



February Full of Outreach
Dental students, staff, and faculty are gearing up for National Children's Dental Health month, with a variety of educational activities and hands-on patient care. Screenings for the annual "Sealant Day" (Feb. 4 and 18) and half of the triage and radiographs for Give Kids a Smile (Feb. 25) all occurred last month, said Prashant Gagneja, B.D.S., M.D.S., associate professor and chair of pediatric dentistry.
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OHSU School of Dentistry/Dental Bites

February 2011

Gift Provides Orthodontics to Children

The School's Orthodontic Clinic is providing orthodontic care at no charge to foster children living in Oregon, thanks to a \$216,000 gift from a former Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) employee. To date, about two dozen foster children have received screening exams and are in early stages of orthodontic treatment since the gift was made in late 2010.

Jean Altorfer was an Oregon DHS employee who worked closely with foster children for many years. She recognized and took to heart the need for orthodontic services and the lack of funding for such care. Previously, Ms. Altorfer had donated about \$10,000 to the School for foster children who were referred to OHSU for orthodontic treatment, said **David Covell Jr.** *(continued, right column)*

D.D.S., Ph.D., associate professor and chair of orthodontics.

Upon her death in 2010, the Jean D. Saunders Trust established the "Jean D. Altorfer Fund for orthodontia care for children" through the OHSU Foundation. The fund makes coverage available for orthodontic and related care for Oregon children residing in foster care homes under the supervision of the Children, Adults, and Families Division of the Oregon DHS.

"This fund was Ms. Altorfer's approach to making a difference," said Dr. Covell. "Her generous gift will enable us to provide full orthodontics care to about 60 Oregon foster children."

One such recent orthodontics patient is 13-year-old Janet of *(continued, page four)*

New Community Dentistry Chair on Board

The School of Dentistry's new chair of community dentistry arrived in January and is excited to "enhance outreach so it becomes an even more important part" of graduates' educational experience at OHSU.

"Community dentistry gives dental students a different perspective on what it is to study dentistry," said **Eli Schwarz**, D.D.S., Ph.D., M.P.H., from his second floor office (see also, November *Dental Bites*). "It is important that they understand there is a world beyond the walls of the school." *(continued, right column)*

When Dr. Schwarz --most recently adjunct professor in professional studies at the University of



Nevada Las Vegas and professor of Population Oral Health, Faculty of Dentistry, University of Sydney -- saw the OHSU community dentistry chair position posted online, he was impressed with the School's commitment to community dentistry.

"When funding for community dentistry *(continued on page four)*

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Staff Profile: Sharon McKay, C.D.A.

Sharon McKay knew she loved dentistry back in high school while helping to file records and sterilize equipment in a Portland private practice where her mother was the office manager.



"I knew it was what I wanted to do," said the administrative coordinator for the department of orthodontics, who celebrates her 30th anniversary this year as a certified dental assistant. "I love coming to work. This is my dream job and where I want to be."

Sharon attended Mt. Hood Community College and Portland State University and received her dental assistant certification. She joined the dental school in 1979 as a fulltime dental assistant in what was then graduate pediatric dentistry. She was hired by current dean, **Jack Clinton**, D.M.D. '64, who at the time headed the Dental Auxiliary Utilization group.

A daughter in 1983 didn't slow Sharon down, but with the birth of twin boys in 1985, she decided to take a work break. "Dr. Clinton was supportive and told me to let him know when I was ready to come back," she said.

After 10 years, Sharon decided she was ready to work again, but not "too far" from her children. She noticed a dental supply company down the street from her children's school and accepted a position as a customer service representative, working her way to purchasing manager. But when travel became part of her job description, Sharon returned to the dental school.

"I came back in 2000 as a dental team educator under the supervision of **Peter Morita** [D.M.D. '86, associate dean for patient services] who was a dental student when I was here the first time!" she said. "I was in that position for a year and then a front desk position opened in the department of orthodontics and that intrigued me." Sharon was at the front desk for four years, successfully opened the front office of the Dr. and Mrs. Carl Rietman Pediatric Dentistry Clinic, and then in 2006, her "dream job" opened up.

"I love the whole orthodontics department," she said. "Our residents are so nice you just want to help them! The faculty is devoted to teaching and commit many more hours to the dental school beyond education. It is a fun place and you never know what will happen!"

Sharon recalls walking into the clinic one morning to find that **David May**, D.M.D. '68, Ph.D., assistant professor of orthodontics, had brought in several four foot long PVC pipes. He had a resident holding each end of the pipe and moving around on rolling chairs to demonstrate root movement.

"Our treatment isn't particularly painful and kids love it when they get their braces off and get to ring the 'De-bond Bell,' she said. "It's a really big deal. (Sharon knows firsthand; she had orthodontics at OHSU that was finished in late 2009).

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Ethics Training Available

Ethics education is available for interested School of Dentistry faculty, reports **Phyllis Beemsterboer**, M.S., Ed.D., associate dean for academic affairs. Faculty must be willing to attend two monthly sessions plus a week-long intensive off-site program, and prepare several written papers, for a credential in Ethics Education from the OHSU Center for Ethics in Health Care. For more information, contact Dr. Beemsterboer, beemster@ohsu.edu.

School Calendar

Feb. 4	Celebration of Smiles, Portland Children's Museum, 5 to 8 p.m.
Feb. 4	Sealant Day, Dr. and Mrs. Carl Rietman Pediatric Dentistry Clinic (Raleigh Park)
Feb. 5	Celebration of Smiles, Portland Children's Museum, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Feb. 18	Sealant Day, Dr. and Mrs. Carl Rietman Pediatric Dentistry Clinic (Buckman Arts)
Feb. 21	School holiday (President's Day)
Feb. 25	Give Kids a Smile, Pre-doctoral clinic, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
March 25	End of 12-week winter term

February Outreach

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"February fourth is the busiest day with three different teams working on three different events [Celebration of Smiles, Sealant Day for Raleigh Park, and continued triage and radiographs for Give Kids a Smile]," said Dr. Gagneja.

As in past years, Celebration of Smiles is open to the public and will be held over the course of two days. Please see the School Calendar, above, for a complete listing.

Sharon McKay *(continued from page two)*

Sharon provides administrative support for the department's three primary (**David Covell Jr.**, D.D.S., Ph.D., associate professor and chair; **Larry Doyle**, D.D.S., Ortho `79, assistant professor; and **Jennifer Crowe**, D.D.S., Ortho `08, adjunct assistant professor) and 14 parttime orthodontics faculty, and orthodontic residents. She prepares foundation reports, helps with patient pre-approvals, and is a substitute on the front desk when needed.

Sharon helped with the recent transition in the Orthodontic Clinic to computers at every station. "Now we can do all of our scheduling at chair side," she said. The conversion to electronic records this spring is another project she is "jazzed" to help coordinate.

"I look forward to coming to work every day," said Sharon. "We are a unique entity and a family here. We strive for the same goal: to provide excellent patient care while teaching the next generation of dentists. I'm really proud to be a small part of it."

When not at OHSU, Sharon enjoys scrapbooking, family camping trips, and water skiing in the Columbia Gorge. She and husband, **Mike**, will celebrate their 33rd anniversary in 2011. Her daughter has followed in mom's footsteps and is a certified dental assistant for a private practice in Tigard.

"This is where I always knew I wanted to be," said Sharon.

Submit Your Ideas to Dental Bites

If you have a story idea or a photo for Dental Bites, please contact Sydney Clevenger, clevenge@ohsu.edu, prior to the 25th of the month.

New Faculty

Mark Engelstad, D.D.S., M.D., M.H.I., recently joined the School as an associate professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery. Dr. Engelstad most recently was associate clinical professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry, where he just completed a master's of health informatics. Dr. Engelstad received his doctor of dental science from the University of Minnesota and his medical degree from University of Louisville School of Medicine. He also received certificates in general surgery and oral and maxillofacial surgery from the University of Louisville. Dr. Engelstad completed an AO Craniomaxillofacial Fellowship at the Kantonspital Basel, Switzerland, and Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham, England, and an oral and maxillofacial fellowship at the Royal Melbourne Hospital & Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne, Australia. His interests include maxillofacial trauma, cleft and craniofacial surgery, medical informatics, and surgical skills education.



Orthodontics Gift

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Portland. She writes, "If you look at my pictures, I'm getting double K-9's (sic), and the teeth are overcrowded. My friends call me "vampire" and say, "Why are your teeth like that?" When I eat I get a sharp pain in my front four teeth and my molars (sic). I have known that I need braces and orthodontic care for a long time. I would love any help that you can give me."

Thanks to Mrs. Altorfer's gift, Janet was excited to have orthodontic records collected and will receive her braces this month, said Ortho Administrative Coordinator **Sharon McKay**.

OHSU Pain Day

The School of Nursing is hosting Pain Day Feb. 22 from noon to 5 p.m., with a poster session open to all interested researchers. School of Dentistry faculty and dental students also are welcome to attend a seminar with nationally-recognized speakers in the field of pain. To RSVP for the event, join OHSU's Pain Awareness and Investigation Network, or reserve a slot in the OHSU-wide poster session, go to:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PAINetwork>.

Community Dentistry Chair

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declined in the mid-1980's community dentistry lost its lure and many schools closed or merged their departments," said Dr. Schwarz. "This position was attractive because the school wanted community dentistry to have a clear identification and provide dental students with a broad program, from health promotion to prevention to public health."

Dr. Schwarz, who replaces acting chair **Denice Stewart**, D.D.S., M.P.H., associate dean for clinical affairs, said he appreciated the challenge of the year-long recruitment. "I haven't been in such a rigorous recruitment exercise in a very long time!" he said. "I really enjoyed the challenge, which was followed by an extremely warm welcome. People have been extremely helpful."

Since his arrival, Dr. Schwarz has been visiting local clinics, Pacific University's Dental Hygiene program, and meeting with fellow chairs and faculty. "Meeting our partners gives a sense of the potential of what we are able to be a part of in Oregon, which is invigorating," he said.

A self-described "hard worker," Dr. Schwarz said he likes to think outside the *(continued on page five)*

Community Dentistry Chair

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box. "I've always questioned things to see if we can do better," he said. "For instance, many of the words we hear regularly now in dentistry – immunoassays, biocompatible – did not exist 30 years ago when I was a student. Can you imagine what we haven't invented yet that we will be needing and using regularly in dentistry 30 years from now in 2040?"

"The idea that we're providing every piece of information that students need throughout their dental careers is unrealistic," he said. "We can't teach them everything. It's impossible because much of the information doesn't exist yet."

"Our task as teachers is to be sure students are open and inquisitive when they graduate so they can seek out the relevant evidence for their dental care activities."

The Class of 2011 is the first OHSU dental school class required to complete a one-week community-based rotation, in addition to serving one week at the Russell Street Clinic. All 74 soon-to-be dentists have now signed up to provide care at one of 13 sites in communities ranging from private offices in rural and remote Burns and Baker City, to safety-net public health clinics in Hillsboro and Cornelius. A handful of soon-to-be graduates have sought more than one community-based rotation and several will complete three or more. Studies have shown that providing dental students with diverse, hands-on clinical experience beyond school walls increases the chance that they may return to those communities to live and work.

"Community dentistry is a way of learning and a way of teaching that has come to stay and we need to find a happy medium between the inside and outside of the school walls," said Dr. *(continued, right column)*

Recycle All Plastic at School

With the addition of a new recycling vendor, all clean plastic at the dental school now can be recycled. Clean plastic (soiled plastic containers should be washed first) can be deposited in any blue 'plastics' recycling container. Previously, only numbered and stretchable plastic could be recycled at the school.

Community Dentistry *(continued from left)*

Schwarz. "It isn't like you go to the clinic every day and then you leave the office and go play golf. Community dentistry lives with you all the time."

Dr. Schwarz said he'll be lecturing occasionally this spring for the Health Related Behavior course (CDEN 730). And he intends to continue research into health services, longitudinal programs, and clinical trials.

Though he came to Oregon for a national conference a few years ago, Dr. Schwarz said he didn't have time to see much of the city, but overall it reminds him of his native Denmark, given the rain, biking, and light rail. In his spare time, Dr. Schwarz enjoys walking, biking, guitar, baking Danish rye bread and cakes ... and working.

Dr. Schwarz and wife, **Sussi**, have moved into a condominium on South Waterfront, maintaining their Henderson, Nev., home. They have four children (one in England, two in Hong Kong, and one in Nevada) and two grandchildren.

Coming to a new place is exciting ... and scary," said Dr. Schwarz. "I just want to do the best that I can."