



District XIII International College of Dentists
California News
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Reflections from Uganda: Dr. Carliza Marcos

Dr. Carliza Marcos joined Dr. Jean Creasy and seven other female dentists to the Bwindi region of Uganda to work with Creasy’s physician Dr. Scott Kellerman and his wife Carol in November 2019.

The Batwa pygmy population in the Batwa region is a marginalized ‘forest people’ from the same forests of Diane Fossey’s *Gorillas in the Mist*. They had been evicted from the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest by the Ugandan government in 1994. The Bwindi Community Hospital, funded by the Kellerman Foundation, serves over 250,000 patients annually. It is one of the best medical facilities in East Africa.

Dr. Creasy had encouraged the volunteers: “Come with me to the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest of Uganda. Bring an open heart and help these people!” So these dentists traveled to the villages of southwest Uganda.

They provided extractions, placed sealants, applied SDF, and delivered many toothbrushes. Now a new dental clinic is being built next to the hospital, where it will also be used as a training facility and will offer a rural externship.



Dr. Huong Le

Community dental award for Dr. Huong Le
The American Association for Community Dental Programs has bestowed its Myron Allukian Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Contributions in Community Dental Programs to Huong Le, DDS, MA, for 2020. Dr. Le had been dental director at two health centers before she became the inaugural chief dental officer for Asian Health Services. Under Dr. Le’s leadership, AHS increased access to integrated health care to over 27,000 patients with 11 languages spoken. She led the formation of the first stand-alone dental and wellness center. In 2019 she initiated another innovative integrated care model that tests dental patients’ hemoglobin A1c.
After immigrating to the United States from Vietnam in 1975, Le completed dental studies at the University of Texas, including post graduate training in hospital dentistry and a master’s degree in health education.

Herbert K. Yee receives the Ottogy-Okumura award

In 2018 Dr. Herbert K. Yee of Sacramento was named recipient of the Ottogy-Okumura award, but he was unable to attend our annual meeting that year or last year in San Francisco. The Ottogy-Okumura Award given by the International College of Dentists is the highest award given to an individual approved by our International Council. On October 4, 2019, Regent Henrik Hansen and Counselor Don Rollofson traveled to Dr. Yee's home to present the award.



A fuller accounting of Dr. Yee's achievements is in our 2019 *Key*, but your editor would like to emphasize some of them. Between 1947 and 1977, the ICD office had no contact with its 17 Chinese Fellows. In the 1970s, Herb visited China, a rare feat for an American at that time. His visit and subsequent communications also helped establish the Vietnam Region of the ICD later in 1996-97.

Dr. Yee served as USA Section President in 1985 and as ICD Worldwide President 1995-96. He was awarded the lifetime Humanitarian Award from the American College of Dentists and the California Dental Association Foundation in 2018. A US Army veteran, Yee committed himself to a lifetime of generosity and service that reaches far beyond dentistry. The Yee family established the Dr. Herbert and Inez Yee Foundation, which supports more than 30 nonprofits in Sacramento.



Dr. Ronald E. Fritz, flanked by two other ICD volunteers, receives the Presidential Citation plaque after the fellow orientation program at the annual meeting in San Francisco. Dr. Fritz states "It is an honor to be asked to give these CE courses on how to undertake a mission project, and, now, to receive this honorable recognition."

Congratulations, Dr. Fritz

The American College of Dentists acknowledged the enormous contributions in education, research and leadership that **Dr. Charles J. Goodacre** has made to our profession by awarding Dr. Goodacre the **2019 William John Gies Award**.

Passages.....



Wayne Del Carlo, a USA Section Foundation and Section leader. Dr. Del Carlo was a Foundation Trustee, Secretary and Vice President, as well as a USA Section Regent and International Councilor. Dr. Margaret M. Culotta-Norton, Foundation President stated “He was instrumental in the restructure of the USA Foundation, which contributes to the success of the mission today. He will be deeply missed.” Roxana Del Carlo also took a great interest in the Foundation. Over 160 free dental examinations for Peace Corps volunteers took place in his office.

Although Wayne Del Carlo had many interests inside and outside of dentistry, he always had time to be a mentor to me. Your editor encloses this personal tribute:

It was 1978, and I was settling into my first solo private practice. Frustrated with repeated Denti-Cal denials of payment for an immediate denture, I turned to the San Francisco Dental Society for advice.

The executive director took my information and said that a volunteer would soon call me. The next day I received the call. He interviewed me thoroughly and pledged to try and help. I never knew what he did. I only knew that his name was Wayne Del Carlo and that I soon received my payment.

About ten years later, this same Dr. Del Carlo called me and persuaded me to run for the board of directors. I ran and I won. Wayne was always there to counsel me as I became more involved in the society. For instance, he prepared me diligently on how the CDA HOD functions before my first state meeting.

A few years later, I became president of the SFDS. One memorable evening I was presiding at a special meeting of the board on making an offer to buy a building of our own. As the meeting came to a close, I noticed Wayne holding up something in a plain brown paper bag and soundlessly trying to get my attention. Afterwards, he privately handed me a gift: a bottle of Chivez Regal. I believe it was the most touching and sensitive gift I ever received from a male friend. Not because of the whiskey itself, but because it told me that he knew the emotional toll the building project had taken on me, and that he knew I probably needed a drink. I always remembered that moment.

I vaguely remember years ago his daughter and I agreeing that her father was an organizational junkie. Yes, Wayne Del Carlo always seemed driven and focused on the health and condition of organized dentistry.

And didn't we all benefit that he was.

Dennis Shinbori, whose contributions to dentistry are numerous and varied. A few of them are:

- SFDS Annual Children's Poster Contest founder
- recipient of the SFDS Award of Merit for Exemplary Service 2015
- Co-chair of the SFDS 150th anniversary gala 2019
- Faculty Emeritus at the University of the Pacific
- 2019 Chair of the ADA Committee of Local Arrangements

Many thanks to Dr Richard Roadcap, ICD USA editor, and Dr. Michael Bydalek, ICD Foundation Treasurer, for their published comforting and encouraging words to all ICD Fellows. Your message gave us all solace during these trying times dealing with the pandemic and the consequent upheaval in our lives. Many thanks also to Dr. Gehani at ADA and Dr. Nagy at CDA for your perseverance on behalf of all dentists and our patients.

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