

# THE COMPASS

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

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SUMMER, 2005

## Commencement News - Class of 2005

Thirty-six men and women were honored as the 34th class of the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine during commencement ceremonies under the tent on May 15, 2005.

Chosen by his classmates, Aaron Liddell spoke for the UConn School of Dental Medicine's graduating class. Aaron is pursuing a medical degree and certificate in oral and maxillofacial surgery and will continue his studies at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio.

The keynote speaker was New York State Health Commissioner, Dr. Antonia Novello. Dr. Novello was appointed Surgeon General of the United States from

1990-1993, by President George Bush. During her three-year term in office, Novello focused on the health of women, children and minorities, playing an important role in launching the Healthy Children Ready to Learn Initiative. Prior to her term as Surgeon General, Novello for 12 years worked at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), where she rose through the ranks until being named deputy director of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. Since leaving the national post, Novello has served with UNICEF, the United Nations' children's health organization, as a special representative for health and nutrition. In addition, Dr. Novello is a member of the National Women's Hall of Fame.



Left: Mehran Abedi and Rishma Gill Khurana; Middle: Class of 2005; Top Right: Morvarid Madani, Christine Yoon and Audrey Ann Lemieux; Lower Right: Patrick McGary, Matthew Olson, Shane Bryant and James Dores.

cont'd. on p. 3



### Message from the Dean

Peter Robinson, DDS, PhD

It was a monumental day for dentistry in the State of Connecticut on July 8, 2005. The Governor signed House Bill 6819--an act concerning access to oral health care (now known as Public Act 05-212) into law. This new law supplements the current dental practice act in several enlightened ways. The most important features of the new law (in my mind): (1) dental hygienists can deliver local anesthesia under general supervision; (2) DDS/DMD graduates of CDA accredited dental schools can substitute a PGY-1 (or specialty residency) program for a clinical board examination (PGY-1 alternative pathway); (3) foreign trained dentists (FTD) can become educationally eligible for a regular state dental license if they have completed two years of advanced training in a CDA approved program plus two years of practice in a safety net facility in the state or served three years on the faculty in a dental school in Connecticut, (4) there is a mandatory CE requirement for dentists (finally!).

Though I co-chaired the legislative subcommittee that wrote this legislation, this incredibly positive legislative action was the result of a great deal of hard work and cooperation from the following groups: Connecticut Dental Society, the State's Dental Hygiene Association, the School of Dental Medicine, the Department of Public Health, Connecticut Health Foundation, Coalition on Oral Health Initiative, Friends of Retarded Citizens of Connecticut and the Public Health Committee of the House.

One note of caution to our students: I believe it would be prudent to sign up for and take the clinical board exam for (NERB) this next year. Though there is evidence that the PGY-1 alternative may spread to many other states, it would be wise for students to take the clinical exam so as not to limit their options.

## Dr. Reza Kazemi Wins Teaching Awards



**Dr. Reza B. Kazemi**, Associate Professor and Director of Preclinical Operative Dentistry Courses, Department of Oral Rehabilitation, Biomaterials and Skeletal Development, was the winner of the following faculty recognition awards (2004) for Excellence in Teaching in the Dental Sciences:

1. Year One Dental Sciences Teaching Award – Phi Chi Chapter, Omicron Kappa Upsilon
2. Year Two Dental Sciences Teaching Award – Phi Chi Chapter, Omicron Kappa Upsilon

Voted by the Dental Class of 2006 and Dental Class of 2007, the awards were presented to Dr. Kazemi at the annual Welcome Reception.

Dr. Kazemi had also been the recipient of other awards in the past including the Kaiser Permanente Awards and South Park Inn Dental Clinic Award voted by the graduating dental students

## International Team for Implantology Scholarship Winners

by *Thomas D. Taylor, D.D.S., M.S.D.*

**Dr. Thomas Taylor**, Department Head of the Department of Oral Rehabilitation, Biomaterials and Skeletal Development recently returned from the June meeting of the International Team for Implantology (ITI) World Symposium, June 18 - 20 in Munich.

He reports that three of the eight speakers selected for the ITI scholarship program (similar to a postdoctoral fellowship) oral competition were faculty with School of Dental Medicine ties. **Dr. Francesca Vailati** did her prosthodontic residency here finishing in 2003 and is on faculty at the University of Geneva. **Dr. Yukihiisa Takahashi** was an ITI scholar here with the Department of Prosthodontics during 2003-04 and is currently in private practice in Yokohama, Japan. Dr. Peter Schleier was an ITI scholar here (primarily in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery with Dr. David Shafer but also in Prosthodontics) from 2004-2005. He is now a faculty member at Jena University in Germany.

This program that the ITI sponsors is for dental specialists in oral and maxillofacial surgery, periodontics and prosthodontics. It is very competitive (about 60 applications for only 17 slots), and during the past decade 85 scholarships have been awarded. UConn is one of the 17 scholarship centers. The 85 past scholars were invited to submit application to be on the symposium program in a clinical forum competition where they would show documentation of cases they had treated during their scholarship year. Only eight of the presentations could be fit into the program for the symposium so the selection rate for the abstracts was very competitive. Of the eight chosen, three were from UConn! Just as impressive is that the judges of the competition declared a tie for the winner and the two selected were Drs. Vailati and Takahashi.

## Commencement Awards Brunch

Avon Old Farms Inn was the setting for this year's School of Dental Medicine Commencement Awards Brunch on Saturday, May 14. Following are the class of 2005 award winners with their plans for the future:

**Mehran Abedi** – *Private Practice, Stony Brook, New York*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award.

**Christine Knox Abenoja** – *Orthodontics, University of Alabama, Birmingham*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award; American Academy of Periodontology Award; American College of Dentists Award (Yankee Dental Congress); American Association of Orthodontists Award; American Association of Public Health Dentistry Award; International College of Dentists Student Leadership Award.

**Jaren C. Argyle** – *Private Practice, Syracuse, Utah*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award; Academy of General Dentistry Award; American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry Award; Friends of the School of Dental Medicine Fox Award.

**Amy Elizabeth Brockman** – *Prosthodontics, Implant Fellowship, UConn Health Center*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award; Academy of Osseointegration Outstanding Dental Student in Implant Dentistry Award; International Congress of Oral Implantologists Award; Dr. Loeb Prize Fund.

**Jared Reed Brown** – *Orthodontics, Columbia University, New York*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award.

**Shane Robert Bryant** – *AEGD, UConn Health Center*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award.

**Vernon Patrick Burke** – *Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award; Academy of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities Award; Connecticut Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Award; Horace Wells Senior Student Award from the American Dental Society of Anesthesiology.

**James Edward Does** – *AEGD, UConn Health Center*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award.

**Keith Alan Dressler** – *Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, UConn Health Center*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award; Alpha Omega Fraternity Award; American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Award; Quintessence Award for Clinical Achievement in Restorative Dentistry.

**Daniel C. Fackrell** – *GPR, University of Utah School of Medicine, Salt Lake City*: School

of Dental Medicine Community Service Award; Northeastern Society of Periodontists Award.

**Luis Jorge Fornaris** – *AEGD, University of Florida, Miami*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award.

**Paul Gordon** – *Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award.

**Alan Harvey** – *Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Loyola University Medical Center, Chicago, IL*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award.

**Michael Kenneth Holler** – *Periodontology, University of Southern California, Los Angeles*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award; Health Careers Mentorship Award.

**Behnam Jafarnia** – *Endodontics, UConn Health Center*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award; American Association of Endodontists Award; Quintessence Award for Research Achievement.

**Clay John Jensen Jr.** – *GPR, St. Francis Hospital & Medical Center, Hartford*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award.

**Rishma Gill Khurana** – *Private Practice, California*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award; American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Award; Marion Mattioli Award; Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Award.

**Audrey Ann Lemieux** – *GPR, Veteran Affairs Medical Center, Manchester, New Hampshire*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award; Academy of Operative Dentistry Award; American Academy of Oral Medicine Award; Dr. Robert G. Levine Award; Kohrman Award.

**Aaron Thomas Liddell** – *Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award; Pierre Fauchard Academy Award.

**Morvarid Madani** – *AEGD, University of Southern California, Los Angeles*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award.

**Patrick William McGary** – *AEGD, UConn Health Center*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award.

**Brian Nguyen** – *GPR, Veteran's Affairs Medical Center, Portland, Oregon*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award.

**Matthew Karl Olson** – *GPR, Hartford Hospital*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award; Dr. Richard G. Topazian Award.

**Dharmini Pathmanathan** – *Postdoctoral*

*Fellow, University of California, Los Angeles*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award; Oral Biology Award.

**Matthew Dale Rogers** – *AEGD, UConn Health Center*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award; Olmstead Prize in Geriatrics.

**Emily B. Scholl** – *Pediatric Dentistry, UConn Health Center*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award; American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Predoctoral Student Award; South Park Inn Dental Clinic Award.

**Matthew Peter Scoles** – *GPR, Hartford Hospital*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award; Allan B. Reiskin Award; American Academy of Implant Dentistry Student Award; American College of Prosthodontists Award; Organization of Teachers of Oral Diagnosis Award.

**Timothy Wayne Seto** – *Pediatric Dentistry, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award.

**Alison Beth Shreefter** – *GPR, Louis Stokes Cleveland Department of Veteran Affairs, OH*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award; Academy of Dental Materials Award; American Academy of Dental Practice Administration Award.

**Lana Skakun** – *Private Practice, New York/New Jersey*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award.

**Hung Su** – *GPR, Veteran Affairs Medical Center, West Los Angeles, California*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award; The Neurosciences Award.

**Wesley Delaine Thomas** – *GPR, Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center, NY*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award.

**Elena Tomasi** – *Private Practice, Connecticut*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award; American Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons/Dental Implant Student Award.

**Nick H. Wang** – *GPR, Veteran Affairs Medical Center, West Los Angeles, California*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award.

**Christine L. Yoon** – *GPR, Long Island Jewish Medical Center, New Hyde Park, NY*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award; American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Award; Quintessence Award for Clinical Achievement in Periodontics.

**Darnell Markees Young** – *Pediatric Dentistry, Temple University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA*: School of Dental Medicine Community Service Award.

## Alumni News



Dr. Ellen Eisenberg (Oral Diagnosis) shares with us the news that **Dr. Richard Zarbo** now holds the Kathleen D. Ward Chair in Pathology in Henry Ford Hospital and Medical Group. Dr. Zarbo is a graduate of both the School of Dental Medicine (1978) and the School of Medicine (1981),

and is board certified in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology. He has written over 180 papers and book chapters in the fields of diagnostic surgical pathology and quality assurance. He serves on numerous editorial review boards including the Archives of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, the American Journal of Surgical Pathology, Modern Pathology and the American Journal of Clinical Pathology.

Mrs. Ward and her husband established the Ward Fund, a charitable foundation formed to benefit people of all races, faiths and beliefs. As president of the Ward Fund, she passed a resolution that upon her death the entire worth of the fund would be distributed equally to the educational and health institutions which she felt could make the most difference in Southeast Michigan.

A portion of her fund has made the establishment of the Kathleen D. Ward Chair in Pathology possible, in order to promote excellence in care, medical education, and research. In addition, Dr. Zarbo serves as Chair of the College of American Pathologists (CAP) Education Committee and has led College quality efforts as Chair of the Quality Practices Committee.



**D**ental Student **Kate McCollum**, class of 2006, and her mentor, **Dr. Marion Frank**, Oral Health & Diagnostic Sciences, pose in front of Kate's presentation of her research findings at the 27th annual meeting of the Association for Chemoreception Sciences in Sarasota Florida on the evening of April 14, 2005. Kate's summer research project was supported by a training grant from NIH to Dr. Arthur Hand. The School of Dental Medicine supported Kate's travel to Florida to present her findings to experts in taste and smell. Kate's research shows that chlorhexidine gluconate, a bisbiguanide antiseptic used in mouthrinses to control bacteria, acts as if it competes with salty and bitter taste stimuli for molecular receptors, thereby distorting taste perception. The Dental School has a strong research program that encourages students to contribute to scientific discovery.



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