Dear Students, Faculty, Staff, Alumni and Friends,

Good news has been coming in from so many quarters this academic year and it is my pleasure as dean to share it with you in this newsletter.

Certainly we all should take great pride in the 2011 accreditation process which the school completed during the winter quarter. We received many commendations for excellence from the American Dental Association’s Committee on Dental Accreditation site visitors.

Our UCLA ASDA chapter was recognized as the "National Ideal Chapter" and a passionate group of enterprising dental students just launched the inaugural Walk for Oral Cancer Awareness this past weekend.

Numerous faculty members have won new and continuing research grants. Furthermore, we have welcomed many new faculty and staff members, and created new staff positions.

The UCLA School of Dentistry continues to be a center for excellence despite difficult economic times. Yet, even as our school is enjoying tremendous successes, we of course send our best wishes to Japan—in particular to our friends at the dental schools at Asahi and Meikai Universities with whom we have a longstanding relationship of student and faculty exchange. Their country’s current challenges in the aftermath of a devastating natural disaster remind us that we are all connected and that our commitment to health, education and research is by necessity a global one. Thank you all for your hard work in support of our mission right here at UCLA.

No-Hee Park, DMD, PhD
Dean
School News

Successful 2011 American Dental Association CODA Site Visit

The 2011 American Dental Association CODA site visit went extremely well. The predoctoral Doctor of Dental Surgery degree program and all the currently accredited postdoctoral advanced education programs will receive full accreditation status.

While the school did not receive any recommendations (citations for required improvement), it did receive no fewer than 10 commendations. The site visitors praised the school for its financial stability; the support that the administration provides to faculty and staff; its leadership in curriculum reform; its excellence in research and the unparallel quality of the research faculty; the self-assessment plan and portfolio in endodontic clinical education; the efficient response of the school administration to student feedback; the opportunity for students to travel to Japan as part of an endowed educational exchange program; its excellent facility and learning resources; and its excellent clinical and preclinical facilities. The site visitors also appreciated Dr. Mito's work as facilitator for the clinical operation.

Once again, the dean would like to thank all the faculty, staff and students whose tireless efforts and support helped to make accreditation a success. He especially wishes to acknowledge Dr. Lawrence Wolinsky, the entire accreditation steering committee and the standards committee chairs (Drs. Carol Bibb, Ron Mito, Ed Hewlett, Karen Lefever, Paulo Camargo, and David Wong, and Ms. Michelle Popowitz) for their leadership in this process. He also expresses his deep appreciation to Dr. Edmond Hewlett for his stewardship of the successful curriculum revision and to Mr. Joel Latimer whose tireless efforts made the school shine.

Annual Research Day Showcases Faculty And Student Achievements

The UCLA School of Dentistry's Annual Research Day was a successful and exciting event. Students, staff, and faculty alike drew inspiration from Dr. Irvin Chen's keynote presentation, "Engineering Stem Cells to Treat HIV Disease." The faculty symposium provided a unique opportunity for our faculty to showcase their research expertise and dialogue with one another. Rounding out the day's events was a challenging poster competition. Special thanks are owed to Dr. Anahid Jewett, chair of the Research Advisory Committee, and to the colleagues who served with her on the judging committee. Congratulations are due to the following poster competitors:

Dental Student Category
1st Place: Rachel Suhhee Lee, mentored by Dr. Reuben H. Kim
2nd Place: Jee Hoon Ha, mentored by Dr. Ichiro Nishimura
3rd Place: Daniel Johnson, mentored by Dr. Karen Lefever

Master's Student Category
1st Place: Han-Ching Helen Tseng, mentored by Dr. Anahid Jewett
2nd Place: Krisena Borenstein, mentored by Dr. Jeanne Nervina & Dr. Hao-Fu Lee
3rd Place: Aida Arasteh, mentored by Dr. Anahid Jewett
Residents in the Community Health and Advocacy Training-Pediatric Dentistry (CHAT-PD) program were featured in the Daily Bruin for their advocacy work. As the Bruin noted, CHAT-PD is not an ordinary residency program. It is a training mechanism for pediatric dentists that equips them to serve not only as care providers but as community advocates for dental health issues on the local, state and federal levels. Residents in the program recently traveled to Washington, D.C., to petition legislators to maintain funding for pediatric dentistry residency programs such as their own. The full story is available online.
Inaugural Walk For Oral Cancer Awareness Drew Large Crowd, Huge Support

Can you name the sixth most common cancer? Could your neighbor? How about your best friend?

It is oral cancer, a devastating disease associated with a high rate of mortality—only 50 percent of those who receive a late stage diagnosis survive for five years. Those patients who do survive must contend with disability and disfigurement.

The UCLA School of Dentistry has long been on the front lines in both treating the disease and in conducting cutting-edge research to improve its diagnosis and treatment. Now UCLA dental students are putting the school on the map as a force in the cause to raise public awareness of oral cancer.

Their inaugural Walk for Oral Cancer Awareness (also known as WOCA) held on Sunday, April 17, 2011 was a huge success. More than 250 people turned out to walk or run the 5K on UCLA's campus under blue skies. After the race, Wes Hoover, a 30-year oral cancer survivor (and the father of Austin Hoover of the DDS Class of 2012), addressed the crowd to share his story of being a young husband and father of six who battled the disease not once but twice.

WOCA was staffed by predoctoral dental students who were advised and assisted by members of the school's administration throughout a year-long event preparation process. The event also was supported by the volunteerism of more than 50 UCLA pre-dental students, dental students and staff. Dean No-Hee Park allocated seed funding for the event, and Delta Dental supported the student organizers as their major corporate sponsor.

Congratulations are due to Ryan Gustafson, '12 who secured first place with a race time of 22:37. Kirk Morris, '11 took second place and Dr. Joan Pi-Anfruns came in third to score the title of first non-dental student finisher. The Class of 2011 raised $1,490, winning the class participation contest.

Most important, WOCA raised more than $17,000 in registration fees and donor and sponsor support. The proceeds will be used to support student activities ranging from oral cancer research to future awareness and cancer screening events.

For a detailed list of supporters and other information, visit the WOCA website.
UCLA ASDA Chapter and Member Win National Recognitions

The UCLA ASDA Chapter was recognized in March as the 2011 National Ideal ASDA Chapter at ASDA’s 2011 Annual Session held at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim. This is a very special award that recognizes the chapter’s extraordinary record of leadership in organized dentistry and advocacy on behalf of all students. And it is a repeat honor for UCLA ASDA which also won the title in 2010. The Ideal ASDA Chapter Awards Program was created in 1996 to honor achievements by ASDA chapters in 12 separate categories including membership and communications, advocacy, fundraising, activities, pre-dental involvement, and ethics. Each year, the one chapter that excels in each category is awarded the overall Ideal ASDA Chapter Award. This year’s selection committee received a total of 27 applications.

Additionally, UCLA’s ASDA chapter also received recognition in the ASDA Journalism Awards for its newsletter, The Diastema News, and its recently redesigned website, BruinASDA.com.

Congratulations also are due to Tim O’Brien of the Class of 2012 for winning the Outstanding ASDA News Article Award for his essay, “Dentistry Outside the Box and the Cage.”

Sapna Lohiya Honored By the American Society For Dental Ethics

Sapna Lohiya of the DDS Class of 2013 has been awarded one of two Ozar-Hasegawa Dental Ethics Awards for 2011 by the American Society for Dental Ethics. This award is named for Professor David Ozar (Loyola University) and the late Dr. Thomas Hasegawa, Jr. (Baylor College of Dentistry) and is presented to a dental or dental hygiene student based on an essay that is the product of careful ethical reflection. Sapna’s submission was entitled “Domestic Violence Dilemma in the Dental Clinic” and was selected from a large field of applicants. Sapna received a cash award and will see her essay published in a future issue of the ASDE Newsletter.

Students Win ADEA Poster Competition

The team of Daniel Johnson, Jason Scott and James Blackburn, members of the Class of 2013, won first place in the American Dental Education Association Student Poster Competition at the recent Annual Session of the Association in San Diego. Their poster was entitled "A Cross-section Analysis of NBDE Part I Transition to Pass/Fail: Grade-based vs. Pass-Fail Dental Schools."

Students Recognized At IADR/AADR Meeting

William Cheng, a student in the Class of 2012, won an American Association for Dental Research (AADR) Bloc Travel Award. The awards are made possible by a grant from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) to support travel for dental students to the 89th General Session & Exhibition of the IADR for the purpose of presenting scientific papers.

Rajita Kodali Kanuru of the UCLA Geriatric Dentistry Fellowship Program won first place in the 2011 Arthur R. Frechette Research Awards in Prosthodontics for her work on implants. The award recognizes original research by new investigators. It is sponsored by the Prosthodontics Group of the IADR and supported by the Whip Mix Corporation and carries a cash prize of $1,000.
Students Elected To the Academy Of Operative Dentistry

This February, the Division of Restorative Dentistry sponsored 29 UCLA predoctoral dental students and postgraduate students so that they could attend the 40th Annual Meeting of the Academy of Operative Dentistry. Students from the Classes of 2011, 2012 and 2013 joined the organization and participated in two days of essay sessions and table clinic presentations. The Academy of Operative Dentistry, which maintains a membership of more than 1,000 educators, clinicians and scientists from 55 countries, counts school facult members Drs. William Morgan, Sacha Dybnis, Edmond Hewlett, Esteban Bonilla, Christina David, Cristina Lopez, Colby Smith, Lillian Cheng, Jane Rafela, Amy Tran, Michael Capio, Todd Schoenbaum, Rueben Kim, and Richard Stevenson among its ranks. This marked the third time that UCLA has sponsored students to attend the organization's annual meeting.
Faculty Selected As First Recipients Of the IADR/Academy Of Osseointegration Innovation In Implant Sciences Award

Graduate Students And Faculty Win Additional Awards

Dr. Min Lee, assistant professor of biomaterials, and his co-investigators, Dr. Benjamin Wu, associate professor and vice chair of bioengineering, and Dr. Tara Aghaloo, associate professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery, have been selected as the first recipients of the IADR/Academy of Osseointegration Innovation in Implant Sciences Award. The award is intended to advance scientific knowledge in the field of implant dentistry and tissue engineering, and will be provided in the form of an unrestricted grant.

Dr. Lee’s proposal was entitled “A Novel Computer-Designed, Biomimetic Scaffold for Bone Regeneration” and was selected from a competitive, international field of applicants. The award was presented to Dr. Lee at the IADR’s 89th General Session in San Diego on Wednesday, March 16, 2011—a banner day for UCLA as no fewer than seven awards were presented to our faculty, graduate students and postgraduate scholars.

Jeffrey Kim, a graduate student in Dr. David Wong’s lab, received second place awards in both the AADR/Johnson & Johnson Hatton Competition in the American Division and the IADR/Unilever Hatton Competition in the International Division.

Ronald Siu, a Graduate Student of Dr. Kang Ting, received the first place award in the AADR/Johnson & Johnson Hatton Competition in the American Division.

Yunsong Liu, a postgraduate scholar in oral biology in Dr. Cun-Yu Wang’s laboratory, received second place in the AADR/Johnson & Johnson Hatton Competition in the American Division.

Jin Hee Kwak, a resident in the Orthodontics International Program, received an IADR/Colgate Research in Prevention Travel Award.

Dr. David Wong, Felix and Mildred Yip Professor in Dentistry, associate dean for research, and director of the Dental Research Institute, received the GSK/IADR Oral Health Innovation Award.

This year’s AADR Honorary Member is Dr. Ronald Andersen, Wasserman Professor Emeritus at UCLA. Dr. Anderson developed the Behavioral Model of Health Sciences Use which has been used extensively nationally and internationally as a framework for utilization and cost studies of general populations as well as special studies of minorities, low-income patients, children, women, the elderly, the homeless, and the HIV-positive population. He has directed three national surveys of access to care and has led numerous evaluations of local and regional populations and program to promote access to medical care.
Dental School Receives $2.4 Million HRSA Grant For Community Health And Advocacy Training Program In Pediatric Dentistry

The UCLA School of Dentistry received a five-year, $2.4 million grant from the Health Services and Resource Administration (HSRA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to support the continued expansion of its postdoctoral Community Health and Advocacy Training Residency Program in Pediatric Dentistry (CHAT-PD).

Directed by pediatric dentistry professor Dr. Francisco Ramos-Gomez, the program is dedicated to the education and training of pediatric dentists who not only provide high-quality comprehensive care in diverse clinical settings but also act as catalysts for improving oral health care delivery at the local, state and national levels. A link to the full story is available [here](#).

For more news of new grants won by dental school faculty, visit [this page](#).

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Dr. Aghaloo Interviewed By American Association For Dental Research

Dr. Tara Aghaloo, an associate professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery, was interviewed by the American Association for Dental Research in its March 11, 2011 issue. Dr. Aghaloo elaborated on her background, specifically her path to a career in academics as a clinician scientist, and offered sound advice to students considering careers in research. The full interview is available [online](#).

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Local Fox News Spotlights Dr. David Wong's Innovative Research In Salivary Diagnostics

Dr. David Wong, Felix and Mildred Yip Endowed Professor in Dentistry, was interviewed January 20, 2011 by Fox News 11 concerning his innovative research in the field of salivary diagnostics. A video of the news story is available online at the [FOX LA](#) site.

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Dr. Hewlett Quoted By Naples News And Southern California Public Radio

Dr. Edmond Hewlett, associate professor at the UCLA School of Dentistry, was quoted January 21, 2011 in an article in Florida's Naples News about Americans seeking low-cost dentistry in Latin America. The full article is available [online](#).

Dr. Hewlett also contributed to Southern California Public Radio’s show Airtalk in a story entitled “Is the mercury in your teeth a health hazard?” The story is available [online](#).
Dr. McLaren Reported On In Montana’s *Missoulian*

Montana’s *Missoulian* reported January 21, 2011 on a recent presentation by Dr. Ed McLaren, director of UCLA’s Center for Esthetic Dentistry, in which he illustrated ceramic inlays and onlays and other aspects of aesthetic dentistry. The full article is available online.

Dr. Smith Awarded First Place In American Prosthodontic Society’s 2011 Table Clinic Competition

Dr. Colby Smith, a lecturer in the Division of Restorative Dentistry and the Director of the Wilson-Jennings-Bloomfield UCLA Venice Dental Center Advanced Education in General Dentistry program, was awarded first place during the 83rd Meeting of the American Prosthodontic Society’s 2011 Table Clinic Competition in the non-member category. His presentation was entitled “Treating the TMD Emergency with Immediate Fabrication of an Occlusal Splint Appliance.”
## New Grants

Awards on record for the period 7/01/2010 - 3/07/2011

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<th>PI Name</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Total Budget</th>
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<td>Tara Aghaloo/Serge Baltayan</td>
<td>AMERICAN ACADEMY OF IMPLANT DENTISTRY RESEARCH FOUNDATION</td>
<td>THE RELIABILITY OF RADIOFREQUENCY ANALYSIS IN DETERMINING SURGICAL PLACEMENT AND LOADING PROTOCOLS OF ENDOSEOUS IMPLANTS</td>
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<td>STUDENT RESEARCH TRAINING AWARD</td>
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<td>WENDY WILL CASE CANCER FUND, INC.</td>
<td>MEMBRANE PROTEIN BIOMARKERS FOR HEAD AND NECK CANCER</td>
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<td>ROLE OF ORAL MUCOSA IN BISPHOSPHONATE RELATED OSTEONECROSIS OF THE JAW</td>
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<td>Yong Kim</td>
<td>CIRM</td>
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<td>INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR DENTAL RESEARCH</td>
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<td>Honghu Liu</td>
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<td>INFANT ORAL CARE CLINIC OF SIMMS MANN</td>
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<td>J. CRAIG VENTER INSTITUTE</td>
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<td>Vladimir Spolsky</td>
<td>DELTA DENTAL PLANS ASSN (INCL CA, MINN, OTHER STATE PLANS)</td>
<td>REDUCING MICROBIAL LEVELS IN HIGH CARIES RISK ADULTS</td>
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<td>Cun-Yu Wang/ Eric Tang</td>
<td>NIH/NIDCR</td>
<td>MOLECULAR REGULATION OF THE INVASIVE GROWTH OF ORAL CANCER BY YAP</td>
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<td>ENGINEERING CAPILARY NETWORKS (UCLA)</td>
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<td>SALIVARY BIOMARKERS FOR EARLY DETECTION OF BREAST CANCER</td>
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Award-Winning Staff Members

Congratulations to Marissa Heredia (pictured, left) and Rosa Hernandez (pictured, right) for being named, respectively, 2010’s Outstanding Staff Member and Supervisor of the Year!

As the administrative assistant in the Westwood Predoctoral Dental Clinic, Marissa fulfills many roles—and always with a smile. She serves as a go-to person for faculty, staff and student questions, administers the clinic volunteer program, drafts thoughtfully tailored recommendation letters for dental school applicants, manages dental students’ lab cases and supports the clinic director. Marissa was recognized for her competence, responsiveness and courteous personality.

Rosa Hernandez ordinarily serves the dental school in the role of administrative specialist in the Advanced Education in General Dentistry Clinic. The school does not recognize a supervisor’s work on an annual basis; the awards committee sets the bar high, looking for a person who truly exhibits leadership. In 2010, Rosa offered to step into a difficult situation, rolling up her sleeves to resolve problems when, through a series of unexpected circumstances, staffing fell to only one front office employee in one of our clinics. Rosa ably juggled her regular duties and her adopted ones, demonstrating concern for the patients’ welfare and modeling teamwork for her fellow employees.

We thank Marissa and Rosa for their hard work and dedication to the UCLA School of Dentistry.
Transitioning From Litigator To Liaison, Vina Chin Joins the Dean's Administrative Team

Vina Chin joined the UCLA School of Dentistry in mid-February as the new assistant dean of administration and external relations. Formerly an attorney, she handled civil litigation cases—everything from business concerns and employment issues to real estate matters and contract disputes—during her legal career. However, after more than 13 years, Vina felt ready for a new environment and new challenges. Her interest in finding a truly congenial working environment led her to the UCLA website where she found the advertisement for her current position on the very last day that it was live.

Vina was encouraged by the fact that the job description called for someone with a legal background who had practiced law. It was evident to her that the school was looking for someone who could tackle a variety of issues and act as a resource for the school.

These days, Vina is enjoying her new relationship to laws and policies. She sees her role as that of "a liaison, a facilitator between the dental school and campus counsel and the other experts on campus." Still, she has not completely abandoned the legal world as her external relations responsibilities utilize her analytical skills and include negotiating the dental school's agreements with outside entities.

Fulfilling the administrative aspect of her title, Vina also manages the facilities and human resources operations at the dental school. "Litigation is not a social profession and the practice of litigating is, of course, inherently contentious. I'm enjoying the variety in my day-to-day activities and also the interaction with people that comes with working at the dental school."

An Interview With Former Assistant Dean Michelle Popowitz

Michelle Popowitz was a member of the dental school community for nine years, first as special assistant to the dean and then as the assistant dean of administration and external affairs. She joined the vice chancellor's office as assistant vice chancellor for research this past January.

As special assistant to the dean, Michelle tackled projects such as the annual report, Dentistry Magazine and the launch of the Postgraduate Program for International Dentists. Michelle recalls that she never had a dull day as assistant dean of administration and external affairs, and was challenged until the day she left. We had a chance to ask Michelle a few questions about her time at Dentistry as well as her new UCLA role.

How did your time at Dentistry equip you for this position?
This is a great question. At the School of Dentistry, I learned about our school and about the campus by addressing issues that arose while I was there. Based on my Dentistry projects, I definitely left the school with more expertise in the areas of human resources and facilities than knowledge about the nuances of research on campus. What I have brought to the table, however, is a departmental perspective of the campus and awareness of central resources (people, systems and applications) across units that I never would have had if my first job had been in a central office.

What are you striving to achieve in your new role?
I want to support Vice Chancellor Economou's commitment to increase research and scholarship across campus. I look forward to supporting new initiatives, introducing new tools to enhance collaboration across units, and developing more innovative ways to increase communication about opportunities and successes.

What would you consider your greatest success to date?
My greatest success so far is the use of CCLE (Moodle) to create a collaboration website for connecting researchers across campus in association with the Transdisciplinary Seed Grant opportunity. I reached out to campus CCLE/Moodle experts who gave generously of their time to help me implement this new site. The new website was featured in UCLA Today. Check it out and register to participate at https://ccle.ucla.edu/course/view.php?name=TSGF.

What do you miss most about the dental school thus far?
This is an easy question...the people (faculty, staff and students) with whom I worked -- those whom I saw daily and those whom I saw only briefly in the hallway on a periodic basis. My new office is on the second floor of Murphy Hall (room 2248) in the same building as the dental school. It's still under construction, but I'm looking forward to having a more spacious, private workspace.
I saw you briefly in the hallway on a periodic basis. My new office is on the second floor of Murphy Hall (Room 2248) in the same suite as Professor Kathryn Atchison. Please visit when you are nearby!
New Community Members

New Academic And Staff Appointments

The dental school made a number of new hires in the fall and winter quarters of academic and fiscal year 2010-2011. For a list of actions taken by the Academic Personnel Office, click here. For a list of the actions taken by Staff Human Resources, click here. The school welcomes the new members of the community.

School Creates New Staff Positions

To improve day-to-day operations, the dental school recently created two new staff positions.

Lauren Gambon fills the role of environmental health & safety specialist for the dental school. Lauren oversees infection control, clinical and research laboratory safety, incident reporting, AED inspections, and safety and CPR training. She also serves as a liaison to the main campus Environmental Health & Safety unit.

As the postgraduate program coordinator and international advisor, Erin Hakim is responsible for coordinating admissions for the postgraduate training programs and the preceptorship programs in addition to visas for the school’s international population.

Dental School Family Welcomes New Babies

Patricia Crisantos-Alvarez and her husband Fernando Alvarez are the proud parents of their first daughter, Sarah Elizabeth (pictured, top), born October 4, 2010 right across the street at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center. Sarah was welcomed to her family by her equally proud four-year-old brother, Nicholas David.

Dr. Mo Kang and his wife and son welcomed a baby girl, Chloe (pictured, bottom), to their family in January 2011.

Dr. Yagiela became a grandfather to four children—two girls and three boys—in 2010.

Dr. Felsenfeld and Evelyn Marques also welcomed new grandchildren to their families in recent months.