

## FACES OF THE ACADEMY: HONORING WILLIAM E. SILVER,

The Academy is honored to have William E. Silver, MD, as this issue's *Faces of the Academy*. Here, Dr. Silver shares his personal and rich history with our members in his own words. Enjoy it.

I am a native of Atlanta, Ga., and my interest in a medical career began when I was a very young boy. I observed the happiness and satisfaction my father, a cosmetic dentist, and his brother, a facial plastic surgeon, displayed in doing the work they so enjoyed.

One incident I remember well was when I was no more than eight or nine years old, my uncle operated on my father's nose. My father was a professional boxer before he became a dentist and had his nose fractured to the point that it was depressed and pushed off to one side. It was breath taking to me when I saw the dressings come off and realized as a result of the surgery, my dad's nose was back where normal noses should be. It was quite exciting for me to see this transformation.

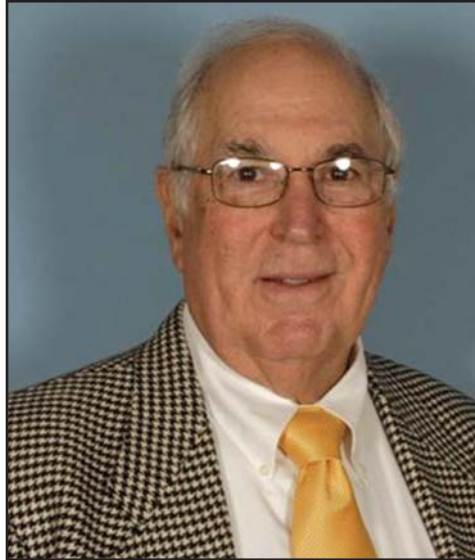
Through my preteen years, I had a first-hand opportunity to witness the happiness of the patients that each of them treated. I worked in my father's dental lab and I took pre- and post-op photographs of rhinoplasty patients for my uncle, Abe G. Silver, MD (pictured below).



Torn between going to dental school and going to medical school, one of my father's close friends, a physician, encouraged me to go into

medicine and that is how my journey in the medical field began.

After completing medical school, my desire to follow in my uncle's footsteps was furthered by taking a surgical residency in otolaryngology. He was one of the



early, pioneer otolaryngologists who specialized in rhinoplastic surgery. I spent my first two years of post-graduate training at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. I had the opportunity to meet Robert L. Simons, MD, who shared with me his enthusiasm for rhinoplastic surgery and reinforced my own personal feelings. I completed my training at NYU-Bellevue Medical Center and continued to follow my uncle's career path.

I would take every opportunity to watch him operate and work in his office while I was still in my residency. His philosophy was to get as much information as one could from as many different teachers as possible. For many years he and Sam Foman, MD, taught the rhinoplasty course at Manhattan General Hospital. He also practiced with Dr. Foman for several years. In one of those courses, there were two very important doctors: Jack R. Anderson, MD (pictured on the right) and Richard C. Webster, MD, (pictured on the left). My uncle introduced me to them and they later

played an important role in my medical career.

After residency, I served in the Army for two years and performed many rhinoplastic surgeries. I had my own photographer and a large number of patients who were happy to allow me to perform cosmetic surgery procedures on them as well. I put in extra hours to perform this extra bit of fun surgery.

On completion of my tour in 1970, I went into private practice in Atlanta where I still maintain a cosmetic facial plastic practice. I knew that I needed more training in order to specialize. It was then that my uncle called Dr. Anderson and Dr. Webster and arranged for me to come and observe them in their respective offices and operating rooms.

I would spend a week or two at a time visiting Dr. Anderson, taking time out of my private practice, just to watch him operate. I did the same rotation with Dr. Webster and also continued to do the same with my uncle. In addition to visiting with my uncle, I would send my pre-op photos to him for his analysis before each case. He would write down his analysis and send them back to me before the surgery. Just think how much easier it would have been if computers and the Internet had been available! These rotation visits went on for about two years. In those days, there were no formal fellowships. During this time, I had the



# MD ... HIS PERSONAL AND RICH HISTORY

opportunity to meet E. Gaylon McCollough, MD, who had set up his own fellowship rotating several months with Drs. Webster and Anderson, and Wally Berman, MD. On my visits, I had the opportunity of observing Dr. McCollough's enthusiasm, which encouraged me even further to pursue my own thoughts and feelings.

When I first moved back to Atlanta, I missed the educational camaraderie with fellow otolaryngologists. With the help of a few of the senior otolaryngologist in the community, we were able to spark enough interest among the local practitioners to start the Greater Atlanta Otolaryngology Society; I became its first president. (This organization is still active today.) In an effort to maintain close ties to my primary specialty, I became the representative from the Greater Atlanta Otolaryngology Surgery Society and the state of Georgia to the American Council of Otolaryngology. It was then that I became even closer to Dr. Anderson; he was the president of the Council at that time.

I continued my interest in facial plastic and reconstructive surgery in my own practice. I decided I could offer a young fellow the opportunity to observe what I did and how I did it. I wanted to experience the pleasure of watching my efforts be carried on by younger, aspiring facial plastic surgeons. It also would give me an opportunity to give back to others what was so generously given to me. In 1981, I was awarded a fellowship directorship by the AAFPRS and have continued it consecutively every year since.

With my connection to the American Council, I continued my close relationship with Dr. Anderson and even worked very diligently to get him elected to the presidency of the Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery after the American Council dissolved into the AAO.

I subsequently became the chair of the newly formed Board of Governors of the American Academy of Otolaryngology and later became the vice president of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. This helped formulate many ideas with respect to the acceptance of facial plastic and reconstructive surgery as a mainstay of otolaryngology. I worked closely with Dr. Anderson in the efforts to gain acceptance by the overall medical community.

Together, we assembled an article that Jack was trying to get published in each state's medical society journal. After several unsuccessful attempts, I was able to get the article, *An Old Specialty Gets a New Face, and Head and Neck*, published in the *Medical Association of Georgia Journal* in October 1981. This article served as an impetus to have the plastic surgery group in Atlanta write a rebuttal article in February 1982 entitled, *Things Are Not Always What They Seem, Sometimes Skim Milk Masquerades as Cream*. It was at this time I had the opportunity to meet Tom Rhodes, who was the lead legal counsel for Jack, me, and the AAFPRS in our lawsuit alleging libel against the writers of that article. The result



IN 1996, THE RHINOPLASTY COURSE WAS HELD IN ATLANTA AND DR. SILVER HOSTED A DINNER IN HIS ATLANTA HOME. SEEN HERE WITH DR. SILVER ARE (FROM LEFT) DRs. ANDERSON, STUCKER, AND SIMONS.

of that lawsuit was an award of 3.5 million dollars that was turned over to the Academy. Part of that money was set aside for educational purposes and more importantly, the rest was used to set up the American Board of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

Throughout the years, I have remained very active in the Academy because of the love and devotion of so many other people that I had the opportunity to shadow and who taught me so much. Some of these people were Peter A. Adamson, MD; Dr. Anderson; Shan R. Baker, MD; William H. Beeson, MD; Leslie Bernstein, MD, DDS; H. George Brennan, MD; Paul J. Carniol, MD; Donn R. Chatham, MD; Ted A. Cook, MD; Roger L. Crumley, MD; Steve Duffy; Richard T. Farrior, MD; Sidney Fuerestein, MD; Jerome Goldstein, MD; Richard L. Goode, MD; H. Devon Graham, MD; Keith A. LaFerriere, MD; Phil Langsdon, MD; Jack Hilger, MD; Peter A. Hilger, MD; John "Mac" Hodges, MD; G. Richard Holt, MD; Sheldon S. Kabaker, MD; Frank M. Kamer, MD; Robert M. Kellman, MD; Chuck Krause, MD; Russell W.H. Kridel, MD; Wayne F. Larrabee, Jr., MD; Corey S. Mass, MD; Dr. McCollough; Harry Mittelman,

See Good Fortune, page 10

DR. SILVER GETS A CHUCKLE FROM DR. WALDMAN (RIGHT).





# HIS GOOD FORTUNE AND WANTING TO SHARE IT

From *Faces of the Academy*, page 7  
MD; Julie Newman, MD; Ira D. Papel, MD; Norman J. Pastorek, MD; Louie L. Patseavouras, MD; Stephen W. Perkins, MD; Steven J. Pearlman, MD; Thomas Rhodes, Esq.; Daniel E. Rousso, MD; James Shire, MD; Dr. Abe Silver; Dr. Simons, MD; Howard W. Smith, MD; Fred J. Stucker, MD; M. Eugene Tardy, MD; J. Regan Thomas, MD; Dean M. Toriumi, MD; S. Randolph Waldman, MD; Dr. Webster, and countless others.

I served on many committees as well as the Board of Directors of the AAFPRS in multiple capacities and also served on the Board of the ABFPRS, where I currently serve as a senior advisor. I even had the distinction of being nominated for the presidency of the Academy three times—not winning once. However, two years ago, I was awarded an even more prestigious honor, the *Larry Schoenrock Service Award*, from the ABFPRS.

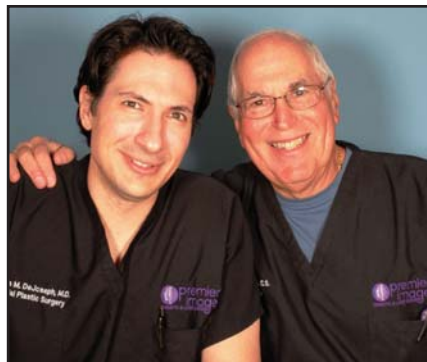
My times with the Academy were not just academic or educational endeavors. It has also provided me and my family some of the most rewarding fun trips and best friends one could ever have. These are lifelong friends that I consider family. There were also a lot of social activities over the years that created many great memories—FACE TO FACE trips, golf outings, and many escapades with dear friends.

I continued my involvement with organized medicine not only nationally, but also at home where I became very active in our state otolaryngology-head and neck surgery society, helping change the name of our state society from otolaryngology to otolaryngology-head and neck surgery. I served as its president and also received their academic award, the *Gerald Gussik Award*, and their service award, the *Lester Brown Award*. I still serve on its Board as the CME Committee chair for both the Greater

Atlanta Otolaryngology and the Georgia Society of OTO-HNS.

In the non-specialty arena, I just completed my year as the 152nd president of the Medical Association of Atlanta and now serve on its Board. I am currently the Legislative Committee chair for the medical association as well. I am also currently a director to the Medical Association of Georgia.

Another factor that has enabled me to continue doing what I love is that I have taken on as a partner one of my former fellows, Louis DeJoseph, MD (pictured below). He has served as



my equal partner for the past six years, and now has become a co-director for our fellowship.

Now for my social life! I have been fortunate to have been married to a great woman who has supported me over the years and this year I will celebrate my 50th wedding anniversary to Susan A. Silver. We have been blessed with a son and a daughter who both married great spouses and have given us five grandchildren.

I feel that I have been very fortunate to have experienced the wonderful opportunities my medical education has provided me,

the enthusiastic teachers I met along the way, the joy of sharing with other colleagues my good fortune. I am proud to say that after 40 years, I still experience the same level of enthusiasm and excitement for my chosen specialty that I experienced when I started my career: the pure pleasure of seeing a great result from a rhinoplasty I performed, experiencing the happiness of a patient who looks younger after my surgery, or seeing the relief and pleasure a patient feels after the disfigurement they had from a cancer is now repaired to normalcy.

The idea that I have learned so much and the realization that there is so much more to learn is with me every day. I wish for all of those who follow me in this wonderful organization that they would be able to share just a part of my good fortune and excitement in the field of facial plastic and reconstructive surgery that was given to me by those who preceded me. An individual who has a blessed life consists of someone who keeps trying to give back to life more than what he or she has received. This premise is what drives me to continue. ■

DR. SILVER'S FAMILY IS PICTURED HERE: HIS WIFE SUSAN (TOP ROW); HIS SON JONATHAN AND HIS WIFE JULI (FAR RIGHT); HIS DAUGHTER WENDY AND HER HUSBAND MARK (LEFT); AND THEIR FIVE GRANDCHILDREN.

