Curriculum Changes Highlighted

School of Dentistry faculty learned about new additions to the curriculum, met new faculty, and were treated to a visit by OHSU President Joe Robertson, M.D., at their annual September conference. Almost 100 full- and part-time faculty attended the Sept. 24 day-long meeting.

Dr. Robertson kicked off the morning with updates on the university’s strategic plan, its budget, construction, and tort reform.

(A continuation, at right)

DS1 Teambuilding Retreat A Success

First-year dental students were at Cannon Beach Sept. 4 and 5 for the annual off-site teambuilding conference.

“We’re going to help you gain new skills, knowledge, and understanding about topics, procedures, and health care, and then we’re going to help you help people with that knowledge and skill set,” said Dean Jack Clinton, D.M.D. ‘64. “You’re going to change people’s lives. Amazing.”

DS1’s were advised on how to become a dentist and the importance of professionalism and scholarship. Denice Stewart, D.D.S., M.H.S.A., associate dean for clinical affairs, and Jeffery Stewart, D.D.S., M.S., associate professor of pathology and radiology, led a session about the dentist’s role in clinical scientific investigation to promote critical thinking and treatment planning.

(A continuation, at right)

A handful of dental student leaders attended -- fourth-year students Alan Chen, Lane Cook, and Cassie Fede, third-year student Adrienne Smith, and second-year students Vishal Panchmatia and Trace Baxter -- as did every bridge group leader. Each bridge group met and got

(The SOD Office of Student Affairs sponsored a marshmellow roast on Sept. 4, during the Cannon Beach retreat. (Photo Eric Anderson, D.M.D.)

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Dr. Sakaguchi receives MBA

Ronald Sakaguchi, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D., associate dean for research and innovation and professor of biomaterials and biomechanics, recently received his master’s in business administration from the F.W. Olin Graduate School of Business at Babson College, in Wellesley, Mass. Dr. Sakaguchi was selected in 2006 as one of two MBA fellows supported by OHSU. A graduation ceremony was held early September at the World Trade Center in Portland, Ore.

Babson is ranked amongst the top 50 business schools in the world and has been number one worldwide in entrepreneurship for the past 15 years, ahead of such universities as Harvard, Stanford, and MIT. Dr. Sakaguchi was selected by his classmates to deliver the graduation speech.

“More than any other degree program I have completed, the MBA has changed the way I think and perceive the world,” said Dr. Sakaguchi. “I came into this program from a background of healthcare education and research, experiences that were very different from the rest of the class. I’m sure the faculty and my fellow students wondered what planet I was from by the questions and comments I made. But, the lessons I learned are highly applicable to higher education, the delivery of healthcare, and biomedical research.”

DS1 Conference

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acquainted with their group practice leader, as they worked together to tackle an assigned group project.

Peter Morita, D.M.D. ‘86, associate dean for patient services, talked about being a dental student. Each DS1 received a Class of 2012 sweatshirt, courtesy of the School of Dentistry Alumni Association.

The “highlight” of the conference was the sand sculpture contest under sunny skies. Each bridge group was charged with creating a hands-on exhibit for a hypothetical Children’s Museum of Dentistry. SOD Development Director Pat Regan “judged” the friendly competition.

“The students exhibited a lot of enthusiasm,” said Dean Clinton. “I think they enjoyed learning more about their classmates and the professional responsibility of being a dentist, particularly an exercise on patient care decision-making. The conference went well and we had great weather.”

See page three for photos of the bridge group sand sculptures, courtesy Eric Anderson, D.M.D ‘05, assistant professor of restorative dentistry and Hawthorne group leader.

MBA for Sakaguchi

(continued from left column)

“After all, education is all about targeting niches, negotiating with students and faculty, and creating innovative solutions with limited budgets,” said Dr. Sakaguchi. “And healthcare is all about translating research from bench to bedside, influencing care providers and patients over whom we have no authority, and implementing disruptive innovations that will provide broader access to care while reducing costs. I’m looking forward to applying my newly acquired knowledge and skills to difficult challenges in healthcare and at OHSU.”
The Steel Group won for having the largest cartoon character sculpture in contest history for "SpongeBob."

The Hawthorne group won for outstanding use of the OHSU logo for their "Three Pillars of Dental Care."

The Sellwood group’s "Fairy Tale" received a nod for having its bridge prominently displayed within the sculpture.

Dean Jack Clinton’s mug was featured prominently in the Broadway sand sculpture (the small piece on the upper left) which was a tram connected to a new SOD building. The group won for "biggest sellout." (Photo Frank Strood, D.D.S.)

"Golfer’s Paradise," by the Fremont group won for best use of artificial turf. Dean Jack Clinton is shown behind the green flag, attempting to put up and over a sand tongue, into a mouth.

Best use of native grasses was the award for the St. John's group, which designed a giant face.
The SOD’s R25 Grant: One Year Later

by Jennifer Mitchell

In April 2007, the School of Dentistry (Ron Sakaguchi, Ph.D., M.S., D.D.S., associate dean for technology, principal investigator) was awarded a four-year oral health research and education grant (R25), by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research. The grant’s goal is to infuse the dental curriculum with research and critical thinking, and to change the culture of research.

The first year of the grant was dedicated to planning, and included surveying the School’s research culture. The grant provided educational and clinical technology, as well as textbooks to better serve students and faculty, and patients in the clinics. SOD faculty attended several development and training sessions, designed to foster critical thinking and research by students.

New education technologies for faculty and students have been provided by the grant. Flat panel displays were installed in the patient education area of the clinics. Clinical reference books were provided to the group practices. Other clinical tools include digital calipers for measuring facial profiles, a handheld video display for patient education, and caries and occlusal analysis devices. For the classrooms, two document cameras and a writeable flat panel for annotating presentations were purchased. A tablet PC was provided for use by a group leader. New stereo microscopes were provided to the biomaterials lab for use by students and faculty.

Most recently, in August, the school hosted a school-wide faculty development session, "Dental Practice, Research and Education: Building Bridges for Tomorrow" led by John Rugh, Ph.D., professor & chair, department of orthodontics, University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio (UTHSCSA). Professor Rugh led faculty in exercises, called CATs – Critically Appraised Topics -- to enhance their research skills and to further those skills in the classroom and clinics among students. Plans for year two of the R25 grant include collaborating with the School of Medicine and other Portland area health education institutions with similar National Institutes of Health funding; collaborating with UTHSCSA in developing CATs; providing additional faculty development sessions for assessing scientific evidence in clinical practice; creating web-based faculty training programs; and developing an easily searched database of articles on evidence-based dentistry.

John D. Rugh, Ph.D.

HR in SOD

For those with questions on employee and labor relations, recruitment and general compensation, the SOD’s human resources representative Kendra Seits, HR business partner, is in the school Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to noon in room 607. She can be reached at 4-0640 or seitsk@ohsu.edu.

Free OHSU Screening

Free pap tests, clinical breast exams, and basic health screenings are available from 4 to 8 p.m. Oct. 3 at the OHSU Center for Women’s Health on the seventh floor of the Peter O. Kohler Pavilion. Call (503) 346-1212 to make an appointment.
Faculty Conference

(continued from page one)
OHSU’s plan currently is to conserve capital, he said.

There is still a lot of momentum on the Schnitzer campus, said Dr. Robertson. OHSU is considering working in tandem with the Oregon University System (OUS) on a new education building. By partnering with the OUS and having capital for street improvements, thanks to potential light rail dollars, OHSU might qualify for matching dollars, which could then make the project more attractive to donors. A research building likely would follow an education building, he said.

Department heads introduced a number of new part-time faculty. (Look for information in future Dental Bites regarding those individuals). Dean Jack Clinton, D.M.D. ’64, noted that Interim Finance Manager Jan Klinefelter recently accepted the School’s offer of a full-time position as finance manager (see September Dental Bites, page two, for more information on Jan).

“This last year has been very rewarding,” said Dean Clinton. “We’ve had a good year. We’ve done some things that have never been done before and we did them very well. I hope the next year brings us even greater joy and progress and excitement.” Dean Clinton spoke about the importance of continually trying to improve, and of offering excellent customer service, both to patients and students.

Stacy Lomeli, D.D.S., assistant professor of restorative dentistry, presented information recently gleaned from the Commission on Change and Innovation (CCI), an ADEA project to help dental schools with curriculum change. A June CCI discussion centered on competency assessment beyond the traditional grade point average, written exams, clinical exams, and national dental board exams, said Dr. Lomeli.

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SOD’er Heading Council

David Morton, Ph.D., professor of integrative biosciences, recently was asked to head OHSU’s Research Council. The Council of 25 OHSU faculty researchers, is an advisory body to Vice President for Research Dan Dorsa, Ph.D., and acts as a conduit from the research community to the university administration. Dr. Morton said the group is currently focused on identifying projects most in need of donor funding, for the Foundation’s next fundraising campaign.

Dean on the Road

School of Dentistry Dean Jack Clinton, D.M.D. ’64, was invited to address the Oregon Dental Association (ODA) House of Delegates in mid-September. Dean Clinton talked to attendees on Sept. 13 about the state of the school. New officers for 2008-2009 were presented at the meeting. A large percentage of officers, American Dental Association (ADA) delegates, ADA alternate delegates, council chairs, board trustees, and 2008-2009 trustee designates, are OHSU School of Dentistry alums.

New Alumni Relations Staff

There are two new faces in the School of Dentistry Alumni Office. Jessica Smith is a development coordinator, replacing Lisa Thorsrud, who is in Norway and will relocate to Bend, Ore., upon her return to the States. Jessica comes to OHSU from Central City Concern where she worked for seven years, most recently as an office manager. Jessica has a bachelor of science in political science from the University of Portland and a certificate in leadership training for public life from the Industrial Areas Foundation.

Mallory Gordon is a development assistant, helping Jessica and Development Director Pat Regan. Before joining OHSU, Mallory was a sales associate and customer service representative at Fit Right Northwest and a pace group leader and coach for Get Fit Live Fit. Mallory’s bachelor of arts is in English, from Portland State University.
Faculty Conference

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Steven King, Ph.D., associate professor of biomaterials and biomechanics, discussed the ‘supercourse’ combination of biochemistry/neuroscience/physiology, an initiative that began fall of 2007, as part of the School’s strategic plan. The courses will remain integrated, he said, with increasing focus on critical thinking components.

“The course will continue to evolve as we get feedback,” said Dr. King.

Denice Stewart, D.D.S., associate dean for clinical affairs and Jack Ferracane, Ph.D., chair of restorative dentistry, introduced a new way of promoting comprehensive and competent care, Dental Value Units (DVU’s).

“Dental value units are a more equitable way to assign a value to every clinical activity or procedure,” said Dr. Stewart. “They will give faculty an indication of where the student is as they work to complete their competency requirements. It gives students credit for treatment planning and other clinical activities important to demonstrating competency and it allows us to accurately account for differences in the complexities of procedures.”

The DVU’s will be presented to dental students in mid-October. Fourth-year dental students will continue with their current credits system. First-through third-year dental students will use the DVU system beginning this fall.

A handful of United States dental schools currently use the DVU system and some have been using it for many years, noted Dr. Stewart.

“This is a great stride for us,” said Phyllis Beemsterboer, M.S., Ed.D., associate dean for academic affairs.

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SOD Calendar

Oct. 15-18  ADA meeting in San Antonio; Alumni reception 10/18
Oct. 25    Dean’s Gold Circle dinner (invitation only)
Oct. 28-30 Alumni Association phonathon
Nov. 5,6   Alumni Association phonathon
Nov. 27, 28 Holiday--Thanksgiving

Faculty Conference

(continued from left)

Dr. Beemsterboer presented the most recent SOD Outcomes Assessment. Scores on Part I and Part II of the National Dental Examinations, which must be passed before students sit for the Western Regional Examining Board (WREB) exams, continue to be above the national average, she said. In 2008, 96 percent of all OHSU dental students passed the WREB on their first try. In a self-assessment survey before graduation, 99 percent of the Class of 2008 indicated they were competent in the 51 OHSU competencies.

“There were some changes to Part I of the National Boards this year, including the additions of ‘testlets,’ or stories, to add a problem solving component to the multiple choice questions,” said Dr. Beemsterboer. “We anticipate additional changes to the National Board exams, including how scores are reported and schools are ranked.”

Mark Mitchell, M.A., associate dean of student affairs, noted that admissions for 2009 already are over where they were at this time last year.

If you have a submission for Dental Bites, please contact Sydney Clevenger (clevenge@ohsu.edu, 503-418-1792) by the 25th of the month prior to publication.
Big Crowds for Cantwell Events and Ryan Update

The Alumni Association’s Cantwell Memorial Golf Tournament, Cantwell Memorial Lecture, and Margaret M. Ryan Dental Hygiene Update in September were well-attended by alumni and friends, according to School of Dentistry Development Director Pat Regan.

For the first time, the Cantwell Memorial Golf Tournament was held at the internationally-acclaimed Pumpkin Ridge Golf Course in North Plains. There were more than 150 golfers and sponsors at the Sept. 12 tournament, including 17 dental students and more than a dozen faculty.

“It was a spectacular day,” said Pat. “Pumpkin Ridge is a world-class golf course and the weather was perfect, making for a memorable morning.”

The tournament, named after longtime SOD educator Kenneth Cantwell, D.M.D. ’43, raised more than $5,000 for the Cantwell Memorial Lecture Fund.

That same morning, about 130 dental hygienists and friends attended the Margaret M. Ryan Dental Hygiene Update, "Oral Health Products for Home Use: What Should I Recommend,” a six-hour course by Karen A. Baker, M.S.

“The combined attendance at these events was the largest in recent memory,” said Pat. “Attendees enjoyed a joint breakfast and then mid-morning coffee break before and between the sessions, which made the social interaction an added bonus to the lectures.”

Ethics Speaker Nov. 10

This year, OHSU’s Madeline Brill Nelson Speaker Series in Ethics Education features Anthony L. Suchman, M.D., M.A., a practicing physician, organizational consultant, and clinical professor of medicine and psychiatry at the University of Rochester. Dr. Suchman is one of the leading proponents of relationship-centered care, a clinical philosophy that emphasizes partnership across all levels of the healthcare system. His talk, set for Nov. 10 at 9 a.m. in Vey Auditorium (room 11620) of Doernbecher Hospital, is free to all OHSU’ers.

SOD’er Publishes Book

Communications Coordinator Sydney Clevenger has published her first children’s book, Swifty’s Big Flight, under the nom de plume, Lee Jackson. The book is a day in the life of a Vaux’s Swift heading south for the winter. Go to www.flyingswift.blogspot.com for information.