



## Short Takes

**\*The School's Academic Rank and Tenure Committee recently recommended and the Dean approved that two faculty: Denise Stewart, D.D.S., M.H.S.A., and Karla Kent, Ph.D., be promoted to the rank of professor.**

**\*First-year dental student Denise Gates has been selected to attend the 47<sup>th</sup> annual Dental Students Conference on Research May 15-17 in Gaithersburg, Md.**

**\*Two alumni, Jessica (D.M.D. '04) and Kirk (D.M.D. '02) Robertson were recently named Arizona "Dentists of the Year."**

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## Research Day Highlights Student Work

It was standing room only at the School's annual Research Day, held the afternoon of April 22. Nearly 40 student posters were on display, which included 13 projects presented during the Table Clinic at Oregon Dental Conference weekend in mid-April (see page six).

"Creating a reputable research project is not a requirement of the curriculum at the dental school," said Dean **Jack Clinton**, D.M.D. '64. "All of what we are witnessing today has been accomplished because students sought the opportunity to become engaged in research. We have an energy, a vitality, and a commitment to research here and I'm convinced that the way we are going about student research – doing it because we want to do it not because we have to – is what is making us successful.

"As we approach graduation, there is an expectation that we will have embedded in you the value that commits you to want to grow for the rest of your dental career," he added. "I'm convinced that the dental students participating in our growing research program have already gotten the message."

Dr. Clinton noted that nine American Association of Dental Research fellowships have been competitively awarded to OHSU pre-doctoral students in the past four years. "Thank you students for stepping up

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*David Morton, Ph.D., professor of integrative biosciences, is the School's new associate dean for research. Dr. Morton is shown here talking to Jeffery Stewart, D.D.S., associate professor of pathology, on Research Day, when the new shift in responsibility was announced. Tom Shearer, Ph.D., professor of integrative biosciences, was the inaugural dean for research and he is retiring from the role to focus solely on chairing the integrative biosciences department and his research. (Photo Sydney Clevenger)*

## SOD on Twitter

OHSU School of Dentistry has joined Twitter! This is the School's first foray into social media, said **Mark Mitchell**, M.A., associate dean for student affairs. "I think of this as a passive, indirect way to get prospective dental applicants up on what's happening at OHSU as far as students are concerned, as well as admission-related events," he said. "Current dental students could also benefit from many of the tweets." The first tweets, for example, were about campus visits to Oregon State University, Portland State University, and University of Oregon, record numbers at the April Student Table Clinic, Research Day, and the school talent show. Go to [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) and type in sodadmit.

## Staff Profile: Carmelita Metz

**Carmelita Metz** barely made it through her front door from an interview at the dental school before being offered the job of administrative coordinator in the department of pediatric dentistry.

"The department chair then, **George Riviere** [D.D.S., Ph.D.], called to offer me the job and I started in July of 1999," said the hard-working, well-traveled Carmelita. "When he called, I said, 'Okay! I'll come in tomorrow to start. It's both interesting and rewarding to work here. I really enjoy it.'"



Carmelita -- nicknamed Millet by her parents because of her childhood love for omelettes -- grew up in The Phillippines in San Pablo City. She attended Centro Escolar University in Manila and, at the urging of her father, received a degree in medical science. After graduation, she worked for the Red Cross in her home country and later as a physician's assistant in a dispensary at the Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group (MAAG) headquarters in The Phillippines that was dissolved soon thereafter due to availability of the U.S. Embassy's Dispensary. To keep Carmelita, a secretarial position was created in the Comptroller's Division of the Adjutant General's office, for which she was given a minimal grant to pursue secretarial and basic accounting courses. This created the opportunity for Carmelita to redirect and widen her career in the Foreign Service.

Carmelita said her work with the U.S. Department of MAAG mission was very interesting and fulfilling in that she was always in sync with current international events and, at the same time, there were travel opportunities during training and workshops. After eight years, Carmelita was hired by the Budget and Fiscal office of the State Department at the U.S. Embassy in Manila as an auditor. She also pursued a master's in business administration at The Phillippines Christian University to "keep up with the challenges of her expanding role." Carmelita said working with the diplomatic corps, locally and internationally, was a "meaningful and significant" experience.

In 1984, Carmelita was hired at Saudi Arabia's first dental school (established in 1975)-- the King Saud University College of Dentistry -- as executive secretary of its autonomous research center, which oversaw the academic research of both the faculty and students. She said she "literally ran the Center and consulted with the Dean and the Board as appropriate." Later, Carmelita was tapped as executive assistant to the dean and vice deans for special functions, for example, faculty recruitment, the school's accreditation, and establishment of the postgraduate education in all dental disciplines.

Next, Carmelita was managing editor of the Saudi Arabian Dental Journal (it began in 1986) and rose to assistant scientific editor. "My ambition for a long time was to become a journalist and I really enjoyed this job," she said.

As assistant scientific editor, Carmelita was occasionally in touch with former OHSU School of Dentistry dean (1984-1998) **Henry van Hassel**, D.D.S., Ph.D., and his secretary, as Dr. van Hassel had served on the Journal's Advisory Committee and was a sometime reviewer for them.

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## DS2 is an Ambrose Scholar

Second-year dental student **Daniel Walsh** has been named a 2011 Paul Ambrose Scholar. Daniel is one of 45 such scholars selected from across the United States.



The Paul Ambrose Scholars Program is sponsored by the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research and the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Health students selected are from a variety of disciplines including allopathic medicine, osteopathic medicine, dental graduate nursing, physician assistant, and pharmacy programs within the U.S.

As part of the program, Daniel receives a micro-grant for a community-based health promotion/disease prevention research project for work with **Ron Sakaguchi**, D.D.S., Ph.D., M.B.A. Said Daniel, "I will be working with Dr. Sakaguchi to implement a survey program designed to identify where patients are lacking in awareness about their specific health status. The ultimate goal will be providing information and education that is customized to a certain person, serving to activate patients in their care." Daniel will also have the opportunity to attend a prevention education and health promotion leadership symposium in Washington, D.C.

## May Calendar

- May 2** Robert G. Gootee/ODS Companies Lecture, 3 p.m., OHSU Auditorium
- May 14** Robert Quinton-Cox Memorial Softball Tournament
- May 21** Golf tournament sponsored by the Class of 2012, The Reserve Vineyard and Golf Club
- May 30** Memorial Day (School holiday)

## School Comings and Goings

\***Rick Antencio** is a new sterilization processing technician in the clinic dispensary.

\***Ben Bernstein**, Ph.D., affiliate assistant professor of community dentistry, who was instrumental in piloting the School's Action Committee for Excellence and its Service Excellence initiatives, completes his one-year contract at the end of June. Next for Dr. Bernstein is development of stress-reducing, performance-enhancing tools for students to access on their mobile devices.

\***Susan Kay**, R.D.H., assistant professor of periodontology, is retiring at the end of June after 18 years. She and husband, **Gordon Empey**, are relocating to Morro Bay, Calif. Susan is well-known at the School for her weekly flower arrangements and she says she has "no regrets" leaving her garden here because Martha Stewart's head gardener/garden editor has moved to Oregon from New York and has purchased her home.

\***John Lee**, D.D.S., assistant professor and division director of restorative dentistry, is retiring in June after 10 years at the School. After a wedding and some travel, Dr. Lee and his wife will move to their home in Texas where they'll spend those nine months of the year when Portland is rainy.

\***Elizabeth Palmer**, D.M.D. '08, Pedro '10, has joined the faculty as an assistant professor of pediatric dentistry.

\***Michael Taylor**, D.M.D., assistant professor of restorative dentistry, has been appointed director of implantology for restorative dentistry, effective June 15. Dr. Taylor hopes to continue providing dental students with a robust educational experience in implants and foresees adding an additional implant company in the near future.

## ***Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon Draws About 215***

Promise of details about a new dental school building (see April *Dental Bites*) and excellent student turnout fueled a near record of 215 alumni and friends at the Alumni Association's April 9 Annual Meeting and Alum Lunch during Oregon Dental Conference Weekend.

In addition to the Alumni Association's board business, numerous awards and scholarships were bestowed upon alumni, faculty, and dental students. The John C. Peterson Alumnus of the Year was **Jim Cain**, D.M.D. '70. The Oregon Dental Association (ODA)'s Executive Director **Bill Zepp** and Associate Executive Director **Cindy Fletcher** were made Honorary Alums. **Owen Kawakami**, D.M.D. '68, received the President's Award. Assistant professor of restorative dentistry **Michael Taylor**, D.M.D., received the Faculty Recognition Award. Four gentlemen – three posthumous -- were given the Legacy Faculty Award (see caption, below) and eight dental students – of the 40 in attendance -- received various awards and scholarships (see caption, at right).

"This is one of the best meetings we've ever had!" said School Dean **Jack Clinton**, D.M.D. '64.



*Robert Quinn, D.M.D. '55 (left) and wife, Shirley, pose for photos after Dr. Quinn received the Alumni Association's Faculty Legacy Award. Dr. Quinn was one of four winners in 2011 recognized for their leadership and positive influence on decades of dental students -- and the only surviving recipient. Additional recipients included: Niclaus Marineau, D.M.D. '57, John Wagoner, D.M.D. '55, and Hiroshi Ueno, D.D.S. "I refuse to die until there is a new dental school building!" quipped Dr. Quinn.*



*Michael Taylor, D.M.D., assistant professor of restorative dentistry (third from left) received the Alumni Association's Faculty Recognition Award. Dr. Taylor, who is described by dental students as "considerate, devoted, and competent" joined the School four years ago. He is joined by Ted Green Memorial Award winners, third-year dental students Ian Brawner (second from left) and Christopher Kyles (second from right) who each received \$500 for their essays about helping others. Fourth-year dental student Vishal Panchmatia (left) received \$500 for the "Go the Extra Mile" Award for his positive attitude and helpfulness in lab. Second-year dental student Jeff Casebier (fourth from left) received the first Hawaii Dental Student Scholarship, a \$2,500 endowed scholarship created by OHSU alums from Hawaii. Third-year dental student Kathryn Rock (third from right) received a \$2,000 Northwest Dental Scholarship from Pacific Continental Bank. Third-year dental student Charlie Muraki (far right) and fourth-year dental student Amanda Rentschler (not pictured) each received \$10,000 scholarships from the Willamette Dental Foundation. Fourth-year dental student Dan Barrett (not pictured) was the first recipient of the \$2,500 Melissa Star Mariman Endowed Scholarship, in honor of Dr. Mariman (Class of 1999) who died of a brain tumor in 2005.*

**Additional photos are at [www.ohsu.edu/sod](http://www.ohsu.edu/sod) by clicking on Alumni and then View Our Photos. Dan Carter took the photos on this page.**

## Staff Profile *(continued from page two)*

In addition to her administrative and journal responsibilities, Carmelita recalls organizing a well-attended international dental conference every other year, a collaborative scientific forum of both the King Saud University's Dental School and the Saudi Arabian Dental Society.

While in Saudi Arabia, Carmelita met her husband, **Armin**, who was raised in Oregon and had graduated from Portland State University with a master's degree in electrical engineering. They ultimately moved to Milwaukie in 1997.

As administrative coordinator of pediatric dentistry, Carmelita helps to manage the dental students and residents in the Dr. and Mrs. Carl Rietman Pediatric Dentistry Clinic, supporting key pediatric dentistry faculty including **Prashant Gagneja**, B.D.S., associate professor and chair of pediatric dentistry; **Robert Steelman**, D.M.D., M.D., associate professor and director of the pediatric dentistry residency; **John Hanna**, D.D.S., assistant professor and director of the Pediatric Dental Surgery Clinic in Doernbecher; and **John Engle**, D.D.S., assistant professor and director of pediatric dentistry's pre-doctoral clinic.

"It's fun," said Carmelita. "There's so much to do. The job varies and I don't get bored. And I like working with the wonderful people of the dental school and OHSU."

Carmelita has two daughters. One lives with them in Oregon and one lives in Manila. She visits her family in The Philippines annually to bond with "her adorable granddaughter, siblings, and relatives." She loves to cook "anything" and is writing a cookbook on the foods she's eaten on her travels. ("The only region I've never been to is Central America," she said). *(continued, right column)*

## DS2 Wins History Award

Second-year dental student **Kyle Malloy** recently added to OHSU's excellent record of winning the MDK Bremner Award, placing second (honorable mention) in the annual contest for United States and Canadian dental students.

Kyle placed second for his paper, "Conradus Victor Schneider and Nathaniel Highmore: Addressing the Confusion Surrounding the Maxillary Sinus Membrane." While Kyle did not receive a cash award, he was invited to submit his paper to the *Journal of the History of Dentistry* for consideration of publication.

Dental students from OHSU historically do well in the MDK Bremner contest which originated in 1958, said **J. Henry Clarke**, D.M.D. '61, professor emeritus of community dentistry. In recent years, there has only been one first place winner selected for the award. "Second place/honorable mention is not automatic and not always given," said Dr. Clarke. "Kyle's article was superb and he deserves the recognition."

**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](mailto:clevenge@ohsu.edu) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication.**

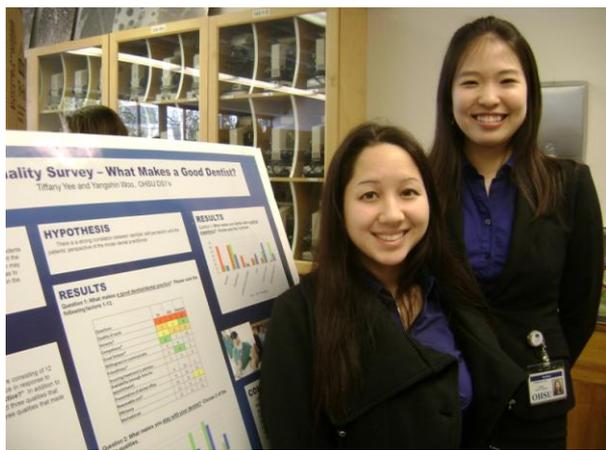
## Staff Profile *(continued from left column)*

She enjoyed Chinese painting at a young age and is contemplating getting back to it when retirement looms.

Even today, Carmelita still loves omelettes and, every Sunday, she makes them for breakfast. "I always make them with vegetables!" she said, with a laugh.

## Table Clinic Involves 17

The Student Table Clinic, sponsored by the Oregon Dental Association and Dentsply during Oregon Dental Conference Weekend in mid-April, had 17 participants working on 13 separate research projects, said **John Mitchell**, Ph.D., associate professor of biomaterials and biomechanics. "I hope everyone had a good time and I know that everyone appreciated your efforts," he said. The winners were announced on Research Day:



First-year dental students Tiffany Yee (left) and Yangshin Woo won first place in the annual Student Table Clinic. Their project involved a dental personality survey to see what makes a good dentist. (Photo Sydney Clevenger)

**First place:** First-year dental students **Tiffany Yee** and **Yangshin Woo**. (\$500 from the ODA and a plaque from Dentsply, plus all expenses paid for one presenter at the American Dental Association conference in Las Vegas this fall).

**Second place:** First-year dental students **Nathan Risley** and **Craig Wright**. (\$500 from the ODA).

**Third place:** Third-year dental students **Anne Adams-Belusko** and **Alex Vo**. (\$500 from the ODA).

**Fourth place:** Second-year dental student **Kyle Malloy**. (\$200 from the School Alumni Association).

## Research Day *(continued from page one)*

and giving us another reason to be very proud of our students," he said.

Dr. Clinton also announced that **David Morton**, Ph.D., professor of integrative biosciences, is the new associate dean of research. **Tom Shearer**, Ph.D., chair of integrative biosciences, has held the role since 1995, and because he retired "on paper" several years ago due to PERS, is refocusing his energies on the department and his research.

"I'm really excited about taking on this role," said Dr. Morton. "I'm also a little daunted because these are significant shoes to fill. Hopefully, we can grow the research program to even greater heights, especially when we move to the new building." Dr. Morton joined OHSU in 1997 and is a basic zoologist who works with fruit flies to study genetics and biochemistry.

Community Dentistry Chair **Eli Schwarz**, D.D.S., Ph.D., M.P.H., was the keynote speaker and talked about why dental research is important to the dental profession.

The posters on display were reviewed by a team of judges. Receiving "Best Pre-doctoral Poster" was second-year dental student **Eva Kiezik**. Endodontic Fellow, soon-to-be-resident, **Katie Burley**, D.M.D. '08, received an award for "Best Postdoctoral Poster."

## Table Clinic *(continued from left column)*

**Fifth place:** First-year dental student **JJ Ooi**. (\$150 from the Dean's office).

**Sixth place:** Second-year dental student **Matt Young**. (\$100 from the School Alumni Association).

**Seventh place:** First-year dental student **Kurt Eklund**. (\$50 from the Dean's Office).