

THE ALABAMA

Composite



DEDICATED TO THE CONCERNS
OF GENERAL DENTISTS IN ALABAMA

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Spring Time in the South

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Editor's Notes

Bill Chesser, DMD, MAGD

2015 ALABAMA AGD GOALS

Each year as Editor, it is my duty and privilege to obtain photographs of the various MAGD, FAGD, and LLSR candidates at the National AGD meetings. They must appear before their award ceremonies for group pictures, as well as for individual shots which I can use in our Alabama Composite.

Often several awardees don't make it to the Region 19 photo-op, leaving me to search among the 300 or so cap-and-gowned folks for Alabama faces who have earned due respect in the Composite.

Sadly, at the 2014 AGD convention in Detroit, my job was easy. Why? For the first time in my 24 years as Editor, Alabama had no FAGD, MAGD, or LLSR candidates.

The Fellowship award requires 500 hours of approved CE, and a successful score on the Fellowship Exam. AGD provides plenty of support, including a study guide which one can order (also available online), and a two-day course offered at the summer national convention, as well as several options in the fall. All information needed to receive any of these awards must be submitted by December 31 of the year preceding the next convention.

Being awarded the Mastership requires 1,100 hours of approved CE. 400 hours must be earned in participation courses, and 400 must be in specific disciplines. Attendance at the AGD Annual Meeting Convocation Ceremony is required to be awarded these honors.

The best way to work on Mastership is through a Master-Track program. UAB offered an excellent one several years ago, providing the best CE I have ever received. Plans are underway to re-establish the Master Program at UAB now. Dr. Gordon Isbell is involved in this effort, and welcomes any comments at grisbell@isbelldental.com.

All you need to prepare for these awards is available at agd.org. Log on to the member site, and click on "Track your continuing education". You will find answers to all your inquiries. 'Hope I have added to your Bucket List. Set that Goal, and Git 'Er Done! We want some photos in next year's Composite issues honoring Alabama AGD members.



2015 OFFICERS INSTALLED AT FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

Left to right: Bill Chesser, Editor; Doug Beckham, President; David Skees, Immediate Past President; Rachel Osborne, President Elect; Gary Myers, Treasurer; Derrick Mendez, Secretary.

(Not pictured: Toni Neumeier, Vice President)

President's Message

Doug Beckham, DMD, FAGD



2014 was a great year! The Alabama Academy of General Dentistry moved forward under the insightful leadership of **Dr. David Skees**. A tribute to David is in order. There's a lot more to David than meets the eye. David is a great writer, philosopher, and bona fide "gun nut." I can match only the last of those qualifications. Like all of us, David has a passion for excellence in dentistry. His philosophy on current issues facing dentistry is well-researched. Ask him about the problems dentistry faces today – but be ready for an in-depth conversation! On a different front, David was graced with a wonderful wife – Anita. You have all heard the saying "Behind every successful man is a determined wife." Well, we can bear witness to that. David and Anita are to be commended for their time, effort, selflessness, and service.

So much is happening – and it's all for the better.

For the first time, the Mississippi Academy of General Dentistry is joining the Alabama Academy of General Dentistry for a joint meeting. I cannot tell you how excited I was when this was first being discussed. Mississippi's leaders brought up the idea, and it was truly a "no-brainer." Why should we not combine our meetings and share the friendship and camaraderie? Incoming AGD President and Mississippi native, **Dr. Mark Donald**, agreed and wants this to be a huge success for both constituencies.

The Alabama Academy of General Dentistry met in Destin on January 17th for a productive morning planning session for this summer's meeting, devoted to putting the finishing touches on this year's 42nd Annual Review of Dentistry.

That afternoon, we had an extremely fruitful Strategic Planning Session.

Dr. Rachel Osborne of Locust Fork, UAB SOD Class of 2008, accepted the position of ALAGD President Elect. Rachel has been a reliable and steadfast worker with ALAGD. Her significant influence will be evident next year.

Dr. Toni Neumeier, accepted the Vice President position. She has been a Director of Prosthodontic coursework at UAB SOD. She is a Master of the Academy of General Dentistry and lectures both nationally and internationally. Toni has truly been an instrumental representative for AGD at UAB SOD.

Dr. Derrick Mendez, UAB SOD Class of 2014, is our Secretary. He served as a class officer and was very active in the American Student Dental Association. In his senior year, he was selected as a recipient of the Joseph F. Volker award. This honor is bestowed annually on a graduating dental student who has epitomized the team concept by selflessly helping classmates through their dental education and working for the good of the school and student body. Could we ask for a better testament to one of our upcoming leaders?

Dr. Kim Stiegler, a past ALDA president, has joined ALAGD as a new board member.

Some of ALAGD's challenges were listed and discussed. Fortunately, they are not ours alone. Some of the major challenges mentioned were:

- The need for more emphasis on membership retention
- Not utilizing our current technology to potential
- Membership not interested in serving on committees
- And certainly a major problem – no Fellowship or Mastership Program in place.

We picked the brains of the younger membership present. The major obstacles stated were:

- Perhaps foremost that many recent graduates are totally unaware of all the issues that AGD advocates for on behalf of the general dentists.
- Recent graduates have no perceived benefit of membership in AGD, or for that matter, their local society, the Alabama Dental Association, or the American Dental Association.
- Recent graduates are burned out on CE.

Junior and senior dental students requested help in the following areas:

- Practice management
- Insurance
- Employee management

Can you imagine? After 40 years, I still need help in these same areas.

The following Plan of Action was developed:

- Develop a promotional ad for the Alabama Academy of General Dentistry for use in recruiting new members
- Promote advantages of the ADA
- Pinpoint volunteers from each district to make personal connections to ALAGD members who have not renewed their membership.
- Implement aid in programs to help young dentists find jobs
- Develop a five year program to enhance young dentists' professional lives

It was a great day for those in attendance and, as you can see, very beneficial for all of ALAGD. Please check your calendars, save the date, and come to our joint meeting this summer in Destin. We have a great lineup of speakers and a beautiful venue!

Douglas Beckham, DMD, FAGD,
2015 President, Alabama Academy of General Dentistry.

DESTIN PLANNING MEETING



Board members attending the Strategic Planning in January. Refer to President Beckham's article for details from the meeting.



Dr. David Skees helps conduct the strategic planning session while Dr. Gary Myers makes a point.



Helping with our planning session are hotel executives Deidra Strange and Brian Lamonaca.

ALUMNI MEETING

ALUMNI OFFICERS INSTALLED IN FEBRUARY

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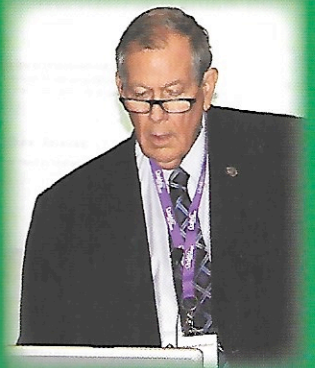
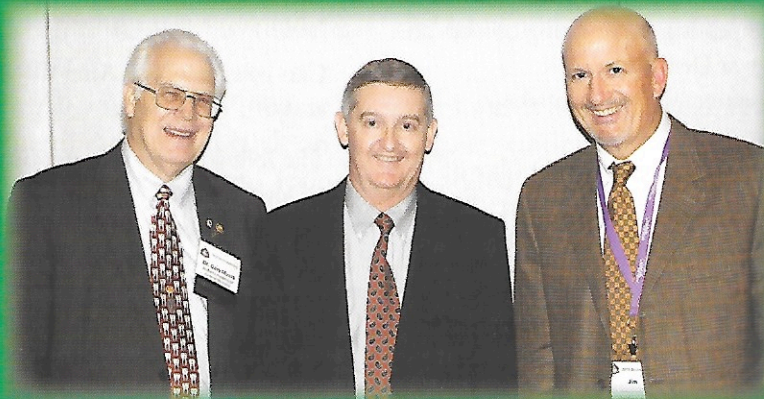
Dr. Gary Myers, President Elect;

Dr. Ray McLaughlin, President;

Dr. James Shamburger,

Immediate Past President.

All AGD members.



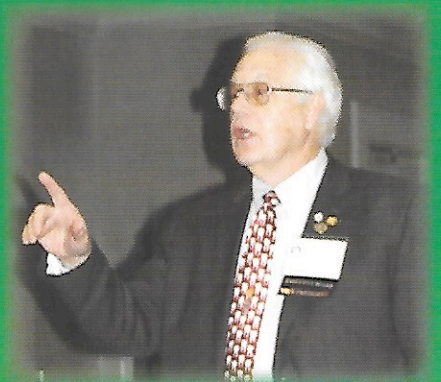
Dr. Howard Gamble speaks to the Senior Dental Students about life after Dental School.



Receiving the Outstanding Alumnus Award from Dean Reddy is Bruce Cunningham from Jacksonville. Bruce has been an example of leadership in Dentistry and is a Master in the AGD.



Outstanding Young Alumnus is Dr. Daniel Pittman, Periodontist from Dothan, receiving the award from Dean Michael Reddy.



Dr. Gary Myers gets to put in his advice to the seniors.



D-3 dental students, pictured here with Senator Paul Bussman and Dr. Lew Mitchell, took a day of their spring break to join the Action for Dental Health Day in Montgomery.



Pictured with Senator Bussman (rear) are Bobby Ingram, Dr. Leigh Kent, Dr. Debra Bishop, Dr. Zack Studstill and Michele Warren.

“Action for Dental Health” Day in Montgomery

On March 12, dentists from across Alabama journeyed to Montgomery for “Alabama Action for Dental Health.” This annual event allows hometown practitioners to be informed by legislators of important actions afoot in our state government concerning our profession.

Also in attendance were some third-year dental students who were on Spring Break at the SOD. Many of those present were AGD members.

The proceedings began with a briefing on legislative issues. As Senators and Representatives were busy on the floor of the House and Senate at this time, we were not able to visit them personally, as had been planned.

Senator Paul Bussman, however, was kind enough to visit with the group, later joining us for luncheon at the RSA Building. Paul is a Dentist from Cullman, and has been an active AGD member for much of his career. What an important asset he is for our profession.

The highlight of the day’s events was an update from Governor Robert Bentley. Our Governor spoke to us about his plan to obtain money to “beef up” the General Fund. He was adamant that as a conservative Republican Governor, he hated to raise taxes, but it is necessary in order to have the funds we need to keep our state moving forward.

His proposals include an automobile sales tax increase from 2% to 4%; an increase in the cigarette tax; and taxes on large corporations that are at this time being exempted. Whether the Governor will be successful in getting the tax bills through both Chambers of the Legislature remains to be seen.

Your Editor has participated in this event many times, and recommends that each of you consider attending next year. The more involved we are in actions which affect us personally, the better our opportunities to make a difference.

AGD Releases Book to Help Dental Students and Recent Graduates

CHICAGO (March 2, 2015) – With dental school graduation just around the corner, the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) is introducing the second edition of “You’ve Graduated, Now What? A Guide to Navigating Those First Years in the Dental Profession.”

“The health care landscape continues to change dramatically, creating more options for dentists than ever before. But the more possibilities there are, the more you need to think about your immediate next steps, as well as your broader plan for the future,” says AGD President W. Carter Brown, DMD, FAGD.

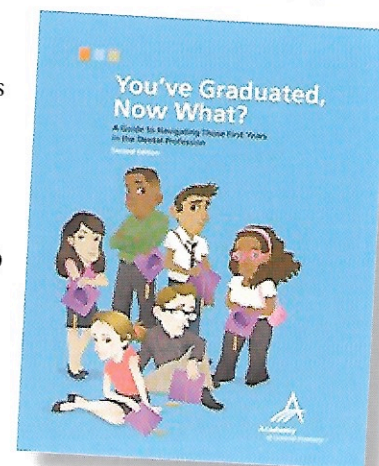
The book’s newest edition, available online, includes information on:

- Goal setting
- Career options, including associateships and practice ownership
- Marketing
- Finance planning
- Continuing education
- Organized dentistry, and more!

Readers even will find essential patient and practice management forms in the book’s Resource Library. This library will be updated with new forms every month.

“This book offers recent graduates and new dentists the information they need to know how to guide them through all of their career opportunities, challenges, and transitions,” says Dr. Brown. “The AGD is proud to offer this important resource to its student members.”

Online access to this second edition is free to AGD members. AGD student membership is only \$17 per year. Join the AGD to access the book and all of the great benefits of AGD membership!

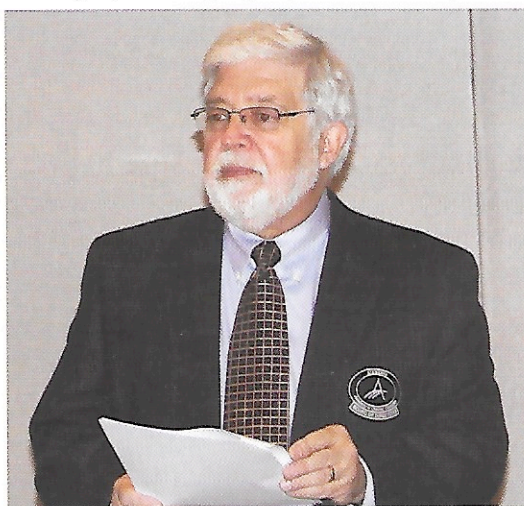


BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING



AT THE BOARD MEETING FOUR PAST PRESIDENTS ALL IN A ROW.

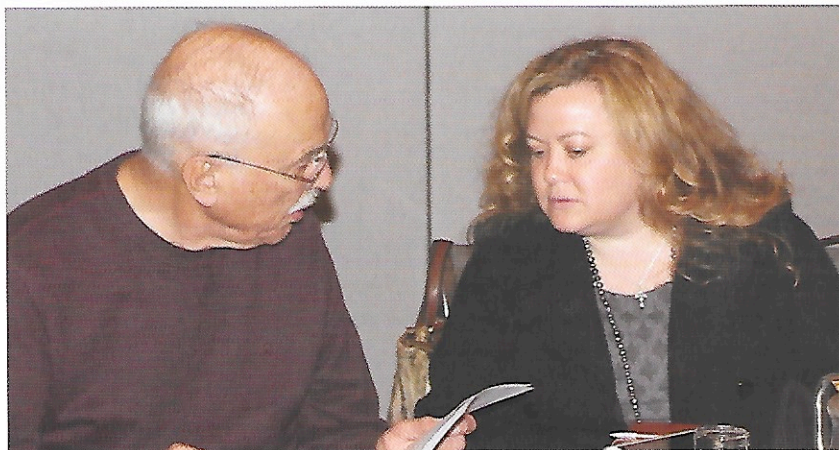
Left to Right: Gordon Isbell (who is running for Vice President of ALADA), Bobby Babb, ALAGD speaker and host chairman, Lew Mitchell, ADA Delegate, and Gary Myers, Vice President of ALDA, Treasurer of ALAGD, and President Elect of Alumni Association. AGD Leaders stay involved.



Newly installed President, Dr. Doug Beckham, takes control of the Board of Directors meeting.



Dr. David Skees, getting ready to conduct his last Board meeting, confers with Executive Director Howard Gamble and Executive Secretary Angie Gilliver.



Dr. Charles Graffeo gets advice from ALAGD President Elect Rachel Osborne.



Dr. Toni Neumeir has graciously accepted the position of Vice President for ALAGD. She is on the faculty at the School of Dentistry in the prosthodontics department. Toni has been a real star on the membership committee. We look forward to her continued role in leadership.

OBSERVATIONS OF A FIRST-YEAR GPR RESIDENT

By G. Ross Isbell, DMD

Dental School is a long and grueling process, after which we are given the opportunity to go out and save the world, one smile at the time! However, not all of us go straight out into the world; many choose to put off the private sector for one more year of schooling in a General Practice Residency. There are a myriad of reasons one may opt for a post graduate year (PGY-1).



Increasing one's speed and confidence, and mastership of new procedures are some of them.

When I graduated from UAB SOD this past May, I definitely felt clinically proficient enough to go straight into practice, but wanted to push the envelope just a little further while still having top-notch coaching in an academic environment. To accomplish this, I looked for a well-rounded GDR, and I found it at UAB Hospital Dentistry.

In my year here, I have not only been able to learn new skills such as implant placement and oral conscious sedation, but also gained experience managing medically compromised patients with polypharmacy, multiple co-morbidities, or chronic and debilitating illnesses like cancer.

Treating patients with special needs is becoming more common with the aging of the "Baby Boomer" generation. It has become our primary mission at UAB HD, because we are often the end of the referral chain. The fact that we are able to treat patients who might otherwise not find a dental home often makes them extremely appreciative. This experience is incredibly rewarding for us residents.

Our ability to care for this particular population is largely due to the expert mentorship of our program directors and adjunct faculty—and we are always looking for more!

While all the new techniques, materials, and knowledge have been invaluable, my favorite part of this year has been my co-workers. In a setting similar to a small group practice, we have been blessed with the opportunity to discover our dental identities in a tight-knit and collaborative learning environment among very best friends.

I have greatly enjoyed my experience this past year, and believe it has served as a critical first step in my development as a dental professional. I would highly recommend a PGY-1 to any dental student considering general dentistry.



Hospital Dentistry Residents: Doctors Anita Hastings, Catlin Grimes, Dustin Turnipseed and Ross Isbell

AGD 2015 SAN FRANCISCO

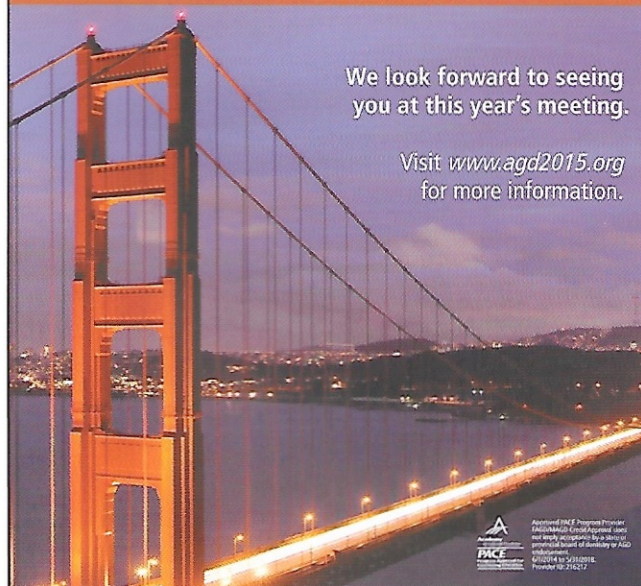
a golden opportunity

June 18 to 21, 2015 Moscone West Convention Center www.agd2015.org



We look forward to seeing you at this year's meeting.

Visit www.agd2015.org for more information.



The AGD Annual Meeting and Exhibits will be held in the fantastic city of San Francisco, CA, June 18-20-21, 2015. If you have not visited this jewel on our West Coast, now is a wonderful opportunity. Make it your family vacation, honeymoon, or whatever fits! You will not regret checking this off your "To Do" list. Earn some great CE, feast your eyes on the Giant Redwoods, and make a few stops in Sonoma or Napa, while supporting your AGD.



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