Fish help AAO get off to an energetic start

by Kristine Colker, Ortho Tribune

Fish, Kenny G and orthodontics. Three things that don’t automatically seem to fit together. Except during the AAO Annual Session’s Opening Ceremonies. There they formed a perfect trio.

The events started with the fish. Actually, they started with Pike Place, the world-famous market that is more than just a place to buy some seafood. It’s a crazy place, filled with vendors that toss their fish in the air, try to scare their customers by putting the slimy fish in their arms and take pictures with the tourists that come to watch them work.

A far cry from an orthodontist’s office, right?

Not really. As the hundreds of attendees packed into an auditorium at the Washington State Convention & Trade Center, a couple miles away from Pike Place, on Saturday, May 19, they found out life in orthodontics can be just as enjoyable—for doctors, staff and patients—as life down by Seattle’s waterfront.

“How do they win?” opening keynote lecturer Carr Hagerman asked the crowd about the Pike Place vendors, at the beginning of his presentation, “Catch New Energy! Fishing For New Possibilities And Energy In Your Workforce With The FISH Philosophy.”

“Energy.”

Something Hagerman and his partner, Mick Lunzer, had in spades as they interspersed the importance of their message—teaching those in attendance how to really be present in their jobs, keep a positive attitude and care about making each and every experience with patients and staff a pleasant one—with doses of laughter and fun. Throwing out stuffed animals to the crowd, performing a juggling act or simply making fun of the guy checking his e-mail in the front row, Hagerman and Lunzer kept the crowd laughing—and learning—for the entire two-plus hours.

Part two of the Opening Ceremonies also had its fun and energy. Later that night, a few blocks away from the convention center at Seattle’s Benaroya Hall, a couple hundred guests made their way into the main lobby to mingle, munch and enjoy a glass of wine, beer or maybe even a martini.

Then, the doors to the auditorium opened, and guests flowed in. Soon, images of Seattle filled the screen—the Space Needle, Pike Place and Mount Rainier. Once finished, the human greetings began: welcomes from Annual Session General Co-chair Dr. David L. Turpin and AAO President Dr. Donald R. Joondeph.

Finally came the moment everyone was waiting for: the crowd grew quiet, the music started and guests settled in to enjoy a performance by instrumental recording artist Kenny G, a performance that put the finishing touches on a day that proved sometimes you really can combine fish, orthodontics and Kenny G.

AAOF lays groundwork for ’08 awards, pledges

by Jeffrey Cavanaugh (MSO/MO), AAOF President

The AAOF, the charitable arm of the American Association of Orthodontists, provides support to orthodontic education programs and orthodontic research. Here is an update on the Foundation’s activities.

Since 1994, the AAOF Foundation Awards Program has contributed to orthodontic education and research as follows:

- $6.4 million in funding, primarily in support of junior faculty, including:
  - 123 fellowship awards
  - 149 research awards
  - More than 1,000 gifts in support of orthodontic residencies

- At the 67 graduate orthodontic residency programs in the United States and Canada, there are 11 department chairs and/or program directors who have been directly supported by the AAOF early in their academic careers.

- 80 percent of junior faculty supported by the AAOF remain in full-time academics after five years.

- On the AAOF Web site, there are 198 Final Reports from peer-reviewed, funded proposals.

2007 awards

At the most recent meeting of the AAO Foundation Board of Directors, following the recommendations from the Foundation’s Planning and Awards Review Committee, the AAOF approved the Awards Program for 2007 to include an aggregate of $805,000, which includes three post-doctoral fellowship awards, 14 orthodontic faculty development fellowship awards, one biomedical research award, one Center Award-Applicant Defined and one Center Award-Call for Proposals/Orthodontic Collections. The total amount established this funding round includes a restricted gift from the AAO of $120,000 for support of junior faculty.

2008 awards

For the 2008 Awards Program, the AAOF BOD approved an aggregate of $855,000, which includes Center Award-Call for Proposals/Orthodontic Collections, post-doctoral fellowship awards, orthodontic faculty development fellowship awards and biomedical research awards, with the number of each to be determined by the quality of the various proposals. In addition to the amount determined by the AAOF BOD, there is another gift from the AAO, this time for an additional $180,000 restricted for the support of junior faculty. The deadline for proposals is 5:30 p.m. CST Friday, Dec. 14.

Endowment campaign

As of May 1, the AAOF Endowment Campaign, “A Case For The Future,” realized $501 million in pledges, of which $20.6 million has already been redeemed. The campaign has seen numerous pledges from Constituent and Component Societies, AAOF Corporate Partners and Friends of the Specialty (including AAO and constituent society Funds), those individuals who pledge while orthodontic residents.

- Regents: AAOF Regents are those persons who pledge a minimum of $25,000 over as much as 10 years, i.e., the equivalent of a case every two years.

- Planned giving: AAOF members are asked to consider including orthodontics in general and the AAOF Foundation in particular in their estate plans. Those individuals who inform the Foundation that they have made this commitment are considered members of the AAOF Keystone Society. Currently 208 individuals have made this commitment.

Participation: One-third of all AAO members have pledged “A Case For The Future,” i.e., the amount of a full treatment case, usually redeemed over three to five years. This includes pledges from all of the Foundation’s Vanguard Society, those individuals who pledge while orthodontic residents.

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