

President's Award: Dr. Jane Weintraub, DDS, MPH

Presented by B. Alex White, DDS, DrPH

The President's Award is presented at the discretion of the president to an individual for significant contributions to the welfare of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry. We are fortunate to have so many individuals who are willing to support the association with time, energy, and money. However, there is one person who has consistently given time and energy above and beyond the call of duty.

It is a real pleasure for me to present the President's Award to Dr. Jane Weintraub. Dr. Weintraub is currently the Lee Hysan Professor at the University of California, San Francisco School of Dentistry. She has served on the AAPHD Executive Council and has chaired the American Dental Association's Advisory Committee for Ad-



President White and Jane Weintraub

vanced Education Programs in Dental Public Health. Over the last couple of years, she served as director for a project funded by the Health Resources

and Services Administration and the AAPHD to revise the competency statements and performance indicators that guide the curricula and standards for graduate training programs in dental public health. She was nominated by the AAPHD and was selected to be a 1998 Primary Care Policy Fellow, and represented our association and oral health well.

Jane is a diplomate of the American Board of Dental Public Health. She has declined invitations to be nominated to serve as a board member because she doesn't want to stop her board preparation course. Now that's dedication!

Jane, thanks for all the work that you do. On behalf of the association, I am pleased to recognize you today with the AAPHD President's Award.

1998 Public Service Award: Senator Edward M. Kennedy

Presented by Robert J. (Skip) Collins, DDS, MPH

The AAPHD Public Service Award is presented to an individual for substantial contributions through action related to public health dentistry issues. In past years, AAPHD has recognized a president of the United States, federal and state legislators, a surgeon general, a governor, and professional association activists. This year we are honoring Senator Edward M. Kennedy for his many years of consistent and vigorous support for dental public health and broad public health programming of which dental public health is a part.

Senator Kennedy has been a consistent supporter of oral health issues since 1968 when he ensured that the dental needs of patients served by Bunker Hill Community Health Center were publicized and addressed. More recently, he has included oral health in the Kennedy Health Care Reform Bill, encouraged Secretary Sha-



Senator Kennedy accepts award from (left to right) Caswell Evans, Skip Collins, Myron Allukian, Jr., and Vincent Edwards.
(PHOTO BY ROBERT KNUDSEN)

lala to strengthen oral health activities within the Health Resources and Services Administration, and supported funding for dental public health residencies.

The term "public health" is an integral part of Kennedy's lexicon. He pays attention to public health outcomes and consistently supports adequate appropriations for agencies dealing with public health problems. A review of his public statements over just this past year reflects his concern for public health. A few examples include support for grants to combat domestic violence and to promote drug-free communities, opposition to special liability protection for the tobacco

industry, support for FDA's authority to regulate tobacco, support for improved child safety laws, and leadership in seeking basic health care coverage for all Americans.

Senator Edward Kennedy is the youngest of nine children of Joseph and Rose Kennedy. He received a BA from Harvard in 1956 and a law degree from the University of Virginia in 1959. He is married to Victoria R. Kennedy and is the father of five children. He was elected to the Senate in 1962 to complete President J.F. Kennedy's term, and has been re-elected six times. In the Senate, he is a member of the Labor and Human Resources Committee, a committee critical to

public health concerns. He also is the ranking Democrat on the Judiciary, Armed Services, and Joint Economic Committees.

AAPHD is proud to recognize Senator Kennedy for his more than 30 years of consistent support for public health. He was unable to be here to receive this award, but we are planning to present it to him next year in his Washington office.

I would like to extend special thanks to the AADR legislative consultant, Nick Cavarocchi, who served as liaison with Senator Kennedy's office and who is helping to set up the appointment in January.

1998 Special Merit Award: Marsha Cunningham, RDH, MS

Presented by Robert J. (Skip) Collins, DDS, MPH

The AAPHD Special Merit Award is presented to an individual for special meritorious service to public health dentistry. This year, AAPHD recognizes the tireless dedication of Marsha Cunningham who has been editor of the association's newsletter, *Communique*, since 1984. The *Communique* remains our primary means of regular communication with the membership and its timely production and high quality are a direct reflection of Marsha's efforts and dedication. As editor, Marsha also serves as a nonvoting member of AAPHD's Executive Council, where her soft-spoken but sound advice is much appreciated.

Too often, we take services like our newsletter for granted, but without the ongoing efforts of Marsha, it wouldn't happen! Not the least of her tasks is constantly reminding officers and other authors about deadlines. This task requires lots of flexibility and patience. For example, during my presidency of AAPHD, Marsha would call regarding the president's message deadline, and I would always beg for

more time. She would respond: "Okay, tell me how many pages you need." I would usually say, "oh, just one," and then later would give her two or three! Somehow Marsha always adjusted.

Marsha Cunningham is associate professor at the Department of Preventive and Community Dentistry, University of Iowa. She received her RDH and MS in dental hygiene from Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA, in 1976 and 1979, respectively. She has served on the board of directors for United Way, Johnson County, Iowa. She is active in health services and educational research, efforts that have produced two book chapters, 16 journal articles, five monographs, and numerous abstracts from presentations at AAPHD, AADS, and IADR meetings. Marsha has developed an interactive computer simulation related to care of geriatric patients.

Marsha is married to Dennis Ford, who is here today. It has been said that if one wants to get a job done, look for someone who is already busy. I am



Skip Collins and Marsha Cunningham

happy to note that the AAPHD Executive Council has approved, and Marsha has accepted, a new three-year assignment as newsletter editor.

Marsha, please accept the Special Merit Award as a token of our gratitude for all you have done and continue to do for AAPHD.