

# THE ANNALS OF DENTISTRY

## Presidential Address *Dr. Thomas Connolly*



President Neary, Fellows and Guests:

It is certainly a great honor to stand before you as President of the NYAD. I can well remember my very first Academy meeting at the ULC almost 25 years ago. I was a nervous young dentist who was awestruck at the group of distinguished professionals that were present. As I look around the room this evening, and I am now before you a somewhat older dentist, I am still so impressed with the distinguished Fellows of the Academy. I am humbled and privileged to accept this position.

The NYAD is very special and unique. Our visionary founders recognized the need to form a highly ethical prestigious group of dentists at a time when dentistry continued to move forward from a trade to a profession. Today, we continue their traditions of upholding the dignity and honor of the dental profession. We represent all the specialties of dentistry. I dare say the academy is the finest inter disciplinary academy of its kind in the country. I am very proud to be a member.

Who are we?

We are members who are making a difference in all aspects of dentistry: in its organization, research and education. We are members who are influential within our own communities. We are members that constantly strive for excellence.

Our Academy continues to hold first rate scientific meetings. We are able to attract the best speakers, keeping our meeting attendance strong. Each April, we have been fortunate to have non-scientific speakers who are prominent individuals in their fields and are having a great impact on the world around us.

We are a collegial group who enjoy the camaraderie and friendship not only at these meetings, but at our other events as well: the Golf and Tennis Outing and the Overseas Seminar. Many in the Academy have become my close friends. We are, however, more than just a study club. The Academy reaches out beyond these walls to make a difference:

1. to dental students through our pioneer ethics programs at Columbia, NYU and Stony Brook, as well as inviting the best and the brightest seniors to our meetings;
2. to our fellow practitioners through the Ethics Seminars at the NYCDS, GNYDM and study clubs;
3. to the community through 57 years of involvement with the Boys Club.

Our founders would be proud of the great job we are doing! continued on page 8

### The Annals of Dentistry

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Dr. Thomas J. Connolly  
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Dr. Susan Karabin  
President-Elect

Dr. Matthew J. Neary  
Immediate Past President

Dennis N. Morea  
Vice President

Anthony J. Curinga  
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Dr. James D. Hudson  
Secretary

Henry Chalfin  
Editor

#### MISSION

The mission of the New York Academy of Dentistry is "To uphold the dignity and honor of the dental profession; to exalt its standards; to extend its sphere of usefulness; to promote the advancement of dental science; to encourage and develop professionally-controlled journals and other means for the publication and distribution of dental literature; to elevate the standards of dental education; and to exert an influence toward placing the activities of its members and of the dental profession upon the highest ethical and non-commercial plane."

## PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

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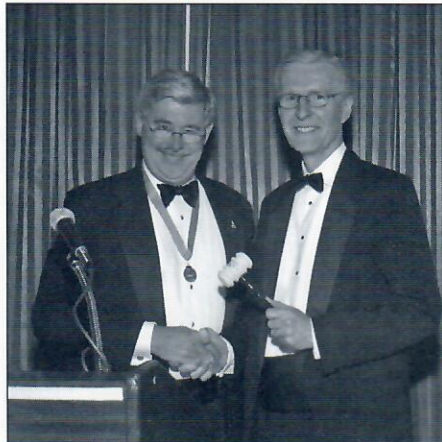
Where do we go from here?

Every good organization must be forward looking so as not to become stale. We need to continue to adapt, always keeping in mind the traditions of the past. The newly formed membership advisory committee will seek out qualified colleagues who are making a difference. We will be reviewing those involved at the dental societies, the dental schools, the residency programs, other academies and dental associations in the New York area. Women will be given special focus as they have made up 50% of dental school classes for over 10 years and are only 14% of our fellowship. Those individuals who are ethical and are making a significant contribution will be nominated for fellowship.

I am concerned about another group that is less obvious. It is one that I have become more aware of as father of a recent dental graduate. These young dentists now graduate with a debt of \$200,000 dollars. This debt will likely get worse with the loss of Graduate Medical Education Funding for specialty training. They simply do not have the same amount of time as we did to devote to those activities that we traditionally view as acceptable for membership. They are busy trying to make ends meet and many are starting families. Unfortunately, we will be waiting longer to see them among our ranks!

The committee, indeed the Academy, needs your help in identifying these potential candidates. Invite them to our meetings. Nominate those that are qualified and mentor those with

potential so they become more active. Encourage them to become involved with organized dentistry, teaching and the community. One great way to do



*The changing of the guard.*

this is by encouraging them to become facilitators in our ethics program. Only by attracting younger members will we remain strong.

Another area of focus will be engaging the new Associate Fellows upon their induction into the NYAD. This could be done through a New Associate Fellows committee or group, the purpose of which would be to allow them to become familiar with the inner workings of the Academy and encourage those who want to serve the Academy. We need our new members to play an active role.

Lastly, let us consider expanding our sphere of influence. We can look at other organizations within the local community similar to the Boys Club that we could help with dental programs. We could also look nationally. The National Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped has a Donated

Dental Services Program, DDS for short. Through this program a dentist agrees to treat one or more handicapped patients per year, pro bono. Our endorsement of this worthwhile program would be great. Dental research deserves our attention as well, which follows our original purpose of promoting the advancement of dental science. Our research support at the postgraduate level would be a good venue and certainly generate greater interest in the NYAD. In addition, we should all invite postgraduate students and residents to our meetings, as they are closer to eligibility. We have an outstanding scientific program for next year that will have broad appeal. We even have an orthodontist speaking! I want to thank the program committee of Marc Bronsky, Jim Verna and Stan Weinstock for working so hard in putting it all together.

I look forward to an exciting year working with a great group of fellow officers: Susan Karabin, Dennis Morea, Jim Hudson and, our newest addition, Tony Curinga as well as all the Fellows. There is seldom a dull moment at our board meetings, that are always well attended and full of great ideas.

On behalf of the Academy, I want to thank Matt Neary for his outstanding leadership over the past year.

In closing, I want to assure the Fellowship that I will do my utmost to uphold the principles and traditions of the Academy. I would like to thank all of you for your confidence and support in giving me this great honor.

Dr. Tom Connolly  
212-758-8451

## President's Report 3-10-05

As another academy year comes to a close, it is time to reflect on the activities and accomplishments of this past year.

The strength of the NYAD lies with the dedication of each and every fellow who strives to make a difference within dentistry and the community. The future of our academy lies with our associate fellows. I am pleased to report that 25 highly qualified candidates have been nominated to our academy this year. This is due to the tremendous support and interest of our Fellowship. My thanks to the Membership Advisory committee for their hard work. I look forward to this continued growth in future years.

In order to have these new associate fellows feel more welcome and become an active member of the NYAD, a number of steps have been initiated this year:

1. New Associate Fellows were contacted by the President prior to the organizational meeting to encourage them to become active and be appointed to committees. A significant number expressed such an interest and were so appointed.
2. Newer Associate Fellows were individually invited to the board meetings to become familiar with the behind the scenes work of the academy and were recognized for their attendance.
3. Name tags for the Fellowship meetings have been made more prominent and user friendly to make the interaction between Associate Fellows and Fellows easier.
4. Finally, a new Associate Fellowship social event has been developed to enhance camaraderie among the Fellowship. My thanks to Lois Jackson and her committee for organizing this event.

Attendance at our meetings have reached an all time high. We have also seen more guests be invited this year as well due to our

encouraging the Fellowship to share our meetings with our colleagues and potential candidates for fellowship. My thanks to the executive committee of James Verna, Stan Weinstock and Mark Bronsky for having outstanding speakers this year and to John Sobel and Dorlene Bosboom and their dinner committee for having the meetings run so smoothly.

This year we have expanded our sphere of influence and increased the recognition of the NYAD.

1. A website has been developed for the use our Fellows and the public in order to let others know who we are and the great things we are doing. My thanks to Guy Minoli and the Public Relations Committee as well as Doug McAndrews for their hard work.
2. At a time of decreased research funding to our dental schools, student research will again receive our support. The grants will be called The NYAD Student Research Fellowship. This will be greatly appreciated by our future colleagues and has the additional benefit of encouraging them towards an academic career as there is a shortage of faculty at our dental schools. My thanks to the research committee.
3. A NYAD Senior Dental Student Ethics Award has been established and will be awarded to a graduating senior at Columbia, NYU and Stoneybrook. Columbia has agreed to allow me to give the award at the graduation ceremony. This can only enhance our outstanding ethics programs. My thanks to John Young and the education committee for making this happen.
4. Lastly, the NYAD has expanded its' support within the community by endorsing the national Donated Dental Services program. This program provides free care to those least able to afford it. Through this program, we demonstrate our leadership by becoming the first group in NYS to endorse this worthwhile program.

This year has seen the effort to streamline the functioning of the Academy. A bylaws change has been proposed to eliminate the Advancement Fund and have only two entities exist: the General Fund and the Endowment Fund. The Advancement Fund was originally developed to support the purchase of a building for the NYAD. In the future, we will be studying the possibility of combining the two remaining into a single entity. My thanks to Stan Weinstock for the recommendation and to Amy Ludwig and the by-laws committee for their assistance.

In order to more accurately reflect who we are and who we want to become, the Goals and Objective Committee has developed a new mission statement. Their work has just begun as we explore new ways to carry out our mission. My thanks to Dennis Morea and his committee for their hard work.

It is not possible to acknowledge everyone who helped during this academy year. On behalf of myself and the fellowship, I thank the officers, board and all the committee members for their support.

I would be remiss if I did not extend a special thanks to Carol Bensky for her enormous contribution to this Academy. Her knowledge of the Academy protocol, principles and objectives is evident by her guidance and help to the Officers and the Board of Directors. It has been a pleasure working with her.

I am pleased to report that the state of the Academy is excellent. Today, we continue to uphold the dignity and honor of the dental profession. We are a strong Academy making a real difference. I dare say that this is the finest interdisciplinary academy of its kind in the country. Next year we will be in excellent hands with Susan Karabin guiding us as President.

Dr. Thomas J. Connolly  
212-758-8451

This past year has been a very special one for me. I have enjoyed serving the academy and you the Fellowship. Thank you for the honor and the privilege.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J Connolly, D.D.S.

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