

## UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

It has been a very busy time at the University of Minnesota. It is with great pride that we have Dr. **Brent Larson** representing us as the president of the AAO. Brent has spent much time representing our Association interests at various meetings throughout the US and the world. It is with his unique experiences of academics and private practice that he can represent many interests of the association members.

On a sadder note, former chair of the division, Dr. **Robert Isaacson**, died September 15 in Edina, Minnesota. Bob was chair from 1965 until 1977 after completing his dental, specialty and PhD education at Minnesota. He then chaired the orthodontic departments at UCSF and Virginia Commonwealth before returning to Minnesota in 2001. Bob was the consummate educator and in his retirement, was Editor-in-Chief for the *Angle Orthodontist* from 2000-2012. He had many accomplishments during his distinguished career. Our condolences to his wife, **Delores**, two daughters, one son and seven grandchildren

If you are interested in making a donation in memory of Dr. Isaacson, please contact **Emily Best** at 612-625-6811 or [emilyj@umn.edu](mailto:emilyj@umn.edu).

We are pleased to announce the addition of Dr. **Amy Tasca** to our full-time faculty. Amy completed here DDS at UMKC, practiced for several years in Breckenridge, Colorado and returned to do a combined PhD and Certificate in Orthodontics here at the University of Minnesota. Her PhD was in Oral Biology with a focus on bone biology. Amy will be a great addition to our staff as she will help with guiding and advising research and supervising patient care.

The second-year class just returned from their visit with the orthodontic program at the University of Valencia in Spain, continuing our inter-school relationship with our orthodontic colleagues overseas. They were welcomed into their classrooms and clinics to hear lectures and observe the treatment of patients, leaving our residents with plenty of educative pearls to take home. They particularly appreciated seeing their approach on lingual appliances, TAD placement and utilization, interdisciplinary treatment, and creative treatment mechanics. They were able to have time to enjoy the Spanish culture and their beautiful city.

In the last year, we have made movement to incorporate more digital technology to our resident's educational experience. A major change to our clinic facilities is that we removed the 2D cephalometric unit, which had exceeded the unit's lifespan and replaced it with an i-Cat FLX. This location gives a rapid turnaround for diagnostic information. We are now taking intraoral scans on all patients with our six iTero Element scanners. This gives one scanner for every two residents. These changes have made our patient's diagnostic experience more efficient and pleasant.

The last major improvement which deserves special recognition has been the creation of the “Digital Orthodontic Laboratory in 3D”. This was possible due to a generous gift from a past graduate, Dr. **Don Nelson**. The vision of this laboratory is “To inspire better orthodontic patient care through the creation, study and application of 3-dimensional data.”

Our division wants to be positioned to advance the science and practice of orthodontics through the use of 3D technologies. We want to develop, evaluate and refine new research and treatment strategies based on digital 3D technologies. In addition, the location of the laboratory will facilitate collaboration with other experts in the MDRCBB for mathematical modeling, the University medical device center, and the faculty in computer science. The Digital Orthodontic Laboratory contains four 3D intensive graphics computer workstations, a 3dMD facial scanner and two 3D printers. The residents are now beginning to use this technology in their patient care. Thank you again to Dr. Nelson for his generous financial gift to support our orthodontic program at the University of Minnesota.

Finally, we are planning a special alumni reception in Los Angeles to honor Dr. Larson as he finishes his term as president of the AAO. We look forward to seeing our past graduates and friends at this AAO meeting. Please put the Alumni Reception on your schedule so you can attend. It will be held Saturday, May 4 at 7p at Tom’s Urban LA Live.

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