



Dental Bites

November 2013

Short Takes

***Applications for the Class of 2018 have set another school record, said Associate Dean for Student Affairs Mark Mitchell, M.A. There are 1,236 applications to date, with a handful more expected before the deadline, said Mark.**

***Of the 3,732 licensed dentists in Oregon, 1,998, or 54 percent, are OHSU School of Dentistry or University of Oregon Dental School (our predecessor) graduates, according to the Oregon Board of Dentistry.**

Lanyards Identify Dental Bridge Groups

Returning OHSU dental students received colorful lanyards on Oct. 7 to identify them by bridge groups. The lanyards were given to first-year dental students at their Conference for Professionalism.

"We are hoping the lanyards provide instant recognition of which group practice our students are in for faculty, staff, patients, and students within the school," said **Peter Morita**, D.M.D. '86, associate dean for patient services.

"We also hope the new lanyards instill a bit of pride and camaraderie in each group practice."



In addition to dental students, the lanyards also were provided to group leaders, care coordinators, and dental assistants. The lanyard colors include: red (Broadway); Fremont (green); Hawthorne (gold); St. John's (blue); Sellwood (purple); and Steele (black).

New NIH Grants Total Nearly \$3 Million

OHSU School of Dentistry researchers recently received nearly \$3 million in grants from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, a branch of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), to study novel materials for longer-lasting dental composites, or fillings.

Principal investigators **Carmem Pfeifer**, D.D.S., Ph.D., assistant professor of biomaterials and biomechanics, and **Jack Ferracane**, Ph.D., chair and professor of restorative dentistry, will receive more than \$2.4 million over five years to work independently toward the common goal of doubling the service life of dental composites. Their study is titled "Tertiary Methacrylamides and Thiourethane Additives as Novel Dental Composites."

Current dental composites — the materials developed in the 1960s for tooth-colored restorations that harden when exposed to blue light — degrade over time.

"Restorations made with the current materials last on average six to seven years before they fail," said Pfeifer. "Restorations are particularly susceptible to hydrolysis [when the material comes into contact with water in saliva] or are attacked by the naturally occurring enzymes that produce bacteria in peoples' mouths." (continued on page three)



Carmem Pfeifer,
D.D.S., Ph.D.

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Faculty Profile: Robert "Bob" Bowles, D.M.D. '65

Self-described people person **Robert "Bob" Bowles**, D.M.D. '66, has been teaching one subject or another for most of his life. So, it is fitting that the assistant professor recently was awarded a 25-year pin for his service to OHSU.

"Being a faculty member at the OHSU School of Dentistry has been a very beneficial part of my life," said Dr. Bowles, one recent Monday over a salad. "I've thoroughly enjoyed and enhanced my professional knowledge by working with my fellow faculty members."



*Robert "Bob" Bowles,
D.M.D. '65*

Dr. Bowles moved to Oregon with his family in the late 1940s after World War II. He graduated from Grant High School, and went on to Oregon State University (OSU) receiving a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering. While at OSU, Dr. Bowles was a member of the Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC).

Upon graduation from OSU and commissioning as an ensign in the Navy, Dr. Bowles was sent to Long Beach where he was stationed on a destroyer operating in the Pacific. During those next three years at sea, "I had time, while on many night watches, to really think about what I wanted to do with my life," he said. "I decided I wanted to work for myself, thinking medicine or dentistry might fit, and elected to apply to various west coast dental schools."

Following his release from active duty, Dr. Bowles took pre-dental courses at the University of California, Berkeley, and was admitted to the University of Oregon Dental School, the precursor to OHSU School of Dentistry, in 1961. But, his entrance had to be delayed a year as Dr. Bowles was recalled to active duty for almost one year onboard a destroyer escort spending most of its time in the western Pacific participating in the early stages of the Vietnam War.

His service to the Navy lasted 30 years, and he retired in 1987 at the rank of captain. Naval highlights included spending more than 16 years on seven different destroyer-type vessels, qualifying for command at sea (difficult for dentists to achieve), and serving on the staff of the Commander in Chief Pacific (CINCPAC).

"It was always enjoyable to go to Hawaii. However, the responsibilities were significant as the CINCPAC area covered most of the Pacific and Indian Oceans and included up to 290,000 military personnel," said Dr. Bowles. "It also included the decision-making power to relay or initiate the release of our nation's strategic deterrent nuclear weapons."

In 1962, Dr. Bowles entered dental school, graduating in 1966. During dental school, he also received a bachelor of science degree in general science from the University of Oregon. Given his dental training, he had to petition the Navy to remain a ship driver in the naval reserve, rather than going into the dental corps as was tradition for someone with his background.

A broken leg from skiing his senior year at Mt. Bachelor steered Dr. Bowles away from a dental practice directly after graduation. Instead, he worked for the Oregon Board of Health *(continued on page five)*

New NIH Grants *(continued from page one)*

The OHSU School of Dentistry study will use new compounds to replace the current material based on methacrylates. The new materials will be more resistant to hydrolysis and enzymatic attack.



*Jack Ferracane,
Ph.D.*

"Our materials will be based in methacrylamide chemistry, and won't require that the dentist change operatory procedures before placing the composite," said Dr. Pfeifer. "Our materials will still be activated by blue light and placed the same way as before," she said, adding that the OHSU study will incorporate pre-polymerized additives to make the new materials stronger.

The OHSU team will test the basic mechanical resistance of the new materials as a screening tool, and then use bioreactors to simulate the conditions in the oral environment.

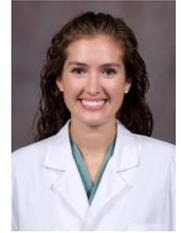
Dr. Pfeifer also recently received a three-year, \$429,600 NIH grant to study "Thiourethanes as low-stress modifiers in dental composites." Dental student involvement is a key component of this grant, with dental students directly involved in helping to formulate, characterize, and test the newly developed composite materials, Dr. Pfeifer explained.

Gootee Lecture Nov. 15

The fifth annual Robert G. Gootee/Moda Health Endowed Lecture in Leadership and Professionalism is set for 4 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 15, in the OHSU Auditorium. *Rules of the Red Rubber Ball* Author **Kevin Carroll** will talk about how play can be a catalyst for creativity, innovation, and personal growth. All dental students are required to attend. A reception will follow. Please RSVP to events@ohsu.edu. See also, story, right column, and page six.

SPEA Now at OHSU

When fourth-year dental student **Shannon Woods** was an undergraduate at the University of Oregon, she proposed an ethics panel within her sorority to promote academic integrity. So, when the Bend, Ore., native joined OHSU School of Dentistry, it was only natural for her to extend her interest in ethics to dental students.



Shannon Woods

"I've been passionate about ethics and professionalism for a long time," said Shannon. "There are ethics initiatives for faculty on campus, but I thought there should also be a dental student-led organization to help provide resources for students and create a culture of academic integrity."

Shannon turned to Executive Vice Dean **Gary Chiodo**, D.M.D. '78, F.A.C.D., and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs **Phyllis Beemsterboer**, M.S., Ed.D., for advice. They provided funding and support for a formal application to SPEA, the Student Professional and Ethics Association in Dentistry. Begun in 2007 at University of Southern California, there are now dozens of SPEA chapters at dental schools across the United States.

"We want to keep dentistry a self-regulated profession," said Shannon. "I think of it as a rising river that lifts all ships. Ethics and professionalism keep us all accountable and strengthen the field of dentistry as a whole."

This first year of the OHSU SPEA has been one of membership and awareness. To date, Shannon has recruited six members and intends to start a "Lunch and Learn" series.

In mid-November, during OHSU's Professionalism Week, all dental students will *(continued on page six)*

Recent Photos from OHSU School of Dentistry



A handful of the dental students and residents who will move into the OHSU School of Dentistry's new facility next summer when construction is completed, posed with Dean Phillip Marucha, D.M.D., Ph.D., at the new building in mid-October. Front row, from left to right, are second-year dental students Peter Wagner and Ryann Belcher, first-year pediatric dentistry resident Sarah Post, D.M.D. '11, second-year dental students Amelia and Sydney Stoker, and third-year dental student Ray Reeves. Back row, left to right, are second-year dental student Josh Hardin, second-year oral and maxillofacial surgery resident Chris Kyles '11, and first-year dental student Demetri Howerton. Dr. Kyles remembers talk of a new building six years ago when he was a dental student. "I can't wait to see the final product!" he said. "I think that the surgical suites are going to give our residency an advantage over others with having the latest and greatest in equipment." (Photo Sydney Clevenger)



Donald Sirianni, D.M.D. '64, assistant professor of restorative dentistry, catches up with a classmate—one with whom he had carpoled during dental school but hadn't spoken to in 20 years—at the annual phonathon. Dr. Sirianni volunteered three nights for the fall 2013 phonathon, which raised nearly \$24,000 for the Dean's Fund for Excellence. The Dean's Fund for Excellence supports student and faculty travel, research, and the alumni association, among other efforts. (Photo Sydney Clevenger)



More than 50 OHSU School of Dentistry students – first-through fourth-years – volunteered at the mid-October Tigard Compassion Clinic at Tigard High School. According to Assistant Professor of Restorative Dentistry Dennis Nicola, D.D.S., one of two faculty leads for the one-day health event, oral care was provided for 262 people in the school and on the Medical Teams International vans. Several dental alums also joined the dental students and faculty in their volunteerism, and Dean Marucha was on hand to provide support. "Community care opportunities are so important for students," he said. "It is great to see so many students giving back."



Second-year dental students Amelia (left) and Sydney (center) Stoker, and Caroline DeVincenzi (right) spent three weeks in Kenya in September on a Global Health Center Student Summer Scholarship. While in Kenya, the dental students assessed the oral health of 11-to-13-year-olds for the prevalence of dental caries, provided oral instructions, took water samples to determine fluoride content, and interviewed adults, handing out brushes and toothpaste. "We found a lot of bombed out first molars in the school children, and many kids reported being in pain constantly," said Sydney. One unexpected component of the girls' research was the many children who eat sugar cane regularly, said Caroline. "There is not much recent research on sugar cane and its effect on oral health," she said. The students were safe hours away in Chwele when Nairobi's Westgate Mall was attacked by terrorists Sept. 21, killing dozens. Returning to Nairobi for a three-day safari and return travel, they appreciated the added security in the tourist areas. The DS2's are shown here with longtime dental school administrative assistant Grace Kuto (in red), and her husband, Paul (in suit), in front of the Chwele medical clinic Grace founded and for which she is hoping to obtain dental chairs, and more students to volunteer.

Dr. Bowles *(continued from page two)*

at Emanuel Hospital on a grant program aimed at reducing the incidence of low birthweight babies in northeast Portland.

In 1968, Dr. Bowles and **Frank Nettleship**, D.M.D. '66, initiated a dental practice in the Hillsdale area of Portland where Dr. Bowles practiced for 30 years. Dr. Bowles also joined what was then the dental school's dental material science department, conducting amalgam research for three years with **David Mahler**, Ph.D.

In 1969, Dr. Bowles joined the crown and bridge department. He left the faculty five years later to work full-time in private practice. Dr. Bowles was a charter member of the Southwest Portland Rotary Club, eventually serving as their president, and was a Rotarian for 24 years. Over the years he also served as the president of the Reserve Officers Association of Oregon, National Dental Surgeon for the Reserve Officers Association of the United States, president of the Multnomah Dental Society, trustee to the Oregon Dental Association, trustee to his college fraternity, and as president of three charitable trusts or foundations.

Dr. Bowles was a professional ski instructor for 24 years for the Mt. Hood, Mirror Mountain, and Ski Bowl Ski Schools. He attained full certification and served on those ski schools technical teams, training other instructors. "I do things because they're challenging especially if I like doing them," he said.

In 1987, then-Prosthodontics Chair **William Howard**, D.M.D., asked Dr. Bowles to re-join the dental faculty and, "I've been here ever since," he said. He sold his private practice in 1999 and he now works for the restorative department one day a week (Mondays) in the pre-doctoral clinic.

Dr. Bowles said he "felt privileged" in 1999 to conduct volunteer dental work for one month in
(continued, right column)

OHSU Leases 3030 Building

According to OHSU's *Staff News*, the university has signed a master lease agreement for the 3030 Moody building on South Waterfront. Number 3030 is the red brick building next to the OHSU/OUS Collaborative Life Sciences Building, where the new dental facility is located. OHSU assumes control of the building today, and will begin occupying half the space in early 2014. Six academic departments working in health policy and outreach are expected to be the first to move in. Eventually, OHSU will occupy the entire building.

Dr. Bowles *(continued from left column)*

Jamaica, and he has been heavily involved in Special Olympics, a passion of his wife, **Sandra**. In Oregon, Dr. Bowles' Special Olympics volunteerism has included the Special Smiles and Healthy Athletes programs, and he has volunteered at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Toronto, Canada, and Anchorage, Alaska; the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Dublin, Ireland; and the U.S. Games in Lincoln, Nebraska. He is currently trying to coordinate the relocation of several dental chairs and delivery units in the pre-doctoral clinic to dentally-underserved countries.

Dr. Bowles' dental skills and tools are also put to use in his Beaverton garage where, as a hobby, he sculpts bronze marine animals and birds. He has three children: **Brian**, an engineer who lives in Phoenix, Arizona; **Kevin**, an adjunct professor at several colleges in the Portland area, and an affiliate professor and lecturer at the dental school; and **Susanna**, a cosmetologist in Kauai. Dr. Bowles has four grandchildren, and he and Sandra love to travel.

"I've enjoyed it all," he said. "I've been especially pleased to be associated with the dental education community. I can't think of anything I would have done differently."

SPEA *(continued from page three)*

hear from Alumni Association President **Jim Smith**, D.M.D. '81, during their Monday (11/11) morning huddle. And on Friday (11/15), dental students will attend the fifth annual Robert G. Gootee/Moda Health Endowed Lecture in Leadership and Professionalism (see story, page three). Dr. Chiodo is also speaking during Professionalism Week on behalf of the dental school. His talk, *OHSU's Conscientious Objection Policy: Ethical and Legal Issues* is on Thursday (11/14) at 9:15 a.m. in Vey Auditorium.

Said Shannon, "In a perfect world, there would be regular collaboration where students meet to discuss pressing issues. I think the biggest ethical quandary for our generation of dentists is the large debt most students face when graduating from dental school. How does one balance productivity to pay off debt with the possible overtreatment of dental patients?"

Dental school debt is also on the national radar, said Dr. Beemsterboer, and often presents access to care issues because many young dentists cannot afford to practice initially in rural or underserved areas where the oral health need is greatest.

Though Shannon recognizes her time with SPEA is short, she is lining up a replacement chapter president for when she graduates in June.

"It's been great here," said Shannon, who is eyeing an orthodontic residency. "The faculty have been very supportive. I love Oregon and hope to stay here to practice."

Staff Passing

Jan Klinefelter, OHSU School of Dentistry finance manager for four years, recently died. Jan retired last August.

School Calendar

Nov. 1	ADA annual session alumni reception. Call (503) 552-0745 to register. New Orleans. Look for OHSU School of Dentistry in booth 3440.
Nov. 15	Gootee Lecture, 4 p.m., OHSU Auditorium. Reception to follow.
Nov. 28/29	Thanksgiving holiday
Dec. 20	End of 12-week fall term
Jan. 6	Start of 11-week term
Jan. 20	Holiday—Martin Luther King

Dean Reception

Dental students, staff, and faculty enjoyed hors d'oeuvres at an Oct. 21 reception for new dean Phillip Marucha, D.M.D., Ph.D. OHSU Provost Jeanette Mladenovic, M.D., M.B.A., M.A.C.P., presented Dr. Marucha with welcoming gifts: an OHSU umbrella and an OHSU book, "One Day." From left are SOD Finance Manager Ali Iqbal, Assistant Professor of Periodontology Harjit Sehgal, B.D.S., M.S., and Dr. Marucha. Fourth-year dental student Joseph Kelly is in the background. (Photo Sarah Minor)

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