



# Dental Bites

August 2011

## Did you Know?

*\*The new dental school building is a 70,000 square foot tower on the north side of the OHSU/Oregon University System Collaborative Life Sciences Building. Faculty and staff can find out more at an August 3 Town Hall with Dean Jack Clinton, D.M.D. '64, noon to 1 p.m., in rooms 220 - 225.*

*\*In 2009-2010, there were 1,853 registrants for the OHSU School of Dentistry's continuing education courses. About 2,300 individuals participated in 25 regularly scheduled study clubs hosted at the School.*

## Summer Community Rotations/Outreach

School of Dentistry students have been busy helping in the community this summer.

In early June, fourth-year dental students **Tyler Bendixsen**, **William Fugere**, and **Stevenson Smith** joined **Julia Robirds**, D.M.D. '95, **Paul Brent**, D.D.S., assistant professor of endodontology (his second time volunteering) and **Keith Valachi**, D.D.S., for a four-day visit to Long Creek, the second time OHSU dental students have been part of this particular volunteer rotation. (Two dental students also went to Long Creek in 2009).

Long Creek, Ore., with 220 residents, is in the eastern part of the state 40 miles north of John Day and 90 miles south of Pendleton. With no practicing dentists in their town – the closest is in Mitchell, Ore., more (continued, right column)



*Fourth-year dental students Tyler Bendixsen (left) and Stevenson Smith (right) care for a patient in Long Creek as William Fugere (in doorway) looks on. (Photo Keith Valachi, D.D.S.)*

than 50 miles away -- Long Creek residents look forward to yearly visits to Grant County from the Medical Teams International mobile dental van.

This trip, there were 130 visits during the four days with 82 people receiving care, said Dr. Valachi, St. Helens, Ore., who helps coordinate the Grant County visits.

*(continued on page four)*

## New Grants for OHSU School of Dentistry

Several new grants were received at the School at the end of June.

**David Morton**, Ph.D., professor of integrative biosciences and associate dean for research, received a three-year, \$240,000 grant from the ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) Association. Dr. Morton will study a fruit fly gene related to a human gene, named TDP-43, which is associated with ALS. A post-doctoral student in Dr. Morton's lab, **Dennis Hazelett**, Ph.D., generated flies lacking TDP-43 (continued, right column)

and showed that they had severe locomotion defects. In an effort to identify which genes are affected by the loss of TDP-43, Dr. Hazelett sequenced all the transcripts present in the nervous system of mutant flies using massively parallel sequencing technology and identified several hundred genes that are regulated by TDP-43.

The next task, said Dr. Morton, is to identify which of the genes are critical for the locomotion defects and the grant (continued on page two)

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## White Coat Ceremony

The Old Library was a sea of white on July 15 as 72 second-year dental students received their white coats, signifying entry into the predoctoral clinic. Dental students were coated by their group leader. About 20 dental students received their white coat from a dental relative or dental mentor, with nine of those students being OHSU legacies. Photos are available at [www.ohsu.edu/sod](http://www.ohsu.edu/sod). Click on Alumni and then scroll to the bottom to view the Alumni Album.



*The second-years in the Hawthorne bridge group, led by Steven Gold, D.D.S., assistant professor of restorative dentistry (far right) proudly display their white coats. (Photo Dan Carter)*

## Staff Comings and Goings

**\*Aimee Bloom**, has joined the university alumni relations team as administrative assistant and is now based at the OHSU Foundation. Aimee was formerly in the School's alumni office as administrative assistant for development.

**\*Juliana da Costa**, D.D.S., associate professor, is the new director of the preclinical teaching program in restorative dentistry. In addition to her previous responsibilities, Dr. da Costa will coordinate the preclinical teaching program in restorative dentistry, conducting a review and critical assessment of the current preclinical courses in preparation for the move to South Waterfront.

## New Grants *(continued from page one)*

from the ALS Association will make this study possible. Dr. Morton said he expects that some of the genes will have similar effects in humans and could eventually be targets for drugs that will help patients with ALS.



*Dennis Hazelett, Ph.D., post-doctoral student in the lab of David Morton, Ph.D., professor of integrative biosciences and associate dean for research. (Photo Michael McDermott)*

The department of community dentistry at OHSU also recently received a three-year grant, for \$142,328 from the Kaiser Permanente Northwest Oral Health Initiative. The grant will enable the School to test the feasibility of expanding its community-based education rotations, now required for all graduating seniors, said **Eli Schwarz**, D.D.S., M.P.H., Ph.D., professor and chair of the department.

"Limited research has been conducted as to whether community-based experiences ultimately motivate graduates to take up employment outside metropolitan and mainstream clinics," he said. "We intend to build upon our initial success and test our hypothesis that dental graduates can play a role in helping to alleviate the lack of access to dental care among underserved populations."

Currently, dental students are required to participate in at least one week of community-based rotations to graduate.

Under the grant, senior dental students from the classes 2012, 2013, and 2014 will *(continued, page four)*

## New Logos Updated and OHSU Log Artwork Available

There has been a lot of activity lately at the university level regarding branding at OHSU, changes that will affect all communications, including stationery, fliers, programs, newsletters, promotional items, etc. Changes from the OHSU Branding Committee that affect the School of Dentistry include:

\*New files for the OHSU parent logo. The color builds and file formats have been tweaked for uniformity and we have been asked to toss all current OHSU logo artwork and use only the new files for communications. The logo's appearance hasn't changed so there will be no obvious differences in the way stationery and other branded communications appear. The Branding Committee said that depleting current supplies of stationery is fine, but to please use the refined OHSU logo when ordering new stationery. All stationery should be ordered from Stevens Printing. The online portal for stationery is [ozone.ohsu.edu/branding/stationery/.shtml](http://ozone.ohsu.edu/branding/stationery/.shtml).

\*School sub-logos (see page one, left corner!) and School alumni sub-logos are now available. They are for internal communications and promotional items only. When communicating with an external audience, please continue to use the OHSU parent logo.

\*Templates for clinical ad trials and fliers are now available for anyone communicating clinical trials.

All of the new logos and templates are available at <http://ozone.ohsu.edu/branding>.

**Submit Your Ideas to Dental Bites**  
If you have a story idea or a photo for Dental Bites, please contact Sydney Clevenger, [clevenger@ohsu.edu](mailto:clevenger@ohsu.edu).

## Barbecue Raises Funds



*Second-year dental students (from left to right) Tristan Wong, Koa Yamashita and Kyle Christensen helped grill burgers at the annual pediatric dentistry barbecue June 10 to raise funds for low-income patients. About 300 people attended the barbecue, raising \$1,100, according to second-year dental student Joseph Kelly, who was DS1 president.*

## Summer Calendar

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Aug. 12</b>    | End of six-week, summer session   |
| <b>Aug. 15</b>    | Start of six-week early fall term (DS1's)   |
| <b>Aug. 25/26</b> | DS1 orientation at Cannon Beach   |
| <b>Sept. 23</b>   | End of six-week early fall term   |
| <b>Sept. 23</b>   | Cantwell Memorial Golf Tournament, 7:45 a.m., Langdon Farms in Aurora                         |
| <b>Sept. 24</b>   | Cantwell Memorial Lecture/Margaret Ryan Dental Hygiene Update, 8 a.m. lecture, Vey Auditorium |
| <b>Sept. 26</b>   | Start of 12-week fall term  |

## Community Rotations/Outreach

*(continued from page one)*

"All went well," said Dr. Valachi. "Tyler, Stevenson, and Will seemed to get a lot out of the experience and were enjoyable to work with. I think they gained some confidence dealing with so many people in such a short time.

"We did turn 25 people away for lack of time," he said. "The need out there in Grant County is endless, it seems."

Stevenson noted the beauty of eastern Oregon. "The people in eastern Oregon are unique and wonderful," he said. "I learned how richly diverse Oregon is as a state. Also, that I need much more experience to gain the speed necessary to pay my overhead!"

Tyler added that he gained an appreciation for the access to care available in more populated areas. "Those who received care on the dental vans were very appreciative, even if we were not able to provide optimal treatment in some cases due to lack of resources. I was amazed to see the way the community came together to help each other out. Many of the community members sacrificed their time to allow the dental vans to function effectively. It was a great experience."

Will said that he learned rural dentistry is about "putting out fires and not creating Hollywood smiles for every person," that such "patchwork dentistry is a viable, ethical alternative to 'ideal' treatment taught in dental school, especially for the rural setting," and that patients in the rural setting are extremely grateful for the work they receive.

### Special Olympics Special Smiles

On July 16, five dental students and three pediatric dentistry residents joined Associate Dean for Academic Affairs **Phyllis Beemsterboer**, M.S., Ed.D., Outreach Coordinator **Mary Ann Haisch**, R.D.H., and Assistant Professor of Pediatric Dentistry **Elizabeth Palmer**, *(continued, right column)*

## New Grants *(continued from page two)*

be invited to go through a one-month rotation instead. Ten students will be chosen annually to work for one month in either the Russell Street Clinic in northeast Portland or the Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center in Hillsboro.

"For the dental students who are placed in the community for one month, an electronic log book will be maintained to record their prevention and treatment activities," said Dr. Schwarz. "The comparable productivity in the dental student clinic prior to placement and after the students' return will be monitored electronically."

Dr. Schwarz said that one measurement of success to the project is how many dental students ultimately choose employment in a facility that provides oral health care to disadvantaged populations after graduation.

## Community Rotations/Outreach

*(continued from left column)*

D.M.D. '08, Pedro '10, at the annual Special Olympics Special Smiles. This year the event was held in Newberg.

"It was the busiest we have been in the nine years I have been coordinating this event," said Dr. Beemsterboer. "What a great team!" She said 233 athletes were screened and received oral health instructions, with the previous high around 130.

Volunteering at Special Olympics Special Smiles were: fourth-year dental students **Kendra Flann, Benjamin Bogdan, and Melissa Jackson**; third-year dental students **Melissa Hayes and Nicole Grant**; first-year pediatric dentistry resident **Isabel Simpson**; and second-year pediatric dentistry residents **Patty Peirano, Michael Melanson, and David Richmond-Raphael**. Non-dental volunteers included Mary Ann's grandchildren, **Margot and Alex Greenen, Greg Palmer, and Kipp Franklin**.

## Benninger Lab Fares Well at National Meeting

Nine dental students, five medical students, and several baccalaureate students from the lab of **Brion Benninger**, M.D., assistant professor of integrative biosciences and oral and maxillofacial surgery, recently returned from Ohio where the American Association of Clinical Anatomists meeting was held July 12 to 16. The group presented a total of 18 projects, each representing up to two years of work that was blind peer-reviewed and then published.

"Each student had to sacrifice evenings and weekends in order to complete their projects," said Dr. Benninger. "I was impressed with their commitment and professionalism from the onset through their final presentation."

Honors went to: third-year dental student **Matt Young** (first place) and second-year dental student **Bhavin Patel** (runner-up) for Clinical Research; Post-Baccalaureate Student **Taylor Delamarter** (runner-up) for Basic Science Research; first-year dental student **Alison Shisler** (runner-up) for Educational Research; and first-year dental student **Jessica Kloenne** (runner-up) for Oral Presentation.

"We were very honored to receive these awards because our students were competing against doctoral and other health care professional students from several countries for the three award categories," said Dr. Benninger. "All of the OHSU students presenting were invited by multiple editors to submit their work to clinical journals."

Dr. Benninger noted that Matt, Taylor, and third-year dental student **Kyle Malloy** all completed two research projects for the meeting. He also praised second-year dental student **Tiffany Yee** for her "exceptional medical illustrations," which have the potential, he said, to be represented in professional healthcare textbooks. *(continued, right column)*

## Award for Dr. Derbyshire

**John Derbyshire**, D.D.S., assistant professor of periodontology, received the American Academy of Periodontology's 2011 Educator Award in recognition of outstanding teaching and mentoring in periodontics at the OHSU School of Dentistry. Dr. Derbyshire received his award June 4 during a celebration for OHSU's postdoctoral periodontal graduates. Dr. Derbyshire has been on faculty since 1997.

### Benninger Lab *(continued from left column)*

Second-year dental student **Kurt Eklund**, presented an "amazing project" about Powerpoint presentations and drew some of the largest crowds, he said.

Several baccalaureate and medical students presented work that will be further developed on campus, including **Taylor Johnson**, who presented a multimedia pilot study for the anesthesia department, and medical student **Joshua Waggener**, who presented a novel technique to withdraw fluid from around the heart. University of Oregon sophomore **Kevin Post** was the "best young researcher," and will continue his research, as well as publish it, said Dr. Benninger.

Elsevier allowed many of the Benninger students to use their images and a number of dental and medical faculty from a variety of departments provided important feedback to all our students, he said.

This is the fifth year Dr. Benninger has taken multiple students to national conferences. Dr. Benninger is the author and editor of anatomy texts and software, and serves on national and international anatomical committees. He is well known for his innovative ideas regarding clinical research with cadavers and anatomy education.

Additional dental students presenting at the conference included third-years **Andrew Peterson**, **Eric Alston**, and **Thomas Wanat**.