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Linda Paul
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lpaul@nmdental.org

Susan A. Cho
NMDDS Referral Coordinator
scho@nmdental.org

Tara Dearholt
Administrative Assistant

PO Box 16854
Albuquerque, NM 87191

Ph 505-332-0544
Fx 505-294-9958

www.nmdentalfoundation.org

2009 Albuquerque Mentor Dinner Attracts Large Number of Dentists and Students

Rory Yurkovich was just one of 40 students attending the 2009 Albuquerque Pre-Dent Mentor Dinner and expressed what so many of the other students attending the dinner shared. "The Mentor Dinner was a great chance to hear about school, work,



clinicals, patients, business opportunities, and missionary possibilities as a dental student and dentist," said Yurkovich. "We were warmly greeted by dentists and introduced to varying perspectives on the dental career."

The successful dinner, sponsored by the Foundation, brought together 97 students, dentists, and guests. Dr. Mark Urbane, Dr. James Strohschein, Pre-



Dent Society President Patrick Manzanares, and Foundation President Robert Lehm gave formal presentations.



The rest of the evening was spent with dentists and students conversing one-on-one. Dr. Strohschein summed the evening up well, saying, "The dinner was a shining success. The students had a wonderful time and the comments from all of the dental professionals were equally positive."

A Special Thank You To the Sponsors of the 2009 Albuquerque Pre-Dent Mentor Dinner!

**Patterson Dental • Dr. Jolynn Galvin
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Tatlock

Calendar

Please join us for the next

NM Dental Foundation Board of Directors Meeting

NMDA Office
9201 Montgomery Blvd NE
Suite 601
Albuquerque NM

Friday, April 17, 2009

10:00 am

RSVP to
Linda Paul, 298-7206
or
lpaul@nmdental.org



DDS Volunteer Dentist Spotlight *Dr. Shelly Fritz*

In the 1970's Shelly Fritz inquired about dental school. She was told that it would be unwise for her to apply because "she would be taking a man's space!" Instead, she became a hygienist for 16 years and with her husband raised a family. Two days after their last child graduated from college, she entered dental school, confident that as a dentist she could make a difference. Dr. Fritz began practicing in 1994.



Although her practice includes people from all walks of life, her greatest love is treating those who are developmentally disabled, elderly, terminally ill, or suffering from chronic illnesses. In addition, Dr. Fritz finds time to donate dental treatment to some of the most difficult Donated Dental Services patients, and to travel to Guatemala annually with a program called Faith in Practice, working with a multi-disciplinary team.

Dr. Fritz's desire to treat those with mental and physical disabilities stems from her childhood. Her sister had juvenile diabetes. As she watched her sister's mental and physical health deteriorate, she saw that the quality of health care her sister was receiving wasn't always caring or kind. "I desired to treat these people, like my sister, that I had learned to love." Dr. Fritz's sister died at age 40, but her legacy continues through those whom Dr. Fritz still treats so well and so kindly.

When asked what she would like others to know about her, Dr. Fritz replied, "I am so fortunate that I've been so well taken care of in my life that I am able therefore to take care of others. I truly care about my patients and I always strive to give them the very best care I can provide."

DDS Funding Update

The State of New Mexico has included the DDS Program in their recent budgetary cuts for this current fiscal year. The cuts amount to 2.5% of the current budget or about \$1,220. Although not a huge amount, that cut necessitates scaling back personnel hours on an already very slim budget. In addition, the Foundation has been told to prepare for further cuts for FY 2009-2010.

Before these pending budget cuts and with the current funding, the Donated Dental Services Program has been able to grow by leaps and bounds. The statistics to date for the program far exceed last year's statistics. As of February 28, 2009, \$230,165 in dental treatment and \$12,282 in laboratory services have been donated during the present fiscal year. Sixty-two underserved New Mexicans have completed treatment. Another 74 are in active treatment.

A gift to the Foundation, designated for the continuance of the DDS program, would make it possible to continue the services that the program is currently providing at present levels. Those gifts can be sent to the NM Dental Foundation, PO Box 16854, Albuquerque NM 87191.

The Friends of the Foundation Committee

would like to invite community volunteers to join us in promoting fundraising activities for the Foundation. Please contact Linda Paul at (505) 298-7206 for further information.

The mission of the New Mexico Dental Foundation is to inspire benevolent dental outreach and to promote dental health in New Mexico.