.

Dr. Collins: What was the impetus that drove you and your colleagues to persevere and succeed with the reopened clinic?

Dr. King: We saw the growing need in our area, which in the space of a year saw a 120% increase in the size of the working poor community (those at 200% of poverty and below). With the limited availability and financial resources that these patients have, there is rarely anything they can afford other than seeking to their urgent care concerns. Feeling we could make a difference, we carried on. It was at this time that the Chicago Dental Society Foundation noticed our project, which was in line with their mission statement of providing resources for greater access to care. The Chicago Dental Society Foundation adopted our project, and it was through this association with organized dentistry that we were able to grow and thrive. We were then able to attract more volunteers and to network more effectively into the social service agencies in our community.

It was an honor to have been involved in the inception of our clinic and project, and I feel fortunate to have played a part in providing critical access to care for the underserved community. The Chicago Dental Society, which I am a member of, not only recognized the need but also had the courage to support this mission by stepping forward with a unique solution.

Mostly, however, I am proud of my colleagues and industry partners without whom this all would not have been possible.

Dr. Collins: As you reflect on this success, what do you hope for in the future?

Dr. King: It is my hope that this model can be used and improved on as a template by other societies and component branches, at home and elsewhere, to help effect a real change in the growing access to care issue. In the three years since we opened, we have had over four thousand volunteer hours and provided donated services valued at over 1.4 million U.S. dollars (based on using the 50th percentile in the 2013 ADA fee survey for our region).

If we can reproduce this benefit in other regions it is my hope that we can really improve the oral health of those who have no resources for this care.

Dr. Collins: As a Fellow of the Pierre Fauchard Academy, what has been and is important to you about PFA?

Dr. King: I feel that organizations such as the Pierre Fauchard Academy are important to our profession. The practice of dentistry is changing and so ultimately our organizations will change as well. It is important to maintain a strong PFA as it helps to instill the benefit of scholarship to our profession. It helps to foster camaraderie amongst like-minded professionals who are working for the betterment of our profession for the benefit of patient care.

Dr. Collins: As you look at dentistry, the dental profession and oral health from a broad perspective, what matters most to you?

Dr. King: The changing role of our profession in the community. We are seeing an influx and increasing presence of corporate dentistry in the US, as well as an increase in sponsored continuing education. At the same time, we are starting to see fewer young members becoming involved in all aspects of organized dentistry. We need to increase enrollment in organized dentistry. From my perspective, it is important that our professional organizations maintain their relevance, and continue to support and promote standards of care. As a dental professional, I feel strongly that we need to continue to advance our profession by being standard bearers involved in promoting accessible oral care, research and education, and by being active members of our organizations.

Dr. Collins: What suggestions would you give to other Fellows and dental professionals on how they can contribute?

Dr. King: Contributions can be viewed in many ways. My old friend, Dr. Ladone, used to always ask volunteers for time, talent or treasure. If you have the time to volunteer, whether in an organization or professionally, it helps our profession and our professional image grow. If you can help utilize your talent for the betterment of care – be that through research, teaching or volunteer your clinical expertise – you benefit our profession.

If you help contribute to programs that lead to the betterment of oral health through education or improved access to care you help our profession in prestige and image and most importantly help patients.
MISSION

Our mission as Fellows in the Pierre Fauchard Academy is to recognize and grow leaders in the dental profession, their communities and society.

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