

DENTAL MIRROR

A member of the NUHS

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- 2** A Tribute to Our Teachers
- 3** Faculty Teaching Excellence Award
- 8** 4th FOD Alumni Reunion Dinner



Faculty of Dentistry

Faculty Teaching Excellence Award
2012/2013



Dean's Message

“ In this issue our best teachers share their thoughts on teaching and learning. We continue to develop new pedagogies to engage our students. A revised communications curriculum kicked off in 2013 engaging students from Year 1 through to their clinical years.

This year our Year I intake was a bumper 54 students. This will be the maximum the school will be able to accommodate until our new facility is ready. We are currently busy in the planning and design stage.

We will continue to share with you the exciting challenges coming our way and look forward to engaging our friends and alumni in the Faculty's development. Our alumni continue to generously support our building project. To date, we have raised about \$300,000 from alumni alone. ”

Assoc Prof Grace Ong

Dean



Professor JA Jansen: Teacher with a Heart

by A/P SB Keng



Centre: Prof John Alfred Jansen celebrating his 90th birthday with some ex-students

Prof John Alfred Jansen known to his colleagues and students as “Johnny, JJ and Prof” was an icon during his time as a teacher in our Dental School. Graduated in 1948 with an LDS (Sing), he became a lecturer and then rose to be only one of the two local graduates appointed as Chairs. In 1961, he became Professor of Prosthetic Dentistry in the Department of Dentistry within the King Edward VII College of Medicine.

Students, then, had the privilege of knowing Prof Jansen well, as he was one of the few staff who showed concern for their welfare. Dressed in his usual collarless, open, V-neck tunic “baju”, his presence could often be felt even before he made his appearance. He would sometimes come from behind a student, whip out a handpiece and start trimming denture bases to correct them. His smile was infectious and he had that blue-eyed look that many a time frightened new students who did not know him.

Former students will always remember his lectures in Prosthetic Dentistry. Using only a chalk on a blackboard, he would carefully detail denture designs and drawings of edentulous ridges. He would put many today to shame, because even without using PowerPoint, he was able to clearly depict what he wanted to show, layer by layer. On the clinical side, his guidance in the clinic was often haphazard. Students would shudder as he broke theoretical nuances in denture designs by trimming teeth and base extensions (due to his clinical experience) not often understood by students on why he did it. But it “worked”.

His contributions to the University were many. In dental education he often stressed as in his foreword to the Student Dental Society Journal (1967-68 issue) – “In our Dental Curriculum, we should aim to educate without the wasteful reduplication that is required to obtain technical ‘efficiency’. The mere insertion of a material and its patterning into a restoration should not be the only criterion for adequate Dentistry”.

Prof Jansen moved on in June 2013. The dental profession in Singapore and the dental school has lost a great teacher and a friend to many. He will always be fondly remembered by those who knew him or heard of him.

Tribute From Alumni on Prof Jansen

Prof J, that's how we addressed Professor Jansen.

He used to sit with us in the Dental Laboratory, and while we were working on our dentures and wax-ups, he chatted with us, much like a friend. There did not seem to be a barrier that he was the Head of Department and we were mere students. There were many things he shared with us, of life and about life.

Once when we were final-year students and so hard pressed for time and the final examination was just around the corner, we were all seated in the old Lecture Hall, waiting for one of the last lectures in Prosthetic Dentistry. Tired and exhausted, we were all ready to take down notes when Prof J came into the hall and he asked what seemed to be most irrelevant question: "Guys, tell me what colour dress the girl seated next to you is wearing?"

We were dumb-founded. We expected some searching question on Prosthetic Dentistry, but what was this? None of the guys in the class was able to answer. Then he turned to the girls and said "Girls, why is there no colour on your faces? Why no lipstick or makeup?" The girls smiled shyly. There was no time to finish reading the lecture notes what more put on makeup?

Were these frivolous questions? At that time they seemed so but these were questions of life. He was trying to impress upon us that there was much more to life than passing the exams and becoming a dentist. We should enjoy each moment; appreciate every second and see what is around us to notice the flowers, the fragrance and not miss the little things that make life for what it is.

Since then, I have learned to notice the little things in my life and appreciate each moment.

Dr Vijayan Loganathan (Class of 1978)

I first met Prof Jansen as a young freshie in 1978. He did not really teach my class during his last year in the faculty but whenever we were in the lab trying to fabricate our first full denture technique case, he was always there to guide us.

Prof J had the ability to encourage us to try again and again - denture porosity come what may. Play with the wax, plaster and acrylic, he would encourage us to explore these like a new art medium. And I certainly did and still enjoy doing lab work to this day.

Dr Kaan Sheung Kin (Class of 1982)

Faculty Teaching Excellence Award

Up, Close and Personal with FTEA 2013 Recipients



Annually, the Faculty of Dentistry recognises the passion, dedication and commitment of its academic colleagues who have contributed towards the education of its undergraduates and postgraduates. In 2013, **Dr Roxanna Jean Esguerra, Dr Tan Hwee Hiang, Dr Intekhab Islam, Dr Wendy Wang and Dr Cheong Kim Yan (above photo left to right)** received the Faculty Teaching Excellence Award (FTEA). We find out more about their thoughts on dental education and what fuels their passion to nurture the next generation of dental surgeons.

Faculty Teaching Excellence Award (cont'd)

Up, Close and Personal with FTEA 2013 Recipients

My unique teaching style...

"always looking for new ways to inspire my students. This may be a result of genetic imprinting or influence by my mum who was a Math teacher and always devised new techniques to teach integers, geometry, algebra."
– **Roxanna**

"I teach my students in and out of the classroom whenever I have the opportunity to interact with them. At the same time, I also learn from them."
– **Intekhab**

"if I am having fun teaching, my students are probably (hopefully) having fun learning too!"
– **Wendy**

"I teach in the ways I want to be taught and motivated."
– **Kim Yan**



My Dream Student...

"a desire to help people, a commitment to provide the very best that he/she can offer, a lifelong learner."
– **Roxanna**

"a love for learning which is infectious and an inspiration for classmates and teachers."
– **Intekhab**

"asks questions, is involved, is a leader, is motivated, is independent, is a problem solver, is a solid citizen."
– **Wendy**

"can focus, is attentive, willing to learn, able to accept failures, learn from them, a teamplayer."
– **Kim Yan**



An Active Learner is one who...

"is engaged at a higher level and is involved beyond reading the text and listening to lectures."
– **Roxanna**

"takes responsibility for and ownership of his/her own learning."
– **Wendy**

"can read or study in the gym or while running. Active learning involves opportunities to clarify, question, assimilate and consolidate new knowledge and thought processes."
– **Intekhab**

"recognises that knowledge is infinite and seeks it out at every opportunity, but most importantly, absorbs it and applies it in life."
– **Kim Yan**



My Most Inspiring Moment in Teaching...

"receiving the FTEA Award."
– **Roxanna**

"my first ever lecture and clinical teaching session – I felt really alive and I knew that was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life."
– **Intekhab**

"when the students' eyes sparkle with excitement, heads nod in agreement, appreciate my silly jokes."
– **Wendy**

"seeing students improve their attitudes, understanding of the basic principles of dental knowledge and applying this knowledge in patient care."
– **Kim Yan**

According to FTEA 2013 recipients, these words describe a great teacher:

Enthusiastic
Approachable
Dedicated
Inspirational
Patient
Passionate
Caring
Charismatic

"Life is not waiting for the storm to pass: it is about learning to dance in the rain"

"Dental education should be enjoyable and not merely a course spanning four difficult years." - Intekhab

To Me, Dental Education is Like...

“a **RAMBUTAN** – striking to look at and hard to break through. But once you reach the core and taste it, you wonder if you should have chosen a lychee instead.”

– **Wendy**

“a **GUAVA**. It has a fairly thick skin to withstand constructive criticisms and defeats. The moderately hard pulp is rich in Vitamin C represents the ability to bounce back from setbacks, persevere and move on; yet remaining compassionate towards patients.” – **Kim Yan**

“an **EGGPLANT** (brinjal). When eaten raw, it is somewhat bitter and dry, but it can absorb large amounts of cooking fats and sauces resulting in a rich and complex flavour (Wikipedia). With this analogy, the professors are the spices and seasoning while the dental students are the cooks.”

– **Roxanna**

“a **TREE** which will give fruits in the long run and for a long time. It is, however, difficult to climb at first – one will fall, one will be scathed and bruised but in the end, one will emerge from the shadow which protects them and allows them to grow and express themselves.” – **Intekhab**

Faculty Teaching Excellence Awards

AY	Award Receptient
2008-2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A/P Lim Lum Peng • A/P Hien Chi Ngo • Dr Betty Mok • Dr Cheong Kim Yan • Dr Tan Hwee Hiang
2009-2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A/P Grace Ong • Dr Intekhab Islam • Adj A/P Myra Elliott • Dr Peter Yu
2010-2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Mok Yuen Yue Betty • Dr Yu Soo Hoon Victoria • Adj A/P Myra Elliott • Clinical A/P Chew Ming Tak
2011-2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A/P Keson Tan • Dr Betty Mok • Dr Yu Soo Hoon Victoria • Dr Andrew Robinson • Dr Tan Hwee Hiang
2012-2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Intekhab Islam • Dr Roxanna Jean Esguerra • Dr Wendy Wang • Dr Cheong Kim Yan • Dr Tan Hwee Hiang

“ What Students have to say... ”

Dr Cheong Kim Yan

- Always gives very encouraging feedback and good tips for improvement. Ask us questions to make us think about why we are carrying out certain steps to ensure we aren't just doing things blindly.
- Always patient in imparting knowledge and advice. Willing to go out of her way to ensure we understand what and how to get the job done. She also bothers to explain the clinical relevance and ensures we pace ourselves properly.

Dr Tan Hwee Hiang

- She has strong clinical skills and she sparks my interest in orthodontics as she shows there are so many ways we can do things and shows us what to look out for.

Dr Wendy Wang

- A very good programme coordinator who has clearly understood the learning needs of her students and is very effective at adapting her curriculum to ensure that her students are able to maximise their time and learn as much as she has to offer.
- Her flexible teaching style is unique and very effective in keeping her students engaged and motivated.

Dr Intekhab Islam

- Teaches concepts well. He pushes you to learn and lets you learn through practice. He teaches very well and always conducts his tutorials in a very productive setting. I truly learned how to extract upper 8s successfully and effectively under him. He may be harsh at times but he is always willing to teach you no matter what.

Dr Roxanna Jean Esguerra

- She teaches in a very well thought-out and organized manner which elucidates concepts in a clear manner. She is also very patient with her students. Willing to teach and guide students into making decisions for themselves rather than spoon-feeding them as it encourages students to be prepared for clinics and know their stuff. I respect her for her wealth of knowledge that she does not hesitate to share with students. She is committed to her work, and is always willing to see students outside of clinical time to discuss issues and problems. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to work with Dr Nicoll and I hope she will continue to inspire students like me!

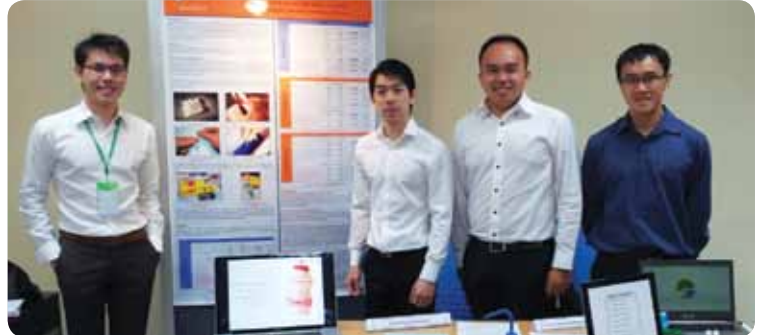
Research - IADR

IADR-SEA Distinguished Service Award 2013

Assoc Professor Keson Tan is the proud recipient of the IADR-SEA Distinguished Service Award 2013. Assoc Professor Grace Ong accepted the award on his behalf at the recent 2nd Meeting of the International Association for Dental Research – Asia Pacific Region, from 21-23 August 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand.



GC Student Prevention Table Clinic Competition 2013



From Left: Dr Lim Jin Keong Jared, Dr Mok Li Qian, Dr Yap Baojie Benjamin and Dr Seow Hong Kai

Award: Bronze Medal
Title of Project: Sustainability of Yakult®'s Cariostatic Effects
Team Members: Dr Lim Jin Keong Jared, Dr Mok Li Qian, Dr Yap Baojie Benjamin & Dr Seow Hong Kai
Supervisor: Assoc Professor Stephen Hsu

IADR-SEA/DENTSPLY Student Clinician Program 2013



From Left: Dr Khoo Shi-Tien, Dr Lim Jing Loong Benjamin, Dr Yao Ying and Dr Hong Qixian

Award: 3rd Place
Title of Project: Effect of UVA-activated Riboflavin on Mechanical Stability and Enzymatic-Degradation Resistance in Root Dentine Collagen Matrix
Team Members: Dr Khoo Shi-Tien, Dr Lim Jing Loong Benjamin, Dr Yao Ying and Dr Hong Qixian
Supervisor : Dr Amr Fawzy
Co-Supervisor : Assoc Professor Jennifer Neo

National Day Awards

- National Day Long Service Award 2013**
Mdm Tan Siam Kiang, Laboratory Technologist

NUS Long Service Award 2013

10 Years	Assoc Prof Cao Tong
15 Years	Assoc Prof Hsu Chin-Ying Stephen
20 Years	Dr Mok Yuen Yue Betty, Mdm Tay Poh Suan
30 Years	Mrs Ng-Tan Sok Lan, Mdm Valliamah, Mdm Goh Kim Ing Mr Lim Eng Chuan, Mr Ho Weng Siak, Mr Ang Biang Soon
40 Years	Miss Tan Poh San Catherine

Commencement 2013



Curtains up! Meet our dental graduates who were awarded degrees from the Faculty of Dentistry this year. A total of 48 BDS, 13 MDS, 4 MSc and 2 PhD degrees were presented.

The Faculty celebrated this joyous occasion of its Class of 2013 with their proud families and friends at the ceremony on 13 July 2013, presided over by NUS Pro-Chancellor, Dr Cheong Siew Keong.

We wish our graduates all the best as they embark on a new chapter in their lives and welcome them as our proud Alumni of NUS.

Dentistry Annual Dinner and Dance 2013

by Nicholas Lim, Vice-President, 63rd Dental Society

The Dental Society Annual Dinner and Dance was held on 17 August 2013 at Grand Hotel Rendezvous. It commemorates the end of the Freshmen Orientation, and also marks the commencement of the exciting academic year ahead. The theme for this year's D&D was "Glitz and Glamour" - an enchanting Hollywood theme. This year, we had a remarkable attendance of over 200 students, staff and sponsors, including the Guest-Of-Honour, our Dean, Assoc Professor Grace Ong.

Apart from the sumptuous buffet dinner, there was a series of impressive performances by the Year 2 Matrix Band (Leroy Kiang, Gabriel Lee, Edward Eu and Lee Kwang Yueh), the newly formed Year 1 band, facetiously known as "Juju and the Lemongrass Jellies" (by Julian Goh, Jody Hong, Sandra Chen, Amanda Koh, Roy and Wong Tuck Wai) and a Solo performance by Baik Gi Won (with Leroy's impeccable guitar skills). In addition, every class in the Faculty also prepared entertaining videos and performances as they showcased the talents and quirks of their respective classes.

The Dental Society would like to thank Lee & Lee Dental Surgeons Pte Ltd, T32 Dental Centre, TP Dental Surgeon Pte Ltd, HarbourPoint Dental Centre, Glitz Smile Dental Surgery, ClearPath Orthodontics and Dr H C Leong Dental Surgeon LLP for their generous sponsorships and contributions.



Freshmen Orientation & Rag-Flag Activities

by Gabriel Lee, Chairperson, Freshman Orientation Committee 2013



Orientation for the incoming Class of 2017 kicked off in late June 2013 where the freshmen and their senior class broke the ice through various activities. The first was the camp from 12 - 14 July 2013 at the National Service Resort & Country Club (NSRCC). The games, skits and mass dance helped to bond the freshmen.

Next, the freshmen were actively engaged in float building. The theme for this year was "Candyland", a satirical take on the profession and its values. The hardwork of the freshmen was evident from the royal blue candycastle, flanked by two 'live' gumball machine watchtowers they put together in just two weeks! The float together with a brilliant performance was showcased at Rag Day. The Faculty was awarded the Bronze Award for their entertaining performance that got most of the audience singing along. On Flag Day, the freshmen spent a meaningful day raising funds for the Faculty's adopted charity - *Eden Children's Home*.

During the Welcome Tea on 12 August 2013, the freshmen were presented to and initiated before Faculty staff and seniors.

All in all, the orientation programme provided a platform for bonding among the student community in the Faculty. This definitely helped to inspire the Freshmen to bravely take their very first steps on this meaningful journey.



4th FOD Alumni Reunion Dinner

The 4th FOD Alumni Reunion dinner was held on 27 September 2013. We were pleased to welcome close to 85 alumni. Among the alumni who attended were 13 from the class of '83 and 14 from the class of '08. They celebrated their 30th Anniversary and 5th reunions respectively. The classes of 1983 and 2008 shared photographs of their undergraduate days, and reminisced their university days.



We would like to thank Dr George Soh for funding part of the evening's sumptuous dinner, and GSK Pte Ltd and the NUS Office of Alumni for the sponsorship of the door gifts.



Gifts Received

Pharmaforte Singapore Pte Ltd - \$40,000 (FOD Development Fund), May 2013

FUNDS UTILISATION (Apr 12 – Mar 13)

Breakdown of donations received	S\$
FOD Development Fund	97,388
Bursaries & Scholarships	337,229
Student Development	2,000
Continuing Dental Education	16,250
PG training funds	15,000
Others	22,300
Total donations received in FY 12	490,167

Breakdown of what has been funded from donations	S\$
Bursaries and Scholarships	73,000
Student development and travel awards	11,161
PG training	1,000
Continuing Dental Education	11,776
Staff Development and Research	2,946
Others	3,837
Total expenditure funded from donations in FY12	103,720