# House Call

A publication of the Medical Heritage Center at The Ohio State University

## FROM THE MHC ARCHIVES:



#### THE MHC MISSION:

The Medical Heritage Center preserves, promotes, teaches and celebrates the health care legacy of central Ohio as the essential foundation from which the future of the health sciences is born.

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## Note from the Curator

By Judith A. Wiener, MA, MLIS

The Medical Heritage Center has had an incredible 20th anniversary year. We hosted several tours, classes, lectures and various campus exhibits to promote the Center and our wide breath of collections accumulated over the past two decades. We are also excited to announce that \$24,025 has been raised from our supporters to help us continue our mission into the future. We thank everyone who attended our events or donated materials or financially over the past year. As the recent donations page in this issue indicates, it has certainly been an exciting time!

As we look towards the future, the Medical Heritage Center has been proud to serve as a "hub" of medical humanities activity across campus and we were enthusiastic about being a partner in the 2018 Medical Humanities: From Campus to Communities Conference at OSU from April 13-14.



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Tod Chambers from the Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine, presented this year's Warren Lecture on April 12 at the James Cancer Hospital Conference Center, as a preconference event to the larger humanities gathering. More information about the OSU medical humanities program and the conference can be found at: https://u.osu.edu/medhumcon2018/. As medical humanities becomes a larger interdisciplinary practice at OSU, the MHC is primed to serve as a resource and gathering point for such activities across campus. Also, please mark your calendars for the Annual Friends of Nursing History Lecture on May 17. This year's lecture will feature Ann Schiele who will discuss the history of nursing diploma programs and will be held in the Ross Heart Hospital Auditorium at 4:30pm with a reception at 4pm. As usual, we will partner with the Ohio Nurses Association to offer Continuing Nursing Education credits. We hope to see you at this event or others at the MHC!



College of Medicince Open House



The Ohio State University

## Julian Bradford Woelfel, DDS

## By Robert L. Stevenson, DDS

Julian Bradford Woelfel, DDS (December 25, 1925 – September 2, 2017) taught dentistry for forty years and three months at The Ohio State University and was appointed Professor Emeritus in 1988. Woelfel's Dental Anatomy (Lippincott), 9th edition 2016, is used by dentistry schools worldwide. His "Nuggets" lectures about complete dentures were attended by more than 1,400 dentists over the years. The OSU Woelfel Leaf Wafer,



his invention for evaluating jaw positions, was patented and all proceeds go to OSU. He also invented the sliding guide which works with the leaf wafers and it was patented by the Girrbach & Company, in Germany, since it is compatible with their Artex articulators.

His few regrets involved denied grant applications, especially one for developing an inexpensive dental articulator, or mechanical jaw, which is used in the dental laboratory in fabricating dentures, bridgework, crowns, etc.

Dr. Takoshi Igarashi met Woelfel while he was visiting professor at the University of Tokyo in 1967, and he became the first Japanese dentist in the OSU graduate prosthodontic residency program. He collaborated with Woelfel in designing the plastic articulator. Laboratory researchers at Battelle Memorial Institute made a prototype, out of clear acrylic resin. Estimated cost for the final product, \$5 to \$15 each, compared to over \$1,000 or more for similar instruments available then.

Battelle submitted a 'Proposed Research Program' to the American Dental Association in October 1970, requesting an \$88,000 grant. The cover letter notes the general ideas have been discussed with many individuals beginning with Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, ADA executive director since 1946. Others included Dean John R. Wilson, Associate Dean William C. Dew, Dr. George C. Paffenbarger, and Dr. Nelson W. Rupp at the National Bureau of Standards.

The American Dental Association rejected the research application, recommending Battelle develop it themselves as it appeared likely to be a viable, profitable product. Without the grant, Igarashi returned to Japan and the innovation stalled. Now only memories and pictures remain. Woelfel was born in Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore; close to the original Baltimore dental school, World's first. His road to Columbus passed through New York City, where his father earned a PhD in education at Columbia University, and then joined Ohio State's faculty in 1937. He was twelve when the family arrived, and lived in Columbus ever since.

After graduating University High School in

1943, he enrolled at OSU in pre-dent, entering dental school in 1944. Back then dentistry shared Hamilton Hall with medicine. He enrolled in the Navy V2 program as a dental student. After the war ended the Navy downsized its dental training program, and there was no service required or available when he graduated in 1948.

He joined the faculty at the rank of dental intern, salary \$150 per month, and was promoted to instructor after three quarters. The dental clinic was hectic five and a half days a week, including Saturday mornings. In 1950, he began doing research in electromyography, complete dentures and several other topics. A quick search of Pub Med lists over 50 articles and several book chapters.

In 1962 he reached the rank of full professor. He taught dental materials to dental and dental hygiene students and served on the ADA Council on Dental Materials and Devices 1962-1968, which gathered twice a year in Chicago for weeklong meetings.

After retiring he taught for three months in Taiwan teaching at Yang Ming College of Dentistry, two months in Brazil, two weeks in Istanbul, and six months at Guys Hospital in London.

He and wife Marcile have three sons who each attended Ohio State, two graduated OSU and the other finished at Cal Berkley. They are proud and gratified to be able to establish the Dr. and Mrs. Julian B. Woelfel Chair in Prosthetic Dentistry at the Ohio State University College of Dentistry. It will support an outstanding professor with known expertise and/or a highly qualified foreign or American dentist to participate in further research in both techniques and materials. An oral history interview with Dr. Woelfel is available online at http://kb.osu.edu/dspace/handle/1811/80113.



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# Recent Donations (March 15, 2017 – March 31, 2018)

#### Material

Dr. Dale C. Angerman: in memory of Robert H. Angerman (books) • Mr. David and Mrs. Carol Baker (artwork) • Ms. Margaret Bishop (books and instruments) • Mrs. Kathleen Boston (nursing materials about Doris Hale) • Mrs. Theresa Bowers (additions to the Donald F. Bowers, DDS Papers) • Mr. Anthony Bowersock (archival materials) • Mrs. Ruth Ann Burcher Owens and Mrs. Nancy Davis (photograph Starling Medical College 1894-95) • Dr. Charles Bush (books) • Mrs. Jennifer Buday Calcera: in memory of Dr. Stephen J. Buday (books) • Dr. E. Christopher Ellison (archival materials) • Dr. Rich Fertel (books) • Mrs. Debbie Freece (nursing memorabilia) • Dr. Adrienne M. Frostholm (instruments) • Mrs. Carol Giessler: in memory of Tom F. Lewis, MD (book) • Dr. Robert Greenspan (book) • Dr. Jim Grossie (book) • Dr. George C. Guju (books) • Mrs. Jennifer Guy (journals) • Dr. John and Mrs. Anne Hohmann (books) • Ms. Betsy Johnson (book) • Dr. Gerald and Mrs. Felice Kassoy (book) • Mrs. Kitty Kisker (additions to the OSU College of Nursing Papers) • Ms. Karen Kuba (books) • Ms. Kim Lascola (additions to the Grayce M. Sills, RN, PhD Papers) • Dr. Teresa Long (her archival collection) • Dr. Bruce Meyer (books) • Ohio State Medical Association Alliance (scrapbooks of the organization) • The Ohio State University, Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery (artifacts) • Mr. Steve Paskoff (First Aid Kit) • Mr. Frank Pauer (photograph of Ohio Medical University dental faculty 1897) • Drs. George and Ruth Paulson (books) • Dr. Emil Pinta: in memory of Ralph M. Patterson, MD (materials about Department of Psychiatry) • Dr. Jerry Price (artwork) • Ms. Kay Rohrbach (1920s dental cabinet, civil war era wheelchair, bedpan, and books) • Dr. William and Mrs. Putzie Saunders (artwork) • Mr. Michael Trenary (portrait of two Starling Medical College graduates) • Dr. Gene Tullis (books) • Dr. Richard Turner (implants and related instrumentation) • Dr. Barbara Warren: in memory of Drs. Grayce Sills and Hattie Bessett (book) • Ms. Diane Weed: in honor of Hazel Chitty Woods (book) • Mr. James Whittaker (Joyce Whittaker nursing stamp collection) • Mrs. Jeanne Williams: in memory of Roger Davis Williams, MD (medical films and instruments) • Dr. James R. Wright, Jr. (publication) • Dr. Robert M. Zollinger, Jr. (additions to the Robert M. Zollinger, Sr., MD Papers)



Stamps from the Joyce Whittaker Papers



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For information on how to make a material or financial donation to the MHC, please contact Judith Wiener at judith.wiener@osumc.edu or visit our website at go.osu.edu/mhc



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Postcard of Hamilton Hall, C.1930



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