

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD RICHARD GAMBLE DMD, FAGD, FICD, FACD MARCH 15, 1941 - DECEMBER 25, 2015

How does one say a final goodbye to a friend of over fifty years? Indeed, the memories we shared are the best way we can remember him.

Howard's organizational skills never ceased to amaze me. Throughout his career, he was involved in organized dentistry, while at the same time participating to the hilt in his community activities. In Sheffield, Alabama, surrounded and encouraged by all his close family members, he served as Mayor, Police and Fire Commissioner, City Councilman, and Colbert County Commissioner.

At the same time, he maintained a thriving dental practice, taking care of his patients with skill, tender care, and good judgement. His CE requirements were always over-satisfied, and he always had the latest computer skills at hand, eventually teaching fellow dentists how to incorporate computers into their practices.

Until the very end of his life, Howard loved the Academy of General Dentistry. Climbing up through the ranks, he served two terms as National Speaker of the House of Delegates before being elected as the only Alabamian ever to become National AGD President. Throughout his life, he encouraged and motivated many dentists to get involved in organized dentistry, including me. As a mentor, he was without equal.

Howard and I spent much time together at various meetings all over the country. We walked the streets of San Francisco in search of exceptional restaurants he wanted to graze. For decades he compared Crème Brulee and She-Crab Soup at some of the finest eating establishments across the na-

tion. He especially enjoyed Hugo's Frog Bar in Chicago, where he marveled at the size of their Carrot Cake portions, for one serving would serve a whole table of diners.

Often we were in Chicago, home of the national AGD Headquarters. Howard and Sherry sometimes called to ask if Chris and I would like tickets to a play or concert being performed at the time. He always made the arrangements, we divvied up later, and a great time was had by all.

Occasionally Howard had extra tickets to a Bama game. Would I like to go? Well, DUH, of course I would. We met tradition-

ally at the home of classmate Bobby Babb and wife Peggy, Howard's favorite "Bed and Breakfast" site of note. Howard was an avid Tide fan, and had he lived, probably would have been at the Cotton Bowl New Year's Eve, yelling at the top of his lungs.

In 2002, while I was recovering from prostate cancer surgery, Howard drove down to Ozark from Sheffield (5-6 hour trip) after a full day of work in his office. He brought with him his famous smoked chicken for dinner, then proceeded to fix my crazy computer. Next day, he worked in

Continued on page 2



Howard and Sherry in San Francisco at the AGD Annual Meeting, June 2015.



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TRIBUTE TO HOWARD RICHARD GAMBLE

Continued from page 1

my office for eight hours, then drove back up to Sheffield. Now that is a true friend.

Howard encouraged me to run for a position on the Alabama Board of Dental Examiners, and helped in my campaign. The next year, he ran unopposed for the Board, and was slated to serve as Secretary/Treasurer this year.

Throughout his professional career, Howard's wife of 47 years, Sherry, was by his side with her precious smile, glowing personality, and unfalteringly gentle Southern presence. Our prayers are with Sherry, daughter Allison and her husband Danny B. McWilliams; son Wesley Gamble; and grands Abby and Trey McWilliams, and Hannah and Emily Kemp, who called him "Doc".

Howard told me several times, after his diagnosis, that he'd had a wonderful life, and was ready to go—if that was God's will. He knew where he would be after death. To the very end, he fought with every fiber of his being, making many trips to M. D. Anderson in Houston, as well as hospitals in Huntsville and Birmingham, always following prescribed chemo, surgery, and other procedural requirements.

We will miss Howard R. Gamble, but this man has left his mark on our profession, as well as the many people whose lives he touched personally. Our loss is Heaven's gain. I will miss you, dear friend.



Howard being installed as President of AGD with Sherry at his side.



Howard at Region 19 reception in his honor in Philadelphia.



Dr. Gamble presides as President of AGD in Philadelphia



The last photo we have of Howard in cap and gown getting ready to help with the Convocation in San Francisco



Howard receives the ALAGD Distinguished Dentist Award presented by Bobby Babb



The AGD Singers, Howard loved being a part of this group organized by our classmate T Bob Davis

President's Message

Doug Beckham, DMD, FAGD



Christmas has come and gone, and this Christmas Day was a poignant one – one we will not forget, as on Christmas morning, Alabama Academy of General Dentistry, as well as Alabama's entire dental profession, lost its "Bear Bryant." Dr. Howard Gamble left his earthly body and went to be in God's presence. What we lost, Heaven gained! If God ever needed a break managing the dentists in his presence, he can breathe easy now. Howard is there! He will keep the order there. No doubt he was making an agenda Saturday morning.

If an angel had said to Howard, early in the month of December, "You are coming home in December. What day would you like to make it?", there is no doubt in my mind Howard would have responded, "Christmas morning will be fine! What better day to say goodbye here and meet my Lord and Savior!" In true Howard style, he held on until Christmas morning, making his wish reality.

In 2007, I became Alabama AGD's treasurer, with a big push from Gary Myers and a gentle nudge from Howard. What a giant Howard was in my eyes then, and how that image grew over the next 8 years. Over those 8 years, I made many late night phone calls to him, frequently finding him at his office working on something for the many positions and posts he held. He always had time to answer my questions.

When I ran for the Board of Dental Examiners, I had other questions. Many were asking wise counsel and guidance on how to handle something. My flustered moments were many but were always met with Howard's response, "Let's keep it all in perspective!"

An avid Alabama football fan, Howard WAS Alabama dentistry's "Bear Bryant." He set the tone and led by his positive example. To the very end, he reassured everyone that everything would be fine. What a legacy he left!

The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on.

– Walter Lippmann

I ask that we remember Sherry, Wes, Allison and the entire family in our prayers.

2015 was a whirlwind of activity! It began with the January planning for the Annual Review along with strategic planning for the future. Next came a regional AGD pre-caucus meeting in Atlanta at the end of May to prepare us for the National AGD meeting. The Alabama Dental Association meeting in Perdido in June brought new friendships. What an honor to receive the

"Most Excellent Fellow" award at Sunday's closing assembly. Within days, it was time for AGD's National meeting in San Francisco June 18th- 21st. Howard Gamble and Gary Myers represented ALAGD well. June was busy!!

A month of final preparations, and then off to Sandestin for our 2015 Annual Review of Dentistry. Thank you so much for allowing me the honor of being Alabama's AGD president this year! It is a humbling experience as you realize all that you don't know. It was an outstanding year, and I am grateful for all I have learned with the guidance of Howard, Gary, Gordon Isbell, and the other presidents who served before me. Again, thank you for the honor.

Changes will be coming with the New Year. Dr. Gary Myers has been installed as Interim Executive Director. At Alabama's AGD Board Meeting at the end of the 2016 Alumni Association meeting, Rachel Osborne will be assuming the ALAGD presidency to guide us through 2016. Toni Neumeier will be President-Elect, and Derrick Mendez will be our new Vice-President. With this lineup, we are in good hands for the next three years. Yours truly will be elevated to that glorious position of Immediate Past-President.

Alabama AGD had another successful Review of Dentistry last August in Sandestin, and next summer, we will be at the Sandestin Baytowne Conference Center again. Our location and plans for future meetings have not yet been decided. These will be discussed at the January planning meeting.

Back to Christmas: It's come and gone! As trite as it sounds, let's remember the "Reason for the Season!" It's not about gifts we gave, but about the greatest gift we've been given.

In closing, consider this thought.

"Want to keep Christ in Christmas? Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive the guilty, welcome the unwanted, care for the ill, love your enemies, and do unto others as you would have done unto you."

– Steve Maraboli, Unapologetically You:
Reflections on Life and the Human Experience

Wishing you peace and grace for the New Year,
Douglas Beckham, DMD, FAGD
2015 President, Alabama Academy of General Dentistry

A Faculty Perspective of the GPR Residencies in Dentistry



*Mike Edwards DMD, MAGD
Adjunct Professor, Hospital Dentistry
University of Alabama
School of Dentistry
Private Practice, Wedowee, AL*

Understanding the assessment skills the GPR resident gets in a hospital setting will allow them to help bring access to care to millions of medically complex patients in our culture today.

I have been fortunate to be associated with the general practice residency and hospital dentistry residency at UAB as adjunct faculty. What I have learned is that this is a time new dentists can grow their skills, learn new ones and truly become a physician of the masticatory system. I feel that the volume of information to be learned to become a competent and confident dental practitioner is very difficult – maybe impossible to digest in four years at this point in time.

The residents in the UAB program are very fortunate to have the mentoring of many excellent minds in dentistry such as Dr. John Coke, Dr. Teri Boyd and Dr. Jim Pignatero. In addition they benefit from mentoring in the dental specialties by the excellent faculty from the school of dentistry. The unique benefit is the rotations in the medical specialties such as oncology, ENT, emergency room medicine, trauma and others. This allows the resident to be hospital trained and be a more complete provider of care. In addition, the new doctor can bring much more benefit to an existing practice when entering the workforce. Another benefit is these dentists can greatly contribute to hospital dental access in their local hospitals when they enter practice.

I truly believe the future of dentistry will revolve around the well trained general dentist or the “super generalist”. This anchor position in an ever more complex world of dentistry will demand the provider with complete skill sets to meet the demands of treatment. Understanding the assessment skills the GPR resident gets in a hospital setting will allow them to help bring access to care to millions of medically complex patients in our culture today. The residents leave the program with a very clear understanding of the great need to continue their education and have a much clearer set of goals for their education needs beyond residency.

Residents finish with a great sense of collaboration not only with medical colleagues, but with our specialties in dentistry. This collaboration allows the resident- dentist to better coordinate treatment with specialist as the leader and director of the team.

Many states are considering or have already require PGY 1 (Post Graduate Year-1) programs for licensure in their state. I think this is a great benefit for the new dentist and the patients they will serve. We are particularly fortunate to have such a great program at UAB.

The employer- dentist seeking an associate or partner will immediately be impressed with the level of “dental maturity” of these young dentists and greatly benefit from the extra exposure the residents receive in their program. After teaching in this program since 2010, it would be a strong consideration for me in choosing a new associate or partner .

In closing, I am constantly impressed with the quality of our residents at UAB. The opportunity to develop and mature with such excellent mentoring is outstanding for the incoming resident at UAB Hospital Dentistry, I want to thank Dr John Coke for bringing his great training, skill, and foresight to UAB. I truly enjoy the environment, and working with the very committed residents, staff and faculty. This opportunity reinforces my love for dentistry with the confidence our profession is advancing in a very positive way.

INTRODUCING THE 2016 PRESIDENT Dr. Rachael Osborne



A native of Locust Fork, Alabama, Rachel Osborne, ADMD, received her Doctorate of Dental Medicine degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 2008. Dr. Osborne began her professional dentistry career in Scottsboro, Alabama, and established a private practice in Locust Fork, in 2009. In addition to concentrating on growing her own practice, Dr. Osborne previously provided dental care at a federally funded community practice in Oneonta, Alabama, to help fulfill her aim of ensuring community access to quality dental care in north Alabama.

Dr. Osborne's interest in providing dental care did not begin in dental school. Her first dental position was as a scrub technician in a private dental practice in 1995. With encouragement and support from family and colleagues, she became a dental hygienist, completing the Alabama Dental Hygiene Program in 1998. After practicing as a dental hygienist for several years, Dr. Osborne aimed to advance in her professional skills. She applied for and was accepted into the UAB School of Dentistry, and she completed the DMD degree program in 2008.

Serving as a general dentist in her hometown gives Dr. Osborne an opportunity to be an active member of her community where she is able to provide care within a community she loves, where friends abound. Dr. Osborne gives credit to her husband, Leif Johnson, for supporting her drive to grow in her professional practice. Together, they are raising Macy, a Yorkshire terrier.

2016 ALUMNI WEEKEND

Thursday, February 4, 2016 -

Sunday February 7, 2016

Wynfrey Hotel, 1000 Riverchase Galleria

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More information at www.dental.uab.edu/alumni

ALABAMA AGD SPRING MEETING

April 22, 2016

Dr. Rella Christensen will conduct a seminar
at the Harbert Center in Birmingham

Critical Dental Questions for 2016

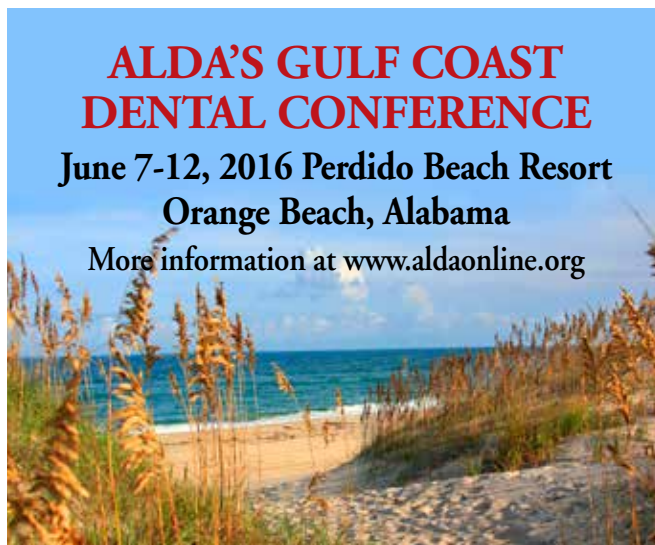
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June 7-12, 2016 Perdido Beach Resort

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More information at www.aldaonline.org

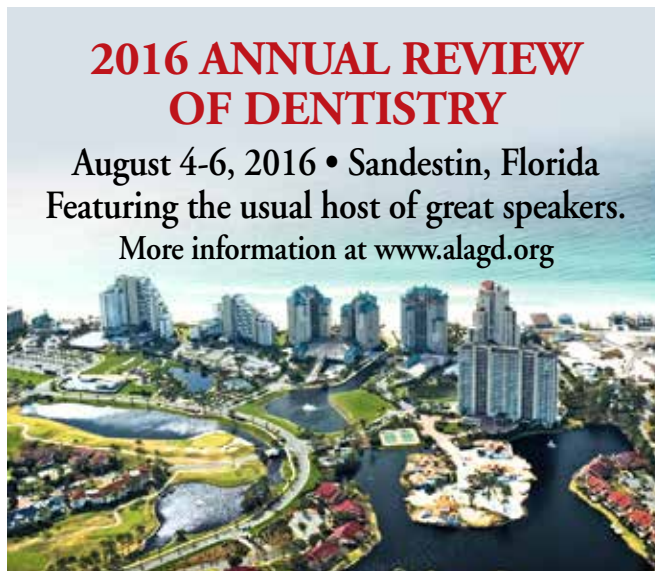


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More information at www.alagd.org



ALAGD YEAR IN REVIEW



2016 Officers installed during Alumni Meeting in February. Missing at time of the photograph was ALAGD 2016 Vice President Dr. Toni Neumeir.



Gary Myers accepts a Presidential Citation from AGD President Carter Brown for his work in obtaining the AGD property in Chicago



ALAGD 2016 Vice President Dr. Toni Neumeir.



During the Annual Review meeting in Destin Charles Graffeo received the ALAGD Distinguished Dentist Award



ALAGD President enjoys the outing on the Oral Arts yacht.



Installed as President of ALDA is Bill Ingram (center), President; Gary Myers (left), President Elect; and Gordon Isbell (right), Vice President. All three are AGD Masters and ALAGD Past Presidents.



January Officers and Board members attend a Strategic Planning Meeting in Destin.



Calvin McCulloh poses with the ALAGD Past Presidents at the Fuller Award presentation.



President Elect Rachael Osborne (center) is shown with David Skees (left) and Charles Graffeo (right).



At the Alumni luncheon during the ALDA meeting, Dr. Calvin McCulloh was presented the Alumni's highest award, The Fuller Award. Calvin is a past President of ALAGD.



In February Alumni Officers were installed: Dr. Ray McLaughlin, President; Dr. Gary Myers, President Elect; and Dr. Jim Shamburger, Immediate Past President. The two to left are both Past Presidents of ALAGD and Jim is a AGDA member.



During the San Francisco Annual Meeting, Gordon Isbell was honored with the Distinguished service Award. Celebrating are wife, Cindy, and sons, Ross and Tim.



Door Prizes are always a highlight of the Annual Review. Here Dr. Stacy Gardener gets a choice prize presented by Dr. Tim Brooks.



Classmates Bill Chesser (Editor) and T. Bob Davis (Dallas dentist and extraordinary pianist). T. Bob entertained us during the San Francisco meeting with his piano renditions. I was complimented several times on my piano playing. I didn't know we looked that much alike. I finally just said THANKS.



Howard Gamble speaks to the senior class during the Alumni Meeting. He was always trying to encourage young dentists to get involved in organized dentistry



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