

dental mirror

issue no. 20 • December 2007 • a bi-annual newsletter of the Faculty of Dentistry

Dr Marlene Teo

Introducing... Faculty of Dentistry Alumni Mentorship Scheme

The Guild of Dental Graduates and the Faculty of Dentistry jointly launched the Alumni Mentorship Scheme in the year 2006/2007. It was set up with the intention of encouraging interaction between undergraduate dental students and practicing dentists.


Thus far, we have engaged a pool of 76 committed alumni who have volunteered to guide and mentor our students. The pool of alumni mentors range from recent dental graduates like Dr Xiao Yanshan to more established dental practitioners like Dr Loh Poey Ling. Each Alumni Mentor is randomly assigned 2 undergraduate students for 2 years. Mentees and Mentors meet up at least twice a year, either in a social setting or at the mentor's place of practice.

This scheme is unique because it allows knowledge which cannot be taught in school to be imparted to our young dentists-to-be. The mentors act as role models and share practice management skills, a wealth of experience and allow their mentees to experience "Life in the real world". Sometimes, it also helps that the dental students get to speak to a mentor outside of dental school. Like Dr Xiao mentions; "Being a recent graduate, I can relate to the mentees about the dental undergraduate environment and curriculum, offering suggestions that could help them prepare for their clinical years. Perhaps, they feel more at ease in bringing up their problems and concerns to a non-academic mentor, leading to more fruitful discussions about problems encountered in school". To date, Dr Xiao and her two mentees, Ms Valerie Tey and Mr Yee Ruixiang have met up for "lunch and dinner dates" on various occasions.



(from left to right: Mr Yee Ruixiang, Dr Xiao Yanshan, Ms Valerie Tey)

to be continued...

continued... 

For this issue, we have chosen to highlight the Alumni Mentorship scheme, which seems to have successfully fostered close bonds between our dental students and their respective mentors.

We also welcome an influx of new staff, both recent graduates and well known personalities in dentistry. Get to know our new academic staff a little more intimately in the next few pages.

Dr Choo Teck Chuan, recipient of the Singapore Business Events Awards, 2007 (Individual) is an accomplished luminary in his field. Read about Dr Choo through the eyes of his peers and colleagues and be overwhelmed by how human he seems despite his glowing accolades.

For those who missed the freshmen orientation camp, turn to pages 8 and 9 for a visual feast. Also, look out for the fun our students had when they went for student exchange trips overseas.

We also welcome our new publications manager, Ms Sharon Lee, who replaces Ms Jacey Yeh; working behind the scenes to bring the dental mirror to you.

Dr Marlene Teo



(from left to right: Dr Loh Poey Ling, Miss Chua Synn Tian and Miss Chua Yee Leng)

Another fine example of the close bond between mentor and mentees is between that of Dr Loh Poey Ling, Miss Chua Yee Leng and Miss Chua Synn Tian. To date, they have met up numerous times and share a very close bond. Yee Leng and Synn Tian have shadowed Dr Loh at her clinic at Mount Elizabeth and learnt patient management skills, communication skills, and are also better equipped to understand the nuances behind the dentist assistant relationship. They also got some tips for laboratory techniques from Dr Loh, and watched her deal with her denture and fixed prosthodontics patients. They also meet for lunch and Dr Loh makes it a point to come for school events like float building, getting to know each other on a personal level. Dr Loh has also shared some insights on "surviving dental school", which I am sure our students will find very useful!

Ms Chua Yee Leng has this to say about the alumni mentorship scheme thus far. "We're very honoured to have Dr Loh, who has a rich experience with the faculty, as our mentor who can impart to us useful advice and encouragement. Her expertise has certainly been an inspiration to hone our skills especially at op-tech and her warm hospitality at clinic visits has led us to discover new insights into dentistry as a career, enabling us to set goals and embrace what the future may bring. We are thankful for her patience at explaining procedural steps and certain dental materials, which will definitely be useful when we start clinics in the near future. Moreover, we are touched by her efforts to be involved with us during our faculty activities such as orientation and at our dinner and dance".

With special alumni serving as role models, we firmly believe that the ties within the dental profession will be strengthened.

Welcome... New Faculty Staff

Dr Fu Jia Hui • Dental Instructor

This year, the Faculty was hit by a wave of fresh faces. We are extremely privileged to have with us a group of world renowned dental professionals - Professor Murray Clyde Meikle, Professor Harold Henry Messer, Professor Robert Gunnar Bergenholtz, Associate Professor Hien-Chi Ngo and Assistant Professor Noeen Arshad – to share their wealth of knowledge and expertise with us.

We also have a team of young graduates joining the Faculty. We are pleased to welcome Dental instructors Dr Joel Khoo Tuo Sheng, Dr Tong Huei Jinn, Dr Fu Jia Hui and Dr Loke Wei Qiang.

Professors Meikle, Messer and Bergenholtz are no strangers to the Faculty. They are Visiting Professor, Orthodontics (Sep 2007 – Sep 2008), Visiting Professor, Endodontics (Sep 2007 – Nov 2007) and Visiting Professor, Endodontics (Nov 2007) respectively. Staff and students alike look forward to their engaging teaching styles and humorous disposition.

Associate Professor Hien-Chi Ngo is an eminent figure in Restorative Dentistry. I am sure most of us have attended A/P Hien's presentations at international conferences. He completed his BDS in the University of Adelaide in 1982, following which he did his MDS in Fixed Prosthodontics in 1990. His main research interest revolves around glass ionomers, cariology and the Minimal Intervention Concept. He is a member of 6 international professional organizations, a winner of 2 international research prizes and a participant in international projects. He has given lectures all around the world since 1994.

The Faculty welcomes Assistant Professor Noeen Arshad who is trained in both Paediatric Dentistry (Boston, US) and Orthodontics (Eastman, UK). Dr Arshad has been in practice for more than 15 years now. An author of numerous publications and sitting on 3 editorial boards, Dr Arshad has decided that he wants to pursue the lifestyle of a full time academician and share his knowledge with the future dental surgeons.

Dr Tong Huei Jinn loves children and is a believer in education and preventive dentistry. She hopes to share her passion for Dental Public Health and Pediatric Dentistry with the future undergraduates. Despite the heavy undergraduate schedule, Dr Tong was still able to serve in several student committees in KEVII Hall. Post graduation, Dr Tong was a member in many professional committees and volunteers in numerous community projects both local and overseas. She is currently doing her Masters in Pediatric Dentistry and Dental Public Health in Leeds Dental Institute, United Kingdom.

Joining the Faculty as the youngest member in 2006 is Dr Joel Khoo. He graduated as the Best Student in Clinical Dentistry and has numerous research projects and teaching responsibilities. He has organized and participated in several dental charity trips to Yunnan, China and Nias Islands, Indonesia to train the village doctors on dental care and also to provide basic dental treatment to the residents. Dr Khoo will be pursuing his Masters training in Prosthodontics in the USA.

Having recently graduated last year, Dr Loke Weiqiang joined us with a string of 4 academic awards, 3 clinical awards, 3 research awards. He also won 5 awards in Choral and Singapore Police Force competitions. Dr Loke proves to be an all rounder. Despite his hectic schedule, he enjoys traveling, playing tennis, sipping wine and singing. Dr Loke has his eyes set on pursuing his Masters training in Prosthodontics in the USA in 2009.

Dr Fu Jia Hui graduated in 2004 and was awarded 3 academic prizes. Dr Fu will be pursuing her Masters in Periodontics in the University of Michigan, USA in 2008.

There you have it, new additions, and a brilliant mix of disciplines in the Faculty with loads to share.



A/P Hien-Chi Ngo



from left to right: Dr Loke, Dr Khoo and Dr Fu



Prof Murray Clyde Meikle



Dr Noeen Ashad

Interview

Professor Loh Hong Sai

Acting Director, International Relations Office, NUS



Professor Loh Hong Sai now helms the International Relations Office as Acting Director. Previously, he served in the Faculty of Dentistry as Head of the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Department and Dean, Faculty of Dentistry. We are honoured to have one of our Professors play an active role in the central administration and globalization of the National University of Singapore. Let's see how Prof Loh integrates his experience as an academician with his new role in administration.

Q: What is the primary function of the International Relations Office (IRO)?

IRO primarily functions to support the internationalisation programs and activities of NUS. In so doing, the IRO contributes to the emergence and growth of NUS as a global knowledge enterprise. It reports to the office of the Vice President, University and Global Relations.

Q: How does the IRO help with our dental school's vision "to be a dental institution of international distinction?"

In the same way, the IRO helps all faculties in NUS with the objectives of international collaborations with selected partnering universities from the best in the world. Such would include overseas educational programs and student exchange programs, apart from joint /double degree education, summer schools and others. As a dental staff member, there would be an advantage for our Faculty in which I would be able to help with the link-ups and potentials of possible collaborating dental institutions.

Q: You were the Dean, Faculty of Dentistry from 1986 to 1995 and currently hold the position of acting director, International Relations office, NUS. How did your experience as ex-dean prepare you for your new career?

I am honoured to be appointed to a position in the central administration of NUS, and be involved in job scopes that call for my international contacts and experiences which I have acquired from my career in Dentistry and from the many committees that I had served in. Having served some 35 years as an academic in NUS, I am familiar with the changes and directions that are presented by the leadership, and the people who make them.

Q: You have held many administrative leadership positions in your illustrious career. What has been the most fulfilling position you have taken up thus far?

It is difficult to make a choice, but, I would say, as a mentor for the students through my junior years to the time when I was the Dean ! Not a position, but a privilege that I have enjoyed and which gained the respect of generations of students who had regarded me as someone who had helped them find dentistry fulfilling and rewarding. The best moments were those when I spent with them overseas at the congresses of the Asian Pacific Dental Students Association (APDSA).

- Student Exchange Programme -



Ng Jing Hao • Dental 3rd Year student

University of Adelaide

The gorgeous main campus of the University of Adelaide is located on the architecturally stunning cultural boulevard of in the city-centre. The dental school, however, is based in an austere seven storey dental hospital located near the main campus. The hospital is a public healthcare facility with large numbers of subsidized patients seeking undergraduate treatment.

We were consistently blown away by the extremely high level of clinical competence and patient communication skills that the undergraduates had. The students often critique themselves, the habit imbued by numerous self-assessment exercises in first and second years.

Students at Adelaide have a very fine working relationship with their tutors, who are generally an encouraging and instructive lot.

The school really impressed us and provides an excellent education. We really had a great experience being there.



- Student Exchange Programme -

Leonardo Saigo • Dental 3rd year student

University of British Columbia



On 1st September 2007, 4 dental undergraduates – Amelia Chew, Chan Waiseng, Luo Wenyuan and I went on a student exchange programme to University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver, Canada. Dental school in UBC is a 4-year course, just like in Singapore. However, dentistry is offered as a post graduate programme there. We had the opportunity to observe the students working in the school dental clinic, using an integrated clinical care system, combining various disciplines like endodontics, prosthodontics and operative dentistry. Students also practice periodontics and orthodontics in their clinics. During our free time, we toured various places in Downtown Vancouver as well as places outside Vancouver city such as Victoria Island and the Rocky Mountains. The scenery was simply breathtaking, with the beautiful autumn season set as a background. Many thanks to Dr Ravindra Shah and the staff and students of UBC who made our stay in Vancouver a memorable one.

School of Stomatology, Shanghai Jiao Tong University

Daniel Chan • Dental 4th year student

- Ninth People's Hospital

From 3rd September 2007 till the 6th September 2007, Elizabeth, Chien Joo, Yiew Jia and I were hosted by students from the School of Stomatology, Shanghai Jiao Tong University. Their dental hospital (the Ninth People's Hospital) comprises an amazing 21 floors! Their dental school's forte is their OMS department, with over 70 OMS surgeons specializing in different aspects of OMS, from cleft lip and palate to tumours. In our short stay at the university we visited their OMS, Prosthodontics, Endodontics and Paedodontics departments. We were also lucky enough to watch an operation in the Operating theatre. The local students also showed us around Shanghai to experience some nice food and shopping. Overall the trip was an enriching experience and we hope to visit again.



Group Photo with Prof Zhang and Prof Feng
(1st row: 2nd and 3rd from left)



Photo taken with OMS Surgeon during ward rounds

University of Sydney

The University of Sydney Faculty of Dentistry organised a schedule for us that allowed us to visit both their city and rural teaching hospitals. Dental students school at both hospitals, thus treating a wide socio-economic spectrum of patients. We were exposed to both the academic and clinical aspects of all 4 years of their graduate dental course, which gave us an excellent albeit brief overview of their programme. Their progressive and rigorous course, which includes undergraduate implantology and third molar endodontics, is constantly updated in line with modern trends and advancements, and we were duly impressed. Many thanks to the staff and students of the UniSyd Faculty of Dentistry for the hospitality shown to us there!



Tan Jun Da • Dental 3rd year student

Dr Norhisham B Mohamed • MDS Resident

Visit by Prof Zhang Chen Ping (16 July 2007)

In July 2007, the Faculty of Dentistry hosted Prof Zhang Chen Ping, a prominent professor of Oral and Maxillofacial surgery from Ninth People's Hospital Shanghai, China.

Professor Zhang is Vice Director of the Affiliated Ninth People's Hospital of Shanghai Second Medical University and has worked with Dr Xu Liqun, who is currently an associate consultant with the OMS department here in NUH.

Prof Zhang delivered a lecture on head and neck surgery and grafts that can be used in the oral and maxillofacial region to the faculty. Mingling with staff and students alike, he came across as a well-learned and distinguished man. Alas he was only visiting for a few days... but he has promised us more of such visits and cooperation between NUH and Ninth People's Hospital in the future!



Prof Zhang Chen Ping (fifth from the left)

Mrs Gn Soon Lay • Senior Manager

Visitors from King Saud University, Saudi Arabia (3 September 2007)

Staff and students from the King Saud University visited the Faculty of Dentistry. They comprised 3 top undergraduate final year students who were interested in both our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. They also took the opportunity to visit our clinics, teaching and research laboratories.



Visitors from Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia (11 September 2007)

A delegation of 28 teaching and clinical staff members, led by their Director of Gadjah Mada Hospital, Drg Yulita Hendrartini and the Dean of Faculty of Dentistry, Gadjah Mada University, Professor Munakhir Mudjosemedi, were engaged in a full day programme at our Faculty. Their objective was to study the operational management of the dental school/hospital.

Visitors from King's College, London (29 October 2007)

Professor Nairn Wilson, Dean and Head of the Guy's King's and St Thomas' Institute, Professor of Restorative Dentistry, King's College, London visited the Faculty in October 2007. Our Dean, Prof Keson Tan, presented an update on the Faculty's latest developments while Prof Wilson shared on developments in dentistry in the United Kingdom.



from left to right: A/P Foong, Prof Wilson, A/P Tan and A/P Sae-Lim

34th

Low Ming Hui • Dental 3rd Year student

APDSA Congress @ Taiwan (7 – 12 August 2007)

This year marks the 34th year of the APDSA congress tradition. Held in Taipei, Taiwan, the event lasted from 7th August to 12th August 2007. As we stepped out of the airport exit gate, Taiwanese dental students who were awaiting us greeted us enthusiastically. Soon after arriving at Sunworld Dynasty Hotel, we attended the opening ceremony which was marked with exciting performances by the Taiwanese students and speeches made by various guests-of-honour including Dr James Chih-Chien Lee, Vice-president of Asia-Pacific Dental Federation, and Lee Sheng-Yang, President of Association for Dental Sciences for the Republic of China.

On the 2nd day, we spent the morning attending the Scientific Research Competition while the 3rd day was filled with scientific seminars, which had distinguished speakers including our own Prof Loh Hong Sai.

We also had a chance to interact socially with the students from other countries. We took a city tour of Taiwan which led us to Taipei 101 to catch a bird's eye view of Taipei. The scene was breathtaking as Taiwan was transformed into a city of glittering lights at night. Cultural night was an eye opener. The Taiwanese sizzled with their sexy modern dance and the Thais blessed us with a dance called 'the 8 golden flowers'.

All in all, the APDSA experience was truly a memorable one. It offered an opportunity that no other dental event in NUS could give, the opportunity to meet so many international dental students at one event. During this period of time, I learnt a lot about dentistry in other countries and also made many friends. The 35th APDSA will be held in Surabaya, Indonesia. Till next year, then!



Commencement 2007

(10 July 2007)

Commencement 2007 was a memorable night for 55 dentists as we stepped forward to receive our respective degrees. A total of 36 BDS, 7 MDS, 6 MSc and 6 PhD degrees were given out. With faculty staff and our loved ones bearing witness to the ceremony, every name announced was met with a resounding applause, in recognition of the great feat that we had achieved.

There were smiles on everyone's faces, as all the sweat and tears shed in the past 4 years were tucked far away in the deep recesses of our minds. Shutters clicked everywhere, in an attempt to immortalise the event. The night drew to a close as we bade farewell to our alma mater and embarked upon our personal odyssey.

Dr Tabitha Chng • Dental Officer, Class of 2007



Congratulations Dental Class of 2007!

Freshmen Orientation

6 October 2007



13th July 07 was the date of the much anticipated Dental camp. It began with "the amazing race", which was meant to be a tour of NUS; whereby freshmen would visit the different faculties and solve puzzles and tasks at different stations. It ended with the freshmen having to reach Costa Sands Resorts within the stipulated time limit.

Accommodation in the resort was huts with two double decker beds. It was most comforting because it was air-conditioned! It was then followed by a sumptuous BBQ whereby dental school seniors and some alumni members came and interacted with the freshmen class. Usual questions were asked and of course, the juniors had to serve food to the seniors. The next day, it was all fun and games on the beach and it ended with "Fright Night @ Dragon Trail" which was a hair raising experience for all. Both the boys and girls screamed equally loud at the different stations which lasted till 4am. The camp ended on a high note with a Fashion Show put up by the freshmen using recyclable materials with a gist of ingenuity.

During the last week of July and first week of August, the incoming freshman class was not enjoying lazy days prior to their starting dental classes formally. They were definitely not sleeping till noon, playing games all day, hanging out at the local mall, or playing basketball in the park. Not this freshman class! For exactly 11 days from 8am till 10pm, they were busy taking part in the annual NUSSU Rag and Flag Day.

This year's theme was 'Discover the passion, Witness our spirit'. The Float committee had worked hard to conceptualize the Dentistry float which consisted of a Tribal Village and an Alleyway. The numerous brainstorming sessions were done in December 2006 till March 2007. It was not easy to come up with the unique design as we had to ensure its durability to withstand the elements, the ease of construction and most importantly, factor in the cost.

During the first few days, we seniors played an important role in instructing and helping the freshmen to build the Float. As the days passed, we handed over the responsibility to the freshman class. After all, it was their float. This worked well as they suggested many constructive ideas to improve the Float.

This year, All Night Long was held earlier rather than on the eve of Rag and Flag Day. This was because we knew that the Float had to leave NUS for the Padang on the eve of the Rag and Flag Day at 7pm. As such, the seniors and alumni members would not be able to view our painstaking work. It was also a logistical nightmare as we needed to ensure that the Float and props reached the Padang in one piece. We left for the Padang by bus as early as 5am; and most of us slept on the mat that had been laid out for us at the Padang. Being one of the last few faculties to present our float, Dentistry put on a stellar performance despite our small strength. Everyone was in high spirits and the atmosphere was filled with euphoria and relief knowing that the day we had been waiting for had finally arrived. Seeing our Float of equal quality with others gave us a great sense of achievement and all of us were winners in our own way.



Dental Public Health Screening

6 October 2007

The Dental Society of the National University Singapore successfully organized a dental health screening on 6th October 2007 at Toa Payoh HDB Hub. This was an event organized and run entirely by dental students to allow members of the public to have a free dental screening and advice on oral hygiene. This one-day event served to raise the public awareness of oral health.

We had an enthusiastic response from faculty staff who kindly volunteered to supervise the screening. The Year 2 dental students were in charged of registration, survey and ushering. The patients were then screened by the Year 4 students under staff supervision followed by Dental Health Education carried out by the third year dental students.

An Opening Ceremony was held at 11.30am, graced by guest of honour, MP Dr Lam Pin Min MP for Ang Mo Kio GRC, together with the Dean of School of Medicine and the Dean of Faculty of Dentistry. There was a constant stream of patients and overall response from the public was so overwhelming that we had to close registration early. This year we screened up to 500 hundred people for the event.

On behalf of the Dental Public Health Screening Organizing Committee, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the faculty staff, sponsors and my fellow committee members as well as all dental students who had put in effort in making this a meaningful and successful event.

Cindy Ho • Dental 3rd year student

Interview

Dr Choo Teck Chuan

**BDS 1955 , FDS RCS(Eng), FDS RCS(Edin),
D.Orth RCS(Eng) ,MFGDPRCS(UK), FFGDP RCS(UK), FAMS.**

by Dr Bertrand Chew



Dr Choo graduated as a top student from the University of Malaya in 1955. As a Tratman medalist, he was awarded the Queen's Scholarship to pursue postgraduate studies in the U.K. in 1958. Upon his return in 1962, he taught orthodontics at his alma mater. In 1964, he became a part time faculty staff, teaching conservative dentistry until 1984. His students include prominent and well known dentists like Prof Chew Chong Lin, A/P Teo Choo Soo, A/P Keson Tan and A/P Keng Siong Beng .

Dr Choo has been actively involved in the set up of the various professional bodies in Singapore. He takes particular pride in being the organizer of the highly successful World Dental Congress in Singapore in 1990; which saw more than 12,000 visitors to Singapore. Now he feels gratified that he contributed to the successful bid of the Singapore Dental Association to host the 2009 World Dental Congress, at which he is convinced there will be far more visitors than in the case of 1990.

At the Singapore Business Events Awards 2007, held at Ritz Carlton on the 2nd of August, Dr Choo was nominated for the Individual Award - Business Event. He eventually won the award and is the only dental surgeon to win such a prestigious award. The winners were selected out of 21 finalists who were short listed for the seven awards. The finalists and winners were selected by a panel comprising 16 industry experts, association and academic leaders, and representatives from the corporate sector. The international panel of judges lent a global and multi-faceted perspective to the Awards and nominees. The judges spent hours of intense discussion to evaluate the entries and selected those who conclusively demonstrated strong results of their efforts. The entries were assessed on how innovative they had been in organizing business events and how their level of service and expertise had exceeded clients' expectations. Nominees were also assessed on how their event or company has contributed to raising Singapore's profile as a MICE destination.

Bertrand: What do you think of the students today?

Dr Choo: Oh my, they are much cleverer than we were in the past! They have an excellent dental faculty and resources for their training. They receive the best training and latest technology in dentistry. On the international platform, the students are comparable to good schools in the United States. Academically, our students are excellent. In my days, I was a financially poor student. In order to ensure that I would be able to graduate on time, I was determined to complete my schedule by almost twice the requirements. If there was a need for 50 extractions, I did 100 extractions. If there was a requirement of 80 inlays, I did more than 160. As a result of my keenness to exceed the quota, I was advised by my professor to teach in the faculty. Even today, this experience would be useful. I would advise the students to always exceed their quota, whenever possible. This is not only for their graduation, but to make them a better clinician and a better person.

Bertrand: What are your plans for the dental students today?

Dr Choo: The World Dental Education Society, Singapore (WDES) of which I am President, is planning to provide a scholarship for the Student Exchange Programme. The aim of this is to provide the students with an insight to overseas education. It is a big plus for our dental students to travel for an exchange. This is not just for knowledge only but to build international relationships with our international peers. I would like to send the students overseas for at least a month. This time frame would provide sufficient exposure to the student. Also, it would be a sufficient amount for the students to be able to travel there and have a decent accommodation. Off course, it would be ideal to reach out to as many students as possible. I would love to send the entire class annually to different countries. However, like everything else, there are limited resources. Meanwhile, I am trying to source as much funds as possible. The exact details would be released next year at IDEM 2008.

Bertrand: What would your advice be to the students?

Dr Choo: Do not think that the acquisition of knowledge ends upon graduation. It is the start of the journey of life-long learning. Students are encouraged to pursue some post-graduate studies. This may be some form of specialization or even the Super GP course. The world is their oyster and they have the foundation taught to them by our wonderful lecturers. Our standards of students are definitely there. The infrastructure for training is superb in Singapore, NUS. Also, there is a need to inculcate the values to our dental students. There is more to life than the pursuit of material needs and financial returns. Granted that there are bills to pay, and now loans... students should be willing to reach out to the less fortunate and also to return to the society. As long as the message can reach 10% of our students, the effect would be tremendous. This would lift the social standing of the dental fraternity.

Bertrand: What was your life like after graduation, especially your route to post graduate education?

Dr Choo: I had to get married first, and then go to England for examinations. In those days, travel took at least 3 days. I had to resort to studying during the trip. England was cold. As a financially poor student, I had to stay in the student hostel. In those days, the heater was coin operated. The coils were heated until they were red hot. It was actually a fire hazard! In order to save money, I placed my Campbell Soup on these heaters to heat them up while it warmed the room.

Bertrand: How do you feel about winning the Singapore Business Events Awards, 2007?

Dr Choo: As what my good friend, Dr Yip Wing Kong said, "this award has put Dentistry one up". I would like to acknowledge SDA and one important person, he is Dr Yip. He has been providing me the support and the determination to continue with this. I would like to say that my family is the one that had inspired me, but it was Dr Yip who provided me with the greatest inspiration. He gave me the energy and support all the way. Surprising, he is my student. Dr Yip is a very good man. He is a man of principles and with excellent fundamentals. The award is not just for me, but for the dental fraternity. The future of our dental fraternity must continue with the close bonding that they have started in school. There must always be positive cooperation among the dental fraternity. This would further enhance our standing in the healthcare sector.

Bertrand: So what would your parting words be to the dental students?

Dr Choo: Dentistry is on the way up. You have a conducive environment for education, excellent lecturers, superb infrastructure and a renowned reputation. Build on this foundation for your post graduate education. Learn to foster positive bonds. Before my days are over, I would like to see Dentistry regarded on-par with medicine. Thank you.



Individual Award - Business Event Ambassador:
Dr Choo Teck Chuan, FDI Programme Director, FDI World Dental Federation, for his contributions to bringing in the 2009 FDI World Dental Congress to Singapore

Donor & Sponsor Acknowledgements

"To our donors & sponsors... Thank you for supporting the Faculty of Dentistry, NUS!"

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all donors for their constant support and contribution to the various Faculty's funds:

- Faculty Development Fund
- Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Department Donation Fund
- Restorative Department Donation Fund
- Student Development Account
- Student Dental Bursaries

For Academic Year 2007/08, a total of fifteen Faculty Level Bursary awards were given in support of undergraduate education



If you are interested in making a contribution to the Faculty of Dentistry, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Gn Soon Lay, Senior Manager (Tel: 6772 4902 or dengnsl@nus.edu.sg).

Graduating Class Party 2007

Dr Boey Mao Jie

The Deanery had graciously invited the Class of 2007 for a celebratory dinner held at The Republic Yatch Club on 29th June 2007.

The event was well received by the deanery, faculty staff, private practitioners, friends of the faculty and the graduating class of 2007. The downpour earlier in the evening did nothing to dampen anyone's spirits.



Everyone present was treated to a sumptuous dinner buffet spread, ranging from steak to salmon sashimi. With a backdrop of the seaside decorated with beautiful yachts, it was truly a magical evening. After filling our stomachs, the ladies, all of whom were stunningly dressed, could not resist and took numerous pictures for memory's sake. Everyone enjoyed themselves that evening, sharing food, wine and fellowship. Catching up with our tutors, sharing experiences both dental and non-dental was definitely enriching.

On behalf of the graduating class of 2007, I would like to thank the deanery for organizing this memorable evening and would definitely look forward to many more similar events in the future.



Guild of Dental Graduates Charity Golf Event 2007

Dr Alvin Lee

The Guild of Dental Graduates Charity Golf Event was held on the 30th May 2007. It was hosted by 3 organizations, namely the Guild of Dental Graduates (GDG), the Singapore Dental Association (SDA) and the Singapore Dental Health Foundation (SDHF) with the objective of raising funds for SDHF.

The eventual winner of our charity golf game was Dr Wong Keng Mun. There were many other prizes to be won for the day. Associate Professor Dr Teo Choo Soo, Director of the Office of Alumni Relations sponsored many lucky draw prizes including golf balls and bags. Other prizes included products from Elygydium and Lion Systema.

Dinner was held at the Canopy café, overlooking the golf course at Marina Bay. Coupled with the buffet dinner, which offered a marvelous spread, it ensured that all the guests were happy and filled at the end of the event. It was indeed a highly successful charity golf meet.



Assoc Prof Kelvin Foong

NUS Homecoming @ Bukit Timah Campus

On 8th July 2007, streams of humanity crossed paths to mark the official opening of the Bukit Timah Campus (BTC) of the National University of Singapore. The occasion was a perfect mixture of chance and opportunity for re-connecting former classmates and fellow alumni. It was also a time for the younger generation of NUS graduates and students to connect with seniors who had spent many memorable years in the serene grounds of BTC. At the dinner table for Dentistry that evening, Dr Si-Hoe Kok Soon, Dr Lim Swee Teck, Dr and Mrs Yip Wing Kong, Dr Lee Swee Kiang and former Dean, Dr Edmund Tay shared their experiences and memories of life at BTC with present Dean, Assoc Prof Keson Tan and Vice-Dean (Academic Affairs) Assoc Prof Kelvin Foong. With Prof Loh Hong Sai as the emcee for the evening, songs from Elvis Presley and performances by NUS student and alumni complemented the convivial mood of the occasion.



Dr Ivan Koh

11th

NUS Clinical Dentistry Symposium



From left to right: Prof Chew, Prof Iizuka, Dr Joanne Uy, Dr Marlene Teo, Prof Dahllof and A/P Tan

This year's Clinical Dentistry Symposium held on 27th May 2007 once again saw a packed auditorium.

Prof Tateyuki Iizuka from the University of Bern gave us an overview of reconstruction for implant supported oral rehabilitation.

Following which, Dr Marlene Teo gave us an overview of what was possible with periodontal surgery. She focused on mucogingival therapy, leaving us with a message that it is possible to improve aesthetics and gingival coverage for many people.

Prof Goran Dahllof spoke on managing the oral health of children with chronic health conditions. One left the lecture with a better understanding of the need for a more wholesome approach to patient management rather than purely concentrating on intervention.

Dr Joanne Uy then spoke to us on decision making when faced with a pulpally affected crowned tooth. Her systematic presentation of case studies and comparisons between published data left one and all with a clearer picture of which path to walk down.

A/P Jennifer Neo shed light on the many systems available for bonding. Choosing bonding systems? Well, it definitely is far different from choosing a fine pair of shoes!

The last lecture was by Prof Carl Driscoll. Colonel in the army and golf loving, Prof Driscoll talked us about the use of attachments in prosthodontics. Know this, the click you next hear at in-camp training could well be that of a fitting denture sitting firmly in place and held by precision or semi-precision attachments!

Ms Perina Chiang • Assistant Manager

Faculty Awards Day 2007

The annual Faculty Awards Day was held on 31 August 2007, to recognize staff and students on their various achievements.

We were delighted to have Provost Prof Tan Eng Chye who graced the occasion as the Guest-of-Honour for the event.

Special thanks also go out to our external partners KaVo and Shofu who joined us in this celebration as well as for their continued support in faculty students' activities.

The Faculty congratulates all award winners for a job well done!



Announcement – The Ageing Dentition – Public Health Perspectives and Clinical Rehabilitation for the Elderly

Date: 23 March 2008 **Venue:** FoD Auditorium

Speakers and Topics:

Dr Jane Chalmers

- The Oral Health Care Triad for Adults with Special Needs - Assessment, Oral Hygiene Care and Dental Delivery Systems
- Geriatric Minimal Intervention Dentistry

Dr Ronald Ettinger

- The Ageing Frail Patient - Assessment and Rational Treatment Planning
- Innovative Problem Solving in Prosthodontics for Older Adults and Adults with Special Needs

Dr Gerald Koh

- Geriatrics and Dental Needs of Older People in Singapore

Please check our website at www.dentistry.nus.edu.sg for more details and registration.

Faculty Research Day 2007

Ms Jasmine Ye • Administrative Officer

The Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme (UROP) aims to cultivate research interest and provide every undergraduate in the Faculty of Dentistry, a chance to perform supervised research work. Students work in groups under the guidance of a research mentor to explore research ideas and test hypotheses. The duration of the programme is 1.5 years and each group has to submit a final research report at the end of the programme. Selected groups will then present their findings during the annual Faculty Research Day.

This year, the event was held on 9 November 2007. Seven groups presented their project to a panel of judges which comprised of Prof Murray Clyde Meikle, A/P Hien-Chi Ngo and Prof Robert Gunnar Bergenholtz.



From left to right (front): Dr Joanne Uy, A/P Sae-Lim, Prof Bergenholtz, Mr Lim Zixiang, Mr William Lim, Mr Wong Jian Zhang, Miss Cheng Jean-Lynn, Dr Kishen and A/P Hien

From left to right (back): Prof Meikle and Mr Teo Eu Gene

The results of the competition are as follows:

Winner

Group Members:

Cheng Jean-Lynn (Miss), Lim Tian Wei, William, Teo Eu Gene, Wong Jian Zhang, Lim Zixiang

Supervisor:

Dr. Anil Kishen

Project Title:

Testing a Light Activated Therapy (ANILAD) to Eliminate Bacteria in Root Canal

The winning group will represent the Faculty at the Dentsply Student Clinician Programme during the SEAADE-IADR meeting.

1st Runner-up

Group Members:

Ivan Prabowo Budiharto, Foo Kee Yin, Jonathan, Tan Mei Na (Miss), Goh Siew Hor

Supervisor:

A/P Stephen Hsu

Project Title:

Potential Cariostatic Effects of Yakult®

The 2nd place winners will represent the Faculty at South East Asia Association for Dental Education (SEAADE).

2nd Runner-up

Group Members:

Myat Mon Thinn (Miss), Boey Qing Xia, Jasmine (Miss), Peh Yew Jia (Miss), Leo June Joo (Miss)

Supervisor:

A/P Cao Tong

Project Title:

Cytotoxicity of Whitening Gel with CRL-1486 Human Cell and MTT

The 3rd place winners will represent the Faculty at the Asia Pacific Dental Students Association Scientific Competitions (APDSA).

4th Place

Group Members:

Ngo Di Ying, Joanna (Miss), Hu Shijia, Chia Ai Ping, Vanessa (Miss), Teo Hee Hwa, Daniel

Supervisor:

Dr. Anil Kishen

Project Title:

Detection of Horizontal and Vertical Cracks in Extracted Teeth Using a Microbend Sensor

The 4th place winners will represent the Faculty at the upcoming 9th Dental Students' Scientific Conference, organized by the University of Malaya on the 12th and 13th December 2007.

Mr Lim Eng Chuan

Non Academic Staff Retreat



This year's retreat in September 2007 was held at the Orchid Country Club, an ideal location for an event that brought the dentistry team together for a day of relaxation and learning through play.

Getting to know each other in the team brought much joy and fun. We learnt to "Think out of the box" and the team spirit brought about closeness regardless of positions held at the workplace.

Social bonding, shared responsibility and the opportunity to interact closely with other departmental staff and appreciate the importance of teamwork. As a result, better relationships were established and many new friends were made.

That one day spent together definitely made a significant difference to everyone. All hearts and souls are from different backgrounds, upbringing and personalities but that day, we acted as one unit.

Thank you every one for such a valuable experience and let's continue to keep in touch!

Continuing Dental Education Seminars / Public Lectures

For a listing of upcoming seminars, please visit our website at www.dentistry.nus.edu.sg

Date	Event Name/ Lecture Title(s)	Speaker(s)
3 July – 18 August 2007	Basic Course in Dental Implantology	Dr Dominic Leung A/P Yeo Jin Fei A/P Varawan Sae-Lim A/P Grace Ong A/P Keson Tan Dr Loh Fun Chee Dr Tan Kim Poon Dr Goh Wee Ser Dr Ho Kok Sen Dr Benjamin Tan Dr Victor Fan Dr Aidan Yeo Adj A/P Ansgar Cheng Dr Wong Keng Mun Dr Chung Kong Mun Prof Chew Chong Lin Mr Ho Wing Siak Mrs Ow Kim Ing Dr Henry Ho
16 July 2007	Dental Implant Distractor – The Shanghai Experience	Prof Zhang Chen Ping
7 August 2007	Effects of Electric Discharge Machining (EDM) and Misfit on Prosthetic Implant Abutments	Clinical Assistant Prof Lee Chia Ming
28 August 2007	Oral Health Care – Getting The Message Across	Dr Lim Swee Teck
11 September 2007	Treatment of the Furcation-Periodontal and Prosthodontic Viewpoints	Dr Robert Baima
27 September 2007	Medical-Legal Issues in Dentistry	Mr Anthony Soh Mr Gregory Chan Mr Deepak Raja
2 October 2007	Reinforcement of rootfilled teeth: Is it a realistic goal?"	Professor Harold Messer
6 October – 10 November 2007	Second Series Basic Course in Dental Implantology	Dr Chan Siew Luen Dr Chung Kong Mun Dr Neo Tee Khin Dr Benjamin Tan Dr Go Wee Ser Dr Marlene Teo Dr Ho Kok Sen Dr Dominic Leung Dr Wong Keng Mun Ms Melanie Ong Ms Kuah Boon Theng Dr Tan Kim Poon Dr Chong Kai Chuan Dr Robert Ng A/P Cao Tong Adj A/P Ansgar Cheng
6 October 2007	Cadaveric Dental Implant Course	Dr Victor Fan Dr Juliet Tay Dr Ho Kok Sen Dr Aidan Yeo Dr Go Wee Ser Dr Myra Elliott
7 October 2007	Cadaveric Dissection Course Surgical Approaches of the Maxillofacial Skeleton	Dr Victor Fan Dr Xu Liqun Dr Aidan Yeo Dr Myra Elliott Dr Chan Siew Luen Dr Ho Kok Sen
17 October 2007	"Instrument fracture : Prevention, Management and Prognosis"	Professor Harold Messer
26 October 2007	The Remediation of Articulation Disorders	Ms Ebba Fernandez
3 November 2007	Mouth Cancer Awareness Week Oral Cancer Diagnosis and Management	Dr Victor Fan
19 November 2007	Mouth Cancer Awareness Week Facts on Oral Cancer (English)	Dr Victor Fan
20 November 2007	The Persisting Periapical Lesion - Do Nothing, Wait and Observe, or Retreat?	Prof Gunnar Bergenholtz
21 November 2007	Mouth Cancer Awareness Week Facts on Oral Cancer (Mandarin)	Dr Xu Liqun
24 November 2007	Mouth Cancer Awareness Week Public Forum	Dr Victor Fan Dr Wong Lea Choung Miss Mary Chan Dr Alvin Wong Assoc Prof Hien Chi Ngo Miss So Hwee Mei Mr Isaac Sia
28 November 2007	The Dental Pulp – A Fascinating Tissue in Service of the Dental Profession	Prof Gunnar Bergenholtz

Farewell

We wish to bid farewell and thank the following staff for their services and contributions to the Faculty:

- Miss Tay Shun Ying, Fiona • Research Assistant • OMS
- Mr Nyi Lay Maung • Research Assistant • PD
- Prof Harold Henry Messer • Visiting Professor • RD
- Prof Robert Gunnar Bergenholtz • Visiting Professor • RD
- Mdm Chu Li Shen • Laboratory Officer • Dean's Office
- Ms Boh Siew Thang • Senior Laboratory Officer • Dean's Office
- Ms Wong Yoke Kin, Patricia • Management Support Officer • Dean's Office
- Dr Xu Liqun • Visiting Senior Fellow • OMS

Welcome

A warm welcome to the following new staff:

Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

- Dr Ji Tong • Visiting Senior Fellow

Department of Preventive Dentistry

- Dr Noeen Arshad • Assistant Professor
- Dr Fu Jia Hui • Dental Instructor
- Ms Gao Xiaoli • Research Fellow
- Prof Murray Clyde Meikle • Visiting Professor

Department of Restorative Dentistry

- Dr Loke Weiqiang • Dental Instructor
- Prof Harold Henry Messer • Visiting Professor
- Prof Robert Gunnar Bergenholtz • Visiting Professor

Dean's Office (Dentistry)

- Ms Yuan Chunxia • Laboratory Technologist
- Miss Ong Swee Kim, Juliana • Management Assistant Officer
- Miss Sing Siuh Eng, Cynthia • Management Assistant Officer
- Ms Tan Siew Hong, Carol • Management Assistant Officer
- Miss Ye Lijun, Jasmine • Administrative Officer
- Miss Lee Hwee Hoon, Sharon • Senior Administrative Officer
- Miss Sim Puay Eng • Specialist Associate
- Miss Tan Sheau Harn, Patricia • Management Assistant Officer

Academic Staff of the Faculty of Dentistry

DEAN'S OFFICE

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Dean | - A/P Keson Tan |
| Vice-Dean (Academic Affairs) | - A/P Kelvin Foong |
| Vice-Dean (Research) | - A/P Varawan Sae-Lim |
| Assistant Dean (Clinical Affairs) | - A/P Keng Siong Beng |
| Director, Division of Graduate Dental Studies | - Prof Chew Chong Lin |

DEPARTMENT OF ORAL & MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Head of Department | - A/P Yeo Jin Fei |
| Professorial Fellow | - Prof Loh Hong Sai |
| Associate Professor | - A/P Cao Tong |
| Assistant Professor | - Dr Victor Fan |
| Visiting Senior Fellow | - Dr Xu Liqun |
| Visiting Senior Fellow | - Dr Ji Tong |

DEPARTMENT OF PREVENTIVE DENTISTRY

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Head of Department | - A/P Grace Ong |
| Associate Professor | - A/P Teo Choo Soo |
| Associate Professor | - A/P Lim Lum Peng |
| Associate Professor | - A/P Kelvin Foong |
| Associate Professor | - A/P Stephen Hsu |
| Assistant Professor | - Dr Marlene Teo |
| Assistant Professor | - Dr Noeen Arshad |
| Senior Lecturer | - Dr Betty Mok |
| Dental Instructor | - Dr Fu Jia Hui |
| Visiting Professor | - Prof Toshio Deguchi |
| Visiting Professor | - Prof Murray Clyde Meikle |

DEPARTMENT OF RESTORATIVE DENTISTRY

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Head of Department | - A/P Jennifer Neo |
| Professor | - Prof Chew Chong Lin |
| Associate Professor | - A/P Keng Siong Beng |
| Associate Professor | - A/P Keson Tan |
| Associate Professor | - A/P Varawan Sae-Lim |
| Associate Professor | - A/P Hien Ngo Chi |
| Assistant Professor | - Dr Anil Kishen |
| Assistant Professor | - Dr Joanne Ngo Uy |
| Senior Lecturer | - Dr Hilary Thean |
| Dental Instructor | - Dr Joel Khoo |
| Dental Instructor | - Dr Loke Weiqiang |

Student Achievements

- The following students, Dr Boey Mao Jie, Dr Eng Zhen Feng, Clement, Dr Ee Zhongren, Jonathan and Dr Mohamed Shafiq Bin Abdul Aziz from the class of 2007 presented their Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme (UROP) project, "Cytotoxicity Testing of Toothpastes on L929 and CRL-1486 Cells" which was supervised by A/P Cao Tong. They were awarded the Best Clinical Research Project at the South East Asia Association for Dental Education (SEAADE) GC Asia Student Prevention Table Clinician Competition 2007. This event was held in September 2007, in Bali, Indonesia.
- At the 21st Annual Scientific Meeting, International Association for Dental Research (IADR), South East Asia (SEA) Division, held in September 2007, in Bali, Indonesia, Ms Liu Yuanyuan won the Best Research Award (Cariology & Mineralized Tissue) for her article entitled "Micro-CT Evaluation of Laser-Fluoride Effect on Enamel Demineralization". This project was supervised by A/P Stephen Hsu and Prof Teoh Swee Hin. She received USD500 as part of the award.
- Also at the 21st Annual Scientific Meeting, IADR-SEA 2007, Dr Tarun Kumar Maheshwari won the Senior Travel Award, First Runner-up for the project entitled "Profiling Molecular Signals Elicited by Periodontal Tissue in Avulsion Injury", which was supervised by A/P Varawan Sae-Lim. Dr Tarun was awarded with a travel grant to the IADR 86th General Session & Exhibition to be held in Toronto, Canada from 2nd to 5th July 2008.