



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation Awards Dental Scholarships

NAPERVILLE, Ill. (May 16, 2012) – The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation, the oral health 501(c)3 charitable arm of Delta Dental of Illinois, awarded five \$1,000 scholarships to graduating dental students at The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) College of Dentistry.

Education for oral health professionals is one of the key priorities of the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation. Through its scholarship program, the Foundation recognizes outstanding dental students who have demonstrated service and commitment to oral health field in Illinois.

“The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation is committed to improving oral health in Illinois. Access to care is vital to good oral health,” said Lora Vitek, Director of Philanthropy and Community Benefit for Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation. “Ensuring there are quality dentists to offer patient care services in the state is an important part of this commitment.”

The scholarship program for graduating dental students in Illinois is a long standing program both at UIC College of Dentistry and Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine. “We are proud to recognize these students in conjunction with University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry,” added Vitek.

Recipients must have passed their National Boards; plan to practice in Illinois; demonstrated an interest and/or participated in community outreach initiatives in their community; or have declared interest in the advanced pediatric dentistry specialty. The five recipients are David Choi, Ashley Hill Orth, Brian Homann, Michael Rabinowitz and Scott Schwartz – all reside in the Chicagoland area.

David Choi will practice general dentistry after graduation in the Chicago area. During his time in dental school, Choi served the community by volunteering with the dental program at Goldie’s Place, a support center for the homeless. He is the recipient of the Foundation of Pierre Fauchard Academy Scholarship Award and was also a teacher’s assistant for the Pediatric Dentistry Department.

Brian Homann will practice dentistry in Libertyville, Illinois after graduation, and will continue his focus on education at UIC and his involvement with community/public health dentistry. Homann serviced as the American Association of Public Health Dentistry-UIC Student Chapter President and was the student clinic director for Goldie’s Place, a support center for the homeless, earning the distinction as director of the nation’s first completely student run dental clinic. Homann received the Chancellor’s Student Service Award at UIC and the Golden Toothbrush Award from the Erie Family Health Center, which recognizes leaders in community oral health care.

Ashley Hill Orth will begin a General Practice Residency at the Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center in Chicago after graduation. Orth plans to practice in Chicago after her residency is complete. Orth was a dental assistant from 2006 to 2011 at a practice in Chicago and served the community by volunteering with the dental program at Goldie's Place, a support center for the homeless. She was selected to participate in a pilot program in advanced implant training.

Michael Rabinowitz plans to complete a residency program in pediatric dentistry after graduation with a goal of pursuing a career that is balanced among pediatric dentistry practice, community service and teaching. Rabinowitz was a student dentist with the Children's Clinic, a public health clinic in Oak Park, Illinois where he provided care to pediatric patients. He served as Vice President of UIC College of Dentistry for the Class of 2012 and was awarded first place in the Illinois Academy of General Dentistry Case Presentation Competition.

Scott Schwartz will begin a General Practice Residency at The Ohio State University after graduation. Schwartz also plans to apply to a residency in pediatric dentistry. Schwartz served four years as the President of UIC College of Dentistry for the Class of 2012. Schwartz was selected as an Albert Schweitzer Fellow, which requires its participants to complete a 200-hour, independently designed and executed community service project. During his fellowship, he worked with El Valor, a Head Start program in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood. Schwartz received the American College of Dentistry Student Leadership Award, the International College of Dentistry Leadership Award, the Horace Wells Award, the American Academy of Craniofacial Pain Award, and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Award, and was also inducted into Omicron Kappa Upsilon, the dental honor society.

For more information on Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation's scholarship and/or to support programs and efforts of the Foundation, please contact Lora Vitek at lvitek@deltadentalil.org or go to www.deltadentalil.com/ddilfoundation.

About Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation

The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation (DDILF) was formed in March 2008 by Delta Dental of Illinois (DDIL), a not-for-profit dental service corporation with a mission to improve the oral health of the communities it serves. DDILF is the charitable arm of DDIL and works to support and improve the oral health of people in Illinois. In the past decade, combined efforts of DDIL and DDILF have provided more than \$2 million to programs and organizations in Illinois that improve the oral health of the residents of Illinois. DDIL provides dental benefit programs to Illinois employer groups and individuals and covers two million enrollees nationwide. DDIL and DDILF are based in Naperville, Illinois.