



Short Takes

***Juliana da Costa, D.D.S., on faculty in the department of restorative dentistry, recently was promoted to associate professor with tenure. Dr. da Costa joined the School in 2004. For more information on Dr. da Costa, see the June 2009 Dental Bites.**

***The annual fall faculty conference is set for Tuesday, Sept. 21, in rooms 220-225. All faculty are encouraged to attend to hear the latest School updates.**

Welcome Dental School Class of 2014

Nels Walther is fairly typical of the Class of 2014. Nels, 25, is from Oregon (Roseburg) and received a bachelor of science in biology from Oregon State University. He selected OHSU School of Dentistry because he "heard that the faculty teach you to be an excellent clinician and that it is very hands-on learning.

"I feel good," said Nels, when interviewed on his first day of dental school in mid-August. "My emotions in the last 10 minutes have gone from nervous to excited to overwhelmed to disbelief about being here."

Seventy-five new dental students joined the School Aug. 16 for orientation and their first day of classes. Forty-nine of the first-year dental students are from Oregon, 15 are from WICHE (Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education) states, 10 are from out of state, and one is an international student (South Korea). Fifteen are Asian Pacific *(continued, right column)*

Islanders, one did not report an ethnicity, and the rest are White. Forty-seven of the first-year dental students are male and 28 are women. The median age is 25.

The overall grade point average of the incoming class is 3.61, the same as 2009. Six of the first-year dental students have either double-majored, or earned a second bachelor's degree, a master's degree, or a master's in business administration, said **Mark Mitchell**, associate dean for student affairs.

Kelly Harness, 29, from Vancouver, British Columbia, received a bachelor of science in business from the University of Wyoming and then received a master's of business administration from Oregon State University.

"My master's thesis was on a dental imaging technology *(continued on page two)*

Dr. Myall Receives OHSU Teaching Award

Robert Myall, M.D., professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery, recently won the 2010 OHSU Faculty Senate Award for Excellence in Teaching. Dr. Myall has been on the School faculty for more than nine years. He received \$3,500 (a \$3,000 for the award and \$500 for being nominated) and a certificate.

"When Dr. Myall was hired at OHSU the department of oral and maxillofacial surgery was mired in survival mode," said **Rose McPharlin**, D.D.S., assistant professor of operative dentistry, in introducing the School's four finalists. "The residency program faced a loss of accreditation unless a cohesive, well-integrated didactic and clinical program was provided. Dr. Myall stepped into this arena utilizing the experience he had previously gained throughout his career to establish a coordinated schedule of didactic lectures, conferences, and journal club study sessions. Within a relatively short period *(continued on page two)*

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and I got exposed to the field and thought dentistry was something I could do. The dentist I worked with on the project was very inspirational and influential and that was also a draw."

Natanael Repta, 23, was born in Romania but moved to Portland when he was three. He has been a volunteer sterilizer at Willamette Dental for the past five years and has been volunteering in the pre-doctoral clinic at the dental school for more than one year. Chipping his two front teeth while biking as a 10-year-old gave him an interest in dentistry – and service.

"Here in the States, we are so fortunate to have health care," he said. "I know how dentistry affected me and I want to help others. This is something I think I can do."

Seven from the Class of 2014 (**Vincent Colasurdo, Brent Erickson, Kyle Geelan, Daren Hunt, David Miller, Traci Saito, and Kelly Sayre**) have parents or siblings who are OHSU School of Dentistry graduates, and another five dental students have OHSU dental relatives.

"Due to the lineage, I was involved in the profession from a young age and came to respect the service provided to the public and the important relationship dentists build with patients in the community," said Vincent, whose father, **John Colasurdo** is a D.M.D. 1982, and whose grandfather was also a dentist.

Dean **Jack Clinton**, D.M.D. '64, emphasized to the Class of 2014 the service involved in dentistry and encouraged the new students to utilize the resources offered.

"There is so much energy in this room, we could probably turn the lights off and still have power!" he said. "It's great, keep it up. But also, be a self-assessor and seek help if your batteries run down, because they will at some *(continued on page three)*

Dr. Myall *(continued from page one)*

the oral and maxillofacial surgery residency program was fully accredited. With his teaching style being very interactive by utilizing case-based scenarios, he stimulates the residents, graduate and undergraduate students alike, to think on their feet."



Robert Myall, M.D.

Dr. Myall is very involved in the pediatric and orthodontic departments, "utilizing his wide experience" in dentistry and medicine.

"With his knowledge and vast experience of diseases and syndromes, he has benefitted the pediatric residents in their weekly teaching sessions and is often invited to co-teach courses in other departments," said Dr. McPharlin.

"Bob Myall's enthusiasm for teaching is reflected in the high grades he receives in course evaluations," she said. "He has gone above and beyond expectations as a mentor, fellow team member and advisor for the faculty and student team. For the last two quarters of evaluations, he has received perfect 5's down the line by his students. The reason students and faculty hold Dr. Myall in high regard relates to his positive attitude and ability to interact with a professional, yet humanistic approach."

The School's other finalists for the OHSU teaching award were **Curtis Machida**, Ph.D., professor of integrative biosciences; **Juliana da Costa**, D.D.S., associate professor of restorative dentistry; and **Tom Maier**, Ph.D., assistant professor of integrative biosciences, and each received \$500.

Golden "Rose" Award for School's Russell

Rose Russell, clinic relations manager, was named a Golden Rose recipient in July, the university's highest employee recognition. Rose has been with the School since 1987.



Rose Russell in her office, November 2009. (Photo Dan Carter)

Rose was nominated by **Jeffery Stewart**, D.D.S., associate professor of pathology. [Rose] has "consistently demonstrated a commitment to the well-being of others, sometimes resulting in a degree of self-sacrifice and she does this cheerfully," said Dr. Stewart in his nomination form. "One example of this selflessness happened at the end of the day when a dental patient, who had earlier that afternoon received care at the School, returned clearly upset that she had been wandering through the parking lot and realized that she had no idea where she had parked.

"Rose was literally on her way out of the building, on her own way home, but cheerfully did an about-face to return to her office to help us notify Public Safety so that they could help our patient locate her car. She not only contacted Public Safety, but she gladly stayed with us until they arrived to escort the patient to her car.

"Rose always seems to have the energy to do the right thing in a proactive way and in a manner that exceeds any job description. Everyone enjoys working with Rose and recognizes that she is a role model for going above and beyond in order to serve the needs of those with whom we all interact with each day."

For more on Rose, see the October 2009 *Dental Bites*.

School Calendar

- Sept. 6** Labor Day (holiday)
- Sept. 24** End of six week pre-term (DS1)
- Sept. 24** Cantwell Memorial Golf Tournament. Register online now
- Sept. 25** Cantwell Memorial Lecture and Margaret M. Ryan Dental Hygiene Update. Register online now
- Sept. 27** Start of 12-week fall term
- Oct. 1** Class of 2014 Welcome dinner, 2nd floor lounge
- Oct. 9** Student and Alumni Reception during the ADA Annual Session, 6 to 7:30 p.m. RSVP to (503) 494-0983.
- Oct. 16** Dean's Gold Circle dinner for annual donors of \$1,000 or more. Invitation only.
- Oct. 25-28** Fall Phonathon. Volunteers Needed!
- Nov. 1-4** Call (503) 552-0660 to volunteer.
- Nov. 25-26** Thanksgiving holiday

Class of 2014 (continued from page two)

point in the next four years. The rumors that dental school is intense, frustrating, challenging, rewarding, and sometimes exciting, are all true," he said. "Take advantage of the faculty, staff, your fellow students, and university resources when you need them.

"Our goal is to do everything we can to help you become an excellent dentist."

After eight days of orientation and afternoon gross anatomy lectures and labs, the DS1's headed to Cannon Beach for a two day professionalism conference (see page six for story)

Submit Your Ideas to Dental Bites
If you have a story idea for Dental Bites,
please contact Sydney Clevenger,
clevenge@ohsu.edu.

Karla Kent, Ph.D.: It's All About Service

No story about **Karla Kent**, Ph.D., can be told without emphasizing service. The longtime associate professor, now in the department of integrative biosciences, has recently made service to the School of Dentistry and to the university her top priority.

"Service is one of the most important parts of a job," said Dr. Kent. "By participating and being involved with an organization's service mission helps to make work a good experience. Where many initiatives here at OHSU need funding to proceed, there are few such barriers to service; it's all about time and energy.

"Service gives me energy," she said. "It's fun, it's social, and it's always very positive."

Dr. Kent credits Dean **Jack Clinton**, D.M.D. '64, for emphasizing service excellence through various initiatives like the ACE (Action Committee for Excellence). "It has been encouraging for people to believe service is not just something you have to do, but an important and valued aspect of being part of the team," she said.

Dr. Kent grew up in California and planned to major in French, until taking a psychology course one summer. "I became fascinated with the brain and behavior and grew more interested in neuroscience," she said. Dr. Kent received her bachelor of science in physiological psychology from the University of California, Santa Barbara (she was Phi Beta Kappa and graduated summa cum laude); a master of arts in biology from Boston University; and a doctoral degree in neurobiology from Harvard.

Dr. Kent joined the School in 1989 when husband **Steven Matsumoto**, Ph.D., was recruited for his expertise in neural crest cells, which form many parts of teeth. "I, however, worked on insects!" said Dr. Kent. "My research wasn't exactly applicable to the dental field, but I came along to Oregon and the dental school created a research position for me." Dr. Kent was an assistant professor (non-tenure track) in what was then the School's department of anatomy and she held a joint appointment at the School of Medicine's department of cell biology and anatomy, teaching basic science and conducting research under a National Science Foundation grant.

In 1992, the dental school created a tenure track faculty position for her and five years later she was promoted to associate professor with tenure. "I believe I was the first invertebrate biologist at the dental school!" she said.

Dr. Kent's research is in the development of the nervous system and the reorganization of the nervous system during postembryonic development. Her work has lately focused upon fruit flies and she studies their neuromuscular junction using various electrophysiology techniques. Recent collaborations include studies with **Curtis Machida**, Ph.D., professor of integrative biosciences, *(continued on page five)*



Karla Kent, Ph.D. (left) associate professor of integrative biosciences, helped to mentor recent graduate Vicky Chen, D.M.D. '10. (Photo Richard York)

Dr. Kent *(continued from page four)*

and **David Morton**, Ph.D., professor of integrative biosciences.

In 2008, Dr. Kent became the School's Health and Safety officer. Now, a typical day for her – depending upon the time of year -- involves updating or preparing health documents and policies, teaching oral histology to first-year dental students, attending meetings, preparing or giving a presentation, troubleshooting a School or OHSU health or safety emergency, or being on the pre-doctoral clinic floor evaluating infection control techniques.

"There always seems to be something to worry about," she said. "Things happen and they take a lot of time to sort through." In 2009, for example, policies and procedures relating to swine flu were a big unexpected responsibility, and she was instrumental in helping with the School's accreditation prep. This year, Dr. Kent, Clinic Administrator **Sharon Reams**, and Dental Team Educator **Tammy Stange** have developed and are teaching a new series of intensive lectures and hands-on training in personal protective equipment, sterilization and disinfection, and aseptic technique for first-year dental students. "This is a new early fall extension of DEN 730 (Introduction to Comprehensive Care, directed by **Denice Stewart**, D.D.S., M.P.H.A., associate dean for clinical affairs), that will help the students develop appropriate infection control habits from the very beginning."

Dr. Kent currently sits on eight School committees, including the Quality Assurance Committee, ACE, and the Dental Student Admissions Committee, chairing two: a task group on admissions policy and procedure and the quality assurance subcommittee on infection control and safety. At the university level, she is on the Faculty Senate and she is in the Research and Academic Emergency Management group, among other committees.

There are three pages of additional service listed in Dr. Kent's curriculum vitae, but the highlights include numerous journal and grant reviews; judging various student research presentations; mentoring dental students conducting research; advising neuroscience graduate students and sitting on a number of qualifying exam committees; and volunteering at community events such as Celebration of Smiles, Brain Awareness Week, and Saturday Academy.

Her extraordinary service has garnered Dr. Kent an OHSU Distinguished Science Educator Award (2003); a Rose Award for service (2006); a Distinguished Faculty Award for Service (2008), and an ACE appreciation award (2009). This year, she received honorary membership into the Delta Chapter of the national dental society Omicron Kappa Upsilon.

"I love it here," she said. "I have a happy niche. Through my service on ACE and my health and safety role, I've become better acquainted with fellow employees throughout the school. Being able to interact and work with clinical faculty and staff, as well as the basic scientists has completed the circle for me. I feel incredibly lucky to work with a group of dedicated & caring people. I also get to interact with dental students during their entire four years here and that is one of my favorite parts."

In her off time, Dr. Kent enjoys genealogy, gardening, and "hanging out" with her family, which includes **Koji**, 21, and **Hana**, 18. The Kent-Matsumoto clan live in Southwest Portland.

First-Year Dental Students Bond at Cannon Beach Retreat

Concluding two weeks of orientation, the Class of 2014 headed to Cannon Beach Aug. 26 and 27 for a conference on professionalism, said **Mark Mitchell**, M.A., associate dean for student affairs.

After a welcome address by Dean **Jack Clinton**, D.M.D. '64, first-year dental students were introduced, received a hooded gray OHSU sweatshirt courtesy of the Alumni Association, and then found out to which bridge group they were assigned.

"This was the first time DS1's knew who their group leader would be, a slight difference from last year," said Mark.

Newly assigned and divided into bridge groups, first years then were given a case study. Each bridge group had the same dental procedure, but a different "patient" for which to prepare a treatment plan with the help of their group leader and one of six second- through fourth-year dental students, **Anne Adams-Belusko, Katie Marsh, Charlie Muraki, Chuck Nguyen, Amanda Rentschler, and Daniel Walsh.**



The Steel bridge group discusses their "case," with fourth-year dental student Katie Marsh, standing at far right. (Photo Peter Morita, D.M.D. '86)

The annual sand sculpture "competition" was held in the afternoon with the Class of 2014 charged

with creating "the best monument ever," said Mark. Dental students met with their bridge group and student leaders during lunch to come up with a game plan for their sculpture," he said.

School Alumni Relations and Development Director **Pat Regan** "judged" the various sculptures, which ranged from a sphinx and a pyramid (Steel); the Great Wall of China (Fremont); a caduceus and snake (Broadway); the Roman Colosseum (St. John's); an OHSU of the future (Sellwood); and Mt. Brushmore, the Grand Cavity, Tooth-henge, Big Benn-inger, and the Grand Teeth-ons (Hawthorne). Go to <http://ohsusodalumni.shutterstock.com/> to view and download photos by **Peter Morita**, D.M.D. '86, associate dean for patient services, and **Eric Anderson**, D.M.D. '05, assistant professor of restorative dentistry. The evening concluded with dinner and a bonfire.



Let the sand sculpture "competition" begin! (Photo Peter Morita, D.M.D. '86)

On Friday, the six bridge groups presented their case studies. Upper class dental students presented "On Being a Dental Student," and Dean Clinton talked about "Professionalism and Becoming a Dentist."

"I heard again this year that this was the best retreat ever," said Mark. "The group leaders especially liked the format and said they really got to know their new students well."