



Hoarding for Class of '09

The Class of 2009 will receive its lilac hoods — signifying completion of four years of dental school — at 10:30 a.m. on June 4 in the Old Library. The hooding will also be streamed live on the Internet, <http://media.ohsu.edu/ramgen/broadcast/sod.rm>, said Admissions and Student Affairs Coordinator Jenna Wilkinson. Of the 74 dental students attending hooding, 12 are OHSU legacies. A number of dental students will be hooded by dental relatives.

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SOD Continues History Award Winning Streak

Third-year dental student **Gregory Bennett** is the 2009 winner of the MDK Bremner Award from the American Academy of the History of Dentistry (AAHD). The MDK Bremner Award is given annually to a United States or Canadian dental student for the best article on dental history. Gregory won for his paper, *"The Root of Dental Anatomy: A Case for Naming Eustachius The Father of Dental Anatomy."* He received a certificate of recognition, \$500 in cash, and \$300 to travel to the AAHD annual meeting in Chicago June 11 where the award will be presented.

The MDK Bremner Award was

established in 1958 by MDK Bremner, who wrote, *"The Story of Dentistry."* This year, as in recent years, there was one overall winner; in past years there were second and third place awards, and honorable mentions. Dental students from OHSU have now won the award 15 times in the past 51 years, more than students from any other dental school, says **J. Henry Clarke**, D.M.D. '61, professor emeritus of community dentistry.



Gregory Bennett

Pre-doctoral Clinic Closed for 36 Hours

For the first time in anyone's memory, the pre-doctoral clinic on the first floor of the School was closed unexpectedly during business hours, due to a water leak. The pre-doctoral clinic was closed around noon on May 13 and reopened to dental patients, students, and faculty at 9 a.m. May 15.

"This is an old building," said **Peter Morita**, D.M.D. '86, associate dean for patient services. "We've had water leaks before, but we've been lucky that they've never before been in patient areas."

A drain that serves the clinic sinks and steam sterilizer was backed up due to a clogged pipe and water began leaking onto the clinic floor, said **Karla Kent**, Ph.D., associate professor of integrative biosciences, who is the School's health and safety officer.

"The leak was dealt with at several levels and after the initial response, we contacted OHSU's Environmental Health and Safety, Infection Control, and Risk Management personnel to begin a detailed process (continued on page six)



Fremont group care coordinator Allan Williams (left) and Broadway group care coordinator Sarah Cinnamon review pre-doctoral clinic patients in front of the closed clinic. About 60 dental patients had to be rescheduled in May due to a water leak. (Photo Sydney Clevenger)

Celebrating Young Faculty: Juliana Branco da Costa

Juliana de Barros Branco da Costa, D.D.S., M.S., celebrates five years at the School of Dentistry this summer. The assistant professor of restorative dentistry, 31, teaches the preclinical courses for first-year dental students, is course director of preclinical courses for second-year dental students, cares for patients in the Faculty Practice Clinic, mentors third- and fourth-years in the pre-doctoral clinic, and conducts dental materials research. She recently attended a three-day course at the prestigious Pankey Institute for Continuing Dental Education. And in mid-April, she was named to a four-year term as councilor of the Operative Dentistry Academy.

"I love learning," she said. "That's why I chose academia so I can get new information all the time. Here I have the unique opportunity to treat my patients, teach, and perform research. The research and patient care make me a better teacher, and teaching makes me a better care provider and even more curious researcher."

A Sao Paulo, Brazil native, Dr. da Costa received her doctor of dental science from the Universidade Paulista in 2001 and first came to the United States for an esthetic dentistry preceptorship at the University of California Los Angeles. She received her master's degree and residency in operative dentistry from the University of Iowa, graduating in 2004.

"In Brazil, the dentists usually practice full time while they complete their advanced dental education," she said on her decision to come to America. "I wanted to be completely immersed in dental education for a couple more years. I felt like I wasn't going to get a complete education if I juggled too much."

Now-husband **Bruno da Costa**, D.D.S., M.S., a general dentist in Tigard, Ore., who she met in dental school in Brazil, came to the U.S. at the same time, though initially lived in another state. "Looking back, it was a lot of changes to handle at one time," she said, with a laugh.

When Dr. da Costa interviewed at OHSU after her master's program, she knew she had *(continued at right)*

come to the right place." I really liked this school," she said. "People are open and friendly and I felt I would be able to contribute."

A typical week has her training first- or second-years in operative dentistry; caring for patients in the Faculty Practice Group; overseeing the care provided by third- and fourth-year dental students in the pre-doctoral clinic; mentoring students one-on-one; and conducting lab and clinical research trials.

Her studies are primarily with dental materials companies – Ultradent, Vita, Discus Dental -- to evaluate products. For example, one recent study examined how long it takes to bleach teeth at home to get the same effect as in-office whitening.

Dr. da Costa was always interested in biology and her physician father encouraged her to pursue medicine. But when a friend suggested dentistry, she was intrigued.

"I've always been attracted to beautiful teeth," she said. "When I was younger I had the idea that dentists would 'drill and fill' cavities all day. I later learned that dentists can do more than that, such as changing someone's smile. As soon as I started dental school, I knew I wanted to do esthetic dentistry and a great part of my residency in Iowa focused on it. I had the chance to learn from incredibly talented instructors of whom I am very proud."

In addition to esthetic dentistry, Dr. da Costa has great interest in preventive dentistry. One way to help patients prevent tooth decay is through caries risk assessment. Dr. da Costa initiated a caries risk assessment form (as well as other student and patient forms) that is now used in the pre-doctoral clinic and Faculty Practice Group to determine whether patients are at low, moderate, or high risk for caries. The form is used to evaluate a variety of risk factors, including diet, medication, and personal hygiene habits. *(continued on page three)*

A patient at high risk for tooth decay, for example, might be prescribed an intense fluoride, anti-bacteria regimen with prescription toothpaste and mouthwash, and xylitol gum to be chewed after meals.



Juliana Branco da Costa

"Xylitol gum is noted for its use with moderate-to high-risk decay patients," said Dr. da Costa, holding one of the take-home kits she has prepared for the School's patients. "You need to chew six grams a day for it to be effective. The xylitol suppresses the bacteria that causes decay, so the bacteria is unable to produce its acid, which is what breaks down tooth enamel, causing decay."

Chemical treatment through fluoride and chlorhexidine is an important part of the comprehensive patient treatment. There are a number of studies showing how preventive methods are paramount to decreasing bacteria in the oral environment and also promoting tooth remineralization.

Since Dr. da Costa's arrival, several international exchanges have occurred between OHSU and Universidade Paulista faculty, and she tries to "get home" at least several times a year. Dr. da Costa speaks fluent Portuguese.

She is frequently invited to lecture for various research and study clubs and is a reviewer for several dental journals, including the *Journal of Restorative and Esthetic Dentistry*.

"I love my job," she said. "No day is ever the same. And I'm most thankful for the people I work with, as they have become my dear friends and mentors."

MDS Student Awards

Three OHSU fourth-year dental students have received \$500 checks from the Multnomah Dental Society for their efforts during Give Kids a Smile day. The awards were presented during the MDS annual awards dinner May 20. Honored were **James Bond, Alan Chen, Cassie Fede, and Hossein Saadatmandi**. "Your contributions to the program, not only this year, but also the previous three years, made the choice a much easier one," said **Lora Mattsen**, MDS executive director.

Scholarship for DS3

Third-year dental student **Amanda Tinkle** recently received a \$1,500 scholarship from the Foundation of the Pierre Fauchard Academy. The annual scholarship award was given to Amanda for her organizational and leadership skills, community service, and professionalism. One junior from each United States dental school receives the scholarship annually.

Research Symposium '09

Thirty-three diverse research projects were showcased at the School's first research symposium May 7.

Dean **Jack Clinton**, D.M.D. '64 talked about the importance of dental student research and its growth at OHSU in the past five years, as evidenced by the number of awards this spring.

Dental students who participated in the early April Table Clinic during Oregon Dental Conference weekend learned who won the annual competition (see page five for story).

The research symposium was made possible by the School's R25 grant received in April 2007, said **Ron Sakaguchi**, D.D.S., Ph.D., M.B.A., associate dean for research innovation.

SOD Helps with Head and Neck Cancer Screen

The School of Dentistry participated in OHSU's recent Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Screening Day. About a dozen dental students and faculty joined their Knight Cancer Institute colleagues on May 1 to screen 250 people for head and neck cancer, educating them about risk factors and preventive behaviors, said **Jeffery Stewart**, D.D.S., M.S., associate professor of pathology.

Participating in the screening were fourth-year dental students **James Bond** and **Alan Chen**; third-year dental students **Ben DeGraff**, **Allison Hallin**, **Cynthia Lehnertz**, **Matt Sandberg**, and **Nicholas Smith**; **Kevin Arce**, M.D., D.M.D., assistant professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery; **R. Bryan Bell**, D.D.S., M.D., affiliate associate professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery; **Julie Ann Smith**, D.D.S., M.D., assistant professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery; Dr. Stewart; and **Brett Ueek**, D.M.D. '99, M.D.

"The screening consisted of reviewing a short patient history in order to help the patient understand their risk for developing cancer of the head and neck," said Dr. Stewart. "This included reviewing tobacco and alcohol use history, assessment of skin type and sun exposure, family history of cancer, and exposure to other potential carcinogens. Patients underwent facial skin examinations, palpation of salivary and thyroid glands and head and neck lymph nodes, and a comprehensive oral soft tissue examination for any evidence of abnormalities of the oral mucosa."

Many of the dental students involved worked in an interdisciplinary fashion with faculty and residents from a variety of School of Medicine departments, noted Dr. Stewart. "The dental students involved were outstanding representatives of the school and dental profession during this event," he said. "Each individual devoted at least two hours and at least three School of Dentistry faculty and students were present at all times during the eight-hour event."

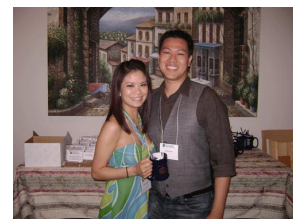
Class of 2009 Poised to Join Ranks of Alumni

To get a peek at life after dental school and connect with other alums, about three-fourths of the Class of 2009 attended the "Welcome to the Alumni

Association" event May 16 at the home of **Steve**, D.M.D. '80, and **Dennel**, R.D.H. '77, **Beadnell**.

This was the third year the Alumni Association sponsored the welcome event for alums-to-be and their guests.

"Graduating from dental school into the ranks of alumni is a different transition for everyone," said Development Director **Pat Regan**. "We want new alums to know that the Alumni Association is there for them and ready to help as they enter the working world."



Fourth-year dental student Monya Phung (left) and guest Danny Lai enjoy the "Welcome to the Alumni Association" reception for the class of 2009. (Photo Jessica Smith)

SOD Calendar

June 2-3	DSG Elections
June 4	SOD Hooding and Honors Convocation, 10:30 a.m. Old Library All OHSU commencement, 5 p.m. Arlene Schnitzer Auditorium
June 12	Ice Cream Social. Student Lounge
June 22	Finals Week Breakfast, 7:30 a.m., Lounge
June 26	End of 12-week spring term (DS1-4)
July 6	Start of six-week summer session (DS2-DS4)
July 17	White Coat ceremony for Class of 2012. 2 p.m., Old Library

DS3 Wins Table Clinic

Third-year dental student **Paul Clark** (right) won the annual Table Clinic competition, held during Oregon Dental Conference weekend. The



student clinician competition drew five student groups in 2009. Winners were announced at the School's research symposium May 7 (see story, page three).

Paul's presentation was, "How Does Oral Bisphosphonate Drug Therapy Affect a Clinical Dental Treatment Plan?" with faculty mentors, **Leon Assael**, D.M.D., chair of oral and maxillofacial surgery; and **Steve Beadnell**, D.M.D. '80, adjunct associate professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery. He received a check for \$500 from Dennis Simonsen, on behalf of the Oregon Dental Association (ODA), and travel expenses to the American Dental Association annual meeting this fall, where he'll represent OHSU in a nationwide competition. The ODA sponsored the four-hour competition with DENTSPLY.

Second-year dental student **Kyle Thames** won second place and third-year dental student **David Garlock** won third place. Both received \$500 for their efforts.

The team of **Richard Barrett** and **Anne Adams Belusko**, both first-year dental students, split a \$200 check from the School of Dentistry Alumni Association, for fourth place. Third-year dental student **Vicky Chen** was fifth and received \$150 from the Dean's office.

New Grant for Machida Lab

The **Curt Machida** (Ph.D., professor of integrative biosciences) lab recently received a one-year, \$22,500 grant from the American Association of Endodontists Foundation (AAEF). The grant is for study of "Herpesviruses in Symptomatic Endodontic Pathoses: Association of Epstein-Barr Virus with Irreversible Pulpitis and Apical Periodontitis."



The Machida lab has published several studies on Epstein-Barr Virus and inflammatory diseases of the mouth and was the first group to discover herpesvirus particles in patients with any type of endodontic disease.

The AAEF grant will enable the Machida team to examine the disease progression of Epstein-Barr Virus within the dental pulp and identify cellular sites of localization. They will also test their hypothesis that Epstein-Barr Virus infection results in the induction of pro-inflammatory cytokines and that elevated cytokines are associated with symptomatic, or pain-inducing endodontic disease.

"The significance of the project is in understanding the potential correlation between cytokine expression and disease severity," said Dr. Machida, who is the principal investigator, with co-principal investigators **Craig Baumgartner**, D.D.S., chair of endodontology, and **Karla Kent**, Ph.D., associate professor of integrative biosciences. "Ultimately, we hope to identify precise antiviral treatment strategies for endodontic disease."

Dr. Machida noted that the AAEF application received the highest score in the study section as a non-resident research grant application and, as a result, was awarded an additional \$500.

Permanente Dental Associates Makes Awards

Five OHSU dental students pursuing advanced specialty programs after dental school recently were selected to receive \$500 awards from Permanente Dental Associates. Fourth-year students **Alan Chen, Sunny Drake, Ryan Sill, Jennifer Williams, and Joseph Young** all were selected for awards based on their grade point average, class rank, leadership, initiative, and self-motivation.

OHSU Shares Flu Guidelines

Despite the apparently “milder” nature of swine flu in the United States, it’s important to practice good infection control to prevent illness, said **Karla Kent**, Ph.D., associate professor of integrative biosciences, and the School’s health and safety officer. The OHSU employee guidelines are at <http://weblabs.ohsu.edu/blogs/eSTAT/tag/swine-flu/>.

Healthcare personnel who develop influenza-like illness – fever greater than 100 and respiratory symptoms such as cough, sore throat and/or runny nose – should not report to work, or if at work, should cease patient care activities and notify their supervisor so they may be sent home.

SOD Faculty Promoted

Two School of Dentistry faculty members recently were promoted at the recommendation of the Academic Rank and Tenure Committee, with approval by Dean **Jack Clinton**, D.M.D. `64. **Agnieszka Balkowiec**, M.D., Ph.D., was promoted to associate professor with full tenure. Dr. Balkowiec joined the School in 2002. **Kirsten Lampi**, Ph.D., was promoted to professor. Dr. Lampi joined the school four years ago after receiving her Ph.D. from OHSU in 1993. Congratulations!

Water Leak

(continued from page one)

of evaluation, which we are required to do by the university,” said Dr. Kent. The assessment process took several hours and a plan of action was then initiated.

OHSU Risk Management brought in an industrial cleaning team as a precaution to clean and sterilize the floor and the wheels of mobile carts. Central supply, where the leak initiated, and its surrounding rooms, were sealed and a system of air blowers and dehumidifiers devised to dry the affected area as quickly as possible.

Pre-doctoral clinic sterilization procedures continued as usual, via the oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMS) clinic. All items in central supply at or below counter level and all of the items stored in cubbies were re-sterilized, noted Dr. Kent.

An estimated 125 dental students and their patients were affected by the pre-doctoral clinic closure, said **Melissa Monner**, pre-doctoral clinic coordinator. The specialty clinics (OMS, urgent care, admitting, graduate endodontology, periodontology, orthodontics, and the Dr. and Mrs. Carl Rietman Pediatric Dentistry Clinic) were unaffected by the water leak and open as usual. The Faculty Dental Practice waiting area on the ground floor did experience moisture and had to be cordoned off, but patients were seen there as scheduled.

“We want to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility with the pre-doctoral clinic closure,” said Dr. Kent. “The pipe has been fixed and we are confident the problem will not recur. The speed at which we were able to get the clinic cleaned and sanitized and the moisture issues resolved speaks volumes about the excellent interdisciplinary team assembled to handle this unexpected crisis.

“At one of our future health and safety meetings we plan to debrief on the pre-doctoral clinic closure and discuss what we can do better should there be an emergency in future. The health and safety of our dental students, staff, faculty, and patients is our first priority.”

Sealant Day Offered Again in Pediatric Dentistry Clinic

OHSU recently hosted a second Sealant Day for low-income children, this one with Raleigh Park Elementary School second-graders. **Mary Ann Haisch**, R.D.H., M.P.A., outreach coordinator, presented an education program to about 50 students on April 9, and on April 14, second-year pediatric resident **Lisa Yarborough**, D.D.S., conducted screenings, identifying 15 children in need of sealants. Then, on April 30, the children came to the Dr. and Mrs. Carl Rietman Pediatric Dentistry Clinic for free sealants.

Eleven of the children who came to the clinic were determined to need additional restorative care, said Mary Ann, and follow up is in progress to ensure the children's needs are met.

"I am grateful we were able to provide this community service," she said. "These projects would not be possible without the commitment of the School and the donations of material from Ultradent and DENTSPLY."



Fourth-year dental student Stefanie Hardy (left) and dental technician Viorica Cioba-Mattei help a Raleigh Park Elementary second-grader pick out a toothbrush (Photo Sydney Clevenger)

Dr. Ferracane Overseas

Jack Ferracane, Ph.D., chair of restorative dentistry and division director of biomaterials and biomechanics, is on a one-year sabbatical in England at the University of Birmingham Dental School doing research on dentin regeneration, under the guidance of Dr. Tony Smith, the editor of the *Journal of Dental Research*, and an expert in the field. Dr. Ferracane will study the interaction of dental materials with dentin and pulp, and the ability of certain materials to extract proteins from dentin that may aid in the healing and regeneration of these tissues. Dr. Ferracane plans to use the experience gained from his sabbatical to conduct new lines of dental research when he returns to OHSU in May 2010.

OHSU Farmer's Market Open

OHSU's Farmer's Market is now open every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. through Oct. 6, at the grassy area near the OHSU auditorium (and the fountain) with prepared food, entertainment, and farm-fresh produce. Go to <http://www.ohsu.edu/farmersmarket/> for more information.

Honors for Dr. Sakaguchi

Ronald Sakaguchi, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D., M.B.A., associate dean for research and innovation and professor of biomaterials and biomechanics, just heard from Babson College in Boston that he received summa cum laude honors at their recent graduation. Dr. Sakaguchi received his masters of business administration in September ahead of the rest of Babson's MBA students, therefore the College only recently was able to rank the MBA students in its programs. Summa cum laude honors go to the students with the top five percent highest grade point averages by program. "It took me 32 years after my bachelor's degree to figure out how to be a good student," said Dr. Sakaguchi, with a laugh. Dr. Sakaguchi did not attend graduation in Boston.

If you have a submission for *Dental Bites*, please contact Sydney Clevenger (clevenge@ohsu.edu, 503-418-1792) by the 25th of the month prior to publication. Photos are also welcome in jpg or tif format.