



Leadership awards for students 2011

Our awards breakfast in Anaheim in May recognized:

- **Rachelle Joy Magtanong-Madrid, UOP**
- **Kevin Yen, USC**
- **Ralitza Verlakova, LLU**
- **Sharin A. Mullen, UCSF**
- **Andrew Michael Read-Fuller, UCLA**

The thirteenth district presented a monetary award of \$500 to accompany the student leadership plaque.

Also honored were 15 and 25 year fellows.

Dr. Natasha Lee in Peru and Fijiand Oakland

By: Natasha Lee DDS

My typical patients are educated, tech-savvy, healthy, 30-something. Although oral health may not be their highest priority, they generally have the means and avenues to receive care should they choose to do so. This was the narrow limit of my experience as a private practice dentist living and working in San Francisco. But that changed a couple of years ago when a group of my students at the University of the Pacific Arthur A. Dugoni School of dentistry approached me to accompany them on a dental outreach trip to Peru.



Dr. Lee at the Peruvian orphanage

After the students worked extremely hard to raise donations of dental supplies, planned the travel, connected with the Rotary Club International in Peru, and gathered a dedicated group of students and volunteer dentists, we found ourselves in Lima. Our volunteer group was divided up into small groups and local volunteers drove us to various locations around the city. We had no idea what to expect.

Board of Regents meet in Oregon

The spring 2011 Board of Regents meeting was held at the Allison Inn and Spa in Newberg, Oregon, May 11-14, 2011. Over thirty committees and individuals presented reports to the Board of Regents. USA Section President Jack W. Clinton presided over the meeting. District 13 Regent Wayne Del Carlo and wife Roxanna attended the meeting.

ICD Fellows honored in Anaheim:

25 year fellows:

- James M. Crawford
- William N. Danzig
- Charles G. Eller
- Kenneth Frank Fat
- William E. Frey
- Steven M. Goldman
- Luke H. Iwata
- Paul M. Johnson
- L. Neil Loveridge
- Irvin L. Marcus
- Robert M. Smith
- Robert Stuart

15 year fellows:

- R. Leslie Arnett
- Ernest SF Evans
- Joseph F. Goodsell
- Heidi Hausauer
- William C. Jaques
- Kenneth Lange
- Douglas M. Mellion
- Jeffrey J. Moses
- James L. Peck

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I ended up in the office of a local dentist who was a Rotarian and had opened up her office to us to provide care to children aged 5 through 16 who had arrived on foot and waited outside all day hoping to be seen by a dentist. The office was extremely humble compared to any facility I had encountered at home, and to meet the growing line of kids outside, we set up fold-out chairs, used flashlights, and had patients spit into paint buckets on the floor to accommodate the many patients who needed extractions. We later found out that the kids we treated all day were orphans and we were invited to the all boys' orphanage after we finished work.

Upon entering the courtyard surrounded by twenty-foot high cement walls, we were tentative with the boys who curiously approached the four of us visitors from all directions. But once we became aware that we had nothing to be nervous about, we realized just how much these boys were starved for love and attention. They simply wanted to have their hands held as they walked with us around the grounds. We brought a soccer ball and they were thrilled to kick the ball around with us. We took pictures of the kids making funny faces with us and giggled together as they delighted in looking at their images played back on our digital cameras.

We traveled to Cusco next and worked out of a Rotary Club clinic where we treated girls and young women from a women's shel-

ter. Here, instead of the usual dismay a mother displays when told her child needs many permanent teeth taken out due to caries, I was met with hugs of gratitude with the promise of stopping her child's pain. I met a 12-year-old girl who had escaped an abusive household and was living in the shelter. She had a newborn baby of her own in her arms.

Because of my experiences in Peru and feeling an overwhelming sense of pride in seeing my students do good, two years later I traveled to Fiji, again with another group of dental students. A dentist had built a makeshift dental clinic in a community center in Moala Village. We treated hundreds of patients each day for a week and fluoride varnished what seemed like every person for miles around. The villagers lived in houses without windows, doors, and often walls. They had encountered two hurricanes weeks before our arrival. They walked to and from work and school through the cane fields, chewing on the sugar cane. Caries were rampant, nutrition was poor, and high blood pressure and diabetes in young adults was the norm.

Like the people of Cusco who showed their gratitude by honoring us with a ceremony where the governor dedicated a day of the year to us, the villagers of Moala sang and danced and celebrated with us by having us share in their kava ritual. The amount of gratitude was overwhelm-

Do and we'll stay with me for a lifetime.

But just a couple of months ago my hygienists and dental assistants met me at my house before dawn. This time we didn't have to travel very far to provide charitable dental care to those in need. We drove 25 minutes to Oakland where we donated our time to the Remote Area Medical event that was put on in conjunction with the California Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. People had wanted in line outside in the cold all night to get a ticket to access the free medical and dental services provided by local volunteers. Here, members of the charitable Tzu Chi Foundation were singing and dancing. But the song I heard this time wasn't foreign to me at all...it was God Bless America.

It took my traveling half way around the world to have my eyes and heart opened to experiencing the joy of donation my dental skills and service to those in extreme need. But right here in my own backyard, I have found the same rewarding experiences of a mother hugging me in gratitude for stopping her child's pain. Our global community reaches far and wide and people without means and access to oral healthcare aren't just abroad, they are here at home and one really doesn't have to go far to find such amazing opportunities to do the right thing.



Dr. Lee at Remote Area Medical



Dr. Lee with Dr. Russ Webb



Dr. Lee with a Peruvian friend.

Cont.

15 year fellows:

- Jeffrey E. Parsons
- Bevan Richardson
- Michael R. Ricupito
- Eugene Sekiguchi
- Wayne K. Tanaka
- Cornelis J.P. Van Der Wal
- Edward A. Watson

International College of Dentists
USA Section Annual Convocation and Dinner Dance
October 10, 2011

Our ICD Convocation and Induction ceremony begins at 1 pm on Monday, October 10, 2011, in the North Convention Center of the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino. Our social event will be that evening in the ballroom of the center.

Information on registration is available on our website:www.usa-icd.org.

Donna B. Hurowitz, DDS
490 Post Street 1620
San Francisco, CA 94102