

Faculty Award & Honor

On behalf of the Dental Hygiene Class of 2014, we believe the vitality and recognition of a faculty professor is critical to advancing an interpersonal relationship with her students. Professor Gail Vasilenko, practicing Dental Hygiene for 35 years and offering her teaching skills for over a decade has helped her pupils find a purpose in choosing their career; looking forward, sharing knowledge and motivating her students to keep pursuing goals and to always think in a well- rounded way, taking all evidence into consideration when treating patients and making critical thinking situations. It is our honor to recommend Professor Vasilenko for the NJDHA Faculty Mentorship Award.

From the first day of orientation, it was evident that Professor Vasilenko exemplified a passion for the dental field and a wealth of knowledge that she was excited to pass down to us. Her expertise is apparent in didactic, laboratory, and clinical settings. She finds the time to work with each student individually and assesses each individual's specific needs. Her wide knowledge base resonates through her lectures, while keeping each lesson upbeat, exciting, and refreshing. Her witty sense of humor along with her unconventional teaching style keeps each student interested and alert.

Despite her casualness, her classes are anything but frivolous or inconsequential. With board style questions, thoughtful case studies, and specifics of each lecture and topic, her exams truly evaluate each pupil's decision making skills and understanding of the material learned. She is also constantly encouraging us to "pay it forward," a phrase she has made prominent through our journey at UMDNJ. She stresses the importance of helping others and makes us aware that the world is so much bigger than our little classroom.

When the time came to nominate an instructor, Professor Vasilenko's name was immediately brought up in discussion. Now, as senior students in the Dental Hygiene program at UMDNJ, we appreciate the special opportunity to experience Professor Vasilenko's diverse teaching methods throughout the duration of the program. Her immeasurable morality has shown our class how to treat our career choice as a lifelong goal rather than a short term two year struggle. We are proud to honor Professor V with this award, and we know she will continue spreading the love of teaching, learning, and motivation to her students for the will to succeed.

Thank you.

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