

University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine Messenger

January 2001

Xavier University Joins SDM's Accelerated Admissions Program

Building on its commitment to recruit a greater number of minority students, SDM recently signed an agreement with Xavier University of Louisiana to join the Biodental Program, the School's accelerated admissions program. Founded in 1915, Xavier is a historically black, Catholic university located in New Orleans.

"We are pleased to establish this formal affiliation with Xavier," notes Dean Raymond Fonseca. "As a national leader in the field of pre-health education, it is a strong addition to our Biodental Program."

Through the Biodental Program, students earn their undergraduate and DMD degrees in seven years. Participating students who successfully complete the academic requirements matriculate to SDM after the third year of their undergraduate education, receiving their baccalaureate degrees from their undergraduate institutions after successfully completing the first year of the dental curriculum. Students apply to the program through the participating undergraduate schools, but must meet SDM admissions and pre-matriculation requirements in order to enter the DMD program.

In an effort to extend the program to students who have already matriculated at Xavier, the agree-

ment also calls for identifying current students who demonstrate interest and academic potential for a career in dentistry. Xavier can then nominate these students for special consideration by SDM for the Pre-matriculation/Summer Enrichment Program, which will be offered to all Xavier Biodental Program participants to begin getting them involved with SDM faculty and activities. These students can then be considered for enrollment in either the seven-year Biodental Program or the School's regular admissions program.

"This is the first time we are working with a school in the program to identify strong dental school candidates from their student body," notes Dr. Fonseca. "We hope this initiative will enable us to increase the number of minority students who enter SDM through Xavier."

With the addition of Xavier, there are now seven undergraduate institutions involved in the Biodental Program. The other schools are Hampton University (Hampton, VA), also a historically black university; Lehigh University (Bethlehem, PA); Muhlenberg College (Allentown, PA); Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Troy, NY); University of Pennsylvania; and Villanova University (Villanova, PA). ■

SDM Reaches Out to West Philadelphia Children with Education, Screenings



Over the next four months, SDM students will provide oral health education, screenings, and referrals for hundreds of children in West Philadelphia through the School's participation in the University City and West Philadelphia Cluster Resource Boards. The Cluster Resource Board program is a partnership between Penn, other area institutions and businesses, and the School District of Philadelphia.

"The School District approached Penn, requesting dental services because the school dental hygienists' positions have been eliminated due to budget cuts and the children need the screening and educational services," explains Dr. Joan Gluch, Assistant Dean of Community Relations. "So, we have made the commitment to provide health promotion services to the elementary children in selected schools in each of the clusters." She and Dr. Herman Segal, Associate Dean of Community Relations, are the two faculty coordinators of the program.

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Student leaders at SDM are learning the ins and outs of School operations through a series of workshops focusing on the various administrative offices and their roles within the School.

“By giving student leaders a better understanding of the administrative structure of the School, we hope to cultivate their leadership skills and enable them to be more effective representatives of their fellow students and student organizations,” notes Associate Dean James Galbally, who presented the first workshop on the role and responsibilities of Resource Management. This series is an outgrowth of Dr. Galbally’s Graduate School of Education course on Management in Higher Education, which presents a similar overview of the School’s administration.

Launched in November, the series’ other presentations have addressed facilities with Jerry Friel and Karl Wellman and clinic management with Dr. Philip Giarraputo and Charlene Ziegler.

Those students invited to attend the leadership series include all class officers as well as the leaders of all school-wide student organizations, which amounts to approximately 25 students, according to Director of Student Affairs Sue Schwartz, who is organizing the program.

While at press time the dates for the next round of workshops had not been confirmed, the series is scheduled to resume in January. Future presentations will address fiscal operations and the budget, admissions, academic affairs, the Dean’s office, student affairs,

development, communications, and computer services.

“The idea is for the individual presenting to not only give an overview of his or her office, but also explain its interconnection with the other administrative offices within SDM and, if appropriate, the University at large,” notes Ms. Schwartz. “In addition, there is an effort to be responsive and address students’ concerns voiced in the meetings.

“Participants seem to be very appreciative of the administration’s interest in trying to give them a full view of the workings of the School,” she continues. “In many cases, students are surprised to learn of all the underpinnings involved in making the School run.” ■

SDM Reaches Out to West Philadelphia Children *(continued from page 1)*

Five elementary schools have been identified for this particular education and screening initiative. They include Martha Washington School at 44th and Aspen Streets, Lea School at 47th and Locust Streets, Bryant School at 60th Street and Cedar Avenue, McMichael School at 36th Street and Fairmount Avenue, and Mitchell School at 56th Street and Kingsessing Avenue. The first round of visits took place in November and December, with the second and third rounds slated for January/February and March/April. Each school is visited once in each round.

Under the direction of Drs. Gluch and Segal, students screen on average 35 to 40 children during each visit. In addition, the students provide education in at least one classroom. Referral services for individual children are also provided as appropriate, along with education and assistance to the school nurses, principals, and other administrators in helping to assure that the children get needed dental care.

The Penn Pediatric Dental Society has adopted this rotation with Amy Perillo (D’02) and Abigail Peterson (D’02) coordinating student

participation. “They have done fantastic jobs, and really should be commended for the program,” notes Dr. Gluch.

A total of nine third-year students participated in the first round of visits, including Ms. Perillo and Ms. Peterson, along with Joseph Spina, Stacey Yandoli, Audra Sciandra, Gina Sajani, Pushpa Sundareswaran, Meetu Kohli, Sharon Johnson, Deepa Patel, and Kelly Sauvageau.

“So far, the program has gone extremely well,” adds Dr. Gluch. “We are achieving our multiple goals of educating dental students regarding the real-life world of school children and how to complete classroom education and oral health screening programs, while also providing much-needed services to school children who may not have access to oral health education and dental care.”

Students interested in participating in the program are encouraged to contact Dr. Gluch, gluchj@pobox.upenn.edu, Ms. Perillo, perillo@dolphin.upenn.edu, or Ms. Peterson, abquinn@dolphin.upenn.edu. ■

8 SDM Students Receive Scholarships

In addition to the more than \$2 million in need- and merit-based scholarships awarded by the School, scholarships from various national and regional sources are helping to offset the educational expenses and acknowledge the accomplishments of SDM students.

Scholarship recipients include the following:

- Georgina Merlo (D'04) who received a scholarship awarded by the Hispanic Dental Association Foundation and Procter & Gamble Company.

- Edward Weideman, Anthony Eltink, Jonathan Voiner, and Barbara MacNeill (all in the Class of 2002) received scholarships from the William Goldman Foundation

- Roel Gonzalez (D'03) received an ADA Minority Dental Student Scholarship, provided by the ADA Endowment and Assistance Fund, Inc., the ADA Health Foundation, and corporate sponsors (Colgate-Palmolive, Oral-B Laboratories USA, and Procter & Gamble Company).

- Timothy Leung (D'03) was awarded support from the Raymond Joseph Harris Fund.

- Paul Connolly (D'02) was the recipient of a Horace Wells Club Student Scholarship.

Information on several scholarships for the 2001-2002 academic year is available in the Office of Student Affairs and has also been announced through e-mail. Questions on scholarship opportunities should be directed to Sue Schwartz, 215-898-4550, susansz@pobox.upenn.edu. ■

Procter & Gamble Supports SDM Service Efforts

Two SDM community service programs will benefit from a recent contribution by Procter & Gamble, which awarded \$1,500 in support of the United Community Clinics (UCC) and University City Hospitality Coalition (UCHC).

"We are sincerely grateful for this generous grant from Procter & Gamble," notes Dr. Joan Gluch, Assistant Dean of Community Relations. "It will be used to purchase supplies for both programs."

Serving families in the East Parkside section of West Philadelphia, UCC is a student-run interdisciplinary health clinic staffed by volunteers from the University's Schools of Dental Medicine, Medicine, Nursing, and Social Work. UCHC is also an interdisciplinary program that provides oral health education, screenings, and referrals for the homeless of West Philadelphia.

"Both programs began through Bridging the Gaps and are supported by a number of grants from community organizations and private foundations," says Dr. Gluch. Bridging the Gaps is a multidisciplinary internship program that places students from various Philadelphia schools and fields of study in community-based organizations to provide health-related services each summer.

Dr. Gluch, together with Director of Student Affairs Sue Schwartz and the student coordinators of each site—Shannon Brophy (D'03) and Debbie Althoff (D'03) for UCC and Guadalupe Garcia (D'02) and James Morrison (D'03) of UCHC—met with the Procter & Gamble representative to present on overview of the programs and secure the funding. They all extend sincere gratitude to Dave Rubino of Procter & Gamble for the company's support of these community service efforts. ■

Online Calendar Offers Easy Access To Activities, Events Information

A wealth of information on student activities is now available in one spot thanks to a new online resource, the SDM Student Affairs Calendar. This calendar, which is accessible through the School's intranet, Inside SDM, provides up-to-date information on meetings and social activities to be held by SDM student organizations, community service programs, and relevant class and school-wide events. Also included are listings for University-wide activities such as fitness and computer classes, networking dinners, grad blenders, and special topic workshops.

"The goal is to inform students about what is going on around the Dental School and the University that they can take advantage of," notes SDM Director of Student Affairs, Sue Schwartz, who initiated and oversees the project. "While SDM activities are a top priority, I also want to include as much as I can on the graduate-oriented programs offered by the University. The University is doing more to try to bring the graduate schools together and create a community for graduate students, so this offers a way to get the word out about those efforts."

Although the focus of the calendar is predominantly nonacademic in nature, Ms. Schwartz notes that certain academic items are being included until a separate academic calendar is created. The Department of Academic Affairs is planning to post the academic calendar on the intranet in the near future.

Ms. Schwartz hopes that the Student Affairs Calendar, launched in November, will continue to grow and become a widely used and comprehensive resource as SDM students, staff, and faculty begin to route information to her office for posting on a routine basis. "An additional objective is to enable groups to *(continued on page 4)*

New Members Named To Honor Society

Ten SDM students were recently recognized for their academic excellence as the newest inductees to the Matthew Cryer Honor Society. Membership in the Cryer Society is the highest scholastic honor conferred at the School and is limited to the top ten students as determined by their academic standing at the completion of their second year. Each year, new members are announced from the junior class, and members are awarded a certificate honoring their achievement at their graduation.

The Cryer Society was established in 1912 in honor of Dr. Matthew Cryer, a Professor of Oral Surgery, who achieved great eminence as a teacher, researcher, and clinician. The Cryer Society's major function is to acknowledge and honor the academic achievements of its members and to act as a resource in the process of introducing prospective students to the School of Dental Medicine.

This year's new members include Anthony Eltink, Keri Fedullo, Ira Goldberg, William Murthy, Baoanh Nguyen, Audra Sciandra, Joseph Spina, Jonathan Voiner, E. Marc Weideman, and Heather Zablocki. ■

Online Calendar *(continued from page 3)*

better plan activities, so there will not be conflicting events on the same date," adds Ms. Schwartz.

Information for inclusion on the calendar should be sent to the attention of Sue Schwartz in the Office of Student Affairs or via e-mail to susansz@pobox.upenn.edu. In addition to the time, date, and location of the event, the online version allows for the inclusion of additional details, such the names of speakers or ticket information.

Additions and revisions to the calendar are made throughout the month as information is provided to the Office of Student Affairs. Shirley Molina (D'02) a work-study student in the Office of Student Affairs, coordinates the calendar updates with Brenda Pretko in Computer Services.

"We are still distributing printed versions of the calendar to sensitize the School to the calendar's existence," says Ms. Schwartz. "However, we encourage everyone to use the intranet version, which often offers more specifics on each event and is updated on an ongoing basis." ■

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