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Fellowship Advances Educational Excellence

There are many reasons to pursue an academic career, but exceptional teachers put making a difference for students at the top of the list. The AAE Foundation seeks to attract these outstanding individuals through the Endodontic Educator Fellowship Award.

The Fellowship was created in response to the growing concern about the shortage of full-time faculty. Until recently, the dental community did not aggressively promote opportunities in teaching. The Fellowship is part of a new constellation of AAE initiatives designed to support education. The award provides tuition and a \$1,000 per month stipend for up to three years to educators who agree to teach full-time for five years. Since the program's inception in 2000, 13 awards have been granted.

Six Fellows have already graduated. Their exploration of the academic landscape highlights the excitement and challenge that characterize a career in education. In following their progress, the Association and the Foundation will discover strategies to nurture academicians and to ensure that they receive the support they need to excel.

Ayman Aboushala, D.D.S., M.S.



*Graduated 2004, Tufts University
Assistant Professor, Tufts University*

"Be like water. One can put water in any container..." is the Taoist saying that inspires Dr. Ayman Aboushala. An

early interest in philosophy and critical thinking led Dr. Aboushala to a career in education. As assistant director of the Gavel Center for Restorative Dental Research and head of the Division of Advanced Clinical Dentistry in the Department of Restorative Dentistry at Tufts, Dr. Aboushala was already a seasoned academician and researcher when he applied for the Fellowship. He was the first recipient to be named a John and Joyce Ingle Fellow, an honor that is given to one outstanding candidate every

two to three years. In 2004, Dr. Aboushala was appointed associate professor in the Department of Endodontics at Tufts. His continuing commitment to students and to learning was acknowledged when he received the 2005 Dean's Award for Excellence in Preclinical Teaching. The award is particularly meaningful because the recipient is selected by the students.

As Dr. Aboushala leads students through the intricacies of diagnosis and case difficulty assessment, he also hopes that they will share his intellectual curiosity and love of learning.

Josef Ma. Karlos Bringas, D.D.S., M.S.

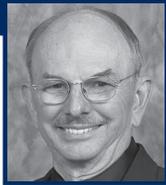


*Graduated 2005, University of Detroit Mercy
Assistant Professor,
University of Detroit Mercy*

Like Dr. Aboushala, Dr. Josef Bringas is not a stranger to academia. Prior to beginning his endodontic program,



*Dr. Josef Bringas and third year dental student
Melissa Vettrano*



Dear Colleagues:

Generosity, vision and idealism are values that characterize our specialty. The Foundation's endowment fund is a wonderful expression of those qualities. The fund is worth millions, but the fellowship it represents is priceless. It symbolizes our commitment to making endodontics the best it can be -- not just for today, not just for us but for future practitioners and patients.

I want to remind you how important it is to support that goal with a pledge to the AAE Foundation. Although some members decide to pledge at the highest levels, a Patron pledge of \$2,000, just \$400 a year for five years, is an investment almost everyone can afford. I encourage you to join us at whatever level is most comfortable for you.

The endowment exists because 10 years ago members came to the specialty's aid. Dentistry was rapidly advancing. Endodontics did not have the resources to keep pace in an increasingly sophisticated scientific and educational environment. Today, thanks to the generosity and foresight of AAE members, we are entering one of the most exciting periods in our history. With over \$17 million in hand, we have the ability to be leaders in dentistry. Endodontic research and education can set precedents, break new ground and become the model that others strive to emulate.

There is a reason that we enjoy this enviable position. Our fund is a labor of love. The money is raised by volunteers. Your colleagues give their time and their hearts to the task. We all benefit from their efforts. That is why your participation is important. You may not be able to volunteer, but you can contribute. Please consider sharing and doing your share for the specialty today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles L. Siroky, D.D.S.".

Charles L. Siroky, D.D.S.
President

Volunteer Leadership Inspires Generosity

Relationships inspire generosity. In other words, people are motivated to contribute to a cause because others whom they respect and trust encourage them to do so. Over 60 percent of Active AAE members support the AAE Foundation. Many of these individuals have gone a step further and volunteered to help the Foundation by talking with their colleagues about its mission and encouraging them to contribute. The Foundation is deeply grateful for this assistance.

"Volunteers are the Foundation's most precious resource," says Foundation President Charles Siroky. "Today, there is over \$17 million invested and another \$5 million pledged to the Foundation's endowment fund as a result of their efforts. Fundraising is hard work and we are deeply grateful for the time that our volunteer leadership devotes to this important responsibility."

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The Foundation Salutes its Corporate Partners

The AAE Foundation gratefully acknowledges these partners from industry for leadership support to endodontic research and education:

\$1,000,000

Dentsply International
Dentsply Tulsa Dental

\$250,000

SybronEndo

\$75,000

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Treloar & Heisel, Inc.

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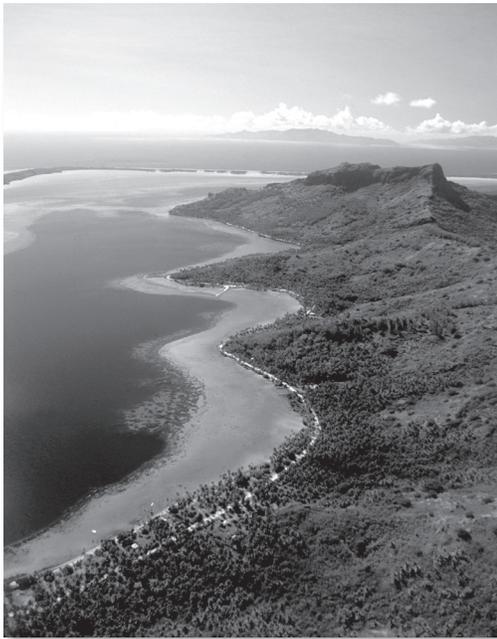
\$35,000

Charles B. Schwed Co., Inc.

\$25,000

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CK Dental
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In Hawaii, Aloha means both hello and good-bye. But "Aloha" is also used to convey the spirit of compassion, creativity, spontaneity, tolerance and generosity. The generosity of AAE members is a cornerstone of the AAE Foundation. In the spirit of philanthropy, the Foundation will host a number of fundraising events at the 2006 Annual Session in Honolulu.



Silent Product Auction

Shopping for a new endo surgical pack or beam splitter to enhance your office? These were just two of the items available at last year's Silent Product Auction. The auction will be offered again this year and gives members the opportunity to bid on exciting products and packages generously donated by numerous exhibiting companies with all proceeds to benefit the AAE Foundation. Last year, the auction raised close to \$10,000. Items will have a retail value of \$500 or more. Bidding opens in Exhibit Halls II-III on Thursday morning, March 30 and closes on Friday afternoon, March 31. The Foundation extends special thanks to the auction participants who make this event a success.

AAE Alliance Raffle

The Alliance has graciously maintained a tradition of fundraisers at annual session to benefit the AAE Foundation. Last year in Dallas, the Alliance sponsored a very successful Silent Auction raising \$40,000 for the Foundation. In Honolulu, the Alliance will sponsor two raffles; one raffle features a handmade quilt by

professional quilt-maker Wendy Zent. Ms. Zent's quilt generated a tremendous response at last year's Alliance



The lucky winner with Wendy Zent's 2005 creation.

Auction. The Foundation is extremely fortunate to again be the beneficiary of one of Ms. Zent's beautiful creations. The other raffle will award the winner with a cash prize. Members can expect big returns on their generosity! More information about purchasing tickets will be available at the Foundation booth. Special thanks to the Alliance and participating AAE members and affiliates for their support.

Relax With a Massage at the AAE Oasis

Spending a few days on the lush island of Oahu while attending educational sessions or networking can be exhausting! As part of the 2006 Annual Session fundraisers, the AAE Foundation will provide on-site massage therapists courtesy of The Massage Specialist. Members are invited to stop by the Foundation booth within the AAE Oasis to enjoy the numerous benefits of a head and shoulder massage.



The Annual Session marks the climax of the Foundation's fundraising calendar year. Be sure to take advantage of these opportunities to benefit the Foundation and to partake in the Aloha Spirit!

“Scientific excellence is our specialty’s passport to recognition in the health care arena. A broader understanding of the physiology and microbiology of the root canal holds the potential to generate significant discoveries that may impact other areas of dentistry and medicine,” said Dr. Charles Siroky, AAE Foundation president.

The Foundation is committed to stimulating scientific investigation by supporting worthy projects. At the Interim Board Meeting in Naples, Florida, the Board of Trustees approved \$103,484 in new grants. Drs. Gerardo Toledo and Hiran Perinpanayagam won special \$500 prizes for the highest scoring student and nonstudent proposals.



Researcher	Grant	Institution	Project
Robert A. Cheron	\$4,250	University of California, San Francisco	Nanomechanical Properties of Endodontically Treated Teeth: Brittle or Not?
Michael Crabtree	\$2,200	University of Florida	Protein and mRNA Expression of Advanced Glycosylated End Product Receptors (RAGE) and Other Inflammatory Proteins in Periradicular Lesions of Endodontic Origin: A Comparison Between Type II Diabetic and Non-Diabetic Patients
Farshid S. Fahid	\$12,000	University of Connecticut Health Center	The Implication of Small-Interfering RNA for the Toll-Like Receptor: Possible Inhibition of Cytokine Stimulation by LPS
George T.J. Huang	\$19,000	University of Maryland	Addition of Special Equipment to Previously Approved Project Budget
Donald Nguy	\$4,535	University of Michigan	The Influence of Canal Curvature on the Mechanical Efficacy of Root Canal Irrigation In Vitro
Hiran Perinpanayagam*	\$13,170	State University of New York at Buffalo	Influence of Root-End Fillings on Osteoblast Differentiation in Human Alveolar Bone
Gerardo Toledo*	\$17,422	Loma Linda University	Attraction of Circulating Bacteria to Inflamed Dental Pulp in Ferrets
Parisa Zakizadeh	\$3,907	University of California, San Francisco	MTA, Fuji-Plus and Geristore as Intraorifice Barriers Assessed in a Leakage Model and With Micro-Computed Tomography
Margarita Zeichner-David	\$27,000	University of Southern California	Tissue Engineering Using Mineral Trioxide Aggregate (MTA)

\$103,484

Bold face indicates a nonstudent researcher

* Indicates special award recipient

Dr. Bringas was an assistant professor of prosthodontics at the University of Detroit Mercy. A fascination with new technology and the desire to augment his clinical skills attracted him to endodontics.

"Even if there was no fellowship, I would still be teaching," says Dr. Bringas. There have been very few surprises about his new position as assistant professor of endodontics. "Throughout my program, our director, Dr. Michael Hoen, and our chair, Dr. John Braud, kept me involved in faculty activities," says Dr. Bringas. "They encouraged me to attend staff meetings and communicate regularly with other instructors. It also doesn't hurt to have an endodontist, Dr. H. Robert Steiman, as dean of the dental school. He is extremely supportive and very receptive to the needs of the department."

Although the transition from prosthodontics to endodontics has gone smoothly, teaching endodontics to undergraduate students is a new challenge.

"After spending two years treating difficult cases, I have to remember to make things straightforward for the undergraduates. I have to break down principles to the simplest terms for them to understand what I am doing. It's a lot of work but it is extremely gratifying when you see them apply this knowledge and develop their skills."

Dr. Bringas has already found ways to incorporate his technological expertise with teaching. Under Dr. Hoen's direction, he collaborated with graduate students to create an online literature database. Their goal is to provide the dental community an educational tool to help justify historical and current endodontic treatment decisions. Articles were selected by cross-referencing reading lists of classic and current literature from several graduate endodontic programs. A unique feature of the database, which can be accessed at www.evidencebasedendo.com, is that it includes an endodontic category and evidence-based ranking for every article. The site is updated on a monthly basis.

Tamara C. Gravely Griffin, D.D.S., M.S.



*Graduated 2003, Baylor College of Dentistry
Assistant Professor, University of Tennessee*

Dr. Tamara Gravely Griffin began her teaching career on the track field. As a high school assistant coach, she developed a passion for helping students succeed. The discovery that many of her dental school instructors were not trained as educators fueled her ambition to pursue a dual degree. She earned an endodontic certificate combined with a Masters Degree in Health Professionals Education. In 2003, Dr. Gravely Griffin became an assistant professor

of endodontics at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Dentistry.

"The students are great. Because we don't have a graduate program, they have the opportunity to do lots of endodontics. My biggest challenge is managing my

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– Dr. Tamara C. Gravely Griffin

schedule. There are many demands on my time. Right now I am focusing on keeping the pace. Eventually I hope to become tenured."

Dr. Gravely Griffin believes that the specialty is doing its best to help her achieve those goals. "Everyone has good ideas," she says. "The problems that face endodontics are the problems that face dental schools in general. The biggest issue is having enough endodontists to teach endodontics."

In addition to ensuring that the specialty is well represented in dental schools, Dr. Gravely Griffin is also interested in promoting diversity. Her Masters' thesis, *Enrichment and Recruitment Programs at Dental Schools: Impact on Enrollment of Underrepresented Minority Students*, received an outstanding manuscript award from the *Journal of Dental Education*.

MO K. KANG, D.D.S., Ph.D.



*Graduated 2003, University of California, Los Angeles
Assistant Professor, University of California, Los Angeles*

Dr. Mo Kang is another proponent of fostering diversity. As part of his responsibilities as an assistant professor at UCLA, Dr. Kang serves as the course director for International Dental Students.

"These students come from many backgrounds and represent a wide range of skills and experience," says Dr. Kang. "It's remarkable that when they graduate, they all have achieved the department's required level of academic achievement."

The diversity of students is mirrored in the variety of Dr. Kang's responsibilities. "There are so many facets to teaching—clinical, preclinical, as well as lectures—each activity has its own rewards," says Dr. Kang. "I really enjoy the interaction with students. I try to help when they face problems and in that process, I sometimes

observe that they are also becoming more mature individuals."

"There are so many facets to teaching—clinical, preclinical, as well as lectures—each activity has its own rewards. I really enjoy the interaction with students. I try to help when they face problems and in that process, I sometimes observe that they are also becoming more mature individuals." – Dr. Mo K. Kang

New educators must be adept multitaskers. Over the last 10 years, Dr. Kang has been involved in research. He is working on the development of diagnostic and prognostic markers for oral cancer. He is also studying mechanisms of secondary dentin formation in the pulp in search of clinical applications to regenerate missing tooth structure and to modulate calcification. To keep his research growing, Dr. Kang must secure grants from funding institutions like NIH and the AAE Foundation. Carving out time to accomplish that goal is a significant challenge.

Mychel M. Vail, D.D.S., M.S.D.



*Graduated 2004, Indiana University
Assistant Clinical Professor, Indiana University*

Variety is the blessing and curse of academic life. New educators must deliver peak performance across many of disciplines. Dr. Mychel Vail wishes there was more time to hone her own

clinical skills. Dr. Vail was appointed assistant clinical professor at Indiana University in 2004. As the mother of three small children, opportunities to provide patient care are not as frequent as she would like. But the range of clinical skills among her students keeps her absorbed in the technical aspects of endodontics.

"Ensuring that all the predoctoral students achieve the department's high expectations is a priority. I was recently involved in initiating a new grading system that assesses their skills more objectively. It has been well received. We are also using the AAE *Case Difficulty Assessment Form and Guidelines* to teach the undergraduates about diagnosis and referral," said Dr. Vail. "The graduate students are so motivated. There is a definite difference in their ability from the first year to the second."

continued on page 8



Dr. Mychel Vail works with student Rick Orrick and Dental Assistant Elisha Oldam

Fellowship Advances Educational Excellence

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Anne E. Williamson, D.D.S., M.S.



*Graduate 2004, University of Iowa
Assistant Professor, University of Iowa*

Technology and instruments, such as the microscope, have added an exciting new dimension to teaching for Dr. Anne Williamson. Dr. Williamson began her career as a clinical instructor at the University of Iowa in July 2004 and in

2005 was promoted to assistant professor.

"Our department is like a family," says Dr. Williamson. "The senior faculty are happy to mentor new teachers and that makes all the difference for my professional development. I am still building my collection of teaching materials and everyone has been very gracious about sharing slides, ideas and information with me."

Dr. Williamson also takes an active role in ensuring a bright future for herself and other dental educators. As chair of the American Dental Education Association's Endodontic Section, she helps to develop that organization's policies and activities. Her service on the AAE Special Committee to Study Faculty Recruitment and Retention has improved her understanding of how the specialty can identify great teachers and to keep them in education. It is also an opportunity for her to formulate strategies for change.

Each of these new educators faces unique challenges and opportunities. However, they have all identified Board certification as an essential next step on the path to success and are avidly pursuing that goal. The AAE Foundation is proud to participate in advancing their careers through the Fellowship Award.



Dr. Anne Williamson and her husband Rick celebrate the softball season with 4th-year dental students, Kelly Clarkson, Natalie Cheung, and members of the Local Infiltrators team.