



# Cornhusker Impressions

for alumni and friends of the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry

## Destiny brings Dr. Prem, a 'rising star in orthodontics,' 9,000 miles to the College of Dentistry

Destiny brought Dr. Sundaralingam Premaraj to the UNMC College of Dentistry.

"I was born 9,000 miles away on a peninsula in a remote part of Sri Lanka, and now I am here, teaching and researching orthodontics," said Premaraj, program director of the College of Dentistry Orthodontic Section and the first recipient of the Dr. William E. Ludwick Faculty Fellowship in Dentistry.

While believing in the value of hard work and doing one's best, Premaraj said, he also believes in destiny and he loves where destiny has taken him—to America's heartland.

He said he is happy to be living and working in Nebraska where his colleagues and associates at the College of Dentistry are friendly and supportive and where he can actively pursue his research into understanding the molecular mechanisms of orthodontic tooth movement. His research combines his love of dentistry with his first love, medicine.

[see DR PREM pg 9](#)



Dr. Sundaralingam Premaraj in his research laboratory at the UNMC College of Dentistry with, from left, Melissa Guerrero, third-year dental student; Lavanya Talluri, research technologist; and Isabela Souza, graduate student.

**CAMPAIGN** for  
**NEBRASKA**  
UNIVERSITY of NEBRASKA FOUNDATION

Through Campaign for Nebraska, private gifts for the dental college will help create a visionary new Oral, Head & Neck Cancer Center. The goal is to provide the nation's finest diagnosis, treatment, and research for these specific cancers through a holistic, collaborative approach, serving patients in Nebraska, the Great Plains, and beyond.

[see NEBRASKA pg 4](#)

# Looking to the future



## Cornhusker Impressions

Spring 2010

Impressions is published three times a year for alumni and friends of the UNMC College of Dentistry. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

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The University of Nebraska's four-campus fundraising campaign, *Campaign for Nebraska: Unlimited Possibilities*, is described on page 4 of this issue of *Cornhusker Impressions*.

UNMC and the College of Dentistry are actively engaged in this campaign, which lays out bold, visionary dreams for the future.

We are coming down the homestretch of our building renovation project at the College of Dentistry. These renovations are transforming our 43-year-old building into a more efficient, comfortable, safer, and modern facility. The basic costs of construction (about \$8.5 million) for this project are being funded by the state of Nebraska. In difficult economic times like this, state support for this project demonstrates the high regard with which our college is held. The furnishings, equipment, and related costs for the improvements are being funded through the generosity of our alumni and friends and other sources within UNMC and the college. These repairs, renovations, and improvements were necessary and will help to transform our educational and patient care programs.

At the college we are grateful for the state funding, which makes these facilities improvements possible. On the other hand, as we look to the bigger picture of the college's future, we must acknowledge that ongoing state funding to support the college is always at risk to be reduced. Many other universities are undergoing severe cuts as a result of the world-wide economic recession. Although our budget cuts have been relatively moderate thus far, we have not yet seen the end of these difficult financial times. You may be surprised to learn that of our current \$23 million annual budget, state support now accounts for only 18 percent. Annual state support has dropped from 40 percent in fiscal year 2000-2001, when I became dean of the college, to the current 18 percent.

Now, through *Campaign for Nebraska*, we plan to shift our fundraising focus from facilities to increasing overall support and endowments for people and programs. Endowments are larger gifts that are invested by the NU Foundation, allowing the earnings from those investments to support faculty, students, programs, and activities. Financial support for faculty through endowed Chairs, Professorships, and Fellowships is extremely valuable in recruiting and retaining the very best teachers and researchers. In turn, the very best faculty members are essential to remaining an excellent dental school. Currently, there are about 400 vacant dental faculty positions throughout the 58 dental schools in the United States. This number may soon decline, not because more faculty members are being hired, but because many of these vacant positions are being eliminated because of state funding budget cuts. The need for faculty is great and will remain great.

Scholarship support is always valuable. Today's UNMC College of Dentistry students graduate with average debt between \$135,000-\$150,000. The campaign will also help fund financial resources for a variety of educational programs that provide distinctive educational experiences, better service to the citizens of Nebraska, and opportunities for students to learn beyond the traditional curriculum.

Clearly, the future of the College of Dentistry can be greatly strengthened by a successful *Campaign for Nebraska*.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Reinhardt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John W. Reinhardt, DDS, MS, MPH

Professor and Dean

College of Dentistry

University of Nebraska Medical Center

## COD alum falls in love with Rwanda, returns to teach basic dental care

On an African safari in 2006, Dr. Richard T. Reckmeyer traveled through Tanzania and Kenya and set out to trek for gorillas in Rwanda. But even before he reached the gorillas, he says, he fell in love with the country, its leaders, and its people.

He first noticed the impeccably clean roads. A guide told him that plastics had been outlawed and that one day a month citizens, including the country's president, pick up roadside trash. He said he also noticed the hopefulness of the people, especially the women and children, despite widespread poverty and the horror of genocide.

Since that first visit, Reckmeyer, a retired Phoenix, AZ, dentist and a 1979 graduate of the UNMC College of Dentistry, has returned to Rwanda four times. He is planning a fifth trip in June when he hopes to conduct a three-week program to teach nurses and community health workers how to deliver basic dental services.

"Because the entire health infrastructure was destroyed during the 1994 genocide, when 1 million people were killed in 100 days, the supply is scarce and the demand is astronomical for rural oral health care," Reckmeyer said. "You get to the age when you want to give back," he said, "and it can be here in the United States, or it can be in Rwanda."

Reckmeyer's goal is to teach nurses in community health centers to perform simple extractions, complete basic cleanings, and train community health workers to teach prevention. He plans to work with public schools and Home Based Management Care, which is provided by the government.

The first training will be offered at the Ruhengeri Hospital in the Musanze District of the Northern Province. It will cover health histories, oral examinations, dental anatomy of baby and permanent teeth, sterilization, prevention, cleaning techniques with oral hygiene instruction, injections, and simple extractions. His five-year goal is to have all 750 nurses trained in all 375 districts.

Reckmeyer, who retired in 2001 because of disability after three rotator cuff surgeries in one year, outlined his plan in October to students, faculty, and administrators at the College of Dentistry. He said he needs help from volunteer dentists, hygienists, and students, as well as donations of money, instruments, and supplies. He could use scalers, cures, elevators, and forceps.

Reckmeyer based his training course on the Kenya Medical Mission conducted for six years in rural Kenya by two Phoenix dentists and their wives—Dr. Jerry Denning, and his wife, Mikell, a hygienist, and Dr. Wilson Lathrop and his wife, Bonnie. To develop his course, Reckmeyer, who also has a MBA and has taught at community colleges, met with faculty, administration, and students at Kigali Health Institute—the only dental education facility in Rwanda—and other government and health officials.

The ratio of oral health care providers to the population in Rwanda was 155 providers to 10.5 million people, as of March 2009, and most of the providers worked in urban areas, Reckmeyer said. In two districts he surveyed, between 92 percent and 95 percent of the oral health care needs amounted to simple extractions and basic cleanings. Simple extractions were the second most common service provided in community health centers in a third district surveyed.

To volunteer or donate money or supplies, contact Reckmeyer at (623) 979-7555 or [richard.reckmeyer@cox.net](mailto:richard.reckmeyer@cox.net). Learn more at his Web site at <http://members.cox.net/richard.reckmeyer/RRD.pdf>



Dr. Richard Reckmeyer with a young child at the Kenya Medical Mission, which is run by two Phoenix dentists and their wives.

## Unlimited Possibilities supporting UNMC College of Dentistry

From University of Nebraska Foundation

For more than a century, the University of Nebraska College of Dentistry has built a proud history of excellence in clinical instruction, growing research activities, and outstanding patient care programs. Private gifts have shaped the college in many ways throughout its history, and philanthropy will continue to shape the college, its students, faculty and facilities.

Through the University of Nebraska Foundation's "Campaign for Nebraska: Unlimited Possibilities," private gifts can strengthen a university solidly grounded in the Midwest but among national and international leaders in providing students with opportunities to understand the world and its people. The campaign will assist the UNMC College of Dentistry in helping people lead healthier, better, and more productive lives.

The campaign is a comprehensive fundraising effort to meet high-priority opportunities and needs on all four campuses of the University of Nebraska, including all the health colleges at UNMC. Since plans began for the campaign in 2005, more than \$670 million has been raised or committed toward the goal of \$1.2 billion by 2014.

For the College of Dentistry, the Campaign for Nebraska can yield some transformational advances to position the school as a true place of distinction among all dental colleges in the country. State funds provide important day-to-day operational support for the university and college, but those state funds now comprise less than 20 percent of the college's annual operating budget.

The recent, extensive renovations at the dental college have greatly improved its 43-year-old facility, in terms of utilities upgrades, meeting safety codes, access for handicapped patients, overall efficiency, and modernization of clinics. These changes will improve the college's

ability to provide 21st century, world-class clinical education and to serve patients and recruit faculty and students. In addition to these much needed physical improvements, there is an equally critical need to strengthen support for dental faculty, students, and programs.

John W. Reinhardt, dean of the college, said the campaign is instrumental to the college's future success.

"Our goals during the Campaign for Nebraska are focused on investing in two things: our people and programs," Reinhardt said. "The college's ongoing status as a true place of distinction is at stake, and success in this campaign is critical to the future success of the college. The Campaign for Nebraska gives us the opportunity to generate a great future for the college and the profession, and a meaningful legacy for our donors."

Through Campaign for Nebraska, private gifts for the dental college will help create a visionary new Oral, Head & Neck Cancer Center. Led by the dental college, this new center will forge strong, collaborative partnerships with the UNMC College of Medicine's Department of Otolaryngology, the UNMC Eppley Cancer Center, and the new UNMC College of Public Health so that integrated expertise can focus on these specific types of cancer. The goal of the Oral, Head & Neck Cancer Center is to provide the nation's finest diagnosis, treatment, and research for these specific cancers through a holistic, collaborative approach, serving patients in Nebraska, the Great Plains, and beyond.

One of the campaign's top priorities is to seek funding for two new endowed faculty chair positions that would allow the dental college to recruit national leaders in the field of oral, head and neck cancer, to ignite research, clinical and educational programs. Dental students will benefit

from mentoring relationships with the Oral, Head & Neck Cancer Center.

Beyond the proposed Oral, Head & Neck Cancer Center, the college must work to recruit and retain the best faculty available. Gifts to endow faculty positions help the college provide competitive compensation packages. The UNMC College of Dentistry faces a fiercely competitive job market, with more than 400 faculty vacancies among the 58 U.S. dental schools, as well as competing with the lure of private practice. Facing such competition, faculty endowments are critical tools to help recruit and retain top teachers.

Other endowed resources would also help the college maintain state-of-the-art equipment, expand scholarships to students - more than 90 percent of whom need some form of financial aid - and provide long-term funding assistance for costly clinical instruction, research activities, and patient care programs.

Through the Campaign for Nebraska, the dental college hopes to raise \$12 million. As of December 31, 2009, gifts and giving commitments designated for the College of Dentistry totaled more than \$7.1 million.

The Campaign for Nebraska is the foundation's third comprehensive campaign. The last campaign resulted in 1,000 new student scholarship funds, nearly 100 endowed faculty support program funds and the construction or renovation of 20 facilities university-wide.

"This raises everyone's expectations for what a new campaign can achieve for students, teachers, research programs and the citizens of this state who understand the importance of a great statewide university system," said Clarence Castner, president of the foundation.

To learn more about the Campaign for Nebraska or to inquire about making a gift, pledge, or bequest benefiting the College of Dentistry, please contact Susan Norby, director of development at the University of Nebraska Foundation:

Telephone: 402-458-1183 or 800-432-3216  
E-mail: [snorby@unfoundation.org](mailto:snorby@unfoundation.org)  
Web site: [www.campaignfornebraska.org](http://www.campaignfornebraska.org)

## Volunteers lead dental college campaign

Dr. Bernard J. Doyle has been named chair and Rosemary Dixon and Jean Steinacher have been named honorary chairs of the Campaign for Nebraska's College of Dentistry volunteer team.

The team includes the following dental college alumni and friends:

Dr. Bernard J. Doyle, chair  
Mrs. F. Gene Dixon, honorary co-chair  
Mrs. Ray H. Steinacher, honorary co-chair  
Dr. and Mrs. Tom L. Barth  
Dr. David A. Blaha  
Dr. and Mrs. Richard E. Bradley  
Dr. and Mrs. Michael R. Dana  
Dr. and Mrs. Donald C. Fricke  
Dr. Paula L. Harre  
Dr. and Mrs. Mark Hungerford  
Dr. and Mrs. Curtis G. Kuster  
Dr. and Mrs. Stephen H. Leeper  
Dr. Robert D. Madden  
Dr. and Mrs. Allen L. Thomsen  
Dr. and Mrs. Harry R. Tolly  
Mr. Kenneth L. VanCleave on behalf of Ameritas  
Dr. James A. Walker

## COD Alumni Association invites alumni to consider board service

The College of Dentistry Alumni Association Board of Directors encourages all COD alumni (dental, dental hygiene, and specialty) to consider serving as board members. The volunteer board conducts business meetings three Saturday mornings a year in Lincoln. Members serve for three-year terms, which are renewable.

The Board serves as the governing body for COD alumni activities and outreach services, including the annual Dental Alumni Homecoming Reunion. The College of Dentistry, the University of Nebraska Foundation, and the UNMC Alumni Association work closely with the board to strengthen alumni relations and foster advancement of the dental college.

If you would like to be considered for membership on the COD Alumni Association Board of Directors, please contact Kim Hailey at the UNMC College of Dentistry Dean's Office. Contact her by phone at 402-472-1344 or by e-mail at [khailey@unmc.edu](mailto:khailey@unmc.edu).



Dr. Ray Steinacher

## Tribute to a great teacher, friend to the College of Dentistry: Dr. Ray Steinacher

By Susan Norby, University of Nebraska Foundation

I have met many people who support the University of Nebraska, the College of Dentistry in particular, and it has been my pleasure to learn how and why our donors give so generously.

They share an understanding that a great education can help successive generations thrive, enjoy, and capably serve the oral health professions. There is a special person I want to recognize, thank, and honor. A gentleman long associated with our dental college—Dr. Ray Steinacher—because he exemplified that commitment to helping our dental college and, in so doing, helped the profession.

As you may know, on September 13, 2009, Dr. Steinacher passed away. He was born on July 29, 1917, in Fillmore County, NE. He was raised on a farm and graduated from Milligan High School in 1933. Ray attended the University of Nebraska, was a pre-dental major and a member of the UNL marching band. He then attended and graduated from the University of Nebraska College of Dentistry in 1943. He immediately joined the U.S. Navy during World War II where he served as a Naval dental officer. He finished his military career in the Naval Reserve retiring as a captain. Dr. Steinacher also earned a master's degree in physiology and specialized in Removable and Maxillofacial Prosthetics. He was chairman of the Prosthetic Department and retired from the dental college in 1986. Ray married Jean W. Hooper on February 16, 1950, in Lincoln.

Ray and Jean Steinacher shared a dedication and loyalty to the University of Nebraska, forged largely through the generations of dental college students, faculty and staff, and alumni who were dear friends to them both. The Steinachers also gave generously to their alma mater, particularly its College of Dentistry. Dr. Steinacher always responded positively, enthusiastically, and generously to

any cause or effort to improve and enhance the dental college. When asked about his philanthropy for the dental college, he often said, "The dental college has given me so much; I am happy to be able to give back to help students join the profession and serve it well." The Steinachers' philanthropy for the dental college included generous support for clinic renovations and equipment purchases; research by both faculty and students; and the dental museum.

Dr. Richard Bradley, Class of 1952 and longtime colleague and friend of Dr. Steinacher, wrote the following tribute:

"The passing of Ray Steinacher represents much sorrow among his family, friends, former students and the many faculty colleagues he knew and worked with throughout his wonderful career in dental education and the practice of dentistry. Ray was a man of extraordinary talents. He was an excellent teacher, clinician and friend of his students and was always concerned for their welfare. He had an uncanny memory and could recall not only the names of his former students, but their children's names. Thus, developed a huge dental family for Ray that loved and admired him.

His wife, Jean, was truly a devoted partner and together they contributed significantly to the programs and physical plant of the UNMC College of Dentistry.

Ray was also an ardent sports fan, loved to play golf and was a true Cornhusker. He will always be remembered as an icon in the history of the UNMC College of Dentistry, and I urge all who knew and respected him to contribute to the University of Nebraska Foundation for the College of Dentistry in memory of Dr. Ray Steinacher. We are all better off for knowing and learning from Ray. He was truly a man for all ages."

Dr. Bradley, along with other faculty at the dental college, former students, colleagues, and friends of Dr. Steinacher, have established a memorial fund to honor Dr. Steinacher. The Dr. Raymond H. Steinacher Memorial Fund is a permanent endowment providing support exclusively for the dental college. If sufficient donations are received, the Steinacher Fund can be converted to endow a dental college faculty fellowship, professorship, or chair in his name. No matter what amount is ultimately received for the Steinacher Fund, it will be a marvelous tribute to a man who gave so much to so many at our dental college.

With the hope that you will be interested in contributing to the Steinacher Memorial Fund, we offer the following information:

**Payee:** University of Nebraska Foundation

**On memo of check:** Indicate memorial donation for the Dr. Ray Steinacher Memorial Fund

**Mail check to:** University of Nebraska Foundation, 1010 Lincoln Mall, Suite 300, Lincoln, NE 68508

Donations of all amounts, or pledges paid over time, to the Steinacher Memorial Fund will be greatly appreciated and will provide a lasting, meaningful tribute to a man who dedicated his career to teaching and practicing dentistry, serving the profession nobly, and helping generations of dental students enjoy success in the great profession of dentistry. Thank you for your consideration, and if you have any questions about contributing to the Steinacher Memorial Fund or to any other area of the dental college, please contact me.

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## UNMC College of Dentistry Alumni Association Awards Nominations

Do you know alumni or others who deserve recognition for their outstanding contributions and/or service to the UNMC College of Dentistry, the College of Dentistry Alumni Association, or their communities? Nominate them for one of the following awards.

### **Alumni Achievement Award**

Presented to College of Dentistry alumni with a record of outstanding achievements in their dental or dental hygiene careers and/or civic involvement. A voting member of the College of Dentistry Alumni Association is not eligible for this award during his or her tenure as a board member.

### **Distinguished Service Award**

Presented to College of Dentistry alumni on the basis of their contributions and/or service to the College of Dentistry Alumni Association or the College of Dentistry. A voting member of the College of Dentistry Alumni Association is not eligible for this award during his or her tenure as a board member.

### **Honorary Life Membership Award**

Presented to someone who demonstrates or has demonstrated exceptional service to the UNMC College of Dentistry or the College of Dentistry Alumni Association. The recipient need not be a graduate of the College of Dentistry.

### **Outstanding Educator Award**

Presented to someone who demonstrates or has demonstrated exceptional service as a full-time or part-time faculty member of the College of Dentistry. The recipient need not be a graduate of the College of Dentistry. This award can be made to a previous recipient, but there must be a ten-year interval between awards.

### **NOMINATION PROCESS**

To nominate a person for any of these awards, please send a short (one typed page or less) description of the person's achievements, service activities, or other contributions that make the person eligible for receiving the award. Include your (nominator's) name and contact information. Nominations are accepted continuously and the College of Dentistry Alumni Association Board of Directors selects award winners annually.

### **Nominations may be sent to:**

UNMC College of Dentistry Alumni Association, c/o Dean's Office  
UNMC College of Dentistry  
40th and Holdrege Streets  
Box 830740  
Lincoln, NE 68583-0740

**Nominations also may be Faxed to (402) 472-6681 (Dean's Office) or e-mailed to Dr. Merlyn Vogt at mvogt@unmc.edu**



Elizabeth Naber

## COD student tackles policy issues in Washington, D.C.

By Mike Kalutkiewicz, American Association for Dental Research

As health reform heated up, Elizabeth Naber, a third-year dental student at the UNMC College of Dentistry, spent her summer in Washington, D.C. Naber was chosen for an eight-week internship with the American Association of Dental Research (AADR), which advocates for advancing oral health research and policy at the federal level.

Naber examined the dental and oral health provisions in the health care legislation being debated on Capitol Hill, bringing a unique and important student perspective to the policy discussions. "With Liz already having a background in policy, she was able to hit the ground running. Her view as a student was an incredible asset when thinking about both research and clinical oral health issues," said AADR Director of Government Affairs Mike Kalutkiewicz.

"It was a privilege to spend the summer in Washington during such an exciting time for health care professionals," said Naber. "Meeting and interacting with the multitude of individuals in Washington advocating for dental care and research was enlightening."

In addition to her work on health reform, Naber met with staff members for Congressman Mike Simpson (R-ID), one of only two dentists in Congress, to discuss the need for increased oral health comparative effectiveness research (CER) and assisted the AADR in analyzing data for a CER policy paper that shows how outcomes

for patients can be improved with greater knowledge of treatments and procedures.

Naber's experience in Washington also led to some issues that dental students likely don't encounter in everyday life, as she was part of a larger publisher's coalition that met with staff members in the offices of Sen. Joe Lieberman (D-CT) and Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) about increasing open access to scientific literature of federally funded research without diminishing copyright protections for scientific journals.

Naber also met with the director and deputy director from the National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research, Dr. Larry Tabak, DDS, PhD, and Dr. Isabel Garcia, DDS, MPH, at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD. The group discussed oral health research programs generated as a result of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, including ways to improve dental schools' ability to compete for NIH research construction and facilities grants made available under the stimulus package.

Following up on Naber's meeting with NIDCR, the Association for Dental Research composed a Technical Guidance document that was sent to U.S. dental schools. It is aimed at helping dental schools be more competitive for NIH awards to renovate and build new laboratory and clinical space.



## DR PREM *continued from pg 1*

Premaraj had wanted to study medicine, but the rigid structure of the educational system in his native Sri Lanka led him to dentistry and eventually to orthodontics. He graduated from the University of Peradeniya, the only dental school in Sri Lanka, and received a master's degree in surgery (orthodontics) at the University of Colombo, also in Sri Lanka. He studied orthodontics and pathology at the Aichi-Gakuin University School of Dentistry in Nagoya, Japan.

In 2001 he came to the United States where he was a research fellow at Columbus Children's Hospital in Ohio and later completed a residency in orthodontics and a PhD program in oral biology at Ohio State University.

After coming to Nebraska in 2006 as an assistant professor, he was named interim orthodontics program director in March 2009 and director in July 2009. He said he likes the small size of the dental school and the camaraderie and respectful attitude of the faculty and staff.

"I love coming to work every morning," he said. "People are here to help you. I was given everything I need to become a good teacher, to do service, and to be active in research." In addition to his teaching, research, student mentoring, and administrative responsibilities, he supervises residents in the graduate orthodontic clinic one-half day a week and works one day a week in the college's Faculty Practice. He also is vice president of the Nebraska Society of Orthodontists.

Premaraj said he has many plans for the program. He wants to introduce new didactic courses and expose residents to new technology. He also is overseeing the transition to a paperless office.

He is most excited about his research and new research tools that allow him to examine molecular changes that take place during orthodontic tooth movement. "Now we are going deeper and deeper into what really happens at the gene transcription level. What are the genes transcribing when we apply force? If we know what happens at the molecular level,

maybe we can accelerate tooth movement by using drugs or other chemicals," he said.

He has received grant funding from UNMC and from the Nebraska Center for Cellular Signaling, which is funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Health. He also has submitted a grant application to NIH and expects to hear about that in April.

Premaraj is one of nine finalists recently named in the post-doctoral category of the prestigious Hatton Award. He will present at the American Association of Dental Research in March in Washington, D.C. He also has been invited to present in May at the American Association of Orthodontics meeting, as one of the "Rising Stars in Orthodontics."

Premaraj's wife, Sheela, also is a dentist and has a PhD in molecular biology. They have one daughter, Shyamaly, a senior in the International Baccalaureate program at Lincoln High School.



Dr. William E. Ludwick

## Ludwick Faculty Fellowship goes to Dr. Prem

In announcing the awarding of the Dr. William E. Ludwick Faculty Fellowship, Dean John Reinhardt said Dr. Sundaralingam Premaraj is a highly esteemed and productive member of the dental college faculty and a rising star in the field of orthodontics.

The fellowship honors Dr. William E. Ludwick, a 1939 graduate of the College of Dentistry who died in 2008 at the age of 93. Dr. Ludwick, who lived in Minneapolis, was a U.S. Navy dentist with a service career that spanned World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. He was a Medal of Honor recipient.

Dr. Ludwick was "one of our dental college's most loyal, dedicated, and supportive alumni," said Susan Norby,

director of development at the University of Nebraska Foundation. "His life truly exemplified devotion to family and friends, and tremendous service to his profession and country. He always remained true to his roots here in Nebraska and at the University of Nebraska."

Dr. Ludwick and his wife, Harriet "TeeDee," a graduate of the NU College of Arts and Sciences, were trustees of the University of Nebraska Foundation. Dr. Ludwick was a member of the the Dental College Dean's Club, the UNL Chancellor's Circle, the UNMC Chancellor's Circle, the President's Circle, the Nebraska Circle, and the E.A. Burnett Society. Mrs. Ludwick continues as a member of the Foundation's Giving Societies.

## Fielding letters, e-mails about a mouthwash formulation that could conquer bad breath

Dr. Richard Reinhardt has been fielding letters and e-mails since late December when a local newspaper story was published about a mouthwash formulation that could provide protection against tooth decay, periodontal disease, and possibly even bad breath.

“People say they have tried everything for years for bad breath, that it’s a serious problem for them, that it really affects them, and they would be happy to be in a clinical trial,” Reinhardt said. “Quite honestly, I am surprised by that.” He said he hadn’t realized that bad breath could be such a concern in people’s lives.

Reinhardt, the B.J. and Ann Moran Professor of Periodontology at the College of Dentistry, is one of the collaborators on a research team that has developed a novel drug delivery system to attach antimicrobial agents directly to teeth. Results of the study, led by Dong Wang, PhD, in the UNMC College of Pharmacy, were published in the November issue of *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy* and the Nov. 22 issue of *Science Daily*. A story also was published in the *Lincoln Journal-Star*.

The researchers’ formulation would bind to the tooth surface and gradually release antimicrobials against cavity-forming bacteria. In laboratory testing, the solution penetrates the biofilm, the bacterial layer not reached by brushing. The solution temporarily bonds with the components of tooth enamel and bone, staying long enough to prolong protection but produce staining.

“The beauty of this design is the simplicity,” Wang said. “All you have to do is your routine oral hygiene procedure and then rinse with the formulation we have developed. It protects the teeth over a long period of time. The key is to have the antimicrobials stay where they are most needed—the tooth surface.”

Reinhardt said the researchers have been working for four years to develop drug systems that attach to hydroxyapatite, the prime component of tooth enamel, root surfaces, and bone. They have concentrated on formulations to prevent decay and periodontal disease, but the idea of developing a mouthwash agent that would release active ingredients in the mouth over an extended period of time is attractive as well.

Early on, Wang’s research was of particular interest to Reinhardt, who has been working on use of the cholesterol-lowering drug, simvastatin, to stimulate bone growth. In animal studies, however, the drug tended to diffuse into different areas and hadn’t proven as effective as hoped. Reinhardt said he is excited about development of a delivery vehicle that could be used to distribute drugs for multiple purposes, including caries prevention, bad breath, or bone growth.

The next step for the researchers is to apply for status as an investigative new drug from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. After that, clinical trials could begin, including some at the Cruzan Center at the College of Dentistry, possibly in the next year.

## In Memory

**Dr. Melvin L. Hermsmeyer**, Class of 1947, Phoenix, AZ, died October 10, 2009. He practiced dentistry for more than 50 years, serving 23 years as a Naval dental officer. He formerly resided in Moraga, CA.

**Dr. Robert F. Kierstead**, 90, Class of 1951, Lincoln, died December 27, 2009. He served in the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division during World War II. He practiced dentistry in the Bethany area of Lincoln for 30 years before joining the U.S. Public Health Service, providing dental services at health clinics across the country. He was instrumental in establishing the Northeast YMCA in Lincoln.

**Dr. Robert S. Laird**, 83, Class of 1953, Grand Island, NE, died July 24, 2009. He entered the U.S. Navy in 1943 and served during World War II. After being discharged in 1946, he attended Hastings College and graduated from the College of Dentistry. He practiced dentistry in Auburn, Loup City, and Grand Island.

**Dr. John C. Messmore**, 85, Class of 1951, Pocatello, ID, died December 15, 2009. He practiced dentistry in Pocatello from 1951 to 1983 before retiring. Born in Beatrice, NE, Dr. Messmore served in the Army Air Corps flying B-17s.

**Dr. Sugao Ouchi**, 96, Class of 1934, Honolulu, Hawaii. He was retired. The notice of his death was just received. He died July 23, 2005.

**Dr. H. T. “Tom” Robson**, 83, Class of 1953, York, NE, died December 16, 2009. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1944 until 1946. He practiced dentistry in York from 1953 until his retirement in 1989. He was a past recipient of the College of Dentistry Alumni Association’s Distinguished Service Award.

**Dr. G. Herbert Seberg**, Class of 1944, Hastings, NE, died September 22, 2009. Dr. Seberg’s dental career in Hastings spanned almost five decades. He was a leading advocate in the promotion of good oral health and was active in local, state, and national efforts to promote the fluoridation of public water supplies. In 1966 he was one of the representatives of the Nebraska Dental Association to the National Dental Health Assembly on Fluoridation. He led the NDA Fluoridation Committee and was instrumental the passage in 1973 of Nebraska’s fluoridation law, which required the fluoridation of all municipal water supplies. He was a past recipient of the College of Dentistry Alumni Association’s Distinguished Service Award.

# Kudos

Congratulations to College of Dentistry alumni who were inducted as Fellows of the American College of Dentists and the International College of Dentists at their annual meetings during the 2009 ADA Annual Session. Those inducted into the American College of Dentists are **Pamela G. Low** (DDS 1978; Tulsa, OK), **Randall H. Ogata** (DDS 1991; Seattle, WA), and **Charles W. Wilcox** (DDS 1972; Omaha). Inducted into the International College of Dentists are **Edward M. Clark** (DDS 1979; Cheyenne, WY), **Ernest W. Sigler** (DDS 1975; Lincoln), **Jody B. Vance** (DDS 1991; Strafford, MO), **Anne Elizabeth Williamson** (DDS 1988; Coralville, IA) and **Richard A. Williamson** (MS-PROS 2001; Coralville, IA).

A two-year \$400,000 award from the National Institutes of Health has been made to **Dr. Keith Johnson**, director, and **Rick MacDonald**, associate director, of the Nebraska Center for Cellular Signaling in the Department of Oral Biology. The award, part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, will fund new collaborative pilot projects that will help create or save jobs.

Congratulations to **Dr. Ron Attanasio**, professor in the Department of Adult Restorative Dentistry, on his co-authorship of the new textbook *Dental Management of Sleep Disorders*. The text, which was released in January by the publisher Wiley-Blackwell, focuses on the dentist's role in treating patients with sleep problems, chiefly sleep-related breathing disorders.

**Dr. Jason Showman** (DDS 1981) has been selected to be the chief dental officer of the Army National Guard. Showman, a native of McCook who currently lives in Seneca, Kansas, is a Colonel in the Guard and a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He will report to the National Guard Bureau headquarters in Arlington, VA.

**Dr. Fouad Salama**, professor and vice chair of the Department of Hospital Dentistry, presented a continuing education course, "Comprehensive Oral Care for the Child Patient," to the Syrian Society of Pediatric Dentistry. He also presented a lecture, "Infant Oral Health," at the Syrian Dental Association annual meeting. While in Syria, he lectured on early childhood caries, child abuse, and pulp therapy of primary teeth to dental students at the University of Kalamoon.

Two researchers associated with the postgraduate orthodontic program are finalists in the Hatton Awards competition sponsored by the American Academy of Dental Research and Johnson & Johnson Healthcare Products. **Dr. Sundaralingam Premaraj**, orthodontic program director, is one of nine finalists in the post-doctoral category for his research conducted at the college, "Mechanical Strain Activates Beta-Catenin Signaling in Periodontal Ligament Cells." **Dr. Vesna-Lea Ferrer**, a first-year orthodontic resident, is one of the finalists in the senior category for her PhD research conducted at the University of Connecticut. Both will compete in March at the AADR annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

**Honor Roll Correction:** The honor roll of 2008 contributors published in the fall 2009 *Cornhusker Impressions*: Dr. Robert W. Chan, Clayton, CA, should be included in the Platinum Century Club annual giving honor club.

# Calendar

## March 12

What's New 2010  
Drugs and Dentistry: New Issues and New Solutions  
Prof. Karen A. Baker,  
University of Iowa College of Dentistry  
Strategic Air and Space Museum, Ashland

## March 26

Professionals' Day and Student Scientific Program  
Wentz Memorial Lecture  
Sandra Carlin Andrieu, PhD  
Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs  
LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans  
UNL East Campus Union  
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

## April 9

The Endo-Restorative Continuum  
Dr. Todd Remmers,  
Oregon Health and Science University  
UNMC College of Dentistry

## May 3-4

Radiology for Dental Auxiliaries  
Shawneen Gonzalez, DDS, MS  
UNMC College of Dentistry

## May 5

Senior Salute  
Nebraska Club

## May 6

OKU/SPA Honors Banquet  
Wick Alumni Center

## May 7

UNMC College of Dentistry  
Commencement/Lincoln  
Lied Center for Performing Arts  
2 p.m.

## May 10-13

Continuing Education Caravan

## June 3-5

Dental Day XVIII-Panhandle

## September 24-25

UNMC College of Dentistry Homecoming

For more information about continuing education events, contact Susan Armstrong at (402) 472-2611 or by e-mail at [skarmstrong@unmc.edu](mailto:skarmstrong@unmc.edu). Register online for continuing education courses at [www.unmc.edu/dentistry](http://www.unmc.edu/dentistry) or call (402) 472-2175 or toll free (866) 700-4747 during office hours, 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

40th and Holdrege Streets  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68583-0740

Address Service Requested

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

To make a charitable gift or pledge benefiting the UNMC College of Dentistry, please contact:

**Susan Norby**

University of Nebraska Foundation  
402-458-1183  
800-432-3216  
snorby@nufoundation.org



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER [unmc.edu](http://unmc.edu)

# Cornhusker Impressions

for alumni and friends of the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry

## in this issue

### Meet Dr. Sundaralingam Premaraj,

known at the college as Dr. Prem, who is the first recipient of the Dr. William E. Ludwick Faculty Fellowship and a rising star in orthodontics. Beginning on page 1, read about his 9,000-mile journey from Sri Lanka to Lincoln.

### Dental college alumnus Dr. Richard Reckmeyer

prepares to teach nurses and community health care workers in Rwanda to provide basic dental services to people living in rural parts of the country. Read about Reckmeyer's love of Rwanda and his ambitious plans on page 3.

### The UNMC College of Dentistry plans to invest in programs

and people as it strives to continue as "a true place of distinction" among dental colleges in the United States. On page 4, you will read about support for these efforts through Unlimited Possibilities, a bold new fundraising campaign sponsored by the University of Nebraska Foundation.