

# ORAL REPORT

Spring-Summer 2014



## Dean's message

### Dear friends:

It's been an exciting and memorable start to A.T. Still University's Missouri School of Dentistry & Oral Health (ATSU-MOSDOH). The School, based upon the foundation of ATSU's extremely innovative and highly successful Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health, opened its doors to the inaugural class of 42 students on Oct. 1, 2013, and we're well underway in educating future pioneers of public health dentistry and changing the way dental students learn.

It was always a dream of mine to help start a dental school that will increase access to oral healthcare for vulnerable populations, and I see it become reality every day. The class of 2017 is engaging, high energy, and community-service minded, all while starting their graduate education with an accelerated curriculum. Our unique curriculum model is one-of-a-kind, and we will welcome an additional 42 students, the class of 2018, in July 2014.

Thank you for your support in establishing the nation's newest dental school. Establishing a dental school from the ground up is no easy task, but the future impact is astounding when you think of the number of lives ATSU-MOSDOH will improve across the state and the nation. We're here to change the way dental education is taught. We're here to address the critical shortage of dental access with our new dental clinic in St. Louis, Mo., opening in 2015. And this is just the beginning.

To changing and improving lives,  
Christopher Halliday, DDS, MPH,  
Dean



## FILLING THE [GAP]

ATSU OPENS DENTAL SCHOOL  
IN MISSOURI

Excitement always surrounds the opening of a new school with new students, new experiences, and new opportunities for growth. For ATSU, the opening of the highly anticipated ATSU-MOSDOH was all that and more. The culmination of new dental students, an ultramodern learning facility, and unwavering community support marked a momentous occasion for all. But for Missourians lacking access to oral healthcare, ATSU-MOSDOH means much more.

With the help of a grassroots effort led by Community Friends for ATSU Dental, more than \$1.1 million was raised to locate the dental school in Kirksville. A remarkable sight to behold, ATSU-MOSDOH's new Interprofessional Education (IPE) Building is now home to 84 dental students from diverse backgrounds who will serve as the next generation of dentists to improve the overall health of Missourians and patients across the country.

The 62,000-square-foot IPE Building, with its state-of-the-art equipment, has ample space to accommodate students from ATSU-MOSDOH and other programs, plus room to grow. Having both the dental and osteopathic medical professions under one roof to promote collaboration afforded the building its name and played a key role in its design.

## Inaugural class stats

42

STUDENTS

20

MEN

22

WOMEN

9

FROM  
MISSOURI

19

STATES  
REPRESENTED

25

AVERAGE  
AGE

## Fulfilling the need

**Student spotlight: Kristen A., D2**  
**Hometown: Poplar Bluff, Mo.**



"My plans were always to go to dental school. I got involved with the Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) program in high school, so I had the chance to job shadow. I worked for AHEC after finishing my undergrad degree from Southeast Missouri State University.

I've been in and out of small towns where there's only one healthcare provider for 45, even 90 miles. Seeing that in my own area is what turned my career

goals into a passion. It's something you always wanted to do when you were little, and then it turns into a child thanking you, saying he'd never had his own toothbrush before. That's when I knew what I had to do, because I need this in my own area.

When I read the mission statement and the focus on the underserved at ATSU, I knew that's right where I wanted to be. It gives me goose bumps talking about it. I have to go back and help my

community because they've helped me so much.

I was the only student from our class to attend the groundbreaking ceremony. My shovel and jar of sand from that day remind me of my goals and what I'm here to do."

**At the top of the class alphabetically, Kristen will be the first ever to graduate from ATSU-MOSDOH.**

## Community outreach: Keep kids smiling



In conjunction with Give Kids a Smile®, dental students handed out toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, and informational packets to children outside WalMart in Kirksville, Mo. on Feb. 22. ATSU-MOSDOH students were on hand to answer questions for kids and parents, as well as hand out the dental goodies to several hundred children.



ATSU-MOSDOH students presented Lessons in a Lunchbox® to second graders at the Kirksville Primary School on March 6. The student dentists presented on good oral health, how to brush and floss, and the importance of healthy eating. In addition, all 2nd grade students were given a lunchbox containing a toothbrush, toothpaste, and rinsing cup, courtesy of The Children's Oral Health Institution.



ATSU-MOSDOH set up shop with peers from ATSU-Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine and University mascot Bucky, the Ram of Reason, at the Healthy Kids Day event at the Adair County Family YMCA on April 26. Students demonstrated proper brushing and flossing with props and gave out 116 oral healthcare packets to kids in the community.



# MOSDOH in the city

After spending two years on the Missouri campus, students will relocate to St. Louis for third-year clinical experiences at a new clinic operated in partnership with Grace Hill Health Centers Inc (GHHC). Students will work with the full spectrum of patients including children, adults, geriatric patients, the disabled, the homeless, and the uninsured.

ATSU-MOSDOH, designed by Cannon Design, is located east of

La Fayette Square at 1500 Park Avenue. Musick Construction of St. Louis is the general contractor. A groundbreaking ceremony was held April 25, with remarks given by Gov. Jay Nixon; ATSU President Craig Phelps, DO, '84; St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay; and other dignitaries, along with ATSU-MOSDOH Dean Christopher Halliday, DDS, MPH, and Alan Freeman, president and CEO, GHHC.

## Clinic numbers

**92** dental operator chairs

**3** stories high

**79,000** square feet

**95** employees



Kim Perry, DDS, MSCS, began her role as associate dean, clinical operations/director of dental services for the University's new Dental Education and Oral Health Clinic in St. Louis, Mo., in April 2014. Dr. Perry most recently served as associate dean of clinical affairs and associate professor for the Office of Restorative Sciences at Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry in Nashville, Tenn. Dr. Perry's experience spans more than 25 years in leadership and clinical care in oral health, in addition to a broad range of research focusing on health disparities, health promotion disease prevention, and vulnerable children.

Dr. Still  
was a  
dentist,  
too!



**A**ndrew Taylor Still, DO, was inducted into the Hall of Famous Missourians at the state Capitol in Jefferson City on April 16.

The hall is a collection of bronze busts that generally has honored people chosen by the house speaker, but this year House Speaker Tim Jones opened the process to the people of Missouri. Dr. Still, the founder of American osteopathy, received the most

support in a public nominating and voting process for this honor. He came in with nearly 38 percent of more than 34,000 votes.

But, did you know that Dr. Still also was a dentist? According to his son, C.E. Still, DO, "When father lived in Kansas he was about the only dentist anywhere near, and he pulled teeth and made false teeth. That was sort of a sideline, however. In other words, he was what you might call a real country doctor."



Craig Phelps, DO, president, ATSU; Bishop Wayne Smith, Episcopal Presbyterian Health Trust; Dr. Halliday; and Alan Freeman, president and CEO, GHHC



# Grant chatter

ATSU-MOSDOH received a grant from the Episcopal Presbyterian Health Trust, which seeks to create partnerships with effective, community-based organizations that work to improve the lives of others through access to healthcare. The \$102,768 grant will be used for the purchase of equipment for three pediatric operatories in the St. Louis dental clinic building.

The Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH) was a key supporter of ATSU-MOSDOH's development and has been instrumental in its evolution. To this end, ATSU remains grateful for MFH's

ongoing commitment to improving oral healthcare and for, correspondingly, helping to create and launch the distinctive ATSU-MOSDOH. To date, \$3 million of MFH grant funding has enabled ATSU-MOSDOH to complete initial development, hiring, curriculum modules, accreditation, and more.

MFH awarded a \$1 million grant (effective April 1, 2014) to ATSU to assist the University with the design and construction of the new Dental Education & Oral Health Clinic in St. Louis.

## Grant year one

April 1, 2011–March 31, 2012

\$500,000

## Grant year two

April 1, 2012–March 31, 2013

\$1,000,000

## Grant year three

April 1, 2013–March 31, 2014

\$1,500,000