As another examination season nears completion I would like to thank all those involved for making this year a successful one. All the work that goes into the testing process—from development through testing—is greatly appreciated.

To date we have tested 720 dental candidates, including retests, and 1206 hygiene candidates, with several more exams to come. Without all the dedicated examiners and staff this would not be possible. Next year looks to be even better with additional dental and hygiene test sites securing dates.

Despite the fact that WREB announced its decision to withdraw shortly after a meeting of all five testing agencies to discuss renewed efforts toward a uniform national examination, in a May conference call, CRDTS’ Steering Committee asked its representatives to continue to participate in and monitor progress toward a national exam. However, the Steering Committee also expressed its consensus that ADEX was not the appropriate organization through which to accomplish that goal. Two weeks before a meeting of the remaining testing agencies scheduled for July 15th, NERB and SRTA announced that they would not be attending the meeting if CRDTS and CITA were unwilling to come back into ADEX. I will have more to report on these issues at the annual meeting.

In May the Steering Committee approved a budget and contract to conduct an occupational analysis for both dentistry and dental hygiene, to be guided by Dr. Gene Kramer as measurement specialist. This analysis, as recommended in the Technical Reports completed by Dr. Tom Haladyna, is part of our responsibility to our Member States to document the validity of our examinations and show that we are indeed testing those procedures that new graduates will be performing.

We continued to improve our data management system this year by strengthening our wireless network and providing for direct cable input whenever we encounter connectivity issues at some test sites. In 2012 we will be testing a new tablet format that hopefully will eliminate those connectivity problems. We hope to have the tablets ready to test at the November manikin grading session but can’t promise they will be ready by then. We must continue the work that was started on our document archiving system and web site before we can focus exclusively on another project. I’m confident we will get the job done soon and make life easier for all our staff. With all the new test sites we’ve taken on, the challenges are ongoing for our staff and we must continue to keep pace with technology.

As recommended by Dr. Thomas Haladyna in the 2010 Technical Reports, CRDTS has launched separate, simultaneous projects to complete an Occupational Analysis for both dentistry and dental hygiene. In a conference call meeting May 10, the Steering Committee approved a proposed budget, a contract with a measurement specialist and a list of nominees to serve as Subject Matter Experts (SME’s). Dr. Gene Kramer, whom many may know as the former measurement specialist for the ADA Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations, has retired from the ADA and has been retained to serve as the measurement specialist for these projects.

Seven dental hygienists were approved to serve as SME’s. They are Diann Bomkamp, Penny Fudally, Jane Lott, Denise Maus, Joan McKee, Marti Pollard and Liz Thompson. Dr. Kramer suggested that two SME’s be selected to represent each of the disciplines in the dental exam. The eight dental SME’s are Endodontics: Drs. Clyde Andrews and Bob Pattalochi; Prosthodontics: Drs. Steve Holcomb and Myron Pudwill; Periodontics: Drs. Gay Derderian and Joe Unger; Restorative: Drs. John Cosby and Tom Cavel. Both our professional and administrative staff will be providing support for the two groups.

(Continued on Page 2 inside)
Dr. Kramer described the task of the SME’s as defining the domain of the profession for the purposes of the exam and listing the skills, abilities, procedures and judgments (SAPJ’S) essential to the safe practice of entry-level practitioners. Using the SAPJ’S defined by the SME’s, a questionnaire is prepared that will be distributed electronically to a large sample of entry-level practitioners, asking them to identify the frequency of SAPJ’S in their routine practice and rate their importance to the patient’s well-being. Data collected from the surveys will be analyzed by Dr. Kramer and presented in a report detailing the entire process in the validity study and the accompanying occupational analysis.

Throughout CRDTS’ history, the content of our exams has been correlated with the periodic practice surveys published by the ADA, with the 1995 Core Curriculum Study and with the clinical knowledge and experience that our examiner and educator members have of current practice SAPJ’S. And, of course, our current exam was validated by the 2005 occupational analysis conducted with ADEX. But this is the first time that CRDTS has sponsored its own Occupational Analysis—a process that will be repeated periodically in the future. The Occupational Analysis is a primary method for verifying the important knowledge, skills and abilities that are essential in everyday practice and must be acquired by the newly licensed practitioners so that they provide safe and effective patient care. It is a key element in the validation of our exams and an important documentation for State Boards of Dentistry who are charged with protection of the public.

A pattern is emerging in the results of CRDTS’ Curriculum Integrated Format. Once again, the vast majority of the current regional graduates that CRDTS examined in 2011 have successfully completed the examination and were ready for licensure upon graduation.

For the past three years, the regional graduates who took the CIF exam and, if initially unsuccessful, took advantage of the retake opportunities that were available to them, had passing rates as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Passing Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>97.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>99.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not only does the CIF enhance the opportunities for success, but it eliminates the former obstacles for candidates to have access to remediation. Because candidates have the opportunity to secure school patients who are already in a continuum of care and have access to follow-up care, concerns about ethical treatment of patients are minimized.

The 2011 exam season has been a great success! We achieved all of our programming priorities to improve administrative document and data management for 2011, thanks to Premier One and CRDTS staff members. CRDTS’ dental schools and member state boards now receive electronic reports and post-examination data; additionally, all of the majority of our file storage and management is now electronic through our new Archive Management System. This system allows us to upload, view, secure and manage any and all of our examination materials or necessary administrative documents. Our focus going forward will be to establish additional electronic management for our examiners.

Examiners are now more familiar with our scoring devices and the majority of any connectivity issues were resolved at our examination sites. About the time we’ve all become comfortable with the ESD’s, we’re initiating a major platform change to tablets! As much as possible, we will keep the current, functional screen views in place and streamline any screens needing improved functionality or user friendliness. We are working to determine the most feasible, reliable and reasonably priced tablet for purchase. An update will be provided at this year’s Annual Meeting. The tablets will be beta tested in November at the Manikin grading in Kansas City and then implemented for the Spring patient-based examination series.

Finally, we’ll also be using an updated audience response system for examiner calibration utilizing our surplus ESD’s and our current laptops. This will allow us to provide examiners with additional feedback regarding calibration exercises and give Team Captains an “at a glance” view of examiner performance on the calibration exams so that any necessary information or clarification can be provided on site.
We have had an overwhelming response to our invitation for this meeting and workshop. Over two hundred CRDTS Examiners, State Board Members & Directors, Deans, Program Directors, Faculty as well as guests and family members are expected to be attending this, our 39th Annual Meeting.

As is customary, all of our NEW Examiners, NEW State Board Members and Executive Directors will be welcomed at a breakfast orientation on Saturday, August 27 at 7:30 am. Dr. Marv Dvorak and Ms. Lynn Ray will be providing an exciting and informative presentation regarding the structure of CRDTS and our responsibilities as examiners. If you are new to the CRDTS organization or your State Board this is a MUST ATTEND!

ALL attendees are invited to the Plenary Session Saturday 9:00 – 11:30 am. The Keynote speaker will be Dr. Thomas Haladyna, measurement specialist. He will give a presentation on the dental and dental hygiene 2010 Technical Reports that he recently completed. This independent evaluation is an exhaustive process that entails the analysis of documents, data, observations and discussions with those involved in test development and validation. This report provides important information that CRDTS can give to states concerning the clinical competence of candidates applying for licensure.

Dr. Steve Holcomb and Ms. Kim Laudenslager will give us an update as to the “State of the States”. Dr. Joan Sheppard will provide an update of the Minnesota Dental Therapist programs and testing.

The Annual Business Meeting is scheduled from 1:00 – 2:30 pm immediately following the President’s Luncheon. As stated in the Bylaws this meeting is for the transaction of business for CRDTS, with members receiving the Annual Report. President, Dr. Tony Malaktaris will preside over this meeting. All attendees are welcome.

You spoke and we listened! Looking at the feedback we received from the 2010 Annual Meeting there were several suggestions and requests that we are implementing this year. First, as requested, there will be concurrent sessions for the Deans’ & dental faculty and the Program Directors’ & hygiene faculty. This will allow for the specific groups of interest to have their own networking and information sharing sessions.

Secondly, we are providing continuing education certificates for attendance. We will be asking for return of the 2011 Meeting Feedback forms in “exchange” for your Certificate of Attendance form.

If you thought this weekend will be all work and no play, think again. Friday, August 25 from 8:00 am- 3:00 pm there is a tour of Independence, MO – home of President Harry S. Truman and the Truman Library. [Isn’t Truman the one that said “The Bus Stops Here!?”] The tour information details were sent out with the Attendance Forms and hotel/airline reservation specifics. Space is limited for this tour and registration with payment should have been made by July 15 to be included in the fantastic tour. If you missed the deadline and still want to go, please call Renee’ at Central Office as there are a few remaining spaces available. Hurry, they won’t last long!

Pack your best Hawaiian shirt, flip-flops and hula skirt, as the Saturday night Dinner and Dance will have a Hawaiian Luau theme. The hotel catering staff is planning a wonderful buffet. This will be a great time to socialize with your friends, old and new alike, and enjoy a casual relaxing evening. Again, all attendees, family and friends are welcome. Aloha!§

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**IZIP NOTES ON CRDTS’ ANNUAL MEETING**
**Liz Thompson, RDH, Vice-Pres**

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**Thumbnail Schedule**

- **Thursday, August 25**
  - 2-6:00 Dental ERC
  - 6:00 Dinner-ERC, Chiefs, Captains
  - 7-8:00 Dental Team Captains
  - 8-9:00 Dental Chief Examiners

- **Friday, August 26**
  - 8-12:00 Executive Committee
  - 12-1:00 Lunch-Executive & Steering
  - 1:45 Steering Committee
  - 5-5:45 DDS Exam Updates & Profiles
  - 5-5:45 RDH Exam Updates & Profiles
  - 6-7:00 Deans & Dental Faculty
  - 6-7:00 RDH Directors & DH Faculty
  - 7:00 President’s Meet & Greet

- **Saturday, August 27**
  - 7:30-9:00 New Examiners Breakfast
  - 9:15-11:30 Plenary Session
    - Dr. Haladyna-Psychometrics
    - State of the States
    - MN Dental Therapists
  - 11:30-1:00 President’s Luncheon
    - 1-2:30 CRDTS Business Meeting
    - 2:30-4:00 DD Breakout Q & A
    - 2:30-4:00 RDH Breakout Q & A
    - 4-6:30 New Exec & Steering Meeting
    - 6-10:00 Dinner & Dance