Dean’s Message

“Honors,” “Awards,” “Selection,” “Recognition,” “Hall of Fame,” “Ears,” “Ethics,” “Named,” and “Something to Smile About.” Those are the words and phrases that visually jumped out at me as I reviewed this edition of the newsletter. The words provide concrete demonstrations of the value the School of Dentistry brings to Creighton University and the profession of dentistry. Hopefully, they have the same impact and meaning to you as loyal alumni and friends.

Creighton’s School of Dentistry has served as a national resource in dental education for over a century. Increasingly, dental education is faced with the dual pressures of revising the content and delivery of our curriculum while at the same time securing an infrastructure that can keep pace with the technology and techniques of the contemporary practice. Both are necessary for our students to continue to be “honored,” “awarded,” “named,” and “recognized,” and more for the quality of education we provide. As a result of your support, students choose us as a national leader in dental education and leave as alumni equipped to provide care as a national presence in dentistry.

Thanks in large measure to your support, we have improved our capacity to maintain ourselves as a national resource and position ourselves for an increased role in national leadership. Your contributions to the School of Dentistry, including the Reunion Giving Program, are greatly appreciated. They help us every day by providing agility in meeting the ongoing academic needs of our School.

We look forward to your continued support on behalf of the School, as we champion a vision of how we can best continue to be “honored,” “awarded,” “recognized,” and more for the quality of education we provide. As a result of your support, students choose us as a national leader in dental education and leave as alumni equipped to provide care as a national presence in dentistry.

Steven W. Friedrichsen, DDS
Dean, School of Dentistry

Volunteer Award.

Dr. Mancuso is a member of Alpha Sigma Nu, the national honor society of Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States. He is a fellow with the International College of Dentists and the Academy of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities. (See more photos from this year’s Reunion Weekend inside this issue.)

Dr. Mancuso Receives Alumni Award


Dr. Mancuso has served as president of Creighton University’s National Alumni Board and continues to serve as a member of the School of Dentistry’s Alumni Advisory Board (1996 to present).

He and his wife, Carolyn Greco Mancuso, BA’68, have also worked as a team to make Creighton a better University. They served on the Creighton Campaign 2000 National Steering Committee. They are former national co-chairs for the Edward and Mary Lucretia Creighton Society and continue to be active members in the Des Moines, Iowa, Alumni Club.

Dr. Mancuso’s generosity of time, talent and energy extends far beyond Creighton to the community in which he lives. He is active in Des Moines Catholic education programs and at his home parish. He and his wife have taught baptism classes for parents for many years. In 1986, Dr. Mancuso earned the Iowa Governor’s Volunteer Award.

Volunteer Award.

Ethics in Dental Education – Sooner Rather Than Later

In contemporary society no university, school, profession or individual is immune from or untouched by ethical challenges. The recent news regarding several dental schools that have had significant breeches of academic integrity provides concrete evidence of this inescapable fact of life. Although all professional schools have an obligation to educate students on ethical solutions to those challenges, Creighton University as a Jesuit, Catholic institution has a mission that supports a leading role in this arena.

Creighton University’s School of Dentistry has taken that lead role seriously with an expanding resume of activities and is striving to continue expanding the sphere of the School’s influence. The school has close ties with the Creighton University Center for Health Policy and Ethics and Dr. Jos VM Welie, editor of a recent publication Justice in Oral Health Care – Ethical and Educational Perspectives. Dr. Welie was also part of a panel of presenters at The Symposium on Integrity and Ethics in Dental Education. The Symposium was hosted by the Council on Dental Education and Licensure of the American Dental Association and had key partnerships with the American College of Dentists and the American Dental Education Association. Creighton was also the host for the 5th International Congress on Dental Law and Ethics in 2003.

In addition to a growing national and international presence in dental ethics, the School is fortunate to have an endowment

Continued on Page 2
Textbook Translated into Five Languages

Dr. Neil Norton, Associate Professor of Oral Biology, is the author of a dental textbook titled *Netter’s Head and Neck Anatomy for Dentistry.*

The 598-page book, released by Saunders, Elsevier in November 2006, is being translated into five languages, in addition to English. The text is accompanied by more than 700 full-color images from the Frank Netter Collection and depicts all key anatomy relevant to clinical practice. The Netter anatomy plates have long been considered the pre-eminent illustrations of their kind; many of the originals have been updated for Dr. Norton’s book.

According to a review by the *British Dental Journal,* “This book has to be recommended for all those wishing to establish the appropriate level of knowledge for the contemporary practice of dentistry and for those wishing to refresh their knowledge. No dental library should be without this book, let alone a dental practice.”

In addition, Dr. Norton was recently re-elected as treasurer of the American Association of Clinical Anatomists, an international society for the advancement of clinical anatomy and teaching, research and publication in the field.

Alumna Receives Kutler Award

Alumna Amy Holcomb Chadwell, DDS’03, received the Benton Kutler Dental Provider Award at the Hope Medical Outreach Coalition’s Champions of Hope Dinner on March 29 in Omaha. The award is given to an individual and/or practice that has selflessly and repeatedly contributed dental care to the patients of Hope Medical Outreach Coalition during the past year.

Dr. Chadwell, who owns Chadwell Family Dental Care in Omaha, promised that for every new patient who scheduled an office visit during February 2006, she would provide treatment to one needy child.

She then partnered with Hope Medical Outreach Coalition to provide free dental care to 40 uninsured and low-income children over two days in March and May of 2006. Each child received a dental exam, cleaning, X-rays, sealants and any needed restorative care. They also got instruction on dental hygiene.

Chadwell participated in the annual “Give Kids a Smile” event while a student at Creighton, learning firsthand the need for restorative dental care among children from disadvantaged families.

The Hope Medical Outreach Coalition is a private, charitable agency that places needy persons in touch with a network of physicians willing to provide free specialized health care. It is sponsored by the Metro Omaha Medical Society and the Omaha District Dental Society.

Ethics in Dental Education

Continued from Page 1

that supports what has quickly become the most coveted award granted to a graduating senior. The award is possible because of the exceptional generosity of Dr. and Mrs. Philip J. Maschka, DDS’53. This year’s recipient, Heather L. Kivi, DDS’07, embodied the criteria of the award, which reads in part, “… the highest order of professionalism, concern for patients, honesty, integrity, morality, responsibility and scholastic and clinical ability.” In presenting the award, the Rev. Thomas Shanahan, S.J., Chaplain of the School of Dentistry, noted: “The integrity of this individual [Heather Kivi] also demonstrated a sense of justice beyond that of the dentist/patient relationship.” Heather’s award was based on patient care, “… accomplished with the focus of preserving the dignity of those who were the beneficiaries of these good deeds.”

It is a goal of Dr. Steven W. Friedrichsen, Dean, to more fully weave ethical considerations into the dental curriculum. Dean Friedrichsen notes that even in the presence of strong traditional ethics course offerings, the dental curriculum can send mixed messages. These messages come in the form of specific requirements for types of care that influence treatment planning decisions and assessment systems that do not fully reinforce ethical approaches to patient care. Dean Friedrichsen feels strongly that adding the ethical dimension is most critical during the implementation of the Strategic Pathways Initiatives. Ethics should serve as the foundation of all educational activity within the school.

Ethics should serve as the foundation of all educational activity within the school.

In pursuit of his goal, Dean Friedrichsen is overjoyed that Dr. Maschka, who established the student award and provided seed funding for a future Chair in Dental Ethics, is also providing a strong hand in helping craft the duties of the future chair’s position. Dr. Maschka is hopeful that, “The occupant of the Chair will serve as the principal architect of a dental curricular model that emphasizes the ethical principles involved in the practice of dentistry.” Dr. Maschka also hopes that when the Chair is in place and programs in force that, “… they will serve as a national model in the development of moral and ethical approaches to dental education and patient care.”

Dean Friedrichsen said among his chief tasks is to actively recruit partners for the School’s initiatives related to dental ethics. By eliciting the support of the School’s dedicated alumni and friends, Friedrichsen said he hopes to build on this valuable addition to the School’s endowments – “sooner rather than later.”

Dr. Latta Collaborates on Research Project

Dr. Mark Latta, Associate Professor of General Dentistry and Associate Dean for Research, is collaborating with Dr. Stephen Gross, Assistant Professor of Organic Chemistry at Creighton, on a project titled “Autonomic Healing Dental Restorative Materials – A Pilot Study.”

Their project was one of seven selected for funding from Creighton’s 2007 Research Initiative Grants. The goal of the Research Initiative Grants is to fund efforts to initiate substantial new research projects; activities that demonstrate the promise of substantially increasing the scope and future funding of current research projects; and the development of collaborative teams and networks to enhance future research opportunities.
The Creighton chapter of Omicron Kappa Upsilon (OKU), the national dental honor society, presented junior dental student Kelly Ramey with the Dr. William S. Kramer Award of Excellence during its annual banquet in May. Ramey was chosen for the Kramer Award based on her demonstrated scholarship, character and her potential promise for the advancement of dentistry and service to humanity.

In addition to Ramey’s award, several recent graduates, one faculty member and an honorary member were inducted into OKU. Alumni memberships were presented to Drs. Aaron Anderson, James Collette, Blake Feil, Katherine Galm, Maurice Jenkins, Matthew McLaughlin, Katherine Shadegg, Michael Walker and Chase Williams. Dr. Stephen Biggs received faculty membership, and the Rev. Thomas Shanahan, S.J., was elected an honorary member.

Dr. Norton Recognized for Teaching Excellence

Dr. Neil Norton, Associate Professor of Oral Biology, has been awarded the 2007 American Dental Education Association/Glaxo-SmithKline Sensodyne Excellence in Teaching Award. The award recognizes dental educators who demonstrate exemplary standards and promote excellence in dental education through scholarship and innovation. Dr. Norton received the recognition at the Plenary Session of the American Dental Education Association meeting on March 18.

Dr. Norton is the recipient of numerous awards, including Creighton’s prestigious Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Award for Teaching Achievement, the highest teaching recognition offered by the University.

OKU Honors Ramey, Elects New Members

The Creighton chapter of Omicron Kappa Upsilon (OKU), the national dental honor society, presented junior dental student Kelly Ramey with the Dr. William S. Kramer Award of Excellence during its annual banquet in May.

Ramey was chosen for the Kramer Award based on her demonstrated scholarship, character and her potential promise for the advancement of dentistry and service to humanity.

In addition to Ramey’s award, several recent graduates, one faculty member and an honorary member were inducted into OKU. Alumni memberships were presented to Drs. Aaron Anderson, James Collette, Blake Feil, Katherine Galm, Maurice Jenkins, Matthew McLaughlin, Katherine Shadegg, Michael Walker and Chase Williams. Dr. Stephen Biggs received faculty membership, and the Rev. Thomas Shanahan, S.J., was elected an honorary member.

May Graduates Honor Faculty and Staff

Alumnus Thomas Kiefer, BA’73, DDS’77, a general dentist in Omaha, has been named to Creighton’s National Alumni Board. Dr. Kiefer has served on Creighton’s Omaha Alumni Advisory Board, School of Dentistry Alumni Advisory Board and Bluejay Jamboree Committee. He was awarded Creighton’s Jaybacker of the Year award in 1996.

Something to Smile About

Sixty-one Creighton dental students, 34 dental hygiene students from Iowa Western, dental assistant students from Hamilton College, faculty members and volunteers participated in the American Dental Association’s “Give Kids a Smile” access-to-care campaign in February. Seventy-four children received care at Creighton’s clinic through the outreach effort. Many of these children were found to be in need of further dental care, and appointments were made with Creighton’s Pediatric Dental Clinic. The following faculty assisted in the clinical supervision for the event: Dr. Anne Aiello, Teena Beener, Dr. Steven Friedrichsen, Kelly Gould, Dr. Stephen Hess, Dr. Dennis Higginbotham, Dr. James Howard, Dr. Nick Levering, Dr. James O’Meara, Dr. Mark Taylor, Dr. Gary Westerman, Dr. Terry Wilwerding, and dental hygienists Jan Hillis, Dorothy Polan and Lisa Kucera.

Kiefer Selected to National Alumni Board

The Department of Prosthodontics, Dr. Jared Smith, Chair, was named the “Department of the Year” at the 2007 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 Norton, Associate Professor of Oral Biology.
- The Dr. Raymond W. Shaddy Memorial Award for an Outstanding Member of the Clinical Faculty – Dr. Terry Lanphier, Assistant Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.
- The Dr. Ann M. Garred Memorial Award for Outstanding Dedication in Providing Dental Education – Dr. John Mattson, Chair and Professor of Periodontics.

The seniors selected Dr. Smith as the Master of Ceremonies for the annual Hooding Ceremony. Dr. Stout and Dr. Lanphier were chosen as Faculty Hooders.

Dr. Norton Recognized for Teaching Excellence

Dr. Neil Norton, Associate Professor of Oral Biology, has been awarded the 2007 American Dental Education Association/Glaxo-SmithKline Sensodyne Excellence in Teaching Award. The award recognizes dental educators who demonstrate exemplary standards and promote excellence in dental education through scholarship and innovation. Dr. Norton received the recognition at the Plenary Session of the American Dental Education Association meeting on March 18.

Dr. Norton is the recipient of numerous awards, including Creighton’s prestigious Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Award for Teaching Achievement, the highest teaching recognition offered by the University.

OKU Honors Ramey, Elects New Members

The Creighton chapter of Omicron Kappa Upsilon (OKU), the national dental honor society, presented junior dental student Kelly Ramey with the Dr. William S. Kramer Award of Excellence during its annual banquet in May.

Ramey was chosen for the Kramer Award based on her demonstrated scholarship, character and her potential promise for the advancement of dentistry and service to humanity.

In addition to Ramey’s award, several recent graduates, one faculty member and an honorary member were inducted into OKU. Alumni memberships were presented to Drs. Aaron Anderson, James Collette, Blake Feil, Katherine Galm, Maurice Jenkins, Matthew McLaughlin, Katherine Shadegg, Michael Walker and Chase Williams. Dr. Stephen Biggs received faculty membership, and the Rev. Thomas Shanahan, S.J., was elected an honorary member.

May Graduates Honor Faculty and Staff

Alumnus Thomas Kiefer, BA’73, DDS’77, a general dentist in Omaha, has been named to Creighton’s National Alumni Board. Dr. Kiefer has served on Creighton’s Omaha Alumni Advisory Board, School of Dentistry Alumni Advisory Board and Bluejay Jamboree Committee. He was awarded Creighton’s Jaybacker of the Year award in 1996.
More than 350 School of Dentistry alumni returned to the Creighton campus April 19 through 21 for Reunion Weekend 2007 activities, which were held in conjunction with the Spring Dental Assembly.


Pictured at left is the Golden Jays Class of 1957 with Dean Steven Friedrichsen, and pictured below is the Silver Jays Class of 1982 with Dean Friedrichsen.

Reunion Giving

Reunion Giving for the 10-, 20- and 25-year classes totaled $108,425. The 20-year class, which was a new addition to Reunion Giving this year, had great success in raising $47,200. In addition, the 25-year class raised $10,675 more than last year’s 25-year reunion class.

Reunion Giving provides the opportunity for classes to directly impact Creighton. Special thanks to the 44 committee members for this year’s reunion. These dedicated alumni volunteers generated enthusiasm for the reunion and helped recruit fellow classmates in this important giving effort.

The Campaign for Creighton seeks $30 million in sustaining gifts, which includes the Reunion Giving Program.
Freshmen Present Table Clinics

As part of the Dental Materials course, freshman students participated in small-group research projects under the direction of faculty mentors, presenting their projects on April 10 to faculty and other students. The winning groups were:

First place – students: Michelle Rowe, Nicole Leadley, Louis Guillory, Joe Nierzwicki, Jenny Bishop, Maliza Cahee, Chelsea Lewis; faculty mentor: Dr. Ken Hermsen; title: Methods for postmortem incinerated teeth cleanings and the detection of tooth colored restorations.

Second place – students: Sam Koth, Michael Belling, Austin Nunez, David Wagner, Jamie Smith, Sean McLuen, Chelsea Miller; faculty mentor: Dr. Wayne Barkmeier; title: Comparisons of self-etch and traditional etch/rinse systems and the effects of salivainary contamination on bond strengths to enamel.

Third place – students: Tony Gaspard, Alicia Carey, Ashley Reyes, Chris Curley, Scott Hager, Vimal Patel, Jennifer Nahas; faculty mentor: Dr. Afolabi Ogunleye; title: Is preventative care INR testing reasonable for patients?

Dentsply presented the winning group with a plaque at the Spring Dental Assembly, and will sponsor Michelle Rowe’s attendance at this year’s ADA Annual Session in San Francisco in September.

Alumnus Named President of Omaha Dental Society

Alumnus Marty Matz, DDS’88, became the President of the Omaha District Dental Society effective July 1, 2007, following the annual election at the organization’s January 2007 general membership meeting. Dr. Gary Westerman, Professor and Chair of Community and Preventive Dentistry, was elected treasurer. Dr. R. Scott Shaddy, Assistant Professor of General Dentistry, is the organization’s Immediate Past-President.

Three Receive Research Honors

Junior dental student J. Max Wasserburger and 2007 graduates Drs. Eric Dendinger and Nicholas Freuen were recently honored for their research endeavors.

Wasserburger was awarded a “student award” from the American Association of Anatomists for his poster, “A comparison of dental iCAT scans and routine histological slides in observing osteoarthritic changes in the mandibular condyles of cadavers.” His work was presented at the international meeting of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology held April 28 through May 2 in Washington, D.C.

Dendinger was recognized as a finalist for the AADR/Pfizer Hatton Award in the junior category of the 85th General Session of the International Association for Dental Research, held in New Orleans, March 21-24. His research was titled “Detecting internal carotid atherosclerotic lesions with cone beam computerized tomography.” Dr. Dendinger’s project was the expansion of preliminary findings from a table clinic study at Creighton. The Hatton Awards Competition Committee selected Dr. Dendinger’s abstract as one of nine finalists.

Dr. Freuen received the American Association of Oral Biologists Award. The award recognizes individuals for demonstrated achievement and potential to make further notable contributions in the area of oral biology, particularly research. As a student, Dr. Freuen had a prolific research career – presenting at three national meetings and one local research forum, representing Creighton at the ADA/Dentsply Student Clinician Program in 2005, earning two student awards for his projects, and contributing as an author on five published abstracts and one manuscript.

All three were supported by Dr. Neil Norton from the Department of Oral Biology, who served as the faculty mentor on the various projects.

Grad Earns Martin Luther King Jr. Student Leadership Award

Congratulations to May graduate Justin Jones who was a recipient of Creighton University’s 2007 Martin Luther King Jr. Student Leadership Award. The award recognizes students who are involved in activities that promote social justice, peace, and religious, racial, and cultural harmony; concerned for and involved in service of the poor, the oppressed, and the marginalized; able to inspire and lead others to work with them on a team; and committed to the religious and ethical dimensions and values fostered at Creighton University, whatever the person’s religious affiliation.

Faculty, Students, Alumni Assist at KidzExplore

Creighton dental students joined faculty and alumni in staffing the Omaha District Dental Society’s booth at Omaha’s KidzExplore 2007, Feb. 10 and 11. Faculty participants were Dr. Kenneth Hermsen; Dennis Higginbotham, DDS’67; Jennifer Houng, BS’00, DDS’05; Michael Knauss, BS’80, DDS’84; David Mohs, DDS’72; Dr. Larry Parish; Dr. John Shaner; and Gary Westerman, DDS’69. Other alumni participants were Kathy Ferrara DeFord, DDS’01; Rich Fitzgerald, BS’66, DDS’70; Joe Hurd, DDS’71; and Roger Roubal, DDS’74. About 3,000 toothbrushes were handed out at the booth, which also featured an educational display, dental health care products and pamphlets.

Dr. Carroll Earns BFA Degree

Congratulations to Dr. Lucinda Carroll, Associate Professor of General Dentistry, who received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Creighton in May.
Dr. Cavel Named to NDA Hall of Fame

Dr. Thomas Cavel, Professor and Chair of General Dentistry, was named to the Nebraska Dental Association’s (NDA) Hall of Fame during the NDA’s 2007 Annual Session April 13-15 in Lincoln, Neb. Dr. Cavel is a 1970 graduate of Creighton’s School of Dentistry. He has been on the School’s faculty full time since 1973 and currently holds the Dr. Raymond W. Shaddy Endowed Chair in Operative Dentistry.

Dr. Cavel has served as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Nebraska Board of Dental Examiners, and continues as an examiner for licensure for the State of Nebraska. He has served as President of the Central Regional Dental Testing Service and is a member of the American Association of Dental Examiners. Dr. Cavel has been a member of the American Dental Association, Nebraska Dental Association and the Omaha District Dental Society for 35 years and is a member of the Omicron Kappa Upsilon national dental honor society and The American College of Dentists.