

from the office of

GATOR DENTAL ASSOCIATES, PA

Gator Tales NEWSLETTER

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GATOR DENTAL ASSOCIATES, PA ■ 352/481-2741

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Did you know Gator Tales is Web-enhanced? Green, underlined words indicate a more extensive article at our Web site, www.gatordental.com

PREVENTION IS THE KEY TO GOOD DENTAL HEALTH

Your health is very important at Gator Dental Associates.

Many recent studies have linked periodontal disease to health issues such as heart disease. Bacteria originating in inflamed gums can travel through the bloodstream and settle in places that are much more serious health issues... so why take chances with your health?

Professional dental care is very important to your overall health and well-being. When coupled with quality home care efforts, this results in a

happy, healthy, and good-looking mouth. Visits for cleaning and examinations are where the dentist and dental hygienists coordinate your strategy for health. Prevention is the focus in our office. Preventing disease is the best dental/health insurance one can have.

Each patient has different needs regarding dental disease. How often one is asked to come in for cleanings, exams, and x-rays varies with the level of present and past problems (based upon your risks and needs). Regular

visits allow our dental team to monitor and stop disease processes before irreversible damage occurs. We take every opportunity to give you the ability, techniques, and home care hardware (such as a Rotodent® appliance) needed to stop dental disease progression before it results in a seat in the dentist's treatment room.

If you are overdue for your cleaning and exam, make sure to call right away for an appointment. It is the best investment you can make in your oral and overall health.

MICRODENTISTRY: THE MODERN TREATMENT APPROACH TO DENTAL HEALTH

In the past, getting a cavity meant drilling a hole big enough to keep silver or white fillings from falling out. This placed stress on the tooth and contributed to a cycle of replaced fillings that got larger each time, and often required caps or crowns.

With modern dental adhesives, sealants, and restorative materials, this cycle of disease, breakdown, and destruction can be reduced greatly. Microdentistry becomes possible where the small amounts of diseased tooth are removed and the adhesive (or bonded) fillings are conservatively placed.

■ We apply sealants on the chewing surfaces of back teeth at risk due to deep grooves, to prevent the start of decay. If bacteria still find their way under the sealant, the filling needed will often be smaller and less costly than if a sealant were never placed.

■ Small- and medium-sized decay problems can be silent...that is they often do not cause pain. We

use technologies such as digital x-rays and laser diagnosis to find decay when it is still small.

■ New varnishes can be used to protect and bring new mineral to teeth where decay has just started and stop it in its tracks.

■ Much of this diagnosis and treatment occurs during your cleanings/exam visits. This is very cost-effective as it often keeps you out of the dentist's chair, or makes for more cost-effective conservative treatment.

Our patients are fortunate to have access to Dr. Garlitz's expertise in the use of technology. He lectures on the use of computers and their impact on clinical care. Your preventive visits are charted on computer where gum and tooth health (or disease) can be graphed and monitored over time. Visit our Web site, www.gatordental.com, for information about our use of technology and view Dr. Garlitz's background in lecturing and computer integration at www.gatordental.com/biog.htm.

READY OR NOT...2004 IS ALMOST HERE!

1. Consider having your extensive needs taken care of this year if you are itemizing your medical expenses to save on taxes.
2. Don't lose insurance benefits if you have outstanding needs, such as crowns. Yearly limits reset January 1st and unused benefits are lost forever.
3. For patients who have dental needs but lack financial resources for immediate care, we work with Wells Fargo Financial Services. Six-months, no-interest terms are available (if the entire amount is repaid within 6 months, you pay no interest). Fill out an application. Once approved, your credit line can work as a revolving credit line.
4. Treatment schedules fill up quickly October through December. Call and schedule as soon as possible!

NEW DENTAL ASSOCIATE JOINS GDA



Dr. Simon Amir has joined our staff. Simon is a UF graduate who was born in London, England. His father and identical twin brother are also dentists. His dental interests include [office fabricated porcelain restorations](#) that are made while you wait so temporaries are not needed. His background can be viewed on our Web site at www.gatordental.com/bios.htm.



AND WE SAY "GOODBYE" TO DR. KING

Drs. Shelly and Bryant King moved back to Ft. Myers in July upon Bryant's graduation from dental school. If you would like to drop of a note to her we would be glad to forward it for you. Our entire staff enjoyed working with her, and miss her greatly.

Dr. King's message for all her Gator Dental patients and friends is:

"As many of you already know my husband, Bryant, graduated from the University of Florida College of Dentistry in May of 2003. We are both from Fort Myers, and will now be moving back to be near both our families. Therefore, it is with great sadness, that I leave my friends here at Gator Dental. Dr. Garlitz and the team have been my second family for the last two years and it will not be easy to leave. Although I regret having to leave, I am pleased to announce the arrival of Dr. Simon Amir. Dr. Amir is a colleague and friend of Bryant and mine. I have updated Drs. Garlitz and Amir on your needs and they will direct your dental care. It has been both a privilege and a pleasure to work with you, and I wish you continued health and happiness in the future."

We'll be glad to forward your best wishes to the Kings...just drop them off at our office in writing.

DENTAL CARE ON FRIDAYS

With Dr. Simon's arrival, he will see patients on some Fridays, by appointment. We are now scheduling patients for Friday, October 10th and 24th. Please call us if you are interested in being seen on those days, or on Fridays in general.



GATOR DENTAL ASSOCIATES, PA

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NEWS BITES

- Former Gator Dental Dentist, Dr. David Maxwell, and wife Lori, are opening their dental office in Ormond Beach, FL. Daughter Julia is now two years old and precious!
- Dr. Garlitz is serving as Vice-chair of the American Dental Association Council of Communications. The ADA is located in Chicago and a nice place to visit (even during the freezing month of January)! He was a speaker at the Miami Winter Dental Meeting, lecturing about the ADA Web site (www.ada.org).
- Dr. Garlitz was recognized with University of Florida Dental School's Outstanding Alumnus Award for 2002 at their last annual meeting.
- Melissa Crawford and Sarah West are new smiling faces around the office. Melissa is Margie Crawford's daughter (from the post office) and is doing on-the-job training for a dental career through Hawthorne High School. Sarah is the daughter of office Manager, Suzanne's, and is helping us keep up with our busy business office part-time in addition to her full-time stint as UF student.
- Sarah West (Gainesville High) and Troy Wright (Hawthorne High), son of Hygienist Judy, graduated in June.
- Dustin Garlitz graduated in December from New School University in NYC with a BA, where his field of study was economics. He is working in Boca Raton, FL and sharing an apartment with his sister, Janine, who is a senior at Florida Atlantic University.