

ALUMNI NEWS

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Drs. Morton and Awamura establish endowed fellowship

In the future, where will outstanding scientists and academic leaders in children's oral health care come from? They will emerge from programs established by individuals like Drs. Thomas H. Morton and Kyoko Awamura who have a vision for the future of research in children's oral health care. The couple foresees a future when key developments in children's oral health care will come out of the University of Washington School of Dentistry.

Drs. Morton and Awamura are making a \$25,000 gift to establish the Pediatric Dentistry/Oral Biology Leadership in Children's Oral Health Research Endowed Fellowship. The purpose of this endowment is to provide financial assistance to graduate students in the School of Dentistry who are jointly enrolled in the

Department of Pediatric Dentistry specialty degree program and the PhD program in the Department of Oral Biology. "This is the first program of its type in the country," said Dr. Joel Berg, Professor, Lloyd and Kay Chapman Chair for Oral Health.

This gift will be matched with \$20,000 from the University of Washington as part of the Faculty-Staff Retiree Campaign for Students.

The new endowment serves to further the mission of the School of Dentistry to develop leaders in both academia and industry. Dr. Joel Berg explained that "our graduate program is built around training specialists for positions of leadership. Childhood caries is a major problem, and the solution will be to create leaders who are capable of solving this problem with public

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After 28 fabulous years in 'Pedo'...

Postgraduate Program Coordinator Dana Taylor guided all Pediatric Dentistry residents through the program. Now she graduates to retirement. See page 4.



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t h i s i s s u e

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Donor hall of fame
We salute you!

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New responsibilities
Faculty and staff changes



Dr. Rebecca Slayton

Faculty and staff take on new responsibilities

Dr. Rebecca Slayton assumes new duties as director of graduate program

DR. REBECCA SLAYTON BECAME GRADUATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR for the Department of Pediatric Dentistry January 1.

Before this appointment she was director of the ECOH (Early Childhood Oral Health) program in the department as well as research director. Dr. Slayton came to the University of Washington in 2004 from Oregon Health and Science University where she was chair of the Pediatric Dentistry Department.

She is the vice chair of the faculty council at the UW School of Dentistry. She is a diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry and serves as the Region 10 Head Start Oral Health Consultant. She serves as the District VI representative to the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Council on Scientific Affairs, is a member of the Advisory Council for the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry and was editor of the *Journal of Dentistry for Children* for the past year and a half. Currently she is co-investigator of a National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research-funded Genetics Education in Dentistry grant as well as co-investigator of a Center for Disease Control-funded grant entitled *Effectiveness of Population-Based Interventions to Promote Oral Health*.

Dr. Slayton received her DDS and PhD degrees from the University of Iowa as well as a specialty certificate in Pediatric Dentistry. Dr. Slayton focuses her research on genetic predisposition to dental caries. An experienced, skilled clinical teacher, Dr. Slayton has worked in two different faculty practices and lectures extensively on various topics in pediatric dentistry.



Dr. Jenn-Yih (Simon) Lin



Cheryl Shaul



Elide (Ellie) Quintero

Jenn-Yih (Simon) Lin, DDS, MS Director, ECOH

Dr. Jenn-Yih (Simon) Lin was named director of the Early Childhood Oral Health (ECOH) program in pediatric dentistry.

He received his certificate in Pediatric Dentistry and a master of science degree from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine, Boston. His molecular genetics research was conducted at Olsen Lab, Department of Cell Biology, Harvard Medical School, Boston.

Cheryl Shaul Graduate & Research Coordinator

Cheryl Shaul was appointed graduate program and research coordinator for the department.

Ms. Shaul coordinates several grant programs in the department including Leadership Education in Pediatric Dentistry (LEPED), Pediatric Education in Rural Areas (PEDiR), Head Start Training in Pediatric Dentistry (HSTPD), and Interdisciplinary Children's Oral Health Promotion (ICOHP). Since Dana Taylor's retirement, she also has taken on the graduate program coordinator duties. She has extensive experience as an editor and grant administrator, community outreach worker, medical education administrator, and dental assistant.

Elide (Ellie) Quintero Predoctoral Program Coordinator

Elide (Ellie) Quintero is the new predoctoral program coordinator for

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Head Start training grant for residents intends to help address oral health problems for underserved

Dr. Troy Hull, first-year resident, was selected as a current Head Start trainee, part of a two-year grant from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The purpose of the UW Head Start Training in Pediatric Dentistry program is to improve the health of maternal and child populations including infants, children, mothers and fathers through training leaders in pediatric dentistry, with a special focus on children in Head Start and Early Head Start programs (HS/EHS).

Poor oral health has been related to decreased school performance, poor social

Faculty and staff take on new roles and responsibilities

Continued from page 2

Pediatric Dentistry. Ms. Quintero started working at the University of Washington in 1994. Her previous experience was with the Attorney General's Office as an Office Assistant III. In the Pediatric Dentistry Department she will organize offsite predoctoral student rotations and the ECOH program and coordinate the 520/525 class.

Georgene Chiou ABCD Coordinator

Georgene Chiou was recently named coordinator for the statewide Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD) program. She will support outreach

efforts of participating counties. She also serves as administrative assistant to department chair, Dr. Joel Berg.



Georgene Chiou

relationships, and less success later in life. Key training goals include excellence in clinical pediatric dentistry; family-centered, culturally-appropriate care for Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) and other vulnerable populations, including HS/EHS children; public health competencies; research methods and practice; interdisciplinary and team experiences; and leadership training and opportunities.

One of the goals of this training program is to be a regional resource and provide educational resources to produce pediatric dentists with skills to address emerging problems in pediatric oral health for underserved populations. Pediatric Dentistry trainees will work with other interdisciplinary trainees in other sites. Last year's trainee, Dr. Leena Bitar, is researching statewide performance data.

Dr. Michiko Nishimura completes assignment

Michiko Nishimura, DDS, PhD, for the last two years a visiting scholar in the department, returned to Okayama University, Okayama, Japan, where she is an assistant professor.

An expert in caries risk assessment, Dr. Nishimura helped develop the Cariostat risk assessment test while here.

Dr. Joel Berg said, "I am very pleased that Dr. Nishimura's research will further the assessment tool for caries."

Dr. Joel Berg (right) presents to Dr. Michiko Nishimura a certificate from the department: "In appreciation for your contribution to the department and to children everywhere with the Cariostat Risk Assessment Test."



After 28 years in ‘Pedo,’ Dana Taylor gr

WHEN POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM COORDINATOR Dana Taylor departed Pediatric Dentistry at the end of January, she took with her 28 years of experience and the department’s historical memory, and left behind a successful grad program and a host of good friends and memories.



Third year resident, Dr. Yoo-Lee Yea (left), bids farewell to Ms. Taylor.

“Whenever we’ve had a question about a person, place or event from the past, the common response was, ‘Go ask Dana,’” said Cheryl Shaul, graduate and research coordinator—and Dana’s longtime office mate. “And she seems to know most of the people in the dental school.”

Why has she spent her entire UW employment in one department?

“It’s always been a great place to work,” Dana said. “It seems like everyone cares about everyone else. It was small when I started—six faculty and two staff including me. Even though the department has grown, it still feels small and personal. It feels right.”



Dana Taylor

Growth and change have been a part of her job. There was always a new person at the front desk, then managed by a first (postgraduate) program coordinator. Domoto started this residency program 20 years ago, was appointed department chair.

During her time at the UW, Dana was a pediatric dentistry resident. She has had a similar role for many years, supervising residents and students in the pediatric dentistry clinic.

And the changes she’s experienced:

- Faculty used dictaphones to record lectures.
- Office staff used typewriters to write letters.
- They did not have email; they used a fax machine.
- Copy machines were high quality.

Whenever we have had a question about an event from the past, the common response was, ‘Go ask Dana.’

Residents’ research analyzes factors in oral health

DR. YOO-LEE YEA and **DR. JOSEPH KELLY** are both participating in our three-year combined MPH/MSD program. Their thesis work will fulfill thesis requirements for both a Masters of Public Health and a Masters of Science in Dentistry. Dr. Yea and Dr. Kelly anticipate completing their degrees in June of this year.

For her masters thesis work, Dr. Yoo-Lee Yea is assessing the association of four caries risk assessment methods (parent interview, bacterial culture, and two acid detection methods) with caries outcome 8-12 months following initial assessment. This work will enable a recommendation to be made to pediatric health care workers regarding the relative effectiveness of each of these brief caries risk assessment methods.

For his masters thesis work, Dr. Joseph Kelly is conducting a cross-sectional study of dentists choosing to work among the American Indian/Alaska Native population. The survey assesses individual factors associated with the initial decision to serve this population, individual factors associated with remaining to serve this population, and environmental factors associated with remaining to serve this population. Information from this survey should contribute to efforts aimed at recruiting and retaining dental care providers for the American Indian/Alaska Native population.

DR. MARK STAPLETON is participating in our two-year MSD program. Dr. Stapleton’s masters thesis work involves an analysis of pediatric dentistry cases treated in the operating room of

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Graduates—to retirement!

en the norm for Dana. As the department evolved, always something new to learn. She started part-time at the clinic for six years, and finally, became the coordinator when professor emeritus Dr. Peter Domoto, who retired several years ago, was the department chair shortly before he hired Dana.

she has been the point of contact for every student that has graduated from the department. She also works with many of the affiliate faculty who work with the pediatric dentistry clinic.

experienced? Here are a few examples:

to relay letters;

ers, not computers;

tech.

Question about a person, place or thing and the response was, 'Go ask Dana.'

Health care

Children's Hospital during the years 2002-2004. Dr. Stapleton is analyzing the frequency with which dental treatment cases were combined with other surgical treatments (e.g., otolaryngology treatment). He is collecting descriptive data on patient demographics, medical diagnoses and reasons for treatment under general anesthesia. He will quantify the time and costs for such combined treatments and compare that to the time and costs involved in administering each treatment separately. Dr. Stapleton's work should help inform hospitals regarding the cost effectiveness of combining other medical procedures with dental treatment under general anesthesia.

Now it's another change for Dana. When retired, she will spend more time with her four grandchildren including volunteering in her granddaughter's kindergarten, and do more international travel with her husband, Professor Norman Taylor, retired Chair of Sculpture, Department of Art, University of Washington.

For those who want to contact Dana in her life after Pediatric Dentistry, her new email address is danakay98117@gmail.com.



Friends attending Dana's retirement party included Kent Chase (top photo), Dr. Peter and Sylvia Domoto, Dr. Bertha Barriga, and Dr. Penny Leggott (bottom photo).



Dana Taylor (left) also worked with Dr. Michiko Nishimura (right), visiting scholar from Japan. Dr. Nishimura wrote the following farewell for Ms. Taylor:

"Dana, thank you very much for your help while I was here—and take care of yourself. You have a lot of fans. I deeply hope you and your family's happiness and health.

"I like to hear your big laugh, Linda's biggest laugh, Heather's big laugh, and Cheryl's laugh. Now, your soprano voice is gone, so they will become an alto choir." See page 3 for more information about Dr. Nishimura.

Alumnus Dr. Wes Odani who traditionally sent leis to the graduation class, sent the one Dana wears.

Fellowship first of its type in the country

Continued from page 1

health approaches or through basic science research.”

Since outstanding scientists will be needed in all the dental specialties, Dr. Ken Izutsu, Chair of Oral Biology, said Drs. Awamura and Morton hope that this endowment will serve as a model for the development of similar programs in all departments.

“It is important,” said Dr. Izutsu, “to recruit PhD candidates who have a strong interest in relevant research in specific clinical specialties. Our long range goal is to partner Oral Biology with all departments to focus research efforts on specific problems that impact oral health and patient treatment in the various clinical specialties. It is important to work with clinical department faculty who can identify students who may become outstanding faculty for the future.”

Dr. Berg added that, “this is the kind of opportunity that might attract a talented graduate who previously had not considered an academic or research career.”

By establishing this fellowship, Drs. Morton and Awamura acknowledge the mentorship they received from Dr. Peter Domoto, past chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, and Dr. Thompson Lewis. They wish to support their two departments – Oral Biology and Pediatric Dentistry – by ensuring that outstanding faculty will be there for future students.

Dr. Thomas H. Morton, Jr., DDS, MSD, graduated from Creighton University School of Dentistry in 1972 and earned his Certificate and MSD in Oral Pathology from the University of Washington in 1975. Since then, he has served as a member of the faculty and is currently a professor jointly appointed in the departments of Oral Biology and Oral Medicine. He has also served in an administrative capacity for the School of Dentistry, as Assistant and Associate Dean for Student Services, Curriculum and Admissions, and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs from 1988-2002 and Director of Community-based Oral Health Sciences Programs from 2002-2004. Dr. Morton has made innumerable contributions to the profession and the University as an educator, researcher and clinician over the course of his career, and is currently the recipient of over twenty professional honors and awards.

Dr. Kyoko Awamura, DDS, MS, MSD, graduated from the University of Washington School of Dentistry in 1987 and earned a Masters in Public Health in 1991 and her MSD and Certificate in Pediatric Dentistry from the University in 1996. In addition to building a private practice in pediatric dentistry, she became a clinical instructor in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry in 1996 and has served as an affiliate instructor since 1999. She is a Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry.

Drs. Morton and Awamura recognize the tremendous need that exists for support of students and faculty to maintain the future excellence of the profession. It is their hope that additional gifts will be made to this endowment fund or that other endowments will be established in other clinical specialties.

The couple foresees a future when ‘key developments in children’s oral health care’ will come out of the University of Washington School of Dentistry.

We salute our donors for 2005!

Thank you to all the wonderful donors in 2005 who supported the Department of Pediatric Dentistry programs to promote oral health in children.

Drs. Kyoko Awamura & Thomas H. Morton, Jr.

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Dr. Barry D. Barrus

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

Collaborative effort strives for early childhood oral health, especially for children at greatest risk

IN DECEMBER OF 2005, the Centers for Disease Control issued the alarming report that although caries rates remained the same or declined in most age classes, the caries experience increased in preschool children. Given that dental caries is essentially a preventable disease, it becomes imperative that we do what is necessary to direct our efforts toward managing this most prevalent disease, with a focus on health. With so much of our resources spent battling the results of dental caries, it is challenging to think of a world where oral health prevails over oral disease in our children. This is particularly true for those at greatest risk.

This is the reason we have created the Center for Early Childhood Oral Health (ECOH) at the University of Washington. I discovered early in my tenure here at the UW that experts from a variety of disciplines are focused on preventing early childhood oral disease. We counted more than 20 funded studies that view various aspects of this problem. Partners from the School of Public Health, the Medical School, the School of Nursing, the School of Engineering as well as the School of Dentistry are addressing this problem in a variety of ways. The ECOH Center exists to create a “conceptual center” through which we can coalesce and manage the collective work of the various parties. With so much research going on, it is essential that we capitalize on our greatest asset by merging our efforts and disseminating findings through the ECOH Center’s infrastructure. Via this center, we will educate future leaders with a new perspective that will look at global solutions by identifying successful local interventions.

I am very proud and honored each day to work around so many talented people with so many unique perspectives on this continuing problem. The interdisciplinary collaborations here at UW are leading us toward finding the right answers. Behavioral experts, microbiologists and clinicians, as well as many others must talk together regularly to share their insights to create the right answers. As Dr. Colleen Huebner, epidemiologist from the School of Public Health and adjunct faculty member in Pediatric Dentistry always reminds us, we must continue to “keep the lens farther out” to maintain our focus on the big picture.

I am excited to keep you informed about the many achievements of the Center for Early Childhood Oral Health.

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