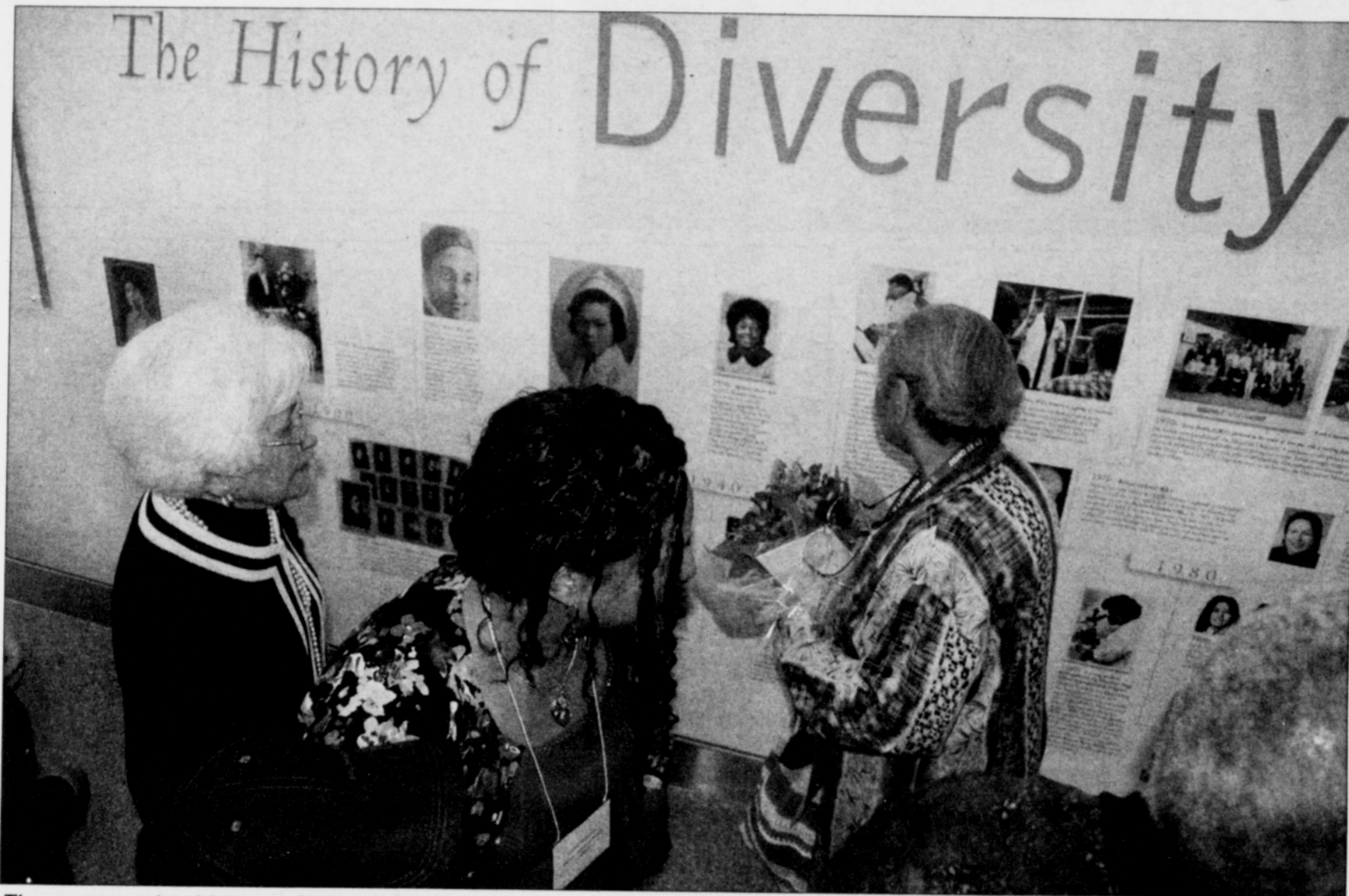


Diversity Wall Fosters Equity



1930s Marian Pang, R.N.
Marian Pang, Class of 1934 was one of the first nurses of color to graduate from the School of Nursing

A history of diversity panel at OHSU tells about Marian Pang, one of the first nurses of color at the teaching hospital. She graduated from the school of nursing in 1934.

The progressive history of breaking color barriers at Oregon Health Sciences University is celebrated in a new History of Diversity wall panel located in OHSU Kohler Pavilion next to the Portland Aerial Tram.

OHSU panels tell stories of struggle, accomplishments

Passengers traveling to and from the Portland Aerial Tram will notice a major addition to Oregon Health Science University's Kohler Pavilion with the addition of a new diversity wall.

The wall chronicles significant events in OHSU's history that recognize diversity within the university's workforce. The wall also highlights major diversity milestones in the United States.

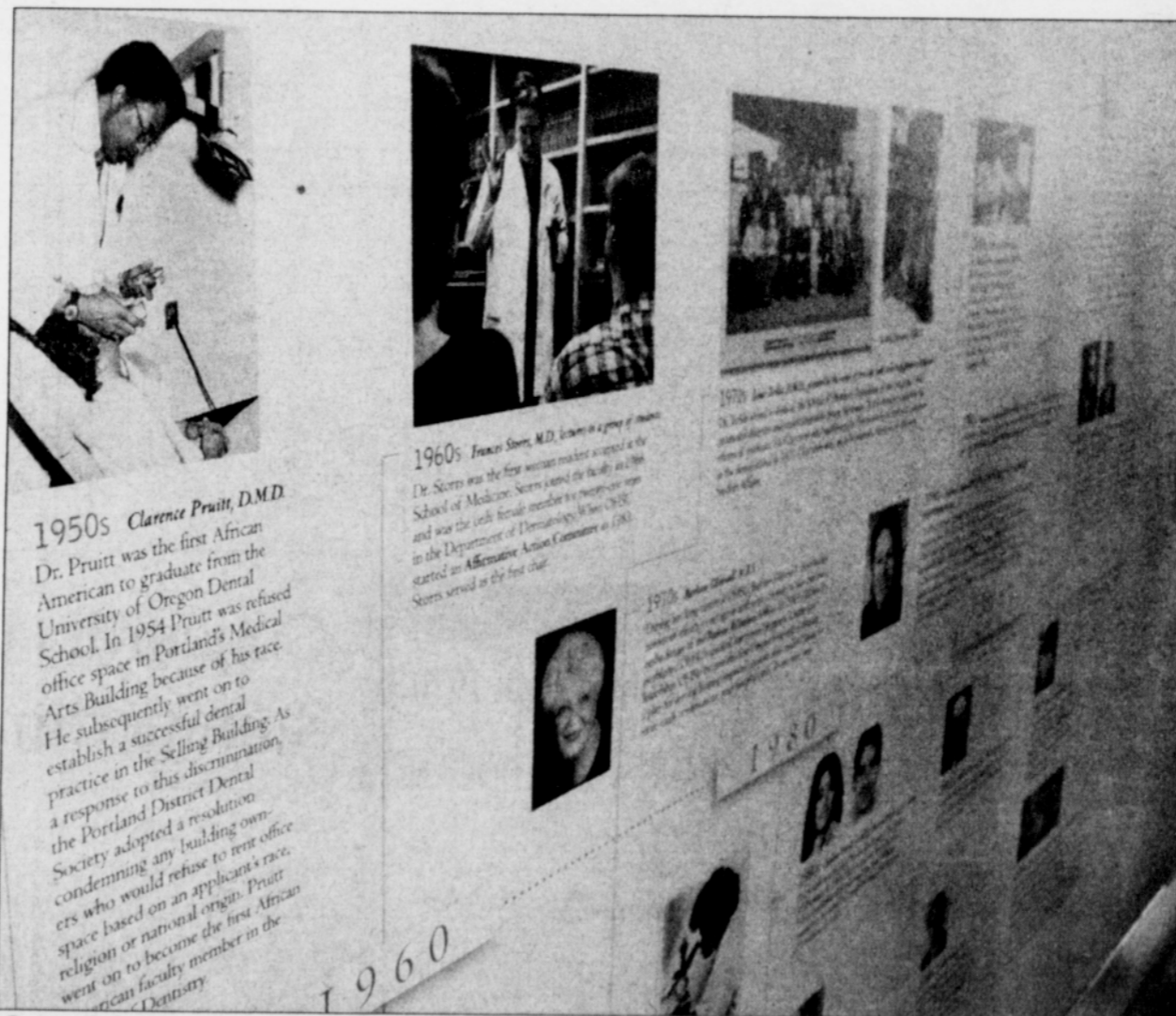
Dr. Norwood Knight-Richardson, vice president and chief administrative officer at OHSU said the wall panels are a way to observe OHSU's past milestones in becoming an organization that values diversity on several levels.

"OHSU is committed to being a diverse organization," Knight-Richardson said "These milestones include the many firsts that helped transform the makeup of OHSU's workforce. In addition, because we are an academic institution, we also celebrate the diversity of ideas that are generated by an organization that seeks to be inclusive."

Leslie Garcia, OHSU's assistant provost for diversity, said "Diversity fosters innovation and builds a vibrant environment promoting creativity and new ways to fulfill OHSU's mission of healing, teaching, discovery and community service."

The wall and portraits are in close proximity to OHSU's historical wall. Both of these displays will greet visitors as they travel to and from OHSU via the Portland Aerial Tram.

Historical photos and information for the OHSU Diversity Wall came from



One of the individuals featured in a new panel on diversity at OHSU shows Dr. Clarence Pruitt, (left) the first African American to graduate from the Oregon Dental School.

OHSU's library and other sources. The wall was proposed and planned by OHSU's Diversity Advisory Council.

The new wall was unveiled June 29 along with the portraits of two people who played crucial roles in expanding Oregon's diversity: OHSU's Dr. Clarence Pruitt and Jean M. Richardson.

Pruitt was the first African-American to

graduate from the University of Oregon Dental School in 1949. In 1957, he was refused office space in Portland's Medical Arts Building because of his race. He subsequently became the first African-American to establish a successful dental practice in the Selling Building.

As a response to this discrimination, the Portland District Dental Society

adopted a resolution condemning any building owners who would refuse to rent office space based on an applicant's race, religion or national origin.

Pruitt went on to become the first African-American part-time faculty member in the School of Dentistry, working closely with Dean Louis Terkla and Keith Claycomb in the recruitment of minority students to the School of Dentistry.

Richardson graduated from Oregon State University in 1949 with a degree in civil engineering. She persevered through discrimination at school and at work and paved the way for women in a field largely dominated by men.

She began working pro bono for an Alabama engineering company until her employer deemed her work competent. Jean went on to own her own company and became the first woman to head maintenance engineering for the City of Portland.

The diversity wall also pays tribute to programs that foster advancements for disadvantaged populations.

The Intercultural Psychiatric Program was developed by Dr. J. David Kinzie in 1977 to provide culturally sensitive mental health services to immigrant and refugee communities.

The Avel Gordly Center for Healing is a program of the Department of Psychiatry. The center meets the mental health needs of the diverse communities of Oregon, with special focus on African-Americans.

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