EVANS BUILDING
CENTENNIAL RENAISSANCE

AS THE EVANS BUILDING TURNS 100 IN 2015,
PLANS SET FOR A MAJOR TRANSFORMATION
Strategic Growth & Development

THIS IS AN EXCITING TIME AT PENN DENTAL MEDICINE with a surge of ongoing growth and development in support of our strategic goals and mission. As you will read in this issue (see story, page 8), we are moving forward with our most significant facilities project since the building of the Robert Schattner Center in 2002 — the Evans Building Centennial Renaissance. This project will transform the Thomas Evans Building while maintaining the historic integrity of this inspiring structure, making much needed infrastructure changes and preparing the facility for the future.

Now we are in the detailed design phase and construction will commence in 2015, to coincide with the Evans Building’s 100th anniversary. Support from alumni and friends is vital in ensuring the successful completion of this project. I thank those who have made leadership gifts to get us to this point and I look forward to engaging many more of you in this project; a project vital to supporting the high quality students and education for which Penn Dental Medicine is renowned.

Within our academic programs, we are also looking to the future and building the strength of our students’ educational experience through new technology initiatives. To this end, this academic year, we created new staff positions focused on these efforts (see story, page 41). From online testing to video lectures, we need to adapt our teaching methods to new technological standards and digital platforms to stay on the leading edge of education and provide the best experience for our students.

In other areas, we continue to strengthen the School’s research enterprise through faculty recruitment. On November 1, we welcomed Dr. Songtao Shi, a world leader in the area of oral stem cell research, as Professor, Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology (see story, page 2). Within our graduate dental education programs, we are strengthening our Periodontics and Pediatric Dentistry programs with the addition of sedation training. And adding to the depth of advisory skills on our Board of Overseers, we welcomed three new members in June — Nancy Baker, Julie Charlestein, and Haruo Morita — all bringing valuable expertise in support of the School (see story, page 6).

Finally, in 2015, we will mark the midpoint of our 10-year strategic plan, and I want to thank and commend our faculty, staff, and students for coming together to help advance our strategic goals and mission (see story, page 20). In addition, I thank our many alumni and friends for your ongoing support. In this issue, we are pleased to recognize our fiscal year 2014 honor roll of contributors (see page 31). It is through your ongoing support and engagement that we can continue to build on the strengths of this great institution and serve our students, patients, and the field of dental medicine.

Denis F. Kinane, BDS, PhD
Morton Amsterdam Dean
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ON THE COVER: Penn Dental Medicine’s historic Thomas Evans Building, which in 2015 will mark the 100th anniversary of its dedication. Plans are set for a major transformation of the building through the Evans Building Centennial Renaissance project, see story, page 8.

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Stem Cell Research Focus of Recent Faculty Recruit

Building on the depth of Penn Dental Medicine’s research enterprise is a recent faculty recruit to the Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology — Dr. Songtao Shi. Dr. Shi, a highly respected researcher and educator, joined the School as Professor in the Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology on November 1.

Dr. Shi comes to Penn Dental Medicine from the University of Southern California (USC) Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry, where he has served as Professor within the Center for Craniofacial Molecular Biology since 2011. He first joined the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry in 2006 as Assistant Professor, advancing to Tenured Associate Professor in 2008. Prior to joining the faculty at USC, he served as a Principal Investigator and Clinical Fellow for nine years at the National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research/NIH. Dr. Shi earned both his DDS and MS at Peking University School of Stomatology and holds a PhD in Craniofacial Biology from USC. Clinically, Dr. Shi holds Dental Licensure in the State of California and has had experience working at the NIH Clinical Center and in private practice in California.

Dr. Shi leads an accomplished research program that focuses on the characterization of human mesenchymal stem cells and the relationship between mesenchymal stem cells and orofacial diseases at the molecule and cellular levels. Along with his collaborators, his lab has isolated and identified several new populations of mesenchymal stem cells, including dental pulp stem cells, stem cells from human exfoliated deciduous teeth, periodontal ligament stem cells, stem cells from apical papilla, and tendon stem/progenitor cells. These discoveries are enabling further investigations of these oral-tissue-derived stem cells and their use in tissue engineering, disease modeling, and clinical treatment. Dr. Shi and his collaborators were the first to use mesenchymal stem cells to treat systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), periodontitis, and regenerate pulp tissue in patients. Dr. Shi was recognized for his research activities with the 2013 IADR Distinguished Scientist Award for Pulp Biology & Regeneration.

“He is highly collaborative, Dr. Shi has extensive connections internationally, particularly in China,” says Dr. Denis Kinane, Morton Amsterdam Dean of Penn Dental Medicine. “He brings a passion for science and teaching that I know will contribute greatly to our research and educational efforts across disciplines.”
Advancing Student Research

Penn Dental Medicine is building opportunities to advance ongoing research and leadership for junior researchers and students with a new initiative, the AADR Travel Award. Launched this past spring, this first round of travel grants will allow recipients to attend the IADR/AADR/CADR Meeting in Boston, March 11-14, 2015.

“As the single most prestigious dental research meeting, this is a unique opportunity to showcase Penn Dental Medicine’s research on the global stage and to interact with investigators across disciplines and across continents,” says Dr. Michel Koo, Professor, Department of Orthodontics and Chair, AADR Travel Award Committee.

Ten predoctoral students were selected during the 2014 Student Research Day on May 15, 2014. A committee, made up of faculty from both basic and clinical sciences, determined the winners based on the clarity of the proposed hypothesis, quality of data, and their graphic and oral presentations. Three junior researchers also were selected during the 2014 Penn Dental Medicine Research Retreat on May 30, 2014. A panel of three judges evaluated five oral presentations based on similar criteria to the student poster presentations with the addition of how successful the data and conclusions relate to the study’s aims/hypothesis and the scientific and clinical significance of the results.

In addition to attending the meeting, the award winners are encouraged to make an oral presentation and to apply for the AADR competition awards. The travel grant winners from the 2014 Student Research Day include predoctoral students Mark Guevarra (D’16), Meghan Harley (D’17), Gang Ko (D’15), Laura Koo Min Chee (D’16), Joosang Lee (D’16), Kevin Lin (D’16), Ali Abdul Majeed (D’16), Alexander Margolis (D’16), Maral Mobasher (D’15), and Boshi Zhang (D’16). The award recipients from the 2014 Research Retreat include junior researchers Geelsu Hwang from the Department of Orthodontics, Catherine Moorwood from the Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology, and Toshiharu Abe from the Department of Microbiology.

“This is a unique opportunity to showcase Penn Dental Medicine’s research on the global stage.”

DR. MICHEL KOO

Penn Dental Medicine AADR Travel Award grants will be presented to students and junior researchers annually.

Evidence-Based Analgesic Therapy/Adverse Drug Interactions
February 21, 2015
This presentation by Dr. Elliot Hersh, Professor, Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery/Pharmacology, will help to make sense of the complex subject of adverse drug interactions, with a special focus on those involving sedative, analgesic, antibiotic, and local anesthetic/vasoconstrictor agents.

The Penn Esthetics Symposium
June 11 – 13, 2015
The Penn Esthetics Symposium will also celebrate the 60th anniversary of the School’s Department of Periodontics. The program will cover a full range of topics within osteology, esthetics, implants, periodontics, and prosthetics. As part of the event, an alumni reunion will be held on June 12, and the program on June 13 will celebrate the memory of Dr. Morton Amsterdam (C’43, D’45).

Penn Periodontal Conference
June 28 – July 3, 2015
The School’s inaugural Penn Periodontal Conference was presented in 2013 and Penn Dental Medicine anticipates continuing to host this gathering every two years. The 2015 program will once again be structured to encourage interaction among participants in a variety of formats. The scientific program will focus on the latest research in periodontology within the topics of biology and pathology, microbial complexity, inflammation, immunity, epigenetics, and clinical advances and novel treatments in periodontal disease.

Penn Dental Medicine is an ADA CERP provider of continuing education with tuition discounts for Penn Dental Medicine alumni and faculty, as well as students. For more information on these and other continuing education programs, visit www.dental.upenn.edu/cde.
As research continues to prove a link between good oral hygiene and overall health, it becomes vitally important to make dental care more accessible to all people. But what about those who have mobility issues, lack transportation, are homebound, or have physical disabilities that would make it impossible to visit a traditional dental office?

“Those are the questions that have been in my head for a long time,” says Dr. Alicia Houston (GD’15), this year’s chief resident in Penn Dental Medicine’s Oral Medicine Program. Not content to just mull over the problem, Dr. Houston has devised post-graduation plans to trade the overhead of a traditional dental practice office for a career making house calls to underserved populations.

“A mobile practice is appealing because I’m deeply passionate about providing oral care to those who cannot otherwise access a traditional office, particularly the geriatric population and physically challenged,” explains Dr. Houston. “While many alternative care options exist for underserved populations, including home and hospice care, dental care options remain underrepresented and I hope to bridge that gap.”

Dr. Houston plans to provide comprehensive oral exams and basic dental care, including prophylaxis and periodontal treatments, simple operative procedures, basic extractions, and removable options. She was inspired by the success of Penn Dental Medicine graduate and clinical director, Dr. Alisa G. Kauffman (D’85), who has proven the viability of a mobile dental practice. “Access Home Dental, my Washington, D.C.-based mobile practice, remains in its infancy,” Houston says. “However, I hope to follow in the footsteps of Dr. Kauffman, whose mobile dental practice has already made a huge impact in both our industry as well as her community.”

Although Dr. Houston’s dream may be within reach, chances are, it would have remained undiscovered had she not participated in the Penn Dental Medicine Graduate Externship Program while she was a dental student at Howard University. The program partners with Howard University College of Dentistry in Washington, D.C., and Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry in Nashville, Tenn., providing junior and senior dental students the opportunity to spend one week with graduate residents in Penn Dental Medicine specialty clinics.

“It was during this program that I was able to shadow many of Penn Dental’s renowned specialists in oral medicine, including Drs. Sollecito, Stoopler, and Greenberg. They all took great interest in immersing me in the field over the course of the program, which helped to solidify my decision to pursue training at Penn in oral medicine,” she says.

The externship program not only exposes dental students to opportunities in graduate dental education, but also helps meet the need for more minority care providers. “Through its annual student recruitment fair, the National Dental Association (NDA) conference continually emphasizes a necessity to elevate dental students via postgraduate training,” says Dr. Beverley Crawford, Director of Diversity Affairs, who oversees the externship program. “Our policies and procedures are designed to recruit a diverse group of students who can advance the profession, like Alicia Houston. This externship program was designed to support that initiative and Howard and Meharry are two institutions known for producing dental students of the highest caliber.”

In 2011, the pilot for the externship program hosted three students. Since then, more than 20 students have participated. “It has been exciting to see interest grow,” adds Dr. Uri Hangorsky, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, who brought the program idea to Dr. Crawford to set the program in motion. “Dr. Crawford is continuing to build the program and it is hoped that in the future affiliation agreements can be reached that will allow students to have some hands-on experiences.”

With her transition to private practice on the horizon for this spring, Dr. Houston has accomplished one additional leadership goal: being selected as chief resident in the Department of Oral Medicine.

“I was honored to be selected, and this opportunity has allowed me to identify some of my strengths and weaknesses as a leader,” she says. “I’m grateful for the lessons that I have learned in this role as well as the confidence I have developed to take my next step into my private dental practice.”
Key to that sense of confidence is her passion to increase public awareness of oral medicine as a vital component of comprehensive healthcare. “At the core of my passion for oral medicine, I hold a philosophical belief of the significance of early detection, diagnosis, effective management, and prevention,” she says.

“In addition to launching my mobile practice, I plan to offer community lectures and share insights with other health practitioners. When it comes to oral care, I believe that every individual must be well-informed and every practitioner must observe the importance of exercising a patient-centered approach.”

“While many alternative care options exist for underserved populations, including home and hospice care, dental care options remain underrepresented and I hope to bridge that gap.”

DR. ALICIA HOUSTON, GD’15

Encouraging Women in Leadership, Promoting Academic Careers

As part of the 2013-2014 class of the Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine® (ELAM®) program, Dr. Anh Le, Chair of Penn Dental Medicine’s Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery/Pharmacology and the Norman Vine Endowed Professor of Oral Rehabilitation, was among 50 women faculty members nationwide selected to participate in this competitive program. The year-long fellowship, part of the International Center for Executive Leadership in Academics at Drexel University School of Medicine, is dedicated to preparing senior women faculty at schools of medicine, dentistry, and public health to effect sustained positive change as institutional leaders. The fellowship encompasses executive education, personal leadership assessment and coaching, and networking and mentoring activities aimed at broadening perspectives, building new capacities, and encouraging professional connections.

Dr. Le’s institutional action project, developed as part of the program, examined ways to promote academic careers in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS). “On average nationwide, it is estimated that less than 2-3% of oral surgery program graduates pursue academic faculty positions,” says Dr. Le. “That is a major concern. To advance our specialty, we must develop a supporting and nurturing platform that enables a successful academic path for future generations.”

A preliminary survey of stakeholders, conducted as part of her project, identified the educational loan burden as well as the need for stronger faculty mentoring and improved institutional support among the top barriers to pursuing an academic career path. Among the outcomes at Penn, Dr. Le has restructured her Department to provide more opportunities for mentorship and is working with scholars from Penn Medicine, Penn Nursing, and Penn Vet to discuss strategies and best practices to promote and sustain academic clinicians overall.

In addition, as part of this project, Dr. Le recently received a $10,000 grant from the Excellence through Diversity Fund (within Penn’s Office of the Provost) in support of a proposal on “Promoting Academic Excellence through Diversity,” a joint collaboration with Dr. Sarah Millar, Professor of Dermatology at Penn’s Perelman School of Medicine, who also participated in the ELAM program this past year.

ELAM graduates now number nearly 900 women in leadership roles at schools nationwide. Since the program’s inception in 1995, 63% of accredited U.S. dental schools and 88% of accredited U.S. medical schools have sponsored fellows.
Three New Board Appointees

Adding to the depth of the School’s Board of Overseers, Penn Dental Medicine welcomes three new members — Nancy L. Baker, ESQ, Julie Charlestein, and Haruo Morita. All three were officially approved for three-year renewable terms by the University’s Board of Trustees at its June 2014 meeting.

Nancy Baker brings legal expertise to this advisory role. A practicing attorney in Rochester, N.Y., she earned her law degree from State University of New York at Buffalo and also holds an MBA from Cornell University’s Johnson Graduate School of Management. Baker has family ties to Penn Dental Medicine with both her father, Robert Baker, Sr. (D’52), and brother, Robert Baker, Jr. (D’85), graduates of the School. Robert Baker, Sr. also served for many years as a member of the Board of Overseers and was a recipient of the Penn Dental Medicine Alumni Society’s Award of Merit in 1988. Baker is active on a variety of other boards, including Pittsford Schools PTSA, serving as Chair and District Liaison for Community Service, which awarded her the “Sally Award” for service to the district; the Friends of Pittsford Hockey; the Rochester School for the Deaf; and Lawyers for Learning, a section of the Monroe County Bar.

Julie Charlestein is a fourth-generation leader of Premier Dental Products Company, serving as President of this Plymouth Meeting, Pa.-based business, which develops, manufactures, and distributes innovative consumables to the dental profession worldwide. Charlestein holds a degree in Political Science and Judaic Language and Literature from Emory University and earned a graduate degree in Business from Temple University. In her role as President of Premier, Charlestein was voted one of the Top 25 Most Influential Women in Dentistry by Dental Products Report. Charlestein serves on the Board of Directors for the ALS (Lou Gehrig’s Disease) Association, the Board of the Alliance for Oral Health Across Borders, and the Dean’s Advisory Board of the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. She also served on the Board of Directors of the Dental Trade Alliance, where she chaired the Government Relations Committee.

Haruo Morita expands the global perspective of the Board. Morita is President of J. Morita Corporation, one of the world’s largest dental manufacturers and distributors of dental equipment and supplies with its world headquarters in Osaka, Japan, and other divisions around the world. Morita also serves as President of J. Morita Europe GmbH, Morita Dental Asia PTE, Ltd., Siamdent Co., Ltd., and System Planning Corporation — all divisions of J. Morita Corporation. In addition, Morita is Chairman of J. Morita Mfg. Corporation, J. Morita Tokyo Mfg. Corporation, and J. Morita USA, Inc. Active in leadership roles within professionals and trade associations, he presently serves as Chairman of the Japan Dental Computer Association and the Japan Dental Industry Council; Vice Chairman of the Japan Dental Trade Association and the Japan Research Council on Dental Products; Head Director of the Japan Dental Distributors Association; and Director of the Japan Dental Importers Association.

“Nancy, Julie, and Haruo’s wonderful personalities and business skills will be a valuable addition to the Board and a great help to the School,” says Morton Amsterdam Dean Denis Kinane.

Student Research Day 2014

Penn Dental Medicine’s 2014 Student Research Day once again celebrated the broad range of research projects conducted by Penn Dental Medicine DMD students during the past year. Held May 15, it featured poster presentations from participants in the Summer Research Program; the School’s honors programs in research, community health, clinical care, and oral medicine; and the Bridging the Gaps community externship. The winning presentations included:

Summer Research Program: First place: Laura Koo Min Chee (D’16) for “Relationship between Postnatal Growth of the Masseter Muscle and Cranial Focal Bone Growth in Mice,” Dr. Elisabeth Barton, Dept. of Anatomy & Cell Biology, preceptor. As first-place winner, Koo Min Chee represented Penn Dental Medicine in the 2014 ADA/DENTSPLY Student Clinician Research Program at the ADA Annual Session in San Antonio in October; Second place: Alexander Margolis (D’16) for “Analysis of GAR1 and the DNA Damage Response,” Dr. Faizan Alawi, Dept. of Pathology, preceptor; Third place: Meghan Harley (D’17) for “Bisphosphonate-Mediated Endoplasmic Reticulum Stress Response in Human Mesenchymal Stem Cells,” Dr. Sunday Akintoye, Dept. of Oral Medicine, preceptor.

For Bridging the Gaps: First place: Daniel Coke (D’16) for “The 3 S’s of Summer: Safe Corridors, Social Media, and Sound Health” at Education Works, a nonprofit providing educational programs to children, youth, and families; Second place: Marni Tuchman (D’16) for “Speak for Me: Reflections on the Health Care Proxy Project” at LIFE, Penn Nursing’s center serving the elderly; Third place: Marissa Dziapelak (D’16) for “Small Minds, Big Dreams: Integration of Mental, Physical and Emotional Health,” at Francis J. Myers Recreation Center. Dr. Joan Gluch, Div. of Community Health, was the Penn Dental Medicine preceptor for all three students.

Ellis E. Golub Research Honors Award: Maral Mobasher (D’15) for “Acute Dyskerin Depletion Triggers Cellular Senescence and Renders Osteosarcoma Cells Resistant to Genotoxic Stress-Induced Apoptosis,” Dr. Faizan Alawi, Dept. of Pathology, preceptor.
Pediatric Clinic Expands with New Open Bay

This summer, Penn Dental Medicine increased the number of operatories in its Pediatric Clinic by 60 percent, expanding the clinic space to create a new open bay area with six additional treatment areas. The expansion supports the continuing growth of the School’s Division of Pediatric Dentistry, which has doubled the class size of its Pediatric Residency Program, now accepting four residents each year (the first class at this increased size started in July).

The expansion will enable the clinic to see a greater number of patients, which in turn, will expose both predoctoral students and the postgraduate residents to a wider diversity of cases. “We are excited to be able to increase the number of children we serve,” says Dr. Betty Harokopakis-Hajishengallis, Chief of the Division of Pediatric Dentistry, “and, to do so in such a bright, happy setting.”

The new bay features warm yellow walls with a colorful hand-print trim and each of the dental chairs is a different, bright color. Also part of the new addition is a residents’ room with work stations. This addition, which adjoins the existing clinic, previously housed faculty offices.

The new area is being used for the predoctoral student rotations through the clinic. “Because it is an open bay setting, it is better suited for older children, and usually, that is the patient pool of the predoctoral students,” says Dr. Harokopakis-Hajishengallis. However, she adds that the predoctoral student experience in pediatrics is growing this year. “While our predoctoral students will continue to complete a rotation in the clinic, we are going to start having them assist residents with cases as well, which will give them direct experience with more complex cases,” explains Dr. Harokopakis-Hajishengallis.

As part of this project, the existing clinic area, which features 10 private room operatories, and the waiting area were also repainted the same bright, golden yellow as the new addition, and the waiting area was finished in new hardwood floors.

The next steps will be to further update the original part of the clinic and to build resources for continuing the growth and development of the School’s pediatric services and educational programs. As part of the fundraising efforts for these initiatives, alumni and friends can make a lasting tribute through the following naming opportunities: Clinic Naming (1), $1,000,000; Residents’ Room/Station (1), $150,000; Operatories (16), $50,000. For more information on these and on supporting the Division of Pediatric Dentistry at all gift levels, contact: Maren Gaughan, Associate Dean for Leadership Giving at 215-898-8952 or gaughan@dental.upenn.edu.
As the Evans Building Marks the 100th Anniversary of its Dedication in 2015, Plans are Set for a Major Transformation
ON A CHILLY DAY in February 1915, the University community gathered with anticipation for a momentous event, heralded as the “greatest in dental history” by the local press: the dedication of the new Thomas W. Evans Museum and Dental Institute, built with funds from the estate of the prominent Philadelphia (and later Parisian) dentist for whom it was named. The building at 40th and Spruce Streets was beautifully appointed and stately, with a dramatic, sweeping staircase and the most advanced and spacious facilities of its time. While the dental school’s history traces back to the 1850s and the Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery (its Dean was tapped by Penn to establish the School of Dental Medicine as the Dental Department of the University in 1878), it was the construction of the well-outfitted Evans Building in 1915 that catapulted Penn into a leadership position in the field of dental education. The opening of the Evans Building marked the beginning of Penn Dental Medicine as we know it today. The impressive Gothic structure, designed by architect John T. Windram and built in conjunction with the University, has provided a functional and elegant home for the dental school ever since.

Although many parts of this respected landmark have been refurbished more than once over its history, the Evans Building Centennial Renaissance project will mark its largest transformation ever. Over the past year, earlier plans for changes in parts of the building were reevaluated in favor of pursuing this more comprehensive plan that will transform the space throughout. Celebrating the building’s 100-year birthday with style, it will bring this grand dame of dentistry fully into the 21st century, while preparing it to meet the needs of patients, students, faculty, and staff well into the future.
RESPECTING THE PAST/REFLECTING THE FUTURE

PRESERVING CHARACTER AND DETAILS
The Centennial Renaissance project will impact every floor of the Evans Building, changing and updating the use and flow of most areas, while fundamentally respecting its historic character (only the specialty clinics, renovated in recent years, will go untouched, along with the Main Clinic and a few administrative offices). The plan calls for preserving beloved architectural details, such as its grand staircase, original windows, and impressive façade adorned with its legendary gargoyles. The project’s primary components are the creation of a new preclinical lab and continuing education (CE) training center and a new, modern clinic, while a reimagined library space and abundant student use and faculty and staff areas will vastly improve the facilities as well.

Making these much-needed improvements to the Evans Building has been a top priority for Morton Amsterdam Dean Denis Kinane. Since joining Penn Dental Medicine, he has been focused on determining the best approach for making them a reality, culminating in the plans that are moving forward through the Centennial Renaissance project. “Our mission is to update this historic building so that it will support the highest-quality dental education for which Penn Dental has always been known and respected,” says Dean Kinane.

In addition to providing a state-of-the-art learning and teaching environment, the changes also will make a powerful impression on prospective students touring the dental school, a critical link in continuing to draw and retain the top admissions candidates.

Currently, the $34 million project is in the detail design phase, explains Jeff Fahnoe, Senior Director of Planning and Operations. Fahnoe is overseeing the many complex facets of the Centennial project, working closely with the Philadelphia-based architectural firm Ballinger, the project architects. A feasibility study and a schematic design have already been approved by the University’s Capital Advisory Group. If the detail design phase (expected to take nine months) continues on schedule, work on the project could start as early as fall 2015. “The project will be completed in multiple phases to ensure the School remains fully operational throughout the project,” says Fahnoe.

LOWER CONCOURSE:
STUDENT SPACES, HIGH-TECH LABS
Through the Centennial Renaissance project, the lower concourse of the Evans Building will be completely transformed with the key space being a new, cutting-edge preclinical lab and CE training center. This new lab will be positioned in the northeast portion of the concourse, the location of the current Paletz Clinic. The facility will feature fixed benches with ample room for table-top projects and up to 90 high-tech student workstations. Each workstation will have a retractable simulation unit, fully outfitted with dental equipment and designed to replicate the spatial dynamics of a clinical setting to reinforce correct positioning and posture. Each space will also have a computer monitor for instructional videos and streaming of live demonstrations. The plan for the lab focuses on pleasant lighting, ergonomic furnishings, high-tech equipment, and optimal flow. This space and its technology will also be used for hands-on continuing education programs.

“With a new preclinical lab, complemented by our state-of-the-art advanced simulation lab, we will truly be moving our preclinical education into the 21st century, which is vital,” says Dr. Margrit Maggio, Director of Preclinical Dentistry and Director of Advanced Simulation. “Our students are technically savvy, and they expect a high-tech learning environment.”

Completing the lower concourse will also include a new student lounge, study and meeting rooms, a lecture hall, the offices of Student Affairs and Academic Affairs, and other administrative offices, creating a floor fully devoted to student activities and student support.

“Our mission is to update this historic building so that it will support the highest-quality dental education for which Penn Dental has always been known and respected.”

DEAN DENIS KINANE
FIRST FLOOR: A NEW MODERN CLINIC
The centerpiece of the first floor will be a new modern clinic, situated to facilitate a direct, convenient path for patients from the registration area by the School’s entrance in the Robert Schattner Center. The 65- to 70-chair clinic will replace the much smaller Myers and Paletz general restorative clinics, and occupy the large southwest side of the first floor, which now includes administrative offices and the library.

The building’s original windows along Spruce Street and the west side of the building will bathe the clinic with natural light. Just as the changes to the lower concourse will create a floor for student activities, the first floor transformation will provide patients with an easily accessible, self-contained area of the building designed to bring them the best care experience possible. A new Dean’s/executive administration office wing will replace the old Myers Clinic, and a café for patients and the Penn Dental Medicine community will round out the floor plan.

“From the new clinic and preclinical lab to the new study and teaching spaces, the Centennial Renaissance project will create an entirely modern environment that recognizes the pedagogic and infrastructure needs of today’s technology-savvy students as well as state-of-the-art teaching and patient care technologies,” says Dr. Markus Blatz, Chairman of Preventive & Restorative Sciences. “It will bring our teaching environment, laboratories, and clinics to the most advanced level to prepare our students for the demands of an ever-changing profession, while giving our patients access to the highest-level patient care in a modern state-of-the-art clinical setting.”

SECOND & THIRD FLOORS: A REIMAGINED LIBRARY
Plans for the second and third floors create a dramatic two-story library space that will return the library to its original location on the second floor (currently the Sig Seigel Conference Room). An original, architecturally stunning two-story window will be the centerpiece of this new space. The reading and study areas on the third floor will overlook the library space below on three sides and the main staircase on the other.

In keeping with library trends, this reimagined library will contain far fewer books and many more digital resources, and will be open 24 hours a day to accommodate student schedules. This airy and welcoming library space will be supplemented with small, private study areas for groups of four to six students on the west wing of the third floor, which will also house a classroom and faculty and staff offices. A faculty office suite will occupy the previously renovated east wing of this floor, which will undergo minor changes as part of this project.

CLIMATE CONTROL
One significant part of this renovation project (accounting for approximately $10 million of the project budget) will not be seen, but it will be felt. The building’s antiquated HVAC system will receive a complete overhaul through the renovation, ensuring the maintenance of comfortable climate and temperature controls throughout all
four levels of the building. Funding this part of the project is being provided through the University’s Century Bond initiative — an interest-free loan program that is available for projects that reduce energy usage by introducing more efficient systems, which the new HVAC system will do.

The majority of the HVAC work will be completed in the first phase of the project, which also includes the new preclinical lab and CE training center and the advanced simulation lab in the lower concourse and all of the second and third floor renovations.

USHERING IN A NEW ERA
As the School prepares to begin the largest transformation in the history of its storied Evans Building, the Dean and administration look forward to ushering the building, and indeed the entire School, into a new era. With the support of the School’s alumni and friends, it is a time to celebrate not only the Building’s centennial, but also its infinite future potential.

“The Evans Building is a fantastic, historic structure,” says Dean Kinane. “As it celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2015, we are taking the steps needed to get it ready for the next 100 years.”

—By Juliana Delany

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES
Through the Evans Building Centennial Renaissance project, alumni and friends can invest in the future of Penn Dental Medicine and make a lasting tribute through the following naming opportunities. Leadership gifts totaling $8 million are already pledged toward this project’s $12 million fundraising goal.

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<td>Preclinical Lab/CE Training Center Naming (1)</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wet Lab (1)</td>
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<td>Teaching Station (1)</td>
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<td>Dental Mobile Units (75)</td>
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<th>ADVANCED DENTAL SIMULATION LAB</th>
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<th>LOWER CONCOURSE STUDENT FACILITIES</th>
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<td>Seminar Classrooms (4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operatories (70)</td>
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<td>X-Ray Rooms (4)</td>
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<td>Dean’s Office</td>
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<td>Executive Conference Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small Seminar Room</td>
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<td>Small Study Pods (4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study Carrels (10)</td>
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<td>Faculty Suite</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walkway from Robert Schattner Center (2)</td>
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For more information on these naming opportunities and on support of the Evans Building Centennial Renaissance project at all gift levels, contact Maren Gaughan, Associate Dean for Leadership Giving at 215-898-8952 or gaughan@dental.upenn.edu.
Dr. Dana Graves Honored for Periodontal Research

This year, the research of Dr. Dana Graves, Professor in the Department of Periodontics and Vice Dean for Scholarship and Research at Penn Dental Medicine, was recognized by the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) with its 2014 Distinguished Scientist Award in Basic Research in Periodontal Disease. The prize, supported by the Colgate-Palmolive Company, honors and encourages “outstanding achievements” in periodontal disease research.

With more than 150 published papers in peer-reviewed, high-level journals, Dr. Graves’ research has focused on inflammation, wound repair, and diabetes and their relationship to periodontal disease. Since 1984, his work has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health, and he is currently principal investigator on three R01 grants — Mechanisms for Impaired Diabetic Oral Wound Healing, Dendritic Cells and Periodontal Disease, and Diabetic Fracture Healing. Presently, Dr. Graves is also an associate editor of the IADR/AADR Journal of Dental Research.

Each year, the IADR presents 16 Distinguished Scientist Awards. One of the highest honors bestowed by IADR, each of the awards recognizes a career of distinguished accomplishments in research and development. This year’s awards were presented at the 92nd IADR General Session & Exhibition, held in Cape Town, South Africa, in June.

The IADR is a nonprofit organization with nearly 11,500 members dedicated to advancing knowledge to improve oral health, supporting oral health researchers, and facilitating the communication and application of research findings.

PAST RECIPIENTS

Along with Dr. Graves, the research activities of eight other current members of the Penn Dental Medicine faculty have been recognized with an IADR Distinguished Scientist Award at some point in their careers. Those past awards and recipients include the following:

2013 PULP BIOLOGY RESEARCH AWARD

Dr. Songtao Shi, Professor, Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology (see related story, page 2)

Dr. Shi’s research program focuses on the characterization of human mesenchymal stem cells and the relationship between mesenchymal stem cells and orofacial diseases at the molecule and cellular levels. Along with his collaborators, his lab has isolated and identified several new populations of mesenchymal stem cells, including dental pulp stem cells, stem cells from human exfoliated deciduous teeth, periodontal ligament stem cells, stem cells from apical papilla, and tendon stem/progenitor cells. These discoveries are enabling further investigations of these oral-tissue-derived stem cells and their use in tissue engineering, disease modeling, and clinical treatment. Dr. Shi has published more than 150 peer-reviewed articles in a variety of high-impact scientific journals, of which he served as the corresponding author in Nature Medicine, Cell Stem Cell, Lancet, Journal of Clinical Investigation, Nature Biotechnology, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences in the U.S.A, Cell Research, Blood, Journal of Bone and Mineral Research, Stem Cells, and Journal of Dental Research.
1.200,000 epinephrine (Septocaine 1:200,000), the transoral lidocaine patch (Dentipatch), and phentolamine mesylate (OraVerse). His most recent research has focused on the development of the novel opioid combination drug CL-108, which produces significantly less nausea than currently marketed opioids and a nasal spray delivery system of local anesthesia which “numbs” the maxillary teeth without the use of needles.

2006 YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD
Dr. Hyun (Michel) Koo, Professor, Department of Orthodontics
Dr. Koo’s research focuses on understanding the assembly principles and the virulence determinants of oral biofilms, as well as developing novel therapeutic approaches to prevent biofilm-dependent oral infectious diseases, such as dental caries. He is particularly interested in three major questions around the biofilm matrix — how the extracellular matrix assembles dynamically in 3D, how the matrix modulates the microenvironmental heterogeneity within biofilms, and how to disrupt the matrix-delineated microenvironments and/or target the pathogens embedded in the matrix.

2004 RESEARCH IN ORAL BIOLOGY AWARD
Dr. Carolyn Gibson, Professor, Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology
Dr. Gibson’s research has examined the regulation of dental enamel formation, by studying the in vivo function of proteins that are secreted by ameloblasts and direct the mineralization of dental enamel. She has cloned and characterized human, murine, and bovine amelogenin genes, and has analyzed expression and alternative splicing of amelogenin RNA. (While Dr. Gibson retired in December 2013, she continues to be active in research and teaching at Penn Dental Medicine.)
AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS
Dr. Elisabeth Barton, Associate Professor and Interim Chair, Dept. of Anatomy & Cell Biology, received the Basic Science Award from the Penn Dental Medicine Class of 2014, presented for excellence in teaching within the basic sciences.

RECENT GRANT AWARDS
Department of the Army grant to Associate Professor and Interim Chair, Dept. of Anatomy & Cell Biology, received the Basic Science Award from the Penn Dental Medicine Class of 2014, presented for excellence in teaching within the basic sciences.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS
Recently published work by department researchers (indicated in bold).


BIOCHEMISTRY
RECENT GRANT AWARDS
Multi-million dollar pharmaceutical-sponsored grant to express blood-clotting factors in lettuce chloroplasts and to evaluate (by oral delivery/capsules) bioencapsulated blood-clotting factors to block the development of toxic antibodies produced in hemophilia patients in response to injected clotting factors or to neutralize developed antibodies. Principal Investigator: Dr. Henry Daniell, Professor and Interim Chair

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS
Recently published work by department researchers (indicated in bold).


**Academic Update**


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**Endodontics**

**Selected Publications**

Recently published work by department researchers (indicated in bold).


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**Root Filling Patent**

Dr. Francis Mante, Professor, Dept. of Preventive & Restorative Sciences, and Dr. Syngcuk Kim, Professor, Dept. of Endodontics, in collaboration with Miri Kim, a visiting professor from the Department of Conservative Dentistry, Ulsan University, Asan Medical Center, Seoul, Korea were awarded U.S. Patent. No. 12/701,924, titled “Non-Biodegradable Endodontic Sealant Composition” for a new resin-based endodontic retrograde filling material. The material can be formulated as a two paste or powder-liquid system for retrograde root fillings.

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**Microbiology**

**AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS**

Jieun Shin, a postdoc in the lab of Dr. George Hajishengallis, Professor, Dept. of Microbiology, received a poster presentation award at the 5th International Conference on Osteoimmunology, held in Kos, Greece, in June, for her work on osteoclast differentiation by MFG-E8.

**Recent Grant Awards**

National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases grant to determine mechanisms of complement involvement in periodontitis and develop complement-targeted therapies in preclinical models of the disease.

Principal Investigator: Dr. George Hajishengallis, Professor

**Selected Publications**

Recently published work by department researchers (indicated in bold).


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**Manipulating Immune System**

A new study from the lab of Dr. George Hajishengallis, Professor, Dept. of Microbiology, has shown periodontal bacteria hamper the killing action of white blood cells while still allowing them to promote inflammation in the gums. See:

**ORAL MEDICINE**

Dr. Thomas Sollecito, Professor of Oral Medicine and Chair, and Dr. Eric Stoopler, Associate Professor of Oral Medicine, received the Golden Pen Award from the International College of Dentists (ICD), recognized for their work as editors of *Dental Clinics of North America Clinical Approaches to Oral Mucosal Disorders: Part I*. The Golden Pen is presented annually by the ICD to the editor of a publication that contains an article or series of articles of current importance to the dental profession. (See story, page 44, adapted from the book’s preface)

**AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Dr. Scott Odell (D’82),** Clinical Assistant Professor of Oral Medicine, received the Joseph L. T. Appleton Award from the Penn Dental Medicine Class of 2014, — presented to a part-time faculty member for excellence in clinical teaching.

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

Recently published work by department researchers (indicated in bold).


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**ORAL SURGERY/PHARMACOLOGY**

**AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Dr. Helen Giannakopoulos (GD’02),** Associate Professor of Oral Surgery, received the Earle Bank Hoyt Award from the Penn Dental Medicine Class of 2014, presented for excellence in teaching to a Penn Dental Medicine graduate who is a full-time junior faculty member.

**Dr. John W. Mooney** Clinical Associate Professor of Oral Surgery, was recognized by the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) with the Daniel M. Laskin Award for Outstanding Predoctoral Educator. The award is presented to educators who have exemplified the highest ideals of an educator, are respected by their peers in education, and have fostered excellent relationships between undergraduate faculty and students.

The School’s Department of Oral Surgery/Pharmacology has established The Joseph W. Foote Resident Mentoring Award in OMFS, commemorating Dr. Foote’s dedication to the mentoring and development of OMFS residents. The Department’s resident committee selected **Dr. David C. Stanton**, Associate Professor of Oral Surgery, as the first recipient.

**PROMOTIONS**

**Dr. Eric Granquist (M’07, GD’10, RES’10)** was promoted to the standing faculty as Assistant Professor of Oral Surgery. Dr. Granquist was also awarded the Faculty Educator Development Award (FEDA), presented jointly by the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons and the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Foundation. The FEDA awards are given to promising young oral surgeons who choose an academic career in the specialty.

**RECENT GRANT AWARDS**

University of Pennsylvania Diabetes Research Center pilot and feasibility grant studying NLRP3 inflammasome activation contributes to BRONJ pathogenesis in type 2 diabetes

Principal Investigators: Dr. Qunzhou Zhang, PhD, Senior Research Investigator, and Dr. Anh Le, Norman Vine Endowed Professor of Oral Rehabilitation and Chair

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

**Recently published work by department researchers (indicated in bold).**


DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jpain.2014.01.331.
NEW CLINIC DIRECTOR
Dr. Bruce Fisher (D’92, M’97, GD’00, RES’00) has been named the new Director of the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Clinic at Penn Dental Medicine, responsible for clinical operations. Dr. Fisher has been part of the faculty since 2009 as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Oral Surgery. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and a fellow of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS
Recently published work by department researchers (indicated in bold).


PATHOLOGY

RECENT GRANT AWARDS
National Institutes of Health grant to determine the role of G protein coupled receptor kinases on asthma using humanized mice. Principal Investigator: Dr. Hydar Ali, Professor

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS
Recently published work by department researchers (indicated in bold).


PERIODONTOLOGY

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS
Dr. Dana Graves, Professor, Dept. of Periodontics, received the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) 2014 Distinguished Scientist Award in Basic Research in Periodontal Disease (see story, page 13).

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS
Recently published work by department researchers (indicated in bold).

Dr. Panagiota Stathopoulou, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Periodontics, was recognized with the 2014 Educator Award for Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring in Periodontics by the American Academy of Periodontology

Dr. Arthur Steinberg, Clinical Professor of Periodontics, was elected National President of the Psi Omega Dental Fraternity for 2014-2015. He also serves as faculty advisor to the Penn Dental Medicine Zeta Chapter of the Fraternity.

Dr. Mark Synder, Clinical Associate Professor of Periodontics, was elected President of the Northeastern Society of Periodontists for 2015.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS
Recently published work by department researchers (indicated in bold).

Al-Sebaei MO, Daukss DM, Belkina AC, Kakar S, Wigner NA, Cusher D, Graves D, Einhorn T, Morgan E, Gerstenfeld LC. Role of fas and treg cells in fracture healing

Also see H Daniell under Biochemistry and DF Kinane under Periodontics, who also have joint appointments in the Dept. of Pathology.


“Our first priority always has been and always will be education — to educate our dental students in the best possible clinical, research, and teaching environment.”

DEAN DENIS KINANE
Q&A WITH DEAN DENIS KINANE ON THE SCHOOL’S STRATEGIC GOALS

ON JOINING PENN DENTAL MEDICINE as the Morton Amsterdam Dean in July 2009, Dean Denis Kinane quickly took up the task of defining a strategic plan and goals that would continue to move the School’s mission forward. Working in collaboration with faculty and staff, the result was a 10-year strategic plan (2010-2020) with seven overarching goals (see page 24) designed to advance the School’s mission “to educate predoctoral and graduate dental students in the highest quality clinical and research environment” while addressing the overall University’s strategic objectives.

With 2015 marking the midpoint of this 10-year plan, the Penn Dental Medicine Journal sat down for a conversation with Dean Kinane on some of the key priorities and outcomes over the past five years and his thoughts on the way ahead.

2015 will mark the midpoint of the School’s current 2010-2020 strategic plan; what have been the top priorities?

Our first priority always has been and always will be education — to educate our dental students in the best possible clinical, research, and teaching environment — this is our mission, and thus, our top priority. In support of that, our key priorities have been recruiting the very best faculty and continuing to improve the infrastructure of the School. These two things have been consistent through the last five years, and we have made important strides in both areas.

We have recruited nine accomplished standing faculty in both the basic and clinical sciences. And in terms of infrastructure, key projects included expanding the pediatric clinic this summer with the addition of six operatories (see story, page 7); renovating the Syngcuk Kim Endodontic Clinic in 2013 to be the best equipped endodontic clinic in the world; updating the swing clinic within the Schattner Center in 2013, which allowed the Paletz Clinic to move up from the Evans Building lower concourse to a much nicer space; creating the William
Cheung Advanced Dental Care Clinic in 2010 for our clinical honors program and advanced restorative cases; and within all the School’s clinics and faculty practices, we made the transition to electronic patient records, digital radiology, and this year, electric handpieces. In addition, patient flow and admissions were enhanced with the addition of the central registration area in 2010, conveniently at the School’s entrance. And in the Levy Building, over 3,700 square feet of research and research support space was added to the first floor in 2011 and 2012. While we have a lot more to do in terms of renovating Levy, laboratories are being refurbished as new recruits join us.

Looking ahead, improvements to the infrastructure of the School remain a top priority with much needed changes within the Evans Building to be addressed through the Evans Building Centennial Renaissance project (see story, page 8), planned to begin in 2015.

Why is this next priority — the Evans Building Centennial Renaissance project — so critical to the strategic goals and mission of the School? To continue to attract the best students and faculty, we need to ensure the quality of our facilities is consistent with the quality expected from an Ivy League dental school. While the specialty clinics within the Evans Building have all been renovated, problematic issues remain throughout the building — from the outdated preclinical lab to the 65-year-old HVAC system — these vital issues will be addressed fully with the Centennial Renaissance project.

In addition to new heating and ventilating systems for the building, this project will completely transform the lower concourse with a new preclinical lab, a new home for the advanced simulation lab, and much better student facilities. It also allows us to reposition the library into its original location of 1915, while making it a 21st-century library in the sense that we will utilize the space better for accessing media online and creating space for students and faculty to use as learning, research, and meeting places. We will also reposition faculty into appropriate offices and meeting rooms and reposition administrative offices to create space for a large modern clinic on the first floor.

While all-encompassing in many respects, the plan is efficient in creating a major transformation of the facility within an estimated time frame of just 18 to 24 months — a tremendously exciting aspect.

Share a bit more on the role faculty recruitment has played in support of the strategic goals? The types of faculty recruited and why? Penn is one of the top universities in the world with illustrious schools across disciplines, so as part of Penn, the dental school also needs to be stellar — with faculty producing high quality research and in demand in their own right for what they do. Having said that, we also have to bear in mind the educational and clinical goals of the School, and therefore, in terms of recruitment, we are attracting high quality clinicians as well as high quality researchers.

We are now regaining our proper place as one of the foremost dental research universities in the world. However, I want to stress that this has not been just about bringing in new people, but about bringing in people who have energized existing faculty with a different view and different approach to the strategic mission of the School.

The new faculty recruits are stellar players in the fields of scholarship and dentistry, and they have helped by collaboration and collegiality to enhance the excellence in everyone.

The collaboration across the basic science and clinical faculty is also increasing, and I think that is happening not only due to the collaborative nature of the new recruits, but also from a reawakening and reimaging of the collaborative possibilities within the existing faculty.

There has also been a lot more transparency at the Chair level with respect to School resources — where resources are generated and where they are spent. I think this has helped the clinical and basic science faculty to better understand each other, to bring them together, and to appreciate each other more. This is something we are continuing to build on and this is very rewarding.

What other collaborative initiatives have been implemented as part of the strategic goals? The unique nature of the Penn campus with all 12 schools within walking distance of each other provides tremendous opportunity for interdisciplinary research, teaching, and service, and we have taken advantage of that. For example, our dual-degree options with other Penn schools have grown to eight programs — our latest being a Masters in Health and Law, which was just established in September with Penn Law. We have also contributed to service across disciplines, merging with Penn Medicine in 2012 to offer dental services as part of its Sayre Health Center and with Penn Nursing in 2010 to provide dentistry to geriatrics at its LIFE Center, which is very exciting and rewarding. We also have some plans to work with Wharton on the delivery of education to our up-and-coming dentists who need to be trained better in the management of their staff and the business of dentistry.
What does Penn Dental need to do strategically to prepare graduates for dentistry today?

Our students are among the very best, and as such, have ambitions greater than the average dental student. A great percentage of our students go on to residency programs and many have ambitions to combine dentistry with law or business or engineering, which we have responded to with our growing dual-degree programs. We also have seen a big growth in the number of postgraduate students pursuing their master’s in oral biology along with their residency programs, and we expanded our academic offerings to include a PhD equivalent with the creation of our Doctor of Science in Dentistry program in 2011 — that has been extremely popular.

The School is still growing in the area of sponsored research — as you look to the future, how do you see the sources of research support shifting among government, industry, and private donors? The NIH federal funding is flat right now, and we are seeing a lot of changes in the profile of research portfolios across the University, particularly in medicine, where you see the changes in a larger scale. We have been somewhat protected by the fact that we have been recruiting high-quality faculty with established federal funding, and we also have been effective at improving the federal funding profile of our existing faculty. However in the future, we have to address the fact that federal funding is going to be more difficult to get and that we will have to focus on bringing in private monies from industry and donors and on being more entrepreneurial with our intellectual property.

Dr. Henry Daniell, one of our recent recruits who now represents the School in Penn’s Center for Innovation, is very experienced in this area and a tremendous resource for the School. He is a great role model for anyone considering taking inventions and ideas to industry and getting resources from industry to further their research. I think this will be very important for the future, and we are fortunate to not only have Dr. Daniell, but also other existing faculty who will collaborate on such efforts and who are also experienced in increasing research support by linking with private enterprise and industry through their inventions.

Enhanced technology resources have been part of a number of strategic initiatives over the past five years, and now the School is looking to increase online course development — tell me a bit about the goals and motivation for this latest initiative? Students today are learning in a completely different way from how we learned in the past. Social media has changed everything. Increasingly, students are finding new ways to learn and are learning at different times of the day and in different ways, so we need to look at the methodology and delivery platform of our classes. I believe the use of the internet and online educational media will continue to play a bigger part in delivering our educational mission. To this end, we recently recruited an educationalist from Penn’s Graduate School of Education to help move this forward (see story, page 40). He will be working with our faculty to explore flipping lectures from the traditional didactic to more online educational modules and helping students and faculty to take advantage of social media to improve interactions and the teaching experience. Another considerable technology investment has been in our Simodont advanced simulation units that use haptic technology; we acquired these units this past spring, and the plan is not only to conduct formal classes but also to have 24/7 access to them so students can develop motor skills and build their confidence and proficiency to help them when working on patients.

Over the past several years, the School’s Board of Overseers also has been growing and changing in its make up — how is this supporting the strategic plan/goals? The Board has been growing and evolving with added diversity on all levels. A lot of the people who have joined the Board are not traditional dentists, but are instead linked to industry and research arms of companies. In addition, we have advisory groups within the Board that have been very active in helping us with our research mission, our clinical mission, our diversity mission, and with the business of running the dental
school — they have helped enormously in these areas, and we also have had a lot of support in reaching out to alumni and other groups around the dental sphere. So we have been able to use our Board very effectively, and each of the Board members has not only been supportive of the School philanthropically, but also has been energetic and enthusiastic in providing their expertise, which has greatly enhanced our ability to perform our mission.

This July marked your five-year anniversary as Dean, what have you found to be the best part of this role?

Two things stand out. One is that the students are the very best part of the job in the sense that it is wonderful to see them developing from undergraduates to becoming skilled, hands-on dentists, who are able to deliver care to patients. I am very impressed with their skills and intellects as well as their professionalism and hard work. It is very rewarding to be part of their career development.

Going back to something I mentioned earlier, another thing that has been remarkably rewarding has been the way the basic science and clinical science faculty have come together and the way in which the entire School — faculty, staff, and students — are all working together on the mission of the School.

At the beginning, it took time to communicate the vision I had for the School and to create the strategic goals and processes that would get us to a very strong position. Now, I see everyone engaged in this strategic plan, and it is tremendously rewarding to see everyone adopting particular positions that will advance the School’s strategic goals and mission. It is uplifting to hear Department Chairs being concerned about the resources, advancing excellence, and engaging in improving the quality of education and the experience we are delivering to students. I see this throughout the School with faculty, staff, and students. My sense is that we have developed a different culture, a culture that will put us in a very good position to continue to be the very best school going forward into the next hundred years.

GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

This July marked your five-year anniversary as Dean, what have you found to be the best part of this role?

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STRATEGIC GOALS

1. PROMOTE INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS
   - Stabilize funding and identify resources required to support core mission and new strategic initiatives
   - Develop a budgeting process to increase transparency and ownership
   - Limit rate of tuition increases
   - Renovate selected facilities to support core mission and new strategic initiatives
   - Maintain commitment to diversity and humanistic culture
   - Energize fundraising and development programs
   - Engage alumni through targeted continuing education and development opportunities at the local, national, and international levels

2. PROMOTE HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
   - Offer a curriculum that prepares graduates in the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to begin the practice of general dentistry
   - Conduct a comprehensive curriculum review
   - Enhance and increase the use of technology in dental education
   - Increase and formalize research opportunities for students

3. CULTIVATE AND ENHANCE HIGH-QUALITY FACULTY AND STAFF
   - Enhance the faculty career development and mentoring programs
   - Develop academic-clinician track and rename CE track as clinical scholar
   - Recruit experienced researchers

4. SUPPORT STUDENTS WITH HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES
   - Recruit excellent students to predoctoral and advanced dental education programs
   - Maintain applicant pool and diversity of students consistent with the mission of the University of Pennsylvania
   - Maintain student financial aid support and investigate potential sources for new student funding
   - Investigate online modules and increased technology
   - Investigate and promote interprofessional education

5. DELIVER HIGHEST QUALITY OF PATIENT CARE
   - Establish Penn Dental Medicine as a center for clinical excellence
   - Increase use of technology, including digital patient records, digital radiography, and CAD CAM
   - Improve operational efficiency

6. ACHIEVE EMINENCE IN RESEARCH
   - Retain NIH funding and publication rates
   - Recruit experienced researchers
   - Increase collaboration within Penn Dental Medicine, with other University schools and external to Penn

7. ENGAGE WITH THE LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND GLOBAL COMMUNITIES
   - Raise the local, national, and international reputation of Penn Dental Medicine
   - Increase collaboration and visiting scholar programs
   - Encourage participation in CE, research presentations, and leadership roles in professional organizations
   - Continue international clinical/biological symposia at Penn and globally
WHILE THE Penn Dental Medicine community may know the School’s faculty by the courses they teach or the research they conduct, this Q&A faculty spotlight aims to get a bit more personal glimpse of them as individuals.

This issue, we talked with one of Penn Dental Medicine’s highly respected basic scientists — Dr. Gary Cohen, Professor, Department of Microbiology. Dr. Cohen has been part of the School’s faculty since 1967, when he joined the Department as Assistant Professor, advancing to Associate Professor in 1973, and to full Professor in 1980. From 1985 through 2013, he also served in the leadership role of Chairman of the Department of Microbiology.

What have you found most rewarding about being a member of the Penn faculty?
One of the most rewarding parts of being in the Penn community is the wealth of openness and collaboration — the sandbox concept so to speak where expertise and techniques are freely shared. An atmosphere of “play nice” pervades Penn’s professional schools, both within the schools and among them. I have found many great colleagues, collaborators, and cherished friends here. I would credit Penn’s dynamic and open intellectual atmosphere with encouraging my growth and success as an investigator. I believe the bargain struck with Penn is that they provide the opportunity, and if I do well, then we do well together.

The other great reward of my work here has been establishing a truly wonderful symbiotic scientific collaboration with Dr. Roselyn J. Eisenberg, of Penn’s Vet School. We created a unique, combined laboratory that allowed for a free flow of ideas, and built a working relationship based on the conviction that we were smarter as scientists working together than alone. As a team, we trained multiple PhDs and numerous postdocs and learned enormously from each of them. Our lab is extremely fortunate to have had an extraordinary number of talented and creative people grace our doorstep.

What do you view as your greatest professional accomplishment?
Starting to see the light! Our overriding question has been: How does the Herpes simplex virus get into a human cell to initiate infection? Four herpes proteins manipulate the cell’s membrane to meld with the virus membrane, allowing the insertion of the viral DNA into the host — the first step in infection with this multitalented virus. We asked what do the four proteins look like? What do they do? And how do they do it? We solved the three-dimensional structure of the key proteins, determined their function, and now have established a framework for the field as to how the proteins interact to cause membrane fusion. We have arrived at a place I never thought I would be — where we can now press the issue regarding the actual fusion process utilized by the virus.

What drew your interest to your particular field and what do you enjoy most about it?
I was drawn to microbiology and the study of infectious disease by a charismatic postdoctoral mentor, the book Rats, Lice and History by Hans Zinsser, absolute chance, and an understanding and encouraging wife. What I enjoy most about it is the freedom of thought; the association with smart, smart people; tackling challenging questions; and solving problems.

What advice from a mentor have you carried with you in your career?
Find out how good you are! Keep exploring.

Schools/degrees?
Brooklyn College (BS in Biology), which gave an ignorant “street kid” a start; the University of Vermont (PhD in Microbiology), which gave a guy with an interest in science a start; and Penn (Postdoctoral Fellow in Virology), which gave me a home to hone and develop my talents.

If you could have dinner with anyone, who would it be? And why?
A trio of three people — Lew Pizer (scientist), Isa Barnett (artist), and Joyce Carol Oates (author). Since two of the three diners are dead, this meeting would have to take place elsewhere, (although Oates might conjure up the other two); we would converse on how ideas are generated and why and how science intersects with the visual and written arts. Chasselas, please!

Hobbies?
Gardening, reading, and talking science.

Favorite vacation destination?
Switzerland — as a wise person said “when the cheese starts tasting good, it’s time to revisit Heidi-land.”

Best book you’ve read recently?
Carthage by Joyce Carol Oates.
APPLICATIONS TO Penn Dental Medicine flood the office of Assistant Dean for Admissions Olivia Sheridan (D’90, GD’92), many of which indicate a long-held desire to pursue dentistry as a career. Many applicants cite a good childhood dental experience or a family member who practices the profession as early career influencers. That so many people consider a career in dentistry early in life still astounds Dr. Sheridan.

“I came to dentistry as a second career,” she explains. “I was a goldsmith, and when I just happened to agree to help a dentist friend in his office, I learned how much I wanted more interaction with people and more opportunity to help others.” Inspired by that experience, Dr. Sheridan applied to and was accepted by Penn Dental Medicine, where even more opportunities to explore and participate in dentistry opened for her.

“I was lucky to come to Penn because I didn’t realize how big a profession dentistry is. Being here opened a lot of doors for me,” she says. “I had great mentors who showed me a world of possibilities.”

With her graduate degree earned, Dr. Sheridan joined Penn Dental Medicine’s faculty practice, where she still attends patients in general dentistry in the Bryn Mawr office. “But I had my eye on teaching,” she says. “I had such great teachers that I was inspired to not only practice dentistry, but also to teach others what I had learned and experienced.”

Dr. Sheridan joined the faculty in 2000 and is now an Associate Professor of Clinical Preventive and Restorative Sciences and Co-director of the Dental Auxiliary Utilization program, which offers students clinical experience with patients in all four years of dental school. As a Primary Care Unit Group Leader in the Main Clinic, Dr. Sheridan considers herself a mentor to students as they apply their classroom training to patient care.

“It’s a pretty intense program for the students, but it’s equally rewarding for them and for me,” she says. “Teaching is a marvelous way to learn. I can say that every day at Penn, I learn something, whether that be from a student, colleague, or patient. That intellectual energy is what keeps me here.”

With her 25th class reunion approaching this spring, Dr. Sheridan thinks about her own student experience compared to that of the newest class at Penn Dental Medicine. “This is a wonderful generation of students. They are diverse in many ways and involved in many activities, which makes learning at Penn a rich experience for everyone,” she says.

“In our accreditation site visit recently, that was one of the comments we heard most often: That Penn Dental’s student body is very diverse in both ethnicity and age,” she says.

Watching students embrace learning and then evolve into dentists has been a point of pride for Dr. Sheridan for 24 years. “I see them apply what they learn in clinical experiences and then, a few years after graduation, I get to see them again and observe their maturity in the field. When they start to surpass me, I feel a special sort of pride,” she says.

Her passion for practice, mentoring, and teaching melded when she also took on the responsibility for meeting with applicants as the School’s Assistant Dean for Admissions in 2007.
“Interest in Penn Dental Medicine is stronger than ever, and I am fortunate to travel to many areas of the country to meet with applicants,” she says. “I find them bright and engaging, and these candidates are of an exceptional quality.”

Equally interesting to Dr. Sheridan is the amount of alumni engagement that keeps the candidate pipeline full. The ADEA indicates that national interest in dental school has increased over the last two decades, on the average, by six percent each year. At Penn Dental Medicine, interest has remained high, resulting in approximately 2,300 applications annually.

“I can say that every day at Penn, I learn something, whether that be from a student, colleague, or patient.”

OLIVIA SHERIDAN, D’90, GD’92

“We know the alumni are out there promoting our school because there is not a week that goes by when I don’t get a call or a letter asking me to consider an applicant,” she says.

Between her responsibilities in treating patients, teaching and mentoring in class and on campus, and representing the School as she meets prospective students across the country, Dr. Sheridan has found the pace to be intense, but manageable.

“I can’t imagine doing anything else,” she says. “I might get more sleep if I did, but I couldn’t be happier.”

Lindsay Honzak
Building Young Alumni Programs

Penn Dental Medicine’s Office of Development & Alumni Relations welcomes Lindsay Honzak, who joined the development team in April 2014 as Assistant Director of Annual Giving. In this newly created position, Honzak is responsible for supporting the School’s annual giving fundraising efforts as well as alumni stewardship programs and events with a particular focus on young alumni.

Honzak brings nearly nine years of experience in development and marketing to this new role, most recently serving as Assistant Director of Development for the College of Health Professions & Social Work at Temple University.

Through the new young alumni initiative that Honzak is leading, she will be developing special programming and opportunities to engage young alumni regionally as well as at the School. A new gift society, the Young Benjamin Franklin Society (YBFS), geared toward alumni 1 to 14 years from graduation, is also being established. “The YBFS will acknowledge our young alumni leaders and enable them to become associates in Penn’s Benjamin Franklin Society, which forms the most critical base of support for the University,” says Honzak.

Honzak encourages young alumni to stay up-to-date on programs and events through a new section of the School’s website, www.dental.upenn.edu/youngalumni, and welcomes alumni to reach out to her at lhonzak@dental.upenn.edu.

“I couldn’t be more excited to be working with Penn Dental Medicine,” says Honzak. “We have some great things in store to help our amazing young alumni stick together to define the future of American dentistry.”

Dr. Morton Amsterdam Tribute

A memorial tribute was held for the late Dr. Morton Amsterdam (C’43, D’45), Professor Emeritus of Periodontics and Periodontal Prosthesis, on August 18, 2014, held as part of the School’s White Coat Ceremony. A reception as part of the tribute followed in the School’s D. Walter Cohen and Morton Amsterdam Periodontal Clinic.

LEFT: James, D’77, Linda and Sarah Amsterdam flank the portrait of the late Dr. Morton Amsterdam, C’43, D’45, in the D. Walter Cohen and Morton Amsterdam Periodontal Clinic at the memorial tribute.

RIGHT: Dr. D. Walter Cohen, C’47, D’50, and Dr. Joseph Fiorellini, Chair, Department of Periodontics, at the Dr. Morton Amsterdam memorial tribute.
Penn Dental Medicine welcomed back alumni May 16-18 for Alumni Weekend 2014 — the reunion year for classes ending in “4” and “9.” Save the date for Alumni Weekend 2015, May 15-17!

1 Myron Allukian (D’64) participated in the Alumni Parade and had some fun along the way!

2 Richard Kanter (’74), Steve Lieber (D’74, GD’76), and Ronald Pross (D’74) enjoy catching up at the Alumni Picnic.

3 Mulokozi Lugakingira (D’04) and Kos Lugakingira gearing up for the Alumni Parade.

4 Thomas Sollecito (D’89, GD’91) received Penn Dental Medicine Alumni Society’s highest recognition award — the Thomas Evans Achievement Award. Pictured with Dean Denis F. Kinane, Lee Durst (D’83), and Keith Libou (D’84).

5 The Class of 2004 celebrated their 10th Reunion with classmates and families at the Reunion Dinner.
6 Alumni gathered at the Robert Schattner Center for the kick-off celebration for the weekend.

7 & 10 Alumni tried out Penn Dental Medicine’s new advanced simulation units that use haptic technology, enabling students to work on a virtual tooth to simulate the “feel” what makes each layer unique using virtual instruments.

8 Penn Dental Medicine’s Dental Hygiene alumni at Alumni Weekend 2014.

9 Members of the Class of 1984 celebrated their 30th Reunion at Alumni Weekend.
Senior Farewell

On May 13, 2014, the graduating Class of 2014 celebrated their transition from students to alumni with members of the Penn Dental Medicine alumni, faculty, and friends at the 2014 Senior Farewell held at The Bellevue.

Scotland Tour

Dean Denis Kinane hosted a trip to his native Scotland with members of the Board of Overseers, family, and friends, June 2 – 8, 2014, visiting Glasgow, St. Andrews, and Edinburgh.

LEFT: A kilt fitting was one of the afternoon stops in Glasgow for the men on the trip.
RIGHT: David, D’83, and Michele Tarica tour Scotland with the Board of Overseers, family, and friends.

AAP

Dr. Ernesto Lee, Director of the Postdoctoral Periodontic Prosthesis Program, and current periodontics residents visited San Francisco to attend the 100th annual American Academy of Periodontology Conference, taking an afternoon out for a visit to an area vineyard.
Thank You for Your Support

THIS IS A VERY EXCITING TIME for Penn Dental Medicine. As you can see by the lead story in this issue, Penn Dental Medicine is on its way to a much-needed Evans Building Centennial Renaissance (see story, page 8). We chose Renaissance as it represents a transformative change and that is where we are headed.

For generations of students and faculty, the Evans Building has been the structure that best represents their time at Penn Dental Medicine. Unfortunately, time has taken a toll on some areas of the Evans Building. Many of you will remember the preclinical labs in the “dungeon.” Our vision is to transform the entire lower concourse into a student-focused space.

The project is in the detailed architectural design phase, and I want to publicly thank many of you who have contributed to the initial fundraising phase of the Evans Building Centennial Renaissance. Your gifts have enabled us to move the project forward. Within 2015, we will start construction! Look to the Penn Dental Medicine Journal and our web site to stay up to date as we progress. Though the building will be undergoing a tremendous change, we are making great efforts to keep its historic integrity and beauty, while incorporating the advances that will support our mission for many years to come.

CALLING ALL YOUNG ALUMNI
How do YOU know that you’re a Penn Dentist? We hope that all young alumni can answer this question, “You know you’re a Penn dentist when...” perhaps it was the friends you made for life, or that you left prepared to enter the world of dentistry. However you visualize your time at Penn Dental Medicine, we want to hear from you.

Penn Dental Medicine has created a new young alumni community that exists solely to bring you together with your fellow graduates, a network of our best and brightest encouraging and helping each other become and remain leaders in the field of dentistry. The call to action is simple: stay connected; attend events; be a class agent; volunteer; or consider teaching; and support Penn Dental Medicine. We hope you will stay involved. The Penn Dental Medicine network can be a tremendous resource throughout your career.

To all alumni and friends, thank you for your continued support and engagement.

Maren Gaughan
Associate Dean for Leadership Giving

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BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SOCIETY
The Benjamin Franklin Society is the University of Pennsylvania’s leadership unrestricted annual giving group. Members of the Benjamin Franklin Society form the most critical base of support for the University and serve as a powerful motivator for garnering greater participation. Through their vision and generosity, members of the Benjamin Franklin Society are an inspiration and example to others.

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- Clinical Research 25.7%
- Scholarship Support 14%
- Unrestricted (Annual Giving) 12.9%
- Graduate Programs 7.2%

*Funds raised in FY2014 total $4,327,337
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This list includes all donors who made tribute gifts of any amount to any Penn Dental Medicine fund in 2013-2014. For many, a gift to the School is more than just a financial contribution, it is a meaningful way to honor or remember someone special in their lives.

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This issue of the Honor Roll represents activity in Fiscal Year 2014 (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014). We have made every attempt to ensure the accuracy of this report. If your name has been omitted or misspelled, please accept our sincere apologies and notify the Penn Dental Medicine Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 215-898-8951.
“To stay at the leading edge of dental education, it’s important to adapt our teaching methods to new technological standards and digital platforms.”

DR. MARKUS BLATZ
THIS SUMMER, DR. KELLY JORDAN-SCUITTO, Professor and Chair of Pathology, helped pilot a new online testing program for students in her pathology course that allowed her to incorporate images right onto the computer screen, easily assess how well the class was learning the material, and provided students with almost immediate feedback on their performance.

The online testing program, ExamSoft, is just one of a number of new educational technology initiatives being implemented or explored to ensure Penn Dental Medicine continues to provide the best possible education and experience for students, while utilizing the latest educational methods, tools, and technology available.

“To stay at the leading edge of dental education, it’s important to adapt our teaching methods to new technological standards and digital platforms,” says Dr. Markus Blatz, Chair, Department of Preventive and Restorative Sciences, who last year was tapped by Dean Denis Kinane to spearhead the School’s online curriculum initiatives and serve as chair of an advisory committee on the topic. “Information is being delivered very differently than even five or 10 years ago,” says Dr. Blatz. “Traditional lectures and conventional textbooks have become less effective teaching tools these days when an abundance of up-to-date information is readily available with just a mouse click.”

Recorded lectures and tutorials, so-called flipped classrooms, and a full complement of mobile apps are all part of the new online learning initiative. This fall, as part of a pilot, all 120 freshmen were provided with iPads so they have a uniform platform to access all learning technology systems while at Penn Dental Medicine.

The Digital Impressions website accessible on the iPads currently has nine apps, including Canvas learning management system, MediaSite for online lectures and tutorials, ExamSoft for test-taking, and Browzine for academic journals.
TECHINITIATIVES

A NEW LEVEL OF COMMITMENT

Penn Dental Medicine has been incorporating new learning technologies into the curriculum for some years, but these recent efforts and people to support them mark a new level of commitment.

“It was clear from the start that we needed a dedicated team of experts to move in this direction more forcefully,” Dr. Blatz notes. Besides himself, Wu, and Mejia, the committee on online curriculum initiatives also includes Dr. Anh Le, Chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery/Pharmacology and Norman Vine Endowed Professor of Oral Rehabilitation; Dr. Helen Giannakopoulos, Associate Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery/Pharmacology; Dr. Frank Setzer, Assistant Professor of Endodontics; Dr. Syngcuk Kim, Interim Chair and Louis I. Grossman Professor, Department of Endodontics; and Jeff Fahnoe, Senior Director of Planning and Operations.

In addition to assessing and implementing the most promising technology initiatives, training faculty to make the best possible use of the new initiatives is critical. On-going training sessions as well as one-on-one support is available to help faculty make the best use of existing resources and choose the most appropriate tools for their teaching goals. They can access information about training and other efforts to support faculty in adopting new learning technologies through the Learning Technologies Community Site on Canvas. “We want to make it as easy as possible for faculty,” Mejia says.

There are many ways large and small in which online learning and technology can be incorporated into classes. Consider flipped classrooms, in which at least some of the traditional lecture content typically is provided online and faculty and students use class time to actively engage in small group discussions or learning activities. In this model, “students are not just sitting there taking notes,” Wu says. “This frees up time in class for collaboration and small group discussions. The instructor has more time to make sure there are better learning outcomes.”

Educational research supports the notion that there are positive outcomes “when students teach each other and learn from each other,” Wu adds.

Currently, two of the largest lectures halls at Penn Dental Medicine have cameras built in for recording lectures, but Mejia says they are getting more requests from faculty who want help producing short lessons and vignettes with higher production values and strong narratives. “A boring lecture doesn’t become more interesting just because it’s online,” Dr. Blatz notes.

The appeal of viewing lectures and other content online and on one’s own schedule is strong. Mejia said last year alone there were 70,000 views of recorded lectures, clinical procedures, instructional videos, and other materials through the MediaSite video content management system.

In addition to allowing for more specialized use of in-class time, teaching videos offer students more control over how they view the content — giving them the ability to speed up through some sections and rewind to go back over more challenging concepts. And because they now have the

“Everything we do is driven by wanting to support 21st-century learning for dentists.”

MARIA MEJIA
The analytics available from ExamSoft offer important feedback about how well students — individually and as a class — are learning certain topics. Test questions can be immediately validated and help discriminate between those who know the material and those who don’t. Questions that are not working well can be quickly dropped from the test. “Data is available instantaneously,” Dr. Kent says.

“Students are not just sitting there taking notes. This (flipped classrooms) frees up time in class for collaboration and small group discussions.”

CHIA-WEI WU

Dr. Kenneth Kent, Clinical Associate Professor of Restorative Dentistry and Director of Removable Prosthodontics, was an early proponent of online testing, piloting it last spring in the course Introduction to Clinical Dentistry and Removable Partial Dentures, and this fall in his Complete Dentures. “ExamSoft offers tremendous potential for comprehensive, meaningful evaluation of our students,” Dr. Kent says.

ability to track how students are viewing online content, Wu says faculty members can see which concepts or topics students are watching multiple times.

“It gives them insight into the behavior of students watching the video,” he notes, which, along with other data available, allows faculty members to tailor their curricula to better meet the learning needs of students.

Meanwhile, the pilot for ExamSoft will continue throughout this academic year for all freshmen and a few sophomore courses. Dr. Uri Hangorsky, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Director of the PASS Program, one of those instrumental in bringing the ExamSoft pilot to Penn Dental Medicine, said there are clear advantages so far.

ONLINE TESTING OFFERS MANY OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to including images and providing important analytic feedback to faculty about the performance of both students and tests, Dr. Hangorsky says the testing more closely mirrors the national licensing exams students will have to take. “Most licensing exams today are administered online, and we want our students to be prepared,” he notes. “This is the wave of the future.”

Faculty and students alike seem to be pleased with the online testing, Dr. Hangorsky says. And while there are some issues that need to be addressed, he says online testing “opens a plethora of opportunities a written test does not.”

Dr. Kenneth Kent, Clinical Associate Professor of Restorative Dentistry and Director of Removable Prosthodontics, was an early proponent of online testing, piloting it last spring in the course Introduction to Clinical Dentistry and Removable Partial Dentures, and this fall in his Complete Dentures. “ExamSoft offers tremendous potential for comprehensive, meaningful evaluation of our students,” Dr. Kent says.

In Blatz’s view, that translates into applying the best of both new technologies and established teaching methods. “In dentistry, success lies in delivering excellent direct patient care and interpersonal communication, so that will always remain a vital part of our students’ education,” says Blatz. “At the end of the day, I believe our curriculum will be a healthy blend of online teaching and traditional pedagogic methods.”

—By Debbie Goldberg
Oral Cavity a Window to Overall Health

Oral health and disease are intimately related to general health status. Clinicians understand that the oral cavity does not exist in isolation, but as an integral component of the human body. To think of the oral cavity as only consisting of teeth and supporting structures is to suggest that the intimate, bi-directional relationship of systemic and oral health does not exist. The oral cavity may be a potential source of inflammation or infection, which could have a significant impact on systemic health.

Moreover, the oral cavity often mirrors systemic health and may be the initial site of presentation of an underlying disease process. That disease may simply manifest in the oral cavity (i.e. localized oral lichen planus) or may include the oral cavity in its manifestation (i.e. glossitis related to malabsorption). The oral cavity may even provide a more accessible location for diagnosis of certain systemic conditions (i.e. Sjogren’s syndrome).

Lesions affecting the oral cavity usually have a similar clinical appearance and there is often no single characteristic that differentiates oral soft tissue diseases. This diagnostic dilemma often precludes appropriate diagnosis and management of local disease and delays investigation of a possible systemic etiology. A detailed medical evaluation is essential for all complaints related to the oral cavity and peri-oral structures. The medical evaluation should include the history of the present condition, the patient’s past medical and surgical history and any symptomatology that the patient may be experiencing. A family history is an important aspect of medical evaluation and may gain additional importance in patient care, as we now know that some oral conditions have a genetic predisposition. In the age of personalized medicine, it is only a matter of time before a genetic basis for oral disease diagnosis, accompanied by guidance for treatment, is routine in clinical practice. In addition, medication usage, documentation of allergies, and a social history are all critical components of a thorough medical evaluation.

When querying a patient about oral lesions, it is imperative for clinicians to understand if lesions developed recently or are of long-standing duration, the number of lesions present, if this is the first episode or if they recur, and if there are lesions elsewhere on the body. This will help categorize the disease process as being acute or chronic, single or multiple, primary or recurrent, or if the oral condition is a local manifestation of a systemic process, respectively.

In conjunction with developing a detailed history, it is important to perform an accurate and expanded physical examination, which should be viewed in the context of a regional examination. This must include thorough inspection and palpation of the dentition, supporting dental structures, oral mucosa, and tongue, as well as evaluation of the visible posterior tongue and oropharynx. Additional clinical information may be needed to aid in a differential diagnosis and is often obtained from examination of the cranial nerves, the temporomandibular joint system, facial skin (with particular attention to the peri-oral area), regional lymph nodes, thyroid gland, and the salivary glands.

It is from this wealth of information that the clinician will begin to formulate a differential diagnosis, which is, in part, based on prior fundamental knowledge and experience. It can be difficult to reach a final diagnosis without the use of definitive diagnostics and it is often necessary to order appropriate laboratory tests for comprehensive evaluation. These tests might include hematologic assays and/or obtaining samples of tissue or other specimens, for laboratory analysis, such as cultures/smears.

A “final” diagnosis may need to be modified by the clinician as the patient is being managed for the presumed disorder. For example, a patient may be placed on a medication known to modify a specific disease. If the patient has been on a treatment regimen and is unresponsive to therapy, a review of the differential diagnosis and final diagnosis is required. Sometimes it is during this clinical scenario that an underlying systemic condition is identified as the etiology of the disease manifesting locally in the oral cavity.

Understanding appropriate patient evaluation, formulating a differential diagnosis, obtaining adjunctive diagnostic testing, and rendering a final diagnosis are all expected of today’s modern dentist. It is of paramount importance to diagnose an oral condition which may save a patient’s life or may significantly decrease any disease-related morbidity. Following the diagnostic approach as outlined gives the clinician the greatest chance of accurately diagnosing oral disease. It is our hope that the oral cavity is considered a functional unit of the whole and as a window to overall health.
1980s

Marc B. Gainor (D’81) has been elected as General Chairman-Elect of the 2015 Greater New York Dental Meeting. He will be General Chairman for the 2016 and 2017 Greater New York Dental Meeting. Dr. Gainor practices general dentistry in midtown Manhattan. He is a Master of the Academy of General Dentistry and is a Fellow of the American College and International College of Dentists. Dr. Gainor is currently Secretary of the New York County Dental Society and joined the organization committee of the Greater New York Dental Meeting in 2010. He served for four years on the committee and has contributed tremendously to the educational programming and growth of the Meeting. The Greater New York Dental Meeting is the largest Dental Convention in the United States with over 54,000 attendees from all 50 states and 131 countries.

Keith Libou (D’84) was named Chief Clinical Officer for Delta Dental of New Jersey.

Eric Spieler (D’84) of Delaware County, Pa., was nominated by the Penn Dental Medicine Alumni Society to serve a three-year term as member-at-large of the Alumni Society Executive Committee, which began July 1, 2014.

Michael Shreck (D’84) received the Jeffrey Dalin, D.D.S., Give Kids A Smile Volunteer Award at the ADA 2014 meeting in San Antonio for his exemplary support of the Give Kids A Smile program.

1970s

Barry Wagenberg (D’72) received the Hirschfeld Award at the October 2013 meeting of the Northeastern Society of Periodontists. The award is presented to active members of the APP and is based on contributions to the advancement of periodontology through dental research; contributions to the advancement of periodontology through dental education; contributions to periodontal literature; and outstanding service to society.

After 40 years of solo practice in Vineland, N.J., William Dudley (D’73) retired in 2014. Dr. Dudley completed 28 years of active and reserve duty in the US Air Force and NJ AF National guard, retiring with the rank of Lt Col. Now living in Cape May, N.J., Dr. Dudley enjoys playing tennis, fishing, traveling, and volunteer work in his community. His son Dr. Scott Dudley (D’03) is practicing in Arlington, Va.

Congratulations to the members of the Penn Dental Medicine Class of 1974, who celebrated their 40th Reunion at Alumni Weekend 2014. Thank you to Howard Hopenwasser (D’74) for leading the class’s efforts! Thank you to the reunion committee for their efforts: Jay Neuschatz, Mark Snyder, Mike Rulnick, Ed Slade, Ronald Pross, and Walter Chinoy.

Congratulations to the members of the Penn Dental Medicine Class of 1979, who celebrated their 35th Reunion at Alumni Weekend 2014. Thank you to Saul Pressner (D’79) and Robert Weiner (D’79) for leading the class’s efforts!

Barry Wagenberg (D’72) received the Hirschfeld Award at the October 2013 meeting of the Northeastern Society of Periodontists. The award is presented to active members of the APP and is based on contributions to the advancement of periodontology through dental research; contributions to the advancement of periodontology through dental education; contributions to periodontal literature; and outstanding service to society.

John W. Burk (D’74) and his wife, Sue, enjoyed catching Pacific Salmon in British Columbia. Retired since 2006, John and Sue reside in Santa Barbara, Calif.


Congratulations to the members of the Penn Dental Medicine Class of 1979, who celebrated their 35th Reunion at Alumni Weekend 2014. Thank you to Saul Pressner (D’79) and Robert Weiner (D’79) for leading the class’s efforts!
Robert A. Levine (GD’84) and Philip L. Fava II (CGS’06, D’10) shared findings with colleagues at the International Team of Implantology’s (ITI) global event held recently in Geneva. The two doctors head Philadelphia’s Pennsylvania Center for Dental Implants and Periodontics. Dr. Levine and Dr. Fava were among 4,200 Participants from 84 countries to gather together for the International Team of Implantology’s (ITI) event, held every three years. The ITI World Symposium brings together international leaders in implantology to update treatment protocols based on highly studied, predictable, and evidence-based research and clinical experience.

Rosalie Chillemi Di Ferdinand (DH’85) received the 2014 Dental Hygiene Alumni Special Achievement Award presented by the Penn Dental Hygiene Alumni Association in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the growth and development of the profession of dental hygiene.

Eric R. Carlson (D’85) received the AAOMS Presidential Achievement Award on September 10, 2014 during the opening ceremony of the 96th Annual Meeting, Scientific Sessions and Exhibition of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) in Honolulu, Hawaii. The award is presented in recognition of Dr. Carlson’s significant long-standing contributions to the specialty of oral and maxillofacial surgery. Dr. Carlson is currently professor and Kelly L. Krahwinkel Chairman of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and director of the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency Program at the University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine. He is also chief, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, at the University of Tennessee Medical Center and the University of Tennessee Cancer Institute.

Alisa G. Kauffman (D’85) was named one of the Top 25 Women in Dentistry by Dental Products Report. The awards program honors dental professionals and industry executives and leaders. All honorees were profiled in the September issue of Dental Products Report. Dr. Kauffman has a private practice in New York City focused on Geriatric Dentistry. A native Philadelphian, Dr. Kauffman serves as Clinical Director for the Penn Dental Faculty Practices. She also maintains her position as Clinical Assistant Professor in Community Oral Health at Penn Dental Medicine.

1990s

Wendy Halpern (D’99 GD’02, GD’03) of Montgomery County, Pa., was nominated by the Penn Dental Medicine Alumni Society to serve a three-year term as member-at-large of the Alumni Society Executive Committee, which began July 1, 2014.

Eric Stoopler (D’99, GD’02) — see Class Note under the 1960s with Myron Allukian (D’64).

2000s

Alpha Omega Beta Chapter would like to congratulate the AO Class of 2014, Jamie Lazin, Zach Korwin, Haim Tawil, Alex Drew, Ben Keyser, Seth Greenberg, Everett Lin, Gabe Strauss and Isaac Kuyunov. Best of luck, guys! We are looking to reach out to our alumni, please contact our Alumni Relations Chair, Allie Brand at dental.ao@gmail.com to reconnect.

2010s

Alyssa Marlin Greenberg (D’02) of Tampa, Fla., was nominated by the Penn Dental Medicine Alumni Society to serve a three-year term as member-at-large of the Alumni Society Executive Committee beginning July 1, 2014.

Congratulations to the members of the Penn Dental Medicine Class of 2004, who celebrated their 10th Reunion with over 25 classmates at Alumni Weekend 2014. Thank you to Ann-Colter Hosch (D’04) and Caroline Berman (D’04) for all of their efforts!

Philip L. Fava II (CGS’06, D’10) — see Class Note under the 1980s section with Robert Levine (GD’84).

Daniel Tibbetts (D’11) of Delaware County, Pa., was nominated by the Penn Dental Medicine Alumni Society to serve a three-year term as member-at-large of the Alumni Society Executive Committee beginning July 1, 2014.

Seyar Baqi (D’14) and Trevan Samp (D’14) were nominated by the Penn Dental Medicine Alumni Society to serve as members-at-large of the Alumni Society Executive Committee in recognition of their service as the Class President and Executive Student Council President, respectively, and interest in continuing to engage young alumni.

Seyar Baqi (D’14) and Trevan Samp (D’14) were nominated by the Penn Dental Medicine Alumni Society to serve as members-at-large of the Alumni Society Executive Committee in recognition of their service as the Class President and Executive Student Council President, respectively, and interest in continuing to engage young alumni.

Eric Wu (D’00) and his wife Lisa welcomed a baby boy, Preston Jax Wu, born on August 10, 2014, at 9lbs. 

Alyssa Marlin Greenberg (D’02) of Tampa, Fla., was nominated by the Penn Dental Medicine Alumni Society to serve a three-year term as member-at-large of the Alumni Society Executive Committee beginning July 1, 2014.

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Eric Wu (D’00) and his wife Lisa welcomed a baby boy, Preston Jax Wu, born on August 10, 2014, at 9lbs.
Colleen E. O’Neill, (D’14) and Michael D. Segall, (D’12) were married on May 25, 2014 in Hershey, Pa. Both the bride and groom are currently employed by the US Army Dental Corps and stationed in San Antonio, Texas. Michael is currently in an orthodontic residency at Lackland AFB and Colleen is serving as a general dentist at Fort Sam Houston.

Groomsmen: Jeffrey Li, (D’12), Alexander Volchonok, (D’12), Matthew Sones, (D’12). Also in attendance: Sonia Rahangdale, (D’12), Alexander Apple, (D’12), Yaniv Harel, (D’14), John B. Peterman III, (D’14), Marla Martinez, (D’14), and Robert Segall, (D’74).

Congratulations to the following members of the Class of 2014, who were inducted into Penn Dental Medicine’s Eta Chapter of the Omicron Kappa Upsilon National Dental Honor Society at the class’s Senior Farewell in May: Maryam Akbari, Seyar A. Baqi, I-Fang Chen, Milda Chmieliauskaite, Erica Damante, Jyoti Dangi, Nicole Longosz Deakins, Neeti Vivek Desai, Joshua Griffith Duffy, Natalie Anne Laucius, Christine Mary Martin, Ramon E. Morales-Abreu, Deepa Ramasamy, Trevan Dane Samp, Anthony M. Sconzo, Payal Verma, Katharine Laura Woehling, and Hang Zhou.
Dr. Morton Amsterdam (C’43, D’45), who died June 27, 2014 at the age of 92, is fondly remembered by the Penn Dental Medicine community as an example of excellence in clinical dentistry. Recognized by many as “the father of periodontal prosthesis,” he had a far-reaching impact on the fields of periodontics and advanced restorative dentistry. Professor Emeritus of Periodontics and Periodontal Prosthesis in Penn Dental Medicine’s Department of Periodontics, Dr. Amsterdam was an exceptional innovator, educator, and clinician, who helped to establish a legacy of leadership for Penn periodontics and periodontal prosthetics. He first joined the Penn faculty in 1953, advancing through the ranks to Professor of Periodontics and Periodontal Prosthesis and serving in that position from 1967 through his retirement in 1992. Dr. Amsterdam served as Chairman of the Department of Prosthetic Dentistry within the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Medicine from 1963 to 1967 and was Director of Penn Dental Medicine’s Graduate Periodontics and Periodontal Prosthesis from 1969 through 1973.

Penn Dental Medicine paid tribute to Dr. Amsterdam’s innumerable contributions to the School and periodontics with the naming of the D. Walter Cohen and Morton Amsterdam Periodontal Clinic in his honor, dedicated in January 2008. And in 2004, the deanship of Penn Dental Medicine was designated the Morton Amsterdam Deanship, endowed through a gift given by the late Hon. Walter H. Annenberg in honor of Dr. Amsterdam.

Penn Dental Medicine has established a scholarship fund in memory of Dr. Amsterdam; contributions can be made to: The Morton Amsterdam Scholarship Fund, Penn Dental Medicine, Office of Development & Alumni Relations, 240 S. 40th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6030.

The Department of Periodontics also invites alumni and friends of Dr. Amsterdam to write a note describing the influence that Dr. Amsterdam had on their lives. Please submit letters to: Joan Mitchell, 2900 Queen Lane, Philadelphia, PA, 19129, joan.mitchell@drexelmed.edu. These letters will be assembled in a book that will be presented to the Amsterdam family on June 13 as part of The Penn Esthetics Symposium at Penn Dental Medicine, when the day’s program will celebrate the memory of Dr. Amsterdam.

Helen H. Oppenheimer, (DH’35)
Naples, FL; March 7, 2014

James Jay, (D’40)
Monmouth Beach, NJ; December 1, 2013

Lois Weising Dudko, (DH’41)
Stratford, CT; August 2, 2014

Mary Ingle Evans, (DH’42)
Farmington, CT; February 4, 2014

Barnet M. Levy, (C’38, D’42)
Englewood, NJ; March 7, 2014

Shirley Beit Redish, (DH’42)
Charlestown, RI; April 24, 2014

Robert E. Brenner, (C’42, D’43)
Wesley Chapel, FL; August 12, 2014

Edward D. Blackman, Jr., (D’44)
Mount Laurel, NJ; May 2, 2014

Elinore C. Rochefort, (DH’44)
San Diego, CA; April 4, 2014

Morton Amsterdam, (D’45)
Bala Cynwyd, PA; June 27, 2014

Jerome C. Gorson, (D’45)
Bala Cynwyd, PA; April 24, 2014

Harold L. Brown, (D’49, GD’51)
Fort Myers, FL; July 17, 2014

James C. Weig, (D’49)
Rochester, NY; April 23, 2014

Emil O. Rosenast, Jr., (D’50)
Reading, PA; February 11, 2013

Richard T. Sanborn, (D’50)
Venice, FL; May 23, 2014

Natalie O. Edwards, (DH’51)
Vero Beach, FL; March 16, 2014

Yvonne O. Jones, (D’51)
Springfield, MA; April 1, 2014

Reuben E. V. Miller, (D’52)
Easton, PA; June 25, 2014

Edmund F. Ackell, (GD’55)
Henrico, VA; May 16, 2014

Calef E. Heininger, (D’55)
Colchester, VT; June 2, 2014

William C. Piarulle, (D’55, GD’57)
Rochester, NY; February 11, 2014

Frances B. Glenn, (D’56)
Vero Beach, FL; May 3, 2014

Frederick C. Leiser, (GD’56)
Polk City, FL; July 23, 2014

Earl M. Barnhart, (D’57)
Carlisle, PA; June 6, 2014

Erwin A. Weiss, (D’57)
Lake Worth, FL; August 1, 2014

Dolores Costarella (DH’58)
Chambersburg, PA; April 20, 2014

Stanley R. Masten, (D’58)
Lake Mary, FL; July 24, 2014

John Thayer, (D’59)
Rutland, MA; June 28, 2014

Richard C. Deming, (D’60)
Plant City, FL; March 9, 2013

Donald E. McConnell, (D’60)
Downingtown, PA; March 14, 2014

Michael J. Carnicelli, (D’63)
Flushing, NY; July 13, 2014

Stuart J. Conto, (D’63)
Southbury, CT; August 17, 2014

Oscar A. Thompson, (GD’63)
Irving, TX; June 20, 2014

Manuel H. Marks, (GED’65)
December 14, 2013

Alan S. Cutler, (GD’69)
Cherry Hill, NJ; June 15, 2014

William Ian R. Davies (G’69; GD’69)
July 24, 2014

Craig M. Buccialia, (D’85)
Greensburg, PA; April 10, 2013

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The University of Pennsylvania values diversity and seeks talented students, faculty and staff from diverse backgrounds. The University of Pennsylvania does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, creed, national or ethnic origin, citizenship status, age, disability, veteran status or any other legally protected class status in the administration of its admissions, financial aid, educational or athletic programs, or other University-administered programs or in its employment practices. Questions or complaints regarding this policy should be directed to the Executive Director of the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Programs, Sansom Place East, 3600 Chestnut Street, Suite 228, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6106; or (215) 898-6993 (Voice) or (215) 898-7803 (TDD).
May 15-17, 2015

RETURN TO PENN DENTAL MEDICINE FOR ALUMNI WEEKEND 2015 AND REUNIONS FOR CLASSES ENDING IN "0" AND "5"!

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