

# dent~al

## Alumni Newsletter issue 6 2006

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### Special Event

**On the 21st July, the School of Dental Science held a very successful function to say thank you to five very special people who have been, and in some cases still are associated with our School: Dr Jean Tahija, Dr Geoffrey Wylie, A/Prof John Harcourt, Emeritus Professor Henry Atkinson and Mr Karl Rahaus.**

In recognition of the extraordinary contribution these five people have made to dentistry and dental education through their association with the School we were delighted to be able to demonstrate our appreciation and acknowledge their contributions by naming some of the School's facilities after them: The Dr Jean Falkner Tahija Lecture Theatre; The Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum; The Dr Geoffrey Wylie Lecture Theatre; The John Harcourt Materials Research Laboratory and The Karl H Rahaus Technical Laboratory. Professor Eric Reynolds as Head of School, was very pleased to be able to welcome the people themselves and/or members of their families to the event.

Mrs Laurel Tahija, Jean's daughter-in-law and her two children attended. Laurel spoke of her mother-in-law's

extraordinary life and of her deep and lasting interest in her profession as a dentist. Dr Simon Wylie and members of his family were also present. Simon spoke with deep affection and pride of his father's association with the School and the family's gratitude that the School continued to honour him in its new premises. For its part, the School is pleased to see its association with the Wylie family continuing on through Simon.

Prof Henry Atkinson brought members of his family to the event and was also supported by members of the RDHM Ladies' Auxiliary as well as the Curators of both the Dental and the Medical History Museums. Henry spoke with fondness of his long association with the School and of his great pleasure that, after many ups and downs, there was recognition of the importance of the dental collection with a small but permanent home available now for its public display.

As luck would have it, Associate Professor John Harcourt's brother from Cambridge University was in Australia on a visit at just the right time and was able to be present together with John's cousin and his cousin's wife, both from the University of Melbourne. John spoke of his long association with dentistry not just in the School with Henry and others, but also through his

connections and work with the professional organizations, which continue to this day.

Karl Rahaus, long-time Crown and Bridge technician in the School made a special effort to attend, flying down from the north of Australia where he is enjoying the fruits of retirement. Apart from having been in the School for over 40 years, Karl was instrumental in preventing a potential disaster occurring when he doggedly persisted in the face of expert opposition, that the pre-clinical laboratory planned for the new building would be too small to accommodate all the students, the staff and the issue office as well. Eventually Karl's demonstration, pegged out on the floor of the old laboratory, proved convincing and the pre-clinical laboratory (and much of the rest of the School) was re-designed and we now have pre-clinical and post-graduate laboratory facilities to be very proud of.

*Our last edition contained a brief outline of both Jean and Simon's careers and association with the School and previous editions have profiled Henry's ongoing work with the Dental Museum and Karl and John's long association with the School.*

**Pictured Top: l-r Eric Reynolds, John Harcourt, Karl Rahaus, Henry Atkinson, Laurel Tahija and Simon Wylie**



## A word from the Head

The University of Melbourne held its Open Day on Sunday 20 August 2006 and for the first time in a very long time the School of Dental Science was in the happy position of being able to showcase with pride, its teaching and laboratory facilities to prospective students and their parents.

A number of students from both our undergraduate courses, the Bachelor of Dental Science and the Bachelor of Oral Health, did a wonderful job helping staff to man the very busy information tables

in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences marquee and in the foyer of the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne. The students were also kept very busy running the tours

of the School's facilities at RDHM. These proved so popular that more had to be put on than were originally scheduled. The Henry Foreman Atkinson Dental Museum was also open with the Curator reporting that over 140 people visited on the day.

There was also a great turn-out of parents and students to the two information sessions at which Professor Mike Morgan and I outlined the entry requirements and course content for our undergraduate programs and understandably, we fielded a great many questions relating to the "Melbourne Model". We were pleased to be able to reassure all the Year 10 students that it would be 'business as usual' in dentistry - undergraduate entry would still be available to them at the end of Year 12.

The high number of research presentations and awards received by staff and students confirms the School as an international leader in dental research...

The start of semester two this year saw the rural clinical placement program begin in earnest. Students, in groups of six for four-week periods, have been attending the community dental clinics at Goulburn Valley Health in Shepparton and at the Rumbalara Dental Clinic in Mooroopna. Five chairs are available for students to provide clinical dental services to the clients of the community dental clinics and, as part of the outreach program, students have also been visiting and observing at local private practices. The response to the program from students has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic and Dr Menaka Abuzar is to be congratulated on developing and implementing such an excellent

and valuable program.

On the research front the School was well represented at the IADR conference in Brisbane in June/July with the School's presentations

exceeding those of any other dental school's. The high number of research presentations and awards received by staff and students confirms the School as an international leader in dental research and I extend my thanks and congratulations to all staff and students for their contribution to our continuing reputation for research excellence.

PROFESSOR ERIC REYNOLDS



## The Quota

By EMERITUS PROFESSOR HENRY ATKINSON

In a recent alumni newsletter, there was a brief description of leaving 711 Elizabeth Street at which time our future in the coils of the triple helix had yet to be resolved but as history has a curious habit of repeating itself it may be interesting to look back and see what the problems were that the Dental Faculty faced when entering that building in 1963, some forty three years ago.

In the mid 1950's there was but one University in Victoria, that for various reasons had an abundance of applicants for a limited number of places, the result being that we had to introduce a quota for first year dental students. After examining the existing staffing and facilities at the Australian College of Dentistry in Spring Street, the professorial board set the dental quota at 45, which with the then unacceptable high failure rate, would give some 35-40 students in second year what was, in effect, the first year of the dental course. With both a new school and hospital appearing on the horizon and together with a chronic shortage of dentists, both political and professional pressures were put upon the College and Faculty to increase the quota in anticipation of entry into the new building.

Modest annual additions to the quota were agreed provided, that such were matched with appropriate increases in both technical and academic staff. The need for an increase in staff numbers was viewed with alarm by the Government of Victoria as apparently the costs involved had not

been included by the College in any of the budget proposals for the new building. However, it was known by senior members of the College Council, the governing body of that institution, that their unwritten philosophy was to say nothing about any need for more staff until we were in the building when the government would be forced to provide the extra. Departmental attempts to obtain extra staff or firm promises when once in the building were met with concern by university authorities, as again such requests had never been put forward previously.

In the Spring Street building, there were no facilities or time free for research and as it had been agreed between the parties concerned as early as 1947 that, on entry to the new building, College staff would be transferred to the University under its conditions of appointment and as this now appeared most unlikely, all members saw the utopian dream disappearing rapidly. When in the late 1950's it was obvious that entry to the building would be occurring within two or three years and that there had not been any additions to or promises of more staff, it was proposed that

the quota be reduced. This suggestion increased considerably the tensions that had developed between the Dean, Professor Sir Arthur Amies and Professor HF Atkinson. The problem became acute when the

...it was known by senior members of the College Council that their unwritten philosophy was to say nothing about any need for more staff until we were in the building when the government would be forced to provide the extra!

quota for 1963 was increased to 70 new entrants as the existing staff at Spring Street were already over extended and therefore could not possibly cope with a doubling of student numbers in a building many times the size of the present one.

As the months went by, the proposed reduction of the quota was discussed in the University, dental hospital and

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the profession and it was made quite clear by Professor Atkinson on every occasion that once entry into the new premises had occurred, that the strongest moves would be made to bring the quota for first year entrants to a reasonable level as such a change was considered possible after the demise of the College and the reorganisation of the Faculty.

The new building was officially opened on the 23 of May 1963 and by the end of that week the Dean had left for a 12 month overseas sabbatical with the knowledge that there were 73 students in the first year of the dental course and also that there had not been an increase in staff. With the College no longer having a role in dental education, all discussions on the quota took place in Faculty or its executive and after receiving a recommendation to reduce the dental quota to 45, the professorial board agreed.

As can be imagined, once the change was official, both the political and professional reactions were dramatic; the Victorian Government had spent more than two million pounds on the new school and hospital and 'not one extra patient was treated or one more dentist qualified'; the profession was of a similar view which was strengthened by the fact that dental technicians were pressurising the government for registrations to deal directly with the public for the supply of dentures; the hospital was concerned because it had been criticized for not acting more in the manner of existing general hospitals and taking a greater share in the teaching of dental students.

The Minister of Health, The Hon RW Mack, MLC, requested reasons for the reduction and in a detailed reply of January 1964, Professor HF Atkinson, as Dean, stated that 'an analysis of the quota of 70 reveals that the student body was composed of 12 non-Victorians, 18 students suspended by their original faculties and not allowed to repeat and four repeating dental science students' which went

on to state that a quota of 45 would not have excluded any qualified Victorian students. The working quota of forty five was made up of five failed first year dental students allowed to repeat and 40 first choice applicants. Events moved rapidly; the Minister of Health established The Dental Advisory Committee with representatives of the University, the dental hospital, the profession and the Hospitals and Charities Commission with its Chairman, Dr J Lindell, as Chair of the Advisory Committee. The recommendations are now ancient history but were supportive of the dental school and hospital. The proposal that the Dental Hospital should become a teaching hospital along the lines then recently accepted by the Austin Hospital in which the Professor was the head of the appropriate hospital clinical department (there were to be no duplication of departments between School and Hospital), although strongly supported by the Chairman and the academics, except Sir Arthur, was not acceptable to the dental hospital.

The succeeding 40 years have seen amazing advances in research, teaching, equipment, technology and treatment with the professional base of dentistry strengthened by the training and official admission of therapists, prosthetists and hygienists; meanwhile the dentist, now with new drugs and medicaments, superb local analgesics, magnifying loupes and microscopes and excellent operating conditions, stands as a specialised micro surgeon. And the next decade? A three year basic bio-science undergraduate degree for dentistry followed by a concentrated full four year graduate course. To extend the service to the community and to maintain the high level of treatment at present available some deep and critical thinking by all parties is essential.



Dr. Geoffrey W. Sutcliffe

## A Family of Dental Graduates

### Vale

**Geoffrey W. Sutcliffe**

**December 1 1920 -  
March 4 2005  
BDSc 1950**

OBITUARY BY STANLEY WILLIAMS  
BDSc 1950

Geoffrey Sutcliffe died at the age of 84 years, following a remarkable life of personal achievement and dedication to his many interests. He was educated at Melbourne Grammar where his leadership skills were apparent, as he became a prefect and cadet lieutenant in 1939. In early 1941, he enlisted in the AIF. He was a young lieutenant in the 2/21st battalion, known as the Gull Force, when captured by the Japanese on the small but strategically important island of Ambon in February 1942. He was transferred later that year to another prisoner of war camp on Hainan Island, off the southern coast of China, where he remained for the next three years. At the end of hostilities, only one third of Gull Force had survived. Although he rarely spoke of his experiences in the POW camps, the effects of malnutrition, ill treatment and disease were manifest in his health over future years.

Influenced by his elder sister, Marjorie, already a dental graduate, (Class of 1942) he commenced the dental course with a large contingent of ex-servicemen in 1946. "Suttie", affectionately called by his colleagues, was an outstanding student, gaining first class honours, also receiving the Mervyn Townsend prize in 1948 and the John Iliffe prize as the top student in the final year. Geoff married Marjorie Burnett in the third year of the course. Shortly after graduation in 1950, he commenced practice in

Moreland Road, Coburg, next door to his father's medical clinic. He remained there until failing eyesight and poor health forced his retirement in 1987. Many new graduates gained experience under Geoff's guidance at the Coburg practice.

Soon after graduation he was appointed to a number of ADAVB sub-committees and became the youngest President of the Victorian Branch in 1958. The year prior to his appointment he was President of the Brunswick Rotary Club. Showing a keen interest in sailing when visiting their holiday house in Mornington, Geoff built each of his four children a Sabot and then became involved with race organisation of the Mornington Yacht Club. An invitation to join the yacht club committee soon resulted in Geoff being appointed Commodore, a position he held from 1962-1969. It was a very important stage of the club's history because it involved the reclamation of land and the construction of new club building and storage facilities. Marjorie and Geoff were both made Honorary Life Members of the club. Geoff became a keen and competent yachtsman, winning many club championships and Bay events. In partnership, he purchased Boambilli, a classic ocean racing yacht, winning the Melbourne to Hobart race and competing in many other ocean events

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VICTORIAN BRANCH.

#### *Editor's Note:*

*Marjorie's father Ernest Sutcliffe, MBBS 1911, graduated in Dental Science and Pharmacy prior to doing Medicine.*

*Marjorie's sister, Nancy Sutcliffe (deceased) was also a graduate of Dental Science 1941.*



Pictured right:  
Attendees at the Witness Seminar:  
L-R Back row: Ms Sandra Turner,  
Ms Louise Murray, Dr John Rasmussen,  
Professor Emeritus Peter Reade,  
Dr Ann Westmore, Drs Owen & Felicity  
Crombie, Dr John Rogers (at rear),  
Mr Garry Pearson, Dr Gerald Dalitz,  
Professor Michael Morgan.



L-R Front row: Dr John Hales, Dr Hector  
Orams, Dr Maurice White, A/Prof John  
Harcourt, Dr Patricia Storey, Professor  
Emeritus Henry Atkinson, Dr Don Dalley.



## History of Dentistry Witness Seminar

The School recently conducted a full day Witness Seminar on Developments in Dental Research and Education at The University of Melbourne from 1906-2006. Dr Ann Westmore headed the seminar which received favourable attendance and the transcript of the day will be sent to participants and other interested people. Themes discussed during the day included challenges in undergraduate and postgraduate

teaching, contributions to research and scholarships, relationships with external agencies, including RDHM, DHSV, and within the University, Faculty and other departments and major advances in technology and materials.

Attendees were Professor Henry Atkinson, Dr Mina Borromeo, Dr Pam Craig, Drs Owen & Felicity Crombie, Dr Gerald Dalitz,

Dr Don Dalley, Dr Jeremy Graham, Dr John Hales, A/Prof John Harcourt, A/Professor Michael Morgan, Dr Hector Orams, Mr Dennis Rowler, Mr Garry Pearson, Dr John Rasmussen, Professor Emeritus Peter Reade, Dr John Rogers, Dr Patricia Storey, Mr David Thomas, Dr Maurice White, Ms Louise Murray and Ms Sandra Turner. (see picture above)

## Research News

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR STUART DASHPER  
HEAD OF ORAL BIOLOGY SECTION AND  
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

**The International Association for Dental Research recently held its 84th General Session and Exhibition in Brisbane. This is the biggest global dental research conference and it was only the second time it had been held in Australia.**

There were over 3,000 research presentations from around the world in topics as diverse as enamel remineralisation, endodontic treatment failure, dental caries prevalence in rural communities, molecular mechanisms of oral cancer, new treatment modalities, new materials for implants and novel therapeutics. In addition, amongst a good collection of keynote speakers Nobel Prize laureate Peter Doherty gave a fascinating presentation on Avian Flu viruses and the risks for another worldwide influenza pandemic.

The School of Dental Science was well represented at the conference and had over 40 excellent presentations from the staff and postgraduate students. It was obvious from the

presentations at the conference that the School is undertaking research at a very high level, with many Australian researchers featuring well. One of the highlights of the conference is the judging of the prestigious Hutton awards which reward excellence in young investigators in a range of fields. It is with great pleasure that I can announce that Dr. Samantha Byrne, who has just completed a PhD in the School, was awarded the Senior Hutton Award for Clinical Research for her studies into the quantitation of bacterial periodontal pathogens in subgingival plaque by real-time PCR. Further to this, at the Australia and New Zealand Section of the IADR Conference, held simultaneously with the global IADR meeting in Brisbane, Professor Martin Tyas was awarded the Alan Docking Award. This award is given to a senior researcher who has made a sustained and major contribution to dental research and shown leadership in their field for a sustained period of time. Leanne Frazer (nee Taylor) won the Colgate Travel Grant for her studies into periodontal vaccines. This award provides funds to enable her to compete in the Hutton Award at the next global IADR meeting to be held in New Orleans in March 2007.

## Award Recipients

### International College of Dentists Inductees

**A number of alumni and staff members from the School of Dental Science were inducted as Fellows of the International College of Dentists for services to dentistry at a ceremony in Melbourne on 26 May.**

They were:

**Werner Bischof MDSc** - A Periodontist who is an Honorary Senior Fellow at the School.

**John Chrystie BDS** - a Specialist in Special Needs Dentistry who acts as a tutor and mentor for the School.

**David Fuller MDSc** - an Orthodontist who is also a Clinical Demonstrator at the School.

**Michael Morgan MDSc** - Professor and Deputy Head of the School of Dental Science and recently appointed to the new position of Colgate Chair of Population Oral Health, The University of Melbourne.

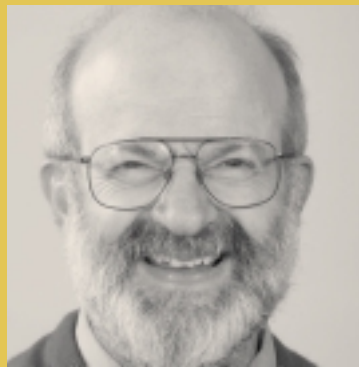
**John O'Grady MDSc** - Specialist in Oral Medicine & Oral Pathology.

**Paul Schneider BDS** - Orthodontist and Senior Fellow in graduate orthodontics, The University of Melbourne.

**Michael Woods DSc** - Professor & Chair of Orthodontics, The University of Melbourne.

### Queen's Birthday Honours 2006

**Dr William Frederick Mitchell**, Class of 1972, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to dentistry as a practitioner and through the Australian Dental Association and to the community of the Northern Territory.



### Dr Samantha Byrne

Samantha Byrne graduated with a BDSc (Hons) from The University of Queensland in 1996, after which she worked in both public and private practice for 4 1/2 years. Samantha felt something was missing from her career and started to look for new challenges. Upon being advised to visit the staff at the School of Dental Science to talk about possible career options, the suggestion of a research degree came up. A PhD was the perfect career change, combining a love of science and learning with a background in dentistry.

Samantha has recently submitted her PhD thesis, "A longitudinal study of periodontal disease". Her PhD has involved working on a clinical study of periodontal disease, in which she has monitored changes over time, in the proportions of four bacterial species in subgingival plaque that are associated with the disease. She found that monitoring the proportions of two of these bacterial species in subgingival plaque might enable clinicians to determine which sites in an individual's mouth are at increased risk for undergoing progressive periodontal disease. In the long term this information may be used to target periodontal treatment to these sites that are at risk of imminent disease progression, thereby reducing unnecessary treatment.

Her initial results were presented at the Australian and New Zealand Division Meeting of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) in Queenstown in September 2005, where she won the Colgate Travel Grant. This award enabled her to present her research in the Hatton Award contest at the global IADR meeting, held in Brisbane in June 2006. At this meeting Samantha went on to win the Hatton Award in the Senior Clinical Science category. This is the first time that an Australian researcher has won this award and is a great testament to the quality and originality of the research.

In April 2003 Samantha trekked to Mount Everest base camp in Nepal, a journey she found almost as challenging as completing her PhD! She also met and married Ben, with whom she is about to embark upon a much-deserved three month European holiday. When she returns to the School of Dental Science in November this year, Samantha will take up a postdoctoral research position continuing her investigations into the microbial basis of periodontal disease.

### Dr Jeremy Graham

After graduating from The University of Melbourne in 1975, Jeremy joined the Royal Australian Navy as a Dental Officer, serving interstate and at sea. After 'paying off' at the end of 1979, he returned to Melbourne, to be in private practice with his father, Bernard Graham, and also as a kindergarten dentist with The Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne in its extramural clinic in Springvale. In 1989, he purchased an established practice in Caulfield, where he still practices.

In 2000, Jeremy obtained the Postgraduate Diploma of Forensic Odontology from The University of Melbourne. He is now one of seven forensic odontologists attached to the Centre for Human Identification at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine in Southbank. He has assisted in many investigations and identifications, and assisted the Australian Federal Police in the identification of victims following the Boxing Day tsunami of 2004.

Having been a tutor in dental practice to the 1st and 2nd year BDSc students, Jeremy is now doing a Master of Philosophy part-time at Monash University in the use of CT imaging in the ageing of children and adolescents. After more than 30 years in private practice, he is hoping to pass on practical experiences to the following generations of dentists.

With a father, grandfather and uncle (Bernard Graham, Class of 1941, Thomas Sealey and Vernon Sealey, Class of 1930, respectively) all being dentists, it was perhaps inevitable that Jeremy has an interest in dental history. He is the representative of the Australian Dental Association (Victorian Branch) on the Committee of Management of the Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum at the School of Dental Science. He looks forward in continuing to assist in the preservation of a heritage more interesting than most.

Jeremy is married to Kara, and has three daughters, none of whom will follow in their father's, grandfather's or great-grandfather's footsteps.



Pictured above, from top; Dr Werner Bischof, Professor Michael Woods, Dr Paul Schneider.

Pictured top: Those recently inducted as Fellows of the International College of Dentists, including the following members of the University of Melbourne teaching staff: Mike Morgan, David Fuller, John Christie, Paul Schneider, Werner Bischoff, John O'Grady and Michael Woods.



## Staff News

### Ernest Joske Award

The School Research Committee has selected Dr Paul Veith and Mr David Thomas as joint recipients of the Ernest Joske Research Award. The award is made triennially to a staff member in the School whose published work constitutes an important contribution to Dental Science. The award is made by the University Council on the recommendation of the Head of School of Dental Science. The Vice-Chancellor has approved the award on behalf of Council. The Honourable Mr Justice Percy Ernest Joske, a Justice of the Commonwealth Industrial Court, a Justice of the Supreme Court of Australian Capital Territory, and a Justice of the Supreme Court of Northern Territory, donated to the University the sum of £1,000 for the establishment of a fund to provide a research award in Dental Science as a memorial to his father, Ernest Joske, and to the work, both inside and outside the University, which he performed for the profession of dentistry.

### Dr Paul Veith

Dr Veith has applied the rapidly developing technologies of proteomics to improve our understanding of the bacteria that cause periodontal disease, and has published the findings of his research in leading international journals. A proteomic study usually attempts to identify or characterize as many proteins as possible from a complex biological sample. His team, now located at the Bio21 Institute, are applying the technology to proteins from oral pathogens that enable the bacteria both to thrive in the oral environment and cause periodontal disease. For example, one of the pathogens *P. gingivalis* produces several highly abundant enzymes that can be secreted into the external environment or attached to the cell surface. Many of the characteristics of the disease such as connective

tissue destruction, bone resorption and evasion of the immune response have been traced to these proteolytic enzymes. Dr Veith has made a significant contribution to our understanding of how these enzymes are processed and modified to form a mature complex attached to the cell surface. His research continues to explore the structure of this complex, and its mechanism of secretion. He is at the forefront in identifying other proteins in these pathogenic bacteria that are produced in response to environmental stimuli associated with disease. These include iron availability and growth as a monospecific and polymicrobial biofilm. His research will provide novel targets for the development of vaccines and treatments to combat periodontal disease.

### Mr David Thomas

Working with Professor John Clement (Foundation Chair in Forensic Odontology) David helped to establish the Melbourne Femur Collection. This has developed into what is probably the best such collection of bone specimens in the world. The material is collected at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine through the good offices of the Donor Tissue Bank and with the informed consent of the next-of-kin of the donors. The size of this collection, the quality of the information available, along with the difficulties in other countries concerning the retention of human tissue, have made it important to research groups around the world. David is involved in research collaborations with groups at the universities of Cambridge, Oxford, Edinburgh and Cranfield in the UK as well as the University of British Columbia, Drexel University (Philadelphia) and the New York University College of Dentistry. Research topics include the measurement of geometric, mechanical and histological parameters of bone and the changes that occur in these with age. Current research is focussed on the detailed

description of the distribution and nature of cortical bone porosity and the relationship of porosity to the mechanical loading experienced by the bone.

The motivation for the development of quantitative descriptions of the human face comes from both forensic science and clinical medicine. Quantitative two- and three-dimensional descriptions of the face are of value for confirming the identity of individuals and have potential for use in clinical diagnosis and treatment planning. David worked in collaboration with staff from the National Research Institute of Police Science of Japan on the development of a three-dimensional surface scanner and the associated software. The NEC "Fiore" system was developed for acquiring three-dimensional surface scans of the human face and the software makes it possible to compare these scans with photographs or video frames. Current studies are building facial archetypes of various genetically based syndromes and the hope is that quantitative comparisons in three dimensions will become a useful diagnostic tool.

Working with Associate Professor Michael Burrow and his students, David is helping to develop methods for the testing of the strength of the bonding of composite resin restorations. Particular issues with this work are the need to achieve consistent test conditions and the analysis of the results obtained. These results are often very variable and special methods have been needed for their analysis.

### Michael Morgan

It gives us great pleasure to announce that Professor Michael Morgan has been appointed to the Colgate Chair of Population Oral Health effective from 26th June 2006. Professor Morgan is highly regarded by all who know him and has made an outstanding contribution to dentistry and dental education. His achievements are impressive and in

his new role as the Colgate Professor of Population Oral Health and current role as Deputy Head of the School of Dental Science, he will continue to provide excellent leadership.

### Stuart Dashper

Dr Stuart Dashper has been promoted to Principal Research Fellow with the title of Associate Professor effective from 1st Jan 2006. This promotion is appropriate recognition of an outstanding contribution to the School and the University in research, research training, management and administration. Promotions to Principal Research Fellow are very rare in the University and Stuart's success in promotion is testimony to his stellar achievements. Not many dental schools around the world could boast a Principal Research Fellow on Faculty and we are indeed very fortunate. Congratulations Stuart on this impressive achievement.

Pictured above from left, Paul Veith, David Thomas, Michael Morgan, Stuart Dashper.



## From the Dental Museum



## Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum inaugural exhibition

On July 21st at a ceremony held in the School of Dental Science, the dental museum opened to the public for the first time in its one hundred and twenty two year history and was officially named the Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum. In naming the museum, the School formally recognised the contribution made by Emeritus Professor Henry Atkinson MBE, in his role as honorary curator over the past twenty eight years.

In celebration of the event, the museum opened with the inaugural exhibition, The "Dental journey: From tusks to teeth to the vulcanite age", curated by Professor Atkinson and Louise Murray. Using selected items from the collection including early texts, local remedies, models, illustrations and instruments, the exhibition explores the changes in the treatment of dental conditions starting with the use of charms, spells and opiates, through to the relief of pain by extraction, to the prevention of tooth loss and finally to complete dentures.

Focusing on the instruments, materials and techniques used by the dental practitioner, the exhibition commences with a look at some humorous ideas about dental pain and the stereotypic representations of the dentist. Some of the early formative texts about dentistry, including Fauchard's "*Le Chirurgien Dentiste*", are also included in this section.

Under the heading "Extraction: Removal of the cause", a range of dental extraction instruments are presented, some dating from the mid 1700's, including punch elevators, dental keys and forceps. Prior to the

development of a safe and effective local anaesthetic (c1910), the technique for the removal of the troublesome tooth was 'cold steel', but because the results of the procedure were often far worse than the original discomfort, the embryonic profession turned its efforts to the prevention of dental disease by scaling and cleaning of the teeth and through the promotion of good diet with the catch phrase "clean teeth do not decay". As a result, new restorative techniques of 'stoppings' were developed using cohesive gold, silver, mercury-amalgam and synthetic porcelain, together with a host of other materials including gutta percha, all of which are displayed under the themes of "Prevention: Clean teeth do not decay" and "Root fillings: Cohesive golds".

For the unfortunate individual who lost all their teeth, dentures were available. Early dentures were carved in one piece from wood, bone or ivory, which, to achieve a modicum of



success had to be patiently fitted and adjusted to the patient's mouth. This was a time consuming and tedious procedure as reliable impression materials were not available. Carved dentures were followed by ones of gold alloy plate, swaged by mallet and press to which, before the advent of porcelain, human teeth were fitted. Only the very well off could afford such expensive treatment. Featured in the exhibition are a selection of dentures including a carved ivory lower denture; a 'George Washington' denture made of bone, human teeth and gold, with springs for retention

(c1795); a porcelain and metal denture (c1930), as well as a Sir Wilfred Fish part gold upper denture (c1940).

With the discovery in the mid-1800s that nitrous oxide, otherwise known as laughing gas, was a safe and effective general anaesthetic, together with the adaptation of the vulcanisation of rubber to the production of dentures, a new era developed. Extractions were now painless and dentures that fitted and functioned could be produced in hours instead of weeks. Together these factors considerably reduced costs and increased the availability of treatment for a wider community. Over a century of care involving the preparation and supply of dentures from wood, bone, ivory, porcelain, gold alloy, vulcanite and modern materials is demonstrated in the exhibition. In the same time frame Dr. Woods, a physician in Edinburgh, made the first true hypodermic injection from which act came the use by dentists of solutions of cocaine to produce local analgesia that led, through decades of research, to the excellent cartridge syringe of today and pain free restorative dentistry.

The dental museum is located on the ground floor 720 Swanston Street, Carlton. It is opened Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm.

For access contact the honorary curator on 9341 1519, the curator on 9341 1518, or the school office on 9341 1500.

web:  
<http://museum.dent.unimelb.edu.au/dental/home.html>

online catalogue:  
<http://www.chs.unimelb.edu.au/dental/home.html>

## Cultural Collections grant awarded to dental museum

The recently named Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum is pleased to announce it has been awarded a grant of almost \$7,000 for 'display enhancement' by The University of Melbourne through the Cultural Collections Committee.

The grant was given to the dental museum to commission the making of a number of supports and lift boxes to improve the museum's display cases.

Cultural Collections is the major program for the management, support and leadership in the care, preservation, access to and promotion of the University's cultural collections and their support of the dental museum is gratefully acknowledged.

The museum also received generous donations from two other sources. The Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne Auxiliary has been a loyal and constant supporter of the museum for many years. Recently the Auxiliary extended its generosity with a donation of \$10,000 towards the cost of the display cases in the new museum. The museum has also received a donation from Dr Jeremy Graham whose profile is featured in this edition of Dent-al.

The museum warmly thanks and acknowledges these individuals and committees. It is through such support that the Henry Forman Atkinson Dental Museum can continue to appropriately care for, manage and display the many significant and valuable items that make up its collection.

# Catching up

## From the 1990's



### Jim Bokas - Class of 1996

Jim graduated from Melbourne in 1996 and in his final year, received several prizes including the The John Iliffe Scholarship, The ADA Prize and The Pierre Fauchard Academy's – Undergraduate Award of Merit. After working in private general practice for four years, he undertook his Master of Dental Science in Melbourne. His Master's thesis was entitled "The rate

of human canine retraction using nickel titanium spring and elastomeric chains".

In 2004, Jim was awarded the Australian Orthodontic Board / TP Orthodontics Prize at the Annual Australian Orthodontic Congress for the best treated postgraduate case in Australia (2001–2003). In 2005 he gained his Membership in Orthodontics through The Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh.

Jim is a clinical instructor in undergraduate orthodontics at the School of Dental Science and is in specialist practice in East Burwood. He is also on the ADA (Victorian Branch) Dental Health Education Committee. Jim is married to Marianne Karas (Class of 1999) and they have a 2 year old son, Alexander.

**We would love to let other Alumni know what you have been doing since graduation! Interested?**

**Please send 100 words and a photo to the Editor, Dent-al, School of Dental Science, The University of Melbourne, Victoria 3010 Australia**  
[sifonios@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:sifonios@unimelb.edu.au)

### Class of 1986:

Expressions of interest to Samar Amari  
[samar.amari@optusnet.com.au](mailto:samar.amari@optusnet.com.au)

### Class of 1996:

Expressions of interests to Michael Sawaya:  
[dent.reunion96@hotmail.com](mailto:dent.reunion96@hotmail.com)  
telephone (03) 9515 8056 (ah)

### Class of 1977:

Expressions of interest to Giles Plunkett :  
telephone: (03) 9583 0094 (bh).

### Class of 1956:

Expressions of interest to John Hales:  
[goosebri@bigpond.net.au](mailto:goosebri@bigpond.net.au)  
telephone (03) 9555 9391 (ah).

## Organising a Reunion Dinner?

University House on the campus of the University of Melbourne is the ideal venue for reunion groups ranging in size from thirty to 240 guests. Competitively priced menu packages to suit any occasion are available. Contact Gaille Javier on (+61 3) 8344 5254 or visit the website at [www.unihouse.org.au](http://www.unihouse.org.au)

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### From the editors

We hope you enjoyed reading this edition of Dent-al, the School of Dental Science's newsletter for alumni.

We would be very pleased to have your feedback on this issue and if you would like to contribute in any way, or have any suggestions for future issues, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

The next edition of Dent-al will be in December 2006. If you have any items of interest, please let us know.

Editors:

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