AAGFO President's Message

To my fellow AAGFO members,

Happy New Year from the President's chair! It is hard to believe we are into 2016 already with the 2015 annual meeting far behind us. If you missed that meeting, you missed out on a great event. It turns out that Pensacola, Florida, is a wonderful place to visit. As is much of Florida, Pensacola is set up with great hotels, restaurants, beaches and interesting activities. Past President Dan Henry did a wonderful job of making local arrangements and we were allowed to use his private office for clinical operations. This is unique in the experience of the Academy and may hold some promise for the future as we experience more restrictions utilizing military and university facilities.

Another unique and exciting feature of the 2015 meeting was the attendance of a married couple from India, Dr. Prabhakar Joseph and Dr. Pryia Prabhakar. They practice in Chennai (formerly called Madras) and were excited enough about direct gold fillings that they invited us to give a one-week course on the subject in late March of this year in Chennai. At the end of the course, there will be a dinner ceremony featuring the inauguration of the Indian Academy of Gold Foil Operators, and induction of new members into the AAGFO and the IAGFO. Dr. Warren Johnson and I volunteered to lead this seminar and are well into the formation of the course materials including a set of basic instruments for each of the 20 participants. This will be a new chapter in the history of direct gold and the AAGFO!

On the subject of instruments, I am sure you are aware we are not well supported by the dental manufacturing industry any longer in regard to most gold foil related instruments and supplies. I feel that a primary duty of the AAGFO should now be to make sure instruments are readily available to anyone needing these tools. Therefore, at the midwinter meeting, I intend to encourage your council to form an "Instrument and Supplies Committee" whose purpose will be, to be the central resource of information for anyone needing new or used instruments.

Most of you probably know by now that we recently lost a great friend, mentor and past AAGFO President, Dr. Richard D. Tucker. Dr. Tucker's efforts to develop and teach exceptional restorative gold dentistry is legendary and influenced a legion of dentists and benefited untold numbers of patients. Few stand out the way he did, not only for his concepts but for his kind and generous manner. On behalf of the AAGFO, I wish to extend our sympathy and heartfelt best wishes to the Tucker family. May God bless you all.

In closing, I hope to see you at the next annual meeting in Vancouver, BC this coming August. Vancouver is a great and interesting city and perfectly gorgeous in late August. If you can, I encourage you to come and spend extra time exploring Southwest Canada. You will be glad you did!

Sincerely,

A. W. Foltz, DMD
AAGFO President
AAGFO Annual Meeting 2016
Vancouver, British Columbia
August 24 - 27, 2016

http://www.tourismvancouver.com

Pinnacle Harbourfront Hotel
Vancouver, BC
604.689.9211

www.pinnacleharbourfronthotel.com

Reservation Link:
https://aws.passkey.com/event/14792031/owner/2075/home

Contact Dr. Elaine Neal with questions

elaine.neal1@myfairpoint.net
Dr. Tasha Bollermann decided to go to dental school when her childhood dentist invited her to shadow him in his office. In that summer she grew to understand that dentistry is a blend of art, science and health. She graduated from OHSU School of Dentistry in 1998. In 1999 she purchased Dr. Scott Barrett’s dental practice. In a desire to help keep the legacy of gold alive in his practice, Dr. Barrett paid for one year of Tucker study club for Dr. Bollermann. This was the beginning of a wonderful journey toward excellence.

In 2002 Dr. Bollerman joined Gnathology Northwest. This study club was a mix of hands on and lecture courses focused on the rehabilitation of the high needs dental patient through gnathologic reconstruction. The addition of Gold foil came in 2003, when she joined the Alex Jeffery Research Study Club. Along the way Dr. Bollermann has taken courses from Spear, OBI, FACE, Kois, Pankey and LVI. She feels that the more philosophies you are knowledgeable about, the more diverse cases you can treat successfully. In addition to the technical side of dentistry, she has participated in several years of mindfulness training, which she brings to her patients and her office. Dr. Bollermann's mission, is to provide excellent dental care, in an environment which nurtures the body, mind and spirit of her patients, her staff and herself.

Outside the office, Dr. Bollermann enjoys being married to her husband Joseph, and being the lucky mother of two wonderful daughters Adelaide and Ursula. As a family, they enjoy camping in the Pacific Northwest, hiking, bicycling, swimming, trips to the coast, and the mountains. In the winter months when it is wet and cold, she enjoys knitting by the fire, reading great books, and sharing her mindfulness training with her family. At all times of the year she enjoys being in nature. As a part of that enjoyment, she has 40 acres of land she and her husband are restoring to health and beauty.

Previous Recipients

Dr. R. Craig Bridgeman, 1989
Dr. Timothy J. Carlson, 1990
Dr. Richard D. Tucker, 1991
Dr. Michael A. Cochran, 1992
Dr. Warren K. Johnson, 1993
Dr. Frederick C. Eichmiller, 1994
Dr. Richard J. Hoard, 1995
Dr. David Thorburn, 1996

Dr. Ronald J. Zokol, 1997
Dr. Ralph G. Stenberg, 1998
Dr. Allan G. Osborn, 1999
Dr. William T. Pike, 2000
Dr. A. Wendell Foltz, 2001
Dr. Mark J. Modjean, 2003
Dr. David F. Bridgeman, 2004
Dr. Barry O. Evans, 2005

Dr. Daniel Saucy, 2006
Dr. Mark Cruz, 2007
Dr. Margaret Webb, 2008
Dr. Dan B. Henry, 2009
Dr. Ed Kardong, 2010
Dr. Richard Stevenson, III, 2011
Dr. Clyde Roggenkamp, 2012
Dr. Bruce Small, 2013
2015 Distinguished Member Award

The recipient of this year’s Distinguished Member Award, Dr. Frederick C. Eichmiller, has been a constant and reliable member of this elite academy for at least thirty years. His service has been invaluable, not just to our small group, but to the entire profession of dentistry.

Dr. Eichmiller began his professional career in 1981 entering private practice in Olivia, MN. At about the same time he also began serving as a clinical instructor in the department of operative dentistry at his alma mater, the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry.

Somewhere during the first five years after dental school, Fred found his way to this academy and to our sister academy, AOD, possibly through the influence of Drs. Chester Schultz and Anthony Romano, two of his dental school instructors and also longtime members and familiar faces of both academies.

Whether it was at a meeting of this academy or another professional meeting, it didn’t take long for Dr. Woody Rupp (a past Distinguished Member) to recognize the jewel he found in Fred and so in 1986 under Woody’s tutelage, Fred embarked on a new career as Chief Research Scientist for the Paffenbarger Research Center, National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, MD. Fred was now an ADA employee and there he would remain for the next twenty years.

During those early years at Paffenbarger, one of Fred’s duties was to re-fight the amalgam wars. I’m not sure if Woody was just tired of that battle or if he was just testing Fred under fire. He should have known the outcome. Whether it’s brains, facts, reasoning or guns, Fred possesses a small arsenal. He knows how and when to shoot and his game bag is always full of losers. He also did battle with the anti-fluoridation zealots with mostly similar outcomes. The ADA made a wise decision when they hired Fred.

Fred was born in Onamia, MN to Frederick August (Fritz) and Mary Lousie Eichmiller. They were of “the greatest generation.” They went off to war. They came home, married, and immersed themselves, incredibly I might add, in church, civic and community affairs, and they raised a family. If you were to read either or both their memorials (and you can find them online), you would clearly come to understand the service oriented nature of Frederick C. Eichmiller (in so many aspects of his life).

Professionally, over the years, Fred has maintained membership in numerous state and local dental associations, academies, research groups and honorary societies. I won’t name them all, but along the way, Fred has garnered a few awards. Among them:

- Civism Award - National Navy Dental School - 1990
- Clinician of the Year - AAGFO - 1994
- Hollenback Memorial Prize (for research) - AOD - 2000
- Bernard J. Conway Award (for outstanding contributions by a staff member) - ADA - 2003
- Award for Excellence in Technology Transfer - Federal Laboratory Consortium - 2005

Fred has authored or co-authored nearly 100 scientific publications. He has delivered oral presentations (over 200) on a wide range of topics related to dentistry throughout the United States and abroad and through it all, Fred still finds time to remain active in an operating clinical study club, having operated at
Hollenback-Medina / Tucker Club 71 just two months ago.

Fred holds alone or jointly as least 12 U.S. Patents for dental related devices and methods, materials or processes. I won’t try to elaborate on these patents. It’s above my pay grade.

In addition to having served as president of this academy, Dr. Eichmiller is a past president of the Academy of Operative Dentistry, the Navy Dental Restorative Seminar and the American Association of Dental Research, Washington Section.

He has also served in adjunct faculty positions at the Navy Dental School in Bethesda, the Department of Restorative Dentistry at the University of Washington, the Restorative Department at the University of Texas, San Antonio and as an adjunct in orthodontics at Howard University in Washington, DC.

Outside of dentistry, Fred continues the legacy of service and community involvement passed down from his parents.

He serves on the Board of United Way of Portage County, on the Board of St. Michaels Hospital, Ministry Health Care of Stevens Point, WI where he and his family reside and on other boards as well. When he was still in private practice, he served as Chairman of the Public Utility Commission for the City of Olivia, MN and as Engineering Consultant to Wakon Bay Outfitting in Wakon, MN and Engineering Consultant to St. Cloud Air Conditioning in St. Cloud, MN.

Now, I suspect that these last two positions had some connection to his hunting buddies and the consulting was more of a concern of how to be properly armed and outfitted for the hunt and how to keep the beer cold at deer camp.

I was first introduced to Fred around 1987. Fred had met my father at the Operative Meeting in Chicago. They shared that love of hunting. They became immediate friends. Fred was now at Paffenbarger and Dad had invited him to one of our study club meetings in Beckley, WV. I remember that meeting. Word had spread that Dad was bringing a guest and I can still picture Joel Waggoner going around and asking other members, “Who’s this new guy, Fred like? What’s his last name?” And so there it was…… Fred Eich! Over the years whenever the answer to a question eludes us, someone in our club reflexively says, “I don’t know, ask Fred Eich.”

In our study club, we like to think of Fred as…. ‘one of us.’ We claim him. That happens when you have someone of Fred’s knowledge and expertise in your membership. Maybe this academy thinks this way as well. But maybe……it’s the opposite. Maybe….Fred claims us. Maybe Fred has looked at the various groups he’s been involved with and has said, “I like what they’re doing or what they stand for. I think I can help” Or……. “They’ve got problems, I think I can help.” Maybe, when our late friend Max Anderson lured Fred over to the dark side, Fred took a look at Delta Dental from our perspective and said, “I think I can help.”

Fred has always been an avid hunter and outdoorsman. We’ve hunted deer and turkey on many occasions in WV. A couple of times I have been with him duck and pheasant hunting in MN and ND.

Close to Fred’s childhood home on Onamia is his favorite duck haunt just across the border in North Dakota. Duck camp is in a little town called Windsor, population 43. Rick Hoard and I accompanied Fred to Windsor one year after the Academy meeting in Minneapolis. Dirt roads, one four way intersection, one combination grocery store, bar and restaurant all in one small room complete with a bartender and one beer girl. It just so happened that the mayor of this little town was also Fred’s longtime friend and hunting guide. His name was Earl, the only Earl in town. I tell folks back home that one time, I was fortunate enough to go duck hunting with the Earl of Windsor. Yes, hanging out with Fred has allowed me to meet some important folks.

On another occasion, Ray Bowen, yes, Composite Resin Ray Bowen showed up in my reception room holding his snapped off lateral incisor in his hand. Fred had brought him over
to deer hunt. Here’s this little guy in blue jeans and a camouflage shirt standing there and he says, “Can you fix this?” So there I am working on Rafael Bowen and he starts asking all these technical questions about the resin I’m using to create his new tooth and I’m like....... “I don’t know Ray, you invented it, you tell me.”

Did I mention guns? Fred has a small arsenal. He is an accomplished marksman and black powder enthusiast. Nowadays, he could be classified a terrorist! If you have ever been target, trap or skeet shooting with Fred, you are not going to win unless he lets you or unless you happen to be his son Graham.

Fred is a gunsmith. I don’t know how many guns Fred has made, modified or refurbished (as I said, he has a small arsenal) but several years ago, he lovingly hand-crafted an Ohio Style full cherry stock, percussion cap muzzle-loader for me and also, out of curly maple, a North Carolina style flint-lock muzzle-loader for my nephew Rob.

Fred is a woodworker. You can talk rough carpentry, finish cabinetry, finely crafted gold foil boxes and mallets, Fred does it all. I used to think he owned every piece of equipment you could ever need or want in a work shop, but Graham constantly informs him that he needs more. What Fred would typically create with a hammer, chisel, saw and sweat, Graham can now do in half the time with any assortment of Tormach machines or a 3-D printer.

Fred could be considered a mad scientist. Serving in the supporting role of pit boss and chief mechanic for GP3 Racing, you might liken Fred to Doc Emmett Brown in Back to The Future, anything to make that engine run faster or make that vehicle take those turns tighter. On race weekends, Fred’s hair probably looks like Doc’s. Does anybody remember a few years ago when Linda permed (or as Fred referred to it - processed) Fred’s hair?

Linda. Now there is the true force behind Fred Eichmiller’s accomplishments. She’s kept him grounded, and in tune with her rule that in spite of all of his many interests and pursuits, family is most important. Because Linda has seen to it of all of his many interests and pursuits, family is most important. Because of Linda, Fred puts in the time at home, we see Graham and Megan as the amazing, talented, creative and determined young adults that they are. In all that Fred has accomplished, Linda is undoubtedly his most trusted advisor.

In service to this academy alone, as noted in your program, Fred has always answered the call. Clinical Operator and Essayist on numerous occasions, Council Member, and President.

Remembering past recipients of this prestigious award, brings to mind familiar names Stibbs, Vernetti, Marty Anderson, Drs. Tucker, Romano, Medina, Beamish, Johnson, Thorburn and several others, colleagues who have held and maintained a genuine devotion to this academy, its purpose, its ideals, of dentistry. Eichmiller deserves very much to be among them. The leadership of our academy has determined that it be so.

Dr. Frederick Charles Eichmiller, it is with great pleasure that our academy bestows upon you this Distinguished Member Award for a job very well done!

David F. Bridgeman, DDS
October 2015

Fred in the lab analyzing a whale tooth
Clinical Operations
Alex Jeffery Gold Foil Study Club
Dr. Wendell Foltz - Mentor

Dr. Barry Evans

Dr. Carol Klingensmith

Dr. Dan Saucy

Dr. Sarah Saucy

Dr. Tasha Bollerman
March 2016

AAGFO President Wendell Foltz and Warren Johnson present a week long course in gold foil for interested dentists in India. They will give a presentation at The AAGFO Annual Meeting on their trip and the implications to the Academy.
Dear All,
We are extremely happy to inform that we officially inaugurated the Indian Academy of Gold Foil Operators on March 22, 2016 in Chennai, India. We are grateful to the AAGFO for your kindest support and encouragement. We have to thank for the Memorandum of Understanding and the beautiful mallet that you have presented to the IAGFO. We really treasure it and we will do justice for the trust you have in us.

We pledge to take the gold foil restorations all over India. And, many have already shown great interest to join the AAGFO. We will be sending the application and the fees for fifteen new members to AAGFO from India.

We are also happy to inform that the gold foil course went on exceptionally well. Our earnest thanks to Dr.Foltz and Dr.Johnson for their precious time and the dedication and passion they had for teaching all of us. We had a worthwhile learning session and enjoyed each and every moment of the course.

We have attached a few photos of the inauguration, press report and the course.

Meet you all soon in Vancouver.

Best Regards,

Prabhakar

Priya Prabhakar