President’s Message

Tom St. Germain, DDS, FAGD

There are many shortfalls of the seasons metaphor for a career in dentistry. Surely, some dentists appear to spend their entire careers in summer, others appear to be in perpetual winter. I must say that when I feel stuck and frustrated with being a dentist, one thing that has consistently pulled me out of my seasonal affective disorder (SADD, I totally just made that up) is time with my peers at a continuing education course. Learning something new is invigorating, reinforcing some of my existing knowledge and techniques is reassuring, and hanging with my colleagues who I admire and decompress with all get achieved when I attend a local CE course. The NAGD has provided me with these courses for the last 6 years, and that is why I keep coming back for more and why I decided to serve this organization. (Just between you and me, when I am suffering from SADD, it is really hard to spend money on fancy CE out of town, so the value the NAGD provides is awesome.)

These days, there seems to be more and more dental schools popped up across the US and though there are no plans for an additional school in Nebraska, Creighton is building what will be an amazing new clinic and possibly increase their class size significantly. To be sure, there are likely people at UNMC who are considering increasing their class size. Eventually, we can expect the number of practicing dentists to grow in excess of the general population growth and experience more competition. Of course we have all witnessed the number of “corporate” dental offices increase in our urban centers (not that there’s anything wrong with “corporate” dental offices, I just don’t know what they are called officially these days. DMSO? DMO?).

What is a new dentist to do? Hang a sign, sign up for some insurance plans, and wait for the patients to pour into the office like its Black Friday? It is increasingly difficult to open a new solo dentist office in an urban area. While it is possible, it is requires a certain confidence in one’s stomach lining, and signing up for insurance plans doesn’t necessarily open a flood gate of patients who are eager for dental care. Why doesn’t a new dentist just buy a practice? Let’s just say it’s a seller’s market with a low supply of practices except for that dentist who is willing to go anywhere.

A new dentist can go to work for a “corporate” office (not that there is anything wrong with that). I have heard colleagues share stories good and bad about such experiences. “Corporate” Dental offices (not that there is anything wrong with that) eagerly recruit new dentists with guaranteed salaries right out of the gate, and provide attractive things like money for CE, managerial tasks are all taken care of, you don’t even have to discuss finances with patients! Coming soon: “Everybody’s Dental: Opening across the street in 2017!"

What else can a new dentist do? Work in the public sector or become an associate in a small practice. And this is where I believe there is opportunity for the general dentists of the United States to do something different. Visualize an apprentice dentist, who is eager to learn, desires to work in a small practice (wants to avoid working at a “corporate” office, not that there’s anything wrong with that), and wants to work somewhere where there are already plenty of dentists. Whether it is a town with 6 dentists or 600, if the supply of dentists is adequate, how do you bring in a new dentist?

Most of the general dentist practices in the US are solo practices and this method of practice has served dentists and patients very well over the years. In order for this to continue, we need to keep bringing in new dentists into this continued on page 2
President’s Message
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model. Don’t get mad at me for comparing dentistry to a skilled trade, because I realize that there are many differences, however, the apprentice model just might apply well to our profession.

Take me for example. A formerly skinny dude with a passion for dentistry and a wife who has already started a career in Omaha, thus moving to where there is demand for a new dentist is out of the question (if I want to stay married). When I graduated, the media was discovering some of the problems at some of the “corporate” dental offices (there is definitely something wrong with that), and I wanted to avoid any association with such problems, so I sought private practice associateship opportunities. Fortunately, within two years, I was settled into a great associate dentist position, which has been much like an Apprenticeship. My boss has taught me many things about being a general dentist, how to handle sticky situations, and I like to think that I have taught her a few things too.

There are several things that contributed to the success of this arrangement. At a huge benefit to me, Dr. Pietrok has had associate dentist before, so she knew what having an associate dentist around was like. A lot of flexibility and patience are required by all involved. The junior dentist must be sensitive to the operations of the practice and find a way to fit in. The senior dentist has to actively incorporate the new dentist into the existing practice.

There are few dentists out there who will be content simply observing the senior dentist and not actually getting to do dentistry. Sadly, this is a story I hear often of failed associateships. The hygiene staff was encouraged to introduce me to patients and allow me to do periodic exams. The administrative staff was encouraged to place emergencies, overflow hygiene, and new patients in my schedule. An additional assistant was hired to work with me. While we weren’t providing patient care, we worked the phones trying to bring in past due recalls to our schedule. All these things required sacrifice on behalf of the senior dentist; she wasn’t as busy as she would have been if I hadn’t been there and she had to bail me out of some complicated situations. On the other hand, she isn’t interrupted as much by hygiene or emergencies and there is more opportunity to schedule more involved restorative cases and tap all that knowledge a Mastership in the AGD infers.

The schedule won’t be full for a while, but this can be a benefit to a new dentist. I was strongly encouraged to participate in the NAGD and our hands-on courses (especially the endo course with Dr. Hermsen). Many of those procedures that are referred to specialists in any given office may have been referred due to time constraints or provider preference. Having openings in the schedule allowed me to do procedures like endo (thanks Dr. Hermsen!), and take my time as I gained proficiency. I performed endo, extractions, pedo, eventually added implants to my repertoire. Many patients also don’t like to be rushed, so this new dentist, while less experienced, can take a little extra time to listen to the patient and establish a level of comfort with the “new guy.”

There have been frustrations and problems along the way. No one gets wealthy as an associate/apprentice or hiring one for that matter (being able to pay an associate shouldn’t be a financial burden though). This is about how a great dentist took me in and taught me how to practice dentistry “in the real world.” It is a service to the profession to tend to the new members, foster their development, and instill the values and skills that aren’t taught in schools.
Selling your practice? Need to get the word out? Place an ad in the NAGD Newsletter!

The NAGD receives phone calls occasionally regarding classified advertising. The cost for classified advertisements in each issue is:

- Members: $30 for 40 words; 40 cents for each additional word.
- Non-members: $50 for 40 words; 40 cents for each additional word.
- Rates include a listing in the NAGD newsletter.
- All ads must be paid at time of placement with credit card or check.
- Ads must be received via email in word document.

Questions? Contact the NAGD office at 402.438.2321

It’s time to renew!

The Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) gives general dentists a strong voice to protect your future and scope of practice, and we know how important that is these days.

Submit your AGD membership dues today so you can continue to take advantage of all the resources available exclusively to AGD members, such as:

- Online AGD continuing education (CE),
- Insurance Contract Analysis Services,
- CE tracking,
- High quality, continuing education on a state level, including the NAGD Mastertrack,
- Access to the digital edition of General Dentistry and, AGD Impact online,
- The new and improved NAGD newsletter,
- An extensive list of convenient continuing education (CE) through the AGD CE Database,
- And much, much more!

Renew your AGD membership today and continue to strengthen the voice of the general dentist.

Questions? Call the NAGD Office at 402.438.2321 or contact the AGD Membership Services Center at 888.AGD.DENT (888.243.3368) or membership@agd.org.

February is National Children’s Dental Health Month — Celebrate!

February 2017 | Nebraska Academy of General Dentistry
February will mark the start of National Children’s Dental Health Month. The NCDHM campaign is focusing on a theme of supporting fluoridation with “Choose Tap Water for a Sparkling Smile”. Supporting the use of tap water a mainstay of fluid consumption is always a great move. It is cheap, it is generally safe, (depending on your local water supply, this may not always be true), and it is easily accessible. I am also certain that fluoridated water is not a mind-control device.

NCDHM is a great service, but my overall sense is that we should piggy-back on the efforts to educate children and bring up the same topics to adults in our practices every day of the year. There is no doubt that children are generally following the dietary scheme enacted at home by their primary caregivers. When the adult in the relationship has a high sugar diet, it follows suit that kids are not going to simply “choose tap water”. They are going for everything sweet they can get their hands and teeth on.

A new book has recently come out called “The Case Against Sugar” by Gary Taubes (released December 27th). As of press-time I have not yet has a chance to digest this material, but I have pre-ordered it from Amazon. I have read a fair number of reviews in magazines ranging from “The Atlantic” to “Men’s Journal”. The reviewers are on board with what Taubes is attempting to spotlight, but there is a general skepticism as to whether the his message (sugar is toxic) will ever be effective in our society.

I am motivated to read this material and I continue to educate myself with regard to nutrition. I believe the dental profession to be the front-line against not only tooth decay, but also a plethora of health issues including diabetes and obesity (which leads to a multitude of degenerative conditions). Everybody reading this has at least one patient that has listened to our advice and made a positive behavior change. It is with this person in mind that we need to keep on message with topics such as fluoride use and decreased sugar consumption.
Congratulations to the following NAGD members who will celebrate their anniversaries in 2017!

40 YEARS
William W. Johnson, DDS
Lincoln
Robert E. Roesch, DDS, MAGD
Fremont
Ernest W. Sigler, Jr., DDS, MAGD, ABGD — Lincoln

35 YEARS
Daniel K. Howard, DDS
Morrill
Marvin A. Swan, DDS
Grant

30 YEARS
Thomas J. Bolt, DDS, Omaha
Kent E. Dodson, DDS, FAGD
Lincoln
Timothy L. Jacobs, DDS
Grand Island
Philip E. Strevey, DDS, MAGD
Omaha
Steven D. Wegner, DDS, MAGD — Omaha

25 YEARS
Louis M. Hedlund, DDS
Lincoln
Daniel J. Maas, DDS
Fullerton
Charles S. Skoglund, DDS, FAGD — Norfolk
Brett S. Thomsen, DDS, FAGD
Omaha

20 YEARS
Cori S. Amend, DDS, Lincoln
Alan L. Hergenrader, DDS, FAGD, FICOI — Waterloo
Robert C. Wilson, DDS
Nelson

15 YEARS
Ryan A. Foote, DDS
Scottsbluff
Kevin C. Low, DDS
Chappell
Mark A. Schlothauer, DDS
Gering

10 YEARS
Carolyn L. Taggart-Burns, DDS, MAGD — Omaha

5 YEARS
James E. Canarsky, DDS
Lincoln
Todd W. Hohlen, DDS
Lincoln
Terry F. Lanphier, DDS, MAGD
Omaha

20 YEARS
Michael J. Belling, DDS, FAGD
Omaha
Jared D. Bolding, DDS
Omaha
Natalie A. Fendrick, DDS
Ponca
Sarah C. Meyer, DDS
Omaha
Jessica Suarez, DDS
Omaha
Daniel A. Woodburn, DDS
North Platte

15 YEARS
Alicia D. Lyon, DDS
Kearney
Logan B. Miller, DDS
Omaha
Aubry B. Monnier, DMD
Omaha
Jaicee A. Post, DDS
Bridgeport
Niveditha Rajagopalan, DMD
Omaha
Sara K. Remm, DDS
Omaha
Adrian K. Sandoval, DDS
Omaha
Leah Schumerth, DMD
Bellevue
Tyler J. Siegert, DDS
Omaha

10 YEARS
Ariel Atwood
Kimberly Barth
Rahul Batra
William Baune
Levi Brinkhoff
Mary Canarsky
Zachary Christopherson
Ian Compton
Joshua Folchert
Margaret Hedkind
Jovey M. Heit
Elizabeth Kampschnieder
Lucas Kaufman
Claire C. Koukol
Troy Larsen
Nhu Le
Brett T. Lyman
Taylor Maier
Tony V. Nguyen
Maria L. Nord
Amber N. Oyen
Theresa Rawalt
Steven Ready
Michelle Skaff
Hillary Van Dyke
Corinne Van Osdel
Katie Walker
Scott Wilmes
Gavin Wilson

5 YEARS
Audrey N. Aden, DDS
Gothenburg
Anthony Anoosh Azadi, DDS
Omaha
Derik G. Bendixsen, DDS
Bellevue
Ashley M. Bowland, DDS
Council Bluffs
Rachel D. Buchert, DDS
Bellevue
Coatlicue P. Carter, DDS
Omaha
Alan M. Chee, DDS, Lincoln
Casey Cutler, DDS, Lincoln
Heidi Dammast, DDS
Omaha
Michelle M. Falbo, DDS
Omaha

In 2016, we had 36 new members join the AGD. We’d like to take this opportunity to welcome you again to the Nebraska Academy of General Dentistry! Please be sure to welcome these new members at our next CE Course or meeting. Invite a non-member colleague or friend to join you at the next CE course. Give them an opportunity to see how the NAGD members are committed to lifelong learning! Welcome to the NAGD!!!

Alicia D. Lyon, DDS
Kearney
Logan B. Miller, DDS
Omaha
Aubry B. Monnier, DMD
Omaha
Jaicee A. Post, DDS
Bridgeport
Niveditha Rajagopalan, DMD
Omaha
Sara K. Remm, DDS
Omaha
Adrian K. Sandoval, DDS
Omaha
Leah Schumerth, DMD
Bellevue
Tyler J. Siegert, DDS
Omaha

Michael Unthank, DDS
Lincoln
Allison L. Williams, DDS
Lincoln
Heather J. Wilson, DDS
Omaha
Steven G. Wirth, DDS
Lincoln
Susan J. Worm, DMD
Lincoln
John W. Young, DDS
Council Bluffs
This past November I had a great opportunity to attend the 2016 AGD Leadership Development Symposium in Chicago. It was a two-day seminar geared toward the transition from Dentist to Leader. I found it not only related to the AGD, but also with my personal life and relationships with colleagues, staff, and family. I want to share my experience with you and express my gratitude for what the Academy does for our chosen profession.

The vast majority of my dental education in dental school or through continuing education has been geared toward sharpening clinical skills or adding new procedures and techniques to treat patients. Very little time has been completely directed toward personal growth and development and/or “leadership traits”. I think we sometimes forget the importance of our leadership within our practices and our family lives. Just as time flies and summer turns to winter before our eyes year after year without our influence. Time goes by, but are we happy? Is our practice running like we always dreamed and how we wanted it to go? Is our career as a general dentist going to be better or worse in the next 10, 20, 50 years down the road? I hear people say all the time, “it is what it is...” But there are things we can do and should do to ensure happiness in our practices and our family lives.

These were the thoughts that were in my mind as I listened to the speakers at the Symposium. There were numerous dentist and non-dentist speakers who spoke on topics such as leadership, management, and membership development. Significant time was given to communication skills, personality traits, and developing relationships. One of the items I found most useful was a Q&A panel of current leadership within the AGD. They were given time to tell their story of involvement within the AGD, how it influenced their careers, and where they are today. It was great to hear their stories.

We all have the opportunity to make our careers fulfilling and our chosen profession successful as leaders in our own right. I continue to lean on the AGD to strengthen these values which revolve around education, advocacy and networking. The AGD has continued to provide some of the best educational opportunities for our members throughout the country. It was great to hear dentist after dentist share their stories about the opportunities to become life long learners through the Academy. It remains a unique organization that shares the values of the general dentist and advocates on our behalf. The time and energy that is dedicated to ensuring a positive and productive future for our profession is amazing. Our immediate past president, Dr. Mark Donald phrased it so well, he said, “time is currency of volunteering and leadership”. Isn’t that so true! If you believe in your family, practice, and profession it takes the commitment of time to keep the pieces together. Ultimately, it’s great to be part of an organization that shares my vision of our profession and motivates and challenges my skills as a dentist and as a leader. I want to thank the Academy for providing me the opportunity to attend the 2016 Leadership Development Symposium.

Dr. Matt Serbousek

Drs. Matt Serbousek, Kevin Low (Region 10 RD) and Patrick Wachter
As I sit here and write this article, Christmas time is only a few short weeks away. One can only hope that that Mother Nature brings us a beautiful white Christmas this year! I hope everyone’s holidays were safe and spent with those that you care most about.

I was asked by Julie to write a short article for the January newsletter. Recently, I had the joy and privilege to attend the Academy of General Dentistry’s two day Leadership Development Symposium in Chicago with approximately 100 other attendees. This symposium was hosted by the Academy of General Dentistry Regional Directors. While the timing could have been better (it was just a bit cold in November when I went), the conference was very informative!

Each of the two days, the symposium featured presentations/breakout sessions from leading industry professionals. The first keynote speaker on the first day was Jim Hornickel, CEO of Bold New Direction. His presentation was entitled “Leading from the Inside Out.” One thing I took away from Jim’s breakout session was his discussion on different behavioral styles (doer, thinker, talker and guardian) and how identifying people by this can benefit our everyday interactions with them (including patients). This was just one of the many presenters at the symposium.

While most of day was spent with different presentations/breakout sessions, there was plenty of time for networking opportunities as well. Each of the two days had a networking breakfast and lunch. We also had a Leadership Development Symposium networking reception the first night at the Academy of General Dentistry headquarters. We were able to network with different local leaders around the United States (and Canada), as well as national leaders for the Academy of General Dentistry. It was great getting to know each of these individuals, but also see what is working for their specific area and bounce ideas off of them to try and improve our local chapter. If you are ever in Chicago and have a few minutes, I highly recommend you go look at the Academy of General Dentistry’s headquarters. I want to thank Julie and the Nebraska Academy of General Dentistry for encouraging me to apply to the Leadership Development Symposium. I hope by going to this, it will help make our chapter that much better with all the information that was gained during the two day conference.

Dr. Patrick Wachter

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Serving the Dental Profession Since 1975!

For our 2017 Annual Meeting, we will be offering several different options to hear Dr. Salama. You will be able to attend 1 day lecture on Friday only, or attend 2 days of lecture on both Friday and Saturday or attend the 3 days which includes a hands on workshop on Sunday.


Friday, June 2, 2017 & Saturday, June 3, 2017
(6 hrs CE/AGD Perio Lecture Credit each day)

To be a viable treatment choice in the partially edentulous case, the implant-supported restoration must functionally and cosmetically equal or surpass that of conventional crown and bridge. This requires development of the edentulous ridge or potential implant restorative site to mimic that of a natural tooth. The essence in the creation of this illusion of reality is the soft tissue restorative frame.

Friday, June 2, 2017

Bone & Sinus Augmentation
• Extraction Site Management
• Bone Particulate Grafts and GBR
• Utilization Bioactive Modifiers PRF, PRGF, BMP-s
• Ridge Splitting or Expansion Techniques
• Autogenous or Allograft Onlay Bone Blocks
• Sinus Augmentation Crestal and Lateral Approaches

Saturday, June 3, 2017

Soft Tissue Augmentation for Teeth, Pontics and Implants

Root Coverage Procedures
Ridge Augmentation for pontic and implant sites, “creating the esthetic illusion”
A. Roll technique
B. Inlay pouch technique
C. Onlay technique

Acellular Dermal Matrix and its utilization in periodontal surgery

BioActive Modifiers to enhance wound healing
A. The role of Blood Born Bioactive Modifiers
B. Emdogain — EMP (enamel matrix protein)

Periodontal Microsurgery
A. Tunnel Technique
B. VISTA
C. Semi-Lunar
D. Modified Pinhole

HANDS-ON TRAINING
Sunday, June 4, 2017
(6 hrs CE/AGD Perio Participation Credit)

This day will be a special hands-on section covering some of these protocols performed on pig-jaws. All instruments, regenerative products and sutures will be provided to each attendee.

Educational Objectives:
1. Diagnosis and Classification of deficient sites
2. Preservation techniques available at the time of extraction
3. Management of the “deficient” site through new age horizontal and vertical augmentation techniques
4. Soft tissue augmentation techniques in Implant Dentistry

Dr. Maurice A. Salama

Dr. Maurice A. Salama completed his undergraduate studies at the State University of New York at Binghamton in 1985, where he received his BS in Biology. Dr. Salama received his DMD from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, where he later received his dual specialty certification in Orthodontics and Periodontics, as well as his implant training at the Branemark Center at Penn. Dr. Salama is currently on the faculties of the University of Pennsylvania and the Medical College of Georgia as Clinical Assistant Professor of Periodontics. Dr. Salama is a permanent member of the Scientific Committee of the world’s leading online Dental Education Website DENTALXP.com.

He is also a member of the Team Atlanta Dental Practice which is a multi-disciplinary practice world renowned for their clinical research in reconstructive and esthetic dentistry.

The AGD-Nebraska is designated as an Approved PACE Program Provider by the Academy of General Dentistry. The formal continuing education programs of this program provider are accepted by AGD for Fellowship, Mastership and membership maintenance credit. Approval does not imply acceptance by a state or provincial board of dentistry. The current term of approval extends from 1/1/2014 to 12/31/2017.

Provider ID#: 219313
General Information
Friday, June 2, and Saturday, June 3, 2016
Lecture will be held at the Marriott, 333 S. 13th Street, Lincoln, NE, 402.474.7474

Friday Lecture Schedule
8:15 a.m. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Registration/Breakfast
9 a.m. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Lecture Begins
11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Lunch Hour
(Visit Exhibits)
1:15 p.m. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Lecture resumes
4:30 p.m. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Lecture adjourns

Saturday Lecture Schedule
8:15 a.m. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Registration/Breakfast
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Lecture

Sunday Hands on Schedule
(held at UNMC College of Dentistry)
7:15 a.m. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Breakfast
8 a.m. – 4 p.m. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Hands on Course
** Coffee breaks, breakfast and lunch will be provided all 3 days

Due to the popularity of the lecture and hands on course, we encourage you to register early and take advantage of the HUGE member discounts if you register by February 29th! Space will be limited to 40 doctors for the hands on course on Sunday. Register by May 10th to avoid a $45 late fee!

A block of sleeping rooms have been reserved at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel for $103 until May 11, 2017. Ask for the “Nebraska AGD” rate. To make reservations, call 1-866-706-7706.

If you attend and the entire weekend AND are an AGD member, you will receive 18 hours of participation credit in Periodontics. 18 additional hours of participation credit can be earned by presenting a clinical homework assignment after the course and presenting in October of 2017. There is an additional fee to present.

The 2017 Annual Meeting, we will be offering several different options to hear Dr. Salama. You will be able to attend 1 day lecture on Friday only (exhibits will be on Friday only), or attend 2 days of lecture on both Friday and Saturday or attend the 3 days which includes a hand on workshop on Sunday.

COURSE FEES
AGD Member:
Friday Lecture only  . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $825
2 Day Lecture (Friday & Saturday) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $1,100
(Registery by 2-29-17 and receive a $75 member only discount)

AGD Dentists: Entire 3 day Event . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $2,100
(Registery by 2-29-17 and receive a $200 member only discount)

Non-AGD Member:
Friday Lecture only  . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $1,225
2 Day Lecture (Friday & Saturday) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $1,600
Entire 3 Day Event . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $2,850
(Includes materials, meals and handouts. Lodging not included)

Staff Member/Assistants/Hygienists
1 Day Lecture . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $150
2 Day Lecture . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $250

Dental Students: $40 per day

Lab Techs
1 Day Lecture . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $225
2 Day Lecture . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $325

Registration Form
Name__________________________________________
Staff__________________________________________
Address______________________________ City________ State ______ Zip________
Phone________________________ Fax________
Email (required)___________________________

AGD#__________________________ Non-member □ Yes
PAYMENT METHOD
Check (made payable to the NAGD) Mail payment to: NAGD, 2244 Stockwell Street, Lincoln, NE 68502.
□ Amount:__________________________ □ Credit card: Credit card type:

Credit card #__________________________ exp. Date__________ code on back________
Credit Card Address (If different from above)______________________________
Credit Card City, State & Zip (If different from above)________________________
Phone (If different from above)________________________
Signature________________________ Date________

PLEASE NOTE: A $50 processing fee will be applied to all persons requesting a refund (lecture only) or an $100 processing fee will be applied to all person requesting a refund for (3 days) before May 10th. No refunds will be issued after May 11th.

You will receive an email confirmation when your registration is processed.

Questions? Contact the NAGD Office at 402.438.2321 or email info@NebraskaAGD.org
We are starting a new year and I just wanted to be sure that all of you are aware of some of the changes at the Academy that could impact you. It has been my pleasure to represent Region 10 over the last nearly 6 years and during that time I have learned a lot about the Academy and the inner running of the organization and also sadly about some of the politics that go on behind the scenes. I will end my term in November knowing that we have worked hard to make this organization better and the value of the organization stronger for our members.

As we are by nature CE Junkies as members of this organization, I want you all to be aware of a member benefit that we started in 2016 that allows you to have 6 Free on line CE courses. If you have been on the AGD website it would be hard to miss that there is this free CE to partake in. I realize that many of you don’t spend time on the website and that you may feel inundated with AGD information so I am taking it upon myself to help bring the message to you. As a member benefit, this monetarily basically pays back your AGD National membership with these free 6 courses of CE and it will help you fulfill your state and AGD transcripts. If you log in and go to AGD website and note that right on the landing page is a link to learn more about free CE. Try it out as it is a benefit for your personal education.

Another benefit as I see it is that we have now separated the AGD Governance meeting from our Annual Continuing Education meeting. This will allow the Academy to focus on 2 completely separate events. Our goal is to provide our members with the best annual meeting that they can walk away with a lot of new information to take them forward in their practices. With the AGD team able to focus on a meeting this year in Las Vegas at Caesars Palace we should be able to provide a Premiere meeting. Please check it out. The Governance meeting will be held in November in Chicago for economies and will focus entirely on the business of making our academy great. Unless we have some issues with party politics, this should serve to make some very important decisions on the direction and running of the organization. This may seem like a bold step to separate the two entities but the Board and the House of Delegates felt it was important to try to maximize the quality of the meetings to make our Academy better.

On the business side of the Academy, we are moving along slowly with an Executive Director search but we are finding that our team of Dan Buksa and Tom Killiam in their rolls as co-interim Executive Directors are doing a great job and there appears to be a good air about the Chicago office with respect to the job they are doing. Our search committee is taking its time and frankly our reputation for chewing up ED’s and spitting them out is making it difficult to find a good candidate. Eventually our academy is going to have to decide if it is a Member guided Staff Run organization or if the members want to run the entire academy. Frankly again, politics have created quite a divide over this issue and my firm belief is that we as clinicians don’t have the time to run the day to day operations of the organization but we have the ability to set the path and monitor it and help to achieve the goals. We have a number of our EC (Executive Committee) who believe that they have been elected to “RUN” the organization and this is creating a problem with finding an ED and with staff satisfaction. We have a lot of very good capable team members who we should be supporting and giving direction and turning them loose to do what they are well trained to do. Micromanagement has stifled their abilities to thrive.

At our upcoming House of Delegates in November, we will have some decisions to make and how our delegates vote and who they vote into office will have an effect on our organization. I encourage those that step up to fulfill this duty as a delegate to take their jobs to heart and find out all the facts and vote accordingly as they will set the course for the future of our Academy.

We are a great organization and I want to make this a call to action to all members. We are only as strong as our numbers and at 40,000 members we are strong but we could be much stronger. By inviting in friends and colleagues and letting them know that the CE alone basically pays for their membership so now is a great time to try us out. Our education is second to none and our advocacy efforts entirely on behalf of “GENERAL DENTISTS” is strong.

Respectfully Submitted
Mark Malterud, DDS, MAGD
Region 10 Trustee
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The NAGD is pleased to announce that Elizabeth (Hungerford) Fleck and Christian Petersen of UNMC and Brennan Takagi of Creighton were the winners of the 2016 AGD Student Award for Nebraska.

BRENNAN TAKAGI was born and raised in Honolulu Hawaii and is married to Molly. He attended the University of Hawaii for 2 years, then went on to Colorado College and obtained a Master’s of Science in Development Biology.

In high school, Brennan worked for his family’s dentist, Dr. Tina Tom. He started out cleaning ops, did general tasks and helped out wherever needed. As time went by, he eventually worked chair side. That’s where his love for dentistry began! He enjoyed interacting with the patients and was grateful for the dentist who took him under her wing. He told me that the more he worked there, the more he could see himself in the profession of dentistry.

He really enjoyed volunteering at the clinic One World while in dental school. He was excited to be a part of something where he could provide dentistry for those in need and felt it was a “wonderful experience”. He was excited about being able to use the information and skills he had learned and saw a lot of the same patients. By the time he was a senior; he had developed many relationships with patients and was honored to earn their trust.

He is excited to begin his dental career! The patients that he worked with were excited he was going to dental school and would be returning to the practice where it all started! Brennan returned to Honolulu after graduation and began practicing in September. He likes general dentistry so that he can offer a variety of services and treatments to all his patients. He enjoys all aspects but especially the operative/restorative aspect of dentistry where he can use his technical skills.

Right now, he is focused on continuing to learn from his mentors and growing his skills. Dentistry is changing on a daily basis and he looks forward to enjoying his new career and using that knowledge to be the best dentist he can be. He is excited about his future, for him and his family and hopes one day of owning his own practice.

Elizabeth Fleck

ELIZABETH (HUNGERFORD) FLECK was born and raised in Manhattan, Kansas. Dentistry runs deep in her family; her Dad is a practicing dentist in Manhattan, her Mom is a retired dental hygienist and both of her older sisters are dentists. She received her undergrad in Biological Systems Engineering from UNL. Even though she lives in Iowa, she will ALWAYS be a Husker fan. She told me her Grandmother is 97 and still is a HUGE Husker fan!

She wasn’t sure if she would choose dentistry or engineering until one day she went on a field trip with her class. Most of the students in her class were either pre-med, pre-dent, or engineering students. Her instructor gave them all a good piece of advice; “you either want to solve problems or help solve people’s problems”. She knew she wanted to work with people and that dentistry was the way she wanted to go!

She was recently married in June of 2016 to Tony whose job took him to Des Moines. But they decided they wanted to live in a smaller town. She currently practices in Norwalk Iowa where it has a small town feel but yet about 15 minutes away from a bigger city. She is an associate in a practice with 2 other female dentists.

Her favorite part of dental school is being surrounded by people with a common drive and the tight knit relationships with the instructors. Liz said that being a general dentist helps her to be able to offer ALL services to her patients; she didn’t want to have to give up anything with being a specialist. She really enjoys working with her hands and dentistry allows her to be artistic too, something she loves!

With her family background, she is grateful for the mentors in her Dad and sisters and felt she was well prepared going in. The past 6 months have flown by and in her words “have been great!” In the future, she and Tony plan to have a family but for now they are looking forward to getting more involved in the community.

CHRISTIAN PETERSEN grew up in South Dakota until his family moved to Blair, NE in 2006. It was there that he finished out high school and accepted a Rural Health Opportunities Scholarship for dentistry to Wayne State College. He completed his 4 years at WSC, earning a B.S. in Biology and due to the RHOP scholarship, was immediately accepted into UNMC for dentistry. His mom and dad are graduates of the University of South Dakota with majors in computer networking and business, respectively.

He knew from a young age that he wanted to end up in the health field, however didn’t know quite where. Christian ended up
shadowing providers for pharmacy and pediatrics and found that pharmacy bored him and pediatrics tore at his heartstrings. Also, the lifestyle of an M.D. seemed to have a more time demanding schedule and he wanted to have the most control possible over his career. That’s when his uncle who sells dental products recommended that he look into dentistry. The autonomy and customizable work schedule coupled with his love to work with his hands and with people became a perfect fit, and something that Christian found he was naturally good at.

His favorite part of dental school was either the relationships he made with my patients and classmates, or the ability to work as a craftsman and hone his hand skills. Dental school was a learning time for Christian, which sounds fairly obvious, but he doesn’t just mean in the sense of learning about dentistry. It was also a time where he was able to figure out what kind of dentist he wanted to be when he graduated, how he wanted to practice, and what he wanted to specialize in.

Christian chose general dentistry because he didn’t want to limit himself to one aspect of the profession. Throughout dental school, he enjoyed all the different specialties and the variety he was able to see from day to day. He found that he was good at each area and wanted to strengthen his knowledge and skills of the overall field of dentistry, not just one specific area. He also loved general dentistry because it allows him to greater help his patients and be knowledgeable over a wide variety of topics.

Currently Christian is stationed at Schofield Barracks on the island of Oahu, HI where he is a general dentist for the 17,000 soldiers that make up the 25th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army. He’s been there since July and is awaiting the start of a 2 year AEGD residency program.

His goals include graduating from the Residency/Master’s program, starting a family with his new wife Hope, and enjoying the military life in Hawaii as much as possible. Long term goals could possibly include a career in the military, but will definitely include settling down back in the Midwest so they can be closer to family. He wants to start his own practice in a rural environment and potentially acquire multiple small town practices over the course of his dental career. He would also like to start a home business with his wife that would revolve around their love of great food, local wine/beer, entertainment, and crafts.

The Nebraska AGD sends their best wishes to Brennan, Liz and Christian as you begin your dental careers! Congratulations to all of you on being the NAGD’s Student Award Winners for 2016!
NAGD is Starting 3rd Mastertrack
Registrations are open!

It is hard to believe that we are ready to begin our 3rd Mastertrack class! In the fall of 2007, the NAGD Mastertrack began our first class. The 2nd class will complete their Mastertrack journey in the fall of 2017. What an exciting time for the NAGD!!! The next class is slated to start in June of 2017. The NAGD will once again offer a program that will showcase courses in at least 16 different disciplines (based on the current MAGD requirements). The 6 year program will give each participant over 600 hours (with protocol) of PACE approved continuing education credits, of which 400 hours are participation hours. For those dentists who hold a Fellowship (or have the 500 hours required for Fellowship in the AGD), this program contains all of the requirements to achieve Mastership status and enables members to obtain Master designation locally instead of traveling an extensive distance to each course. But you do not need to have your Fellowship before you can start the Mastertrack.

Each course is four days in length from Thursday through Sunday. Each course involves an in-office assignment that is to be completed during the following six-month period and presented on the first day, Thursday, of the next session. Continuous presentation attendance yields 100 participation hours per year, covering all of the required topics. This results in more than the necessary 400 participation hours required for Mastership at the end of the 6 year cycle.

Attendance and doing a case presentation is required to obtain additional participation hours in each discipline. Protocol will be provided by the end of each session. You will have approximately 6 months to prepare.

Each subsequent weekend will follow the same schedule. Please allow for an extended schedule on the Friday or Saturday portion of the weekend. By having the extended schedule on one evening, will allow us to convene early on Sunday.

Our next NAGD Mastertrack weekend is June 2-4, 2017 featuring world renowned speaker, Dr. Maurice Salama. He will be speaking on Periodontics. (See article in newsletter for registration information.) This 6 year class is limited in size and is filling up fast. By joining the NAGD Mastertrack, you have a guaranteed spot for every weekend!

Future dates are yet to be determined but for consistency sake, the sessions will be in the same months.

For the June Mastertrack, the lecture (1st day of the 3 day weekend) will always fall on the first Friday in June. The fall NAGD Mastertrack weekend will be scheduled around Husker home football games. It is possible that the NAGD Mastertrack may be held in September/October/November due to scheduling conflicts with football games. Every effort will be made to NOT schedule the weekend on a home football game.

The Friday lecture has been designed to be open to all members and non-members to allow them to meet whatever CE requirements they need. We have also opened up the weekend hands-on portion so any dentist on a first-come first-serve basis.

Schedule 1st Weekend in June 2017

**Thursday, June 1st — Prerequisites for Mastertrack**
8 a.m. – 12 p.m. (Location TBA)
Case Presentations, 12:30 – 5:30 p.m. (Location TBA)
Lunch will be provided for new doctors joining.

**Friday, June 2nd — Lecture**, 8:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
(Cornhusker Marriott, Lincoln)

**Saturday, June 3rd — Lecture**, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
(Cornhusker Marriott, Lincoln)

**Sunday, June 4th — Hands On portion**, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
(UNMC College of Dentistry)

On Thursday, June 1st (first Mastertrack weekend) we will hold prerequisite courses for the NAGD Mastertrack class. This will include an overview of the Mastertrack, Power Point 101, Case Presentation Overview and Digital Photography.

While we do offer an Open Enrollment (where you can join at any time), we will only be offering the prerequisites courses at the beginning of each Mastertrack.

Fees are based on a yearly tuition fee. The fee for the entire Mastertrack program is $17,000. Yearly fees are payable the first week in January of every year. The tuition for the following years will be:

- **2017** – $4,500
- **2018** – $3,500
- **2019** – $3,000
- **2020** – $2,500
- **2021** – $2,000
- **2022** – $1,500

Total — $17,000 for over 600 hours of quality continuing education. That $28.00 per credit hour AND right here in Nebraska! **Priceless!!**

The fees for the NAGD Mastertrack are based on the current Mastership requirements set by the AGD. If the AGD would add any additional Mastership requirements, an additional fee will be applied.

If you are interested in the NAGD Mastertrack or would like a brochure, contact the NAGD office at 402.438.2321 or email at info@NebraskaAGD.org. A complete brochure can be found on our website at www.NebraskaAGD.org.
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Wellesley, MA
AGD member since 2005

REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 1, 2017.

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June 2-4, 2017
2017 NAGD Annual Meeting
Dr. Maurice Salama
Cornhusker Marriott Hotel/UNMC College of Dentistry, Lincoln

October 27-29, 2017
Fall NAGD Lecture/Mastertrack
Speaker — TBA
Discipline — Anesthesia/Orofacial Pain