

Orthodontics News

FACULTY PROFILE



Mark Hans, D.D.S., M.S.D. '79, '81

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The success of the department—our ability to continue to advance techniques and to provide the highest quality education to our residents—depends in large part on the generous support of alumni of our program, and so I would like to dedicate this space to thanking those alumni and friends who have pledged their support to the Century, Legacy, and Chairman's Clubs in the past year. Without you, we could not be what we are today. With your support, our potential is limitless!

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CAMPAIGN FOR ORTHODONTICS

Century Club (\$100,000 and above)
Clay H. Damon, D.D.S., M.S.D.

Legacy Club (\$50,000 – \$99,999)

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Chairman's Club (\$10,000 – \$49,999)

B. Douglas Amberman, D.D.S., M.S.
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Seung J. Baek, D.D.S., M.S.D., Ph.D.
Sean P. Bates, D.D.S., M.S.D.
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D. William Lange, D.M.D., M.S.D.
Nhat M. Le, D.M.D., M.S.D.
Virginia G. Luks, D.D.S., M.S.D.
Colin A. Mayers, D.D.S., M.S.
William D. Paulus, D.D.S., M.S.
Mohammad R. Razavi, D.D.S., M.S.D.
Gus Spillas, D.D.S., M.S.D.

ANNUAL MEETING

Be There!

American Association of
Orthodontists 106th Annual Meeting
Case School of Dental Medicine
Orthodontics Department
Alumni Reception

Saturday, May 6, 2006

7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Venetian Resort Hotel & Casino
Las Vegas, NV

RSVP

T: (216) 368-3480

(877) 468-1436

E-mail: dentalalumni@case.edu



B. Douglas Amberman '67

B. DOUGLAS AMBERMAN '67

Chances are, if you're reading this newsletter, **B. Douglas Amberman '67** had some role in your education as an Orthodontist. In fact, almost all of the part-time Orthodontics faculty members are former students of Dr. Amberman, who has been on the faculty for more than 30 years. The only half-time faculty member, Dr. Amberman splits his time between Case and a small private practice with offices in North Ridgeville and Vermilion, west of Cleveland. At Case, Dr. Amberman is course director for Dent 282 (the sophomore orthodontics course), teaches the tip edge course to residents, and runs the tip edge clinic.

For a seasoned veteran like Amberman, the clinical work can get a little routine. What keeps him enthused about showing up at his office at Case year after year are the very administrative tasks that define drudgery for some others in academia: assisting with admissions ("maybe because it's daunting") and supervising thesis preparation.

"We're talking about the nitty gritty of academia," says Dr. Amberman of his work with residents on theses. "Furthering knowledge is the *raison d'être* for academia. We are here to try to further the attainment of knowledge."

"Dr. Amberman's assistance in the clinic, the classroom and with my research project was invaluable," says **Cliff Lowdenback '06**, now in private practice in Lexington, KY. "His teaching style made learning fun. He made a huge research project seem easy because of his persistence and his many hours of assistance."

Dr. Amberman, who explains in his characteristically gruff voice that he is "cordial but not friendly" with residents, tries to maintain some professional distance. So, even if Dr. Amberman once spent hours helping you to make sense of your thesis, you may not be aware that this product of Dutch settlers who have been in New York since it was New Amsterdam represents the first generation in his family to leave New York. How does that explain his nearly annual trips to France and his membership on the board of the *Alliance Française*? *Je ne sais pas.*

One thing is certain: the Orthodontic Department would not be the same without Dr. Amberman's steady contribution.

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MEET THE INCOMING CLASS



Cynthia Leung, who is finishing dental school at SUNY Stony Brook, Long Island, NY, this spring, attributes her decision to become an orthodontist to an externship last summer at Guy's Hospital in London, England. "I observed the treatment of patients with severe dental and skeletal malocclusions, some requiring orthognathic surgeries," says the Barnard College (NY, NY) alumna. "I saw firsthand what a difference orthodontics can make in someone's life." Prior to attending dental school, Dr. Leung worked as a microbiology research assistant at Columbia University in New York City.

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Kurt Kacer '06 has the shortest distance to travel to begin his residency, having decided to become an orthodontist after being exposed to the specialty during his first two years in dental

school at Case. "I really became interested after learning what it was all about and meeting the faculty," says this former varsity football player at Western Washington University in Bellingham, WA, whose current hobbies include scuba diving, basketball, football, and golf. "I chose to do my residency at Case because I felt really comfortable, and was impressed with the faculty, staff and residents," he explains.

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A mathematics major at Fordham University (Bronx, NY), **Breyn Peters** is currently finishing up dental school at New York University College of

Dentistry in Manhattan. "I was inspired by my orthodontist and the affect that he had on his patients' lives and self-esteem," she says of her decision to become an orthodontist.

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CASE

SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

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Orthodontics News

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MAXIMUM ANCHORAGE, MINIMAL ERROR



Martin Palomo '98 and Manish Valiathan '02 consult on a case using the CBCT in the Craniofacial Imaging Center.

Cone-beam computer tomography (CBCT) and microscrews are two of the hottest topics in the field today. At the Craniofacial Imaging Center at the Case School of Dental Medicine, these two powerful technologies are being used together to achieve maximum anchorage with world-class accuracy. Microscrews, which create a fixed position from which to leverage forces in the mouth, can be applied by any orthodontist. The downside, of course, with

any treatment that invades tissue, is the risk of failure: Screws can fall out, hit a nerve bundle, or hit a root and damage a tooth. So accuracy is vital.

Enter CBCT. Whereas traditional x-rays flatten images, CBCT constructs a 3-D image of the teeth and bones, allowing an orthodontist to measure to an accuracy of .2 millimeters. "Improved accuracy minimizes the risk of error and leads to better results for the patient," says **Manish Valiathan '02**, who directs the adult surgical clinic. "Ultimately there's no question patients benefit."

Leena Palomo '04, the periodontist who inserts the microscrews in patients at the skeletal anchorage clinic, uses an age-old expression to convey the value of this technology that was not approved for use in the United States until the 21st century: "It's like any other kind of construction: measure twice and cut once. This technology allows us to measure twice."

Residents receive extensive training on the CBCT and other advanced imaging modalities in the Imaging in Orthodontics Course taught by **Martin Palomo '98**. Orthodontic residents have as much access to the center, if not more, than any faculty or other practitioner does, as do the residents from other disciplines such as oral surgery and periodontics.

"This technology, this way of looking at images, is here to stay," says Martin, who, in addition to being Associate Director of the Imaging Center, runs the adult nonsurgical clinic and the Invisalign clinic. "The CBCT-microscrew combination puts our clinic on the cutting edge of our specialty."

Case's CBCT is one of only three in Ohio, and any practitioner in the community can refer patients to the Imaging Center for a CBCT scan. For more information, call (216) 368-2674.

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MEET THE INCOMING CLASS (cont.)

Born in Lamphun, Thailand, **Wanvadee Shewinvanakitkul** attended dental school at Chiangmai University in her native Thailand. Since graduation from dental school in 2002, she has worked as a general practice dentist in a government hospital in Chiangmai. She enjoys music, badminton and tennis.

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David Sullivan, who enjoys wakeboarding, basketball, snowboarding, and mountain biking, will graduate from dental school at the University of Southern

California this spring. He first became interested in orthodontics during his freshman year of

high school—when he had to wear braces. "Then, during my college summers, I met and began working for **Clay Damon '95** in Spokane. He was a great mentor and we became great friends over the years. I chose Case because it was highly recommended by Dr. Damon," says the Spokane, Washington native.

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CLASS NOTES

STARTING OUT – 2006

Cliff Lowdenback '06 finished up his residency just before the new year, and by January 2006, he had already joined a group practice in his native Lexington, Kentucky, where he also went to college and dental school. "I got an excellent education at Case and really enjoyed both Case and Cleveland," he says enthusiastically. "But," he admits, "I'm glad to be home."

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"Private practice is more intense than residency. I'm now seeing a lot more patients," says **Michael Paulus '06**, who has joined a practice in Alliance, Ohio, with his father, **William D. Paulus '76**. "But I definitely feel well prepared for each case. I know how to diagnose and how to treat each one."

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2004



"It has been the best nine months of my life," says **Lance Bruntz '04** since he and his wife Tracy welcomed their first-born, Landon, into the world.

"The transition to working and parenting has actually been fairly easy," says Dr. Bruntz, who is in private practice in his native Nevada. "Being in a well-run group practice offers a lot of flexibility."

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