



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

"Don't Forget the Pebbles"

By John K. Maltby, DC, FICA

"Life is like a mosaic. Imagine a boy gathering pebbles — here a red one, there a green one, then a blue, then purple — all colors of the rainbow. Imagine him separating them, each color into a cigar box. Day after day, week after week, year after year he gathers pebbles, rocks of various hues. Finally he has hundreds of cigar boxes filled. He now resorts them to shapes — reds are round, square, oblong; each shape in a box of its own."

Why does this boy, young man, or man gather pebbles for colors, shapes and sizes? Perhaps he doesn't know. It becomes a hobby; he takes delight in hunting new colors, sizes, or shapes.

Some day, some place, in some unaccountable way, an idea and picture flashes thru his mind. He sees an empty wall. He takes these pebbles and fashions them into a mosaic picture on that wall. It may take months or years to complete his mental picture on that wall. It may take months or years to complete his mental picture in physical form. But when he does, he has an artistic production worthy of the ages."

Up From Below the Bottom, Vol. XXIII, pp 11, 1950, BJ Palmer

I recently returned from speaking at Life West's 50th Commencement Ceremony. I must say it was one of the most rewarding experiences of my professional career. To be able to remember my graduation 30 years ago and then share with the graduates that their education was just the beginning of their journey, was a challenge and served to stimulate considerable thought about the process of chiropractic

education and those who will follow us in practice in the years, decades and centuries to come.

After the ceremony I had the opportunity to visit with several of the students and was impressed with their enthusiasm. They were certainly those future pebbles which will help create the mosaic we call chiropractic. Then I thought about what kind of pebbles I was gathering to give the world the pic-

ture of chiropractic that has worked so well for me, my patients, my ICA colleagues around the world and the millions they serve each day. The thought that seized me almost immediately was would they be enough to carry chiropractic into a future where populations will continue to mushroom, where resources available for health care will continue to dwindle and where the medical model as we know it today will all but vanish? Immediately upon the coattails of this thought was another compelling question; what would their education consist of?

The mosaic of chiropractic's future has yet to be created in its entirety, and the beauty and the impact that mosaic will have on the populations of the future will depend on both quantitative and qualitative elements.

QUANTITY: Our success, indeed, our survival depends on the actual numbers of doctors of chiropractic available to meet the growing demand for chiropractic services worldwide. While this concept should be obvious and compelling, it is one about which I think we need to be regularly reminded because we, as practicing doctors, have both an opportunity and an obligation to be involved.

For the past few years, the number of practicing doctors of chiropractic in the United States has been well above the 50,000 mark. At that level, our profession had reached and has been able to maintain the kind of critical mass we need to succeed as a profession. By critical mass, I mean that our numbers were significant enough that policy makers at both the state and national

levels are obliged to notice our issues and to respond to our concerns. Likewise, in the health care marketplace, critical mass means that consumers who decided to seek the care of a doctor of chiropractic have no difficulty locating a DC who is convenient and accessible to them.

We are now confronting a situation in which the actual numbers of practicing doctors of chiropractic in the US are declining. This is the result of a host of factors, including the retirement of the large corps of DCs who went through chiropractic college on the GI bill after World War II and Korea, as well as the significant decline in enrollment in chiropractic colleges.

In recognition of this situation, ICA continues to promote chiropractic as a career, support student loan reform legislation, work to strengthen DCs in private practice, build public awareness of chiropractic as a sound health care alternative and aggressively defend practice rights and authorities.

As individual practitioners, you have both an opportunity and an obligation to serve as a referral resource to our chiropractic colleges. Are there exceptional young people in your family, community or circle of contacts that you feel would be a good chiropractor? If so, you can be the first point of discussion on chiropractic as a career. Our affiliated colleges will be happy to take it from there. Every one of those exceptional institutions has experienced and insightful professionals who will be able to answer any questions prospective students may have about the nature of chiropractic studies and what their

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JOIN ICA TODAY!

Name _____ Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____
MONTH YEAR

Office Address* _____ Suite _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip _____

Country _____

Office Phone (____) _____ Fax (____) _____

Home Address _____ City _____

State/Province _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Email Address _____

Chiropractic College Attended _____ Grad. Date _____ / _____

Chiropractic licenses held in: _____

In active practice? Yes No Former SICA member? Yes No Former Field member? Yes No

I hereby apply for membership in the International Chiropractors Association, agreeing to abide by the Constitution, By-Laws, Code of Ethics, all amendments and regulations adopted by the Board of Directors and Officers of the Association under the provisions of the Constitution, and amendments hereafter legally adopted. I also understand that failure to remit dues will result in loss of membership, and all rights and privileges thereof.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Please charge my: VISA MasterCard American Express Enclosed is a check/money order

Account # _____ Exp. Date _____ Signature _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

FIELD MEMBERSHIP

First year after graduation

- Former Student ICA member (\$50 transfer fee) \$ _____
- Non-Student ICA member (\$85 yr.) \$ _____

Second year after graduation

- Former Student ICA member (\$85 yr.) \$ _____
- Non-Student ICA member (\$75 qtr./\$300 yr.) \$ _____

Third year after graduation

- Fmr Student ICA member (\$75 qtr./\$300 yr.) \$ _____
- Non-Student ICA member (\$150 qtr./\$600 yr.) \$ _____

Fourth year or more after graduation

- (\$150 qtr./\$600 yr.) \$ _____

INTERNATIONAL — OUTSIDE U.S.

- \$150 yr. (U.S.) Payment may be made by MasterCard/Visa/American Express or International Money Order. Checks drawn on Canadian Banks must have "In US Funds" written after amount. \$ _____

FACULTY — D.C.s (full-time faculty only)†

- Voting (\$75 qtr./\$300 yr.) \$ _____
 - Non-Voting** (\$110 yr.) \$ _____
- Teaching at (school): _____

LAY* (must be sponsored by two ICA members)

- Faculty non-D.C. (\$85 yr.) \$ _____
- Chiropractic Assistant (\$85 yr.) \$ _____
- Interested individual (\$85 yr.) \$ _____

STUDENT** (\$30 one-time fee) \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT†† \$ _____

Return application to:
INTERNATIONAL CHIROPRACTORS ASSOCIATION
 1110 North Glebe Road, Suite 650 • Arlington, VA 22201
 1-800-423-4690 or 1-703-528-5000 • Fax: 703-528-5023

* Unless otherwise requested, correspondence will be sent to your office address.
 ** Not eligible to vote in ICA elections
 † Teaching 8 or more academic hours per week at an accredited chiropractic college.
 †† ICA dues are not deductible as a charitable contribution for income tax purposes, but may be deductible as a business expense.