

THE COMPASS

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

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SUMMER, 2004

Dental Outreach Overseas

by Michael T. Goupil, D.D.S., Assistant Dean, Student Affairs

The desire to help others continues to grow amongst our students. A recent alumni survey indicated that one of the fond memories of their dental education was the opportunity to provide dental care to the underserved populations in other countries. The desire to travel and serve has exploded this year. This past January members of the 4th year class traveled to Haiti. The annual trip for the 3rd year class to northern Peru took place the 1st week of March. And a mixed group of 1st, 2nd and 3rd year students spent Spring break in the Dominican Republic. Another trip to a new site in Peru with Dr. Alan Lurie is scheduled for August. Unfortunately due to the political climate in Haiti, two trips have been cancelled - one scheduled for April and the other for the end of June. Hopefully one of these groups will be able to be diverted to another country this summer.

With an increasing number of students traveling to provide DOO (Dental Outreach Overseas), the coordination and scheduling has become more complex. Starting with the new academic year a few changes will be instituted. All dental outreach programs planned for outside of the state involving students will be coordinated through the Office of Student Affairs. Student participation in DOO projects will be restricted to the summer period between the 3rd and 4th year, the end of 3rd year for those students who complete 3rd year requirements early, or scheduled

school vacations. Students will need to be in good academic to gain final approval to participate from the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Dr. MacNeil.

While having significant humanitarian and social value, DOO activities also provide a unique opportunity for students to apply clinical principles learned in the "home curriculum". Care is taken to properly match the DOO experience with the clinical development of the student and to avoid problems with progress in the intramural curriculum due to time away from the school. The overall aim is to have students succeed in the curriculum (e.g. timely progression and graduation) while providing an opportunity for students to participate in a DOO experience that will broaden their perspectives as "worldly" health care professionals. We believe this will be possible through the organizational changes being made in 2004-2005, the continued interest of students/faculty/alumni and through affiliations with reputable agencies interested in global oral health.

It is recognized that these outreach activities, although humanitarian in nature, do have educational value. Consequently our goal is to provide outreach opportunities to students in a manner that reinforces, supplements and accommodates the established curriculum and broadens the overall educational experience for each student.



**Message
from the
Dean**

Peter Robinson, DDS, PhD

We Finally Got it Right!

We finally got it right! We've tried a number of different combinations of events and venues, but with this year's Commencement "week" everything clicked into place. A week before graduation Tish and I were delighted to have the graduating students, their spouses and friends, and the faculty at our house for a casual dinner. As described in this issue of Compass, the student awards banquet was a special opportunity for the faculty to meet the students' families and celebrate the graduates' special achievements. The weather behaved itself allowing us to have a perfect Commencement day on Sunday, May 16. It was nearly a perfect Commencement for all the graduates as well, because 97% (33/34) received their diploma on graduation day! The perfect balance of activities with family, friends and faculty has been achieved to celebrate this special time with our new alumni.

In this issue we are also noting and celebrating special awards several of our faculty and one of our staff have received. The School truly has a remarkable group of faculty and staff.

Department Notes...



Dr. Susan Reisine

Recognized internationally for her work in the field of psychosocial outcomes of oral disease, her research work in the areas of arthritis and fibromyalgia, and her academic and administrative excellence, **Susan Reisine, Ph.D.** is the this year's recipient of the UConn Health Center Board of Directors Faculty Recognition Award. Dr. Reisine was given the award for "outstanding academic and clinical accomplishments and sustained excellence of the highest order in her professional endeavors." She is professor and department head of Behavioral Sciences and Community Health and associate dean for research for the School of Dental Medicine. The award recognizes and celebrates excellence in faculty members. The award was presented at UConn medical and dental schools' commencement ceremonies May 16. Dean Peter J. Robinson, D.D.S., Ph.D. accepted the award for Dr. Reisine, who was out of town attending her son's college graduation ceremonies.

On May 6, 2004, **Dr. Larz Spangberg**, Professor of Endodontology in the School of Dental Medicine, was presented with the prestigious Louis I. Grossman Award during the 60th Annual Session of the American Association of Endodontists, held in Anaheim, California. The Louis I. Grossman Award recognizes an author for cumulative publication of significant research studies that have made an extraordinary contribution to endodontics. The Department of Endodontology is proud to note that of a total of 17 individuals who have ever received this eminent award since its inception in 1973, two were endodontic faculty members in our School. Professor Emeritus Kaare Langeland, received the award in 1982.

Dr. James Bryers, a professor in the Center for Biomaterials, has been elected as a fellow to the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering. These elections are limited to the top 2% of those active in AIMBE. The Institute's principal activities include participation in the formulation of public policy; the dissemination of information, both to the public and scientific community, through publications and forums; and education.

Douglas E. Peterson DMD, Ph.D received the Samuel Charles Miller Award on April 23, 2004, at the 58th annual meeting of the American Academy of Oral Medicine This award is given annually to an individual who has made significant contribution to the art and science of Oral Medicine, and represents the highest academic award given by the Academy. Dr. Peterson presented a lecture entitled "Oral Complications of Chemotherapy", in which he addressed the scientific progress made in recent years in this field, as well as new research and patient care initiatives that are now underway worldwide. Investigators and clinicians in the SDM and the UConn Cancer Center continue to contribute in important ways to these advances.



Sandra Krawczynski, affectionately known as "Sandie K" has been honored as a UConn Health Center Employee of the Month. Sandie, who provides administrative services for the Office of Dental Academic Affairs, was nominated by several dental students and her colleagues.

Congratulations and thank you Sandie!!

ADEA Leadership Institute Fellows Include Two of Our Own

The American Dental Education Association has invited 21 Fellows, including **Dr. Steven Lepowsky** (Behavioral Sciences & Community Health) and **Dr. Mina Mina** (Pediatric Dentistry) to participate in the 2004-2005 ADEA Leadership Institute, a unique year-long faculty development program for dental and allied dental education program faculty and administrators. The Fellows began the year-long program with an orientation held at the recent 2004 ADEA Annual Session in Seattle, Washington.



Drs. Mina Mina and Steven Lepowsky

“These individuals are among the nation’s finest dental school educators,” said Richard W. Valachovic, D.M.D., ADEA Executive Director, “They were chosen for their potential to become the foremost leaders in dental education, and have accepted the challenge to see the broader issues affecting higher education and society. They are the trailblazers who will lead our institutions in the future.”

The ADEA Leadership Institute is a four-phase program designed to arm Fellows with the competencies necessary to become stronger leaders and take on new responsibilities at

their home institutions. The first phase, which will be held in Stowe, Vermont this June, is an intensive five-day program that focuses on developing personal and interpersonal competencies necessary for leadership. The second phase takes place in Washington, DC in conjunction with the ADEA Advocacy Day on Capital Hill. A legislative workshop informing Fellows on critical issues facing dental, health professions, and

higher education is followed by visits to congressional offices on Capital Hill. The third phase is devoted to the promotion of the administrative competencies necessary for effective leadership. Finally, the fourth phase will take place at the 2005 ADEA Annual Session when the Fellows will be responsible for assisting with a full-day Faculty Development Workshop. In addition, Fellows must complete a project, based on a series of interviews, addressing a key issue in dental education that results in a paper suitable for publication. Upon completion of the ADEA Leadership Institute, Fellows will have the opportunity to join the Leadership Institute Alumni Association where they will have continued development opportunities and are able to connect with other ADEA Leadership Institute Alumni.



DENTAL GRADUATE AWARDS

On Saturday, May 15, the annual School of Dental Medicine commencement/awards brunch was held at in the Belle Terrace Ballroom at Avon Old Farms Inn. Each of the 34 dental graduates was a recipient of the School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award in recognition of contributions to the community in the area of oral health. In addition the following students were recognized:

Stacey Baglio: American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Award;

the Dr. Loeb Prize Fund; the Dr. Robert G. Levine Award; and the American Academy of Oral Medicine Award. **Farid Bashti:** American Academy of Dental Practice Administration. **Hillary Caruso:** American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Award. **Michael D’Ochio:** American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry Award; International College of Dentists Award. **DuTran Do:** Kohrman Award; Richard G. Topazian Prize.

Michael Dunne: American College of

Prosthodontists Award; the Quintessence Award for Clinical Achievement in Restorative Dentistry. **Daenya Edwards:** Allan B. Reiskin Award; Marion Mattioli Award; Richard G. Topazian Prize. **Shanna Gagnon:** Academy of Operative Dentistry Award. **Matthew Goslee:** Alpha Omega Scholarship Award; American Association of Public Health Dentistry Award. **Eric Granquist:** American Association of

continued on next page

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Award; Connecticut Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Award. **Gabriel Kennedy:** South Park Inn Dental Clinic Award.

Crista Massaro: American College of Dentists Award; International Congress of Oral Implantologists Predoctoral Achievement Award; the Neurosciences Award. **George Messer:** Academy of Dental Materials Award; American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons/Dental Implant Award; the Quintessence Award for Research Achievement. **Joshua Osborne:** American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology. **Christopher Peluso:** American Association of Orthodontists Award; Organization of Teachers of Oral Diagnosis Award.

Kevin Purviance: Horace Wells American Dental Society of Anesthesiology Senior Student Award; Oral Biology Award; the Northeastern Society of Periodontists Award.

Christopher Root: American Academy of Periodontology Award; American Association of Endodontists

Award. **Neil Salesky:** Academy of General Dentistry Award. **Cristina Santos:** American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Award; Health Center Mentorship Award; the Pierre Fauchard Academy Award. **Christopher Shank:** Friends of the School of Dental Medicine – Fox Award. **Sharon Soria:** Academy of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities Award; the Quintessence Award for Clinical Achievement in Periodontics.

Finally, **Dr. Michael T. Goupil,** Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, was the winner of two faculty awards voted on by the students: the Kaiser Permanente Teaching Award and the South Park Inn Dental Clinic Award. Drs. **Sarita Arteaga** and **Jacqueline Duncan** (Prosthodontics and Operative Dentistry) were runners-up for the Kaiser Permanente Teaching Award.

Graduation 2004



The Health Center's 33rd Commencement featured the medical and dental schools, graduate program in public health and doctoral program in the biosciences. Commencement was Sunday, May 16, and 68 received their M.D. degree; 34 their D.M.D. degree; 24 their M.P.H. degree; and 19 their doctorate. The speaker, Dr. Francisco Jiménez, Santa Clara University in California, a former field worker and a member of a migrant worker family, was absolutely laudatory about our students who provide volunteer medical and dental care to Connecticut's tobacco and fruit pickers. "I find your work with migrant workers particularly moving," he told the assembly. "Your work with a marginalized community is truly remarkable, and the strength of your commitment to the underserved is inspiring," he said.



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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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