The Department of Diagnostic Sciences, chaired by John Shaner, DMD, associate professor of diagnostic sciences and director of clinical teams, became operational with the start of the summer clinic in May. The department aims to improve the educational experience for students and increase clinical efficiencies.

“The formation of this department is a reflection of the growing importance of new technology available in dentistry to aid in diagnosis,” said Mark Latta, DMD, MS, dean.

Focus

The department will focus on the accurate identification of head and neck pathology for patients in the dental clinic, including oral cancer screening, medical risk assessments and the development of a comprehensive treatment plan. Faculty and staff members have specialty training and clinical expertise in oral diagnosis and treatment planning, oral and maxillofacial pathology and oral and maxillofacial radiology.

“An accurate diagnosis and treatment plan impacts all of the school’s other clinical departments,” said Shaner. “Having these functions operate at the departmental level allows for better planning and coordination with departments and improved management of students and their patients.”

Dr. Shaner has taught full-time at Creighton since 1999, after retiring from the U.S. Air Force. He has served as division head of diagnosis and treatment planning with General Dentistry since 2008, and as director of clinical teams since 2009.

Maxillofacial Imaging Center

In support of the new department, a Maxillofacial Imaging Center has been created, from the consolidation of the clinic’s two Cone-Beam Computerized Tomography (CBCT) units, an advanced form of digital dental radiography, to better support dental school patients and an increasing number of outside dental office referrals. The school will also open an Oral Pathology Consultant office, to provide easier access for oral pathology consults, and install another intraoral radiographic unit and chair to improve access for radiographs.

“We are committed to achieving the best educational environment possible for our students by maximizing their clinical experiences while providing excellent care for our patients and service to the citizens of our community. Our focus on care and education will be enhanced by this new department structure,” said Dr. Latta.
A legacy of transforming lives

Education is a gift. A gift that transforms lives. The idea of transformation is what drives us in higher education to strive for excellence.

A university is represented by the students it educates; by how they live its values throughout their personal and professional lives. As dean, I often receive letters, e-mails, phone calls and visits from alumni expressing gratitude for the education they received from the School of Dentistry.

One such alumnus was Will Miles Clark, DDS’29, who modeled the values of Creighton for 84 years. Dr. Clark passed away May 8, 2013, at the wonderful age of nearly 109.

Throughout his life, Dr. Clark treasured Creighton. His 107th birthday wish was to again visit the School of Dentistry and express his personal thanks.

During his visit, Dr. Clark stated, “Creighton did for me something that I could never, never repay Creighton. The life that they gave me I wouldn’t have had without Creighton University, and I want to thank them.”

This visit gave me one of my most enduring memories of my now 18 years at Creighton. Dr. Clark’s statements made a profound impact on me.

Change is constant, and the changes that Dr. Clark witnessed during his lifetime have been amazing. Changes in the profession of dentistry during his life kept him a life-long student. He enjoyed learning and wanted to be on the cutting edge.

Yet, many of the values we strive to teach at Creighton University are transcendental and unchanging. The value of a Creighton dental education remains unprecedented. Committed to the core values inherent in our Jesuit, Catholic identity, we continue to offer the best education to our students and the best care to our patients.

Dr. Clark gave back generously to the school as do so many of our alumni and friends. The support that we receive tells us that we are on the right track – sustaining the rich legacy of Creighton’s School of Dentistry for generations to come.

At this juncture in our history, we need your support to maintain and build upon our reputation as one of the premier dental institutions in the world. Your support will allow us to continue to recruit the best and brightest students, and attract and retain talented faculty. We also seek to address the physical limitations of our current facility and embark upon significant technological upgrades; all while continuing to serve as the primary oral healthcare provider for the underserved in Omaha, and providing transformational service-learning opportunities to our students, such as ILAC, the OneWorld Clinic and our Native American Summer and Post-Baccalaureate Programs.

In order to help us accomplish our goals, Cortney Bauer, Director of Philanthropy, has been imbedded in the School, allowing her to focus solely on the needs of the dental school.

As with Dr. Clark wanting to come back to see his beloved alma mater, we have had requests to bring back the Dental Assembly continuing education courses in conjunction with Alumni Homecoming Weekend. So this year, the Dental Assembly returns to the School of Dentistry. I hope many of you will be able to join us and enjoy reminiscing about the good old days.

Remember, you are the School of Dentistry. You are our legacy and with your help, the School of Dentistry will continue to transform lives.

Mark A. Latta, DMD, MS
Dean, School of Dentistry

Will Miles Clark, DDS’29, tours the School of Dentistry with Dean Latta in August 2011.

Video

A video of Dr. Clark’s 107th birthday visit can be seen at: bit.ly/CU_dental_Clark
Shawn Powell, DDS, assistant professor of Pediatric Dentistry joined the full-time faculty in April, bringing his expertise in pediatric dentistry to Creighton’s School of Dentistry. Dr. Powell graduated from the University of Nebraska College of Dentistry in 1999 and served in the U.S. Air Force, where he completed an Advanced Education in General Dentistry Residency. He is dually trained in pediatric dentistry and orthodontics. Prior to joining Creighton, he taught pediatric dentistry at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and is a Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry.

Joseph Franco Jr, DDS’84, joined the full-time faculty as an assistant professor in the Department of Diagnostic Sciences in April. Dr. Franco earned undergraduate and dentistry degrees from Creighton and completed a GPR residency program at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Omaha. From 1985 through April 2013, he maintained a private practice while working as a part-time instructor in fixed prosthetics and general dentistry. Dr. Franco served on the medical staff of Immanuel Medical Center and was the on-call dentist for Lakeside Hospital, covering oral trauma at high school sporting events.

Thomas Berry, DDS’00, returned to his alma mater in January as an assistant professor in the Department of General Dentistry. Berry received his undergraduate education at the University of Wyoming, Laramie, earning degrees in zoology and physiology as well as psychology. Dr. Berry has considerable experience in family dentistry and volunteers in local schools, making presentations to youth on dental health, and he coaches youth basketball and volleyball.

David Blaha, DDS, will join the faculty full-time on July 1 as associate professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. He has been a part-time faculty member since April 2012. Dr. Blaha received his DDS degree from the University of Nebraska. He was previously a clinical instructor in surgical specialties with the UNMC College of Dentistry and also in private practice in Lincoln. In 1995, he was named Young Professional of the Year by the Nebraska Dental Association and 10 years later, was named to the association’s Hall of Fame. Dr. Blaha is a Diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

Full-Time Faculty Join School of Dentistry
Four new faculty members have joined the School of Dentistry.

Blue Spruce Honored by Luke Air Force Base
George Blue Spruce Jr., DDS’56, assistant dean for American Indian affairs and assistant professor at the Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health at A.T. Still University was selected as an honorary commander at Luke Air Force Base (AFB) in Glendale, Ariz.

The honorary commanders program provides community, business and civic leaders with first-hand exposure to the mission and heritage of airmen at Luke AFB and Luke’s F-16 training mission. The program also allows military commanders and their units to learn more about the community in which they live.

Honorary commanders are selected based on their position in the community. They are leaders in business, industry and corporations, actively involved and influential in their own right, with the capacity to reach and engage large audiences.

Dr. Blue Spruce was inducted as an honorary commander in a reception and ceremony at Luke AFB in October 2012.

Beth Stinebrink, a 2004 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, has joined the staff as Continuing Education coordinator and events planner, responsible for developing quality continuing education conferences, workshops, seminars and presentations, as well as other academic events in the School of Dentistry. Stinebrink also will work closely with University offices of alumni and marketing, to communicate with faculty, staff, alumni and students.

“Beth is an exceptional leader with an extensive background in event management,” said Dean Mark Latta. “She is adept at developing and implementing policies and procedures. We are excited for the positive contribution she can make to our efforts.”

Stinebrink has held positions in stage production, theater administration and events planning with Chamber Theatre Production of Boston, Theatrical Media Services, Inc., of Omaha, and the Metropolitan Entertainment and Convention Authority.

Scheidel Appointed Director of Continuing Education
Associate professor of Diagnostic Sciences, Don Scheidel, DDS’81, began duties in March as director of Continuing Education.

Dr. Scheidel maintained a private practice for 10 years before becoming a consultant for Delta Dental of South Dakota and the state departments of Social Services, Human Services and Health. In 1996, he joined the faculty of the University of South Dakota, Department of Dental Hygiene, where he also worked with the Division of Continuing and Distance Education courses.

Dr. Scheidel has been a full-time faculty member with the Creighton University School of Dentistry since July 2010.

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Front Row - Dr. Tim Walker, Dr. Douglas Benn, Dr. John Shaner (Chair), Ms. Leslie Sanders, Dr. Hardeep Chehal
Back Row – Mary Jo Duggan, Dr. Steve Hess, Billie Chambers, Dr. Joe Franco, Dr. Jerry Buresh, Ms. Teena Beehner, Dr. Don Scheidel, Dr. Bill Carney, Lynn Paulson and Tia West

New Department of Diagnostic Sciences Inauguration

Above - Creighton President Timothy R. Lannon, S.J., talks with Dean Mark Latta following the May 14 ceremony inaugurating the new department.

Top Right - John Shaner, DMD, MS, associate professor of general dentistry and director of clinical teams, is the chair of the new Department of Diagnostic Sciences.

Creighton’s New Diagnostic Sciences Department
• Focus is on the identification of head and neck pathology – oral cancer screenings, medical risk assessment and treatment plans.
• Maxillofacial Imaging Center consolidates two Cone-Beam Computerized Tomography (CBCT) units.
• Faculty and staff have expertise in oral diagnosis and treatment, and oral and maxillofacial pathology and radiology.
Emeritus Promotions

Three retiring School of Dentistry professors received emeritus promotions at the Founders Day Convocation and Award Recognition in February.

**Ralph Herrman, DDS’54**, was named associate professor emeritus of Removable Prosthodontics. Dr. Herrman taught in the School of Dentistry for more than two decades. After completing undergraduate and dentistry degrees at Creighton, he served in the U.S. Air Force Dental Corps and worked in private practice. During his 23 years teaching at the School of Dentistry, he wore many hats – preclinical and clinical teacher; leader in the development of a comprehensive clinical program; and chair of the Department of Comprehensive Dental Care. He also taught in the departments of Fixed Prosthodontics, Oral Diagnosis and Removable Prosthodontics.

**Marvin Ludlow, DDS**, was named associate professor emeritus of Endodontics. Dr. Ludlow was a dedicated leader in the School of Dentistry for more than 20 years. He joined the faculty in 1976 as associate professor of Endodontics and was appointed the inaugural chair of the department in 1979, a position he held for 21 years. As chair, Dr. Ludlow strengthened the curriculum in didactics and clinical preparation. He received numerous awards for teaching excellence, including five Best Department awards.

**Willis Gray, DDS’55**, was named associate clinical professor emeritus of Endodontics. A graduate of Creighton’s School of Dentistry and a two-year veteran of the U.S. Navy Dental Corps, Dr. Gray joined the faculty in 1974. He devoted 38 years as a part-time clinical educator in the Department of Operative Dentistry and Endodontics. He worked tirelessly to ensure that students received an education in endodontics that included ample amounts of patient interaction. Dr. Gray shared a wealth of experience with students, drawing on his experience in private practice and his years working with Veterans Administration hospitals.

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Elects New Members

New members were elected to the Creighton chapter of the national dentistry honor society Omicron Kappa Upsilon, and junior Eric Lomas was awarded the Dr. William S. Kramer Award of Excellence at the annual Congratulatory Convocation Banquet in May. The Kramer award is presented to the junior student who has demonstrated scholarship and promise in the advancement of dentistry.

Graduates of the Class of 2013 elected to membership include: Drs. Janica Gillette, Jordan Hillam, Amber Ide, Lauren Manke, Rory Manke, Matthew McCoy, Adam Meinhardt, Erin Nicorata and Jeremiah Whetman.

Admission and membership in Omicron Kappa Upsilon is limited to those dental students who have distinguished themselves by excellence in scholarship, while demonstrating exemplary traits of character and potential qualities for future professional growth and attainments. At Creighton, membership is limited to no more than 12 percent of each class.

Faculty elected to membership in Omicron Kappa Upsilon include: Dr. Hardeep Chehal and Dr. Michael Hermsen.

Creighton’s Epsilon Chapter was officially approved in 1988, joining more than 200 chapters in colleges and universities across the country.
Publications & Abstracts

2013 IADR Abstracts and Authors

- Shaner J.W*, Verbik D, Cerutis R and Nunn M. Effect of Xylitol-Containing Bottled Water Consumption on Streptococcus mutans Levels.
- Westerm A G*, Hicks J and Flatz C. In Vitro Root Caries and Calcium-Phosphate Containing Varnishes.

2013 FASEB ABSTRACTS

- O’Kane B.J*, Devetten M, Jackson J, Lacy J, Sharp J.G. Leukemic Relapse Following MMSC Rescue in a Murine Model of GVHD.
- McGee J*, Brunette K, Stimmmer S, Filippini K, Rocha-Sanchez S, Walsh E. Mechanical filters in Rbl2 null mice: The influence of supernumerary inner ear sensory and/or support cells.
- Brunette K*, McGee J, Rocha-Sanchez S, Stimmmer S, Walsh E. Do supernumerary sensory cells in the cochlea of Rbl2 null mice provide protection from noise-induced trauma?

Honors Conferred at Student Banquet

The Prosthodontics Department was named “Department of the Year” during the 2013 Senior Awards Banquet in April. Senior class members selected Dr. Scott DiLorenzo (clinical) and Dr. Stephen J. Hess (lecture) as Instructors of the Year. Dr. Randy Stout and Dr. Terry Lanphier were selected to place the doctorate hoods on each senior during the Hooding Ceremony, with Dr. Jared Smith being selected to serve as Master of Ceremonies. (The Hooding Ceremony was held May 17 at the Joslyn Art Museum.)

Other awards and honorees from the banquet are listed below.
- Rev. James J. Quinn, S.J., Award for “making a positive impact on the education of students through encouragement and inspiration” – Dr. Lawrence Parrish
- Dr. Theodore J. Urban Memorial Award for “outstanding dedication to preclinical education” – Dr. Neil Norton
- Outstanding Part-Time Clinical Instructor – Dr. Laura Harris-Vieyra
- Sara K. Susman Memorial Award for outstanding staff member – Tom Mendoza
- Dr. Raymond W. Shaddy Memorial Award for outstanding clinical faculty – Dr. William Carney
- Dr. Ann M. Garred Award for outstanding dedication to providing dental education – Dr. W. Thomas Cavel
- Dr. Frank J. Ayers Spirit of Compassion Award for “outstanding compassion shown to students in personal or academic need” – Dr. Gregory Davis
- Junior Lecture Instructor of the Year - Dr. Lawrence Parrish
- Junior Clinical Instructor of the Year - Dr. Randy Stout
- Sophomore Instructor of the Year - Dr. Jared H. Smith
- Freshman Instructor of the Year - Dr. Laura Barritt

Upcoming Creighton University Dental Continuing Education Courses

Radiology for Dental Assistants
- Aug. 23-24, 2013
- Fall Dental Assembly Weekend including: Dr. Al R. Posey and Dr. T.J. Urban Memorial Lectures
- Sept. 19-20, 2013
- Coronal Polishing for Dental Assistants
- Oct. 18, 2013
- Radiology for Dental Assistants
- Nov. 22-23, 2013

OSHA and Infection Control Annual Review
- Dec. 6, 2013
- A Partnership in Prevention: Plaque Control and Fluoride
- Feb. 14, 2014
- Creighton University Periodontics Symposium
- June 13, 2014

For details and registration please visit creighton.edu/dentalschool/continuingeducation
It would be hard to find an adjunct professor more willing to serve where needed than Dr. Fred Longo, whose sense of humor, love of dentistry and respect for Creighton contribute to his flexibility and willingness to help wherever he is needed.

Dr. Longo earned undergraduate and dentistry degrees at Creighton before pursuing graduate work in pedodontics and orthodontia at Marquette University in Milwaukee.

“I owe everything to Creighton, because, by the time I got to Marquette, I’d already been taught everything they could teach me. That’s how good my Creighton education was!” he jokes.

The Bellevue orthodontist says that over the years, he has “filled in for this person or that person, worked more days, less days, but for the past few years, I’ve stepped in second semester, to help with sophomore lab.”

Sophomores, he says, are like sponges – eager to learn and appreciative of anything you can teach them. “But I have to keep reminding them who is paying the tuition – they are – so they really need to demand a lot of us, as professors. We work for them.”

Dr. Longo says that in addition to gaining professional skills, sophomores are gaining skills in professionalism. “First impressions are important. I tell them, ‘You may not have shaved today, you may not have worn a tie today, but if you walk into a patient exam like that – even if you do fantastic work – it will impact your patients’ impressions of you.’”

Dr. Longo says that unlike at most state schools Creighton students come from throughout the world and bring a great cultural mix to the school.

He remembers his own years as a Creighton undergraduate as being filled with academic hurdles – challenges designed to identify those most prepared for the rigors of professional school.

“I majored in biology but I probably should have majored in something that would have made me more interesting,” he quips, “like history or economics.”

Dr. Longo has seen many changes to the field over the years. In pediatric dentistry, the use of fluoride and better public education about dental hygiene have led to fewer cavities. “We’re not seeing huge, full-mouth restorations anymore.”

And in orthodontia, developments have been staggering, largely attributable to the digital design of orthodontia.

“Computer-generated images allow us to customize braces and brackets not only for each individual, but for each tooth. With the invention of the ICAT, we know where the roots of each tooth fall in comparison to the teeth next to them, allowing us to make a much better diagnosis.”

Two of Dr. Longo’s children have followed him into dentistry. His daughter, Meghann Longo Dietz, an orthodontist, is in practice with her father in Bellevue; and a son, Patrick, is a general dentist in Milwaukee. His youngest daughter, Elizabeth, is starting her third year of law school at the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Longo says his greatest asset is his wife of 37 years, Ann.
Fourth-Generation Wachter Receives Diploma

When Patrick Wachter, BA’09, DDS’13, crossed the stage at spring commencement, he became the fourth in his family to have graduated from the School of Dentistry, following in the footsteps of his late father, Stephen Wachter, DDS’79; grandfather, Paul Wachter, DDS’53; and great-grandfather, Joseph Wachter, DDS’19.

Drs. Stephen and Paul Wachter were well-known in the Omaha dental community. Dr. Paul Wachter was an instructor in operative dentistry from 1957 to 1967; Dr. Stephen Wachter was an adjunct instructor in endodontics from 1980 to 1977.

Patrick Wachter and his mother
Donna Wachter, BSN’77

ALUMNI HOMECOMING WEEKEND

SEPTMBER 19-22, 2013

For all Creighton University Schools and Colleges

Stay connected to fellow alumni from the School of Dentistry at Alumni Homecoming Weekend in September.

School of Dentistry continuing education courses will be offered from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 19, followed by a school reception from 4 to 6 p.m., both in the Boyne Building on the Creighton campus. Friday’s courses will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Visit creighton.edu/dentalschool/continuingeducation for more information.

The President’s Alumni Dinner will be held at the CenturyLink Center Omaha, located at 10th and Cass streets, east of campus from 6 to 9 p.m., Friday, Sept. 20. The reception will be held prior to dinner followed by the presentation of 2013 Alumni Merit Awards. The 2013 School of Dentistry Alumni Merit Award will be presented to Frank Ayers, DDS’69.

In addition, special reunion events are planned for School of Dentistry classes marking 10-, 20-, 25-, 30-, 35-, 40- and 50-year reunions.

Visit this site often for new information on Alumni Homecoming Weekend 2013: alumni.creighton.edu/weekend