

## CLASS NOTES

1965

**Richard Valentine** lives with his wife, JoAnn, in Naples, FL. Richard is an avid tennis player and his wife owns her own interior decorating business. He values his CWRU education because it "allowed [my family] to live a wonderful life and contribute greatly to the communities we've lived in." Their son Ryan graduated from CWRU with a MBA and currently lives in Cleveland as does their daughter Joy.

[dickvalentine@comcast.net](mailto:dickvalentine@comcast.net)

1999

**Roland Feghali** is a clinical associate at the American University of Beirut Medical Center in Beirut, Lebanon. He has maintained an active orthodontic practice in Beirut, where he lives with his wife Rola and their three children. In addition to his practice in Lebanon, Dr. Feghali also has an orthodontic practice in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. He says the CWRU Dental School added "a positive impact" to his career as well as helping him "stand out and excel."

[bracesforyou@hotmail.com](mailto:bracesforyou@hotmail.com)



Send your latest news and photos to [dentalalumni@case.edu](mailto:dentalalumni@case.edu)



### Faculty Profile

**Andrew W. Skorobatchkyj, D.D.S. '00**

Each year, a few exceptionally well-qualified high school seniors who plan to pursue careers in dentistry are offered places in CWRU's Six-Year Dental Program which results in a D.D.S. In 1994, St. Ignatius High School (Cleveland) graduate Andrew Skorobatchkyj was among them. After earning his dental degree in 2000, he completed his orthodontic specialty training in 2002 at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Dr. Skorobatchkyj's lifelong interest in dentistry grew out of familiarity—his mother was a dental assistant and his own experience with braces as a teenager led him to orthodontics. With a thriving 10-year-old private practice in Parma, Ohio, combined with the rewards of being an assistant clinical professor at the dental school, he never doubts his choice.

"I get the highest satisfaction from my patients and watching families grow—I often treat all of the siblings," he notes, "both in my own practice and at the dental school clinic." That his office is viewed as a community resource and place for making neighborhood connections is a point of pride. He is regularly acknowledged as one of Greater Cleveland's "top dentists" by Cleveland Magazine.

When asked how the art of orthodontics has changed during his decade of practice, Dr. Andy (as he is known to his patients) offers that frictionless brackets, TADs (temporary anchorage devices) and the new lingual Incognito braces have been tangibly transformational for patient comfort and speed in tooth movement.

His philosophy of teaching is simple: he approaches the residents as future colleagues who are worthy of peer respect. During patient exams, Dr. Skorobatchkyj requires each student to articulate a plan for treatment and then they talk it through together—he views "thinking out loud" as the most valuable teaching tool.

Dr. Skorobatchkyj has been tapped to accompany the department's residents to Beijing, China this spring. Through an ongoing collaboration with Peking University, residents travel with a faculty member to present their theses to the Chinese faculty and students and experience an orthodontic residency abroad.

Apart from dentistry, Dr. Skorobatchkyj is devoted to exercise and leads both spinning and kettle bell workouts at the One-to-One Fitness Center on campus. A serious runner and cyclist, he can be found on the bike trails along Lake Erie and participates in *Pedal to the Point*, the Cleveland-to-Cedar Point cycling event that raises funds for Multiple Sclerosis. In addition, the Lakewood resident is a seasoned traveler who enjoys annual stays in Florida, the Caribbean, and Europe.

[andrewskoro@sbcglobal.net](mailto:andrewskoro@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.skororthodontics.com](http://www.skororthodontics.com)



SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE  
CASE WESTERN RESERVE  
UNIVERSITY

Department of Orthodontics  
10900 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106-4905

## Save The Date & Join Us



American Association of Orthodontists  
Annual Session

May 3 – 7, 2013

Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia

A reception for CWRU Alumni and Friends will be held on May 4 from 4-6pm at the Philadelphia Marriott at 1201 Market Street

RSVP by April 15, 2013  
Phone 216-368-3480  
Toll Free 877-468-1436  
[dentalalumni@case.edu](mailto:dentalalumni@case.edu)

## Orthodontics News 2013



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

### From the Chairman 52 Years and Going Strong

Since 1961 CWRU has been training dentists to be orthodontic specialists and our commitment to that mission continues. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the full- and half-time faculty for their substantial contributions to our success.

In addition to becoming program director in 2009, Associate Professor Martin Palomo has published more than 50 articles in peer reviewed journals and has established both himself and CWRU as world leaders in Cone Beam Imaging in orthodontics. Thanks Marty for continuing the Broadbent legacy of leadership in orthodontic imaging.

His colleague, Manish Valiathan, Associate Professor and Craniofacial Abnormality Fellowship Director, leads our newest training program in Craniofacial and Special Needs Orthodontics. Over the last five years Manish has built a highly successful private practice while continuing his research in the area of orthodontic retention. Add teaching a highly successful D.M.D. course in Dentofacial Morphology and you have the rare "Triple Threat" educator in orthodontics. Thanks Manish for keeping CWRU a leader in the integration of research with clinical practice.

Working tirelessly to improve clinic operations, Associate Professor Dennis Beeson proves that academic life can begin after 60. Last year our clinic had more than 15,000 patient visits and residents finished more than 300 patients. Thanks Denny for keeping CWRU a leader in providing extensive clinical experience to residents in training.

Rounding out the full-time faculty ranks is Rick Griffith, Clinical Associate Professor. Along with his trusty sidekick, Clinical Associate Professor Bill Koenig, Rick continues to perfect their boot camp instruction which is now taught at four different ortho training programs around the United States.

Thanks Rick and Bill for keeping CWRU a leader in innovative educational programs.

B. Douglas Amberman, Clinical Professor, is the senior member of our full- and half-time faculty. He is one of a handful of Tip Edge practitioners who has lectured on three continents and recently returned from Beijing, China where he led the CWRU delegation in seminars with our sister program at Peking University. Doug also anchors the D.M.D. orthodontic instructional team for sophomore orthodontics. Thanks Doug for continuing the CWRU tradition of teaching more than just one appliance system.

Our newest half-time faculty member, Professor Bruce Latimer was recently featured at the prestigious American Academy of Science meeting for his landmark work on human evolution. With a Ph.D. in physical anthropology, Bruce bolsters our department's research capacity in the areas of biology and evolutionary dentistry. Thanks Bruce for keeping biology an integral part of a CWRU orthodontic education.

Together with our 39 volunteer faculty these full- and half-time faculty sustain our reputation for excellence. I am proud to work with them to continue to keep CWRU orthodontics a recognized leader in orthodontic education for another 52 years. When you see them next please add your own words of thanks to mine for these dedicated professional educators.

I hope to see you in Philadelphia.



SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE  
CASE WESTERN RESERVE  
UNIVERSITY



Tasha Metzger, D.M.D. '11

## Craniofacial Fellow Selected

Born in Ft. Wayne, Indiana and raised in Indianapolis, Tasha Metzger remained in her home state to attend Purdue University for her undergraduate education, earning a B.S. degree in General Health Sciences, Pre-Dentistry in 2007. Actively involved in many organizations on campus, she still travels back to West Lafayette for sporting events whenever she has the chance.

Upon graduating from Purdue, Tasha came to the CWRU School of Dental Medicine where she was given the opportunity to work with Dr. Manish Valiathan and expand her interest in orthodontics. After her 2011 graduation with a D.M.D., she began her orthodontic residency at Indiana University and will receive her M.S.D. this year. Tasha acknowledges that she was fortunate to be actively involved in research, patient care, and serve as the chief resident of the program.

"It has been very rewarding to have experience, although limited, treating patients with special needs during my residency. I am delighted to have the opportunity to learn how to better treat this patient population and become an active member of a craniofacial team. I could not be more thrilled to be starting the craniofacial fellowship back at CWRU this summer," she notes.

*From the Craniofacial Fellowship Director*

## Trailblazing Craniofacial Leadership Summit Set for Fall



Manish Valiathan, B.D.S., M.D.S., D.D.S., M.S.D. '97

With a generous grant from the Mt. Sinai Health Care Foundation's *Edward Reiter Cleft Palate Clinic Fund*, our recently established Craniofacial, Surgical, and Special Care Orthodontics Fellowship Program (the first accredited craniofacial fellowship located in a dental school) continues to make progress. This grant will allow us to take a leading role in addressing the most challenging issue facing craniofacial abnormalities: the need for national data sharing in order to standardize research and treatment methods based in consistent evidence-based practices.

To this end, a summit for the most prominent craniofacial experts from various disciplines is being planned, followed by a symposium for Northeast Ohio healthcare professionals who work with craniofacial abnormalities. For ease of access to information, a dedicated website for both professionals and the public will be launched—it will also serve as a resource for a patient support group. In addition, an oral surgery faculty member will be made available to work with me to create a craniofacial curriculum for our residents.

The advanced care for patients with craniofacial anomalies available through our Broadbent Institute for Craniofacial Care and Research well positions our school for this leadership role—it is a turning-point opportunity for this field. Finally, join me in welcoming Dr. Tasha Metzger, our craniofacial fellow, who will arrive in July.

[manish.valiathan@case.edu](mailto:manish.valiathan@case.edu)



## Residency Program News

### Incoming Residents



#### Mohamed Bazina, B.D.S.

A native of Libya, Mohamed graduated from Garyounis University (Benghazi, Libya) where he found his passion for orthodontics. Upon graduation he was selected to work in the University's orthodontics department given his interest and high class standing. After three years of gaining important experience assisting professors in the labs and clinics, he was awarded a scholarship from the Libyan Ministry in Higher Education to pursue advanced studies in orthodontics in the United States.

*"I have come to CWRU with a strong interest in furthering my orthodontic education. The exposure to various orthodontic philosophies will better qualify me to provide specialized dental care and treatment to patients in my home country."*



#### Nicholas Kochenour, D.M.D.

Originally from Palm Harbor, Florida where his father (William L. Kochenour, D.D.S. '78) still has an orthodontic practice, Nick received his B.S. in biology from East Carolina University and his D.M.D. from the University of Louisville School of Dentistry. Upon graduation in 2011, he began working in a public health clinic in Ava, Missouri where he still practices and lives with his wife (and Louisville classmate) Katie Kochenour, D.M.D.

*"My father, who trained with Dr. Mark Hans, introduced me to orthodontics. Following in his footsteps and attending his alma mater is a dream come true. I look forward to the coming years of hard work with my co-residents and greatly appreciate the opportunity and challenge."*



#### Keith E. Payton, D.D.S.

Born in Chicago, Keith grew up in Florida and attended the University of Central Florida where he earned bachelor's degrees in marketing and biology. He then received his D.D.S. from Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry. Intrigued by puzzles and mazes since childhood, orthodontics revealed itself as a great fit for Keith during the course of his academic career in dentistry—he views it as a specialty that provides a puzzle with a myriad of methods to achieve the best result.

*"I chose CWRU for my orthodontic residency because of its significant contributions to the field of orthodontics, as well my overall favorable impression of the program, its faculty, and residents."*



#### Prapaporn Shantavasinkul, D.D.S.

Currently a department fellow, Prapaporn came to CWRU after graduating from Chulalongkorn University in her hometown of Bangkok, Thailand and practicing for two years in a Thai private clinic. Her clinical experience gave her increased exposure to orthodontics where she came to appreciate how the fundamentals of growth and mechanics can be used to achieve life-changing results.

*"My experience as a fellow has given me great confidence in the dental school's orthodontic residency. Participating in this prestigious program will expedite the achievement of my professional goal to help patients dramatically improve their quality of life, self-esteem, and oral health."*



#### Ioannis Tsolakakis, D.M.D.

Raised in Larissa, Greece, Ioannis was influenced by his father (Apostolos Tsolakakis, D.D.S. '81, M.S.D., Ph.D.) whose orthodontic practice and academic involvement were a part of the family's everyday routine. His interest in facial aesthetics began in his youth with his own braces and successful outcome. During his extensive clinical training at Comenius University (Bratislava, Slovakia) Ioannis's interest in studying the clinical aspects of maxillofacial growth and helping children was confirmed.

*"That it is world-renowned for its research and clinical programs in dentistry—as well as its extensive curriculum in maxillofacial growth and abnormalities—made CWRU a logical choice for me. I am eager to learn about innovative approaches that are different from those in Europe to enhance my skills and scientific perspective."*

### From the Director



J. Martin Palomo, D.D.S., M.S.D., '97

Our program continues to approach each stakeholder with a simple message: never underestimate what *you* can do to transform the orthodontic program at Case Western Reserve University, impact society, and change the world. While encouraging "the power of one" in an environment that is supportive of all efforts, it is the collective achievement of our residents, fellows, faculty, and staff that has placed our program at the highest national level.

In October, residents Garrison Copeland and Heather Horton received the top two research awards at the annual meeting of the Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists. Longtime faculty member Gary Wolf was named associate editor of the *AJODO Clinician's Corner*. With noteworthy clinical strength, most of our residents continue to achieve ABO status shortly after residency with cases treated in our department. Serving as our external examiner, Dr. Carla Evans—one our specialty's visionary leaders—gave us stellar reviews in December.

This year we hosted an array of global academic leaders. Dr. Dauro Olivera, Chairman of Orthodontics, PUC-Minas, and Dr. Ildeu Andrade, current recipient of the *AJODO Research Article of the Year*, made presentations. Research collaboration between three of their residents and our department resulted in Dr. Carolina Morsan garnering the *AAO Charlie Schulz Resident Award*.

Additionally, Dr. Lincoln Nojima, past chair of orthodontics and Dr. Matilde Nojima, dually-trained orthodontist/pedodontist from the prestigious Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, completed their post-doc research with us. In fact, the duo created such an impact that Lincoln has been named a representative of CWRU to the country of Brazil. United in our goal of global initiatives, Dean Goldberg and I met with the U.S. Ambassador to Brazil to discuss future partnerships.

In closing, my enthusiastic message to each person involved with the residency program: take what you have learned, combine it with all your energies and innate talents, and pay it forward to our community, our profession, and our world.

[jmp5@case.edu](mailto:jmp5@case.edu)

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### Stephanie Leasure *Craniofacial Clinic Coordinator*



Because she thrives on multi-tasking and a fast pace, Stephanie Leasure is well-matched to her recently created position in the Craniofacial Clinic. Prior to joining the dental school, the native Clevelander held a senior administrative position at a large company where she gained six years of valuable experience. In addition to her work, Stephanie is completing her bachelor's degree in communication management at Cleveland State University and will graduate in December.

"I feel privileged to be able to work with our patients and their families. Because I am often the first and last person they see, it is important to provide empathy and a positive environment—this often includes working closely with parents who have other complexities in their lives," she explains.

In clinic director Dr. Manish Valiathan, Stephanie has found an inspiring mentor. She notes that his even approach to all situations—whether interacting with patients or facilitating treatment among departments—is a lesson in life skills that she appreciates. Being surrounded by a team of talented people who are willing to share their knowledge is another benefit of working at the dental school that is important to her.

Staying fit is a priority for the accomplished athlete who evolved from basketball player into coach. A licensed massage therapist with a focus on pain management, Stephanie has always been interested in health matters, making the position at the clinic particularly satisfying.