Skourtes Tower Open for Business

Cornelia Stanton has been a patient at Oregon’s only dental school since she was a child. Now 75, the Portland native still opts to come to the dental school for her oral care, and on July 7, she made history by being one of the first patients in the school’s fourth building, the Skourtes Tower OHSU School of Dentistry.

“I am happy with my care,” said Mrs. Stanton. “I like the dental school because of the young folks providing care, and it is less expensive than going to a private practice.”

Mrs. Stanton had her teeth cleaned in the 58-year-old Marquam Hill dental school building in mid-June, but a partial break in her front tooth brought her back for care sooner.

“I saw all the signs on the walls that the dental school was moving, and then when my tooth broke I got on the web to find the address for emergency care,” she said. “This is a beautiful facility.”

Sixty-seven-year-old Camelia from Gresham was also one of the first patients in the Skourtes Tower OHSU School of Dentistry. “The new building is impressive,” she said through an interpreter. “I like that the dentists and students work closely together to cooperate on diagnoses which makes it more comfortable to make decisions. Everyone here works carefully and precisely and professionally.”

“The clinics are spectacular, and it is a really beautiful space for patient care,” said Dean Phillip Marucha, D.M.D., Ph.D. “The faculty and staff are so excited to be here, and the students and residents who’ve been on campus also have given the facility rave reviews. We’ve worked hard to make sure everything is functional for the students’ return to campus on Aug. 11. We still have a few bugs to work out, and we appreciate everyone’s patience as we fine tune our new home.

“Working together in a nice new building will help us achieve our vision for dental education and patient care.”

(see photos on page two and three)
We’ve Moved to Skourtes Tower …

Tara Moreno, administrative coordinator, central services (front) and Sharon McKay, residency coordinator for the departments of endodontology, orthodontics, and periodontology, were in the early wave of movers, and said it only took a few hours to unpack and organize their offices. Tara is on the eighth floor in the faculty office, and Sharon is on the 10th floor on the north side of the building.

“This is brilliant!” said Kathy Anderson (left) with office mate Tammy Stange. “I love being in the new building.” Kathy and Tammy, both administrative coordinators for the predoctoral clinic, are located in the Office of Clinical Affairs on the eighth floor. Said Tammy, “We’re South Waterfront pros now. We’re learning where all of the restaurants are located.”

Dave Feucht (left), system application analyst, and Devin Bryant, senior system application analyst, shown here in the pediatric dentistry clinic, worked the July 4th weekend to get the school ready for patient care the week of July 7. Small last minute details—walls being painted, equipment not sized right, outlets in the wrong spot—slowed the pair down, but they said they still felt on top of their game.

Radiology technicians (from left) Elena Nagy, Leslie Reed, and Sergey Zakharov, and Alexandria Davey (in front) are enjoying their south view on the 12th floor.
... And We’re Loving the New Space!

Administrative Assistant Megan Jeschke answers the phone in the Orthodontics Clinic on July 7.

The periodontology crew christened their new clinic in a ribbon cutting ceremony on July 7. Dean Phillip Marucha, D.M.D., Ph.D., is at right in the white coat. “This is a very nice set-up,” said Deborah Rask Sakr, graduate periodontology administrative assistant (seated in front, dark blue). “I couldn’t be happier to be up here. I’m excited to provide care for our patients in a state-of-the-art facility.”

Mark Mitchell, M.A., associate dean for student affairs, and Jenna Wilkinson, administrative coordinator, Office of Admissions and Student Affairs, moved into their third floor, south tower space, in mid-July.

Staff at the first floor patient check-in and reception desk were keeping busy the afternoon of July 14.

Faculty learned about the technologies available in the new dental school lecture hall on the third floor of the Atrium, named for the Oregon Dental Association, on July 25.
Spanish-speaking Patients on the Rise
OHSU School of Dentistry’s Spanish-speaking patient population is increasing, and the school will add a Spanish interpreter to its staff this month.

Olga Parker is joining the school fulltime Aug. 1, and will be based on the eighth floor, in the Office of Clinical Affairs (on the east end of Skourtes Tower behind the Hawthorne group practice).

Dental patients at OHSU School of Dentistry speak 34 different languages. In 2013-2014, there were 8,826 hours of interpretation time for the dental school, 6,701 of which were for Spanish-speaking patients (76 percent).

“The number of hours for Spanish interpretation time has actually increased more than 14 percent since the last fiscal year,” said Kathy Anderson, administrative coordinator in the predoctoral clinic. “There has been a lot of word of mouth amongst this patient population about the dental school, and the number of Spanish-speaking patients is continuing to rise.

“The students love having a Spanish interpreter nearby who can help them communicate with patients via phone, and the interpretation services are also more convenient for Spanish-speaking patients.”

New Additions to SOD
OHSU School of Dentistry has a number of new faculty, staff, residents, and researchers to introduce this month.

According to Dean Phillip Marucha, D.M.D., Ph.D., the dental school has received funding from the Provost’s office to increase dental faculty, with the goal of having a six-to-one student-to-faculty ratio on the predoctoral clinic floor. Eight new faculty are replacement faculty for those leaving or retiring, and there are another 27 new faculty in the works, 10 of those research faculty.

“Our faculty needs are very important right now,” said Dr. Marucha. “We want to take care of the full- and part-time faculty we have currently, by rewarding them for their hard work and ensuring they have the training and development they need, as well as bringing on new faculty to ensure excellent patient care and education.”

The following faculty and staff are new to the school:

*Armando Ayala is a patient access specialist in the pre-doctoral clinic.

*Anna Forsyth, D.D.S., M.S.D., is an assistant professor in pediatric dentistry. Dr. Forsyth received her doctor of dental surgery from the University of Washington in 2006, and after a general practice residency in Washington, D.C., returned to Seattle for a master of science in dentistry and a certificate in pediatric dentistry. Most recently, Dr. Forsyth has been in private practice at Hi5 Dental and Capitol Group Smilekeepers, as well as a visiting adjunct professor at Pacific University School of Dental Health Science.

*Jose Fuentes is a sterile processing technician in dental clinic administration. (continued on page six)

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SOD Dental Hygienist Leads Compassion North Portland

Robin Cox, R.D.H., B.S.D.S., periodontology instructor, lives in the St. Johns area of North Portland. So, when she was asked to serve her community by leading the June 28 Compassion North Portland event at Roosevelt High School, she agreed.

"It seemed like a natural fit," said Robin. "I’m a dental hygienist looking for ways to give back while utilizing my expanded practice permit in Oregon. Being affiliated with OHSU School of Dentistry, I was able to recruit dental providers and students, and ended up with a huge response.

"It was very rewarding, and our students did a fantastic job of bringing dental care to the community. They made good decisions and were so willing, kind, and did good dentistry."

Volunteering with Robin from OHSU for the one-day event were: Dennis Nicola, D.D.S., F.A.G.D., assistant professor in the predoctoral clinic (who has been the supervising faculty member at many local Compassion events), William Herzog, D.M.D. `73, assistant professor of restorative dentistry, Vincent Liguere, D.D.S., assistant professor of restorative dentistry, Paul Ortiz, D.M.D. `79, assistant professor of restorative dentistry, and several dozen second, third, and fourth-year dental students. The caregivers had 69 appointments and conducted extractions, restorations, scaling and root planning, and prophys.

DS2’s helped where they could, said Robin, DS3’s assisted with oral care and practiced injections, and DS4’s provided the dental treatment. New alum Carly Peterschmidt, D.M.D. `14, also was on hand to help with dental triage.

"Because of health care reform, there were fewer numbers of people seeking medical care that day because they now have access to care, but there is no such program for dental or optical and so those teams were kept busy," said Robin. "It was a great experience. I wish we could do it more regularly because a once-a-year event doesn’t even begin to address the issue of access to care."
Dr. Smith Up for Award

Julie Ann Smith, D.D.S., M.D., associate professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery, has been nominated for an OHSU President’s Award. To cast your vote for Dr. Smith, go to: http://o2.ohsu.edu/blogs/staffnews/2014/07/25/a-dozen-roses-to-pick-from-for-presidents-award/ by Aug. 7.

Each July, OHSU students and volunteers are invited to choose a President’s Award winner. The President’s Award recognizes a Golden Rose recipient from the past year whose dedication to service goes beyond their job description. Dr. Smith won the OHSU Golden Rose Award in July 2013.

Here is one example of Dr. Smith’s service, from the mother of a patient:

"We were told when our son was six-years-old that he may eventually need oral surgery to correct a congenital problem with his jaw. His jaw, upper and lower, grew at different rates such that at age 20, only two teeth met when he bit into food.

Dr. Smith and her team were extraordinary from the time we met. They spent plenty of time discussing the procedure to correct the jaw misalignment, potential complications, recovery, and pain.

Our son required orthodontic treatment up until nine months before the surgical procedure. Because he is a student in Chicago and would be seeing an orthodontist there, we thought the coordination of care would be a logistical obstacle."

New Additions (continued from page four)

*Shawneen Gonzalez, D.D.S., M.S., is the school’s new director of radiology. Dr. Gonzalez received her doctor of dental surgery from the University of Washington, a master’s degree in stomatology from the University of Iowa Graduate College, and a certificate of oral and maxillofacial radiology from the University of Iowa College of Dentistry. Most recently, Dr. Gonzalez has been assistant professor of oral and maxillofacial radiology, directing the Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Clinic, at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry. She is no stranger to Portland, having completed two years of undergraduate study at Portland State University.

*Patrick Heaphy, D.M.D. ’10, is a post-doctoral fellow in the department of endodontology.

*Armando Hernandez is a new patient access specialist in the pre-doctoral clinic.

Dr. Smith (continued from left column)

Dr. Smith told us not to worry; she would find a way to work with his orthodontist from 2,000 miles away.

As the date of our son’s surgery was approaching, Dr. Smith again saw him in her office. She had new molds of his teeth to make sure that the orthodontic process was advancing acceptably. Dr. Smith expressed some concern to us. She wanted to visit the orthodontist, and assured us it would be no bother for her to meet with him while on holiday visiting her mother near Chicago.

So, Dr. Smith boarded an airplane with [our son’s] mold and then drove into the city for a consultation with the orthodontist. We were astounded. Our son is very much at ease with Dr. Smith, and as parents that gives us such tremendous relief.”
New Additions  (continued from page six)  

*Kirsten Johnson is a new dental assistant in oral and maxillofacial surgery.

*Nicole Kimmes, D.D.S., is the new assistant dean for faculty development and technology. Dr. Kimmes received her doctor of dental surgery from Creighton University School of Dentistry in 2001, where most recently she was associate professor and director of dental informatics. Dr. Kimmes also has directed Creighton’s oral and maxillofacial imaging center, and been in private practice.

*David Lambert, D.D.S., is a new assistant professor in oral and maxillofacial surgery. Dr. Lambert has been on faculty at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Dentistry since 1991, and most recently was an assistant adjunct professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery. Dr. Lambert received his doctor of dental surgery from the University of North Carolina.

*Nan Liu is a post-doctoral researcher in restorative dentistry (Merritt lab; see below).

*Roxy Love is a dental assistant in clinic administration.

*Patrick Marx is a post-doctoral researcher in restorative dentistry.

*Justin Merritt, Ph.D., is a new associate professor in the department of restorative dentistry. Dr. Merritt completed his graduate studies and doctoral degree at the Molecular Biology Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles. Most recently,

Welcome New Residents

Sixteen dentists began advanced specialty education programs at OHSU School of Dentistry last month, including four OHSU dental graduates. Please welcome:


New Additions  (continued from left column)

Dr. Merritt has been associate professor in the department of microbiology and immunology in the College of Medicine at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Dr. Merritt’s research focuses on the mechanisms used by signal transduction systems to control various virulence properties of several bacterial pathogens associated with tooth decay.

*William Moore, D.M.D., Pediatric Dentistry, ’14, is a new assistant professor of pediatric dentistry. Dr. Moore just completed a two-year pediatric residency at OHSU. He received his doctor of dental medicine from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine.

*Irina Tkechenko is a sterile processing technician in central administration.

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