

# ALUMNI NEWS

## pediatric dentistry

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

VOLUME 8 • NUMBER 1 • 2011

## FROM THE PACIFIC TO THE PALOUSE

our residents care for Washington children



*Class of 2011*

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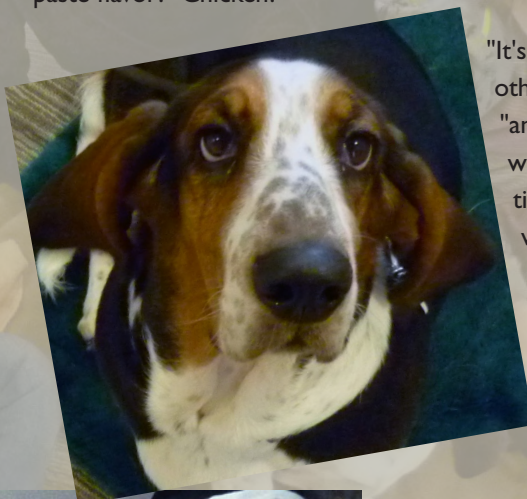


# The therapy dog is IN the waiting room

MISS ESTHER, a two-year-old basset hound trained therapy dog, is a regular visitor to our waiting room with her owner and trainer Rosemary Ryan, MSW, PhD.

Rosemary (aka Dr. Ryan) is recently retired from the UW School of Social Work faculty and has a long history helping people, including three years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Brazil. Now that she is retired from these other careers, Rosemary has started a new volunteer career with Miss Esther.

"Miss Esther and Rosemary have been a wonderful addition to the social work team," remarked department social worker Heather Marks. "We've had both kids and parents come looking for her." Not only does Esther help to calm patients and their families who come to see her while awaiting their appointments, she and Rosemary demonstrate how much Esther likes toothbrushing. What is Esther's favorite toothpaste flavor? Chicken!



"It's fun sharing her with others," said Rosemary, "and the time with the kids waiting to see their dentist goes quickly. When we drive up and Esther sees where we are, she can't wait to get in the door and get to work."



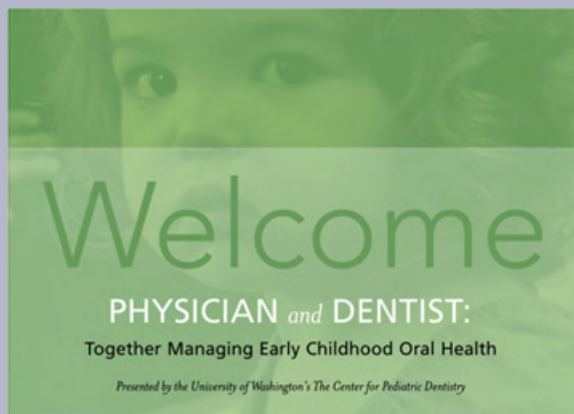
Miss Esther's visitors include Ela Sirbu (above). Ashton Adams and his mother Janelle (right) make "basset eyes" with Esther and Rosemary Ryan. Jezsaka Siu (far right) romps with Esther before an appointment, and Zoe McNutt in background with Esther and Rosemary.





## **Physician and Dentist Together: Go Team**

In July more than 80 medical and dental leaders participated in the symposium, Physician and Dentist: Together Managing Early Childhood Oral Health.



Sponsors included Henry Schein, Washington Dental Service Foundation, Premier Dental Products Company, Colgate-Palmolive, UW Department of Pediatric Dentistry, Seattle Children's Hospital, and The Maternal and Child Health Bureau.

The focus was identifying opportunities for successful collaboration of medical and dental professionals working to eradicate early childhood caries.

## **Understanding needs of low-income patients**

This year our incoming pediatric dentistry residents gained a better understanding of poverty and its impact on their patients through their first reading assignment.

Most of the frustrations dentists have with Medicaid patients stem from a lack of understanding of poverty, says program director Dr. Marcio Da Fonseca, noting that "even children who were once considered middle class are showing up on Medicaid, so all our assumptions have to be re-examined."

Residents in the pediatric dental program have been working with a social worker in the clinic for the last three and a half years. They are learning more about low-income families and these patients' needs.

## **Well-child check-up role examined for identifying ECC**

In May the pediatric dentistry faculty collaborated with four pediatricians to develop methods to help medical residents doing well-child exams identify children at high risk for early childhood caries (ECC).

Participants Drs. Jim Taylor, Richard Shugerman, Heather McPhillips and Fred Rivara helped Drs. Joel Berg and Travis Nelson figure out what information was most important and valuable to share with pediatric medical residents.

## **Welcome, Tonya Greer, to pediatric dentistry!**

Tonya Greer, new administrative assistant working with Dr. Joel Berg, joined the staff in May. Her knowledge and skills from her previous office manager job in Florida have come in very handy in the fast-paced world of The Center for Pediatric Dentistry. Welcome to the Northwest, Tonya!



Over the last nine years residents got to know Glory Frodeson, one of our clinic patient services representatives. In July Glory retired. She will now volunteer at Seattle schools in the Ballard area where her two grandsons are students. We're all a little wiser and patients were well served because Glory worked in our clinic. Above, Glory displays the "math clock" presented at her retirement party.



Shown above: Drs. Rivara, Taylor and Nelson examining child.

# Families

...these grads establish practice will benefit from their skills and dedication.



## **Class of 2011 (L-R)**

Dr. Anne Reeves, Dr. Becky Coombs,  
Dr. Michael Lee, Dr. Anna Forsyth, and  
Dr. Ameera Thomas graduated June 24.

## **Our patient base spans the State — from the Pacific to the Palouse**

**OFTEN WE ARE ASKED**, “Why does this patient have to travel all the way to your clinic for dental care? Why don’t they use someone in their local area?”

A report this year from the Pew Center on the States found that in 2010, 35 of the state’s 39 counties did not have enough dentists to serve their populations, especially dental care to low-income children.

Of those 39 counties, patients from 30 counties are referred to UW Pediatric Dentistry at The Center for Pediatric Dentistry Clinic because their needs cannot be met in their communities (see map). King, Snohomish, Pierce and Thurston counties account for the majority of patients—mostly low-income patients covered by Medicaid. Additionally, a significant number of patients, especially those insured by Medicaid, travel from eastern Washington, referred to the faculty and residents in our clinic because these patients’ specialized treatment cannot be completed in their communities.

Pew’s report on the Children’s Dental Health Report found that “80 percent of dental disease in children is preventable.” 80 percent of kids and children from poor communities face proportionately high barriers to getting care.

The report continues that we “need to expand the role of community-based dental providers and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) that serve low-income children — we need to train more providers so that insurance coverage is accessible to needed care.” A big part of “access” for those children lacking a ride to medical appointments, Medicaid assures transportation.

The University of Washington pediatric dentistry is committed to treating underserved populations, including Medicaid-insured patients with complex dental needs. We have obstacles to obtaining dental care in rural practices as noted in the *Washington State 2009 Final Report*.



# in Northwest communities where...

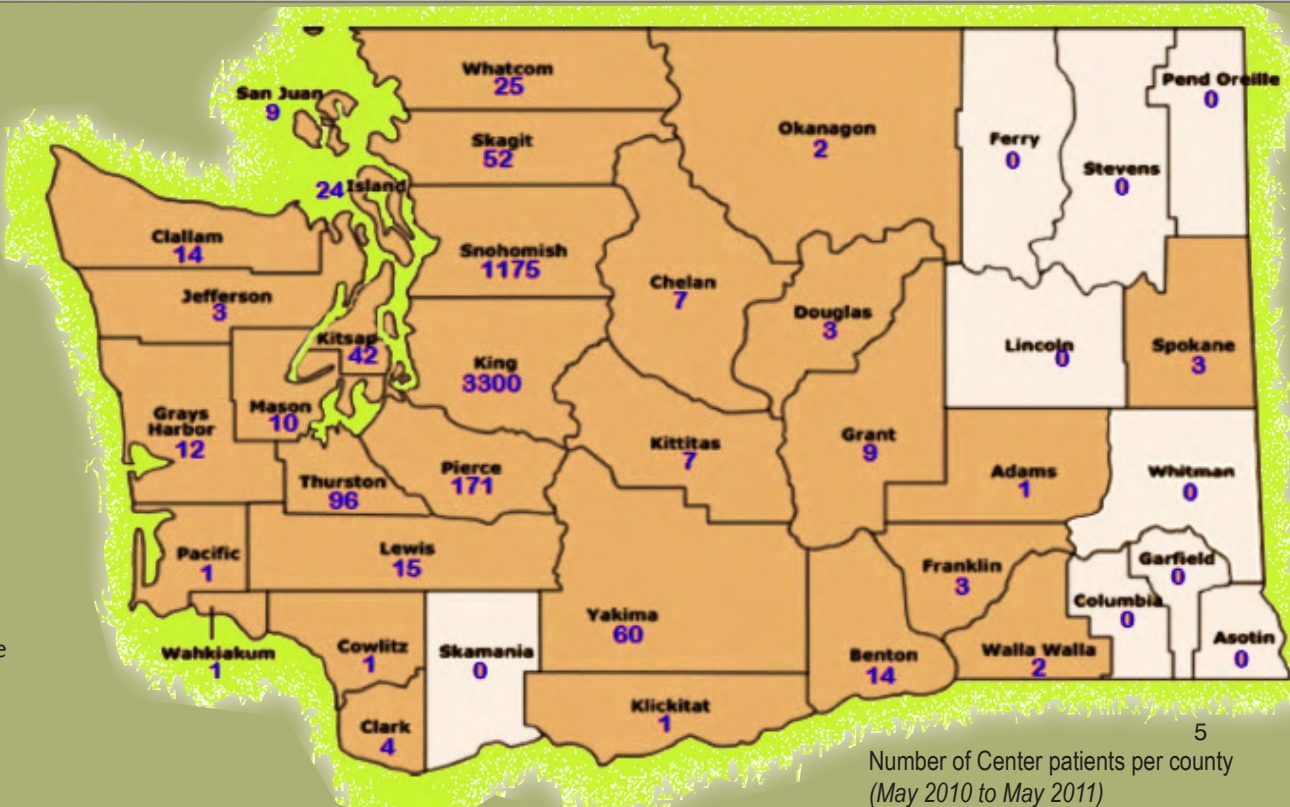
**Dr. Ameera Thomas** finished our program with a concurrent MSD and MPH, and a Certificate in Pediatric Dentistry. Her thesis research was entitled *Interpretation of Instructions to Control Fluoride Toothpaste Application* – a deceptively simple idea with profound implications for daily toothpaste use. She and her husband plan to remain in the greater Seattle area where she hopes to practice three or four days a week.

**Dr. Anne Reeves** graduated from our MSD program and was due to deliver her first child on the day of graduation. However, new daughter Sedona Beatrice Reeves waited until June 29 to arrive. Anne worked with her former MPH mentor to evaluate children with special needs in Eastern Washington. Her thesis was entitled *Dental Caries Among Young Children with Functional Limitations*. After maternity leave, she will practice with Dr. Jeff Marks in Seattle.

**Dr. Becky Coombs** graduates from our Yakima program with a Certificate in Pediatric Dentistry. She delivered her first child, David Sawyer, on June 22. After maternity leave, she will return to her practice in Spokane. Her research was a descriptive study of well-child visits and subsequent dental visits at the Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic.

**Dr. Anna Forsyth** stayed a few extra weeks with us to finish her two-year MSD program, making up for maternity leave during residency. After graduation, she joins a busy practice in central Oregon. Anna’s thesis was *General Anesthesia Time for Pediatric Dental Cases: A Retrospective Review* and her results will have an impact on our anesthesia scheduling.

**Dr. Michael Lee** returns to the Seattle area after graduation from the Certificate program in Yakima and will join a practice in the South Puget Sound area. He will rejoin his wife who has been living in Seattle during his training in Yakima. Mike investigated a possible link between caries and family size as part of his research project.



5  
Number of Center patients per county  
(May 2010 to May 2011)





Kari Sims



Najmeh Hannanvash



Glenn Canares



Jane Stieber

new residents from near and far



Steve Tseng



Ron Fuller



WaiYin Chan



Ahmed Rozi



Dustin Janssen

WELCOME

**DR. GLENN CANARES** graduated from dental school at NYU, where he served on the college's Peer Review Committee and received several academic and research awards. Before dental school, Glenn had a first career as an Information Technology Auditor for several corporations and performed with an improv comedy troupe in New York. He is a long-time volunteer for Big Brothers Big Sisters and for Reach Out and Read. He balances his work and student life with long-distance running and improv comedy. Glenn is enrolled in the two-year MSD program.

**DR. WAIYIN CHAN** received her DMD degree from Harvard and her BS and MS degrees in Biology from University of California, San Diego. In dental school, she co-founded and coordinated a pediatric dental study club, was a student reviewer for the Academy of General Dentistry Journal and volunteered regularly in a reduced fee clinic in the Boston area. She is an exceptional lacrosse player and won the season's most valuable player award and the Dustin Newell Memorial Award for exemplary leadership. WaiYin is in the two-year certificate program in Yakima.

**DR. RONALD FULLER** is a career dentist with 18 years of experience as a commissioned officer with the United States Public Health Service. He has worked at several Indian Health Service clinics – in South Dakota, Alaska, New Mexico and Wisconsin and is part of the Indian Health Service's program to provide general dentists with specialty training to improve the health of the native population. When he is not working, he enjoys spending time with his wife and six children. Ron is in the two-year MSD program.

**DR. NAJMEH HANNANVASH** comes to us from a yearlong AEGD residency program in Hawaii. She graduated from the University of California, San Francisco, School of Dentistry, where she volunteered as a health education student teacher in elementary, middle and high schools in the San Francisco area. She also provided screenings, dental education and restorative care in a community clinic for underserved children and adults during the four years of dental school. Najmeh is enrolled in the two-year MSD program.

**DR. DUSTIN JANSSEN** is a Texas native and graduated from Baylor in 2009. He held many leadership roles as a dental student with the American Student Dental Association and won awards for research and scholarship. Since graduation, Dustin has practiced in a variety of locations - private practices, a community health center and a correctional center. He is committed to treating underserved children and is enrolled in the two-year certificate program in Yakima.

**DR. AHMED ROZI** is the first trainee in our new international program. Ahmed is employed as a dentist by Saudi Aramco, the world's largest oil-producing and energy company. In 2001, he was selected by his employer to complete two years of an AEGD residency program at Baylor, where he was awarded Most Outstanding Resident of the Year by his faculty and fellow residents; and again this year, he is sponsored by Aramco to complete two years of Pediatric Dentistry training. His training will prepare him to treat the growing number of children with advanced caries in Saudi Arabia. Ahmed is enrolled in the two-year MSD program.

**DR. KARI SIMS** is from a small town in Wyoming and attended dental school at the University of Nebraska where she has a long history of service – Special Olympics, international dental missions, and hospice. She also was active in the American Student Dental Association and American Association of Women in Dentistry during school. Her first career was in art restoration. She finds dentistry to be the ideal mix of art and science. She is enrolled in the three-year MSD/MPH program.

**DR. JANE STIEBER** is a Michigan native and attended the University of Michigan School of Dentistry. As recipient of a "year-out" scholarship during dental school from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute-NIH Research Scholars Program, she did basic science lab work in the pharyngeal cancer branch at NIDCR. She received several awards for high scholarship and her faculty describe her as a skilled clinician with a humanitarian spirit. Jane is in the three-year MSD/MPH program.

**DR. STEVE TSENG** was originally an electrical engineer, and designed computer chips, consulted on business models, and led software development teams. He made the move to dentistry and in 2007 graduated from dental school at the University of Texas in San Antonio. There he was active in extracurricular professional societies and community activities. He graduated with several honors and awards for scholarship, service and leadership. Since graduation, he has concentrated on working in underserved areas of New Mexico with an emphasis on seeing Medicaid children and families. Steve is enrolled in the two-year MSD program.

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





Dr. Joel Berg

## Good teachers engage their students

**MY EXCELLENT ASSISTANT** for the past four years—Amanda Ryan—is studying to become a grade school teacher. In the process, she will get the kind of formal preparation that I never had—training in how to actually teach.

Amanda will excel as a teacher not only because of her upcoming training, but because of her passion for sharing her joy of learning with people around her.

Whether elementary, secondary, graduate school or post-graduate instructors, educators who excel are those who are similarly driven. They can tell an engaging story, give relevant, real-life examples, and drive home the importance of what they are teaching. They are able to motivate their students, clearing the way for learning to occur.

In our program, we are committed to helping our students and residents absorb and retain information and skills and have the tools to share them with others. In short, we are not only training first-rate dentists and pediatric dentists, we are also teaching future teachers to teach.

We are currently recruiting master clinicians who want to share their knowledge, skills and enthusiasm with the next generation. If this sounds like you, I am interested in talking with you. You can help us prepare the next generation—not just for the clinic or the lab, but also for the classroom. You can help us build on our program of excellence and make its continuation a tradition.



Amanda relished her role as the “Tooth Fairy,” teaching kids about good oral health.

Alumni News is published by the Department of  
Pediatric Dentistry  
University of Washington  
Heather Marks, MSW, Editor  
Cheryl Shaul, Contributing Editor

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