

THE COMPASS

Charting
New Directions
for the
University of
Connecticut
School of
Dental
Medicine

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Welcome to the Class of 2008

by Edward Thibodeau, DMD, PhD
Assistant Dean
Dental School Admissions

The School of Dental Medicine is pleased to welcome 41 new students into the Class of 2008 for the coming academic year. Incoming students were selected from a highly competitive pool of over 1000 applicants that applied to the school for the 2003-2004 admissions cycle. The class is distinguished in that it has the highest enrollment of minority students in recent school history and that, for the second year in a row, the majority (54%) of the students are women. The class also presents with very strong academic credentials based on overall GPA and DAT scores which should place them in the top 15% of dental school applicants for the current year.

Approximately 60% of the class of 2008 are Connecticut residents or New England residents who are participating in the New England Regional



School Program. Others come to the school from as far away as Nevada, Maryland, Ohio, Indiana, and California. The class also exemplifies the school's commitment to cultural and ethnic diversity by welcoming students born in or are current residents of Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, China, Malaysia, Taiwan, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Poland, Hong Kong, and Iran. While the majority of students majored in biology, others have degrees or backgrounds in the fields of radiology, biotechnology, psychology, business, engineering, mathematics, religious studies, economics, computer sciences, food sciences and the arts. As always the school is very fortunate to welcome a class that has such a wide range of interests and life experiences that will complement and add to the quality and depth of the overall student body.



Message from the Dean

Peter Robinson, DDS, PhD

This is the start of another great year with an absolutely terrific new class, the class of 2008. An interesting trend is the increasing number of female students in the new classes. In the past two years over half the class is female which is better than the national average, which hovers around 40% female. The face of dentistry has changed in many good ways, and this is a very encouraging trend in our goal to achieve diversity in our profession.

The person responsible for attracting such outstanding classes of new students year after year, Ed Thibodeau, has received special recognition for outstanding service to the Health Professions Partnership. In addition to his role in Admissions, he is the director for both the first and second year classes, directs and teaches our Infection Control curriculum, is our liaison to our pre dental programs at Storrs and does extra service for us in our Career Opportunities Program for underrepresented students (for which he received this award). We applaud Ed's good works and invaluable contributions to the School of Dental Medicine.

We are also pleased to have a chance to thank a critical part of our dental team, the dental assistants, who are key to our service and education mission. We thank them for continuing to effectively support us in the clinic on a daily basis. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated staff.

Dental Assistants Updates

by Debbie Gaudet, Lead Dental Assistant

As another year has gone by, the dental assistants continue to work together and strive toward achieving our goal to follow the mission statement put forth in the spring 2003.

We were faced with many challenges during the past year, one of which was to prepare and assist on the WREB's, before which the Dental School had never taken part. One of the most difficult aspects of the exam was to recruit personnel to work the weekend, as there were many key positions WREB determined were needed. Once again we rose to the occasion and many staff volunteered for both Saturday and Sunday. Preparing the operatories with equipment was another major challenge as the WREB format was so different from the NERBS. We all worked together and got the job done.

Also during the past year, many dental assistants have sought employment elsewhere: **Jessica Oquendo** and **Angela Warmington** have obtained new positions with the Department of Corrections; **Cecilia Fitzgerald** transferred to another Health Center position; **Diane Womack** retired; **Erica Graig, Randy Rojka** and **Terry Delucia** obtained new positions outside the Health Center; and **Yvonne Ozene** received a promotion to lead

dental assistant at Burgdorf Clinic. While losing all these positions has put a strain on the dental assistants and clerks, we are all working hard to take on these additional duties. Best wishes and much happiness to all of those in their new positions.

On a more positive note, the Dental School is very fortunate to have joined our work team: Janet Salgado and Caroline Piotrowski as floater assistants, Violet Pierson and Gail Bousquet in University Dentists, Amy Chamberlain in Dental Clinic #2 Endodontics, and registered nurses Maureen Desito and Rick Michaud in Oral Surgery. Welcome! We look forward to working with all of you in the future.

We have elected a Union delegate after many years without one: Lisa Burgio, who can be reached at extension 2428 in the Dental Clinical Research Center.

In closing I would like to take this opportunity, as recipient of "Employee of the Month, March 2004," to express a very special thank you to Eileen McStay, Collen Osterling and Joanne Abbott for all their hard work and dedication to their jobs, and to Delorse Lambert for all her support on a daily basis. They are the ones who make my job easier.



Dr. Edward A. Thibodeau, Assistant Dean for Admissions, received a faculty recognition award from the Department of Health Careers and Opportunities for outstanding service to the Health Professions Partnership. The presentation is pictured below. From left to right: Dr. Boake Plessy (Assistant Dean/HCOP Assistant Director), Dr. Thibodeau, Mr. Robert Henry (Superintendent, Hartford Public School System), Dr. Betty J. Sternberg (Commissioner, State Department of Education), and Dr. Marja Hurley (Associate Dean/HCOP Director).

Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine Convocation - 2004



Dr. Sherwin B. Nuland

The Master of Ceremonies was Tim Goslee ('07) and included the student address from Adam Cohen ('07). The feature speaker was Sherwin B. Nuland, MD, FACS. Dr. Nuland is Clinical Professor of Surgery at the Yale School of Medicine and a Fellow of the University's Institution for Social and Policy Studies. He serves on the executive committees of Yale's Whitney Humanities Center and its Interdisciplinary Bioethics Project.

In 1994, Dr. Nuland published the Pulitzer Prize winning *How We Die* (Alfred A. Knopf), a reflection on the modern way of

The Convocation for 2004, in honor of the entering medical and dental classes of 2008, was held on August 23 in the Keller Auditorium. It is named for Joseph M. Healey, a former faculty member of the School of Medicine, who died in 1993.

death, which was on the New York Times best seller list for a total of 34 weeks, with more than half a million copies sold in countries throughout the world, having been translated into 17 languages. In 1997, Dr. Nuland published *The Wisdom of the Body* (Alfred A. Knopf), a study of human biology, history, ethics, and the spiritual nature of man. Dr. Nuland's next book, *The Mysteries Within* (Simon and Schuster, 2000), was a description of the ways in which myth, superstition and religion have influenced the development of medical thought and our own notions of our bodies.

A graduate of Yale University School of Medicine, he practiced and taught there from 1962 until 1992, when he began his full-time writing career. He continues to teach medical history and bioethics to medical students and undergraduates, and to serve the university in numerous capacities. He was a founding member of the hospital's Bioethics Committee, serving from 1986 to 2000.

From July 31 to August 7, Dr. Michael Goupil, Assistant Dean for Dental Student Affairs accompanied four students from the class of 2005 on a pilot project (Adopt a Village) arranged by Dr. Dalila Vanzie, a dentist with the Ministry of Health in Belize.



Pictured above from left to right are: Behnam (Ben) Jafarnia, Keith Dressler, Michael Holler, Dr. Goupil, and Matthew Scoles. Above right: Ben Jafarnia and Matthew Scoles applying sealants.



Pediatric Dentistry Residents Graduation

The following residents are recent graduates of the the Pediatric Dentistry residency program. Pictured above from left to right: **Dr. Aravind Menon** is currently in private practice in Norwich. **Dr. Christina Alarcon** will be doing a fellowship at the University of Maryland. **Dr. Greg Mathieu** is the residency director. **Dr. Lubna Fawad** is doing a fellowship out of the state and **Dr. Dimitris Velonis** will be at UCHC until the end of September. After defending his PhD thesis, he will return to Greece to teach part-time at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and have a part-time private practice.



Congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Ethimia Ioannidou, assistant professor of periodontology. She and her husband announce the birth of their daughter, Christina Teresa Fares, born August 8, 2004, weighing in at 7.3 pounds and 21 inches long.



It's a Girl!



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The Compass is written for the dental school. We strongly encourage everyone to participate by submitting articles, events, milestones, etc. If you have any suggestions, please drop us a line.

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