

# THE COMPASS

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

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## Dr. Peterson Receives Distinguished Achievement Award

gists and oncology nurses. Its mission is directed to development of evidence-based supportive care for cancer patients worldwide. Basic and translational research, education and state-of-the-science clinical guidelines are central to achieving this goal in the Society.

Douglas E. Peterson, DMD, PhD (Department of Oral Health & Diagnostic Sciences) received the MASCC Distinguished Achievement Award on June 26, 2008 at the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC)/International Society of Oral Oncology (ISOO) Annual International Symposium in Houston.

This Award is reserved for those with the highest levels of support to the Society and unparalleled contributions to the Society's mission. Recipients should demonstrate exemplary leadership and accomplishments in supporting the Society's mission. The award is given to the top candidate for the year, as nominated by his or her peers and voted upon by the MASCC Awards Committee and approved by the MASCC Board of Directors.

MASCC has approximately 750 members from the international oncology community, including oncologists, oral oncologists and oncology nurses.



**Message from the Dean**

Monty MacNeil, DDS, MDS

**In Praise of the B Team:**

In our sports-conscious and business-minded world, we often hear about “sending in our A Team” and “playing your A game.” Not nearly enough is said about the B Team. The description of the B Team came up in a recent conversation I had with a dean of a well known midwest dental school. He talked about how important the B Team was in his school. He recounted that his A (or administrative) Team was good, but it was the B Team that made his school great. So who is this B Team? In a play on words, he described the B Team as the group of people, largely staff, who take it on themselves to “be (“B”) there before the A Team arrives and to be (“B”) there when the A Team leaves.” He was talking about the staff in his school who steady the organization and keeps it on course each day, each week, each year. They are the staff who arrive early to open the doors and ensure that we appropriately close the work day. They are also the staff who “stay with the ship” as deans, chairs, and faculty change in this often fluid world of dental education. In short, the B Team people know how things really work and work hard to make everyone else’s lives easier.

If we look around us, we all have our favorite nominees for our B Team: the program assistant who gets that last minute grant processed and out the door; the staffer who compiles the data for the emergency report or this year’s accreditation; the dental assistant who coaches a student through a difficult procedure; the clerk who helps a frustrated patient understand a confusing bill. B Team members make mountains into mole hills, not the reverse. They hold us together and move us forward. I’d like to thank all those staff who fit this description. We are indebted to you for your service and dedication. I suspect (and hope) you know who you are since we certainly know and appreciate you.

**Schools of Dental Medicine and Medicine Student Affairs Officer**



In late October of 2007 **Christina Gray** joined the University of Connecticut Health Center as the newly appointed Student Affairs Officer. Ms. Gray comes to UCHC after serving as an Area Coordinator at Trinity College in Hartford. Prior to that position Ms. Gray earned her M.A. in Student Affairs and Higher Education at the Ohio State University in 2005.

The Student Affairs Officer position, which is new at UCHC this year, focuses on creating activities and programs outside of the classroom that involve two or more of the schools (School of Dental Medicine, School of Medicine, and the Graduate School). Ms. Gray is also responsible for the UCHC Convocation and Commencement Ceremonies and works in conjunction with committees to execute these events.

Ms. Gray is always looking for new ideas for programs and activities and welcomes you to stop by her office, call, or email with any suggestions you might have. Ms. Gray is located in AG 083 and can be reached at x7021 or via email at [cgray@uchc.edu](mailto:cgray@uchc.edu). Ms. Gray also encourages you to check the Student Affairs Website for updates on events: <http://studentaffairs.uchc.edu>.

**Prosthodontics Awards**

Two School of Dental Medicine faculty members were honored at the American College of Prosthodontics (ACP) 2007 annual session in Scottsdale, Arizona.

The ACP Dan Gordon award was presented to **Dr. Thomas Taylor** (Reconstructive Sciences) for a lifetime achievement in contributing to the advancement of the College and the specialty of prosthodontics, dentistry, science and the health professions.



**Dr. Thomas Taylor**

**Dr. John Agar** (Reconstructive Sciences) was presented with the ACP Educator of the Year award for his academic dentistry achievement and contributing to the advancement of the specialty of prosthodontics, science and the health professions.



**Dr. John Agar**



From left to right: Jackie Deluca, Diana Mikulak, Judy Hedenberg, and Jean Lombardo at Diana's farewell reception.

After 18 years in the School of Dental Medicine, **Diana Mikulak**, Business Services Manager in the Department of Craniofacial Sciences, has accepted a position with the School of Medicine, Department of Neuroscience, as Business Services Manager.

Diana started working at the Health Center in 1982 in Cardio-Respiratory Services. More recently, she was the Administrative Program Coordinator in the Division of Orthodontics. At the time of the School of Dental Medicine reorganization in 2006, she was promoted to Business Services Manager.

**Michelle Proper** (Department of Reconstructive Sciences) has been promoted to replace Diana. We wish both women all the best in their new positions.

**Dr. Michael Goupil**, Associate Dean for Students and professor of Reconstructive Sciences, received the 2008 Daniel M. Laskin Award for Outstanding Predoctoral Educator from the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons annual AAOMS meeting in Seattle in September.



## Dental Academy Honors Dr. MacNeil

**Dr. Monty MacNeil**, Dean of the School of Dental Medicine was recently inducted as a Fellow of the Pierre Fauchard International Honor Dental Academy. This prestigious honor was accorded Dr. MacNeil during the PFA/ICD Annual Luncheon on May 9, 2008, during the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut State Dental Association. The Academy has a Fellowship of over 8000 worldwide and is dedicated to scholarship, service and leadership.

Dr. MacNeil will also be inducted into the International College of Dentists during the Annual ADA Session in San Antonio, Texas in October. Dr. MacNeil is being recognized "in view of his contributions to the art and science of dentistry and the general welfare of the dental profession."

## Volunteer Faculty for Orthodontics Receives Award



**Perry Opin, DDS, MS**, an orthodontist who practices in Milford, and an assistant clinical professor in the Division of Orthodontics, has received the highest award given by the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO), the 2008 James E. Brophy Distinguished Service Award. The award is presented annually to the person who has made significant contributions to the orthodontic specialty in addition to other valuable and devoted services to the AAO and to its membership. Dr. Opin recently received the award at

the AAO's 108th Annual Session in Denver. The AAO is the oldest and largest dental specialty organization in the world with 15,500 members.

Now in his 42nd year as an orthodontist, Dr. Opin devotes part of his practice to assisting children with cleft lip and palate and other craniofacial anomalies and has served on cleft palate team missions to third world countries.

Dr. Opin has been active in organized orthodontics and dentistry. He is a past president of the Connecticut State Society of Orthodontists, the Northeastern Society of Orthodontists (NESO) and the College of Diplomates of the American Board of Orthodontics, among others. He is a past speaker of the AAO House of Delegates and has served as a delegate or alternate delegate to the Houses of Delegates of the American Dental Association, the Connecticut State Dental Association and the AAO, where he has served for the past 29 years.



## New Arrival



Dr. Alan Lurie (Department of Oral Health & Diagnostic Sciences) is proud to announce the birth of his grandson, **Julian DeGuia Lurie**. He was welcomed into the world at 5:14 pm Friday, May 30th. He weighed a robust 8 pounds, 13 ounces, and was 21.5 inches long.



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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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