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**ASDA Receives Gubernatorial Support**
Gov. Beebe and his wife team with Mission of Mercy
By Terry Fiddler, DDS

**The Electronic Health Record**
Impact on dental healthcare delivery and what dentists should understand
An interview with Scotty L. Bolding D.D.S., M.S. CEO U.S. HealthRecord Inc.

**Putting My Passion into Action**
Volunteering for Seal the State and ArMOM
By Jennifer Bega Lamb, DDS

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**President’s Message:** By Tim Chase, DDS
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I hope everyone is doing well. This year has gone by quickly for me. My time in this position is winding down, and in a short time I will be handing these duties off to Bob Mason, who will do an outstanding job for us. Billy Tarpley is back and running and doing a great job. I feel really good about ASDA and our future.

One way I feel each of us can help insure the future of dentistry is by contributing to FFDL. This is quite simply giving a little back to our profession to fight the fights and help ASDA in ways that the association cannot afford. This year FFDL paid the legal fees to oppose ADEQ over dentistry being classified as a hazardous waste producer and to address the problems associated with ongoing Medicaid issues. By the way, Arkansas is still one of the highest reimbursed states by Medicaid. FFDL also sponsored a night out at a Redbirds game for our Arkansas Dental students last spring to introduce them to ASDA and inform them about how ASDA supports dentistry. FFDL has 64 participating dentists and ASDA has 1,072 members. Surely, we can all give the fee of one occlusal restoration per month to the profession that has given each of us so much. Cheryl would be glad to charge your credit card $84.00 each month if you don’t want to give the $1,000.00 at once. We will have a sizeable fund if we all give, to protect us and propel us in the right direction.

I also want to encourage each of you to give a little back to your state through this year’s ArMOM. This is our fourth mission and the second outside of Little Rock, with the next one planned for the Northeast District. This is a statewide project of ASDA and we need statewide participation for success of these projects. This year ArMOM will be in Monticello on the campus of UA Monticello. The dates for the clinic are May 21 and 22. To register, go to the ASDA web page, click on the ArMOM icon, and follow the links. Please bring your staff. We are always short of staff, so bring them and let them share in the joy of helping others.

I want to invite you to the Annual Scientific Session to be held in Little Rock at the State House Convention Center and the Peabody Hotel. This is also the first time in many years that the ASDHA and Assistants Association are combining their meeting with ASDA. I find this to be a positive step. I am excited and look forward to seeing each of you there.

Tim D. Chase
President
ASDA
Looking for a Solution to State’s Medicaid Crisis

One hundred million is a lot of money by anyone’s standard. But that is the amount of reduction to general spending for Medicaid that state government is considering at the time of this writing. Of course, with the 3-to-1 federal match, a $100 million reduction in state spending correlates to a $400 million reduction in overall costs. The question is: Where will the money come from to fund the cuts?

New Medicaid director, Mr. Gene Gessow, met with a group of provider representatives in early February to discuss this very issue. Imagine looking at a room full of strangers and having to say, “Nice to meet you all. I’m so glad to be here, and by the way, we have to find $100 million in spending cuts. All options are on the table, including your program.” Not exactly the best way to meet friends and influence people. To his credit, he is a Medicaid veteran, having served in administrative capacities with the program in four other states. Also to his credit, he made the point several times that all options are on the table. He listed eight strategies for dealing with the situation:

• Reduce the number of individuals covered.
• Limit the types of services.
• Reduce the utilization of services.
• Reduce provider reimbursement.
• Increase consumer cost-sharing.
• Reduce the cost of administering the program.
• Increase Arkansas Medicaid revenues.
• Reduce fraud, waste and abuse in the program.

Without question, item four was the least popular. Most provider groups feel that a reduction in their reimbursement rates would also reduce the number of providers. From the dental point of view, your reimbursement rate is one of the most envied in America. It is also the envy of other Arkansas provider groups. There are two main reasons for this. First is the consent decree that requires the state to review annually the Medicaid reimbursement rates and make adjustments based on a comparative market analysis. The second reason is that ASDA and Medicaid dentists have a history of working proactively to create solutions to problems, not just ask for increased rates. Truth is, of the $4 billion Arkansas Medicaid program in fiscal year 2009, dentistry accounted for about $83 million, or 2 percent of the total cost. That amount is up significantly from 2007, when total dental expenditures were about $63 million—small potatoes by comparison.

But one thing is for sure: If Arkansas is expected to make significant advances in the treatment and prevention of dental disease, the state will have to increase reimbursement rates to a comparative market level, and ASDA will have to lead the way in helping the state fund cost efficiencies for the program. We have a history of being “solution finders.”
Mission is defined as a journey undertaken to perform a particular task or goal assigned to a group. Mercy has many definitions but for our consideration it is an act of compassion performed on or for a suffering person.

Our mission in Arkansas entails both of these definitions. Our journey this year takes us to Monticello in southeast Arkansas to help the populace of underserved in the area. Most of the patients who attended our past events were there to relieve pain or to have “teeth fixed so I can eat.” One only has to look at the statistics for our first three events to see what it has meant to the citizens of Arkansas as well our surrounding states.

As we are preparing to begin our last event that took place in Springdale a lady came to the door the night before and said someone had driven her for eight hours from Texas to be the first in line knowing that she would not be treated until the following day. If you could have seen her face to know how proud she was to not hurt and to have her teeth restored. That alone would make you want to come back to our event every year to help others.

We have provided over two million dollars of free dentistry in our first three years serving over 5,000 patients. We average 760 volunteers of which 400 are dentists or dental personnel.

This is the first year to have honorary chairs. Since we all know that taking care of Arkansans is our priority, the logical choice would be someone who does that on a daily basis—Governor Mike Beebe and his wife, Ginger. When approached to see if they were interested it was a no-brainer to them. They were excited to be asked and obviously we were thrilled they accepted our invitation. ASDA and Gov. Beebe have a long history of working together for the common good of Arkansans.

We would encourage each of our readers to be a part of our Monticello ArMOM event as well as Forrest City. Why not pencil us in each May to be part of such a wonderful and enjoyable health care event.

Gov. Beebe and his wife team with Mission of Mercy

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Retired Dentist Honorees**

At the 2009 annual session, five dentists were honored for 275 years of absolutely exemplary service to their patients, communities and families. These five gentlemen are the epitome of what all dentists should strive to be in their personal and professional lives. The number of years each has held a dental license follows their names: left to right are Jim Burgess, from Greenwood (50), Bill Cloud, from Little Rock (57), Jon Leim, from Hope (45), then ASDA President, Gene Jines, Will CypHERS, from El Dorado (62), and Thomas J. “Ned” Turner, from Little Rock (61). An amazing 275 years of dental licensure for these five gentlemen. And another note is that between them they have more years total of marriage than dental licensure, all married to their first and only wives; three of the gentlemen are caregivers and the other two still give to their communities. All five gentlemen give credit for anything they have been privileged to do to God.

**Mobile Dentist Unit Visits Lincoln School**

Sometimes difficult money or family circumstances keep children from seeing the dentist on a regular basis. But, the Arkansas Children’s Hospital is now using a special mobile dentist unit to make sure local kids get the dental treatment they need. Dentist Lara Phillips has been treating students from the school since the unit opened Tuesday morning. “We’re going after children that don’t have private dental insurance and haven’t been to the dentist in the past year,” Phillips said. At Phillips’ disposal is a brand new state-of-the-art mobile dentist unit that she says is more useful than a lot of regular dentist offices.

“We’ve got two operatories, both plumbed with nitrous oxide,” Phillips said. The unit can handle two patients at once, and is fully equipped to keep kids entertained while their teeth are being taken care of. “We’ve got flat screen TVs on the ceiling so the kids really enjoy it,” Phillips said. On Tuesday, the unit saw mostly second-graders. About 20 students were scheduled to be looked at in total. Representatives from Lincoln Schools said they were excited about the high turnout. They said healthy teeth account for a better learning experience. “If a student is suffering from a toothache, they’re not going to be able to learn the way they need to,” District Health Coordinator Rebecca Pugh said. “There are quite a few of those in our district unfortunately,” she said. Dentists said the truck will return to the school in about six months to see new patients and to also follow up on dental problems from students they’re seeing this time around.

*This news article was in the Northwest Arkansas News of the Arkansas Democrat Gazette on February 2, 2010. You can access the article and video at http://www-029tv.com/news/2241395980/detail.html*
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The Electronic Health Record
Impact on dental healthcare delivery and what dentists should understand

BY TERRY FIDDLER
An interview: Scotty L. Bolding
D.D.S., M.S., CEO, U.S. HealthRecord Inc.

Dr. Fiddler: Thank you, Dr. Bolding for taking the time for this interview. I have known you for several years and know that you have been promoting high quality healthcare your entire practice career. I also know that you have been developing and promoting the sharing of electronic health records to assist you and others in the ability to deliver high quality care in many communities. As a dentist, we are all hearing in the news and everyone is talking about Healthcare reform with much debate. However, there seems to be a consistent message from both Republicans and Democrats that electronic health records will improve efficiencies and lower cost. Can you explain to us the rationale behind this?

Dr. Bolding: Thank you, Dr. Fiddler. There is no doubt that electronic sharing of health information improves the efficiencies of healthcare delivery. Simply put, if a patient has a radiograph taken in another dental office and you are able to easily and quickly retrieve that radiograph in an electronic health record system in your office, you have improved efficiencies and lower cost. Can you explain to us the rationale behind this?

Dr. Bolding: Thank you, Dr. Fiddler. There is no doubt that electronic sharing of health information improves the efficiencies of healthcare delivery. Simply put, if a patient has a radiograph taken in another dental office and you are able to easily and quickly retrieve that radiograph in an electronic health record system in your office, you have improved efficiencies and lower cost. The fact is that healthcare professionals do not do this today and it simply adds significant cost to the delivery of healthcare. There are several studies that have estimated ranges of projected overall healthcare savings from 5-20% with a fully functional electronic health record system that provides the ability for the healthcare providers to share common patient information. This translates into an estimated cost savings of over $300 billion dollars in the U.S. This is why there is strong support for electronic health records adoption in our nation.

Dr. Fiddler: Dr. Bolding that sounds good, but how are we going to encourage physicians and dentists to electronically share information?

Dr. Bolding: That is a great question. During President Bush’s term in office, he instituted a presidential order that stated that all Medicaid and Medicare providers needed to be on an electronic health record system that shared health information by the year 2015. He also established the National Coordinator of Health office to help facilitate this order. The Obama administration took it a step further and under the direction of Dr. David Blumenthal congress passed specific legislation in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

Continues

Scotty L. Bolding D.D.S., M.S., CEO, U.S. HealthRecord Inc.

Arkansas Dentistry, Spring 2010
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... (ARRA) called the The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act or the HITECH Act. The passing of this act set us on the course of adoption of electronic health records in this country over the next 5 years. The Act did several things. First, it provided substantial funds to states to set up health information exchanges and Regional Extension centers to provide the vehicle framework for sharing electronic health information. Secondly, it provided multiple programs for health information technology education programs, funds for community health clinic adoptions, and a multitude of other funds for various programs to support the adoption and training.

However, the most impacting aspect of the HITECH Act for us as providers, was the healthcare provider and hospital incentive and ultimate penalties for lack of adoption. The incentive for the providers, including dentists is a financial rebate program. This means that each eligible provider can receive funds from the Federal Government up to $63,750 over a six year period if they begin using an electronic health record that meets the meaningful use definition established by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services by January 1, 2011. The amount of funds decrease for each year a provider delays adoption, and has until 2015 to adopt a meaningful use electronic health record, before penalties are applied.

It is a matter of time that, as major payers begin to understand these mandates and recognize the savings, providers will be driven to adoption.

Dr. Fiddler: Dr. Bolding, how are dentists going to meet this challenge and assure that they are on a system by 2011?

Dr. Bolding: That is a very good question. I believe it is very important that the dentists begin to understand that we are an integral part of the healthcare delivery system in the U.S. and are expected to participate in this electronic health record mandate. It is going to be very important that dentists begin looking at their current systems and determine if it will meet the meaningful use requirement. If not, they will need to begin exploring solutions that meet their practice needs and meet the standards of meaningful use. Unfortunately, there are very limited options currently in the dental space, and that is why we have been working very hard on solutions to assist the dental community. Sharing health information electronically is our future. That is why it is very important, in my opinion, that the dental leadership recognize how important this initiative will be, and how electronic data management is going to be vitally important for the future of dentistry.

Dr. Fiddler: Thank you, Dr. Bolding. I believe this is a timely and very important topic for dentistry.

Dr. Bolding: Thank you.

Arkansas Dentistry, Spring 2010
DENTAL SCHOOLS

Dean, Louisiana School of Dentistry

DR. HENRY GREMMEL

The health care infrastructure in Louisiana is going through major changes that will affect dentistry for decades to come. The most significant news is that a four-year dispute with the federal government has been decided in favor of the State of Louisiana. The upshot is that Louisiana will receive $474.7 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for damages to Charity Hospital caused by Hurricane Katrina.

This award carves a major hurdle in the master plan to construct a new $1.2 billion state-of-the-art medical complex to succeed Charity Hospital. The centerpiece will be a $242-bed teaching hospital. Adjacent to this will be a new Veterans Administration Hospital. If all goes well, the groundbreaking will be later this year. Adjacent to this will be a new Veterans Administration Hospital. If all goes well, the groundbreaking will be later this year.

Another major project we just started is the building of the $3.2 million upgrade of the two teaching auditoriums, which we officially dedicated during Alumni Day last October. Our goal is to provide an optimal learning environment that incorporates the latest in technology. During the day, one class follows another. On weekends, it’s great to see the dental community “coming home” to attend Continuing Education classes. The new technology enables us to broadcast CE classes to cities all over Louisiana, including Shreveport. For a complete listing of CE classes, go to https://www.lsusdce.org/Content.aspx?topic=home.

With a price tag of $1.6 million per room, this renovation shows how expensive it is to keep up with technology. Expensive or not, we have to do it. Several experts have predicted that technical information doubles every two years. The moment we think we are standing still, in fact, we are going backwards.

NEW BUILDING

Another major project we just started is building the new labs. These labs, like several others throughout the school, have not been renovated since the school opened in 1972. Funding comes from our loyal alumni who contributed to the Committee of 100 Fund over the years. If you are one of those alumni, please know that everyone here thanks you. I will let you know when the new labs are ready for a tour.

Moving on to more good news, I am happy to report that other negotiations with FEMA have been very positive. A new three-story annex building will be built to house the electrical and mechanical systems that were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. It will also house faculty practice, clinical research, basic science research and animal care. This will be our new building since the school started.

When I was a boy growing up in rural Louisiana, surrounded by farmland, the pace of life was measured by the seasons of the year. One summer was not that different from the next. By the time I was a young adult all that changed. Today, the pace of change is dizzying. The important thing is to embrace change, to see that progress comes from team effort and vision for our future.

University of Tennessee College of Dentistry News

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The UT College of Dentistry is currently raising funds to re-equip and modernize the Dunn Dental Building including new chairs and units in the pre-doctoral and specialty clinics. With an estimated total cost of $7 million to renovate the clinical areas, support from UT alumni in Arkansas is vital to our success. To date, we have received more than $5.9 million in gifts and pledges toward our goal.

Once the new pre-doctoral clinic is complete, our students will train in the most state-of-the-art dental clinic in the nation,” explains Dean Tim Hotel.

“Many of our alumni in Arkansas, as well as the generous folks at Delta Dental of Arkansas, have really stepped up in a huge way to help us make this new clinic a reality. We are getting close to our goal, but we still need everyone’s participation to complete our mission.”

If you would like to make a gift or pledge to the Dunn Building Modernization Gift Fund, please contact Tim Lanier, Director of Development, at 800-733-0482 or by e-mail at tlanier@utnesu.edu.

UPCOMING UT COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY EVENTS

The College will host a reception for all alumni in conjunction with the Arkansas State Dental Association Meeting in Little Rock. The reception will take place on April 9. If you need additional information, please contact the UT Health Science Center Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at 800-733-0482. We hope to see you there!

In addition, we hope you will make plans to be in Memphis on March 5-7 for the 2010 Mid-Winter Dental Congress. Join us for alumni activities, reunions and continuing education for the entire dental team. For more information call 877-216-0009 or go to www.madisonsouthdentalcongress.com.

PuShAl Technical College Dental Assisting School

DEANNA DAVIS

Clinicals began a little slow this year with snow and school closure for the first three days. Students did finally make it to their offices on Thursday and then returned to class after their trip to Little Rock.

DA Students arrived at Little Rock Friday morning, February 12, to place fluoride varnish on Pre-K through 2nd graders as well as oral hygiene instructions for all of the children – Pre-K through 5th grade. The DA Students also left oral hygiene supplies for all students.

With February being Children’s Dental Health month the DA Students also visited Wilson Elementary, February 19, as well as Stephen’s Episcopal Primary, February 20th, to place fluoride varnish and present oral hygiene instructions. A very busy month for our students!

March 19 the students visited Green Dental Laboratory to see the process of making crown, bridge, dentures, etc. This reinforces for the students what they have learned in class. We appreciate Green for letting us come to the lab and tour their facilities.

Spring break for the students is the week of March 22. This also marks their halfway point for clinicals. They rotate through four offices for three weeks each. Dr. Lynn Mouden will do the PANDA presentation April 2 at the RJ Williams Auditorium on the Pulaski Technical College North Campus. PANDA is from 8:30 – 11:30 and anyone who would like to attend please feel free to come.

As the semester draws to an end Weeda, Sarah and I would like to congratulate our graduates who will graduate May 13 at Verizon Arena.

SUSAN LONG, RDH, EDD

Professor & Chairman

UAMS Dental Hygiene

It has been a very busy year for the Department. The seniors were most excited to be fitted for caps and gowns during spring registration, and the juniors began providing care to “real patients” after months of practicing their skills on each other in the fall. The seniors are now busy observing in dental offices to learn the administrative aspects of dental practices and developing policies & procedure manuals specific to the office in which they observe, presenting table clinics, and completing community service hours.

The seniors are also preparing for the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination that they will take this spring. The exam is now computerized and administered at Pearson VUE testing centers. The SRFA (Southern Regional Testing Agency) computerized exam will be offered at UAMS on May 7-8th. The SRFA exam now includes a computer-based “clinical judgments section” in order to assess the candidate’s ability to perform head and neck assessments, oral cavity screenings, manage medically compromised patients, and recognize diagnostic quality radiographs. That portion of the examination is administered in a computer lab at UAMS, and the clinical portion of the exam is held in our dental hygiene clinic. Our soon-to-be 2010 graduates and their hometowns are listed below:

We opened the new distant site of our program on the campus of Arkansas State University Mountain Home (ASUMH) in August. We have 5 students enrolled in the 1st year class. Nancy Smith, RDH, M.Ed. serves as the site coordinator, Derek Johnson, DDS is the supervising dentist for the clinical aspects of the program, and Ruth Quick is our administrative assistant. Using interactive video, the classroom continues.
portion of the dental hygiene curriculum is broadcast from UAMS to ASUMH, and the students utilize the Mountain Home Christian Clinic as well as clinical rotations to three local dental offices for the clinical portion of the curriculum. We anticipate enrolling a second class of 5 students in fall 2010. Because the primary goal of establishing this off-campus center is to meet the need for hygienists in North Central Arkansas, first consideration in the student selection process is given to qualified applicants from the 10 counties in the UAMS Area Health Education Center-North Central (AHEC-NC) service area, which includes Independence, Baxter, Fulton, Sharp, Stone, Cleburne, Van Buren, Seany, Marion, and Izard counties. The distant location will undergo a special focused site visit from the American Dental Association, Commission on Dental Accreditation, in 2010.

In 2010, the Department will be offering continuing education courses in the administration & monitoring of nitrous oxide, the administration of local anesthesia, and advanced local anesthesia techniques. We also have several web-based, independent study CE courses. Please make sure to check out our webpage or call the Department for more information (www.uams.edu/chrp/dentalhygiene or 501-686-3734).

Senior Student Hometown
Whitney Adams Harrison
Danielle Brown Sherwood
Joanna Brown Conway
Lauren Downen Dumas
Donna Chapman Judsonia
Kristin Childers Nashville
Lauren Cunningham Oxford
Kristin Davis N. Little Rock
Kristin Eford Malvern
Hanna Fenley Greenbrier
Anna Hatcher Searcy
Niki Henry Holly Springs
Kasey Hicks Piggott
Elizabeth Hogue Russellville
Emily Holt Rose Bud
Kelsey Hyzer Conway
Alex Julian Jonesboro
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Chelsea Lasey Bryant
Breanna McMullen Conway
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Lacey Miller Brinkley
Samantha Montgomery Bryant
Shakiera Morgan Jonesboro
Logan Reddmann Cherry Valley
Melissa Simmons Cabot
Lindsay Skinner Mamainelle
Amber Taylor Jonesboro
Chelsea Taylor Salem
Kara Tim Cherokee Village
Sabrina Usdrowska-Bagley Hot Springs
Jessica Williams Western Grove
Melissa Wyke Bryant
Sharon Yarbrough Calico Rock

Southern District News
Dr. Warren Schneider
The Southwest Dental Conference was held in Dallas, Texas from January 21-23. Some of those in attendance from the Central District were Drs. Les Cooner, Don Deems, Randy Rhea, Bill Russell, Sam Strong, and Martin Zoldessy from Little Rock; Drs. Danny Cook, Paul Dean, Bob Keene, and Billy Vaden from North Little Rock; Drs. Naart Fleishner and Richard Van Beever from Hot Springs.

And mentioning Dr. Les Cooner again, he is proud to announce that his oldest son Will has made the men’s varsity soccer team at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee. Will graduated from Catholic High in May 2009 and was part of two state championship soccer teams and is currently a freshman at Rhodes on an academic scholarship.

The Central District Dental Society held their elections meeting on November 19, 2009 and appointed its new officers. The new officer positions for 2010 are Dr. Mark Murphy, President; Dr. Scott Jolly, President-Elect; Dr. John Pitts, Vice President; and Dr. Lindy Bolten, Secretary-Treasurer. Dr. Kristi Gipe was recognized for her service as President of Central District in 2009 and Dr. Kevin Jones for his service as Secretary-Treasurer from 2007-2009. Dr. Robert Keene was elected to the Arkansas Board of Dental Examiners.

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*Join before Dec. 31, 2009, and dues will be applied to 2010 AGD membership. Discount applies to AGD Headquarters dues only.

Arkansas Dentistry, Spring 2010

Arkansas Dentistry, Spring 2010
and Dr. Jerry Friend became the ASDA Executive Council representative. Drs. Rick and Sean Gore and Jim Penney from Little Rock once again spent the week of Thanksgiving in the Amazon Basin of South America. They, along with Jim’s 11 year old son Jake, were part of a 24 member medical/dental missions group which included another general dentist and his 11 year old son from Brooklyn, N.Y. They spent the week at the Rio Negro Lodge fishing for Peacock bass during the day and working in the dental clinic at night. According to Jim more than 100 patients were seen through the week with his son Jake even helping, as well as many, many fish being caught and a great experience had by all.

Dr. Jerry Friend and Catherine

Dr. Jerry Friend and his wife Betty are proud to announce some recent honors bestowed on their daughter Katherine. In October 2009, Katherine, a senior at Mt Saint Mary’s Academy in Little Rock, was voted as the homecoming queen for Catholic High School/Mt. St. Mary’s homecoming festivities and football game. In December 2009, a Liberty Bowl committee selected Katherine to participate in various Liberty Bowl activities. She along with other young women from across the region were a part of the Liberty Bowl parade and halftime festivities as well as a goodwill visit to St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital. Congratulations and good luck on the rest of your senior year!

Drs. David Wardlaw and Rob Richardson of Little Rock celebrated their 50th birthdays in a very unique way. David and wife Susie, Rob and wife Jeanie, along with good friend Jack Truempfer and wife Leslie rented a sailboat and sailed through the British Virgin Islands for seven days in October 2009. All three have been friends since high school and have together celebrated birthdays that fall close to one another. According to David, “Big 50 days in the BVI” was named for the special event. David also states that “Captain Rob” (an accomplished sailor) piloted the vessel and a great time was had by all.

Drs. Andy and Michael Kitchens are proud to announce the opening of their new office in west Little Rock. Despite bad weather, the doctors, staff, and movers started the relocating process on December 17, 2009 and finished on the 21st with the doors opening and patients seen on the 22nd. Along with Andy and Michael, the practice has a real family feel to it. Andy’s wife Sheryl is the office manager (since 2003), son Jason is the IT as well as overall “office fix” expert. Another son, Brandon, is a fourth year dental student and looks to join in the future and with a little over 6,000 square feet of office space, there is plenty of space for him. According to Sheryl, the weather has delayed final landscaping and some minor interior work needs to be completed, but overall everyone is excited and happy to be in the new office.

From the better late than never news category: Dr. Steven Ray of Little Rock has moved and started a solo practice. Steve started as an associate with Dr. Paul Burton in 1993. He has also been a part of Mrs. Burton, Gibson (Bill), and Ray dental practice group for several years until deciding to move out on his own in May 2009. Steve’s new office has about 2,100 square feet and is located in the same West Little Rock office complex that houses Dr. Mel Collazo’s orthodontic practice. Steve states that he still plans to see patients in his satellite office in Hazen as he has been doing for the last ten years.

Nearest District News
DR. MICHAEL THOMPSON

Many of our NEA dentists have been spotlighted already in print, but I thought it newsworthy to continue.

Dr. Tony Tortorich in Maui, Hawaii

Dr. Tony Tortorich of Little Rock and his wife, Torre, went to Maui, Hawaii in late January 2010. Tony attended the 17th International Symposium in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery presented by the University of California at San Francisco Department of OMS. The weather and food were exceptional. Time was also made for recreational activities such as a zip line adventure over beautiful scenery and exotic vegetation.

Dr. Martin Menees of Little Rock is recovering from recent back surgery. Martin has suffered from spinal stenosis for several years and was treated in part with steroids and physical therapy. Eventually, this treatment became less effective and he began to lose strength in his hands and arms. This led to Posterior Cervical Decompression surgery on January 18, 2010 at the Arkansas Surgical Hospital in Maumelle. The surgery was a success, but Martin will need to do rehab and is limited to a very light workload (paperwork and hygiene checks only). He hopes to be back full time by the first week in March and we all wish him well for a full recovery.

Drs. Mark Murphy, Werner Schneider, and Mark Wilson of Little Rock North Little Rock were among those who attended a Central Arkansas Razorback Club meeting on Feb 4 at the Embassy Sites in Little Rock. The full capacity crowd was treated to a full meal, live and silent auctions, and Coach Bobby Petrino and his staff speak on their recently signed recruiting class. The coaches were very pleased with this class of recruits and certainly energized the future of Razorback football.

Dr. Jerry Friend and Catherine

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Dr. Matt Carlisle and Dr. Kelly-Gwynne Fergus

Dr. Van Parker and Dr. Troy Bartels

Dr. Bob Gardner

Dr. Bryan Copeland, Dr. Coy Mac Boyd, Jr., Dr. Kollin Weaver, Dr. Jim Wagner

Dr. Cynthia Landry, Dr. Wayne Cook, Megan and Lori

have shared the same office for 26 years. Dr. Stan McPike recently received on the job training for cosmetology and hair design. His wife recently fell and broke both wrists and he stepped up to the plate by styling her hair and painting her nails. According to him, he has done a great job. Confirmation with his concerning his new abilities has not been made.

If you didn’t attend the ADA meeting in September, you missed an opportunity to see beautiful scenery as well as attend some interesting classes in Hawaii. Dr. Thad Brown and Dr. Ron Burnett and their wives were in attendance. Dr. Bruce Taylor and Dr. Katy Wagner also went with their spouses and staff. Dr. Thad Brown stated, “I was very impressed with the continuing education speakers and the courses that covered almost every topic in dentistry.” He and his wife also visited Pearl Harbor along with other sources of attractions. They had a wonderful time...

Dr. James Phillips has recently received an accreditation by the AAHCE. This accreditation means that Dr. Phillips has met nationally recognized standards for the provision of quality health care. Dr. Phillips stated, “Going through the process challenged us to find better ways to serve our patients, and it is a constant reminder that our first responsibility is to our patients and the quality of care we provide.” We feel very privileged to have Dr. Phillips in our district.

Our NEA district lost a friend and fellow colleague. Dr. Fred Wagner passed away October 29, 2009. He practiced dentistry for 46 years and never missed a dental meeting. He was a member of Lions Club and First Baptist Church in Blytheville. He served in the Korean War and played baseball for the Army. After the war, he attended ASU where he also played baseball. He attended dental school at the University of Tennessee in Memphis. Dr. Wagner lost his wife, Bonnie, in August 2009. They were married almost 30 years. His daughter, Dawn Barre, stated that her dad was also a pilot and owned a plane. He had flown his plane just the week before his death. He and his wife also visited Memphis. Dr. Barre, stated that her dad was also a pilot and owned a plane. He had flown his plane just the week before his death. He and his wife also visited Memphis.

Another successful NEADDS Meeting is behind us. After much research, which included many phone calls, we have concluded that this year’s semi-annual dental meeting marked the 142nd.

Registration for this year's meeting was significantly increased. We also had an increase in sponsorship which included several new vendors. Thanks go out to all of the NEA Specialists. We appreciate the staff of Drs. Fergus and Burris for all of the wonderful hours of service and drinks for the Hospitality Suite. If you didn’t attend, please put it on your calendar for next year. It is a great opportunity for you and your staff to network with other dental offices.

Jiffy Printing donated imprinted bags for all attendees to receive. Many sponsors and NEA specialists provided goodies to be placed inside of the bags. Dr. Farran also donated copies of his magazine, Dental Town.

Once again, Edmonds Dental Lab graciously paid for our wonderful breakfast for Friday morning. R-Dent Dental Lab participated this year by providing snacks for the Friday break. Be sure to thank these people as well as all the other sponsors.

During the lunch hour, Henry Schein gave away a $150.00 gift certificate to Omari 3:01 and two dental handpieces. Biomet 3i gave away a loca-

Dr. Katy Warren provided an excellent program on OSHA. She also provided an additional presentation that gave insight to “The Aging Mouth.” She came highly recommended and we felt honored to have her.

Dr. Lary George graced us with his presence and expertise at the Saturday morning session. Despite his “technical difficulties,” we assured him that he would not be barred from future meetings. Thanks Dr. Lary.

CPR recertification class was offered for the first time. It too was a great success and convenient, too.

Dr. Zeb Carnes

Dr. Jeremy Adams

Dr. Kevin Pierce

Dr. Brooke Burris

Dr. Donald Perkins

Dr. Randall Simpson

Dr. William Beller

Dr. Michelle Imboden

Dr. Michael Kersey

Dr. Bryan Copeland

Dr. Mark Wilson

Dr. Nancy Malcolm

Dr. Michael Oliver

Dr. Patrick Carroll

Dr. James Phillips

Dr. Warren Whitin

Dr. Stan McPike

Dr. Kolin Weaver, Dr. Jim Wagner

Dr. Howard Farran

Dr. Troy Bartels

Dr. Bryan Copeland

Dr. Coy Mac Boyd, Jr., Dr. Kollin Weaver, Dr. Jim Wagner

Dr. Michelle Imboden

Dr. Michael Kersey

Dr. Bryan Copeland

Dr. Mark Wilson

Dr. Nancy Malcolm

Dr. Michael Oliver

Dr. Patrick Carroll

Dr. James Phillips

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Dr. Matt Carlisle and Dr. Kelly-Gwynne Fergus

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Northwest District News

DR. NICK DOLLAR

The annual meeting for NWDDS is set for June 11 and 12 in the Rogers-Springdale area. The speaker will be announced later.

A Note from Dr. Jim Hunt, Dental Director Community Clinic, Springfield:

Just FYI, the Community Clinic, Springfield Campus, has been occupying our new facility for several months now. We are digital and working toward completely paperless. Our clinicians and staff are loving it. The physical arrangement of our new facility superbly accommodates parent participation in all venues of care. We have progressed from a beginning approximately eleven years ago from ninety percent treatment and ten percent preventive to now providing eighty percent preventive care and twenty percent treatment. Patient and parent compliance has increased proportionately which is one of our greatest rewards.

Overall, Community Clinic, formerly St. Francis, now has medical clinics in Rogers, Springdale, and Siloam Springs in addition to the Dental Clinics in Rogers and Springdale. Under the superb and dedicated direction of our Director and CEO, Kathy Girishan, development in the last ten years has grown from a staff of less than a dozen to over one hundred and fifty five. The reward from this is the expansion in care and services for our underserved patients. The Clinics are not free clinics but do serve an abbreviated form of “MOMS” all year round. In that context, I personally applaud those who participate in MOMS and urge all who can do so to participate. The rewards cannot be taxed or taken from participants, they are eternal!

Southeast District News

DR. STACEY SWILLING

The Jefferson County Dental Society held their annual Christmas party on Dec. 2, at the Pine Bluff Country Club. There were 37 in attendance, with about 20 of those being dentists. The evening began with cocktails and Christmas music and was followed by delicious entrees and desserts. The society’s president, Dr. Garrett Taylor of Pine Bluff, held a meeting to discuss business and update everyone on the previous year’s happenings. The night was brought to a close with a round of bingo where the winners received some great door prizes. The society would like to thank Jefferson Dental Lab, Carter Dental Lab, and Green Dental Lab for their generous donations of various lab cases as door prizes.

Dr. Tim Chase of Monticello reports that he attended the Liberty Bowl in Memphis with his family and froze.

Dr. Terri Eubanks of Monticello reports that the entire office is looking forward to going on a cruise.
in March for spring break.

More news from Monticello. Dr. Alisa Hopper is glad to be back in her home office after damage in a May storm. Dr. Louis Mitchell of Marianna celebrated his birthday on January 6th. He didn’t share how many that makes! Happy Birthday, Louis!

Baby blessings times two have been reported from Dr. Jerry Sparrow of Stuttgart. His assistant Vicki Bullock had a baby boy on July 31, 2009, and hygienist Heidi Craig had a baby boy on September 24, 2009. Congratulations to you both.

Drs. Susan Wamble and George Morrisey of Pine Bluff and Dr. Bill Alfonso of North Little Rock went on a mission trip to Honduras in February.

Southwest

DR. WENDELL GARRETT

The opening of Dr. Ryan and Stephanie Hanry’s Pedodontic Clinic will be very soon! They hope to be seeing little patients before April. They can write a book which will make Murphy’s Law seem to optimistic in nature. Dr. Hanry has been practicing part-time in Texarkana since August. Stephanie has been filling in for hygienist in El Dorado. Hang in there as we know you will have a very busy office once you open.

Dr. J. B. Suffridge is opening another endodontic office in Benton. He plans to split the week working in each office. He and his dad Dr. Buford Suffridge enjoy flying their airplane. Anita Owens kept everyone at Dr. Dorothy McGarity’s office excited throughout the fall as her son Garrett Owens was a starter on the Junction City High School Football Team. The team won the 2009 AA State Football Championship on Dec. 12, 2009 at War Memorial Stadium—back-to-back state championships!

Congratulations go out to High Schools in Monticello, El Dorado and Junction City for winning 2009 State Football Championships! And for all the LSUDS graduates, you DID live long enough to see the New Orleans Saints win the Super Bowl. God works in mysterious ways.

The last week of February, Dr. Dean Weddle took a vacation at Medical Center of South Arkansas in El Dorado. Dean said it was like being in a five star resort except for being awakened every time he fell asleep as well as having the phlebotomist poking his arms looking for additional blood! We are glad you are feeling better.

Dr. Ashley Jackson-Plummer and husband Jarrod are proud to announce the

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Congratulations to the family. Maggie was born on Jan. 19 weighing in at 6 lbs and 7 oz and is truly a gift from God! Ashley enjoys their sweet little angel stating, ‘she is truly a gift from God!’ Ashley returned to treating patients on February 22. Congratulations to the family.

Two El Dorado hygienists Jill Austin, RDH and Kim Engler, RDH are expecting babies in March and September, respectively! More recipients of the El Dorado College Promise. With the Lotto scholarship, their children should make money just for attending college!

Dr. Larry Sipes’ wife Lisa and daughter Abby are making plans to go to Disney World this summer. Larry is proud to announce his step-son Caleb Taylor has enlisted in the US Marines. Caleb reports to Boot Camp in October. Best wishes to Caleb as he defends our country and our freedoms.

Dr. David Betts son Evan is half way through his curriculum at the UALR Law School. Evan married Rachel Fruchey in May 2009.

Dr. Fred Dietrich will be entering some of his classic vehicles in car shows this spring and summer. We hope to include some photos of some of them in the fall issue.

Melinda and Dr. David Vammen took advantage of their trip to the ADA Annual Session in September to see some of the sights and beautiful scenery on the island of Oahu. They celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary during the trip. As required by the IRS, David attended continuing education courses and enjoyed the product booths in the Convention Center. They saved a little time to swim in the Pacific Ocean, snorkel near the reefs and rocks, eat some great food, and walk hand in hand along Waikiki Beach. Melinda and David said of all the ADA Annual Sessions they have attended, this one was their all time favorite!

The SWDDS is looking forward to Dr. Miranda Childs-Bebee becoming the first female ASDA Vice-President. Miranda has been a great advocate for the SWDDS and ASDA. She was recently named the chairman of the ArMoM Foundation Board of Directors. Best wishes as Miranda goes through the ASDA officer positions!

Sharon Pinson, RDA a dental assistant for Dr. Wendell Garrett is shown with her daughter Paige and Princess. Paige will graduate in May from SAU Magnolia with a degree in Business Marketing. Princess likes to go fishing (rain or shine) as seen spotting the fish with Sharon’s husband John.

Dr. Troy Morgan from Longview, Texas spoke to the Union County Dental Society about Digital X-rays at their January meeting. Noble Biocare representatives Kevin Thomas and Ryan Dunbar spoke about the Noble Active Implant and the All-on-4 implant maxillary denture technique. Attendees included the UCDS members and our dentist friends in Magnolia, Camden and Blytheville, Arkansas.

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Supplemental retirement plan for Medicaid providers!

Medicaid providers can defer Medicaid income on a pre-tax basis into the State of Arkansas Deferred Compensation Plan, commonly referred to as the Arkansas Diamond Plan. Providers practicing in group settings, as well as individual private practice, are eligible to participate.

Medicaid deferrals may be made in addition to any contributions you are making to your current retirement plan established by your professional group or individual practice.

Medicaid providers enrolled in the Plan can defer up to $16,500 of Medicaid income for calendar year 2010. Medicaid providers that are age 50 or older in 2010 can defer up to $22,000 of Medicaid income for calendar year 2010.

Over the past 24 months, hundreds of Medicaid providers have enrolled in the Arkansas Diamond Plan to take advantage of the opportunity to defer a portion of their Medicaid income. The Plan has been available for more than 30 years.

For additional information regarding participation in the Arkansas Diamond Plan contact Robert Jones of Stephens Inc. at 501-377-8112.

Put Your Passion into Action

Volunteering for Seal the State and ArMOM

BY JENNIFER VEGA LAMB, RDH, MPH
President - Arkansas State Dental Hygienists' Association

I have always felt a desire to help those in need. As a young child, I volunteered with the local Humane Society, various nursing homes, and Habitat for Humanity and have continued my service to multiple organizations ever since. My service naturally turned towards the oral health field when I entered dental hygiene school. At UAMS, I participated in sealant and dental education programs to elementary schools and have continued my involvement with these programs after graduation. It is hard to describe the feelings I get after volunteering with such a project. Each project is different, with different feelings, influences, and interactions, but all are personally beneficial. Over the past two years I have volunteered with the Seal the State and ArMOM programs. Both programs have cared for a record number of Arkansans.

In 2008, the Office of Oral Health, Arkansas Department of Health began its pilot program entitled Seal the State. I traveled to Forrest City and helped to screen and seal the permanent molars of 2nd and 3rd graders. Growing up in the Delta, I was honored to be able to serve the children of this area of Arkansas that were indeed in need of care. It was amazing to see a perfectly pristine tooth adjacent to a grossly decayed primary tooth. To be able to facilitate the hope that the children's permanent teeth would not suffer the same fate as their primary teeth and that future dental pain might have been prevented was gratifying. Seal the State will begin working with schools again this year. Please contact Carol Amerine at 501-661-2051 for volunteer locations and information.

Dental and pain are two words we do not like to hear. However, it is what we, as dental professionals, are educated to help people overcome. In 2008 and 2009, I had the opportunity to volunteer alongside many other dental and medical professionals in helping decrease the dental pain of Arkansans. The ArMOM project has been my most rewarding volunteering experience to date! As a hygienist, I was utilized in the areas of dental triage, oral health education, pediatric sealants, treatment assisting, and anesthesia. There are many ways to volunteer your time and talents. The number of children and adults that are treated during the ArMOM event is growing each year and therefore each year more volunteers are needed. ArMOM 2010 will be held in Monticello on May 21st and 22nd. Register online at www.arkansasdentistry.org.

I challenge each hygienist in Arkansas, whether you work full time, part time, or are retired, to volunteer at least once this year to better the Oral Health and Total Health of Arkansans. Rally your fellow colleagues and co-workers and let’s help to Seal the State and provide oral health care for a record number of Arkansans this year at ArMOM!

In closing, I want to remind you of the joint ASDA/ASSHA Continuing Education meeting to be held April 9 in Little Rock. ASDHA will present International speaker Dr. Denis Kinane who will discuss new research in the link between oral health and total health, an important issue for the entire dental team! Please check our website often for local CE opportunities at www.arkansasdentistry.org and join us on Facebook.

I challenge each hygienist in Arkansas, whether you work full time, part time, or are retired, to volunteer at least once this year to better the Oral Health and Total Health of Arkansans.

“Think of giving not as a duty but as a privilege.”

— John D. Rockefeller

Arkansas Dentistry, Spring 2010
The Edward P. Cooper Family of Hot Springs, Ark. has been torn apart by a tragic disaster. On Saturday, February 6, 2010, Dr. Edward Perry Cooper, 46, and his two daughters, Mary Catherine “Catie” Cooper, 16, and Elizabeth Minton “Libby” Cooper, 14, entered heaven and are now in the hands of Jesus Christ, their Lord and Savior. They are survived by their wife and mother, Cheryl Minton Cooper, and son and brother, Edward Perry “EP” Cooper. The family has lived in Hot Springs, Arkansas for the past 15 years. Dr. Edward Perry Cooper, 46, was a loving servant of his family, his church, and the community. He was a devoted husband, father and friend. He loved his children beyond measure and was a wonderful, endearing husband. He was an active home group leader for years at Lake Valley Community Church. He worked tirelessly to serve the needs of Garland County and the surrounding areas. He woke up every day with joy in his heart and not once tired of treating his patients. He was the heart of the community and placed his family above everything. Edward was raised in Little Rock, Arkansas. He attended Catholic High School, The University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, and the Colorado School of Pharmacy.

Mary Catherine “Catie” Cooper, 16, was a beautiful and wonderful girl. At age 16, she was confident in her walk with the Lord and had a faith that was exceptional for someone her age. She attended Lakeside High School where she was a cheerleader for three years, a straight “A” student and active in her youth group at Lake Valley Community Church. She was a Founding Member and President of “Sisters in Service”, an organization designed to serve in the community. Catie Cooper was the finest Christian young lady and had her whole life ahead of her. Elizabeth Minton “Libby” Cooper was 14 years old and attended Lakeside Junior High. She was a cheerleader, straight “A” student and President of her class. She attended Lake Valley Community Church. Libby was a beautiful Christian young lady that loved life and lived it to the fullest. She wanted to grow up to be a singer and actor. Libby went to the Arkansas Repertory Theatre SMTI for five years where she acted and sang as a soloist. When Libby was performing, she was in her element. She used all of her gifts to serve Christ. Libby and Catie loved their family and friends with passion, were champions for Christ, and always looked forward to spending time at Camp Ozark each summer. We will all be thankful for the short years we were blessed by these sweet girls. We are very confident that they are in heaven with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Edward Cooper was the son of the late Turner Bond and Isabelle Brett Perry Cooper, Jr., the brother of David and Monte Cooper Walker, the late Turner Bond Cooper, III, all of North Little Rock, and the brother of Jim and Mary Moore of Huntsville, Ala. They are also survived by Catie and Libby's grandparents, Scott and Mary Minton of Little Rock, and by other aunts and uncles: Wade and Cindy (Minton) Smith of Clinton, Miss.; Steve and Kelly (Minton) Matthias of Zionville, Ind.; Greg and Lisa Minton of Benton, Ark., and Ray and Carol (Minton) Harvey of Dallas, Texas.

Visitations with the family were held at Lake Valley Community Church in Hot Springs on Wednesday, February 10. The funeral, officiated by Lamar Trenschman, was Thursday, Feb. 11 at Horner Hall at the Hot Springs Convention Center. Memorial cards may be made to the Dr. Edward P. Cooper Family Foundation benefiting Camp Ozark, The Arkansas Repertory Theatre, and Lake Valley Community Church (Malvern National Bank, P.O. Box 627, Hot Springs, AR 71913).
University College of Dentistry, graduating in 1949. He returned home to Searcy to open his dental office and practiced dentistry for 37 years. He was a pioneer in the practice of clinical hypnosis in dentistry. Dr. Hudgins always took an active interest in his community, serving on the Civil Service Commission for 15 years and the Searcy School Board from 1964 to 1980. Dr. Hudgins and Dr. Hugh Edwards were instrumental in having fluoride added to the Searcy Water System. He was a member of the Lions Club for over 20 years serving in various capacities and served as Deputy Coroner for 17 years. He was a member of the White County Dental Society and the White County Medical Society. In 1966 Dr. Hudgins purchased Oaklawn Memorial Gardens and later built the first mausoleum in White County. He was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church. Anyone who knew Dr. Hudgins knew that he was an avid bass fisherman. He loved traveling to fish in Canada, Mexico, and Alaska, and many lakes around the United States.

Dr. Hudgins was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Frances, his brother, Dr. Paul Hudgins, and son-in-law Cecil Gardner. He is survived by his four children, Julita Gardner (Archie) Archambault, Mary Jo (Milton) Chambers, Robert (Tina) Hudgins, and Michael (Janet) Hudgins. There are 25 grandchildren and great-grandchildren: Deidra Gardner Porter (Scott), Trey Gardner (Sherri), Andy Chambers (Sarah), Chrisisie Hudgins, Alan Chambers, Jonathan Hudgins, Scott Hudgins, Kathryn Hudgins, Michael Hudgins, Stephanie Hobohn, Stephen Linehan, Cecily Dilbeck, Nathan Porter, Philip and Emma Porter, Grace and Lyndsey Gardner, Landon Chambers, Shelby, Thomas, Morgan, Sutton, and Phillip Hobohn, Stevie and Julia Linehan. Many nieces and nephews, cousins, and friends also survive him.

Visitation was held at Searcy-McEuen Funeral Home. Funeral Services were at Trinity Episcopal Church, on January 4, with entombment at Oaklawn Memorial Gardens. The family requests memorials to Trinity Episcopal Church, Arkansas Children’s Hospital, or The Humane Society of Searcy.

Dr. Fred O. Wagner

Dr. Fred O. Wagner, 77, of Blytheville died Oct. 28, 2009, at St. Bernards Medical Center in Jonesboro. He was born at Manila to the late O.B. and Bertha Griffin Wagner. Dr. Wagner was a graduate of Arkansas State University, where he was also a member of the baseball team. He later attended the University of Tennessee Dental School and opened his dental practice in Blytheville where he practiced for 45 years. Dr. Wagner was a leader in the community as well as an avid pilot, hunter, and coach to his five grandsons. He was a US Army Veteran of the Korean War, an active member of the First Baptist Church, the Blytheville Lions Club, and the Blytheville Municipal Airport Commission. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his wife, Bonnie; and a brother, Dean Wagner. Dr. Wagner is survived by his children, Bryan and Cindy Wagner, and Dawn and Chris Barre, all of Jonesboro; brothers, Ralph Wagner of Olive Branch, Miss., Don E. Wagner and Wayne Wagner, both of Manila, and Dr. Jim Wagner of Jonesboro; sisters, Freda Gray of Salem and Linda Erney of Jonesboro; and grandchildren, Sam Alan, Ben and Will Barre, and Mac and Dawson Wagner, all of Jonesboro.

Funeral services were held at the First Baptist Church with the Rev. Greg Bowers officiating with burial following in Manila Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church.

Dr. Wagner was a leader in the community as well as an avid pilot, hunter, and coach to his five grandsons. He was a US Army Veteran of the Korean War, an active member of the First Baptist Church, the Blytheville Lions Club, and the Blytheville Municipal Airport Commission.
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