



# Dental Bites

November 2012

**Record Applications —Again!**  
*It appears OHSU has another record number of applications for its dental school. With today as the application deadline for the 2013-2014 academic year, OHSU School of Dentistry has received nearly 1,200 applications for its Class of 2017, said Mark Mitchell, M.A., associate dean for student affairs. The previous application high, for the Class of 2016, was 1,184.*

## Fall Outreach for School of Dentistry

OHSU School of Dentistry was represented in a variety of recent events, with dental students, staff, and faculty offering oral hygiene instructions, information about implants, decay, and the school's clinics, and performing extractions and restorations.



*Providing information and toothbrushes at the OHSU Health Fair in Pioneer Courthouse Square were (from left) Rose McPharlin, D.D.S., assistant professor of clinic administration and Fremont group leader; Craig Galloway, materials manager; Susan Clinton, clinic information analyst; and Andrea Williams, administrative coordinator, Admissions and Student Affairs. Not pictured, Dean Emeritus Jack Clinton, D.M.D. '64. (Photo Sydney Clevenger)*

On Oct. 9, in honor of the School of Medicine's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, OHSU hosted a free health fair in Pioneer Courthouse Square and the dental school had a table at which information was provided and free toothbrushes, floss, toothpaste, and magnets were available.

"Our presence and discussion with the public, as well as our colleagues from OHSU boosted the recognition of our school, clinics and oral health," said **Denice Stewart**, D.D.S., M.H.S.A., senior associate dean for clinical affairs. "I would not be at all surprised if we get a lot of calls for patient appointments as a result of our efforts."

On Oct. 13, about 35 dental students participated in a local Compassion Clinic, providing free care to children and their families. About half the dental students *(continued on page four)*

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## SOD Offering Medical Informatics Training Grants

The School of Dentistry will benefit from a renewed training grant to OHSU's department of medical informatics and clinical epidemiology (DMICE). Within DMICE's new round of five-year funding, one pre-doctoral and two postdoctoral slots will be devoted to dental informatics for fully-funded (tuition, salary, research) training grants for individuals interested in oral health, dental, and/or craniofacial research. The new dental informatics training grants, funded by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, will be led by **Mark Engelstad**, D.D.S., M.D., M.H.I., associate professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMFS) and health informatics, and OMFS residency program director, and **Denice Stewart**, D.D.S., M.H.S.A., senior associate dean for clinical affairs and professor of community dentistry. The program provides a structured research experience with the option of coursework and/or pursuit of a degree. Start dates include fall 2012, winter 2013, or fall 2013. For admissions information, contact Lauren Ludwig, [ludwigl@ohsu.edu](mailto:ludwigl@ohsu.edu), (503) 494-2252.

## Dr. Birchfield Uses Hand Skills to Brighten Clinic Waiting Area

**Kathleen Birchfield**, D.M.D. '87, has long been artistic.

"I come from an art oriented family," said the longtime assistant professor of restorative dentistry. "My dad was a cultural anthropologist and he brought home all sorts of art media and ideas from other cultures. My brother and I were always doing art."

Dr. Birchfield's most recent artistic passion is Japanese flower arranging and she has been sharing her skills with OHSU School of Dentistry patients, staff, faculty, and students by bringing in one bouquet a week. "I belong to one of the schools of Ikebana International," she said. "We have class every week and the arrangements are usually fairly large. The dental school has a perfect alcove in the pre-doctoral clinic waiting area and it seemed like the perfect home for what we make."



*Kathleen Birchfield, D.M.D. '87, assistant professor of restorative dentistry, with one of her flower creations. (Photo Sydney Clevenger)*

Dr. Birchfield was born in Upland, Calif., and her family moved frequently as she was growing up. She said she "stumbled" into dentistry, beginning as a dental assistant in the Los Angeles area. "If you'd told me in my early 20's that I'd be a dentist, I would have fallen over laughing," she said. "But when I was shown how to wax a crown, I liked it so much that I went to dental technology school to become a dental lab technician.

When Dr. Birchfield's husband, **Brent Anderson**, got a job at Tektronix in the 1970's, the couple moved north and Dr. Birchfield completed technology school at Portland Community College, became certified in dental ceramics, and had her own lab in southwest Portland. She did pre-dental studies at Portland State University. She began dental school in 1983.

After dental school graduation, Dr. Birchfield joined the dental school faculty in the department of restorative dentistry, in both clinical and pre-clinical settings.

In 1992, Dr. Birchfield went into private practice in downtown Portland. But over the years, basal thumb arthritis slowed her down and "after my fifth hand surgery" she retired in 2006 and rejoined the dental school part-time (W, Th, F) in 2007. "I work with the third- and fourth-year dental students in fixed and removable (crown and bridge and dentures) in the various integrated group practices," she said. "On Fridays I am in admitting screening patients.

"I really enjoy being with the students," said Dr. Birchfield. "This is the best part of my dental career so far. The biggest challenge is translating the three-dimensional world of dentistry into words." Dr. Birchfield also is passionate about helping fourth-year dental students **Geoff Peterson** and **Erica Coe** get the Student Patient Assistance Program up and running (see September *Dental Bites*). *(continued on page five)*

## Recent Photos from OHSU School of Dentistry



*Tom Pollard, D.M.D. '74 (standing) connects with first-year dental students at the annual chili feed, an event on Oct. 12 sponsored by the Alumni Association. (Photo Lauren Schatz)*



*Interim Dean Gary Chiodo, D.M.D. '78, F.A.C.D. (back row, white coat) with about a dozen first-year dental students at the Northwest corner of the school's new building under construction on South Waterfront. "I was really excited to hear about the new building," said Keith Brannen, Gladstone, Ore. (fifth from left), whose brother, Paul, is a 2009 OHSU School of Dentistry graduate. "Having a brand new facility is a huge bonus." (Photo Dan Carter)*



*Angela Sinor, E.F.D.A., a dental assistant in the department of pediatric dentistry, presents nearly 300 goodie bags to representatives from the Operation Christmas Child program, a project of Samaritan's Purse. The goodie bags are filled with toothbrushes, floss, and paste. This is the second year that OHSU School of Dentistry has donated oral health care items to the international project, which helps low-income children. (Photo Richard Grabowsky, D.D.S.)*



*OHSU School of Dentistry students were ambassadors at the Oct. 13 Dean's Gold Circle reception at the Center for Health & Healing. Pictured are second-year dental students Allison Shisler (second from left), Thomas Houghton (second from right), and Kendra Chandhoke (right); third-year dental students Carly Peterschmidt (left) and Noor Khaki (fourth from left); and fourth-year dental students Iraj Kasimi (third from left), Richard Bohnstedt (fifth from left), and Jill Pollard (third from right). Nearly 200 alumni and donors attended the Dean's Gold Circle event. (Photo Dan Carter)*



*Third-year dental student Phil Han volunteered at the fall phonathon on Oct. 22 to network and find out what's going on in the dental community. The event raised more than \$45,000 in four nights of calling. (Photo Sydney Clevenger)*

## Fall Outreach (continued from page one)

involved were based at Tigard High School; the others at Pacific University School of Dental Hygiene. "We performed so many extractions!" said third-year dental student **Traci Saito**. "The fourth-year dental students also performed a lot of restorations. We got to do so much; it was the best clinical experience."

On Oct. 17, the School of Dentistry was represented at an OHSU new faculty orientation, providing information on the school's dental clinics. On Oct. 20, students from the American Student Dental Association were at the Beaverton Library's Resource Fair, providing oral care instructions and information. And in late September, OHSU School of Dentistry participated in a Medfest/Healthy Athletes event.



Providing care in conjunction with Pacific University School of Dental Hygiene for the Tigard Compassion Clinic in mid-October were (from left to right) Allen Chen, D.M.D. '09; fourth-year dental student Ilkyu Lee; third-year dental students Traci Saito, Kelly Sayre, Noor Khaki, and Bhavin Patel; and fourth-year dental student Phil Han. (Photo Rose Vaughn).



Third-year dental students (left to right) Tyler Peterschmidt, Carly Peterschmidt, Nate Risley, Michelle Nguyen, and Cathrine Martell at the Medfest/Healthy Athletes Event. The dental students were joined by Lynn Whitley, D.M.D. '89, R.N., assistant professor of restorative dentistry and Sellwood group leader; Elizabeth Palmer, D.M.D. '08, Pediatric Dentistry '10, assistant professor of pediatric dentistry; Richard Park, D.M.D. '67, assistant professor of pediatric dentistry; Dental Assistants Mary Bravo and Marie White; Sherry Lemon, R.D.H., associate professor; Guy Simmons, research associate in integrative biosciences; and several spouses and SOM representatives. (Photo Lynn Whitley)



Phyllis Beemsterboer, M.S., Ed.D., associate dean for academic affairs (center) talks with Human Resources Associate Elizabeth Gustafson (right) and a School of Nursing representative at OHSU's Oct. 16 new faculty orientation.



Third-year dental student Erica Robinson at the Beaverton Library's Resource Fair.

**Dr. Birchfield** *(continued from page two)*

It was actually one of her former classmates, **Yuriya Manabe**, D.M.D. '87, Hillsboro, Ore., who encouraged Dr. Birchfield to learn flower-arranging at Ryusei-Ha, the Ikebana school. "Yuriya, originally from Japan, invited me to one of her classes, and I was hooked" said Dr. Birchfield.

In October, Dr. Birchfield had arrangements on display at the Portland Japanese Garden's annual Reiyusei-ha exhibition (see photo below) and the Chrysanthemum Festival. She has for the past few years done arrangements at the Art Museum's permanent Asian exhibit during the months of April and August.

Dr. Birchfield also enjoys fiber arts, such as spinning and knitting. She lives in southwest Portland.

**School Calendar**

**Nov. 22-23** Thanksgiving holiday.  
**Dec. 14** Last day of 12-week fall term  
**Jan. 2** Start of 12-week winter term

**New Building**

Fourth-year dental students Matt Young (middle) and Kelly Gilmore (left) inaugurated a model of the school's new operatories in late September. The new operator, donated by A-dec, Inc., and located in the endodontology bay in the pre-doctoral clinic, is about 120 square feet and the standard for the school's new facility under construction. The students are being supervised by Brian Whitten, D.D.S., assistant professor of endodontology and pre-doctoral endodontic program director. (Photo Christine Sedgley). Several weeks later, Dr. Whitten and his wife, Kelly, an administrative assistant in the pre-doctoral clinic (St. Johns care coordinator) took a tour of the new building with Eric Snelling, JE Dunn director of field operations. (Photo Sydney Clevenger)



## Dr. Matsumoto Published

OHSU School of Dentistry researcher **Steven Matsumoto**, Ph.D., associate professor of integrative biosciences, was a key part of a recent human neural stem cell study that was published in *Science Translational Medicine*. The new findings demonstrate the potential of treating disorders that affect myelin, the critical fatty insulation surrounding nerve fibers essential for brain function. Dr. Matsumoto helped to perform studies confirming that myelin is generated by nerve cells via nerve conduction studies, in slices of brain tissue from animals that received transplants. To read about the study, go to

[http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/about/news\\_events/news/2012/10-10-stem-cells-offer-hope.cfm?WT.ac=094 StemCellTherapies 1 1](http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/about/news_events/news/2012/10-10-stem-cells-offer-hope.cfm?WT.ac=094 StemCellTherapies 1 1).

## History Exhibit on SOD

The OHSU library is preparing a special exhibit this month on the dental school, "Herbert Miller and the NPC Boys," a look at the tumultuous first year of the school's founding and dentistry in the late 1800's. The exhibit, which will be up Nov. 6 through January, will feature photos, tools, teeth, and more.

Meantime, OHSU's History of Dentistry Collection, which has more than 600 rare 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century books on dental practice and education, will soon have a new home! In January, the collection (now in the BICC) will move to a new, dedicated space on the fourth floor of the OHSU Library.

**If you have a story idea or photo for *Dental Bites*, please contact Sydney Clevenger, [clevenger@ohsu.edu](mailto:clevenger@ohsu.edu) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication.**

## Alumni Association *Kudos*: Adam Ward

*By Mark Kemball*

Even during the busiest and most demanding stretches of dental school, second-year dental student **Adam Ward** has made time to serve as a teaching assistant for the anatomy course.



"Adam sets up and runs review sessions in the open lab and provides times for questions and answers about any confusion we've had in lecture," said first-year dental student **Alex Matsumoto**, who nominated Adam for *Kudos*. "He's been a really big help in learning the material and preparing for the exams. My classmates and I all appreciate his assistance."

A native of Albany, Ore., Ward obtained a bachelor of science in nutritional science at Brigham Young University before matriculating in 2011 and facing his first anatomy course.

"I draw on the memory of myself in the DS1's shoes and then pass on some of the time-saving tips and tricks I've learned," said Adam. "I try to help students feel confident about their abilities, rather than overwhelmed about what they need to know."

Adam also enjoys the learning opportunities that teaching brings. "It's very interesting to sit down and figure it all out together," he said. "It helps me to refresh what I have learned."

*Kudos from the Alumni Association is a quarterly series that highlights faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of the School of Dentistry who go above and beyond to improve the educational and community experience for students. Know someone who should be "Kudos-ed?" Contact us at [alumni@ohsu.edu](mailto:alumni@ohsu.edu)*

## New SOD Finance Manager

**Ali Iqbal**, M.B.A., is the school's new finance manager. Ali replaces **Liz Holman**, who was interim finance manager after the retirement of **Jan Klinefelter** this summer.

Ali joined OHSU in 2010 as finance manager for the university's department of biochemistry and division of cardiology. Prior to joining OHSU, he was a financial consultant for Onplan Oracle Solutions, and a budget manager for Gulf Coast Calibration in Houston. Ali received his bachelor of business administration in international business from Texas Tech University and a masters of business administration in international finance from Helsinki School of Economics in Finland. He speaks three languages (English, Spanish, and Urdu) and enjoys basketball, snowboarding, and travel.

## Flu Shots Required

OHSU is requiring all employees to receive the seasonal influenza vaccination this year. Employees may be vaccinated through Employee Health on Tuesday, Nov. 6 from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Hatfield ninth floor atrium, or Wednesday, Nov. 7, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Multnomah Pavilion first floor.

Employees who are vaccinated elsewhere must complete an Attestation Form. All OHSU healthcare personnel who are not vaccinated for influenza must complete a Declination Form and are required to wear a surgical mask within six feet of patients in patient care areas during flu season, once there are two cases of flu reported within a two-week period. Both forms are available in Employee Health. While dental providers already wear masks during patient care, said Director of Quality Assurance **Karla Kent**, the policy will also apply to non-vaccinated personnel in SOD who work in patient care areas, for example in patient reception, cashiers, care coordinators, etc.

## SOD Awards Announced

The first awards have been made to SOD faculty through the newly-created Dean's Fund for Research Support. Receiving \$40,000 grants for research are **Agnieszka Balkowiec**, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of integrative biosciences, and the team of **Tom Hilton**, D.M.D., M.S., alumni centennial professor of operative dentistry, and **Jack Ferracane**, Ph.D., professor and chair of restorative dentistry. The Dean's Fund for Research Support is designed to stimulate research by providing funds for preliminary studies, bridge funding, and core costs.

"It was gratifying to see the level of scientific expertise in all of the applications for this first round of funding," said Interim Dean **Gary Chiodo**, D.M.D. '78, F.A.C.D. "Funding these two projects is an excellent investment in the growth of our research mission."

With their funding, Drs. Hilton and Ferracane will work with dentists in the OHSU PROH (Practice-based Research in Oral Health) network to help characterize and correlate the entire three-dimensional crack pattern in extracted human teeth, and develop a crack classification system based on the results. Their work will ultimately help practitioners in diagnosing and treating cracked teeth, a significant problem in dentistry.

Dr. Balkowiec will use her funding to identify the molecule responsible for hampered growth of neurons that control the vital cardiorespiratory system. "These data will become critical in competing for NIH funds to further characterize the factor, and establish its potential as a therapeutic target and/or biomarker for an increased risk of SIDS," she said. "I am extremely grateful for this new funding opportunity, which is critical for projects like ours to become competitive at the national level. "In the current funding climate, preliminary data are essential to the success of any application by enabling us to more quickly publish our newest discoveries."