MDS Dental Student Awards

Four SOD students recently received $500 awards from the Multnomah Dental Society (MDS) for their work on Give Kids a Smile day. Fourth-year dental students Lindsay Reif, Elizabeth Palmer, Andrew Dow, and Kariana Peters all received the cash award at the MDS General Membership annual awards dinner and meeting on May 21. "Although there were many students deserving of this award, your contributions to the program, not only this year, but also the previous three years made the choice a much easier one," said MDS Executive Director Lora Mattsen.

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OHSU School of Dentistry/Dental Bites

Class of 2007 Graduates June 3
School of Dentistry Hooding on Internet for Third Year

The OHSU School of Dentistry will hood and honor its 2008 graduates at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 3, in the Old Library. Commencement exercises for all OHSU schools, including the SOD, is later in the day at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. Seventy dental students are expected to participate in the SOD hooding and honors convocation, said Mark Mitchell, M.A., associate dean for student affairs.

The SOD hooding is on the Internet, http://media.ohsu.edu/ramgen/broadcast/SOD.rm.

Four OHSU alumni were selected by the class of 2008 as hooders and marshals. Faculty marshals are Lee Albrecht, D.M.D. '78, assistant professor of prosthodontics, and E. Robert Quinn, D.M.D. '55, associate professor of operative dentistry. Faculty hooders are Brian Mitchell, D.M.D. '75, assistant professor of clinic administration, and William Bonniksen, D.M.D. '75, assistant professor of restorative dentistry. The six group practice leaders also will be helping to hood "their" students. (see also graduation story page three)

SOD Entry Finalist in Photo Contest

A photo taken by health and safety specialist Sharon Reams, C.D.A., is a finalist in the OSAP (Organization for Safety and Asepsis Procedures) annual competition with winners to be announced this month. Sharon's photo, at right, is one of eight nationally in the finals.

Sharon was at an International Endo Conference in Canada with husband, Gregg, D.M.D., an assistant professor of endodontology, earlier this year when she saw the "queen" and "moony" in the crowd. Having heard in the past the expression, "Even her highness has to wash her hands," Sharon asked the two to pose for the photo contest and the rest is history. (continued on page two)
Morton Receives Honors

David Morton, Ph.D., professor of integrative biosciences, recently received the "Outstanding Researcher Award" in the biological sciences, from the Columbia-Willamette Chapter of Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society.

Dr. Morton was nominated for the annual award by John Mitchell, Ph.D., assistant professor of biomaterials and biomechanics. Dr. Morton studies genetics and biochemistry using fruit flies.

Dr. Morton also just received a one-year, $40,000 grant from the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease) Association to study a fruit fly gene that is related to a human gene associated with ALS.

Dr. Morton and his team have discovered how to alter the fruit fly gene so that it suffers from neurodegeneration.

"By studying in more depth the fruit fly gene, named TBPH, and the human gene associated with ALS, named TDP43, we hope to better understand the basic biology of both genes and how they function," said Dr. Morton.

Such an understanding, he said, may someday lead to a treatment, or even cure, for ALS and other neurological conditions.

Dental Student Spouses Receive Awards

Mary Clinton remembers when she received a 'spouse award' from the OHSU School of Dentistry when husband, Dean Jack Clinton (D.M.D. '64), graduated from dental school.

"It was very special," said Mrs. Clinton. "All of the spouses received the award and it showed us the importance of our role in helping our loved ones get through dental school."

Awards for spouses supporting dental students — initiated by former dental school Dean (1946-1947) Harold Noyes — made a return appearance at a recent Alumni Association-sponsored event honoring the Class of 2008. The May 17 "Welcome to the Alumni Association" reception at the Tigard, Ore., home of Steve (D.M.D. '80) and (continued on page four)

May Alum Outreach

OHSU School of Dentistry Dean Jack Clinton, D.M.D. '64, recently visited with alums in Helena, Mont., and Bend, Ore. Dean Clinton was in Helena May 1 and 2 for the Montana State Dental Association meeting. The School of Dentistry Alumni Association co-hosted the meeting's opening reception. And Dean Clinton was the featured speaker for the Central Oregon Dental Society's May 8 meeting. He gave an overview of what's new in dental education for the approximately 25 OHSU alums and Central Oregon dentists in attendance.

Photo Contest (continued from page one)

Sharon has been with the School of Dentistry for 35 years. She currently works on infection control and safety issues for dental students, faculty and employees with Larry Irish, Ph.D., director of infection control and health and safety.

Sharon also is a part time dental assistant to Craig Baumgartner, D.D.S., Ph.D., chair of endodontology, in the Faculty Dental Practice, and she has been working chairside with Dr. Baumgartner for 16 years. Good luck, Sharon!
Lampi Receives Prestigious National Lens Award

Kirsten Lampi, M.S., Ph.D., associate professor of integrative biosciences, recently received the 2008 Cataract Research Award from the National Foundation for Eye Research. Dr. Lampi was recognized April 28 at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology meeting held in Ft. Lauderdale, Fl. She received a plaque and check for $2,500. The award is given bi-annually to one outstanding young lens investigator. "I'm honored and excited," said Dr. Lampi. "This is the only national award specific to lens research."

Dr. Lampi's research focuses on the effects of deamidation—a kind of protein modification—on beta-crystallins, structural proteins found in the lens of the eye, necessary for maintaining lens transparency. She has shown that deamidation decreases protein stability leading to aggregation, a potential mechanism for cataracts.

"Cataracts are an example of a protein aggregation disease. Other aggregation diseases, such as Alzheimer's, Huntington's, or Parkinson's may have similar mechanisms," said Dr. Lampi. "The more we can learn from cataracts—a more readily accessible tissue than the brain—hopefully the more advances we can make in all protein aggregation diseases." An interesting relevance to dentistry, is that scientists can also predict the chronological age of humans and animals by measuring the deamidation levels in teeth. This is used in forensic science, said Dr. Lampi.

"Dr. Lampi's research award is very prestigious for OHSU," said Dean Jack Clinton, D.M.D. '64. "It means that our dental students are receiving their basic science education from top-notch researchers that are internationally-recognized scientists."

At the same meeting, Dr. Lampi was elected to ARVO's program committee for a three-year term. She will help determine program content for the annual meeting, which is attended by about 10,000 people.

New Name for OMS Graduation Award

The name of the oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMS) award presented annually to a graduating senior is being changed, said Leon Assael, D.M.D., professor and chair of oral and maxillofacial surgery. Formerly the Jerome Schell Memorial Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Award, the annual honor is given to the dental student exhibiting outstanding performance in oral and maxillofacial surgery. Beginning with the 2008 hooding and honors convocation, the award will be called the Gary Wilson/Jerome Schell Memorial Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Award. "The change highlights the accomplishments of these two great teachers," said Dr. Assael. Dr. Wilson was an adjunct assistant professor in OMS for almost three years until his death in August of 2007. A 1977 OHSU School of Dentistry graduate, Dr. Wilson was admired by his students for his passion for dentistry.
Goodbye, Dr. Heringer

Weston Heringer Jr., D.M.D. ’71, pediatric dentistry residency coordinator, is leaving the SOD at the end of the month to direct (and drive!) the DFO (Dental Foundation of Oregon)’s new mobile dental van, which will provide comprehensive dental care to low-income children throughout Oregon.

"This is a new chapter," said Dr. Heringer, 64, who has been on the SOD faculty since 1994. "It's exciting."

The mobile dental van was purchased in partnership with the (OEA) Oregon Education Association Choice Trust and The ODS Companies. The 38-foot van has two operatory units and a waiting room.

Dr. Heringer will "go on the road" with the van beginning July 1, for 42 weeks a year (son, Weston III, is taking over Dr. Heringer's Salem, Ore., private practice). Dr. Heringer will be joined in the van by a dental assistant. Volunteer dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants will be essential and Dr. Heringer said he hopes dental students and pediatric residents also can be worked into the volunteer mix. An administrative assistant based at The ODS Companies will work directly with Oregon educators who can request the free van visit their community.

"I'm hoping that the van will be a new opportunity for OHSU dental education, particularly when it comes to gaining experience in rural areas," said Dr. Heringer.

Spouse Awards (continued from page two)

Dennel (R.D.H. ’77) Beadnell honored six individuals nominated by their soon-to-graduate spouses. The six spouses were selected for dedicating their "time, comfort, and earnings to help support their dental candidates' success."

Receiving an Ann Wilkins Ellis "PhT Award" (Putting Him or Her Through) were Courtney Attack (wife of Jason); Chip Bradley (husband of Kelly); Trisa Perry (wife of Daniel); Brit Peterson (wife of Kelsey); Jennifer Scott (wife of Kevin); and Summer Valentine (wife of Kyle).

Mrs. Ellis was the wife of Dick Ellis, D.M.D. ’58, and she supported him through his dental studies and 51 years of marriage. In Mrs. Ellis’ memory, the Ellis family established the PhT Award and invited senior dental students to nominate their spouse. Dr. Ellis and the four Ellis children were the judges for the PhT Award competition.

The spouses selected each received a $500 check presented by Mrs. Clinton during the reception. The cash award is intended for the winning spouse’s private needs.

The "Welcome to the Alumni Association” reception is one way dental students have the opportunity to meet other alumni and to get a sneak preview of life after the OHSU School of Dentistry. The reception was a personal evening, as well, for the Beadnells as Melissa Beadnell is in the Class of 2008. Nearly two-thirds of the class of 2008 attended the second annual event, along with their guests, and members of the Alumni Association.

SOD Calendar

June 20 End of 12-week spring term
June 21-25 WREB Dental Hygiene Exam
July 4 SOD Holiday (Independence Day)
July 7 Start of six-week summer session
OHSU Dental Students Provide Care in the Phillipines

OHSU dental Students **Alan Chen** (DS3) and **Andrew Dow** (DS4), along with longtime OHSU dental team educator **Luz Tulipat**, D.M.D., and two graduating Pacific University dental hygienists, went to the Phillipines in mid-May to provide oral care. In four days, the group saw nearly 400 children in two cities. Here is a short trip summary:

**Alan:** We went to Bulacan (outside of Manila) and an island off Iloilo City. In the Phillipines there is no dental insurance and extractions cost $7. Bulacan is primarily a fishing community where a landowner has the village manage a Tilapia farm, and other people either don't work or wade through the landfill about a quarter mile from their village and find supplies to use or sell. The island in Iloilo is a rice farming community where there are no dentists and the same poverty. Those that work make about $6 a week.

**Luz:** Each year I return to the Phillipines to help the underserved people. This was the first time in 22 years of doing this humanitarian work that I've had people with me. Without the volunteer help, we could not have serviced as many people.

**Alan:** People have adopted a western diet of soda, chips, and candy, but do not have the education or toothbrushes/toothpaste to prevent harmful consequences. You can buy chips and soda at the local stores, but we never saw any toothbrushes or toothpaste for sale. All of the children under 18 that we saw had large cavities between their front teeth because of the soda and rotted out posterior teeth. Most of the anterior extractions we did were on patients under 16. There were lots of girls there who were very self-conscious of their appearance and took care of themselves well, but had the same cavities. I believe that if they had the knowledge and equipment (toothbrushes, paste, and floss) they would take very good care of their teeth.

**Luz:** This was the most rewarding trip that I have been on. We were able to help a lot of people because of the student volunteers that gave their all to treat and teach the people. I know that if children are taught about dental hygiene properly, especially at an early age, these teachings will help prevent decay and diseases in the future. And they will be able to apply and carry this knowledge forever.
Karla Kent, Ph.D., Wins OHSU Service Award

Karla Kent, Ph.D., associate professor of integrative biosciences in the School of Dentistry, recently won the 2008 OHSU Faculty Senate Award for Excellence in Service. Dr. Kent has been with the SOD for almost 20 years. She holds a joint appointment in the School of Medicine’s department of cell and developmental biology.

As the 2008 Faculty Senate service award winner, Dr. Kent received $3,500 and a certificate.

Rose McPharlin, D.D.S., assistant professor of operative dentistry, introduced Dr. Kent at the May 16 Faculty Senate banquet.

"Dr. Kent contributes tirelessly in the area of service at the professional, university, community and national level," said Dr. McPharlin.

Dr. Kent has served as a member of the NIH/CSR Fellowship review panel on neurodevelopment, synaptic plasticity, and neurodegeneration; as a member of the Howard Hughes Pre-doctoral Reviewer for the National Science Foundation, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the City University of New York. She is a manuscript reviewer for numerous neuroscience, neurobiology, and physiology journals. She has served on OHSU's Affirmative Action Policy committee and is currently a member of the university's Faculty Senate. At the SOD, Dr. Kent has served on a number of research and education committees.

In providing service to support the Neuroscience Graduate Program (NGP), Dr. Kent has served as associate director, NGP representative on the Graduate Council, and on the NGP Executive Committee, among other positions. To further foster neuroscience education in the community, Dr. Kent has participated in the OHSU Brain Fair and the Advocates for Women in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics site visit program for middle and high school girls. She has made dental education presentations at the OHSU-sponsored BodyWorlds3, Celebration of Smiles, and Saturday Academy. In 2003, Dr. Kent received OHSU’s Distinguished Scientist Educator Award.

"Simply put, she does work that helps others," said Dr. McPharlin.

The three other SOD finalists for the 2008 OHSU service award were Leon Assael, D.M.D., professor and chair of oral and maxillofacial surgery; Kirsten Lampi, Ph.D., associate professor of integrative biosciences; and John Mitchell, Ph.D., associate professor of biomaterials and biomechanics. Each received $500 for being a finalist.

Faculty Senate Elections and Awards Committee Chair Jeffery Stewart, D.D.S., associate professor of pathology, gave the welcome and introduction for the banquet, which annually recognizes faculty for their service, leadership, teaching, collaboration, and research. Every year, the five awards categories rotate amongst the OHSU schools.