During 2008-2009 academic year, the Division of Orthodontics at the University of Louisville has had a number of highlights:

1. The most recent Southern Association of Orthodontists (SAO) publication features the University of Louisville School of Dentistry Orthodontics Program as part of the SAO initiative to highlight all Orthodontic Programs in their region. This series of publications is aimed to acknowledge all the tradition, education goals and strengths of each program. We are indeed grateful to the SAO and to Dr. Jeremy M. Albert for his efforts in this publication.

2. Fundraising for the Orthodontic Endowment has continued to grow to more than $750,000 despite the economic downturn, which is a tribute to our contributors. It is hoped that it will soon reach its $1 million goal so that the Dr. Baxter E. Johnson Endowed Chair in Orthodontics can be established. Thank you to the many generous alumni who have donated to this effort to strengthen the ULSD Orthodontic program.

3. Under the leadership of former ULSD Orthodontic graduates, Drs. Carol Summe and Amy Farnsworth, a Kentucky chapter of “Smiles Change Lives” was launched. “Smiles Change Lives” is a non-profit organization that delivers medically necessary orthodontic treatment to children of low-income families. The first patient screening for this program was conducted at the ULSD Orthodontic Clinic in September of 2008. The Kentucky chapter of “Smiles Change Lives” members worked along with Dr. Sunita Chandiramani (ULSD Orthodontic Residency Program Director), Dr. David Tasman (ULSD Director of Orthodontic Research) and all of the Orthodontic Residents to collect the clinical information and records for each child’s application and then furnished them to the local Community Advisory Board for review. The Board has since reviewed all applicant records and assigned all approved cases to participating orthodontists in our community for treatment.

4. Since joining the University of Louisville faculty, Dr. Eric Bednar has been involved in clinical and didactic teaching of dental students and graduate orthodontic residents. Dr. Bednar's specific area of research has been distance learning via videoconferencing. Residents in the Graduate Orthodontic Program have recently participated in interactive videoconference seminars with other faculty and residents at the University of North Carolina and Ohio State University. These interactive seminars have covered topics such as growth and development, practice management, and orthodontic biomechanics.

Dr. Bednar is also working as a member of the Developmental Dentofacial Deformities Team. DFDT is an interdisciplinary team comprised of specialists in the fields of orthodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, and oral radiology that facilitates the treatment of patients requiring both orthodontic treatment and jaw surgery. In conjunction with this team, he has submitted and received grant funding to help the team improve the treatment and care of these patients. He is also involved in teaching graduate residents about surgical-orthodontic principles, practices and procedures, and has recently taught a
full-day seminar with Dr. Paul Tiwana (from the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery) to the Orthodontic and Oral Surgery Residents at the University of Louisville.

5. All ULSD Orthodontic residents completed Phase II of the ABO written examination successfully in 2009. The class of the 2009 was the 36th graduating class from our program, they were a great class and we will miss them all. Below is a list of the graduates and where they intend to practice:

   Dr. Lana L. Bowdoin – Huntsville, Alabama
   Dr. Cory Faust Coombs – Fort Collins, Colorado
   Dr. Michael L. Gorlovsky – Buford, Georgia
   Dr. Jared Owen Dean – U.S. Army (Germany)
   Dr. Sarah Morgan Peterson Mitchell – Louisville, Kentucky
   Dr. Bruce S. Wardell – Aurora, Illinois

6. The annual graduation for the Orthodontic Residents was held at the Hurstbourne Country Club in Louisville with an address given by the world-renowned Dr. William R. Proffit, “Distinguished Kenan Professor” and former Chairman of the Department Orthodontics at the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry at Chapel Hill. His remarks were focused on the graduates and concerned Orthodontic education of today and in the future. It was through his vision and direction, that all U of L Orthodontic residents have participated in the AAO-funded experiment with distance learning. Dr. Proffit can envision the use this technology at some point in the future that would allow busy orthodontic practitioners to form study groups, consult on cases and obtain continuing education through the internet in their offices.

7. We have had several consultants lecture to our residents and alumni during 2009: Dr. Jack Fisher on “TADs;” Dr. Lisa Alvetro on the “Self-Ligation SmartClipJ,” Dr. John L. Schuler spoke about “Positioners in Orthodontics” and Dr. Eladio DeLeon made a presentation on “Diagnosis and Treatment of Early Orthodontic Cases.” This November, Dr. Steve Lindauer will present a course on “Advanced Orthodontic Biomechanics.” We are in the process of setting up the schedule for upcoming speakers for 2010. We will be sending updates via email for those who may be interested in attending.

Submitted by Dr. Anibal M. Silveira
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