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Academy Examiner

THE ACADEMY OF LDS DENTISTS NEWSLETTER • FALL 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The 31st annual conference of the Academy of LDS Dentists was another great success! We now start a new year of activities and projects. I feel humbled to stand at the helm of such a tremendous organization of fellow dentists.

We've all appreciated the able leadership of Albert Clark. He was always selfless in his service and keen in his insight, and we wish him well in all he pursues in the future.

As the dyer of cloth shows on his hands the color of dye with which he has been working, so do our lives become "colored" or enriched by our associations. This past conference was a wonderful opportunity to be influenced in so many ways, both for us as well as our families, as we sharpened our professional skills. Our association with fellow professionals, some long-standing and some new, again blessed our lives.

As we look forward to the coming year, we would like to reach out to the new professionals among us. When we come together to learn and share experiences, we are all strengthened and expanded to become more effective in the mission and purposes of the Academy. Please invite and encourage them to join in.

You are encouraged to take advantage of our Web site which we plan to expand as a means of spreading news about opportunities and to keep in touch with Academy members.

As we increase our service to those less fortunate, we can spread our influence for good throughout the world. It is always heartwarming to feel the power and influence service gives among the membership of the Academy.

Through your conference support as well as dues and donations, our scholarship program has expanded, and we continue to open up new areas for service throughout the world. Cambodia, China, Ghana, and Uganda were just a few of the areas of focus this past year. We are looking forward to greater developing opportunities with the addition of projects in the Philippines and Zimbabwe, to name a few. I hope that you will take a few minutes at this time to renew your membership, and be generous, if possible, with a donation to the humanitarian or scholarship fund. We'd be greatly empowered if everyone would renew their membership on an annual basis. Sometimes we remember only if we are able to attend the conference.

I look forward to serving the Academy and invite any of you who have the desire to help in any way to join in.

Sincerely,

David H. Geddes
President, Academy of LDS Dentists

ACADEMY OF LDS DENTISTS COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS 2008–2009

Founder: Gordon J. Christensen

President: David Geddes

President-Elect: John Gerritsen

Vice President: Karl Koerner

Secretary/Treasurer: Evan Roundy

Immediate Past President: Albert Clark

Spouses President: Jacquelyn Ormond

Hygienists President: Kristen Mecham

Communications: Laurence Palmer

Dental Students: Paul Child

Service Development Counselor:

Gerald Summerhays

Service Funds Counselor: David Wright

VISIT THE WEB SITE

Keep up to date by visiting our Web site at www.academyofldsdentists.com/.

Information can be found there about the next conference; Academy news; service and missionary opportunities for dentists and others, both here and abroad; equipment that can be borrowed for dental service projects; a bulletin board for notices about practices for sale, members seeking jobs, and position openings; and many other areas of interest. There is even a Spanish-language page.

The editor can be contacted at:

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Thank You!

Attention: We are attempting to build a database of all LDS dentists and dental students in the U.S. and Canada. Would you please take a minute and send us contact information on any LDS dentists and students you know? Perhaps you know them from your dental school, ward or stake, a dental association, etc. We would very much appreciate your help in compiling a complete listing. Please send the contact information to LDSdentists@gmail.com.

Academy Examiner

**ACADEMY OF LDS DENTISTS
CONFERENCE—SERVICE AWARDS**
Deseret International Foundation

*Douglas
and
Sharon
Jackson &
Dr. William
and
Audrey
Jackson*



*John and Janelle
Spencer, co-
founders of DCI
International.*



When Dr. William and Audrey Jackson presided over a mission in the Philippines for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints between 1986 and 1989, they were shocked by the number of children who were suffering with terrible disfiguring disabilities such as cleft lips and palates, crossed eyes, and club feet. They wanted to do something to help. With the aid of LDS Church leaders and local community members, they founded the Mabuhay Deseret Foundation in 1987.

Since then nearly 35,000 surgeries have been performed in the Philippines at an average cost of less than \$40 U.S. The foundation has expanded into 22 countries, using medical doctors, dentists, nurses, hygienists, dental assistants, equipment repairers, and others who volunteer their time and pay their own way to help those in need. The name Deseret International Foundation was adopted, and Bill Jackson, founder, served as president until this year, when his son, Douglas, became president and Bill became chairman of the board.

Douglas has been working for Deseret International Foundation since 2001 as CFO (chief financial officer). Besides volunteers paying their own expenses, 96 percent of every dollar donated is used directly for patient care.

John and Janelle Spencer

Cofounders of DCI International, the organization originated in 1983 making replacement parts for dental equipment. They later purchased Pelton & Crane and Marus Dental, growing these companies to the second-largest dental equipment manufacturer in the United States. The companies were sold in 2005, but the Spencers retained ownership of the original parts and small units business.

Janelle, a dental hygienist, and John, a former sales and marketing representative, have donated dental equipment to organizations to provide dental care to those in need. These projects have been carried out all over the world.

Our Academy is fortunate to have the Spencers as part of several of our service projects. They donated two dental units to the dental school in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, while Dr. Joel and Vivian Janis were there teaching esthetic restorative procedures and helping with the dental service for missionaries and prospective missionaries. They provided 20 dental units to a project begun by David Sheets and Stan Miller in Honduras. More recently, they donated 30 units to the dental school in Zimbabwe, where Dr. Steve and Joann Sorensen are providing dental service in that underserved area.

GHANA STUDENTS COME TO UTAH

This September, four dental hygiene students from the University of Ghana Dental School (UGDS) spent one month at Utah Valley University's (UVU) dental hygiene program. While they were here they attended lectures in oral anatomy and histology, instrumentation, periodontology, pharmacology, and dental hygiene fundamentals. They observed at



UVU's dental hygiene clinic and numerous dental and periodontal practices in Utah and Salt Lake counties. During their visit they also attended the annual UDHA convention at Thanksgiving Point; this was exciting for them to see so many hygienists in one place, as they will be Ghana's first dental hygienists. We enjoyed showing them our beautiful state by visiting Temple Square, the Great Salt Lake, Sundance/Bridal Veil Falls, Park City, Bryce Canyon, and Zion National Park.

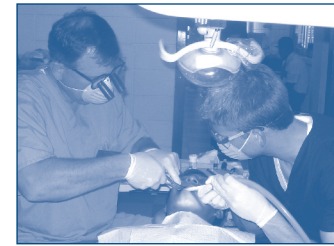
This visit was part of an exchange program between the two universities. Since 2005, UVU associate professor Kristen Mecham has gone to Ghana four times to help the UGDS set up the country's first dental hygiene program and to teach at the school and in the community. Several students from UVU have also taught in Ghana after graduation, including five students who went this summer for one month.

The UGDS has a beautiful new dental clinic and many updated textbooks and learning resources; however, they lack dental hygiene faculty (there is only one quasi hygienist in the country), and so they have been reliant on our visits. Those who have traveled to Ghana to help with this project (mainly recent dental hygiene graduates so far) teach basic dental hygiene courses in the classroom from a pre-

determined curriculum (i.e., instrumentation, sharpening, plaque biofilm, infection control, etc.) and then observe and evaluate students in the clinic. They have also been included in rewarding outreach projects that the UGDS organizes with local schools and charities. If you would like to get involved in this project, either by traveling to Ghana to help teach or through donations of equipment, teaching resources, or money, please contact Kristen Mecham at mechamkr@uvu.edu or contact the Academy of LDS Dentists.

SMILES FOR HONDURAS

Smiles for Honduras is a group of 40 to 50 who have made humanitarian trips to Honduras the past several years. Recently trips to Nicaragua and Guatemala have been organized and completed. Not only has dentistry been the focus, but humanitarian efforts in orphanages, hospitals, and other community settings have been done. David Sheets and Stan Miller of Provo are the heart and soul of this group. In Tegucigalpa, Honduras, the group has placed



The dental school at the University of Honduras is one of the finest dental schools in Central America.

much equipment in the University of Honduras dental school over the years, making it one of the finest dental schools in Central America. Any and all are invited to participate and can make contact at dsheets@beprepared.com.

**CHAORYANG, CHINA,
DENTAL PROJECT**

Chaoyang is a beautiful city in northeast China, located between North Korea on the south and Inner Mongolia on the north. It is an agricultural city with a population of 300,000. The province of Liao Ning has established a campus-type school for middle and high school students in Chaoyang. Over 600 orphans and other students live and go to school on this campus.

Our dental team has made several trips to this school to provide dental care for the students. On every occasion we have been most warmly welcomed. NuSkin Inc. donated the money for us to purchase two stationary dental units for this project.

In four days, with teams working three- to four-hour shifts, we are able to treat hundreds of youth. The real plus to this project is that these kids are the ideal age where we can provide dental care that will benefit them for a lifetime.

Our next trip is scheduled for April 17–26, 2009, and will cost somewhere between \$1,500 and \$2,000, which includes visa, airfare, hotel, travel, and sightseeing.

A maximum of 12 dentists and 4 hygienists will be allowed to register. Spouses are encouraged to participate. We will be working four days and sightseeing for two days at the Great Wall, Forbidden City, and Summer Palace.

For more information, e-mail Delmar Gray, DDS, dldmrgry24@aol.com.

You are invited to ask previous participants about their experience.

Dr. Marty Bingham, bingham@xmission.com
Dr. Leon Clark, lpclarkslc@yahoo.com
Dr. Terry Ferrell, DTFDDS@juno.com

**31ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE—
SPOUSES' SESSION**



Sister Mary Ellen Edmunds gave the opening keynote address on this year's theme, "Women of Exceeding Faith."

The 2008 Academy of LDS Dentists Spouse Conference was inspiring, fun, and fattening. The theme of "Women of Exceeding Faith," based on Alma 19:10, was developed in an opening address by Mary Ellen Edmunds who challenged each of us to increase our faith to "industrial strength" based on Jesus Christ. Speakers throughout the conference spoke on ways to enhance our faith through music, encouraging family connections with digital journaling, sound financial stewardship, overcoming and growing from trials, being aware of the importance of image, and providing structural blocks for strengthening our families. Conference participants both laughed and cried as our souls were touched in deeply significant ways by our presenters. Along the way we enjoyed delicious meals with spectacular desserts.

Our spouse program is unique in that it brings together similarly minded spouses of dentists with the intent of uplifting and blessing them with truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ in an environment of learning that invites the Spirit. As president of our organization for 2008–2010, I invite you to join us in August 2009. Enroll your children in the activities designed especially for them. Enroll your dentists in courses designed for their professional development, but we spouses know their programs are just periphery to OUR conference. Please plan to join us and prepare to be uplifted, renewed, and strengthened by powerful truths and by the power of spiritual enlightenment that comes as we unite and discover ways that can make a difference and bring about good. See you in August!

*Jacquelyn Ormond, President, Academy of
LDS Dentists Spouse Organization*

**THE 31ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE
A GREAT SUCCESS!**

The 31st annual conference of the Academy of LDS Dentists, held August 15–16, 2008, was a great success! There were the traditional events for the dentists, hygienists, and spouses—and even the youth had a wonderful time. Two full days of continuing education and many opportunities for fellowship were provided along with luncheons, an evening fireside-banquet, a full enrichment program for the spouses, and many exciting activities for the children and youth. Again this year a special session for hygienists was held. At the conclusion of the conference, all attendees left the BYU campus spiritually and professionally enriched.

The BYU Conference Center facilities were comfortable and inviting. As members of the Academy we extend sincere thanks to the BYU predoctoral students who escorted the clinicians and made their stay comfortable. We are indebted to Emilee Barrett and all of the BYU conference staff for their professional efforts in making everything run smoothly.



*From L to R: Dr. Gordon J. Christensen,
Dr. Jon B. Suzuki, Dr. Rella P. Christensen,
Dr. Howard M. Rochestie, and Dr. Joseph J.
Massad*

Dr. Christensen made the arrangements for our clinicians who enthusiastically shared their knowledge, research, and practical clinical tips. The clinicians spoke either Friday or Saturday in the morning with a thirty-minute question and answer session before breaking for lunch. In the afternoon the attendees then chose two presenter topics that were discussed in greater detail. The afternoon classes were smaller and more intensive, so it was possible to have a more personal interaction with the speaker and to share ideas with the class. This format is unique to the Academy and offers great flexibility in choosing topics of greatest interest. Sometimes the choice is difficult, but its advantage is that everyone has an opportunity for a general overview of the latest topics in dentistry. The AGD and continuing education credit is also a great benefit.

Some of the dentists and their families combined the conference with a vacation by visiting family or attending BYU Campus Education Week that followed.

Each clinician graciously accepted a copy of the Book of Mormon from Dr. Christensen, as has long been our tradition. On Friday the speakers included Dr. Gordon Christensen on "What's New—2008," Dr. Rella Christensen on "Zirconia-Based Fixed Prosthodontics and Caries Management," Dr. Joseph J. Massad on "Removable Prosthodontics," and Howard M. Rochestie on "Practice Management and Life Transitions." The following day Dr. Jeffrey S. Rouse taught "Interdisciplinary Rehabilitative Dentistry—Orthodontic Intrusion," Dr. Thomas Schiff taught "Maxillofacial Radiology—Imaging of Oral Structures," Dr. Jon B. Suzuki presented "Periodontics/Preventive Dentistry," and Dr. John A. Svirsky presented "Oral Diagnosis, Oral Pathology, and Oral Medicine." The hygiene session was taught by Betsy Reynolds, RDH, MS, on "The Stress Mess: The Impact of Stress on Oral and Systemic Health."

Our spouses were spiritually rejuvenated in their own schedule of events, while the children and teenagers were kept totally involved with their own agenda of exciting activities led by trained BYU youth counselors.

Everything was well organized, fast-paced, and fulfilling for everyone.



*From L to R: Dr. Albert Clark, Dr. John A. Svirsky,
Dr. Jeffrey S. Rouse, Dr. Thomas Schiff,
and Dr. Gordon J. Christensen*