Leigh Awarded Prestigious Fellowship

Janet Leigh, BDS, DMD, chair of the Department of Oral Medicine and Radiology, has been selected by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for one of its ten Health Policy Fellowships. The fellowship comes with an award of $165,000 to support a 12-month residency in Washington, D.C., where Dr. Leigh will actively participate in the policy process of congressional offices. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is considered one of the premier funders of public health programs in America.

“This fellowship is a tremendous honor and Dr. Leigh is most deserving,” said Dean Henry Gremillion. He went on to praise Dr. Leigh and her work caring for the HIV population in Louisiana. “For the past 15 years, she has blazed new trails. Her insight, efforts and intellect have been a driving force in the expansion of the service mission of the school of dentistry. I’ve observed her deep commitment to public health and I believe that what she will gain from the fellowship will ultimately benefit health care in a broad sense.”

Xavier Teens Focus on Dentistry

Thirty high school students from throughout America were hosted by 12 LSUSD faculty members as part of the Xavier University summer SOAR (Stress on Analytic Reasoning) program. Xavier regularly ranks first in the nation in placing African-American students into medical school. Since the 1970s, Xavier has developed several summer programs for junior and high school students as a way to recruit and prepare African Americans for a broad spectrum of health care professions.

The summer program centers on an intensive four-week schedule of classes and laboratory work in chemistry, biology and physics. The program is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and is an important recruitment tool for Xavier.

Small student groups were assigned to faculty members who, with the help of three dental students, demonstrated how to make impressions. This was followed by a tour of the school and a presentation on the profession of dentistry by Dr. John Ritchie, director of diversity and minority affairs. Dr. Ritchie provided details on the LSUSD summer enrichment program for college students, some of whom have come from Xavier.

Remembering Dr. Malbern N. Wilderman

Dr. Jaclyn Duboue, who received her certificate in periodontics in June, also received the Wilderman Award for “periodontal excellence in academics, clinical proficiency, meritorious research and exemplary interpersonal relationships.” The award is presented annually in honor of Dr. Malbern N. Wilderman, the first chairman of the LSUSD Department of Periodontics. It is sponsored by Dr. Ronald A. Monica to remember his friend and mentor. “He was a world-renowned periodontist and researcher,” said Dr. Monica, clinical associate professor in the department.

Yeadon to Head New Division

William Yeadon, DDS, will head the newly formed Division of Oral Diagnostic Medicine. This division represents a consolidation of the Department of Oral Medicine into the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry. The announcement was made by Dean Gremillion who said that Dr. Yeadon “understands how vital it is to assess the whole patient, from both a dental and medical perspective. He is excited about this transition and recognizes how the consolidation will complete the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry.”

Dr. Yeadon has been with the dental school for 24 years and is currently an associate professor.