Steven J. Filler, DDS, a retired faculty member in the School of Dentistry, became a volunteer dentist for the Birmingham Zoo in 1983; his first patient was a polar bear with a bad tooth. In this photo from UAB Archives, he’s pictured with a smiling hippopotamus in. In 2001. After joining the SOD faculty in 1985, Filler enabled dental students to accompany him on his zoo rounds on a regular basis. He retired in 2019 as a professor in the Department of Restorative Sciences (General Dentistry) and associate dean for Student, Alumni and External Affairs.