

# ALUMNI NEWS

## pediatric dentistry

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

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### In this issue



*The Autism Clinic  
meets special needs  
of patients / p 5*



*Introducing our new  
residency program  
director / p 5*

## DR. REBECCA SLAYTON

COMES WELL PREPARED TO LEAD THE DEPARTMENT

*pages 5 & 8*



# Pediatric Rural Education Program

## New track will train pediatric dentists for service in dental shortage areas

Dentists working in rural areas where there is a shortage of health professionals sometimes are forced to make critical decisions in isolation. Patient trauma from accidents often requires quick and skillful action and a deep understanding of the culture and challenges faced by the rural poor.

Dr. Ana Lucia Seminario, faculty, and Cheryl Shaul, program manager, are building a new residency track that will immerse residents in learning experiences at rotation sites in small communities throughout the five-state WWAMI region (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho). The new residency track, known as PREP (Pediatric Rural Educational Program), is funded by a federal [Health Resource Services Agency](#) (HRSA) grant written in 2010. PREP residents will gain the skills needed to work effectively with patients in dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs), with a longer-term goal of reducing the numbers of dental HPSA sites in the region. Planning the track has taken Dr. Seminario and Ms. Shaul through much of the WWAMI region to identify appropriate settings for certain models of learning. They have also identified areas within the existing curricula for extra clinical and didactic training.

The planning team has visited sites in Alaska in Bethel (Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation) and in Dillingham (Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation); Montana sites in Kalispell (private practice with graduate, Dr. James Cannava), Browning (Indian Health Services — Blackfeet Community Hospital), Billings (Riverstone Community Health Clinic), Helena (the Cooperative Health Center and a private pediatric dentist); and a site in Washington in the Tri-Cities at a multi-site private practice. All sites have expressed an interest in working with PREP trainees.

In addition to the community rotation, the PREP residents will receive extra training alongside UW endodontic residents in trauma management in a special weekend session with faculty member Dr. Nestor Cohenca. They will also complete a full week’s rotation at Harborview Medical Center, each paired with a senior oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMFS) resident during the day and one weekend for night call.

Another goal of the PREP program is to increase residents’ experience in other public health areas for collaborative work. To accomplish this, PREP trainees will be enrolled in interprofessional courses offered through the health sciences schools at the UW (medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and nursing). The courses cover topics in health and human services in rural communities, interdisciplinary services delivery, and interdisciplinary rural healthcare issues.

The first two PREP trainees, Drs. James Heidenreich and Katherine Lane, both worked in HPSA communities before entering the UW pediatric dentistry residency program and plan to work in rural dental shortage areas upon graduation. They have assisted in the final planning of the curriculum, giving feedback about preferred rotation models and eventual practice locations.

**‘Another goal is to increase residents’ experience in other public health areas for collaborative work.’**

# alumni bytes

### Geoff Ping and Asia Dela Cruz

Summer 2013 is busier than normal for Asia Dela Cruz and Geoff Ping—their third child, Jameson, was born in April, and their second practice, Moses Lake Pediatric Dentistry, opened in August. Similar to their home practice in Wenatchee, they will serve a large percentage of Medicaid patients. They will be joined by pediatric dentist Stanley Cox, DMD, a native of the Moses Lake area.



### Chris Lugo and Kristen Johanssen

Chris Lugo just opened his third practice in Lake Stevens, WA. He and his wife, Kristen Johanssen have three children Harrison, Alexandra, and Lizzy. Chris and Kristen expect to open their fourth office in 2014. Chris is also training to swim the English Channel in Aug. 2014.

### Kristi Linsenmayer

Kristi Linsenmayer’s schedule remains interesting and packed! Last year she built a state of the art pediatric dental office in Southeast Alaska and has another new office in Seattle. Her weekly commute is a flight from her Seattle office to her Southeast Alaskan office, then on to Alaskan villages to see native communities.



### Shukan Kanuga

Besides full-time private practice and teaching, Shukan Kanuga recently managed to carve out time with the San Fernando Valley Dental Society as an associate editor and is on the Council on Dental Health Committee. She also serves as an Evidence Reviewer for the American Dental Association and writes critical summaries for the systematic reviews for the Evidence-Based Dentistry website. Check Shukan’s “virtual travel journal” blog site (<http://kanugapuravida.blogspot.com/>) covering her family’s travels, including her trip to India this summer for her sister-in-law’s “Bollywood style” Indian wedding!



### Julia Richman

Drake James Valetzky was born on Feb. 20, 2013, to Julia Richman and her husband James Valetzky. Drake weighed 8 pounds 12 ounces at birth and measured 21 inches. The family lives in Snoqualmie, WA.

### Amy Luedemann

Amy Luedemann got married on February 16 of this year and will be known as Dr. Amy Luedemann-Lazar. Her husband is German and the two of them visited Germany twice last year. It’s become a second home.



### Neal Smith

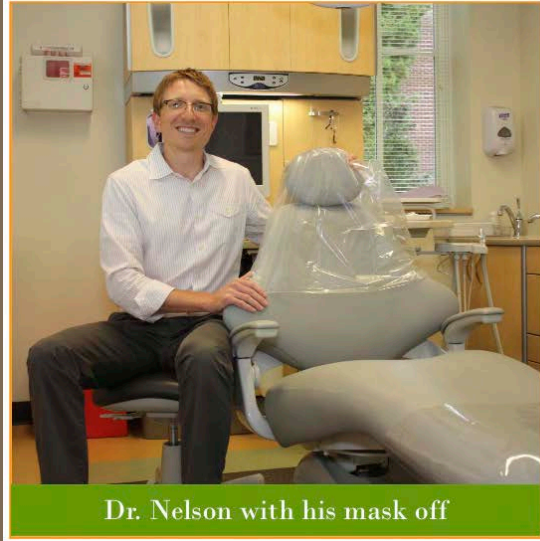
Anna Elizabeth Smith was born at 30 weeks on Jan. 21, and spent time in the University of Washington Medical Center Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. She was three pounds, 15 1/4 inches. A week before her birth, Neal’s new practice, Central Washington Pediatric Dentistry, opened. His new clinic is scheduled for completion this summer.

### Leann Yoda

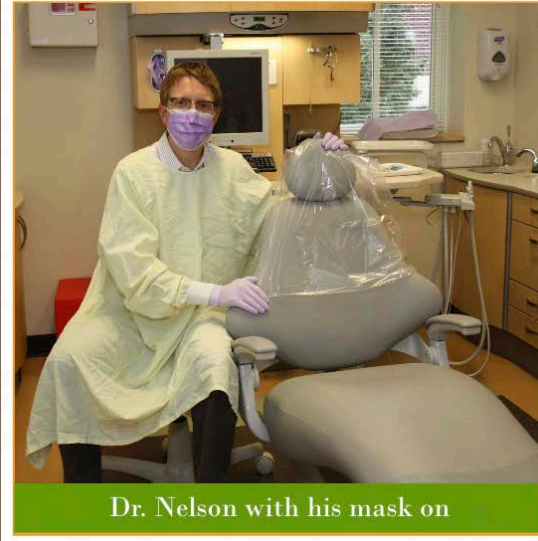
Leann Yoda’s practice, Hampton Cove Pediatric Dentistry, just celebrated its first anniversary last November with a party for area health professionals.







Dr. Nelson with his mask off



Dr. Nelson with his mask on

### Pictures of my dentist

An exmple of a social story from The Center website shows Dr. Nelson in street clothes and again as he will be dressed in the operatory.

# Visit to the Dentist in our Autism Clinic

Dr. Travis Nelson eases his ASD patients' anxiety one step and one visit at a time

**FIVE-YEAR-OLD KENNY** (not his real name) has autism spectrum disorder (ASD), a condition that has posed an almost insurmountable barrier to getting dental care.

Kenny's disorder prevents certain parts of his brain from receiving the information needed to understand and respond to certain sensations in the way that other people's brains do.

To a child with ASD, a doctor or dentist's office visit means exposure to unusual faces, bright lights, unusual smells, tastes and textures, all of which can upset the child's interpretation of a situation. Now imagine walking into a strange building, being seated in a chair that moves, and having unknown adults wearing masks lean over you, peer into your face and tell you to open your mouth.

People with ASD may misinterpret everyday sensory information, such as touch, sound, movement, light, food, the feel of clothing, physical contact, or other sensory input, causing over-response or under-response to a situation.

Kenny has an aversion to rubber gloves and the smell of bananas and he likes to chew on non-food objects. Fortunately, his pediatrician referred him to The Center for Pediatric Dentistry's new Autism and Sensory Disorders Dental Clinic.

Dr. Travis Nelson, the Center's Autism Clinic director and department alumnus, is committed to creating a positive first experience for these patients and their families. Before their first visit, parents of patients referred to the clinic complete a comprehensive questionnaire detailing the child's behavioral characteristics. Parents are asked

what common "triggers" make their child's behavior get worse: loud noises, bright lights, unfamiliar smells, unfamiliar tastes, misunderstanding communication, or other triggers. Knowing the answers before the appointment will help dental providers.

Over a period of weeks before an examination was done, Kenny made six visits to the clinic in which he was gradually introduced by way of printed social (picture) stories to the various elements of the exam. During one visit, he sat in a dental chair, then allowed the chair to rise up and back down. At each visit he was rewarded with a sticker and a token.

Meanwhile at home, Kenny practiced opening his mouth upon request and using The Center's web tutorial ("My visit to the dentist social story"), his mom helped him get used to clinic gloves.

Finally, Dr. Nelson was able to conduct an exam and apply fluoride varnish to Kenny's teeth.

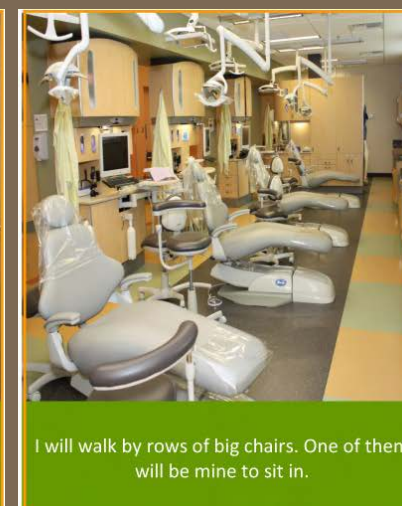
"Kenny's positive experience will pay dividends," says Dr. Nelson. "He will now return for regular exams and treatment, all of which are crucial to good oral health throughout his life."



I will have a seat in the waiting room. There are toys there for me to play with.



When my name is called I will walk through a door and down a long hallway to see the dentist.



I will walk by rows of big chairs. One of them will be mine to sit in.

"My Visit to the Dentist Social Story" on our website. Parents can read the social story with their child to learn the routine, or the child may also read the story independently.

Visit our website to see more—  
<http://thecenterforpediatricdentistry.com/for-parents-and-patients/special-needs/>

# Chair Dr. Rebecca Slayton leads with distinction



**"WE'RE SO GLAD** she's back!"

That's the common refrain from staff and faculty about our new Chair Dr. Rebecca L. Slayton.

Dr. Slayton was also just named Law-Lewis Endowed Professor of Pediatric Dentistry. Dr. Slayton returned in March to the University of Washington after she accepted the position of Chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry. She fills the vacancy left by former department chair Dr. Joel Berg, now dean of the School of Dentistry.

Dr. Slayton's other roles are Director of The Center for Pediatric Dentistry, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies at the School of Dentistry, and Dental Department Director, Seattle Children's.

Dr. Slayton was professor and chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry at the University of Iowa since 2008 and was at the UW from 2004 to 2008 as associate professor and graduate program director in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry. She served as chair of the school's faculty council and on numerous committees, and was also interim clinical director of the Department of Dental Medicine at Seattle Children's hospital from 2007 to 2008. From 2002 to 2004, she was chair of pediatric dentistry at Oregon Health & Science University.

She is a consultant to the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry, an ad hoc reviewer for several leading dental journals and a member of the Executive Committee, Section on Oral Health for the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Dr. Slayton's honors and awards include Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Fellow (2012-13); International College of Dentists; and Chief Dental Officer and Chair of the

### Dr. Elizabeth Velan appointed residency director

Elizabeth Velan, DMD, MSD, was named residency program director in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry.

An alumna of the department, Dr. Velan will bring to the program her experience as chief of education and resident training at Seattle Children's.

In her role at Children's Dr. Velan's patient care focused on medically complicated/craniofacial patients.



In 2004 she graduated from Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, OR, with a Doctor of Medical Dentistry after completing an undergraduate degree from Portland State University, Portland, OR. Dr. Velan earned her Master of Science in Dentistry from the University of Washington (UW) in 2008 after completing two years in the pediatric dental residency program where she was chief resident one year. Prior to that she spent two years in the UW general practice residency.

Dr. Velan replaces Dr. Marcio Da Fonseca who moved to the University of Illinois Circle campus in Chicago where he was named chair of the pediatric dental department.



# Enter stage left...Exit stage right

## Welcome, entering class of 2013



Dr. Tiara Brown



Dr. Gloria Guan



Dr. Karen Mak

Dr. Tiara Brown graduated from the Medical University of South Carolina's School of Dentistry in 2007. After working as a dentist for the US Air Force in Kansas, she moved back to South Carolina and was the Dental Director with the state Department of Disabilities and Special Needs and Adjunct Professor at her alma mater. She is described by her dental school faculty as "compassionate, and an outstanding professional." Tiara is in the two-year MSD program.

Dr. Thomas "Matt" Griffith, a 2011 graduate of the UW School of Dentistry, completed a two-year AEGD residency on the Big Island of Hawaii. The second year of this program focused on pediatric dentistry. In every one of Matt's recommendation letters, faculty said that he is likeable, has a positive attitude, is compassionate with the children in the clinic, and is always striving to expand his knowledge of dentistry. Matt is in the two-year PREP/MSD program.

Dr. Gloria Guan is a UCLA School of Dentistry graduate. She finished dental school in 2005 with awards for exceptional performance and scholarship. Since graduation, she has practiced dentistry in California with the Assistance League of San Bernardino, and in North Carolina with the Columbus County Health Department, seeing low-income and underserved children in both locations. Gloria is enrolled in the two-year PREP/MSD program.

Dr. Karin Herzog finished dental school at Columbia University in 2012. The following year, she was a GPR resident at New York Presbyterian Hospital-Weill-Cornell. During dental school she was an intern with the US Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, DC, designing children's oral health pilot programs. Her research there and at Columbia has resulted in several publications. Karin is in the three-year MSD/MPH track.

Dr. Karen Mak is a 2012 graduate of NYU and spent the last year as a GPR resident/Pediatric Dentistry Fellow in New York at the Montefiore Medical Center. Karen has an extensive history of volunteer work through ASDA and the Chinese Student Dental Association. Her mentors described her as "the kind of student a professor looks forward to working with every day." Karen is in the two-year MSD program.

Dr. Ian Marion comes to us from a GPR program at St. Barnabas Hospital in New York. He graduated from the University of the Pacific in 2012 where he received the Charles, Charles Jr. and Joe Sweet Pediatric Dentistry Award and the San Francisco Dental Society Ethics Award. He has a strong commitment to working with underserved children and increasing access to care. Ian is in the two-year MSD track.

Dr. Melanie Perry graduated from the UW in 2006 and is a career Navy Officer. She was a member of the US Navy Hot Air Balloon Team, an ordnance specialist and a construction electrician before becoming a dentist. She has practiced dentistry in Okinawa, Japan, and most recently, in Bremerton, Washington. As a dental student she was the recipient of the Academy of Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities Award. Melanie is in the two-year MSD program.



Dr. Thomas Griffith



Dr. Karin Herzog



Dr. Ian Marion



Dr. Melanie Perry



We present the Class of 2013 (standing) Dr. David Avenetti, Dr. Najmeh Hannanvash, Dr. WaiYin Chan, and Dr. Ahmed Rozi; (seated) Dr. Steve Tseng, Dr. Dustin Janssen, Dr. Glenn Canares.

**THE CLASS OF 2013** started the next chapter of their professional lives June 21 when they graduated from our pediatric dentistry residency program.

**Dr. David Avenetti** graduated from our three-year program with a concurrent MSD/MPH. He accepted a faculty position at the University of Illinois at Chicago where he will be teaching, seeing patients and doing research. The title of his resident research is *Assessing the Relationship between Caregivers' Pediatric Oral Health Literacy and Children's Caries Status*.

**Dr. Glenn Canares** is also entering academics and is part of the faculty at the Lutheran Medical Center's pediatric dentistry residency program in Providence, Rhode Island. He completed the two-year MSD program and his thesis title is *Educating Physicians to Detect Dental Caries: Evaluating a Simple Teaching Method*.

**Dr. WaiYin Chan** graduated from the two-year Certificate program in Yakima. She has returned to California and is practicing in San Diego. Her research is titled *The Prevalence of High Blood Pressure in Pediatric Dental Patients*.

**Dr. Najmeh Hannanvash's** thesis title is *Patient Agreements Aimed at Improving Pediatric Dental Self-Compliance and Self-Efficacy* and she completed the two-year MSD program. She is practicing in San Diego, California and hopes to teach part-time.

**Dr. Dustin Janssen** returned to Lubbock, Texas, where he built his own practice. He graduated from the two-year Certificate program in Yakima and his research was on *WIC Providers: Assessment of Knowledge and Attitudes Concerning Oral Health*.

**Dr. Ahmed Rozi**, our first international graduate, completed the two-year MSD program and has returned to Saudi Arabia and his former job at Aramco. His thesis topic studied *Trauma in Young Permanent Teeth: Factors Associated with Adverse Outcomes*.

**Dr. Steve Tseng's** thesis title is *Obturator Fabrication and Management for Velopharyngeal Insufficiency* and he completed the two-year MSD program. He returned to Texas and plans to practice in Dallas.



NEWS FROM THE CHAIR

Dr. Rebecca Slayton, Professor and Chair



*Rebecca Slayton, DDS, PhD  
Law-Lewis Endowed Professor  
of Pediatric Dentistry.*

**AFTER FIVE YEARS AWAY** from the University of Washington, I returned in March to take on the opportunity of a lifetime. In my absence, the UW Pediatric Dentistry Department moved from its cozy clinic in the Health Sciences Center to a beautiful state-of-the-art facility at Magnuson Park.

The amazing new Center for Pediatric Dentistry ("The Center") is ably staffed by dedicated professionals committed to quality patient care, teaching and research.

The combined opportunities at the UW Department of Pediatric Dentistry at The Center and at Seattle Children's Hospital drew me back to Seattle.

As chair of the Pediatric Dentistry Department, I have the pleasure and the responsibility to support and mentor the faculty and help them develop their careers.

There are few departments in the country with as many talented faculty as we have at the UW and Seattle Children's. I am proud that a number of them are also former residents that I helped train.

Moving from the dental school on campus to an off-site location provides challenges and opportunities for pre-doctoral education. It offers a tremendous range of learning and teaching opportunities for our pediatric dentistry residents.

In my dual role as director of the Department of Dentistry at Seattle Children's and chair of the UW Department of Pediatric Dentistry, I look forward to strengthening the partnership between the two units and enhancing the care provided to patients who have craniofacial anomalies, developmental disabilities and special health care needs.

The spectrum of care available to patients at The Center is beyond compare. If you haven't yet had an opportunity to visit, I encourage you to do so.

And finally, returning to the Northwest offers a personal reward: my husband and I are thrilled to be closer to our two grandchildren and to reconnect with friends.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca L. Slayton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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University of Washington  
Heather Marks, MSW, Editor  
Contributing Editors: Cheryl Shaul  
Cliff Sanderlin  
Rhona Schwartz

Email: [hmarks@u.washington.edu](mailto:hmarks@u.washington.edu)

Phone: 206-543-0704

[www.dental.washington.edu](http://www.dental.washington.edu)

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