Penn Dental Medicine launches $36 million fundraising campaign

Penn Dental Medicine’s Leading the Profession: The Campaign for Penn Dental Medicine is being touted as its most ambitious fundraising campaign ever. At a special gala celebration recently, alumni, faculty, student leaders, friends, and supporters joined University President Amy Gutmann, the School’s Board of Overseers, and other key administrators to launch the $36 million campaign is part of the University of Pennsylvania’s Making History campaign.

The Penn Dental Medicine campaign will raise new resources for creating state-of-the-art clinical care and teaching environments ($17.5 million), building endowed funds for faculty recruitment and retention ($13.5 million), and student scholarships ($4.5 million). The School already has a significant number of gifts and pledges – 67% of its goal – made to the campaign. Campaign Co-Chairs Dr. Lawrence Kessler (C’66, D’70) and Dr. Martin D. Levin (D’72, GD’74) announced some of the key leadership gifts at the gala. Among them:

- In excess of $8 million (to date) from the estate of the late Dr. Louis Schoenleber, a member of the Penn undergraduate Class of 1942 and the Penn Dental Medicine Class of 1945, to establish the Chair of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Fund.

- $1 million from Dr. William Cheung, a member of the Penn Dental Medicine Class of 1981 and a member of both the School’s Board of Overseers and the University’s Board of Trustees, to establish The William Cheung World Scholar through the Penn World Scholars program.

- $750,000 from the estate of the late Dr. Lee Krimmer, a member of the Penn Dental Medicine Class of 1949 to support the renovation of the Main Clinic and the naming of the Krimmer Wing within this facility.

- $1.9 million from Henry Schein, Inc., which was announced by Stanley Bergman, a member of the Penn Dental Medicine Board of Overseers and Chairman and CEO of Henry Schein, Inc., to name the Main Clinic in honor of Edward B. and Shirley Shils. Dr. Shils, who passed away in 2004, was a member of Penn Dental Medicine’s Board of Overseers, the founder of the Wharton Entrepreneurial Center, and the George W. Taylor Professor Emeritus of Entrepreneurial Management at the Wharton School.

“We are deeply grateful for these leadership contributors who have helped to get this campaign off to such a successful start,” said Associate Dean for Development and Alumni Relations Dr. James Garvey. “Their support points the way for others to join the effort.”

UNC student honored for research achievement

Matthew Olmsted, a fourth-year dental student at UNC-Chapel Hill, holds the award he received for placing third in the recent 2007 American Dental Association/DEANSPLI Student Clinician Research Program competition.

The judged competition, held during the ADA Annual Session in San Francisco, featured student representatives from 52 dental schools nationwide. Each participating student clinician had previously been selected through his or her individual school’s poster presentation competition.

Olmsted’s research project, in the category of clinical research/public health, was titled “Human Bite Force Production in Amelogenesis Imperfecta Patients and Their Family Members.” Amelogenesis imperfecta (AI) is a tooth disorder causing abnormalities in the development of enamel. During a four-hour period, student clinicians stood with their poster presentations and gave oral presentations on their research to teams of judges.

“The judges are looking for professionalism, quality of research, creativity and presentation style,” Olmsted said.