Diagnose this: white lesions
The first in a series on the different types of mucosal and soft-tissue pathologies. ➤ page 64

How to reach practice goals?
Learn what has the most impact when it comes to achieving your practice’s goals. ➤ page 74

New products and more
Take a peek at some products that might be unfamiliar to you. ➤ pages 194–224

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 Capola.

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

~ page 2A, “Orthodontist …”

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

~ page 2A
one-dentist office that only removes amalgam fillings, an amalgam separator can capture three pounds of mercury-containing waste material in one year. Every restorative practice should have this important piece of equipment, the EDA says.

**Practice litter-free infection control**

It is estimated that 1.7 billion plastic-paper sterilization pouches and 880 million barriers from U.S. dental offices will end up in landfills this year, according to the EDA.

The EDA offers “Best Practices for Waste-Reducing Sterilization and Infection Control” to help dental professionals become litter-free while maintaining the highest infection control standards.

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 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 1.7 billion plastic-paper to the EDA.

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