CDM DUNNING SYMPOSIUM:
Exploring Next Steps for the Dental Profession

The College of Dental Medicine held its 15th Dunning Symposium on November 29 and 30 during the Greater New York Dental Meeting at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in Manhattan. Symposium participants and invited guests of Columbia represented a cross section of leaders in dental education and officers from state and national dental associations, as well as nine deans from dental schools in the Northeast. Six speakers provided insight into the current state and potential reshaping of dental education and practice, addressing the topic: “The Practice of Dentistry for the 21st Century.” Dean Ira B. Lamster and Dean Emeritus Allan J. Formicola were hosts and moderators for the meeting, which received funding from the Robert Wood Johnson and W. K. Kellogg foundations, as well as support from the American Association of Public Health Dentistry.

The Dunning Symposium was established in 1981 by James Dunning, a CDM alumnus and dean emeritus of the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, to honor the memory of his father, William Bailey Dunning, and his uncle, Henry Sage Dunning, two founders of Columbia’s dental school. For two decades, these symposia have emphasized the development of the oral health care arena relative to public need, changes in patient populations, technology, politics and the relationship between medicine and dentistry. The 2010 Dunning Symposium featured six presenters and discussion periods.

Michael Sparer, JD, PhD, professor and chairman, Department of Health Policy and Management at Columbia’s Mailman School of Public Health, opened the discussion with a review of today’s health care environment that focused on what patients, their dentists and their physicians may expect from the health care law passed by Congress in April 2010. Dr. Sparer noted the current discrepancies between scope of practice provisions for dentists and physicians and questioned how Medicaid’s increased attention to payments for other providers of oral health care assessment and treatment could affect dentists.

Dean Lamster followed with observations on the future of dental practice, emphasizing the technical skills needed to care for complex patients, as well as the potential for expanding primary health care in the dental office. He cited smoking cessation counseling, as well as screening for diabetes mellitus, osteoporosis, HIV, and HPV, already being performed by dentists, as a new level of inter-professional activity. Dr. Lamster also warned that “turning out a fully competent practitioner in only four years … is an unrealistic expectation,” and suggested that the PGY1 requirement should be considered in preparation for any extended role in dentistry.

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(continues on page 3)
Louis Mandel ’46, OMFS ’51:
Dean, Teacher, Clinician, Researcher and Role Model

If Clinical Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Louis Mandel asks patients to “spit it out,” he isn’t being rude; he’s just asking for a saliva sample to help him diagnose a potential salivary gland disorder.

On the advice of his older brother, a physician, Dr. Louis Mandel entered dental school at Columbia, earning his DDS in 1946. It was clearly excellent advice, because the young graduate stayed on at Columbia for postdoctoral studies in OMFS and began his lifelong studies on the salivary glands.

For more than half a century, Dr. Mandel has worked at Columbia, achieving worldwide recognition in clinical research on the salivary glands. Author of more than 150 published papers on the subject, he laughingly explains “writing is my only hobby.” He is also the College’s associate dean for extramural hospital programs, but it is teaching, Dr. Mandel says, that he loves best. His pleasure in this aspect of his work is validated by the number of teaching and mentoring honors faculty, alumni and students have awarded him. Many students have assisted in his research and been generously recognized in its publication. His favorite collaborator may be his daughter, an endocrinologist, with whom he first began studying effects of radioactive iodine therapy on the salivary glands of thyroid cancer patients.

In 1988, he established Columbia’s Salivary Gland Center (SGC) with Professor Emeritus Irwin Mandel ’45, whose specialty is the biochemistry of saliva. The two Dr. Mandels, clinician and basic scientist, are not related by blood, but by a singular dedication to the study of saliva and the glands that produce it.

As SGC director, Dr. Louis Mandel has seen close to 10,000 patient referrals from metropolitan New York in the past 22 years and carried out multiple long distance consultations for thousands more who live too far away to visit the Columbia clinic in person. He is known as an authority on Sjogren’s syndrome (dry mouth), salivary gland infections, salivary gland stones, diabetic and alcoholic cyanosis, HIV salivary gland disease and juvenile parotitis. Almost half of the SGC’s patients do not actually have a salivary gland disease, but are under some psychological distress that leads them to believe their minor symptoms imply a major condition. The challenge is to differentiate these patients from those with organic salivary pathologies. Dr. Mandel’s clinic, distinguished by its reputation for thorough assessment and treatment of salivary gland disorders, gives every problem the serious and informed attention required.

Dr. Letty Moss-Salentijn, CDM’s vice dean for academic affairs, speaks for many when she says, “Dr. Louis Mandel is one of my all-time favorites… a role model for us all, he maintains a very active level of publications and scholarship (one day a week is devoted to the library)… [and] manages to maintain a youthful enthusiasm for his subject and a great understanding for the students he teaches. He is wonderful!”
Dr. Peter Polverini, dean of the University of Michigan School of Dentistry, opened the second day of discussion by describing major curriculum revisions he and his faculty have introduced that reshaped the order in which students could choose to take courses. In the new model, all learning areas begin in the first year and continue through the fourth, allowing students to return to a subject at any time during their matriculation. The new arrangement is meant to satisfy individual needs and strengths, while providing a continuum of learning without forcing all students into the same mold. He added that the reorganization of studies should help students understand the need to “change or become irrelevant” and accept new workforce models, some of them “jobs that don’t yet exist.”

Dr. Caswell Evans ’70 copresented by teleconference with Scott Wetterhall MD, MPH, on outcomes for the Dental Healthcare Aide Therapist (DHAT) program recently introduced to serve remote tribal communities in Alaska. Dr. Evans, associate dean for Prevention & Public Health Science, University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry, chairs the Kellogg Foundation’s National Committee for the evaluation of DHAT. The Foundation helped to fund the DHAT assessment carried out by RTI, a nonprofit organization for which Dr. Wetterhall is Senior Program Director. Drs. Evans and Wetterhall reported that while the program’s trainees were judged to perform safely and competently, DHAT has not yet received unanimous support as a model for creating midlevel providers in dental care.

Professor Burton Edelstein, DDS, MPH, chair of Social and Behavioral Sciences at CDM, surveyed ideas pertaining to the DHAT program and others like it with his analysis of “The Education and Utilization of Midlevel Practitioners to Improve Access to Care.” He began by reminding his audience that “every system is perfectly designed for the results it gets.” In analyzing his subject, Dr. Edelstein showed a balance between the opposing attitudes of aspiration and protection that prevent rapid adoption of major changes in many areas of professional orientation and governance, some of which may apply strongly to dentistry.

Final comments from Edward O’Neil, PhD, MPA, speaking from the University of California, San Francisco, where he is professor and director, Center for the Health Professions, offered no single solution for what will be “new” in dentistry. Dr. O’Neil did, however, list regulation, technology, consumer differences, financing, and the location and kind of facilities available as basic considerations when seeking alternate practice models. He also urged the audience to move to new markets, to invest in research, to build leadership skills in the dental practice from top to bottom and, above all, to share knowledge — “aggressively!” He closed with the encouraging reminder that “dentistry has been very adaptable – more so than medicine.”

The Dunning Symposium was intended to take a broad view of the future of the dental profession, with special attention to issues ranging from care of the underserved to the practice of dentistry in the context of general health care. It met those goals and succeeded in stimulating a response both varied and informed, focusing on positive directions in which the profession can move proactively to define its future. To close, participants gathered in two groups for an evaluation of the information received.

The proceedings of the Dunning Symposium will be published as a group of analytical essays in the August 2011 issue of the American Journal of Public Health.

**New Publications**

Dean Emeritus Allan J. Formicola is co-editor with Lourdes Hernandez-Cordero, assistant professor of clinical sociomedical sciences, of Mobilizing the Community for Better Health: What the Rest of America Can Learn from Northern Manhattan.

Dean Ira Lamster’s monograph, Contemporary Concepts in Diagnosis of Oral and Dental Disease, appears in the Dental Clinics of North America series for January 2011, for which Dr. Lamster was the guest editor.
The International Congress of Oral Implantologists (ICOI) and the College of Dental Medicine cosponsored “Innovations in Implant Dentistry,” a two-day symposium held December 10 and 11 on the Columbia University Medical Center campus.

Scientific Chairman for the Symposium, Dr. Dennis Tarnow, who is Director of Implant Education for the College, invited a distinguished group of thirteen internationally known implantologists to speak on the most current research in implant dentistry. An enthusiastic audience of 450 attended the sold-out event. Attendees came from around the globe, many of them having trained previously with Dr. Tarnow in implant fellowship and continuum courses when he was at NYU.

right: Dr. John Cavallaro, associate clinical professor in the Division of Prosthodontics, directs a comment to the moderators during the symposium.

below: An international audience of attendees, which included faculty and students, listened intently to the ICOI/CDM course lecturers.

below: Twenty-three corporate sponsors exhibited at the symposium.

above: Dr. Tarnow and Dr. Ady Palti of ICOI served as moderators for the course.
CAMPUS NEWS: FACULTY

Florence and Samuel Pritz Oral Health Care Center

CDM’s recently renovated 7th floor Vanderbilt Clinic was dedicated to Dr. Samuel Pritz ‘33 and his wife, Florence, at a ceremony on November 10. The Pritz’s daughter, Amy Kulick, her husband, Roy, and their son, Richard, joined Dean Ira Lamster in cutting a ribbon to formally open the Pritz Oral Health Care Center. Dean Lamster, Dr. Richard Lichtenthal and Dr. Thomas Connolly, CDM Capital Campaign chairman, remembered Dr. and Mrs. Pritz, both deceased, for their many years of service and generosity to CDM. Speaking for the family, Richard Kulick spoke of his grandfather’s great fondness for the generations of students he taught while on the clinical faculty. A reception followed at the Faculty Club.

Dr. Katrin Tamari ’95 Fills New Triage Post

Dr. Katrin Tamari ’95 has been appointed to the new position of Director of Triage and Patient Assignment for CDM clinics. Dr. Tamari is responsible for creating screening and assignment procedures for all dental clinic programs, with the goal of maintaining an average cycle time of less than 60 minutes per patient.

Dr. Santoro Takes Seat On Ortho Editorial Board

Margherita Santoro, DDS, associate professor of clinical dental medicine and director of the postdoctoral orthodontics program, joined the editorial board of Orthodontic Practice US. The publication promotes excellence in orthodontics, providing peer-reviewed clinical, continuing education, practice management and technology articles by leading specialists.

Horowitz Lecture Surveys Prospects For Orthodontics

On November 22, Ortho residents, faculty and alumni gathered at the Russ Berrie Pavilion to hear Jeremy Mao, DDS, PhD, director of the Center for Craniofacial Regeneration, give the Sidney L. Horowitz Lecture. His subject, “Orthodontics at a Pivotal Point of Transformation,” described both challenges and strategies for change in contemporary orthodontics as the specialty enters an era of unprecedented scientific and technological advances. This endowed lecture series was established in 1991 to recognize the special commitment made by Dr. Sidney Horowitz to orofacial growth and development. Mrs. Helen Horowitz was in the audience.

Dr. Burton L. Edelstein Named 2010 Phillips Visiting Professor

Professor Burton L. Edelstein, DDS, MPH, chair of the Section of Social and Behavioral Sciences, who holds dual appointments in the College of Dental Medicine and the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, was chosen as the Percy T. Phillips Visiting Professor for 2010. The annual program, cosponsored with the New York State Dental Association, is named for Dr. Percy T. Phillips ’19, a recipient of many distinguished honors in dentistry and first dental alumnus awarded the University’s Honorary Doctor of Science degree. Dr. Edelstein opened the two-day program on October 4 with “Dental Provisions in Health Care Reform: Boom or Bane for the Dental Profession?” , probing both aspects of his professional expertise. For the Student Scholar Presentation on October 5, June Harewood ’11 and Kelly Fleming ’11 debated “Organized Dentistry and Health Care Reform: Pro and Con.”

Dean Lamster Addresses U Mich Dental Convocation

Dean Ira Lamster was guest speaker for the 7th University of Michigan School of Dentistry Convocation on October 11. He spoke about dental education’s need to recognize the evolution of a more collaborative approach in health care, with the goal of gaining greater professional interaction among dentists and physicians for more effective patient diagnosis and treatment.
Caitlin Magraw ‘12 with University of Tennessee College of Dentistry Dean Timothy L. Hottel (left), President of the Hinman Dental Society, Dr. Brian Carpenter (near left), and Professor of Bioscience Research at the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry Dr. Franklin Garcia-Godoy (right) at the presentation of her Hinman research award.

Caitlin Magraw ‘12 Earns Hinman Research Award

The 16th Hinman Student Research Symposium was held Oct. 29-31, 2010, in Memphis, Tennessee. Keynote speaker Dr. Dominick P. DePaola, associate dean for academic affairs at Nova Southeastern College of Dental Medicine addressed the need to accelerate the process of bringing new scientific discoveries from the laboratory to clinical practice for improving oral health care worldwide.

Caitlin Magraw ‘12 received one of the Symposium’s six awards for outstanding clinical or basic science research. She was recognized for her study on the role of the epithelial cell-surface protein integrin alpha-v-beta-6 in embryonic development. Her project was directed by Dr. Srikala Raghavan, assistant professor in the departments of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Dermatology of Columbia University.

Students Mix Art/Ethics To Win ADA Video Prize

In September, Kei Chan ’11, Hai Do ’11 and Levon Sukiasian ’11 received one of two awards given by The Council of Ethics, Bylaws and Judicial Affairs of the American Dental Association in its Student Ethics Video Contest. The three videographers shared a $1,000 prize for their entry, “Once Upon a Time There Was a Poor Dentist,” which was shown at a special exhibition during the October 2010 ADA annual session in Orlando, Florida. The contest was designed to create greater awareness of ethical dilemmas for dentists, by presenting information in an entertaining forum where students could consider how to resolve such problems.

BBQ, Burgers, Ball Games

CDM’s Annual Fall BBQ was held on October 31 at Columbia’s Baker Field. Burgers, hot dogs and softball were the hits of the day, with enthusiastic participation from students, their friends, families and the faculty. Rival ball teams wore the gaily colored baseball caps presented by Dental Alumni Association immediate past-president Lois Jackson ’77, Peds ’80. The winners took home a trophy.

Dr. Velasco Wins Colgate-Palmolive/Hispanic Dental Foundation Scholarship

Maria Fernanda Velasco, first-year post-doctoral residency fellow, has been awarded the Colgate Palmolive/Hispanic Dental Association Foundation Scholarship for 2010/2011. The $5,000 scholarship supports the academic training of promising post-doctoral students who seek to advance their scientific and applied clinical knowledge in dentistry to further their commitment to aiding and supporting the Hispanic community.

Columbia SNDA Chapter Brings Home Many Honors

The spotlight shone brightly on CDM during the July Student National Dental Association’s annual meeting held in Honolulu, Hawaii. After being named SNDA Chapter of the Year for 2010, CDM representatives to the meeting saw Adele Newell ‘12 installed as SNDA National President for 2010-11 and celebrated the election of Benjamin Pass ’13 as representative to SNDA’s Corporate Round Table. In addition, Staci Robinson ’11 took first place in the SNDA Table Clinic, and June Harewood ’11, 2009-2010 president of Columbia’s SNDA chapter, received the organization’s Darrell Hawkins Memorial Scholarship. CDM Dean of Multicultural Affairs and SNDA Adviser Dennis Mitchell gave the chapter his heartiest congratulations.

right: CDM SNDA President Brandon Jackson ’13, Staci Robinson ’11, June Harewood ’11, Adele Newell ’12 and Dr. Dennis Mitchell, senior associate dean of Multicultural Affairs and SNDA Faculty Adviser.
OFF CAMPUS

GNY Reception Recognition Awards

More than 200 alumni, faculty and students attended the Alumni Association’s Annual Reception held on December 1st, at the Marriott Marquis during the GNY Dental Meeting. Dean Lamster and Alumni President Margot Jaffe spoke briefly before recognizing Dr. Vicky Evangelidis ’87 with the Dr. Melvin Moss Senior Faculty Award, and Dr. Yonatan Schwartz ’05 with the Dr. Stanislaw Brzustowicz Junior Faculty Award. Gary Herrmann, financial aid officer at the dental school during the 1970s and 1980s, received a Special Recognition Award (aka: “Economic Bailout Award”) from Dr. Lois Jackson for his years of helping to provide much needed financial assistance to scores of CDM students.

Dr. Wasserman First Dentist To Receive Caputo Award

Dr. Burton Wasserman, a clinical professor of dental medicine at CDM, received the Dr. Isadore Caputo Physician-of-the-Year Award at the Wyckoff Heights Medical Center’s Harvest Moon Ball on October 23, 2010. Dr. Wasserman, chairman and GPR program director in Dental & Oral Medicine at New York Hospital Queens and chairman of Dental Medicine at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center, is the first dentist to receive this prestigious award. He was also honored at the Greater New York Meeting Celebrity Luncheon on November 29 for 25 years of service and for creating the General Practice Residency Fair in 1995, a partnership of the American Association of Hospital Dentists and the Greater New York Dental Meeting.

Lawrence Tabak ’77 Is Appointed New NIH Principal Deputy Director

In August 2010, after 10 years as National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) chief, Lawrence Tabak ’77 was appointed principal deputy director for The National Institutes of Health (NIH). He served as acting NIH deputy director in 2009 and most recently as the acting director of the Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives. During his long association with the organization, Dr. Tabak has taken on a number of important administrative tasks, supervising a contentious overhaul of the NIH peer review system, and directing the 2009 disbursement of NIH’s $10 billion in stimulus funds. He has been praised by NIH Director Francis Collins for “outstanding service in numerous activities across the NIH and a combination of skills and experience that will help the NIH move forward in these revolutionary times for the biomedical sciences.”

In accepting the new post, Dr. Tabak said, “While I will surely miss […] my colleagues at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, and […] the dental, oral and craniofacial research community, it will be a great privilege to serve NIH in this new way.
PHILANTHROPY

Meryl Baurmash ’85, Ortho ’88, Establishes Harold D. Baurmash Scholarship Fund

In honor of her father, Harold D. Baurmash ’48, OMFS ’53, Meryl Baurmash ’85, Ortho ’88, has made a gift of $50,000 to create the foundation of an endowed scholarship in his name at the College of Dental Medicine. Her decision was based on a desire to ensure that the brightest students receive the best dental education available, without regard to their financial needs. She says, “I decided to start the scholarship with second-year dental students because that was when my father’s students at Columbia had their first exposure to him.”

The elder Dr. Baurmash, who entered Columbia’s dental school when he was only 19, said that he knew being at Columbia “was an honor only a select few were fortunate to experience...and felt blessed to be there.” After graduation, this gratitude for his education drew Dr. Baurmash back to Columbia, where he spent more than 58 years as “an enthusiastic and committed” classroom professor...a hands-on clinician in the oral surgery clinic and a dedicated research scientist – on salivary gland disease and other topics in oral surgery.” He believed, she says, that learning was a continuous process, and was constantly reading, creating new techniques and asking questions. “Even at age 81,” she recalls, “while in intensive care shortly before his death, he was writing a letter to the editor of one of his professional journals.”

“...an exceptional oral surgeon. His diagnostic skills were well honed and he took great pride in this expertise. [...] an accomplished professional and a humorous individual.”

David Zegarelli ’69, Director, Oral Pathology Residency Program

Following in her father’s footsteps, first as his student and then as a dental practitioner, Dr. Meryl Baurmash has become aware of the “tremendous impact” her father had on the lives of numerous dentists, including his many past students and colleagues throughout the world.

“...one of those rare clinical professors able to push you clinically beyond your skill set, talk you through unrehearsed procedures, all the while generously instilling confidence... I felt that he was an advocate for women entering the profession.”

Margot Jaffe ’80, Peds ’81, Ortho ’85

Because she believes that many other CDM graduates have their own vivid memories and stories about her father, Dr. Baurmash hopes the scholarship fund she has created in his name will grow to help perpetuate progress in the profession and at CDM for many years to come. Reaching out to those whose professional lives have been, in any way, positively touched by her father, she says, “I ask that you please make a donation in his memory.”

Please contact Director of Development Geraldine Connors for further information at: 212 342 5612 or: gc2399@columbia.edu

Dr. Harold Baurmash in the clinic with one of his students in the 1980's.
An Option for You, An Opportunity for CDM

In December, President Obama signed legislation extending the charitable IRA rollover for 2010 and 2011. This allows an individual 70½ or older to make tax-free gifts of up to $100,000 to CDM, using funds transferred directly from their IRAs. You can make a tax-free gift from your IRA any time through December, 31, 2011.

Tax-Free Gift Rollover Extended for 2011

Your Benefits
If you don’t need the annual amount you must take from your IRA after age 70½, you can transfer it to Columbia University College of Dental Medicine and avoid the income tax on these funds. It will not be counted as income for tax purposes and cannot be deducted as a charitable contribution on your tax return. Your gift will have an immediate impact at CDM, so you can see the benefits of your generosity.

How It Works
An alumnus, aged 73, must take a $30,000 minimum required distribution from her IRA in 2011. She made a pledge to give us $20,000 in cash or other assets. But, if she transfers $20,000 from her IRA before December 31, 2011, her total pledge is paid with tax-free funds. The extended charitable IRA rollover gives her a convenient way to make a gift without tax complications.
Spring 2011 Calendar
Alumni Events & CE Courses

March

- Fri. March 11: THE THOMAS CANGIALOSI ANNUAL ORTHODONTIC ALUMNI MEETING: SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES FOR PRIVATE PRACTICE ORTHODONTICS. 5 CE Credits. 7:30 am-3:30 pm.


- Wed. March 16: TEMPORIZATION IN CLINICAL DENTISTRY AND IMPLANTOLOGY. 6 CE Credits. 9 am-4 pm.

- Sat.-Sun. March 25-26: ESTHETIC DENTISTRY CONTINUUM: THE PERIODONTAL/RESTORATIVE INTERFACE, INDIRECT ANTERIOR AND POSTERIOR ESTHETIC RESTORATIONS. 10 CE Credits. Sat 8:30 am-5 pm, Sun 8:30 am-12 noon.

- Fri.-Sun. March 25-27: AMERICAN BOARD OF ENDODONTICS COLLEGE OF DIPLOMATES & CDM BOARD REVIEW AND SCIENTIFIC UPDATE. 17 CE Credits. 8 am-6 pm.

April

- Sat.-Sun. April 16-17: ESTHETIC DENTISTRY CONTINUUM: THE ART OF THE PORCELAIN LAMINATE VENEER. LECTURE & CLINICAL DEMONSTRATIONS. 10 CE Credits. Sat 8:30 am-5 pm, Sun 8:30 am-12 noon.

- April 27-29: THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DENTAL AND CRANIOFACIAL STEM CELLS. 18 CE Credits. 8:30 am-5:30 pm.

May

- Tues. May 3: WESTCHESTER ALUMNI STUDY CLUB: ENDODONTIC MICROSURGERY. 2 CE Credits. 6:30-9 pm.

- Fri. May 6: CLASS REUNION DAY 11:30am-6 pm.

- Fri. May 13: BENJAMIN TENENBAUM MEMORIAL LECTURE IN PERIODONTICS. 1 Credit. 12-1 pm.


- Tues. May 17: CDM CE AT CITIFIELD WITH DR. DENNIS TARNOW: IMMEDIATE VS DELAYED IMPLANT PLACEMENT INTO EXTRACTION SOCKETS IN TREATMENT ZONES. WHAT WE KNOW, WHAT WE THINK WE KNOW AND WHAT WE DON’T KNOW. 2 CE Credits. 4:30 lecture, 7:10 Mets vs. Marlins.

June

- Wed. June 1: ESTHETIC MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION OF MAXILLARY ANTERIOR IMPLANTS. 6 CE Credits. 9 am-4 pm.

- Sat.-Sun. June 4-5: ESTHETIC DENTISTRY CONTINUUM: UNDERSTANDING AND MANAGING THE ESTHETIC/ADERVIVE INTERFACE; DIRECT ANTERIOR & POSTERIOR ESTHETIC RESTORATIONS. 10 CE Credits. Sat 8:30 am-5:00 pm, Sun 8:30 am-12 noon.

- Fri. June 17: POSTDOCTORAL GRADUATION CEREMONY. 10 am-12 noon. Reception to follow.

- Wed. June 29: IMPLANT STUDY CLUB. 2 CE Credits. 6:30-8:30 pm.
Q. Dr. Thompson, your associations with Columbia and the Medical Center are of exceptionally long standing, don’t you agree?
A. Oh yes, my life has been inexorably bound to Columbia. My siblings and I were born at Presbyterian Hospital, as were my children, and I attended George Washington high school just around the corner from the medical center. I’m a 1954 graduate of Columbia College and received my DDS in 1960 from the dental school, where I have been a part-time faculty member for more than three decades.

Q. Did you always intend to study dentistry?
A. Well, not always. Track and field held a great deal of interest for me in high school and college, where I won national championships in the shotput. After college, I joined the US Navy and was chosen to train for the 1960 summer Olympics USA track and field team.

Q. Did you go to the Olympics?
A. It was close, but, no. However, I gained a great deal in the process: I saw a lot of the world with the Navy and had the experience of working with world class athletes. But, I closed that chapter and decided that dentistry was for me. Naturally, I returned to Columbia.

Q. In addition to teaching at CDM, you’ve also had a successful private practice, haven’t you?
A. I opened my office on 57th Street in Manhattan very soon after earning my dental degree, and to this day I still have many of the same patients I started seeing then. Others are the children and grandchildren of my first patients. That’s one of the things I really love about being a dentist – those long, caring relationships!

Q. What do you consider the highlight of your years at Columbia?
A. The Admissions Committee is still my greatest pleasure. I started to help in recruiting minorities for dentistry in the 1980s at the request of Dr. Allan Formicola, then dean of the dental school. To prepare eligible applicants, we invited seventh through twelfth graders from disadvantaged backgrounds to spend six summer weeks in the Science & Technology Entry Program, called STEP. The results were multiple. A new world of professional possibilities opened for the STEP students and Columbia gained a reputation for being sensitive to a population previously ignored and often belittled. As a consequence, we became attractive to the best and most qualified candidates from underrepresented groups. Today, CDM has a strong, broadly diversified group of nationally outstanding students. It’s been wonderful to be involved in this experience.
CDM CONNECTS

Our Columbia Dental Alumni Facebook Group now has over 700 fans! Join your friends and classmates today to get the latest news, events, photos and invitations. Follow ColumbiaCDM on Twitter, too!

Help us save trees and receive announcements by email! Update your information in the online directory at www.alumni.columbia.edu or send an email to Melissa Welsh at mmw7@columbia.edu.

Save the Date!
Class Reunion Day is Friday, May 6, and will honor the classes ending in 1’s & 6’s. For details go to www.dental.columbia.edu/alumni/reunion.html