Retired orthodontist gives $4 million to East Carolina University School of Dentistry

By Fred Michmershuizen, Online Editor

Dr. Ledyard E. Ross, an 84-year-old retired orthodontist, has pledged $4 million to East Carolina University (ECU) School of Dentistry. The gift, one of the largest in the history of the university, will be used for student scholarships, faculty research and other academic enterprises.

Ross is a 1951 graduate of ECU (then called East Carolina College). He has been a supporter of several academic and athletic initiatives at the university since establishing his dental practice in Greenville. He is a member of the Leo Jenkins Society and Order of the Cupola.

Ross attended Greenville High School and Hardbarger Business College before being admitted to East Carolina College. He graduated from Northwestern University Dental School with a DDS in 1953, and he received a master of science degree in orthodontics in 1959 from UNC-Chapel Hill. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps First Marine Division from 1945 to 1946.

His financial gift comes at a well

Dr. Ledyard E. Ross, a retired orthodontist, stands before an artist’s rendering of the new building that will house the School of Dentistry at East Carolina University. The building will bear his name. (Photo/Cliff Hollis, ECU News & Communication)

Crown or same-day onlay?

Patients want to replace their old amalgam fillings, but they want to do it conservatively, consistently, efficiently — and they want to do it in one visit. Review the advantages associated with indirect laboratory-processed composite resin posterior restorations and see the case study presented by Dr. Lorin Berland.

See pages 10A–13A

5 ways dental practices can reduce waste and pollution

In honor of the 40th annual Earth Day, the Eco-Dentistry Association (EDA) — an international association promoting environmentally sound practices in dentistry — is encouraging dentists to do their part to help save the environment.

To help dentists be more environmentally conscious, the EDA has issued a checklist of standards for green dental offices. Specifically, the EDA is recommending that dental professionals make the following Earth Day resolutions to reduce waste and pollution.

Use an amalgam separator

Even if you don’t place amalgams, you still need an amalgam separator, according to the EDA. In a typical
Cloth sterilization wraps and pouches and reusable cloth patient bibs and barriers, popular in high-tech and spa practices, help dentists significantly reduce their environmental footprint. When a paper plastic pouch is the best solution, separate the paper from the plastic and recycle each appropriately, the EDA says.

**Detoxify your infection control processes**

Using the right non-toxic, biodegradable cleaner and disinfectant is an important component of pollution-preventing infection control, according to the EDA. Line cleaners and cold sterile solutions such as glutaraldehyde are a significant source of pollution from the dental industry and contribute to poor indoor air quality.

Modern dentistry has eliminated the need for cold sterilization, and there are several environmentally safe line cleaners on the market. Making a switch to the non-toxic option will keep your office in compliance with hospital infection control standards.

Dental radiographs are an important part of preventive dentistry, but traditional dental X-rays will contribute as much as 4.8 million lead foils and additional dental X-rays will contribute to more than 4.8 million barriers from U.S. dental offices every year, the EDA says.

Modern dentistry has eliminated the need for cold sterilization, and there are several environmentally safe line cleaners on the market. Making a switch to the non-toxic option will keep your office in compliance with hospital infection control standards while eliminating the "dentist office smell" that patients hate, the EDA says.

**Take digital images**

Dental radiographs are an important part of preventive dentistry, but traditional dental X-rays will contribute as much as 4.8 million lead foils and additional dental X-rays will contribute to more than 4.8 million barriers from U.S. dental offices every year, the EDA says.

**Health Sciences campus**

The North Carolina General Assembly has provided about $90 million for construction. That appropriation covers both the dental school building in Greenville and 10 community-service learning centers in rural and underserved areas of North Carolina.

The first three locations announced for those centers are Sylva, Ahoskie and Elizabeth City. Dental school faculty members will be based in the centers, along with advanced dental residents and senior students who will receive enhanced dental education in real practice settings.

The students and faculty will offer much-needed dental care to citizens in the areas surrounding the centers. The difference between being a good dental school and a great dental school hinges on private giving," said Dr. James Hupp, dean of the school of dentistry.

"Dr. Ross’ very generous philanthropic gift will propel us toward greatness, allowing us to accomplish our grand vision of improving the health and quality of life of North Carolinians by leading the nation in community-based, service-learning dental education. We cannot thank him enough."

The ECU dental school plans to admit its first students for the fall semester of 2011. About 50 students will enter the program every year.