

Opening of HSW6 labs

Investigators, researchers and staff members began moving into the recently renovated labs and offices on the Health Sciences West Sixth Floor (HSW6) last week, upon completion of a \$7 million renovation that took more than 18 months to complete, according to Caroline Damsky, interim co-chair of the departments of Stomatology and Growth and Development.

The refurbishment project was funded by a donation of more than \$750,000 from the estate of Nina Pera, a \$2 million NIH grant awarded to the School of Dentistry for research in craniofacial and mesenchymal biology, and support from the Chancellor's office.

The laboratories of faculty members Diane Barber, Caroline Damsky and Rik Derynck have already begun to move into the space. Two searches are in progress for new faculty, in the areas of cell biology and development, who will also be incorporated into the labs. By the time HSW6 is fully occupied, Damsky estimates that more than 50

CODA Site Visit: April 12-14, 2005

I want to thank all the people who are participating in the preparation of the Accreditation Self Study. The drafts are coming together and the document will be available for review this summer.

There are fewer than 325 days remaining until the accreditation site visit next year.

-- Dr. Dorothy Perry, Associate Professor and Assistant Dean for Curricular Affairs

325 days

investigators, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students and research and administrative staff will occupy the newly refurbished lab and office space.

Researchers and investigators moving into the new HSW6 space are from the departments of Stomatology and Growth and Development. When the School of Dentistry's departmental realignment is completed, all of the investigators in HSW6 will be part

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State Licensure Alternative for Dental Students

The California Dental Association and the deans of all five California dental schools are supporting a measure set to be voted on in the California State Senate during the week of May 17, 2004 that would allow the state to accept the results of the Western Regional Examination Board (WREB) for licensure in the state of California.

"The California dental deans and the administration of the School of Dentistry support this initiative because it would give dental school graduates the option of taking the WREB exam or the exam administered by the Dental Board of California (DBOC)," said Dean Charles Bertolami.

According to the office of State Senator Sam Aanestad, who is authoring Senate Bill 1865, the measure has moved through the Appropriations Committee in the state Senate, and is set to be voted on by the full Senate next week. A representative in Senator Aanestad's office anticipates that the bill will be approved by the Senate.

The bill would then move on to the California Assembly, where it would be reviewed in committee before making its way to the Assembly floor for a vote sometime in early June, according to to Aanestad's office.

D2 Student Chosen as Research Scholar for Prestigious NIH-Sponsored Program

Stanley Liu, a second-year DDS student, has been chosen as one of 43 Howard Hughes Medical Institute/ National Institutes of Health Research Scholars for 2004-05.

The HHMI/NIH program, established in 1985, gives outstanding students at medical and dental schools nationwide the opportunity to receive research training at the NIH headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland. This year is the first that the program, also known as the Cloister Program, has invited dental students to apply. There were a total of 200 applicants to the program this year. Liu was one of just five dental students chosen.

Research Scholars spend nine months to a year on the NIH campus, conducting basic, translational or applied biomedical research under the direct mentorship of senior NIH research scientists.

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute provides the administration and funding for the program, including the salaries and benefits for the Research Scholars. The NIH provides advisors, mentors, laboratory space, and equipment and supplies for laboratory work. Research Scholars may choose to work in any field related to biomedical science, including: cell biology, genetics, immunology, neuroscience, structural biology,

and epidemiology and biostatistics.

"Freedom for intellectual exploration and expression is valuable to me, and the Research Scholars program is

a fortunate setting to realize that vision," Stanley Liu commented. "I have many to thank at UCSF, including my classmates and teachers, my mentor, Dr. Brian Schmidt, the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, and Dean Charles Bertolami," he added.

"The administration is tremendously proud of this high honor that Stanley has attained," said Dean Charles Bertolami. "We're also glad that the field of dentistry and oral health is being recognized as an important area for Howard Hughes support," he continued.



Stanley Liu, D2

Awards/Honors/ Recognition

Pam DenBesten, Professor and Chair, Division of Pediatric Dentistry, Department of Growth and Development, was elected to a three-year term as Treasurer of the American Association for Dental Research.

Silvia Renderos, RDA, a dental assistant at the Family Dental Center, and William Yuen, administrative assistant in the dean's office, were honored with Clinics and Administration Outstanding Customer Service Awards for the fall 2003 quarter. This award recognizes a specific instance of outstanding customer service during the quarter. Each received a \$25 EMPACT gift certificate.

David Clark Freeman, D4, recently received the Delta Dental Student Leadership award. It was presented during the annual Delta Dental of California Dentist Membership Meeting on April 23, 2004 at the Palace Hotel, in San Francisco. One student from each of the five dental schools in California was recognized.

Richard A Smith, clinical professor in the OMFS department, will be the 2004 recipient of the Daniel M. Laskin Award as predoctoral educator of the year, awarded nationally by the American Association of Oral and
see Awards, continued on p. 4, col. 3

Outstanding Teacher Awards, 2002-03

The following educators were honored by their peers as Outstanding Teachers for the 2002-2003 academic year. Recipients, categorized as volunteers or full-time faculty members, were chosen by fellow department members, and each will be given a \$100 restaurant gift certificate and honorary plaque.

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Volunteer	Anthony Ellenikiotis, DDS Assistant Clinical Professor
Outstanding Teacher	Ye-Ming Wu, DDS, MS Associate Clinical Professor

ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

Volunteer	George Y. Takahashi, DDS, MS Assistant Clinical Professor
Outstanding Teacher	Janice S. Lee, DDS, MD Professor of Clinical Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

PREVENTIVE AND RESTORATIVE DENTAL SCIENCES

Volunteer	Stanley K. Wong, DDS Clinical Instructor
Outstanding Teacher	Aline Sousanian, RDH, MPA Assistant Clinical Professor

STOMATOLOGY

Volunteer	James F. Coggan, DDS Assistant Clinical Professor
Outstanding Teacher	Caroline Shiboski, DDS, MPH, PhD Associate Clinical Professor

ADVANCED EDUCATION IN GENERAL DENTISTRY

Outstanding Teacher	Michael Koppe, DDS Assistant Clinical Professor
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Two D2 Students Win at California Dental Association Competition

Stanley Liu, D2, and Douglas Warner, D2, were awarded first and second place, respectively, at the table competition of the California Dental Association (CDA) held on April 18 at the organization's Scientific Session in Anaheim.

Liu's presentation, "The development of an oral cancer pain mouse model," uses mice to demonstrate the most crucial component of medicating the oral cancer patient.

"Second to survival, the most important concern of the oral cancer patient is pain," Liu said. "To understand the peripheral mechanisms of oral cancer pain, a model of oral cancer pain is essential. In my

mouse model, I demonstrate both acute and ongoing pain due to human oral cancer, and that both are reversible by morphine. This model can potentially be used for the study of not only oral cancer pain, but other types of soft tissue cancer pain as well," Liu continued.

Liu received a \$500 cash award from the CDA. His mentor is Brian Schmidt.

Warner presented "The effects of Amelogenins on dental pulp stem cell proliferation." His research showed that Amelogenins are a

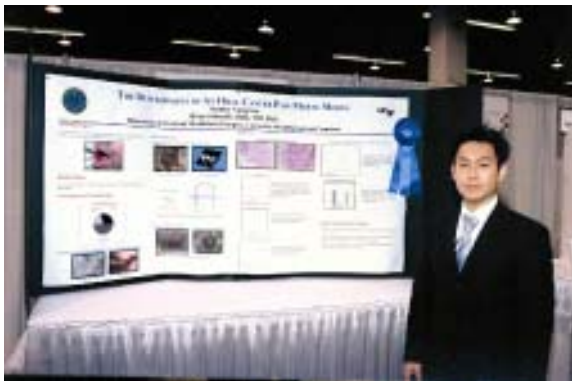
major component of the developing tooth organ, and are thought to have a signaling function.

"We synthesized two of the proteins and measured their effect on the proliferation of dental pulp stem cells (DPSC)," Warner said. "Both proteins caused a significant increase in proliferation and had an additive effect when combined."

Warner, who is pursuing a combined DDS/MS degree, is mentored by Pamela DenBesten. Warner received a \$400 award from the CDA.



Doug Warner's table presentation demonstrates that Amelogenins are a major element of the developing tooth organ.



Stanley Liu's study of an oral cancer pain mouse model could be used to study human oral and soft tissue cancer pain.

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Maxillofacial Surgeons. The award will be presented at the group's national meeting in September 2004.

Jane Weintraub, Lee Hysan Professor and Chair of the Division of Oral Epidemiology and Dental Public Health, will be installed as President of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry during the 2004 National Oral Health Conference on May 4 in Los Angeles.

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of the new basic sciences department.

Research Pathways

In many ways, the new lab space will do much to enhance the School of Dentistry's strong reputation for research.

"One major advantage is that the space is well organized and promotes greater interaction among the labs," said Diane Barber, professor in the Division of Oral Biology in the Department of Stomatology, and head of the Barber Lab. "It has a conference room that will encourage synergy on a department-wide basis within the new basic sciences department," Barber continued.

The HSW6 complex will also house the Parnassus Mammalian Microarray facility, a resource to be used by investigators from all the schools of the University.

The major research areas of the current HSW6 labs relate to cellular and molecular mechanisms critical for morphogenesis and tissue homeostasis, in keeping with the craniofacial and mesenchymal biology theme of the NIH award. At the cellular level, this theme embraces the regulation of cell proliferation, cell migration, cell survival and mechanisms of differentiation pathway-choice by

cells during development, especially mesenchymal stem cells. These processes determine whether tissues in the craniofacial complex will become fat, muscle or bone; all of these processes are critical to normal



The new lab space and office in HSW6 will give investigators and staff 20% more assignable square footage. Although the lab itself is no bigger, the re-configured space is more functional, better designed and has better circulation.

morphogenesis and tissue homeostasis. They have relevance outside the craniofacial complex as well, as many disorders leading to obesity and musculoskeletal degeneration are the consequences of disrupted regulation of mesenchymal cell differentiation and survival.

Component of New CMB Program

Research conducted in HSW6 will go

a long way toward the development of the new program in Craniofacial and Mesenchymal Biology (CMB), which is based in the School of Dentistry, and is one of six programs chosen for development at the

Parnassus campus. When it is fully operational, the innovative CMB program will include dedicated space on the fifteenth floor of the Health Sciences East tower (HSE15). "We anticipate tremendous synergies between the new basic sciences department and the CMB program," Damsky commented. "Thus, while the scientific activities in the new department and in HSW6 have a much broader range, they make an important contribution to CMB."

The HSW6 refurbishment also underscores the Chancellor's commitment to continue to develop and improve facilities at Parnassus Heights, when a lot of news and publicity these days

surrounds the research initiatives at Mission Bay, according to Charles Bertolami, Dean of the School of Dentistry. "We are delighted with this new research space," Bertolami commented. "It shows that the University as a whole is truly committed to keeping Parnassus a cutting-edge research campus."

2004 School of Dentistry Commencement

Accclaimed author and biographer Peter Guralnick will be the speaker for the 123rd School of Dentistry Commencement.

Date: Saturday, June 12

Location: Nob Hill Masonic Center,
1111 California Street

Program

1:00-2:00 pm Line up for the
Procession in the Exhibit Hall
2:00-4:00 pm Commencement
Ceremony
4:00 pm Reception, Exhibit Hall

Students, faculty and administration members may pick up academic regalia at Millberry Union Bookstore as early as May 26.



Peter Guralnick, 2004 School of Dentistry Commencement Speaker

School of Dentistry Awarded Four-Year Gies Research Scholarship from ADEA

The School of Dentistry has been named the sole recipient of a four-year William J. Gies Research Scholarship, formulated to foster greater research at the pre-doctoral level.

The Gies scholarship, sponsored by the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) and the William J. Gies Foundation, totals \$35,000 over a four-year period, with \$3,500 to be dispersed to a dental student interested in research this coming fall.

The school's Scholarship Commit-

tee will choose this year's recipient in the coming weeks.

"This scholarship shows the school's commitment to involving DDS students in research, and further demonstrates our strong reputation in dental and oral health research," said Mark Jacobs, Director of Graduate and Research Affairs. "It is wonderful for the school to receive recognition at the national level from an organization like ADEA," he added.

Obituary

Lawrence Nakamura, a PRDS faculty member, died unexpectedly on April 8. He was 73. Nakamura is survived by his wife of 48 years, Elsie Aiko Nakamura; children, Jon, Janis, and Lawrence; and six grandchildren. He also leaves behind siblings, Mary Takemoto, Jim and Tom Nakamura; many brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews.

A graduate in 1959 from the UCSF School of Dentistry, Larry was a USN Korean War veteran, SS St. Paul. He met his wife while attending UC Berkeley. He practiced in San Francisco for 29 years, then went on to enjoy retirement pursuing his interests: extensive world travel with the Medical Friends of Wine, golf, gardening, and taking walks with his six grandkids.

Larry was actively involved in Troop 29 Scouts, past-president of the CA Golf Club and the GG Optimists of SF, a fellow of the Academy of General Dentistry, and a member of the CA State Board of Dental Examiners.

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.