

CREIGHTON

School of Dentistry Dean's Newsletter

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Dean's Message

Challenges and Opportunities

We are in changing times for the dental profession and dental education. The old phrase "may you live in interesting times" certainly applies to today's dental issues. While the origin of the phrase is not exactly known, some have referred to it as a Chinese proverb with some negative connotations. I would rather look at the phrase as expressing an opportunity for change and enhancement.



In 1995, the Institute of Medicine published a report titled "Dental Education at the Crossroads: Challenges and Change." This report summarized some of the challenges facing dental education and suggested blueprints for change. The title of the report may be even more appropriate in 2010 than when it was published.

It is definitely an "interesting time" for dental education. We went through a period when seven dental schools closed and many reduced class sizes. These changes resulted in a reduction of the number of dental graduates nationwide from around 6,300 to fewer than 4,000. Now the cycle is changing and several new dental schools have opened since 1997. I recently attended the American Dental Education Association Deans' Conference, where it was discussed that the number of new schools opening by 2020 may exceed 20. These new schools will certainly present challenges to the dental education community for recruiting faculty, especially when we are already in a nationwide shortage of that resource. With some of the newer schools, we are also experiencing new approaches to the traditional educational models used in dental education. Determining the educational effectiveness of these

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Dr. Higginbotham Named Shaddy Chair

Dennis R. Higginbotham, DDS '67, has been named the Dr. Raymond W. Shaddy Endowed Chair in Operative Dentistry.

The Associate Professor of General Dentistry has been a member of the Creighton faculty for 38 years and received the Dr. Raymond Shaddy Memorial Award as outstanding clinical faculty member in 1990, 1991, 1992 and 2010.

Dr. Higginbotham completed his undergraduate studies at Creighton University in 1963 and his doctor of dental surgery at the Creighton School of Dentistry in 1967. After serving as a captain in the U.S. Army Dental Corps and focusing on patient care in the areas of fixed prosthodontics and oral surgery, he joined the Creighton faculty in 1972 as Clinical Instructor in Fixed Prosthodontics. He has held various administrative positions in the School of Dentistry including Director of Clinics,



Assistant and Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs and Acting Chair of the Departments of Comprehensive Dental Care and General Dentistry. He has been in his current position since 2000.

He is a member of the Pierre Fauchard Academy and Alpha Sigma Nu, the Jesuit national honor society. He is also a fellow in the American College of Dentists and has held membership and leadership positions in the Council Bluffs Dental Society, the Southwest Iowa Dental Association and the Iowa Dental Association. He received Creighton's Outstanding Service Award and received the Dr. Ann M. Garred Memorial Award for Outstanding Dedication in Providing Dental Education three times. He was named Omicron Kappa Upsilon Teacher of the Year in 2008.

The Dr. Raymond W. Shaddy Endowed Chair in Operative Dentistry was established in 1994 in honor of Dr. Raymond W. Shaddy, a 1964 Distinguished Service Award winner by the Academy of General Dentistry. Dr. Higginbotham succeeds Dr. W. Thomas Cavel, Professor of General Dentistry and inaugural chair holder.

Creighton Featured in National Publication



Native American students Tamra Jones (Navajo), David Henry (Cherokee) and Tracy Charging Crow (Lakota Sioux) work in the clinic.

"Growing up on the Pine Ridge Reservation, in South Dakota, Tracy Charging Crow recalls the eureka moment when she zeroed in on her chosen career. She was a sophomore in high school, attending a health-care retreat sponsored by Creighton University, when a dental student encouraged her to try her hand at preparing a practice tooth for a filling."

So begins an article titled "Training a Generation of Dentists for Indian Reservations," by Katherine Mangan, that appeared in a September issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, a leading publication of higher education in the United States. The article highlights Creighton's success in attracting and graduating Native American students in the field of dentistry. In fact, the four Native American students in this year's first-year class at Creighton represent the highest such enrollment among the country's 59 accredited dental schools.

Reunion Weekend: Date Change

The previously announced date for the 2011 School of Dentistry Reunion Weekend and Dental Assembly has been changed. **The new date is Sept. 15-17.** We look forward to seeing you there!

Dean's Message

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models will also challenge dental education and the profession at large.

Dental education will also face many issues related to legislative proposals across the nation for alternative dental workforce models. In my opinion, the dental profession should provide the leadership to address access to care and oral health disparities. The dental education community needs to be a partner in developing initiatives to help address societal needs for dental care by helping to shape policy and practice models for the future. Forces outside the dental profession should not be the only influence related to proposed changes in the dental workforce.

Consistent with our overriding mission of excellence in dental education, our School must be at the forefront of these discussions and be in a position to help shape the future of dentistry and dental education. These will definitely be "interesting times" and challenging times as the profession and the dental education community work in concert to address the future oral health care needs of society. We all need to work together to maintain the high standards of a Creighton dental education and quality care for the patients our graduates serve.

I welcome advice and guidance on how the School should position itself for the future in our changing health care environment. Our School needs to respond to these challenges with programs and facilities that continue our proud tradition of excellence in the academic and clinical education of our graduates. Future generations of students and patients await our approach to maintaining and enhancing our educational excellence.

*Wayne W. Barkmeier, D.D.S., M.S.
Dean, School of Dentistry*

Creighton Part of National Study

Creighton University School of Dentistry is participating in a national, multi-center study to refine and enhance the use of dental diagnostic terminology for electronic health records. The study is being funded by a \$4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health's National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research.

Dr. Elsbeth Kalenderian of Harvard is the study's principal investigator. Collaborators include **Drs. Nici Kimmes, Creighton**; Joel White, UCSF; Muhammad Walji and Vimla Patel, UT Houston; Meta Schoonheim-Klein, ACTA (Amsterdam); Paul Stark, Tufts; and Rachel Ramoni, Harvard.

The advent of the electronic health record (EHR) affords unprecedented clinical research opportunities to improve the nation's health. Dentistry is uniquely positioned to leverage the EHR's power



because nearly all U.S. dental schools use the same EHR system, axiUm. Sixteen dental schools that use axiUm have formed the Consortium for Oral Health Related Informatics (COHRI). These institutions have agreed to deposit their data in a common repository, which will be the largest oral health research database ever.

An important impediment to the consistent integration of these data, however, is the lack of uniformly accepted dental diagnostic terms.

In an effort to change this situation, the collaborators in this five-year study will use human-computer interaction methods to improve the system through which a provider can capture a diagnosis into the EHR by selecting the appropriate diagnostic term from a predefined list. The result of the project is likely to greatly increase dentists' satisfaction with entering dental diagnoses, the number of times diagnoses are entered into the EHR, and the number of dental schools that adopt this practice, while also reducing the number of mistakes during diagnosis entry.

Dr. Lower Celebrates Golden Anniversary

This year, Darrell Lower, DDS'55, celebrated a golden anniversary with the Creighton School of Dentistry. Dr. Lower has been teaching part-time in the School for the past 50 years.

Dr. Lower was born in Callaway, Neb., and graduated from York High School in 1945. He was drafted into the Army and served as a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division in Germany.

Upon returning home, Dr. Lower earned his bachelor's degree from York College in the spring of 1951. That fall, he entered the Creighton School of Dentistry, graduating in 1955.



After graduation, Dr. Lower opened a pediatric dental practice in Omaha, which he operated until 1993. In 1960, he also was asked to join the pediatric dental department at Creighton on a part-time basis.

Colleagues offer high praise for this long-time Creighton dentist.

"Dr. Lower is a superb teacher, an excellent professional with high standards and has been an honored colleague of mine for over 30 years," said Dr. Mark Taylor, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry. "His contribution to our department to this day remains very significant. Most importantly, Dr. Lower is a wonderful person, and someone we all look up to, admire and respect."

For his part, Dr. Lower said he loves the job: "I enjoy teaching and working with the students and the children."



Smile ... Creighton at Treat Street

Third-year Creighton dental students Melissa Hinze, left, and Kerry Olszewski instruct children on how to properly brush their teeth during Kidz Explore Treat Street, a Halloween family festival held Oct. 23 at the Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Other Creighton students participating were Cal Bullock, Cole Weaver, Armando Chavez, Keely McNally, Matthew Anderson and Corey Hogge. Gary Westerman, DDS'69, Professor and Chair of Community and Preventive Dentistry, also participated. In addition to providing dental education, the Creighton delegation distributed 1,700 toothbrushes and stickers.

Creighton Welcomes Dr. O’Kane and Dr. Scheidel to Faculty

Drs. Barbara O’Kane and Donal Scheidel have joined the faculty in the School of Dentistry. Dr. O’Kane is an Associate Professor in the Department of Biology, and Dr. Scheidel is an Associate Professor in the Department of General Dentistry.

Dr. O’Kane

Dr. O’Kane was most recently an Assistant Professor with Genetics, Cell Biology and Anatomy at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Dr. O’Kane earned her master’s degree (1990) and Ph.D. (2000) from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She is ASCP certified in immunology and is a member of the International Society of Experimental Hematology (ISEH) and the International Society for Hematology and Genetic Engineering (ISHAGE). The Omaha native has also been active in the community and served as a board member for the Susan Komen Race for the Cure.

Dr. Scheidel

Dr. Scheidel, a 1981 graduate of Creighton’s School of Dentistry, served on the faculty at the University of South Dakota, Department of Dental Hygiene, since 1996, where he was an Assistant Professor and then an Associate Professor. He operated his own dental practice from 1981 to 1991. He also shared his professional talents, serving as a general dentist for the Santee Sioux Tribe, the South Dakota Penitentiary and the South



Dr. O’Kane



Dr. Scheidel

Dakota Rehabilitation Center.

He also has served as a dental consultant for Delta Dental of South Dakota, the South Dakota Department of Social Services and the South Dakota Department of Health. His consulting work included the administration of a dental insurance program for low-income adults and children and the assessment of children’s dental needs in South Dakota.

He is a current member of the American Dental Association, the South Dakota Dental Association, and the American Dental Education Association. He served as chair of the Council on Dental Health for the South Dakota Dental Association and chair of the American Dental Education Association Section on Biochemistry and Nutrition. At the University of South Dakota, he was honored with the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Advisor of the Year and the Greek Life Professor of the Year awards.



School Hosts Perio Health Institute

Creighton University School of Dentistry hosted the Perio Health Institute Advanced Dental Education Sept. 18-20.

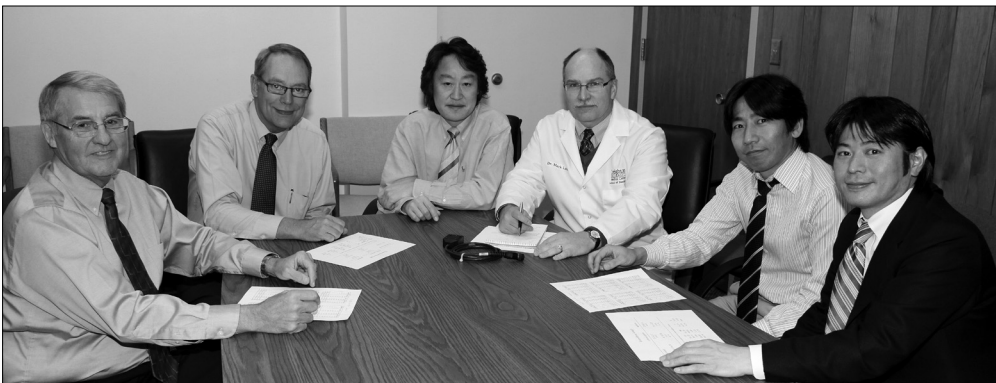
The Institute is part of a one-year course for general dentists in Asia to learn advanced topics and latest technology in periodontics and dental implants. The first session was conducted in Tokyo; the second, in Houston; and the third, at Creighton. Thirty-two dentists from Japan attended.

Creighton faculty presenters were: Dr. Neil Norton, “Application of Dental Anatomy for Dental Implants and Bone Grafting”; Dr. Martha Nunn, “Prognosis vs. Actual Outcome, Application of Practice Based Research”; Dr. Takanari Miyamoto, “Advanced Implant Dentistry, Localized Ridge Augmentation”; Dr. James Gerner, “Temporary Restoration for Dental Implant”; Dr. Douglas Benn, “Clinical Application of CT”; and Drs. Norton, Miyamoto, Larry Parrish, Melissa Lang, Raymond Olmo, and Terry Lanphier, “Implant Cadaver Lab Course.”

Alumnus Elected to Congress

Paul Gosar, BS’81, DDS’85, was recently elected to the U.S. Congress for Arizona’s 1st congressional district. He has owned his own dental practice in Arizona for 25 years.

Dr. Gosar’s work in dentistry has earned him numerous accolades and recognition. He has been named the Arizona Dental Association’s “Dentist of the Year,” and was inducted into the Arizona Dental Association’s Hall of Fame. He also has served as the president of the Northern Arizona Dental Society, the Arizona Dental Association and was the vice-chair of the ADA Council on Governmental Affairs.



Creighton School of Dentistry faculty met this fall with Japanese guests from Nihon University School of Dentistry. From left are Dr. Robert Erickson, Clinical Professor of General Dentistry, Creighton; Dr. Wayne Barkmeier, Dean and Professor of General Dentistry, Creighton; Dr. Masaschi Miyazaki, Professor and Chair of Operative Dentistry, Nihon; Dr. Mark Latta, Associate Dean for Research and Professor of General Dentistry, Creighton; Dr. Keishi Tsubota, Visiting Assistant Professor of Operative Dentistry from Nihon University; and Dr. Toshiki Takamizawa, Assistant Professor of Operative Dentistry, Nihon.

Calendar

January

Jan. 14

- Creighton Dental Update, Part I, 3 hours

Jan. 21

- Cone Beam CT, 6 hours

Jan. 27-31

- Forensic Dentistry – Past, Present and Future; CDE at Sea, aboard the *Carnival Triumph* (cruise ship)

Jan. 28

- Creighton Dental Update, Part II, 3 hours

February

Feb. 4

- Creighton Dental Update, Part III, 3 hours

Feb. 11

- From Diagnosis to Better Health and Improved Performance, 6 hours

Feb. 13-20

- Dental Topics in the Tropics – Expanding Restorative Horizons, 12 hours, CE in Costa Rica

Feb. 25-26

- Radiology for Dental Assistants

April

April 15

- School of Dentistry Alumni Advisory Board Meeting, Harper Center

May

May 7

- White Coat Ceremony, Harper Center

May 13

- Senior Awards and Hooding Ceremony, Joslyn Art Museum

May 14

- Commencement, Qwest Center Omaha

June

June 29

- Dr. Ben Kutler Golf Tournament

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Oral Biology Trailblazers ...

The first students enrolled in Creighton's new M.S. in Oral Biology program are, from left, Taylor Wilkinson, Phillip Elassal, Michelle Falbo and Ryan Casper. The program provides a choice of two tracks of study. The first is in dental materials and includes didactic and research emphasis in modern materials science. The second is in oral biology and emphasizes didactic and research in anatomical sciences and histology.

School Purchases New CT Machine

The Creighton University School of Dentistry has acquired a new Scanora 3D cone beam CT machine, which provides higher-quality resolution images than the i-Cat CBCT machine currently in use at the School.

"At 130 microns per pixel, root canals and periodontal ligament spaces can be clearly seen, revealing 30 percent more apical lesions than intra-oral radiography," said Dr. Douglas Benn, Professor and Director of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology. "Our endodontic faculty are particularly excited about improved diagnosis and student

teaching. For oral surgeons, the ability to evaluate the relationship of impacted teeth to vital structures is very important."

He adds: "In oral pathology it is now possible to see how a malignant lesion is widening the periodontal ligament space (pls), eroding the interdental bone and invading the pls of an adjacent tooth. Periodontal infrabony defects can be seen improving diagnosis and treatment. Implant planning benefits from an accurate assessment of bone quantity, quality, morphology and the proximity to neurovascular canals and sinuses."