There is no doubt in my mind that on April 13, 2013, we crossed over a momentous and decisive milestone in the history of the Philadelphia Dental College. The overwhelming response to the celebration of our 150th anniversary will remain etched in my memory. In the following pages of this newsletter, you will notice two common themes: pride in your Alma Matter and joy in meeting old friends. We should be proud that we have maintained a dental school in operation for 150 years, educating excellent and successful clinical dentists, as our founding father, Dr. John H. McQuillen, envisioned. We should also recognize the tremendous energy and power of our alumni, students, faculty and staff. Our alumni are a major source of pride that we have so often in our history neglected. Never again!

As I approach the end of my first term as Dean, I am proud of what has been achieved. In spite of all predictions, we have succeeded in transforming the school. In reality, all that I have done has been to “water the seeds” of the legacy of this great school. The school is rooted in deep commitment to excellence in patient care and a hardworking environment to prepare dentists to face the challenges of the world. Our alumni agree that their education has prepared them to meet the challenges of clinical practice, from the very first day after graduation.

This fall, our school will celebrate this first step in our transformation, the renovation of our new and modern clinical and preclinical labs. The next step in our transformation will be starting a major campaign to fund faculty fellowships and chairs, while also raising scholarship funds for our students. The foundation for success in the future will be faculty, faculty and faculty.

As I write this column, I am keenly aware and consumed by the daunting tasks ahead for the school. It was easy to renovate a building with the financial backing from the university and a core group of donors to whom we will be forever grateful. However, strengthening the faculty will be a more difficult task because we lack the funds to compete and hire faculty. To succeed in this task, I need your help now more than ever. Please consider naming a fellowship to hire faculty in any discipline of dentistry or supporting our future dentists through student scholarships. Through your support, we have the potential to become a major oral healthcare center in the world.

Amid I. Ismail
Dean and Laura H. Carnell Professor
With the 50-year-old time capsule sitting front and center in the lecture hall and waiting to be opened, Dean Ismail announced, “This is an historic event!” Coining the term, “from Curtin to Corbett,” he then described the two Pennsylvania governors who have book-ended the school’s story. Governor Andrew Curtin signed the legislation that allowed the dental school to open in 1863. Current Governor Tom Corbett recognized the school’s contributions to the commonwealth and to dentistry with a resolution received the very morning of the opening ceremony, April 13.

Because history was a focus for the day, Don Ernsberger, a Civil War re-enactor, stepped forward, dramatically portraying the era of war and uncertainty when the school was founded. In the authentic uniform of a 69th Pennsylvania Irish Volunteer at Gettysburg, he answered many questions, including why Philadelphia was a possible target of invasion. “Lee’s army, 100,000 strong, was marching in our direction,” said Don. “Our citizens had already moved north and east. Lee wanted Pennsylvania coal, arriving in 12 trains a day, and our $135 million of manufacturing.”

As the audience cheered, a clash of cymbals announced the main event. Unscrewing the time capsule’s lid, Dr. Sally Gray, associate dean for graduate education; Dr. Jack Esposito, faculty member when the canister was put together; and Dean Ismail pulled out the contents. A letter from Dean Gerald D. Timmons, placed there half a century ago, sat near
“Just like in dental school, I’m sitting in the back of the room!” giggled Dina Wasileski, ’87, as she entered the lecture hall for the opening ceremony.

the top. “It is my sincere hope that we’ve left a legacy of which you and your contemporaries can be proud,” wrote Dean Timmons in a heartfelt close before his signature. Along with newspapers, photos, stamps, coins, programs and congratulatory telegrams from the centennial celebration and much more, the letter was displayed on two long tables. New items will be put back in the capsule this year for reopening in 2063.

Other highlights of the day were introductions of two delegations from China and one from Saudi Arabia, underscoring the dean’s commitment to global partnerships, plus dignitaries from Pennsylvania’s Congress with resolutions from the Senate and House. To mark the school’s new era, Diane Hark unveiled her watercolor of Temple Dental as it looks today. The painting will hang in the school’s first floor.

When Tammy Franks spoke midway through the program, perhaps she was the most concrete example of how Temple Dental is not only unlocking its past but unleashing its future. A member of the Class of 2014 and president of the Student Council, she expressed the thrill of embarking on an exciting profession and attending a school that is preparing her with advanced technology, unparalleled clinical experience and a worldview of dentistry. “I remember the day clearly. I kept checking my e-mail, and then there it was. ‘Acceptance’ from Temple Dental in bold letters. I had achieved my biggest dream.”
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— Tammy Franks, ’14

Dr. Eric Hodges, ’92, member of the Board of Visitors, relayed the gratitude of African American alums to the school for helping to change the face of dentistry.

Dr. Mohammed Beyari gave the dean a book from his country, Saudi Arabia, and later explained that he is discussing opportunities for student exchanges with Temple Dental. Dr. Beyari is dean and associate professor of prosthetic dentistry and oral medicine at Umm Al-Qura University, Makkah.

Top: Tammy Franks, Class of 2014 and president of the Student Council, expressed how highly she values the school.
Center: Also handing out accolades was Pennsylvania Representative Curtis Thomas.
Bottom: China’s Dr. Jun-qi Ling showed her appreciation for Temple Dental’s interest in mutual development and cooperation. She is dean of Guanghua School of Stomatology, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou.
Lower right: All sorts of memorabilia filled the tables.

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WHAT A CHANGE!

With dry wit, Dr. Bill Dragan, ‘58, recalled the old days. “You used a stick and a rock to get teeth out, and you would get hit with a rock so you wouldn’t feel too much pain.” A bit more seriously, he noted how the school’s facilities have completely changed since his time in the Packard Building. Working now in Shelton, Conn., with his son, Bill is heavily into R&D with the company he started in 1970, Centrix. “I’m always working on new ideas, trying to create products that make dentistry easier.” Just one of those is my original CR Syringe with Disposable Tubes and Plugs, “a simple product,” he said, “that dentists use every day.” From his basement years ago to a large facility today employing 140 worldwide, Bill is always nurturing the seeds of a good idea. Although health issues kept several of his classmates home, Bill did enjoy chatting with Dr. S. Rand Werrin, ‘67.

SEEING OLD FRIENDS

“He won’t let me retire,” laughed Dr. Jordon Bichefsky, ‘58, as he spoke about his son, Dr. Howell Bichefsky, ‘86, who shares their practice in Warminster, Pa. Yet Jordon didn’t let work stop him from catching up with old friends at the 150th gala. “I go to these reunions every five years because I enjoy the camaraderie.” On Saturday night, that meant seeing Dr. Jim Kramer and Dr. Howard Zucker, a roommate who joined Jordon in the service after graduation. “We went down to Alabama for a month, then we both went to England. We were in separate Air Force bases, but we stayed in touch.” Friends still, they spent the evening comparing memories.
“Temple was a good choice because it enabled a kid from South Philly to go to school,” explained Dr. Bernard Jacobs, ’63. That’s why three from the same high school entered as undergraduates and later found themselves together in dental school. “We didn’t know each other well before we got to Temple,” said Bernie, “but once here, we bonded. We studied together, ate lunch together, hung out together. It was an interesting time.” With a vacation home in Ventnor, N.J., Bernie has invited Dr. Marvin Seltzer and Dr. Norman Mitchell plus about “three to four other guys” from their class for a weekend at the shore every summer for the past few years. This summer, he said, he’ll do the same.

“Witnessing the opening of the time capsule was one of the highlights of my life. I will never forget this event. Understanding the history and predicting the future of dentistry is an amazing thing to witness in life.”

—Bhaskar Savani, ’95
A GREAT WEEKEND FOR ’85

Girls’ Night Out
For months they had planned it—a grand get-together for the class of ’85. And they were there in force on Friday night from as far away as Arizona: a core group of women alumnae that included Dr. Allyson Abbott, Dr. Maria Chila, Dr. Kathe Kozak, Dr. Kathi Mansell and more. Their husbands came too, of course, but the women were really the energy behind the showing of support for each other and Temple Dental School, remembered Dr. Karl Kozak. “We came because all of the girls were calling each other.”

Drs. Karl and Kathe Kozak are both Kornberg graduates who work in a Pennsylvania maximum security prison in the central part of the state. Katha went into the Department of Corrections first and convinced Karl to sell his practice and join the state system in 1990. “I’ve worked on a wide spectrum of men who could be financially destitute or be independently wealthy. What they have in common is they committed a serious crime,” he said. “There are so many who face numerous dental needs. Our job is to meet those challenges while they are incarcerated.”
Table Talk
Conversation raced round the table that included (from left): Dr. Leonard Parris, ’49, Dr. Tony Oswick, ’85, Dr. Dennis Zabelsky, ’85, Dr. Kathe Kozak, ’85, Dr. Karl Kozak, ’82, Dr. Maria Kashlak, ’85, and Marilyn Zabelsky’s mother, Leona, whose husband was a dentist so she often goes to dental events.

Two Anchors of the Laughter
“We have a quaint practice,” commented Dr. Dennis Zabelsky, ’85 from Pittsburgh, Pa., while enjoying the camaraderie with his wife, Marilyn. “We live four blocks from the office, and if patients can’t find us in the office, they come to our house. They consider us family. We’re invited to graduations, weddings, communions. We have fun but use the latest materials and do cutting-edge dentistry.”

Finally Face to Face
“It’s the first time we’ve met after seven years of working together,” enthused Dr. Tony Oswick, ’85, and Dr. Maria Kashlak ’85, from Florida after connecting with Dr. Leonard Parris, ’49. “He’s been referring patients to us for years.”

“I come back a lot. It was a lot of fun here. I moonlighted while I was a student and met my wife, who is a nurse,” said Dr. Carl Pardini, ’74 enjoying the Barnes event with Judith, his wife.

“It was important for me to come back for the anniversary. I realize how much this school and my education at Temple profoundly changed the course of my life. The highlight was reconnecting with all of my former classmates.”

—Dr. Judee Hashem-Rapoza, ’90
Sharing memories of the past and hopes for the future
Temple University’s Kornberg School of Dentistry celebrated its 150th anniversary at the dazzling Barnes Foundation on April 13, 2013. Over 500 attendees filled the remarkable gallery with memories of the past and hopes for the future of the school and the practice of dentistry.
Bridging the gap from 1863 to 2013
Leading the procession for the night was student bagpiper Brendan Matthews, ’16, followed by Civil War re-enactors representing the 69th Pennsylvania Irish Volunteer Infantry. This regiment helped defeat General Robert E. Lee’s army at the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863, protecting Philadelphia and allowing the school to open as our founder John H. McQuillen envisioned. Attendees were also delighted by the musical performances of current dental students throughout the evening.
The Kornberg School of Dentistry is calling for submissions for items for our newest time capsule to be opened in 2063.

Given the dimensions of the time capsule (it’s 5 inches in diameter and 24 inches high) and bearing in mind that we cannot accept anything corrosive, etc., what do you think would be exciting to your counterparts 50 years from now? We are primarily looking for dental- and school-related items in particular. All submitted items will be photographed and posted online. Items chosen to be placed in the capsule will be displayed in an exhibit during our Renovation Celebration this fall. Don’t miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

Deadline for submissions is Friday, August 23, 2013.

Please submit all items to:
Dr. Sally Gray
Associate Dean for Graduate Education
Temple University Kornberg School of Dentistry
3223 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19140
215.707.3305
sgray@dental.temple.edu

Support the Kornberg School of Dentistry by making a contribution today! Whatever your level of support may be, your gift will help to advance our mission.

Your contribution can be made in the following ways:

- Call the Office of Development at 215.707.7887
- Visit http://dentistry.temple.edu/alumni/supporting-tuksod

Thank you for your support. Your contributions make a difference!

For more information, please contact the Office of Development at 215.707.7887.