

CREIGHTON

School of Dentistry Dean's Newsletter

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Dean's Message

Honored to Serve as Your Dean

I want to extend my sincere thanks to all members of the Creighton School of Dentistry community. Since assuming the dean's position in July, I have received one of the warmest possible welcomes from alumni, students,



faculty and friends of the dental school. Not only am I honored to have been asked to serve as the School's 18th dean, but I recognize how great a privilege it is to be a steward of the phenomenal legacy of dental education at Creighton.

My firm commitment to our stakeholders is to enhance our already enviable reputation for excellence in clinical education and strengthen our identity as a Catholic, Jesuit health care education program. I remain committed to continue to foster our growing research and service missions and, in that way, advance national recognition for Creighton.

While every deanship and School encounters numerous challenges, I am approaching these with a great sense of hope and optimism. Our School is blessed with dedicated faculty and staff, outstanding students, strong University leadership and generous friends and alumni. These great strengths will allow the School of Dentistry to engage future challenges with competence and confidence. The School of Dentistry has a great story to tell, and I'm very much looking forward to lending my voice to that message.

To the entire Creighton dental community, I want to thank you for your consistent support of our students, patients and our mission in educating men and women to be with and for others.

Mark A. Latta, D.M.D., M.S.
Dean, School of Dentistry



Already a bustling place, the recently updated Carlisle lab honors a mentor whose Creighton career spans five decades.

School Dedicates Carlisle Lab

On Sept. 16, the sophomore lab was officially dedicated as the new Dr. William L. Carlisle, DDS'58, Sophomore Preclinical Laboratory.

Made possible in the School of Dentistry by a major philanthropic gift from family and friends, the lab is already serving the needs of dental students.

Specifically, the newly refurbished Carlisle lab "teaches biomechanical skills across all the disciplines," said School of Dentistry Dean Mark Latta.

What's more, the new facility "incorporates the technology for teaching our students digital radiography," Dr. Latta said, a technology that can involve a costly outlay for dental schools.

For Dr. Latta, however, the best benefit of the lab may be that it "enhances the learning environment for all of our students."

"As our profession moves forward," said the dean, "technology has made a tremendous impact on the modern dental practice. This gift has afforded us the opportunity not only to refurbish the space to make it a better environment for the students but also to add computer work stations and digital X-ray sensors to better mimic, in the pre-clinical environment, the conditions our students will face in the live patient environment."

The Carlisle Lab is already a bustling place,

and on a Wednesday this fall every station was filled with students at work on a variety of biomechanical projects.

But perhaps the most personal story about the lab could be seen at its September dedication.

"Grandpa, Grandpa!" came the youngster's voice down the hall on the third floor. "Stand with me by your name for a picture!"

It was Dr. Carlisle's day – he probably would have said the day belonged to the School – and that fact showed across the day's celebratory Mass, reunion and dedication.

"He's a wonderful example of what it means to be a Creighton dentist," Dr. Latta said of Dr. Carlisle, who maintains a private practice as well as a teaching schedule. "He truly embodies all the positive qualities we at Creighton so earnestly strive to impart to our students."

"Bill has dedicated a tremendous amount of time teaching and training students and equipping them with the basic knowledge for treating patients. He has mentored and truly impacted our students for five decades."

According to colleague Professor of General Dentistry Tom Cavel, DDS'70, who was also a student of Dr. Carlisle's, "Bill is an excellent teacher who treats the

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Carlisle Lab

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students with respect ... (He) explains in clear language the changes he wants to see in your work and you know that making those changes would result in a better product. His rapport with patients is excellent and he exudes confidence and calm in what can be a stressful position for new clinical students."

Dr. Latta underscores the critical nature of the second year. "It is generally acknowledged that the sophomore year curriculum is the catalyst for this transition (to treating patients), and it is likely the most challenging year for any academic health care education program regardless of discipline. Bill's impact on our students has been unparalleled in these critical formative years."

"As a colleague," Dr. Cavel adds, "I am proud to call him a friend and mentor. He has dedicated his life to service to others in



Dr. Carlisle guides students through the key sophomore year.

the best Jesuit tradition and has endeared himself to all of us in this School. We only wish we could have him another 50 years."

Alumnus Celebrates 107th Birthday at Creighton



Will Miles Clark, DDS'29, looks over the photos of his Creighton dental school class with School of Dentistry Dean Mark Latta during a visit to Creighton on Aug. 17 to celebrate his 107th birthday. Dr. Clark, who lives in Tucson, Ariz., toured the campus with his daughter and two sons. He even burst into a rendition of Creighton's fight song, "The White and the Blue." A video of his visit can be found on Creighton's YouTube channel, youtube.com/creighton1878.

"I never, never, never could repay Creighton for what they did for me," Dr. Clark said of his dental education.

Kutler Golf Classic Set for June 27, 2012

The next Dr. Ben Kutler Memorial Golf Classic gets under way on Wednesday, June 27, 2012, at Quarry Oaks Golf Course just outside of Omaha.

The June event honors an Omaha dentist "who served as a role model for the profession of dentistry by his caring and compassionate treatment of all, no matter what their financial circumstance," according to the event's promotional literature.

Kutler, DDS'45, was honored with the School's Alumni Merit Award in 1997. He also is honored annually with the Omaha District Dental Society's service award made in his name.

Based again this year at 16600 Quarry Oaks Drive in Ashland, the tournament is sponsored by Creighton's Epsilon Chapter of Omicron Kappa Upsilon, the national dental honor society.

The Dr. Ben Kutler Memorial Golf Classic helps the school defray costs of its ongoing community-based dental clinic, which provides quality dental care to those most in need.

The fee for the golf classic is \$125 per person. It covers the costs of a four-person scramble and 18-hole tournament; cart and green fees; the dinner and awards; flag and team prizes; and two drink tickets.

Check-in is at 12:30 p.m., with tee-off set for 1:30 p.m.

For more information on the tourney, contact director Tom Meng, D.D.S., 402.280.5083.

Student Honored with First Dr. David Reinsch Humanitarian Award

When they learned of their friend's untimely passing this year, their first thought was how to honor him.

Thus, the David A. Reinsch, DDS'81, Humanitarian Award was organized for the School of Dentistry to pay tribute to his memory.

Reinsch, DDS'81, of Paradise Valley, Ariz., 56, died of cancer on May 12, 2011.

Funding the award are Dr. Reinsch's friends and colleagues: Dr. Fred Rotstein, Dr. Michael Slattery, Dr. Steve Ingersoll, Dr. James Falk and Dr. Steven Sabatino, all 1979 graduates of the Creighton School of Dentistry.

Dr. Reinsch, who had a private dental practice in the Phoenix area, was long regarded by his friends as a person for others, active in his community, especially in service to those less fortunate.

In this spirit the first awardee was named



Dr. Latta with award winner Scott Radniecki.

this fall, Scott Radniecki, class of 2012, of Fargo, N.D.

"It's a great honor to receive this award," Radniecki said, adding that he was

"especially (honored) being the inaugural recipient."

The recipient was chosen for his embodiment of the "spirit of humanitarianism, believing in the equality and the welfare of others," according to the award's qualifications. Such humanitarianism, demonstrated through community service, advocacy and leadership, is to be enacted above and beyond the recipient's regular activities and responsibilities.

Radniecki is involved in an externship at the Omaha Correctional Center working with inmates. Radniecki also tutors both younger dental students and post-bac students applying to dental school, serves as a teaching assistant in the Operative Laboratory and volunteers in the dental school's bimonthly, Thursday evening OneWorld clinic.



Mrs. Rita Meyer, Dr. Meyer's widow, left, and Jerri Donahue, DDS'87.

Alumnus Remembers Friend with Scholarship

Jerri Donahue, DDS'87, of Cheyenne, Wyo., memorialized her dear friend, Charlie Meyer, BS'49, DDS'53, this past April with a scholarship in his name, the L. Charles "Charlie" Meyer D.D.S. Scholarship.

Meant to commemorate Dr. Meyer's "lifelong devotion to and his appreciation for Creighton University," Dr. Donahue's gift established an annual scholarship to assist students enrolled in the School.

Designated for third-year dental students of high academic standing, the need-based award goes to those who "embody Dr. Meyer's passion for service to the community and compassion for others."

The award of not less than \$1,000 will be annually disbursed. Further gifts to the memorial scholarship fund are welcome.

Endowed Fund Assists Third-Year Students

New this fall to the School of Dentistry is the Dr. Leo V. Bongers Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund.

The late Bongers, DDS'48, left a charitable distribution to create and fund an endowed scholarship to help students in the School of Dentistry.

Specifically, the fund targets qualified third-year students who are in the top 25 percent of their class. Further, it aims to support student leaders who exemplify high ethical standards in all aspects of their lives, including collegiate activities, work activities, community service and everyday conduct.

The Bongers gift does not require financial need on the recipient's part and is renewable. Further gifts to the memorial scholarship fund are welcome.



Family Honors Father and Former Dean, Dr. Benjamin Lynch

Only mention his name, and everyone has a memory about this exemplary Creighton dentist and compassionate human being.

Benjamin L. Lynch, BSD'45, DDS'47, MA'53, who served the School of Dentistry as its dean for seven years – from 1954 to 1961 – led the School to many firsts.

Recruited at the age of only 30 to become dean of the School – his initial appointment was as assistant instructor in oral surgery – Dr. Lynch was immediately charged with recruiting a faculty. (It was the end of the Korean War and the School, without one full-time clinical faculty member, gave him two and a half months to do so.)

Hire a full faculty he did, and the School opened on time for the term, with faculty on duty, in their classrooms.

Indeed, as dean, Dr. Lynch focused on elevating the local and national reputation of Creighton's dental program – and succeeded.

By 1961, the School's senior class was ranked No. 1 in the nation on national boards and the sophomore class No. 2.

Dr. Lynch's passion for research was also a focus, and under his leadership the School received its first federal research grant.

Yet, his impact on the School was also rooted in compassion. One alumnus tells of visiting post-surgical hospital patients while a student on rounds with Dr. Lynch. As he looked into the rooms of still-unconscious patients, the professor said, "Even though we may never meet these patients, we must remember that the care and time we take with them in surgery will help them to more easily heal." Students never forgot.

Active in many professional organizations, Dr. Lynch was a founding member of the

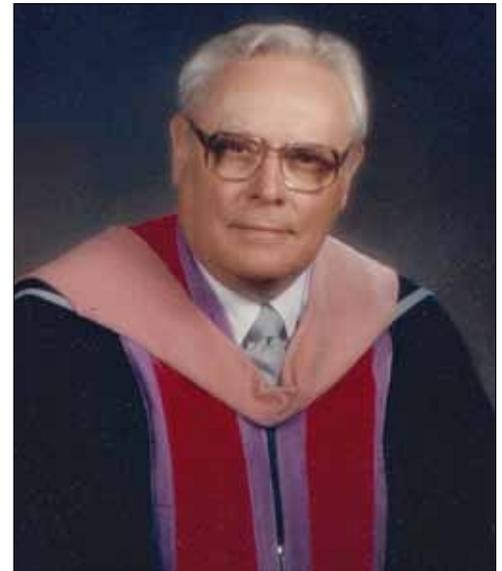
Scholarship Fulfills Couple's Wish

The late Lyle B. Egerman, DDS'44, and Hazel Egerman lived in Bancroft, Neb., where Dr. Egerman built a life-long general dentistry practice that spanned 40 years.

The couple never forgot Creighton University – nor its dental students.

Their endowed scholarship fund, the Lyle B. and Hazel Egerman Dental Endowed Scholarship, provides annual scholarships for students of high academic standing who are in need of financial assistance for dental school.

The Egerman scholarships are renewable, based on students' academic progress and available funds.



Dr. Lynch served as the School's dean from 1954 to 1961.

American College of Oral-Maxillofacial Surgeons. He received Creighton University's Alumni Merit Award in 1978.

True to the commitment of its namesake, the Dr. Benjamin L. Lynch Memorial Endowed Scholarship, begun last year, is already assisting today's dental students.

The award was established by his wife Colleen and their six children: Kathleen, BA'80, MD'84; Mary, BA'81; Patrick; George, BSpHy'83, MS'84; Martha, BSBA'87; and Estelle.

A scholarship in Dr. Lynch's name seems especially fitting.

"Ben loved to teach," recalled Mrs. Lynch, "and to bring out the best in everyone."

You Can Help Support Creighton's Dental Students

To learn more about endowing a scholarship or making other gifts to the School, contact Creighton's Office of Development, 402.280.2740, 800.334.8794, giving@creighton.edu.

More scholarship stories will be featured in the next issue.

School Welcomes Drs. Macias-Diaz, Verbik, Ito

Karla V. Macias-Diaz, D.D.S., M.S.

Karla V. Macias-Diaz, D.D.S., M.S., joined the faculty of the Creighton School of Dentistry July 1, 2011, as assistant professor of Endodontics.

Dr. Macias-Diaz comes to Creighton most recently from her private dental practice in Mexico City, where she practiced endodontics from 1996 through 2008.

From 1994-2002, she was also in a private general dentistry practice there with Dr. Jose R. Aarun, where she worked exclusively as an endodontist.

Dr. Macias-Diaz also held academic positions as an associate professor of endodontics at the Institute of Endometadentodontology, School of Dentistry, in Mexico City, from 1999 to 2002, and as an assistant professor of endodontics at the Justo Sierra University School of Dentistry, also in Mexico City, from 1996-1999.

Dr. Macias-Diaz completed the advanced standing DDS program at the Creighton School of Dentistry this past May. She holds both an MS and a certificate in endodontics from the Institute of Endometadentodontology, School of Dentistry, in Mexico City and a DDS from the Technological University of Mexico School of Dentistry, also in Mexico City.



David Verbik, D.D.S., Ph.D.

David Verbik, D.D.S., Ph.D., accepted a teaching post at Creighton as assistant professor of General Dentistry this fall, Oct. 15, 2011. He comes from a private practice in general dentistry in Lake City, Iowa.

Dr. Verbik, who earned his dental degree from the University of Iowa College of Dentistry in Iowa City, earned a Ph.D. degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center through the Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy. He is also a 1989 Bachelor of Science graduate of Briar Cliff College in Sioux City, Iowa.

Dr. Verbik, who held two postdoctoral research fellowships in Boston in the mid-90s – one at the Schepens Eye Research Institute and the second at Harvard Medical School – also received the Dental Research Award during his four years at the University of Iowa.

The School of Dentistry's newest faculty member has served as an adjunct instructor for Iowa Central Community College's Dental Hygiene program.



Masayasu Ito, D.D.S., Ph.D.

Starting this past June, Masayasu Ito, D.D.S., Ph.D., assistant professor at the Nihon University School of Dentistry at Matsudo, Japan, joined the Creighton School of Dentistry as visiting assistant professor in the Department of Periodontics.

Dr. Ito will conduct full-time research in Periodontics for one year, according to Assistant Professor and Chair Takanari Miyamoto, D.D.S., Ph.D., M.S.D.

Dr. Ito is specifically interested in developing appropriate periodontal maintenance regimens using an individual tooth-based approach.

The Tokyo native is also interested in developing a global standard of dental prognostic indicators through a non-molar/molar model. In addition, the relationship among the positions of Stenson's duct exit and the treatment of maxillary second molar, cross-sectional study, as well as vitamin D intake and its relationship to periodontal inflammation, are also of interest.

A prosthodontics specialist, Dr. Ito serves as an attending physician certified by the Japan Prosthodontic Society.

He earned both his D.D.S. and Ph.D. from the Nihon University School of Dentistry and the Graduate School of Dentistry, respectively, at Matsudo.



Students Garner National Recognition

Creighton dental students won national honors at the 39th Student National Dental Association (SNDA) convention in Baltimore this year.

The event was held in conjunction with the 98th National Dental Association (NDA) Convention at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel July 21-25, 2011, as Creighton students placed third nationally in the Small Chapter of the Year contest.

The national honor took into account Creighton dental students' many community service efforts, including dental screenings in north Omaha; oral hygiene instruction for more than 100 children at the Boys & Girls Clubs in north and south Omaha; and the 2nd Annual Impressions Program during 2010-11.

This fall, the Creighton chapter of SNDA participated in the 3rd Annual Oral Cancer Walk and the 3rd Annual Impressions Program.

Established in 1970 as an auxiliary of the NDA, the SNDA promotes and encourages minority enrollment and retention in the nation's dental schools. It also educates its members on the social, moral and ethical obligations of the dental profession; emphasizes a viable academic and social environment for minority students; and commits to improvement of the delivery of dental health to all people, with an emphasis on minorities and the underserved.



Eric Lomas, D2, and Toni-Ann Hylton, D4, took honors at the SNDA's national convention in Baltimore in July.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

If you are interested in getting more information or to register for any of the courses, please contact Marletta Mc Kercher at 402.280.5054 or visit www.creighton.edu/dentalschool/continuingeducation/upcomingcourses.

Play and Learn - Costa Rica Cutting Edge Radiology

Dr. Douglas Benn
Feb. 3-7, 2012

Street Drugs Exposed

Dr. Harold Crossley
Feb. 15, 2012

Winter Treat: Are you tired of shoveling and up to your knees in Pathobabel?

Dr. Stephen Hess & Dr. Hardeep Chehal
Feb. 24, 2012

Periodontal Symposium

Dr. Ernesto Lee
June 1, 2012

Alumni Weekend and Dental Assembly

Sept. 20-23, 2012

Travel and Learn Courses

Ski and Learn - Crested Butte, CO (Resort)

Feb. 8-12, 2012

Learn and Play in New Orleans (4-Star Hotel)

March 1-4, 2012

Learn and Explore the Greek Isles (Cruise)

May 19, 2012

Erin Go CE in Ireland (Land Tour)

June 29, 2012

Learn and Discover Alaska (Cruise)

July 29, 2012

Learn and Explore China (Land Tour)

Oct. 5, 2012

Dr. Hermsen Promoted

Michael Hermsen, DDS'02, clinical instructor in Endodontics, has been promoted to the post of assistant professor, effective Oct. 1.

Dr. Hermsen completed his AEGD at the University of Minnesota in 2003, and received his Endodontic Certificate in 2008 from the University of Nebraska.

He currently maintains an endodontic practice in Omaha and teaches at Creighton.

Creighton Study Focuses on Using CART Technologies as Prediction Model

Is it possible to predict by computer model which teeth will survive and which, without intervention, will not?

Martha E. Nunn, D.D.S., Ph.D., and her colleagues think so – and their research using Classification And Regression Trees (CART) technologies suggests the likelihood, as well.

Dr. Nunn, who is director of the Center of Oral Health Research and associate professor in Periodontics at the School of Dentistry, said her primary goal is to apply newly developed multivariate extensions of CART for tooth survival that her team developed to a large, de-identified database obtained from the axiUm system of electronic dental records at the School. Their goal is to establish global dental prognostic indicators based on actual tooth loss.

Her team also plans to refine computer algorithms they developed for multivariate CART for survival.

The hypotheses will be tested on a four-year longitudinal database consisting of 19,092 men, women and children with follow-up data who have been treated at Creighton's dental clinic.

Of the nearly 20,000 patients with follow-up data, 4,339 adults are regular patients in the periodontal clinic with follow-up periodontal records while 1,681 are children under 18 years of age. Available data for testing hypotheses include age, gender, race in some records, time until tooth loss, complete restorative and periodontal records with follow-up, significant medical history, smoking, oral hygiene, special needs, compliance, frequency of dental visits and other parameters that are collected as part of dental treatment and follow-up at the School of Dentistry.

According to Dr. Nunn, the significance of the project is, by establishing clear, objective criteria for assignment of accurate, evidence-



Dr. Nunn hopes to be able to predict tooth loss with far greater degree of accuracy.

based global dental prognostic indicators that are based on actual tooth loss, that it has the potential to make a tremendous impact on the dental community.

The central hypothesis is that commonly used clinical measures can be used to forecast the long-term prognosis of any tooth in a patient's mouth at any given time. Development, adoption and use of accurate, evidence-based global dental prognostic indicators has the potential for making a significant public health impact by aiding dental practitioners in better treatment planning, helping third-party payment plans make better decisions about benefits, and providing patients with objective criteria for making informed decisions about their dental treatment needs.

Currently, Dr. Nunn is working on prognosis of second molars adjacent to impacted third molars, work that should provide a better guide to dentists and oral surgeons about which impacted third molars should be extracted and which should be left alone.

Dr. Benn Develops New Approach for Detecting Early Enamel Cavitation

Creighton School of Dentistry researcher Douglas K. Benn, B.D.S., M.Phil., D.D.S., Ph.D., Dipl. Radiology (Royal College of Radiologists, England), has invented a new and simple method for what may be the first available test for detecting early enamel cavitation.

Dr. Benn is professor and director of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology at the dental school.

The method makes use of a proprietary disclosing solution, which is completely safe and approved for oral use, and has the

correct properties to be absorbed by cavitated defects and displayed radiographically.

Dr. Benn describes the solution as only absorbed by cavitated caries lesions and not by non-cavitated or sound surfaces.

Following laboratory testing, which began last February, are the procedure's clinical trials, which start in February 2012.

If the trials are successful, Dr. Benn points out, the procedure will be the first test for not only detecting early enamel cavitation, but also distinguishing it from non-cavitated lesions, a boon to management of the disease.



Matt Masaki, left, a senior dental student, provides care to a patient in the D.R. with assistance from Creighton undergraduate sophomore Allison Corley. Corley was serving as an "ayudante," or helper.

Creighton Dental Students Serve Others in the Dominican Republic, Alumni Invited

Twelve Creighton dental students ventured to the Dominican Republic this past summer to provide dental care for approximately 1,500 patients in rural campos – and to be immersed in a different culture.

What the students experience becomes part of the compelling story that is Creighton's Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC), which has been providing health care services and cultural immersion in the D.R. since 1976.

According to Creighton's ILAC website, all of the programs emphasize the importance of global vision and understanding in the process of educating well-rounded individuals. To this end it offers students in dental, medical, nursing, pharmacy, law, physical therapy and occupational therapy, as well as undergraduate and high school students, the opportunity for service-learning and immersion experiences in the rural Dominican Republic. A vital part of the ILAC enrichment also comes from faculty-led groups, medical/surgical teams and groups from other colleges and universities.

The School of Dentistry is presently interviewing students for the 2012 ILAC summer program – and looking for professionals to accompany these students.

"If you would like to get out of your office for a couple of weeks, have an exciting cultural experience and help our students, please let us know," said Dr. Terry Wilwerding, one of the School's co-directors of ILAC.

The only cost to ILAC participants is the



Ami Inoue, a senior dental student, was one of 12 Creighton dental students providing care to patients in need in the Dominican Republic this past summer.

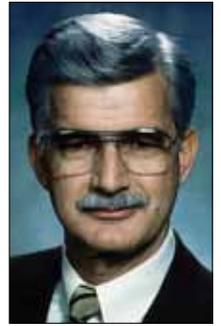
round-trip airfare.

In the past, the ILAC dental teams only performed extractions, but they now provide regular operative care, requiring more pieces of equipment and supplies.

To donate equipment and supplies or to sign up for a new e-newsletter highlighting the ILAC program, please send a note to Dr. Wilwerding, tmjw@creighton.edu, or to Dr. James O'Meara, JamesOmeara@creighton.edu, who serves as the other co-director of the School's ILAC program.

Dr. Posey Named to Wall of Honor

Alvin R. Posey, DDS'65, was back in Omaha with his wife Ruth, his brother Jack and sister-in-law Marie this fall for a special unveiling: A plaque that bears Dr. Posey's likeness that is displayed on the School of Dentistry's Alumni Wall of Honor.



Given to commemorate Dr. Posey's contributions to the practice of dentistry, the honor was bestowed by the School of Dentistry's Alumni Advisory Board.

Dr. Posey's contributions have always been larger than life.

Following graduation from the dental school, Dr. Posey settled with Ruth, a native Omahan, in Enid, Okla., and opened a dental practice. It was here that he built his career spanning 40 years – and that Ruth managed both his practice and the family real estate business.

But living in small-town America didn't in any way keep the Poseys from exploring – and helping to make better – their world.

A member of the School of Dentistry's Alumni Advisory Board for 34 years, Dr. Posey was never too busy to serve as a team leader for the ILAC program in the Dominican Republic.

He also was active in the Flying Dentists Association, which features outreach clinics in many states – and rewarded Dr. Posey's just plain love of flying.

In fact, just a few years ago, he and Ruth shot skyward in a reproduction of *The Spirit of St. Louis*, and followed Charles Lindbergh's original flight path from St. Louis to Paris.

Closer to home, the Poseys established an endowment that provides continuing education for School of Dentistry alumni. The Dr. and Mrs. Alvin R. Posey Continuing Education Lecture provides state-of-the-art science information to Creighton alumni each year at the School's Dental Assembly.

In 2007, Dr. Posey was involved in a tragic motorcycle accident and suffered serious injuries.

The 1988 recipient of the School's Alumni Merit Award now lives with Ruth in Edmond, Okla. They have two children – Sandra P. Baskerville, BSBA'83, DDS'88, and Lt. Col. Richard Posey, BSBA'85 – and seven grandchildren.

Dr. Westerman First to Hold Maschka Chair

Gary H. Westerman, DDS'69, has been named to the Dr. Philip Maschka Chair for Ethics in Dentistry this past summer at Creighton.

The longtime professor and chair of the Department of Community and Preventive Dentistry in the School of Dentistry, is also a faculty associate in the Center for Health Policy and Ethics and a faculty member in the School of Medicine's Department of Pediatrics.

The chair was established to further enhance the ethics component of the School of Dentistry's curriculum and to integrate ethical considerations within the University's clinical educational programs.

"I am honored to be chosen to serve as the first endowed chair in dental ethics," Dr. Westerman said at the inaugural ceremony. "I will seek to advance the understanding of values, patient rights and professional duties that guide the clinic practice of dentistry and health care throughout our teaching. I am fortunate that my efforts align with



Dr. Westerman, as holder of the Maschka Chair, is the first endowed professor in dental ethics.

the University's mission of educational excellence, innovation and ethical, patient-oriented decision-making based upon the Jesuit, Catholic tradition of commitment to serve those most in need."

Dr. Westerman has been a member of the faculty for more than 38 years and maintains a private practice in Omaha. His present academic duties include the coordination of community and preventive dentistry activities for the School of Dentistry. He is widely known for his research, teaching and involvement with professional dental organizations.

Dr. Westerman completed his undergraduate studies at Gonzaga University in 1966, his dental degree at Creighton University in 1969, and a master's degree in pediatric dentistry at the University of Iowa in 1973. He served as a captain in the U.S. Army Dental Corps from 1969 to 1971.

Establishing the chair are longtime Creighton supporters Philip Maschka, DDS'53, and his wife, Ruthann O'Neill Maschka, BS'48. The couple created the chair to ensure Creighton dental students are taught ethical behavior that puts the needs and rights of patients at the forefront of dental practice. They also created the Deglman Center for Ignatian Spirituality on campus and actively support the Creighton Retreat Center.

Dr. Maschka taught at the Creighton School of Dentistry for more than 10 years and received the School's Alumni Merit Award in 1989. He practiced orthodontics in Omaha for more than 23 years.



From left, Earl Seavall, DDS'61, Jim Armstrong, DDS'61, June Langenfeld and Bob Langenfeld, DDS'61, enjoy catching up at Creighton's Alumni Reunion Weekend this past September.

Alumni Return for Reunion, 2012 Date Set

More than 400 dental alumni and friends attended *Destination Creighton: Alumni Reunion Weekend and Fall Dental Assembly* Sept. 15-17. The weekend included a variety of activities: continuing education courses; an alumni Mass; an alumni reception and dinner, which honored the Golden Jays

Class of 1961; a sport shoot outing; a golf tournament for alumni, faculty and students; and class gatherings.

Mark your calendars now for the 2012 Alumni Weekend and Dental Assembly, which is set for Sept. 20-23. Watch for more information to come.

Hixon Presented Alumni Merit Award

Dr. Linda Hixon, DDS'94, received the School of Dentistry's 2011 Alumni Merit Award on Sept. 16.

Dr. Hixon, who has practiced dentistry in Belen, N.M., for the past 13 years, has devoted much of her spare time to humanitarian trips, providing dental care to impoverished regions of Honduras, the Dominican Republic, the Philippines, Nepal and India.

She has been active in numerous community and professional societies, including the New Mexico Dental Association (NMDA) as a delegate and district trustee; the Albuquerque (N.M.) District Dental Society as president and a board member; the Greater Belen Chamber of Commerce as a board member; and the Albuquerque Astronomical Society as a board member.

She has also participated in many community service projects, including Give Kids a Smile and NMDA Donated Services. In 2010, the NMDA presented Dr. Hixon with a service award for her work.



Wolff Serves as Philanthropy Director

Cortney A. Wolff, BA'03, is Creighton's new director of philanthropy for the School of Dentistry. As such, she will partner with the School to assist with fundraising efforts.

A Waterloo, Neb., native, Wolff has worked in Creighton's development office since 2009.

Wolff also serves on Creighton's Young Alumni Advisory Board, as well as the board of directors for the Heart Ministry Center. She is a mentor with the Sacred Heart School Mentoring Program, and sings with the Praise and Worship team at her church.

"I am so blessed to have the opportunity to work for my alma mater," Wolff said. "It is an honor to partner with alumni, parents and friends of the School of Dentistry to help them give back to a School they hold in such high regard."

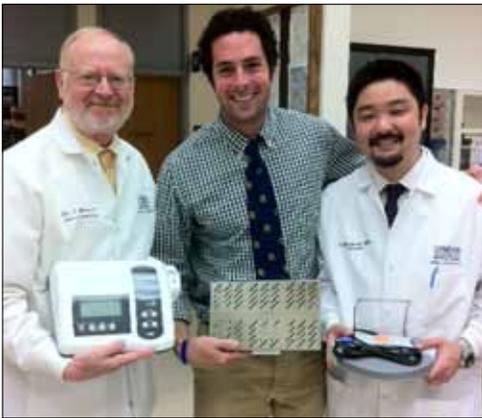


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Pictured from left are Dr. James Howard, fourth-year student Ryan Lehr and Dr. Takanari Miyamoto displaying some of the equipment donated by NSK America.

NSK America Donates Equipment to Creighton

The dental equipment company NSK America recently donated an ultrasonic piezo surgery unit (Variosurg) to the Department of Periodontics for clinical use and student education.

"We are thrilled to introduce this new technology into our curriculum," said Dr. Takanari Miyamoto, department chair. "The Variosurg unit can be utilized for periodontal osseous resective surgery, crown lengthening, implant osteotomy, block graft and sinus lifts for pre-implant preparation procedures, atraumatic extractions and alveolarplasty."

PART-TIME FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Sullivan Serves School for Four Decades

When J. Terry Sullivan, DDS'60, was named Outstanding Part-Time Clinical Instructor earlier this year, no one could doubt the choice of the senior class.

After all, Dr. Sullivan has taught, coached, encouraged and mentored students for four decades at the Creighton School of Dentistry.

For this adjunct professor of general dentistry, "the interaction with young people who are eager to learn the profession that I love," is the best part of his work.

The Creighton dentist has seen many advances in the profession over the years, beginning with "the air driven, high-speed hand piece," introduced his senior year in the School of Dentistry. Then came clinical cubicles and the sweeping changes brought by computers.

Among the things that haven't altered, Dr. Sullivan said, are the students, though he believes "they are smarter than we were."



During many of his years at Creighton, Dr. Sullivan had a private practice in Bellevue, from which he retired in 2006.

Dr. Sullivan and his wife, Mary, have five children – and dentists seem to run in the family. His father graduated from the School of Dentistry in 1921; their oldest daughter is a dental hygienist married to a dentist; and a cousin is a pediatric dentist in Dublin.

Outside interests include 28 years on the Bellevue Public School Board; eight years as director of the Nebraska School Board Association – and recipient of the board's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Sullivan is also past president of both the Omaha District Dental Society and the Nebraska chapter of the Academy of General Dentistry. He is a member of the Creighton chapter of Omicron Kappa Upsilon and a charter member of the Bellevue Knights of Columbus.

In spite of the many advances in his profession, this Creighton dentist still hews to one important constant: "The Jesuit influence ... I have never had a moral or ethical problem because of that influence.

"And I have always been proud of having gone to a Jesuit college."