

ALUMNI NEWS

pediatric dentistry

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Dean Martha Somerman takes the first bite out of an old wall at the ECOH building site. Demo team listed on page 7.

(Gavin W. Sisk photo/UW Creative)

Open wide...

and look inside:

Demolition day at the ECOH building site (above & page 7);

Law-Lewis professorship extends tradition (page 2).

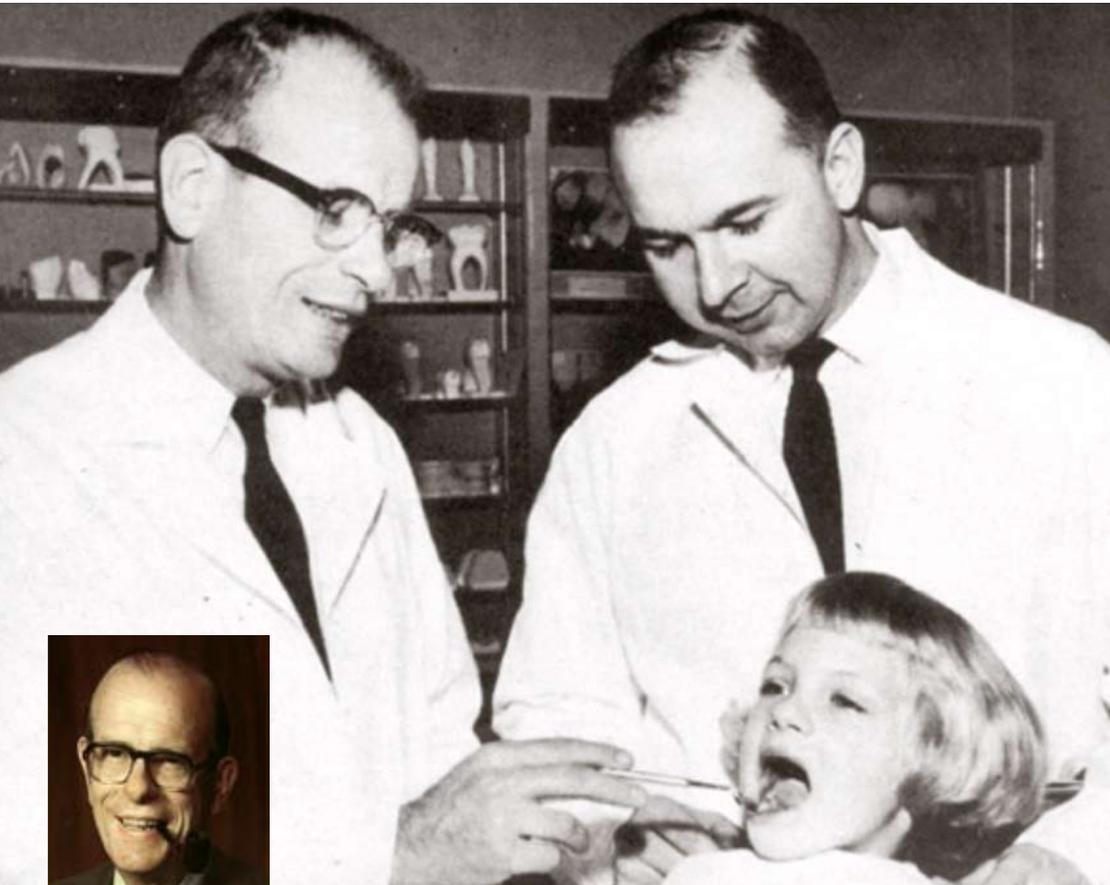


A special patient education pullout section for your office.

Department's Law-Lewis professorship will help supplement state funding

FROM ITS BEGINNING more than 60 years ago, the Department of Pediatric Dentistry has championed the oral health of children by providing access to dental care to children from low-income families. The two pioneers laying this groundwork were David B. Law, first department chair, and his colleague Thompson M. Lewis, acting chair in the early 1960s.

The newly created Law-Lewis Endowed Professorship for Pediatric Dentistry will honor their work as the first endowment specifically created to support faculty in Pediatric Dentistry at the University of Washington.



Drs. David Law (l) and Thompson Lewis treating a patient circa 1960.



Dr. David Law



Dr. Thompson Lewis

The professorship derives from the successful Law-Lewis Lectureship created in 1992. Now self-supporting, the lectureship will continue through Continuing Dental Education without the need for funds from the endowment.

A UW dentistry alum generously offered to match contributions from donors to make the professorship possible.

“At the UW, we have been fortunate to have had two pioneers in dental education—Dr. David B. Law and Dr. Thompson M. Lewis— pediatric dentists who served and established a long tradition of excellence. Today, we build on that tradition,” said Dr. Joel Berg, Lloyd and Kay Chapman Chair for Oral Health.

The professorship will supplement state funding to support a full-time pediatric dentist to graduate program director. In addition, these funds can support travel to conferences, defray costs of presentations, and facilitate research.

The holder of the Law Lewis Professorship will be a key voice in guiding ECOH to bring together a multidisciplinary health care team, directly impacting health-care delivery models, research, education and public policy.

Other team members who worked tirelessly to establish this professorship are Dr. Wesley Odani, Class of 1969; Dr. Bertha Barriga, Class of 1971 and retired faculty; and Dr. Karen Sakuma, Affiliate Faculty.

Six new residents join us in June

2-YR MSD

Dr. James Cannava grew up in Alaska and accompanied his father, a Public Health Service ophthalmologist, on frequent trips to remote native villages. These experiences fostered an interest in community health that James demonstrated throughout dental school at OHSU (class of '06) and during his subsequent employment as a dentist at two community health centers in western Montana. In his current position in Bozeman, he is working to expand the dental services of the area via a state-funded grant to build a new community dental clinic.



Dr. Anne Reeves is no stranger to our department. While completing her MPH at the UW in 2003-5, she worked with Dr. Wendy Mouradian as a research analyst to develop and evaluate oral health training modules, assist with research and organize an oral health elective course in the School of Medicine. Recently, she was a panelist at the American Academy of Pediatrics' National Summit on Children's Oral Health. This June, she will graduate from the UCLA School of Dentistry where she has won numerous awards for her scholarship and leadership.



3-YR MSD/MPH

Dr. Anna (Bieging) Forsyth is returning to the UW where she graduated from the dental school in 2006 and had a long history of volunteer work and a strong interest in dental public health. After graduation, she completed a GPR at a Veteran's Hospital in Washington, DC. She remained in the greater DC area to work as a general dentist – first in an affluent suburban practice, then in a rural Virginia county. It was her experience in this rural area that reinforced her long-held interest in public health and the need for early oral health education and prevention of oral disease.



Dr. Hitesh Tolani, who will graduate from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dentistry this June, is described by his mentors as enthusiastic, knowledgeable and passionate about community service. He has participated in several volunteer activities during dental school, organizing free dental screenings for the West Philadelphia community, fundraising for the American Cancer Society, and mentoring pre-dental undergraduate students. Hitesh has a strong interest in the intersection of patient education and the use of media, which he hopes to explore as a resident.



2-YR YAKIMA PROGRAM

Dr. Michael Lee will graduate from the University of Washington's School of Dentistry in June. His extensive volunteering includes Husky Smiles and participating in health fairs. He is the primary student manager of the Longview Community Dental Clinic rotation, coordinating preceptors, volunteers and staff to provide dental care for an underserved population that would otherwise not have access to dental care. Michael has received several honors and awards for academic scholarship.



Dr. Becky Coombs has practiced as a general dentist in Connecticut and Spokane since graduating from dental school at the University of Michigan in 2002. For the last two years in Spokane, she has provided general dental care in a practice focused on pediatrics. During this time, she also has been a clinical instructor at Eastern Washington University in the Department of Dental Hygiene where she oversees training in hygiene and restorative procedures.





*Pediatric Dentistry Clinic dental assistants showed EEU students what they can do to avoid cavities: eating the right snacks, brushing their teeth and going to the dentist for regular checkups. Pictured (l-r) are Michelle Newell, Elizabeth Sullivan (with puppet), Tami Schneider, Tanisha Brown, Jessica Woods, Yordi Weldu, and clinic manager Carol Harvey in front of the window. In photo below Tanisha Brown and Jessica Woods use puppets in their talk to another class.
(Amanda Ryan photos)*

Children's Dental Health Month

Dental assistants and volunteers go 'on the road' to teach youngsters important oral health lessons

UW PEDIATRIC DENTAL assistants and volunteers went on the road in February during the 60th National Children's Dental Health Month to teach kids and parents good dental health practices.

The Early Childhood Oral Health (ECOH) program sponsored several outreach activities in the community to educate parents about preventing tooth decay, the importance of the age one dental visit and establishing a dental home. Pre-dental student volunteers from Delta Delta Sigma assisted presenters in teaching the importance of brushing, flossing and good oral health.

ECOH celebrated Children's Dental Health Month with a UW Pediatric Dentistry Clinic open house and outreach activities in the university and area communities. Locations included the Experimental Education Unit's (EEU) Head Start/Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) at the University's Center on Human Development and Disability (CHDD) as well as the Refugee Women's Alliance pre-school, Emerson Elementary School, and Muir Elementary School grades K-2 in the Seattle School district.



UW Resident awarded national fellowship

UW Pediatric Dentistry resident Dr. Travis Nelson is one of the three recipients of the 2009-10 3M ESPE Preventative Pediatric Dentistry Postdoctoral Research Fellowship. Dr. Nelson's research, "The Effectiveness of SMS Text Messages as Appointment Reminders in the Pediatric Dental Setting" started data collection this spring.

The 3M ESPE Preventative Pediatric Dentistry Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (formerly known as the OMNI Pediatric Dentistry Postdoctoral Research Fellowship) was established in 1999 to promote and support prospective research by postdoctoral students and residents in pediatric dentistry.

Dr. Nelson's data collection and analysis will continue through early 2010, his final year in the three-year MSD/MPH program. His project is a randomized controlled trial that will test the efficacy of text messaging as an appointment reminder. Study subjects will complete several survey questions and then be randomized to receive either a text message or a voice appointment reminder. Text messaging is a modern method of communication that may prove very effective in communication to parents and caregivers of pediatric dental patients. Results of this study will have important implications for healthcare delivery.

These year-long fellowships are made possible through support of the 3M ESPE Dental Division. Each year three research fellowships are awarded. The Healthy Smiles, Healthy Children Committee on Scientific Affairs selects recipients on a competitive basis from eligible submissions. Each award will be made by July 1 and will provide up to \$7,500 of funding. This fellowship includes funds for research supplies, a stipend for the recipient and the recipient's department, and money for travel to the American Academy of Pediatric Dentists (AAPD) Annual Session in 2010 to present his research.



Dr. Travis Nelson

Dr. Nelson designs patient education poster

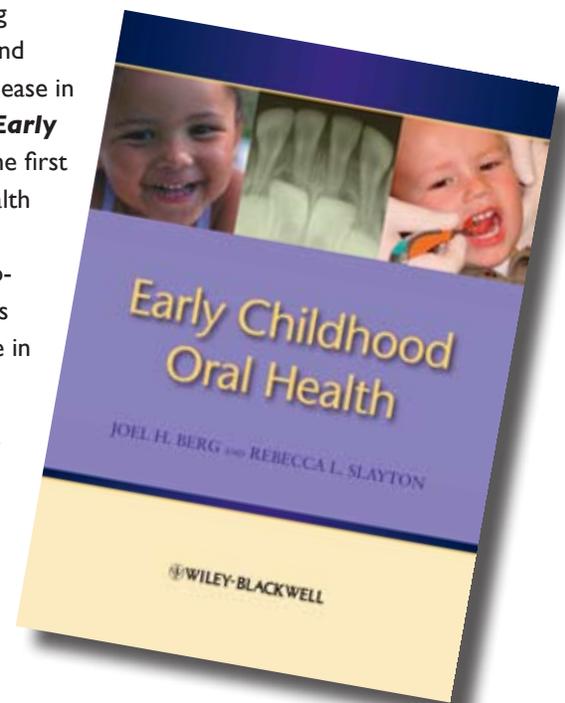
Dr. Travis Nelson designed the oral health poster on the next page to teach patients and their families about the impact of snacks on teeth. The poster can be used as a tool in dental offices or in outreach settings.

(Please turn page.)

New dental textbook focuses on kids under 5

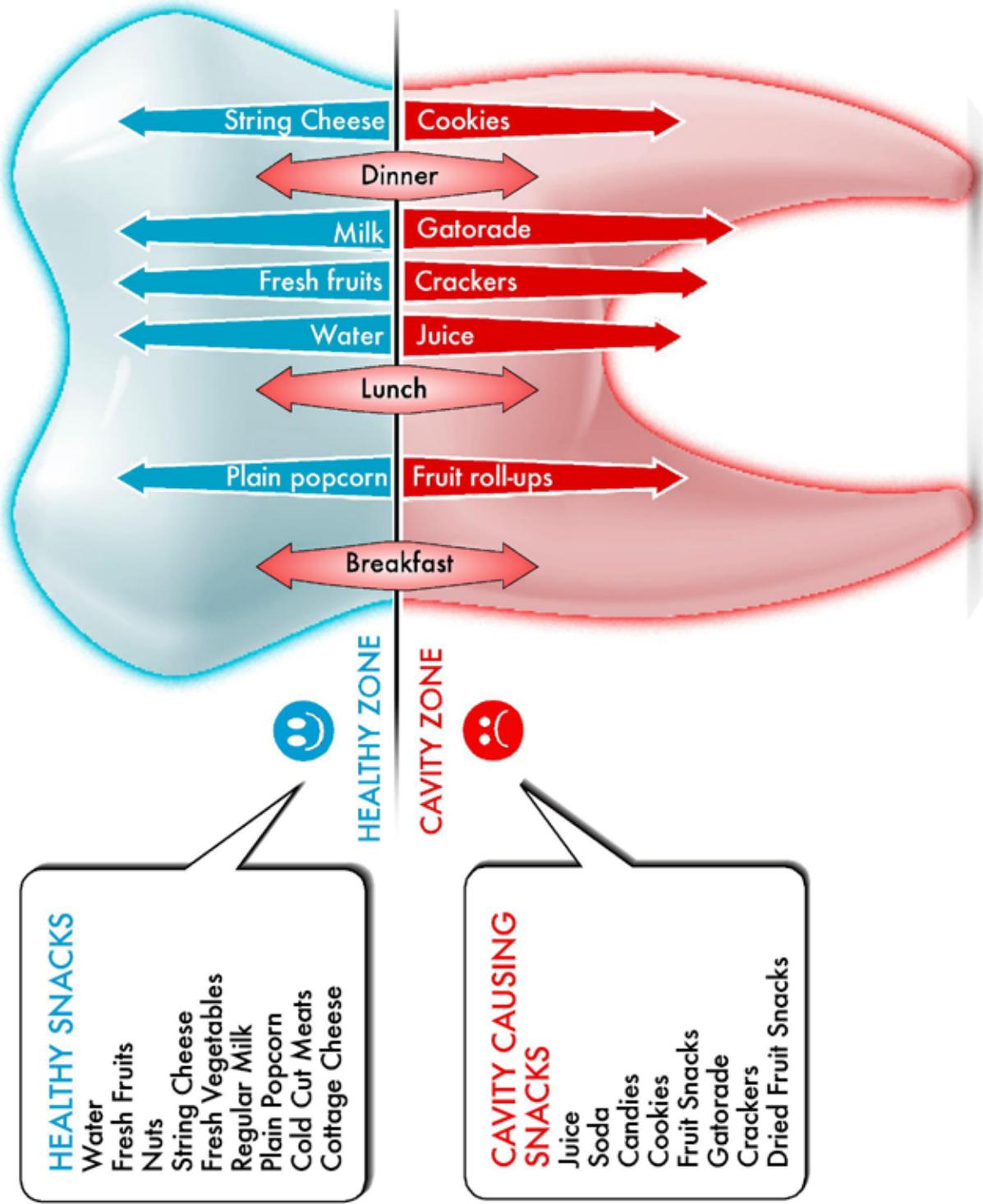
Dental caries is one of the most common, chronic diseases of children. In young children it can have devastating effects, causing pain, difficulty eating and sleeping and life-threatening infections. Although progress has been made in preventing this disease in most age groups, the prevalence is increasing in children under five years of age. **Early Childhood Oral Health** (co-edited by Drs. Joel Berg and Rebecca Slayton) is the first resource to coalesce, organize, and explain information on the dental and oral health of very young children. This comprehensive text covers the topic of oral health in early childhood, from the relevant background information on social and epidemiological trends in this demographic, to the scientific basis of dental and oral diseases encountered in early childhood, strongly emphasizing the dental professional's role in improving oral health and quality of life.

This book will provide dentists, dental professionals, and non-dental health care providers with a uniquely cohesive and practical resource, that for the first time addresses this vitally important population. Through education and awareness, the hope is to increase the numbers of children who grow up caries-free. **Early Childhood Oral Health** is now available through Wiley-Blackwell publishing.



GIVE YOUR TEETH A CHANCE

Snack Smart



© 2008, University of Washington School of Dentistry, Department of Pediatric Dentistry • Designed by Dr. Travis Nelson

Use this poster to educate your patients about the difference between good and bad snacks.

WE SALUTE OUR DONORS FOR 2008!

Thank you to all the wonderful donors in 2008 who supported the Department of Pediatric Dentistry programs to promote oral health in children.

Dr. Kyoko Awamura

Dr. J. Andrew Bagley

Dr. Barry D. Barrus

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Every effort was made to compile an accurate list. We sincerely apologize for any oversight. Please contact the SOD Development Department with any corrections by calling 206-685-9350 or 1-800-550-2977.



Grateful ECOH Team

After a successful demolition derby, members of the ECOH team look forward to the 2010 opening. Thanks to all contributors. Pictured in front of the main ECOH building entrance are (left to right) Cindy Evans, VP, Ambulatory and Regional Services, Seattle Children's Hospital; Ron Inge, VP and Dental Director, Washington Dental Service; Laura Smith, President and CEO, Washington Dental Service Foundation; Jim Dwyer, President and CEO, Washington Dental Service; Martha Somerman, Dean, UW School of Dentistry; Joel Berg, Chair, University of Washington Department of Pediatric Dentistry and Director of Dentistry at Seattle Children's Hospital; and Eric Smith, Director, Capital Projects South, University Facilities Building.

Abatement and demolition will continue March-May with construction running July 2009 through August 2010.

(Gavin W. Sisk photo/UW Creative)

NEWS FROM THE CHAIR



Dr. Joel Berg
Professor,
Lloyd and Kay Chapman
Chair for Oral Health

In the 'Other Washington'

AAPD explains children's oral health care needs

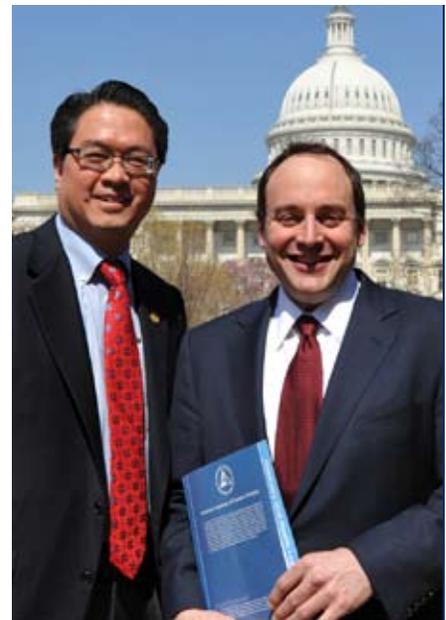
EACH SPRING I TRAVEL to our nation's capital as part of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) with my friend and colleague Dr. John Liu in our roles as District VI trustee and vice president respectively. The cherry blossoms aside, I look forward to visiting the "Other Washington" because of the opportunity to generate support among decision makers for children's oral health care needs and the AAPD's initiatives.

Part of AAPD's mission is to champion policies, guidelines and programs that promote optimal oral health and overall healthcare for children. The 2009 agenda includes support for health care reform and children's oral health legislation, including the *Essential Oral Health Services Act*.

Together, Dr. Liu and I visited the offices of five members of Washington's delegation including Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, and Congressmen Doc Hastings, Dave Reichert, and Jim McDermott. All seemed to share our concerns.

During our two-day stay, the AAPD also recognized Congressman Elijah Cummings (D-7th MD) as Legislator of the Year during the Appreciation Dinner. The academy thanked Congressman Cummings for his work as a stalwart champion for children's oral health, especially his efforts to improve access to care. Access to care was a major factor in the death of 12-year-old Deamonte Driver, the Maryland boy who died after he was unable to obtain treatment for his tooth abscess.

Legislators, their staff, and other opinion leaders in our nation's capital increasingly recognize that oral health is a critical component of children's overall health. Although their understanding has deepened, we cannot assume that our work is done. It is my hope that more awareness will help ensure a committed investment in preventing childhood dental caries this year and in future decades.



Dr. Joel Berg and Dr. John Liu attended an AAPD function in Washington, D.C.

Photo courtesy of Dr. John Liu

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