



INTRODUCING...

STACY MATSUDA, RDH '77

Student Outreach / Scholarship Committee Chair

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Hillsboro, Ore., when it was still a small “town” and nobody locked their doors. I went to Oregon State university (pre-dental hygiene / science) prior to OHSU and I have a Bachelor of Science in dental hygiene.

Why did you go to dental school?

Early orthodontic therapy (third grade) convinced me that my calling in life was to be a dental hygienist. I was soon on a tractor beam to apply myself so that one day I could (hopefully) attend OHSU.

What do you hope for the OHSU School of Dentistry?

I’m a full-blown optimist around potential, so I have high hopes for the School of Dentistry; when people align to a shared vision there is no limit to what’s possible. We’re fortunate to have visionary leadership in Dean Jack Clinton [D.M.D. ‘64] and an alumni board who all care deeply about / are invested in our school’s future. It may involve structure / funding of the dental school, as Jack outlined in the Dean’s Message. Beyond that, the dedication of our faculty is something of a legend: OHSU’s unique capacity to produce the best clinicians coming out of dental school despite limited resources is well known. Given this reality, one can only imagine what’s possible with funding constraints lifted in what could become a new financial model for our school. I’m eager to see where this might take us. Minds open to possibility and commitment all lead to unlimited potential. I can imagine an educational culture the envy of every dental school in the U.S.-where students are treated with a level of professional respect that inspired them to live up to and beyond the high expectations held for their clinical and academic success...where students, faculty and staff reject the very notion of mediocrity (‘good enough’) from a core belief and trust in the value of excellence...where performance standards are not just met, but exceeded on a regular basis for no reason other than people wanting to be their best and do their best...where students readily accept critical feedback from instructors, both understanding ‘error’ to be a necessary step on the continuum to proficiency and the only failure that might occur is failure to learn from mistakes (perceived and valued as opportunity to improve)...where faculty never lose sight of a defining principle for any learning organization: their inherent power to make or break – because every interaction with a student is a chance to build or tear down. Most importantly, I look forward to the day that feelings of appreciation, loyalty and pride in / to / for the School of Dentistry leave every graduate compelled to express them through tangible contribution: financial support as well as service to the school mentoring students or in leadership positions on the alumni association board. I foresee a state of the art, blow-your-socks-off academic building on the South Waterfront campus brimming with spirit and enthusiasm—a model to emulate in every way—where alumni not only feel welcome to visit but have a sense of stewardship in maintaining high standards to prepare the next generation of practitioner for service to citizens of Oregon. And if I were to be completely honest, a resurrected dental hygiene program would be the icing on the cake.