Message from the Chair

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the VCU Orthodontic Newsletter, intended to update you on the improvements, accomplishments, and happenings around the Orthodontic Department at VCU. We plan to publish this Newsletter on a regular basis, at least once a year, to keep you in touch with the department and its people. Please e-mail me your comments and suggestions at sjlindau@vcu.edu.

Foundation Meeting 2006

One hundred members of the MCV Orthodontic Education and Research Foundation met at the Richmond Marriott West Hotel on March 5-7, 2006 to renew old friendships, learn something about orthodontics, and otherwise show their support for the orthodontic program at VCU. As always, the annual event began Sunday evening with an elaborate opening reception featuring a variety of good food and ample refreshment. Special thanks go to Darlene Johnson, department administrative assistant, for her role in organizing the meeting and reception. Turnout for the event was impressive as ever, with members returning to Richmond from all over Virginia and neighboring states, and from across the country including Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Colorado, Oklahoma, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Georgia. Members of the first graduating class (1965) were in attendance, on up to the most recent class (2005) that graduated just last June. During the opening reception, two residents displayed posters describing their current research projects being conducted as part of the Master of Science degree program that was integrated into the orthodontic residency at VCU four years ago.

This year’s speaker on Monday and Tuesday was Dr. Terry Sellke, in private practice near Chicago, Illinois, Clinical Professor of Orthodontics at the University of Illinois, and founder of “The Bottom Line” Practice Management Program. He also serves as executive director of the Illinois Orthodontic Alumni Association, a position he has held for more than 20 years. Over the two day period, Dr. Sellke drew on all of these roles and interests, intertwining clinical practice philosophy with...
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practice management pointers, all the while emphasizing the importance of supporting the orthodontic educational system. He discussed many of the changes in orthodontics that he has witnessed in more than 30 years of practice. He presented his treatment philosophy and backed up his statements with numerous clinical studies, many of which he conducted himself along with his residents at Illinois. At the conclusion of the first day, Dr. Sellke described the orthodontic alumni association at Illinois and the extensive level of support it provides to help improve the orthodontic program there. Much of the second day was spent explaining how efficient practice management techniques can be used to improve patient care and optimize clinical outcomes.

At the conclusion of the lectures, Orthodontic Foundation President, Dr. Putt Browning, and Treasurer, Dr. Pam Regimbal, presented Dr. Sellke with a souvenir of his visit to Richmond: a collection of ornaments depicting the monuments of Monument Avenue, mounted together in an impressive display. Incoming President, Dr. Bart Weis, presented Dr. Browning with a plaque commemorating his term and thanked the members in attendance. Next year’s speaker will be Dr. Rick McLaughlin and the meeting will be held March 4-6, 2007 in Richmond.

Department Has a New Website

The orthodontic department launched its updated website in March. Several months in the making, the new website features an updated look, expanded sections about our alumni and the MCV Orthodontic Education and Research Foundation, and comprehensive information for postgraduate applicants, including a downloadable application form.

A comprehensive listing of scientific publications originating in the department since 1990 appears on the website, as does detailed information for patients seeking orthodontic treatment at VCU, and many pictures of the department’s facilities. The new department website can be found at http://www.dentistry.vcu.edu/ortho

Department Update

At the annual meeting of the MCV Orthodontic Education and Research Foundation, Dr. Steven Lindauer, chair of the department, provided attendees with an update describing recent accomplishments of the department. He attributed the department’s increasing success to the sustained retention of faculty. Dr. Eser Tüfekçi and Dr. Bhavna Shroff both joined the department in 2002 and these three faculty members have remained in the department since that time. In addition, there are 11 part-time faculty who serve on a virtually voluntary basis anywhere from 1/2 day per month to 1 1/2 days per week. Without the part-time faculty, it would be impossible for the department to continue to operate at such a high level. Current part-time faculty members, and the year they officially joined the department, are: Dr. Charlie Gills (1970), Dr. Ralph Anderson (1976), Dr. Don Duvall (1976), Dr. Peter Wendell (1986), Dr. Tom Butterfoss (1996), Dr. Denis Britto (1998), Dr. Liz Mei (2001), Dr. Graham Gardner (2001), Dr. Harlan Schufeldt (2001), Dr. Pam Regimbal (2002), and Dr. Randy Kulnis (2002).

The following are some of the highlights of the department’s accomplishments:

Since 2000, the residency program has attracted more than 200 applications annually for the four positions available. The orthodontic program consistently attracts top candidates from all over the country and is one of the most sought-after programs nationally.

Although there is no quota system or formula for accepting ap-

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Dr. Eser Tüfekçi was born and raised in Istanbul, Turkey. She attended the University of Istanbul and graduated with her DDS degree in 1989. Following this, she started her graduate studies at The Ohio State University where she received her MS in Dental Materials and PhD in Oral Biology in 1998. After completing a one year fellowship at OSU, she attended the University of Minnesota where she earned her certificate in Orthodontics in 2002. Upon completing her specialty education, Dr. Tüfekçi joined VCU where she has been a full-time faculty member in the orthodontic department since 2002.

While maintaining a vigorous schedule of scholarship and research, Dr. Tüfekçi also participates actively in both school and community activities and functions and serves on several committees at the Dental School and University levels. Dr. Tüfekçi is actively involved with research focusing on orthodontic materials and clinical orthodontics.

As a loyal OSU alumnus, Dr. Tüfekçi is a fanatic Buckeye and she enjoys many sports: especially football, basketball and soccer. Her hobbies include aerobics, weight training, reading, movies, and traveling. Dr. Tüfekçi has a 10 year old daughter, Duru who is her true inspiration and motivation to strive for excellence in every aspect of life.

Dawn Collins has always lived in Richmond, and she worked as a dental assistant at Childrens’ Hospital for 16 years before coming to the orthodontic department at VCU 6 years ago. “I really love my job,” she says. “Meeting new residents every year – the old ones don’t really go away. They become part of our extended “family.” I really enjoy seeing former graduates when they are in town, hearing from them over the holidays, watching their families grow. One of my jobs is to order supplies for the orthodontic clinic, and recent graduates often call to ask for information about certain items. It is always a pleasure to help them, so feel free to call anytime!”

Dawn has a son Tim, born on her birthday, who is now 22 years old. Her stepdaughter has 2 boys: Buddy, 2½ years old, and Spencer, 6 months. “That means I’m a grandmother. Wow!” Dawn says one of the best things about her job is being able to travel to the AAO meeting every year to scope out new orthodontic products and see what’s going on. “Hawaii, San Francisco, Philadelphia…I never would have traveled to these places. Maybe, but I’m already the “senior” assistant…and a grandmother.”

The orthodontic clinic said farewell to three of its assistants in 2005. Dolores Williams, Team 2 assistant since 1990, retired in April after 15 years in the department. She reports that she is enjoying her retirement and is busier than ever, spending time with her grandchildren and their activities. Heidi Vogel also retired at the end of 2005, after being the Team 1 assistant for 11 years. Heidi and her husband are planning to move to Georgia later this year where they will spend lots of time on the beach with as many dogs as Heidi can convince her husband they have room for. Margaret Miliotis left Team 3 after three years with the department to join her husband’s business and spend more time at home. The occasions were marked by two retirement receptions held at the MCV Alumni House across 11th Street from the dental school. All three will be missed over the coming year, but we wish them all the best as they pursue new frontiers.

Three new assistants, each with big shoes to fill, began working in the orthodontic clinic in 2005, after Dolores Williams and Heidi Vogel retired, and Margaret Miliotis left VCU. We were lucky to find three exceptional and highly qualified individuals who were willing to put up with daily rush hour traffic and the challenge of working with new residents every year. Kathy Schwendeman (Team 1), Andrea Menger (Team 2), and Cecilia Moncure (Team 3) all came to the clinic with previous orthodontic experience and great recommendations. Each quickly adapted to the new environment and rapidly became part of our close-knit orthodontic family within the dental school.
2006 Graduates

Zach Casagrande was born in Washington, D.C. and grew up in Reston, VA. He went to college at James Madison University and then to dental school at VCU. After completing the Orthodontic program, he plans to enter private practice in Northern Virginia. In his free time, Zach enjoys spending time with his wife Gena and son Tyler, playing golf, baseball, and traveling.

Scott Eberle was born in New Albany, IN and raised in a small town named Ramsey. He attended the J.B. Speed School of Engineering at the University of Louisville, where he received his Bachelor of Science and Masters of Engineering degrees in chemical engineering. He married his high school sweetheart Jana, and moved to Tennessee to work at Eastman Chemical Company. After 2 ½ years, they returned to Louisville so Scott could attend dental school at the University of Louisville. After graduating in 2004, he attended VCU as an orthodontic resident. Upon graduation in 2006, Scott will be returning to the bluegrass state to work part-time in a group practice in Lexington, KY while setting up a new practice in east Louisville. He and his wife are proud parents of two sons; 2 ½ year old Isaac and 2 month old Ethan. Scott feels blessed to have been a part of what he feels is the best orthodontic program in the country.

Daenya Edwards is a native of Jamaica, but grew up in Toronto, Canada. She received her dental degree from the University of Connecticut. Daenya enjoys reading, cooking, traveling, swimming, and spending time with friends and family. She is looking forward to returning to Connecticut where her fiancée resides, and working as an associate or starting up a practice. Daenya’s thesis is titled “The Effect of Mass Media Advertising on Consumer Perception of Orthodontic Treatment Quality”.

Elijah B. Saikaly was born and raised in Ottawa, Canada. He was very athletic throughout his youth, and had a passion for the game of Chess. He attended Immaculata high school in Ottawa. He completed his Major in Biochemistry at the University of Ottawa and was awarded a Bachelor of Science Degree with Honors. He pursued his dream to become a Dentist and graduated at the top of his class at Howard University in Washington, DC where he received numerous awards for academic achievements. Upon successful completion of the Dental Program, Dr. Saikaly was offered the opportunity to attend a 2-year Residency program in Richmond at the Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Dentistry, Department of Orthodontics. He recently married the woman of his dreams mid-way through his residency program and they will be returning to Ottawa, Canada to be with their family and friends. Dr. Saikaly plans on entering private practice and starting a family soon thereafter.
The department has a very active research program. Following is a listing of recent publications, book chapters, and papers that are soon to be published:


In addition, the June, 2005 issue of Seminars in Orthodontics, entitled Controversies in Orthodontics, was Guest Edited by Dr. Shroff.

The department has attracted several research grants in recent years:

Lindauer S: J, Peck S: Orthodontic Faculty Recruitment and Retention: Goals and Perceptions. American Association of Orthodontists Foundation Biomedical Research Award, $10,019 awarded, 7/1/02-6/30/03.

Shroff B: Osteoclasts Function During Tooth Eruption in the C-Fos Knockout Murine Model. American Association of Orthodontists Foundation Biomedical Research Award, $15,000 awarded, 1/1/03-6/30/04.

Tüfekçi E: Orthodontic Faculty Development Fellowship. American Association of Orthodontists Foundation, $15,000 awarded, $7/1/04-6/30/05, and $15,000 awarded, 7/1/06 – 6/30/07.

Saikaly E, (Tüfekçi E): Use of a Synthetic Substrate for Orthodontic Bond Strength Testing. Southern Association of Orthodontists, $1000 awarded, 7/1/05-6/30/06.

Shroff B: Role of Osteoclasts during Tooth Eruption in the C-Fos Knockout Murine Model. VCU AD Williams Faculty Development Award, $14,960 awarded, 1/1/06-12/31/06.

Tüfekçi E: Development of a Resin Modified Bioactive Glass Ionomer Cement for Orthodontic Bonding. VCU AD Williams Faculty Development Award, $15,000 awarded, 1/1/06-12/31/06.

Tüfekçi E, Casagrande Z: The Anti-Plaque Efficacy of Listerine Used in Combination with Toothbrushing in Orthodontic Patients. Pfizer Inc., $10,860 awarded, 5/10/05-5/10/06.

Tüfekçi E, Gladwell J: Concurrent Whitening and Orthodontic Treatment. Ultradent, $10,782 awarded, 4/1/06-4/1/07.

Full-time faculty are active in editing orthodontic journals and serving in professional organizations:

Lindauer, S: Associate Editor of The Angle Orthodontist., Editorial Board of Seminars in Orthodontics., AAOF Planning and Awards Review Committee, Angle North Atlantic Component President-Elect., MCV Orthodontic Foundation Executive Secretary.

Shroff, B: AAO Council on Scientific Affairs, SAO Scientific Affairs Committee, Editor of the National Angle Society Newsletter, Angle North Atlantic Component Secretary, Editorial Board of The Angle Orthodontist.

Tüfekçi, E: SAO Annual Meeting Planning Committee

In addition, in the summer of 2005, the department received state funding to replace clinic chairs and cabinetry, giving the clinic a more modern and cleaner look. Recently, the clinic updated its practice management system to Dolphin management, enhancing the graduate program’s reputation of being one of the most digitally up-to-date nationally. Lastly, the department launched its new website in March, 2006. The new website is described separately in this Newsletter.

Dr. Lindauer has been with the orthodontic department at VCU since 1989, serving as Chair since 2000.
MCV Orthodontic Endowment Approaches $1 Million

The goal of the MCV Orthodontic Endowment Fund is to ensure the future of the Orthodontic Department at VCU by supporting recruitment and retainment of full-time faculty members. Initiated only a few years ago, and originally envisioned by Putt Browning and his classmates as they watched faculty member after faculty member leave VCU for greener pastures, the MCV Orthodontic Endowment has met with encouraging early success. At this time, 54 Foundation members have pledged the proceeds of 1 orthodontic case per year for 5 years, for a total in pledges of $960,000. To date, over $350,000 has been collected. When the fund reaches $500,000, 5% in interest will be made available annually for use by the orthodontic department.

“This support will be a significant help to the department,” explained Dr. Steven Lindauer, department chair, at the 2006 Orthodontic Foundation meeting. “The Endowment Fund is not only important for our continued success but is absolutely crucial to the department’s survival in the future.” The department has increased its output of publications and currently has several research grants supporting further scholarly activity. However, the loss of Federal funding for orthodontic education nationally (GME funds) and a 35% cut in the orthodontic budget from the dental school in 2005, have combined to put the department in a tight funding situation this year. Dr. Lindauer requested and received an extra $15,000 in support from the Orthodontic Foundation to help carry the department through the fiscal year that ends June 30, 2006. At a recent SAO workshop discussing the future of orthodontics in general, a group of 50 leaders in the specialty concluded that building significant endowment funds to support orthodontic education was key to the survival of orthodontics as a well-respected specialty over the next 10 years. The MCV Orthodontic Fund is off to a good start toward achieving that goal.

If you would like more information, or would like to make a contribution to the MCV Orthodontic Endowment Fund, please visit the department webpage, http://www.dentistry.vcu.edu/ortho, or contact Dr. Putt Browning at (910) 793-2520.