

# University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine Messenger

## New Mural Enlivens Pediatric Clinic

Children waiting to see a dentist at Penn Dental's Pediatric Clinic can now enter an undersea world of imaginary adventures through a new hand-painted mural that enlivens the Clinic's reception and play area.

This 17' x 7' mural was made possible through the support of Drs. Howard (D'91) and Kara (D'92) Fraiman, both graduates of Penn Dental, who created the mural in memory of their daughter, Ashley. Penn Dental honored the Fraimans and



The 17' x 7' mural is situated on the far wall of the play area within the Pediatric Clinic.

celebrated this new addition to the Clinic during a dedication ceremony, which was held the evening of Thursday, October 16, and attended by Penn Dental faculty, staff, friends, and supporters.

"We thank Drs. Howard and Kara Fraiman for this special gift," said Dean Marjorie Jeffcoat at the dedication, "for opening their hearts to the children we treat."

Vividly colored sea horses, sea turtles, and tropical fish of all sorts come to life on the mural, which also features a young girl in a swan-shaped boat flying a flag that reads Ashley's Angels, the name of the foundation established by the Fraimans in memory of their daughter. Ashley's Angels has been created to aid special-needs children and their families.

The idea for the mural was born when Dr. Mark Helpin, Chair of the Department of Pediatrics, worked with the architect on the Clinic's design. One priority when constructing the School's new Pediatric Clinic, which opened in January 2002, was to create a child-friendly (continued on page 2)

## Research Activities, Goals Focus of Recent Retreat

Members of the Penn Dental faculty recently gathered to help assess the School's current research activities and set goals for them in the future as part of a special three-day research retreat. Held October 3 through 5 at the Doral Forrestal Hotel and Convention Center in Princeton, the meeting brought together representatives from all of the basic and clinical science departments to share in this planning process. A total of 49 faculty members participated, along with Dean Marjorie Jeffcoat.

"We started planning this retreat about eight months ago in response to a request for application (RFA) from the NIDCR for a research infrastructure enhancement grant," explains Dr. Bruce Shenker, Associate Dean of Research. "One of the grant requirements is a self-assessment of our research activities, so to begin that process, an Institutional Research Planning Committee was formed and together we developed the retreat."

Dr. Shenker adds, however, that this was an appropriate time to undertake such an evaluation process regardless of the RFA. "The goals identified through the retreat will be used to help develop a research strategic plan for the School," he says. "And this provided an important opportunity for faculty to have input into that process." (continued on page 4)



environment and the play area where the mural is situated was one of the special features incorporated to achieve that goal. With the addition of the mural on the far wall of this space, that goal is now greatly enhanced.

“The emotional environment children experience when they come to a dental office is a very important part of their care,” notes Dr. Helpin. “The Fraimans’ generosity will enhance the experiences of children now and for many years to come through the positive, joyful feeling the mural creates.”

Dr. Helpin worked with art consultant Lisa Gilde to find Lansdowne-artist Rhona Candeloro,



*Drs. Howard (D'91) and Kara (D'92) Fraiman, pictured with sons Cory and Lucas, donated the mural in memory of their daughter, Ashley.*

who conceived and painted the mural. Ms. Candeloro explains that her goal was to create a story-telling image that would engage children and encourage them to invent their own stories about the characters in the mural.

“I wanted to give the kids an adventure,” says Candeloro. “To draw them in by the emotion, movement, and relationships between the characters.”

“The mural is a vibrant creation, symbolic of how Ashley’s presence lives on in our daily lives,” said Dr. Howard Fraiman, speaking at the dedication. “We are so very happy to be involved in this project, and we hope the mural can bring many smiles to the children who are treated here in the Clinic.” ■

## Work Begins on Schattner Center’s Rear Courtyard

The view from the Robert Schattner Center atrium is changing, as work gets underway on the building’s rear courtyard. Workmen have recently begun moving and leveling ground, the first step in transforming this space into a new landscaped terrace and lawn area, which will be designated The Raymond Fonseca Park.

“The design goal is to create an outdoor space for use by the students, staff, and faculty that will also offer a new venue for special events,” explains Senior Project Manager Mark Breitenbach with the University’s Facilities and Real Estate Services. “Bounded by the Evans Building, the Levy Building, and the Schattner Center, and accessible from all three, it also continues and completes the goal of creating a unified campus with this facilities project.”

In the space once occupied by the Irving Street Building and the powerhouse for the Evans Building, the courtyard will extend back as far as Preston Street. A large, blue-stone terrace, which will be situated directly off the Schattner Center atrium, will be one of the key design elements, and as the main seating area, it will eventually be outfitted with groupings of tables and chairs. Connecting brick walkways will run from the terrace along the sides and back of the courtyard, bordered on the interior with planting beds that will surround the other focal area – a 105’x 60’ lawn in the center of the courtyard. The lawn will be designed to provide ample room for tents, with the goal of creating a versatile outdoor location for events.

“This is a generous space, and through its design, the courtyard will offer an enjoyable and functional environment for all types of use,” adds Breitenbach.

The entrances to the courtyard will connect to all three of the School’s buildings—double-glass doors on the west wall of the Schattner Center atrium will provide direct access to the terrace; steps from the side walkway of the Levy Building will lead to the courtyard’s surrounding sidewalks; and a connecting sidewalk will run from the entrance/exit of the Evans Building’s rear courtyard into the new Schattner Center courtyard.

“To open up the sight line between the two courtyards, the gate at the back Evans courtyard will be removed and the adjacent portion of the surrounding brick wall—the section between the first two pillars—will be lowered to approximately three feet,” adds Jerry Friel, Penn Dental Director of Facilities. “Among the other design features, we will be reusing some of the original granite curbing that went up Irving Street for benches and a retaining wall.”

Visitors to the courtyard will also be able to enjoy the sight and sound of water. The design and location of the courtyard’s fountain are still being finalized with the donor, Dr. Robert Schattner (D’48), and the landscape architect, but this special feature will be part of the completed space.

Dr. Schattner, whose major gift played a leadership role in the construction of the Robert Schattner Center, also provided the funding for the creation of the courtyard area in honor of the School’s former dean, Dr. Raymond Fonseca. ■