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The Henry M. Goldman Symposium

Rob Comanducci (DMD 2004)

"If I have seen further than others, it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants."

Sir Isaac Newton

Sir Isaac Newton's words accurately convey the essence of the recent Henry M. Goldman Symposium, "The Future of Dental Medicine," held on September 21-22 at the Westin Copley Place in downtown Boston.

The event offered the dental community the chance to explore recent progress and future prospects in oral and systemic treatment, while celebrating both the 40th anniversary of the dental school and Dr. Spencer N. Frankl's 25th anniversary as Dean.

Following Dr. Goldman, founder of BUGSDM, requires the talents of an extraordinary individual. Regarding Dr. Frankl's long-standing tenure as Dean, a faculty member at BU noted: "He is not just our Dean; he is everyone's Dean. It is important to be respected by your faculty and staff, but when you are respected by your peers and colleagues, you are truly special. Dr. Frankl is the Dean of the Deans. A leader not only at

and it is easy to acquire tunnel vision amidst the never-ending classes, labs, and exams. However, we should not neglect to acknowledge the hard work that so many individuals in the past have contributed to the field of dental medicine.

Many years of laboratory and clinical research revolutionizing our materials and techniques, the genius behind the ideas and theories for discovering new and better treatments for

patients, and of course, the daunting challenge of lobbying for funding in this quest for knowledge.

In the spirit of searching and sharing wisdom useful to the dental field, the Goldman Symposium presented a variety of new ideas from research in such disciplines as periodontology, orthodontics,

implantology, esthetics, biomaterials, endodontics, gene therapy, bioengineering (with regard to

(Continued on page 3)



From left to right: Najjie Guan, Najib ADI, Shilpa Mailapur, Husam Elias, Nasser Mohrah, Nadezda Murphy, Dr. Spencer N. Frankl, Rina Campbell, Yousif Akhikar, Dr. Kong, Chitra Tare

BUGSDM, but in dental education nationwide."

Subjects dental students must study are challenging ones,

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◀

ASDA's Annual Session In Portland

Ariel Bales-Kogan (DMD 2003)

Delegates from across the nation gathered through the Labor Day weekend of 2002 to conduct ASDA business, at this year's 32nd Annual Session in the beautiful city of Portland, Oregon. Representing Boston University were Amelia Grabe (DMD 2005), Ariel Bales-Kogan (DMD 2003), Erik Reifenthal (DMD 2005), and Taera Kim (DMD 2004). These delegates served to voice their opinions on issues pertaining to your dental education as well as

your future career in dentistry.

A significant portion of the session was dedicated to train leaders on issues of particular importance to ASDA, organized dentistry, and education. Amongst these topics, BU delegates attended sessions on the "Value of Membership", "Cultural Competence", "Chapter Effectiveness", "Tobacco Cessation", "Access to Care", "Political Advocacy", and "Licensure Reform". The majority of the remaining time was dedicated to conducting this year's house business. Amongst other resolutions passed, ASDA delegates supported a new ASDA policy on diversity, the adoption of an ASDA code of Ethics, student participation in selecting electronic curricula, a policy to establish a free-window before and after board exam dates, and a policy on limited residency work hours. Should you be interested in finding more information regarding any of the above mentioned topics please approach your



ren (Pacific 2003). Look closely within your ASDA publications to discover the wonderful things that these individuals have planned to accomplish this year.

On a more local note, each ASDA Annual Session honors chapters that exemplify outstanding achievements via the ASDA Ideal Chapter awards, as well as excellence in journalism via the ASDA Journalism awards. The Boston University ASDA chapter was honored in 3 categories. Within the Ideal Chapter awards, BU received the "Award for Outstanding Membership & Communication" as well as the "Award for Outstanding Advocacy." Additionally, for the second consecutive year, the *Explorer*, your local newsletter, was honored with the "Best in Competition Award", distinguishing it as the

Editorial



The end of a semester is always an especially crazy time—exams, clinic, labs, and deadlines. Luckily, the promise of 2 vacations "back-to-back" helps keep students going to the end!

This issue has been put together during those extra minutes and hours found within a typical week, and we hope the finished product is an enjoyable read for you.

Expect to see new sections in the next issue (coming out in Feb 2003)—such as the "Cultural" spotlight (focusing on the social, historical, and culinary highlights of a country represented by an international student). Also, be sure to check out the new question-and-answer column, "Ask G.V. Black," which will test your clinical treatment planning skills.

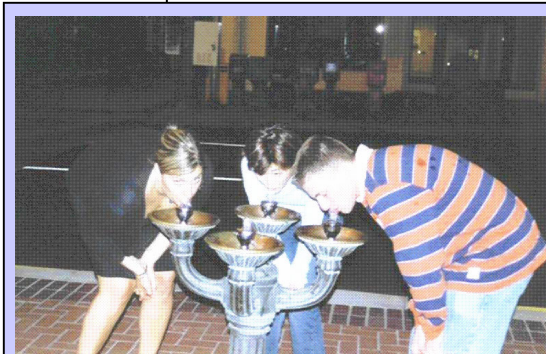
This will be my last issue as co-editor of the *Explorer*. It has been a wonderful and memorable experience, and I look forward to seeing how the newsletter will evolve—under the capable hands of our new co-editors, Najib ADI and Shilpa Mailapur (AS 1).

Hope you all have a delightful holiday! ☺ Take care.

-Esther H. Kim (DMD 2004)

ASDA class representative.

At each Annual Session, it is also the delegates' duties to elect the new executive committee, or the new association president and two vice-presidents, each to serve a one year term. Additionally the house of delegates must also elect the new speaker of the house, to serve at the next ASDA Annual Session. The new officers, respectively, are Sayeed Attar (Minnesota 2003), Keri Ann Foster (UCLA 2003), Marcus Tanabe (Minnesota 2003), and Kate War-



From left to right: Amelia Grabe, Taera Kim, Ariel Bales-Kogan stop for a drink of water

best nationally from all the entered submissions.

In conclusion, this year's Annual Session brings about many positive changes to look forward to in this upcoming year. The delegates that represented you at this Annual Session worked very hard and slept very little to protect your best interests and needs. Please take the time to thank the above-mentioned individuals for volunteering their time to all of our causes.

(Continued from page 1)

tooth and bone replacement as well as maxillofacial reconstruction) and ultimately, the future of dental medicine.

The Deans' Panel provided a unique look into the world of dental education. This select group consisted of the Deans from Boston University, Tufts University, Harvard University, University of Connecticut, and the President/CEO of The Forsyth Institute: Dr. Spencer Frankl, Dr. Lonnie H. Norris, Dr. R Bruce Donoff, Dr. Peter Robinson and Dr. Dominick Depaola, respectively.

The deans discussed how schools must respond with alacrity to the rapidly changing scientific, clinical and community-centered concerns confronting dental education. The panel then opened up the discussion to include an interactive session with the audience.



The symposium concluded on Sunday evening with a celebratory dinner featuring closing speeches from both Dr. Frankl and University Chancellor Dr. John Silber. The Symposium was host to a remarkable weekend for practicing clinicians, dental faculty, students and alumni. Providing many in our profession the opportunity to attend interesting and informative seminars while socializing with fellow colleagues and friends.

Development of new materials, procedures and ideas regarding oral treatment within all venues of dentistry has been built upon a preceding foundation of knowledge that continues to grow at an amazing rate.



Thanks to gatherings like the Goldman Symposium and the annual Yankee Dental Congress,

dentists can directly share useful knowledge with other professionals and continue the exponential growth of knowledge in their chosen field.

This creation and sharing of knowledge and ideas occurs at all levels. In the classroom, students help each other learn different concepts through review sessions and group discussions. In the field itself, dentists consult colleagues regarding a complicated case or call on old professors for advice.

This behavior is an essential part of success in mastering the vast wealth of information in dental medicine. This behavior is what has established our profession to its high level of respect in the world today.



First Impressions

David P. Blackburn (DMD 2006)

First it was San Diego. Then it was Washington DC. And now, it is Boston where my wife and I will call "home" for the next four years.

We drove our miserable, un-air-conditioned U-Haul on the hottest day in July from our nation's capitol to our new apartment in Quincy. Sunrises over Wollaston Beach and

fried clams at The Clam Box quickly became our favorite spots for summer enjoyment. We camped on



David and his wife Chris on the river

the Cape and explored many southern beaches and towns. We even found

time to see the Maine coastline and quaint coastal towns, of which Camden is my favorite.

Then August 1 rolled around. Having participated in Excel, I thought school orientation wasn't anything too shocking. Not wanting to sit in the 3 hour computer distribution again, I found opportunities to explore the city with my wife and to discover great places like J.P. Licks, Mike's Pastry and evening concerts at the Hatch Shell.

Then classes began. And slowly reality crept in. I sit on my gluteus maximus all day. I download



more files from CourseInfo than I did from Napster. I spend my weekends in the local library studying for those beloved Monday exams. And when I start to dream about DNA

replication, I realize what a nerd I really am.

So, after three months as a DMD I student, I try to take things into perspective. Sure, I study. And I get frustrated when I get an Anatomy practical wrong. However, I still try to shut off Zoller's videos once in a while and find the time to discover the city which I now call home.



...Introducing More Incoming



Sharokina Eshaghi-Benjamin
(DMD 2004)
Treasurer

My home is sunny, friendly, beautiful California! I lived in LA for 10 years and received a BA in Biology from Cal State Univ Northridge (CSUN). Afterwards, I completed a Post

Bac at UC, San Francisco. Living in SF was one of the best things I ever did. I love SF!

My hobbies are reading (not textbooks!!!), going out to dinner & movies, salsa dancing & swing dancing, and traveling to as many new places as possible. My favorite show is Will and Grace.

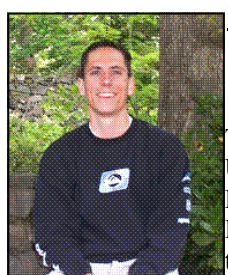


Vikas Goel (DMD 2006)
Co-Legislative Liaison

My hometown is West Des Moines, Iowa. I graduated from University of Iowa in 2002 with a Biomedical Engineering degree. During my

undergrad, I worked in research ranging from cystic fibrosis to stem cells.

My hobbies include basketball, kayaking, traveling, and photography.



David Blackburn (DMD 2006)
Community Outreach Chairperson

The most interesting facts: Upon graduation from UC San Diego in June 2000 with a BS in Biochemistry, I traveled to Australia and worked at the Olympic Games headquarters in Syd-

ney. After enjoying the games and traveling across much of Australia, I returned to San Diego and worked in a research lab.

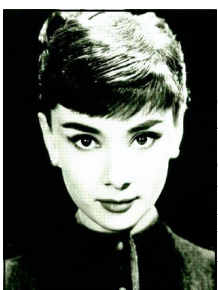
My girlfriend, who I had been dating for 3 years, moved to Washington, DC, for a job opportunity. I quickly followed with two suitcases in hand and a ring in my pocket. We were married almost a year ago in Los Angeles. Until our move to Boston, we lived in Washington, DC, where I worked at the NIDCR at the National Institutes of Health.



Leon Yu (DMD 2006)
Alternate Delegate

I'm from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

I love meeting new friends, so feel free to introduce yourself to me anytime and anywhere!



Shilpa Mailapur (AS I)
Co-Editor

Coming a long way from the windy city of Chicago, I first completed my BDS (same as "DMD" in India) from KLE Dental College, Bangalore.

Apart from being a full time student in school, I was the editor of my school magazine KLE DENT and was also the literary and cultural student secretary.

Being a true Capricorn, I am a compassionate, patient and an ambitious goat. My family and my education are my biggest assets in life. My hobbies "were" playing ping pong, painting and watching a lot of Indian movies. But now that I am at BU, my only hobbies are sleeping and eating in my free time!



Britt Soden (DMD 2006)
Social Co-Chair

Hi! I'm from Columbus, Ohio.

I went to Duke University, graduating with a major in Psychology and a minor in Chemistry. I took a year off between college & dental school, during which I lived and worked in Sydney, Australia. While there, I picked up surfing, but unfortunately am not that good at it yet!

Due to interviews that came up while I was in Australia, I was able to turn a trip back to the USA into an around-the-world adventure with stops in New Zealand, Spain, England, Thailand, and Singapore.

Some of my hobbies are cooking, entertaining, playing golf and tennis, running, and sailing. Oh, and traveling of course!

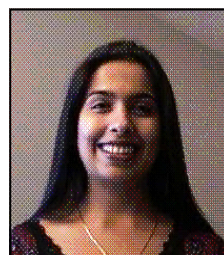
Officers of the ASDA Board...



Najib ADI (AS D)
Co-Editor

I graduated from Damascus University, Syria, in 1995. Soon after, I volunteered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. My wife (also a dentist) and I immigrated to beautiful Ontario, Canada, in 2000. Now I'm a student at BU's Advanced Standing program, Class President, Editor-in-Chief and loving it!

My hobbies are messing around with computers and electronics, playing sports and spending 2 hours a day stuck in Boston's traffic, trying to get back home!



Priti Rana (AS D)
International Student Representative

Dear friends,
I come from India—a land of diverse cultures. After completing high school from New Delhi in 1993, I graduated as a dentist in 1998. I came to the US in 2000. I come from a family of doctors (my parents and sister).

I love traveling and have been to many countries including France, Germany, England, Austria, Turkey, Ethiopia, Yugoslavia, and Bulgaria. I also enjoy debating.

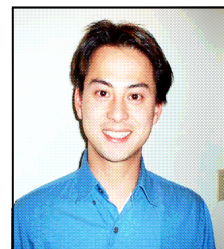


Zeynab Barakat (DMD 2006)
Pre-Dental Committee Chairperson

Hello! I am a national of Turkey and Sudan and was born and raised in the UAE. I received my Bachelor of Science in Biology from Boston College.

Eager to be a member early on, I joined ASDA while a junior at BC. My dental experience includes working for pediatric dentists in Brookline, volunteering for 3rd year students at Tufts, and spending one year at Mount Ida College Dental Hygiene program.

Travel, alumni activities, jazz and coffee are a few of my favorite things.



Anthony Lieu (DMD 2006)
DMD I Representative

I was born on the 23rd of November in the Year of the Dragon. Before distinguishing myself as part of the 30-45% representation from California that is now attending the Goldman School of Dental Medicine, I graduated from UC Davis in '99, with a B.S. in Environmental Biology and Management.

At UCD, I enjoyed playing racquetball as both a competitor and as the club's president. These days, you can find me either at South Block, playing basketball



Pooja Panwar (DMD 2005)
Social Co-Chair

I graduated from the University of British Columbia (UBC) with a degree in biology. Following my BS, I did research at UBC with a professor in biomechanics and worked as a lab tech doing phytoembryogenesis and transformations.

During undergrad, I served as an executive chair member in our pre dental society, setting up social events for our members.



John Huh (DMD 2006)
IT Chairperson

I've lived in northern New Jersey for most of my life, but I also lived in Brooklyn, NY, Philadelphia, PA, and of course, Boston—majoring in Human Physiology at BU.

I enjoy playing basketball, tennis, and baseball. I also like outdoor activities such as fishing, camping, and hiking. I like to travel, and I try to keep up with current events, although it's very difficult because we have so much studying to do. One of my favorite activities, however, is going to the beach and relaxing under the sun!

The Artistic

Arbitrary Faith

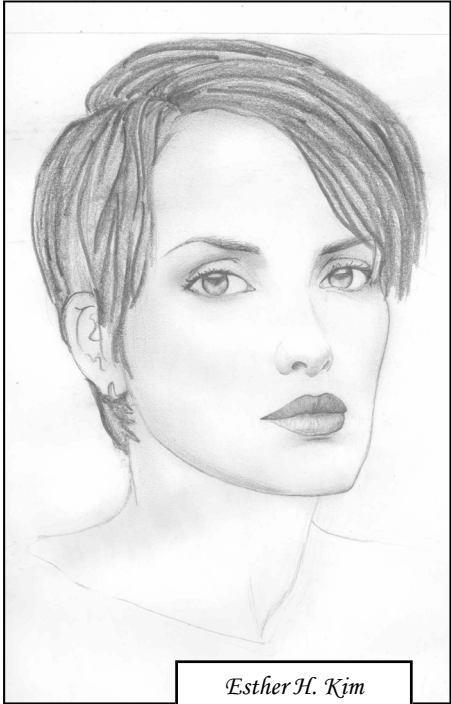
*Bravest of hearts have shrieked
Strongest of soles have fled
From the power of another's love.*

*The fear of sharing a life and a dream
Holds even the warriors unshielded
From breaking the walls that protect us.*

*Embracing the trepidation that is naturally felt
Will lead to a greater harmony ahead
And the envy of your greatest fantasies.*

*It only takes two willing travelers
To stride through the unknown journey
Who's end remains a mystery of wonders.*

Ariel Bales-Kogan
DMD 2003



Esther H. Kim
DMD 2004



Esther H. Kim
DMD 2004

Loneliness ...

*Alone in the rain
Along the Boston lanes
I try to hold the wind
I am thinking about you...*

*Short locks of hair
Left out of place
Gone are those days
When you would tuck them back, ..*

*Fear in my heart
On a bright starry night
I walk towards home
Knowing you aren't there....*

*Not having you close to me
I lie in bed
Longing for you
Thinking about you....*

Shilpa P. Mailapur
AS I

Dentist

A Touch So Beautiful

*A touch so tender to the soul
So soft so gentle so meaningful
Like the waves kissing sand on shore
Like the stars adoring beauty of moon
Like the sun spreading peace with dawn
Or like a mother feeling the touch of her new born*

*So reach out and feel this touch
Before you find this time is gone
Open your heart and feel the light
Because never will the candle always shine*

*The light of love will fill your soul
Passion will never take its toll
Don't be a sufferer by losing it all
But feel the touch only so beautiful*

Usman Sibtain Fazli
AS I

A dental education is a very scientific process. Although neverending, 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 and/or najib@bu.edu



Esther H. Kim
DMD 2004

Where Are You?

*Looking up the sky wondering
Where are you?
Diving the sea looking for you
Where are you?
Wandering the streets aiming to meet you
Where are you?
Flying across the globe wishing to reach you
Where are you?
Staying alone, staring at the sea; asking the colliding waves
Where are you?
The wave is high; the current is strong
An answer must hide there
Where are you?
Smelling you among the roses; turning around and not seeing you
Where are you?
Looking at your childhood pictures; at your smile flowering my face
Turning around and missing you
Where are you?
Dreaming of you; of your warm hand holding mine
And the two small figures at distance
Running far away; escaping from the Time
Refusing to wake up
Searching for you in my dreams
Where are you?
Gliding in my boat yearning to arrive in your land
Where are you?
Praying with all my heart to find you at peace and rest,
To be blessed
And to come back safely
Where are you?
Driven past by the painful remembrance
Shining like the sun you were
Twinkling like the stars you were
Glittering like the moon you were
In all my life you were my joy and hope
You were my life
Where are you now in my life?
Looking in the mirror seeing miserable traces of a human
Asking the lost soul, where are you?*

Hanan Al-Awadhi
CAS 2004

In-Profile: Leila J. Rosenthal

Rohini Badlani (DMD 2006)



Leila Joy Rosenthal
 BFA, MFA, CDT,
 Boston University
 Goldman School of
 Dental Medicine

Have you ever wondered whose melodious voice that is serenading you about not wearing your safety glasses? It is the voice of Boston University's esteemed Leila Rosenthal, one of the Dental School's treasured Certified Dental Technicians. Leila is somewhat of a fixture on the sixth floor in Removable Prosthodontics as well as in the SLC, helping students and faculty through their most grueling, frustrating lab work.

Leila is currently in her twenty-fifth year of teaching at Boston University, although her talents are by no means limited to the field of dentistry. Her family background offers insight as to how Leila's career path was molded.

Her mother was a pianist and her father a teacher of sculpture at the Museum of Fine Arts, it is apparent where her love of art and teaching stemmed from. She seems to encompass a fine amalgamation of the sciences and fine arts. In fact, her original career path incorporated her love of art and art education as she received a Bachelors and Masters of Art and Art Education from Boston University.

She has integrated this love of art and teaching into her life

alongside dentistry and is in her forty-third year of teaching classes at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Leila explains that art is her first love and dentistry is her sec-



ond. Her "liaison" with the dental school is one she refers to as a "happy accident."

After having two molars consecutively break within two weeks, she was referred to a graduate student at the dental school. It was this visit which sparked an insatiable curiosity for dentistry.

Leila then enrolled in the Dental Technician program at Boston University. There was no separate faculty at that time, so in actuality, she received an education very similar to the dental students themselves as they had joint classes and lab projects. Leila propelled herself to academic excellence to the point that she began teaching in the spring of 1978, even prior to graduation.

In her final year of certification, after much success in the program, she was invited to begin a new career overseeing a lab of a respected Prosthodontist in sunny Florida. Convinced she did not want to leave Boston and give up her new role as a teacher, she declined. Thus, in addition to her enthusiasm for art and dentistry, it seemed she acquired a third passion: teaching.

Leila truly enjoys working with students, describing teaching as a type of profession that one

simply cannot do unless they truly love: *"It takes a huge amount of effort, a huge amount of concentration. It takes an ability to communicate, an ability to make people picture things so they can understand from a vantage point other than dental. Dentistry is actually common sense and most people cannot see it."*

She also mentioned that Dr. Jean Emerling, professor of Removable Prosthodontics, with whom she has been working with since 1981 embodies all of these characteristics as a teacher who is constantly challenging her students.

When asked what it was like working with Dr. Emerling, in one word... *"Fabulous!"*

Leila's teaching career began with her teaching Dental Anatomy for the Dental Tech program in 1978 and while working in the Fixed Prosthodontics laboratory, came to a realization: she wanted to be a ceramist.

She then started teaching the Fixed Prosthodontics classes as well, and by 1981 became head of the Removable Prosthodontics lab.

Thus, in a very short period, Leila's dedication and diligence had opened three doors into three aspects of dentistry. Gradually, with the continuing increase in class sizes, she focused on Removable Prosthodontics, where she continues to have an indelible presence for students and faculty.

With Leila's extensive training and vast knowledge, one would question why she does not just become a dentist herself; ironically, one of her most loathed things to do, especially in terms of a career, would be to work *inside* someone's mouth. She prefers to be involved in the behind-the-scenes

(Continued on page 9)

"Dentistry is actually common sense, and most people cannot see it."

(Continued from page 8)

benchwork of the operatory.

When asked what fuels her drive for teaching and remaining at an institution such as Boston University as opposed to working in a private practice, she simply proclaimed: "Challenge.

The challenge to make things understandable, to see the light dawn in somebody's eyes when they really understand what you're trying to do, to create and problem-solve cases that are unusual and peculiar with a creative solution."

She says it is a great feeling to "engender in students the love of the discipline, the love of passing on information to other people, and to be able to give back even in small measures; to see your students excel, past you."

With years of knowledge,

experience, and simply a talent for anything involving manual dexterity, Leila has achieved a stature of excellence and respect in her field. Furthermore, having never missed a single 8am class in school is an achievement on its own and inspira-



tion enough to ask for any pieces of advice for the students (whom she considers as her own children): "Never fall behind. Before you do something clinically, understand not only what you're doing, but why you are doing it."

The other suggestion Leila mentioned is a request that if students are working on a patient and engaging in dental-related discussions to please relate all dental matter in English, so that she or any one other faculty member may intervene if assistance is required or for possible alternate suggestions that

may have gone unnoticed.

Of course, at the end of the day, Leila goes home to her other love: the arts. In her free time, she teaches both children and adults at the Museum of Fine Arts and spends her time performing with the Zamir Chorale of Boston (a semi-professional chorus), which has allowed her to travel to exciting cities worldwide and receive a PBS broadcast of their performances.

With a lot under her belt, Leila exemplifies achievement in all aspects of her life and is a truly multi-faceted individual who truly invests her all in all of her endeavors. She describes her hectic and jam-packed life from the perspective that she has been exceedingly lucky, with no regrets and no changes. Leila Rosenthal has been an asset to Boston University for over twenty years and her zeal and enthusiasm is motivation for everyone.

The Electric Toothbrush Forum

Shilpa Mailapur (AS I)

*"The only good is knowledge, and the only evil is ignorance."
-Laertius, Diogenes*

To seek out knowledge (and also to "brush off" some unwanted ignorance!) was the major reason why most of the AS I class attended the forum on October 25 at the Sheraton Hotel in the Prudential Center.



I remember, from the first day I entered the clinic floor, my patients persistently asked me about the best toothpaste, the best toothbrush, etc. Now with the change in trends, patients instead ask: "Hey, Doc, what do you think about the electric tooth brush?" Ignorance, however, never let me answer them.

Fortunately, after attending the forum, I don't feel like "a deer hit by lights" anymore. And for that, I would like to extend my regards to BUGSDM's Department of Continuing Education.

As I sat through the forum

with all the gates of my brain open, I learned many things like: there is good plaque (formed in a fluoride environment) vs. bad plaque and the electric "power flosser" is as efficient as manual flossing.



The dynamic slides only made the lectures more interesting. The mystery of the virtual indifference between the powered, sonic and oscillating/rotating varieties was finally solved. Researchers had done a lot of clinical trials to prove that the efficiency of the powered tooth brushes in plaque removal is superior or equal to manual toothbrushes, and that stain removal power is more enhanced in the electric brushes compared to the manual toothbrush.

If you are wondering "But what about abrasion?", don't worry. Most powered brushes come with extra soft bristles and have a safety feature that prevents excessive pressure on the toothbrush.

At the presentation, major companies like Philips, Conair,

Crest and Oral-B did not just market their products. Rather, they encouraged dentists to rely on "evidence-based decisions." It was, of course, very difficult to judge the electric tooth brushes based on their efficiency or even esthetics, however.

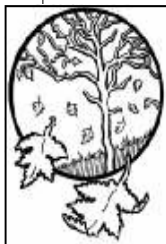
Briefly about esthetics, I particularly have a soft spot for the Crest Pediatric powered tooth brushes. The little mermaid, cellular phone, robot, and other adorable designs brought out that little child in me. Lucky are those who finally got their hands on them.

About clinical efficiency, I have yet to come to my evidence-based decision. I have a lot of data, and now I need to apply them. But the next time a patient asks me about a powered toothbrush, I am ready to give a lengthy lecture.

All in all, the electric toothbrush forum was a wonderful educational opportunity. We all walked out with a bit more knowledge and a bag full of samples.

Predental Update

Caroline Pronesti, CAS 2003



For those college seniors involved with the dental school admissions process, the first falling leaves also signify omnipresent applications and eventually, interviews.

Our shortened days are filled with lists of acronyms (AADSAS, DAT, AAEDAS); supplemental applications; and “why you want to be a dentist in 2 paragraphs or less” essays. All of which seem impossible to avoid.

But for members of the Boston University Pre-dental ASDA Chapter, the dental school application process has become much easier. For this we give thanks to the dedicated faculty from Goldman and University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Newark (UMDNJ).

This September, the Pre-

dents hosted the Dean of UMDNJ, Dr. Linfante. Dr. Linfante presented us with UMDNJ's admissions information, program requirements, as well as other relevant facts related to the dental school curriculum. Members embraced Dr. Linfante's candor and were interested and enthusiastic about UMDNJ's offerings.

On October 15, 2002, Dr. Polins and Ms. Catherine Frankl advised predental students how to tackle the application, interview, and school selection processes. Rather than present traditional statistics and application protocol, the meeting was an opportunity for questions and answers in an informal environment, without the pressures of an actual interview.

Members inquired about programs such as APEX, EXCEL (including the summer Biochem exams taken for fun), and National Board Examinations. The students

quickly responded to the warmth and sincerity of both Dr. Polins and Ms. Frankl. We left the session with a giant sigh of relief.

Both meetings provided a chance for the Pre-dents to gear up for upcoming interviews.

So don't be surprised when you spot us on interview day: we'll be the prospective students who are calm and collected while wearing our suits, carrying our red signature folders, and asking pointed questions during the obligatory tours. And, most importantly, we won't forget to smile.



ASDA Gets BU Predents Prepared

Julia Hoy (SAR '04)

The BU Predental society wanted to get the scoop on what acceptance interviews were like at dental school, so with the help of Mrs. Frankl, we have a round of “mock” interviews in action.

When the ASDA leaders caught news of this, being as generous and helpful as they are, of course they wanted to help by us giving interviews personally.

However, I could detect something in their big smiles and bright eyes when the mock interviews came up, and that something was *revenge*. I can only imagine what these devious dental students have in store...

Dental Student: *This is going to be a real great exercise for you; it'll help a lot. And don't*



worry, don't be nervous, this is going to be just like the real thing, so go ahead and take advantage.

Predental Student: *Thanks I really appreciate this opportunity.*

DS: *So, why are you interested in dentistry?*

PS: *I like science, and I think that teeth are really important, plus I like how practicing dentistry can allow a lot of flexibility in your schedule.*

DS: *Yes, flexibility is a great perk to being a dentist. Why don't you describe yourself to me in exactly 17 words.*

PS: *Umm, hmm, well...*

DS: *It's okay; we'll get back to that one. Let's get into some hypothetical stuff right now.*

PS: *Okay, that sounds good.*

DS: *Alright, let's say that*

you have a patient that comes in with no shirt, and no shoes. What do you do?

PS: *Well, I think that is really odd.*

DS: *It's more common than you think.*

PS: *No shirt, no shoes, no service is how it goes right? I think I would turn him away.*

DS: *(nods in disapproval) Where do you see yourself in 15 years?*

PS: *Hopefully practicing dentistry and spending time with my children.*

DS: *Practicing dentistry on the moon?*

PS: *Excuse me?*

DS: *You don't think that we'll have dentists on the moon in 15 years?*



The 6th Floor Clinic

Esther H. Kim (DMD 2004)



Plans for a 6th floor clinic have been mentioned for years, even before many of us first came to BUGSDM for our first dental school interview!

However, those plans are finally becoming reality—with the construction schedule set for Dec/Jan and hopefully ending by July 1 or Sept 1, 2003, at the latest.

For more details about the new clinic, I interviewed Dr. Stephen C. DuLong, Assistant Dean for Clinical Services and one of the individuals actively involved in the 6th floor's renovation from pre-clinical lab to full-fledged clinical space.

—> About changes to expect:

“Things are going to be very different during construction of the 6th floor. The 6th floor will be off-limits, from the elevator doors inwards. Only the offices on the west side of the building, and the elevators will be accessible.

“Gerry and John’s lab will be off-limits during the construc-

tion. They’ll be relocated to another place—the location is irrelevant, because students won’t have a place to work with them. Students will only be able to ask for advice and feedback via email or talking.

“Any work that involves flames or wax ups (for dentures) will be sent to outside laboratories. Students will have access to pour up impressions, mount casts, set articulators, etc, in the SLC.

—> About the design:

“If there are no changes from the initial design, there will be 26 bays.

“The 6th floor clinic will be for all pre-doc students. It’s not firmly established yet how the clinic will be used after it’s built. For example, if there’s a DMD III/ AS II priority session, we might say ‘Removable & Perio on the 6th floor, and Fixed & Operative on the 5th floor.’ Or ‘all summative activities on the 6th floor & all formative activities on the 5th floor.’

“The new clinic will be an extension of the 5th floor, not a sepa-

rate thing. Both front desks will be coordinated with each other. We would like the height of the walls to be less than the standard DPH regulation (that 3 of the 4 walls must be floor-to-ceiling height), so a student could stand up, see faculty members and have access to them. This would give a more open feel and help create a more effective and efficient teaching clinic.

—> About the layout:

1) The return of the pre-doc lab teaching technicians is planned, with 10 workstations for students in the new lab.

2) Plaster rooms available, on hours and off.

3) 2 recall/OD rooms where x-rays can be taken and doors can be closed to have private conversations to review medical history.

4) A much larger sterilization area that will probably take on much of the sterilization currently occurring on the 5th floor.

5) A space blocked out for 2 new dental simulators, to be installed at a later date. This will allow students to practice a challenging operative procedure a little before they are scheduled to do so in the clinic and work

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Legislative Update

Catherine Bunin-Stevenson (DMD 2006)



Another mid-term election day has come and gone, and the Republicans were the big winners. The main issue that will affect everyone is the state of the economy.

The ever-plummeting status of the US economy means that our leaders must find a way to make ends meet and balance budgets on shoestrings at the same time. As we saw during the election, healthcare is a major focus in Washington and throughout the country. Everyone wants to make it affordable but keep the

quality of care we currently have.

Ironically, most of those politicians who campaigned so hard about the importance of equal access to healthcare will now turn around and make deep cuts in Medicaid, especially in the dental arena.

This has already been done here in Massachusetts and most recently in Oklahoma. The Kaiser foundation reports that most states will cut their Medicaid programs significantly over the next two years.

However, the outlook is not all grim, thanks to Maine State Senator Susan Collins. Last year, Sena-

tor Collins introduced the Dental Health Improvement Act, which was later included in the Safety Net Improvement Act (now Law).

It provides grants to States, totaling 50 million dollars over a five year grant period, to address specific problems in the areas of access to care or dental workforce shortages.

For MA and OK, one of the most important provisions is that the grant money **may go to dentists in the Medicaid program.**

Leave it to a Mainer to come up with such innovative thinking!



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with the same faculty member that would be supervising them on the real patient. It could also be a place for someone to remediate if they had a difficult time with a summative, with helpful input from the clinical faculty.

—> *About the completion:*

“When construction is completed (July-Sept 1, 2003), there will probably be a dedication ceremony to celebrate the occasion. This is the first brand-new, pre-doctoral student clinic in the school in some time, and it will increase the number of operatories by greater than 50%. I’d say this is definitely cause for celebration.”

Look for a follow-up article in the Feb issue, with the final design layout of the new clinic.

Solve this!

—>Due to lack of space, there will be no “Solve This” puzzle this month. But be sure to look for its return in the Feb 2003 issue!



And th’asda way it is. . .

What would you change about South Block?

- ◆ “The seats...we will all need chiropractors as it is—why cause us to need surgery as well!”
- ◆ “Being a first year, we’ve only had about 5 classes in South Block and since the first day I noticed that the seats HAVE to go! I end up sitting on my jacket for cushioning.”



- ◆ “I would replace the dull springs in the seats with sharper ones that rip your pants when you try to stand up.”

- ◆ **1. The seats**—More cushioning, please, since we sit there for so long; anyone who sits in the seats for more than an hour can understand. Since ergonomics are stressed for dentists and particularly for us in the SLC, it should translate to where we sit the longest each day—in the lecture rooms. We pay enough tuition that it shouldn’t be a problem to help our backs with better seats in South Block.

2. Outlets—Since we’re required to purchase computers and technology is supposedly the cornerstone of the DMD program at BU (we have wireless internet everywhere where other schools don’t), shouldn’t we have more outlets for our computers in lecture rooms?

3. Lighting—The lighting is really not user friendly for the professors and doesn’t help the students. The bright lamps on the lecture podium blind people up front; yet to see the slides, the lights have to be out so people who write on notebooks can’t see to write anything down. Quite the paradox...”

- ◆ “The seats are absolutely HORRIBLE, the springs cause ulcerations on my back.”
- ◆ “I would demolish it, and make it into a stadium style. An auditorium with the attached swivel seats and outlets like they have at any other reasonable institution.”
- ◆ “The springs that poke you in the rear are not so comfortable and they are hard on your back.”
- ◆ **1.** Something should be done about the echoing. For example, padding on the walls, like in movie theaters, to absorb some of the sound. The echoing makes it harder to hear, especially if the lecturer has an accent.

- 2. Some of the seats should be fixed so springs aren't sticking in places they shouldn't.
- 3. Oil the hinges on the doors so they don't "screeeee" every time someone comes in late or leaves early.
- 4. Encase the room in LEAD or something so that cell phones just won't be able to ring in there, since people can't figure out how to shut them off.”

- ◆ “The chairs!!! We pay too much to have to spend 3 hours a day with springs poking us.”

- ◆ “Definitely the seats. When you sit down; you only feel the springs => and after two or three and sometimes four hours of lectures, you can barely feel any sensation in your (----) when you get up.”



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