Philanthropy

THE WORLD DENTAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION LTD., HONG KONG

The new William W.M. Cheung Advanced Dental Care Clinic, a state-of-the-art facility designed to manage advanced cases in restorative and esthetic dentistry, was made possible through a gift from The World Dental Education Foundation, Ltd., Hong Kong. Located on the third floor of the Robert Schattner Center, it features 15 operatories. Pictured: Dr. William Cheung (D’81, GD’82), right, head of the Foundation and Chairman of the Penn Dental Medicine Board of Overseers; Dr. Denis Kinane, Morton Amsterdam Dean, center; and Stefani Cheung (D’11), left, who is completing an honors program in the clinic.

“I was excited when Dean Kinane shared with me his intention to create this type of facility and honored to help make it a reality,” says Dr. William Cheung (D’81, GD’82), head of the Foundation and Chairman of the Penn Dental Medicine Board of Overseers.

Located on the third floor of the School’s Robert Schattner Center, the new clinic features 15 operatories, outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment and technology. Also supporting the project with equipment donations for the clinic is A-dec, Benco, Carestream Dental, DentalEZ, Kerr Corporation, and Midmark Corporation. The new facility opened for patient care in November 2010.

“We needed a forum and facility for elevated cases that teach our students the very high end of esthetic and restorative care and that is what we will now have with this new clinic. It will also tie in to our CAD/CAM and Ceramic Center,” says Dr. Markus Blatz, Chairman of the Department of Preventive and Restorative Sciences, who oversees the clinic with Dr. Najeed Saleh, Clinical Professor of Restorative
Dentistry. "We have the technology in the Center to create the highest quality ceramic restorations, and with this new clinic, we now have an environment equipped to apply that state-of-the-art work through a state-of-the-art clinical setting."

Patients are being referred to the Advanced Dental Care Clinic from the other general restorative and specialty clinics within the School, and Dr. Blatz notes that there will also be cases selected from the clinic that will be used for teaching showcases in conjunction with the CAD/CAM Center. Plans call for all DMD students to have a required rotation through the Clinic, so all students gain exposure to the advanced cases that will be handled there. In addition, the Clinic houses the School’s clinical honors program; this new competitive honors program, launched this academic year, is open to qualifying fourth-year students, who will complete advanced case requirements within the Clinic.

“It is a natural fit for our new clinical honors program — those students who are strong clinically and who are going above and beyond their required dental education and really want to participate in more clinical training,” says Dr. Saleh, who also oversees the clinical honors program. “Yet, the Clinic will be a valuable learning resource for all of our students.”

The first group of clinical honors students started working in the clinic since soon after its opening. “The new Advanced Dental Care Clinic gives us, as students, and our patients an all-new perspective on the standard of dental care provided at Penn Dental Medicine. My patients walk into the clinic and are quick to comment on the new facilities, the soothing environment, and the feeling of privacy that makes them feel like they’re getting VIP treatment,” says Stefani Cheung (D’11). “As part of the Clinical Honors Program, I’ve enjoyed the opportunity to undertake more complex cases, to be mentored by some of the best faculty in the School, and to work with cutting edge technology and materials,” she adds. “This clinic demonstrates that integrating all the resources available at Penn Dental Medicine can greatly improve comprehensive care of our patients. I feel privileged to be a part of the inaugural group of students in this new clinic.”

“‘It’s so beneficial to be able to work with so many different treatment philosophies, and to gain experience and the confidence to handle complex cases.’

—Victoria Seto (D’11), clinical honors student

Looking to the future, Dr. Cheung notes the new Clinic could also accommodate students and residents from other departments and specialties, visiting scholars and exchange faculty from other institutions who are here for advanced training, and potentially be utilized for a future residency program.”