



February is Children's National Dental Health Month

The School is getting ready for several events, as part of Children's National Dental Health Month. Celebration of Smiles, an oral education event, is two days this year, Feb. 5 (5 to 8 p.m.) and Feb. 6 (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.), at the Portland Children's Museum. Sealant Day is in mid-February at the School. Outreach coordinator Mary Ann Haisch, R.D.H., visited in January Raleigh Park Elementary in Beaverton and Buckman School in southeast Portland (continued on page two)

Strategic Planning Underway at School

The School's Strategic Plan, with the last major update in 2006, is undergoing revision. In the upcoming months the faculty, students and staff will be engaged in reviewing and updating the mission, goals and strategies, said Dean **Jack Clinton**, D.M.D. '64. The strategic planning process is a dynamic one (continued at right)

and broad participation is one key to a successful plan, he said. A small team of faculty and administrators has been working with the Dean on a map of goals and strategies that will guide the School's next steps in developing a revised strategic plan. An overview of the map and process was presented in (continued on page five)

SOD Instructor Shares Clinical Anatomy of a Shark

School of Dentistry clinical anatomy instructor **Brion Benninger**, M.D., departments of integrative biosciences and oral and maxillofacial surgery, has been in the community recently, sharing his expertise with young people, teachers and researchers.

musculature and cranial nerves, specifically the 11th cranial nerve. My work has led to some interesting discoveries about the 11th cranial nerve and its target muscles and how they are linked to human clinical conditions, strokes etc."

An expert in vertebrate shoulders (studying animals with and without a shoulder or neck region) and cranial nerves, Dr. Benninger was invited in October 2009 to dissect publicly a Great White shark that was inadvertently caught off the Oregon Coast. Hundreds of visitors at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, Ore., watched Dr. Benninger dissect the shark's head, gill region, and muscles, all the way down the creature's back. As he worked, Dr. Benninger talked to the crowd about what he was doing and compared the shark's anatomy to that of humans, explaining how such knowledge can be used to help people.

Marine Public Education Specialist Bill Hanshumaker contacts Dr. Benninger when dead sharks turn up unexpectedly. The October dissection was Dr. Benninger's 20th large shark dissection.

"There is a very short window of time to dissect sharks when the public is watching," noted Dr. Benninger. "One has to be fast and efficient."

Dr. Benninger said shark skin is very dense and unique with its micro patterns. Sharks have no bone; just cartilage. Specimens from Dr. Benninger's dissection ultimately were sent to researchers throughout the world for study.

"Sharks and other vertebrates interest me as a clinician and as a clinical anatomist," said Dr. Benninger. "They can help solve some of the questions relating to shoulder girdle (continued at right)

The Hatfield Marine Science Center recently recognized Dr. Benninger for his community and (continued on page three)

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Hooding to Combine with Commencement in 2010

Come June, the Class of 2010 will not only receive their lilac hoods during a School of Dentistry ceremony, but their diplomas, as well, during one morning event held solely for the School.

In past years, the School held a morning hooding and awards ceremony for DMD graduates, and then the university coordinated an evening commencement ceremony at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall for all university graduates to receive their diplomas. The new combined dental school ceremony will include both DMD and advanced specialty education program graduates.

"The adjustment has been made so that our hooding and commencement coincide with the end of classes," said **Mark Mitchell**, M.A., associate dean for student affairs. "Holding hooding and commencement in early June, as we have in years past, meant that graduating seniors then had to return to classes for three more weeks before they were officially graduated. Having each OHSU school conduct their own commencement exercises makes sense, given that we are all on different academic calendars."

The School of Dentistry's hooding and commencement is set for Friday, June 18, at 10 a.m. in the Old Library (OHSU Auditorium). The ceremony also will be broadcast live via the Internet. OHSU President **Joe Robertson** will be invited to the School's June ceremony, with the hope that he can hand out diplomas, said Mark.

Dental Students Selected as Prosthodontics Scholars

Two OHSU dental students recently were selected as American Prosthodontic Foundation Scholars. Fourth-year dental students **Aaron Geelan** and **Jason Walker** were selected to represent the dental school. The scholarship includes registration to the American Prosthodontics Society Annual Meeting (Feb. 25-26 in Chicago) and a travel stipend of about \$1,250.

Children's National Dental Health Month *(continued from page one)*



A dental student works on a young patient in the pre-doctoral clinic, during the 2009 Give Kids a Smile Day. (Photo Steve Frick)

to provide oral education. Pediatric dentistry residents screened the Raleigh Park second graders January 27 and will conduct screenings at Buckman Feb. 3. Then, those elementary students needing sealants will be at the dental school Feb. 10 (Buckman) and Feb. 12 (Raleigh Park) for Sealant Day. Fourth-year dental students in the Dr. and Mrs. Carl Rietman Pediatric Dentistry Clinic will place the sealants.

February 26 is the School's Give Kids a Smile day, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the pre-doctoral clinic. About 200 children are expected to receive oral care from dental students, faculty, and alumni.

Goodbye to SOD'er

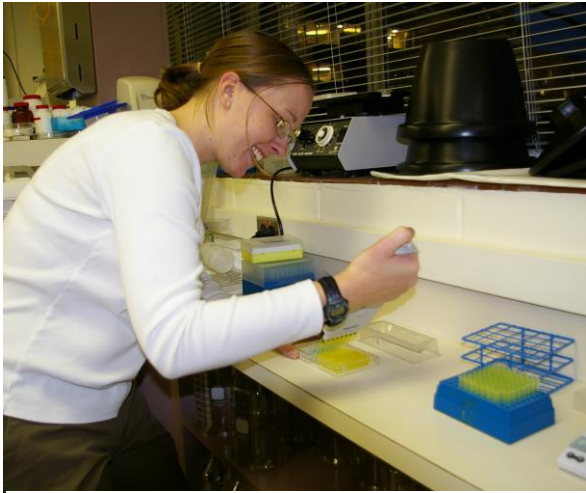
***Kathy Pickwick**, Student Learning Center coordinator, who retired at the end of January after working at the School for eight years.

White Coats for DS2's

The white coat ceremony for the Class of 2012 is set for July 16, according to **Mark Mitchell**, M.A., associate dean for student affairs.

Dental Bites is the School's monthly internal newsletter. If you have a story or photo submission, please contact Sydney Clevenger (clevenge@ohsu.edu, 503-418-1792).

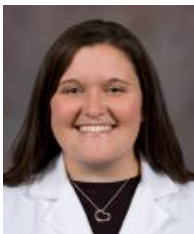
Fellowship for Researcher



Jessica Martin in the lab. (Photo Agnieszka Balkowiec)

Jessica Martin, a doctoral student in the lab of **Agnieszka Balkowiec**, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of integrative biosciences, recently received a one-year, \$24,772 (stipend and research expenses) pre-doctoral fellowship from the American Heart Association. Jessica will study molecular mechanisms responsible for the development of neurons that control blood pressure. "This is an extremely competitive fellowship and Jessica's application was ranked in the first percentile," said Dr. Balkowiec. "We are very excited for her."

DS1 Profile – Jillana Pollard



Age: 28

Degree/School:
Bachelor of Arts in
psychology, University of
Redlands

Why Dentistry: *It took a lot of thought. I worked as a social worker and I knew I wanted to go into medicine, but not be a physician. I thought about what my dad (Tom Pollard, D.M.D. '74) did and I liked that dentistry combines people, science, and medicine.*

School Calendar

- Feb. 5** Celebration of Smiles, 5 to 8 p.m., Portland Children's Museum
- Feb. 6** Celebration of Smiles, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Portland Children's Museum
- Feb. 15** School holiday (President's Day)
- Feb. 26** Give Kids a Smile day at OHSU, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Feb. 27 to March 3** ADEA Annual Session and Exhibition
- March 10** Robert G. Gootee/ODS Companies Endowed Lectureship on Leadership and Professionalism, 3 p.m., OHSU Auditorium (Old Library)
- March 15 to 19** DS4 School Boards
- March 26** End of 12-week winter term
- March 29 to April 2** Spring Break (no classes or pre-doctoral clinic)
- April 9 to 10** Oregon Dental Conference
- April 26** SOD Research Day, noon to 2 p.m., rooms 520-525

Dr. Benninger *(continued from page one)*

scientific service. "He has helped bridge the gap between the general public and science community with his comparative anatomy knowledge, clinical background, and public dissections of sharks," said Hanshumaker. "His research on the human spinal accessory nerve and its relationship with sharks has been incredibly well-received by both the general public and science communities."

Dr. Benninger also spoke at the recent Oregon Science Teachers Association meeting in Salem, Ore., and was praised for his shark dissections and communication skills.

Dr. Benninger sits on a national anatomical terminology committee, which has a goal of integrating standardized anatomical terminology with clinically relevant terms. His research on shark cranial nerves, neck and shoulder girdle muscles suggests renumeration of human cranial nerves and a reclassifying of the spinal accessory nerve.

Group Leader Profile: Tom Galbraith, D.D.S.

Known as a “jack of all trades” on the pre-doctoral clinic floor, **Tom Galbraith**, D.D.S., is like honey to flies on a recent Monday afternoon, with a line of 10 dental students waiting for his signature or advice.

“He is picky!” said fourth-year dental student **Jason Yole**, good-naturedly, of the assistant professor of restorative dentistry and Broadway group practice leader, who joined OHSU School of Dentistry two years ago. “He’s very detail-oriented.”

“I thank you very much, Jason,” said Dr. Galbraith, 59, upon hearing this assessment a few minutes later. “Because you’re right.”

“I tell the dental students that you have to be P-A-T-D,” said Dr. Galbraith, after washing his hands and hanging up his lab coat. “Painstaking Attention To Detail, that’s what dentistry is all about. It’s not picky to be nitpicky, it’s picky to do it right. That is the lifeblood of dentistry and it should be flowing through the veins. Dentists should take all the steps necessary for patients and it’s got to be done right. Patients trust you and it’s our duty to do the best we can do.”

“I want students to learn those skills now,” he said. “If they don’t get them now, they may never get them.”

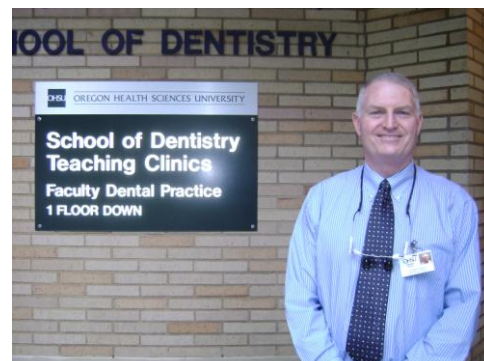
Dr. Galbraith received his bachelor of science in biochemistry from California Polytechnic State University, graduating with honors. He received a dental technician certificate from the California College of Dental Training and then went on to the University of Southern California School of Dentistry, graduating 20th out of a class of 120.

After graduation, Dr. Galbraith went into the National Health Service Corp, as dental director of the Nipomo Health Clinic in San Luis Obispo. He opened a private practice in Glendale in 1982 and then moved to Weed in 1987 where he practiced solo for 20 years.

As retirement approached and with his three sons already working in Oregon, Dr. Galbraith and wife, **Julie**, were “feeling empty nest syndrome.”

“We had a big old house and 20 acres,” he said. “We wondered what we were going to do with our time.”

Dr. Galbraith researched dentistry in Oregon and discovered OHSU (“I didn’t even know there was a dental school in Oregon,” he admits). He applied for a faculty position, was interviewed by **Peter Morita**, D.M.D. ’86, associate dean for patient services, and was “lucky enough to make it all happen.” Dr. Galbraith was on the volunteer faculty for three months, then the part-time faculty, and was made full time group leader last summer.



Tom Galbraith, D.D.S., Broadways group leader. (Photo Sydney Clevenger)

(continued on page five)

Dr. Galbraith *(continued from page four)*

"It's more fun here at the school," he said. "When I was in Weed, I had 1,500 patients and I was the only dentist in town. I was booked three months solid in advance so emergencies were hard to handle and the pressure of the business was getting to me. I'm not missing private practice.

"I like getting around these kids," he said. "They've made me feel 20 years younger again."

Third-year dental student **Tobie Webb** swings by to hand Dr. Galbraith a disc of guitar songs to practice. An avid guitarist, who used to play rhythm guitar with his church group, Dr. Galbraith hopes to find a similar group in the Portland area. He likes to target shoot using paper targets, fish, sail, and build off road vehicles in his spare time.

"Being at OHSU is the best thing I've done in my life," he said. "I love this operation. It's good for me here and the staff and faculty have treated me like gold. I'm very appreciative and I think it's a win-win for everyone."

2010 Match Results Are In

Fourth-year dental students are starting to hear back from advanced specialty education programs, reports **Mark Mitchell**, M.A., associate dean for student affairs. Through the National Matching Services, fourth-year dental student **Thomas Clark** recently matched to a one-year graduate residency program at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Portland, while fourth-year dental student **David Garlock** matched to a two-and-a-half year orthodontics program at St. Louis University. Three OHSU graduates from the dental classes of 1998, 2006, and 2009 also successfully matched to specialty programs. There are several senior students and past graduates who have been admitted to specialty programs that do not participate in the Match. Congratulations to all who have been admitted to advanced specialty programs!

Gootee Lecture is March 10

Dental students are encouraged to attend the second annual Robert G. Gootee/ODS Companies Lectureship on Leadership and Professionalism, scheduled for March 10. The speaker is Dave Frohnmayer, J.D., president emeritus and law professor of University of Oregon. Mr. Frohnmayer has been teaching leadership theory to undergraduates for 14 years.

"Leadership is not something you just tell people," said Mr. Frohnmayer, in a recent phone interview. "Leadership is fluid, plastic, and all around us, but it is more elusive to do it well.

"More than one person can lead at one time," he said. "If you're in a group and a careful observer, watch the leadership flow around the room. Leadership is less about titles and self-importance and more about getting goals accomplished in a mutually agreeable way in a group of people. Everyone has leadership responsibilities, whether they are a clinician, student, or researcher." For more information contact the alumni office, (503) 494-0983.

Strategic Plan *(continued from page one)*

January to the Dean's Council and will be discussed first with department chairs and division heads, and then with the faculty, staff and students.

"The premise is that a Strategic Plan does no good sitting on a shelf," said Dean Clinton. "This version of the Strategic Plan is intended to be an ongoing, working document that we're continually revising to ensure that everything we're doing relates to our goals and related strategies. We always want to be looking for ways to improve and help us set priorities." Once the school's goals and strategies are finalized in the plan, it will be used to form task groups to help develop tactics for achieving our goals, said Dean Clinton. Coincidentally, the university also is revisiting and updating its Strategic Plan (Vision 2020), said the Dean. The core themes and format of both plans are well aligned and supportive of each other.

