

dental mirror

issue no. 19 • June 2007 • a bi-annual newsletter of the Faculty of Dentistry

Ms Jacey Yeh

New Beginnings – Interview with our Vice-Deans

Associate Professor Kelvin Foong has taken over the mantle of Vice Dean Academic Affairs (since 1 January 2007) from Assoc Prof Grace Ong, having previously served in the Deanery as Vice-Dean of Research. Dental Mirror speaks to A/P Foong for a better understanding of the man and his visions.



Q : You were appointed Vice-Dean of Research from 2002 to 2006 and have served as Vice-Dean Academic Affairs since January 2007. What, in your opinion, is the major difference between the two portfolios (other than job scope)?

A: Education of the undergraduate and postgraduate MDS students features prominently in the academic portfolio whereas the research portfolio was mainly focused on driving the research mission and goals of the Faculty.

Q: Do you have a role model or mentor who has significantly influenced your choice to pursue a career in academia? If so, in what way?

A: My two former teachers in Adelaide: (i) Professor Wayne Sampson, current Chair of the University of Adelaide Orthodontic Programme, helped me learn orthodontics through a PBL approach which I was most uncomfortable with in my initial year of training in 1992. This approach of training stretched my mind, and taught me to think through orthodontic issues systematically. Now, I make my residents uncomfortable (in spite of their exposure to PBL during the undergraduate years) with this educational approach in clinical and didactic teaching. (ii) The late Professor Milton Sims, my former research supervisor and teacher, was an icon of excellence in research and thought, one who enjoyed research and writing, even in his seventies. His demand for and personification of excellence in every effort had a huge impact on how I conduct research. These words of his still ring loudly in my ears: "Near enough is never good enough."

 to be continued...

Editorial

2007 has been a whirlwind of activity, starting off on a resounding note with the Faculty of Dentistry Symposium. International and local speakers lectured to a fully captivated audience at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront hotel. This symposium, amongst other CDE events, are well in line with the Dean's mission to raise the school's profile in providing continuing dental education after graduation.

To support the Faculty's objective to be a regional centre for post graduate clinical specialty training, many world renowned visiting professors made Singapore their home for a few weeks. Read about the post graduate resident's enthusiastic take on their interaction with these "gurus" in dentistry in the next few pages.

This issue also features our two new vice deans and their vision for the school. Also, we have chosen to focus the spotlight on two of our Alumni, Dr Tan Peng Hui and Dr Chua Ee Kiam. Both are leaders in their field.

Not forgetting our current staff and students, look through the next couple of pages featuring Bowling Good Times, Dinner and Dance, Inter Year Games, and Dental Annual Party to spot many familiar faces.

As the new editor of the dental mirror, I certainly hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as you have in the past.

Dr Marlene Teo

continued... 

Q: What do you hope to change or improve for the dental school as Vice Dean Academic Affairs?

A: I would want for every student who is educated at the NUS Faculty of Dentistry to have a most enriching educational experience. It is not optimal currently; to be thus enriched, students must make learning (not studying) a top priority.

Q: What do you think is the biggest challenge for the dental school today?

A: Recruiting younger generations of bright and committed academic staff. Without successive waves of younger and hungry faculty, the Faculty of Dentistry will not be able to renew and refresh itself with ideas and policies that could drive the Faculty to greater heights of achievement.

Q: Many dental graduates today choose to become full time clinicians. Only a select few have the interest in academia or research. What is your view on this and what would you say to a dental graduate who is thinking about pursuing an academic career?

A: This is reality. The choice to be an academic staff is essentially a decision of lifestyle. An academic career is a fascinating journey. For any dental graduate contemplating a career in academia, do not hesitate. Jump on. You will be fascinated with the abundance of opportunities to test and flesh out your creative and novel ideas, and to interact with like-minded individuals in a well-spring of an environment of unprecedented and strong government support for research and education.



This would be Associate Professor Varawan Sae-Lim's first appointment to the Deanery team, where she would be serving as Vice Dean Research. Dental Mirror speaks to Assoc Prof Sae-Lim for a better understanding of the soft spoken lady.

Q: Congratulations on being appointed Vice-Dean of Research. This would be your first appointment to the Deanery team. Could you kindly share with us how your life has changed since? What is your typical day as Vice-Dean of Research?

A: Some adjustment was needed. A typical day would involve teaching/seminar, clinical services, research/meetings interspersed with administrative work/meetings. Every day provides stimulating learning experiences.

2nd

Faculty Of Dentistry Symposium

The 2nd Faculty of Dentistry Symposium was successfully held on 13 to 14 January 2007 at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, Grand Ballroom. A total of around 280 dentists, both local and overseas turned up to attend the lectures delivered by invited overseas speakers, Professors Steven Morgano and Maurizio Tonetti, addressing issues on the management of restorative and periodontic problems. Local speakers Dr Victor Fan and Professor Chew Chong Lin also spoke on the topic of drug interaction in dentistry and management of patient complaints respectively.

The 3rd Faculty of Dentistry Symposium will be held on 12 and 13 January 2008 at the Orchard Hotel. Look out for updates on the Faculty website!

Q: Who would you say is the major influence behind your decision in choosing an academic career path?

A: My beloved father was. He instilled in me that academia would be a respectable profession and that one should be humble and open-minded to continuing learning, as knowledge is forever dynamic. Other influences came from my former Chair of the Advanced Program in Endodontics at University of Pennsylvania, Professor Leif Tronstad and the former Dean of Chulalongkorn University, Professor Khunying Petchara Techakampuch. They had respectively brainwashed and 'hijacked' me into the academia.

Q: What do you think is the biggest challenge for researchers / research in the dental school today?

A: One of the biggest challenges is for the Faculty researchers to compete strategically for external research funds. The implication is for PIs to identify the unique research area/s in Dentistry that can significantly advance the mission of improving oral health which ultimately impact on the holistic well-being, and is a critical indicator of quality of life. The other challenge seems to be universal and this is about recruiting, retaining and renewal of research talents. An institution is as good as the people it embraces.

Q: What do you hope to achieve for the school as Vice Dean of Research?

A: Under Dean's leadership and the concerted effort of colleagues and students, Faculty hopes to cultivate a vibrant research culture and engineer an incubator for more scientific discoveries in Dentistry. The role tasked of the Vice Dean [Research] is to facilitate and propel the Faculty in pursuit of research excellence as well as to sustain the research capabilities to attain a greater newer paradigm.

Q: In your view, how would the research landscape in Singapore change in the next 10 years and how would that affect the dental school? Please share with us any interesting developments that you may envisage and your advice for the dental graduate who is thinking about research as a career.

A: The research landscape has been amazingly fast-evolving. NUS is currently on the express way to building a global knowledge enterprise, paralleling to the nation's initiatives in creating talent base and intellectual capital necessary for economic transformation. Our president has also envisioned our university to be a place of promise for G-10-10. Faculty would have to ride on this tide with globally-impactful research to position its research standing. To the dental graduate who is considering research as a career, given Singapore's commitment to substantial increase in R&D budget in the quest to build global research excellence and the robust mechanisms for fast-tracking research pathway, do leverage on these unprecedented opportunities. There are open invitations for you to come join the crew and together, chart the future.



From left to right: Prof Chew Chong Lin, Prof Maurizio Tonetti, Assoc Prof Keson Tan (Dean), Prof Steven Morgano, Dr Victor Fan



Almost full house at the Ballroom

HMDP Visiting Expert 2007 - Professor Jens Andreassen



Prof Andreassen and wife (fourth and fifth from left) together with MDS Endodontic Programme Director Assoc Prof Sae-Lim (sixth from left) and the endodontic residents.

Professor Jens Ove Andreassen was invited under the auspices of the HMDP Visiting Expert program, by the Department of Restorative Dentistry, NUH for the period of 15 to 26 January 2007. During his two week stay in Singapore, he lectured (with much humour and vigor) on the various topics of dental traumatology, a subject he spent all his life studying! An oral surgeon by training, he professed knowledge in Endodontics, Orthodontics, Periodontics, Prosthodontics and Pedodontics. As he was always perplexed and curious, he took time and effort to understand how the different disciplines played a role in the different aspects following dental trauma. It was inspiring to hear him speak, for it is indeed rare to meet someone so brilliant who speaks from his heart.

Now that he is retired from clinical work, he finds more time for leisurely activities like taking walks with his wife and reading, in particular, on the history of Denmark and Europe. Ask him anything and he can tell you, with the same conviction as how he would talk about his research. The endodontic residents were privileged to have Prof Andreassen and his wife's company for many lunches. During one of which Professor Andreassen gave us an insight to Carlsberg: "probably the best beer in the world", the family behind it and its philanthropic interest (besides being main sponsors for numerous English and European football events).

It has been a heartwarming experience knowing Professor and Mrs Andreassen and we hope that his works will continue to make a difference in dentistry in the 21st century, just as they did in the 20th.

Ms Ng Bee Wee • Senior Administrative Officer

Prof Monty Duggal - 7th NUS-SDA Distinguished Speaker



The NUS-SDA Distinguished Speaker program engages internationally renowned clinicians to conduct educational programs for the dental students and dental profession. This year saw Professor Monty Duggal, from Leeds Dental Institute (LDI.) as its 7th invited speaker. Prof Duggal leads the Division of Paediatric Dentistry at LDI and has published over 65 research papers. He also authored the book "Restorative Techniques in Paediatric Dentistry" which has been translated into seven languages and sold over 12,000 copies worldwide.

On 15 April 2007, he spoke to a packed audience at Ritz Carlton Hotel on "Pediatric Dentistry in the New Millennium: Providing Children with Quality Dental Care they Deserve". The next day, he spoke at the Faculty of Dentistry, sharing with us LDI's experiences on "Paediatric Curriculum Change". On the last day of his 3-day visit, he delivered a public lecture on "Changing Trends in Dental Disease Prevalence in Children". All in all, Prof Duggal has enlightened us in the Art and Science of Pediatric Dentistry in clinical practice and in education.

Signing of MOU

Mrs Gn Soon Lay • Faculty Manager

with School of Stomatology, Peking University, People's Republic of China

The Dean, Assoc Professor Keson Tan led a delegation of four faculty members comprising Assoc Prof Kelvin Foong, Assoc Prof Yeo Jin Fei, Assoc Prof Cao Tong and Dr Victor Fan, to Peking University from 7 to 9 March 2007. During the visit, the Dean signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the School of Stomatology, PKU and the Faculty of Dentistry, NUS. Our delegation received a very warm welcome from the University, led by their Dean, Professor Yu Guangyan.

The visit included a tour of the Peking University teaching facilities, clinics and research laboratories. Team members also met with their research counterparts to discuss details on their collaborations, both present and future.



Raising Public Awareness of Mouth Cancer



Together with the Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons (Singapore), our Dept of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery co-organised the Mouth Cancer Awareness Week (12 to 18 November 2006). Its aims were to raise awareness of the devastating consequences of late detection of oral cancer and to educate the public on how early diagnosis holds the key to improved care and treatment outcomes. The activities which were specially lined up for the event included public lectures at the NUH Health Education Hub, a public forum, an open house and free mouth cancer/oral health screening.

Getting International Exposure In Education

Our academic calendar got a shot of international flavour when no less than five Professors were invited to teach for our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes over the first three months of 2007. Our students share some of their experiences with the internationally known academics.

Dr Ang Chee Wan • Year 2 MDS Periodontology resident

Professor Niklaus Lang

We were extremely fortunate to have Prof Niklaus Lang from the University of Berne, Switzerland for four weeks at the faculty. Though short, his stay was enriched with numerous sessions in which he imparted his enormous wealth of knowledge and experience. He also shared with us his treatment philosophy and the rationale behind his thinking, supported by ample literature based evidence.

Despite his status and reputation in the field of periodontology, Prof Lang's easy-going and humorous mannerisms made the experience thoroughly enjoyable and fulfilling. By the end of the program, he left us inspired by his enthusiasm for teaching, his passion for research and most importantly, his humility despite all his achievements.



Professor Steven Morgano

The dental faculty had the privilege of hosting Prof Steve Morgano, Boston University, from 1 to 31 January 2007. Despite a busy work schedule as current director of the Division of Postdoctoral Prosthodontics and Professor of Restorative Sciences and Biomaterials at Boston University, Prof Morgano managed to hold an advanced prosthodontic seminar series for the prosthodontic post graduates students, providing his perspective on a wide range of topics ranging from occlusion to implant supported prostheses.

Having been a long standing reviewer for the Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry, Prof Morgano gave the dental school an update on the current trends and perspectives on "Restoration of endodontically treated teeth". He was also one of the main speakers for the 2nd Faculty of Dentistry Symposium held at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel. Many found his lectures to be insightful, refreshing and well presented.

It was not all work and no play for Prof Morgano as he sportingly joined us for our Annual Faculty Dinner and Dance held at the Flamingo Lake in Jurong Bird Park as well as many other social events. His visit and time in the faculty has enriched us with new perspectives and left us inspired by his dedication and service.

Dr Joel Khoo • Dental Instructor



Professor Jack Nicholls

Professor Jack Nicholls joined us in the dental faculty for a period of 9 weeks from mid-January to mid-March as a visiting professor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry. An engineer by training, he has been Professor in the School of Dentistry at the University of Washington, Seattle for the large part of his illustrious career. He has been behind some of the most influential research in restorative dentistry. He was in our Faculty to share his intellect, insight and knowledge of the intricacies of biomechanics with the graduate students and staff of the department.

Even though he gave a series of lectures on biomechanics, the majority of his time here was spent on ongoing and new research projects. Although this was his sixth visit to the faculty in the past decade, he has once again been successful in enriching the faculty and students with his creativity and down-to-earth approach.

As a person, Prof Nicholls is a powerhouse of energy. His flair for research is equaled only by his passion for people. He has a way with people which probably stems from his genuine courteousness and his ability to make you feel at ease from the "get go". The prosthodontic graduate students, who had the good fortune of spending time with him, both in and out of school, will agree with us when we say, "if he does decide to come back for another visit, he will be most welcome!"



Professor Harold Messer

Being a barely six month old resident, I am grateful to the Faculty to have brought in visiting professors like Prof Harold Messer. He is indeed approachable and having worked with him in clinics and in classroom situations, I find him to be a gracious and selfless teacher. It was only 8 short weeks with him from February to March 2007, but it was fulfilling to its last bit. I am sure the rest of my endodontic colleagues will agree that Prof Messer has an unique and dry sense of humour and we actually found joy in discussing "pulp biology"! On other occasions, it would have put us to sleep in seconds, being a pretty 'dry' subject to ponder upon. We had many a discussion on current topics, ranging from the killer bug *E. faecalis* to new root filling materials and boy, did we have fun. Prof Messer opened our minds and flooded us with questions that encouraged us to want to learn more! And now... that's what I call a teacher who inspires!

Dr Lim Siow Hooi • Year 1 MDS Endodontics resident



Dr Chng Chai Kiat • Year 3 MDS Orthodontic resident

Professor Murray Meikle

Our Faculty recently had the pleasure of Prof Murray Meikle as visiting Professor to the Department of Preventive Dentistry. Prof Meikle is Professor of Orthodontics at the University of Otago and Emeritus Professor of Orthodontics, GKT (Guy's, King's and St Thomas') Dental Institute, King's College London. He is also a former Dean of the Faculty of Dental Surgery, Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. Our Orthodontic residents as well as undergraduate students were able to tap into Professor Meikle's vast knowledge and experience through a series of lectures and tutorials as well as hands-on clinical sessions. His areas of expertise in the field of Orthodontics include craniofacial growth and development and the biology of tooth movement. Prof Meikle's sharp wit and dry humour went down well with students and staff alike. The orthodontic residents, despite their busy schedules, were able to bring Prof Meikle out for a dim sum lunch during his short visit with us. It was at this lunch that Prof Meikle commented that he would come back to Singapore just for the food alone! We look forward to having Prof Meikle back at our Faculty and we hope that this time round, it would be for a longer engagement.



Tired of dealing with live patients?

Interview with the forensic dentist – Dr Tan Peng Hui (B.D.S Class of 1987)

By Dr Terence Jee



Dr Tan at post-tsunami Phuket

Forensic dentistry or forensic odontology, is the application of dental and parodontal knowledge to the solution of legal issues in civil and in criminal matters. Forensic Dentistry allows identification of the living or the deceased, and involves identification, analysis and comparison of bite marks, lip print, rugae, patterned injury as well as dental specimens at the crime scene or elsewhere. It also involves evaluation of oro-facial trauma, malpractice and negligence claims.

LTC (Dr) Tan Ping Hui, who is doubly qualified in Endodontics and Forensic Odontology, is currently an officer of the Singapore Armed Forces. He holds the appointment of Commander, SAF Medical Training Institute and is the visiting consultant in forensic odontology for the Centre for Forensic Medicine, Health Sciences Authority.

Dr Tan played a significant role in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami, and received the Minister for Health Award for Tsunami Relief Operation in 2005 in recognition of his efforts. He has also co-written two articles for both medical and dental journals detailing his experiences in Thailand.

I first met Dr Tan during the General Practice Management Course in my Final Year of Dental School. He was invited to give the graduating class an insight into forensic dentistry. Apart from introducing us to the scope of forensic dentistry, we had the opportunity to visit the SGH mortuary that afternoon when a Thai prostitute was murdered. She was referred to Dr Tan as she had a mark on her arm that looked like a bite mark. It was the first time I saw a cadaver after an autopsy had been done. It was indeed an interesting and unforgettable experience. I was much honored that LTC (Dr) Tan agreed to the interview.

Q: How long have you been practicing forensic dentistry? What sparked of the interest?

A: I have been in forensic dentistry for about 12 years. My interest in forensic science began in my teenage years. I was then a great fan of Alfred Hitchcock and Sherlock Holmes detective novels. However, forensics is a career I sort of stumbled into. While serving my national service, a scholarship to study forensic dentistry became available. The Singapore Armed Forces was then building up expertise in soldier remains identification. I decide to take the opportunity of an overseas education and to be a pioneer in the field of forensic odontology.

Q: What is the most challenging aspect of your work?

A: Tracking down the deceased's dentist. Dental identification is based on a comparison of antemortem and postmortem dental records. Without the deceased's dental records, dental identification is not possible. Locating the dental information of a deceased requires an inordinate amount of effort. It is more expedient for the dentist

concerned to come forward. On several occasions, it was heartening to see public-spirited dentists coming forward with their patients' records. More can be encouraged to do so. Every opportunity, including this interview, is helpful in communicating that message.

Q: What was the most interesting case that you have ever come across?

A: The most interesting case was the Orchard Road body parts case. The body of the victim was dismembered into five parts and dumped at two separate locations. One of the severed arms had a bite mark on it, which was later shown to match the teeth of a murder suspect.

Q: How relevant do you see Forensic Dentistry in Singapore today?

A: It is relevant. The recent years have seen an increased application of forensic dentistry in crime and disaster victim identification by law enforcement agencies. Singapore is no exception. The emerging threat of terrorism and its potential to cause mass fatalities underscored the importance of victim identification, in which forensic dentistry plays a key role. In the Bali and London bombing, dental forensics contributed to most of the victim identification made. Odontology is now a vital component of our national disaster response plan.

Q: What advice would you give to aspiring young forensic dentist?

1. Join the military. Whether it is disasters or terrorism - local or overseas - you have to respond at short notice because of the need for soldier remains identification and military preparedness in disaster response. Forensic dentistry is an established niche expertise of the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) and in the SAF, you will receive formal post-graduate training and will have opportunities to practise forensic dentistry.
2. This is not a job for the superstitious. The job requires you to see death, touch death and smell death. You need to be totally comfortable in the company of the dead. At times, the work can be distressing and unpleasant.
3. You will find Odontology meaningful. Your work can help solve crime and put crooks behind bars. The job is never dull. Each case is different from the last. From crime scenes to courtrooms, you will also experience different places and people.
4. However, Odontology is not adventure dentistry. Allow no self-serving motives. Instead, show care for the deceased and their loved ones.

Alumnus with a passion for Nature

– Dr Chua Ee Kiam (B.D.S Class of 1977)

by Assoc Prof Keng Siong Beng

"Dental school has taught me a great deal about repeated failures, the high probability of Murphy's Law surfacing repeatedly, compassion, exerting control, self belief and unwavering focus—ingredients essential for pursuing my dreams." – Dr Chua Ee Kiam

Ee Kiam as he is fondly known is one of our proud alumni who has not only contributed to dentistry but has lived the NUS spirit of "following his dreams". In his own humble and quiet way he has made a tremendous impact by his contributions both to dentistry and nature studies in Singapore.

Graduated BDS in 1977 and MDS in Prosthodontics in 1984, his interest in TMD saw him influence the development of the management of oral-facial pain cases at the National Dental Centre in the late eighties after his return from postgraduate training in USA. At the present moment, he still serves the profession as Co-Director of the NUS graduate program in Prosthodontics.

It is his passion in photography of nature that has made him a remarkable alumnus. In his early days he has won many photo contests conducted by Asia Magazine and Kodak in the nature life series. This spurred him on to greater things. He has published four coffee-table books with beautiful illustrations and photographs captured exquisitely through the eye of the dentist. From his perspectives it goes beyond life to the appreciation of something beyond us. You will need to get your hands on one of his books to feel the closeness to nature and the miracle of life.

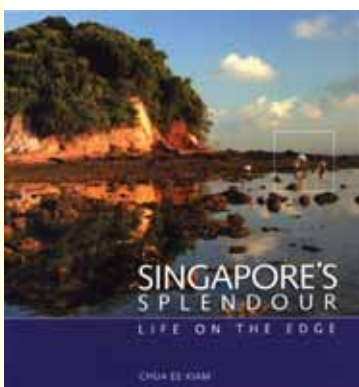


His first book "Nature in Singapore-Ours to protect" (1994) won the National Book Award given by NBDC of Singapore. This followed with "Pulau Ubin – Ours to Treasure" and "Chek Jawa – Discovering Singapore's Biodiversity". In 2004, he published the book "Borneo's Tropical Eden- Sabah ". This took him away from Singapore doing photo shoots and discovering nature in its entirety. He was honored by the Chief Minister of Sabah for his works. The book won the "honorable mention" by Independent Publishers Book Awards 2005 in New York.

Not to stop here, EK went on to produce his latest book "Singapore Splendour: Life on the Edge".

His love for nature and green made him launch the book on Earth Day, 22 April 2007. He has also pledged \$50,000 from the sale of this book to Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, NUS for furthering marine research. The book is now available in the bookshops. For his love of nature he holds the position of Hon Museum Associate at the NUS Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research since 2003.

The Dental Faculty is proud to have Ee Kiam as our alumnus who embodies the NUS spirit of Embracing Passion and Seizing Challenges. He has a website credited to him as webmaster where he shares his love for everything "Simply Green" at www.simplygreen.com.sg. I suggest you log on to it and enjoy the beauty of nature in its truest sense through the pictures and script.



Get Connected!

Website of the Guild of Dental Graduates: <http://synergy21.nus.edu.sg/alumni/dental/>

Presenting your 15th Guild of Dental Graduate Executive Committee...

President - Dr Chin Yee Fatt
Vice-President - Dr Susan Ang
Hon Secretary - Dr Tristan Peh
Hon Treasurer - Dr Kelvin Chye

Member - Dr Loh Hong Sai
Member - Dr Xiao Yian San
Member - Dr Bertrand Chew
Member - Dr Loke Weiqiang
Member - Dr Alvin Lee
Member - Dr Terence Jee

Flamingo dancing - Dental Dinner & Dance



Mr and Ms Dentistry



Pretty in Pink

Our Faculty held our annual Dinner & Dance on 20 January 2007 at the Jurong Bird Park with a Pink Flamingo theme. We were pleased with the large turn out and almost everyone was seen sporting the colour of the night – PINK! Dinner was held in a glass house overlooking the picturesque Flamingo Lake.

Our guests feasted on the delectable buffet dinner while enjoying the entertaining performances put up by the dental students - Nick put up an impressive magic show; Ming Hui & Zhiyin serenaded us with their melodious voices; and the Year 3s band wowed the crowd with their musical talent. Dental Society president, Mr Daniel Chan, charmed us with a special dance item with his partner. Following was a fashion show by the nominees for the Mr & Ms Dentistry award, who modeled the latest designs by Ocean Pacific, one of our sponsors. The coveted award eventually went to Hsu Wei Cheng and Chua Synn Tian. Other pageant winners included Assoc Prof Jennifer Neo (Best Dressed), Dr Marlene Teo (Brightest Smile), Ms Angeline Han (Most Popular Staff) and Gerald Pwee & Heng Li Yun (Picture Perfect couple). By the time the beer drinking competition (won by Hu Shijia & Joanna Ngo) and lucky draw ended, it was already 10.30pm. We left with fond memories and look forward to next year's event.



Inter-year Games 2006

Ms Irene Leong • 2nd Year dental student

The annual Inter-year games was held on Saturday, 4 November 2006. The day kick-started at 8.30am with both men's soccer and women's basketball at the courts of SRC. The Year Four team emerged triumphant for soccer, while the Year Two women's basketball team defeated the Year Threes.

After the lunch break, the action moved on to squash and badminton at their respective venues, and the tides turned when the Year Threes made a clean sweep for both sports in all the different categories. Overall, the Year Threes emerged as champions, and they received a Famous Amos hamper for their efforts. All in all, a total of 9 cash prizes of \$40 each were given out to the winners.

The day wrapped up with some light catering at the Multi-Purpose Hall in Prince George's Park. Doctors also came down to support this event by taking part in badminton, strengthening the bond between the Faculty's alumni and students. It was a successful event thanks to the Dental Society and Q&M Dental Surgery, sponsors for the prizes given out during the games.

We hope that this year's Inter-year games will be as enjoyable as the previous one, and would like to strongly encourage everyone related to the Faculty of Dentistry to come down and participate. We look forward to seeing you at Inter-year games 2007!



Mr Daniel Chan • Dental Society President & 3rd Year dental student

Asia Pacific Dental Student Association Mid-Year Meeting – Singapore 2006

We are very honoured to be hosting APDSA Mid Year Meeting after defeating strong competition from other potential hosting countries. Twenty nine students from Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and Taiwan attended the event from 1 to 3 December 2006. Besides facilitating an interchange of cultural values, students from other countries also had the chance to explore Singapore. Our visitors toured various places like the Esplanade, Clarke Quay, Asian Civilization Museum, and Little India.

A special thank you goes out to Professor Loh Hong Sai for joining us at our opening dinner as well as Dr Kelvin Chye and Dr Kenji Chin for their support throughout the event. The event was a success, thanks to the organizing committee's hard work and consummate planning. I hope to see more of our students as well as professors joining us for the upcoming APDSA 2007 in Taiwan.



NUS Open House 2007 – Dentistry

Colourful and spacious Faculty booths, gaily adorned CCA stations, friendly helpers as well as goodie bags teemed with souvenirs greeted the crowd of visitors who turned up for NUS Open House 2007, which was held on the 10 and 11 March 2007 at the Sports and Recreational Centre.

The event was launched by the Guest-of-Honour, Provost Tan Chorh Chuan who visited the Dental booth during his tour around the sports hall. Attracted by an introductory video on our Faculty and an interesting lego robot, many visitors stopped by our booth to find out more information and obtained printed materials regarding the undergraduate and postgraduate courses. They were also enthusiastic in participating in the 'Guess The Number of Teeth' contest, completely amazed by the huge collection of extracted teeth that was part of our display.

Faculty staff and student helpers were overwhelmed with the numerous queries raised by prospective students. They were encouraged to sign up for the Faculty's Job Shadowing Programme aimed at guiding them in choosing the right course of study. A few of my classmates and I took the opportunity to share our experience with them so as to give them a more realistic view of the life of a dental student. How time flies! It seemed like yesterday when we were JC graduates, all as curious and inquisitive as they were about a dental career.

A good number of students and parents turned up on both days for the educational admission talk conducted by A/P Grace Ong and were rewarded with stickers, badges and post-its as souvenirs. All in all, Open House 2007 was a great success, not only for the visitors but also for us student helpers as we got to interact with other faculty staff. It was truly an enriching and invaluable experience for everyone involved!



Guild Of Dental Graduates Bowling Good Times 2007

Prof Loh Hong Sai • Convenor

In the festive atmosphere of the Lunar New Year, this well-participated 9-pin Tap competition was held on 25 February 2007 (West Bowl), with the usual strong support from the Guild, Dental Society, Singapore Dental Trade Association and friends. A total of about 40 bowlers were treated to breakfast (sponsored by Dr Chin Yee Fatt), lucky draw (sponsored by Prof Loh) and a boisterous competition with prizes sponsored by Dr Chua Ee Kiam!

The champion team (Dental Disaster) comprised of an academic (Prof Loh), staff (Mr Baskaran Joseph) and a recent graduate (Dr Alvin Lee). National Dental Center was well represented with Dr Chua and 3 teams, one of which (Die Standing) came in second. The students did better this year with its only team (Dent Soc) in third position. The Individual champions were Mr T S Tan (almost perennial) and Mrs Catherine Tan (certainly perennial), respectively for the Men and Ladies categories. Yes, this bowling event is a highlight in our many activities. Do come and join us, and may the Strike be with you!



A happy crowd at the event



President, Guild of Dental Graduates (Dr Chin Yee Fatt, 3rd from right) presented prizes to the champion team

Ms Jacey Yeh • Senior Administrative Officer

Dentistry goes retro for the Dental Annual Party



Initiation dance for our new colleagues!



Samuel Lee (Year 1 class rep) singing Jay Chou's *An Jing*.

The "Friday Retro Night" party was held on 5 January 2007 at the Dental Auditorium. The evening started off with a sumptuous buffet dinner and commenced late into the evening with performances, games and lucky draws with attractive prizes. Not forgetting the theme for the night, our DJ for the night spun hits from the '80s' & '90s' while guests enjoyed the food and company. The talented Mr. Calvin Murthy, our colleague from Registrar's Office, serenaded us with his smooth vocals. Year 1 dental students also delighted us with their performance on the flute and acoustic guitar.

The Faculty's Sports, Social and Welfare Committee planned an exciting night of team games, punctuated with the eagerly anticipated lucky draws. At the first draw, I was muttering under my breath - "don't call me yet" - as I waited late into the evening; my hopes for the top prize rising with each draw. Finally, the name of top prize winner was called - "Nurse Sandra!" The audience exploded into envious applause and thus ended our dental annual party.



Voila! - See, our staff have good hands.



Congratulations Sandra! She takes home the much coveted top prize.

Celebrating Lunar New Year



The Sports, Social & Welfare Committee organised a celebration lunch on 2 March 2007 for all staff from the Faculty as well as our colleagues from NUH Dental at the Faculty of Dentistry Level 4 Foyeur. There was much tossing of yusheng for prosperity, feasting and happy chatter.



Trip To Kuala Lumpur – Shopping, Eating & Many More...

Over the weekend on 5 and 6 May 2007, 21 staff and their family members enjoyed a 2D1N trip to Kuala Lumpur, specially organized by the Faculty's Sports, Social & Welfare Committee. We travelled by luxury VIP coach and resided at the 5-star Berjaya Times Square Hotel. Although we missed the Sky Bridge walk at the famous Petronas Twin Towers, the group still had a fun and relaxing time enjoying sumptuous meals and bountiful shopping with our very own Prof Loh Hong Sai as impromptu tour guide.

Donor & Sponsor Acknowledgements

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following donors for their support and contribution to the Faculty.

Donors towards Student Bursaries

For the Academic Year 2006/7, a total of four Faculty Level Bursary awards (of \$1,500 each) were given in support of undergraduate education. The bursaries were:

- Q & M Dental Surgery Bursary (2 awards)
- Dental Bursary (2 awards)

Our grateful thanks to the donors for their continued support.

Donors towards Faculty of Dentistry Development Fund

Our thanks to the following for their donations towards the Faculty of Dentistry Development Fund (in the period from July 2006 to June 2007):

- Dr Lee Hin Yeung
- Dr Winston Tan

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 dengnsl@nus.edu.sg).

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)
27 May 2007	11th NUS-NUH Clinical Dentistry Symposium	Prof Iizuka Tateyuki Prof Goran Dahllof A/Prof Carl Driscoll A/Prof Jennifer Neo Dr Joanne Ngo Uy Dr Marlene Teo
17 April 2007	NUS-SDA Distinguished Speaker Programme (i) Changing Trends in Dental Disease Prevalence in Children: Challenges in the Clinical Management (ii) Current Protocols for Managing Medically-Compromised Children	Prof Monty Duggal
16 April 2007	NUS-SDA Distinguished Speaker Programme Dental Anomalies in Children	Prof Monty Duggal
29 March 2007	Self Hypnosis	Dr Judith Chapman
26 March 2007	Hypnosis	Dr Judith Chapman
15 March 2007	What is Endodontics All About? & Endodontics vs Implants – Is there a contest?	Prof Harold Messer
8 March 2007	The tooth as a sensory organ	Prof Harold Messer
2 March 2007	Caries infiltration - a new approach of micro-invasive dentistry The Complex Issues Involved in Evaluating Treatment Outcome in Orthodontic Randomized Clinical Trials	Dr Meyer-Lueckel Prof Murray Meikle
10 February 2007	Diagnosis & Management of Peri-Implant Complications	Prof Niklaus Lang
9 February 2007	Extract or Preserve?	Prof Niklaus Lang
6 February 2007	Systemic Factors Affecting The Periodontium	Prof Niklaus Lang
2 February 2007	Diabetes As A Risk Factor for Periodontal Disease	Prof Niklaus Lang
30 January 2007	Oral implants in resorbed or thin bone of older and elderly patients for a beautiful smile and eating enjoyment	Prof Michael Ong
29 January 2007	Medicolegal aspects of Nerve Injuries in Third Molar Surgery	Prof John Zuniga
25 January 2007	High molecular weight hyaluronic acid: Outcome of clinical experience & research on a rabbit study model	Prof Michael Ong
23 January 2007	Implants and Transplant Use After Tooth Loss	Prof Jens Andreasen
19 January 2007	NUH Grand Rounds The multidisciplinary approach to management of oral and maxillofacial trauma – the interface of medical and dental professionals	Prof Jens Andreasen
13 & 14 January 2007	2nd Faculty of Dentistry Symposium Managing Perio-Restorative Problems	Prof Steven Morgano Prof Maurizio Tonetti Dr Victor Fan Prof Chew Chong Lin
4 January 2007	Restoration of endodontically treated teeth	Prof Steven Morgano

Farewell

The following staff have left the service of NUS during the period of January to June 2007:

- Dr Willy Chang (Assistant Professor, Department of Restorative Dentistry)
- Dr Holy Koh Jr (Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Preventive Dentistry)
- Dr Ge Zigang (Research Fellow, Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery)
- Mr Varian Han (Laboratory cum Safety Officer)

Best of luck for your future endeavours!

Welcome

The Faculty warmly welcomes the following new staff into our family:

Department of Preventive Dentistry

- Dr Tong Huei Jinn (Dental Instructor)

Department of Restorative Dentistry

- Assoc Prof Hien Chi Ngo (Associate Professor)

Dean's Office (Dentistry)

- Ms Wendy Tan (Management Support Officer)
- Ms Grandhim S. Lakshmi (Clinical Trial Coordinator)
- Ms Joanne Goh (Senior Administrative Officer)

Academic Staff of the Faculty of Dentistry

DEAN'S OFFICE

Dean
Vice-Dean (Academic Affairs)
Vice-Dean (Research)
Assistant Dean (Clinical Affairs)
Director, Division of
Graduate Dental Studies

- A/P Keson Tan
- A/P Kelvin Foong
- A/P Varawan Sae-Lim
- A/P Keng Siong Beng
- Prof Chew Chong Lin

DEPARTMENT OF ORAL & MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

Head of Department
Associate Professor
Assistant Professor
Visiting Senior Fellow
Professorial Fellow
Adjunct Associate Professor
Adjunct Assistant Professor
Adjunct Assistant Professor

- A/P Yeo Jin Fei
- A/P Cao Tong
- Dr Victor Fan
- Dr Xu Liqun
- Prof Loh Hong Sai
- Dr N.Ravindranathan
- Dr Ho Kok Sen
- Dr Aidan Yeo

DEPARTMENT OF PREVENTIVE DENTISTRY

Head of Department
Associate Professor
Associate Professor
Associate Professor
Associate Professor
Assistant Professor
Senior Lecturer
Dental Instructor
Visiting Professor
Adjunct Associate Professor
Adjunct Assistant Professor

- A/P Grace Ong
- A/P Teo Choo Soo
- A/P Lim Lum Peng
- A/P Kelvin Foong
- A/P Stephen Hsu
- Dr Marlene Teo
- Dr Betty Mok
- Dr Tong Huei Jinn
- Prof Toshio Deguchi
- Dr Teresa Loh-Lee
- Dr Arthur Lim

DEPARTMENT OF RESTORATIVE DENTISTRY

Head of Department
Professor
Associate Professor
Associate Professor
Associate Professor
Associate Professor
Assistant Professor
Assistant Professor
Senior Lecturer
Dental Instructor
Adjunct Associate Professor
Adjunct Associate Professor
Adjunct Assistant Professor

- A/P Jennifer Neo
- Prof Chew Chong Lin
- A/P Keng Siong Beng
- A/P Keson Tan
- A/P Varawan Sae-Lim
- A/P Hien Ngo Chi
- Dr Anil Kishen
- Dr Willy Chang
- Dr Joanne Ngo Uy
- Dr Hilary Thean
- Dr Joel Khoo
- Dr Ansgar Cheng
- Dr Adrian Yap
- Dr Neo Tee Khin

Promotions & Appointments

- Our heartiest congratulations to Dr Cao Tong who was promoted to Associate Professor and awarded tenure on 1 January 2007.
- Prof Loh Hong Sai was appointed as Acting Director, International Relations Office with effect from 1 May 2007.

Student Achievements

- Mr Boey Mao Jie, a dental undergraduate was awarded the Baden-Powell Award (BPA) - the highest award a scout can attain as a youth member. He was presented the award at CDANS Bukit Batok Country Club by Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister of Community Development, Youth and Sports, and Second Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts on the 22 February 2007, which is World Scout Day.
- Ms Gao Xiaoli, a PhD student in the Cariology Research Group under the supervision of A/Prof Stephen Hsu was selected as one of the recipients of the IADR Lion Dental Research Award for Junior Investigators by the Behavioral Sciences & Health Services Research Group of the IADR. She will be receiving a plaque during the Behavioral Sciences & Health Services Research Group Business Meeting, which will be held on 22 March 2007 at the IADR meeting in New Orleans.
- Undergraduates Chay Pui Ling, Chen Weimin and Teow Wan Wah of the UROP winning team won the inaugural Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher (OUR) Prize organized by Registrar's Office, NUS. Their project entitled "Accuracy of lateral cephalometric tracing performed by dental undergraduates and postgraduates as compared to the gold standard" was completed under the supervision of Assoc Professors Kelvin Foong & Keng Siong Beng. The objective of the OUR Prize is to encourage research among undergraduates at NUS by presenting opportunities to participate in research. This winning group will receive certificates and prize money which could be used towards participation in any related activities/programmes that are deemed to be valuable to the student's education and overall development. Congratulations to all for doing Faculty of Dentistry proud!!