



Irv Silverstein

The Trudi Birger Award is presented to a frater who has exemplified volunteerism. Trudi was the founder of the Dental Volunteers for Israel and was an Honorary Member of Alpha Omega

Dental Fraternity. The fraternity gave this award this year to Irvin Silverstein for his exemplary volunteerism.

Irvin Silverstein received his dental degree from Northwestern University in 1978 with honors in periodontal surgery, pedodontics, and surgical endodontics. After completing a residency in general practice and hospital dentistry at the University of California at Los Angeles in 1978 and 1979, he went on to help start the USC County Hospital Dental Program. During that time, he also worked in the Los Angeles coroner's office as a forensic dental expert.

Irv completed the periodontic specialty program at the University of Southern California School of Dentistry along with a Masters of Education in postsecondary and higher education. He has been in private practice in La Mesa since 1982, specializing in periodontics. He is a member of many dental societies and has served as the President of the San Diego County Periodontal Association since 1997 and is a founding member and board member of the San Diego Advanced Study Club, Division of the Seattle Study Club. In 2003, he became a faculty and steering committee member for the newly formed dental hygiene program at Southwestern College.

In addition to his busy practice and involvement in the dental hygiene program, Irv is also a Voluntary Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine at the University of California San Diego School of Medicine. Since 2003, he has served as the Dental Advisor/Director for the UCSD student-run Free Dental Clinic Project and the UCSD Predental Society. The Free Dental Clinic Project operates three free dental clinics that deliver care to the poor and underserved within San Diego County. What is most unique about this is that San Diego does not have a dental school; his students are undergraduates from the various universities and colleges in San Diego. They serve as assistants to dentists who volunteer their time and are also responsible for performing the clerical tasks and clinic management. In addition, students are given the opportunity to participate in humanitarian programs

such as Thousand Smiles, which provides cleft lip and palate surgery in Mexico. Irvin is directly responsible for obtaining the grant funding and donations that allow the clinics to operate. Under his leadership, both programs have expanded tremendously and received national recognition including the 2005 Golden Apple Award from the American Dental Association. He has also received the Academy of General Dentistry James P. Verneti Award for advancing the profession of general dentistry in the County of San Diego.

Scores of students have benefited from his mentorship and from the experiences that he affords them within the UCSD Predental Society. In recognition of this, Irv was awarded the ADA Golden Apple Award for Outstanding Leadership in Mentoring in 2009. However, he feels that more important than any of the awards he has received is that more than 275 students who are now either in dental school or have graduated from dental school have been exposed to the idea of giving back to their community and participating in humanitarian efforts. They have seen firsthand how his program and the ability to obtain care at a free clinic can transform the lives of people who are down and out so that they are free from pain and suffering. Providing dentures, partials, and restorations to these individuals can improve their self-esteem and their ability to obtain employment and become a contributing member of society again. These are lessons that can only be experienced, because words are inadequate to describe them.

For the past 5 years, Irvin has assisted the US Navy in their humanitarian efforts by putting predental students and dentists and other professionals and preprofessional students on board Navy ships, including the USNS Mercy Hospital Ship, the USNS Comfort Hospital Ship, the USS Pelelieu, the USNS Richard E. Byrd, and the USNS Amelia Earhart. These ships bring care and assist in rebuilding the infrastructure of some of the poorest countries in the world, such as Haiti, East Timor, and Bangladesh. These missions help build bonds between the United States and other countries and creates peace and understanding between different cultures.

In 2006, Irv had the honor of being a civilian member of the Navy's USNS Mercy Hospital Ship humanitarian mission in Southeast Asia, and in 2009 he traveled to the Dominican Republic and Panama as a member of the USNS Comfort. His efforts on behalf of the US Navy earned him a Certificate of Special Congressional

Recognition for Volunteer Service and the 2008 Humanitarian Award from the American Academy of Periodontology.

Irvin has received numerous other awards for his outstanding leadership and efforts, including the ADA Access to Dental Care Award. He is also a Fellow of both the Pierre Fauchard Academy and the Academy of Dentistry International. He is honored to have received the 2009 Trudi Birger Award for Volunteerism from the Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity.

Irvin resides in San Diego, California, with his wife of 23 years, Donna, who is a Professor of Epidemiology at the University of California San Diego School of Medicine. They have two daughters: Sarah, who is in the 7-year dental program at Nova Southeastern University and will start dental school the fall of 2010, and Sharona, who is a sophomore in high school. When not working, he enjoys spending time with his family, watching movies, traveling, gardening, and many other hobbies.

HONORARY MEMBER AWARD



Steven J. Anderson

Steven J. Anderson is the founder and president of the Total Patient Service Institute, which specializes in implementing the highest level of patient service and communication skills in dental

practices.

Over the last 20 years, he has spoken at every major dental meeting in North America, conducted hundreds of seminars all over the English speaking world, worked with thousands of dental practices to increase their productivity through patient communication, written more than 100 articles for dental industry publications, authored five books, and produced dozens of audio and video learning programs.

In 1995, he cofounded the Crown Council, a continent-wide association of more than 1000 leading dental practices. Through the Crown Council, he cofounded the Smiles for Life Foundation, which has raised more than \$26 million dollars in the last 12 years for children's charities worldwide. He was recently named "Dental Businessman of the Year" by *Excellence in Dentistry*.

He is a member of The Young Presidents' Organization, Past President and Founder of the San Antonio Chapter of the Young Entrepreneurs' Organization, and a 1997 Finalist in the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year contest.

Steve, his wife Cheryl, and their six daughters live in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

