



Pitt Dental Medicine Update

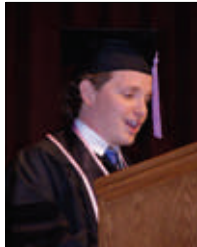
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2007 Diploma Ceremony and Alumni Reception



First row, left: First professional graduates rise to sing the alma mater. Right: First professional graduates Dr. John Matta, Dr. Deepak Devarajan and Dr. Brittny Franklin pose for a photo.



Above, left to right: Ms. Ashley Senczy, Dental Hygiene Program valedictorian; Dr. Nathan McKeta, First Professional Program valedictorian; and Dr. Richard Gradisek, Dental Alumni Association president.

The Diploma Ceremony and Alumni Reception was held on May 19th at 1 p.m. in Heinz Hall. From the engaging speeches to the gorgeous summer weather, the event boasted an air of excitement. Eighteen residents, 88 first professional and 30 dental hygiene students walked in the ceremony.

A reception was held in the hall's courtyard where many families and alumni congratulated the new graduates.

Postdoctoral students represent SDM at Data and Dine



From left to right: Dr. Ariadne Letra, Dr. Renato Silva, Dr. Puiyan Lee and Dr. Manika Govil.

Each of the four postdoctoral students at the School of Dental Medicine participated in the Second Annual Postdoctoral Data & Dine Symposium, hosted by the University's Postdoctoral Association (UPPDA) on May 17th in the William

Pitt Union. Dr. Steven Wendell, research assistant professor in the Department of Oral Biology and assistant director of postdoctoral development in the Office of Academic Career Development, also was honored with the 2007 UPPDA Postdoctoral Alumni Award for his contributions to the UPPDA.

Upcoming Events

General Assembly and WHITE COAT CEREMONY

Welcome the
incoming classes
for 2007-2008!

August 27th
3 p.m.

Auditoriums 5 & 6
Scaife Hall

Your support is needed!
For more information
about supporting this
special event, please call
Ms. Nancy Poe at
412-648-8910.



2007 Senior Awards Reception & Research Symposium

On May 16th the class of 2007 gathered to recognize its members who were honored with awards for their accomplishments as part of the First Professional Program. Also recognized were faculty and staff by each of the four classes in the First Professional Program.



Omicron Kappa Upsilon Awardees from left to right, upper row: Dr. Richard Bauer; Dr. Brittny Franklin; Dr. Nicole Falchini; Dr. Ryan Hagan; Dr. Nicholas Piesco; Dr. Steven Iszkula; and Dr. Jarrette Kalp. Lower row: Dr. Nathan McKeta; Dr. Alicia McClung; Dr. Yu-Tien Lin; and Dr. Mark Zeigler.

Earlier that day, the

Annual Spring Research Symposium took place in Scaife Hall's

auditorium 6 with invited speaker, Dr. Brian Schutte, associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Iowa. Dr. Schutte presented Mining the Pits: Genetic Lessons from Van der Woude Syndrome. Genetic research was a common theme throughout the symposium which also featured presentations by recipients of the 2006 Dean's Summer Research



Dr. Brian Schutte

Scholarship Program as well as other student and faculty researchers. Unfortunately, the symposium was cut short due to a leak in the auditorium ceiling which caused a small portion of plaster to fall prior to the final presentation by postdoctoral student, Dr. Ariadne Letre. Dean Braun dismissed the symposium in the interest of preventing injuries to any speakers or attendees.

Congratulations to Dr. Deborah Polk, newly elected director within the International Association of Dental Research



Dr. Deborah Polk, assistant professor in the Department of Dental Public Health and Information Management, was recently elected as a first-year North American director of the Behavioral Sciences and Health Services Research Group of the International Association of Dental Research.

Dr. Deborah Polk

Her responsibilities include reviewing abstracts submitted for the IADR/AADR annual meeting. She has previously reviewed abstracts for several different conferences and welcomes the opportunity to review for BSHSR.

For questions, comments or suggestions, e-mail Kate Miller, Communications Specialist at keb70@dental.pitt.edu.

Congratulations to the 2007 Faculty and Staff Appreciation Awardees!



Mr. Norman Macher, Dr. Kelly Bolden and Mr. Jim Roskowski



Ms. Terri Piazza, Mr. Andrew Thompson and Dr. Andrew Nigra



Mr. Moody Wasif, Ms. Nadia Kasiniec and Dr. Marin Mandrajieff



Dr. Mark Mooney, Mr. Matthew Karski and Ms. Kristen Felsler

FACULTY AWARDS

Dr. John Baker
OKU Honorary Membership

Dr. William L. Chung
OKU Faculty Membership

Dr. Edward Heinrichs
AAP for Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring in Periodontics

Dr. Jean A. O'Donnell
OKU Faculty Membership

Dr. Richard W. Rubin, DDS, MPH
Innovation in Education