A recent study by Dr. Roger Hart, professor of reproductive medicine at the University of Western Australia, showed the effect of periodontal disease on a group of women’s ability to conceive children.

Out of data compiled from nearly two thousand women who had actively planned to become pregnant, the average amount of time needed to conceive was approximately five months for women without periodontal disease, and slightly more than seven months for women who had periodontal disease.

Nearly one hundred fifty women out of the two thousand in the study needed more than a full year to conceive, and approximately thirty-five percent (35%) of this sub-group was found to have periodontal disease.

Along with these intriguing findings, Dr. Hart noted that even if periodontal disease is linked to a longer conception time, it is possible that other factors like smoking, body mass index, age, and inflammation could also be causing the delay.

Increased amounts of oral bacteria stemming from periodontal disease might increase level of inflammation throughout the body, which could explain some instances of hindered conception, or even damage to a fetus as is seen with the link to low birth weight babies and periodontal disease.

(continued on page 3)
In Memory of Kristen
by Danielle Berkowitz
DMD 2013

The dental students, faculty, and staff of Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine lost an incredible member of the community on March 29. Kristen Donovan always had a smile on her face and that smile had a way of transcending the feeling that everything would work out. She did whatever she could to keep the students happy in clinic, as well as meet the needs of the patients.

The school will always be missing a piece with Kristen gone, but will carry her memory forward. Anyone who had the pleasure of getting to know her will sincerely miss her, and Kristen will forever live on in the hearts of those who she touched.

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After Glow - An Epitaph

I'd like the memory of me/ to be a happy one.
I'd like to leave an afterglow/ of smiles when life is done.
I'd like to leave an echo/ whispering softly down the ways,
of happy times and laughing times/ and bright and sunny days.

I'd like the tears of those who grieve/ to dry before the sun
of happy memories that I leave/ when life is done.

Helen Lowrie Marshall
American Poet
How to guide: Getting into residency programs (Part I)
by Danielle Fernandez
DMD 2014

As a student representative at the ASDA Annual Session, one gets many opportunities to network, sit in on the House of Delegates meetings, vote in new trustees for their particular districts, and take part in breakout sessions and workshops. This year I had the opportunity to sit in on a “How to Guide: Getting Into Residency” workshop, where a panel comprised of two residents and two soon-to-be residents answered many of our questions and concerns regarding the application process.

As a third year the word “residency” is beginning to carry a heavy load. With the time in dental school passing by quicker and the amount of applicants for post-doctoral residency programs on the rise, it is only normal to start feeling a little panicked while contemplating the idea. Or is it? These four individuals provided us with the keys to figuring out whether residency is right for us and if it is, what we should be doing to prepare. Assuming that I am not the only one feeling this way, I figured I would share these tips with you.

Tip 1: Is Residency right for you?
Tip 2: Once you have decided if specializing is right for you, keep up your grades!
Tip 3: Research the programs you are interested in.
Tip 4: Extern with the programs you are interested in.
Tip 5: MATCH System. Rank honestly!

You can find more information about each tip in the next issue.
If dentistry wasn’t my calling...
by Lindzy Goodman
DMD 2014

“I would have moved to NYC, taken acting/singing classes, and continued to audition for Broadway Musicals as a budding thespian.”

**Dr. Mark S. Ferriero, Clinical Professor Playing Rooster in “Annie” on Cape Cod, 1998**

Dr. Ferriero has been in over 25 productions and has been Musical Director and Stage Manager for several shows.

“I would have competed and toured as a figure skater.”

**Dr. Ronni A. Schnell, Clinical Professor, Director, Division of Pre-doctoral Removable Prosthodontics**

Dr. Schnell was able to teach figure skating while practicing dentistry.

“I would be a chef and manage a fancy restaurant.”

**Bharathi Charugundla AS 2013**

“I would sail the seas as a treasure hunter.”

**Wyatt Traina DMD 2014**

Trends in Dentistry: Franchises
by Sammy Gill
DMD 2014

Only time will tell if franchise dentistry is a feasible practice model, but some principles are evident upon initial examination. Many franchise dental clinics experience high associate turn-over rates, are volume-based providers, and offer a narrow scope of practice. On the other hand, many dentists are eager to retire and are receiving fewer bids for their practices from new dentists. Students are graduating with some debt and many are hesitant to buy into practices and increase their debt load. Franchises offer a solution to the problem. They are strong buyers with the appropriate capital. However, some argue that patient care is being compromised with volume being the primary concern at most of these practices. It remains to be seen how the future of dental practice will be affected by franchise dentistry and what stance the current generation of graduating dentists will take.