As we begin another academic year, we extend our gratitude to those who, in many forms, continue to generously support the educational mission of the School of Dentistry. We gratefully acknowledge our alumni, faculty, staff and friends who contributed a record $305,000 to our Annual Fund in fiscal year 2004. This is the first time gifts to our Annual Fund have topped $300,000. It also is a 7.7 percent increase over fiscal year 2003.

The average gift to our Annual Fund in fiscal year 2004 was $280 – that’s also an increase of nearly 5 percent over fiscal year 2003.

We appreciate your contributions, as the Annual Fund is the School’s largest source of unrestricted gifts. These gifts help with student financial aid, faculty recruitment and retention, and classroom and laboratory improvements.

We look forward to your continued support in 2005. To make a gift to the School, contact Creighton’s Office of Development at 1-800-334-8794.

We also are grateful for our outstanding faculty. Through their commitment and dedication, our students continue to excel.

Our 2004 graduating senior class placed seventh in the nation on Part II of the National Board Examination. Our current junior class finished in the fourth quintile on Part I of National Boards. Congratulations to our students and faculty on these impressive results.

As we move toward 2005, we are busy preparing for our centennial celebration. Around the first of the year, we look forward to the special events including CE, a Centennial Mass, a Centennial/Reunion Dinner, and the annual golf outing.

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Dental School Mourns Loss of Fr. Holbrook

The Rev. John G. Holbrook, S.J., chaplain of Creighton’s School of Dentistry for more than 20 years, died Aug. 30 at St. Camillus Health Care Center in Wauwatosa, Wis. He was 84. A memorial Mass was held at Creighton on Oct. 13.

Born and raised in Des Moines, Iowa, the son of a family physician, Fr. Holbrook joined Creighton University in 1964. He served as the chaplain of the School of Dentistry and Swanson residence hall until 1972.

He was then appointed director of pastoral care at Saint Joseph Hospital, where he stayed until 1986. In 1991, he rejoined the dental school as chaplain. He retired in May 2003 and moved to St. Camillus. Prior to coming to Creighton, Fr. Holbrook held several positions at Marquette University.

Memorials are requested to the Christine and Dr. Frank Holbrook Endowed Scholarship Fund at Creighton.

Fr. Holbrook passed away on Aug. 30 at the age of 84.

more, junior or senior dental students on the basis of financial need.

In August, senior dental student Michelle Raleigh became the first recipient of a $1,000 scholarship from this fund.

For more on the Christine and Dr. Frank Holbrook Endowed Scholarship Fund, call 1-800-334-8794.

Dr. Westerman Receives NDA President’s Award

Dr. Gary H. Westerman was the recipient of the 2004 Nebraska Dental Association President’s Award.

He was honored at the Annual Session Recognition Luncheon for his outstanding contribution to the NDA.

Dr. Westerman serves as the Association’s Treasurer and Membership Chair.

This past year, he also was a representative from the Omaha District on the NDA Search Committee for a new Executive Director. Dr. Westerman previously served as Speaker of the House for the NDA.
Dean’s message

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plan to have a link on our website providing a list of centennial activities and commemorative items for sale.

Finally, our national search for my successor as dean continues. As I mentioned in a previous column, I will be stepping down as dean in June 2005. The Search Committee hopes to recommend candidates for the position to Creighton President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., by the end of December.

As we move forward, I ask for your continued support. Thank you and best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season.

Wayne W. Barkmeier
Wayne W. Barkmeier, DDS, MS
Dean, School of Dentistry

Student Presents Abstract

Junior dental student Ryan N. Dobbs presented an abstract at the American Association of Anatomists meeting in Moraga, Calif., on June 8-11.

His poster presentation was titled “The Use of Fresh Tissue Cadavers to Examine the Distribution of India Ink in a Maxillary Division Nerve Block.”

His research was supported by a T 35 Predoctoral Student Research Training Grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Neil S. Norton, Associate Professor of Oral Biology, served as the faculty mentor on the project.

May Graduates Honor Faculty & Staff

The Department of Prosthodontics, Dr. Jared H. Smith, Chair, was named the “Department of the Year” at the 2004 Senior Awards Banquet in April. In addition, the following honors were presented at the Banquet.

• The Dr. Theodore J. Urban Memorial Award for Outstanding Dedication to Preclinical Education – Dr. Neil S. Norton, Associate Professor of Oral Biology.
• Dr. Raymond W. Shaddy Memorial Award for Outstanding Member of the Clinical Faculty – Dr. Terry F. Lanphier, Assistant Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.
• The Dr. Ann M. Garred Memorial Award for Outstanding Dedication in Providing Dental Education – Dr. John S. Mattson, Chair and Professor of Periodontics.
• The Sara K. Susman Memorial Award for Outstanding Dedication by Support Staff – Debbie Anderson, Assistant to the Associate Dean for Clinical Services.
• Dedicated Part-Time Clinical Instructor – Dr. Randy E. Stout, Adjunct Associate Professor of Prosthodontics.
• Instructors of the Year: Freshman Class – Dr. Laura C. Barritt, Associate Professor of Oral Biology; Sophomore Class – Dr. Stephen J. Hess, Assistant Professor of General Dentistry; Junior Class – Dr. Kenneth I. Knowles, Chair and Associate Professor of Endodontics (clinical), Dr. Scott C. Di Lorenzo, Associate Professor of Prosthodontics (clinical), Dr. Dennis E. Nilsson, Associate Professor of Prosthodontics (lecturer); Senior Class – Dr. Mattson.

The seniors selected Dr. Jared H. Smith, Associate Professor of Prosthodontics, as the Master of Ceremonies for the annual Hooding Ceremony. Dr. Di Lorenzo and Dr. Lanphier were chosen as Faculty Guest Hooders.

Faculty Help Special Olympics

The following faculty participated in the “Special Olympics, Special Smiles” program at the annual Special Olympics Nebraska Summer Games, held at Creighton in May: Dr. Anne Aiello, Dr. James Howard, Dr. Dennis Higinbotham, Dr. Scott Di Lorenzo, Dr. Michael Knauss, Dr. Thomas Meng, Dr. Dennis Nilsson, Dr. James Sheets, Dr. Terry Wilwerding and Dr. Gary Westerman.

Dr. Romito Presents Poster

Dr. Laura M. Romito, Assistant Professor of General Dentistry, had her poster, “Assessing Health Promotion Activities in Dental Education,” accepted and presented in July at the National Wellness Conference. The conference, sponsored by the National Wellness Institute, was held at the University of Wisconsin at Steven’s Point.

Dr. Westerman Named to State Board of Health

Gary H. Westerman, DDS’69, Chair and Professor of Community and Preventive Dentistry, has been appointed to serve on the Nebraska State Board of Health.

Dr. Latta Inducted into ICD

Dr. Mark A. Latta, Associate Dean for Research and Professor of General Dentistry, was inducted into the International College of Dentists in September.

Profs Attend CODE Meeting

Dr. R. Scott Shaddy, Associate Professor of General Dentistry, and Dr. William T. Naughton, Assistant Professor of General Dentistry, attended the Region 2 Consortium of Operative Dental Educators (CODE) meeting at Southern Illinois University School of Dentistry, Sept. 20 and 21.

Dental school educators from Creighton, Nebraska, Iowa, Colorado, Marquette, Missouri-Kansas City and Southern Illinois were present.

Drs. McVaney, Edwards Diplomates

Dr. Tim McVaney, Assistant Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, was named a Diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology, and Dr. Paul Edwards, Assistant Professor of General Dentistry, was named Diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology. They recently passed board certification exams in their respective specialty areas.
The School of Dentistry welcomes the following faculty to full-time positions: Dr. Paul C. Edwards, Assistant Professor of General Dentistry and Instructor of Pathology; Dr. Nicholas J. Levering, Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics; and Dr. David E. Williams, Assistant Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

Dr. Edwards holds a dual appointment as Assistant Professor of General Dentistry in the School of Dentistry and Instructor of Pathology in the School of Medicine.

He recently completed his dental residency in Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology at the Long Island Jewish Medical Center in New Hyde Park, N.Y. From 1992-2001, he was a dental surgeon in private practice in Carleton Place, Ontario, Canada.

Dr. Edwards earned his DDS from the University of Toronto in 1992. Dr. Edwards has received numerous awards and honors, including the 2003 Robert J. Gorlin Award from the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology. He received the award for his research presentation titled “Gene-Enhanced Bone Regeneration in a Rabbit Model Using Genetically-Engineered Gingival Fibroblasts, Periosteal-Derived Cells, and Fat-Derived Stem Cells Expressing the Sonic Hedgehog Gene.”

Dr. Edwards is a member of the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, the Academy of General Dentistry and the American Dental Association. He served as a reviewer for the Canadian Dental Association Journal and volunteered at the Evergreen Mission for Homeless Youth Dental Clinic in Toronto.

Dr. Levering joins Creighton from Ehring Bergquist Hospital at Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue, Neb., where he most recently served with the 55th Medical Group as Deputy Commander of Dental Service, as well as Clinical Dentistry Flight Commander and Chairman of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry.

Dr. Levering earned a master’s degree in 1983 from the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry and completed his DDS at Ohio State University College of Dentistry in 1975.

His military career has taken him to Japan, California, Minnesota, the United Kingdom, the Philippines, Illinois, Texas, Germany and Omaha. Dr. Levering had been at Offutt twice, from 1985 to 1989 and most recently since 2003. Prior to returning to Offutt, Dr. Levering served as Commander of the Bitburg Dental Clinic at Spangdahlem Air Force Base in Germany.

He has taught in Advanced Education in General Dentistry programs at several Air Force bases and taught at Creighton from 1986 to 1989 as an Assistant Clinical Instructor in Pediatric Dentistry.

Dr. Levering has won several military awards, including four Meritorious Service Medals and two Air Force Commendation Medals. He is a member of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and a Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry.

Dr. Williams was most recently Chief of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery with the 55th Medical Group at Offutt Air Force before joining Creighton.

He received his DDS from Northwestern University in 1979 and then completed his oral and maxillofacial surgery residency at Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Dr. Williams had served at Offutt since 1998. He was also an Adjunct Clinical Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. His military service included time in the U.K. and Japan.

Dr. Williams is a member of the American Association of Oral/Maxillofacial Surgery, the American College of Oral/Maxillofacial Surgeons and the Air Force Society of Clinical Surgeons.
Two Alums Join Dental Hall of Fame

Creighton alumni Roger B. Gerstner, DDS’69, a part-time faculty member in the School for more than 30 years, and James F. Smith, DDS’64, JD’69, both of Omaha, were inducted into the Nebraska Dental Association Hall of Fame during an awards luncheon in April.

Alumnus Receives Award

Chris Rice, BS’76, DDS’80, Associate Professor in the Department of Oral Pathology, Radiology and Medicine at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry, received the ADEA/GlaxoSmithKline Sensodyne Award for Excellence in Teaching at the annual meeting of the American Dental Education Association in Seattle.

Dr. Rice has taught at UMKC since 1984, and received Instructor of the Year awards from the Classes of 2006 and 2007.

Remembering “Doc”

Memorial Health Center in Sidney, Neb., dedicated the activity room in its Extended Care Facility in memory of 1925 Creighton dental alumnus and longtime Sidney dentist Dr. George H. “Doc” Thompson. Dr. Thompson died in 2002 at the age of 102.

Alumna Named UT Dean

Alumna Catherine Flaitz, BA’74, DDS’78, has been named Dean of the University of Texas Dental Branch at Houston after serving as Interim Dean of the school since September 2002. The appointment was announced July 13.

School Receives Grant

The School has received a $148,000 grant from Creighton’s Health Future Foundation for “Chemical Characterization of the Interface Between Restorative Materials and Enamel and Dentin Using Micro-Raman Spectroscopy.”

Dr. Welie Co-Authors Book

Dr. Jos V.M. Welie, Professor in the School of Dentistry and the Center for Health Policy and Ethics, and Dr. Judith Lee Kissell, Assistant Professor in the Center for Health Policy and Ethics, are the authors of a new book, Jesuit Health Sciences and the Promotion of Justice: An Invitation to a Discussion (Marquette University Press, 2004).

Kutler Classic Raises $22,000

More than 80 golfers participated in the Dr. Ben Kutler Memorial Golf Classic at Quarry Oaks Golf Course near Ashland, Neb., Sept. 2. The School of Dentistry and the Creighton chapter of Omicron Kappa Upsilon, a national dental honor society, sponsored this charitable event.

Nearly $22,000 was raised. The funds will be used to help defray some of the costs of the charitable care Creighton’s School of Dentistry annually provides to those in need.

Dr. Kutler was a Creighton alumnus (DDS’45), part-time faculty member and School of Dentistry Alumni Merit Award winner (1997). The longtime Omaha dentist served as a role model for the profession by his compassionate care to all those in need, regardless of their financial circumstances. Dr. Kutler died in September 2003.

New Hires: Part-time & Contributed Service

The School welcomes the following part-time and contributed service faculty members.

Part-time: Dr. Mary Beth Miloro, General Dentistry, and Dr. Stephen P. Moore, General Dentistry.

Contributed service: Dr. William G. Carney, Periodontics; Dr. Ann V. Greiman, Periodontics/Dental Hygiene Program; Ms. Erin J. Haley-Shandera, Periodontics/Dental Hygiene Program; Ms. Sasha A. Hall, Periodontics/Dental Hygiene Program; Dr. Bradley T. Hammond, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery; Dr. Kimberly K. McFarland, Community and Preventive Dentistry; Dr. Jeffrey C. Payne, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery; Dr. Thomas E. Rudersdorf, General Dentistry; Ms. Tiffany Smith, General Dentistry; Dr. Carolyn L. Taggart-Burns, General Dentistry; Ms. Vicki Mytty, General Dentistry.

Faculty Publications