

University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine Messenger



Dental House Lab Opens

Residents of Dental House now have ready access to a fully equipped preclinical laboratory, which was recently outfitted and opened on the first floor of this residential facility.

“This is going to be a great resource for the students who live here. It will enable them to catch up or get ahead on their lab work in a more relaxed setting,” says Dr. Thomas Bietsch, an SDM orthodontics resident and the Dental House residential fellow. “It will also allow them to interact with other students they might not interact with in other lab areas, and become a good environment for the exchange of ideas.”

The lab is approximately 15 x 20 feet and SDM Facilities Manager Jerry Friel estimates it can accommodate a maximum of 12 to 13 people at one time. With a full complement of equipment, the lab features six custom-made lab units with hand pieces, a model trimmer, a Vac-u-spat, a curing unit and curing light, an ultrasonic cleaning system, a Dentek Thermabath, an amalgamator, a vacuum power mixer, a vibrator, and a lathe. An air compressor and all the necessary plaster and stone materials for pouring models are also available, along with three consumable and three non-consumable General Restorative Dentistry I kits.

All the lab equipment was donated by Benco Dental through the generosity of its president and owner, Larry Cohen. “He was thrilled to support a student endeavor like this *(continued on page 6)*”

MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty and Staff of the School of Dental Medicine
DATE: March 30, 2000
RE: Extension of the Appointment of Raymond Fonseca as Dean of the School of Dental Medicine

We are pleased to announce that Dean Ray Fonseca of the School of Dental Medicine has agreed to accept an extension of his term as Dean. On the advice of the School’s Committee on Academic Freedom and Responsibility, we will recommend to the Trustees that his term be extended two years, to June 30, 2003.

As noted in the 1995 report of the Dean’s Review Committee, under Ray’s leadership the School of Dental Medicine achieved “the near-impossible,” reversing negative trends in student and faculty recruitment, developing substantive new programs, and introducing patient-centered clinical service. In the years since that report, the school has continued to make tremendous strides. The extension of Ray’s appointment will help to ensure the successful completion of a number of developments now underway—the construction of the Schattner Center, an increase in the size of the school’s standing faculty, the implementation of lifelong learning programs and web-based consumer and professional education programs, continued work on “virtual reality”-based teaching for dental students, the expansion in dual degree opportunities, and in the growth of the Dental Care Network.

We look forward to Ray’s continued excellent leadership and know you join with us in congratulating him on this extension of his appointment.

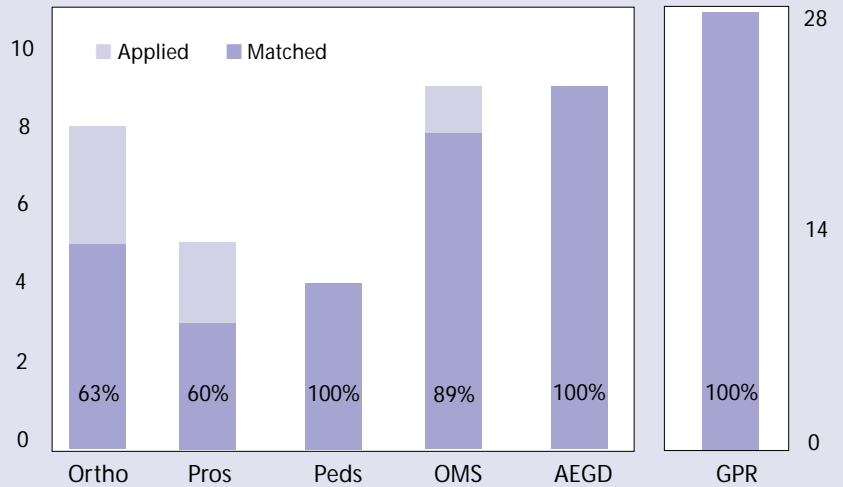
Judith Rodin
President

Robert Barchi
Provost



SDM Students Rank High in Postdoctoral Matching Program

This chart summarizes SDM students' performance in the Postdoctoral Dental Matching Program for positions beginning in 2000. Overall, 63 out of 118 members of the class of 2000 applied to positions in orthodontics, prosthodontics, pediatric dentistry, oral and maxillofacial surgery, general practice residency, and advanced education in general dentistry programs through the match. Of the 63 students who applied, 57 matched (90.5%), and 40 of these students matched with their first choice (70.2%).



Prospective Patients, Students Visit SDM In Community Outreach Programs

In the past month, two events have helped to bring a cross-section of people from the community to the School. SDM students, staff, and faculty recently teamed with Colgate's Bright Smiles Bright Futures program to provide a day of dental screening and education to children in the community. This outreach event was held Saturday, March 25, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the School's Pediatric Clinic and targeted at-risk children between the ages of 3 and 12.

"The day had a positive impact.... All the children who came to the clinic have been scheduled for follow-up treatment," says Dr. Herman Segal, Associate Dean of Community Relations, who worked with Colgate to organize the program and also helped with screenings the day of the event. "In addition, we have gotten a number of calls from parents who saw the advertisements for the event, but could not come that day, and instead, have scheduled their children for regular appointments."

Colgate promoted the event with bilingual print and radio advertisements throughout the area. As sponsors of the program, Colgate also provided educational videos shown at the event, and supplied free toothbrushes, toothpaste, and educational materials for all attendees.

Over 30 SDM students participated in the program, providing one-on-one oral hygiene education to the children and parents as well as conducting dental screenings of the children. Julie Cernigliaro and Andrew Cheifetz of the Pediatric Dentistry Society organized the student volunteers.

"We had a great turnout of students," says Dr. Howard Rosenberg, Associate Professor of Pediatric Dentistry, who also attended and helped with screenings. "They came enthusiastic, ready to work, and happy to do something for the children of the community."

Also generously volunteering their time were Janet Lawson and Gloria Seahorne of the Pediatric Department.

On April 4, the focus shifted to high school students, as the School held an orientation for 49 juniors from the Dr. Charles E. Brimm

Medical Arts High School in Camden. The purpose of the event was to give the students an opportunity to explore the field of dentistry.

Seven SDM students shared their perspective on dental school and the profession with the group of visiting students, talking on what interested them in dentistry. They all offered varying views, notes Dr. Segal, citing the creativity of being a dentist, their interest in working with people, and even the flexibility the profession could offer working mothers. Participating students included Kelly Sauvageau, Maybelle Hwang, Paul Goodman, Michael Friend, Ingrid Hsu, Rick Racanelli, and Alexander Waldman. Following the presentations, SDM students gave the visitors a tour of the School's clinics and labs. Their visit concluded with a group question-and-answer period.

In a promising initiative that will build on the experience of this one-day visit, Paul Goodman invited the high school students to become part of a mentoring program he is organizing. "I always wanted to be involved with a big brother/big sister type program and thought this was an opportunity to do something like it on a smaller scale," says Mr. Goodman. "I want the students to have a person that they can consult about college classes, majors, and what it takes to be a health care professional. Hopefully, this person can serve as a motivator for the students to follow through with their goals."

So far, Mr. Goodman has recruited six volunteers, asking them to make contact with a student through a letter or e-mail and share their own reasons for choosing to go to dental school. Anyone interested in becoming a mentor for one of the high school students is encouraged to contact Mr. Goodman at pgoodman@dolphin.upenn.edu

Student, Faculty Achievements

Recognized At Alumni, Faculty Senior Day

Student and faculty achievements were recognized at the School's Alumni Faculty Senior Day, held March 15 at The Inn at Penn. The awards presentation was part of the Day's evening program, which also included a reception, dinner, and entertainment by members of the Class of 2000.

The senior class honored four faculty members for their dedication and teaching excellence. Dr. Philip Giarraputo received the Earle Bank Hoyt Award, presented to an outstanding full-time junior clinical faculty member who is also a Penn Dental graduate. Dr. Giarraputo, Assistant Professor Clinician Educator of Restorative Dentistry and Director of Primary Care Units, graduated from SDM in 1967.

The Joseph L.T. Appleton Award, given to a part-time faculty member for excellence in clinical instruction, went to Dr. Pouya Hatam, who teaches periodontics. Dr. Bal Goyal received the Robert E. DeRevere Award for excellence in preclinical teaching by a part-time faculty member. This is the second year in a row for Dr. Goyal, Director of the Prosthodontics Clinic and Preclinical Laboratory in Restorative Dentistry, to receive this award, and the fifth time in the past six years that he has received special honors from students.

Finally, Dr. Elliot Hersh, Associate Professor of Oral Surgery/Pharmacology and Director of the Division of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, was again presented with the Basic Science Award for his teaching excellence in this area. Students have honored Dr. Hersh with this award 7 of the past 10 years.

Student awards went to Tatyana Kaganova, who was given the 1999 Dentsply Award in recognition of her participation in



Dr. Gerald Weintraub congratulates inductees into OKU.

the 1999 ADA/Dentsply Student Clinician Program and Edward Terzian, who received two awards—the Joseph Dietz, Jr. Merit Scholarship Fund Award and the William S. Kramer Award of Excellence. The Dietz Award is given to a third-year student who exhibits exceptional skills in adult restorative dentistry; treats patients, faculty, and fellow students with empathy and respect; and exhibits high ethics and morals. The Kramer Award is presented by the Supreme Chapter of Omicron Kappa Upsilon (OKU) Honor Dental Society to a junior dental student at each chapter school who has demonstrated scholarship, character, and the potential promise for advancement in dentistry and service to humanity. This was the first time that this award was given at SDM.

In addition, new members were inducted into OKU. Inductees from the Class of 2000 included Steven Arnold, Deborah deSa, Maha El-Sayed, Racha Fouad, Brian Frutchet, Douglas Hong, Kristen Lovelace,

Shwey-Chun Ma, Paul Madlock, May Nooreyazdan, Sree Raghavendra, Sangeetha Raghavendra, Douglas Seeger, Antarpreet Singh, and Alexander Waldman. Dr. Joseph Dietz and Dr. Sara Simpser-Rafalin were awarded faculty membership in OKU.

Also recognized during the awards program were those students who earned honors on the National Boards. Part I honor students included Brian Frutchet, Douglas Hong, Paul Madlock, Sangeetha Raghavendra, Sree Raghavendra, Alexander Waldman, and Jerry Wu. Receiving honors on Part II were Steven Arnold, Hong Chen, David Eckel, Kim Hort, Shwey-Chun Ma, May Nooreyazdan, Douglas Seeger, Jason Shapiro, Karla Stanz, and Francesca Vailati. Deborah deSa, Robert Ferdowsmakan, Michael Gulizio, David Kessler, Kristen Lovelace, Lisa Rangel, Eric Schoenbeck, and Irene Zeppieri earned honors on both Parts I and II. ■

New Web Resource to Strengthen, Streamline Internal Communications

Sharing and accessing information within SDM is about to get much easier. Now under development is a School intranet site, designed to help strengthen and streamline internal communications.

"Our primary goal is to provide a web-accessible site where members of the SDM community feel comfortable posting and referring to school-related materials," explains Dan Shapiro, Director of Information Services. "It will provide a common virtual site where the various parts of the SDM community can come together."

The information on the intranet will evolve to accommodate the needs of students, staff, and faculty, and Mr. Shapiro and Loraine Boehmcke, Director of Communications, have been meeting with faculty and administrators to determine relevant content areas. According to Ms. Boehmcke, one key area is in-house reference materials, such as the Clinic Manual and the Employee Orientation Manual.

"Some of the recommendations we've gotten include providing a complete staff directory with everyone's job title, room number, and e-mail address, and posting a bulletin board of School events," adds Ms. Boehmcke. "And we are also seeking input from faculty on the types of departmental materials that might be included on the site." Eventually, the portal to all of the on-line class materials presently accessible through the Virtual Classroom area of the School's public web site will be changed to the intranet site. The intranet will also be able to serve as an interface to any sites established by individual departments, serving as the one "front door" to access all the information intended for the SDM community.

Although still in the early phase of its development, some content, including the Clinic Manual and a new online course evaluation system (see p. 5, "Course, Faculty Evaluations Go Online"), can already be accessed on the new site. "We are develop-

ing a very flexible and simple design to accommodate changes as the content evolves," says Ms. Boehmcke.

The intranet site can be accessed through any standard web browser (e.g., Internet Explorer or Netscape Communicator) by any member of the School who has a PennNet ID and password. Any student, staff, or faculty member who does not have an ID and password is reminded to visit any of the following PennNet ID stations:

- ID Center, 150 Franklin Building, 3451 Walnut Street
- Biomedical Library, 3610 Hamilton Walk
- College of General Studies, Suite 100, 3440 Market Street
- Computing Resource Center, 202 Sansom West, 3650 Chestnut Street
- DRL Multimedia Services, 33rd and Walnut Streets
- New Bolton Center, Widener Hospital Computer Lab, 382 West Street Rd., Kennett Square
- SEAS CETS, 169 Moore Building, 200 South 33rd Street

A PennNet ID and password are obtained by simply swiping your PENNcard through the card reader attached to the PennNet ID terminal. When the card has been validated, online instructions will prompt you on how to select an ID and enter your choice for a password.

Ms. Boehmcke and Mr. Shapiro encourage students, staff, and faculty to offer them feedback as the site evolves. "At no time we will be done building the site,"

notes Mr. Shapiro. "As technology develops and the community members request more features, we will endeavor to include them. The more feedback we get, the better. It is only by hearing the needs of the SDM community that we will be able to respond to them." ■

The Office of Academic Affairs has established a new online course and faculty evaluation system, designed to ease the evaluation process for students while improving feedback for faculty and administrators.

"We had a lot of problems with our old paper-and-pencil method," says Dr. Judith Buchanan, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. "Since the final exam was the only time we could be assured that all students would be present, we asked them to complete the evaluations at that time. Unfortunately, that is not the best time to ask students to evaluate the course and the faculty. On average, of 100 packages, only 8 to 10 would be filled out."

The online system gives students a six-week window to complete each course and faculty evaluation, extending from two weeks prior to the date of the final examination or the last day of class to four weeks after the course has ended. In addition, course and faculty evaluations are now a mandatory requirement of each course and must be completed before the grade and credit for that particular course is released.

"Since all students will now complete the evaluations, we will get a more balanced view to use in our curriculum planning and faculty reviews," adds Dr. Buchanan. "And with the online system, students can make any comments they want and feel it will be even more confidential than before since handwriting is not involved."

The system is set up to maintain complete confidentiality, while also tracking which students have completed the evaluations. A student's logon name is removed from the

evaluation after clicking "Complete" in the final evaluation program window. At the same time, an e-mail is sent to the School Registrar indicating when the student has completed all the evaluations for a particular course. After receiving this confirming e-mail, the School Registrar will then release final course grades to students.

"This new system and policy is now in place," stresses Dr. Buchanan. "So beginning with the Spring 2000 semester, final grades will no longer be distributed by course directors, but through the School Registrar."

Completed course evaluations are forwarded to the Curriculum Committee, the course directors, and the department chairpersons. A review of each course is done every year, and according to Dr. Buchanan, student input from course evaluations plays a critical role in this annual review as well as in the comprehensive curriculum reviews done every three years. Faculty evaluations are distributed to the department heads and are often used in the decision-making process to promote and reappoint faculty members. "Students should realize that their feedback form plays a vital, valued role in our planning and review process," adds Dr. Buchanan

Students can access the evaluation site through the School's new intranet system at <http://www.intra.dental.upenn.edu>. A PennNet ID and password are required to enter. Academic Affairs has produced a guide to help users navigate through the evaluation web site, copies of which were sent to all students last month. Students with questions or in need of a guide should contact the Office of Academic Affairs at 215-898-8781. ■

Online OSHA Training

The Office of Environmental Health and Radiation Safety (EHRS) has added another feature to a growing list of online services. The training program, Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens in a Dental Care Setting, is now available at the EHRS website, <http://www.ehrs.upenn.edu>

This program fulfills the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) Bloodborne Pathogen Standard's initial and annual training requirements for dental health care workers. Any clinical personnel within the School of Dental Medicine or the Dental Care Center who have not received bloodborne pathogen training in the past year can meet training requirements by completing this program.

Please contact Bob Leonzio of EHRS at 898-4453 for additional information. ■

Dental House Lab *(continued from page 1)*

at the School," notes Barry Dahlen, Director of Fiscal Operations.

Dr. Bietsch said that while formal hours had not yet been set for use of the lab, it would be open during reasonable day and evening hours—not too late or early to avoid disturbing residents living above it.

"I won't have a designated time in the lab," says Dr. Bietsch. "But I am accessible, and if residents ever have any problems or need help, they are more than welcome to come and find me."

"The Dental House itself is in its infancy, and the growing pains are almost over," he continues. "I think it is going to be a great success with a magnitude of opportunities for the people living here—the lab's opening is just the beginning."

Dental House, located on the 4200 block of Osage Avenue, features 44 units—six one-bedroom apartments and 38 studios. Information on rental is available through the Office of Student Affairs, 215-898-4550. ■

Faculty Retreat: Update

A faculty retreat has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 21 and Thursday, June 22. Following is a preliminary agenda:*

Wednesday, June 21

Morning Session

- State of the School
- Budget Update
- Facilities Plan: Evans Building Renovations

Afternoon Session

- Creating Respectful Work Places: A Workshop in Sexual Harassment Prevention

Thursday, June 22

Morning Session

- Update on Competency Evaluations

Afternoon Session

- Quality Assurance
- Risk Management

The retreat will be held at the School of Dental Medicine. All faculty are asked to reserve these dates.

** Please note correction: dates were previously reported as June 20 and 21.*

The SDM Messenger is a publication of the University of Pennsylvania, School of Dental Medicine, Office of the Dean.
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