

Spring 2012

VCU PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

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VCU School of Dentistry
Department of Pediatric Dentistry

A Note from the Chair

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Did You Know?

- Dr. Elizabeth Berry was elected Chair of the Faculty as of 2011. Kudos, Liz!
- We have a Facebook page. Check us out at: www.facebook.com/PediatricDentistryAtVCU

Dear Friends,

We have completed another successful year in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry.

This year brought with it many positive changes. We greeted a new dean, Dr. David C. Sarrett, DMD, MS, who is actively seeking out ways to advance the VCU School of Dentistry and its many departments. The Pediatric Dentistry Board of Advisors was established as a way to provide much needed input to our department from our alumni and friends. We've seen the development of our residents into exceptional practitioners and said goodbye to excellent residents and hello to fresh new faces.

As we finish the 2011-2012 school year, we look forward to

continued growth and many more positive changes. If you have not been back to your alma mater, I encourage you to visit us to see these improvements for yourself. As you can see from this newsletter, we have had some wonderful achievements recently and much more to accomplish.

The Department of Pediatric Dentistry would not be successful without you, our alumni and friends. I welcome your feedback, thoughts and input regarding our newsletter, our website and the program in general. If you have news that you'd like to share with the rest of the alumni or stories you'd like to see covered in our biannual newsletter, please feel free to submit topics to Jean Meredith (jmeredith@vcu.edu).



Thank you for your kindness and support.

Best Wishes,

Tegwyn H. Brickhouse, DDS
PhD

Residency Program News



Class of 2011 (left to right)
Dr. Andrew Reed, Dr. James Dibelka, Dr. Malinda Husson, Dr. Justin Edwards

The **Class of 2011** has settled nicely into their careers with **James Dibelka** currently serving in the U.S. Navy as a pediatric dentist in Okinawa, Japan. He is planning to open a practice in the Roanoke area upon completion of his duties.

Justin Edwards is working in private practice in Newport News, VA and recently became engaged to Kristin Coffield, a former staff member in Pediatric Dentistry@VCU and now a

first year dental student.

Andrew Reed opened his own practice in Gallatin, Tennessee last year. As the practice is growing, he is also working part-time in Clarksville, Tennessee with AAPD District 3 Trustee, Dr. Jean Beauchamp.

Malinda Husson is now a full-time faculty member in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry at VCU.

The **Class of 2012** (our second

year residents) are working hard in their last few months at VCU. In addition to their clinic hours and transitioning the 1st Year Residents into their 2nd Year, they are completing their research projects, writing their Master's Theses and preparing for the written ABPD exam. All the 2nd Year Residents are planning to enter private practice upon their completion of the program.

(Continued on Page 2)



Dr. Patrice Wunsch



Dr. Malinda Husson



Dr. Elizabeth Bortell

Faculty News

Recruitment of New Faculty

We added two full-time members, Dr. Patrice B. Wunsch effective August 1, 2011 and Dr. Malinda Husson effective July 1, 2011.

Dr. Wunsch received her dental degree from Marquette University in 1986 and then completed five years of active service in the United States Army. In 2002, she graduated from the University of Maryland in Baltimore with a certificate in Pediatric Dentistry and a MS in Oral Biology. She was Board Certified in Pediatric Dentistry in 2006. She was an Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland since 2003 and, in 2007, became Chief of Dental Services at Kernan Hospital. Dr. Wunsch serves as Associate Professor and Director of Advanced Education Program in Pediatric Dentistry.

Dr. Husson attended Marshall University and obtained her BS in 1998. In 2002 she graduated from West Virginia University School of Dentistry in Morgantown, WV with a DDS. Dr. Husson completed a General Practice Residency at Veterans

Affairs Medical Center in Washington, DC in 2003 and then practiced as a general dentist providing care for special needs patients in Harrisonburg, Va. from 2003 to 2004. She attended Mount Sinai Medical Center School of Medicine Dental Anesthesiology residency program from 2004 to 2006 and practiced dental anesthesiology and general dentistry from 2006 to 2009 in Alexandria, VA. In 2009 she completed a 2 year MSD program in Pediatric Dentistry at VCU. Dr. Husson serves as Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry and as Director of Anesthesia Services for the Department of Pediatric Dentistry.



Elizabeth B. Bortell, DDS

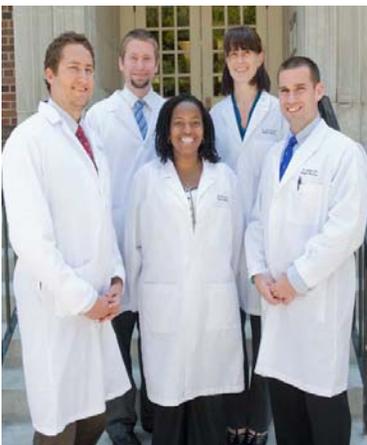
It has been another great year at the Brook Road campus of Children's Hospital of Richmond (CHoR) at VCU. The first and second year residents have been busy providing outstanding care to our patients and are a welcome addition to our prac-

tice.

The Brook Road Campus has a Transitional Care Unit for children who require continuous medical care and specialized services in a hospital setting. The pediatric dental residents have the unique experience of caring for the patients that reside in our long-term care facility. They experience providing care bedside, as well as in the clinic. Many of our Transitional Care patients have rare and complex medical conditions that provide an excellent learning experience for our residents. The residents also provide care in our clinic for well children and children with special needs.

We are very grateful for the kind and compassionate care the residents have provided to our patients. It has been a pleasure and honor to work with such dedicated and gifted professionals. We would like to thank the graduating second year residents for the kindness and exceptional care they have given our patients, as we look forward to a new class of outstanding residents in July.

Residency Program News (continued from page 1)



Class of 2012 (left to right)
Dr. Charles Davis, Jr., Dr. Christian Peck, Dr. Rana Graham-Montaque, Dr. Belinda Campbell, Dr. Andrew Zale.

Belinda Campbell, a recent Mom (Congrats on your beautiful baby Kerrigan!), plans on an Associateship in Colorado or the Northwest near her family.

Charles Davis, Jr. will enter practice in Tuscon, AZ with his father, Charles Davis, Sr.

Rana Graham-Montaque is busy developing her own practice with plans to open in Williamsburg, VA.

Christian Peck is entering private practice in the Northwest (hopefully near a ski resort).

Andrew Zale, Chief Resident, is moving to his hometown of

Pottstown, PA to become an associate with his childhood dentist.

Good luck to all of the 2nd Year Residents in their future endeavors!

The **Class of 2013** (1st Year Residents) are focusing on their research projects and clinical hours. In a few short months, they will take over the leadership roles in the program as the Class of 2014 arrives in July. We know they'll be well prepared! Finally, congratulations to **Kristin Hodgson**, who was elected next year's Chief Resident.

2012 AAPD Lobby Day

Barrett W. R. Peters, DDS

In early March, Drs. Brickhouse and Wunsch along with four residents traveled to Washington, DC to participate in the 2012 AAPD Lobby Day. During this time we met with our Virginia Congressional offices regarding Title VII funding and the essential pediatric oral health benefit. This was an informative and educational time that inspired us become advocates for our profession and the oral health of children for many years to come.

In the Spotlight

VCU garnered national attention and press coverage in November 2011 when a team of surgeons separated conjoined twins Maria and Teresa Tapia. The procedure, which brought together nearly 50 pediatric specialists, lasted a grueling 22 hours but yielded positive results and two happy, healthy 19-month-old little girls.

Following their surgical procedure, the Tapia twins with their mother, Lisandra Sanatis, visited the VCU School of Dentistry for a dental check-up. According to Dr. Tegwyn Brickhouse, Chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry, "Those little girls have big personalities!"

Both girls received a dental exam, cleaning and a fluoride varnish treatment in the Pediatric Dentistry@VCU practice, and both have healthy, pretty teeth. Dr. Brickhouse remembered that one of the twins was very excited, while the other was more hesitant. "Teresa is a budding dentist! Maria was a little shy, so Teresa helped her learn to brush her teeth with their new Dora the Explorer toothbrushes."

Maria and Teresa's relationship with VCU began in 2010 when the twins and their mother first visited the medical campus from their home country, the Dominican Republic. After giv-

ing birth to her conjoined twins, Sanatis was told to simply take her children home. She connected with the Dominican Republic's first lady and eventually discovered the World Pediatric Project (WPP), an international organization based in Richmond, Virginia that provides surgical and diagnostic care to Central American and Caribbean children. Through the WPP, the Tapia twins received top-quality healthcare and will return to VCU for their normal check-ups. Maria and Teresa's saga was even captured on film as a special on The Learning Channel, "Conjoined Twins: Separation Anxiety."



Teresa, Lisandra, Maria & Dr. Tegwyn Brickhouse

News From Alumni and Friends

Preparing for the Future

Carl O. Atkins, Jr., DDS

It starts simply enough; as young people, we want to emulate individuals who positively impact our lives, such as assisting a teacher or being a "junior lifeguard." As teenagers, we discover the satisfaction in showing a younger child how to complete a task we have already mastered or tutoring another student. What we are doing, in reality, is teaching by example - passing knowledge on to others. This is especially meaningful when sharing things that we enjoy.

As an undergraduate student, my most enjoyable clinical experience was in the Pediatric Dental Clinic. Here the emphasis was on the child - gaining their trust, helping them cooperate and managing their behavior with finesse rather than treating them like small adults. The faculty were adept at easing children's fears and were able to make receiving dental care a positive, lighthearted experience for both the patients and their parents. We learned to be

confident and nurturing, and to "get things right" on the first try!

I could easily see that this was the specialty for me. I enjoyed using skills I had begun developing earlier in life (as a swimming instructor, for example) - relating to children, easing their fears, while using my clinical dental skills in a fun environment. I tried to absorb the best characteristics of each instructor I encountered, learning from their clinical experience which techniques were most effective.

Fast forward thirty years - through many, many cases, both complex and routine, I have been able to ascertain what is successful in this specialty and what is perhaps less valuable. In my busy private practice, I have been able to fine-tune the care delivered. Keeping it fun for the patient remains important, and interacting with children remains a daily pleasure for me. Each time I teach in the clinic, I bring a topic of interest for the undergraduates and residents to discuss during down time. I enjoy encouraging new dentists

to apply their developing knowledge base and expand their skills, and I am happy for them to learn from both my successes and my failures. It is an honor to be part of preparing new dentists to care for our children.

Give Kids a Smile

Elizabeth J. Berry, DDS

Pediatric Dentistry@VCU provided \$52,971 of dental care on Give Kids a Smile (GKAS) Day in February. Faculty, staff, residents and students worked together providing free dental care to 91 patients.

This year, additional follow-up care will be provided to the children and families treated on GKAS day at VCU. The Virginia Oral Health Coalition in partnership with Pediatric Dentistry@VCU received an award of \$18,750 for the ADA Foundation GKAS Continuity of Care Grant. This grant has enabled the development of a case management system to assist children from the GKAS event at VCU. Many children will subsequently receive pro bono restor-

ative care, and families will be assisted to enroll into systems of care and thus connect with a dental home.

Dr. Elizabeth Berry, Assistant Professor, and Kristin Coffield, Patient Care Coordinator for GKAS at VCU, coordinated the effort and continue to work to provide follow-up care to the patients treated. Per Dr. Berry, "There are so many families in our local community that are uninsured and underinsured and have unmet dental needs. Our hope is to provide not only follow-up care, but also a dental home to many of these patients."

Jamaica Project 2012

Alex M. Kordis, DDS

The Jamaica Project for 2012 is underway with D3 students gathering supplies, fund raising, and assisting with locating alumni.

Check out happenings, colleagues and memories at <http://www.facebook.com/jamaicaproject>.

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Alumni Name
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City, State Zip

AAPD San Diego

AAPD San Diego!

You are invited to the VCU/MCV Alumni & Friends Reception
at the

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Meeting in San Diego, California



To be held on Saturday, May 26th from 6 to 8 pm
at the

The San Diego Marquis Hotel

Torrey Pines 3, North Tower, Lobby Level

Please come by and say hello to new and old friends

Congratulate our 2012 graduating residents, Belinda, Charles,

Rana, Christian and Andrew

RSVP to Elaine: ejshaw@vcu.edu

Graduate Student Research Award

Dr. Malinda Husson has been selected as one of eight 2012 finalists for the NuSmile Graduate Student Research Award. Her research abstract will be published in the April edition of the AAPD Pediatric Dentistry Journal. In addition, she will deliver a presentation at the 65th AAPD Annual Session in San Diego, California.

The finalist judged to have accomplished the most outstanding research based on manuscript submission and presentation will receive an overall award, *The Ralph E. McDonald Award*.

Let's all wish Dr. Husson the best as she represents VCU and the Department of Pediatric Dentistry at the AAPD session this year.