By now you know that the University of California will lose at least $813 million in 2009-10 as a result of state budget cuts. Despite the challenges we face, the UCLA School of Dentistry remains fiscally strong and committed to our mission of providing excellence in teaching, research, community service and patient care.

Throughout this issue of The Apollonian Society News, you will discover the many ways in which our students, alumni, faculty and friends contribute to our mission. I encourage you to explore opportunities to get involved, such as volunteering in our clinics, teaching a continuing education course, mentoring a dental student, giving to the Apollonian Society or becoming a UCLA advocate through the Bruin Caucus (advocacy.ucla.edu).

As alumni and valued friends of UCLA and the School of Dentistry, you are essential to our continued success. Our greatest strength lies in our vast network of supporters whose perseverance, loyalty and optimism have had a tremendous impact on me, our dental school, and those we serve. With your support, I am confident that we will meet our current challenges and emerge even stronger. In sincere appreciation for all that you do,

No-Hee Park

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Despite a global recession, gifts to the Apollonian Society remained strong in fiscal year 2008-09 as more than 500 donors contributed nearly $220,000 to enhance the dental student experience (more on page 4). Recent projects and activities made possible by your generous support are highlighted below:

The fourth edition of the esteemed UCLA dental student research journal, *The Explorer*, will be published this fall with support from the Apollonian Society and the Dental Research Institute (DRI).

On August 7, Student Apollonian Group (SAG) officers invited their fellow dental students to celebrate the arrival of a new energy-efficient refrigerator, a gift from the Apollonian Society, with root beer floats in the Schaefer Student Lounge. According to Chris Chau ‘10, SAG President, “[The refrigerator] is about six times larger than our previous one and the students love it.”

Also in August, the Apollonian Society Co-Chairs hosted the fourth annual student leadership dinner to raise awareness about the Apollonian Society and discuss ideas for improving the dental school experience with student, alumni and faculty representatives.

The annual White Coat Ceremony, during which Dean No-Hee Park and Apollonian Society Co-Chair Thomas Rauth, DDS ’73 welcome the newest members of our dental school family, has become a favorite milestone among students, faculty, parents, and now some alumni, as Afsaneh Malaekheh, DDS ’93 explains below.

“On September 15, I sat among the audience eagerly watching the White Coat Ceremony for the first time. As the Class of 2013 stepped on stage, the energy in Schoenberg Hall heightened and I found myself recalling my first day of dental school back in September 1989. As each new student put on his or her personalized white coat from the Apollonian Society, shook hands with faculty members and the dean, and introduced themselves in the presence of beaming family members and friends, I realized how proud I felt to be an alum of the UCLA School of Dentistry. I smiled as I thought of my classmates and our ambitions and was reminded just how bright and accomplished a student must be to attend this school, as true today as it was twenty years ago. I hope my fellow alumni will pause for a moment to reflect with pride on their achievements and the reputation for excellence they helped to create at the UCLA School of Dentistry.”
LOOKING BACK: THE EARLY APOLLONIANS

Gary Herman, DDS ’73 (pictured at far left), group practice director at the UCLA predoctoral clinic, recalls the early days of the Dental Alumni Association and Apollonian campaign. “The school was still new, but as alumni we felt a great sense of pride in our alma mater and recognized the need for a comprehensive fundraising program to ensure a bright future.”

“Beginning the campaign was somewhat intimidating,” says Bob Merin, DDS ’70 (pictured above right), who attended the first Apollonian organizational meeting. “In the ’70s we were a young school with young graduates and none of us had any money. But it was also a wonderful opportunity to establish what would become a lasting tradition for a great institution.”

Dr. Merin explains that many of his classmates came from middle-class backgrounds and were first-generation college graduates. “We wanted to support students, to make sure that UCLA continued to be a viable option,” says Merin. “There was growing concern about the accessibility and affordability of a high-quality professional school education.”

The concern over accessibility has deepened over time, motivating many alumni – including Merin and Herman – to support the Apollonian Society for the past thirty years. Also motivating alumni to give: a drive to ensure the continued strong reputation of the school. “When I say I went to UCLA, I feel a sense of pride and I enjoy a certain level of respect,” says Herman. “We cannot rely on the state of California to uphold this reputation for us. It’s up to us, as alumni and stewards of the profession.”

The school has grown into a world leader in dental education and the Apollonian Society has grown along with it, attracting hundreds of donors and raising millions of dollars to enhance the student experience. Alumni hope that new generations of UCLA graduates will leave the university with an appreciation for their education and that they too will give back to the school through the Apollonian Society.

“Dental school is difficult and we try to convey the message that alumni and the Apollonian Society are there for our students, to help make life easier,” says Herman.

Indeed, over the past several years recent graduates like Kevin Andrus, DDS ’09 have gained a deeper understanding of the role the Apollonian Society has played in their education. In a recent Dean’s Newsletter article regarding the patient care subsidy fund (sponsored by the Apollonian Society), Dr. Andrus said, “Thanks to the subsidy, students are able to find the patient cases necessary to complete our minimum graduation requirements and the community surrounding UCLA is provided with high-quality and affordable care. [It’s] another example of the positive impact the Apollonian Society has had on my dental school experience.”
Money Matters: Bequests

Did you know that you can ensure the continued success of the UCLA School of Dentistry while providing for the future of your loved ones?

A bequest to benefit the dental school is a wonderful way to meet your estate planning goals while minimizing taxes and estate costs. We are ready to help you develop a strategy that will meet your personal and philanthropic goals, giving you peace of mind and the satisfaction that comes with knowing that your gift will help us fulfill our mission of excellence in teaching, research, community service and patient care.

To learn more about including the UCLA School of Dentistry in your estate plans, please contact the Dentistry development office at (310) 206-0215 or the UCLA Office of Planned and Major Gifts at (310) 794-2334 / (800) 737-UCLA or visit www.giftplanning.ucla.edu.

In light of the budget cuts, we anticipate that many communications will become web-based in the coming years. To ensure that you remain connected with the Apollonian Society and the school, be sure to include your preferred email address on the remittance form or contact our office to update your records at (310) 206-0215 or apollonian@support.ucla.edu.

To all those who have joined in our mission, and to our graduates and friends whose dedication to UCLA and its students rises above the personal economic challenges we face, thank you for your continued support.

Share Your Story
Read Margaret Pan Quon’s donor testimonial and contribute your own at www.dentistry.ucla.edudevelopment/apollonian.

Message from the Apollonian Society Co-Chairs
Thomas J. Rauth, DDS ’73 & Ronald S. Mito, DDS ’76

Participation in the Apollonian Society grew 17% between fiscal years 2007-08 and 2008-09, and renewal retention rates went up by 8%. Since we refocused the campaign in 2004, the total amount of dollars raised has also increased substantially. It is encouraging that many new donors and recent graduates have joined with our Founding Members and long-time supporters to advance the Apollonian Society mission of enhancing the dental student experience. We must continue this forward momentum.

We are deeply appreciative of our loyal donors whose ongoing generosity toward future dental students and our newest professional colleagues is truly inspiring. They have created a strong foundation for growth and continue to be an essential component of our success, but we cannot rely on them alone. As Dean Park mentioned in his welcoming message, the UC System will lose more than $800 million in state support this year. This is a crucial time for all alumni to increase their involvement with and financial support of the dental school.

While private funds cannot fully replace those lost from the state, giving to the Apollonian Society demonstrates your commitment to the UCLA School of Dentistry and its students. If you have not yet done so, please join us or renew your membership for the 2009-10 fiscal year by returning the enclosed contribution envelope or visiting us online at giving.ucla.edu/dentistry. Your gift — no matter the size — really does make a difference.
A Group Effort: Larger Gifts Made Possible Through Teamwork

As alumni, classmates, faculty members and friends, you have reconnected, joining together to support areas of special interest to you. Four recent examples of teamwork that are making a difference for the School of Dentistry are featured below:

Eight alumni from the mid-1990s (one from 1994, six from 1995, and one from 1996) contributed nearly $40,000 toward the purchase of intra- and extra-oral X-ray machines for use in the Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Clinic, enabling the school to obtain exceptional quality digital images for our patients.

Forty pediatric dentistry alumni and faculty members, as well as the California Society of Pediatric Dentistry Foundation, pledged more than $500,000 to establish the Thomas K. Barber Endowed Chair in Pediatric Dentistry in honor of a beloved role model and friend. Dr. Barber, who passed away in 2008, is credited with single-handedly establishing—and then growing—the pediatric dentistry postgraduate training program at UCLA.

Several members of the School of Dentistry’s Board of Counselors (including seven alumni) pledged $140,000 toward the Board’s own scholarship, to raise its endowment principal to $250,000. The increase will make possible larger awards to offset the rising cost of dental school for third- and fourth-year dental students who have demonstrated leadership and committed to a post-graduation involvement with the school.

The most recent members of our alumni network, the Class of 2009, contributed $5,000 to sponsor a bench in the Bisco Dental Teaching Laboratory. Their predecessors, the Class of 2008, contributed two dental pulp testers for the general clinics.

Your group gift ideas are welcome! Contact the Dentistry development office at (310) 206-6079 or (310) 206-0215 to discuss your interests and options.

Find Us on Facebook

Now there is a new way to learn what’s happening at the dental school. Join the UCLA Dental Alumni Association Facebook group to view event photos, keep in touch with your classmates and fellow alumni and more.
ALUMNI EVENTS

Alumni Day in Anaheim

Our annual awards ceremony and reunion luncheon was held May 16 at the Anaheim Marriott Hotel. A record number of alumni and friends were in attendance to honor Melanie J. Gullett, DDS ’83 and George A. Maranon, DDS ’83, our Co-Alumni of the Year, and Dr. Harold W. Hargis, our Honorary Alumnus of the Year (photo at right).

We also celebrated the reunion classes of 1969, 1974, 1979 (pictured below), 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999 and 2004. More than 150 enthusiastic reunion class members were in attendance from across the country, thanks in part to the efforts of our class captains, who act as liaisons between the dental school and their respective reunion class. (In 2010 we will honor graduates of class years ending in 0 and 5. If you are interested in becoming a class captain for your upcoming reunion, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at (310) 206-1022.)

Later that evening, the crowd grew to more than 650 people for the annual Dean’s Reception and the conclusion of the silent auction. This year, attendees bid on 35 prizes that ranged from dental equipment and consumer electronics to handmade jewelry and a one-week stay at a beachfront home in Hawai’i. The auction yielded $6,500, which will be used to support student and alumni activities. Thanks to everyone who participated!

Pediatric Dentistry Alumni Day

Alumni, current residents and faculty members of the Pediatric Dentistry (PD) Residency Program gathered in Los Angeles on July 31 to celebrate the silver anniversary of the Class of 1984, Drs. Oariona Lowe (pictured at bottom left with Drs. Jim Crall and Francisco Ramos-Gomez) and Maria Lekka, and the graduating Class of 2009. Conrad Sack, DMD, PD ’86, MS ’87 gave the keynote address, which was followed by research presentations from graduating residents, a cocktail hour and an evening dinner program.

YOU’RE INVITED!

“Fall is a great time to reconnect with friends. Please join us for the annual alumni breakfast and lecture, on Saturday, October 24, followed by the dental school picnic. All alumni are welcome! I look forward to seeing you there.”

– Bill Morgan, ’73, President UCLA Dental Alumni Association

Breakfast & Lecture  8:00 am - 11:00 am
Edmond Hewlett, DDS ’80 will speak at the UCLA School of Dentistry on hot topics including risk management in restorative and cosmetic dentistry, malpractice litigation, and a new approach to restoring moderately and severely decayed teeth (2 CDE credits). Immediately following, attendees are invited to tour school facilities.

Dental School Picnic  11:30 am - 2:00 pm
At the UCLA Sunset Canyon Recreation Center.

Both events are free for alumni. RSVP by October 19 to tcody@dentistry.ucla.edu or (310) 825-6238.
CLASS NOTES

1960s

William C. Patterson, DDS ’69 and his wife, Katie, are actively supporting efforts to improve access to medical care and education for the village of Toubacouta in Senegal. Dr. Patterson, pictured above with his friend Mary and her nephew, Mamadou, was introduced to the region last year and was touched by the village and the needs of its residents. He and Katie are currently in the process of sponsoring a young man from Toubacouta to live with them in California.

1970s

Ronald S. Mito, DDS ’76 and his wife, Millicent, were conferred the Friends of Education award from the LAX Coastal Area Chamber of Commerce in recognition of their long-term commitment to improving public schools in the Westchester and Playa Del Rey communities.

1980s

In August, Laurene K. Duke, DDS ’84 (center) and her Long Beach-based team served as Remote Area Medical (RAM) volunteers at the Inglewood Forum, providing free dental care to underserved members of the Los Angeles community.

Edmond R. Hewlett, DDS ’80, UCLA associate professor of restorative dentistry, was quoted in a recent issue of Real Simple magazine and on CNN.com discussing the link between decay prevention and graceful aging.

Mark Ozaki, DDS ’83 and his team claimed the top spot at the 2009 UCLA School of Dentistry Golf Tournament at Industry Hills, coming in at 14 under par with a score of 57.

1990s

Guillermo Camacho, DDS ’97 was honored by The California Wellness Foundation with a Champion of Health Professions Diversity award. As an undergraduate, Dr. Camacho participated in Cal Poly’s Science Educational Enhancement Services Program, which promotes diversity and encourages first-generation college students to pursue careers in the sciences. Today, Dr. Camacho mentors current students in the program and specializes in neuromuscular cosmetic dentistry.

Dr. Don Goudy, GPR ’94, the dentist for the San Jose Sharks NHL team, was recently profiled by the San Jose Mercury News.

2000s

Eunha Cho, DDS ’03, PD ’05 and Dr. Corina Ramirez, PD ’06 are leading efforts to advance the UCLA Friends of Pediatric Dentistry alumni support group, which was recently established to benefit residents of the pediatric dentistry postgraduate training program at UCLA.

Raquel M. Ulma, DDS ’08, a current oral surgery resident, was profiled on Telemundo News during their weekly Mujeres de Exito segment, which features strong, successful role models for Latina women and girls.

Are you an alum with news to share? Send your announcements to news@dentistry.ucla.edu.

Richard G. Stevenson, DDS ’86 (left) was awarded the American Dental Association’s prestigious Golden Apple award for teaching excellence. He is pictured with Russell I. Webb, DDS ’78, OS ’81, who presented the award on behalf of the ADA.
Mentorship Program

This novel approach to lifelong learning provides a way for UCLA dental alumni and Apollonian Society Members to share their career knowledge and experiences with current students. Our students have shown great enthusiasm for the program and are currently seeking mentors to offer career and practice guidance. The program is designed to accommodate busy schedules with an approximate time commitment of 2-4 hours per quarter. Mentors and mentees might meet for lunch, coffee or even over email. By volunteering as a mentor, you can make a significant impact on a dental student embarking upon the early stages of his or her career. To participate, please contact program facilitator Todd Schoenbaum, DDS '05 at tschoenbaum@dentistry.ucla.edu.

Career Resources for Alumni

Are you looking for an associate, selling your practice, renting space or looking for a job in the dental profession? If so, the Dental Alumni Association's Career Opportunities web page is for you. Simply visit www.dentistry.ucla.edu/alumni and click on the Career Opportunities link. Then follow the instructions to place your ad, or browse through existing postings. This free service for alumni and friends receives hundreds of hits every week from all over the country.

Find a UCLA Dentist

UCLA-trained dentists are held in high regard and our alumni office receives daily calls from individuals who are seeking your professional services. If you would like to be included in our referral database, please forward your office address, phone number and email address to Dr. David Altman at daltman@dentistry.ucla.edu.