Research & Clinical Excellence Day

By: Sylvia DeAguiar

October 16th marked the 168th anniversary of the first demonstration of ether as an anesthetic during surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital following William Morton’s avid promotion of ether for use in dental extractions. Additionally, this October 16, 2014 marked the 12th annual UCSF School of Dentistry Research and Clinical Excellence Day (RCED).

While October 16th is an important day within the School of Dentistry, the research showcased at this event can promote oral health on a larger scale, and even, in the words of the RCED Committee Chair Michael McMaster, PhD, “make a difference worldwide.” The National Institutes of Health funding is a testimonial to the importance of research here at UCSF: The School of Dentistry ranked first in NIH funding for biomedical research for the 22nd year in a row in 2013, receiving $13.7 million in grants. UCSF overall ranked first among public schools receiving funding. Figures for 2014 are yet to be released by the NIH, but are expected to be similar.

Following opening remarks by Michael McMaster was a message from UCSF Chancellor Sam Hawgood, MB, BS, and then School of Dentistry Dean John Featherstone, MSc, PhD, who is known for his research into caries risk assessment and the development of CAMBRA. Dean Featherstone noted just how important this day has become for research at UCSF, and how important the experience is to students developing critical thinking skills that will aid them in clinical careers or open the door to a career in research.

Keynote speaker at this year’s RCED was Laurie McCauley, DDS, MS, PhD, Dean of the University of Michigan School of Dentistry, a research powerhouse alongside UCSF. In addition to her position as Dean, McCauley is both a researcher with her

Global Oral Health Seminar

By Mona Nejad

The Global Oral Health Seminar led by Dr. Benjamin Chaffee brings a much-needed refreshing awareness to the field of Global Oral Health to UCSF dental students. As students, we often get caught-up in the microcosm of our school environment, forgetting the reality of the world that exists beyond our classroom and clinic doors. Selecting a wide variety of articles that highlight global health principles and research, the elective course gave students the opportunity to think critically and engage in active discussions surrounding current global oral (continued on pg. 8)
Mentor of the Year: Benjamin Chaffee

An excerpt of the nomination by Eliza Tran

I have respected Ben as both a professor and community leader, but began to know him as my mentor and friend when we worked together on a research project this summer. Ben not only provided an immense amount of support and encouragement, but also constantly challenged me to think critically and solve problems every day. I developed a deeper respect for Ben’s character. When Ben and I analyzed our data, our results were not statistically significant and I was quite disappointed. I thought about asking a different research question or tweaking the way I asked the research question so that I could run another analysis. At that moment, Ben’s integrity as a researcher really shined through. He helped me realize that my results, significant or not, still had important implications. He emphasized that I should stick to my original question instead of asking more questions until finally one resulted in a statistically significant outcome. He taught me that doing so was not the proper way to conduct research. I learned a lot from Ben this summer, but this was the most important lesson. He helped me see that I had accomplished so much this summer and did everything the right way; the journey was more fruitful than the end results of the project. I believe that Dr. Benjamin Chaffee embodies and exemplifies all the qualities that a mentor should possess. He is knowledgeable in his field, passionate about teaching and supports all those around him. What I didn’t realize coming into this project was that I would have such a great friend, whom I truly look up to, enjoy working with and engaging in both thoughtful and thought-provoking conversations.

Message from the JGS President: Minerva Loi

I am pleased and honored to begin my term as president of the John C. Greene Society. It is especially gratifying to be working with my extraordinary colleagues and fellow board members who have enormous energy and passion for advocating and participating in student research at UCSF School of Dentistry. As you will see in this newsletter and subsequent ones, our school has been active in many ways on a local level through programs such as the Summer Research Fellowship and on an international level such as the AADR/IADR competition held annually. Although many of you already know this, the work done by our fellow students is likely the most innovative and diverse works in the field of dentistry – works that JGS is proud to feature in its quarterly paper.

As we move forward in this new academic year, I want to acknowledge the amazing work that has been done by the faculty and administrative members at our school; without their support, we simply would not have these unique opportunities to expand our coursework beyond the classroom. With that said, I encourage each of you to resolve yourself to make a commitment to getting the best out of your education whether it is by getting involved in research or by being an active participant in something else that will push you to grow as in a personal and professional manner. I hope that this newsletter inspires you by showing you what others before you have done and pushes you to go beyond those opportunities offered by our wonderful school—reach for greatness and you will surely get there!

Dedication to Sol Silverman

On August 13, 2014, UCSF and the rest of the dental community was dealt the devastating news that faculty member Sol Silverman, Jr., MA, DDS, Professor of Oral Medicine in the Department of Orofacial Sciences, passed away following a brief illness. Dr. Silverman was a leader in research of oral manifestations of cancer, mentor of many faculty at UCSF today, and teacher to generations of students. While Sol Silverman will be dearly missed, he will continue to live through them any lives that he touched. He inspired others to achieve more than they ever thought possible. We are grateful for what he has contributed to our lives and the dental profession.
own lab and a clinician treating patients. She presented years of research done in her lab, which investigated the importance of the parathyroid hormone in bone regeneration.

Morning oral presentations ran until the catered lunch and poster session in the Gymnasium, where all 38 predoctoral researchers presented their posters, with 61 poster presentations in total, an all time high for the event. An afternoon round of oral presentations followed the two-hour poster session, followed by presentation of awards. In addition to the pre-doctoral students, seven graduates presented research, along with eight postdocs or residents, five research associates, and two visiting scholars. A new research category included this year was clinical cases, with two students presenting their work during the oral sessions.

Winner of the Outstanding Clinician Award was beloved clinical professor Arun Sharma, B.D.S, M.Sc., who rounded out the oral presentations with slides of cases completed through interdisciplinary collaboration among departments in the school, including OMFS, prosthodontics, and orthodontics. Prosthodontics residents even brought oversized cut-outs of his face to cheer him on, showing how much respect and appreciation he has earned as a clinical professor.

Associate Dean for Research Peter Sargent, PhD ended the day with an awards presentation. The considered projects cover a wide range of topics, from basic science projects investigating salivary gland innervation to a pilot study of laser removal of carious lesions. Students presented public health projects looking at care utilization in San Francisco, a study of dental experiences shared via twitter posts, and global oral health projects including one evaluating a health worker program in El Salvador. The depth and variety of research projects made choosing category winners that much more challenging!

 Winners this year by category:

Research Associate: Ace Lewis

Predoc Category
Ernest Newbrun Award for Research Excellence:
Minerva Loi
Second Place: Ruth Yan
Third Place: Caleb Tam

Graduate Category
First Place: Frances Yang, DDS
Second Place: Shaun Abrams
Third Place: Andrew Jang, DDS

Postdoc Category
First Place: Seungil Kim, PhD
Second Place: Jennifer Finley, PhD
Third Place: Karina Carniero, PhD

Mentor of the Year: Benjamin Chaffee, DDS, MPH, PhD

This year, 20 Summer Research Fellows received funding to complete summer research projects between D1 and D2 year, a huge increase from only 13 the previous year. The success of last year’s fellows encouraged previous donors to continue their support for the program and new donors to step forward,
After their first year of dental school, students have a 3-month summer to take National Boards Part 1, travel, relax, or conduct a research project. Many who choose to do a research project look through a mentor list provided by Roger Mraz, the Program Administrator in the Office of Graduate and Research Affairs. Students then meet with a few mentors they are interested in working with and then write a research proposal due on January 5, 2015. On November 4, 2014, John C. Greene Society hosts a research proposal workshop to help students with the American Association of Dental Research (AADR) Guidelines of Materials and Methods, Background, Preliminary data, Resource Information, Additional Support, and Recombinant and DNA adherence. Of the Summer Research Fellowship applicants, five research proposals will be selected to apply for the AADR fellowship and the remaining students will be considered for the UCSF Summer Research Fellowship program. Results will be announced in February 2015.
Yoomin Ahn  
PI: Lilliam Pinzon  
UVA-activated riboflavin cross-links collagen on sound and caries-affected dentin

Moham Ansari  
PI: Sunita Ho  
Substrate stiffness as a switch for cell differentiation

Leon Chung  
PI: Cynthia Darling  
Image-guided ablation of occlusal lesions using near-infrared transillumination

Sylvia DeAguiar  
PI: Beth Mertz  
Feasibility of assessing pediatric dental benefit enrollment in California

Yolanda Ho  
PI: Ralph Marcucio  
Aberrant FgF2 signaling implicated in midfacial hypoplasia in mice

Rebecca Hsieh  
PI: Stuart Gansky  
¿Es “Español” Español? Are quality-of-life instruments equivalent across borders?

Danielle Jaul  
PI: Rich Schneider  
Modeling mechanical loading during secondary chondrogenesis in the coronoid process

Wendan Li  
PI: Mehran Hossaini  
Pre- and Post-operative third molar extraction experiences shared on Twitter

Minerva Loi  
PI: Sarah Knox  
Parasympathetic innervation maintains human salivary glad progenitor cells

Mona Nejad  
PI: Bahar Amanzadeh  
Effectiveness of El Salvador oral health Promotora program: pilot study

Khanh Nguyen  
PI: Wu Li  
Self-assembly of amelogenin affects its proteolytic degradation by P2 mutation

Mychi Nguyen  
PI: Stefan Habelitz  
Type of divalent ions affects amelogenin protein and peptide self-assembly

Raion Sabo  
PI: Lisa Chung  
Dental care utilization: subpopulations of San Francisco kindergarteners at risk

Dien Sun  
PI: Jeff Bush  
Eph/ephrin signaling effects on cell polarity in craniofacial development

Yat Tang  
PI: Ophir Klein  
Computational identification of mechano-regulating bulky glycoproteins in mouse incisors

Eliza Tran  
PI: Benjamin Chaffee  
Association between dental caries and growth in young Honduran children

Edward Viloria  
PI: Andrew Jheon  
STAT3 is critical for mouse incisor amelogenesis

Cameron Walsh  
PI: Joel White  
Usability testing of clinical decision support caries risk assessment tools

Ruth Yan  
PI: Dan Fried  
Selective removal of dental caries with a diode-pumped Er: YAG laser

Grace Yang  
PI: Sharof Tugizov  
Breast milk is a possible source of EBV mother-to-child transmission
When one compares the hardness or softness of, let’s say, muscle tissue versus fat tissue, the difference is apparent, and they are in fact composed of different cell types. Yet they are formed from the same cell type early on, which we call stem cells. Development requires a symphony of cell communication, but that communication soon changes the surrounding to what we know as extra cellular matrix (ECM). The difference of ECM is conducive for further differentiation, which will give rise to different tissues such as fat and muscle mentioned earlier. One might ask how much of an influence? It turns out to be quite a bit. Just like in a case when one cannot walk on water or swim on a rock, the environment has a big influence on the type of activities a cell can have, and furthermore it modifies the cell’s behavior accordingly. So what all this has to do with the AADR or Summer Research Fellowship? This is exactly what I had the privilege of doing/exploring during my research fellowship, a fascinating topic from which endless questions can be asked. Under the great mentorship of Dr. Sunita Ho, I learned to look at cell biology through a different point of view - which I didn’t appreciate much in the past - differential properties of extra cellular material that influence cell behavior. For me, the most valuable lesson learned from the fellowship was the fact that my previous knowledge was challenged and was augmented with new thought processes. In short this has been a life time opportunity for which I’m forever grateful.

This summer challenged me—from the physical aspects of the sheer volume of work in lab to intellectual bounds of performing and troubleshooting procedures that were very technique sensitive that I was totally new to. In other words... it was great. Over the summer, I worked on a mouse model of Crouzon Syndrome trying to find out when the mutation expressed itself, where it was anatomically, and what was happening on the cellular level. To do so, there was a ton of background work involved. We had a huge sample size (327 total)—which involved dissecting embryos for straight 7 hour blocks; fixing embryos in formaldehyde; taking photos of each face delicately under a microscopic camera (with our age parameters, each embryo head was the size of a kernel of corn); embedding the embryos in paraffin wax; sectioning the faces; and finally doing cellular assays on select slices to look for cell death and proliferation. I’ll admit some days the half hour commute to SFGH made me rethink my summer decision, but the support and camaraderie of my mentor and lab fellows made the work fun and in retrospect, gratifying. Better yet, my work actually yielded results! For one, we found that heterozygous embryos were phenotypically and cellularly identical to wild-type embryos in the early developmental period. As a direct clinical implication, when looking at a human analog (an infant with the same Crouzon syndrome-receptor mutation) we’ll know to focus on later trimesters when looking for in-utero treatments. All in all, I feel so blessed to be here at UCSF where we’re not only exposed to but encouraged to work in some of the top research labs in the world and do such incredible work. I have one thing to say to any of you entertaining thoughts of research: If you have any doubts, don’t.
Science Spotlight: D1 Students

Kei Katsura
DDS PhD Student

Some of the most common buzzwords that flit about the UCSF School of Dentistry campus are “research opportunities,” “lifelong learning”, and “interdisciplinary collaboration”. The meanings of these words can be rather nebulous, and sometimes even misinterpreted. Although they are frequently used in the dental, medical, nursing, and scientific communities, I am aware of how often I gloss over their definitions. While each person defines these concepts differently, to me they represent both the beauty and challenge that encompass the scientific process.

Prior to starting the DDS/PhD program, I volunteered and worked in the Den Besten Lab under Dr. Thuan Le, where I had the privilege of experiencing an amazing research opportunity. Here, I discovered a new genetic mutation in a family diagnosed with Amelogenesis Imperfecta, a severe tooth enamel defect. While the allure of “research opportunity” initially hooked me with the prospect of adding a line to my sparsely filled-out curriculum vitae, the term’s meaning has changed over time. Now, the unparalleled rush of discovery consumes me, my experience changed the way I now define “research opportunity” to describe an occasion that celebrates personal growth and development.

“Lifelong learning” runs along the same vein. My thought is that it entails an active recognition that we as human beings are constantly acquiring knowledge through our daily experiences that contribute to our expectations, assumptions, and deductions. In a way, by self-identifying as a lifelong learner, we are embodying our roles as scientists! I have learned that lifelong learning also includes becoming adaptable to change and depends greatly on the willingness to embrace how little we actually know. For this reason, I am looking forward to immersing myself in the wealth of knowledge in the dental sciences and clinic.

Throughout the course of my PhD-focused studies, I have been fortunate in the support from my mentor, Dr. Pam Den Besten and the UCSF Graduate community* in establishing several “interdisciplinary collaborations.” To investigate the function of the genetic defect in our patients with Amelogenesis Imperfecta, I collaborated with a bioinformatics programmer, knockout mouse experts from Gladstone Institute and UC Davis, and others who study vesicle trafficking of dopamine receptors. We found that mice with the genetic deletion had a similar tooth defect to that of our patients and that when this gene occurs normally, it has characteristics of a vesicle trafficking protein to suggest an intracellular function involved in enamel development. A large part of our success came from accepting and embracing the fact that our solitary knowledge and perspectives are limited and confining to true progress.

These symbolic catchphrases will guide me down a path of excitement and discovery, as I become a dental clinician-scientist and am reminded of the wisdom they contain.

*Special thanks to Dr. Diane Barber, Dr. Dave Chandra, Dr. Sabra Diomehri, Dr. Sophie Dumont, Dr. Sunita Ho, Dr. Jeremy Horst, Dr. Orapin Horst, Dr. Andrew Jang, Dr. Andrew Jhee, Dr. Michael Le, Dr. Wu Li, Roger Mraz, Dr. Yukiko Nakano, Dr. Peter Sargent, Dr. Mark von Zastrow, Dr. Yan Zhang, and Dr. Judy Zhu.

Caleb Tam
Master’s in Biomedical Engineering

Four years ago, I came to UCSF looking for a research position under the impression that it would help make me a competitive dental school applicant. Looking back, I could never have predicted that this decision would prompt me to redefine my aspirations as a future dentist, and eventually lead me to find a place in the profession I could call my own.

I always knew I wanted to become a dentist. However, I was unsure as to the specific capacity in which I wanted serve as an oral health professional. As such, I began looking for research opportunities and found one here at UCSF, Department of Preventive and Restorative Dental Sciences, in the lab of Dr. Sunita Ho. Within days of starting, what began as a position to help build my resume and simply learn more about the research side of dentistry quickly turned into something else entirely.

Though I cannot speak for other labs, I believe the experience I obtained under the guidance of Dr. Ho was truly unique. From day one, I was given a real project to work on – a project that I myself had expressed interest in. Furthermore, I was responsible for every detail of that project, from hypothesis development to hypothesis testing to organizing and presenting my results. Being held to the same standard as that of a graduate student was certainly not easy, but in the end, it brought out qualities I never knew I had (i.e. curiosity, lateral thinking) and even helped refine a few of those I hadn’t really quite mastered (i.e. discipline, professionalism). Over the next two years, I also became more involved with clinical research, and completed a Master’s degree in biomedical engineering to help add depth to my experimental/analytical designs. If I have learned anything in my time here at UCSF, it’s that an interdisciplinary approach to science always produces the best results, and that it is easy to get excited about research when it’s presented the right way.

As I now transition into my first year of dental school, having experienced both clinical dentistry and dental research, I find they are two very different fields. To me, clinical dentistry is first and foremost about execution, while dental research is about innovation. As a patient, I would not want my dentist to experiment or deviate from established protocols while I am in the chair. As a scientist, however, the last thing I would want in a researcher is somebody who lacks imagination and requires instruction for every task. Though I consider clinical dentistry and dental research to be more different than they are alike, they do share some striking similarities – both being bound by the need for collaboration, lifelong learning, and the desire to ultimately improve patients’ lives.

Reflecting upon my time thus far here at UCSF, I realize my aspirations, expectations, and motives as a future dentist are being continually shaped by my experiences. Through research, my career goals have been directed towards academic dentistry, where I now hope to use my background in basic science to advance the field of oral health. Over the next few years, I am also excited to see where my clinical training will take me – perhaps to a particular specialty or even a different academic track. I am grateful for all the opportunities I’ve had here at UCSF, and though I might not yet know exactly where I will end up, I know I will enjoy the journey.
Jean Calvo
Schweitzer Fellow
Oral Health for Senior Citizens

For her Albert Schweitzer Fellowship project Jean is working to improve the oral health of the elderly population in the Easy Bay. She began planning the project as a second year dental student and is currently completing her fellowship year as a third year dental student. For the fellowship she will complete 200 hours of service to the community. The ultimate goals of her project are to empower seniors to take better care of their oral health and connect seniors with dental homes.

Before her project, Jean completed a needs assessment at several senior center locations in the Bay Area. The many barriers that older adults face to attaining dental care inspired her to apply to the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship. 31% of the seniors who participated in her needs assessment had not seen a dentist in over a year, 16% had not seen a dentist in over three years, and over a third of the population felt their oral health was poor or very poor.

Jean holds monthly workshops at the senior centers. She has created a unique curriculum to fit the needs of those who attend her workshops. She also plans interactive activities such as oral health bingo to engage the elderly. As part of the fellowship she will also hold oral health screenings. Following the screenings she plans to follow-up with seniors to help them individually address their limitations to seeing a dentist. She has also been awarded a grant through the Henry Schein Cares Foundation to provide the supplies needed to host oral health screenings.

Jean has also incorporated a research aspect into her fellowship project. She will be examining the success of her project using research methods. Ultimately the goal of her research project is to determine if senior center programming is an efficient way of connecting with the elderly and improving their oral health. Her outcome measures include determining how many seniors she is able to reach, how many feel their oral health has improved following participation in the fellowship programming and how many seniors were able to attain dental care.

Part of the fellowship also includes interprofessional networking. Jean works monthly with student from UCSF health professional schools, Stanford Medical School, Berkeley School of Public Health, Berkeley School of Optometry, Touro University, San Francisco State University, and Samuel Merritt University. Jean feels one of the most profound aspects of the fellowship is getting to work along side other amazing health professional students. The group works together to rejoice in success of their projects and also brainstorm solutions to issues any of the projects are facing. The fellows refer to these obstacles as “boulders” in reference to Albert Schweitzer’s quote “Those who vow to do good should not expect people to clear the stones from their path on this account. They must expect the contrary: that others will roll great boulders down upon them.”

Her favorite part of the project is getting to interact with the seniors. She finds senior citizens to be highly motivated to improve their oral health. Making a positive impact in the community is an extremely fulfilling activity and Jean feels fortunate to have the support of the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship and her mentor Dr. Brent Lin. She encourages all dental students to apply to the fellowship! “It is an unbelievable experience! You get to come up with a unique proposal, find a population you want to serve and implement a project to improve the health of others! It is great to help the community on a larger level. Seeing the vast disparities in oral health reminds me everyday why I want to become a dentist.”

For more information about the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship: http://sfbayareaschweitzerfellowship.org

Global Oral Health Seminar during the Winter Quarter and Global Oral Health Journal Club during the Spring quarter directed by Dr. Benjamin Chaffee.

To learn more about research in Global Oral Health, be sure to sign up for the Global Oral Health Symposium in the spring.
Interview with Dr. Peter Sargent

By Yat Tang

Dr. Sargent earned his undergraduate degree in Biology at Amherst College, then did his doctoral work in Neurobiology at Harvard University. He did his postdoctoral work at UCSF and Stanford University. Dr. Sargent came to UCSF in 1989 as an Associate Professor in the Department of Stomatology. In 2005, he was appointed Interim Chair of the future Cell and Tissue Biology department, in 2010 he was appointed Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and in 2013 he was appointed the Associate Dean for Research.

How did you get involved in working with the dental school?

When I first arrived at UCSF as a biologist, I was a part of the Department of Stomatology at the time. I brought my lab with me from UC Riverside. In addition to research, my other duties included teaching anatomy and neuroscience to dental students. Over the years, I became more involved with administrative duties through the mentorship of Dr. John Greenspan, my department chair and the former Associate Dean for Research.

What is your role as the Associate Dean for Research and also Associate Dean for Academic Affairs?

First off, I would not advise someone to take on both of these positions. As the Associate Dean of Research, I work closely with organizing the Research and Clinical Excellence Day (RCED), with the John Greene Society, with AADR. I have had a wonderful time working with Dr. McMaster, Chair of the RCED Committee, and with Roger Mraz to help organize RCED. Dr. Chung also was very instrumental in making this day a success, with her direction of the summer research fellowship program. One of my favorite parts of this job is working with students is when I attend the AADR meeting, it is wonderful to see all the students attending the conference and presenting their posters there. In particular, it is nice to see the students hang out at the UCSF booth at AADR. Other schools really see how collaborative and enthusiastic we are. Roger Mraz deserves a lot of credit for how well we “show” at the AADR. As the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, my focus is on meetings with the faculty regularly and finding out how I can assist them. We have some funding to provide for faculty to attend courses and workshops for personal development. During these meetings with faculty, I would usually ask them 3 questions: how they are doing, where they want to be in 5 years, and how we can help them get there. As for the dental students, each student should view their place in the dental class as how they can add value to that position. You could think of your position has having been passed to you by a graduating senior. You hold it for four years and pass it on, and during those four years you add value to it by your accomplishments: you leave it in better shape than when you acquired it.

Another thing is that I would like to redefine faculty-student interactions. Since dental students will be peers with the faculty after they graduate in a few years, I would like to raise the level of appreciation and respect of the faculty towards the students.

How do you foresee research developments or new areas of research in dentistry or basic sciences related to dentistry?

I believe that dentistry will become more targeted to individuals in the future. New diagnostic techniques will be developed and applied to better tailor treatments to patients. For instance, advances in fields such as proteomics can be used to check for risk of caries. Another exciting development is in laser technology from Dr. Dan Fried’s lab, co-developed with Dean Featherstone, which will enable the detection of carious lesions not visible on the enamel surface, and can also identify pre-lesions that are normally not visible based on color.

Overall, I believe that the most important aspect to dentistry is in prevention. Since dental caries is the most common human disease, there is a strong need to invest in more resources of how to better detect it.

Any advice or words of wisdom for dental students and how they can get involved in research?

UCSF is a great place with numerous opportunities to get involved in research. Students should follow their passion and read widely. Student do not necessarily have to be part of the summer program to get involved with research. With research, student work independently and get out what they put in. Although there are no guarantees with obtaining significant results, research provides students with a platform to grow and as well as a positive experience.

In dentistry, there is more than one way to do a procedure. Best practice may change and evolve over time. Students should find out why they are doing things a certain way, and not believe that it is the only way to do it and be open to new learning things. Students need to be sinks of information, to challenge faculty, although some faculty may not always tolerate that. Students need to have a balance in life. Those who came into dental school with unique experiences (e.g., playing a musical instrument, working with underserved) should continue to be involved with those things, and not be focused completely with course work and dentistry.

What are your hobbies? What do you like to do during your leisure time?

One of my favorite hobbies is singing. I sang in college, but stopped singing for 25 years, at the time when I started graduate school. After attending a college reunion 20 years ago, I met a number of my former classmates who continued to sing, and thought to myself why I did not do so. That motivated me to get back into singing.

I sing with the SF Symphony chorus of 150 volunteer and paid singers for approximately 50-60 evenings a year. They hold annual re-auditions, and this is my eleventh year doing it. The next two concert sets I am doing include Daphnis et Chloe by Ravel and Handel’s Messiah.

I also have 2 grandchildren that live in Burlingame whom my wife and I spend time with during weekends.
About John C. Greene Society

John C. Greene Society (JGS) is the primary student-run dental research organization at the University of California San Francisco School of Dentistry. We represent the local chapter of the National Student Research Group (NSRG), a subset of the American Association of Dental Research. We encourage active student participation in meaningful research, bringing student research into harmony with the quality investigations being conducted by the UCSF dental faculty. Throughout the year, the JGS strives to present student research opportunities covering a wide spectrum of interests and spanning multiple levels of commitment, thus appealing to a broad range of dental students as possible. We aim to inform the student body about ongoing research projects at UCSF and beyond, as well as offering guidance on how to become involved in such endeavors. In addition, we want to give a special thanks to Roger Mraz, Program Administrator for the Office of Graduate and Research Affairs.

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Special thanks to David Hand for photos

Pictured: Yat Tang, Yoomin Ahn, Irene Cheng, Minerva Loi, Sylvia DeAguiar, Mychi Nguyen, Leon Chung

If you have suggestions for future articles, please email the editors at Irene.cheng@ucsf.edu or Sylvia.deaguiar@ucsf.edu

Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of UCSF School of Dentistry.

Drawing by Mina Hashemian c/o 2017