



Web Site Migration Complete

The School of Dentistry's Dental Informatics team-- Devin Bryant, Dave Feucht, and Kim Howard--recently completed a six-month migration of the School's Web site to the OHSU unified site structure.

"The goal was to give all of the sites on the OHSU Web site a common look and feel," said Dave, computer support analyst. "Now the School web site should look and operate similarly to the rest of the university, and provide information in a more consistent and logical way."
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First-Year Dental Students Team Build



First-year dental students enjoyed a sunny few days at Cannon Beach in early September.
(Photo Eric Anderson, D.M.D. '05.)

First-year dental students were at Cannon Beach Sept. 3 and 4 for a teambuilding conference.

"The weather was perfect," said **Mark Mitchell**, M.A., associate dean for student affairs. "Our theme this year was On Becoming a Dentist."

First-year dental students' major activity was an introduction to clinical scientific investigation, designed to promote critical thinking and treatment planning. Dividing into their already assigned group practices, the first-year dental students were asked to develop treatment plans *(continued on page two)*

New Student Research Fellowship

Third-year dental student **Eric Gregg** is considering specializing in endodontology and wanted to gain experience in research. But he needed funding to support his family and was reluctant to take an outside job that would minimize time for studying, family ... and research.

Then he applied for a student research award made possible by the R25 grant from the National Institutes of Health. Eric received \$2,400 for the summer for research and lab supplies and is studying endodontic abscesses to determine whether the herpesvirus is present, with **Curtis Machida**, Ph.D., professor of integrative biosciences.

"The grant really made my life more enjoyable this summer, helped me do what I really want to be doing, and is helping me reach my career goals," said Eric.

All OHSU dental students are eligible to apply for research awards through the R25 grant, what will now be known as the Dean's Student Research Fellowship.

The application process for the Dean's Student Research Fellowship matches that of the American Association for Dental Research (AADR) fellowship and the Oregon *(continued on page three)*

Reviewers from the Commission on Dental Accreditation will visit the dental school Oct. 6 to 8. Please see the September *Dental Bites* for information.

DS1's Tackle Clinic



First-year dental students finished their initial round of courses in September, six-week sessions in gross anatomy, introduction to professionalism, history of dentistry, and the diagnostic process. Rachel Shear, Jarid Burley, and Natalya Ramsay are shown here (left to right) in Diagnostic Processes I, taught by Cynthia Kleinegger, D.D.S., associate professor of pathology. (Photo Mark Mitchell)

SOD Calendar

Oct. 3	Alumni and Friends Reception at ADA Annual Meeting
Oct. 6-8	Commission on Dental Accreditation Visit
Oct. 17	Dean's Gold Circle Dinner (Invitation Only)
Oct. 19-22 and Oct. 26-29	Alumni Association Phonathon
Oct. 23	DS1 Welcome Dinner
Nov. 20	ASDA Vendor Fair

Book Chapter for Balkowiec

Agnieszka Balkowiec, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of integrative biosciences, has received word that a book chapter she contributed to a new edition of *Informatics in Oral Medicine: Advanced Techniques in Clinical and Diagnostic Technologies* will be published this month. The chapter was written in collaboration with her sister, **Ewa Balkowiec-Iskra**, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor in the department of experimental and clinical pharmacology at the Medical University of Warsaw in Poland. Dr. Balkowiec-Iskra was at the School this summer on sabbatical helping conduct experiments in Dr. Balkowiec's lab.

Cannon Beach Retreat

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for hypothetical patients.

Six second through fourth-year dental students – **Katy Rock, Charlie Muraki, Jason Walker, Marisa Sonerholm, and Amanda Rentschler** -- led their respective group practices in the treatment planning exercise. The associate deans at the retreat served as experts in various areas — such as ethics, prosthodontics, and periodontology — that the groups could use in developing the many treatment plans that they could present to their patients.

"As a dentist, and certainly as a dental student, there is a high expectation because our focus is to learn and apply knowledge to serve people," said Dean **Jack Clinton**, D.M.D. '64. "The people that are relying upon us are relying on our ability to improve their health. Any compromise to doing anything less than the best we can is injurious to our patients. So there is no compromise in absolute integrity."

Peter Morita, D.M.D. '86, associate dean for patient services, led the students in a discussion about being a dental student, which was presented by upper class dental students. Each first-year dental student received a Class of 2013 sweatshirt, courtesy of the School of Dentistry Alumni Association.

The "highlight" of the conference was the sand sculpture contest under sunny skies. Each bridge group was charged with creating a hands-on exhibit for a hypothetical Children's Museum of Dentistry. School Development Director **Pat Regan** "judged" the friendly competition, which included sculptures ranging from teeth and tongues to SpongeBob SquarePants and an alligator (see photos by **Eric Anderson**, D.M.D. '05, assistant professor of restorative dentistry, outside the alumni office).

"This is a transformational moment," said Dean Clinton, welcoming the Class of 2013 on their first day. "This is a moment I want you to remember. No matter your background, dental school will be different from anything you've ever experienced."

Research Fellowships

(continued from page one)

Clinical and Translational Research Institute (OCTRI) OSLER awards, said **Ron Sakaguchi**, D.D.S., Ph.D., M.S., M.B.A, professor of biomaterial and biomechanics and associate dean for research and innovation.



Eric Gregg

To apply for the Dean's Student Research Fellowship, dental students must first apply for AADR and OCTRI research funding, said Dr. Sakaguchi. Dental students wishing to apply for the Dean's Student Research Fellowship are asked to make a copy of their AADR and OCTRI applications and submit them to **Jennifer Mitchell**, biomaterials research assistant.

Up to four OHSU students will be funded through the Dean's Student Research Fellowship in 2010.

"This is an additional mechanism for funding student research," said Dr. Sakaguchi.

Dental students selected for the Dean's Student Research Fellowship will receive a \$2,000 stipend and \$500 for travel should their abstract be selected for presentation at a scientific meeting.

The NIH R25 research education grant, allocated April 2007, is designed to infuse the pre-doctoral dental curriculum with more research.

"We hope the availability of this funding will encourage even more dental students to apply for and get involved in research," said Dr. Sakaguchi.

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.

Web Migration (continued from page one)

The patient care section of the School's Web site was redone, said Dave and Devin, and first steps were taken toward integrating it with the university's health care web site, ohsuhealth.com.

"We hope to have it completely integrated by the end of the year," said Devin, systems applications analyst. "The integration will enable people who go to ohsuhealth.com to search for a dentist or clinic, and find information on services they need."

For the migration, the Dental Informatics team worked with School deans and department heads to update and rearrange content on their pages, eliminate old content, add photographs, and improve layout. A School calendar is in the works and, thanks to the migration, Dave and Devin said they are better able to make use of the tools the Information Technology Group offers through the university.

Each department is able to update its own Web site. For example, the migration enabled the School's Alumni Association to update its site with new interactive features. Alumni and friends can now make a gift online, register for events, update their contact information, and view current career opportunities that have been received at the school.

The School's quarterly newsletter for alumni, donors, and friends, *Caementum*, and its monthly internal publication for dental students, staff, and faculty, *Dental Bites*, are available online.

"We also have a new photo album online of dental students and alums at various Alumni Association events," said Development Assistant **Mallory Gordon**. "Photos from the album can be downloaded and printed. Alumni who have taken the time to check out the updated Web site seem to be impressed!"

All Roads Point to Rose Russell at School of Dentistry

It's often said that if you need help at the School of Dentistry, **Rose Russell** is the person to find. On any given day, Rose might be looking for a patient for a graduating resident to treat, reordering a stack of patient charts, or helping a group practice care coordinator find cabinet keys.

And that would be a light day.

"Every day is different," said Rose, the School's clinic relations coordinator, who manages the cashiers office, group practice care coordinators, and patient reception center. "I do come early and stay late to fit in my regular responsibilities so I'm available for dental students and staff during clinic hours."

Typical questions for Rose are about insurance and patient billing. "A call might begin with a patient unhappy about their bill," she said. "It's hard. "I try to explain the process and help, but not everything can be resolved the way patients want."

Rose left her hometown of North Bend, Ore., and joined OHSU in 1969 as a student employee, seeking her associate's degree in medical records. She married **Michael** shortly thereafter, and both began working for the university in what is now the Information Technology Group.

Rose's mother, **Betty**, a licensed nurse practitioner, soon joined OHSU, as did Rose's brother **John Keeling**, who is the School's facilities technician. Michael introduced John to wife, **Norma**, an OHSU orthopedics patient services specialist. And the Russell children, **Jason** (ITG), and **Jennifer** (Medical Records) also work for the university.

"John figured out that between all of us we have a couple of hundred years of service to the university," said Rose, with a laugh.

It was in 1987 that Rose joined the School of Dentistry. Hired by **John Peterson**, D.M.D. '55, Rose was hired for the chart room in the patient reception center and "as roles have developed, I moved into different jobs here." She became clinic relations coordinator in the late 1990's.

"The group practices were a huge change and axiUm has also changed many of our processes, both for the better," she said. Another big project in the works is transitioning to paperless charts.

Rose lights up when asked about the patient reception center remodel. "I love it!" she said. "It's been on my to-do list since 1990. I'm so happy with the remodel. It gives people more respect for their job and a better environment to work in. I really appreciate Dean Clinton and everything he does for the school."

When not at OHSU, Rose likes ... well, roses. "They were really Michael's babies," she said, of her husband who died in late 2007. Since Michael's death, Rose has lived with her daughter, and she enjoys time with her two grandchildren.

Though her role as one of the chief pre-doctoral clinic troubleshooters can be hectic, Rose enjoys the School. "I like the interaction with people and helping the students and staff," she said. "People are really nice here. They work hard and help each other."

Faculty Attend Annual Conference for School Updates

The curriculum, school budget, and service excellence were major topics at the Sept. 23 faculty conference. "We're in darn good shape for the shape we're in," said Dean **Jack Clinton**, D.M.D. '64, to the 120 attendees. "Given what we have on our plate, I couldn't be happier."

Dean Clinton noted that the past fiscal year was spent dealing with budget 'what ifs' and he thanked faculty for their willingness to work with the university's request for belt tightening. "We went through a minefield with no loss of programs or staff and we met our budget," he said. "And I believe we were the only School that didn't have to make programmatic or staff cuts. This is good news and I appreciate what our faculty sacrificed in salary and travel freezes to make it happen."

The Dean noted that there are continued efforts to look at integrative biosciences and the group practices to further evolve the curriculum. "To build on our basic science curriculum we are seeking to emphasize those principles that we can relate to patient health and patient care," he said. "A dental student should be able to identify how a topic relates to health care and about three-fourths of dental students seem to be embracing this new line of thinking in making decisions that are evidence-based.

"Thanks to the R25 grant, we are very different than we were five years ago and quite different from where we plan to be in five years," he said. "The dental students are actually performing at a higher level and it's working well. We're doing it, and I'm proud."

The Dean noted that he receives many questions during his travels about the current generation of young dental professionals. To quell some of alumni and friend concerns, the School has been concentrating on incorporating professionalism and leadership into each aspect of the curriculum. The Gootee Lectureship on Leadership and Professionalism, the ACE (Advisory Committee on Excellence), and adding **Ben Bernstein**, Ph.D., to the faculty (see September *Dental Bites*) all are steps in this direction.

Despite the economy, Dean Clinton noted that three big capital projects were completed in the last fiscal year: remodel of the patient reception center, which has been very well-received (a reception sign is still in the works); installation of computers at every chair in the pre-doctoral clinic for the paperless records system that will go live July 1; and the new Pediatric Dental Surgery Clinic in Doernbecher for children who are acutely ill, immunocompromised, or have special needs, which is already extremely busy.

Department directors and division chairs introduced several dozen new faculty. Look for information about those individuals in future issues of *Dental Bites*.

Phyllis Beemsterboer, M.S., Ed.D., associate dean for academic affairs, reviewed the new competency document that was approved in May 2008. There are 12 competencies for dental students to demonstrate prior to graduation (rather than 51) and more detailed forms have been created improve tracking. There are 27 forms for the 12 competencies.

The interdisciplinary competencies include ethics, critical thinking, communication, diagnosis, oral health education, emergencies, oral function, pain management, risk principles, outcomes, community, and business. **Ron Sakaguchi**, Ph.D., D.D.S., M.B.A., associate dean for research and innovation, discussed the critical thinking competency. There is a two-hour faculty workshop in November to discuss evidence-based decision-making into the clinic. Please contact Dr. Sakaguchi for information. *(continued on page six)*

First OSCE Demonstrates Competency, Teamwork

Fourth-year dental students demonstrated their skills in diagnosis and treatment planning during the School's first Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) on August 13. This was the first large-scale OSCE performed at the School. It was designed to assess student clinical skills as a precursor to competency (see story, page five).

"This was an educational first for us," said **Denice Stewart**, D.D.S., M.H.S.A., associate dean for clinical affairs. "We have been performing student competencies for many year, but we think OSCE's are a better way to evaluate students' performance for these particular clinical skills."



Executive Assistant to the Dean, Julie Hirai (center) was a "patient" during an August OSCE. At left is fourth-year dental student Jeremiah Leary with Cynthia Scheines, D.D.S., Ph.D., assistant professor of periodontology, observing. (Photo Devin Bryant)

At the OSCE, fourth-year dental students went from station to station demonstrating orally such competencies as head and neck exams, vitals taking, evaluating patient medications' impact on dental care, performing informed consent, and radiographic analysis. There were 10 stations and seven minutes allotted for each. Nineteen staff members volunteered their time as "patients" and two dozen faculty were on hand for grading.

"It was great to see everyone working together," said Dr. Stewart. *(continued, right column)*

Faculty Conference *(continued from page five)*

"As third and fourth-year dental students take their competency, the form is signed by an instructor and given to the department administrator," said Dr. Beemsterboer. The form will then be filed in the Learning Resource Center on the sixth floor for dental students to take with them when they graduate – sort of a portfolio of accomplishments." Eventually, she said, the competency forms will be digital.

Dental students accumulate dental value units (DVU's) prior to taking competencies, said **Denice Stewart**, D.D.S., M.H.S.A., associate dean for clinical affairs. Dental value units are a way to equitably assess the various procedures and activities performed in clinic. Each procedure and activity is assigned a value, reflective of the complexity of the procedure or service. The DVU's are structured so that dental students also receive recognition for services provided on rotations and non-patient activities. For example, in pediatric dentistry, dental students treat patients off site in the dental vans and would receive credit for such a community activity.

At the faculty conference, the ACE coordinated photo taking of faculty in attendance. The committee ultimately hopes to create a wall display depicting all dental school faculty and, eventually, another display with all staff.

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OSCE *(continued from left column)*

"It gave the faculty and staff an opportunity to see the dental students in a different light and I think the dental students saw the faculty and staff differently, as well. The OSCE went a long way in having us think collaboratively about why we're here: providing high-quality care for our patients and an excellent education for our students."

The next OSCE, for the third-year dental students, is slated for winter term.

Back to School Weekend Draws Students, Alums

The last weekend in September was filled with fun and educational Alumni Association events. On Sept. 25, 120 dental students, alumni, and friends participated in the Cantwell Memorial Golf Tournament. Dean **Jack Clinton**, D.M.D. '64, played with OHSU president **Joe Robertson**, **Jay Lamb**, D.M.D. '80, and OHSU Foundation president **Allan Price**. Eighteen dental students were on the tees. Look for more information in the upcoming *Annual Report/Caementum*.

On Sept. 26, there were nearly 100 attendees at the Cantwell Memorial Lecture/Margaret M. Ryan Dental Hygiene Update. **Ben Bernstein**, Ph.D., spoke about "*Turning Stress into Success in Your Dental Practice*." Dr. Bernstein noted that an optimal level of stress stimulates optimal performance and listed ways attendees could reduce stress and improve their performance.

Giving Report for FY08-09

Financial support for the School in the 2008-09 fiscal year was mixed as the overall private funding level dropped, while the total number of donors at the Dean's Gold Circle level (\$1,000 or above) increased, said **Pat Regan**, director of development and alumni relations. "It was a challenging year given the economy, and when you factor in that three of the school's largest corporate partners – the Oregon Dental Association, The ODS Companies, and A-dec – declined to renew previous five year pledges, that contributed to an overall drop in our support. As we move forward with plans for a new facility, we know those three partners will continue their philanthropic leadership. A-dec did step up this year with a generous gift of approximately \$75,000 worth of equipment for the new Pediatric Dental Surgery Clinic. Pat noted that more than 20 percent of the dental school's alumni made gifts in 2008-09 and the goal in 2009-10 is to increase that to 25 percent. "Our alumni giving remains two to three times stronger than any other unit at OHSU," said Pat.

Faculty Conference

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As part of the School's Annual Report, available for reviewing in the Dean's office (department chair also have a copy), Dr. Beemsterboer presented the most recent School Outcomes Assessment. Scores on Part I and Part II of the National Dental Examinations, which must be passed before students sit for the Western Regional Examining Board (WREB) exams, were either slightly below or along the lines of the national average, she said.

"Part I was revamped slightly and had an increasing number of testlets, which are short, logic-based problems," said Dr. Beemsterboer. The class of 2010 will be the first group of test takers who have completed the integrative biosciences supercourses, designed to boost critical thinking, so "next year's scores will be particularly interesting," she said. More testlets soon will be added to Part II, she noted.

In 2009, 91.5 percent of all OHSU dental students passed the WREB on their first try. In a self-assessment survey before graduation, 100 percent of the Class of 2009 indicated they were competent in the 51 OHSU competencies.

The School had \$2.5 million in research funding in 2008-2009, said **Tom Shearer**, Ph.D., associate dean for research. Dr. Shearer said he anticipates a higher figure next fiscal year as a number of School researchers received stimulus funds.

The community-based dental education is a requirement beginning this fall, noted Dr. Beemsterboer. In 2009-2010, at least 40 to 50 dental students are anticipated to serve at 17 Oregon sites, a combination of rural-based private sites and nine public health clinics.

Former Alumni Association President **Richard Knight**, D.M.D. '79, gave a presentation at the end of the conference, "What I Have Learned About Caring." See the upcoming *Annual Report/Caementum* for more details.