Department News

Welcome to the Friends and Alumni of the LSUSD Department of Pediatric Dentistry!

This spring has been busy as we have had the opportunity to reconnect with alumni! With the support of our alumni, all of our residents were able to travel to San Diego for the AAPD Meeting! In addition to presenting their posters and attending courses, the residents were able to meet our alumni at various social events. Thanks to planning by Drs. Darshan Dabir and Via Cuisia, the LSU Alumni Reception was a great success! Thanks also to Dr. Don Donaldson for his generous financial support of the reception!

Louisiana AAPD committee representatives include Dr. Brynn Leroux, District V member on the Council on Dental Benefits Programs; Dr. Janice Townsend, Scientific Program Committee; Dr. John Hendry, at-large trustee; and Dr. Robert Delarosa, past-District V trustee and current secretary/treasurer.

This April the second-year residents presented their research at the Advanced Education Research Day:

- Dr. C. Marc Jones – “Hydrolytic Stability of Icon Resin Infiltrant”
- Dr. Christen Massey – “A Retrospective Study of Dental Trauma in a Pediatric Emergency Room”
- Dr. Jordan Prieto – “Dentin Remineralizing Effects of F-Containing NovaMin-Based Dentrifrice Extract”
- Dr. Michael Von Gruben – “The Effect of a Post-Operative Follow-up Phone Call on

Alumnus Dr. Darshan Dabir, Dr. Josh Parker and first-year resident Dr. Erin Maturin at the Alumni Reception.
Parental Satisfaction Following Children’s Dental Treatment”

As the Dental and Dental Hygiene Class of 2012 graduated, the department was proud of incoming resident Dr. Katie McClendon. Dr. McClendon was honored with the AAPD Predoctoral Student Award, the Academy of Dental Materials Award, and the LSU School of Dentistry Honors in Research Award. Graduate Dr. Renee Bourgeois received the Pediatric Outreach Award for her community service in pediatric dentistry.

The 2012 pediatric dentistry residents had a remarkable send-off this year. Thanks to the planning of Dr. Vincent Liberto, the residents had a lovely dinner at Ralph’s on the Park. We were fortunate to have LSUSD Dean Henry Gremillion, Dr. Alan Robson, Children’s Hospital medical director, and Dr. Eric Hovland, director of advanced education, join us for the celebration. It was also a great treat to have Mrs. Dottie Dummett join us in this send-off. Reflections on the graduating class emphasized their maturity, commitment to teamwork, and conscientious patient care. Please see the last page of the newsletter for biographies and future plans of the graduating residents.

We especially thank the following alumni for supporting all staff who wished to attend: Drs. Jill Donaldson, Tessa Smith, David Treff, Todd Brasuell, Brooke McCallum, Yunus Langha, and Priyanshi Ritwik.

The keynote speaker at the Advanced Education Graduation Ceremony was alumnus Dr. Ron Bell. His talk entitled, “A Three Minute Record” was a great reminder to the graduates about the importance of balancing a profession, friends, and family.

Alumni News

- Double congratulations to Dr. Johnnie Bond-Hunt! In addition to being a proud new mother, she was also named LDA New Dentist of the Year!
- Congratulations to new alumna Dr. Christen Massey on her marriage to Matt Sine this April.
- Congratulations to Dr. Claudia Cavallino on her successful term as New Orleans Dental Conference Chair! The conference featured a session on child abuse by Stacie Leblanc of the New Orleans CARE Center and a parenting talk by John Rosemond.
- Congratulations to alumna Dr. Elsa Echeverri on the graduation of her daughter, Valentina Echeverri, from LSU Law School this spring.
Congratulations to Gabriella Pineda, daughter of dental hygienist Maria Pineda, on her graduation from Syracuse University!

Congratulations to Dale Smith Jr, son of dental assistant Regina Smith, on his high school graduation!

September 14 and 15 – Dummett Memorial Lecture

Pediatric Dentistry Class of 2013
Dr. Marc Jones is from the small town of Franklin, North Carolina. He graduated from the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill in 2004 with a BS in biology and received his DMD from Boston University in 2010. Upon completion of his pediatric residency, Dr. Jones will join a private pediatric dental practice in Denver, Colorado.

Dr. Christen Massey, originally from New Orleans, returned here after living all over the world. She was recently married in April and honeymooned in Napa, California, as shown in the picture. She and husband Matt are looking forward to moving to the Woodlands with Christen’s parents and sister, who is expecting a baby boy. She’s excited to start a new job as an associate doctor at Pediatric Dental Specialists and Northwest Orthodontics with Drs. Carl Pittman, Craig Brown, and Jerry Gilliam in Spring, Texas and move into a new home... but she will miss New Orleans and all her friends at LSU Pedo!! She will be back to visit often!
**Dr. Jordan Prieto** came to us from California. He majored in biology at California State University-Fresno, where he played college baseball. He graduated magna cum-laude from Ostrow School of Dentistry at the University of Southern California. As a dental student, he received the Charles M. and Shirley Goldstein Endowed Community Service Award and the Thor Award for Outstanding Dedication and Service in providing dental care to underserved and disadvantaged children. He is excited to return to Fresno with brothers Jeff, Brett, and Brandon, sister-in-law Jamie, nephew Wyatt, niece Avery and grandparents Bob and Jane Bennett and Betty and Julio Prieto. He especially thanks his parents, Bob and Karen Prieto, for their support! Dr. Prieto will enter a private Pedo/Ortho practice in Fresno.

**Dr. Michael Von Gruben** is a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He completed his undergraduate and dental degrees at LSU. He is a loyal LSU alumnus and an avid Tiger sports fan. Dr. Von Gruben will be celebrating his fifth wedding anniversary this July with his wife, Rachel. They have two boys, Thomas and Joseph, and are expecting a baby girl this August. After completing his residency, Dr. Von Gruben will be staying in southeast Louisiana to practice pediatric dentistry. Dr. Von Gruben says he “feels truly blessed to be able to fulfill his lifelong dream of making a difference in the lives of children on a daily basis.”