

# GREETINGS!

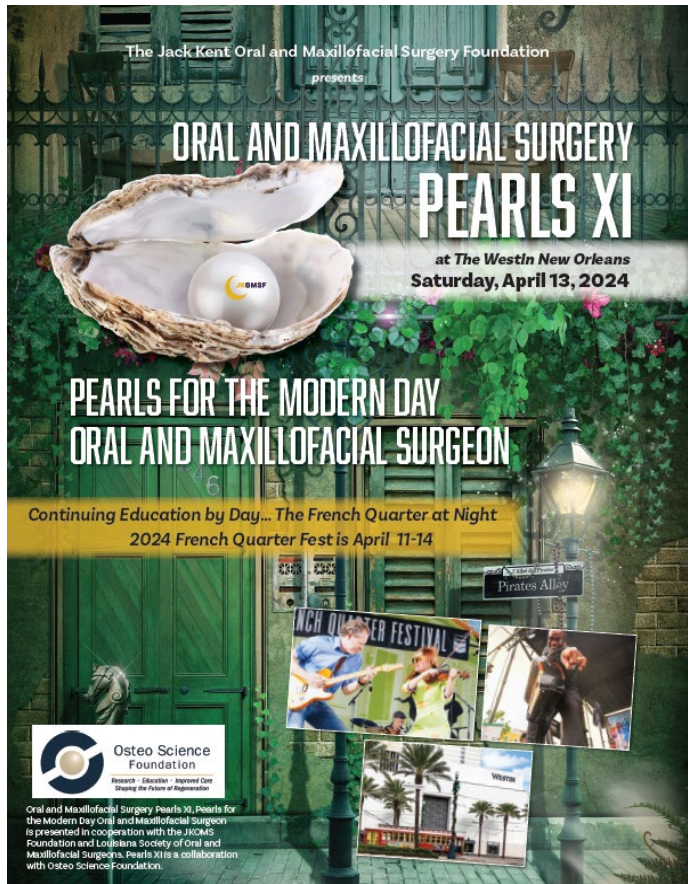
## DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

### UPCOMING

### OMS PEARLS XI COURSE 2024

**JACK KENT**  
ORAL & MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY FOUNDATION

**AND**  
**LSU OMS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**



**Now registering!**

**You can book through the link**

<https://jkomsf.org/course/lsu-oral-maxillofacial-surgery-pearls-course/>

**The scoop of the year**  
The latest OMFS news inside this issue:

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*"A reminder of what JKOMSF is all about"*

*Wes Emison, DDS, MD  
JKOMSF President*

Congratulations to any of you who this past summer complained about the sweltering heat and blamed the weather on global warming. This morning the low was 31 degrees, and you now wish to reconsider your opinion. Clearly, the weather is not climate, but this morning's chill is not part of my calculus having grown up near the beach in San Diego.

The Jack Kent Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Foundation, the LSU Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Alumni Association, and the LSU Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Residency Training Program have a lot going on, so if you will bundle up and give me just two minutes of your time, I will provide a brief rundown and entice you into reading this Winter Edition of the JKOMSF and LSUAA Newsletter.

**Continued**

On the heels of having the LSU Board of Regents (BOR) last year decline our proposal request for matching funds leading to a one-million-dollar Endowed Chair, Drs. Kent, James, Geist and Denise Delaney, Director of Grants for the LSU Health Foundation New Orleans, and I are now in the final stages of re-writing the Proposal. We have addressed the criticisms **and** recommendations of the LSU BOR and further refined the focus of our Proposal submission on the Primary and Secondary surgical care of Maxillofacial Trauma. We are extremely optimistic that the John (Jack) N. Kent Endowed Chair will become a reality this year.

The 50th (yes, you read that right) Annual Comprehensive Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Review Course at the Westin New Orleans Hotel in November was a well-attended success with superb lectures by Drs. Eric Carlson, Daniel Choi, Kitrina Cordell, Dayton Daberkow, Mark Fletcher, Thomas Flynn, Ghali Ghali, Andrew Jenzer, and Myron Tucker, as well as our very own alum, Drs. Michael Block, Brian Farrell, Chris Haggerty, Jeff James, John Neary and Jon Perenack.



The JKOMSF, with the help of Michele Holmes, is now in the planning stages for the next half-century of our Comprehensive Board Review Course.

Save the date for our JKOMSF-sponsored Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Pearls XI on Saturday, April 13th with a Welcome Reception on the evening of Friday, April 12th again at The Westin New Orleans, <https://jkomsf.org/course/lsu-oral-maxillofacial-surgery-pearls-course/>. We have a new format for Pearls XI, condensing a wealth of OMS Pearls into one day, from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM, leaving the balance of the weekend to enjoy the 2024 French Quarter Fest April 11-14. Topics germane to our everyday practice of oral and maxillofacial surgery will be presented including "In-Office TMJ Surgical Treatment: Keys to Safe and Successful Outcomes...And Why We Do It!" by Dr. John Nale; "Non-Surgical Treatment of TMJ Disorders" by Dr. Rana Almudamgha; "The Role of Nutrition in Maxillofacial Healing" by Dr. Teresa Biggerstaff; "Anesthesia Update – Incorporating DEXmedetomidine Into the Office-Based Anesthesia Model Provided by the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon" by Dr. Jeff James; and "Full Arch Digital Implant Workflow. Alternative Implant Strategies" by Drs. David Bulot, Steven Nelson, and Thomas Kiebach. Register now!

For a second consecutive year, the JKOMS Foundation has stepped up to the plate to support our OMS residents in training. Precipitated last year by Dr. Peter Park bringing to the attention of the Board the lack of resident support while enrolled in the LSU School of Medicine, each of our 23 residents this week received a check for \$2,000 to mitigate this concern relative to living costs. The spirit of such additional support is reflected in the JKOMSF Mission Statement and a hope that the residents will, in the future, support future generations of surgeons by giving back in the form of donations to the Foundation.

Our entire LSU Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery community was devastated in early December by the sudden loss of our dear colleague, friend, and former Head of the LSU Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Dr. Rob Laughlin. That Rob is so dearly missed was evident in the memorial gathering recently held in the home of Dr. Tony and April Indovina.

The balance of this issue marks the loss of three other colleagues, Drs. Lou Belinfante, Robert Heckel, and Don Hagy; a celebration of JKOMSF and LSUOMSAA

*Continued*

Alumnus of the Year, Dr. Mark Welch; LSU OMS Alumni Profile Dr. Brian Kelley, and LSU OMS Alumni Profile, Dr. Rick Willis.

On the leadership front, our new Peltier Endowed Chair, and Head of the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Department, and Program Director of the Residency Program at the Louisiana State University Health Science Center New Orleans, Dr. Jeff James has hit the ground running. As Dr. James will tell you if you ask and do ask, he is prepared to take LSU OMS "to the Next Level." With the full support of JKOMSF, LSUOMSAA, the LSU OMS faculty, and residents, if Jeff can achieve even half of his goals, LSU OMS will be at "the Next Level."

Finally, even the Backbone of LSU OMS can reach the point of saying "Uncle," so this will be Dr. Kent's JKOMSF and LSUOMSAA Editorial Swan Song, handing over the keyboard to Michele Holmes and me and a yet-identified-unknowing volunteer.

We can only thank Dr. Kent for his fantastic job of keeping this group of surgeons together in yet another realm of his tireless work for LSU OMS and I can only hope my new Boss, Michele, will show me occasional deadline mercy.

Should any of this have meaning for you, please donate to the JKOMS Foundation.

A new mailing address for the JKOMSF will be forthcoming!

Wes

**Mark A. Welch, DDS ('80)**

*Alumnus of the Year, JKOMS Foundation, and LSU OMS  
Alumni Association*

It's an honor to be selected as the Foundations Alumnus of the Year. I was born in Kanasa in 1951 and grew up in Oklahoma. I eventually made it to Louisiana and attended Tulane University on an athletic scholarship. After graduating from Tulane in 1973, I attended LSU School of Dentistry and graduated first in my class in 1977, and am a member of Omicron Kappa Epsilon. I was accepted into residency in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial of LSU in 1977.



I completed my residency in 1980 and set up a private practice in Lafayette, Louisiana. I was joined by Randy Malloy in 1982 and we practiced together for 20 years. Our practice was heavy into orthognathic surgery in which we averaged over 100 cases a year. It was also heavy into the treatment of TMJ abnormalities, this was Randy's true love. We both were part-time faculty at LSU during this entire time. Due to health problems Randy retired from private practice in 2002 and returned to LSU as full-time faculty until he died in 2008.

At the end of 2009, I returned to the full-time faculty as an assistant clinical professor. I was primarily involved in resident training and eventually was appointed Residency Program Director in 2014. In 2017, Head and Neck Anatomy course which I had been associated with for many years.

I returned to part-time faculty in January 2021. I was based entirely at UMC operating with the residents. I always enjoyed working with the residents in the surgery and I think this was probably where I did the best. Due to some crazy new legislation involving employees' salaries coming out of retirement, I found it necessary to retire again in November 2023.

I have always enjoyed playing my guitars, of which my current is number 137. My wife and I enjoy spending time with our children and many grandchildren. I will always be thankful for my training and association with the LSU Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, and particularly with Dr. Kent.



**LSU OMS Alumni Profile**

Brian and wife Erin  
Caroline (4) and Charlotte (2)

### **Brian Kelley, DDS MD '13**

Being a country doctor in small-town Louisiana and an Alumnus for only 10 years, I was shocked to receive a phone call from Dr. Kent asking me to detail my journey to LSU OMS. There have been so many of our colleagues and alumni friends with such vast careers and accomplishments, but when the chief calls, the answer is, "Yes sir!"

I am proud to call St. Louis, Missouri home, and being born number 5 of 6 children in a large Catholic family, our parents were heavily focused on religion and scholarship. Parochial schools and parish sports were our childhoods. I consider myself very fortunate to have been accepted to St. Louis Priory College Preparatory School, allowing my main interest in athletics to be satisfied while the English Benedictine monks forced my study habits to sharpen. In the summer between my sophomore and junior years, my father encouraged me to job shadow a local professional within our parish community. I sought out

engineers, attorneys, physicians, and dentists all to end up where fate guided me. Dr. Weber, a local OMS, invited me to work for him doing sterilization for the remainder of the summer after shadowing in his office for a week. Every day brought new and interesting procedures. This experience broadened my appreciation of the profession. Learning what it took to become an OMS; the training it entailed, the numerous degrees, and the scarcity of the number of practitioners was most inspiring. As I was about to return to high school for the fall, Dr. Weber sat me down and said, "This is the best job in the world. You get to choose your own adventure. You can practice as a dentist or a physician. You can work in a clinic or a hospital, you can extract wisdom teeth, or cure cancer. The best part is that your adventure will change over the course of your life and career, thus allowing you to choose what's best for you and your family." I really took this advice to heart and set my sites for OMS, so I too could "choose my own adventure".

By the time undergraduate studies at the University of Missouri came along, I studied both Biology and Chemistry. Heavy class loads, diligent preparation for the DAT, and a summertime job as a dental lab technician yielded early acceptance to the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry after my third year of undergraduate studies. I maintained efforts near the top of my class throughout dental school and was further inspired by the oral surgical staff at UMKC who gave me nearly unrestricted access to hospital and dental school clinics and ORs. I was very driven to go to a dual-degree program specifically at UMKC having not known anything otherwise. During discussions with UMKC-OMS staff, I was told my board scores were borderline for their MD program. Thus, I would be best served doing an oral surgery internship or hospital-based general practice residency. Unfortunately, neither was offered at UMKC at that time. I did as was requested and matched at Hennepin County Medical Center general practice residency in Minneapolis, Minn. I chose the oral surgery track and essentially became a redshirt intern for the University of Minnesota Department of OMS. During that rewarding year, staff surgeon Mark

Englestad and Stephen Mcleod encouraged me to look into other programs outside of UMKC for a dual-degree spot. They specifically mentioned LSU-New Orleans as a legendary program that had a wild west mentality and case volume unmatched.

By the grace of God (and other more qualified applicants being scared of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina) Dr. Perenack invited me for an interview at LSU-New Orleans.

I chose to take this interview adventure just one year after Katrina changed New Orleans forever. I walked off the plane in the old Southwest Terminal at Louis Armstrong International. The smell of old beer, fresh popcorn, and mildew filled the air. The car rental area was abandoned, and I had to find airport security to call somebody to check me in for my rental car. The old No. 77 hotel on Tchoupitoulas Street was our home for the next several evenings. LSU obviously locked down discount room rates as my room didn't have a television or alarm clock. The next morning, I followed the interview instructions that were mailed to us with our invitation. We were to come to 1901 Perdido Street, at 8 am sharp, and meet in the back of the main cafeteria. It was a cold day in New Orleans. I parked at street level and walked to the listed location, only to be greeted by rusty chains securing the door handles.

At each corner of the building, I found the same fate. As 8 am neared, concern for tardiness to my big interview crept into my head. As luck would have it, I noticed a beautiful young woman in purple scrubs walking 20 feet in the air on the red facade catwalk between buildings. I called out to her, and this young nursing student quickly brought me up a hidden stairwell in the parking garage. She then explained this was the only access to any of the buildings on campus since Katrina flooded the city (it sure would have been nice if that was mentioned in the interview instructions). Somehow, I made it to the cafeteria in time to meet G. Rawleigh Fisher, DDS, MD, 6'4," 240 lbs. in miss-matched scrubs unenthusiastically stated, "Follow me!" All of us applicants followed at attention into a dimmed classroom taking seats in half-broken folding desk chairs. We were barely noticed by

Teresa Biggerstaff, DDS, MD who was standing in front of her PowerPoint presentation, donned the same mismatched attire. She gruffly introduced herself as the chief resident of the New Orleans service, further explaining that Dr. Perenack instructed her to put together a slide presentation for us applicants. What followed was the most extensive and honest PowerPoint I had seen on the interview trail. A 30-minute unrehearsed presentation of the most vivid and unedited surgical photographs I had ever seen. Slide after slide of gunshot reconstructions, car accidents, cancer resections, free flaps, only to finish with orthognathic surgery, rhinoplasty, and facelifts. Her accompanying description of each slide and case was fact-filled and thorough. She concluded with "These were my cases here in the last month". The volume and scope were unmatched by any of the 5 other programs I had recently visited. Her unbothered presentation and hurried exit back to the OR gave the ultimate credibility that this was not a sales pitch, it was just a typical day at LSU. . . Rawleigh Fisher followed that up with, "If you want to work if you want to learn, if you want to operate, come to LSU. If you want to watch your staff operate and then write papers for them, go somewhere else".

What else did a swashbuckling, red-headed, 26-year-old dentist from the Midwest need to sell him on choosing LSU as his next adventure . . .

And so, the adventure begins..... The next 6 years were nothing short of life-changing. Moving from Minneapolis to New Orleans was a cultural and climate shock. I immersed myself in the Louisiana way of life, enjoying all aspects of southern hospitality, cajun and creole food, football, and Mardi Gras. As the locals say, Laissez Les Bon Temp Roule, but it wasn't all flowers and lollipops. Post-Katrina life brought a variety of different challenges including closed and wrecked streets, abandoned houses, power outages, boil water advisories, and significant crime. It also brought endless opportunities for a young hungry surgical trainee. There were new training sites. After Big Charity closed, the in-need population of the Gulf South found care in our newly established Spirit of

Charity-Medical Center of Louisiana-New Orleans (many of our elders would know it as Hotel Dieu). Between MCLNO, East Jeff, Ochsner, faculty practice, Dr. Block's new private practice (that we interns helped him move into), and the dental school, New Orleans had a robust and diverse case volume within just 2 years of Katrina. Naturally, there were major changes in staffing, but the surgical volume and scope were present as well as the manpower to staff the cases. Thank you, Drs. Malloy, Perenack, Kent, Akin, Indovina, Fournet, Wilk, and Block for your role in getting those cases to roll and sharing all your knowledge and wisdom. Later with the arrival of Drs. Reddy and Welch, we even furthered our opportunities and approach to care for the people of New Orleans and surrounding regions. With an increased presence in Dr. Perenack's cosmetic practice, more block time at Earl K. Long Hospital, and calls at Our Lady of the Lake, our case volume in Baton Rouge was the highest it had ever been.

Thank you, Drs. Kent, Towns, Hornsby, Regan, and Casadaban for all of your pearls! Despite Katrina, the residency still chugged along. Charlotte, NC, and its steadfast role within our residency has always been a jewel giving the residents a real-life slice into a broad-scope private practice. Thank you to Drs. Tucker, Spagnoli, Misiek, Farrells, Cook, Crowley, Gallup and Nale.

My residency and training experience at LSU provided a scope, complexity, autonomy, and mentorship that far surpassed the expectations set by Theresa's 30-minute PowerPoint presentation six years prior. I am so proud to be LSU trained and share that whenever I can.

In addition to the surgical training, choosing LSU as my adventure turned out to be so personally rewarding as well. I met my wife Erin Fontenot, an LSU dental student. LSU Tigers Football won a national championship in 07' (and lost one 11'), the Saints won their first Super Bowl in franchise history, and I found

my first job as a surgeon joining the big Charlotte group. Though my stay in North Carolina was only a few years, I learned so much, and my relationships from Charlotte have been lasting and meaningful. We LSU OMS Alumni are all so fortunate to be able to choose our own professional adventure because of the scope and depth of our training. I hope my adventure is early and ongoing as now I am only 10 years into practice. My wife, Erin Fontenot, DDS, has a robust dental practice close to home (Lafayette, LA) and we have two beautiful and healthy daughters Caroline (4) and Charlotte (2). I practice with fellow LSU Alumnus and great friend Clay Chandler. I currently participate in facial trauma calls with the local level II trauma center and I contribute annually to the JKOMS foundation (shameless plug for Dr. Kent's baby). I am honored and privileged to spend a week per year in Raleigh, NC administering oral board exams to the next generation of OMS. As fortunate, confident, and well-trained professionals, we should all choose adventures that give back to our profession. Thus, paying it forward as all of our wise and tireless attendings have done ensuring the next generation is better than the prior.

Thank you for indulging in this random and unorganized rambling vignette. A special thanks to my wife Erin for putting up with me and being married to an LSU-OMS (confident, cocky, relentless, good-looking, passionate lover). Also thank you to the many upper-level residents who took the time and commitment to train me on the job. To my residency classmates, Chad Van Meter and Reo Pugao for being great friends, hardworking, and selfless (and putting up with Jeff and my antics for 6 years). Thank you to my residency roommate (5 years), life-long friend, and now Chairman Jeffrey James, DDS, MD, MBA, FACS, FAACS, RN, BADASS, LMNOP, for choosing his adventure to lead LSU-OMS into the future! And I will forever be grateful for Drs. Kent, Perenack, and LSU for choosing the adventure of accepting Brian Kelley to be an LSU-trained Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon. Geaux Tigers!





Smores



Sunset

LSU OMS Alumni Profile

Rick and Wife Teresa

**Rick Willis, DDS '79**

Just last week, I was in New Orleans and drove past Charity Hospital. It was sad to see the great lady in such a state of decline. It did release a flood of emotions and fond memories of the good times and unmatched training I received there. I finished my residency in 1979 with utter confidence that I could handle any case set before me as an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon in private practice. With the teaching of Doctor John Kent, Doctor Charlie Farrell, Doctor Michael Zide, et al, there was no question in my mind that I could do it. Reinforced by the philosophy of "see one, do one, teach one", the residents had a remarkable amount of experience to reinforce this confidence. I started solo practice in Monroe, LA that same year. I never had any problem with hospital privileges except once when I had to show my dictations from LSU/Charity to continue doing tracheotomies. I was never questioned about orthognathic, harvesting my own bone grafts, or history and physicals. Dr. Kent used my experience in

doing my own history and physicals to help other OMSs in the state get their privileges in the days before dual-degree OMS. I later, while serving on a hospital board, wrote a check-off list for oral surgery privileges used by our hospitals. After 17 years of solo practice, I merged my practice with Dr. Eric Geist and Dr. Monty Tyndall. I spent many years holding down the practice while Dr. Geist excelled on the national scene. I did participate in local dental organizations as the president of NELDA. I also taught anatomy, local anesthesia, and nitrous oxide to the dental hygienist at ULM for about 12 years.

The only area in which LSU did not offer much training at that time was cleft palate surgery. I joined the local cleft palate team. With much reading and the help of Dr Ghali and spent 30 years as a member of that team doing cleft surgeries and bone grafts. It eventually led to experience in bone morphogenic protein grafting as well. Much to the surprise of Dr. Kent, at the age of 63, I was appointed to the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry. I am now ending my term after 10 years of service. I served as president of the board and was able to secure a permanent position on the board for surgeons as an at-large position. This is for experts in sedation.

As we all agree, it's very important to have an oral surgeon on the State Board of Dentistry and this should help fulfill that need. All of the state board members have agreed that the experience of an Oral and Maxillofacial surgeon on the board is vital. The life of an OMS has given me great joy. I married my wife, and we have two children and six grandchildren. Teresa was a CRNA doing a case for me at the hospital when we met. We've been together for 41 years. Oral Surgery has given us opportunities to travel worldwide. There is no greater profession, and it has given us a great life. I have been an avid hunter, fisherman, and private pilot in many places over the world. My family has always been the most important, and OMS has given us all the time and resources to do many enjoyable things. I retired in 2020 and I do miss the work, but the profession has given us a great retirement.



Rick and his son Bo Willis



Family

**Congratulations to the new  
LSU OMS Faculty**



**John Wesley (Wes) Emison, MD, DDS ('84)  
Clinical Assistant Professor**

John Wesley (Wes) Emison, M.D., D.D.S. - Clinical Assistant Professor, Louisiana State University Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Dr. Emison completed his undergraduate education at California Western University in San Diego, California. He received his D.D.S. from the UCLA School of Dentistry. Dr. Emison then completed his residency in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS) at Charity Hospital of New Orleans with the renowned Louisiana State University (LSU) Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery training program. He subsequently attended medical school at the LSU School of Medicine becoming the first dual-degree OMFS in Louisiana. Following medical school, Dr. Emison completed his general surgery internship at Ochsner Hospital of New Orleans. Dr. Emison was in the private practice of OMFS in Los Gatos, California for 34 years where he was the Medical Director of the QUAD A accredited ambulatory surgical facility known as Los Gatos Oral and Maxillo-Facial Surgery. Additionally, Dr. Emison was Chair of the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in the Department of Surgery at Good Samaritan Hospital in San Jose, California for 25 years. Dr. Emison is now a Clinical Assistant Professor and attending surgeon at University Medical Center New Orleans. He is a founding member and the current President of the Jack Kent Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Foundation.

**Congratulations to the new  
LSU OMS Faculty**

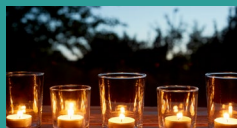


**Frank Harmon, DDS  
Clinical Assistant Professor**

Frank W. Harmon, DDS, a native of Monroe, Louisiana is a graduate of Northeast Louisiana University. He enlisted in the United States Airforce after graduation in 1971 as a computer programmer and systems analyst where he was instrumental in computerizing the assignments for aircraft in the late Viet Nam war. In 1974 Dr. Harmon enrolled in dental school at Baylor College of Dentistry, followed by a General Practice Residency at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. After serving 3 years as the Aid Station Commander at Hessisch- Oldendorf Air Station, Germany, he was selected for the USAF Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery residency at Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. As a chief resident in 1984, Dr. Harmon was awarded the Merck, Sharp, & Dome National Resident of the Year for his research in Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for osteoradionecrosis. He was then chief of Oral Surgery at Barksdale AFB in Shreveport from 1984 to 1987 at which time he left the Air Force with the rank of Lt. Colonel and went into private practice in Shreveport, Louisiana. After 34 years in private practice where he served on the staff of Willis Knighton Medical Center, he retired in December 2021.

Dr. Harmon and his wife moved to Slidell Louisiana in January 2022, and he has recently joined the staff at LSU School of Dentistry, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. He is a retired member of the Louisiana Dental Association, the American Dental Association, and the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. He is board-certified by the American Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons.

## REMEMBRANCE



**Robert M. Laughlin, DDS ('06)**  
**4/13/1969 – 12/9/2023**



It is with a heavy heart that the family of Dr. Robert M. Laughlin announces his unexpected passing on December 9, 2023. Rob, as he was affectionately known to all, was a loving and devoted husband to Christine Laughlin and stepfather to Conlan Quebedeau, Taylor Quebedeau, and Catherine Boyd. His happiest moments were the ones he spent with his family. He is preceded in death by his father, Ralph N. Laughlin. He is survived by his mother, Dianne Yates Laughlin, his brother, Jamey Laughlin, (Hu), and his sister, Mary Laughlin Dunn, (Michael), and uncle to their children, Jack, and Henry. Dr. Laughlin was born on April 13, 1969.

He immediately knew a career in helping others was his calling. He graduated with Honors in biological science from the University of Chicago. He then pursued an education in dentistry at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. He completed his residency training at Louisiana State University Medical Center Charity Hospital. Dr. Laughlin's excellence in his calling and his commitment to helping patients was felt during Hurricane Katrina. With faculty and staff displaced, he remained at Charity to care for the program's patients without help for many days. His compassion and desire to help were always at the forefront in his mind. He also had an impressive military career in the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Navy. He achieved the rank of Commander and received the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Award. He was also the first Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon to receive the Master Clinician Award. While at LSU Health Science Center, he served as the James R. Peltier Endowment Chair for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and then Dean of the LSU School of Dentistry for a short time. He co-edited the Atlas of Operative Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and contributed to textbooks and peer-reviewed journals. The advancement of knowledge in the field was important to him. In December 2022, Dr. Laughlin began his personal journey in the private sector. He established his own practice with Dr. Anthony A. Indovina, Sr. It was Rob's dream that the practice would grow and continue to help people. It is now the wish of his wife, Christine, Dr. Indovina, and the Louisiana Oral Maxillofacial Community to help Rob continue his dream. A memorial service will be held on Monday, January 8, 2024, at the home of Dr. Anthony A. Indovina, 4601 Reich St. Metairie, La. 70006 from 10 am to 2 pm.

## REMEMBRANCE



**Lou Belinfante, DDS**  
**2/15/1937 – 10/1/2023**

Dear Erik and Jan and all the Belinfante Tribe.

The services were so real, so beautiful, so truthful. Clearly, the finest attribute I have ever witnessed of our beloved surgeon and statesman. I enjoyed so much the remarks of the love and devotion to Jan and all the Belinfante Family. That is clearly as important as all of Lou's surgical career accomplishments. Thank you for including me, Erik.

I believe my association with Lou may be as long as any. I thrived on our relationship. It began at the AAOMS meeting at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco, in December 1969. We had both finished our OMS residences earlier that year, Lou in Cleveland, and mine in Houston. As a resident, I produced an exhibit illustrating a series of skulls, both pre and postoperative, duplicating patients' facial deformities. Lou walked up and introduced himself to me at the exhibit. "You do that kind of surgery?" I said yes and am still learning. He said, "me too!" And so, over the years we marched forward as innovators and educators of orthognathic surgery. We attended each other's courses and bonded like no other. Every time we met Lou would say "how are the skulls doing"?



I was with him at the AAOMS meeting in the mid-'80s when we pushed Lou around in a wheelchair as he campaigned for office leading eventually to President of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. He was victorious. So, in 1987-88, he was the President of our organization and simultaneously I became President of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. We stood side by side at Lou's American Association meeting in Boston, in 1988. That was the highlight of our careers.

I could go on and on about Lou's contributions and leadership to our specialty, especially for the advancement of our surgical scope. But history says it all. And someday I will be honored to join him again.

Jack

## REMEMBRANCE



**Robert Heckel, DDS ('65)**  
**10/11/1932 - 9/1/2023**



After completing his undergraduate studies at The Ohio State University, Robert Heckel earned his dental degree at CWRU. Upon graduation from dental school, he served for four years in the U.S. Navy, attached to the submarine force Atlantic Fleet. Dr. Heckel then attended the Graduate School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, followed by an internship at Grady Memorial Hospital and Emory University in Atlanta. His OMFS residency was at Charity Hospital of Louisiana and Louisiana State University in New Orleans. Dr. Heckel also did a complete medical anesthesiology residency at University Hospitals of Cleveland. For the next four decades, Dr. Heckel was in private practice in the Warren-Youngstown, Ohio area, where he served three terms as the chairman of the Department of Surgery (that included all medical specialties) at St. Joseph Hospital, as well as three terms as the president of the medical staff. In addition, he served on the board of trustees for the Humility of Mary Corporation that operated St. Joseph and two other hospitals (now known as Mercy Health). Always active in his specialty, Dr. Heckel served as president of the Great Lakes Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. For seven years, he was an examiner for the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and was a site visitor for program accreditation for the Council on Dental Education (CODA). After retiring from practice, in 2005, Dr. Heckel was asked to serve as a Clinical Associate Professor of Maxillofacial Surgery at his alma mater Case Western Reserve University's University Hospitals. There he worked until earlier this year, and he was proud to have been the oldest person ever to have held the position. He cherished and enjoyed this position, and in recognition of his teaching dedication, each year the outstanding oral maxillofacial surgery resident at CWRU/University Hospital is presented with The Robert D Heckel Award.

Bob Heckel was a gracious wonderful man who supported me and our program in our early years.  
 John Neary was perhaps the closest to Bob. *Jack*

[" Thanks Jack. I just talked to him 3 or 4 weeks ago. He had called me. I used to drive over to help him with orthognathics and joints for many years. I took his submandibular gland out in the late 90's. Good man."](#)

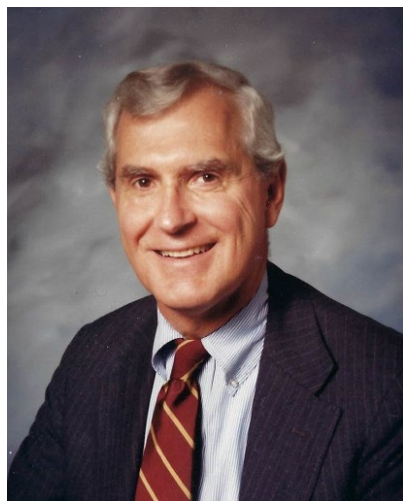
*John Neary*



## REMEMBRANCE



**Donald Marion Hagy ('62)**  
**12/18/1931 – 7/29/2023**



We sadly announce the passing of the beloved Dr. Donald Marion Hagy, age 91. Dr. Hagy passed away peacefully in the early morning hours of July 29, 2023, in his family home in Sacramento, California, surrounded by his family. Dr. Hagy is survived by his wife Lucy, and five children; Donald Jr., Steven, Bruce, Mark, and Robin. Also by his many wonderful grandchildren and great-grandchildren whom he cherished lovingly. Don spent his younger days growing up on the family farm in Shiloh, Tennessee with his siblings, Jack, Bob, and Dott. The farmhouse was built by his great-grandfather before the Civil War. It was on this land that much of the famous civil war "Battle of Shiloh" was fought. Don spent many boyhood hours roaming the acreage with his siblings in search of relics left behind by men who had so valiantly fought on this hallowed ground. During

Don's early school years, he developed a keen interest in art and was almost ready to pursue a career in that field when his mind turned toward dentistry and the University of Tennessee. In 1954 he received his dental degree from that institution. Following graduation, Don Hagy entered the United States Air Force and spent much of his next two years in North Africa, and Tripoli. It was there that Don met the love of his life, Lucy, who soon after became his wife in 1957. Following his tour of duty, he entered an Oral Surgery residency program at Charity Hospital in New Orleans. Upon completion of his training, he spent time teaching at Loyola University School of Dentistry, New Orleans, LA as an Instructor, in Dept. of Anatomy, 1961-62, and Assistant Professor of Oral Pathology, 1962-63. Don began his private practice in Sacramento (1963). In later years he served as an Adjunct Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, 1990–93 at the University of Pacific School of Dentistry, San Francisco, CA. Over these many years, Don Hagy has served dentistry and his specialty of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery with complete dedication. He served as president of the Northern California Society of Maxillofacial Surgeons, and the Western Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, then became President of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, 1991-2. During Don's busy professional schedule, he never lost interest in his secondary avocation of painting and periodically worked in oils, acrylic, and his favorite, watercolor. Don along with his sister, Dott Douglas, also an accomplished artist in her own right, presented together a show at the family restaurant, The Hagy Catfish Hotel in Shiloh, Tennessee.

*"Don Hagy was a true gentleman, courteous and respectful, always interested in helping friends and OMS. Miss that smile. Jack"*

**OMS News Bits**



Mark A. Welch's '80  
2<sup>nd</sup> Retirement Gathering



Myron R. Tucker feeding  
his Grandbaby



Myron R. Tucker and  
Adorable Grandbaby

**OMS News Bits continued**



Herb Stith '85 and Eric Geist '84  
National Geographic Cruise of the Columbia and Snake River



Dan Cummins '16  
Wedding Photo with wife Estey



**Resident's Stipend Checks from JKOMSF!**

**OMS News Bits continued**

Jose M. Marchena, DMD, MD (right), presented the 2023 Humanitarian Award for Fellows and Members from the American Association for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons 2022-23 President Paul J. Schwartz, DMD. Photo courtesy of AAOMS.

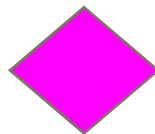


Jose M Marchena '01

After 24 hours in flight and a 4-hour drive Matthew Hearn in Johannesburg South Africa Hunting Cape Buffalo with a rifle his father bought him when he was 16 years old.



Matthew Hearn '04



Teresa Biggerstaff ('07) is one of two speakers for the International Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons annual Webinar. This is broadcast to all IAOMS members with over 300 people registered now. She is speaking on Nutrition and Healing. She has become a recognized authority on this topic and the only OMS who speaks on this topic. Impressive.

**-Myron Tucker**



Jack and Virginia Kent



John and Bettye Kent

~ Louisiana Christmas Lights



**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
**THE KENT GANG**



# PEARLS XI

**Friday, April 12, 2024**

5:30 pm Welcome Reception

**Saturday, April 13, 2024 • Academic Course Schedule**

Total Hours CME 7.0 (420 Minutes)

- 7:00 am -7:45 am **Sign-In / Registration / Coffee and Refreshments**
- 8:00 am -9:30 am **In-Office TMJ Surgical Treatment: Keys to Safe and Successful Outcomes...And Why We Do It!**  
John Nale, DDS MD FACS
- 9:30 am - 11:00 am **Diagnosis and Treatment of Orofacial Pain-Non-Surgical TMJ Treatment**  
Rana Almudamgha, DDS
- 11:00 am -12:00 pm **The Role of Nutrition on Healing in Maxillofacial Surgery**  
**Lunch & Learn**  
Teresa Biggerstaff, DDS MD
- 12:00 pm -1:30 pm **Anesthesia Update- Incorporating DEXmedetomidine into the Office-Based Anesthesia Model Provided by the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon**  
Jeffrey James, MD, DDS, MBA, FACS, FAACS
- 1:30 pm-3:00 pm **Full Arch Digital Implant Workflow. Alternative Implant Strategies**  
David Bulot, DDS MD, Steven Nelson, DDS MD, and Thomas Kiebach, DDS MSD

## BOOK YOUR HOTEL

The Westin New Orleans is the host hotel for OMS Pearls XI.



Book your stay soon! We've reserved a group rate but you must reserve your room(s) by Wednesday, March 13, 2024.

The Westin New Orleans  
Group ID: Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Pearls  
100 Iberville Street - New Orleans, LA 70130  
504-566-7006



### Continuing Education Credits

Up to 7.0 CDE and CME credits will be provided for full attendance at this meeting.

Accreditation and Designation Statements • Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Pearls XI

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of PeerPoint Medical Education Institute and the Osteo Science Foundation. PeerPoint Medical Education Institute is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

PeerPoint Medical Education Institute designates the live format for this educational activity for a maximum of 7.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.



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This activity is presented for educational purposes only. Participants are expected to use their own expertise and judgment while engaged in the practice of oral and maxillofacial surgery. Attendees should check specific details such as drug doses, contraindications, etc., in standard sources prior to clinical application. The content of presentations is provided solely by presenters who have been selected because of their recognized expertise.

The OMS Pearls Conference is presented and managed by the Jack Kent Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Foundation. The express purpose of this conference is to provide continuing education in the field of oral and maxillofacial surgery for those in attendance. The statements, ideas, and opinions expressed in this conference are those of the individual participants and in no way should reflect the statements, ideas, and opinions of any specialty certifying organization; any OMS professional or alumni organization; LSU Health New Orleans School of Dentistry; LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans and Shreveport; the LSU Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery; or others involved in this activity.

# EDUCATION + ENTERTAINMENT

## FRENCH QUARTER FESTIVAL

LARGEST SHOWCASE OF LOUISIANA MUSIC IN THE WORLD

After your day of continuing OMS education, you will want to head to the French Quarter and soak up one of our city's best kept secrets: the 2024 French Quarter Festival. The event kick off Thursday, April 11 and ends after dark on Sunday, April 14. Presented by Chevron, the festival offers local music, food, crafts, and special events, all presented in a one-of-a-kind neighborhood-the historic French Quarter.

More than 20 stages throughout the French Quarter celebrate local music and represent every genre from traditional and contemporary jazz to R&B, New Orleans funk, brass bands, folk, gospel, Latin, Zydeco, classical, cabaret, and international. There's even a musical stage for children. You'll also have a chance to sample from food and beverage booths featuring authentic local cuisine from renowned area restaurants and shop for local crafts and art.

Visit [www.frenchquarterfest.org](http://www.frenchquarterfest.org) for more information, to sign up for the festival's mailing list, and to receive updates when the music schedule is announced.



Festival Photos courtesy of French Quarter Festivals, Inc. / Photographers: Cedric Ellsworth, Zack Smith & Justen Williams

*Teresa Biggerstaff, DDS, MD*

*President- LSUOMSAA*

The LSU OMS Alumni Association would like to welcome our newest members from the graduating class of 2023!! Our association was successful in gathering enough donations to support the 2023 Annual Fishing trip for the residents. We also provided graduation gifts for the class of 2023. They each received a personalized LSU chair and a headlight with the support of KLS. Thank you to each of you that continue to support the alumni association with your annual dues and donations!!



New Members - Class of 2023

Dan Hyneman, Jacob Lee, Jonathan Beker, Mishaun Sahebi



Annual dues are \$100, but any amount is accepted and appreciated.

You can easily contribute to the Alumni Association by scanning this QR code

You can also send donations via Venmo @LSUOMSALUMNI

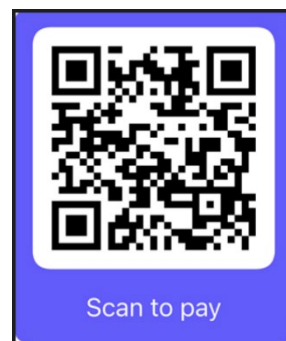
Follow our social accounts on Instagram @jackkentomsfoundation

Facebook Jack Kent Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Foundation

LinkedIn Jack Kent OMS Foundation

Looking forward to seeing you at Pearl's!

—Teresa Biggerstaff, DDS, MD  
LSU OMS Class of 2007





*Anthony Indovina, DDS*  
*JKOMSF Treasurer*

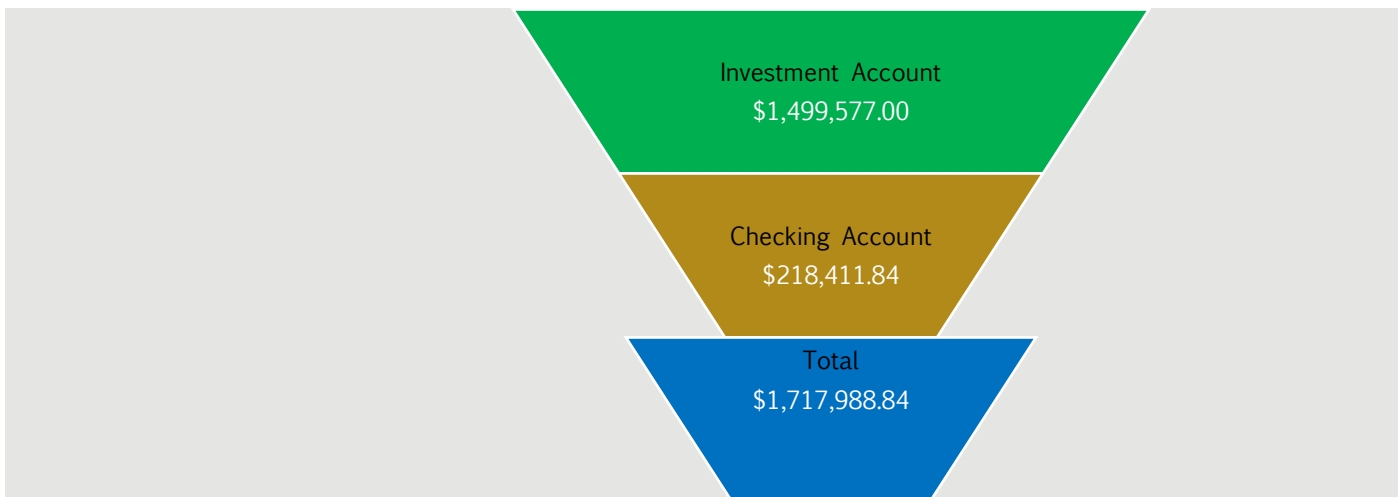


### Update on JKOMSF's financial growth

I am happy to report that the foundation checking account is in good shape with a balance of \$218,411.84. The investment account has a value of \$1,499,577.00. The amount contributed to support the goals of the LSU OMS Residency over the course of three years is \$105,000.00.

Best Regards,

Anthony Indovina, DDS





**JKOMSF** *Kent Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Foundation*

- MY GIFT \_\_\_\_\_ IS ENCLOSED
- I PLEDGE TO DONATE \_\_\_\_\_ OVER \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR

**LEVELS OF GIVING**

<b>DIAMOND</b>	<b>OVER \$100,000</b>
<b>PLATINUM</b>	<b>\$50,000 - \$99,999</b>
<b>GOLD</b>	<b>\$25,000 - \$49,000</b>
<b>SILVER</b>	<b>\$10,000 - \$24,999</b>
<b>BRONZE</b>	<b>\$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999</b>
<b>FRIENDS</b>	<b>LESS THAN \$5,000</b>

**SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_





## **IRA Charitable Rollover is Now Permanent**

### **Make a Tax-efficient gift to JKOMSF from your IRA!**

Individuals aged 70<sup>1/2</sup> or older can make gifts of up to \$100,000 directly from their IRA accounts to one or more qualified charities without paying federal income tax on the withdrawal. If you wish to make a gift or fulfill an existing pledge to the JKOMSF, consider making a Qualified Charitable Distribution.

*Here are the specifics:*

- Donors must be 70 ½ or older when the gift is made.
- Donors must request a direct funds transfer to a qualified public charity.  
It is important not to withdraw funds before making a gift.
- Gifts cannot be used to fund a gift annuity or charitable remainder trust.
- Each donor may give up to \$100,000 per year.
- Gifts can be used to satisfy the donor's required minimum distribution.
- Donors who choose to exclude the distribution from income on their federal tax returns will not receive a charitable income tax deduction.

Please call your tax advisor for professional advice. The JKOMS Foundation does provide legal or tax advice. Please consult your professional tax advisor about the best way to take advantage of this opportunity.

JKOMS FOUNDATION DEFERRED LEGACY GIVING COMMITMENT FORM

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Address is: \_\_\_\_\_ (Home)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Office)

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I have included the Jack Kent Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Foundation in my will.

I plan to give a gift of:

\_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Life Insurance

\_\_\_\_\_ Property Estimated Value: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The gift transfer will occur at the time of my death or the death of my spouse, \_\_\_\_\_, in the event that I predecease my Spouse.

\_\_\_\_ The JKOMFS foundation is a nonprofit 501c corporation whose sole purpose is to promote the further education and support of the LSU OMS program, its trainees, and graduates. Legacy giving is an estate planning tool that many find helpful in reducing the tax burden on their survivors. If you are interested in how you might contribute and how contributing will help your family and future generations of LSU OMS residents, please return this form and a representative will contact you or send you written information on the details of this important estate planning too.

\_\_\_\_ I will send the JKOMSF a copy of the codicil or necessary modification to my will which describes my legacy gift

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

JKOMS Foundation  
2003 Forsythe Avenue Monroe, Louisiana 71201-4938  
JKOMSF is 501(C) (3) Non-Profit Organization  
(318) 388-2622

Thanks So Much To Our JKOMSF Donors

DIAMOND (\$100,000)	PLATINUM (\$50,000-\$99,999)	GOLD (\$25,000-\$49,999)
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John Provenzano	Eric Geist	Andrew Chang
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		Arshad Kaleem
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		Harry Morse
		Craig Neal
		John Neary
		Steven Nelson
		Lynn Phillippe
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		Herbert Stith
		Steve Widner

SILVER (\$10,000-\$24,999)		BRONZE (\$5,000-\$9,999)
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Robert Heckle	Ed Neupert	
Robert Hinkle	Larry Pepper	



Jack

