

School Newsletter Returns

by Charles N. Bertolami, Dean

I am pleased to inform you that the quarterly School of Dentistry Newsletter, after a hiatus of more than a year, is back. This newsletter will be delivered to all staff, faculty and students via email, and also printed and distributed to individuals who lack email.

This is "Your Newsletter," and we want to keep you abreast of all of the latest news and developments in your School of Dentistry community. Please send your announcements, news items, appointments, events and other developments to the newsletter editor, Cameron Heffernan at heffernanc@dentistry.ucsf.edu. Items and information will be published as space is available.

Accreditation Nears

I cannot stress to you enough the importance of our upcoming accreditation site visit, April 12-14, 2005. I know that this date is still more than

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Renovation of Preclinical Lab, Phases I and II

The first two phases of the renovation of the 4th Floor Preclinical Lab in the Dental Clinics Building were recently completed. The numerous improvements have already made a huge difference in dental students' preclinical education.

Each station has its own flat-screen monitor, allowing every student to closely observe faculty instruction, either through live demonstrations or by using video- and DVD-based instructional materials. Professors may make annotations via a touch-screen monitor, and play back video files at each student's monitor.

The initial two phases of the renovation cost \$800,000, with the School having raised \$200,000 from private sources, and the campus contributing \$400,000. That puts the School halfway toward its goal of \$400,000 in private

funds for the first two phases. An additional \$1 million of private money must then be raised for the completion of Phase III, which includes the replacement of the original lab benches and floor. The School will be initiating a campaign over the coming months to raise this money.



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a year away, but the amount of preparation required for a site visit is daunting, and requires a tremendous amount of input from everyone at the school – administration, faculty, staff, students and alumni.

A site visit that results in what is euphemistically known as ‘recommendations’ from the members of the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) could have a variety of effects on the School, including:

- Increased faculty workload in correcting perceived shortcomings
- Negative public relations;
- Adverse effect on recruitment (faculty, students);
- A drain on resources to fix the areas receiving recommendations;
- Morale implications;
- Potential effects on alumni/donors.

To avoid any untoward developments, we are working hard now to prepare the entire School of Dentistry for the site team’s visit.

Dr. Dorothy Perry, Assistant Dean for Curricular Affairs, will be heading up our accreditation effort, and has formed an Accreditation Steering Committee to assist her. The committee’s first step is the research and writing of the self-study document, in which we define ourselves for CODA.

Positive Process

Accreditation is an opportunity to emphasize the outstanding nature of the programs in the School of Den-

School of Dentistry eCommons to Launch

eCommons, an online service for students at the School of Dentistry, will launch in mid-November. The service will allow all students (DDS, Dental Hygiene, IDP, postgrad) to access a secure, online community through the Galen Web CT system.

Features of eCommons include:

- Calendar: view common dates for the entire school, including the Academic Calendar, Dean’s Seminars and Town Hall Meetings, dental licensing exams, holidays and more. You can also set calendar items for your own personal viewing.
- Chat: chat with classmates.
- News/Information: view and post items by class year/program.
- Email: send and receive email to and from others using eCommons.
- Forum: participate in discussion forums with classmates.
- Links: view web sites of interest and photos taken at School events

How to access your account:

1. Go to the UCSF Center for Instructional Technology home

page (<http://cit.ucsf.edu/>) and login with your Galen login name and password.

2. This will take you to your personalized WebCT homepage. Click the School of Dentistry E-Commons link beneath the Courses heading.
3. You will enter the School of Dentistry E-Commons home page, where you can access all of the features and functionality described above.

You can also access the eCommons login from the School of Dentistry home page. Click the eCommons Login link beneath the main navigation on the left-hand side of the home page.

For further information about eCommons or for questions, contact Dr. Gwen Essex-Lancaster through the eCommons email link in the system:

1. click the email icon;
2. click the Compose Message button;
3. click Browse...;
4. select Gwen Essex-Lancaster from the picklist.

tistry. By proactively identifying the areas that we feel need improvement, we can take the time to address them now, well in advance of the site team’s visit. We can also reap the benefits of those improve-

ments right away.

Here are some of the recent activities of the Accreditation Steering Committee:

- Review/Update School Quality Assurance Plan;

- Review recommendations from previous site visit;
- Hold accreditation retreat on December 1, 2003 for many faculty, staff and student leaders.

The School's accreditation will affect us all over the next 17 months. By familiarizing ourselves with the process, we can be well-prepared for the visit in April, 2005. If you have questions about accreditation, please contact Dr. Perry or myself.

-- Dean Charles Bertolami

Appointments

Dr. Mark Kirkland, DDS, was appointed Assistant Dean, Clinic Administration, in support of Associate Dean William Bird in administration of the staff and facilities of the Dental Clinics Building.

Awards

Four School of Dentistry students won the annual Dean's Award for research performed during the Professional Student Short-Term Research Training Program. The program is underwritten by two NIDCR grants and covers 22 summer fellows. Research findings were presented on September 26, 2003.

The winners are:

Maureen Khoo: "Investigating the Role of Cariogenic Bacterial Population and Specific, Bacterial Virulence in Subjects with Early Childhood

Caries." (Mentor: John Featherstone).
Jeffrey Leong: "What is the Functional Association of FAK, JNK and p53 in Fibronectin Fragment Mediated Apoptosis in Primary PDL Cells?" (Mentor: Yvonne Kapila).

Stanley Liu: "Peripheral Mechanisms of Oral Cancer Pain in a Mouse Model." (Mentor: Brian Schmidt)

Lily Workman: "The Role of Dentin Phosphoprotein in Matrix Biomineralization." (Mentor: Pamela Den Besten).

In recognition of their achievements, students will receive certificates, along with a \$100 cash prize.

D4 student Mary Anne Baysac won second place in the Clinical Application category for her presentation "Oral Cancer Information in Health Education Textbooks" at the ADA/Dentsply contest, held recently in conjunction with the ADA's Annual Session in San Francisco.

A student from each of the accredited dental schools in the nation competed.

Dr. Ernest Newbrun, professor emeritus in the Department of Stomatology, has received the Jim Wolfensohn Award of the Sydney University Graduates Union of North America for 2003. This award recognizes alumni who have distinguished themselves by making significant contributions to the betterment of society, his or her profession, business or academia.

Student Mentoring

Consistent with the campus trend to institutionalize mentoring and mentoring recognition of faculty, staff, and students, the School of Dentistry Faculty Council endorsed a mentoring program for first year dental, international, and dental hygiene students. A pilot program began in Fall, 2003, in which 25 dental and dental hygiene faculty, nominated by their department chair, were selected to mentor small groups of diverse, first-year students.

Mentoring program advisors Dr. Linda Centore and Dr. Charles McNeill provided initial mentoring training, and will oversee quarterly faculty feedback groups to review group progress. Early feedback from faculty was positive, including such comments as: "students mentioned several times that they appreciate the opportunity to meet and talk with faculty;" "we had an enjoyable lunch and will meet again in a few weeks;" and "when we met, students were enthusiastic and receptive, eager to meet again."

"Mentors have the unique privilege of identifying early students' career and academic interests and facilitating the networking necessary to bring those scholarly dreams to fruition. The School is committed to making this program successful. It is likely that additional faculty will be invited to participate as mentoring needs expand," Centore said.

Anti-Fluoridation Initiative Voted Down

On November 4, 2003 voters in Palo Alto overwhelmingly rejected the initiative to stop the fluoridation of the water supply, by a 79% to 21% margin. The 'No on Measure B' campaign was well organized by a local coalition of dentists and others from the community.

School of Dentistry professor Howard Pollick provided the opportunity for students to get involved in opposing the initiative through an elective course. Thirty-four students walked precincts to educate voters about fluoridation. Dr. Pollick, a clinical professor in PRDS, along with Dr. Ken Horowitz, dental hygiene director at Foothill College, also debated the anti-fluoridationists.

"Community water fluoridation has been hailed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as one of the ten greatest public health achievements of the 20th century. This lopsided vote in Palo Alto is probably the largest vote for fluoridation in the 50-plus years of voting on this in the United States," said Dr. Pollick.

"Many people are to be thanked, including the support of the California Dental Association in providing needed distribution of mailings to voters. All local newspapers endorsed 'No on Measure B' to keep fluoridation," Pollick added.

ADEA Membership

Do you want to enhance your visibility with fellow dental educators, while becoming more involved in important dialogues pertaining to dental education and oral health care? Consider membership in ADEA, the American Dental Education Association.

Dr. Larry Jenson, Interim Chair of the Division of Clinical General Dentistry, is the faculty representative for the UCSF School of Dentistry to ADEA. "As dental educators, we serve two professions, dentistry and education," Jenson said. "ADEA is the professional organization that represents our interests as teachers. The yearly conference is a wonderful opportunity to meet other dental educators from across the country and learn how other schools teach dentistry. If you have developed an innovative teaching method here at UCSF, it is a great opportunity to

share this at a national level. "I strongly encourage School of Dentistry faculty to join the organization and get involved with the annual conference and other programs," Jenson added.

ADEA holds a dental education conference annually. Next year's event is scheduled for Seattle, Wash., March 6-10, 2004.

ADEA'S mission is to lead individuals and institutions of the dental education community in addressing contemporary issues influencing education, research, and the delivery of oral health care for the improvement of the health of the public.

ADEA is the leading national organization for dental education. Members include all U.S. and Canadian dental schools, advanced dental education programs, hospital dental education programs, allied dental education programs, corporations, faculty, and students.

To join ADEA, visit their web site at www.adea.org. For more information, contact Dr. Larry Jenson at: jensonl@dentistry.ucsf.edu.

Save The Date

School of Dentistry
Full Faculty Meeting
Thurs. Dec 11, 2003
12:15 - 2:00pm
Room N-729

The UCSF School of Dentistry newsletter is published quarterly by the Dean's Office. Announcements, news, etc. may be submitted to the editor, Cameron Heffernan by email: heffernanc@dentistry.ucsf.edu, and will be run as appropriate, and as space provides.