Dr. Malcolm Meister, chair of the Department of Orthodontics, at the Nova Southeastern University Dental School, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., received the Distinguished Service Award from the New York University College of Dentistry Orthodontic Alumni Society. The award was presented July 26 in New York City at the graduation ceremony dinner for the postgraduate orthodontic residents at NYU. Dr. Elliot Moskowitz, president of the Orthodontic Alumni Society, stated that the distinguished service award is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a member of the alumni society. Dr. Moskowitz also stated that: “Dr. Meister has demonstrated a lifetime achievement in clinical orthodontics and education. He is a role model for all of us in integrity and excellence in orthodontics and dentistry.”

Dr. Meister “birthed” the Department of Orthodontics at Nova Southeastern University and, as its first chair, gained national and international respect for his efforts. Dr. Malcolm Meister graduated from the NYU College of Dentistry in 1955. After spending two years in the U.S. Air Force, he returned to NYU College of Dentistry Department of Orthodontics and graduated in 1959 with a certificate in orthodontics. Dr. Meister also holds a law degree and is an expert in dental jurisprudence.

Dr. Meister, on receiving this award, commented on the importance of his orthodontic teachers at NYU for helping to shape his fundamental and guiding philosophies in orthodontic practice and teaching during his lifetime.

Dr. Elliott Moskowitz, president of the Orthodontic Alumni Society Dr. Elliot Moskowski. (Photo: Dr. Natalie Nebblett)

Rotaplast International, Inc., a non-profit, humanitarian organization that provides free reconstructive surgery for cleft lips and palates in children, honored University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry faculty member Dr. Marie Tolarova with its Distinguished Service Award.

The award recognizes Dr. Tolarova for her 10 years of service with Rotaplast and the school’s participation in programs to prevent and treat cleft lip and palate in children throughout the globe. Rotaplast presented the award during its annual recognition dinner at the Hotel Monaco on March 31.

“That same evening, our department of orthodontics and our craniofacial genetics division also received a plaque for support of Rotaplast,” Dr. Tolarova said. “It is wonderful to be recognized for our efforts to prevent and treat cleft lip and palate.”

Dr. Tolarova, professor and executive director of Pacific’s Craniofacial and Cleft Prevention Program, has led the dental school’s efforts to help individuals with cleft lip and palate.

Dr. Robert L. Boyd, Professor and Chair of the Department of Orthodontics at the University of the Pacific, established the curriculum for his postgraduate orthodontic residents to treat underprivileged children with orofacial clefts. Dr. Boyd’s postgraduate orthodontic program is the only program in the country to include such an opportunity for its residents.

Dr. Tolarova, who has taken part in 37 Rotaplast missions and played a key role in initiating the curriculum protocol with Dr. Boyd, is a board-certified pediatrician and board-certified medical geneticist. She has published a book on epidemiology of orofacial clefts, has published numerous papers, contributed to several books on cleft prevention and has lectured throughout the world.

Dr. Tolarova is currently a member of the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Society, the International Association for Dental Research and the American Association of Human Genetics.

Thanks to Dr. Tolarova’s influence, Pacific’s students, residents and faculty have participated in more than 85 missions since 1999.

Dr. Galang joins faculty at University of Illinois at Chicago

New University of Illinois at Chicago, College of Dentistry faculty member Dr. Maria Therese S. Galang is a third-generation Filipino dentist — her grandfather was one, and her mother is an orthodontist.

Her initial plan was to work with her mother in the Philippines after graduation and eventually take over her practice. During her residency, however, some opportunities in academia and private practice arose, which led her to stay in Chicago.

Dr. Galang is joining the College’s Department of Orthodontics, where she is predoctoral orthodontics course director, co-course coordinator for the first-year orthodontic residents’ technical course and clinical instructor.

“I want to give [orthodontic residents] enough information to critically think and take the initiative to learn and discover more,” Dr. Galang said. “I want to inspire them to work as team players in preparation to lead their own staff teams when they go out and establish their practices. I also intend to be a good mentor.

Dr. Galang earned her MS from the College in 2004, a Certificate in Orthodontics from the College in 2007 and her DMD from the University of the Philippines in 2000.

“I chose to combine academia and clinical practice, in order to make a difference and contribute something significant to my profession,” Dr. Galang said. “What better way than to become a teacher and train future dentists and orthodontists the way my professors inspired and molded me?”

From left, Dr. Robert Boyd, University of the Pacific professor and chair of the Department of Orthodontics; Dr. Andrea Delargio, adjunct research instructor; Manal Al-Attar, adjunct research instructor; and Dr. Marie Tolarova, executive director of the school’s Craniofacial and Cleft Prevention Program, receive awards from Rotaplast International, Inc. (Photo: University of the Pacific)