

MICHIGAN DENTAL Foundation Highlights



Summer 2008 Volume 3 Issue 2

Casino Night Draws a Winner

The Michigan Dental Foundation would like to thank everyone who purchased tickets for the Ford Mustang raffle held April 18 during the MDA Annual Session in Grand Rapids. All 500 tickets sold out rapidly and the suspense built until the big casino night at the MDA President's Event.



Drs. Dater and Jennings pick the Foundation raffle winners.

Michigan Dental Association President Dr. Steve Dater drew the winning ticket, and the lucky recipient was **Dr. Andrea Balla** of Dearborn Heights. She

elected to receive a check for \$22,000 in lieu of the Ford Mustang. The second-place prize of \$1,000 went to **Dr. Michelle Dziurgot**, of Shelby Township, and third place went to **Dr. Glenn Shugars**, of Kalamazoo.

Thank you to all who purchased tickets. The money raised will go towards scholarships, access-to-care grants, and oral health initiatives in the great state of Michigan. Money will be used here for many worthwhile causes, supporting oral health professionals and programs to provide dental care for the underserved. Congratulations to all who participated in a great event.

Another raffle will be held at the 2009 MDA Annual Session in Lansing. Watch for details.



Dr. Andrea Balla (pictured with Dr. Ron Paler), a University of Detroit Dental School graduate from 1986, has been practicing in Dearborn for 22 years and loving every minute of it. She purchased the ticket at the Detroit District Dental Meeting in February in Dearborn from Dr.

Chuck Owens. "This is the first time I have ever won anything in my life! I enjoy golf, swimming, spending time outdoors, photography, art and music. My husband and I will use the winnings to travel to Italy this fall to celebrate my great fortune," stated Dr. Balla.



Dr. Michelle Dziurgot, a graduate of the University of Detroit Mercy, has been in private practice for 12 years. She practices in Shelby Township, and enjoys jet skiing and bike riding in her leisure. She has been a strong supporter of the Michigan Dental Foundation and

participated in many of the car raffles. She purchased her ticket from Dr. Grace Curcuru at a Macomb Dental Society meeting in April. She stated, "I am so happy to win and support a great cause as the Michigan Dental Foundation."



Dr. Glenn Shugars, third-place winner, purchased his ticket at the Annual Session on Friday morning from Dr. Grace Curcuru. ❖

*Thank you,
Donors*



Thank you to MDA Insurance & Financial Group for generously underwriting the Michigan Dental Foundation green and white wristbands. They are a visible reminder of the Michigan Dental Foundation and its mission to provide scholarships, access-to-care

grants and oral health initiatives in the state of Michigan. Wear one proudly; it says you support the Foundation.

Thank you to **Dr. Sue Carron** for generously underwriting the celebration chocolates, which were available at the MDA Annual Session to commemorate the Foundation's 10th anniversary, "A Decade of Service." They were delicious! ❖



2008 Michigan Dental Foundation Smile On® Golf Outing Highlights

The seventh annual Michigan Dental Foundation golf outing was held Friday, May 9 at the Lakes of Taylor Golf Course. Eighty golfers supported the Foundation by participating in the event and were rewarded with a day of fantastic golf, friendship, food and fun. First place went to Dr. Scott Doman, Dr. Dan Doman, John Dardzinski, and Dr. Gary Krupa.

The funds raised will support the Foundation's efforts in providing scholarships to students in dental health-related careers, oral health education programs and access-to-care programs for the underserved.

Thanks are expressed to our many sponsors, without whom the outing would not be a success. Sponsors of the 2008 golf outing are shown at right. ✧

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Golfers from around the state gathered at Lakes of Taylor Golf Course May 9 to support the Michigan Dental Foundation and its programs.

Smile On® is a registered trademark of the Michigan Dental Association.



Special Reception Welcomes Scholarship Recipients

The Michigan Dental Foundation welcomed the Mitus Scholarship recipients at a reception during the MDA 2008 Annual Session April 17 in Grand Rapids.

The recipients and their families were invited to attend the House of Delegates meeting on Thursday morning to hear Dr. Steve Dater, MDA president, speak. The recipients were impressed with the president's address on the future of dentistry. The candidates also enjoyed seeing the House of Delegates in action prior to the reception. "These young people are eager and enthusiastic to begin their careers, and perhaps have been inspired to get involved in organized dentistry," said Dr. Ron Paler, MDF president.

They then attended a private reception to honor them and meet the Michigan Dental Foundation Board of Directors and to hear encouraging words from Dr. Paler, Dr. George Bletsas (former president of the MDA, ADA trustee and founder of the Michigan Dental Foundation George Bletsas scholarship), and Dr. Matt Uday, chair of the MDF Scholarship Committee. "This year's recipients are at the top of their respective classes and the pool of worthy applicants gets larger and larger every year," Uday said. "It is encouraging to see the youth of today who will be the future leaders of tomorrow. They are ambitious and talented and the



From left to right (back row); Kerri Hyde, Dr. George Bletsas, Dr. Ron Paler, Shanna McGetrick, Dr. Matt Uday, Front row: Scott Snyder, Catharine Cho.

Michigan Dental Foundation is proud to cultivate such professionals."

Candidates each had an opportunity to speak and thank their family and friends for support during their academic careers as well as thank the Michigan Dental Foundation for their scholarships.

Dr. Ron Paler offered advice for life and dentistry: "Enjoy what you do every day and you will never have to 'work' a day in your life!" Dr. Bletsas spoke about mentoring and suggested that "everyone needs a good mentor, so find someone that can assist you and then return the favor by becoming one to someone else." Dr. Uday wanted the recipients to know they are truly at the top of their classes and were hand-selected due to their academics, dedication and achievements. Much is expected from them in the future, and dentistry depends on it, Uday said.

The Michigan Dental Foundation has awarded 76 scholarships in 10 years, for a total of \$91,000. These scholarships are awarded to students from the state of Michigan attending in Michigan dental, dental hygiene, and dental assisting programs. The Michigan Dental Foundation is working to keep highly skilled professionals in Michigan! ✨

Meet Robert D. Mitus Scholarship Award Recipient



The Michigan Dental Foundation proudly presented the 2008 Michigan Dental Foundation Robert D. Mitus Scholarship Award to **Kerri Hyde**, a senior dental assisting student at Mott Community College in Flint. We recently had the opportunity to chat with Kerri and would like to share some of her thoughts and inspirations regarding dentistry:

Why did you want to become a dental professional?

I had been in manufacturing most of my working career, but with the economy the way it is, I kept getting laid off due to downsizing. After getting laid off in April

of 2007, I knew I needed a change. My sister has been a dental assistant for 20 years. She really enjoys her career, and I wanted a career that would be fulfilling.

Who inspired/mentored you along the way?

I believe all my instructors – Dr. Polk, Mrs. Beersma, Mrs. Blair, Mrs. Jarzul, Ms. Roos, Mrs. Ranville and Ms. Schanic – have inspired me. My sister, Ruthie Osbon, who has been a dental assistant for 20 years, also has inspired me a lot. The stories they tell about the dental profession, their enthusiasm about being an assistant, and their energy and excitement they have for teaching the program have helped me keep going even through all the hard work.

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Board of Trustees established the **Michigan Dental Foundation** in 1998 to serve as the MDA's philanthropic arm. The Foundation is also supported by the **Michigan Dental Assistants Association** and the **Michigan Dental Hygienists' Association**.

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Meet the Mitus Scholarship Recipient... *continued*

What is the best advice you have been given while in the pursuit of your career?

To read your assignments ahead of time. It made understanding the material a lot easier, and when the instructor lectured on it, it made sense and was easier to understand. Also, because of all the information given to us, being organized is essential.

Can you share a story about dental school that made you realize that dentistry was the right profession for you?

When I did my observation for class, I knew then for sure that I wanted to be a dental assistant. I enjoy hands-on work, and working with a variety of patients.

Is there one procedure you enjoy the most?

I enjoy the variety and I like doing them all. There is a real sense of accomplishment when you get the amalgam restoration or the IRM temporary finished or getting the aluminum crown temporarily cemented on, and then have the instructor tell you how good it looks.

How has winning the Michigan Dental Foundation Scholarship helped you?

I had used all of my financial aid for winter semester, and now I have enough to finish paying for spring tuition. I would not have been able to finish the program without this scholarship.

Where do you see yourself in 3 to 10 years after graduation?

I see myself working as an RDA/CDA in general dentistry, but I'm not opposed to working in a specialty office, especially at a pediatric office. I like children and I like the idea of working in an operating room at a hospital. In fact, I chose to do one of my externships at Mott Children's Health Center.

Have you attended any dental meetings – local, state or national?

I have attended a local dental assistant meeting, and the MDA Annual Session will be my first state meeting. I really enjoy meeting and sharing the same experiences with other dental assistants.

What do you like to do beyond dentistry, such as hobbies, talents, etc.?

I like to cross stitch. I enjoy traveling and I enjoy the water, whether it is in Michigan, up north, or out of state. I love the ocean, so Florida is one of my favorite vacation spots.

Thank you for a glimpse into the life of a Michigan Dental Foundation Robert D. Mitus Scholarship recipient. Your hard work and efforts are clearly demonstrated. You will be an asset to the dental profession.



The Michigan Dental Foundation awards scholarships annually to dental, dental hygiene and dental assisting students. We believe that the people of Michigan deserve exceptional oral health professionals. All scholarships are given to Michigan residents attending Michigan universities and colleges. The Michigan Dental Foundation is devoted to becoming the philanthropic leader of the oral health community in order to fund student scholarships, provide oral health initiatives and access to care. ✱

Smiling Futures Start Here!

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