



Dental Bites

January 2012

First Van Zile Awards

Four oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMFS) residents at the School of Dentistry recently received the first Wilbur N. and Ruth H. Van Zile Scholarships from a \$5.1 million bequest one year ago.

Second-year OMFS residents Savannah Gelesko, D.D.S., and Andrew Weeks, D.D.S., and third-year residents Philip Mann, D.D.S., and Siavesh Eftekhari, D.M.D., all have received scholarships for the 2011-2012 academic year to fund enrollment in year two and three of the six-year OMFS curriculum. It is during year two and three of the program that residents become full-time medical students. (continued on page five)

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Dental School's Interim Dean Takes Helm

Spoiler alert: New OHSU School of Dentistry Interim Dean **Gary Chiodo**, D.M.D. '78, is an early riser with a robust work ethic. "As a former farm boy, I'm always at my desk by 5:30 a.m. and I work into the night and weekends," said Dr. Chiodo, 59, who took the helm Jan. 1. "My job as OHSU's Chief Integrity Officer was 24/7 and I don't think the dental school is any different.



"I'm very hands-on and will have initiatives related to all of our mission areas," he said. "We have an enormously strong leadership team and I'm looking forward to working with them. When you factor in the new building and how it's going to transform dental education in Oregon that makes the role even more exciting. I'm also glad [Dean Emeritus] **Jack Clinton** [D.M.D. '64] is staying on."

Dr. Chiodo grew up on a large fruit and vegetable farm in Gresham. Scientifically-inclined from a young age, Dr. Chiodo said he knew in high school that he wanted to provide patient care. He completed the pre-medicine program at Portland State University, receiving a bachelor of science in biology in 1974.

"But I decided to go into dentistry rather than medicine," said Dr. Chiodo. "I didn't want to take care of patients who would get sick and die despite the doctor's best efforts." Dr. Chiodo graduated from dental *(continued on page two)*

Pre-doctoral Clinic Pilot Set for Spring

OHSU School of Dentistry will pilot a program to broaden clinic hours and expand its patient population base while increasing the patient load for fourth-year dental students. The pilot, which begins this spring, will not increase tuition and will lessen lab work for fourth-year dental students, said **Gary Chiodo**, D.M.D. '78, who became interim dean of the School Jan. 1 (see story, above).

"We are enhancing a patient-centered model *(continued, right column)*

for the pre-doctoral clinic," said Dr. Chiodo to a standing-room only crowd at a Dec. 8 Town Hall. "Clinic scheduling is one of the to-do items in our School's Strategic Plan and we are starting to triage that list."

Dr. Chiodo and his leadership team have been meeting to develop the pilot program. "We still have dental students seeing one patient in the morning and one in the afternoon. You are not going to make a living doing that!" he said. "It is a priority to change our clinic *(continued on page four)*

Interim Dean *(continued from page one)*

school in 1978, the first health care professional in his family, and became assistant professor of what was then the department of public health dentistry.

"The irony is that after graduation I ended up at the Russell Street Clinic for 21 years taking care of the AIDS [Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome] population," said Dr. Chiodo. "The patients were medically complex, very sick, especially in the 1980's. Most of the patients had a life expectancy of between three months and three years.

"To my surprise, I was better than expected at caring for the dying."

In addition to caring for patients, Dr. Chiodo taught at the dental school and conducted research with HIV-positive patients, funded by a National Institutes of Health grant, and with diabetic patients, funded by a Medical Research Foundation grant. He became an associate professor in 1985.

"We were always short of funds at Russell Street," he said. "And we were always scrambling to provide the best care for patients who had limited funds, but the greatest oral health needs."

In 1992, Dr. Chiodo received a certificate in health care ethics from the University of Washington School of Medicine and was promoted to OHSU professor of public health dentistry. He is a founding member of the university's Center for Ethics in Healthcare and was one of its associate directors (along with **Phyllis Beemsterboer**, R.D.H., Ed.D., associate dean for academic affairs).

About that time, he also joined OHSU's Institutional Review Board (IRB), the entity that oversees all human subjects research at the university, and in 1998 *(continued, right column)*

New Building Progress!



Here is how the under-construction OUS/OHSU Collaborative Life Sciences Building looked as of mid-December. The North tower, which will house the dental school come fall of 2014, is on the left. (Photo Sydney Clevenaeer)

Interim Dean *(continued from left column)*

became its chair. "I was the first IRB chair with paid time attached to it," he said. That one IRB has since grown into four OHSU IRB's.

In 1999, OHSU began a national search for a corporate compliance officer and Dr. Chiodo was on the search committee. When the "first applicants didn't work out," Dr. Chiodo was asked to consider the position. "I wasn't interested in the job [of OHSU Chief Integrity Officer] at first, but [**Steve Stadum**, then vice president and general counsel] convinced me that I was right for it," he said. "I loved the job of Chief Integrity Officer and I would have been happy doing that until retirement, but then this position came along."

Dr. Chiodo was in a meeting in October with OHSU Provost **Jeanette Mladenovic**, M.D., for what he thought was a regular conversation about the integrity program. "She said, "That's not why I wanted to talk to you!" I'm excited to be back at the dental school. I expect this to be my third and final job at OHSU."

Dr. Chiodo said he plans to *(continued on page six)*

John Derbyshire, D.D.S., assistant professor of periodontology, donated a beautiful Noble Fir to the School from his tree farm for the holidays, brightening the second floor lounge throughout December. Thank you! (Photo Sydney Clevenger)



ASDA Coordinates Event

Seventeen pre-dental students attended the American Student Dental Association's mock interview event Dec. 1, said ASDA pre-dental committee president and second-year dental student **Andrew Roland**.

Dental student volunteers paired with pre-dental students to ask practice interview questions for 30 minutes. "We then switched pre-dental and dental students for another interview experience, and finally reconvened for a quick wrap-up of interview experiences from current dental students and general interview tip/suggestions," said Andrew.

Mark Mitchell, M.A., associate dean for student affairs, explained the OHSU interview and application process.

Additional pre-dentistry events were promoted, said Andrew, such as AADSAS (Association of American Dental Schools Application Service) Info Night in February and Dive Into Dentistry in the late spring.

Inclement Weather Hotline

With winter fast approaching, here are the numbers to call for information during inclement weather:

OHSU Alert Line (road conditions): (503) 494-9021. Additional resources and policies are at http://ozone.ohsu.edu/blogs/facilities_logistics/about/what-do-do-in-inclement-weather/

School of Dentistry clinic closure or class cancellation (for dental students, staff, faculty): (503) 494-8565. This will be a recorded message.

Patient information (regarding clinic closures): (503) 494-8867.

Like to Blog?

Do you have experiences to share and the time to blog about them? OHSU Strategic Communications is looking for volunteer student (<http://www.ohsu.edu/blogs/studentspeak>) and faculty and staff bloggers (<http://ozone.ohsu.edu/blogs/staffnews/2011/10/19/see-your-name-in-blog-lights/>) for those SOD'ers interested.

Have you Volunteered?

OHSU's Office of Science and Education Opportunities has developed a new way to quantify community service by students, staff, and faculty. To report your volunteer activities (retroactive to Sept. 2010) please visit <http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/education/student-services/science-education-opportunities> and click on the Community Service Tracker button. Fill out one form per activity and click on submit.

Pilot Program *(continued from page one)*

hours to more closely reflect how a group practice operates and increase available appointments for patients.”

This spring, the pre-doctoral clinic will expand its hours on Tuesday (to 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and Wednesday (to 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.). The extended hours are expected to increase the School’s patient base, said Dr. Chiodo, and will give fourth-year dental students—the only ones in the pilot—the opportunity to see as many as four patients on each of those days.

“The idea is that we want to start moving dental students to something closer to a realistic schedule,” he said. “This new program will get students accustomed to seeing more patients in one day.” Dental students will continue to control their own schedule and work at their own pace, he said, with a half hour planned between each patient for dental unit processing and charting. The school will purchase instrumentation for fourth-year dental students to supplement their own issue, given their added patient load.

Much of the current lab work for fourth-year dental students, said Dr. Chiodo, will be sent out “to get dental students used to preparing their work for the lab and interacting with dental lab professionals.”

The pilot program is modeled after ones at several different dental schools. Fourth-year dental students will be asked about their experience with the pilot program before they graduate, via an electronic message board or blog, to ask questions and get them answered, so there can be continual improvements. Similarly, the faculty and staff will be asked to provide feedback as to what worked well and where modifications might be beneficial.

“We want to titrate the program *(continued on page five)*

Staff Comings and Goings

A number of departments have recently welcomed new employees. Either joining OHSU School of Dentistry or transferring to different departments within the school are:

* **Sheila Barnhart**, who assumed the operative dentistry administrative responsibilities (along with the biomaterials and biomechanics duties she already had) with the recent retirement of **Phyllis Stewart**;

* **John Gomez**, a new property specialist, who worked previously in OHSU’s Central Logistics;

* **Kate Maresh** in biomaterials and biomechanics, replacing **Jackie Powell** who recently retired;

* **Aimee Palmer**, a dental assistant in orthodontics;

* **Lisa Phillips**, who joined periodontology, replacing **Brandy Eurato**;

* **Stephanie Rink**, who moved from the Faculty Dental Practice to assume prosthodontic responsibilities with the retirement of **CharEl Melfi**.

* **Marie White** has joined the School as a dental assistant, splitting her time between the department of pediatric dentistry and Doernbecher Children’s Hospital.

Record Dental Applications

There was a three percent jump in applications for the OHSU School of Dentistry Class of 2016, reports **Mark Mitchell**, M.A., associate dean for student affairs. As of Dec. 16, with no further applications expected, the School had received 1,183 applications. This compares to 1,148 applications received last year.

Van Zile Awards *(continued from page one)*

The scholarship funds tuition and mandatory fees and residents must meet specific academic requirements each academic term to maintain scholarship eligibility. Two years of medical school for OMFS residents, depending on students' resident status, can cost from \$35,000 to \$50,000 per year.



*Siavesh Eftekhari,
D.M.D.*

Dr. Eftekhari said the scholarship will significantly reduce the financial burden of dental and medical school, enabling him to "focus on what's important" -- education and patient care.

"This gift will have a significant effect on us for the future and will contribute immensely to our training in becoming competent oral and maxillofacial surgeons," said Dr. Eftekhari, 31, who is from Portland and plans to enter academia after graduation. "We hope we can continue on in Dr. Van Zile's footsteps in excellent patient care, community service, charity, and leadership."

Application-based scholarships from the Van Zile bequest may be available on an annual basis for third- and fourth-year dental students, said **Mark Mitchell**, M.A., associate dean for student affairs. Mark said he hopes to be able to award a few of these by the end of this academic year.

Submit Your Ideas

If you have a story idea or a photo for Dental Bites, please contact Sydney Clevenger, clevenger@ohsu.edu by the 25th of the month prior to publication.

School Calendar

- Jan. 3** Start of 12-week winter term
- Jan. 16** OHSU Holiday (MLK Birthday)
- Jan. 18** Town Hall on new building, noon to 1 p.m., rooms 220-225
- Jan. 19** "Early Childhood Caries—Cross Cultural Perspectives," Eli Schwarz, noon, CSB679.
- Jan. 26** ODA Mentor Dinner (DS1-4's), 2nd floor lounge. RSVP by 1/20 to Margaret, (503) 218-2010, ext. 108.
- Feb. 3** Give Kids a Smile Day
- Feb. 20** OHSU Holiday (President's Day)
- Feb. 29** "Oral Health as part of general health in a global context," Eli Schwarz, noon, MacHall 1166.

Pilot Program *(continued from page four)*

carefully, said Dr. Chiodo. Though Dr. Chiodo said he does not anticipate juniors "ever being part of the program, the point at which fourth-year dental students are ready for an expanded patient base is open for discussion." Dr. Chiodo said he is looking at different models for patient payment plans.

"I am hoping the pilot works out and then we can start to consider increasing the number of days a week with extended hours," he said. "I don't know where we're going to end up, but we ultimately need to make our scheduling attractive to our patients and realistic for students."

Dr. Covell on KXL Radio Jan. 7

David Covell Jr., D.D.S., associate professor and chair of orthodontics, is the first dental school interviewee for OHSU's KXL Radio (101.1 FM) Show "The OHSU Effect: Inside Health and Science at OHSU." Dr. Covell's interview airs Saturday, Jan. 7, between 8 to 9 a.m.

Smoking Cessation Efforts

'Tis the season for New Year's resolutions and who better to help people stop smoking than **Todd Beck**, D.M.D. '94, who knows firsthand how hard it is to quit tobacco. Now the assistant professor of community dentistry--who kicked his own habit 12 years ago--hopes to provide OHSU dental students and faculty with better tools for helping patients.

"You have to want to quit," said Dr. Beck. "Period. The pain of continuing to smoke has to be greater than the pain of stopping."

To that end, Dr. Beck is working to improve the didactic component of the spring Behavioral Aspects Dentistry course he teaches to second-year dental students. He and **Jill Mason**, M.P.H., associate professor of periodontology and community dentistry, also are developing a workshop to guide faculty and dental students in tobacco cessation efforts.

"Dental students want to provide tools for dental patients wishing to quit smoking, but right now we are just providing counseling—I don't have a lot of tools beyond providing a hotline," said Dr. Beck. "We want to give dental students a bag of new tricks, such as referrals to other healthcare providers, Web information, and hand-outs."

Dr. Beck estimates that about 50 percent of the School of Dentistry dental patient population smokes or has a history of smoking.

Dr. Beck's own smoking habit began in college "for stress relief." He continued smoking throughout dental school and when he entered private practice. But after 10 years of smoking, "I was feeling horrible," he said. "I was winded, overweight, and had high blood pressure. I was 31 and feeling older than I should. I was ready to make a change."

(continued on page seven)

Staff Attends In-service

School of Dentistry staff attended their annual holiday in-service on Dec. 19 to brush up on health, safety, professionalism, and confidentiality.

Interim Dean **Gary Chiodo**, D.M.D. '78, talked about the four ethics principles in treating patients and reminded staff about HIPAA regulations and their importance.

Phyllis Beemsterboer, M.S., Ed.D., associate dean for academic affairs, went through the floor plan for the School's new building and answered questions (see page seven). Dr. Beemsterboer also provided outcomes assessment information for 2011 (more on seven).

There was an axiUm update and **Karla Kent**, Ph.D., quality assurance manager, gave emergency and inclement weather information and discussed hazardous waste and safety.

Interim Dean *(continued from page two)*

meet with dental students monthly to gain feedback. He is investigating an electronic message board for dental school faculty, staff, and students, much like "Ask Joe," to develop an ongoing, interactive list of frequently asked questions. He said he hopes to enhance the research mission to ensure clinical research is being optimized. And he is exploring ways to creatively broaden the School's patient base in the pre-doctoral clinic (see story, page one), graduate programs, and the Faculty Dental Practice.

"The people I talk to on the Hill mention a desire to come here for oral care," he said. "I want to look at how to grow our patient base and the Faculty Dental Practice plan."

When not in his office, the tenacious, driven Dr. Chiodo confesses to an addiction for "fast and shiny cars." He and his partner, **Bob Oster**, OHSU assistant vice provost, live in Northwest Portland with their two cats.

Ask A New Building Question

Do you have a question about the new building? Email it to clevenge@ohsu.edu and we will find the answer and publish it here.

Q: How much of the School's current equipment is moving to the new building?

A: Very little. With constantly changing technology, it is anticipated that in three years when we move that even our newest equipment will be considered outdated.

Q: Given that the School of Dentistry has floors 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 in the 12-floor Skourtes Tower on the north side of the Collaborative Life Sciences Building, what is on floors 2,3,4,6, and 7?

A: Floors 2, 3, and 4 are Oregon University System (OUS) Labs. Floor 6 is for OUS Research. Floor 7 is designated for research, but has not yet been allocated to an entity.

2011 Outcomes Strong

Scores on the high-stakes examinations the School uses to assess dental student performance look good for 2011, said **Phyllis Beemsterboer**, M.S., Ed.D., associate dean for academic affairs.

For Part I of the National Dental Examinations, which is a test on basic sciences taken prior to the third year, 95 percent of OHSU dental students passed on the first attempt.

For Part II, which is multi-choice, short case "testlets" on patient care and some basic science taken at the end of the third year, 93 percent of OHSU dental students passed on the first try.

For the WREB (Western Regional Examining Board), the licensing test taken in the fourth year, OHSU posted a 99 percent pass rate (see also the September *Dental Bites*).

Smoking Cessation (continued from page six)

Heading to recovery for a narcotics addiction in 2000, Dr. Beck decided to address his smoking habit, too. He said he used the 'Patch' and "white-knuckles approach" to quitting and that giving up smoking was harder than giving up narcotics.



Today, Dr. Beck is back in shape. He ran his first half marathon in November. "I have come a long way," he said. "I was a different person completely when I smoked."

In addition to firsthand knowledge about smoking cessation, Dr. Beck is a natural leader for the School's tobacco cessation efforts. He is the chairman of the Dental Health and Well-Being Committee for the Oregon Dental Association and, in that capacity, works with dental professionals to guide patients in the throes of addiction. Through his work on the committee, Dr. Beck receives many patient referrals for his two practices (one is in Mt. Tabor; the other South Waterfront).

"I think I have a unique perspective on helping people through addiction," said Dr. Beck, who works on Mondays at the School, usually in the Sellwood group practice. "Helping patients who are tobacco addicted is about being supportive and letting people know the consequences of continuing to smoke."

Fun Fact of 2011

As of Dec. 19, the OHSU School of Dentistry is "all electronic" when it comes to dental patient health records, reports **Kate Boyle**, axiUm trainer in the office of clinical affairs.