Office of Educational Partnerships and Diversity

Heading to Eastern Washington in the Early Morning

OEPD builds infrastructure to support dental student participation in community outreach with the goals of improving access to care for underserved communities and increasing workforce diversity in the oral health professions.

Autumn 2017 Newsletter

Teeth & Toes at Mary’s Place & Chief Seattle Club

The aim of the Teeth and Toes student outreach program is to provide oral health screening, education and foot care services to women, men and children residing in Mary’s Place Family Center, Chief Seattle Club, ROOTS, and other shelters in the Seattle area. The program also emphasizes interprofessional collaboration between nursing, medical and dental students at the University of Washington. The health professional students plan and run each session. Services consist of screening for tooth decay, periodontal disease, oral mucosal lesions and foot problems (including oral and foot signs of diabetes). Oral hygiene instruction and home care packets with tooth brushes and floss are provided. Referrals were made to nearby community dental clinics for any necessary treatment. For some of the children present at the shelter, this referral would lead to their very first dental appointment. The medical and nursing students wash and inspect the client’s feet and provide foot home care packets with new pairs of socks. The sessions are held approximately 1-2 times per quarter. Our newest Teeth and Toes partner is the Chief Seattle Club, located in Pioneer Square, which provides a safe and sacred place to serve the needs of homeless and low income urban American Indian and Alaskan Native individuals.

Union Gospel Mission (UGM)

The Union Gospel Mission (UGM) provide resources such as emergency food and shelter, an addiction recovery program, dental and mental health services for homeless individuals. Dental care remains a top unmet need for both men and women. Untreated oral disease can affect their general health and impact the ability to apply for jobs when they have missing teeth, visible cavities, or bad breath caused by periodontal disease. Each quarter, groups of 6-8 dental students in all levels of training partner with UGM staff, Juanita Banks and Sherena Freeman, and volunteer Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings to provide dental care at the UGM dental clinic in Pioneer Square. Many of the students have volunteered at this clinic prior to dental school and continue after they graduate. Under the supervision of UWSD faculty members, students are able to provide the clients with basic dental services valued at thousands of dollars per session. These sessions occur approximately 12 times per quarter.

"The most rewarding aspect of this experience was being able to give dental care to two individuals who told us that without the UGM program and the UWSD they would not be able to receive the dental care they desperately needed.”

–Gavin McNelis, D2

ORALM 651

Health and Homelessness Lecture series

Health and Homelessness, ORALM 651 is an interprofessional course that aims to inform dental students and their health sciences colleagues about factors that lead to homelessness and the inter-relationship between oral, systemic, and behavioral health and the lack of access to care. The course takes place five Thursdays each quarter from 12:30 to 1:20 pm with presentations by community partners and care providers who serve our low income or homeless communities or other groups with limited access to health care. Requirements for the course include a minimum of 6 hours of service in the community which provide an opportunity for students to learn while providing service. The presentations are open to all faculty, students and staff.

Previous Speakers

Dr. Ana Lucia Seminario
Oral Cancer Burden and Health Care Utilization Among HIV infected Children in Nevada

Joseph Saia
New Horizons Young Adult Emergency Shelter

Arman Altug
Hispanic Education Project

Patty Hayes
Seattle Public Health’s Healthcare for the Homeless Network and the Opiate Addiction Task Force

Dr. Steve Albright
Experiences in Global Dental Care

Dr. Beatrice Gandara
How Our Dental Students Help Our Underserved Communities

Dr. Kim Espinosa
Special Olympics Special Smiles

Barbara Hagel, Meghan Attinone, Christy Stanfield
Homeless, Homeless Children and Homeless Individuals

Dr. Winfred Booker
Pathways to Improving Access to Care & the Powerful Role of Dentists

Upcoming Speakers

Cindy Roat
Greater Seattle Cares

Dental students providing dental care to a patient under the supervision of Dr. Austin Barufi

Amelia Skifstad (D3) mentoring a medical student applying fluoride varnish at Mary’s Place.

Mari-Alina Timoshchuk (D3), Dr. Josephine Ensign, and a Nursing student performing a foot screening at Chief Seattle Club.
Providing Dental Care in Mt. Vernon, WA at the Northwest Career and Technical Academy (NCTA)

A monthly collaboration between NCTA and Safe Harbor Free Medical Clinic, MEDEX Northwest Physician Assistant Program, Medical Teams International, and the University of Washington School of Dentistry offers a unique inter-professional opportunity to evaluate and educate patients of the Safe Harbor Free Medical Clinic prior to patients receiving dental care. Dental and physician assistant students address frequently under-diagnosed or poorly controlled conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and asthma which impact low income individuals disproportionately. Follow-up primary care is coordinated and arranged through Safe Harbor Free Clinic. The clinic runs every third Saturday of the month from 8 Am - 2PM. Services include medical history review, vital signs assessment, blood glucose monitoring, head and neck examinations, ENT screenings, radiographs, dental cleanings, restorative care, oral surgical treatment and oral hygiene instruction. During the 2016-17 school year, volunteers compiled over 2300 total hours of service in this program. Learn more about this outreach at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=awa4ypp-oTk.

Migrant Farm Worker Outreach

In the early hours of June 19, 2017, RIDE dental students left Spokane while their Seattle based classmates left Seattle to meet in Quincy, WA, for a day of dental care for migrant farm workers working in the area. This activity represented the efforts of two UWSD student-led organizations, Husky Health Bridge and the Hispanic Student Dental Association (HSDA). Promotoras (health outreach coordinators) from Quincy Community Health Clinics, led by Mary Jo Ybarra, a social worker, facilitated the clinic, along with our frequent partner, Medical Teams International, who supplied a dental van. A second event for migrant farm workers, in partnership with SeaMar Clinics, took place in Mt. Vernon later in the summer. Pre-health professional students participating in the Summer Health Professions Education Program also participated. Besides the opportunity for unique cultural exchanges with Spanish or indigenous language speakers, the students had the opportunity to provide much needed dental care for those who help feed our markets and our communities.

Community Health Professions Academy (CHPA)

Dental Academy, (now called Community Health Professions Academy or CHPA), is an enrichment program for under-represented high school students in Washington state with a goal of inspiring and supporting interest in health professional careers. The program consists of seven Saturday sessions in which dental and pre-health students, faculty and OEPD AmeriCorps members volunteer their time to provide health professional career information and hands-on experiences such as suturing, impression-taking and waxing teeth. In the Winter and Spring of 2017, a group of seventeen high school students heard from local dentists and physicians about their journeys to their professions. The scholars, with guidance from their dental student mentors, prepared and presented personal digital stories which they shared with family and friends for their final session. Topics chosen ranged from personal stories to relevant health issues in their communities.

SHPEP Summer Health Professions Education Program

The Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP), formerly known as the Summer Medical and Dental Education Program (SMDEP), is an all-expenses paid summer enrichment program focused on improving access to information and resources for underrepresented college students interested in the health professions. The program is made possible through a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant. The University of Washington site is a collaboration between the three UW health professional schools of Medicine, Dentistry and Public Health. SHPEP’s goal is to strengthen the academic proficiency and career development of students of historically underrepresented backgrounds. The program offers students a variety of academic and career experiences, such as clinical exposure through small group rotations in health care settings; simulation experiences, and seminars; and career development sessions directed toward exploration of the health professions, the admission process, and the development of an individualized education plan.

The Office of Educational Partnership and Diversity (OEPD) help with SHPEP each year during the planning stage, as well as during the day-to-day activities of this 6 week summer program. Additionally, the School of Dentistry hosts dental simulation labs where dental students teach the scholars techniques in waxing, suturing, and impression-taking over series of four workshops.

2018 Application Link: goo.gl/forms/3GklzHzoP6q83cQi3 Deadline is Dec. 1st 11:59PM PST

SHPEP Program Dates: June 17 – July 28, 2018

Dr. Luis Acevedo Rodriguez (UWSOD Class of 2014) teaching scholars, Lizbeth and Michael, suturing techniques during Session 6 of the program.

Marcus Hwang (D2) and Arley Medrano (D4) providing an oral examination as a Physician Assistant student observes.

Alba Weaver (D3) and Sina Mousavi (D4) examining a patient in Skagit.

Tony Yan (D4) and Ashley Basher (D2) treating a patient in the MTI van in Quincy.

Ryan Wahlin (D2) demonstrating mixing alginate material for dental impressions for SHPEP scholars.

Cambria Cunningham (D2) overseeing a SHPEP scholar teeth waxing in the dental sim lab.

2018 Application Link: apps.aamc.org/smdep/ App opens Dec. 1st and closes Feb. 15th
Empowering Youth for Health Careers
Moses Lake and Wenatchee, WA

On March 4th, and October 14th, 2017, the University of Washington health professional students, including RIDE students and Seattle dental students, as well as medical students, UW alumni, faculty, staff, AmeriCorps members, community organizations and volunteers, traveled to Moses Lake and Wenatchee in Eastern Washington to provide full day health professional career events. Ruben Reyes, 2nd year UW dental student, organized fellow RIDE and WWAMI students to participate, providing an excellent focus on these programs. Over 200 high school students participated in both programs, the majority from underrepresented communities. The mission for Empowering Youth for Health Careers is to motivate and inspire high school students to pursue careers in healthcare through engagement with hands-on activities, student panels, a health career resource fair, and professional networking opportunities. This one-day pipeline program provided students with support and guidance to help them achieve their higher educational endeavors.

Tulalip, WA, Health Careers Potlach

Native American communities are greatly under-represented in the dental profession despite the high need for more providers. In collaboration with the Tulalip Tribes, the UW School of Dentistry hosted an all-day health professions program on January 14 of this year at Tulalip, WA. The event provided Native American youth with health career information and hands-on experience with suturing and traditional plant medicine. Dr. Jason Deen (Blackfeet), a pediatric cardiologist at Seattle Children’s and Dr.Terry Maresca (Mohawk), a UW primary care physician, spoke about their career journeys and participated in the hands-on sessions. Lindsay Montileaux Mabbutt (Oglala-Lakota), now a first year UW dental student, focused on public health and her work in Native American communities. Dr. Deborah Chun (Native Hawaiian) shared her experiences in behavioral health as a psychologist. An excellent suturing clinic was led by Peter Holmes, 4th year dental student who trained second and third year dental students to teach suturing. In the summer of 2018, the Society of American Indian Dentists annual meeting will be held in Seattle, presenting another opportunity to engage Native American youth in WA state in exploring health professions.

Husky Health Bridge

One of our newest student led outreach programs is the Husky Health Bridge (HHB). It was founded by a dedicated group of University of Washington School of Dentistry students with the vision to provide the poor and underserved with access to comprehensive healthcare through interprofessional relief efforts, education, and advocacy in Washington State. During Winter Quarter, HHB teamed up with Greater Seattle Cares and Medical Teams International (MTI) to help make visiting the dentist a little easier for residents of Tent City 3 (TC3) while they were hosted at the University of Washington. On March 11th and February 4th the doors to the UW Fisheries Science Building were open for free dental services. These outreach efforts brought together enough dental equipment and volunteers to treat five patients concurrently. All procedures were performed under the supervision of UW SOD faculty. HHB recognizes the need for dental care goes beyond TC3 and Seattle, so they have served other communities such as Camp Second Chance and just recently co-sponsored Camp Outlaw in Quincy with the Hispanic Student Dental Association. Thus far, HHB collaborations have provided treatment to seventy-two patients, many with complex dental problems. We are excited to follow this group’s exemplary service as they continue to provide care on a monthly basis.

Husky Smiles by a Husky Smiles Student Leader

Tooth decay is the number one chronic childhood disease. As dental professionals, we always talk about the importance of prevention and treating the root of the disease instead of constantly trying to patch up the problem with restorations. The mission of Husky Smiles is to address the problem at the root.

Their goal is to improve the oral health of high risk children and their families by providing dental education and primary preventative care. They coordinate extensively with the Center for Pediatric Dentistry and neighborhood community organizations to host oral health education events and caries screenings.

Through tabling at oral health education events, dental students aim to teach kids and their families the causes of tooth decay and effective preventative strategies. Colorful illustrations, food games, and sugar bug bean bag tosses are different strategies students use to educate the families in a fun and interactive manner. At screening events, students perform knee to knee exams, caries detection exams, deliver fluoride to at-risk populations, and refer patients to find a dental home. Husky Smiles commonly sees children at screening events that never have been to the dentist before, have rampant baby bottle decay, or early childhood caries. It not only provides an invaluable resource to the community, but it is also a fun and humbling learning experience for dental student volunteers to interact with patients.
Chelsea Stone, MPH  
Program Coordinator

Chelsea Stone is from the foothills of the Cascade Mountains in Issaquah, WA. The 2017-2018 school year is her first as the Program Coordinator for the Office of Educational Partnership and Diversity at the UW School of Dentistry. Graduating from Gonzaga University in 2012 and from Drexel University School of Public Health in 2014, Chelsea decided to continue onto Peace Corps Cambodia as a High School English Teacher. From there, she grew her analytical epidemiology skill at the Navy Marine Corps Public Health Center in Portsmouth, Virginia. She is excited to be back in the Pacific Northwest and in Seattle organizing outreach programs for UW Dental students.

Kaeli Heidenreich  
WSC AmeriCorps, Project Coordinator

Kaeli Heidenreich recently graduated from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Science in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. While an undergraduate, Kaeli indulged her interest in Botany and Plant Medicine through her work in research which partly influenced her decision to pursue a career in medicine. She was born and raised in Flint, MI which made national headlines in 2014 due to the Flint Water Crisis. Her personal background has motivated her to pursue a degree in public health as well as her decision to complete a year of service with the AmeriCorps. When at home, she enjoys playing with her two English bulldogs and hitting the slopes with her ski gear.

Bernice Klise  
WSC AmeriCorps, Project Coordinator

Bernice grew up in nearby Bremerton, Washington and after five long years of studying in Eastern Washington, she is happy to have returned to the Seattle area. She graduated from Washington State University with a degree in Biology and Spanish and is actively pursuing a career in Dentistry. She spent much of her undergraduate career promoting study abroad programs which inspired her interest in coordinating outreach programs for scholars interested in the health field. Outside of work, Bernice spends most of her time in and around the water and is always excited to try new food. She looks forward to working with the UW School of Dentistry to serve the Washington community.

Erica Qiao  
WSC AmeriCorps, Project Coordinator

Erica is a graduate of the University of Washington-Bothell, where she earned her Bachelor in Biology and minor in Chemistry. She also focused her undergraduate time building teams to implement programs to alleviate social and health inequity in her communities. Erica grew up swimming in the Kirkland Juanita Beach waters, climbing up trees, and running through the endless corn fields in rural China. Through her experiences in both homes, she is pursuing medicine and hopes to focus on alleviating health disparities and serving the underserved communities in Washington. In her free time, she enjoys volunteering at her local pet adoption center, trying out new food recipes and spending time with her family and friends.

Over the past 7 years, AmeriCorps members have supported almost all of the work of our dedicated dental students and faculty in developing and sustaining volunteer community outreach activities. From the AmeriCorps website: “The AmeriCorps Network (AmeriCorps State & National) consists of local, regional, and national organizations who are committed to using national service to address critical community needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment. Through their service, AmeriCorps members gain valuable skills, along with quantifiable professional and educational benefits, and the experience has a lasting impact on the members and the communities they serve.” Our OEPD AmeriCorps members have served one year terms and upon completing, almost all have gone on to or are about to enter health professional schools.

We thank the AmeriCorps program and sponsors for their placement to work with our students.

Meet the new OEPD Office!

Chelsea Stone, MPH  
Program Coordinator

Chelsea Stone is from the foothills of the Cascade Mountains in Issaquah, WA. The 2017-2018 school year is her first as the Program Coordinator for the Office of Educational Partnership and Diversity at the UW School of Dentistry. Graduating from Gonzaga University in 2012 and from Drexel University School of Public Health in 2014, Chelsea decided to continue onto Peace Corps Cambodia as a High School English Teacher. From there, she grew her analytical epidemiology skill at the Navy Marine Corps Public Health Center in Portsmouth, Virginia. She is excited to be back in the Pacific Northwest and in Seattle organizing outreach programs for UW Dental students.

Kaeli Heidenreich  
WSC AmeriCorps, Project Coordinator

Kaeli Heidenreich recently graduated from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Science in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. While an undergraduate, Kaeli indulged her interest in Botany and Plant Medicine through her work in research which partly influenced her decision to pursue a career in medicine. She was born and raised in Flint, MI which made national headlines in 2014 due to the Flint Water Crisis. Her personal background has motivated her to pursue a degree in public health as well as her decision to complete a year of service with the AmeriCorps. When at home, she enjoys playing with her two English bulldogs and hitting the slopes with her ski gear.

Bernice Klise  
WSC AmeriCorps, Project Coordinator

Bernice grew up in nearby Bremerton, Washington and after five long years of studying in Eastern Washington, she is happy to have returned to the Seattle area. She graduated from Washington State University with a degree in Biology and Spanish and is actively pursuing a career in Dentistry. She spent much of her undergraduate career promoting study abroad programs which inspired her interest in coordinating outreach programs for scholars interested in the health field. Outside of work, Bernice spends most of her time in and around the water and is always excited to try new food. She looks forward to working with the UW School of Dentistry to serve the Washington community.

Erica Qiao  
WSC AmeriCorps, Project Coordinator

Erica is a graduate of the University of Washington-Bothell, where she earned her Bachelor in Biology and minor in Chemistry. She also focused her undergraduate time building teams to implement programs to alleviate social and health inequity in her communities. Erica grew up swimming in the Kirkland Juanita Beach waters, climbing up trees, and running through the endless corn fields in rural China. Through her experiences in both homes, she is pursuing medicine and hopes to focus on alleviating health disparities and serving the underserved communities in Washington. In her free time, she enjoys volunteering at her local pet adoption center, trying out new food recipes and spending time with her family and friends.