

## MEDICAL STUDENTS AND RESIDENTS COMMITTEE: MENTORSHIP MATTERS

## The Life Members Reception and Dinner: A Resident's Perspective



■ **Joanna Quigley, M.D.**

Receiving financial support from the Educational Outreach Program provided by the Life Members Fund allowed me to attend my first AACAP Annual Meeting. I really enjoyed attending the lectures, symposia and poster sessions, and found the formalized mentorship program to be very helpful. However, the Life Members Dinner was a highlight of the week. I was not sure what to expect at this gathering, but was eager to meet those that had made my attendance at the meeting

possible. During the cocktail hour, I spent time getting to know some of my fellow residents better, and over dinner I conversed with individual Life Members in a way that would not have otherwise occurred at the meeting. It was immediately clear that this group shared a very special sense of community. They even made sure that some of those that could not physically join them at the dinner were connected via cell phone during the speeches. As they shared stories and reminisced, their collective energy was palpable. This offered a glimpse into what for many appeared to have been a sustaining community, on both professional and personal terms. Their investment in the trajectory of AACAP has been significant. They recalled the trials, tribulations and joys of building hospitals, clinics and departments, fostering training programs, and engaging in their local AACAP regional organizations.

It was a privilege to be in the company of these esteemed clinicians, academicians, and leaders. As young trainees, it is easy to be caught up in the daily race to keep up with our patients, responsibilities and call schedules. It is easy to forget that we are actually shaping our own professional narrative, and that each stage of the career trajectory is important. It was clear that these leaders shared a sense of vision and initiative, which they still exhibit by the existence of the Life Members Fund and their investment in trainees. I left feeling a sense of gratitude for having been included in this group, but also an even greater sense of responsibility to engage and invest in AACAP and its mission. ■

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*Dr. Quigley is a triple board resident at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine Program in Lexington, Kentucky.*

## Mentorship Grants for Medical Students: A Recipient's Experience



■ **Jill Welte**

This year, I was honored to be one of seven medical student recipients of the AACAP Life Members Mentorship Grant to attend the AACAP+CACAP Joint Annual Meeting in Toronto. In addition to participating in daily mentorship activities, we were invited to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Life Members Reception and Dinner on October 20, 2011. I know that I speak for

the other six medical student recipients when I offer thanks to the AACAP Development Committee, and specifically the Life Members Subcommittee, for creating the program this year.

Through the course of the evening, I learned that each Life Member has at least thirty years of AACAP involvement, and that the group's membership currently spans an age range from 65 to 101 years old. The camaraderie between the Life Members was amazing to observe, as these men and women who have known each other for decades greeted each other and caught up on both personal and professional levels. The unveiling of the Secret Seven was a perfect example of how these relationships have been nurtured. In 1968, a group of seven child and adolescent psychiatrists from Houston formed a *Journal* club.

Although there have been some changes in membership over the years, the group developed from professional colleagues into lifelong friends and it continues to thrive 43 years later. What a treat it was for me to hear their story, and to see in action the balance of work and personal life that is required to have a long and fulfilling career!

Also at the dinner, the symbol of an owl was formally announced as a new logo to represent the Life Members. **Laurence L. Greenhill, M.D.**, then AACAP president, discussed that throughout the centuries and within different cultures, owls have symbolized many concepts: intelligence, wisdom, mystery, secret knowledge, transition, protection, and the keeper of spirits. As someone whose

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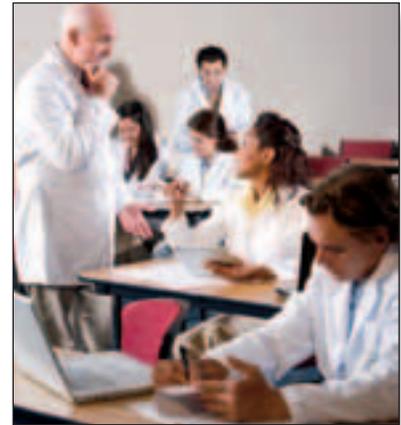
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career in psychiatry has yet to begin, I was struck by how apropos this symbol is for the Life Members group. The obvious association was the wealth of experience, accomplishment, and wisdom in the room that night. On further reflection, I realized that the lesser-known symbolic meanings also reflect the spirit of the Life Members. They have transitioned the field from its beginnings to its current state through their

clinical work, research, and academic endeavors. As protectors, they provide mentorship to medical students and residents aspiring to become child and adolescent psychiatrists to ensure that the field will continue to thrive. ■

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*Ms. Welte is a fourth year medical student at the University of Missouri-Columbia.*



## This is Your Opportunity to Comment on the *Journal*

The Ad Hoc Committee on Editorship and Publications is reviewing the work of the *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry* and the *Journal* editor. The Committee has convened and asks AACAP members to answer a few questions regarding their thoughts about the *Journal*.

**What aspects of the *Journal* do you like best?  
What suggestions would you make for changes to the *Journal*?**

Members may submit their comments to Maureen DuBois, Committee Liaison, by email at [mdubois@aacap.org](mailto:mdubois@aacap.org) or mail at 3615 Wisconsin Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20016. Comments will be confidential if requested. The deadline for member feedback is February 15, 2012.



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