

benefactor? In retrospect, that seems a most unfortunate decision.

Esther continues to have a very long, varied, and productive professional life following her 25 years at the Guggenheim Clinic: 14 years with New York City Department of Health, and now 21 years and counting with New York University. That is an outstanding and almost unbelievable 60 years of educational and public health service.

She and I both took the ABDPIH exams in 1994. I felt rather overwhelmed

at this rather belated formal testing of my dental public health skills, having spent 25 years in the academic life. This was not so long compared with Esther's three careers and over twice that number of years to that point, and she was a great inspiration to the whole group of us as candidates. We referred to ourselves collectively as "The Kokopellis" after the Native American folk character who became the symbol for that International Year of Oral Health. In retrospect, we might have called ourselves the "Colchamiro."

I would say Esther remains an inspiration to us all in dental public health, because if there is a set of characteristics we need in this field it is endurance, persistence, and the ability to be creative and adaptive over the long haul. She has done all of this with grace. It is most fitting that Esther Kaplan Colchamiro receive the John W. Knutson Award for 2002.

Reference

1. Davis JH. *The Guggenheims, 1848-1988: an American epic*. New York: Shapolsky Publishing, 1988.

Remarks on Receiving the John W. Knutson Distinguished Service Award

Stephen Colchamiro, DMD, on behalf of Esther Colchamiro, DMD, MPH

I am truly honored to be accepting this award for Esther; but to be honest, I would prefer not to be here. I would much prefer to be sitting where you are—sitting, watching my aunt receive this wonderful prestigious award. I will be very brief, but Esther would have been even briefer. She would have modestly come up here, said thank you, and then given out her home-baked cookies to everyone. As David so beautifully described, that is her way of doing things ... quietly, efficiently, and with enormous results.

For many of my early years in dentistry, I did not know about Esther's accomplishments. She would ask about and take pride in my work and accomplishments, but would not talk much about her achievements. But then I would run into people all over the country—David in Oregon, Jack Dillenberg, the new dean in Arizona, Sue in Minneapolis, and of course Myron Allukian in Boston—and they would tell me, "Oh, I just saw your aunt in Phoenix (or Houston, or wherever). She's incredible," and then go

on to talk about her. It's only through others that I learned about her great work.

I also learned about the Guggenheim Clinic, and how the influence of dentists on a philanthropic family spawned the creation of the largest dental public health treatment program in the history of the country. It provided over 225,000 patient visits in its peak year of 1958, over 1,000 visits per day, and 5 million visits during its 36 years of operation. Just as importantly, the clinic created generations of

Call for Nominations JOHN W. KNUTSON DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD IN DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Nominations are requested for the John W. Knutson Distinguished Service Award, which is conferred at the annual American Public Health Association meeting, based on the following criteria: a distinguished career in dental public health, leadership in the profession, and significant accomplishments. Nominees may have had public health careers at the local, state, national, or international level in dental public health practice, academia, the military, business, or industry, and will be a present or past member of APHA. Previous recommendations may be resubmitted. To nominate for the 2003 award, submit a curriculum vitae or biographical information and letter(s) of recommendation regarding the candidate by April 15, 2003, to: John P. Brown, BDS, PhD Chair, APHA Oral Health Section Awards Committee, UTHSCSA, Department of Community Dentistry, 7703 Floyd Curl Drive, MC 7917, San Antonio, TX 78229-3900. E-mail: brown@uthscsa.edu. Tel.: 210-567-3200.

dentists who had Esther as a role model, and continued to exponentially provide dental care to others in need.

Nevertheless, the clinic closed in 1967, as fluoridation and Medicaid were supposed to be able to handle the oral health needs of children. Obviously, places like the Guggenheim Clinic are needed now more than ever. To quote Esther, "Its demise left a defi-

nite void felt even today."

So why did Esther become a dentist, and why did she go to Tufts? Many of you have seen the movie "My Big Fat Greek Wedding": women were supposed to marry another Greek, cook, and raise a family. Well, she did do all that; but, according to Esther, she went to dental school because her mother wanted her to. But she has no idea why or how a woman from Greece, who

had limited English, would know about dentistry and want her daughter to become a dentist. And Tufts ... that was the only school out of 15 that Esther applied to that would accept her, a woman, in 1938.

Esther is deeply honored and I know she misses being here today. It is with great pride that I accept this award.

DENTAL, ORAL, AND CRANIOFACIAL DATA NOW AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET

The Dental, Oral and Craniofacial Data Resource Center (DRC), funded by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Oral Health, is launching its new DRC Web site (<http://drc.nidcr.nih.gov>).

The Website has three main components:

- ◆ Oral Health US, 2002: an annual report of oral health statistics summarizing the oral health status of the United States population including tables, graphs, and descriptive data summaries. Also available on CD-ROM.
- ◆ A statistical Data Query System (DQS): an on-line interactive data analysis tool that makes national oral health data readily available. Users can quickly personalize queries and retrieve frequencies, percentages, and confidence intervals.
- ◆ The Catalog of Surveys and Archive of Procedures Related to Oral Health: a searchable database containing information on over 240 private, state, federal, and international surveys and data sets. The catalog links to a comprehensive archive of procedures, clinical indices, and questionnaire modules used in oral health research. Also available on CD-ROM.

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