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## **Moving Research Forward; Moving Dental Hygiene Forward**

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This issue of the *Journal of Dental Hygiene* is especially exciting for ADHA and for me. The first news is that you will see the results of the first ever ADHA/Sigma Phi Alpha Journalism Award Competition. The award is intended to honor a student who has written a review or original research paper that contributes to the dental hygiene body of knowledge and is of the quality to be published in the *Journal of Dental Hygiene*. Students enrolled or within 6 months post-graduation from a baccalaureate, degree completion bachelor's program, master's, or doctoral-level program were eligible to apply. All of the papers were to be linked to the National Dental Hygiene Research Agenda. The recipient of the award received \$1000 and had her paper published in the *Journal of Dental Hygiene*.

The *Journal* received several papers for the competition. The papers were blinded and sent out for peer review by 4 members of the editorial review board. The criteria were very objective and each reviewer had to rate and rank the papers.

The winner of the competition was Carrie Bigelow, RDH, MS who graduated with a Master of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene Education from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill School of Dentistry in May, 2007. The title of Carrie's paper is "North Carolina Dental Hygienists' Views on Oral Cancer Control." Her thesis committee consisted of Dr. Lauren L. Patton, DDS, Director, General Practice Residency and Professor, Department of Dental Ecology; Ronald P. Strauss, DMD, PhD, Distinguished Professor and Chair, Department of Dental Ecology; and Rebecca S. Wilder, RDH,

MS, Director, Graduate Dental Hygiene Education and Associate Professor, all in the Department of Dental Ecology. Carrie received a plaque along with a check for \$1000. Her entire paper is published in this issue of the *Journal*.

Honorable mention was extended to 2 other candidates. Danielle Furgeson, RDH, MS, also graduated in May 2007 from the master's program at UNC. Her paper is entitled, "The Role of the Student Professional Association in Mentoring Dental Hygiene Students for the Future." Danielle's paper has also been accepted and is scheduled for publication in the winter issue. Mary E. Cosaboom-FitzSimons, RDH, BS, MS, is a May 2007 graduate from the Master of Science in Dental Hygiene program at Old Dominion University Gene W. Hirschfeld School of Dental Hygiene Health Sciences in Norfolk, Va. Her paper, "Community-Based Collaborations by Nurse Practitioners and Dental Hygienists," is currently being reviewed for possible publication in the *Journal*.

The story does not end here. NONE of these students knew how to conduct original research or write a publishable paper prior to entering into their graduate studies. None of them entered their program with an exact idea of what they wanted to do for their thesis work. But, look what they have accomplished. All of them had mentors who facilitated their development and guided them through the process. They now have an obligation to continue their work, further develop in their career, and become the future leaders of our profession. I have no doubt that they will.

The other exciting section of the *Journal* in this issue is the list of abstracts that were presented at the ADHA Annual Session in New Orleans, La. Thirty-one abstracts were presented on topics that ranged from tooth whitening to evaluation methods to patient knowledge of the link between diabetes and periodontal disease. Most of the topics were directly connected to the National Dental Hygiene Research Agenda. Many were presented by academicians of dental hygiene programs but several were presented by students and practicing clinicians. An invitation has been sent to those who presented their research to submit a paper to the *Journal of Dental Hygiene* for possible publication in our peer-reviewed research journal. Having a published abstract is important but the work needs to be finished. It is not finished until it is prepared in the format of a peer-reviewed journal, submitted for publication, critiqued by experts in the field, accepted, and published in a journal that is Medline accessible.

Enjoy this issue of the *Journal of Dental Hygiene*. Our research is something to be proud of and shared with the world. I am extremely proud of all who contribute their time, energy, and desire to see our profession progress. Many of those names are listed in this issue of the *Journal of Dental Hygiene*.

Have a wonderful fall!

Sincerely,

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