



# DTOF Newsletter

Summer 2012

The Harry L. Dougherty  
& Keith Tanaka  
Orthodontic Foundation

**Dr. Keith Tanaka**  
Honored with the

## Friends of Dentistry Excellence in Education Award

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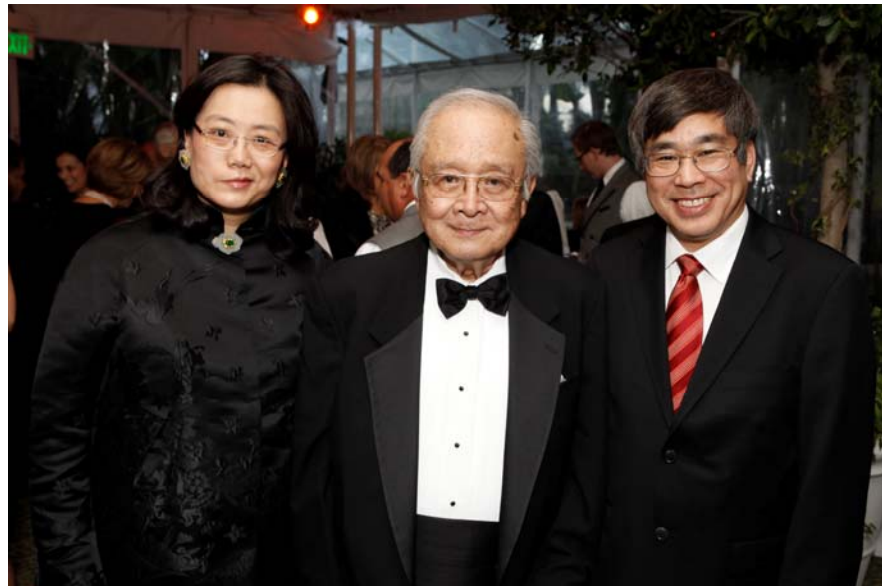
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Photos by: Steve Cohn

## Tribute to our Donors

We thank all of our loyal and faithful donors for their support of DTOF. In this issue we pay tribute to those donors who have donated since January 1, 2007 through June 20, 2012.

### Platinum (\$50,000+)

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### Current Pledge Donors

Thank you to our many donors that have pledged to DTOF over several years.

Dr. Dan Banh	Dr. James Lee
Dr. Jim Clark	Dr. Ron Maddox
Dr. Robert Denny	Dr. Sakae Tanaka
Dr. Joong Gun Kwon	Dr. John Trotter
Dr. Thuan Le	

## President's Message

by Dr. Jim Loos



Several events have been held since our last Newsletter.

One of the biggest events of this year to date was the special ceremony honoring Dr. Tanaka. It was held in Beverly Hills at the Four Seasons Hotel. USC went all the way with beautiful surroundings, a wonderful dinner and a very special awards ceremony. Dr. Tanaka was deservedly given the very first Friends of Dentistry "Excellence in Education" Award. Dr. T. spoke afterward and there was hardly a dry eye in the place. The President of the University of Southern, Dr. Nikias, the Dean of the Dental School, Dr. Sadan, and about thirty orthodontic alumni were in attendance.



Photo by: Steve Cohn



Photo by: Steve Cohn

The class of 2012 had a formal graduation ceremony in Palm Springs with a special lecture by Dr. Dan Grauer. The event was well attended and the photos and movies produced by Dr. John Jerome memorializing the class's orthodontic education at USC were outstanding as usual.

They were a very special class (in a good way) and seem to all have found employment.

Dr. Dan Grauer joined the full time faculty. He is from North Carolina and he is brilliant especially in the area of CBCT and lingual braces. Dr. Sameshima with the support of the Dental School should be complimented for attracting Dr. Grauer as full time faculty.

The new class will start this June, and the census is that they will continue the tradition of USC attracting and landing the best candidates.

Dr. Peters just announced his retirement from the part time faculty after 20 years of service. Thank you Rex, and we hope you can enjoy some travel and relax at your time share(s).



***(President's Message Continued)***

The USC orthodontic Alumni has a new president, Dr . Warren Schacter. DTOF looks forward to working with Warren and the Alumni Association in keeping USC as the premier Graduate program in the world.

Our DTOF foundation will again sponsor the Steiner/Sinclair lecture on January 18, 2013. Mark the date down now. The speakers will be announced soon but will be excellent as usual.

DTOF is also considering a social/CE afternoon and dinner at Disneyland this fall. Please indicate your interest on the attached card. An overnight stay is optional and will be at a special rate.

Now that we are nearing the last half of 2012 start planning your "tax deductible" donation to DTOF. If you cannot afford a big donation, please pick an amount to be on automatic withdrawal each month. If we all would do that at \$200 per month the total would be about \$840,000 per year, or \$100 would be \$420,000 income to the foundation. DTOF could make a serious difference in orthodontic education with those resources.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a pledge form for you to use. Please join me and many others who have already signed up. – Have a great summer.

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## **Foundation Dinner & Continuing Education**

DTOF is considering a day-long event at the Grand Californian in Disneyland. The afternoon would be dedicated to a speaker for CE credit starting around 12:00pm. The evening would then have a cocktail hour and dinner, spouses included. A special rate to stay at the Grand Californian would also be arranged. The tentative date is **Saturday, October 27th**.

We need your feedback. Please fill out the survey that was e-mailed to you or the card included with this newsletter. Please use the foundation envelope to send your thoughts back to us.

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## **Welcome Dr. Dan Grauer**

Dr. Dan Grauer is an Assistant Professor at the University of Southern California, Department of Orthodontics and an associate editor for the American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics.

He maintains a private practice in Century City, Los Angeles. He is trained and licensed in dentistry and orthodontics both in Europe and in the US. He holds a PhD degree in Oral Biology by the University of North Carolina.

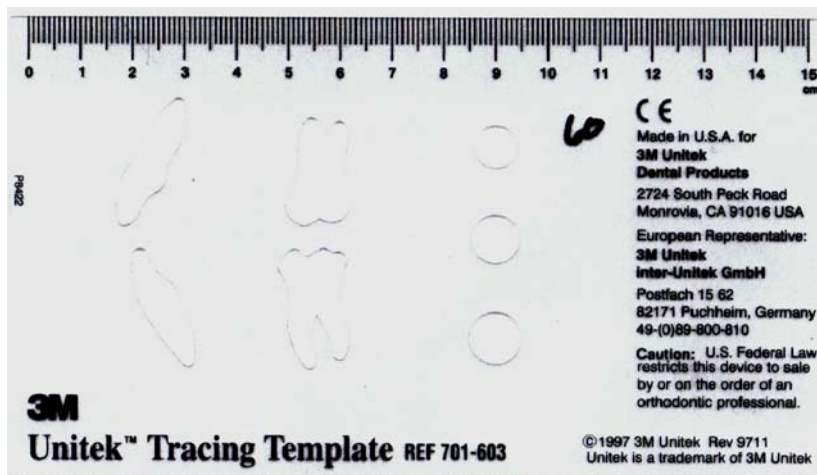
His interests are applications of CBCT in orthodontics and orthognathic surgery, outcomes assessment in lingual orthodontics interdisciplinary treatment planning, and increasing precision and accuracy in orthodontics through application of technology.



## Extra Unitek Tracing Templates Needed

You may not be aware, but Unitek has stopped manufacturing the 3M Unitek Tracing Template REF 701-603. The Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC uses these templates in their beginning cephalometric course. They are looking for anyone that is not using their templates. If you have one that you would be willing to donate, please send it to:

**Ralph Allman, DDS, MS**  
**USC Undergraduate Course Director**  
**925 W. 34th Street, Suite 312**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90089-0641**



## Welcome New Residents (Class of 2015)

We are pleased to welcome the following new orthodontic residents to USC. From left to right:

Dr. Christopher Myers	USC
Dr. Ryan Hungate	Purdue
Dr. Eric Budiman	NYU
Dr. Christopher Oviedo	UOP
Dr. Tamara Shamlan	NYU
Dr. Peter Vrontikis	USC



## Alumni Association Past Presidents

We are very proud to have Warren Schacter serving as the President of the Orthodontic Alumni Association this year. Good Luck Warren!!

There have been many Alumni Presidents over the years. Unfortunately, records of those individuals, that have served, have not been maintained. We are working with the Alumni Association to help identify Past Presidents, so that they can be recognized.

If you served or know who served as Alumni President in the past, please contact the DTOF office with that information. You can e-mail, call or write. Contact information can be found on the front of this newsletter.

Thank you for your help.

## 2012 Orthodontic Graduation

**Congratulations!**

### 2012 Graduates (L-R)

Dr. John Jerome  
Dr. Stefan Alexandroni  
Dr. George Abichaker  
Dr. Laura Harshbarger,  
Dr. Garrett Fong  
Dr. Michael Meru



*Photos Courtesy of  
Dr. John Jerome*





## 2012 Steiner/Sinclair Lecture



99 individuals attended  
the annual  
Steiner/Sinclair Lecture

January 13, 2012



*Photos Courtesy of  
Dr. John Jerome*

## SAVE THE DATE

*In cooperation with the USC Alumni Association  
we proudly announce the*

# Steiner/Sinclair Lecture

Friday, January 18, 2013  
8:00am - 5:00pm  
USC Davidson Conference Center  
Los Angeles, CA

***Watch for More Information Coming Soon!!***

## Department Update

by Dr. Glenn Sameshima



It is a great time for USC orthodontics! We graduated a great class, welcomed new faculty, enjoyed a wonderful Steiner lecture, and most of all, saw Dr. Tanaka finally achieve the recognition he so richly deserves. The event sponsored by the USC Friends of Dentistry and attended by the university president, Max Nikias, was the most heartwarming and moving event in the history of USC Orthodontics. Dr. T's speech was one for the ages.

We celebrated the graduation of a great class of residents, the class of 2012, in Palm Springs. Congratulations are in order for the newest members of the family: Drs John Jerome, Michael Meru, George Abichaker, Laura Harshbarger, Garrett Fong, and Stefan Alexandroni. Dr. Abichaker will be representing us at the AAO meeting in the resident research competition. The graduating seniors named Drs. Alice Shen and Saijai Peng the instructors of the year.

Dr. Dan Grauer is officially on board. Dan gave us a nice presentation at the Palm Springs meeting on imaging of models and lingual orthodontics. Dr. Grauer is in the clinic on Thursdays. He will be teaching a lot of courses and mentoring resident research projects. Dan and his wife Esther have settled in on the Westside and are already enjoying the Southern California lifestyle.

Next month we will be welcoming the class of 2015. Our future alumni are: Drs. Eric Budiman, Christopher Myers, Peter Vrontikis, Tamara Shamlian, Christopher Oviedo, and Ryan Hungate. This group brings a variety of background and experiences to the program including military service, employment in the technology sector, general practice residency, rural private practice, and more.

We continue to emphasize ABO preparation as an important component of the program. I am very pleased to announce that all graduate clinic orthodontic faculty are now board certified by exam. Recent grads Nicole Sakai, Donald Kwon, and Sam Lee (2011) passed the exam in February.

Since last summer we have enjoyed the company of three visiting scholars. Dr. JangHoon Ahn returned to head his orthodontic department in Korea in December. Dr. Andre Weissheimer from Brazil was here for a brief but extremely productive three months, and Dr. Maria Jin from Beijing, China completes her one year visit in September.

Dr Gregg Gechoff has taken a break from teaching and we wish him the best. Gregg made the long trip from San Diego to team teach with Dr. Paul Upatham on Thursdays with Rick McLaughlin for the last six years.

Bob Schacter was named our alumnus of the year - the video he showed explaining why he comes to school a little tardy was awesome. But really, how do you thank someone who has been volunteer teaching for nearly forty years? And it is not just the time but the incredible knowledge and skills he has given to the students. A well earned honor.

I want to thank the hard working staff we have in the orthodontic program: At our front desk, George Rosado has been with us for fifteen years, and Glenda Franco, twelve years. Our chief RDA, June Cromwell has been with us for twelve years. That's dedication! Victor Diaz has been a great addition in the front, and our talented RDAs are Helen Wong, Rosie Bermudez, and Gia Martinez. Our RDAs do a lot more than assist; at times they are counselor, teacher, parent, and life coach to a lot of the residents!

The profession and our program must remain strong so our students can enjoy the same success past generations have. Changing times mean adapting and anticipating change, and for us to keep our program moving forward we need your support! Thank you!