

SPRING 2005

BEACON

A PUBLICATION OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY DENTAL SCHOOL

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Fabulous Facts
and Tales for NJDS's Golden Anniversary

Plus:

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BY BILL GLOVIN

Fifty

In recognition of New Jersey Dental School's Golden Anniversary, the *Beacon* has compiled 50 facts or stories about the school and her alumni. They run the gamut from outstanding statistics to treasured lore. This is by no means a definitive list...

we'll save that for 2054.

Enjoy!

1. In the Beginning. NJDS was the result of a decree by the Archdiocese of Newark to create the Seton Hall College of Medicine and Dentistry (SHCMD) at the Jersey City Medical Center on Aug. 6, 1954. Its charter was granted the following November, and the first class—37 men and one woman—graduated in 1960.

2. Up on the Roof. The original home of NJDS was located within the massive Jersey City Medical Center, where students found a way to get from the Medical Arts building to the dental school in record time. "The dental school was located to the rear of the complex, and the main buildings were at the front," recalls Dr. Gary Heir (72). "Our basic sciences courses were in the furthest building away from the dental school building, and getting there required a long, time-

consuming walk through a series of elevators or stairs. Some of us found a wooden walkway that took us on a shortcut to the science building from the roof of the dental school building. This allowed us to save priceless minutes for the gross anatomy lab.”

3. Jackets Required. NJDS held its first White Coat Ceremony on September 21, 2001. Incoming students received a white coat—the symbol of professionalism and empathy.

4. The Essence of Success. What do basketball legend Michael Jordan and Dr. George Jenkins ('99) have in common? They both received Essence Awards for exceptional achievement and contributions to their communities on national television in May 2000. Dr. Jenkins and his two childhood friends, Drs. Rameck Hunt and Sampson Davis—all from Newark—fulfilled a childhood pact when they received their doctorate degrees and started a clinic to serve the residents of their hometown. Their foundation, The Three Doctors, Inc., offers scholarships and supports after-school programs in Newark. In 2002, their book, *Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream*, made the *New York Times* Best Seller list.

5.

Top Students.

In 1997, the Omega Omega

Chapter of Omicron Kappa Upsilon, the NJDS chapter of the national dental honor society, established a Dean's List at NJDS. The list honors NJDS students with a grade point average of 3.5 or above.

6.

It's 20/20. Every dentist remembers the stress of clinic and treating their first patient. To help relieve the

anxiety, the Student Government Association developed the Hindsight Program in 2001, designed to help second-year students survive clinic. Every student receives a manual that explains the nuts and bolts of clinic, from how to fill out a competency form to discipline requirements.



7. All in the Hands. Former professor and artist Dr. John Manhold won a first prize in show in Paris in 1969 for a bust aptly titled, "Torso." What's more, Mrs. Lawrence Rockefeller selected one of Dr. Manhold's sculptures to be displayed in the lobby of Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital and as part of its permanent collection.

8. She's Number 1. Dr. Cecile A. Feldman not only became acting dean of NJDS in 1999, she also became the first woman to occupy the dean's office.

9. Just Like George Washington. Dr. Bob Forte ('60) was the Dental Alumni Association's first president. Dr. Forte, who has a private practice in Ridgewood, NJ, was also a faculty member in the Department of Restorative and Operative Dentistry. "Everything the charter class did, we did for the first time," he recalled in 1999. "After graduation, one of our instructors said we

would need an alumni organization. We took a vote, and I won by default."

10. A New Frontier. Shortly after the new millennium, the new Dental Implant Center opened its doors. Community dentists referred some patients, while others "cold called" the school in search of affordable dental implants. Dr. Barry Zweig is the interim director of the Center, a vital training ground for students in one of the fastest growing areas in dentistry.

11. Software on the Cutting Edge. Beginning with the freshman class in 2001, 400 pounds of textbooks and manuals were replaced by a DVD weighing less than an ounce. That class received all textbooks, course manuals, syllabi, lecture notes, slides and videos on DVD. At the time, NJDS was one of only five schools in the nation to use the software.

12.

Nothing Without Our Patients.

The clinics at NJDS train students and post-grad residents, but they also provide a valuable service to the Newark community and beyond. And the patients keep coming. From September 1993-September 1994, the school's main clinic recorded 33,772 patient visits. A decade later, there were 77,278 patient visits to the main clinic and the other treatment centers, such as the Oral Medicine Clinic and the Special Care Clinic.



13. The Best in Equipment. One of the keys to staying competitive is offering students and patients the latest, state-of-the-art-equipment, and a donation by Delta Dental in 2000 put NJDS ahead of the pack. The core lab facility became one of the nation's first labs to house a \$120,000 Laser-Capture Microdissector, a device that isolates individual cells in record time.

14. A Legend in His Own Time. "I've seen them come and I've seen them go. I'm happy to have been part of this great school from its inception," said Dr. Peter Kudyba ('60) when he retired in 2000. A member of the first class and an integral part of the faculty, Dr. Kudyba became a part-time instructor at NJDS in 1960, two days after he graduated. He sold his Parsippany practice in 1982 to become full-time director of patient service and chairman of the Department of Oral Diagnosis and Radiology. In 1988, he helped develop the current group practice program.

15. ...and Counting. If strength is in numbers, NJDS is growing stronger every year. On last count, the database totals 2,560 alumni.

16. A Somber Contribution. 9/11/01 is a date etched forever in our collective memories—and also now in our history books. Among the many alumni, faculty, and staff who made important contributions to the recovery work at Ground Zero were Drs. Harry Zohn, Marnie Sperling ('00), and the late Raymond Rossi ('84).

17. Partners. New Jersey Dental School has been the launching pad for many long-term partnerships. There's Dr. Steve De Steno ('76) and Dr. Don Fanelli ('79); Dr. Howard Drew ('82) and Dr. Lou Galiano ('82); Dr. Ron Forte ('91) and Dr. Steve Fink ('91); Dr. Jorge Bastidas ('91) and Dr. Patty Bastidas ('92); and Dr. William Sorvino ('95) and Dr. Melanie Russo ('91), to name just a few.

18. One More Time. The NJDS moved to the UMDNJ campus in the University Heights section of Newark in 1976. In 1981, the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey achieved university status when legislation was signed changing the name to the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ).

19. A Fine Inheritance. When Dr. William Cinotti stepped down as associate dean of Interdisciplinary and Extramural Programs at NJDS in 2000, he left behind the Statewide Network for Community Oral Healthcare. The network, which has become a model for other programs throughout the nation, facilitates oral health care for people with HIV/AIDS, the economically disadvantaged, the elderly, and patients with physical and mental disabilities. Dr. Cinotti, highly honored for his work, was the first dentist to receive the Primary Care Achievement Award for Patient Care presented by the PEW Health Professions Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Public Health Service.

20. From Private to Public. NJDS, originally part of the Seton Hall College of Medicine and Dentistry, became publicly funded with the signing of the New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry Act in 1964. The name was changed at this time to the New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry. With passage of the Medical and Dental Education Act of 1970, the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey was established by combining New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry with Rutgers Medical School.

21.

They're Presidential.

Five NJDS alumni have served as president of the New Jersey Dental Association:

- Dr. Robert Kaplan ('60) in 1971;
- Dr. Charles Perle ('74) in 1993;
- Dr. Andrew Milone ('62) in 1995;
- Dr. Ralph Attanasio ('61) in 1996;
- Dr. Carmine LoMonaco ('64) in 2001.

22.

They Weren't Camera Shy.

The Class of 1990 is the only NJDS class without a yearbook, despite the fact that all of the information, including hundreds of irreplaceable family photos, was submitted to the yearbook company. Several years later, the class attempted to put together a book of memories, but it never got off the ground.

23. A Leadership Role. On Aug. 22, 1994, New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd Whitman asked an oral surgeon from Skillman, NJ, to put down his scalpel and take a leadership position. Dr. Arnold H. Rosenheck said yes and, by doing so, became the first healthcare practitioner to chair the UMDNJ Board of Trustees. He is currently the NJDS Assistant Dean for Hospital Affairs and Institutional Development.

24. A Step in Time. The colorful Class of December '72 is remembered for many reasons, among them, a protest march some of them made on Newark's City Hall. "Kent State struck a raw nerve with us, and we had endless meetings as to what our role should be," says Dr. Gary Vitaletti. Ultimately, some of the class joined medical students to march on City Hall, wearing white coats and black armbands.

25. The More You Know. In 1998, UMDNJ's School of Osteopathic Medicine (SOM) became first in the nation to integrate dentistry into the osteopathic medical school curriculum. "We believe the more medical students learn about the mouth, teeth, and oral diseases, the better primary care physicians they will be," said Dr. George Mardirossian ('67), who led the initiative.

26. There's Only One "Coach." Dr. Frank E. Frates, Jr., known to dental students as the "Coach," survived the attack on Pearl Harbor and went on to run his classes at NJDS like a five-star admiral. In the Navy, he coached basketball and funneled a number of his players off to colleges after their service was completed. At NJDS, he treated new students—almost all young men—like he was their drill instructor in basic training. They quickly learned to meticulously press their whites and keep their shoes scuff free. Dental kits had to be spotless, and the drawers of each student's kit had to be arranged identically. Cleanliness, discipline, and professionalism were to be maintained at all times; those who dared to question or cross him paid the consequences.

"While I'm in charge, you men are going to eat, dream, and work dentistry for the next three-and-a-half years," he told members of the Class of 1960. "You will become the best dentists east of the Mississippi. You guys will smash the East Coast." He's said to have been the personal dentist of President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

27. Hand Him the Red Pen. Through the years, many NJDS faculty members have

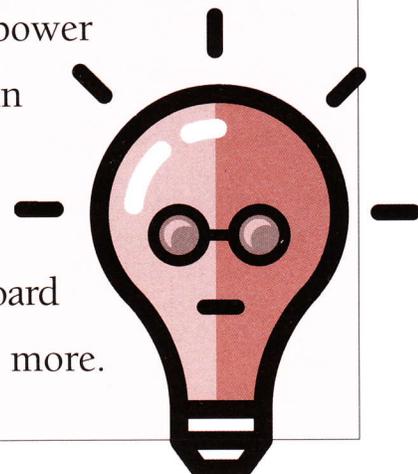
served as editors of professional journals, a highly coveted honor. A recent appointment that brings considerable prestige to the school is the naming of Dr. Michael Glick, chair of the Department of Diagnostic Sciences, as Editor-in-Chief for the *Journal of the American Dental Association*.

28. A Diverse Student Body. Since 1992, NJDS has had more than 30 percent minority enrollment. That's a sizable increase since 1971, the first year the school recorded data on minority enrollment. In that year, fewer than 1 percent of the students were minorities.

29. Her American Dream. Few at NJDS—or perhaps anywhere else for that matter—have gone through as much to become a dentist as Dr. Anna Patras ('02). At age 26, she escaped the political turmoil of Communist Poland and spent three-and-a-half months as a political refugee in an Austrian camp. After finding her way to the United States, she worked in a paper factory and cleaned houses while studying English. In 2002, at age 44, she graduated from NJDS and became a resident in orthodontics at Columbia University.

30.

Power Outage. Once during the construction of the Doctors Office Center, the power went out mid-day at NJDS. One of the construction rigs had severed a power cable, which started an electrical fire in the subbasement. The school closed early that day (coincidentally, when the senior class was taking "mock" board exams) and remained closed for two more.



31. A Life-Saving Consortium. In 1998, NJDS was instrumental in starting the Oral Cancer Consortium of New York and New Jersey, joining with other area dental schools to address the need for periodic oral cancer examinations. Since then, about 6,500 people have been screened for oral cancer through the program.

32. The "New" NJDS. The Oral Health Pavilion—the cornerstone of a \$45 million expansion and renovation project on the University Heights campus in Newark—opened its doors at NJDS in July 2004.

33. A Gift for the Future. Delta Dental Plan of New Jersey, Inc., has been one of NJDS's faithful supporters through the years, providing grants for scholarships, research projects, and partnering with the dental school in a variety of ways. Delta Dental's latest contribution: a \$2 million gift that will help advance activities in educating existing and future dentists, advance its provision of services to the underserved, and enable NJDS to outfit the new Educational Conference Center in the new Oral Health Pavilion.

35. Partners in Education. In 1989, students were given the opportunity to complete a BS and a DMD degree in less than the normal eight-year time frame. The articulation agreements were made with 11 New Jersey institutions of higher education, including Rutgers, Montclair State University, and Fairleigh Dickinson University. Under the program, a Bachelor of Science degree is granted by the undergraduate school upon completion of the first year at NJDS.

36. All in the Family. For several NJDS graduates, a dental education in Newark is a family tradition. Dr. James Rynar, a clinical professor in the Department of Periodontics, once taught a course that included his younger sister, Dr. Bonnie Rynar ('89), a general practitioner with her own practice in Livingston, NJ. Bonnie's daughter, Elana Walker, is currently a third-year student. Dr. Joseph A. Lota, Sr. ('64), a clinical professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry, and his sons, Dr. Christopher Lota ('91) and Dr. Joseph A. Lota, Jr. ('04), are successful general practitioners. "My father really didn't influence me that much to come here," said Joseph. "He let me make my own decision. I chose the school for the quality of its education."

37. Sisterhood is Strong

Fifty years ago, female dental students at NJDS were rare. In recent years, they've sometimes been in the majority of a class. As recently as 1990, women made up about 50 percent of the NJDS graduating class. By 1995, the rate of female acceptances was hovering close to 50 percent. In 2002, it climbed to 59 percent and has remained around the 50 percent mark since then.

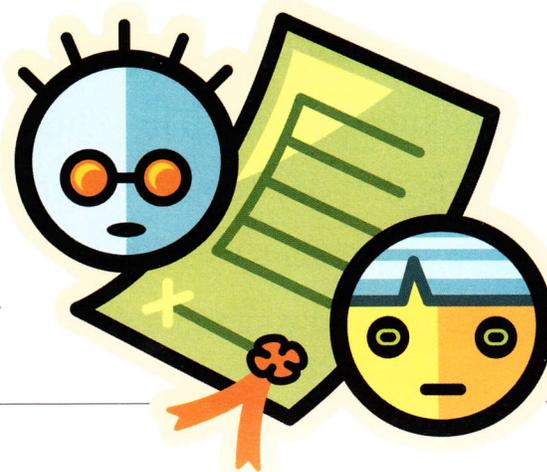
38. Inside Scoop on a Dental Career.

Gateway to Dentistry is a two-week interactive program offering undergraduates a glimpse into the wide range of dental career options. Included in the itinerary are: introduction to student life; financial aid and admission projections; plus things you need to know about the field of dentistry.

39. Silver Memories. Older alumni might remember NJDS's Silver Anniversary Weekend in November 1985. The highlight was the annual Alumni Reunion Dinner Dance and tribute to Dr. Paul W. Vinton, founding chairman of the Department of Prosthetics. The weekend included lectures, a get-acquainted program with then-UMDNJ President Dr. Stanley Bergen, Jr., and Sunday morning brunch.

40. Academically Speaking. NJDS has launched many careers in academia, with several alumni holding top positions through the years. Currently, two people with NJDS ties are deans of U.S. dental schools. Dr. Michael Alfano ('71) is dean of the New York University College of Dentistry, and Dr. James Hupp, former chairman of oral and maxillofacial surgery at NJDS, is dean of the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry. Dr. Frank Catalanotto ('68), now presi-

34. Awarding Excellence. The Dental Alumni Association, with its 516 active members, has awarded \$176,800 in scholarships/awards to 145 individuals over the past six years. The first scholarships, for \$2,500 each, were awarded to Dr. Jennifer Kim and Dr. Lynn Harasty ('90).



dent of the American Dental Education Association, is a former dean of the University of Florida College of Dentistry; and Dr. Kenneth Chance ('82, PG-Endo), division chief of endodontics at the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry, is a past dean of Meharry Dental School.

41. Inroads Into Research. A major milestone took place in the fall of 1987 when the state approved \$150,000 toward a new Dental Research Center at the school. The center's research program began to generate more than \$1 million in annual grant support. Said Dr. Leroy A. Parker, D.D.S., interim dean at the time: "In order to raise the reputation of the school we have to increase the quality of research done."

42. Not Alarmed. During the Senior National Board exams in December 1999, the fire alarm kept going off. The seniors refused to leave the building and kept taking the exam.

43. More Like Family. The Class of 1963, smallest in NJDS history with 31 members, has a special bond. Their 20th reunion at the Tamiment Resort in Pennsylvania in 1983 was so successful that they've made getting together a habit. Five years later, 12 couples attended a 25th reunion in San Francisco and Lake Tahoe. Couples have cruised the Caribbean and Alaska together. Their 40th anniversary was celebrated in San Francisco and the Napa Valley. Class members often get together at each other's homes.

44. The "Missing" Class. There was no Class of 1980 graduated from NJDS. This was because the program changed from a three-year to a four-year curriculum in 1977.

45. He's Earned His Stripes. Dr. Maurice "Mo" Hill (D72), a rear admiral in the U.S. Naval Reserves, is the highest ranking dental officer in the Navy's active duty and reserve ranks.

He received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the UMDNJ Board of Trustees in May 2004.

46. Shine On. We're blowing our own horn, but the first issue of the *Beacon* was published in 1997. Supported by the Dental Alumni Association and the Office of the Dean, the magazine's mission is to publish news and information about New Jersey Dental School and her alumni. Editor Dr. Art Crosta ('67) has brought invaluable guidance (and lighthouse photos) to the *Beacon* from the start. Its predecessor, the Alumnews newsletter, was published during the 1980s.

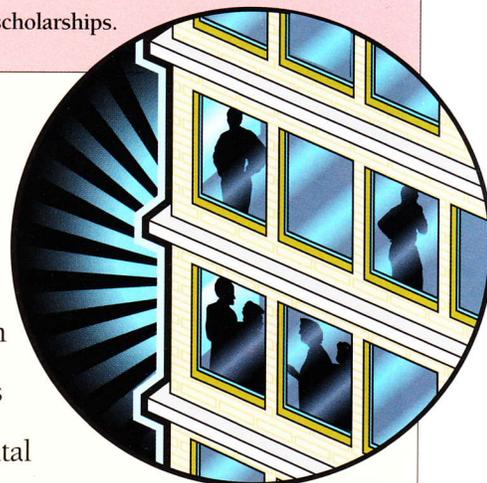
47. Tap Into the CODE. In 1994, an innovative pilot program, Community-Oriented Dental Education (CODE), took 10 NJDS senior dental students from the school's clinic to dental centers throughout the state. Under faculty supervision, the students treated underserved populations during one-month rotations. Since then, from five to 15 students a year have worked in these simulated private practice settings.

Today, CODE students benefit from video conferencing equipment that connects the sites to the dental school. Students and faculty are able to communicate, consult, and receive lectures and seminars without leaving their assigned site.

48. Goodbye, Jersey City. The Class of 1973 was the last to have classes in Jersey City.

49. Bridge Builder

The DAA's Coming Together Dinner, brainchild of Dr. Cosmo De Steno, has been a highlight of the DAA calendar since 1999. The event honors a distinguished alumnus or faculty member and raises money for scholarships. Thanks to Dr. De Steno, the school's first vice dean and a recipient of the UMDNJ-Distinguished Alumni Award, the event has raised more than \$88,000 for scholarships.



50. Quite an Impression.

When the dental school was in Jersey City, it was housed in a building with several floors. The clinic was on the 7th. As was the routine, once a student made a dental impression, he or she showed it to an instructor before putting it up in stone. One day, the instructors were leaving the building for an early lunch. A student spied Dr. Peter Kudyba ('60) from a 7th floor window and opened it. Leaning out the window, the student held out an impression and called, "Dr. Kudyba! Take a look at this!" Dr. Kudyba peered up, said, "Looks good to me!" and went to lunch.