

# The Diplomat

American Board of Endodontics Newsletter



Editor: Gerald N. Glickman, D.D.S., M.S.

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## ABE 1999-2000

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*by William T. Johnson, D.D.S., M.S.  
President*

Success in any endeavor is seldom accidental. Success begins with goal setting. While the process of board certification may appear ominous, it is a worthy and achievable goal for all

endodontists. When an individual has a clearly defined goal, it provides direction and purpose. The outcome will depend on an individual's commitment to the process, the support that he or she receives from others, and approaching the process as three individual tasks.

Ideally, the process of preparing for board certification should begin while an individual is enrolled in an Advanced Education Program in Endodontics. The influence that a Program Director

and the endodontic faculty have on the students' perspective of the specialty is profound. Faculty often teach the intangible concepts of the specialty by demonstrating the standards that they set for themselves. Moral and ethical values, the quest for knowledge, the pursuit of excellence, and compassion for the patients they treat are but a few examples. To be an effective role model in the educational arena, it is essential that program directors be board certified. Board certification is the only national credential that demonstrates an individual has developed exceptional knowledge, skill, and expertise in the specialty of endodontics. Program Directors must lead by example. When a Program Director is not a Diplomat of the American Board of Endodontics it is unlikely that he or she will inspire their students to pursue the process.

All Advanced Education Programs should encourage students to establish the highest professional standards and assist them in attaining these goals. For this reason, emphasis on the importance of board certification should be a part of every training program.

## Setting The Example

Advanced education and board certification are synergistic activities that complement each other. Students that establish board certification as a goal early in their training programs have the advice, counsel, and support of the faculty and their fellow students. They become familiar with the procedures of the Board and begin preparation for the examination process.

To assist the student in preparing for examination by the American Board of Endodontics, programs should initiate examination procedures that are similar to those in the certification process. Students who develop a Case History Portfolio during their educational program have the guidance of the faculty and gain insight into the process. If the cases are sent for external review, this serves as a form of external outcome assessment for the program. The same is true for oral examinations. Few individuals are ever exposed to an oral examination prior to graduate training. The oral examination provides a unique mechanism for evaluation of the students' critical

thinking and problem solving skills. In addition, the oral examination gives the student experience in preparing for the examination and how to interact with the examiners during the examination. External

examiners provide for a more formal challenge to the student and a valid outcome assessment for the program.

Following graduation, endodontists pursuing board certification should maintain contact with their program directors and faculty. The pursuit of Diplomat status is a mechanism that promotes and facilitates life long learning. This philosophy of education is critical in a

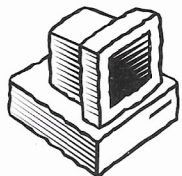
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***When a person has a clearly defined goal, it provides direction and purpose.***

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# Secretary's Report

by Charles J. Cunningham, D.D.S., M.S.

The Secretary's responsibilities include managing the daily business of the ABE with the assistance of the Administrative Secretary in the Central Office. Just prior to the Atlanta meeting, Ms. Margie Hannen accepted the position of Administrative Assistant. Margie formerly served the AAE as Membership Coordinator. In fact, she performed both jobs for four months until the recent hiring of a new Membership Coordinator. I am sure that most Diplomates will eventually have need to contact her with Board matters. Certainly, the candidates for certification will be very familiar with her telephone voice as she is the prime contact. The Directors welcome Margie to our team and are pleased with the efficient and exemplary manner she performs her duties.

At the AAE Spring business meeting, the nominees for the Board were re-elected for a second three-year term. Re-elected were Paul J. Ashkenaz, private practice and part-time faculty at Northwestern University, Martin Trope, Chair of Endodontics at the University of North Carolina School of Dentistry and myself, Charles J. Cunningham of Gainesville, Florida and associated with the University of Florida endodontic graduate program.

During the Spring oral examination in Atlanta, ten candidates successfully completed the examination and were certified as Diplomates of the American Board of Endodontics. Four candidates were unsuccessful. As I have mentioned in previous reports, the orals are a very challenging event for the candidate. The Directors will continue to evaluate this phase of the certification process to provide a professional and user-friendly atmosphere for the candidates. Photographs developed from digitized images of radiographs, clinical slides, and histopathology specimens have replaced the projection of traditional slides as visual materials for the case based oral examination. Candidate response has been very favorable. Dr. Billie G. Jeansonne gets the accolades for implementing this innovative method into the process. With the advice and counsel of professional educational consultants, the Directors of the Board are constantly reviewing the examination process. The Fall written exam

is scheduled for November 18 and the oral exam November 19-20, 1999.

The Board also modified the evaluation method for the Case History Portfolios (CHP) to give equal weight to the components that make up the presentation of a case. Three categories are evaluated for each case presented. The candidate's clinical evaluation, diagnosis and treatment plan make up the first score. Treatment procedures and post treatment evaluation (recall of at least twelve months) form the basis for the second category. The overall complexity of the case concludes is the third category. Each portfolio is evaluated by three Directors who evaluate the three

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*At present there are 524 endodontists eligible to participate in the certification process.*

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categories described for each of the fifteen cases. Of course, the Directors are unaware of the Candidate's identity. Evaluation of the fifteen prescribed cases gives the Directors knowledge and insight into the level of the candidate's diagnostic and clinical skills. A sophisticated statistical analysis of the data provides an independent, valid, and reliable result.

Relative to the CHP, complete and concise documentation of every facet of case management is mandatory. Documentation overlaps the three categories. A small number of CHP's are returned each circulation period due to technical deficiencies. No evaluation of the CHP is made until the Directors ensure that no technical errors exist in the CHP. Discrepancies frequently noted include: required radiographs not included, dates on the radiographic mounts not consistent with treatment dates, and improper case history reporting forms.

There are two circulation periods per year for the evaluation of the CHP's. Submission deadlines are October 1st and April 1st. It was necessary to set earlier deadlines due to the earlier dates of upcoming AAE annual sessions. Two months is the usual circulation time for evaluations. However, when one or more CHP's must be returned for correction of technical errors,

the circulation period will be extended. This past circulation period resulted in six acceptable CHP's and three unacceptable CHP's.

At present there are 524 endodontists eligible to participate in the certification process. All are not actively pursuing certification at this time. A significant number of endodontists have passed the written examination and have chosen not to proceed with the process. Some educationally qualified individuals have elected to forego participation altogether. The Board feels it is very important to reach this group. By means of the Outreach Program and the ABE Boardwalk presentation at the annual session, we hope to reach as many Candidates and potential Candidates as possible. Each endodontist has a personal philosophy on Diplomate status - what it means to you, your professional colleagues, and most important, to your patients. I recently had a phone conversation from an individual seeking a referral to an endodontist outside of my area. She said that she only wanted to see a board certified endodontist because she will only be treated by board certified physicians and dentists - because they are top-of-the-line. This newsletter reaches the top-of-the-line endodontists. Active and retired Diplomates can be of tremendous assistance in encouraging educationally qualified non-certified endodontists to seek and achieve board certification. Only Diplomates know the value and professional satisfaction of attaining the highest national credential. Only you can pass it on with truthfulness and candor. The magnitude and significance of our specialty depends on Board certified endodontists. The current number of active Diplomates is 898.

Two summertime meetings focused on board activities. Dr. Gary R. Hartwell represented the ABE at the meeting of the Dental Certifying Specialty Boards in August. Each Board faces similar challenges and issues and this annual meeting is an excellent opportunity to share common concerns. Specific examples are calibration of the examiners, candidate eligibility for examination relative to their training program, timing of the exams, use of board



logos, computerized exams, and recertification (all boards require recertification or will in the near future and will issue time-limited certificates). Although each board is independent of the others, becoming familiar with other board's policies and procedures provides our board a basis for self-study.

The following day, the representatives of the eight recognized boards and sponsoring organizations met with the Council of Dental Education and Licensure. This Council is responsible for the periodic review of dental specialty education and practice. The Council received general information on the "state of the individual specialties" including trends of membership, efforts to promote the quality in the specific field and changes, if any, in board

certification requirements. Resolution 144H-1992 from the ADA House of Delegates regarding recertification of the recognized dental specialties was discussed. AAE President Harmon R. Katz, ABE Secretary Charles J. Cunningham, and ABE Director Dr. Gary Hartwell represented their respective organizations.

A reminder to former ABE Directors. There will be a reunion dinner in Hawaii on Tuesday night, March 28, 1999. Invitations will be mailed late in the Fall with a specific request for RSVP. It will be a pay-as-you-go situation. Of course, it will give former Directors an opportunity to tell the present Board how the Board should function and of the days when it was a "real" exam. We'll turn up our hearing aids. ■

## SURVEY OF THE CANDIDATES WHO SAT FOR THE 1998 ABE WRITTEN EXAMINATION

In November of 1998, the Directors of the ABE surveyed the 110 candidates who sat for the Written Examination. The survey was presented to each candidate after completing the afternoon exam. Although the Directors were careful in interpreting the results of such surveys, especially when candidates were physically exhausted after a long day as well as mentally drained following months of study, the survey did present some interesting trends. The questions that were generated by the Directors focused on test construction, fairness, clarity, and content; please note that the indicated percentages represent a compilation of varying degrees of agreement.

- 77% found the exam to be well-constructed.
- 84% found the exam to be clearly worded.
- 83% found the exam fair.
- 90% felt the exam was creative and required careful thought.
- 95% found the length reasonable.
- 60% found the exam reflected knowledge consistent with graduate training.
- 70% found the exam represented contemporary concepts in endodontics.
- 78% felt the exam represented important concepts.
- 80% felt there was too much basic science tested.
- 81% felt there was too little clinical science tested.
- 90% felt there was too much literature tested.
- 95% found the exam challenging.

An additional question was asked regarding how well the candidates felt the program prepared them for the exam. 63% stated that their program prepared them extremely-well or well whereas 37% felt that their programs prepared them minimally or poorly. It was also interesting to note that only 56% of the candidates who sat for the exam were 1998 graduates. The ABE hopes to continue with a similar survey and is planning on developing a survey to determine why candidates drop out of the process after completing the written exam.

## ABE Treasurer's Report Income and Expenses Actual For All Accounts

July 01, 1998 - June 30, 1999

### INCOME

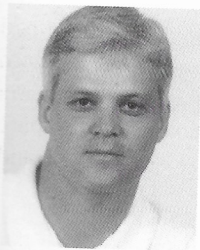
Announcement income	\$540
Assessment	0
Brochures - income	770
Certificate	20
Checking interest	0
Dinner fees	0
Diplomate pins	90
Examination	0
Final application	51,000
Luncheon fees	0
Maintenance fees	23,550
Miscellaneous income	3,235
Preliminary application	24,550
Re-exam fee (cases)	250
Re-exam fee (oral)	750
Re-exam fee (written)	1,000
Registration	124,425
Savings interest	790
Verification fee	910
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$231,830</b>

### EXPENSE

Announcements	\$287
Audit/tax/prep/file fees	3,355
Bank service charges	145
Brochures	1,929
Case histories	3,336
Central office	700
Central office costshare	42,713
Certificate costs	336
Clerical support	1,767
Computer/office equipment	0
Database services	2,366
Dinner	1,682
Diplomate/director pins	0
Director training & education	0
Directors meeting	415
Duplicating	1,149
Hotel expense	14,458
Insurance/fidelity bonds	1,915
Legal	1,196
Luncheon	125
Meeting expenses	10,054
Miscellaneous	2,687
Newsletter	3,562
Oral exam	5,400
Per diem	15,567
Postage	7,947
Rent	0
Reserve fund	0
Roster	234
Sec-treas stipend	0
Service contracts	0
Supply general	6,537
Supply print/duplication	2,069
Telephone	1,576
Telephone/fax	1,728
Training & education	0
Travel	5,817
Written exam	5,435
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$146,488</b>

**NET INCOME (LOSS) \$85,342**





**Luke B. Kauffman** is in private practice limited to endodontics in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Luke graduated from the University of Central Arkansas with a B.S. degree in 1988 and earned his D.D.S. degree in 1991 from Louisiana State University. In 1993, he received a certificate in endodontics from LSU. Luke is married to

Christen, a general dentist, and they have two children, Sarah age 4 and Spencer age 4 months. Luke enjoys spending time with his family, turkey hunting, current events, golf, and a host of other outside activities.



**Bernice T. Ko** is presently in private practice limited to endodontics in Los Angeles. Bernice attended the University of Southern California and subsequently received a D.D.S. degree in 1992 from UCLA. The following year, she received training in general dentistry and hospital dentistry at UCLA and in 1995 earned a

certificate in endodontics from UCLA. From 1996-1998, Bernice directed the Postdoctoral Endodontic Residency Program at UCLA where she still maintains an active affiliation by coordinating continuing education courses in endodontics. In her spare time, Bernice enjoys writing, playing table tennis, and winning at billiards.



**David S. Wozniak** is in private practice limited to endodontics in Richmond, Virginia. He is also an adjunct associate clinical professor of endodontics at MCV and is immediate past president of the Virginia Academy of Endodontists. David graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a B.S. degree in 1974 and

earned a M.S. in anatomy from the Medical College of Virginia in 1976. He earned his certificate in endodontics from MCV in 1982. David and his wife Robin have two children, Blake age 10 and Casey age 7. In his spare time, David relaxes with the family, travels, sails, and golfs. ■

### The Diplomat

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**Co-Editor:** Gary R. Hartwell, D.D.S.

c/o American Board of Endodontics  
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Member of the American Association of Dental Editors

### Case History Forms Available on Computer



The forms for the case history portfolio are now available on computer disk. The format needed is an IBM compatible computer with WordPerfect 5.1 or higher. For more information and a copy of the disk, on either 3.5" or 5.25" floppy disk, contact Ms. Margie Hannen at the headquarters office.

### Are You Moving?



If you have a change of address, please contact Ms. Margie Hannen, the Administrative Assistant for the ABE, in addition to contacting the AAE. Since the ABE now has its own computer database, we must change information separately.

### College of Diplomates Announces Year 2000 Grossman Luncheon Speaker

The College of Diplomates, sponsor of the Louis I. Grossman Memorial Luncheon, has announced that Dr. John W. Slocum, Jr., the O. Paul Conley Professor of Organizational Behavior at Southern Methodists University, will be the keynote speaker for the Grossman Luncheon at the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the American Association of Endodontists in Honolulu, Hawaii. Dr. Slocum, an internationally recognized authority on goal setting, determinants of organizational effectiveness, and organizational dynamics, has authored more than 120 articles and 20 books. He is the editor or associate editor of 4 business journals, has received numerous honors and awards, and is a consultant to many of the country's leading businesses and corporations.

### Future Examination Schedule

#### 1999

Written Examination	Nov. 18	Chicago, IL
Oral Examination	Nov. 19-20	Chicago, IL

#### 2000

Oral Examination	March 28-29	Honolulu, HI
Written Examination	Nov. 16	Chicago, IL
Oral Examination	Nov. 17-18	Chicago, IL

#### 2001

Oral Examination	March 27-28	New Orleans, LA
Written Examination	Nov. 8	Chicago, IL
Oral Examination	Nov. 9-10	Chicago, IL



(President's letter continued)

specialty that is undergoing rapid changes in concepts and techniques due to the increasing knowledge base and advanced technology. The educational program can assist the candidate in maintaining currency.

A continued mentoring relationship benefits both the program and the candidate. The candidate receives continued support in his or her efforts and serves as a role model to the new residents. The program builds a strong relationship with its alumni and the endodontic community. Endodontists who maintain close contact with their faculty and graduate programs are likely to maintain a commitment to serve in educational programs and contribute to the educational process of the institution. In the future, this could become more important as the number of endodontic educators decrease.

The policies and procedures of the Board are defined and open. The Directors have taken steps to insure that the process is fair, valid, and reliable. It is our opinion that every endodontist who makes an honest effort to prepare will be successful. The Directors of the American Board of Endodontics would like to encourage all Program Directors to develop a formal educational process that assists students in establishing board certification as a goal. This can be accomplished by discussing the importance of board certification and incorporating examination procedures consistent with the American Board of Endodontics into the Advanced Education Program. Directors are available to visit programs and discuss the certification process with residents and other interested endodontists through our Outreach Program. Program Directors can contact Ms. Margie Hannen in our Headquarters Office for more information on this program.

In closing, I am reminded of Allan Bloom's statement in *The Closing of the American Mind*: "Education in our times must try to find whatever there is in students that might yearn for completion, and to reconstruct the learning that would enable them autonomously to seek that completion."

Board certification is the ultimate recognition of an individual's knowledge and expertise in endodontics. A goal that is worthy of completion. ■

## Directors of American Board of Endodontics Since 1956

Ashkenaz, Paul J.	Jeansonne, Billie G.
Auerbach, Morris B.	Johnson, William T.
Bakland, Leif K.	Kesel, Robert G.
Bellizzi, Ralph	Krakow, Alvin Arlen
Bender, I.B.	Lucas, Laurence A.
Bernier, William E.	Luebke, Raymond G.
Blechman, Harry	Madison, Sandra
Bynum, James W.	Marshall, F. James
Cathey, Gerald M.	Moodnik, Richard
Clem, William H.	Mullaney, Thomas
Cohen, Stephen	Naidorf, Irving J.
Coolidge, Edgar D.	Oliet, Seymour
Cunningham, Charles J.	Osetek, Edward M.
del Rio, Carlos E.	Ostrander, F. Darl
Dorn, Samuel O.	Pear, John R.
Dowson, John	Peikoff, Marshall D.
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Glick, Dudley H.	Simon, James H.S.
Glickman, Gerald N.	Siskin, Milton
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Goodis, Harold E.	Smulson, Marshall H.
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Heuer, Michael A.	Torneck, Calvin
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Jasper, Elmer A.	Zelikow, Robert

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