Dean’s Message

It is an exciting time to be at Creighton University. The School of Dentistry has spent the past year celebrating the centennial of the school’s opening in 1905. We have centered on the theme of “One Hundred Years of Excellence in Dental Education.” As we enter our second century, we intend to continue the tradition of excellence and to use our rich history as a source of inspiration for meeting the challenges that we face. We will evolve into a “New Dental Education with a Century of Experience.”

I would like to take the opportunity presented by this first dean’s message to thank Dr. Wayne Barkmeier for his 11 years of service as Dean of the School of Dentistry. He and the very capable leadership team of the school provided a firm foundation for the future of the dental school. Dr. Barkmeier is an eminent scholar who managed the school in a very astute and capable manner. He built a solid platform from which we can achieve even greater heights.

Although we have a solid beginning and an outstanding history, there is no shortage of challenges facing dental education today. An aging faculty, an ever-changing profession and a complex array of politics and economics that surround us will provide more than enough challenges for dental education in general.

I am humbled and excited about the opportunity to serve Creighton in the dean’s position. I look forward to facing many of the challenges in new and innovative ways while retaining the mission and traditional strengths of the school.

Steven W. Friedrichsen, DDS
Dean, School of Dentistry

Student Presents at International Conference

Junior dental student Joseph M. Opack presented his research at the 4th Joint International Meeting of the American Association of Clinical Anatomists and British Association of Clinical Anatomists in New York City, July 20-23. This joint meeting is only in session every five years and is the largest gathering of clinical anatomists in the world.

Following a peer-reviewed selection process of the abstracts, only 45 student clinicians were invited to present their research in addition to the faculty presentations at the prestigious meeting. Opack’s project, “Demonstrating the clinical anatomy of the Gow-Gates nerve block using fresh tissue cadavers,” was a finalist for the Sandy C. Marks Jr. Student Presentation Award, named after the internationally recognized clinical anatomist. Opack’s research was supported by Dr. Neil S. Norton, Associate Professor in the Department of Oral Biology, who served as the faculty mentor on the project.

United Concordia Funds Scholarship

United Concordia, Inc., has presented Creighton’s School of Dentistry with a $5,000 scholarship for award to deserving/disadvantaged minority dental students.

There are currently 27 endowed scholarships in the School of Dentistry with a total corpus of approximately $2 million as of June 30, 2005.

Endowed scholarships are established with a minimum gift or pledge of $25,000. Annual scholarships can be set up with a minimum value of $1,000. Annual scholarships should be pledged for a period of years. Anyone interested in setting up a scholarship can contact the Development Office at (800) 334-8794 or (402) 280-2740.

Another excellent opportunity to support the School of Dentistry scholarship program is by making a contribution to an existing scholarship. There are several named scholarships, including ones honoring the Rev. John Helbrook, S.J., Dr. Harry Boyne and Dr. John Butkus. Annual gifts to the Creighton Society are also often used to support scholarships. Donors can receive more information on existing scholarship funds or the Creighton Society by contacting the Development Office.

2006 Spring Dental Assembly April 20-22

Mark your calendars for the upcoming 2006 School of Dentistry Spring Dental Assembly, set for April 20-22, 2006. Events will include continuing education classes and a reunion dinner. On Saturday, April 22, the Alumni Mass will be held at St. John’s Church followed by class reunion gatherings at various locations in Omaha.

Opack stands alongside his award-winning poster presentation.
Scenes from the Centennial Dental Assembly ...

At right: Creighton University President the Rev. John P. Schlegel, S.J., addresses those gathered for the Centennial Dinner on Friday, April 22, at the Qwest Convention Center in Omaha.

Above: The “Golden Jays” School of Dentistry Class of 1955 reunite at the Centennial Dinner.

Above: Alumna Julie Newcomb, Class of 1998, at the Centennial Dinner with her infant daughter, Maggie.

Above: The School of Dentistry Class of 1980 gathers for a picture at the Centennial Dinner.

At right: Creighton dental alumnus Bill Carter, Class of 1970, chats with Marianne Hanson (wife of alumnus Don Hanson, Class of ’70) and Rocky Dunne (wife of alumnus Michael Dunne, Class of ’70).
School Assists with Hurricane Evacuees

The School responded to the needs of evacuees from Hurricane Katrina by operating a special evening clinic to help address their dental conditions. More than 35 displaced people were treated with comprehensive examinations, and many also received definitive care that night. Volunteer dental students, faculty and staff were joined by members of the Omaha District Dental Society and Iowa Western Community College dental hygiene students in this free clinic, in which the service mission of the dental school was put into practice. Many of the evacuees are also scheduled to receive follow-up care in the regular adult clinic. The value of the dental care provided exceeded $4,000.

Dr. Westerman Honored

Dr. Gary H. Westerman received the highest award presented by the international dental fraternity Delta Sigma Delta in October – the Meritorious Award. Dr. Westerman has been a member of this fraternity since 1967 and for the past 12 years has served as the supreme treasurer.

Students Participate in ILAC

Junior dental students who participated in the ILAC program in the Dominican Republic this summer were: John Chidley, Katherine Coffey, Ryan Dobbs, Kendra Gosch, Marie Haltiz, Tyler Huntingdon, John Haxton, Amika Jackson, Karen Lovato, Brady McDonald, Melinda Petersen and Thomas Radersdorf.

Abstracts

Naughton, WT and Latta, MA. Bond strength of composite to dentin using self-etching adhesive system, Quintessence International, April 2005.

Latta, MA and Naughton, WT. Bonding and curing consideration for incipient and hidden caries. Dental Clinics of North America, October 2005.


May Graduates Honor Faculty, Staff

Dr. Frank J. Ayers, Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry and Associate Dean for Student Affairs/Director of Admissions, received the first Spirit of Compassion Award at the 2005 Senior Awards Banquet in April. The award recognizes Dr. Ayers for "outstanding compassion shown to students in their personal and academic needs." In the future, this award will be called the Dr. Frank J. Ayers Spirit of Compassion Award. The additional following honors were presented at the Banquet:

• The Department of the Year – the Department of Prosthodontics, Dr. Jared H. Smith, Chair.

• The Dr. Ann M. Garred Memorial Award for Outstanding Dedication to Providing Dental Education – Dr. John S. Mattson, Professor of Periodontics.

• The Dr. Raymond W. Shaddy Memorial Award for Outstanding Member of the Clinical Faculty – Dr. Scott C. Di Lorenzo, Associate Professor of Prosthodontics.

• The Dr. Theodore J. Urban Memorial Award for Outstanding Dedication to Preclinical Education – former faculty member Dr. Robert J. Achlerberg, Associate Professor of General Dentistry.

• Outstanding Part-Time Clinical Instructor – Dr. Thomas E. Lewis, Clinical Instructor of General Dentistry.

• Sara K. Susman Memorial Award for Outstanding Dedication by Support Staff – Debbie Anderson, Assistant to the Associate Dean for Clinical Services.

• Instructors of the Year: Freshman Class – Dr. Neil S. Norton, Associate Professor of Oral Biology; Sophomore Class – Dr. Paul C. Edwards, Assistant Professor of General Dentistry; Junior Class – Dr. R. Scott Shaddy, Associate Professor of General Dentistry (academics) and Dr. Scott C. Di Lorenzo, Associate Professor of Prosthodontics (clinical).

The seniors selected Dr. Jared H. Smith, Chair and Associate Professor of Prosthodontics, as the Master of Ceremonies for the annual Hooding Ceremony. Dr. Kenneth J. Knowles, Chair and Associate Professor of Endodontics, and Dr. Terry F. Lauphier, Assistant Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, were chosen as the Faculty Guest Honorees.

Creighton University Medical Center
School of Dentistry

Student Earns Fauchard Scholarship

Creighton dental student Marie Halbur was a recipient of an annual scholarship award from the Pierre Fauchard Academy Foundation for outstanding academic achievements in dentistry. She is flanked by the dean, Dr. Steven W. Friedrichsen, left, and Dr. Gary H. Westerman.