

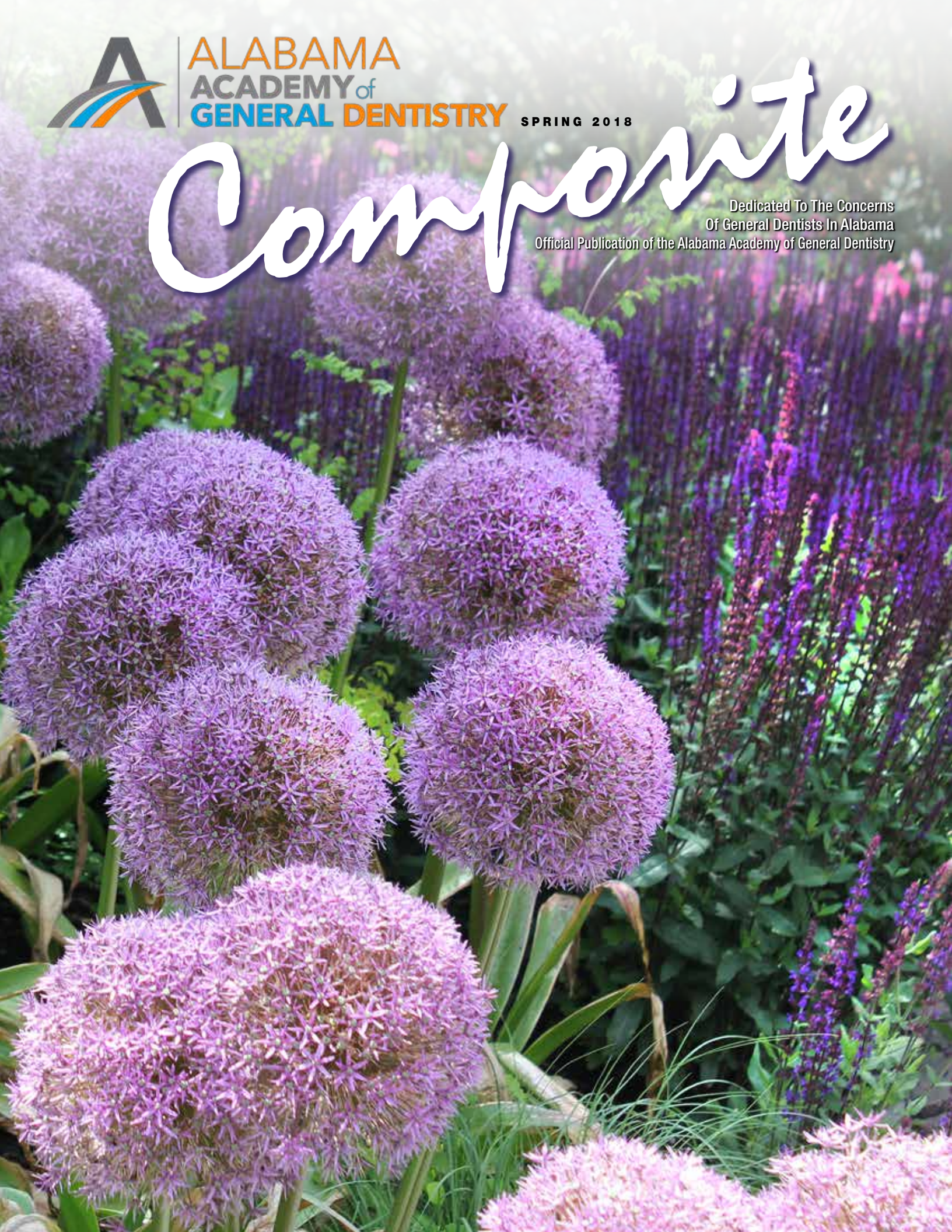


ALABAMA  
ACADEMY of  
GENERAL DENTISTRY

SPRING 2018

# Composite

Dedicated To The Concerns  
Of General Dentists In Alabama  
Official Publication of the Alabama Academy of General Dentistry







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## Editor's Notes

Bill Chesser, DMD, MAGD

### TO THE CORE

Gorman Houston, an Associate Pastor at Tuscaloosa First United Methodist Church, recently delivered a powerful sermon on “Core Values”. I was inspired to consider what this means to me, as well as to the profession of dentistry.

Core values make up the fundamental beliefs of a person or organization – guiding principles which dictate one’s behavior, one’s understanding of the differences between right and wrong. On the corporate level, these core values can help determine if the business is on the correct path toward fulfilling its goals.

Mercedes Benz employees work with a set of five established guiding principles: **passion, communication, fun, integrity, and team.** All of these core values could be applied to a dental setting.

- **Passion** drives one to deliver his or her best efforts.
- **Communication** involves not only talking, but also listening and understanding.
- **Fun** suggests that one enjoy workmates and patients, remaining upbeat and friendly, as much as possible.
- **Integrity** insures that one deliver on his or her promises to team members and Patients.
- **Team** is key to working peaceably together, supporting and challenging each other to excellence.

How do you define your values—the rules by which you live, those things that are important in the way you live and work? Most of us were taught right from wrong at an early age. If we live by these ingrained rules, life seems to go well most of the time, and contentment reigns. If we stray, chaos can result.

Identifying your core values is an important step to true maturity. One must be certain of who he or she is, and what he or she wants to become. Assurance of these principles gives us confidence in making choices in most any situation.

I learned as a Boy Scout in my early teens to live by their guiding principles: **trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.**

These are not easy characteristics to fulfill, but we all can make the effort. Lord Baden Powell, the founder of Boy Scouts, stated that if you keep the last one – reverence – the others would be much easier.

**Think about it. What makes you tick?**



*Installation of 2018 Officers by Dr. Bill Ingram (L-R): Drs. Gary Myers, Executive Director; Toni Neumeier, Past President; Derrick Mendez, President; Ross Isbell, President Elect.*

# President's Message

Derrick Mendez DMD, MAGD



## A MILLENNIAL'S PERSPECTIVE

It is 2018 and I find myself in the position of being the first Millennial to hold the office of President of the Alabama Academy of General Dentistry. I'm told by the likes of Jean Twenge<sup>1</sup> that I am of a generation that is narcissistic, entitled, and "more miserable than ever before." I suppose this is what inspired presentations such as Scott Hess's "Millennials: Who They Are and Why We Hate Them"<sup>2</sup> and other similarly titled works by other contemporary thinkers.

Rather than be offended, I find myself mildly amused. I'll often crack a smile whenever I hear someone complaining about Millennials, trying to predict the ever-so-elusive machinations of my peers as if we're committed to destroying society as we know it. It's hard to say whether my amusement derives from knowing that some of the accusations are true or if it comes from the fact that we all know that this isn't the first time in history there's been some not-so-nice things said about the younger generation.

Surprisingly, Alabama AGD leadership took a chance on me a few years ago when I was asked to take on the position of A/V Chair for our annual meeting in Destin, FL. I say "surprisingly" because I was only just starting my first year of practice and felt I had little to offer the AGD. (Plus, there's the whole Millennial thing I have going on.) However, I knew my technical background would at least allow

me to do the job, so I agreed. Evidently, my mentors had me destined for much more in the years to come.

As part of moving up through the various offices, one of my responsibilities has been serving as a constituent representative to the House of Delegates, AGD's national legislative body that meets at an annual governance session. Given my relative inexperience compared to the seasoned men and women who surround me, I chose to play the role of active listener during many of the proceedings so that I could make the most well-informed vote on any given issue. However, I was well aware that I could - at virtually any moment - step up to the floor microphone, speak my mind, and instantly have the ear of over 200 professionals who represented the top leaders in general dentistry.

Early on in my involvement in AGD, I learned that some very important decisions are made on the House of Delegates floor; these decisions have the potential to affect the organization, and dentistry as a whole, for decades to come. However, it wasn't until I was actually in my first session that I realized how privileged I was to have a voice and vote to directly influence these issues. It has been a tremendous honor to experience this at such an early point in my career. I feel it has opened my eyes to a whole dynamic into

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*Dr. Mendez presents the past President Plaque to Dr. Neumeier for outstanding year*



*Dr. Mendez presented the Green Jacket by Dr. Neumeier*

# Dr. John D. Barnes Receives UAB School of Dentistry Distinguished Alumnus Award

John Barnes is the 2018 recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award, presented at the Alumni meeting, in Birmingham, February 1, by Dean Michael Reddy.

Dr. Barnes, a native of Huntsville, earned his undergraduate degree at Birmingham Southern College before graduating from the University of Alabama School of Dentistry in 1981. After serving a year at a Huntsville hospital in a General Practice Residency, he opened his private practice in General Dentistry in 1982.



John hit the ground running in our profession, and is no stranger among his peers. While building his practice in Huntsville, he has served as President of the Huntsville/Madison County Dental Society; President of ALAGD; President of the School of Dentistry Alumni Association; and President of the SOD Leadership Council.

Dr. Barnes earned his Fellowship in the AGD, and has been honored with Fellowships in the American College of Dentists, the International College of



Dentists, the Academy of Dentistry International, and the Pierre Fauchard Academy.

John has been involved in several fund-raising campaigns for the School of Dentistry, and has been generous with gifts of his time, service, and contributions.

This year, he is 2018 Co-Chair of the ALDA Annual Session Council, a position he has held during several other years in the past.

Dr. Barnes, we are proud of you and your distinguished accomplishments in our profession. Thank you!

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## A MILLENNIAL'S PERSPECTIVE

*Continued from page 3*

which I would have otherwise had no insight. I wish there were some way to convey the insight gained from these experiences to other new dentists, as so few of them are exposed to organized dentistry on this scale.

My generation may have a “bad rap” (they also say that we are not joiners), but this Millennial loves the Alabama Academy of General Dentistry. To me, being an active member of the AGD – as well as the American Dental Association – is *absolutely crucial* to my practice of dentistry and my own professional development. Would you ever consider not renewing your malpractice insurance? I think of my AGD membership in the same way; not renewing is simply out of the question.

It's an honor to serve these next 300+ days as your constituent president. Together, with the counsel and

aid of several other past and present Alabama AGD leaders, I look forward to another fantastic year for our organization. I hope to see you all at our regional continuing education event: the 45th Annual Review of Dentistry hosted by the Alabama and Mississippi AGD constituents in Destin, FL. The emerald waters and sugar-white sands of the Gold Coast await you.

Derrick D. Mendez, D.M.D.  
2018 Alabama Academy of General Dentistry  
President

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<sup>1</sup> Jean Twenge, Professor of Psychology at San Diego State University, is the author of more than 130 scientific publications and 6 books (several highly publicized) focused on studying generational differences

<sup>2</sup>“Millennials: Who They Are and Why We Hate Them” is the title of a TED Talks by Scott Hess, who is the Vice President of Insights for TRU, a global youth research firm



# Dr. T. Bob Davis Receives 2018 ADA Humanitarian Award

Dr. Thomas Bobby Davis, of Dallas, TX, has been selected to receive the ADA Humanitarian Award for this year. Dr. Davis, better known as “T. Bob”, is a native of Troy, AL. He earned his undergraduate degree from Samford University, and is a 1967 graduate of the University of Alabama School of Dentistry.

Dr. Davis began dental mission work in 1977, working mostly in Mexico and Guatemala. Since then, he has brought more than 1,500 dental students, as well as approximately 500 licensed dentists, to Mexico and Central America, all working in humanitarian dental missions.

Each year around Spring Break, T. Bob leads students from both Texas A & M University College of Dentistry and the University of Texas School of Dentistry at Houston. These young professionals-in-training eagerly

work in places in the Western Hemisphere where “access to care” is non-existent.

T. Bob has been active in the ADA and the AGD throughout his career. He organized the “AGD Singers” years ago, and many of us have witnessed their performances at national AGD conventions, with T. Bob at the piano.

Our Dr. Davis has, in addition, been affiliated with the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, as well as the Southern Baptist Convention. He has volunteered years of service to his church as a Deacon, youth worker, and pianist. At the same time, he has offered his dental expertise to children’s homes and schools in Texas. In 2014, he was chosen “Dentist of the Year” by the Texas AGD.

When informed of this honor, Dr. Davis said, “I don’t deserve it. Those who deserve it are all the



*Dr. T Bob Davis at the 50th Class Reunion University of Alabama School of Dentistry*

people who have been with me over all the years.”

An astounding number of dentists have been led to dental mission involvement, led by T. Bob Davis, and are now paying it forward in his honor. Alabama AGD offers a hearty congratulations to Alabama native, Dr. T. Bob Davis.



**RENAISSANCE MAN:** 2018 Humanitarian Award recipient Dr. T. Bob Davis is also an accomplished pianist, posing at a Steinway & Sons concert piano.



**ALL SMILES:** Dr. T. Bob Davis huddles together with some of the volunteers whom he led to Guatemala for a 2017 humanitarian trip. From left, Paul Smith, Dr. Jody Yarbrow, Yvette Martinez, Dr. Davis, Dr. Bob Meyer, John Ratliff and Diane Meyer.

# BRIGHT CHANG

## PRESIDENT, STUDENT AGD CHAPTER

In Fall 2017, The UAB School of Dentistry Academy of General Dentistry Student Chapter hosted its first chapter event on November 8, 2017 for the D1s. The D1s were invited to a pizza luncheon to learn about the AGD organization and what AGD has to offer them. We had Lucy's Coffee donate a few gift cards for a free coffee per day for a month to be raffled off during the pizza luncheon! At this meeting, we recruited 53 new D1 members into the AGD organization. At the start of January 2018, we had D1 and D2 memberships renewed and several D3 and D4 membership renewals as well.

As our next event, we decided that providing continuing education seminars during lunch time would benefit AGD student members. We focused on topics relevant to providing optimal care to patients that were not covered in detail in our preclinical courses. Our first seminar was on autism. Autism has been a topic of great interest to medical professionals. The rise of patients with some sort of autism has been increasing and in the UAB School of Dentistry, many students have already had the opportunity to interact and treat patients with autism. In order for us to better be prepared to treat patients with any kind of autism spectrum disorder, we had Dr. Justin Schwartz, MD who is a Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrician at UAB give a pizza lunch seminar on January 25, 2018. During this seminar, we learned about breaking the stereotype of autism and why or how it would be a challenge to us, common oral health problems associated with individuals with autism spectrum disorder, how to successfully treat autistic patients, and tips on interacting and managing these patients. We had 40 students in addition to Dr. Toni Neumeier, current Alabama AGD President and the UAB School of Dentistry AGD Student Chapter Faculty Advisor.

In order to advertise our student organization to the incoming UAB SOD Class of 2022, we plan to have an



*Bright Chang Class of 2019*

information table available on March 9, 2018 during Spring Preview. This is a day when the future class will have the opportunity to meet classmates, dental students, faculty, and find out about different opportunities available for them.

We are also looking forward to our first chapter community service event on Saturday, March 17, 2018! We will be participating in Zeta Phi Beta Sorority's 1st Annual Community Health and Wellness Fair to provide oral health education to the underserved community of Bessemer Community in Alabama. We plan on providing education material and free samples of oral hygiene kits to participants.

In the future, we are looking forward to hosting more continuing education seminars for AGD student members to provide valuable insight into how to better manage special needs patients, the future direction of dentistry, and more. Some of the topics under current discussion for future seminars include:

- Illicit drugs and its impact on dental care
- Contraindications of using digital dentistry
- Treatment dental patients with severe psychological problems (e.g. anxiety, depression, ADHD, etc.)
- Dental treatment in pregnant women
- Determining what occlusion marks to adjust in direct and indirect restorations
- Tips and tricks on proper shade matching and communicating with labs using photography

If you know any great speakers for the above topics or any other topics that may be beneficial to dental students, please contact Bright Chang (jesuc@uab.edu). We would appreciate help from AGD members in growing the UAB SOD AGD Student Chapter.

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*Bright Chang, UAB SOD AGD  
Student Chapter President*



# HOWARD GAMBLE MEMORIAL SEMINAR

Dr. Nick Russo brought Dr. Susan Pugliese to speak to our students during the SOD Alumni meeting. This Seminar is held each year in memory of Howard Gamble. Dr. Pugliese is the Program Director for the General Practice Dentistry Residency at Christiana Health System in Wilmington, Delaware. She emphasized how a GPR could make a better trained dentist and went into great detail about the Christiana health System, stating the program takes eight residents per year.



*Dr. Nick Russo from Delaware arranged a program for our annual Howard Gamble Memorial Seminar.*



*Dr. Susan Pugliese from Wilmington Delaware*



*The new operator at the UAB dental clinic*



*President Mendez with son Ian.*



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