



# Good Impressions

Newsletter of the Faculty of Dentistry

As we catapult towards the end of 1999, the Faculty of Dentistry at UBC would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours the very best in the New Year, Century, and Millenium. We look forward to working with and hearing from you to create an ever-strengthening environment for students and alumni.

## WebCT THE NEW EDUCATIONAL WAVE

Web Course Tools, more commonly known as WebCT is a UBC developed product which is leading the way in educational change. WebCT is a tool that facilitates the creation of sophisticated World Wide Web-based educational environments. It can be used to create entire on-line courses, or to simply publish materials that supplement existing courses. Courses which use WebCT can be accessed from anywhere a network-connected computer is available. This easy accessibility is especially important for students who can access their course materials independently and on their own schedule.

A course developed using WebCT is organized around one main homepage. This homepage is the entry point for the course and can contain, among other things, a banner image, a textual message, a message of the day, links to course content elements (ie notes and assignments), links to course tools, and links to supplementary home pages. Lectures, quizzes, assignments, notes, and course timelines can all be offered via the web. There can also be interactive components to the course that would allow students to communicate with one another and with the course instructor.

The Faculty of Dentistry is offering several courses via the WebCT format, including, Dent430, Dental Epidemiology, Endodontics 430 and Oral Surgery. The ability to offer such courses fits well with the new Problem Based Learning Curriculum and electronic strategy of the Faculty, and certainly works well for the electronically savvy student that now comes into the Faculty.

To date roughly 500 installations of WeCT have occurred for testing and use at institutions around the world. The UBC WebCT server houses approximately 140 courses across campus. The number of total and UBC installations grows daily. There are still many new areas, which need to be explored with WebCT and many things which require improvement. However, as we move toward the new millenium it is very exciting to know that at UBC, the future is happening now.

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# DEAN'S NIGHTS A CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE



On September 7<sup>th</sup> and November 2<sup>nd</sup> of 1999, the Faculty of Dentistry at UBC took the opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of the students enrolled in its programs.

September 7<sup>th</sup> was Dean's Night for the Undergraduate students. The event, which was sponsored by Dentsply, was an upbeat, festive evening that was highlighted by the presentation of the undergraduate awards to their deserving winners. In addition the CDA/Dentsply Student Clinician Research Competition was held, giving students an opportunity to showcase various research projects they had completed.

Just under \$30,000 in scholarships and bursaries were awarded to students at this event. Approximately 250 students, faculty and special guests were in attendance, and a great time was had by all.

November 2<sup>nd</sup> marked the event for Graduate Students of the Faculty. This event is a more intimate affair, with approximately 50 people in attendance. Approximately \$50,000 in Fellowships and Bursaries were awarded to students at this event. The event offered a wonderful opportunity for graduate students, faculty and special guest to mingle and celebrate the many accomplishments of the Faculty. A special thanks to John and Vicki Koulouris for organizing and hosting the event in their restaurant.



# ALUMNI IMPRESSIONS

## UBC ALUMNUS BECOMES CDA PRESIDENT

UBC Dental Alumnus and Vancouver Endodontist, Dr. John Diggins has assumed the office of president of the Canadian Dental Association. Dr. Diggins received his dental degree from UBC in 1972. He is a past-president of the College of Dental Surgeons of British Columbia and a past-president of the UBC Alumni Association. He currently chairs the board of Green College at UBC and sits on the board of Green institutions at Oxford and Dallas, Texas.



*Photo by David Thomson,  
UBC Alumni Association President  
Linda Thorstadt presents award to  
Dr. David Sweet*

## THANKS!

Many thanks to all the alumni and students who came out to help with the phone a thon! And thanks to all alumni who continue to support the Dental School with their generous donations. If you have not yet made your donation for the year, please respond when you receive your call or letter. This year the priority projects for dentistry are the purchase of more nickel titanium micro mega slow speed handpieces for endodontics, and computer equipment for the specialty clinic. Dental hygiene's priority project is the Darlene J Thomas Memorial Scholarship Fund.

## ALUMNI RECEPTION JOIN THE FUN!

Once again the UBC Faculty of Dentistry will be sponsoring a reception for all UBC Dental Alumni at the Pacific Dental Conference/Canadian Dental Association meeting. The reception will take place on Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> from 5 - 8 pm in the Crystal Ballroom at the Pan Pacific Hotel.

More than 300 alumni have attended this event each of the past few years. It is a great opportunity to meet and mingle with your classmates and renew old friendships. This year we will celebrate the anniversaries of the Classes of 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990 and 1995 for both Dentistry and Dental Hygiene. Class pictures will be taken of all the anniversary classes. If you are a member of an anniversary class and are will to be your class's representative to contact class members and perhaps organize a reunion, please contact Deb Feduik at 822-6886.

## ALUMNI DAY RESCHEDULED

Due to low enrollment and other conflicting factors, Alumni Day, which was scheduled to take place on October 16, 1999, has been rescheduled for June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2000. This day promises to be a very enjoyable, interactive CDE event and an opportunity for alumni to meet each other and renew old friendships. More information will be sent out in the spring- Mark your Calendar!

Many of our students take the opportunity to have an international experience. These pages provide a sample of things they see.

# UBC DENTAL STUDENTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Dental Students from China visit UBC.  
Dr. Shah



Dentistry in Benin Africa

Cindee Dupuis and Joey Dahlstrom are both 4<sup>th</sup> year Dentistry students at UBC. This article describes their 'dental' adventure in Africa this summer.

by, Cindee Dupuis and Joey Dahlstrom

This past summer we had the opportunity to visit the West African country of Benin, which lies to the west of Nigeria. Although the population is the same as British Columbia, this French-speaking country is

slightly smaller than Vancouver Island. As expected, the climate is hot and humid, especially in the south. Virtually all food and other goods are imported due to the lack of productive natural resources – although the mangoes and pineapple were divine!

We initially became interested in volunteering abroad during a lecturer's description of a similar trip. After searching the Internet for dental volunteer organizations, we decided to go with the Christian Medical and Dental Society of the U.S.A. This was a combined medical and dental venture to Benin that included physi-

cians, nurses, and an oral surgeon. We were the sole Canadians with this primarily southern, U.S. team. Prison Fellowship International organized the mission that involved visiting six out of the seven prisons in Benin. We were the only health care team to ever visit these prisons,

so you can imagine the level of hygiene that we encountered.

During our two-week stay, we worked from dawn until dusk, each extracting on average twenty teeth per day. Due to the lack of instruments and the twenty-minute delay for cold sterilization, we were only allowed the use of a single instrument per patient! When surgical



2nd year student Scott Pentecost saw dentistry in the streets during his recent trip to India



removal was required, we used small battery - powered slow speed handpiece. Our lawn chair “operatories” included an interpreter who also supplied the light source via a hand-held flashlight. Since there was no suction, we used buckets as spittoons and a limited supply of gauze. The flies came in droves!

The conditions within the prisons were appalling. The number of occupants ranged from 200 - 1500 depending on the prison. Almost all of these prisons were severely overcrowded to more than twice the building capacity. The prisoners were locked up from 6 PM to 6 AM in a one hundred square foot cell usually with well over a hundred occupants inside. In order to sleep, the prisoners had two-hour shifts of lying on their side, head to toe. This arrangement allowed the remaining occupants to stand against the walls. We found it interesting that there was no segregation within the prison

based on crime committed. Those people who had committed a petty crime were there alongside those who had committed more serious crimes. Often, the prisoners would await their trial for several years, only to be found not guilty or given a jail sentence for much less time than they had already spent within the prison.



The main prison at Cotonou had a maximum-security section where inmates, if they were fortunate, were allowed out of their cells once each week.

The people we saw both in and out of the prisons were some of the friendliest and most appreciative patients we have treated yet. The Beninese culture places an emphasis on social interaction and interpersonal relationships rather than upon material possessions and strict time schedules. Everywhere we went on our journey we were welcomed with genuine hospitality by a people happy, despite their poverty.

Our trip to Benin would not have been possible without the generous support of the S. Wah Leung Fund, CMDS Canada, and our families.



# RESEARCH IMPRESSIONS



## CHRISTOPHER OVERALL

### DISCOVERING THE DISEASE PROCESS

Chris Overall entered the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Adelaide because he thought that dentistry would make a satisfying career- that and he was good with his hands. Little did he know that this decision would lead him halfway around the world and into a research career that would give him international recognition.

Dr. Overall had never really considered a career in science until one of his professors in third year asked him what he intended to do with his life. Upon receiving the response that Overall intended to practice dentistry, Professor John Thonard replied 'No you're not- you are going to be a scientist'. Professor Thonard then offered him a position as a research assistant over the summer, and the rest- as they say- is history.

Upon conclusion of his B.D.S., Overall completed an Honours degree in Immunology while spending some time doing private practice. Still unsure what the future held, he went travelling for a year- climbing mountains in Asia, touring Europe on a bicycle and using public transport to see what was left. He then decided that he would do a Masters Degree in Periodontics, and pursue a career that would combine research and private practice. After completion of his M.D.S. in 1985, Overall decided that he would travel again, and then work overseas to improve his research skills and return home to Australia to settle into a career. However, when he heard the news that he had received an MRC Fellowship, and could delay starting his research at the University of Toronto, he couldn't resist travelling for a few months longer!

At the University of Toronto, Overall did his research in Dr. Jaro Sodek's lab, as part of the

MRC Group in Periodontal Physiology, one of the pre-eminent labs in the world in the area of Perio-Biological Research. In 1987, Overall was awarded first place in the Postdoctoral Category for the Edward H. Hatton Award, I.A.D.R., in recognition of the scholarly excellence and the effective presentation of his first scientific paper read before an annual meeting of the Association. After this honor, Overall decided to pursue a Ph.D. and continued working with the MRC Group in Periodontal Physiology until 1989, when he came to UBC to do post-doctoral work with Nobel Prize winner Dr. Michael Smith, as an MRC Centennial Fellow.

In 1993, Overall's lab in the JB Macdonald building finally opened. His work in determining how enzymes break down cell membranes and cause a variety of diseases from arthritis to cancer is well known in the international biochemical research community. His work has provided many insights into how various enzymes, called matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs), affect cell function and contribute to disease. He and his team of graduate students and research technicians study the biochemical pathways that MMPs use, and how cells react. Once the knowledge of the process of cell / MMP interaction is well defined and documented, then ways of interfering with the process and blocking the development of disease can be determined.

Chris Overall is one of the promising young scientists that UBC is proud to have as part of their team as we move into the next millenium. His list of awards and honors is many pages long and is a testament to the quality of his work, and his dedication to his field. He and his peers bring the promise of excellence to UBC's future.

# FACULTY IMPRESSIONS



## DR. MARCIA BOYD PRIDE AND INVOLVEMENT

When Dr. Marcia Boyd talks about the UBC Faculty of Dentistry you can hear the pride in her voice. She speaks of the things that have changed- the way the school has improved and how many wonderful faculty and staff have come through the doors. But it is the students that she smiles about the most. 'The students we have had in this faculty have been truly exceptional. We are blessed with choice', she says. 'Each class has it's own personality which develops over the years as they learn and grow together.'

Many other things have changed since Dr. Boyd first joined the Faculty in 1972 and she thinks that the Faculty has made great strides. There is a good balance between clinical and research programs, we are leaders in clinical simulation and curriculum innovation, and the faculty has experienced huge intellectual growth. Dr. Boyd is very pleased to see the increasing number of female students that have come to the school over the years.

While Dr. Boyd shows tremendous pride in the Faculty and its many achievements, she has done the Faculty proud in her own right. She is well known for her contribution to dental education, nationally and internationally. She has served as a member of CDA's Council on Education and Accreditation in addition to chairing several accreditation site visits. She was instrumental in the development and implementation of the curriculum outcomes assessment component of the accreditation process. She also chaired the Dental Aptitude Test (DAT) committee and has recently received CDA's Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. Boyd was the first woman president of the Association of Canadian Faculties of Dentistry and is currently the chief written examiner for the National Dental Examining Board of Canada, where she also serves as a clinical examiner. She holds fellowships in the America College of Dentists, the International College of Dentist, the Academy of Operative Dentistry and the Pierre Fauchard Academy. Internationally, she has been very active in the

American Association of Dental Schools, leading several committees including the committee on the advancement of women and minorities in dental education and the international women's leadership conference. She served as the founding president of the Educational Research Group for the International Association of Dental Research.



Dr. Boyd also takes great satisfaction in her personal life. She and her husband, Dr. Ian Bennett, have a home in Vancouver as well as a beach house in Washington State. She is a passionate gardener and enjoys her time at home with her husband, her dog 'Sadie', and cat 'The Fat Boy'. Dr. Boyd says that she is currently trying to simplify her life, which includes less work-related travel with more time at home with her husband and their 3 grandchildren.

# OUR DENTAL Family

**Barbara Girard**, Manager, Finance and Administration for the Faculty will be leaving her post at the end of the year. She will be moving to Newfoundland to begin a new career in consulting.

**Kelly Simmons**, Assistant to the Dean, left the Faculty to join the Office of the Registrar. Kelly will be in charge of classroom scheduling for the University. **Rhoda Morgan**, a long time member of the Dean's Office accepted a new position in the Department of Statistics, Faculty of Science. Good luck Barbara, Kelly and Rhoda. **Dr. Ian Matthew** has joined the Faculty in the area of Oral Surgery. **Lari Hakkinen** has joined the Faculty in the area of Periodontics. **Amy Phillips** will be joining the Deans office in December to become the new Manager, Finance and Administration.

**Dr. Marcia Boyd** was recently awarded the Canadian Dental Association's distinguished Service Award. Dr. Boyd accepted her award at the annual CDA awards luncheon on September 18. The Royal College of Dentists of Canada has appointed **Dr. William Croft** to assume the position of chief examiner in the specialty of Pediatric Dentistry. He is on part-time clinical staff at UBC and has been involved in the college exam process for the past 8 years.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

March 9-11, 2000 Pacific Dental Conference- In conjunction with the Canadian Dental Association. Vancouver

March 10, 2000- UBC Dental Alumni Reception (Dentistry and Dental Hygiene)

5-8 pm

Crystal Ballroom

Pan Pacific Hotel

Anniversary Class Photographs:

6:00 Class of 1970

6:20 Class of 1975

6:40 Class of 1980

7:00 Class of 1985

7:20 Class of 1990

7:40 Class of 1995

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Do you have any news?

If you do please send it to us!

