



Dental Bites



May 2012

Research Day is May 11

For the fourth year, OHSU School of Dentistry will host Research Day to showcase dental student research, said David Morton, Ph.D., professor and associate dean for research, who will kick off the event at noon on May 11 in room 525. Interim Dean Gary Chiodo, D.M.D. '78, F.A.C.D., will be on hand to give a welcome and then John Mitchell, Ph.D., professor of integrative biosciences, will talk about "Student Research and Bioactive Glass-based" (continued on page five)

Table of Contents

New Operatory	1
Dr. Kwiecien	1
Grace Kuto	2
Carol Reynolds	5
Dr. Machida	7

Operatory of Future Soon in Endo Bay

A model of the 120 square foot operatories slated for OHSU School of Dentistry's new facility in Skourtes Tower on the north side of the OUS/OHSU Collaborative Life Sciences Building made its debut during Oregon Dental Conference weekend.

"It's neat to be here," said Dean Emeritus Jack Clinton, D.M.D. '64, who was stationed in the Exhibit Hall during the conference to talk about the model operatory. "I've had several people tell me that the equipment that will be in our new operatories looks just like what is in their dental office now. We hope that our graduates will someday be telling their suppliers to set up their operatories just like the ones in dental school. That's how nice these are."

The 120 square foot operatories are more than twice the size of the current operatories in the six group practices. They have built-in (continued, right column)

instrumentation, a fixed dental light, a sink, cabinets for storage, and 5.5 foot walls for privacy (not attached to the operatory during ODC weekend).

"Feel the leather on this chair," said Dr. Clinton to third-year dental students Eric Alston (left), Matthew Young (center), and Kelly Gilmore (right). "I think it's softer than our bed sheets at home!"



The model operatory was designed and donated to the School by A-dec, Inc. The operatory will soon be in use in the pre-doctoral clinic on the first floor, in the endodontology bay.

New Dental School Role for Dr. Kwiecien

Assistant Professor of Restorative Dentistry Kevin Kwiecien, D.M.D. '95, is the School's new director of Faculty Dental Practice, Patient Admitting, and Urgent Care. Dr. Kwiecien began his new role April 1.

"Though our search garnered several excellent applicants for this role, we were pleased that our ideal choice was here already," said Interim Dean Gary Chiodo, D.M.D. '78, F.A.C.D.

A Nevada native, Dr. Kwiecien completed his undergraduate education at the University of Nevada, Reno. He attended OHSU School of Dentistry from 1991 to 1995, graduating with honors in endodontics and restorative dentistry. "Of the five schools to which I was accepted, OHSU just felt right," he said.

After dental school graduation, Dr. Kwiecien was an associate (continued on page three)

Dental School Staff Profile: Grace Kuto

Grace Kuto is an excellent example of an employee well-suited to her role. The longtime administrative assistant—25 ½ years with OHSU this month!—has in spades the calm, empathy, and competence needed to handle irate patients and coax fees from the changing insurance industry.



“My goal is to resolve issues within a reasonable amount of time,” said Grace, one April morning before heading to her desk for a day of troubleshooting. “I want people to leave the school knowing that we care about their well-being. Money is sensitive and when you factor in any dental pain, we occasionally get people who, by the time they are ready to leave, are really upset about their bill. The key is to take the time to explain how we arrived at the cost of their care. I’ve gotten to love my job because I see the difference when you take time with people.”

In Grace’s other dental school role, tracking accounts receivable, “there are insurance companies that are very condescending and give you a story. But I know how insurance companies think and I keep up with the industry and I know how to get the money we are owed. I have the tools to get there and I’m extremely respectful of what the insurance companies need from us. I just don’t go away!” An exception to the insurance industry game, said Grace, is ODS Health, which she said, “should train all other insurance companies about customer service.”

Grace was born in Chwele-Namwela, a rural village in western Kenya near the Ugandan border of East Africa. She attended Chiswick Polytechnic in West London, and then transferred to Portland State University (PSU) as an international student.

There, Grace met **Paul**, who coincidentally grew up in a neighboring village in Kenya. They got married in 1977 and their two surviving daughters, **Mary** (1980) and **Lutomia** (1983) were both born very prematurely due to severe toxemia of pregnancy. (Grace said her daughters practically grew up at the dental school and both worked here at one time).

In 1980, Grace received a bachelor of arts in business administration and management from PSU. Grace worked at IBM and Blue Cross Blue Shield and then decided to leave the private sector to be more available for family.

Upon taking the state exam, she joined what was OHSU’s Hospital Medical Records department, described by Grace as a “warehouse full of paper.”

Grace worked for three years in Medical Records and then interviewed at the School of Dentistry with widely-revered faculty member **John Peterson**, D.M.D. ’55, and patient services coordinator **Rose Russell**, for a position in the patient reception center, greeting patients, directing them to their student, and finding paper charts.

“We did everything by head and hand,” she said. “I was dreaming about paper charts!” During the first months of her employment, Grace was finishing a consultancy with the Oregon Zoo, for its first African exhibit to Oregon, and “accidentally” wrote her first book, on East African culture. *(continued on page four)*

PeopleMovers

***John Mitchell**, Ph.D., department of integrative biosciences was promoted to full professor, effective April 1. Dr. Mitchell joined the School faculty in 2001.

***Tara Moreno** (below left, with **Andrea Williams**, administrative coordinator, at the Oregon Dental Conference) has joined the School as an administrative assistant in the office of student affairs. Prior to joining OHSU, Tara was a Collegium community assistant at Seattle University, where she has a bachelor of arts in criminal justice and forensic psychology.



***David Rosenstein**, D.M.D., M.P.H., OHSU professor emeritus, is the interim director of the Russell Street Clinic, one of the community rotation sites for School of Dentistry students.

***Barry J. Taylor**, D.M.D. '95, Alumni Association Immediate Past President and Editor of the Oregon Dental Association's *Membership Matters*, has joined the OHSU faculty fulltime in the department of restorative dentistry. Dr. Taylor is working in the Faculty Dental Practice. For the past six years, Dr. Taylor has been a general dentist at Willamette Dental Group. He has been an affiliate (volunteer) faculty member at the dental school since April 2002. Two days after signing his OHSU contract, Dr. Taylor fell and dislocated his shoulder, requiring surgery!

Dr. Kwiecien *(continued from page one)*

for one year with **James L. Davis**, D.M.D. '64, in Reno, and worked one day a week as a dentist with the Northern Nevada Job Corps. He then purchased Dr. Davis' practice, his first of two that he has owned.

In 1999, Dr. Kwiecien relocated to Portland. He was an associate at Tigard Tender Care for one year and then he purchased the practice of **Donald Stoffer**, D.M.D. '61, which he subsequently moved to Southwest Barnes Road, what is now 360 Dentistry. In June of 2010, **Michelle Crocker**, D.M.D. '04, a participant in Dr. Kwiecien's study club, purchased 360 Dentistry.

Dr. Kwiecien joined the School's restorative dentistry department in 2008 as an adjunct assistant professor and became an assistant professor in June of 2010. He has been practicing at 360 Dentistry one day a week for the past year and expects to phase himself out completely by June.

At the dental school, Dr. Kwiecien is course director of the second-year fixed prosthodontics class, a four-term course. He also is lecturing in the Advanced Restorative Dentistry course led by **Tom Hilton**, D.M.D., professor of restorative dentistry.

"I've been influenced by the best teachers and clinicians in dentistry," he said. "I enjoy teaching more than almost anything else in dentistry. I'm just sharing the information that I've been taught and used in my career so far because it has had such a positive impact on my career."

Dr. Kwiecien is a graduate of The Pankey Institute, previous president of the Oregon Academy of General Dentistry (OAGD), and has earned his fellowship in the OAGD. He is a visiting faculty member at the Spear Institute in Scottsdale, Ariz., lectures nationally, and is currently working on a master's degree in healthcare *(continued on page seven)*

Grace Kuto *(continued from page two)*

In 1992, Grace moved to patient business services which merged with the cashier's office in 2000.

"I love it here because it's a family to me," said Grace. "I've been offered a couple of other positions on the Hill and I've turned them down because I love the school."

Another large part of Grace's heart remains in Kenya. Proceeds from her second book, a story cookbook, helped to build a 24-hour Chwele Medical Clinic in 1999, which now serves almost 60,000 people. Her third book, another story cookbook, is supporting construction of the Chwele Community Resource and Peace Center through her church, Tigard Community Friends. In 2001, Grace also co-founded the Harambee Centre (www.harambeecentre.org), an organization that connects people of the Pacific Northwest region to the people and cultures of Africa. It partners with projects in Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Grace is a frequent speaker at corporate and diversity events, has created a curriculum called "*Africa Is Not a Country*," has taught Swahili and East African culture at Lewis and Clark College and Portland Community College, and is a past regular KBOO radio voice on Africa.

In March 2007, Grace's sister, **Elizabeth Bwayo**, was randomly shot in the face by gangsters as she was driving on a country road near Nairobi. Elizabeth had severe facial wounds (her husband, **Job**, died in the attack) and after initial trauma care at Nairobi Hospital, she was flown to OHSU for care from **Leon Assael**, D.M.D., chair of oral and maxillofacial surgery, and his OHSU and dental school team.

Elizabeth had a full reconstruction, including a lip tongue release with a forearm flap, and returned to Kenya three years later. *(continued, right column)*

School Calendar

May 5	Robert Quinton-Cox dental student softball tournament, 1 to 5 p.m.
May 11	Research Day, noon to 4 p.m., room 525/520
May 12	DS3 Golf Tournament
May 26-28	WREB Dental Exam
May 28	Memorial Day Holiday

Grace Kuto *(continued from left)*

She has been coming to the States every six months for appointments with Dr. Assael but, last month, Elizabeth received a clean bill of health and does not expect to come back for some time.

In honor of Elizabeth and her late husband, Grace is coordinating an African Dinner Banquet on May 10 to benefit Chwele (go to www.chwele.wordpress.com and click on Events). Guest speaker is **Peter Spencer**, director of OHSU's Global Health Center. Proceeds from the event will go toward a new community center in Chwele, where Elizabeth plans to lead the HIV/AIDS program.

Grace admits that retirement from OHSU is looming and that she and Paul are hoping to return to Kenya to continue community development in rural areas.

"There are no dentists in rural Africa," she said. "There is a desperate need for a dental facility at Chwele." Grace hopes that with a dental facility adjacent to the Chwele Medical Clinic, perhaps OHSU dental and other students would have a dedicated place to help care for the underserved while learning about Global Health issues.

"I am so grateful to this school because they have allowed me to make a difference in other people's lives," she said.

Crocheting for Charity

Carol Reynolds has excellent hand skills – and she’s not even a dental professional.



The office specialist, long a staple at the patient reception center, spends much of her free time at the School crocheting for charity: newborn dresses, scarves, and blankets.

“If I’m not busy or on a break, I’m crocheting or knitting,” said Carol. “I can’t let my hands be quiet. It really calms me.”

Carol’s path to crocheting began in 2006, when she dropped off at college her only child, daughter **Amy**. Upon stopping at a Michael’s craft store on the way home, she saw a notice asking crafters to crochet squares for blankets that would be given to the homeless.

“I thought it would be a neat thing to do in my spare time,” she said. “I’d known how to crochet since I was a child—my mother and her mother taught me—but it had been a while.”

Carol began crocheting 7” x 9” squares that were then sent to the Oregon State Correctional Institution for the inmates to connect into blankets. From there, she became connected with a small group, Aunt Ella’s Pathways, and was given a pattern for newborn dresses. The tiny short-sleeved dresses, tightly stitched with a flare at the bottom and colorful from variegated skeins, take her about a week to finish. The dresses are then donated to the children of U.S. Marines (go to <http://marinecorpskids.blogspot.com> and look at the April 7 entry).

(continued, right column)

Research Day *(continued from page one)*

Tissue Engineering.” At about 12:50 p.m., the winners from the Oregon Dental Association/Dentsply-sponsored Table Clinic, held during Oregon Dental Conference weekend, will be announced.



Tom Shearer, Ph.D., professor of integrative biosciences (left, holding cup) at the 2011 Research Day with Anke Vermehren-Schmaedick, Ph.D. (right), who runs collaborative experiments in the lab of Agnieszka Balkowiec, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of integrative biosciences. (Photo Sydney Clevenger)

Poster viewing and judging, along with lunch, is at 1 p.m., in room 520, and then the Best Poster Awards will be presented at 4 p.m.

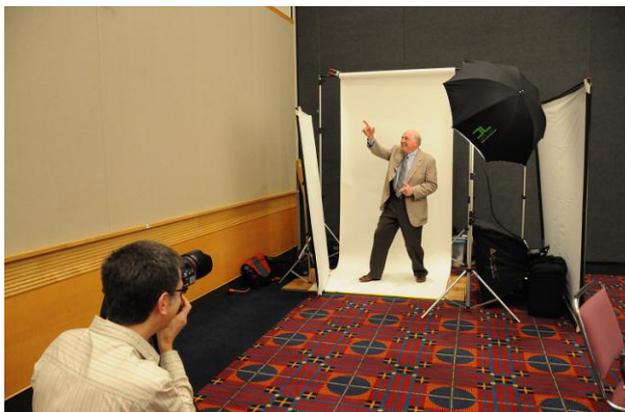
The School is also well-represented in OHSU Research Week this month (www.ohsu.edu/researchweek)

Carol *(continued from left column)*

“I come to OHSU about 5:30 a.m. and do breakfast and crochet and then I walk the V.A. skybridge,” said Carol, who joined the dental school five years ago (she’s been at OHSU almost 12 years) commuting from Gladstone. “Then I crochet some more and I start work at 8 a.m.”

Favorite OHSU spots for crocheting are on the 9th floors of the Kohler Pavilion, and the Hospital near the fireplace. Carol also crochets 12’ x 12’ baby blankets (she’s done about 35) and scarves (she’s finished 20), all for charity. *(continued on page seven)*

Scenes from Oregon Dental Conference Weekend



Donald Sirianni, D.M.D. '64, assistant professor of restorative dentistry, adopts a pose during a photo shoot of school alumni that will be used to promote the new building. (Photo Dan Carter)



Interim Dean Gary Chiodo, D.M.D. '78, F.A.G.D. (left) chats with Curtis Machida, Ph.D., professor of integrative biosciences, and Dr. Machida's wife, Cindy, at the Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon. Dr. Machida won the 2012 Faculty Award. (Photo Dan Carter)



Jim Tinkle, D.M.D. '79, professor emeritus of endodontology, celebrates his Legacy Faculty Award with Brian Whitten, D.D.S., assistant professor and pre-doctoral program director of endodontology. (Photo Dan Carter)



The 2012 ODS Scholars posed with ODS Health Chief Executive Officer Robert Gootee (fourth from left) at the Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon. From left are Erica Coe, Kalli Elford, Jessica Ehlers, Kyle Malloy, and Tyler Schaffeld. (Photo Dan Carter)



Alumni Relations Director Mark Kembal (left), Alumni Relations Assistant Aimee Bloom (center), and Mark Alder, D.M.D. '80, at the Oregon Dental Conference. (Photo Sydney Clevenger)



Honorary Alumnus Pat Regan, the School's development director (left) with Alumnus of the Year Jay Lamb, D.M.D. '80, ODS Board Chair, who has been instrumental in helping with new building fundraising efforts. As of April 19, \$30,130,316, had been raised toward the new facility, said Pat. "Slow and steady wins the race," he said. (Photo Dan Carter)

DS3 is Ambrose Scholar

Third-year dental student **Jennifer Snarskis** has been named a 2012 Paul Ambrose Scholar. Jennifer will receive a micro-grant for a community-based health promotion/disease research project.



Dr. Kwiecien (continued from page three) management at OHSU, which he hopes to complete next spring.



"I'm excited for all three parts of my new job, as I think they're all really needed at the school, as well as continuing my role as course director," said Dr. Kwiecien.

With the impending retirement of **Brian Mitchell**, D.M.D. '75, assistant professor of endodontology, Dr. Kwiecien's urgent care focus will be to examine current processes and systems and implement strategic improvements. Last year, he was on an ad hoc committee that explored the patient admitting process and he hopes to use some of what he learned to revamp the admissions system so that patients are more evenly and efficiently matched with students to expedite treatment. With his "passion" to run a "high-level" group practice, he is especially looking forward to his role as director of the Faculty Dental Practice.

Dr. Kwiecien lives in Tualatin and has two children. He enjoys "being healthy," and in his spare time wakeboards, snowboards, bicycles, and enjoys running half marathons. His office is in room 540.

Machida Team Publishes

A research team led by **Curtis Machida**, Ph.D., professor of integrative biosciences, recently published a study in *Pediatric Dentistry* (<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/aapd/pd/2012/00000034/00000002/art0001>). The study identified dominant genetic strains of bacteria in children following treatment for microbial-caused plaque and tooth decay, and found that while therapies such as antimicrobial rinse and fluoride are important and effective at reducing bacteria immediately following oral care, the reduction appears to be short-lived and several dominant strains of bacteria are present within six months of care.

The OHSU team included **Elizabeth Palmer**, D.M.D. '08, Pediatric Dentistry, '10, assistant professor of pediatric dentistry; **Patricia Peirano**, D.D.S., second-year pediatric dentistry resident; **Aivan Nguyen**, D.D.S., Pediatric Dentistry '10; **Truman Nielsen**, lab assistant; fourth-year dental students **Alex Vo**, **Stephen Jackson**, and **TJ Finlayson**; second-year dental student **Anna Nguyen**; third-year medical student **Becca Sauerwein**; first-year pediatric dentistry resident **Katie Marsh**, D.M.D. '11; **Isaac Edwards**, D.M.D. '11; **Beth Wilmot**, Ph.D., OHSU biostatistician and statistical geneticist; **John Engle**, D.D.S., assistant professor of pediatric dentistry; **John Peterson**, D.D.S., professor of pediatric dentistry; and **Tom Maier**, Ph.D., assistant professor of integrative biosciences and oral pathology and radiology.

Carol (continued from page five)

"Crocheting is so much fun," she said. "I love doing it. It filled a void in my life and through that void I've been able to give to someone else."

With skeins of yarn at \$4.99, Carol is accepting donations for her volunteer craft. "I love the dental school," she said. "The students are great and I really enjoy the interactions between students and patients."