The Year In Review!

2010 Commemorative Edition
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Horizons of Change

Director’s Message
A changing of the guard.

Dean’s Message
A tale of triumph.

The Year In Review
New educational programs, results of the Canadian Health Measures Survey and a Gold Medal performance.

Education & Training
New technology coming on-stream offers a brighter future for oral health students in Manitoba.

Community Outreach
Access to care, taking awareness and treatment to the classroom.

Research
Led by a continuing resurgence of student involvement, the Faculty saw success in the realm of research.

Alumni Affairs
The 2010 Alumni of Distinction in Dentistry, Dental Hygiene and the honorary award from the UMDAA.

School of Dental Hygiene
From students to professionals making a difference.

Continuing Dental Education
It’s back! The Tropical Series returns, just in time to fill your 2011 vacation planner.

Donors & Development
The Honour Roll of Donors grows again.

On the Cover: Images from the year that was: Drs. Lorne Golub and Israel Kleinberg at the American Dental Education Association meeting where Dr. Kleinberg received the Gies award for achievement in dental education. Top: Dr. Mark Scoville and protégé Nazaryi Balyat at the White Coat Ceremony in 2009. Second from top: Dr. Patrick McManus at the Manitoba Dental Association annual meeting last January, (third from top) Dr. Elizabeth Dunsmore assumed the post of president of the MDA in 2009-10 and (bottom) Dr. Gary Hymen receives an award for mentoring and education in periodontics at the Faculty’s annual awards night.
A Changing of the Guard
School welcomes new acting-director for new academic year

It is often said that a change is as good as a rest, and as I return to the School of Dental Hygiene, Faculty of Dentistry, I feel I have recently benefitted from both!

As Salme Lavigne begins her well-earned administrative leave after serving as Director of the School for 12 years, I am very excited to be returning from a one-year research leave to the position of Acting Director of the School of Dental Hygiene.

During my leave from my academic obligations, I was able to make significant progress on my PhD research, which I am working towards through the Department of Community Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine.

Now I am back at the Faculty and, in my new role, I would like to share some of the exciting goals we have for the School of Dental Hygiene and our plans for the future.

In the spring, the full-time faculty met during our annual retreat and through a SWOT (strengths-weaknesses-opportunities-threats) analysis, we identified 10 strategic issues that the School would focus on over the next year and beyond.

These issues provide the faculty and me with a framework to guide the School’s activities.

All 10 of these strategic issues, and the corresponding plans to address them, will contribute to further the development of the dental hygiene program and ultimately the profession.

For example, we are increasing our focus on all of our programming and aiming to recruit high calibre students to both our diploma and degree completion programs.

In addition, we intend on developing a Master in Dental Hygiene program to further enhance opportunities for dental hygienists.

We are also committed to further development of our existing inter-professional education (IPE) and externship programs for our dental hygiene students — a program that has been championed and embraced by several of our faculty members.

Further, we are keenly interested in maintaining and enhancing our international relationships with students and faculty alike through exchange programs, research, conferences and other activities.

In addition, the School will endeavour to join with others in developing stronger relationships with our Alumni through various initiatives including the development of our Dental Hygiene Alumni Association.

Finally, we have several plans in place for further developing our full and part-time faculty to serve our students better.

Through faculty enhancements, we aim to increase our research potential, our educational and scholarly activity and to ensure the School of Dental Hygiene at the University of Manitoba continues to be at the forefront of the dental hygiene profession locally, nationally and internationally.

I welcome you to contact me at any time with your feedback.
Spreading Our Wings
Year of regression turns into a tale of triumph

There can be little doubt. Over the past 12 months, we have been on an amazing journey that has taken us places that we only imagined were possible a few short months ago.

Buoyed by the pride and success of our golden anniversary year, we entered this new era refreshed and renewed, with a clear, new sense of purpose and direction.

The seeds of our future — our Drive for Top Five — started to take root, thanks to the committed and combined efforts of so many of our stakeholders who share with us our belief that great things are within our grasp.

But then, a funny thing happened. A few sharp turns appeared on the road ahead, ones that really weren’t on the map we were planning to follow. The economic crisis hit with a roaring thunder creating a ripple effect that would soon wash upon our shores. And while the crisis was largely born in the USA, many of us hoped that our strong economies nationally and provincially might insulate us from the fallout.

Nevertheless, the dominos fell. The result was a budget shortfall at the university that at first appeared as ominous as it did inescapable. After all, many other institutions were going through exactly the same experience. In Alberta, the University of Calgary was particularly hard hit, resulting in significant upheaval to their staffing and operations.

So there we were; suddenly compelled to move from our visionary building plan to one of crisis and budget management - something I had never even considered, much less prepared for. It was certainly a curious twist of fate. Dr. Betty Dunsmore noted as much in an address to our graduates last spring when reciting a quote from the late John Lennon: “Life is what happens to you while you’re busy making other plans.”

In any case, we moved quickly to address these new challenges and, I am proud to say, the results have been simply amazing.

A revised business plan was quickly developed; staff pitched in through austerity measures and active participation in the university’s ROSE and OARS projects; alumni and community practitioners rallied to provide bridge funding for crucial programming; central administration refocused our operations; government came to the table with an open mind and a proactive sense of cooperation.

Everyone pitched in.

Similar to the community sandbagging efforts to stem the flood of the Red River a few years back, every area of our operations received a boost when they needed it most. Those who cared came forward. And we not only stemmed the tide, we continued to move forward.

To quickly review our progress over the past 12 months: Academically, our International Centre for Oral Systemic Health held its first two seminars, featuring three nationally acclaimed research scientists.

The Dental Practice Management program began its transformation from concept to completion to the point where we are very close to seeing it become part of our four-year curriculum.

Our degree completion program in dental hygiene has been formally approved and is targeted for a July 1, 2011 start.

With regard to facilities, the central sterilization upgrade for our clinics is now completed and the fourth floor classroom and office renovation will be completed by mid-semester.

Next up is the clinic conversion to electronic health record and full digital imaging (including 3D and cone beam CT technologies) at the end of the year, additional oral biology / hygiene/graduate periodontics space renovations early next year, and a comprehensive student lounge renovation next summer.

On the community front, we successfully partnered with the MDA to implement a one-time license fee levy to address access issues for underserved populations. This has already had a significant impact on discussions with government regarding long-term funding.

Our alumni association continues to make great strides. We continue to forge stronger partnerships with community practitioners and industry partners through myriad projects, not the least of which is the Task Force on Better Relations and the Dean’s Advisory Board.

In fact, the final report of the Task Force is currently being addressed within the Faculty with an emphasis on improving student services and the overall work and learning environment at the Faculty.

What began as a year of regression was turned into a tale of triumph. In spite of it all, we managed substantial, if not fantastic progress, some of the highlights we hope to share with you in this, our annual commemorative edition.

This is important because you were — and still are — a major part of what we have done and what we hope to do.

You — our alumni, our students, our faculty and staff, our industry partners and our many other stakeholders in the community — are all integral to everything that we do. You define who we are and will ultimately determine our future fortunes and success.

And now, with the start of a new academic year beginning to unfold before us, I can most confidently say that the future looks clear and bright.

Together, we have navigated many hurdles and realized many achievements. And we will move on, full speed ahead, on our path to what will be a better place for us all.

As our wings unfold, only the sky will be our limit.

In the days and weeks ahead, you will be hearing more about our coming plans and progress on new and existing projects.

Then, as always, I invite your continued input and participation.

As I have often said, I welcome all views, because they are offered freely, as a gift that you chose to share with us. And for that, I offer most sincere thanks.

Grazie.
Innovations in Education

New graduate programs will set the University of Manitoba apart from others

The Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Manitoba is renowned for many things, not the least of which is its outreach programming involving area schools.

The Variety Children’s’ Dental Outreach Program is one that has consistently earned sparkling reviews for the Faculty from the families, children and administrators of the participating elementary schools for its effectiveness and the exceptional level of care and concern devoted to the patients.

The impact of this program has had many ripple effects with the latest perhaps the most profound. This past spring, Faculty Dean, Dr. Anthony Iacopino announced that a new Graduate Program in Pediatric dentistry has been approved and will soon start taking applications from potential residents.

“We are currently working with the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and the Health Sciences Centre to arrange for full funding of the program start-up through an innovative model where participating attendees assign all of their fee for service patient billings to the program as revenue,” Dean Iacopino said in a note to the Faculty. “As soon as the financial aspects of program start-up are finalized and approved by the Provost, the first residents will be enrolled.”

Dr. Charles Lekic has been tapped to become the Program Director and will lead in the areas of program development and in securing volunteer practitioners. Dr. Lekic also coordinates the Faculty’s role in the Variety program.

Dean Iacopino noted that the pediatric grad program will be the third and latest new addition to the Faculty’s academic offerings over the past three years. The DMD/PhD program is expecting its first batch of students to begin their studies in September fall. Previously approved by the Council on Post-Secondary Education in Manitoba, it will formally get underway this fall under the direction of Dr. Elliott Scott, Associate Dean (Academic) who was named Program Director.

Late last fall, COPSE also approved the new baccalaureate program for the School of Dental Hygiene who wasted no time in filling its available spaces.

The program also saw its first graduate as of this past spring. Ms. Carol Yakiwchuk (pictured above left with Prof. Salme Lavigne) received the first BScDH issued by the School of Dental Hygiene. The event was celebrated at the annual Graduation Breakfast that also paid tribute to members of the Class of 2010 in dentistry and dental hygiene.

Currently in development is the Dental Practice Management program, which is also moving forward. For more, see article on page 22.

Sportsday Sizzles

Event adds to positive student experience

It should be no secret by now that improving the student experience is one of the imperatives of the Faculty of Dentistry and School of Dental Hygiene. Just one component of that is Sportsday, the annual fall day to promote camaraderie among faculty, staff and students.

Last year’s event saw the Dent II year (Class of 2012, pictured left) capture the Plaque Plaque, presented for best participation among a class year. Nathan Jeal earned the Prophy Trophy for top effort while the Dent II class captured the Canine Cup for besting the Faculty team in the annual challenge. Sportsday 2010 will be featured in the next edition of the AFB.

In other efforts to improve the student experience, the Task Force on Better Relations recently tabled its report and several other initiatives were announced. See page 14 for more.
Healthy Smile Earns Healthy Praise
Faculty program cited in national health report

This past spring, the results from the Canadian Health Measures Survey were released to the public. The study is considered to be one of the most comprehensive “direct measures” health survey ever conducted in Canada.

The survey contained an oral health component that was designed to assess and understand the needs of Canadians and, through future research, to evaluate the association of oral health with major health concerns such as diabetes, respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

In addition to presenting its key findings, the summary report also offers snapshots of various provincial and territorial initiatives designed to improve oral health in their populations. In Alberta, for example, the report highlights that province’s Re-Think Your Drink campaign designed to encourage awareness about high sugar content in everyday beverages, and advocate for healthier choices.

For Manitoba, the Healthy Smile Happy Child project was singled out for praise in the report. This submission was made by Dr. Hai-Santiago, dental consultant for Manitoba Health.

This collaborative project began in 2000 with clinicians, researchers/academics and policy-makers, including the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Dentistry. The project uses a community-development approach to engage communities in how to prevent early childhood caries and promote childhood oral health.

The report noted how the project has resulted in significant improvement in preschool oral health knowledge and a decline in dental caries rates in targeted areas.

• Three of every four Canadians visit a dental professional annually.
• Two out of every three Canadians with natural teeth do not need dental treatment.
• In the past 12 months, 17 per cent of Canadians report that they did not make an appointment to see a dental professional due to cost.
• Average number of teeth affected by decay in children aged six to 11 and 12 to 19 years old is 2.5.
• Although cavities are largely preventable, 96 per cent of adults have had a history of cavities.
• Of adults with natural teeth, 21 per cent have, or have had, a moderate or a severe periodontal (gum) problem.

Ideally, the data produced by the study will establish baselines of many health issues, to explore relationships between risk factors and health status, and to look at new emerging public health issues. For more on the results of the CMHIS, see additional articles on pages 10 and 15 of the AFB.

Good As Gold
Graduate amasses an amazing 14 awards

Perhaps it was only fitting that the 2010 Gold Medal winner for the Faculty of Dentistry earned the honour in an Olympic year. Dr. Angela Kehler received the prestigious honour at the annual Graduation Breakfast on Convocation Day this past spring.

On the heels of one of Canada’s best ever performances at the Olympic Games, Dr. Kehler turned in an equally memorable performance over the past academic year. The Gold Medal was one of an incredible 14 awards earned by the graduate of Garden Valley High School in Winkler, Manitoba.

“I've always put the pressure on myself. I've never had any pressure from anyone,” she said. “I just wanted to do my best. I never wanted to win awards or things like that. I just wanted to make sure that I was doing my best and putting all the effort that I could into what I was doing.”

In addition to the Gold Medal, other honours earned included the Alpha Omega Fraternity Award for the student with the highest scholastic average in the four years of the dentistry program. Dr. Kehler (pictured above with Dr. Amarjit Rihal) also holds the distinction of being one of the first Gold Medalists to graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Dentistry Degree. It should come as no surprise, then to learn that research has always been a big part of her educational experience.

“I had considered a few different possibilities in my undergraduate career such as research and medicine,” she said, “but I knew some people who were happy being dentists. You get the health-care aspect of caring for your patients as well as the opportunity for research, which I thoroughly enjoy.”

With graduation out of the way and a short hiatus complete, plans for the future include working in the field before possibly heading back to the classroom.

“I would like to continue my studies,” she said. “I’m interested in periodontics, so I’ll eventually apply to some graduate programs and we’ll see what happens from there.”
Cutting-edge in the Classroom

Faculty first in North America to adopt 3-D restorative technology

Better, faster, more accurate.

The Faculty of Dentistry has added a pair of new technology units that may have the potential to usher in a new era in restorative education and dentistry.

The new applications are now being used to train students on how to create restorative solutions that are better, faster and more accurate than ever before.

Long exclusive to the domain of mechanical engineering, computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacturing (CAD/CAM) is now being introduced into the realm of medicine. And the two applications recently acquired by the Faculty - the CEREC Biogeneric and the E4D Dentist System - are producing sparking results.

Each system uses a laser to scan the preparation, preoperative condition, approved provisional or diagnostic wax-up. The software then creates a 3-D virtual, mathematical model extrapolated from natural tooth morphologies to generate patient-specific occlusal surfaces on the basis of residual tooth tissue and proposed restoration that is compatible with the neighboring teeth and opposing dentition.

Multiple design tools allow the user to manipulate the virtual tooth and a multi-color display shows strength of occlusal and interproximal contacts as well as material thickness.

The result is made-to-measure restorations founded on precise metric principles.

“The computer generates the restoration,” notes Dr. Renato Roperto, assistant professor in the restorative department, and one of the driving forces behind incorporating the technology into the Faculty. “The computer does things you can’t do with the naked eye. It’s so fast, it’s unbelievable.”

Using the principles behind CAD/CAM technology, both applications develop individual tooth morphology which is provided by the patient’s own teeth through images taken with an intra-oral camera.

An optical impression of the prepared tooth is then produced, the reference being the adjacent tooth, antagonist or any intact tooth. The initial proposal is then displayed either for additional characterization or immediate fabrication in an adjacent milling unit.

“The machine will provide a proposal but as a dentist, you get to adjust,” says Dr. Roperto (pictured above with both units). “It’s just amazing what this software can do in terms of anatomy.”

The technology can create crowns, veneers, inlays and onlays, as well as anatomically sized bridges for up to four units with restoration proposals that are clinically and functionally valid.

It is the first method that analyzes the patient’s dentition status as its basis for restoration formulation. The end result is a mathematically exact description of any given occlusal morphology that can be created within minutes in the clinic or general practice office.

“Much of what this software is doing is impossible to do manually,” Dr. Roperto explains. “This precision is something you wouldn’t be able to complete without it. The software is simply doing a better job.”

The two units were brought into the Faculty following extensive research by academics in the restorative department. What began as a pilot project in 2008 has now become part of the curriculum for second and third year students.

The University of Manitoba was, in fact, the first in North America to incorporate this technology into the classroom. Dr. Roperto said it is already having an immediate and positive impact on the educational experience, especially for the new wave of students who have grown up in an electronic world.

“We are teaching a generation that grew up playing video games and using joysticks,” he said. “The age where students build blocks (by hand) is gone.”

In addition to developing new and better restorative skills, the two units also open up a new avenue for research at the Faculty. Already two students are actively working in a newly created research laboratory.

Jackie Samborski, a BSc (Dent) student presented a CAD/CAM research poster in Barcelona, this past July and is now conducting her main research protocol for a BSc (Dent) project in CAD/CAM.

The two units are valued at $150,000 each, but both were made available to the Faculty at no charge, with no corporate or sponsorship strings attached.

The idea, Dr. Roperto says, is to prepare the students of today with the tools they will need as the practitioners of tomorrow. It also gives a new and perhaps even literal meaning to the term ‘cutting-edge dentistry.’

“From VHS to DVD, there was a transition. This is what we expect here with our CAD/CAM technology,” Dr. Roperto says. “We are teaching a new technology available on the marketplace. I truly believe that in 10 years, we are going to be surrounded by computers in our private practice.”
T
here are myriad aspects about pursuing post-secondary education in oral health. Just where you start the list depends largely upon who you talk to. And while the opinions you hear will be as varied as those articulating them, there is one term that most might agree best describes the experience: unforgettable.

Drawn together from almost totally divergent backgrounds and experiences, the women and men in a dental education class very often come together to form a bond that is largely unique among post-secondary institutions.

“It may be months or even years before we see each other again. But it’s my hope that the friendships that we forged over the last few years will last a lifetime,” said Phil Kim, senior stick of the Class of 2010 at the annual Graduation Breakfast held early in June. “The dent10 e-mail is always going to be active so you guys just need to send an e-mail and it’s always going to be there.”

“I think the last time I checked there were over 5,000 e-mails that we sent to each other through that e-mail group. So it kind of shows how positive we are.”

The experiences of Dr. Kim and the rest of the Class of 2010 are not unusual in the annals of the Faculty of Dentistry.

Over the years, class reunions and informal get-togethers routinely mark the calendars of the former students of the Faculty, many of whom often re-unite at destinations far removed from the hallways of 780 Bannatyne in the Keystone Province.

And as the 36-member group separates after four years of almost constant contact, it is entirely likely that the vast majority of the members of this class will carry with them an experience that goes well beyond technical training and career preparation.

“Think about what you have learned at the Faculty beyond technical dentistry skills. You have learned the art of communication, collaboration; you’ve learned how to think critically and solve complex problems. These are transferable skills,” Faculty Dean Dr. Anthony Iacopino told the class. “These skills can be used in lots of other things besides dentistry. We hope that some of you will get involved in your community and provide leadership and put those skills to use.”

The Dean encouraged the students to stay in touch with their mentors, the Faculty and to get involved in the profession along with the University of Manitoba Dental Alumni Association.

Whatever path they choose, the Dean expressed total confidence in a class that showed tremendous potential while at the institution.

“I’ve enjoyed teaching you, interacting with you at your social events and watching you mature into competent and capable professionals,” he said. “I call you my colleagues with great pride and I know that you will go forward to make significant contributions to the profession and society as ambassadors of this Faculty.”

Dr. Betty Dunsmore encouraged the class to make the most of their new profession.

“The old saying ‘life is too short not to enjoy’ is very true,” said the President of the Manitoba Dental Association and alumna of the Class of 1983. “Since there are so many different facets of dentistry, find and focus on what you enjoy. You will do yourselves and your patients a big favour.”

Already many now-former students have begun their life’s journey away from the academic melting pot at the Faculty.

And while it may be a bit early to start planning a reunion just yet, it seems that the Class of 2010 is one that did enjoy its time together.

“As (Dr.) Sherif (Elsaraj), our class president would say, ‘We, as a class, made it,’” said Dr. Kim.
Much Accomplished, More to Do

Study shows need to improve access to care

Despite a good showing for the nation overall, the Canadian Health Measures Survey did flag a number of issues in Canadian oral health care that need to be addressed. The recently released report found that access to care is an area of growing concern.

“The findings demonstrate that oral health disparities exist for a number of population groups,” the summary report notes. “Key to addressing these disparities is research that asks why and how disparities occur, who are the most vulnerable, and what can be done to improve oral health for all.”

In recent years, access to care has become one of the leading areas of concern for the oral health profession in Manitoba and all across Canada. The numbers posted in the survey appear to galvanize these concerns. In total, 32 per cent of Canadians have no dental insurance whatsoever. Further examination reveals that about 50 per cent of people in the lower income bracket do not have insurance as well as roughly the same percentage of those between 60-79 years of age.

In the past 12 months, 17 per cent of Canadians reported that they did not make an appointment to see a dental professional due to cost. Further, 16 per cent avoided full treatment, again due to cost.

While the profession has been aware of the issue for a number of years now, efforts to deal with it have met with limited success for myriad reasons. Among them, the summary document notes, was that the results of previous academic research on the issue were not well publicized and subsequently not acted upon.

“This leads to an underestimation of research activity and important findings are sometimes not available to be shared,” the report notes. “Strengthening partnerships between academics, community oral health planners and service providers is essential for developing, sharing and evaluating relevant research and programs.”

“Granting agencies must continue to support research that goes beyond the dental and health communities to include a broad range of perspectives from those such as social and political scientists, ethicists and economists.”

As many are already aware, the gap in care hits hardest in lower and older socio-economic groups. Canada’s Chief Dental Officer, Dr. Peter Cooney, noted months ago, the opportunity has now arrived for those in the profession to come forward.

Above: Dental hygiene student Jaimelee Woo treats an inner-city patient at the Siloam Mission dental clinic during Oral Health Awareness month last fall at the inner-city shelter.

The report echoes those sentiments. “As shown in several tables, oral conditions appear to be strongly associated with determinants of health such as age, income, country of birth and with risk factors such as smoking, and regular visiting for care,” the CHMS technical report said. “The real challenge is not the measurement of the problems but taking effective action to address them.”

Results from the CHMS oral health component are now on-line at Statistics Canada’s website: www.statcan.gc.ca.

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The need is real, the numbers are many. Each year, thousands of children from inner-city schools in Winnipeg receive essential oral health care thanks to the combined efforts of the Faculty of Dentistry and Variety, the Children’s Charity of Manitoba.

This past spring, the Variety Children’s Dental Outreach Program wrapped up another busy year, attending to almost 4,000 children from 17 core area elementary schools.

“It’s been very beneficial for our students,” said Mr. Dennis Perrons, vice-principal of David Livingstone School. “We have a mix of inner-city kids who are immigrants and aboriginal. Lots of these people don’t have access to health care, dental care especially, so we find it is very beneficial for our students.”

Getting school-aged kids the help they need is the essence of the Variety Children’s Dental Outreach Program, now into its seventh year. This past year, the program screened over 3,500 students with over 2,500 of those receiving treatment.

David Livingstone School was acknowledged for taking an active role to ensure their children were made aware of the program and encouraging as many families as possible took part. Over 190 students in the school of 272 were screened by Faculty professionals.

“We get on the phone and we will go pick them up. We’ll do what we need to do to try to get them there,” Mr. Perrons said. “Beyond that, our (educational assistants) and our community support workers go with the kids to make the process easier for them, to support them while they are there, and to have a familiar face while they’re at the program so that they are much more comfortable. So it makes it a good experience for everyone who is involved.”

Naturally, the program specializes in treating the children’s oral health conditions. In some cases, severe issues are encountered. Statistics indicate that children in more depressed economic neighbourhoods often have significantly more pronounced oral health issues. Yet those on the front line say the program provides much more than simply the treatment of an ailing tooth.

“They like the care that they get. They like it a lot,” Mr. Perrons said. “As some of the other administrators were saying, it’s the benefit of feeling good about yourself because you’re taken care of and somebody is caring for you. So those benefits are good.”

For the kids: Livingstone School received the best participation award for 2010 in the Variety Children’s Dental Outreach Program for their efforts in addressing the oral health needs of its children. On hand for the presentation were (from left) Dr. Karina Gamboa, Dr. Charles Lekic, Mr. Dennis Perrons of David Livingstone School, Mr. Wayne Rogers of Variety, and Winnipeg School Division Superintendent Mr. Dushant Persaud.

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What’s this for?

— Participant in the Variety Children’s Dental Outreach program upon receiving a toothbrush.

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Suffer the Children to Much-Needed Care

Variety - Faculty outreach program making a real impact

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Acting Director Steps In

Dr. Robert Schroth assumes leadership of CCOH

Submitted by Dr. William Wiltshire, Head, Department of Preventive Dental Science

As many may be aware, Dr Doug Brothwell has been appointed Associate Dean: Academic effective July 1, vacating the position as Director: Center for Community Oral Health. I would like to thank Dr. Brothwell for his dedicated services to CCOH over the past 12 years.

Dr. Bob Schroth has kindly agreed to serve as Acting Director of CCOH as we search for a new director. Dr. Schroth has helped out in this capacity in the past, has provided dental services at Smile Plus and Access Downtown and has been associated with CCOH for many years. His work on early childhood caries and extensive experience with patients who have limited access to care make him ideal to guide CCOH until a permanent appointment can be made. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Schroth to his new role.
New Twists On
A Familiar Road

Academics, students forging new paths through research

To say that the past 12 months have been active in terms of research at the Faculty of Dentistry and School of Dental Hygiene may be a bit of an understatement.

Buoyed by the resurgence in student interest and a new wave of academics who have brought an enthusiastic approach to their new positions, labs in the building are buzzing in ways not seen in some time.

Those carrying out this research have also done so in a few novel ways, adding an element of intrigue to a sometimes stoic branch of academia.

Late last spring, a group of elementary school students were brought in as part of a study underway at the Machray Dental Clinic.

The Machray Clinic is the home of the SMILE Plus program that offers oral health services to residents of the city’s North End.

And while school busses are usually used to shuttle students to their various destinations, it was a limousine that rolled up to the doors of 780 Bannatyne, providing the young participants an even more rare and unique experience.

“With this program, we need to take some x-rays so we are bringing the kids to the dental school,” explained Dr. German Ramirez, Assistant Professor in Pediatric Dentistry and lead author on the research. The study is looking to determine if there is any relationship between the breathing of the children and the activities of the muscles with the type of bite, Dr. Ramirez explains.

“We are going to test an appliance to see if we can help the kids improve their oral functions,” he says.

The limo ride (pictured above right) was an added bonus for the children, most of whom come from poverty-stricken homes and neighbourhoods. Dr. Ramirez said it was also the most cost-effective way to move the small group from the inner-city to the Faculty.

“We decided to surprise them and bring them in a limousine because they are participating in the study,” he said.

The study will involve up to 100 children between the ages of eight and 12 and is expected to take a few more months to complete.

Student Research Rolls On

The number of research students continued to rise in 2008-09 in spite of an economic downturn that saw substantive reductions in funding for research and travel.

The Faculty still managed not only to maintain the high participation rate of new student researchers but also witnessed significant growth in student research and in Student Research Group members in 2008-2009 that involved every class year.

Participation has afforded me the opportunity to build on my dental school experience through interactions with talented researchers within our Faculty and at conferences,” said Nathan Jeal (Dent IV). “As part of the process I have developed an appreciation of the planning and diligence required to conduct and publish novel research.

Participating in research also led many students to a variety of different destinations and experiences. Students appeared at oral health symposiums and meetings staged in North America and even a few in Europe over the past year.

For Tiffany Cheung, it led to an experience that was almost Hollywood in nature.

Tiffany spent her summer with the Forensic Odontology Summer Elective program with the Bureau of Legal Dentistry at the University of British Columbia.

“This program introduces me to several aspects of forensic odontology: DNA extraction, court etiquette, evidence handling, mass disaster response, victim identification, and bitemark analysis,” she explains.

Guest speakers included coroners, an anthropologist and a RCMP forensic artist all of whom added perspective on how an oral health professional can be an active and valuable participant in a forensic identification team.

A trip to Buffalo, NY followed for an experiment on forensic odontology.

“I had to help identify three victims from two fatal incidents by comparing their dentition against their dental record. In this picture (left), I am sampling saliva from an airbag for an insurance fraud case,” she says. “Overall, this course not only taught me scientific knowledge, but also gave me a deeper appreciation of life. The role of dentists is not only limited to curing oral diseases, but to offering our expertise when the justice system needs it.”

The SRG also published its second annual report that detailed the travels, events and success of the budding scientists at the Faculty.

Many of the student researchers offered glowing assessments of their experiences with the group over the past year.

“I have been very fortunate to be a part of the BSc. (Dent) program,” Robert Ward (Dent III) said. “I have been given the opportunity to investigate a topic of interest and attend conferences which are both educationally enriching and socially enjoyable. This research also provides a means of summer employment that is relevant to my career choice. This alone makes the program invaluable.”
Congratulations to Mark Dolyniuk (pictured above right with, from left, Drs. Archie McNicol and Getulio Nogueira) for receiving the dental poster competition award at the 2009 Manitoba Student Research Poster Competition held last June in the Brodie Centre. Congratulations also go to Andy Ho for an honourable mention from the Manitoba competition judges for his poster and research.

Research Renaissance Continues

Once again, the past 12 months was a good one for research at the Faculty of Dentistry and School of Dental Hygiene. Led largely by a resurgence of student interest, the research aspect of the faculty continues to flourish in ways not seen in many years.

In a sort of state-of-the-union address on the subject, Dr. J. Elliott Scott (Associate Dean, Research) noted that research activities at the Faculty could be at an all time high, with much of the interest being generated through the BSc (Dent) program.

“As of 2009, we have 16 students who are completing year two,” Dr. Scott explained in a brief address at Research Day 2010 that took place last February. “We now have seven new students entering year one for a total of 23 students, plus the students that are part of the Student Research Group. So it’s been quite an increase and it’s been quite a great experience for the Faculty to undertake this.”

The BSc (Dent) is a two-year program that awards a formal degree for significant research experiences taking place within the laboratories of the Faculty-based researchers.

And from fairly modest beginnings in 1980 when the program was first initiated, the Faculty has continued to develop and expand the program, with considerable success in recent years.

Students perform their research year-round, with the summer months solely dedicated to their project of choice.

Most recently, the University Gold Medal winner, Dr. Angela Kehler, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Dentistry degree.

Throughout that time, the Faculty has received considerable support from the Manitoba Medical Service Foundation. The MMSF has supported the researchers pretty much since the first students enrolled.

The BSc (Dent) program is somewhat unique to the University of Manitoba, although a similar one has been in place in the Faculty of Medicine since the 1930’s.

And while it has worked well in the relatively short time of its existence, there were no data to adequately describe its impact on dental school graduates who have had the benefit of research/training experiences during their dental education.

Dr. Scott, along with Faculty of Dentistry Dean Dr. Anthony Iacopino and Dr. Johann de Vries, Dean of the University of Adelaide Faculty of Dentistry in Australia authored a study that focused on the long-term results of the program.

The study, as reported and published in the Journal of Dental Research, clearly shows benefits for all involved.

“The success of the program has been demonstrated by the continued and increasing demands for entry, the academic achievements of the graduates, and the numbers of graduates who have completed advanced education/training programs or returned to the Faculty as instructors,” the authors note. “Analysis of our long-term data validates many recent hypotheses and short-term observations regarding the benefits of dental student research programs.”
Chasing Significance
Mission springs from change in perspective

Perspective is a remarkable thing. It can vary widely in the course of a lifetime and can sometimes bring about life-altering results in the process.

Just ask Dr. R. Bruce McFarlane, a Winnipeg orthodontist, who’s change in perspective led to a week-long outreach mission to the impoverished regions of the Dominican Republic and plans for a similar trip to Haiti March 19 - 26, 2011. It was a change, he said, from chasing success to chasing significance.

“When you get half way through your life, you start to think about the kind of effect you’re going to have on the world rather than just on your world,” he said. “Now, I sat back and, because life has been pretty good to me, I started thinking about ways of giving back.”

That thought process led to Orphanage Outreach and a visit to the tiny island nation that shares a border with Haiti, for a mission to provide much-needed care to the local populace. Dr. Christine Lachance-Piche, hygienist Lisa Dufour, and dental assistant Brittany Werner, were also recruited to the team that included a group of American dentists and some 20 dental students from California. The team also received support from local practitioners and alumni Tim Blight, Ken Shek, Bharat Dulat and travel agency owner Morris Chia.

Together, the team spent five days providing often extensive care for literally hundreds of people who otherwise had no access to any type of health care.

Dr. McFarlane said the inspiration came from the book Halftime: Changing Your Game Plan from Success to Significance, written by Bob Burford, a successful American entrepreneur. The book, that helps those looking to shift their emphasis from personal gain to more altruistic pursuits, spurred Dr. McFarlane into action.

“I started searching for an opportunity and this place just kept coming up,” he said.

A local connection came from St. John’s Ravenscourt which sends students to the region to teach English in the mainly Spanish speaking nation. Dr. McFarlane’s daughter had participated on this program and also tagged along with dad by helping bridge the language gap.

And while the trip was a success on any number of fronts, it also made apparent that the need for care is very pronounced in the region, particularly in neighbouring Haiti, where an earthquake just a few months earlier, had devastating results on the populace.

So much so in fact that the Winnipeg orthodontist confirmed plans for a return visit to the area shortly after touching down back in Canada.

“We were scheduled to go into Haiti for a day, but we didn’t because of security concerns,” Dr. McFarlane said. “But the whole, overall feel is that the need is greatest in Haiti. Actually, we are already planning a follow-up and it will be in Haiti next year.”

Task Force Reports
Two-year study part of larger plan to make the Faculty a better place for all

Among the major priorities for the Faculty of Dentistry in recent years is the desire to improve stakeholder relations at the 50-year-old institution.

It was with this in mind that the Faculty and members of its alumni active in the provincial association came together to see how they could help make this happen.

In 2008, a committee was struck to assess and improve communications among the dental community, alumni and the Faculty. The committee was comprised of faculty members along with representation from students and the Manitoba Dental Association.

After two years of diligent effort, the committee recently presented its findings to the Faculty. Dr. Anthony Iacopino said the report is now being carefully reviewed.

“We must work together to accept that we can and will do better,” the Dean of Dentistry said. “We will address the issues raised in this report and improve the educational experience of our students.”

While the review is taking place, work is already underway in many areas that should go a long way to making the Faculty of Dentistry a better, more inviting place for the Manitoba oral health community.

Over the past few months, several projects were launched at 780 Bannatyne, including renovations to the fourth floor, the main clinic sterilization upgrade and a full conversion of clinics to electronic health record and digital imaging.

“Our alumni have played huge roles in these and many other projects,” the Dean noted. “With their continued help, we can make real progress on improving the educational experience for all of our students.”
Welcome back: (from left) Ryan Cormack (Dent IV), Dr. Charles Lekic, Dr. Peter Cooney and Michael Greene (Dent IV) on the occasion of Dr. Cooney’s visit to the Faculty last fall.

Launched in 2007, the CHMS involved collection of key information relevant to the health of Canadians over a two-year period. Data were collected through a household questionnaire and direct physical measurements such as blood pressure, height, weight and physical fitness.

The study’s oral health component included a 15-minute examination administered by Department of National Defence dental teams.

The results — on the oral health front at least — were positive, if not downright impressive.

“Overall it seems as though the oral health of Canadians has been improving over the last few decades,” the survey’s summary report notes. “This improvement can be attributed to the increase in the use of fluorides and an increase in the overall access to professional oral health care.”

Among its key findings, the report revealed that three out of every four Canadians visit a dental professional annually and that two of every three Canadians with natural teeth do not need dental treatment. The study also found that only 6 per cent of adult Canadians no longer have any natural teeth as compared to 24 per cent recorded in 1972, the last time such a survey was done.

The good showing on Canadian oral health reflects well on the profession as a whole, according to the newly elected president of the Canadian Dental Association.

“The profession’s messages on preventive behaviours are having a positive effect, as almost three out of every four Canadians (73 per cent) indicate they brush their teeth twice a day,” Dr. Ronald Smith said on the website of the Journal of the Canadian Dental Association, “And 84 per cent of Canadians reported their oral health as ‘good’ or ‘excellent.’”

“The CHMS results have created a valuable repository of national oral health statistics that can be used for future research activities and to advocate for improved access to care,” he said. “Overall, this study revealed positive results.”

Off to New Adventures
Orthodontics bids farewell to recent grads

The Department of Graduate Orthodontics bid farewell to its three third-year residents who completed their 36-month program on June 30. The trio (pictured from left with program director Dr. William Wiltshire) is concluding their patient and thesis requirements before moving on to new professional adventures.

Dr. Eileen Lo will be moving to Calgary, Alberta while Dr. Catherine McLeod is exploring various options in North America and abroad. Dr. Andy Ho will be moving to Toronto, Ontario.

Dr. Wiltshire offered best wishes to the graduates and special thanks to the department’s teaching staff.

“In particular, our thanks go to our part-timers who continue to give so generously and unselfishly of their time to the graduate orthodontic program,” he said. “Our thanks go to Drs. Jeff Bales, Tim Dumore, Gerry Solomon, Milos Lekic, Frank Hechter, Gary Levine, Herman Lee, Kris Row, Susan Tsang, Lee McFadden and Anastasia Cholakis.”
Canadian songwriter Gord Downie called it ‘The Paris of the Prairies.’ And it would have been difficult to hand-pick two better days to spend in the beautiful city of Brandon, Manitoba, the site of the latest round of Dean Iacopino’s Office Visit Series. Dr. Iacopino spent two days in the Wheat City greeting many of the practitioners during a summer tour this past July.

The Dean wishes to offer his most sincere thanks to all of the professionals who took time away from their busy practice schedules for the meet and greet sessions. It was indeed a trip to remember!

The team at the West Man Dental Group made the Dean feel most welcome. The team of practitioners include (back row, from left) Dr. Brad McNiven (Class of 2007), Dr. Todd Kruk (Western Ontario), Dr. Brian Kruk (Class of 1976), (front) Dr. Tony Hayward (Class of 1976), the Dean and Dr. Tom Breneman (Class of 1969).

Also, sincere thanks to Dr. Breneman who coordinated the tour in addition to a brief evening get-together in downtown Brandon. Thanks as well to Dr. N. Craig Fedorowich (Class of 1986) who came into town from his home and practice office location in Hamiota, Manitoba for the occasion.

Dr. Jeff Bales and the team from Smiles Specialty Centre played most gracious hosts during Dean Iacopino’s afternoon visit. An orthodontist who is also a part-time instructor at the Faculty, Dr. Bales is a member of the Class of 1998.

A stop-over at the practice of Dr. Larry Zoerb found the office in the capable hands of Dr. Hamish Varshney (Class of 2008), who recently joined the practice. Dr. Zoerb (Class of 1969), who also doubles as the team dentist for Brandon Wheat Kings junior hockey club, was out of town at the time of the visit.
The team at the Princess Dental Centre rolled out the welcome mat for Dean Iacopino on a beautiful Brandon morning. On hand for the visit were (back row, from left) Mel Pearson, Judy Burba, Darby Nolan, Marcy Duncalfe, Heather Gould, Karen Wall, (front) Dr. Lauren Davies (Class of 2008), the Dean and Dr. Guy Smith (Class of 1978).

Dr. Trudy Corbett (front, right) and team of Smiles Specialty Centre were warm hosts for the Dean’s visit. Dr. Corbett is a 1996 alumna of the Graduate Periodontics program.

Dr. James Wilkie (Class of 1980) took time away from a full day to welcome the Dean to the Brandon Dental Centre. Dr. Wilkie is in practice with Dr. Edward Agnew (Class of 1972) at the Princess Avenue office.

During a visit to Winburn Orthodontics, the Dean enjoyed a coffee and some equally warm hospitality courtesy of Dr. Jay Winburn. Dr. Winburn is a graduate of the Ivy League, University of Pennsylvania.

It was a busy day at the Chancellor Dental Group family practice but the team under the guidance of Drs. James Bonar (Class of 1983) and Alex Pappas (Class of 1991) still made the time to welcome the Dean. Gathering to meet Dr. Iacopino were (from left) Trish, Maxine, Dr. Bonar, Darla, Jerilyn, Dr. Pappas, Loni and (front row) Dr. Tricia Lukat (University of Alberta).

More on the following page.
Helpful advice and practical banking solutions made this dentist say, “Ahh!”

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It’s often said that hard work brings its own rewards. In the case of four long-time leaders of the profession in Manitoba, a strong ethic has resulted in a most significant acknowledgment from their peers. This past summer, Drs. Michael Lasko, Philip Poon and Ms. Harriet Rosenbaum were selected as Alumni of Distinction for 2010. Drs. Lasko and Poon were selected as co-winners of the 2010 Alumni of Distinction award for the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Manitoba. Mr. Ross McIntyre was named an honorary member of the University of Manitoba Dental Alumni Association.

Drs. Lasko and Poon were confirmed as co-recipients of the dentistry award by the selection committee comprised of members of the University of Manitoba Dental Alumni Association (UMDAA).

“After close evaluation from the selection committee, they have decided to award the AOD for dentistry to both Mike and Phil,” said Dr. Scott Leckie, UMDAA past-president. “We had a record number of nominations this year, which made the selection process that much more challenging, but we are pleased to be able to acknowledge these individuals in this way.”

Based on her selfless volunteerism, Ms. Harriet Rosenbaum was named Alumna of Distinction for the School of Dental Hygiene while long-time executive director of the Manitoba Dental Association, Mr. Ross McIntyre, was named the recipient of this year’s honorary membership to the UMDAA.

Dr. Lasko:
A member of the Class of 1967, Dr. Mike Lasko (pictured top left) has been practicing in Manitoba for many years. A holder of many professional distinctions including the Canadian Dental Association Distinguished Service Award, Dr. Lasko is also a fellow of the Pierre Fauchard Academy.
As well, Dr. Lasko served a lengthy term as registrar for the Manitoba Dental Association. He has served on the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC) and the Conference of Dental Regulatory Authorities. In 1997, Dr. Lasko received the Certificate of Merit from the CDAC.

Dr. Poon:
Dr. Phil Poon (second from top left) has a long record of community service in Manitoba oral health, organizing and staffing clinics for new Canadians, those with special needs, First Nations, the underserved and poverty-stricken communities.
A former president of the Winnipeg Dental Society and the Manitoba Dental Association, the member of the Class of 1980 was also instrumental in establishing the student mentorship program at the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Manitoba while serving on a variety of committees and advisory boards.
In 2009, Dr. Poon was honoured by the Faculty of Dentistry for his distinguished history of community service at Urban Smiles, the Faculty’s tribute to community outreach held during the recently-completed golden anniversary celebration year.

Ms. Rosenbaum:
Since graduating from the School of Dental Hygiene in 1981, Harriet Rosenbaum (second from bottom) has given tirelessly to the profession and the public, through her 29-year career in private practice. This included serving three terms as president of the Manitoba Dental Hygienists Association, as well as being its first Executive Director, supporting legislative change, and volunteering in the community for which she received the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association Community Outreach Award.

Mr. McIntyre:
For over 40 years Ross McIntyre (bottom, left) has guided the profession as Executive Director of the Manitoba Dental Association. Ross has played a significant role in shaping the strong economic environment that Manitoba dentists enjoy today. From organizing national dental conventions to the challenge of establishing dental clinics for thousands of athletes during the 1999 Pan-American Games to protecting the interests of the dental profession and the public, Ross has truly done it all. It is for these and many other reasons that Ross receives the 2010 UMDAA honorary membership.

The 2010 Alumni of Distinction is a presentation of the UMDAA, in conjunction with the Faculty of Dentistry and School of Dental Hygiene. The awards ceremony will be the highlight of the Alumni of Distinction banquet slated for the Fort Garry Hotel during Homecoming weekend on Friday, September 24. A small number of tickets are still available and can be reserved by calling 204.789.3631 or 789.3249 or via e-mail at dent_events@umanitoba.ca.
When Michael Alvermere was asked by Professor Laura MacDonald to complete a project focusing on community oral health promotion, he never realized what the outcome would be. What began as an awareness project is turning into an advocacy effort for underserved populations and a chance to involve present dental hygiene students in the effort.

“It took me a while to figure out what population I wanted to focus on, but once that was determined, the rest came together nicely” said the recent graduate of the School of Dental Hygiene.

During one of his external clinical rotations, Michael noticed how many non-English speaking, new immigrants with significant dental hygiene-related needs were being assigned to him. Out of curiosity, he inquired to find out how they were being referred. The search led to Carlos Vialard - Manager of Settlement Services at Welcome Place. Welcome Place is operated by the Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council and is the reception point and main hub for refugee immigrants to Winnipeg.

After an initial meeting, Vialard introduced Michael to Catherine Biaya, Life Skills Counsellor from Welcome Place and a family that had just arrived from the Democratic Republic of Congo. While preparing an oral health presentation for them, Michael came to understand how lacking the family’s insurance coverage was.

“The Interim Federal Health Program states that its coverage is intended for pain-relief and the resolution of active infections only – no scaling or root planing is covered,” he said, pointing to the text of the document. “However, gingivitis and periodontal disease are two of the world’s oldest and most prevalent infections affecting humans and are routinely treated through professional care followed by a well-designed home care regime. The decision-makers within the federal government need to be lobbied to enact changes regarding this coverage.”

Deanna MacKay, past-president of the Manitoba Dental Hygienist’s Association (MDHA) agrees.

“A visit to a dental hygienist automatically includes education about the teeth and mouth care,” she said. “What could be spent on a visit to the hygienist for scaling and root planing would likely be saved by not having to restore decayed teeth later on. This would equal a definitive savings and a clear benefit to everyone.”

Over the summer Michael presented his project in a poster presentation at the International Symposium on Dental Hygiene in Glasgow, Scotland.

“I was really excited once I realized the direction Michael was going with his project since this also addresses access to care in a very big way,” Prof. MacDonald said. “I encouraged him to submit an abstract and was thrilled but not entirely surprised when his was accepted. Michael has a kind and generous spirit. I am delighted he has joined the profession. It is people like Michael that not only hear the cry for help from those less fortunate, but responds to it in a manner that says ‘how can I help.’”

Among those providing sponsorship to attend the event were: Sinclair Dental, Dentsply, Sunstar, Crest Oral-B, the CDHM, MDHA, DHSA, the Faculty of Dentistry and the School of Dental Hygiene.

“Being able to see a proactive approach in the realm of the oral-systemic link and client advocacy taken on by the profession of Dental Hygiene in Manitoba really impressed me,” said Gerry Hagglund, vice president of Sinclair. “Helping send students to conferences allows them to spread their knowledge, especially regarding how advocacy can be used to the benefit of our local population. That’s something that Sinclair Dental has always supported and will continue to be a part of.”

Upon his return home, in addition to providing clinical dental hygiene care to the public, Michael plans on generating support for advancing the message of enhanced dental hygiene coverage for new refugee immigrants.

Bella Italy

Hygiene conference looks to forward research

Prof. Salme Lavigne was one of the featured speakers at the Societa Italiana di Scienza dell’Igiene Orale (SISIO) this spring in beautiful Tuscany.

The organization, which translates to Italian Society of Oral Hygiene Science, works to promote research in dental hygiene.

Prof. Lavigne is pictured second from left, along with Prof. Anna Maria Genovesi, President SISIO and Professor at University of Genoa, Italy. Prof. Lavigne, Prof. Gianni Nardi, Professor at University of Rome and Alessandro Quartrimi, Professional Academic Relations, Proctor & Gamble, Italy. Prof. Lavigne delivered a presentation entitled Oral Health and Whole Body Wellness.

The event took place in May in Lido di Camaiore, Tuscany, which is located in central Italy and renowned for its beautiful landscapes and rich artistic legacy.
A Bright, New Day Dawns
Hygiene graduates ready for a promising future

I n the past decade, we have seen many incredible things: the growth and development of our program, the expansion of the profession, both in terms of numbers and prominence in Canadian health care and, perhaps most importantly, the consistent standard of excellence displayed by our practicing alumni.

Through the years, we have nurtured our program, carefully planning and crafting each stage and every progression. Over the past decade, we have seen many changes to our curriculum, most notably, the addition of local anesthesia, a mandatory course. A total restructuring of our programmatic portfolio and a total restructuring of our courses.

Our presence within the Faculty of Dentistry and the University of Manitoba has been enhanced through new, modern administrative offices on the second floor, complete with mailboxes for our students and the addition of a second support staff member exclusively for the School of Dental Hygiene.

We have also expanded our research efforts with a significant increase in publications and become leaders in many areas of dental hygiene education both nationally and internationally.

We are forging new ties with other health-care professionals creating new care-delivery models and rapidly becoming leaders in the development of interprofessional care.

Our academic faculty, students and alumni are becoming increasingly visible on the national and international health-care stage, appearing at various symposia and taking active roles in the advancement of interprofessional education. This summer, three dental hygiene students presented at the International Symposium on Dental Hygiene in Glasgow Scotland. Two of the students showcased dental hygiene’s involvement in the University of Manitoba’s interprofessional student-run health clinic known as the WISH clinic. Acceptance of their oral presentation was a feat unto itself as only 20 oral presentations were accepted at this prestigious international conference!

Each year, I proudly watch as the WISH clinic was named the best clinical project at this prestigious international conference.

When you look back, it all seems pretty amazing.

The distance we have travelled, the experiences we have enjoyed, the friendships made, the futures that we have seen unfold before us - it is truly something to behold.

In the 13 years I have spent here as the Director of the School of Dental Hygiene, I have witnessed many incredible things: the growth and development of our program, the expansion of the profession, both in terms of numbers and prominence in Canadian health care and, perhaps most importantly, the consistent standard of excellence displayed by our practicing alumni.

Our profession in Manitoba, has also joined the ranks of other Canadian provinces, becoming a self-regulating health profession. Our practitioners now have new levels of freedom and practice options that never before existed in Manitoba.

There is much to be proud of and much to celebrate here at the School of Dental Hygiene.

(Continued on page 26, see Message)
Continuing Dental Education

Getting Down to Business

Faculty plan to fill long-standing gap in dental education featured at ADEA national convention

It's no real secret that oral health professionals occupy a unique space within the North American health-care system.

Practitioners function in a private enterprise system, seemingly in stark contrast to the spirit of universal health-care, one of the most fundamental and revered tenets of Canadian society.

Despite this fairly obvious quirk in the Canadian health system, care has never suffered across the province or across the nation, thanks in large part to the dedicated efforts and altruistic values instilled in practitioners in the dental field.

It has, however, created something of a gap in terms of a student’s preparation to enter the field. Throughout North America, the concepts and principles of practice management continue to be the least adequately covered topics in all of dental education.

There are many reasons for this - an abundance of other curriculum requirements chief among them - but the end result is usually the same.

Practitioners enter the field of private enterprise with virtually no training in how to manage a business in a free market economy. And that lack of preparation often results in a fairly predictable array of issues that affect all involved, from patient to practitioner.

Addressing and bridging this long-standing gap is a priority that may soon become a reality, after months of behind-the-scenes work by a team of dedicated professionals assembled for the task.

Addressing and bridging this long-standing gap is a priority that may soon become a reality, after months of behind-the-scenes work by a team of dedicated professionals assembled for the task.

"The quest was: How can we implement the dental practice management program, in a university setting, that improves skills in communication and cooperation," explained Dr. Ernest Cholakis, who presented an outline of the DPM program at the American Dental Education Association annual meeting last spring. "It is our hope that practice management will be a four year curriculum that will expose students to all facets of business administration. Not so much to improve the profitability of their practices, but rather to improve the delivery and the quality of dentistry by elevating the proficiency and satisfaction of the workplace."

“These tools would also equip dentists to contribute to society as a whole.”

For the past several months, a committee has been looking into the fundamentals of establishing the DPM program, one of the Nine Pillars of Innovation currently in development at the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Manitoba, could be taking its first wave of students as early as this fall.

At the American Dental Education Association annual meeting, (from left) Drs. William Wiltshire, Ernest Cholakis and Hubert Benitez at the Welcome to Manitoba reception. Dr. Cholakis presented a model for Dental Practice Management in a dental school curriculum at the event.

Getting Down to Business

Bonning Up On Grafting

Unique course offered rare training experience

There is no question this was one of the more unusual courses staged by the Faculty of Dentistry in some time. Last fall, the Periodontics and Oral Surgery Graduate Programs teamed up to deliver an Advanced Bone Grafting program at the Faculty of Dentistry.

"We had a fantastic course," said Dr. Getulio Nogueira, Director of Graduate Periodontics. "We had the participation of 25 professionals from all over Canada including Ontario and Quebec."

The three-day event featured a cadaver lab workshop where participants received hands-on training in the latest bone grafting techniques. A series of lectures made up the didactic portion of the seminar.

The program received gracious sponsorship from Dentsply-Tulsa, Kodak and Hu Friedy and was coordinated by the Faculty’s Continuing Dental Education department.
The Tropical Series returns for 2011! The Faculty of Dentistry is pleased to confirm the return of one of its most popular events that will take place February 19-26, 2011 at luscious St. Lucia in the Caribbean.

This year, the series destination is the Almond Morgan Bay resort, a gorgeous 22-acre expanse that offers four-star luxury in seven different categories.

Almond Morgan Bay resort offers an elegant, but informal setting for all at a high-quality, all-inclusive Caribbean location.

The resort covers a vast area of hillside land sloping through countless palms to a pristine beach lapped by the clear blue waters of a secluded cove.

Once again, oral health practitioners can escape the Canadian winter for a one-week stay at a premier all-inclusive resort while earning Continuing Dental Education credits at the same time.

The Faculty’s Continuing Dental Education department is working to ensure a first-class educational component to complement the spectacular setting of this year’s event.

As always, world-class speakers will be on-hand to address a variety of timely and topical subject areas, consistent with the high quality educational standards that have made the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Manitoba one of the finest in Canada.

What better way to kick-start your new year than with an all-inclusive get-away at a spectacular island paradise, while earning CDE points at the same time?

With gourmet restaurants, water sports, fitness classes and hillside suites with an ocean view, the Almond Morgan Bay is truly a resort like few others.

Early booking discounts are now in effect but only for a limited time.

Bookings begin at $2,685 per person, departing from Winnipeg. Departures from Toronto start at $2,550.

All rates include the Early Booking Bonus (EBB) and are based on double occupancy.

Only a limited number of spaces are available. The Faculty of Dentistry Tropical Series has sold out every year so be sure to book your spot today to avoid missing out.

To register, you can call either the Faculty of Dentistry at 204.789.3249 or Carlson Wagonlit Travel at: 866.708.8335.

You can also book by e-mail by contacting: wbond@carlsonwagonlit.com or oliver@cc.umanitoba.ca.

DPM at ADEA (from previous page)

This will be done with an eye towards expansion into a unique and comprehensive continuing education program for practicing professionals.

Course content will be comprehensive and broad-based, covering subject areas from ethics, human resource management, managerial psychology, entrepreneurship, financial planning and risk management to productivity, branding and marketing programs.

Professionals from the business community, in partnership with University of Manitoba’s Asper School of Business, are developing educational modules for student and practitioner education and training that have been pilot tested and found to be effective.

External consultants are assisting to help customize and implement these materials.

“We have the necessary funding right now to develop the curriculum and once that phase is done, we will move towards putting that curriculum online so that we can share our efforts with students throughout North America.” Dr. Cholakis said, “and anyone who completes that program online can receive a certificate in Dental Practice Management from the University of Manitoba.”

To guide the DPM from concept to classroom, the Faculty enlisted the alumnus from the Class of 82, who also happens to be a graduate of the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, one of the most prestigious institutions of its kind in North America. Since its inception in 1898, the Illinois-based school has produced six Nobel Prize winners, more than all other business schools in North America combined.

“It’s an amazing institution,” Dr. Cholakis notes. “It was a tremendous learning journey for me. With that knowledge, I came back to our university to try to implement the development of practice management within our curriculum.”

Historically, 70 to 80 per cent of all dentists in the United States and Canada work as solo practitioners. Dr. Cholakis notes there is much to be gained for practitioners and the public in general in pursuing different practice models.

“I think it’s fairly important for the development of our profession to develop the principles of advancing dentistry as a cooperative science,” he said. “Over time, as dentists learn to work together more efficiently, and within larger groups, we will work in more collaborative settings. And I think that will be to the benefit of society and to the advancement of our profession.”
Donor Honour Roll

The Faculty of Dentistry acknowledges the generosity and support of alumni, faculty, staff, corporate partners and friends who have generously given $10,000 or more to the Faculty of Dentistry during their lifetime as of March 31, 2010.

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Better Times Ahead
Planning, teamwork advert Faculty cuts

For a while, things were looking a little ominous. At the start of the 2009-10 academic year, the University of Manitoba announced that an expected budget shortfall created the need for all units to address their operations with an eye towards reducing expenditures.

The resulting time of uncertainty, while stressful for many, was also a time of action at the Faculty of Dentistry and School of Dental Hygiene.

Dean Iacopino, in concert with many others, launched a revamped business plan to address the concerns of the institution.

After a short few months, the university reviewed the Faculty’s operations and determined that the Faculty would receive no budget cut this year and that its operating budget will remain intact.

“Thus, all open positions can now be filled and we will regain some flexibility to provide resources for enhancement and enrichment of our working and learning environment,” Dean Iacopino said.

As well, the university has changed the way it is managing the Faculty debt for the simulation lab and clinical upgrades of the past such that payments will no longer have to be made from the annual operating budget and instead be available for other Faculty needs.

The Dean noted how the exceptional teamwork displayed by all at the Faculty went a long way to preventing any major budget cuts or serious disruptions to Faculty operations.

“Special thanks go out to Ms. Linda Chartier for assisting with making a strong case for our Faculty budget needs as well as Dr. Frank Hechter and Dr. Les Allen, who advocated on our behalf to university administration regarding the debt payments to the university,” the Dean said. “Going forward, I will be working with the department heads and program directors to fill all open academic positions and evaluate Faculty needs regarding new positions, facility upgrades, and program enhancements that will continue along with the ‘Drive for Top Five’ strategic plan.”
The University of Manitoba makes every effort to ensure that donors are properly recognized. Please contact Lisa Thomson Stifora at (204) 789-3984 or lisa_thomson@umanitoba.ca regarding any errors or omissions.
Family Notices

Nuptials

Wong — Cowie

Dr. Cameron Wong (Class of 2000) was married in August, exchanging vows with Heather Cowie. The picture (top) features the bride along with a few of Dr. Wong’s classmates from the Class of 2000. Pictured, from left to right, are Drs. Mike Trac, Chris Yue, Cam Wong, Ryan Tsang and Patrick McManus. The Faculty of Dentistry offers congratulations and best wishes to the happy couple.

Announcements for the Family Notice section are welcomed on an ongoing basis. Alumni, faculty and students can send in word and pictures of marriages, births, anniversaries, reunions, any event of significance, to: dent_events@umanitoba.

Director’s Message (from page 21)

As my second term as Director of the School of Dental Hygiene comes to a close this summer, I will be embarking on a year’s Administrative Leave to continue my PhD studies in the Department of Community Health Sciences in the Faculty of Medicine. I believe the timing is ripe as the School is currently on solid footing with a firm foundation and a bright outlook ahead. Our academic and support staff remain first rate, and the high demand for admissions to our new BScDH degree completion program will provide exciting challenges for the School.

If ever there was a time to pause and reflect, it may be now. None of these accomplishments that I have highlighted could have been realized without the assistance of my colleagues at both the School of Dental Hygiene and the Faculty of Dentistry. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of them for their unconditional loyalty and relentless support over the last 13 years not only professionally but with my personal challenges. I am reassured that the program will be in good hands through their continued commitment and pride in the School of Dental Hygiene.

I am pleased to confirm that Prof. Joanna Asadoorian has agreed to step in as the Acting Director for the School of Dental Hygiene for the 2010/2011 academic year commencing August 1, 2010.

Prof. Asadoorian is an award winning educator and active researcher with numerous publications. She has delivered presentations at oral health conferences both nationally and internationally.

In 2007, Prof. Asadoorian was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor in the School of Dental Hygiene, the same year she was awarded the TD Meloche Monnex/Canadian Dental Hygienists Association Visionary Prize.

Popular among students and colleagues alike, Prof. Asadoorian combines ambition with expertise and a focus on advancing our profession on every level. She is currently completing research for her PhD in Community Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba.

Please join me in welcoming and supporting Prof. Asadoorian and wishing her nothing but success in her new role.

As the old adage says, time really does fly when you are having fun. It is with that thought in mind that I close by saying thanks for the memories, I have enjoyed that I have touched your lives in some small way over the past 13 years!

Prof. Lavigne’s column appears in correction to one that appeared in the last edition due to a printer mishap. The AFB regrets any inconvenience.

— In Memoriam —

ELIZABETH Verna (Beth) Neilson

Beth passed away on June 6, 2010 after a full and happy life. She was the second daughter of Bishop and Mrs. A.H. Sovereign, and was predeceased by her husband, John (Jack) Neilson, her sisters Eille Wood and Mary Oyler, and her brother Art Sovereign. Beth’s husband, Dean Emeritus John (Jack) Neilson, was founding Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry from 1958-1988.

Beth’s love, kindness and support was a constant in the lives of her family and friends. She was dearly loved and will be sadly missed by her children and their partners, Kathy Neilson and Bill Hopkins of Vancouver, John and Pat Neilson of Vernon, and Barbara and Jim Bay of Revelstoke; her cherished granddaughters, Christine and Monica Neilson and Riley and Ellie Bay; and her extended family and many friends. Beth was born in Vancouver on March 27, 1918 and grew up in Kitsilano, Dawson City, Yukon and Peace River, Alberta. She graduated from the University of Alberta with her B.A. in 1939, receiving her Diploma in Teacher Training from U.B.C. in 1940. She taught in White Rock and Kelowna before marrying Jack in 1947 in Vernon. Jack’s career in dentistry took them to Edmonton, Seattle and Winnipeg before retiring to Vernon in 1983. Beth gave her time generously to her family and friends, and served her community through many volunteer activities. She loved the outdoors, was an excellent athlete, and was actively engaged in a wide range of activities throughout her life. She was an inspiration to many.

A celebration of Beth’s life took place on June 13, 2010 at All Saints’ Anglican Church in Vernon, B.C. Those wishing to remember Beth may send a donation to the Vernon Jubilee Hospital Foundation, 2101 - 32 St., Vernon, BC, V1T 5L2. Condolences may be offered at www.vernonfuneralhome.com.

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