8 Reasons to Refer Students

Eight students share their appreciation for Palmer and honor the alumni who referred them.
Fall 2010

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Share your insights with us by mail at: Editor, Insights, Palmer College of Chiropractic, 1000 Brady Street, Davenport, IA 52803-5287; by phone at (563) 884-5416; by fax at (563) 884-5103; or by e-mail at marketing@palmer.edu.

Executive Director for Alumni  Mickey Burt, D.C.  Davenport ’73

Executive Director for Marketing and Public Relations  Darren Garrett, APR

Writer/Editor  Keith Poehlman

Designer  Bobbi Mongeau

Writers  Lori Leipold
Minda Powers-Douglas
Chuck Bustillos  (West Campus)
Ted Nikolla  (Florida Campus)

Photographer  Tim Richardson

Contributors  Teri Ray
Isaac Linstad
Jon Blaha
Dusty Hess
Lori Byrd
Shannon Cartee
Katie Hoyt
Mike Rekemeyer
Christine Beaudry

Operations Manager  Kim Kent

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on the cover  Palmer College students featured on the front cover and profiled in the cover story on page 14 are, clockwise from top left, Devin Brossard, Dusty Hess, Jenny Meckle, Garrett Neff, Josh Muffett, Vanessa Ransom (also shown above), Megan Thoma and Brittany Morrow.
a message from Dr. Burt

Referring: A natural part of being a D.C.

As a Palmer graduate, you have the ability to identify others who possess the skills necessary to become a chiropractor. They may be one of your patients, a student at a career fair or someone attending a health talk. It all starts by simply talking and listening to others, which is a natural part of being a D.C. For example, you may have students who are unsure of what they want to do after graduation. This is a perfect opportunity for you to plant the seeds for them to consider chiropractic and attending Palmer College. After all, Palmer College is The Trusted Leader in Chiropractic Education. Beginning on page 14, eight students share the important role alumni played in their decision to attend Palmer.

One of the most valuable benefits of referring a student is that you get to help select the quality of the individual who may one day be working in your community—whether in their own office down the road or as an associate in your practice. This simple act also helps ensure that when you retire, other chiropractors with the same conviction as yours will be there to continue the care of your patients and those that follow.

To learn how you can attract prospective students, contact the Alumni Office. We have all of the promotional materials you’ll need, including a PowerPoint presentation that explains chiropractic, the value of a Palmer education and the satisfaction that comes from being a chiropractor. We can also answer any referral questions you may have.

By referring a prospective student, you can play a big part in the preparation of the next generation of chiropractors and, in turn, help shape the future of chiropractic.

REFERRING MADE EASY

Please contact me about (check all that apply):

- Student recruiting materials
- PowerPoint Presentations
- How to host an open house
- Referral questions I have

Name _________________________________________ Address __________________________________________________

City, State/Province __________________________________________ Country___________ ZIP/Postal Code ___________

E-mail __________________________________________ Phone ________________________

Cut out and mail to: Alumni Office, Palmer College of Chiropractic, 1000 Brady Street, Davenport, IA  52803

Or e-mail your request to: alumni@palmer.edu
“Get in the boat, grab an oar and help us out.”

In his Aug. 14 closing session message to alumni and other Palmer Homecoming attendees, Chancellor Dennis Marchiori, D.C., Ph.D., Davenport ’90, outlined the need to leverage the full Palmer community in support of the College’s mission.

During the past nine months, Dr. Marchiori held listening sessions with small groups of students, faculty and staff on all three of Palmer’s campuses. He met with the Board of Trustees and talked to as many alumni, civic leaders and members of the community as he could find. Although he has spent more than 20 years with the College, Dr. Marchiori found these sessions to be enlightening and of significant value.

“I’ve gained an even deeper appreciation for those who make up our Palmer community and their diversity of thought,” he said. “I also experienced a common bond, a love for Palmer, and shared hopes and dreams that the College can advance its past trajectory of success toward even a brighter future.”

Dr. Marchiori also recognizes the many differences in thoughts, talents, genders, ethnicity, geography and roles that exist at the College.

“When it comes to building the Palmer community, I believe we win through addition, not subtraction; by being inclusive, not exclusive,” he said. “It’s clear that Palmer is many things to many people. But here is the tough part; I believe that Palmer cannot be everything to everyone. Our diversity is a strength, but only to the degree that we, as a diverse community, can focus on common goals.”

The Chancellor pointed out that everyone must be focused and engaged in order to leverage the power of the full Palmer community. That engagement, he clarified, is needed from everyone with the focus being the College’s mission of student learning and patient care, while advancing our work through research.

“We don’t need a series of brainstorming sessions to uncover Palmer’s mission and focus,” he said. “Our focus was established in 1897 when D.D. Palmer placed the word ‘school’ behind his name; thereby committing this organization to the primary focus of student learning.”

To illustrate the student-centered theme of his presentation, Dr. Marchiori showed multiple video clips of individuals along the milestones of their journey to, through and after Palmer College. The compelling video messages shared with the audience illustrated how Palmer impacted the lives of students and practitioners at various stages of their educational and professional careers. Their comments ranged from new students talking about Palmer providing a “life-changing opportunity” to late-career practitioners, like Don Casteel, D.C., Davenport ’51, talking about “renewal of the cycle” through the generations of his family who have decided to become chiropractors. The video segments concluded with Lorene Price Davenport, D.C., ’36, emphasizing the “feeling of family” that alumni have when they come back to Palmer.

Dr. Marchiori encouraged everyone in the Palmer community to join him in advancing the College mission and helping students through the milestones he illustrated. He invited everyone to “get in the boat, grab an oar, start rowing and help us out.”

He advanced his metaphor by saying, “if you don’t like the person you are sitting next to, move to another seat. It is a big boat. You must know you’re better off in our boat than in the water or in another boat.”

In the end, it comes down to creating solid connections between Palmer and its graduates, and from alumni back to their alma mater.

(continued on next page)
Unfortunately, there is a big barrier between our current students and alumni in practice,” he noted. “We can't have that. We must strengthen those connections. We can provide research and continuing education opportunities. In return, we need alumni engagement, information about the realities of practice, gifts and student referrals. Palmer is better with involved alumni.”

Dr. Marchiori then recognized Palmer’s dominant market share within chiropractic education.

“This is already a successful organization and I want to take it to the next level,” he said. “Even though Palmer has nearly 25 percent of the market, I’d like to see every prospective chiropractic student apply to Palmer first, before any other college. Keep in mind that we do not intend to accommodate all of these applicants, only the best. We’re only interested in selecting the high-impact students who develop into high-impact practitioners. The profession needs practitioners who have the philosophy, science and art that Palmer uniquely provides.”

Chiropractic loses a stalwart supporter:
Michael D. Pedigo, D.C.

The Palmer College of Chiropractic community was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Michael D. Pedigo, D.C., on Sunday, Oct. 10, 2010. Dr. Pedigo graduated from Palmer's Davenport Campus in 1969, and began practicing in the San Francisco Bay Area in 1970. He practiced in San Leandro, Calif., for the past 24 years. While he held many offices throughout his career, at the time of his death he was on the Board of Directors of the National Chiropractic Mutual Insurance Company (NCMIC), was a council member of the World Federation of Chiropractic, and a trustee of the National Chiropractic Anti-trust Committee.

Active in local, state, national and world chiropractic associations, Dr. Pedigo held two unique distinctions in the chiropractic profession. He was the only chiropractor to be elected president of the International Chiropractors Association (1985-88) as well as elected president of the American Chiropractic Association (1997-99). In addition, he was the only chiropractor in the history of the profession to be named Chiropractor of the Year (1991) by the ACA as well as Chiropractor of the Year (1988) by the ICA.

“It was my honor to enter the halls of Palmer College of Chiropractic to 'Learn How' with Mike,” said Palmer Board of Trustees Chairman Trevor Ireland, D.C. “We studied and played rugby together when the Palmer team was nationally ranked No. 1 ... beating Harvard, Notre Dame and others. Dr. Michael Pedigo graduated in 1969 and went ‘Forth to Serve,’ setting the 'gold standard' for Palmer graduates and the Chiropractic profession. Dr. Mike had an endless, determined passion to help others. He was honest to the core, a tower of strength and a kind and gentle person. His mission was to serve God, his family, country and the Chiropractic profession. Rest in eternal peace my dear friend and Chiropractic brother. I and countless others miss you, but your memory will live on forever.”

His numerous other awards and honors included the World Federation of Chiropractic Honor Award for Outstanding Service in 2005, Dynamic Chiropractic’s Man of the Year in 1988, being named a Fellow in the Palmer Academy of Chiropractic in 1986, a Fellow in the Palmer West Academy of Chiropractic in 1984 and a Fellow of the International Chiropractic Association in 1979. Dr. Pedigo was a participant in the 1992 Mercy Center Conference and co-author of the textbook, “Guidelines for Chiropractic Quality Assurance and Practice Parameters.”

Dr. Pedigo also was a plaintiff in the Wilk vs. AMA anti-trust lawsuit filed in 1976. The AMA was found guilty of illegally attempting to destroy a competitor in 1987 by Federal District Court Judge Susan Getzendanner. The AMA appealed the case, and in 1990, the Federal Court of Appeals upheld the Federal District Court decision.

“I would like to convey my condolences to Dr. Pedigo’s family, as well as the deep appreciation of everyone at Palmer College for his dedicated work over so many years as a leader with both common sense and vision for our profession,” said Palmer Board of Trustees Officer Vickie A. Palmer. “His positive approach to moving the chiropractic profession forward must be carried on by those of us he left behind.”
Branding Palmer for the Next Generation


For more than a century, statements like these have been used to describe Palmer College of Chiropractic. But this year, following the completion of a two-year market research study, the College is rolling out a new, more defined brand marker to its audiences:

Palmer College of Chiropractic: The Trusted Leader in Chiropractic Education.

“In today’s marketplace, we cannot simply rely on our heritage or our past accomplishments,” says Dennis Marchiori, D.C., Ph.D., chancellor. “We must claim the forward-thinking role that we aspire to hold. We must focus our efforts on being the trusted leader in what we do and that is, above all things, educating our students.”

GATHERING MARKET RESEARCH

In July 2008, Palmer College began working with an external market research firm to gather fresh information from prospective students, current students, faculty, staff, alumni and health-career advisors at undergraduate colleges and universities about their perceptions of chiropractic and, more specifically, Palmer.

Through surveys, interviews and focus groups at each campus, the research ultimately identified common descriptors that are currently associated with Palmer’s identity, as well as attributes desired to be associated with Palmer.

“This data provides clarity for our existing brand equity and reinforces our institutional mission,” says Dr. Marchiori. “That mission is focused on student education and clinical care, both of which are supported through our research efforts.”

Simply defined, the new brand represents how the academic excellence of our students, the success of our alumni, and the engaged and unified nature of our chiropractic community uniquely position Palmer College as The Trusted Leader in Chiropractic Education.

DEFINING THE BRAND

Palmer’s aspirational identity is shaped by three primary attributes:

- Academic Excellence
- Successful Graduates
- An Engaged and Unified Community

The first, Academic Excellence, demonstrates that Palmer College will consistently be known for the challenging curriculum and learning experiences on each campus. The faculty will be highly regarded for its credentials, scholarship and contributions to the profession, while students will be of high academic ability, promise and accomplishment.
Overall, the College will represent its commitment to the growth, development and preparation of the students.

The second attribute, Successful Graduates, reflects how our alumni are well positioned for success in advancing the profession, caring for patients, assuming leadership roles, and contributing to their communities and profession. The success of Palmer graduates will be a direct result of the academic excellence they experienced while at Palmer. These successful graduates will, in turn, help consistently express Palmer’s identity and counter misperceptions of the chiropractic profession.

“Certainly, our alumni have an outstanding track record for success,” says Darren Garrett, executive director for Marketing and Public Relations. “That can significantly influence a prospective student’s decision to choose Palmer, so we want to share as many of those stories as possible.”

The final aspect, An Engaged and Unified Community, reflects a shared commitment from students, faculty, staff and alumni toward the future of the institution. The College will help bridge information gaps through improved communication efforts. In doing so, all members of the institutional family will be able to work as a cohesive unit with a shared understanding of the College’s mission and vision.

While this means delivering a unified message about the College as a single institution, the Palmer brand also will recognize and emphasize the attributes of each of the three campuses.

“Building a strong brand means paying close attention to the experiences we create for our students, as well as the messages we deliver,” adds Mr. Garrett. “To be successful and live up to our aspirational brand, we must all learn how to consistently live the brand in everything we do and say.”

To bring this brand to life, the College initially unveiled a two-part campaign specifically targeting prospective students. The first phase was the launch of the new website in May of this year. In addition to an entirely new look, the site was redesigned to include enhanced navigation, greater interactivity and easier access to information. With related links to Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and many other resources, site users will be able to stay easily connected with Palmer College. While there is something for everyone, www.palmer.edu has a distinct focus on our efforts to attract the best and brightest students.

While the website was being developed, the College also was investing in a new series of communications pieces for use with prospective students. These materials provide a consistent representation of the Palmer brand and demonstrate the educational experiences and outcomes they can expect by attending one of the three Palmer campuses.

As mentioned, alumni stories will play a vital role in this process. A new brochure, “Stories of Success,” features 12 diversely successful Palmer graduates and how they are advancing the profession. If you have a success story you would like to share with prospective students, contact marketing@palmer.edu.

With those two efforts established, the College is initiating a comprehensive plan that will help create more global brand awareness by incorporating these key attributes into its marketing, advertising and communications activities. In the coming months, new resources and materials will become available for use as Palmer College applies its identity as The Trusted Leader in Chiropractic Education.
Seven new Fellows join the Palmer Academy of Chiropractic

The induction ceremony for seven new Fellows in the Palmer Academy of Chiropractic was a moving and inspiring part of the Alumni Luncheon during the Davenport Campus Homecoming. Executive Director for Alumni Mickey Burt, D.C., (at the podium above), Davenport Campus President Donald Kern, D.C., presided, with Vice Chancellor for Academics Robert Percuoco, D.C., and Palmer Board of Trustees Chairman Trevor Ireland, D.C., also participating. The seven new Fellows are, as shown above, from left to right, Anita Bigo, D.C., ’56; John Bottorff Sr., D.C., ’55; Michael Hahn, D.C., ’90; Barry McAlpine, D.C., ’71; Ian McLean, D.C., DACBR, ’79; Gary McLeod, D.C., ’81; Ronald Woods, D.C., ’68. All are Davenport Campus graduates.

Palmer College Special Event:
Join Palmer in Riviera Maya, Mexico!

FEBRUARY 27 – MARCH 4, 2011

Catch a quick flight down to beautiful Mexico for 5 nights/6 days on the Riviera Maya coast. Enjoy the luxury and flexibility of the all-inclusive Iberostar Paraiso Del Mar resort where activities and optional excursions abound. This resort is family-friendly and a perfect way to combine business with pleasure as you earn up to 12 hours of continuing education conveniently scheduled to maximize your vacation days. This event will also include a special Palmer reception and spouse/guest meet and greet opportunities. Gather your family and friends for this relaxing resort event that you won’t want to miss!

Continuing Education: Neuropathies in Clinical Practice (6 hours) Pediatric Conditions and Adjusting (6 hours) Jason Yusavage, D.C., D.I.C.C.P.

Call for pricing and to reserve your space today! General information and CE registrations:
Palmer CE Dept: (800) 452-5032
Resort reservations* and flights:
KDM Travel: (800) 779-6614

*Attendees must sign up in the Palmer block to be eligible for Palmer CE and other group events. Inclusion in the Palmer block supports the College and our ability to continue to offer travel options. Thank you!

Should you have a qualified disability that requires accommodation, please contact our office at least 10 working days prior to the seminar.

To register, call: (800) 452-5032 www.palmer.edu/ce
Putting our trust in the needs of our students

As a Palmer graduate, you probably have a lot of good memories of your time back at The Fountainhead. Maybe you remember the first adjustment you made, your first patient in the clinic or the day you walked across the stage with your diploma. But you may also remember having to spend a lot of time making every dollar count.

Recently, Vice Chancellor for Student Success Kevin Cunningham, D.C., Ph.D., Davenport ’88, told the story of a student who wanted to come to the U.S. specifically to attend Palmer College. She knew Palmer was, and is, the leader in chiropractic education. So she scrimped and saved and finally packed up and moved her young family to the Davenport Campus.

One day, her finances became scarce. Tough choices had to be made. She came to Dr. Cunningham to ask for help with finding funds to assist her through that tough time. Unfortunately, there was no good answer.

As the student walked away, Dr. Cunningham knew the last thing he could do was walk away from the student’s problems. So, he began to share her story with others. And when word reached the community’s Bechtel Trusts and Foundation, the organization came forward with a grant of $100,000 as a short-term solution. Now, the guidelines for giving such funds to students who urgently need them are being finalized.

The Trusts’ grant, however, obliges the College to create a long-term solution as well. So the grant was given as a challenge to the Palmer community to raise $300,000 to match the gift. That’s when banker and community leader John Anderson of Quad City Bank & Trust (QCB&T) asked if he could help. QCB&T then made a significant contribution and joined with the College to create the Palmer College Quad City Bank & Trust Endowed Scholarship Fund campaign to raise $300,000.

At this level of funding, the interest will provide approximately $15,000 each year for direct student aid, with the minimum for each award set at $5,000. Says Senior Development Officer Shelley Hammill, “As you can see, if this fund grows to $500,000, then $25,000 will be available to students each year. And this is where Palmer alumni can step forward to help our students.”

“Our goal is about so much more than dollars,” she says. “It asks the question, ‘How many students can we help each year?’”

You can help Palmer students like the one in this story by making a gift to the Palmer College Quad City Bank & Trust Endowed Scholarship Fund. Your support can mean the difference between a student walking away from their dreams, or allowing that same student the ability to pursue their dreams to the fullest.

FAST FACT: Palmer College offers grants and scholarships that recognize outstanding academic performance and extracurricular contributions. Institutional scholarships are made available through donations or internally generated funds and are administered by the Scholarship Committee.
“I wonder what would happen if we gave ourselves permission in this profession to do something extraordinary,” said John Demartini, D.C., during the Homecoming Opening Session on the Davenport Campus. “We are sitting here today because of one man [D.D. Palmer] taking an action step. What would happen if everyone here took an action step like that?”

Dr. Demartini is a popular speaker on human behavior and personal development. He told the audience that as a student he “fell in love with the philosophy, art and science of chiropractic.”

“The highest priority thing we can do [as chiropractors] is to share what we can offer people,” said Dr. Demartini. “I like to think of chiropractic as a science of love—that we help people physically to feel better spiritually. Our job is to have a higher degree of certainty in locating, prioritizing and adjusting subluxations.”

Dr. Demartini noted Parkinson’s Law, which states that any space in time that you don’t fill with high priority things gets filled with low priority things. So it is important, he noted, that we find what is meaningful and focus on that.

“Many chiropractors do not give themselves the permission to be leaders,” he said. “Your success is not in just how many patients you see each day, but how many seeds you plant, how many people you inspire. It isn’t possible to know the ramifications of the effect an adjustment will have on someone.”

Special delivery: Author motivates with stories of dedicated postman

Mr. Sanborn stressed that a continuing desire to learn can help all of us to transform the ordinary and make it extraordinary. He illustrated this by highlighting some of the conversations he’s had with a postal carrier named Fred, whose passion for his job is exceeded only by the compassion he feels for his customers.

Mr. Sanborn recalled that within days of moving into his first home, he was welcomed to the neighborhood by Fred, the man who inspired the bestseller “The Fred Factor.”

“I can’t ever recall getting an introduction from a postal carrier,” said Mr. Sanborn, adding that Fred even offered to use the speaker’s travel schedule to determine which days to deliver his mail and which days to save it. Fred’s concern was that Mr. Sanborn’s mail would pile up and signal to burglars that no one was at home.

“A professional is someone who cares more about you than you do,” the author said. “Fred, he’s the postal professional.”

Mr. Sanborn stressed that we can acquire some of the skills of the Freds of the world by following four principles: make a real difference every day, build strong relationships, create value for others without spending any additional money, and constantly reinvent ourselves.

Mr. Sanborn closed by urging members of the audience to gain a healthy appreciation for their work. Said the speaker, “I hope you love what you do. If you do, then you’re already a Fred.”
Palmer Night scores big with prospective students

As part of Homecoming’s Prospective Student Event (PSE), Palmer Night at the Quad Cities River Bandits brought 80 people interested in attending Palmer College’s Davenport Campus to Modern Woodmen Park, accompanied by their guests, for a total of 165 people. Current students, alumni and employees also attended the game between the home team and the Wisconsin Rattlers.

“Events like these are important not only for prospective students, but also for alumni, faculty, and staff,” says Campus Visit Coordinator Angie O’Tool. “It is great for our alumni to see that we are working hard to bring more quality people into the profession and keep Palmer standing strong as The Trusted Leader in Chiropractic Education.”

Alumni also joined in on the evening’s fun by attending the Reunion Years Celebration, which was open to graduates celebrating 5, 10, 15 and other five-year milestone reunions. It allows alumni to renew old acquaintances and enjoy Homecoming in a relaxed setting.

Ms. Tara Koeckritz, left, had the winning ticket for a $1,000 tuition voucher. The voucher was presented to her by Senior Director for Admissions Karen Eden at the Palmer Night pre-game PSE party. PSE guests Eric Webb and John Manci also won $1,000 vouchers during Homecoming.

Maternity leave and the chiropractic practice

Juggling motherhood and a career is tough enough, but what if you’re a chiropractor and need to take maternity leave? Who cares for your patients in your absence? According to Barbara Read, D.C., Davenport ’97, who is the sole chiropractor at her clinic, used networking to help her out. While teaching a NUCCA elective at Palmer, she met a doctor who wanted to learn the technique.

“I agreed to let her shadow me and hone her skills with NUCCA in exchange for covering my maternity leave,” says Dr. Read.

Another chiropractor, Laura Avitt, D.C., Davenport ’04, was working as an associate at the time of her pregnancy. While she stayed home with her daughter for three-and-a-half weeks, the doctor who owned the clinic covered for her.

“There are always patients who won’t see anybody but you,” says Dr. Avitt. “They were aware that I was going to be off for a few weeks once the baby was born, so some waited for my return.”

After maternity leave, both mothers took their babies to the office with them. “I always wanted to have a practice where I could bring my child with me,” says Dr. Read. “Since it was a new practice, while hiring my receptionist, I explained that childcare may be in her job description so she knew it before she took the job.”

Dr. Avitt found that her patients enjoyed being around her baby and often offered to hold her when she got fussy. They were also disappointed not to see her anymore after she started daycare.

“The most important thing is to communicate with your patients,” says Dr. Avitt. “Let them know how much time you plan to take. Keep them informed while you are on maternity leave via your staff, blog or your website.”

For more about chiropractor moms, get the whole story at www.palmer.edu/Palmer/Pages/NewsAndEvents.aspx
Rugby Club celebrates 50 years of Palmer rugby at Homecoming

Rugby alumni at the Homecoming 2010 Opening Session included, left to right, Davenport Campus graduates Willie Kindred, D.C., ’72; Roy McCallum, D.C., ’71; and Fred Schofield, D.C., ’81.

Rugby jerseys were a common sight at this year’s Davenport Campus Homecoming as about 120 former players returned to The Fountainhead to celebrate 50 years of Palmer rugby. The celebration began with a social Wednesday evening. It was hosted by Kurt Burbach, D.C., Davenport ’86, and his wife, Tina, and sponsored by the Palmer Rugby Alumni.

Says Dr. Burbach, “We had 50-plus years of Palmer College at Lindsay Park Yacht Club enjoying fellow classmates, teammates and one another in a fun format learning together and, better yet, learning from the future of our profession, the Palmer student, represented honorably and quite professionally by the young men and women who comprise the Palmer Rugby Program.”

During Thursday morning’s general session, Chancellor Dennis Marchiori, D.C., Ph.D., recognized the rugby alumni in attendance—all sporting their jerseys—and introduced a video commemorating 50 years of Palmer rugby.

“The Palmer Rugby Alumni, after spending the week celebrating the 50th anniversary at Palmer, had one common thing to say about their support of the College: ‘I am all in,’” says J. Hartley, D.C., Davenport ’92, and president of the Palmer Rugby Alumni group. “As a group we look forward to supporting both academics and athletics at Palmer for the next 50 years, and completing our mission of spreading the word of chiropractic through athletic excellence.”

There were about 240 people at the Davenport RiverCenter for Friday evening’s rugby banquet. Highlights were announcements of support for the Palmer Rugby Program from Standard Process and Health MD, along with a $10,000 first-year commitment and a long-term challenge commitment from Dr. Kurt and Tina Burbach. The Palmer Rugby Alumni organization has entered into a partnership with Palmer for a three-year, $300,000 commitment to the College’s academic/hardship scholarship fund.

During the banquet, Palmer rugby blazers were presented to the 2010 Men’s Rugby Final Four team, the first-ever Palmer rugby team was recognized and the All-decades Team members were announced.

“When I came to Palmer College in 1967, I was blessed to play for the Palmer Rugby Club, which had been developed by one of my mentors, Dr. David Palmer, only a few years prior,” said Palmer Board of Trustees Chairman Trevor Ireland, D.C., at the banquet. “My success on the field—and the success of so many others who excelled as players during those early years—came as a result of the leadership and guidance of Dr. Tom Louw, (Davenport, ’65) our first rugby coach. Coach Louw will forever be a hero to those who played under him.”

On Saturday, the Palmer rugby team played a home game against a team from Cedar Rapids, which they won 70-0 in front of several hundred fans. Says Palmer Athletic Director Ron O’Brien, “I’m always amazed at the camaraderie of this group of alumni and their devotion to chiropractic and Palmer College.”
Dr. Kern’s 50 years at The Fountainhead

When Donald P. Kern, D.C., Davenport ’58, joined the Clinic faculty at Palmer College in 1960, Dr. B.J. Palmer was still president of the College. Then in 1961, B.J. passed away, and his son, Dr. David Palmer, became president. Little did Dr. Kern know then that he would one day take the place of his mentor, Dr. Dave, at the helm of Palmer.

In June 2010, Dr. Kern celebrated 50 years of continuous service to the College, not only as faculty clinician and later, president, but through nearly every role in between. He has been clinic director, Technique Department faculty member, director of Admissions, chairman of the Technique Department, dean of Continuing Education, assistant to the president, vice president for Student Affairs and executive vice president.

Dr. Kern was named interim president of Palmer College in 1987 before becoming president in 1988—but he’s never stopped teaching. After serving six years as president, he stepped down to return to full-time teaching in the Technique Department in 1994. Then in 2001, Dr. Kern was asked to serve as senior campus administrator at the new Florida Campus. He returned to the Davenport Campus in 2004 as interim president before becoming president in 2005 for an unprecedented second time.

A third-generation member of a five-generation chiropractic family, Dr. Kern says that teaching students is one of the main reasons he still enjoys coming to work in the morning. He also gets great satisfaction from “helping Palmer stay number one” and “the great people here—students, staff and faculty.”

The president’s regard for the people he works with is mutual. Florida Campus President Peter Martin, D.C., Davenport ’68, who has also served as president of the West Campus, says, “Don has always exemplified to me the very best qualities of a teacher: kindness and compassion. Don is both the consummate chiropractor and the consummate college president. It has been, and continues to be, my privilege to know him and to work with him.”

Jennaleigh McInley, D.C., Davenport ’10, who once served as president of the Student Council, sees Dr. Kern as a role model. “He is always willing to lend a helping hand and truly wants to see each and every student at Palmer succeed, and have a great time doing it!” she says.

Reflecting on his time at Palmer, Dr. Kern believes his legacy will have to do with financial stability, and the College’s identity—namely helping to craft the Palmer Tenets, starting the President’s Club and strengthening the College endowment. “Our endowment has grown from about $6 million in 1987 to around $30 million today,” he says. “The one thing that will guarantee the perpetuity of this institution is a strong endowment fund.”

“The one thing that will guarantee the perpetuity of this institution is a strong endowment fund.”

“On behalf of the College, we recognize and thank Dr. Kern for his five decades of work,” says Dr. Dennis Marchiori. “On a personal level, I admire Don for his student focus, strength, stability and patience.”

Of the many lessons Dr. Kern has learned over the years, he believes the most important one is that “it takes a team to be a successful college. You can’t do it yourself,” he says. “I think I’ve been able to show people that we’re all in this together, and to encourage them to strive together to make it work.”

Find the latest graduation stories and photos at www.palmer.edu/graduations
Alumnus among three D.C.s now at overseas military bases

Dr. Reggie Clifton opened a chiropractic clinic at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Okinawa, Japan, in July 2010. He is one of three chiropractors who, in 2010, became the first D.C.s ever to practice at overseas U.S. military bases.

Reggie Clifton, D.C., Davenport '87, got his first taste of caring for active duty military personnel in 2003 when he started a five-year stint at Offutt Air Force base near Omaha, Neb. He was one of two contracted chiropractors at Offutt, which was part of a Department of Defense (DoD) pilot program that offered on-base chiropractic care to military personnel. Other Davenport Campus graduates who have worked at Offutt include Drs. Greg Lillie, ’88, Jason Christenson, ’97, and Derrick Eichstadt, ’97.

“I worked primarily for the Air Force there,” Dr. Clifton recalls, “from pilots to flight surgeons, kids with one stripe to two-star generals, and everyone in between.” He adds that they are the “most appreciative people” he’s ever met.

“Taking care of a clinician who had been on their feet all day, Kinesio taping a pilot before a long flight and addressing acute low back pain caused by lifting a tire, were all in a day’s work,” he says.

Dr. Clifton credits a number of Palmer graduates for the increasing availability of chiropractic care in the military, including colleague Dr. Lillie as well as Bill Morgan, D.C., West ’85.

In 2008, Dr. Clifton left Offutt to open a private practice in West Des Moines, Iowa. In time, he realized he still felt drawn back to the military program. Then in 2009, he learned that the federal government was about to add more D.C. positions at a group of military bases and Veterans Health Administration facilities. One of those positions was at the Naval Hospital in Okinawa, Japan.

“When the Okinawa position was first posted, I didn’t really give much thought to applying for it,” he says. “To this day I probably wouldn’t have pursued it if not for my wife’s encouragement.”

After applying and being selected, Dr. Clifton received his orders and proceeded to open a clinic at Camp Foster in July 2010. In accepting this position, he joined two other chiropractors who, in 2010, became the first chiropractors ever to provide chiropractic care at an overseas U.S. military base. The two other chiropractors now practice in Germany.

At Camp Foster, Dr. Clifton’s patients include active duty men and women of all branches of service. His clinic operates under the physical therapy/occupational therapy clinic command. While patients are initially referred to the base’s chiropractic facilities by primary practitioners, all physicians within the hospital are able to freely refer their patients to other healthcare providers.

“I have the full support of my fellow healthcare workers using the referral process,” says Dr. Clifton, who can recommend his patients undergo further testing, such as X-rays, CT scans, MRIs and labs.

He also can refer patients to other specialists, such as orthopedic physicians, neurologists and physical therapists.

“This is what attracted me to the DoD,” says Dr. Clifton. “We all know why we are here, and that is to keep the men and women of our armed forces battle ready. It’s no different than private practice, except these patients lay their lives on the line everyday for the rest of us.”

“Just last week in the Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Team Clinic, a Master Chief of 20-plus years in the service noted in front of a dozen other younger active duty personnel, ‘You don’t know how lucky you are to have chiropractic available.’ He added that when he was younger, they didn’t have the things that are offered today to help them do their job. That, my friend, is a testimony.”

FAST FACT Palmer College has academic affiliations with the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Through internships, Palmer students have the opportunity to improve clinical skills, care for patients who often face severe physical challenges or have complex healthcare needs, and gain experience working in a multidisciplinary health environment.
Journey to Solidarity: The cycle of giving

Jay Breitlow, D.C., Davenport ’08

As part of the Journey to Solidarity program, Dr. Breitlow, left, drove to northern Ghana to provide care to orphans, most of whom were HIV positive. On each commute, he’d see this family selling handmade drums and rattles to make their living.

Journey to Solidarity, or J2S, as we affectionately call it, was founded to allow people around the world to experience the miracles of chiropractic. When I was a student at Palmer, I knew that Clinic Abroad had made several trips to Madagascar, but I wondered if there was a way to continue chiropractic care there after our students had left. Due to a civil war, I never made it to Madagascar. Instead, I found myself in Ghana, West Africa, facing people who were very much in need of some healing hands.

One person who left a lasting impression on me was a brilliant carpenter named Eraldo. When I met Eraldo, he was clutching his side, doubled over with an ice pack, and had to be helped into a chair by two of his employees. I was still pretty green when I adjusted him and a little shocked when he screamed, and even more shocked when he came into the office solo and upright the next day. It’s a beautiful reminder of how grateful I am for chiropractic.

The biggest challenges I had in getting J2S up and running were financial because I had to communicate to the masses at home to raise money while I was living abroad. Just one post on the Internet can take the better part of a whole day, and that is assuming the lights are on! If it weren’t for scores of great people making donations to J2S, I wouldn’t have been able to go for the first year at all.

The biggest educational benefit I received from J2S was discerning the difference between service and sacrifice. Rarely do we adjust people in the states without collecting a fee for our services. In Africa, I was rarely reimbursed except under special circumstances.

After about five months sacrificing (not serving), I realized that this gift we have in chiropractic loses its value when it’s free. When I began setting an expectation that people donate something in return (essentially giving them permission to give and complete the cycle of giving), the adjustment was magnified ten-fold in its power! It didn’t have to be a big donation—even something small like a piece of fruit or a few cents—gave more meaning to the experience. Then I took all those earnings and pumped them back into community schools, hospitals and scholarships!

Although living in Africa is relatively inexpensive, maintaining a life as a chiropractor and keeping family ties isn’t. After two years, I realized I was going to have to work on grant writing to get more funding for J2S. However, after spending what felt like a millennium writing grant requests, the J2S board and I realized that we were going to have to do something else to continue our mission. We decided I needed to raise money by running my own practice back in the U.S. to sustain my own life and my familial relationships. Now that I’m in the U.S. again, $20 of each new patient visit to our practice, as well as the practice’s of some of my colleagues, goes directly to J2S.

If you have a desire to provide chiropractic care to people in need, be sure you give permission to complete the cycle of giving. What you have is a miracle to share and should be treated as such. This miracle grows in strength and value beyond measure when you set it on the wings of service, not sacrifice.

FAST FACT The Palmer Clinic Abroad Program, began as a single trip 15 years ago. It has grown to 12-15 trips per year to developing countries around the world.
8 Reasons to Refer Students

The eight students featured in this article are typical Palmer students. They’re passionate about chiropractic, dedicated to earning the world’s most valuable chiropractic degree, and focused on using that degree to give people the quality of chiropractic care that only a Palmer graduate can provide. They’re also grateful for the alumni who referred them to Palmer.

1. Josh Muffett

From Paleontology to Palmer

Growing up, Josh Muffett knew he was going to study bones, but he thought he’d be digging them up instead of palpating them.

“I actually always wanted to go into archeology or paleontology,” says the Davenport Campus 8th Trimester student. “But in high school I gained an interest in physical fitness and nutrition. As I began to learn what chiropractic was and how its philosophy was based on holistic healing, I found it resonated with my idea of how health care should be.”

Josh was introduced to chiropractic by his parents, who sent him to William Dye, D.C., Davenport ’75, after he dislocated his shoulder.

“Dr. Dye told me to go to Palmer because it’s ‘the Cadillac of chiropractic schools,’” says Josh. “Since he told me that, I never really bothered investigating any other schools—I only set my eyes on Palmer. And I am glad I did. I am so grateful to know Dr. Dye, and that he steered me in the right direction.”

2. Garrett Neff

Patient, Friend and Colleague

When Garrett Neff was an undergrad, he wanted to pursue a medical degree with a specialization in orthopedics. That changed after he had a serious diving accident and Gary Saito, D.C., West ’84, assisted him with his recovery and rehabilitation.

“Dr. Saito treated me as a patient, friend, and once I became interested in chiropractic, he treated me as a colleague,” he says.

After Dr. Saito introduced him to chiropractic, Garrett felt that chiropractic offered “a much more direct route to working with athletes with a focus on musculoskeletal, rehab and functional training” than medicine. He also took Dr. Saito’s advice and enrolled at the West Campus, in part because of its strong sports chiropractic program.

“My first Sports Council event was literally my first weekend in the 1st Quarter, and I’ve never slowed down,” says Garrett, who has kept Dr. Saito up to date on his accomplishments throughout his time at Palmer.

“Without his positive direction and kind heart, I wouldn’t have had someone to look up to so highly, and my future career in chiropractic may have never been,” he says.

Palmer alumni share an uncommon commitment to Palmer students. By offering mentoring, preceptorships and networking opportunities, alumni help current students launch their careers.
3. **Devin Brossard**  
**Davenport Campus**  
**6th Trimester**

Given His Life Back to Help Others

While in high school, Devin Brossard was in a roll-over car accident that left him in so much pain, he was unable to play sports and his grades plummeted. After six months of pain pills and muscle relaxers, he was taken to Elaine Stout, D.C., Davenport ’81, who helped him not only feel better, but get better.

“He said because I was outgoing, played sports and was health conscious, that maybe chiropractic would be a good career for me,” she says. She followed his advice and is now a student at the Florida Campus.

It was during a prospective student event hosted by Dr. Weinstein that Brittany came to the same conclusion as her doctor. By the time the gathering was over, three of his guests made the decision to enroll at Palmer, one of whom was Brittany.

“I would definitely recommend Palmer to others. I like the curriculum and the fact that you get hands-on experience from the very beginning,” Brittany says. “If I had to do it over again I would make the same decision.”

4. **Brittany Morrow**  
**Florida Campus**  
**9th Quarter**

Volleyball Player Gets An Assist From Alum

When Brittany Morrow was an undergrad at Pennsylvania’s Waynesburg University, her chiropractor, Gary Weinstein, D.C., Davenport ’83, once told her he thought she’d make an excellent chiropractor.

“He said because I was outgoing, played sports and was health conscious, that maybe chiropractic would be a good career for me,” she says. She followed his advice and is now a student at the Florida Campus.

It was during a prospective student event hosted by Dr. Weinstein that Brittany came to the same conclusion as her doctor. By the time the gathering was over, three of his guests made the decision to enroll at Palmer, one of whom was Brittany.

“I would definitely recommend Palmer to others. I like the curriculum and the fact that you get hands-on experience from the very beginning,” Brittany says. “If I had to do it over again I would make the same decision.”

5. **Dusty Hess**  
**Davenport Campus**  
**9th Trimester**

Having a Good Ear for the Right Career

Before enrolling at Palmer, Dusty Hess was a musician, producer and audio engineer in L.A. But the music industry’s lack of stability made him uneasy. Then he reflected on how his father, a chiropractor, had always managed to provide for his family and, in his own words, “help people and change lives.”

While his dad—a non-Palmer grad—influenced Dusty’s decision to become a chiropractor, his father’s colleague, Chuck Gibson, D.C., Davenport ’55, steered him toward Palmer College. As head of Gibson Management Consultants, Dr. Gibson has served as a personal coach and mentor to chiropractors, and prospective chiropractic students, for more than 30 years.

Dr. Gibson told Dusty, “There’s no other school that will give you the chiropractic education than Palmer College. I’ll get you set up with a tour.”

Dusty strongly believes that Palmer is preparing him “philosophically and clinically to be the best chiropractic provider in the market.” He adds, “It’s helping me to formulate what I do, how I do it and why.”
6. Megan Thoma

**West Campus**

**8th Quarter**

Chiropractic is Part of the Game Plan

When Megan Thoma and her brothers were growing up in Michigan, sports were a big part of their lives, and so was their chiropractor, Jeffrey Buller, D.C., Davenport ’82. “I have no doubt that chiropractic not only helped all of us with our athletic performance but our overall health growing up,” she says.

“He was able to spark my interest in the field of chiropractic early, and through the years was able to model what a wonderful and rewarding profession chiropractic could be,” she says of Dr. Buller.

Today, Megan is at Palmer on the recommendation of Dr. Buller. Although she chose to do her studies at the West Campus, two time zones away from her lifelong chiropractor, Megan is confident that he will be there for her as she progresses through her chiropractic educational experience.

“I am certain that Dr. Buller will continue to give me all the support he can with my chiropractic career path,” she says.

7. Vanessa Ransom

**Davenport Campus**

**5th Trimester**

An Easy Choice

Vanessa Ransom says her interest in chiropractic began at a very early age. “In a way, I think chiropractic chose me.”

As a child, Vanessa had debilitating migraines that kept her home from school. Then her mother began to take her to a chiropractor and, according to Vanessa, she hasn’t had a major migraine since.

8. Jenny Meckle

**Florida Campus**

**4th Quarter**

Family Ties

Generations of chiropractors coming from the same family is nothing new to Palmer. As it turns out, it’s nothing new to the Meckle family, either. Sandra Conard, D.C., and her husband, Joseph Meckle, D.C., both graduated from the Davenport Campus in 1983. Today their children, Josh, 12th Quarter, and Carly and Jenny, both 4th Quarter, are all students at the Florida Campus.

When Jenny was 10, she became another one of her parents’ patients on account of a problem she developed with her hip. They also helped her with the customary sprained knees and ankles she got from playing high school and college sports.

“My parents treated a lot of my teammates,” says Jenny. “I think it helped us be more effective players.” She would grow to appreciate the fact that chiropractic health care focuses on preventive and non-invasive care.

“I looked at other colleges and realized that Palmer was the way to go,” she says. “Coming from a chiropractic family you experience the benefits of chiropractic early on and learn to trust it.”
More Good Reasons to Refer Students to Palmer

- The Palmer Center for Chiropractic Research is the world’s largest institutional research facility, garnering more than $30 million, mostly from federal sources such as the National Institutes of Health and the Health Resources and Services Administration.

- The student loan default rate for graduates of all three Palmer campuses is 1% or less.

- Through the Clinic Abroad Program, Palmer students gain hands-on skills and an expanded view of the world.

- With 26,000 graduates, Palmer College has the largest chiropractic alumni network in the world.

**Here’s How to Keep Palmer at the Head of the Class**

**Do you know someone you’d like to refer?**
Contact the Admissions Office:

Davenport Campus:
(800) 722-3648 / admissions.ia@palmer.edu

West Campus:
(866) 303-7939 / admissions.ca@palmer.edu

Florida Campus:
(866) 585-9677 / admissions.fl@palmer.edu

**Would you like more information on referring?**
Contact the Alumni Office:
(800) 722-2586, Ext. 3 / alumni@palmer.edu
West Campus reaches 30-year anniversary

September 18, 2010, marked a milestone moment in the history of Palmer’s West Campus—the 30-year anniversary of becoming Palmer College of Chiropractic’s branch campus in California.

The anniversary was recognized in special ceremonies on campus, and at this year’s West Campus Homecoming. In addition, an updated history display was introduced, with new images and information of the past five years.

Founded in 1978 as Northern California College of Chiropractic (NCCC), on Sept. 18, 1980, it was located in a former junior high school campus in Sunnyvale and was renamed Palmer College of Chiropractic West. Its first commencement ceremony graduated 37 students on Sept. 19, 1981.

With enrollment climbing, in 1989 the West Campus expanded to a second former junior high school campus in Santa Clara. The timing of the move is memorable because it barely preceded the 7.1 Loma Prieta earthquake in the Bay Area and around the time the West Campus was host to the World Congress of Chiropractic Students.

In 1993, the West Campus consolidated its two-campus structure and moved to its current home, in San Jose, where the College has played an active role in the community with such civic organizations as the Silicon Valley Leadership Group and the San Jose Chamber of Commerce.

“I was a student at Palmer’s West Campus 30 years ago, and I find it simply hard to believe that three decades have passed so quickly,” says West Campus President Bill Meeker, D.C., M.P.H., a 1982 West Campus alumnus. “From humble beginnings, Palmer’s West Campus graduates have made a major difference, and they will continue to make the difference as the profession moves into the future.”

Paul Peterson, D.C., Davenport ’67, was a founding member of the Palmer West Board of Trustees and continues to serve as a Palmer College Board member. “I’ve been associated with this campus since the beginning, so when you see the campus reach its 30-year anniversary, you feel much like a proud parent,” he says.

“Through the years, the students on the West Campus have built a strong reputation for the school through its involvement and leadership in various areas, such as its Sports Council, research, and political associations, and this spirit of leadership and involvement has carried over with many of its graduates.”

Says Judith Thurber, D.C., the president of the first Palmer West Alumni Association and a 1981 graduate, “When we planted the seed as NCCC, we did so with the hope that the seed would take root, and those who would follow would continue to cultivate this dream and vision of building the premier chiropractic college with the same degree of love, spirit and commitment.”

The result of this dedication can be witnessed throughout the world. Palmer’s West Campus has now graduated more than 4,000 doctors who practice in more than 30 countries.

West Campus Professor Arlene Luckock, D.C., whose association with the institution dates back to October of 1979, looks back wistfully at those early days. “When we became Palmer West in 1980, I remember crying at our first graduation; I was so amazed that we had actually come to that point,” she says.

“I thought I was getting ‘hi-tech’ when I went from writing on the chalkboard, to using an overhead projector. Now, I have even figured out PowerPoint. What will the next thirty years bring to the West Campus? One can only imagine.”
More than 150 guests were part of the West Campus Prospective Student Event (PSE) on Saturday, July 10, making it the most well-attended PSE on the Tasman location of the West Campus. The group included 55 prospective students from the U.S. and Canada, many of whom were referred by Palmer alumni. By the end of the day, 37 of them had formally submitted applications to enroll.

The morning portion of the PSE program featured presentations from West Campus President Bill Meeker, D.C., West '82, M.P.H., and West Campus Director of Student Enrollment Julie Behn, as well as other members of the Admissions and Financial Aid departments.

PSE guests had a chance to see the inside of an anatomy lab and try hands-on projects during the Interactive Classroom Experience. This included presentations by members of the West Campus administration and faculty, including: Makani Lew, D.C., '91, (Palpation); Thomas Milus, D.C., Davenport '82, (Clinic); Kenneth Courtney, D.C., (Spinal Anatomy); and Thomas Souza, D.C., (Differential Diagnosis).

The PSE program also included presentations by representatives from various West Campus clubs, including the Sports Council. Other highlights of the event were a barbecue lunch and campus tours provided Campus Guides.

“I experienced such a high level of enthusiasm from everyone who attended the PSE,” said Dr. Meeker. “Not only was it the largest student recruitment event held on the West Campus for many years, it went far beyond my expectations, in terms of faculty and staff participation as well as for the pride I felt in our institution. Palmer clearly is The Trusted Leader in Chiropractic Education, and we demonstrated it. The feedback from prospective students and their families was very gratifying.”
Alum’s CPR saves infant’s life in role as Santa Clara deputy

Santa Clara County Deputy Rick Chaeff, D.C., center, was honored on Aug. 21, by the San Jose Board of Supervisors and the Santa Clara County Society of the California Chiropractic Association, for saving the life of baby Isys Brown. She is seen here being held by grandmother Maria Adelman. Also attending the event was mother Bernice Brown, right.

While Rick Chaeff, D.C., West ’87, is a deputy with the Santa Clara Sheriff’s Department, he also continues to practice chiropractic. In June of 2010, he drew on his devotion to helping others by saving the life of a 17-day-old infant.

The incident occurred after the baby’s mother and grandmother, who had been racing to the nearest hospital to take the infant, spotted Dr. Chaeff’s police car outside a restaurant. After the grandmother ran in and cried for help, Dr. Chaeff performed CPR several times. Fortunately, on the fifth attempt, Dr. Chaeff was able to get her breathing again before she was rushed to the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center.

“It’s obviously terrifying when you have a two-week-old infant in your arms, and it was a bit wild for a while; but it worked out as well as it could have,” says Dr. Chaeff, who has served as tactical medical team leader of the Santa Clara County Sheriff’s Emergency Response Team since 1997.

On August 21, the San Jose Board of Supervisors and the Santa Clara County Society of the California Chiropractic Association (CCA) honored Dr. Chaeff’s dedication to helping others.

“The life-saving effort that Dr. Chaeff performed, highlights not only his personal expertise, but also the high level of education and professional training that a Doctor of Chiropractic receives,” said Robert Chatfield, D.C., a 1983 West Campus alumnus and alternate director of the local CCA chapter. Also attending were West Campus alumni and CCA officers Brad Kobsar, D.C., ’95, and Stacey Adams-Hammond, ’02, in the award presentation.

He also was praised by a teary-eyed Maria Adelman, the grandmother of the infant (Isys Brown). “I am so grateful,” she said. “A thousand thank-yous or words in the dictionary won’t be enough,” said Ms. Adelman. “People say there are angels here on Earth, and there are.”

“I didn’t know anything about chiropractic before the incident, and obviously I didn’t know (Dr. Chaeff) was a chiropractor when we saw the patrol car, and stopped,” said the baby’s mother, Bernice Brown. “But what I do know now is that his training helped save my baby’s life.”

“It was an honor to receive the award from the Board of Supervisors, but I’m equally honored to be recognized by my chiropractic peers,” says Dr. Chaeff. As a Palmer alumnus and former instructor at the West Campus, I’m forever ‘true to my school,’ and my alma mater will always be an important part of my education and life.”

As a faculty member from 1987 to 1997, Dr. Chaeff taught an emergency procedures course, certifying nearly 1,000 students in CPR. By last summer, he’d performed CPR several times—but never on an infant, nor under such stressful conditions. He also provides chiropractic care for police officers and members of the San Jose Ballet Company.

“If students learn anything from my experience, I hope they see what a great education that Palmer provides in preparing its students for the clinical challenges they will see in practice,” says Dr. Chaeff.
Third building coming to Florida Campus; Clinic remodeling progressing

The Florida Campus of Palmer College of Chiropractic is growing … again. The Palmer Board of Trustees has approved a plan to construct a two-story, 14,000-square-foot building with a budget of $4 million. The new building will significantly expand support services for the campus’ nearly 750 students. Construction is expected to begin in early 2011, following approvals by the City of Port Orange.

This campus-improvement plan is a response to growing functional needs. The last time the campus was expanded was in October 2004, when construction was completed on a second classroom building to address the growing student body’s needs.

The new facility, tentatively referred to as Building Three, will provide flexible room formats suitable for student assemblies, large group seating, final examination testing, Homecoming activities and other campus events. It also will accommodate a relocated and expanded food service area, and the Bookstore.

“Realigning and expanding our space on campus, as well as in our clinic, allows us to offer services that we, quite simply, weren’t able to fully accommodate in the past,” says Florida Campus President Peter Martin, D.C. “As a result, we will be in a better position to serve our student population, which has grown at an incredible rate from the time we opened our doors in 2002.”

Clinic remodeling continues

In the meantime, the Palmer Chiropractic Clinic, located in the Allen Green Civic Center, is taking on a new look. The first phase of the project involved the remodeling of Modules 1 and 5 (now combined and referred to as Module 1), the adjoining corridor, radiology room and student study areas. These areas now have new ceilings, walls, carpeting, doors, cabinetry and lighting. The second phase of the project was completed at the end of September, and extended the same improvements to Clinic Modules 2 and 3, which have been combined and are now known as Module 2. Phase three of the construction remodel began in October, and involves making similar improvements to what is currently Module 4, which will then become Module 3.

In spite of the construction, the Clinic continues to operate uninterrupted through the use of temporary modules for treating patients. Phase four of the remodeling process will include remodeling of faculty and staff offices and Module 6, which will be expanded and become Module 4. The final phase will begin early in 2011 and includes remodeling of the business office area and corridor, including patient waiting areas.

"Florida Campus Facilities employees David Stroud and Mark Fiorino put the finishing touches on new Module 1, which includes renovated adjusting rooms and a remodeled hallway."
Shereffa Clarke remembers what it felt like to be a new person in a new environment when she began her education at the Florida Campus. "I had a couple of people that became ‘go to’ friends, people that could provide information about the way things worked, that really eased the stress of being new," she says.

Ms. Clarke, now in her 10th Quarter, grew up in Fort Lauderdale and completed her undergraduate work in Medical Science from the University of South Florida. Despite the fact that she is from Florida and spent the past four years in college in Tampa, the Port Orange area was totally new to her.

"I imagine it’s even more difficult for someone from another state or another country," she adds.

Recently appointed eastern region representative of the American Black Chiropractic Association (ABCA), Ms. Clarke has been president of the campus’ student chapter of the association (SABCA) for more than a year. ABCA was founded in 1981 by Dr. Bobby Westbrooks when he realized there was a need for supportive services for minorities in the chiropractic profession. “On campus it’s really about being a mentor for other students to help them get acclimated and more comfortable in their orientation to a new school and a new field,” she says. Although the organization’s objective is to recruit, encourage and support minorities to study chiropractic, according to Ms. Clarke, SABCA is not exclusive, but instead open to anyone.

“We have about 20 or 30 members on campus and half of those are people of mixed race,” she says. “We don’t turn anyone away.”

As SABCA grows on the Florida Campus, it continues to develop opportunities for students to get involved in the local community, too. SABCA members visit Boys and Girls Clubs and area elementary schools, to reach out to minority youths and share a message about continuing their education, as well as expose them to chiropractic.

Ms. Clarke moves easily between both of her local and national roles, emphasizing that ABCA has scholarships available and puts on a national convention. The organization will celebrate its 30th anniversary at its annual convention next June. Ms. Clarke adds, “As we reach out to minorities, my goal is to work more closely with groups such as PSAF (Palmer Student Alumni Foundation) and SACA (Student American Chiropractic Association), and work together toward the same common goal.”

One of the factors that motivated Clarke to become involved with ABCA and SABCA was the lack of information and awareness of chiropractic as a career choice for those at the undergraduate level. In her undergraduate experience she saw students in health sciences being directed toward advanced degrees in other healthcare professions, but very little emphasis on chiropractic.

“I like to be part of things that can make a difference on a larger scale,” she says. While her own and ABCAs activities focus mostly on historically black colleges such as Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, and Bethune-Cookman University, as well as East Coast chiropractic colleges, Ms. Clarke relishes her role in helping to grow the profession.

“If we can get more minority students to come to Palmer, then that meets our goal, but we’re also recruiting for the profession, not just the College,” Ms. Clarke says. “I want to help grow the field of chiropractic.”
Dr. Young’s goal: Connecting Palmer alumni

Making it easier for alumni to reconnect with Palmer is in Dr. Tom Young’s plans. A 2006 Florida Campus graduate, Dr. Young is the new Alumni Office representative for the Florida Campus, and a member of its faculty.

“Right now everything is still pretty new for me, but staying connected and networking with old school friends is something I really value,” says Dr. Young, who has earned his Certified Chiropractic Sports Physician certification and is involved with the Sports Council.

In August, Dr. Young attended the Davenport Campus Homecoming, where he had the chance to learn the ropes of his new position from Dr. Mickey Burt and Lisa Walden of the Alumni Office in Davenport.

“I’m looking forward to working with Dr. Burt and Lisa to help them promote the College and the profession,” says Dr. Young.

After graduating from Palmer, Dr. Young ran a practice in North Carolina for three years. But his desire to teach, coupled with an opportunity to be close to his family, prompted him and his wife, Maria Romano-Young, D.C., Florida ’06, to return to Port Orange. Dr. Maria Romano-Young is now a staff clinician at the Florida Campus Clinics.

Along with acting as a liaison between the campus and its alumni, Dr. Young looks forward to helping future Florida Campus graduates.

“I’d like to help current and future students connect with chiropractors in the field so they get the chance to learn about the day-to-day operations of running a practice,” he says. “It can provide perspective and real-life experience that allows for professional growth and development.”

Endowment for Florida Campus students reaches full funding

When the Mid-Florida Chiropractic Society (MFCS) created a scholarship fund for deserving Florida Campus students in 2006, its goal was to raise $50,000 to establish an endowed scholarship. It also had provisions to award a total of $10,000 in gift scholarships—with one $2,000 gift being granted each year for five years.

In 2010, MFCS exceeded both of these goals by raising $62,500 for the endowed scholarship and $10,500 for the gift scholarships for a total of $73,000. This impressive amount was raised by an organization of both Palmer alumni and graduates from other chiropractic colleges.

In order to be eligible for the annual scholarships, applicants must be full-time Florida Campus students, come from nearby Florida counties, be in good standing and have enrolled in the 2nd or above quarter by that spring’s quarter. In the Fall of 2011, the first scholarship to come from the endowment will be awarded.

Says Florida Campus President Dr. Peter Martin, “The generosity of the Mid-Florida Chiropractic Society has and will continue to touch the lives of deserving students. The scholarships seek to reward those students who have exhibited strong scholastic abilities and the desire to serve others through their extracurricular activities, traits that will carry over into successful practices after graduation.”
Dr. Bill Holmberg, ’55, Rock Island, Ill., was elected 1st VP of the Association for the History of Chiropractic (AHC) at the annual conference and meeting held in St. Louis, Mo., May 20-23, 2010. The AHC has the primary responsibility of preserving the history and heritage of the chiropractic profession. E-mail: holmbergw@aol.com.

Dr. Robert Conlin, ’52, Lakeside, Calif., retired from practice after 51 years on April 1, 2010. E-mail: bconlin2@cox.net.

Dr. Kerwin Winkler, ’60, Aberdeen, S.D., received the Lee-Homewood Chiropractic Heritage Award from the Association for the History of Chiropractic (AHC) on May 22, at a reception in his honor. The award is the highest honor the AHC bestows. Phone: (605) 225-8288.

Dr. Michael Louquasto, ’62, moved office locations in October 2009 to 2571 Bagleys Circle Suite B27, Bethlehem, PA 18020. Phone: (484) 821-1460.

Dr. Alex Badillo, ’73, El Paso, Texas, has retired from practice and after suffering a massive brain hemorrhage, has become a public speaker and motivator. E-mail: dralexbadillo@hotmail.com.

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Dr. Jerry Zelm, D.C., published his book, “What Your Doctor Never Told You,” in 1973. The book details the devastating effects that drugs and everyday accidents can have on our present and future health, and how these problems can be corrected or improved through chiropractic care.

Dr. Paul Cronk, ’74, Roanoke, Va., celebrated the 90th anniversary of Stoike Chiropractic Clinic on May 3, 2010. Drs. John and Marie Stoike, ’20, founded the clinic and were later joined by Dr. Julius Schulz, ’30. For the last 35 years the clinic has been owned by Dr. Cronk, grandson of Drs. John and Marie Stoike. The clinic is the oldest in Virginia. Phone: (540) 344-6738, e-mail: CRONKDC@aol.com.

Dr. Terrance Eyerly, ’74, Hazleton, Pa., was elected president of the American Chiropractic Association’s Council on Forensic Sciences. Dr. Eyerly maintains offices in Hazleton and Conyngham, Pa., practicing with his daughter, Dr. Tricia Eyerly. Phone: (570) 455-5822, e-mail: tmedc@eyerlychiropractic.com.

Dr. William E. Mead, ’74, Tulsa, Okla., has been reappointed by the Governor of Oklahoma to the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners. He has worked at the Tinker, AFB Hospital since 2004. Previously, he was in private practice for 30 years in Tulsa, Okla. Phone: (405) 736-2386, e-mail: william.mead.ctt@tinker.af.mil.

Dr. Clarence Haisma, ’75, retired from practice in Lacombe, Alta., Canada, in October 2009. E-mail: chaitsma@gmail.com.

Dr. Vernon Temple, ’77, Bellows Falls, Vt., recently concluded his term as NBCE president, a position he held since 2006. Dr. Temple was first elected to serve the National Board as District III Director in 2000. He also served on the NBCE Executive Committee as secretary and vice president. E-mail: vtemple@sover.net.

Dr. Steven MacDonald, ’78, Pacific Grove, Calif., was elected to the Board of Directors for the National Upper Cervical Chiropractic Association. Dr. MacDonald is a member of the Pacific Grove Planning Commission. Phone: (831) 375-9528, e-mail: dmacmacuca@sbglobal.net.

Dr. Joseph Morelli, Jr., ’78, Waipahu, Hawaii, was voted Chiropractor of the Year by the Hawaii State Chiropractic Association for 2009. Phone: (808) 671-2685, e-mail: crunch@aloha.net.

Dr. Terry Gillenwater, ’80, Bristol, Va., received his master’s degree in human nutrition from the University of Bridgeport in Bridgeport, Conn., on May 23, 2010. Phone: (276) 669-9158, e-mail: gillinwaterchiropractic@yahoo.com.

Dr. Jussi Jaakonmaki, ’80, Helsinki, Finland, has moved his clinic to Simonkatu 12 A 3b, 00100 Helsinki, Finland. E-mail: jaakonmaki@kolumbus.fi.

Joe Fawcett, D.C., ’84, is now the health coach for SMARTCooking. According to Dr. Fawcett, the company “prepares and packages healthy entrees and delicious meals, to save consumers the cost and time they would normally need to make a nutritious meal.” You can find out more at www.fawcett.smartcooking.com.

Dr. Tomas Stangel, ’91, opened Stangel Chiropractic Neurology PLLC at 6106 Shallowford Rd., Ste. 104, Chattanooga, TN 37412, on June 3, 2010. Dr. Stangel received his DACNB in 2005 and his FACFN in 2009. Phone: (423) 468-3072, e-mail: etstangel@aol.com.

Dr. Linda Cancellieri-Deturck, ’92, and her husband, Anthony, Taunton, Mass., had a son, Christian Roman, on Jan. 12, 2010. Phone: (508) 824-1200, e-mail: tauntonwellness@aol.com.

Dr. Mitch Siegal, ’93, Palmer Beach Gardens, Fla., recently completed his first album, “The Beautiful End.” Two of its songs have been licensed by MTV. The album is available on iTunes or can be ordered directly from Dr. Siegal. Phone: (561) 624-3003, e-mail: docsiegel@aol.com.

Dr. Sean Reif, ’94, Thornton, Colo., has initiated a Senior Men’s Discussion Group, which discusses health related topics among other subjects. Phone: (303) 452-2678, e-mail: tfcchiro@earthlink.net.
Dr. Tom Wyant, ’94, and Sonja Wyant, C.T., ’93, Mapleton, Iowa, adopted a newborn son, Benjamin Thomas, on Dec. 28, 2009. Benjamin was welcomed by his three grown siblings. E-mail: adca4life@longlines.com.

Zoltan Fischer, ’95, and his wife, Jeannie, Philadelphia, Pa., had their third daughter, Jeannette Magdeline, on July 7, 2008, and their first son, Zoltan Victor Jr., on Nov. 11, 2009. Phone: (215) 205-6478.

Dr. Leanne Cupon, ’96, has a new office location at 3482 Keith Bridge Rd., Ste. 312, Cumming, GA 30041. Phone: (770) 655-5785, e-mail: drlcupon@ix.netcom.com.

Dr. Kurt Edeker, D.C., ’96, Austin, Texas, has invented New Motion Machines, a new line of resistance exercise machines. More information can be found at www.newmotionmachines.com. Phone: (512) 689-0003, e-mail: new_motion_machines@live.com.

Dr. Rusty Myers, ’96, Zanesville, Ohio, was elected District Delegate of the Ohio State Chiropractic Association’s District 9, Phone: (740) 450-2225, e-mail: rustymentes@me.com.

Dr. John Patenaude, ’96, and his wife, Heather, Winthrop Harbor, III., had a son, Clark Daniel, on Aug. 16, 2009. Clark was welcomed by his big brothers Miles and Luke. Phone: (847) 872-3456, e-mail: jphjuly@yahoo.com.

Dr. Jeffery Stickel, ’96, Des Moines, Iowa, opened a new clinic ADIO Chiropractic at 2925 Ingersoll Ave. Suite 2, Des Moines, IA 50312. Phone: (515) 255-3021, e-mail: drstickel@aol.com.

Dr. Kathy Roth Pizzella, ’99, and her husband, Justin, Oakmont, Pa., had a daughter, Lia Kathryn, on Aug. 17, 2009. Lia was born at home and welcomed by her brother Kristopher. Phone: (412) 828-0700, e-mail: drroth@health-horizons.com.

2000s

Dr. Lucas Wattersen, ’01, and his wife, Amy Wattersen, ’01, Morangontown, Wis., had a daughter, Lydia Clair, on March 18, 2010. Drs. Wattersen renamed their practice to Mountain State Wellness and now offer clinical nutrition to their patients. Phone: (304) 292-7740, e-mail: nucacw@aol.com.

Dr. Tyler McClimon, ’03, opened McClimon Chiropractic in Birdsboro, Pa., in June 2006. Dr. McClimon and his wife, Tara, had a son, Mason Peter, on Dec. 9, 2009. Mason was welcomed by his big brother Corey. Phone: (610) 582-4400, e-mail: tylermcmclimon@hotmail.com.

Dr. Masahiko Matsushita, ’03, received his diploma in chiropractic philosophy on Oct. 17, 2009. He believes he is the only Japanese Palmer graduate to have this distinction. Previously, he completed a postgraduate course to earn designation in the Palmer Legion of Chiropractic Philosophers. Phone: (847) 290-9226, e-mail: drmasa@gmail.com.

Dr. Leigh Taylor, ’03, opened Taylor Family Wellness Chiropractic in January 2010 at 8501 Old Troy Pike, Huber Heights, OH 45424. Phone: (937) 233-4055, e-mail: nuccagirl@yahoo.com.

Dr. Korey Toensing, ’03, and his husband, Nathan, had a daughter, Hope Candace, on Feb. 17, 2010. Hope is the great-granddaughter of Dr. Alwin F. Toensing, ’52, granddaughter of Drs. Alwin, ’56, and Patrice Toensing, ’57, the niece of Drs. Tom Askland, ’50, and Dean Toensing, ’50, and lastly the cousin of Dr. Craig Stephen, ’73. E-mail: korey@toensing.org.

Dr. Brian Dahmer, ’04, Brooksville, Fl., recently opened a second office in Spring Hill, Fl. The office is located inside a personal gym. Phone: (727) 862-8571, e-mail: drbrianchiro@gmail.com.

Drs. Michael Fetter, ’04, and Abbie (Wilson) Fetter, ’04, Bridgetown, W.A., Australia, had a son, Henry, in May 2009. Phone: (61) 8-9761-2492, e-mail: fetterchiropractic@yahoo.com.au.

Dr. Megan Bjorklund, ’06, and her husband, Garth, had a daughter, Skye Virginia, on April 21, 2009. Phone: (574) 329-0377, e-mail: mbjorkdc@hotmail.com.

Dr. Lee Goldenberg, ’06, had a son, Michael, on July 30, 2007. Dr. Goldenberg also recently opened a new office, Optimal Body Chiropractic, in Decatur, GA. Phone: (404) 805-1235, e-mail: drlee@optimalbodychiropractic.com.

The American Chiropractic Association’s Sports Council has appointed Davenport Campus Professor Michael Tuning, D.C., ’66, as their liaison to the National Athletic Trainers Association. “Being a D.C. and an ATC, I love how the two professions have influenced me,” he said of the appointment.

Dr. Michelle Wattier, ’06, recently moved to Utah and is working in a large pregnancy and pediatric practice in the Salt Lake City area. E-mail: drwattier@yahoo.com.

Dr. Bret Bartholomew, ’08, opened Bartholomew Chiropractic, in Ames, Iowa in April 2009. Dr. Bartholomew was married on Oct. 10, 2009. Phone: (515) 292-3718, e-mail: dbret@bartholomewchiro.com.

Drs. Kurt Boeckenhauer, ’08, and Tonya (Tapper) Boeckenhauer, ’08, Papillion, Neb., had a son, Grant, this past year. E-mail: tboecken@yahoo.com.

Dr. Jennifer Schrage, ’08, Omaha, Neb., celebrated the first-year anniversary of her clinic on April 29, 2010. Phone: (402) 885-8783, e-mail: drjennyschrage@yahoo.com.

Dr. Erica Forzesee, ’09, Hilton Head, S.C., now owns and operates a family wellness practice and is working on her diploma in pediatric care. Phone: (843) 686-3783, e-mail: dr_e@forzesee.com.

Dr. Kyle French, ’09, and his fiancé, Alicia McDonald, C.T., ’08, recently opened Camp Verde Family Chiropractic and Wellness Center in Camp Verde, Ariz. Phone: (928) 567-0222, e-mail: campverdechiropractic@yahoo.com.

Dr. Brandon Gillenwater, ’09, has joined practice with his father, Dr. Terry Gillenwater, ’80, at Gillenwater Chiropractic, Acupuncture and Nutrition Center in Bristol, Va. E-mail: gillenwaterchiropractic@yahoo.com.

Dr. Calla Jayne H. Kleen, ’09, Hiawatha, Iowa, has been published in the Iowa Chiropractic Society’s partially peer-reviewed journal, ICS Review. Her manuscript is titled, “Primary Adhesive Capsulitis Relief in a 47-Year-Old Female with an Associated Vertebral Subluxation Complex.” Phone: (319) 892-3363, e-mail: mybackonline@gmail.com.

Dr. Christina Kraft, ’09, associates at Avenue Chiropractic and Wellness Clinic, in Columbus, NE. E-mail: drkraft@avechiro.com.

2010s

Dr. Beverly Bigbee, ’84, runs a natural healthcare clinic, Perfect Health Chiropractic, in Honolulu, Hawaii. Phone: (808) 591-8426, e-mail: beemail2@earthlink.net.

Dr. Scott Hirashiki, ’87, Honolulu, Hawaii, married Misao Saito, on Dec. 31, 2009. Phone: (808) 946-4459, e-mail: drscotth@yahoo.com.

Dr. Herman Allerstofer, ’88, Killaua, Hawaii, is attending graduate school to obtain his masters in public health. E-mail: herman01@hawaii.rr.com.

Dr. Lisa Allaire, ’97, San Mateo, Calif., recently taught her own back rehabilitation program, Allaire Back Fitness, to chiropractic students in Tokyo, Japan. Phone: (650) 737-8106, e-mail: allairedc@att.net.

Dr. Jesse Cracknell, ’02, Honolulu, Hawaii, celebrated the grand reopening of Diamond Head Chiropractic on Feb. 14, 2010. Phone: (808) 737-4325.
Dr. Tricia Aiello, ’04, opened Aiello Chiropractic at 635 Broadway, Massapequa, NY 11758. Phone: (516) 557-2175, e-mail: aiellochiro@optonline.net.

Dr. Stephani Zgraggen-Latter, ’04, Charleston, S.C., received her master’s degree in Clinical Nutrition from St. Joseph’s College in 2009. Dr. Zgraggen-Latter was awarded Charleston’s Top 40 Under 40 in 2010, which honors the top 40 business people in the city under the age of 40. Phone: (843) 402-0310, e-mail: drlatter@hotmail.com.

Dr. Daniel Lord, ’08, San Francisco, Calif., was appointed to a new alumni officer position in the West Campus Sports Council to help maintain a direct connection with former Sports Council members. E-mail: daniel.lord@yahoo.com.

Dr. Erik Shimane, ’09, Honolulu, Hawaii, celebrated the grand reopening of Diamond Head Chiropractic on Feb. 14, 2010. Phone: (808) 737-4325.

**FLORIDA CAMPUS**

**2000s**

Drs. Melissa Marr, ’05, and Stewart Peters, ’07, Durham, N.C., had a daughter, Sydney Yvonne, on Dec. 20, 2009. Phone: (919) 929-4244, e-mail: drmel_dc@yahoo.com.

Drs. Philip Afghani, ’08, and Melissa Ferranti, ’07, had a daughter, Isabella Lilly, on June 7, 2008, and had another daughter, Callie Renee, on April 8, 2010. The doctors opened Atlantic Chiropractic & Wellness Center at 3510 Nova Rd., Ste. 108, Port Orange, FL 32129. Phone: (386) 492-4881, e-mail: drphildc@hotmail.com.

Drs. Barry Qualls, ’09, and Lisa Orr, ’10, Norfolk, Va., were married on May 15, 2010. E-mail: chirolisa30@yahoo.com.

Made any “*adjustments*” lately? Keep your College and fellow classmates up-to-date with what’s going on in your life. Simply fill out this form and mail it to *Insights*, Palmer College of Chiropractic, 1000 Brady Street, Davenport, IA 52803; or fax it to (563) 884-5103. You can also e-mail your information to *marketing@palmer.edu*.

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City, State/Province___________________________________ Country___________________ ZIP/Postal Code___________________

E-mail Address________________________________________________________________________________________________

Work Phone____________________________________________ Home Phone___________________________________________

Information (practice openings, address changes, births, marriages, appointments, current military service, honors, etc.)

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Davenport Campus

1940s
Thomas M. Patterson, D.C., '46
Tallassee, Ala.

George B. Banks, D.C., '47
Salinas, Calif.

Nicholas Bellochio, D.C., '48
Sussex, N.J.

James D. Schmittfranz, D.C., '48
Mondovi, Wis.

Christopher H.
Oldenburg, D.C., '49
Minneapolis, Minn.

1950s
John W. Cleere, D.C., '50
Dallas, Texas

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Canton, Ohio

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Rockville, Ind.

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Birmingham, Ala.

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Danville, Ky.

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Hudson-Cook, D.C., '54
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Galesburg, Ill.

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Louisville, Ky.

Fletcher G. Keith, D.C., '59
Charlotte, N.C.

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Torsten K. Seubold, D.C., '65
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Johannesburg, Mich.

Bennett Judson Jr., D.C., '67
Warwick, N.Y.

David J. Cook, D.C., '69
Mount Dora, Fla.

Michael D. Pedigo, D.C., '69
Camino, Calif.

1970s
Rudolph Scheithauer, D.C., '73
Amherst, Ohio

David J. Byrne, D.C., '74
Coffs Harbour, N.S.W., Australia

David E. Peterson, D.C., '76
Prescott, Ariz.

Hal W. Russell, D.C., '76
Fort Collins, Colo.

Donald A. Cunningham, D.C., '77
Kitty Hawk, N.C.

Bruce A. Otto, D.C., '78
Dickeyville, Wis.

1980s
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Greenville, Miss.

David L. Krusing, D.C., '81
Sarasota, Fla.

Brian J. Crosser, D.C., '82
Clinton, Iowa

Jeffrey R. Johnson, D.C., '82
Santa Ana, Calif.

John P. Fanara Jr., D.C., '83
Dennis, Mass.

Peter I. Levine, D.C., '85
Reisterstown, Md.

Michael L. Fuller, D.C., '86
Leola, Pa.

David B. Hamilton, D.C., '89
New Stanton, Pa.

1990s
Gloria Driskell, C.T., '94
Davenport, Iowa

Troy D. Anderson, D.C., '96
Louisville, Ky.

Jason A. Bradecich, D.C., '97
Virginia Beach, Va.
Spinous process hypertrophy associated with implanted devices in the external link model

AUTHORS: Nicole M. Homb, B.S., D.C., Davenport ’09, and Charles N.R. Henderson, D.C., Ph.D.

INTRODUCTION: The recent development of a small animal (rat) model as an experimental mimic of the chiropractic subluxation employs the use of linked titanium implants on the spinous processes of three contiguous lumbar segments. Varying degrees of spinous process hypertrophy have been noted with this model, and this appeared to be greater in animals with intervertebral links than with control rats that were never linked. The purpose of this study was to examine serial radiographs of implanted rats for evidence of spinous hypertrophy, and to evaluate possible correlating factors, such as linking history and exudate formation. The possible role of spinous hypertrophy as a determining factor in intervertebral hypomobility was also examined.

METHODS: Serial lateral radiographs of 73 male Sprague Dawley (400-600 g) rats with surgically implanted spinous attachment units were reviewed. An initial radiograph (baseline film) was taken following a six-week surgical recovery period with a subsequent radiograph taken eight weeks later. The degree of hypertrophy at the L4, L5, and L6 spinous processes was determined by measuring spinous width on the radiographs with a modified micrometer. Bone resorption and exudate build-up were graded using a four point grading scale, (0-3, none-severe). Trends in the data were described by cross-tabulated counts, ANOVA, and regression analysis.

RESULTS: Spinous hypertrophy crosstabulation suggested a difference in hypertrophy prevalence between rats that had been linked in experimental fixation and never-linked control rats. However, correlation analysis did not demonstrate a role for spinous hypertrophy as a predictor of intervertebral mobility. Similarly, exudate level did not predict the presence or severity of hypertrophy. As crosstabulation suggested, SAU linking and vertebral level had a significant interaction, with moderate and severe hypertrophy occurring more frequently at L4 and L6 in previously linked rats. By contrast, age did not appear to materially affect spinous hypertrophy.

CONCLUSIONS: Results from these studies suggest that mechanical stresses produced on the implant-bone interface by links in the ELM contribute to spinous hypertrophy beyond those associated with the presence of the SAU on the bone. However, the study findings also suggest that spinous hypertrophy does not contribute significantly to intervertebral hypomobility produced in the ELM. This is important because it supports the argument that stiffness and hypomobility produced in the ELM is not materially an artifact of spinous hypertrophy. The analysis upon which these findings were drawn is a secondary analysis of data drawn from studies not specifically designed to address these research questions. Consequently, this study does not validate the ELM as a research tool; but it does illuminate the path for future ELM investigations.

This abstract was presented in a poster, “Quantifying Spinous Hypertrophy in the External Link Model,” at the World Federation of Chiropractic (WFC) 10th Biennial Congress and the International Conference on Chiropractic Research World Federation of Chiropractic and the Foundation for Chiropractic Education and Research (FCER) Montreal, Que., Canada 2009, p. 179.

Nicole M. Homb, D.C., graduated from Palmer’s Davenport Campus in 2009, at which time she was awarded Research Honors for this project. She also was awarded 1st place in the student poster competition for this poster at the WFC/FCER International Conference on Chiropractic Research in Montreal, Que., Canada, April 30-May 2, 2009.

Charles Henderson, D.C., Ph.D., is an associate professor at the Palmer Center for Chiropractic Research on the Davenport Campus and served as a faculty mentor on this project.
Dr. Scott Haldeman, an international authority on the management of spinal pain, will present a general session on “Chiropractic Identity and Practice in the Era of Evidence Based Healthcare.”

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