As I complete one year as UNMC’s postgraduate orthodontic program director, I would like to report several changes and achievements made on several fronts by our program, faculty, and alumni.

• Through the exploration of existing research opportunities, all of our six residents are currently working on research projects with members of the COD faculty to fulfill their master’s degree requirements.

• With a goal to increase scholarly activity, we made consistent progress with research in terms of both results and grant funding. Our orthodontic faculty served as advisors to dental students and residents who performed research projects and presented results at regional, national, and international meetings.

• Proposed changes to ORT638/676 undergraduate clinic resulted in a more “hands on” experience for students interested in an orthodontic specialty.

• With the hiring of Drs. Schoettger and Rallis to serve as instructors for two summer courses (both in 2009 and 2010), the orthodontic educational experiences of dental students and residents who performed research projects and presented results at regional, national, and international meetings.

• The alumni support we’ve seen has been gratifying, both in terms of time given to the program and financial assistance. I simply don’t know how we could continue to provide a quality education without our alumni (more in Susan Norby’s article about our class of 1998 on page 2).

Concerning our leadership, with the retirement of Dr. Michael Molvar on June 30, 2010, our program will shift gears for yet another change. Dean Reinhardt has appointed Dr. Curtis Kuster, a professor in the department of growth and development (pediatric section) and assistant dean for admissions and student affairs, to serve as our interim chair as of July 1. Dr. Kuster, employed at the College of Dentistry since 1975, is a positive and well-liked member of our department and is an incredible asset to the school as he recruits high-quality applicants.

While we look forward to working with Dr. Kuster, we must say how much we will miss Dr. Molvar. He took on the job of interim chair for “probably just a year” while we conducted a search for a permanent chair.

In addition to his other duties as assistant dean at the college, a one-year-long job, stretched into three years of change and growth in our department. He facilitated improvements in every program or clinic function he touched. His common sense approach to difficulties created win-win situations for the benefit of all of us. By his own admission, Dr. Molvar is one of those people who prefers to work behind the scenes. He quietly “greased the wheels” making our program’s journey over the last three years smoother. We owe him much more than words can express and are grateful for the opportunity to work with him! We wish him well in retirement.
Critical Link in the Chain of Oral Health Education: Orthodontic Class of 1998 Creates Endowment For Program’s Long-term Future

By Susan Norby

A quick bite of lunch at the Valentino’s pizza restaurant on Holdrege Street is nothing new to dental college students, their family, and visiting alumni over the past 40-plus years since the dental college has been located on the university’s East Campus. Yet, a critical link in the chain of oral health education was forged there one day earlier this spring amidst the salad bar and familiar red-and-white checkered tables – something that will nourish generations of orthodontic students in perpetuity. Far beyond the delights of a great slice at Val’s, the University of Nebraska Orthodontic Class of 1998 Endowed Fund will provide unrestricted support for the orthodontic program.

Dr. Kurt Stormberg of San Diego, a UNMC College of Dentistry Class of ’98 orthodontic alumnus, visited the dental college in April to give a presentation to students in the post-graduate orthodontic program. Over lunch at Val’s that spring day earlier this year, I met with Dr. Stormberg to thank him for his steadfast, annual donations to help the UNMC College of Dentistry, including his focused philanthropy for the post-graduate orthodontic program. He spoke to me of his need and appreciation as a student for the scholarships he received that enabled him to attend UNL as an undergraduate student and eventually to attend dental college. He spoke about the many great faculty instructors in the orthodontic program – full-time and part-time – who gave him and his classmates, Drs. John Pobanz of Morgan, UT, and Jim Haack of Rice Lake, WI, outstanding clinical instruction and prepared them all to capably, confidently join the profession. And he spoke of the wonderful friendships created through the shared experience of orthodontic training together – friendships that continue to this day.

Hearing Dr. Stormberg speak about what his University of Nebraska education has meant to him and his career, we then visited about the promising future and priority needs at the College of Dentistry – what the school needs to continue providing preeminent instruction and career preparation to current students and succeeding generations. We talked about the very direct, positive link that charitable donations have in securing that promising future. With state funding currently providing less than 20 percent of our dental college’s annual operating budget, coupled with the imperative of keeping tuition and fees affordable for students and their families, charitable donations are a critical link in the chain of oral health education. Without great, strong dental colleges, we cannot have great, strong dentistry and all of its related specialty programs like orthodontics, periodontics, endodontics and pediatric dentistry.

see NORBY pg 3
I asked Dr. Stormberg to consider expanding his annual giving to create an endowed fund for the orthodontics program, and he enthusiastically responded by enlisting his two orthodontic classmates to join with him in building that nest egg for the program’s future. With generous individual pledges from Drs. Stormberg, Pobanz, and Haack, the link has been forged: the University of Nebraska Orthodontic Class of 1998 Endowed Fund will provide ongoing, unrestricted programmatic support for the post-graduate orthodontic program at their alma mater. Drs. Stormberg, Pobanz, and Haack are pledging an aggregate $100,000 to launch this new fund. As a permanent endowment at the University of Nebraska Foundation, the fund will exist forever to provide ongoing resources for the orthodontic program.

Drs. Stormberg, Pobanz, and Haack said their goal is twofold: first, to help the program that helped them become successful orthodontists and enjoy rewarding careers doing what they love to do – helping and healing patients. Their second goal is to motivate other alumni and classes to contribute and build larger endowments for the UNMC College of Dentistry’s orthodontic program.

“If even a few other classes create endowments, the collective net income earned from those endowments would have transformational impact on the University of Nebraska’s orthodontic program,” Dr. Stormberg said.

“We all wanted to do something significant for the University of Nebraska orthodontic program, and this was the best way to do it – by pooling our resources into a larger commitment and by endowing it so the resources will grow over time and also will last forever as a legacy to our class, and to our orthodontic alma mater,” Dr. Pobanz said.

Dr. Haack noted that over the years, they and many of the orthodontists they know have given to the American Association of Orthodontists Foundation, and that is also a viable, good way to support the profession. But, he said that their class wanted to ensure that their donations would go directly to the program that trained them, the institution that made their careers and their success possible.

“For us, that meant endowing something specifically for the University of Nebraska orthodontic program,” he said, “that’s where it all began for us, and that’s where we want to give to make a lasting difference. Years go by, we all live and practice in very different places, but the common bond is the University of Nebraska College of Dentistry orthodontic program and what it did to help us; that’s what we want to support.”

Unrestricted, programmatic funds like the Orthodontic Class of ‘98 Endowment are extremely helpful to the college and program, because the steady, annual stream of income they generate can be used over time for evolving priority needs. One year, for example, the program may need extra money to help pay for faculty and students to attend state, regional, and national professional meetings and conferences; another year, the program may need resources to help purchase a new piece of equipment for the orthodontic clinics or new computers and library resources; another year, they may need money to help recruit or retain a key faculty member. Flexible, endowed dollars are incredibly useful and needed to sustain quality, state-of-the-art, nationally competitive programs and that’s exactly what the University of Nebraska Orthodontic Class of 1998 Endowed Fund will do.

The orthodontic class of 1998 respectfully challenges all other UNMC College of Dentistry orthodontic alumni to think about the impact the school and education received there has had on their career, their profession, their life and their livelihood. They encourage other alumni to contribute and build their own class endowment, because the net effect will be tremendous: strong, flourishing orthodontic programs will mean a strong, flourishing future for the profession.

The University of Nebraska Foundation’s current fundraising initiative – the Campaign for Nebraska – encourages and facilitates charitable support for all four campuses at the University of Nebraska. With the recent completion of extensive renovations to its clinical facilities, the campaign goals for the UNMC College of Dentistry orthodontics program are exactly what the University of Nebraska orthodontic program and the orthodontic program at the University of Nebraska College of Dentistry now emphasize investment in the people and programs benefiting oral health education: scholarships for students; endowed faculty fellowships, professorships and chairs; endowed program support; and a new, focused investment for enhanced oral cancer programs. With increased charitable support providing a critical link, the UNMC College of Dentistry can boldly forge ahead as one of the nation’s best dental colleges, bar none.

The UNMC College of Dentistry and the University of Nebraska Foundation thank all alumni for their loyalty and generous support. Every donation is important and helpful. Anyone interested in discussing charitable donations, pledges payable over time, or deferred gifts like bequests from one’s will or trust, gifts of life insurance, etc. to benefit the UNMC College of Dentistry, please contact me.

“Unrestricted, programmatic funds like the Orthodontic Class of 1998 Endowment are extremely helpful to the college and program, because the steady, annual stream of income they generate can be used over time for evolving priority needs.”

Susan S. Norby
Director of Development
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We wish to welcome the members of the new class, set to join us on July 1, 2010. Dr. Elizabeth (Glenn) Katzberg, a 2010 graduate of UNMC, Dr. Vivian Luong, a 2010 graduate of UCLA and Dr. Tram Nguyen, a 2010 Meharry Medical College graduate. This group is making history as it is the first time since our program began in 1954 that all three new residents are female. Dr. Katzberg is a native of Lincoln and coincidently, both Drs. Luong and Nguyen were born in Vietnam. We are pleased to have such exceptional applicants match with our program.

Dr. Elizabeth (Glenn) Katzberg, Dr. Vivian Luong, Dr. Tram Nguyen

Graduate student earns scholar award at AAO

Due to graduate from the program in December, Dr. Sheela Premaraj earned second place in the basic science section of the Charley Schultz Resident Scholar Award competition held at the annual meeting of the American Association of Orthodontists in early May 2010. This award is designed to promote clinical science and basic science research by orthodontic residents. Judging, by a team of orthodontists, is based on originality, relevance, research design validity, and results/conclusions. We were proud to be represented at this prestigious meeting by Dr. Sheela Premaraj. In a letter to Dr. Premaraj, Robert Bray, AAO president, stated: “This is a very special and significant honor and I wanted to send along my best wishes for a job well done.”

Sheela Premaraj

Matthew Ames joins the ortho faculty

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Matthew Ames, a 2007 graduate of the UNMC College of Dentistry, to our program’s part-time faculty. Dr. Ames, trained in the Ohio State orthodontic program, recently graduated, and joined an orthodontic practice in his home town, Norfolk, NE, with our 1973 program alumnus Dr. Phil Samuels. Dr. Ames began working here May 1 to help with summer courses. He will teach both Principles of Mechanics and Orthodontic Lab Technique to new residents in July/August and will teach a new postgraduate orthodontic course in the spring semester of 2011. We are delighted to have Dr. Ames in Nebraska again and feel especially fortunate to have him working as an instructor in our program.

Matthew Ames joins the ortho faculty

This publication is available on line and in color!
Visit unmc.edu/dentistry to share this newsletter and other UNMC publication with friends and colleagues.

Resident Elizabeth Katzberg shares project results with Dr. Ames.
Alumni reception at AAO in Washington, D.C.

Resident Shawn Powell, Casey Warren ('09), John Pobanz ('98), Dr. Premaraj and resident Fouy Chau take a moment to chat during the reception.

Former chair Peter Spalding holds the rapt attention of Marc Welge ('05) center and Matt Moss ('05). If anyone wants to know what Marc has been doing, you must see his performance in the YouTube video on his terrific author/wife’s blog (Feb. 2, 2010) http://kimberlystuart.blogspot.com/. There is a rock star hidden in that orthodontist!

Barbara Ries ('90) signs the reception guest book. William Gray Grieves ('91) gets ready to enjoy the reception buffet.

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Loren Short ('07) and Rebecca Hohl ('04), left, having a serious (?) discussion. Michael Hoxie ('95) gets caught in conversation by the camera.

Marcos Lenza ('92 graduate and former vice-chair) and current program director Dr. Prem discuss the challenges and rewards of being an educator.

A candid shot of John Pobanz ('98), Warren Johnson ('05) center, and Loren Short ('07) as they have a word with each other.

Jackie Miller ('93) and Paula Harre ('95) catching up on the latest news.

Paul Robinson ('07), center, sharing a smile for the camera with Dr. David and Patricia Meyer. Dr. Meyer, a part-time faculty member with a Mayo Graduate School of Medicine degree and private practice in Brookings, SD, stopped by to see some familiar faces.

Barbara Ries ('90) signs the reception guest book. William Gray Grieves ('91) gets ready to enjoy the reception buffet.

Dr. Prem posing with former department chair Lou Nieberg and his spouse, Linda.

Loren Short ('07) and Rebecca Hohl ('04), left, having a serious (?) discussion. Michael Hoxie ('95) gets caught in conversation by the camera.

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After you’ve read about all the great things happening at the UNMC College of Dentistry... help make it even greater.

If you have any questions about charitable gifts, donation, options, pledges or bequests benefitting the orthodontic program, please contact:

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Contributions may be sent to the address above. To be properly credited to the program, please specify: “Orthodontic Development Fund #1032.”

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**Tightly Wired**
For Alumni and Friends of the Post Graduate Ortho Program

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**2010 Honor Classes**

50 Years: Class of 1960

John Gibbs, Bruce Snyder, and WingYou Tong

40 Years: Class of 1970

Irving Anders, Bruce Dinner, Dudley Mack, and Edward Mulick

30 Years: Class of 1980

Randall Beaver, Luis Gonzales, and Allen Lorenz

20 Years: Class of 1990

Steven Alexander and Barb Ries

10 Years: Class of 2000

Robert Walker, Chris Witek, and Ping Yao