

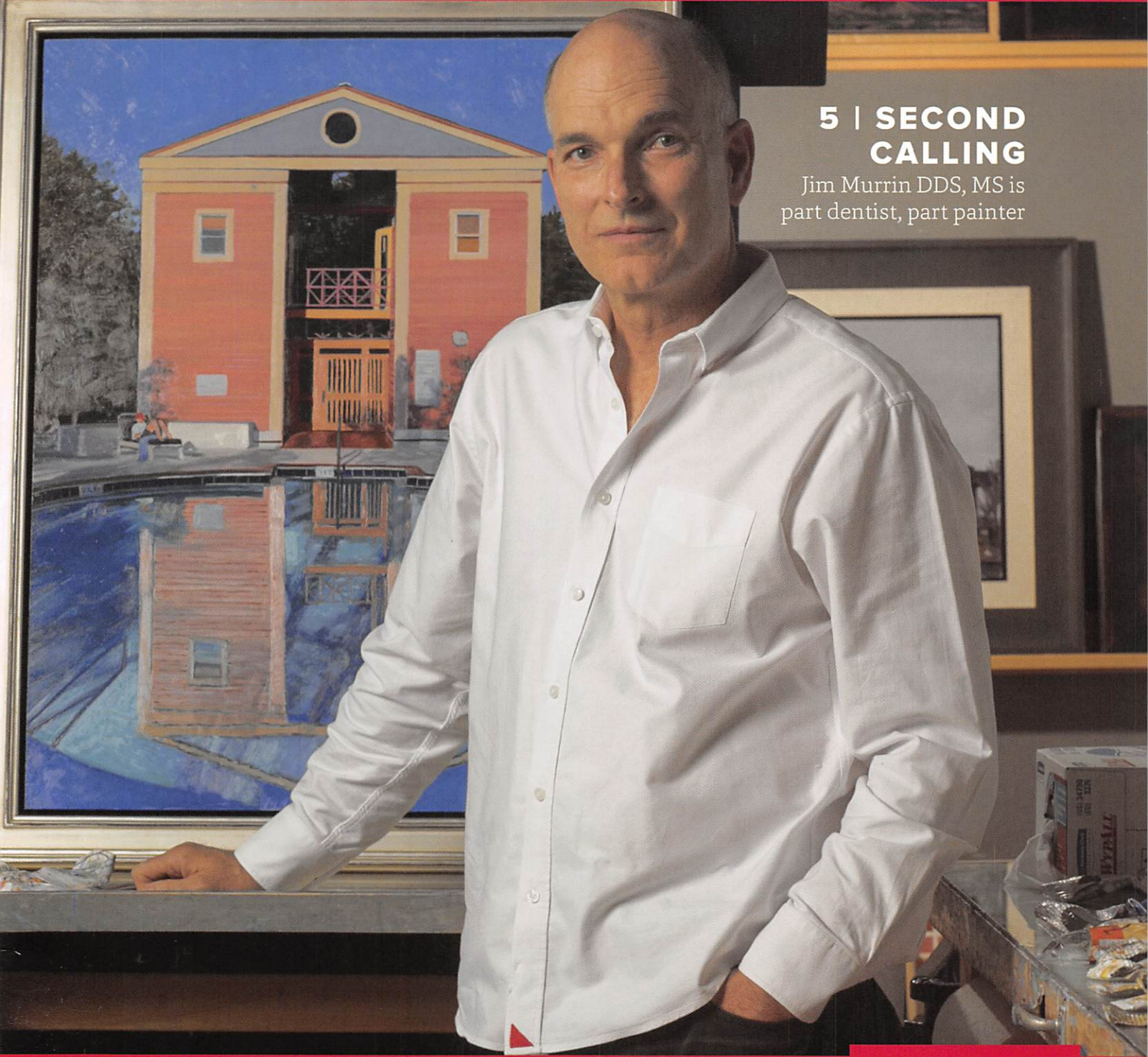
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY

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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY



From the Dean

Welcome to the fall issue of *The Ohio State University Dental Journal*! This edition includes a special cover story that shows how dentists apply their skills to other callings in life. In this article, you'll read about an alumnus who takes his appreciation for detail, color, and shading, then applies it to creating landscape paintings "en plein air." Such talents and abilities demonstrate the skills that are necessary not only to practice dentistry – but to also practice it well.

Other stories included in this issue reveal what our students are learning and how they apply their newfound knowledge for a multitude of purposes, such as serving people in need; conducting fundamental research; and preparing for their careers as dental professionals. I have found these stories about our students to be interesting and inspiring, and I believe there is no better outcome than this for our educational programming.

Midway through this issue, you'll learn how we've celebrated our college's 125th anniversary throughout Ohio and across the country. It has been a time to remember and cherish as alumni and friends have gathered and recalled how our college has made a lasting impact on so many, while also changing the dental profession around the world. This anniversary is a milestone in our history that we will look back on with fond remembrance. My thanks to all of you who have helped us celebrate this special occasion.

Other stories in this issue of the *Dental Journal* focus on dental research, which most of us tend to think of as basic science research. However, our college engages in an array of research activities that also involve applied or clinical research. We're proud of these programs and we enjoy an international reputation for our achievements in these areas. Two articles feature our research on controlling dentally-induced and related pain, and the role of social media in the health care environment. How impressive it is to see the real and immediate consequences of our faculty members' work!

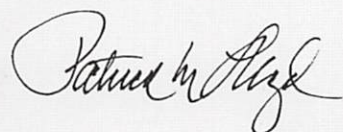
As the *Dental Journal* continues to grow in content, so have the contributions submitted by alumni about their personal and professional news. This is one of my favorite sections of the magazine because I get to read about the real impact of what we do in the college, and I look forward to seeing the list of upcoming alumni events. I also enjoy discovering where our graduates go and how they use their skills and knowledge to care for others and support the profession and their communities. I found it especially rewarding to read the story of two alumni who earned university-wide recognition for their many accomplishments since graduation.

As has been done in the past, we end this issue with bios of our newly hired faculty. As our college competes for faculty who have a host of career options, we continue to succeed in recruiting an amazingly gifted group of educators, clinicians, and scientists. With their broad and diverse backgrounds, each brings unique perspectives and ideas to our college as they help us prepare for what lies ahead in our ever-changing world.

Finally, this issue includes an invitation to join The Dean's Circle. Whether you're an alumnus or a friend of the college, I hope you'll consider this unique opportunity to support our college, to be more broadly recognized for your contributions, and to gain greater insights into the workings of our institution. Considering the unprecedented opportunities that are in the near future for our college, there may never be a better time to get more engaged.

As you read this fall issue of the *Dental Journal*, I hope you enjoy it as much as I did, and that you gain a greater sense of pride and enthusiasm for our College of Dentistry!

Go Bucks!



Patrick M. Lloyd DDS, MS, Professor and Dean, College of Dentistry





SECOND CALLING

Jim Murrin DDS, MS is part dentist, part painter

While most people hope for a thriving career in one field, Jim Murrin '77 DDS, '82 MS has found success in two: as an endodontist and as a painter. In November, the Ohio State Faculty Club will feature a solo exhibit of his works, entitled *Sea and Ski & Road in Between*.

Inspired by his orthodontist and his family dentist, Murrin decided early on that he wanted to be a dentist. "I saw in them such professionalism and enthusiasm, it just stuck with me," he said. "In elementary school I thought it would be a good profession. By high school I was determined."

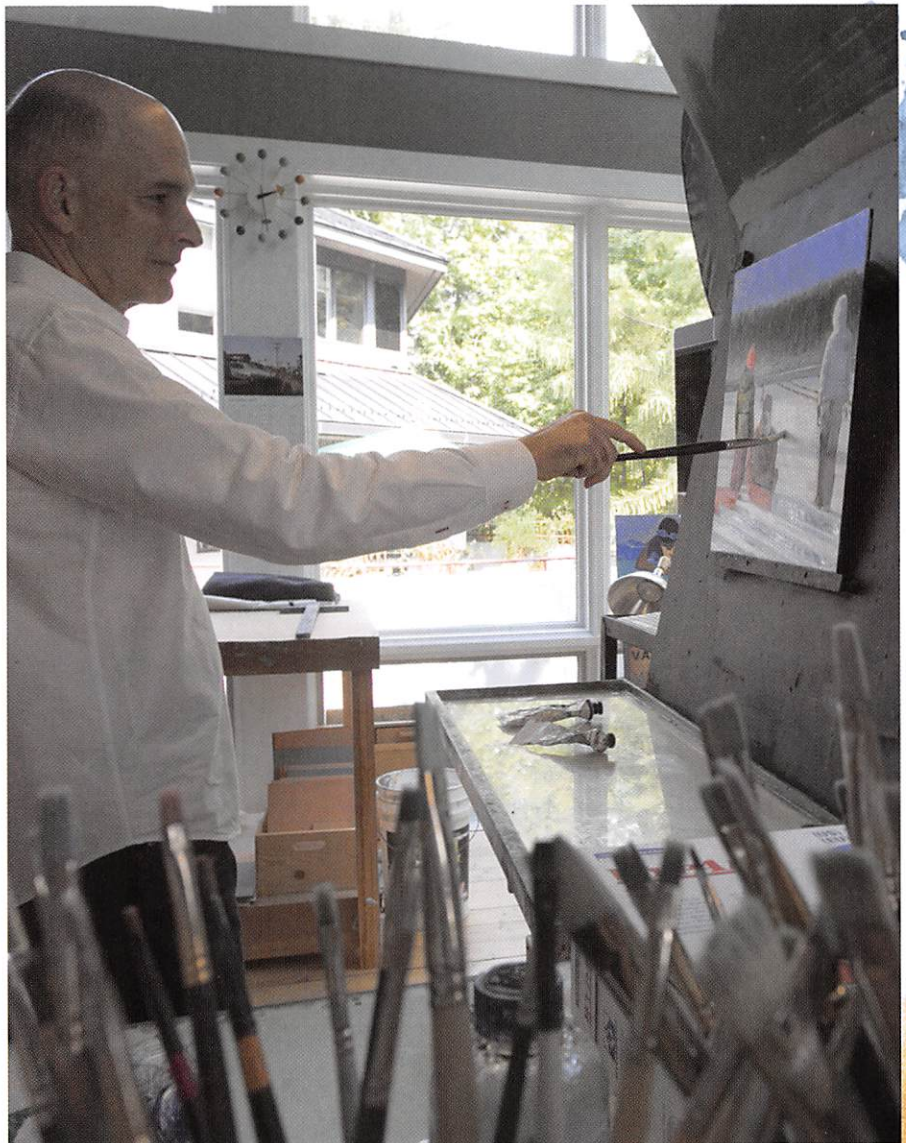
His appreciation of art was not far behind; growing up with a graphic designer mother near Yellow Springs, Ohio—home of Antioch College—shaped him as well. On Sundays the family had dinner at Antioch Hall, where there was always featured art. "There was lots of pop art, and we would take those images home with us in our mind. That's probably where I got my interest in painting. Those were the first paintings I saw."


As an undergrad, Murrin discovered photography and design classes were a good counterbalance to his science-heavy pre-dental course load—though they were put on hold for several years, once Murrin entered dental school. He went on to complete his general dental practice residency in the Air Force before overseeing the oral surgery section at USAF Clinic Kelly in Texas. Later, during specialty education in endodontics, his research with scanning electron microscopy to study endodontic filling materials and endodontic leakage was awarded special recognition by the American Association of Endodontists.

Murrin established his own endodontic practice in 1982 and worked a full schedule until the '90s, when he brought an associate into the practice. With some open time in his schedule, he enrolled in classes at Columbus College of Art and Design and studied drawing and painting two days a week at first, then in the evenings as well.

Today he paints en plein air, or “in the open air,” a favorite practice of French impressionists that, contrary to the pastoral image of artist with easel, has a certain beat-the-clock aspect to it. “The scene is not static, and the light is changing,” Murrin said. “You have to be organized and get your patterns in fast, because after a couple of hours that really interesting shadow will be gone.”

En plein air painting emphasizes capturing the moment, the ephemeral, like Claude Monet’s Haystacks series that depicts the same scene at different times of day.





“Murrin discovered photography and design classes were a good counterbalance to his science-heavy pre-dental course load.”

"Frequently," he said, "I will be on the road driving somewhere with my wife and I'll say, 'Wow, there's a painting.'" For example, an hour east of Columbus along I-70 there is a scene that has caught his eye. "It looks so much like an Edward Hopper painting, but it's on the highway so there's no place to stop."

In addition to painting landscape scenes en plein air, Murrin uses a camera to create almost dream-like paintings of traffic. "Many of my paintings are from me stuck in traffic, fumbling for my phone knowing that the image is going to disappear in a minute," he said. "I'll take hundreds of images and find one that has really nice light and shadow, then I crop it and work from that."

After years of exhibiting in group shows, 2015 has brought the dentist-painter his first and second solo exhibits—the first being in May

at Sharon Weiss Gallery, which represents him. "I've painted more this year than I ever have because of these shows," he said.

Murrin expects his painting pace will continue to increase, but he has no plans to retire from dentistry.

"After all these years I'm three days a week," he said of his dental practice. "The other days I paint. It's just ideal." ■

INFORMATION

Sea and Ski & the Road Between will run November 6, 2015, through December 31, 2015 at Ohio State's Faculty Club, 181 S. Oval Dr. An opening reception will be held 6-8 p.m. November 6. For more information, call 614-292-2262 or visit ohio-statefacultyclub.com.

A DENTAL HOME

For Children Who Need It Most

“If you build it they will come” can be said both about the baseball diamond in *Field of Dreams* and the KidSMILES dental clinic in Columbus, Ohio. The non-profit clinic that began in 2008 as an idea hashed out around a kitchen table today has more than 500 volunteers.

Located just off State Route 315 six miles north of campus, KidSMILES provides comprehensive dental care and education to patients 18 and younger whose families earn less than 250% of the federal poverty level, or \$60,000 for a family of four—too much to qualify for Medicaid, but not necessarily enough to cover trips to the dentist. The visits cost the patient just \$10.

KidSMILES founder and president James Homon '95 DDS, '98 MS conceived the idea for the clinic from conversations with friends and colleagues. “I knew a lot of people who'd done free dentistry in their offices,” he said. “Talking with them it just seemed that if there were a better, more organized way to do it, more people would.”

Dr. Homon figured out an effective way to manage his vision—a result that helped earn him the Ohio Dental Association's Marvin Fisk Humanitarian Award in 2014. The KidSMILES clinic, which opened in 2012, receives support from events and numerous organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and the Ohio Dental Association Foundation. Its volunteers donate dental services and administrative support, do educational outreach in schools, work at events, and more.



James Homon '95 DDS, '98 MS with a KidSMILES patient.

“We don't ask for a big commitment of volunteers,” Homon said. “If providers want to come in once a year, that's great. We encourage them to bring their whole dental team; it's a great team-building experience. When I hear, ‘So-and-so had never volunteered before and they just signed up to do it again in three months,’ that's music to my ears—that someone had the same experience I had and wants to do more.”

Homon feels more than just a desire to help other people. “When you get to do what we do and have the careers we have, you have an obligation to give back to the community,” he said. “When you think about other childhood diseases that aren't so simple, dentistry is so solvable—the only obstacle, really, is money. I'm not out to save the world, but if we can help kids avoid some cavities, that's a good start.”

The American Academy of Pediatrics has underscored the critical role of pediatricians and other medical professionals in promoting the health and well-being of all children in the community—a point Homon takes to heart.

“For any one person to do it, it's too overwhelming a task. But if everyone gives a little bit, you see the cumulative effect. As a group we are so much more powerful.” ■