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## The Bulletin



## Birmingham District Dental Society

October 2010

1801 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35205

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**DATE: October 1, 2010**

**PLACE: The Embassy Suites Hotel**

2960 John Hawkins Parkway – Hoover 35244

**TIMES: Continental Breakfast 8:00**

Lecture: 8:30

Lunch: 12:00

Lecture: 1:00

**SPEAKER: DeWitt C. Wilkerson, D.M.D.**

**TOPIC: “Concepts of Complete Dentistry – Occlusion...it can make you or break you”**

**Dr. Wilkerson is the Director of Dental Medicine and a senior lecturer at the Dawson Academy. He lectures extensively nationally and internationally on the subjects of restorative dentistry, occlusion and masticatory disorders. He is president of the American Equilibration Society. He joined the Dawson group practice in St. Petersburg, Florida after graduating from the University of Florida College of Dentistry in 1982. His timely presentation will review mouths that have broken down and cases that have failed due to occlusion problems, including the failure to adhere to critical principles of occlusion. Audience participation will be encouraged, and you will receive six hours of CE credits for this program.**

We will gather in the Amazon Room. Breakfast and registration will begin at 8 a.m. with a continental breakfast that includes spiced fruit, coffee and tea. Lunch at noon will feature chardonnay chicken with tossed green salad, freshly baked rolls, pasta salad, mixed vegetables and herbed potatoes plus your choice of dessert.

**Advance Reservations: \$295 (by Sept. 25)**

**\$325 (by Sept. 30)**

**On Site Registration: \$375**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### A Valuable Opportunity – Not To Be Missed

What occlusal philosophy do you follow? Pankey? Dawson? Gnathology? Or do you feel, as Frank Spear does, that each philosophy works, but on different patients? And, how do you handle the worn dentition when it presents in your office? What system do you use to make decisions about how to restore these cases with the best long-term prognosis? Or do you, as John Kois, base your decisions on long-term risk assessments? According to Kois, if a patient has a history of uncontrolled periodontal disease and continues to lose bone around teeth, implants may be at long-term risk and, therefore, not the treatment of choice. On the other hand, if a patient has a history of caries, then bridges may be at long-term risk, and the treatment of choice may be implants.

We leave dental school with a base of education to make safe decisions, but, as the saying goes, "If we are not growing, we are dying." Learning how to place a restoration technically is necessary, but even more valuable is understanding the theories behind them. Take the worn dentition case. If the attrition is due to severe GERD (gastric reflux), then the case can very predictably be restored, and the patient should expect a good long-term prognosis. Attrition due to a neurophysiologic habit in which the patient grinds solely in retrusive will look much different than attrition due to a habit in which the patient grinds end to end or has anterior pathway wear. This will impact whether the VDO will need to be increased or not.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (cont'd)

Once we graduate from dental school, the best learning we can receive often comes from being involved in study clubs in which people who work together also learn together. When comprehensive treatment planning together, we can find out what all is possible and collectively decide the best treatment for the patient. For instance, who could best create or restore a papilla which is not optimally esthetic? The periodontist? The orthodontist? Or the restorative dentist? Many studies show that surgically grafting papillae is not very predictable even in the most capable hands. Dennis Tarow has shown us that if there is less than 5 mm from the contact point between teeth to the crestal bone, then we can predictable get a papilla even if one was not fully present before. This may involve an orthodontic correction to upright roots and change the contact or it may best be corrected with a restoration.

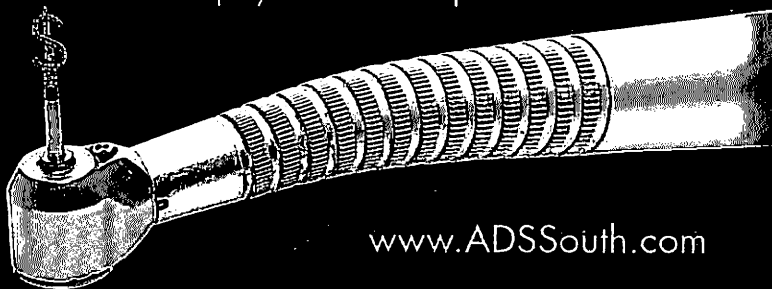
When faced with treatment planning challenges, we all pull arrows from our quiver. The more arrows we have to draw from, the more likely we are to hit the target – a predictable esthetic outcome. We gain arrows with school, experience, networking, study clubs and great lectures. **October 1, we will have the opportunity to learn from one of the greats, Dr. DeWitt Wilkerson from the Dawson Institute.** Courses at the Dawson Institute cost between \$1,500 and \$2,000 plus travel. We have an opportunity to hear six hours for less than \$300 and without the travel. I look forward to seeing you there.

Leigh Kent

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**SINCERE SYMPATHY** goes to the family of **Dr. James G. Alston**, who died **Sept. 10**. **Dr. Alston** was a 1960 graduate of the **University of Alabama School of Dentistry**. He had practiced dentistry for 45 years, most recently at **Affordable Dentures in Pell City** and before that in **Columbiana**. Our sincere sympathy goes to his wife **Sandra**, sons **James G. Alston, Jr.** and **Robert L. Alston**, and daughter **Catherine L. Walton** and eight grandchildren. His burial was **Sunday, Sept. 12**, in **Columbiana**.

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**The Bulletin of  
Birmingham District  
Dental Society**  
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**A NEW NUMBER to call for those with unusual problems in this difficult economy is 211. Meredith Watkins, our United Way liaison, spoke briefly before our September meeting and told of this additional outreach that helps people in unpredictable circumstances. She pointed out that United Way of Central Alabama is a local organization and any money you pledge toward our BDDS goal of \$68,500 will stay right here. She said there is only nine percent overhead with the organization.**

**Dr. Robert Rudolph is chairman of the campaign this year and has asked that everyone consider an additional \$50 gift over last year's contribution. This would add \$5,300 to overall giving. The committee includes Drs. Milton Essig, Jennifer Davis, Debbie Sema and Justin Zellmer. Please return your pledge card by Oct. 15.**

November					2010				
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T
	1	2	3	4	5	6			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27			
28	29	30							

**CIRCLE YOUR CALENDAR** for our next general meeting at The Summit Club. It will be Nov. 9 due to the elections being held the first Tuesday. Hope to see you there!

**ACCESS TO CARE is ongoing thanks to our BDDS Dental Outreach Committee. We receive calls constantly from people who are in pain, frequently unemployed, on disability or otherwise down on their luck. Some just want a dentist who will let them make payments. Other calls come from social workers and nursing homes. Some of these calls are appropriate for Cahaba Valley Health Care which screens patients monthly or for M-Power's extraction clinic on the second and fourth Thursdays.**

**But most of the time, we turn to our faithful members of the Dental Outreach Committee, who will work these patients into their schedules. This past year, Drs. Barry Goodspeed and David Winchester have been at the helm. At the last Executive Council meeting, it was suggested that our members might like to make donations to BDDS for laboratory and material costs to further help these patients. If so, please send us a check. Meanwhile thanks to the committee which includes Drs. Kevin Alexander, Preston Reynolds, David Peters, Jason Garner, Brett Maddux, Cheri Cunningham, Cathy Davis, James L. Sanderson, Jr., Debbie Sema, Paul Borganier, Leigh Kent, Janice Jackson, Richard Morgan, Robert Rudolph, Stephen Burge, Steve Stricklin, Rocky Alling, Baker Chambliss, Roy Smith and Justin Zellmer.**

**At the present time, the committee is going to hear about several patients who are in pain, need a denture repaired, have lost part of two front teeth, need four teeth pulled and a lower denture, etc. If you would be willing to help with any of these cases or join this compassionate committee, please call Carolynne at 933-1718.**



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Dr. Debbie Sema, who was named outstanding council chair at the ALDA Meeting in June. Dr. Sema is head of the Membership Council., which also includes Drs. Ashley Ford, Guy Rosenstiel, and Doug Beckham.

**BIRMINGHAM DENTAL HYGIENE STUDY CLUB** members will hear Chase Monroe of Glaxo Smith Kline speak on "The Benefits of Sensodyne, Pro-Enamel and Bioteen" at their Oct. 10 meeting in Volker Hall at 6 p.m. Contact Becky Walters at 823-5554 for more info.

The Eastern Dental Hygiene Study Club will hear Dr. Christy Savage speak on Orthodontics "Something Fun" at its Oct. 12 meeting at the First Baptist Church in Trussville.

**YOUNG CHILD NEEDS**

**ORTHODONTICS** – Cleopatra Wallace called about her son age six and one-half who was diagnosed during a dental checkup as having an overbite and needing braces. He's on Medicaid and she's on disability. His teeth are coming in all crooked, she said. If you can help, please give us a call at 933-1718 or call Mrs. Wallace at 856-0491..

**DR. JASON JORDAN** is in Brookwood Hospital with back problems. We wish him a speedy recovery.



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