

## Navy Surgeon General Inspires a Commitment to Service

By Landon Nguyen

In her introduction, Dr. Ellen Beck said he was "a man of good heart." It is a fitting description for Vice Admiral Donald C. Arthur, MD, the Navy Surgeon General of the United States.

Vice Admiral Arthur kicked off the Winter Quarter Special Speakers Series for the UCSD Pre-Dental Society on January 18, 2007. These weekly meetings draw prominent members of the dental, medical, and business communities to address our students and other guests. Dr. Arthur's presentation drew an impressive crowd of nearly 200 people, including many local dentists, UCSD medical and pharmacy faculty and undergraduate students, and



After his presentation, Dr. Donald Arthur, the Surgeon General of the Navy, poses with several PDS members

- of course- the usual large contingent of Pre-Dental Society members.

The Surgeon General spoke on a variety of topics from access to care issues to state-of-the-art medical research currently being pursued by the military's

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## From Northern California to Baja

By Stephanie Canton

The presenters at the Thursday night Special Speakers Series often tell us the importance of giving back to our communities. However, UCSD PDS mem-

bers frequently experience, first-hand, the value of improving the quality of life for the homeless, the poor, and the uninsured.

This especially holds true when our students team up with other outreach organizations dedicated to a similar mission, such as the Norcal Project.

Health professionals of the Norcal project, mostly general dentists and hygienists, travel from northern California to supplement healthcare and educational programs in Baja California. The

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Ricky Lugo and Stephanie Canton assist a dentist working on a patient in Ensenada

## Director's Corner

Greetings again from Dr. Silverstein.

It has been a wonderful 2006-2007 fall and winter quarter. Our clinics have been thriving and more patients have been seen due to the increased clinic hours and time. Also, Dr. Sussi Yamaguchi has been a wonderful addition to our program. She has helped create stability to our clinic days and enabled more students to volunteer and more patients to be seen.



The ADEA Dean's conference in November was here in La Jolla and brought the spotlight to our UCSD programs. Many of our students were able to meet the deans of 56 dental schools across the nation. I gave a presentation during the main conference, and several of the deans toured our clinics. They went home with a good impression of our UCSD Student-Run Free Dental Clinic Project. Many of them told us that they would come back to speak at our Special Speaker series.

Our Special Speaker program has remained strong. Dr. Donald Arthur, Surgeon General of the United States Navy, came to speak to our group in January of 2007. He was extremely impressed with what he saw. He gave a very inspirational talk and told us that we would continue having joint projects with the US Navy. In fact, we will be part of the USS Peleliu Humanitarian Project this summer. The Peleliu is a gray hull ship that will be visiting several ports in Southeast Asia. Our students will be allowed to participate in this humanitarian mission.

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**The Norcal Volunteer Team, including PDS Members Andrew Weeks, Meagan Whitehead, Stephanie Canton, Jessica Nguyen and Ricky Lugo**

*Norcal to Baja  
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Norcal Team believes that the need for care in Baja California is high, and that each trip across the border can make an immediate and significant difference.

The patient population is large, consisting of all ages. However, working together, the UCSD PDS members are able to assist the the dentists of the Norcal team to streamline and increase productivity on these trips. Students participate by assisting chairside, sorting, cleaning, and preparing tools and operatories, checking-in and speaking with patients, and teaching preventive oral hygiene.

Volunteering with the Norcal team is fast-paced. The team uses a "Symptoms to Source" methodology in treatment planning. The severity of each symptom is considered until the most likely cause is determined. The goal is often just to get the patient out of pain, so fillings, extractions, and root canals are very common.



**Andrew Weeks assisting during a procedure**

Some professionals are also eager to share their stories of successful paths to dental school, and some even offer to help students on their way through advice, mentoring, or letters of recommendation.

At the end of the day, however, the clinic sessions are not about the volunteers, but the improved state of the patients. Pain from oral maladies are treated by a caring group of people

giving quality dental care for no other reason than the need that exists. Witnessing such acts of human kindness is an inspiration that helps students see the full possibilities that their future career can have on positively changing the way healthcare is provided.

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Our spring 2007 Special Speaker Series started out with Dr. Patrick Ferrillo, the new Dean of the University of the Pacific who replaced Dr. Arthur Dugoni. He has been dean of several other dental schools and was the youngest person to ever be made a full dean of a dental school in the United States. It was an honor to host him here. On May 3-5, we are again invited to the CDA conference in Anaheim. Our students will work to promote our unique programs and improve our clinics by finding contributors for supplies and equipment.

Congratulations to 29 of our active students who have gotten into dental school!

Irvin B. Silverstein, D.D.S., M.S.Ed.  
Director/Advisor  
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**off the mark.com**

by Mark Parisi



**GUMBY'S FLOSSING MISHAP**

# UCSD Pre-dental Society Photo Gallery



UCSD Pre-Dental Society Members and Alumni attend the USC School Of Dentistry Open House in November



PDS Members take a break and go wine tasting in Temecula one weekend



Jaysond assists in placing a sealant and completing a Fluoride Varnish during a Free Fluoride and Sealant Clinic



Mark assists at one of the Norcal Trips



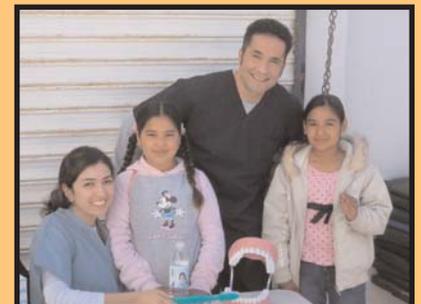
Shannon, Marc, Dr. Sussi, Joanne, Biraj, and Mykel attend the UCSD Free Clinic Bennefit Dinner



Kjeld assists during a root canal procedure at one of the Thousand Smiles Trips to Ensenada, Mexico



A very happy patient receives his permanent anterior crown and then poses for a picture with Christian and Janice as the Baker Clinic



Goli and Abel give Oral Hygiene instruction in Spanish at the Ensenada clinic during a Thousand Smiles Trip



Mark talks to students at an elementary school about nutrition for good oral health



Several of the Accepted Students for 2007 (Left to Right): Ryan, Jennifer, Nicole, Sarah, Scott, Julia, Janice, Aldina, Kennie, Marc, Heather, Meagan, Samson

# 10th Annual Benefit Dinner

By Jeffrey Tsai

On Saturday April 21, 2007, the UCSD Student-Run Free Clinic Project celebrated 11 years of success and growth at its 10th annual Benefit Dinner. These clinics, which provide medical, pharmaceutical, and dental care to the uninsured, homeless, and working poor of San Diego County, have grown tremendously in scope over the last decade under the careful guidance of Dr. Ellen Beck, a UCSD Medical School professor and co-host of the Benefit Dinner.

The dental component of the free clinics, run by the UCSD Pre-Dental Society, has also seen growth. In the last 8 years the dental clinics have expanded from one to three locations throughout San Diego. The number of volunteering dentists increased from less than 10 to over 60. The clinical records and radiography technology are on the verge of being transferred over to an electronic system donated by Kodak, and the Pre-dental Society, itself, has increased its membership over 20 times than what it had started with in 1999.

None of this amazing progress would have been possible without Dr. Melanie Parker, one of the dentists who helped form the dental clinics in 1999, and Dr. Irvin Silverstein, the dental director for the clinics and Pre-Dental Society these

last 4 and a half years. Both of them were at the Benefit Dinner to present awards to so many of our other dedicated volunteers.

Awards were presented to Susan Lovelace and Joy Howard in recognition of their outstanding community service and support of our dental clinics. Susan Lovelace, who retired this year as executive director of the San Diego County Dental Society, has worked diligently to help our organization achieve our goals. Joy Howard is a registered nurse and OSHA instructor who has donated her time on many occasions to train our student volunteers in OSHA safety. She has also come to our clinic sites and provided instruction for making the clinics fully OSHA compliant.

The Dan Kershner Award, which honors the memory of a volunteer dentist who also played a valuable role in creation of the clinics, was awarded to three people, one faculty and two students. The faculty award went to Dr. Sussi Yamaguchi, who is the first UCSD dental fellow and has been working in our dental clinics since the summer of 2006. The two student honorees were Samson Yang and Nicole Chung, clinic managers for the Pacific Beach and Downtown clinics, respectively. Both have committed themselves to improving and operating the dental clinics as if they worked full time at these volunteer positions, and it is difficult



**PDS Members pose for a picture after the Benefit Dinner**

to imagine the clinics without them.

The UCSD Pre-Dental Society and its guests also had a tremendous show of attendees. 71 student members and over a dozen dental clinic volunteers and guests attended the sold out dinner. 21 of the students, who regularly volunteer in clinics, were recognized for their successful acceptance into dental school for 2007. Also, 7 of our volunteer dentists



**Dr. Melanie Parker, Ricky Lugo, Joy Howard, Susan Lovelace, and Dr. Irvin Silverstein**



**Dr. Sussi Yamaguchi, Samson Yang, Dr. Irvin Silverstein, and Nicole Chung**



**Several PDS members and guests enjoying each other's company**



**Dr. Yamaguchi and another guest check to see if anyone has outbid them**

were recognized for their continued work in our clinics.

The Benefit dinner was a wonderful success. Attendees were entertained by musicians, and Hawaiian and Aztec dancers during their meals. Wine tasting and a silent auction ran through different segments of the dinner. The money raised from the auction and prize drawing lottery will go to even further improvement of this worthy project.



**A guest tries out an auction scarf**



**Na Leo O'Kalani Pacific Island Dancers entertain the guests during dinner**

# Volunteer Spotlight: Dr. Glenn Hom

By Heather Hearon

The UCSD Student-Run Free Dental Clinics would not be possible if it weren't for our wonderful volunteer dentists. They provide care for our patients while also making our clinics a valuable learning environment for our pre-dental students. Dr. Glenn Hom is one of these dentists, and we would like to take this time to thank him for all he has done for our clinics, our patients, and our student volunteers.



Dr. Glenn Hom

Olympics events, contributed to the County Clinic "Head Start" program, and is avidly involved in preventive and community-based dentistry. This is his fourth year participating in our Free Dental Clinics.

He is an incredibly caring and compassionate person in our clinics. Always seeking to serve in the best interests of the patients, his work is meticulous. But his caring goes far beyond the oral cavity. It is very common to observe Dr. Hom speaking at length with patients to get to know them as individuals as well as learn about their oral health concerns.

With a passion for interpersonal interaction, Dr. Hom also makes a concerted effort to get to know the student volunteers. He learns each name and enjoys talking to the stu-

dents about the dental field. He has an open door policy, so any of our pre-dental students can visit his office or call to talk to him for advice. He has even been known to invite students to the Faculty Club at UCSD for a casual lunch to talk to students one-on-one about their application, or to give them an opportunity to ask questions about dentistry. He is a tremendous resource to anyone who would like to learn about dentistry.

His concern for the community, for reaching out and helping others, is inspirational. Dr. Hom continues to be a positive role model and mentor in our clinics and to our student volunteers.

Dr. Hom is a UCSD alumnus who graduated in 1977 from Revelle College. He obtained his DDS at Indiana University School of Dentistry. After dental school, he decided he missed the ocean, and returned to sunny San Diego where he eventually started his private practice which he continues to run to this day.

His dedication to dentistry extends far beyond his private practice. He has been involved in volunteering for Special



Dr. Hom with volunteer students at the Downtown Clinic

## Friendly Faces: Meet Your Fellow Pre-dental Students

By Diana Lin

Name:  
Biraj Shah

School:  
UCSD (Muir)

Hometown:  
India (apparently India is a town now)



Superpower:  
Flight and Spidee Sense

Place I'd Travel to:  
North Pole

Favorite Pastime:  
Sleep

Favorite Childhood Halloween Costume:  
Ghost

Favorite Superhero:  
Superman, I like men in tights.

Movie Title for Your Life Story:  
Hey dude...dude...dude don't Forget!

Someone You'd be for a Day:  
I like my life

Worst Song You've Ever Heard:  
Ms. New Booty by Bubba Sparxxx

.....  
Name:  
Sung Ahn

School:  
Indiana Univ. Alumnus 2005 Econ Major

Hometown:  
Rancho Palos Verdes/Ridgecrest, CA

Hobbies:  
Running, Dancing,  
Playing the Cello,  
Baking Really Good Cookies

Superpower:  
To Heal and to Restore

Person I'd Like Dinner with:  
Jackie Robinson

Favorite Childhood Halloween Costume:  
Oscar the Grouch

Favorite Superhero:  
Batman

Real Life Role Model:  
My dad for his dentistry, My mom for her musical ability, My friend Andy Lee for his Hospitality



Movie Title for Your Life Story:  
How to Dance Without Alcohol

Someone You'd be for a Day:  
Peter Nguyen

Worst Song You've Ever Heard:  
I'm a Slave for You by Britney Spears

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*Surgeon General  
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health care branches. These topics were interwoven throughout a discussion of his own life and the path that he navigated to reach his current position in both the military and health care fields. Peppered into his oratory were some recounts of experiences that gave hints, suggestions, and hard-learned lessons for the future and current healthcare providers in our audience.

One such story was from an experience Dr. Arthur had while doing a residency at a civilian hospital. He spoke of a Hispanic woman who came to the facility seeking care. Dr. Arthur had never seen her before, but recognized a medical issue that required a specialist's immediate attention. The specialist was called to see the woman and Dr. Arthur continued on his own rounds of patient care. Not long after the specialist was called, Dr. Arthur saw the woman leaving the hospital. He found the specialist to ask what had happened with this woman's treatment. The specialist responded that she was discharged without treatment because she did not have medical insurance. Furthermore, Dr. Arthur was told never to refer a patient without checking on the patient's insurance status.

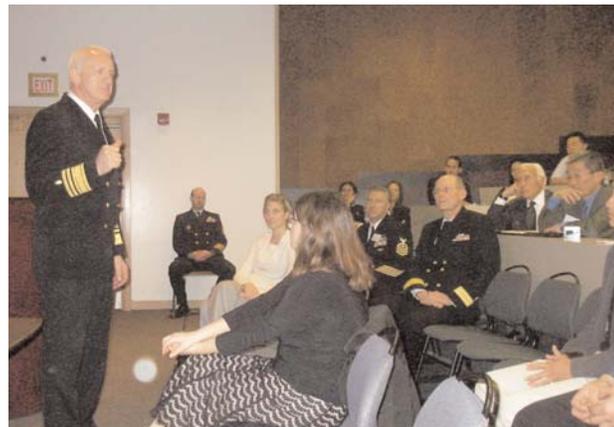
Experiences such as this one are why Vice Adm. Arthur says he has such a grand appreciation of the military's medical services. Military men and their families are not denied care because of insurance issues, a common and disturbing problem that many of us, including Vice Adm. Arthur, hopes the govern-

ment and healthcare field will one day resolve.

Vice Adm. Arthur encouraged all those in the audience to continue to work towards bettering the healthcare system. He reminded us all that financial rewards will not satisfy one's heart the way that doing the right thing for one's patient will. He recognized and complimented the work of the students, faculty and volunteers of the UCSD Student-Run Free Dental, Medical and Pharmacy Clinics as the services they provide are sorely needed.

He also reminded us that we have all depended upon other people to help guide and support us to where we now are. Thus, when we reach our goal to become dentists or physicians or pharmacists, we owe a debt to humanity, and one way to pay that debt back is through providing our healthcare services compassionately.

When asked his view on serving the individuals of United States Armed forces, he responded that the soldiers of the US Navy put their lives at risk to protect their country, and it has and continues to be his honor to serve these brave men and women. He noted that serving the naval personnel and families is different than serving civilians because everyone regards each other like brothers and sisters. The entire medical corps is like a big family, and there are no true rank distinctions in the care given to the medical officers and enlisted personnel.



**Dr. Arthur speaks about the state of healthcare in the United States and abroad as a guest speaker for the UCSD PDS Special Speaker Series**

After the presentation and questions, a reception hosted by the UCSD Pre-Dental Society was held at the UCSD Medical School's Jack Ferris Lounge. Students and other members of the audience were able to speak one on one with Vice Adm. Arthur and some of his staff. Vice Adm. Arthur was an inspiring opening speaker for the Winter Quarter. He left the UCSD Pre-Dental Society members with a lot of enthusiasm and challenged them to continue their hard work.

Vice Adm. Arthur has been in continuous naval service since 1974. He received a medical degree from the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. During his naval career, he trained in flight surgery and undersea medicine. He also holds several other operational qualifications with the US Navy. In 2002 V. Admiral Arthur assumed command of the Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD, and has commanded that position ever since.



**Meghan Tsakalos, Samson Yang, Dr. Donald Arthur, and Aldina Lee speak at the reception**



**L to R: C. Perri, RDH, Dr. Kabes, Dr. Arthur, Dr. Parker, Dr. Sekiguchi, Dr. Silverstein, Dr. Gomez-Sommerhays, Dr Reidy, and Dr. Vale**

Something You Could Eat for a Week

Straight:

Chicken McNuggets

How much wood would a woodchuck  
chuck if a woodchuck could chuck  
wood?

None- they're the kind of animal that  
would rather kill than chuck.

Name:

Brian Thomas  
Lu



Hometown:  
Thousand  
Oaks

Hobbies:  
Music and  
Tennis

Place I'd  
Travel to:  
Montana

Person I'd Like Dinner with:  
Aaron Gillespie (drummer from  
Underoath)

Favorite Pastime:  
Puzzles

Favorite Childhood Halloween Costume:  
Ricky Lugo

Favorite Animal:  
Daschund

Favorite Superhero:  
The Amazing Ricky Silverstein

Real Life Role Model:  
Mi Hermano

Someone You'd like be for a Day:  
Ricky Lugo

Worst Song You've Ever Heard:  
Ricky Lugo

Something You Could Eat for a Week

Straight:

Crispy Tacos from Chipotles

What is your most embarrassing  
moment that includes the statement  
"and then I was naked"?:

I became friends with Ricky Lugo and  
then I was naked.

## Events Calendar for Spring 2007

**Friday and Saturday May 4th to May 5th**

**Thousand Smiles Trip**

Assist in cleft-lip and palate treatments  
Ensenada, Mexico

Contact Lindsay Godfrey at: [Linzgodfrey@aol.com](mailto:Linzgodfrey@aol.com)

**Friday to Sunday May 4th to May 6th**

**California Dental Association (CDA) Scientific Sessions Conference**

Table and Promote UCSD Pre-dental Society Programs and Procure Donations  
Anaheim, California

**Tuesday May 8th**

**7:00 pm to 9:30 pm**

**Fred Kasischke D.Min**

**Dean for Admissions and Service Learning, Loma Linda School of Dentistry**

UCSD School of Pharmacy, PSB Education Room 2 and 3

**Tuesday May 15th**

**7:00 pm to 9:30 pm**

**Ron Mito, DDS**

**Associate Dean of Clinical Dental Sciences, UCLA School of Dentistry**

**Vice President of the Dental Board of California Topics**

**Past Director of the UCLA Hospital Dental Program**

UCSD School of Pharmacy, PSB Education Room 2 and 3

**Thursday May 24th**

**7:00 pm to 9:30 pm**

**Charles N. Bertolami, DDS, DMedSc**

**Dean of UCSF School of Dentistry**

UCSD School of Pharmacy, PSB Education Room 2 and 3

**Thursday May 31st**

**7:00 pm to 9:30 pm**

**Tim Smith, DDS (OMS) and MaryEllen Staple**

**Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Tanzania Dental Volunteers Mission**

Location: TBA

**Thursday June 7th**

**7:00 pm to 9:30 pm**

**Organizational Meeting and Kaplan Personal Statement Presentation**

Location: TBA

**Saturday June 16th**

**7:30 pm**

**Graduation Celebration after Finals Week**

Dr. Irv Silverstein's House - information to follow

**Wednesday to Sunday June 27th to July 1st**

**Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) 2007 Summer Conference**

Table and Promote UCSD Pre-dental Society Programs and Procure Donations.  
Registration will be free information to come please contact study club students  
San Diego, CA

**For a complete, up-to-date, schedule of events:**

<http://www-ac.s.ucsd.edu/~ucsdfdc/>

**Questions or Comments**

**Jeffrey Tsai**

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