Honoring Our Alumni

At Alumni Day 2015 on September 25, over 300 alumni and students gathered to celebrate the school’s progress after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. During the morning remarks, Dr. Trey Carlton, president of the LSUSD Alumni Association, welcomed attendees and Dean Henry Gremillion reviewed the numerous accomplishments in the ten years since the storm. Speakers included Markus Blatz, DMD, PhD, who presented a full-day course on ceramics in esthetic dentistry, and Lisa Marie Spradley, who spoke on the keys for a successful dental team. A reception capped the day’s events. Net proceeds from the day benefited the Alumni Association, whose aim is to advance the LSUSD mission.

As is tradition, three alumni were recognized for their achievements in the dental profession, and for their service to the community and the school. Dr. Robert Barsley received the Alumnus of the Year Award and Dr. John Hendry, the Distinguished Alumnus Award. A special Alumnus of the Year Award was also presented in memoriam to Dr. Raymond Unland.

Alumnus of the Year

Robert E. Barsley, Jr., DDS ’77, JD, is currently a professor in the LSUSD Department of Diagnostic Sciences and the director of Oral Health Resources and Community Dentistry. Leaving private practice in 1982, he joined the LSUSD faculty full-time and has since advanced to the rank of full professor.

He earned his JD degree from Loyola University in 1987 and was admitted to the Louisiana bar that same year. In 1987 he was named a Harry W. Bruce, Jr., Legislative Fellow by the American Association of Dental Schools (now ADEA). In 1998 he was selected as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Congressional Health Policy Fellow in the office of Senator John Breaux. He currently serves as a delegate to the American Dental Association (ADA) House of Delegates; he is a former chairman of the ADA Council on Access, Prevention, and Interprofessional Relations; and he is a former general chairman for local arrangements of the ADA Council on the Annual Session. A past speaker of the Louisiana Dental Association (LDA) House of Delegates and secretary/treasurer, he is currently president-elect of the LDA.

Dr. Barsley is on staff at the coroner’s office in both Orleans Parish and Jefferson Parish. He was a member of Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team Region VI, following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Distinguished Alumnus Award

John A. Hendry, DDS, 1977, Pediatric Dentistry ’79. Since 1980 Dr. Hendry has served as an adjunct gratis lecturer at the school. He achieved certification by the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry in 1986 and has been a member of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) for nearly 35 years. A national spokesperson for the AAPD, he has served on numerous committees. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees and on the executive board. He is a diplomate and fellow of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry and a fellow of the American College of Dentists, International College of Dentists, and the Academy of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities. He also serves as an examiner for the AAPD Oral Clinical Examination.

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Dr. Hendry was president and a founding board member of both the Federation of Special Care Organizations in Dentistry and the Academy of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities. He has been recognized for his many civic and professional contributions. For his lifetime service to children of special needs, he was awarded the AAPD Manny Album Award.

Alumnus of the Year—In Memoriam

Raymond Unland, Jr., DDS ’82, was dedicated to educating and mentoring dental students. He joined LSUSD as part-time clinical assistant professor in prosthodontics in 2007. During his general dentistry residency at LSUSD, he served as instructor in the general dentistry clinic, and he also taught second-year residents at Charity Hospital and Touro Infirmary from 1987 to 1990. In 1997 he began a series of lectures, “Starting Your Dental Practice,” for dental students.

A natural leader, Dr. Unland was committed to organized dentistry and the community. A champion for the disabled for over two decades, he served as president of the Dental Lifeline Network, which provides donated dental services to New Orleans area disabled, elderly and medically at-risk patients. In 1998 he received recognition for his service from the National Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped.

In memoriam

Raymond Unland, Jr., DDS