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## The 6th Floor Transition: Details & Discussion

Esther H. Kim (DMD 2004)

Although construction on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor started later than expected, the school is optimistic that the new clinic will be completed by September 2003. Most of the details about the clinic itself were described in the last *Explorer* issue and have remained essentially unchanged.

For curiosity's sake, however, here are further details about the new clinic—helpfully provided by Dr. Stephen DuLong, Assistant Dean of Clinical Services, and Andrew Burke, Administrative Facilities and Clinics Manager:

1) The wall partitions between bays will be of two different heights. About 2/3 of the partition will be the DPH-regulated floor-to-ceiling height, extending just far enough to prevent the seated patient from looking at other patients in adjacent bays. The remaining 1/3 will be at a lower height, to allow students and faculty standing/ sitting at the head of a patient's chair to look over at adjacent operatories and signal more effectively and subtly when help or a patient

check is needed.

2) The sinks will be counter-top style, located behind seated students. One sink area will be shared between every 2 operatories--therefore, that area between the sharing bays will be a partially open space.

3) In each bay, there will be a small counter area to view charts and to place equipment on. Hanging from the far side of the counter cabinet will be a plastic holder to place charts in during a session.

4) The 6<sup>th</sup> floor sterilization center will be twice the size of the 5<sup>th</sup> floor's (which will remain active). Therefore, the capacity of the school's central sterilization area will be increased by a factor of 3. The main benefit?

Avoiding the pile-up of unsterilized instruments that occur at "crunch time"—when unsterilized instruments from the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (*Endo, Perio, Prosth*) are brought up in a rolling cart, causing a long queue of 5<sup>th</sup> floor kits and instruments waiting to be sterilized.

Why was there a delay in con-

struction?

If you were one of the students asked to remove your belongings from a 6<sup>th</sup> floor locker in the middle of December 2002, you probably expected construction to start soon afterwards. However, January 15, 2003 was actually the official date for construction to begin. The reason for the delay was the complicated permit process (*getting demolition permits, construction permits, occupancy permits, etc*). The main complication involving the demolition process was the presence of asbestos in the stu-



dent workstation countertops and within the floor tiles. (However, before you

start running to the doctor for a lung exam, please note that the asbestos only becomes dangerous when broken up (demolished) and freed into the air—it is NOT dangerous when commercially installed in bound form).

The first step in the 6<sup>th</sup> floor demolition was the removal of countertops by a specialized,

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hazardous material crew. Then T. R. White, the main construction company, used cranes to clear out the rubbish of metal, cabinetry, and walls left behind. The floor tiles were then removed before the start of actual re-construction of the 6<sup>th</sup> floor into a clinical space.

To be on the safe side, the school wanted a buffer time period so that students would have their stuff off the 6<sup>th</sup> floor, well in advance before the start of demolition. If there was anything left in the lockers by the time the demolition crew came to break up the countertops, they would have thrown everything out.

Crowding in the 5<sup>th</sup> floor lab:

The purpose of the 5<sup>th</sup> floor lab is to allow students (working during clinical sessions) to pour up alginate impressions

right away—the only activity needed to be done as quickly as possible. If a person has lab work they wanted to do between appointments (ex: you saw a patient on Mon & you want to trim the casts on Tues), it would be more appropriate to do it at the SLC.

The only way to get more lab space within the school is to reduce the # of operatories on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. However, this would probably not be in the best interest of the students—especially since the end of the academic year is fast approaching. With 300 clinically active students & 48 bays, there is pressure for students to have operatories available to treat patients and finish their graduation/ promotion requirements. Having even 1 less operatory on the floor would be a significant reduction.

If there is a clear mandate from all the clinical classes, however, (i.e. a large majority of clinically active students) requesting an increase in lab space at the cost of decommissioning an adjacent operatory, the school would certainly be willing to sacrifice a chair.

The 5<sup>th</sup> floor lab space was installed in response to a request expressed at student government meetings for lab space during the day, especially during clinical sessions. It was not included in the school's original plans, but was done at the suggestion from student representatives. So, there has been dialogue and discussion between the school and the students about the changes involving lab space, and the dialogue may be re-opened for further consideration if needed. Again, however, there must be a clear mandate.

There is a small remedy that can be implemented to help decrease crowding in the corner lab and facilitate students needing to pour up impressions—to have extra vibrators available at the supply window for “renting” either during or in between sessions. Students could give their ID cards in order to use a vibrator in an empty bay

and pour up the impressions there. Students could then go later to the SLC to trim their casts (or if uncrowded, to the corner lab itself). Thus, there would be less people working in the small corner lab,

which would decrease the occasional feeling of claustrophobia.

About the SLC:

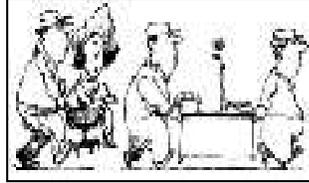
Stacia has already emailed a new SLC schedule for April. Any time that the AS I or II class is scheduled, there will be space available in the back lab for other students to do lab work. Any time that the DMD II class is scheduled, both rooms will be full and no space will be available.

But if other activities are being held at the SLC (ex: *Mock NERB's*, *prep courses for Fixed Simulation*), space will be available in the back lab—about a minimum of 20 workstations. Students can come and work at those empty units in the back lab to do necessary lab work. Although this is not an ideal situation (*students in the scheduled session may be distracted by others coming in to do other lab activities*), there is no other alternative space for students to do lab work during the day.

What about the locker issue?

After the 6<sup>th</sup> floor clinic is finished, the present locker situation won't change. Many students have commented that having a smaller locker in the basement is an inconvenience, especially those who are busy in the clinic. The placement of additional lockers for the basement (elevator-side) and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor (on either side of Room G-301) has been proposed, but unfortunately it will not be possible to do.

Lockers in school corridors has raised issues in the past with the fire marshal (ex: *the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor used to have lockers in the corridors, but they were ordered to be removed*). There is limited space available in the basement, due to the need for egress around



*Editorial*



Familiar faces leaving us and new faces arriving is also a part of being in school. As the NERB exams approach for our DMD 04' and AS-2 students, we not only wish them all the very best

for their exams, but also a wonderful and fulfilling life ahead of them. The road may be wavy but the focus on goal will take you right through the trip. It was wonderful having you all for guiding us through happy and difficult times alike. Once again from the entire ASDA team "Best of luck". As promised in last edition we have our cultural spotlight article, but we are sorry we could not complete the "Ask G.V. Black" column. We do have a new column "ASDAys run" to update you with all the exciting adventures at the ASDA council.

This being our first issue, we hope we have tried to keep up in the track of our previous editors and hope you will all like the issue. If you have any comments, you can mail us at najib@bu.edu & mshilpa@bu.edu

Until next time... Take care

-Najib ADI and Shilpa Mailapur

(Continued from page 2)

the lab and supply store (ex: for deliveries) and the likelihood that necessary structures (ex: drain/disposal holes) would be blocked by lockers in the corridor.

Placing additional lockers on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor is unlikely, too. They would bring an unesthetic appearance and possible crowding of hallways when dental applicants come for interviews and tours of the school.

Interesting suggestions have been made to remove the existing 3<sup>rd</sup> floor classrooms and replace them with lab lockers. But this is also impossible, because there are plans to enhance and expand those classrooms with new and special features in the future.

Final Thoughts:

So, what would be the perfect solution for students unhappy with the current lab space, locker location, and (on a brief side note) classroom location inconven-

ience?

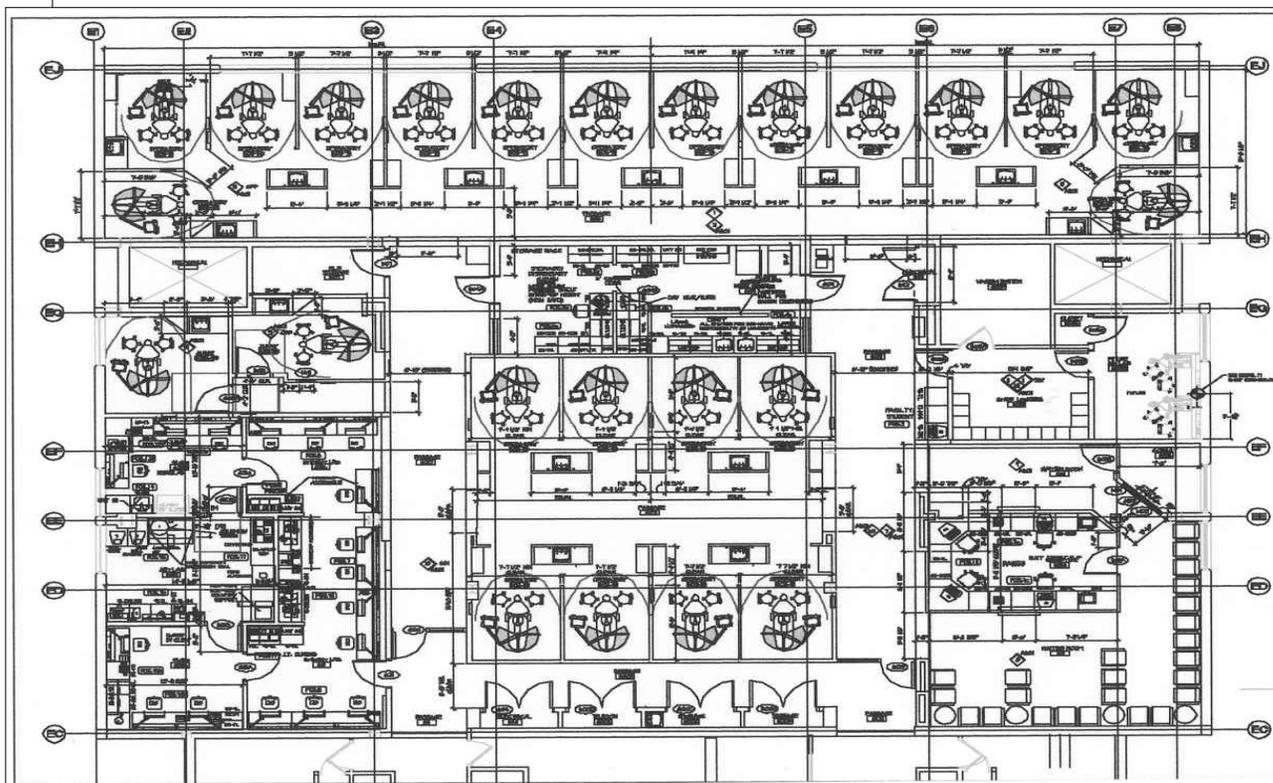
Answer: To use the entire 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Albany Building—not just as a SLC space, but also as additional pre-clinical/didactic classrooms and lockers for students.

It would be a wonderful benefit for students to have a locker both in-school (for proximity to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> floor clinics) as well as in the SLC (for storage of equipment used infrequently in the clinic but essential for Removable or general lab work—ex: stone casts, mounted articulator cases, Triad custom trays).

Also, the majority of the DMD II & III and AS I & II classes are held in South Block, about a 10 minute walk (one-way) from the dental school. To have a large classroom just across the street (1 minute from the school) would be ideal for students—allowing DMD III and AS II students to stay longer in class before heading off to the clinic to meet patients. Fur-

thermore, it would help DMD I, II, and AS I students transition from pre-clinical lecture to pre-clinical lab much more smoothly.

Unfortunately, every space in the Albany (SLC) Building is currently rented by various research companies, and this “perfect solution” is, at present, only a “pipe dream.” However, this is an exciting idea that the school will hopefully consider for future generations of incoming classes. This proposal could be beautifully implemented with relative ease if space was available within the building. Without a doubt, this dream solution would be a wonderful example of the Goldman school’s mission for enhancing, encouraging, and maximizing quality dental education and training.



Top, Mid Left, and Center: 24 Operatories

Center: Sterilization Area

Mid Right: Faculty Lounge (2 future simulation bays will be located to its right)

Lower Right Corner: Waiting Room & Front Desk

Lower Left Corner: Technicians' Lab w/ 11 workstations

**[Top Border--> faces Albany Street]**

**[Bottom Border--> adjacent to Elevators & Remo/Faculty/General Dent Corridor]**

## Yankee Dental Congress

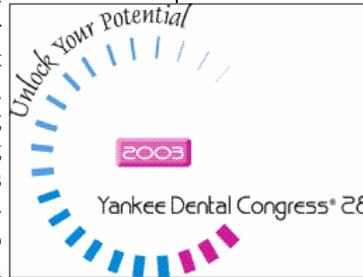
Amelia Grabe (DMD 2005)

**Y**ankee Dental Congress occurs every year in the last week of January and is sponsored by the Massachusetts Dental Society, and if you're a dental student, you're crazy not to take advantage of it.

This is 4 days all about our future careers that we're talking about, there's everything from continuing education classes (when you're a dentist, you'll need to take a certain amount to retain your license in the state you work in), where you can learn more about what you've already seen in classes, SLC, or clinic; the vendor fair where every company that makes dental products can be found and many free samples can be recouped; the student activities such as the Success Seminar, the Student Reception, and the BU Alumni reception where you can meet alumnae and chat with faculty and staff; the research presentations by fellow students from dental schools in New England; and anything else you can think of that's related to dentistry.

This is an opportunity to be exposed to everything we're going to see once we're out of school in the real dental world, it's the reason why we're all here at BUGSDM.

Having participated on the Massachusetts Dental Society committee that plans activities for the students at Yankee every year, there were a lot of great opportunities for students this year to attend many events centered on student interests, and we certainly welcome any suggestions for next year.



On the first night of Y a n k e e , W e d n e s d a y night, there was a course on determining associate contracts, followed by the Student Reception for all dental students in Boston. There was a great turn out this year of students from Tufts, Harvard, and BU, and the food at the reception was excellent as usual- how can you turn down a free meal of good food and a great atmosphere (they even had a DJ this year)? It's a great opportunity to meet students from the other schools and to get to know each other and to commiserate with each other on the ups and downs of what it's like to be a dental student, no matter where you go to school.

There are also plenty of free classes to take on any topic that interests you, whether it's "Perio-Prosthetic Relationships", given by BUGSDM's own Dr. Zori Rabinovitz, or "Esthetic Restora-

tions for Dentitions" by Dr. Laura Camacho from Tufts. You can easily find something to interest you, and you might find some useful information to use in the SLC or in the clinic.

The Success Seminar on Saturday had Dr. Matthew Massina and Dr. Fred Auerbach talking about what successful practice management is all about and the transition from dental school to the real world. Outside of the room where this course took place was the Residency Fair, a new addition to address student interest, where 25 residency programs from up and down the East Coast were represented.

I always enjoy going to Yankee because not only do you run into professors outside of school, but you get to meet dentists from all over New England. It's an electric environment where everyone's all excited about dentistry, and it easily affords a glimpse into our not-so-distant future as dentists, not students. From the perspective of a former student at his first Yankee as a dentist, Dr. Joel Nichols, BUGSDM '02, said the difference "is like night and day".

So make time next year to go enjoy it, soak in all the new technology that's come out since Dr. McManama told you about the latest materials in Operative Dentistry (you'll see he's right when he warns us that the materials will change a lot throughout your course at BUGSDM) and take advantage of all there is to offer- after all, it's all about dentistry, and isn't that what we're here at BUGSDM for? Think about it... it should be a no-brainer...

### And th'ASDA way it is...

### What is the most exciting thing you have done on Valentines day?

I spent the day in an ASDA Tri-regional meeting in New York City and then went for a romantic helicopter ride over the city with my husband of ten years!

The most exciting thing I did for Valentine's was watching Mamma Mia! It was the best Broadway show I have ever seen.

I watched "How to lose a guy in 10 days?" with my girl-friend.

## ASDA Basketball Tournament

Bennet Lee (DMD 2004)

**A**SDA's Boston University chapter hosted its annual basketball tournament February 8th this year. In its third year since its inception, this tournament has brought together dental students, faculty, staff and alumni from each of the Region 1 dental schools in an entertaining and, not to mention, highly competitive event.

'It is one of those events that everyone looks forward to each year,' says Joshua Ries, Region 1 Trustee.

This year there were 9 teams participating in the tournament. Each one of these teams was competitive, which made for some very close scoring games. Overtime games were not a rare occurrence this year.

Teams from BU, Tufts, Harvard and UConn competed for the ASDA Basketball Champion-

ship and a cash prize. This year's champions took home a modest but well-earned \$250.

The championship game pitted team SK from Boston University against the Amalgamatorz from Harvard. It was a close con-

test from start to finish with SK coming out victorious, 22 – 21, with their game winning shot at the final buzzer.

The tournament was a huge success and with renovations being made to a new recreation center it will prove to be even better with the years to come. An event such as this tournament has shown to be a great way to build camaraderie and solidarity within our region.



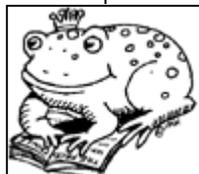
Bennet Lee and The SK Winning Team!

## What is Lobby Day?

Catherine Bunin-Stevenson (DMD 2005)

**W**hat is Lobby Day? Why should a dental student care? Isn't lobbying something that lawyers and politicians do? Let Doctor Buns, Esquire answer these seemingly simple questions for you.

Lobby day is a day when dental students or dentists go to Washington D.C. and speak with their Congressional and Senatorial representatives about the issues that are most pressing in the profession of Dentistry. It is one of the greatest opportunities the profession has to explain to lawmakers the who, what, were and how from our organizational point of view. As Dental Students



we need to understand the importance of the organizational point of view as opposed to the view of one. As an organization, lawmakers see thousands of votes, as to individuals they see only one. When a dental student or dentist comes to Washington and tells a representative "I represent 84% of all dental students or dentists in the Country" The representative will listen because he or she is aware that, that 84% represents tens of thousands of votes for their party and maybe even for them in their district. A perfect example occurred last year when ASDA and the ADA lobbied Washington to abolish the three year limit on the Student

Loan Interest deduction which can be up to \$3,000.00 per year. Not only did the House and Senate abolish this limit, it helped all students from every profession. If we as dentists do not speak out in a unified voice to our representatives then they will not know how to proceed in a way the majority favors. As dentists our independence as professionals is largely based on our ability to effectively explain to our representatives what is at stake when they pass laws that affect us, our patients and the way we practice, we are the only ones who possess this knowledge and this is knowledge we must impart to our lawmakers.

This year Lobby day was on March 25-March 26th for ASDA. Unfortunately, our Second delegate Amelia Grabe and Catherine Bunin-Stevenson our Co-Legislative Liaison our ASDA representatives for Lobby day this year could not attend the meeting, we wish them luck for the coming year.

# The Artistic Dentist

## BEAUTIFUL GIRL

*Hey you on the rise of the sun  
Hear me now my day is done  
Today I shed all my faces  
I am tired of filling out these spaces*

*No I won't let you down  
No I can't give you up  
Even though I fall flat on the ground*

*Beautiful girl I wish you would see  
What my eyes have seen in you*

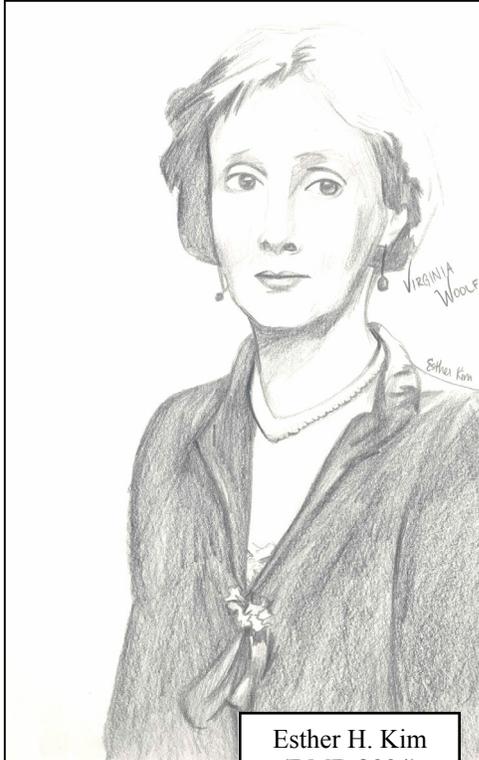
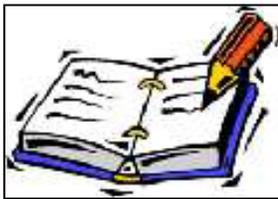
*First time sun is here to shine  
maybe it's just the state of mind  
but I've never ever felt so happy  
Yes I've Never ever felt such Joy  
and I don't wanna cry  
it's the first time I feel so high  
coz all my life I wanted just to fly*

*Beautiful girl I wish you were mine  
Together we sail to the end of time*

*You may ask me I hardly know you well  
It's the beauty and smell of your soul  
Timeless energy just flowing thru the pores  
Beauty of a Goddess and a mind in her own  
I'd like to worship but you never seem to show  
Give me a chance and Ill give myself to you*

*Beautiful girl I wish you would know  
How much I really care for you*

Usman Sibtain Fazli  
(AS 2004)



Esther H. Kim  
(DMD 2004)

## FRUITION

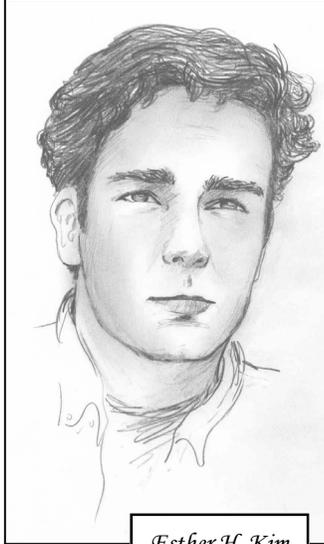
*A battle to express the warmest of thoughts  
Is fought in the cellar of our hearts.  
Feelings of unknown origin sprout  
From all corners of our unwelcomed soul.  
We tackle the lightest of fears first  
As a measure of indulgent protection  
Yet we are weak in the eyes of our enemy.*

*Time succeeds the minutes that remain  
As our strength subsides and consumes us.  
The maze of our like takes in turn again  
Our destination no longer planned as before.*

*The shields of survival have protected so far  
All that is precious and treasured  
But faults in the light of reality.  
Upon those golden moments that were famous  
The flow of serenity is elsewhere to be found  
Yet this life does not conclude in loneliness.*

Ariel Bales-Kogan  
(DMD 2003)

# The Artistic Dentist



*Esther H. Kim*  
(DMD 2004)

A dental education is a very scientific process. Although never-ending, it does lack that certain ability to allow us to express ourselves in different and imaginative ways. This section is intended to demonstrate that dentists, too, have artistic and creative sides worth exploring.

If you wish to contribute to this section, please feel free to submit your material to your class representative or by email to [mshilpa@bu.edu](mailto:mshilpa@bu.edu) or [najib@bu.edu](mailto:najib@bu.edu).

## ROMANTIC

*I do love you  
I do go anywhere to live with you  
to stay with you  
to be part of you  
I do forget the whole world  
when I am with you;  
even myself  
When I feel your breath  
when I hear your voice  
when I dream of you  
when I am waiting you  
I do love you  
If I need to  
I escape from myself to be in yours  
But, I don't need to  
'cause you do in my heart  
you are always in my mind  
you are the one  
and only the one who I do think of  
who I do care about  
who I do die to see you beautiful smile;  
your shining eyes  
that are always flowering in mine  
to see YOU  
I do miss you  
when you are far away  
I do miss you  
I am alone without you  
I do miss you when I say Bye  
when I hang up  
I do miss you every single second you are away home  
It is enough to be with you  
to look at you  
to hear you  
I do sacrifice myself for you  
I am able to end to let you start  
I am to go to let you come  
I am able to love you more  
I do sweet talk  
I do say I love you  
each time I feel I see you  
I feel I hear you  
I smile softly  
I laugh loudly  
Just for you  
But  
Really do I?  
I doubt it  
I just wanna be romantic*

*Hanan Al-Awadhi*  
(CAS 2004)

# In-Profile: Dr. Laisheng Lee Chou

Vikas Goel and Anthony Lieu (DMD 2006)



**Dr. Laisheng Lee Chou, DMD, Ph.D.**  
Professor and Director,  
Division of Oral Medicine,  
Boston University Goldman School of  
Dental Medicine.

**W**e decided to have an informal interview with Dr. Laisheng Lee Chou, the man behind the Molecular Bio-materials revolution. Our objective was to go 12 rounds to unravel the Metcalf Cup Award winner to find out how he arrived in Boston and what makes him tick. What we discovered is more explosive than we can handle...

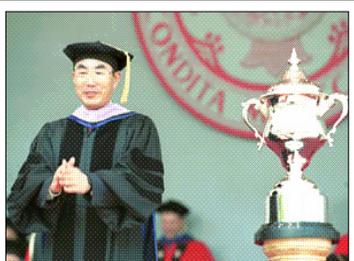
DMD '06: What does winning the Metcalf Cup mean to you?

DR. C: Wow. You start with a heavy question.

DMD '06: This is the main reason why we are here today, that and to be excused from class.

DR. C: Well, the award has two main sentimental reminders. First, it's an honor to win such a prestigious teaching award. Teaching is an important component to everything I do.

Second, it's an inspiration which I dedicate to my elementary school teacher, Ms. Chou (no relation). My early academic memories are filled with ex-



Receiving the Metcalf Award

tracurricular activities and competition. Ms. Chou always encouraged and inspired us to obtain our potential. We won numerous awards in artistry, science and other disciplines. One of my paintings which was dedicated to world peace had received international recognition in Paris. The painting was of a girl holding a pigeon in her arm.

DMD '06: Tell us more about your previous life as a radio broadcaster.

DR. C: I was about 20 years old when I interviewed for the position. Shanghai had a population approximately 1 million people and only one radio station. There were 104 applicants for the position and multiple rounds of interview. After an arduous interview process, I was finally granted the title of "radio broadcaster". This title was considered prestigious because I the youngest radio broadcaster in Shanghai.

DMD '06: What do you think of Yao Ming?

DR. C: Who is Yao Ming? Just kidding, I believe Yao Ming deserves the honor and credit for being the first Asian to participate in the NFL. America has been immensely generous and accepting to allow Yao Ming to play here in this country.

DMD '06: How did you decide to choose dentistry?

DR. C: My family forced me to. Actually, my parents, aunts, and uncles were all dentists so it was a given that I was to follow the same path. I was initially passive about the idea, but I ex-

celled at dentistry. I received my dental education at the University of Shanghai No. 2. I started to enjoy the field and learnt even more and then I got involved in dental research. It's in the genes.

DMD '06: So what's your research about?

DR. C: My research focuses around three key factors: Molecular biocompatibilities of implant materials, tissue-engineering, pathogenic HIV association. I believe in practicing research in a cross-disciplinary manner, this allows for the exploration of fields that have yet to be analyzed. For example, I created the field of molecular biocompatibility which was previously unrecognized by the research community, it is now recognized by the National Biomaterials Association (NBA).

DMD '06: How did you arrive to all of this research?

DR. C: Through my many explorations I stopped at UCSF where I studied under two mentors, Dr. Lou Hanson and Dr. Hal Silverman. Dr. Hanson was the chair of the Oral Pathology department and when he retired, I inherited all of his teaching material. I have dinner with him every so often.

DMD '06: Where else have you been?

DR. C: My PhD training was done in Vancouver. I selected molecular biology because I wanted to acquire an in-depth understanding for anything medically related. I challenged myself by taking classes with the medical students. In 1991 I enrolled in biochemistry taught by Michael Smith. He is someone I have always admired and personally I witnessed him receive the Nobel Prize award. Historically few medical students,

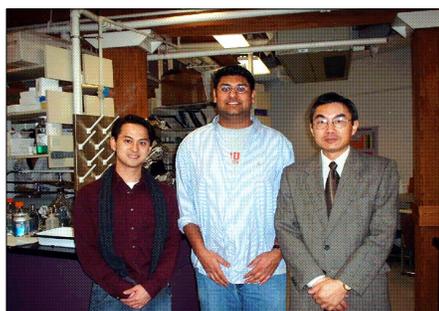
*(Continued on page 9)*

*"Dentistry is more challenging than Medical School."*

*(Continued from page 8)*

needless to say dental students receive an A in his class. In fact, the medical students would question why I was even there. Well, guess who got the ONLY A.

DMD '06: Hey. Dental students 1: Medical Students 0.  
DR. C: That's right.



From left to right: Tony, Vikas, and Dr. Chou

DMD '06:

Where do you go for Dim Sum?

DR. C: China Pearl (China Town). My family and I like to go once a month. I personally like the steamed shrimp dumpling.

DMD '06: What do you do for fun?

DR. C: I like to fish.

DMD '06: What's the biggest catch?

DR. C: The biggest fish was a 4 lb bass.

DMD '06: What is your advice to dental students?

DR. C: It is a difficult process, and I believe that dentistry is much more challenging than medical

school. I have taken courses in both and believe that dentistry requires a greater comprehension and application of materials and skills. Always be confident in your work and study. It's a rough life during your four years here, be sure to take a break

once in a while and enjoy Boston. Also take advantage of one of the best facilities in the country and all its resources it has to offer such as professors, the SLC, and the associated staff.

Dr. Laisheng Lee Chou is undoubtedly driven to explore the vast possibilities and applications between the union of dentistry and medicine. The honor of winning the Metcalf Cup Award is one reminder of how Ms. Chou has affected his journey around the world. Boston University and dentistry is most fortunate to have Dr. Chou as one of the industry pioneers. We are inspired to excel and explore the possibility of confidence and diligence.

## Give Kids A Smile

David Blackburn (DMD 2006)

Dental students from the Boston University School of Dental Medicine helped many underserved children in the South Boston and Roxbury area learn the importance of oral health and hygiene. On Friday, February 21, student volunteers representing BUGSDM participated in "Give Kids A Smile!" – the first national children's dental access day sponsored by the ADA and Crest.

Hundreds of dental professionals across the country participated in the nationwide event "Give Kids A Smile!" Locally, ASDA coordinated several BU student volunteers to teach oral education and hygiene to more than one hundred children of the South Boston and Roxbury Boys and Girls Clubs. The children were eager to listen, participate and learn about dental health. BU students gave tooth brushing demonstrations and creative presentations on dental decay, nutrition and hygiene. The children at the clubhouses received free dental products

and materials that encouraged them to continue good oral care at home.

Many dental students were eager to be involved with their community and offer their knowledge to others. Everyone who participated was rewarded by the kids' smiles and enthusiasm. Amelia Grabe, who taught at the Roxbury clubhouse, said, "I love helping children because they will listen to you, interact and share what they know with you. Nothing is better than making a difference in someone's life by helping to increase their dental IQ, which translates into better dental health."

"Give Kids A Smile!" was a successful day for the BUGSDM student body. ASDA will continue to facilitate opportunities for students to be involved with their community. ASDA greatly appreciates all of the

participants in "Give Kids A Smile!" including Peter Ngo, Usha



David Blackburn at Roxbury Boys and Girls Clubs  
(Courtesy of Margaret Brett, Image Photo)

Jonnalagadda, Tracy Gutierrez, Britt Soden, Erik Reifenhahl, David Blackburn, Lisa Thompson, Eric Lac, Stephanie Battaglia, Veena Nagappa, Divya Shetty, Amelia Grabe, Priti Garg, Jouvita Fernandes-Morais, Zeynab Barakat, Eric Wolfe, Joanne Tsagas, and Nikia Taylor.

## Pre dental Update

Zeynab Barakat, DMD 2006

The pre-dental membership of ASDA at the BUGSDM chapter is not only rising but also expanding. This year, the ASDA chapter at Boston University is working with Boston College and Wellesley College to start national ASDA chapters at the respective schools. Undergraduate students at these two universities are interested in pursuing careers in dentistry are forming pre-dental societies. Currently, these students are categorized as “pre-medical” or “pre-health professional” students and have no distinct campus organization pertaining to dentistry. After learning of ASDA and its pre-dental benefits, interest in their very own ASDA chapter at their schools sparked high.

The BU pre-dental society is exemplary to other colleges in the Boston area. Members attended this year’s Yankee Dental Congress in February and held elections to appoint new members as officers for the following academic year.

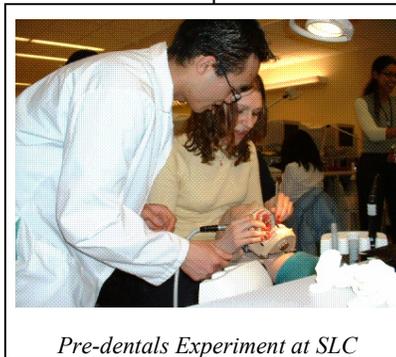
My own involvement with ASDA dates back to my junior year as a pre-dental ASDA member at Boston College. Reading about life in dental school and the various achievements of dental students undoubtedly heightened my motivation to study

dentistry. Therefore, the idea of having an introductory lecture to the art of “drilling” while cutting my very first prep and chatting with dental students, would have seemed too good to be true. On Wednesday March 5<sup>th</sup>, pre-dental students from Boston University and Wellesley College had the opportunity to simulate a clinical experience at the Simulation Learning Center. Dr. John McManama delighted them

with a presentation on the objectives of the SLC and what Operative Dentistry courses in dental school entail. He followed that by a demonstration on preparing molars for MO restorations.

Soon after each pre-dental student paired with an upperclassman, the drilling began. As they guided their hand-pieces through teeth numbers 19, 31 or 30, the pre-dental students were taught basic tips on posture, finger rests, crown preps, dental anatomy and even “Extension-for-Prevention” techniques. Some of the topics the undergraduates raised with dental students included admission requirements, research in dental school, and various dental special-

ties. Several students already had established dentistry as their future careers while others were pondering the notion of entering the dental rather than the medical field. Either way, all were very happy to catch a glimpse of restorative dentistry within a dental school environment amongst dental students who portrayed a highly enthusiastic regard for dentistry.



Pre-dentals Experiment at SLC

Our future goal at BUGSDM is to establish national ASDA chapters at other universities and to retain pre-dental memberships by organizing

similar events for undergraduate students. Aspects we will target include the application process preparation, panelists, dental student mentors, volunteering to name few. Finally, I would like to thank the faculty members and dental students for devoting their time willingly to make this event successful and fun for everyone.

## Legislative Update

Catherine Bunin-Stevenson (DMD 2005)

### Did you know:

- That Massachusetts has voted to accept all four regional (SRTA, WREB, CRDTS and NERB) exams for initial licensure effective January 22, 2003.
- That in New York State instead of taking a licensure exam you can participate in an

approved Post Graduate Residency Program, and once successfully completing your residency you will be granted a license to practice dentistry in New York State.

- That you can now deduct student loan interest from your taxes.

- At few dental schools you can now take the clinical portion of Part II of the NERB in October of your Senior year.
- That ASDA and ADA are responsible in effecting all the above listed changes!

## *ASDA World Turns: Cultural Spotlight—Syria*

Najib ADI (AS 2004)

**B**oston University, the most international school in the United States, is proud to present this new cultural page. In each edition, we will have contributions from students about their home country, with a twist.

Syria, located in the Middle East and a member of the Arab world, is the cradle of the great civilizations. It was here that agriculture began ten thousand years ago and the first settlement commenced (If you play Civilizations, you will know what I mean!). With time comes fame they say, so don't be surprised when they say Syria is home to some of the best monuments in the world.

This geographical position lent distinction to the country, not only as a trade and caravan route, but also as a melting pot of diverse ideas, beliefs, talents, and cultures.

Syria also presented the world with astute discoveries. It was here that copper was made pliable and bronze was invented (Ask the residents at the Bio-materials department). The bronze civilization came into being in Syria.

The first Alphabet was found in Ugarit, Syria, which dates back to 1400 B.C. Guys, Syrians started all this ... home work, assignments, papers etc.

Damascus, Syria's capital now a unique mixture of history and modernization is the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world! Through the centuries, visitors have described Damascus in many different ways. Whatever words one chooses to describe, there is little doubt that it leaves an indelible mark on the heart and imagination.

Greetings my friend, is not by a hand shake, but with a tight hug and a kiss on your cheek.

A journey through Syria is a journey through time. When you enter old markets "souk" as we call them you realize that history is something alive and tangible, something you can see and touch.

Visitors to Syria will always find something to their liking. Syrian cuisine is well known for its variety. "Falafel" is the

Syrian Hamburger, ask Mario at our cafeteria to wrap you one (3.75\$ + tax!)

A Syrian specialty is its ancient public Steam Baths. If you can endure a session of local massage at the end of your steam bath experience, you are a survivor. Make sure you learn how to say the phrase: "STOP, you are crushing my bones" in Arabic prior to entering the steam bath.

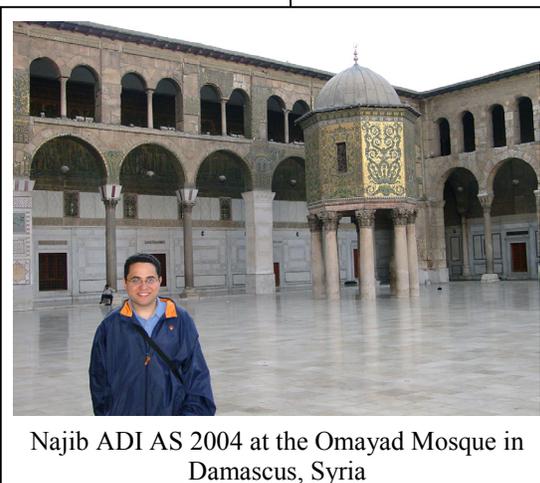
No time to indulge in that kind of lux-

ury, try the natural Syrian Olive oil soap at home and feel the difference.

Syrian people are friendly, generous and sometimes too curious; if you look around you might find

a Syrian classmate with a big smile, who wants to know what you are up to.

For more information about Syria, check with your local Syrian classmate.



Najib ADI AS 2004 at the Omayyad Mosque in Damascus, Syria

### *And th'ASDA way it is...*

#### How has the 6th floor constructions affected you?

How has it affected me? Well, can I start by the wonderful lockers that we have moved to. No shelves, inconvenient area, and above else smaller.

Second: where do we do removable lab work? First, they tell us that since there is no space most work will be sent out to labs. Then they tell us find SLC when there's no classes, which is when? I don't know. Most of the time something is going on there. Or should I do my lab work at home? Maybe when I have a patient and I need an area to do work I can go home and come back.

Conclusion: since there is no area for us to do work, send out the lab work! Once everything is organized then make the students do the lab work again. It is not my fault the number of students being accepted is increasing and the school needs to expand. I did not come to BU to do lab work at home.

It has made working extremely difficult and stressful with only just three months to graduate many wonder if the work on the sixth could have been better timed.

It hasn't been any major hassle or concern...since most of our classes are on the 3rd floor...and we spend our time between there and the main floor. I haven't noticed any considerable noisiness either.

# MASSHEALTH AND THE BUMP UP PROGRAM

Shilpa Mailapur , AS 2004

## ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MASSHEALTH AND THE BUMP UP PROGRAM

**W**hat is Medicaid, what is MassHealth, what they offer, what they mean to us? Read on and lets hope I have covered all the answers.

### *What is Medicaid?*

Medicaid is the Health Insurance plan for low-income residents. Medicaid is federally mandated in every state but adult coverage is offered in just a few. In 1964 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts enacted their Medicaid program to provide payments to support the health care of low-income individuals.

### *How is it different from Medicare?*

Medicare is health care for the elderly. People over the age of 65 are eligible to receive the benefits and it pays for a certain amount of medical care. Unfortunately dentistry is not a part of the Medicare program. So, patients who are 65 or older who are Medicare covered could still have no dental benefits under Medicare but if they are indigent they may be eligible under Medicaid program for dental benefits.

### *Who covers the Children?*

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is another State Insurance plan which covers for children 21 years or younger.

### *What is MassHealth?*

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts combines both the Medicaid and CHIP into MassHealth coverage. The Division of Medical Assistance (The division) is the State agency responsible for administering and managing these plans. MassHealth and Medicaid are funded in part by the federal gov-

ernment and the state of Massachusetts from tax revenues. Through MassHealth, DMA offers a broad range of health-care services by paying for part or all of a MassHealth member's health insurance, or paying medical providers for services given to MassHealth members.

MassHealth pays for health care for certain low- and medium-income people living in Massachusetts who are under age 65 and who are not living in nursing homes or other long-term-care facilities. Certain people aged 65 or older may also be eligible for MassHealth if they are parents or caretaker relatives of children under age 19 or are disabled and working 40 or more hours a month.

Qualified MassHealth members may be able to get doctor visits, prescription drugs, hospital stays, podiatrist services, prosthetic services, transportation services, vision care and radiology services and many other important services.

### *What is the common health plan?*

The common health plan is the part of MassHealth plan responsible that provides dental care services to the members. Prior to January, 2002, basic Services for adults over 21 years included extractions, fillings, crown and bridge, limited endodontic procedures, scaling once a year etc. among others. Cosmetic procedures are not covered. Orthodontic services and bleaching are considered cosmetic and were not covered.

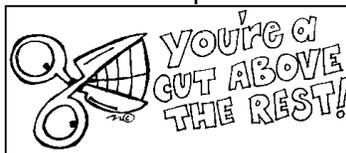
### *Fine, but what about preventive measures?*

Let me just digress at this point and think what have we learned in our Preventive Dentistry classes, all of us know that Primary

prevention is much better than treatment. Though MassHealth covers many other treatments, why preventive services are not covered is still a mystery to me. When I met with Dr. Dulong to discuss about Masshealth and asked him about this, he replied, "Some preventive procedures like sealants are covered but other procedures like diet counseling are not. If you took time to explain to a mother about why she should not give her baby a bottle of milk to take to bed at night because it would decalcify their teeth, it's not billable. You cannot submit that we spent half an hour on nutritional counseling and this is the bill for that time expended."

### *Special Benefits for Children under 21:*

- 1) Initial exam
- 2) Exam every 12 months
- 3) Fluoride treatments
- 4) Orthodontics (braces)



### *Who provides dental care to these patients?*

- 1) Dentists who accept MassHealth
- 2) Hospital outpatient departments
- 3) Community health centers
- 4) Dental schools or dental clinics

### *How does it work?*

Some dental services are automatically covered for eligible services. For other dental services, the dentist must get approval from MassHealth first. Providers submit forms with the details of the services provided to the patients to MassHealth and receive payments for the same.

*MassHealth cuts and BUMPUP being a very integral part of our schooling, I have tried to cover as much material as possible. So please look for the following features, problems and solutions in the next issue of the "The Explorer"*