

CELEBRATIONS

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KATHLEEN JAY » MEDICAL PROFESSION

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— Dr. Theodore Miclau, director of San Francisco General's orthopaedic trauma unit.



Dr. Rick Coughlin provides medical care to patients in Gujarat, India in 2001. Coughlin volunteers with Orthopaedics Overseas, an organization that works with developing countries to provide surgical interventions for children and adults in need as well as medical training to local physicians. — Courtesy photo

Local surgeon receives humanitarian award

Dr. Rick Coughlin is honored by his peers for outstanding work helping the poor

Dr. Rick Coughlin, a trauma and foot and ankle specialist at San Francisco General Hospital Medical Center and an associate clinical professor of orthopaedic surgery at the University of California, San Francisco, was recently honored by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons with its 2006 Humanitarian Award at the organization's annual meeting in Chicago on March 24.



Dr. Rick Coughlin

Coughlin, who received \$5,000 to be donated to his volunteer organization, Orthopaedics Overseas, was recognized for his outstanding musculoskeletal-related humanitarian activities in the United States and abroad.

“Rick has a strong history of leadership in volunteerism, both within this country and beyond,” said Dr. Theodore Miclau, director of San Francisco General's orthopaedic trauma unit. “This well-deserved award highlights a career of giving to the underserved.”

Through his involvement with Orthopaedics Overseas, which works to improve health care in developing countries though

teaching and training, Coughlin has provided care to the poor in both the U.S. and in several developing countries, including Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Russia, China, Vietnam, Venezuela, India, South Africa and Uganda. During his volunteer trips, he gives lectures, provides training to local physicians and performs surgical interventions on children and adults in need.

As a full-time faculty member at UCSF, Coughlin also helped establish an elective, monthlong overseas clinical rotation at an orthopaedic clinic located near Umtata, on South Africa's Eastern Cape. Nearly 90 percent of the school's fourth-year orthopaedic residents opt to volunteer.

“I feel it is our duty to create a culture of global involvement and responsibility in our future professionals,” Coughlin said. “We have some of the best and brightest in the profession here. Going to South Africa provides them with a place to learn about the world, mature and understand the importance of caring for those most in need.” It is at the clinic, Coughlin said, that his team provides care for neglected problems, which include breaks and wounds from traffic accidents, gun violence or older breaks that were never properly set.

“Bedford Orthopaedic Hospital was built in 1991 and has approximately 100 beds split between children, male and female adults, and a spinal unit,” Coughlin said.

“Patients may number over 100 on a busy day. Motor vehicle accidents, domestic violence and tribal troubles — machete wounds — lead to a large number of open compound fractures, which are most common.”

His team also treats many cases of advanced tuberculosis of bone, he added, as well as acute and chronic osteomyelitis, cerebral palsy and congenital conditions, such as club foot.

“Dr. Coughlin's implementation of an overseas rotation for senior residents at UCSF is an amazing accomplishment,” Miclau added. “He is among the most respected and admired teachers I know.”

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R. Richard “Rick” Coughlin was born in Ellwood City, Pa. He attended the United States Air Force Academy, and graduated with honors with a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Maryland in 1974.

After attending graduate school in clinical psychology at Loyola College in Baltimore, he graduated medical school magna

cum laude from the Universidad Centrale De Caribe in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, in 1981.

After completing his orthopaedic residency at St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City, Coughlin then completed a fellowship in sports medicine at Georgia Tech, and later, a foot and ankle fellowship in Oakland.

After six years of private practice, he joined the faculty at UCSF, with a clinical position at San Francisco General, where he concentrated on resident education and program development. Dr. Coughlin was distinguished with the “Teacher of the Year Award” in 1998 and an award for “Outstanding Dedication to Resident Education” in 2003.

Having written several articles advocating volunteerism in orthopaedics, Dr. Coughlin also completed a master's degree in public health in developing countries at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 2004.

Coughlin has also several years offering his services free of charge once a week to members of the ODC/Dance troupe, a modern dance company based in San Francisco. In addition, he established a “healthy dancers” program at the company's Mission Dance Center.



Susan Grant delivers her acceptance speech after receiving the National Association of Women Business Owners' member of the year award for the San Francisco chapter. — Courtesy photo

Entrepreneur Susan Grant is honored by local women's business organization

On April 7, Susan G. Grant, a principal of Winguth, Grant & Co., an executive search firm in San Francisco, received the Member of the Year award from the San Francisco Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners, which represents women business owners from The City, the Peninsula, the North Bay and East Bay.

Joined by more than 500 friends, family and colleagues, Grant was honored at the organization's 22nd annual Women Entrepreneurs Benefit that was held at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco.

“It's a real honor to receive this distinction from NAWBO-SF for my work with the chapter,” Grant said. “I'm proud of all that women business owners have accomplished in the last three decades since NAWBO began.”

Professionally, Grant has more than 15 years of professional experience. Launching her career at Korn/Ferry International, an executive search firm with offices in Palo Alto and San Francisco, she currently works with entrepreneurial clients, ranging from startups to companies with over \$1 billion in revenues. Her company — Winguth, Grant & Co. — serves high-tech, biotechnology, industrial and consumer manufacturing and the professional services industries.

Prior to entering the search world, Grant also taught high school math and chemistry at Star of the Sea Academy in San Francisco.

Grant joined NAWBO in 1995 and has participated on several of the group's committees, including serving as chapter's president in 2001.

“We are very excited to recognize Susan Grant as she has done so much to support NAWBO over the years,” May Pon, the organization's president, said in an e-mail.

For more information, visit www.nawbo-sf.org.