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Boston University

BOSTON UNIVERSITY
GOLDMAN SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

FALL 1998



dedicated to community service

“The quality of a university is measured more by the kind of student it turns out than the kind it takes in.”

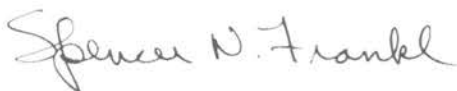
Robert J. Kibbee, former Chancellor, City University of New York

For the past twenty years, the School of Dental Medicine has viewed community service as an integral part of our educational mission. Through our partnerships with neighborhood health centers, hospitals, public schools, shelters, and APEX program sites, we are able to provide our students with an educational experience that will challenge them personally and professionally. Their work in the community allows them to address the health issues that affect particularly vulnerable populations, including the underserved and special needs patients. Our “school without walls” gives our students the ability to reach out across the city, state, nation, and—in some cases—continents to make a difference in the lives of many people.

Our responsibility as teachers is to bring out the best in students—to develop their skills as clinicians and professionals, hone their ability to analyze situations and respond appropriately in a variety of health care environments, and encourage their quest for self-knowledge. In short, to turn out students who are dedicated and compassionate practitioners.

This issue of *Impressions* focuses on community service. We profile just a few of the many BUSDM alumni, students, staff, and faculty who fulfill the community service aspects of our school’s mission. These stories of selflessness and commitment truly demonstrate that by identifying and addressing the needs of the less fortunate members of our community, we can realize the power of our profession.

With warm regards,



SPENCER N. FRANKL, DDS, MSD
Professor and Dean

in this issue

Impressions

A publication for the alumni and friends of Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine

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“but you’re my last



In rural South America, statements like this are no exaggeration. The middle-aged El Salvadoran woman had broken down in tears when Dr. Donald Booth, chairperson of oral and maxillofacial surgery at BUSDM, told her he was there to operate only on children. Seeing the desperation in her face—along with the complete cleft lip that prompted her community to shun her—Booth said he would see what he could do. The woman waited four days until a break in the surgery schedule permitted Booth to repair her lip and palate. “We changed her life,” says Booth.

This story is just one among many that remind Booth why he returns year after year to South America to treat children—and the occasional adult—with oral and facial deformities. Working through an organization called Healing the Children, Booth heads south twice a year as a member of a team of doctors and other health care professionals. He is accompanied by BUSDM oral and maxillofacial surgery residents.

“It’s part of the teaching program,” says Booth. “We have to show our residents how to do cleft lip and cleft palate surgery, and because there aren’t a lot of cases up here, this program gives our students exposure.” It also, according to Booth, gives residents much more than surgical training. “You come back absolutely transformed by the experience,” he says.

Dr. Frederick Robinson DMD 94 OMFS 99 enthusiastically concurs. He went on two trips, first as a DMD student and then as an oral surgery resident. “I found out very early on during my first trip that I was part of something special. I had never experienced such gratitude [from the people he treated] for anything I’d done in life to that point. I remember pulling up in the van when we finally got to the site and looking at 300 people gathered waiting for us. When we got off the bus, we were greeted by applause.”

hope.”

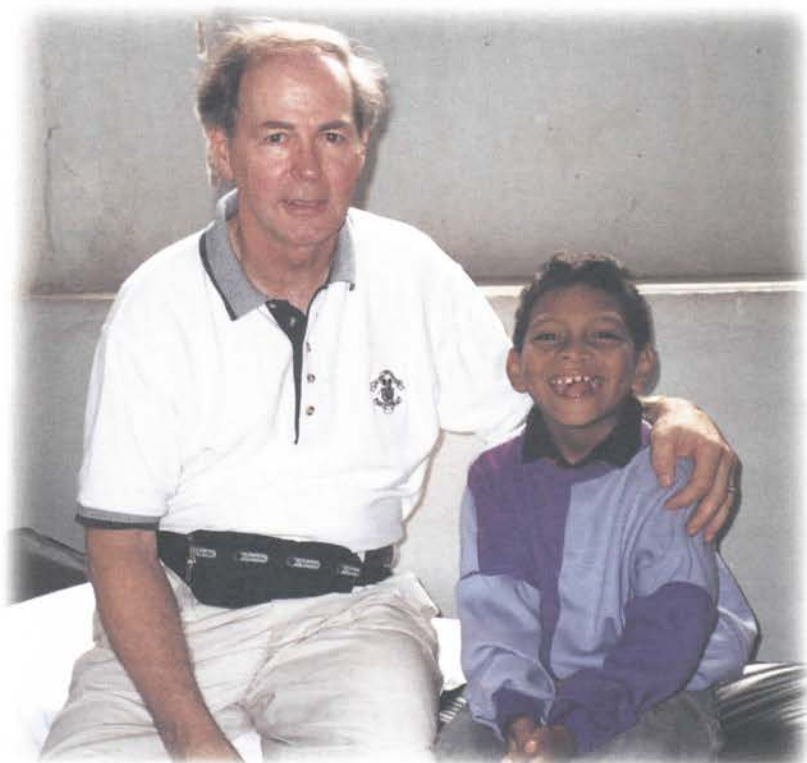


According to Booth, there is more of a need for cleft palate surgery in the developing world because of environmental pollution. “Chemicals from crop dusting get in the food chain and cause deformities,” he says. Robinson notes that genetics may also be a factor in the high incidence of malformed palates. Epidemiological studies are under way to help researchers quantify the precise causes.

Dr. Lawrence Herman, assistant clinical professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery at BUSDM, helped begin the dental component of Healing the Children in the mid 1980s. “To me, it started out as an adventure, a way to hone my skills and see interesting cases,” says Herman. “It has become much more. We are practicing what we’ve dedicated our lives to, on children who really need our help.”

Booth goes to South America (most frequently to Columbia) as part of a team that includes oral and maxillofacial surgeons, a plastic surgeon, anesthesiologists, and nurses. He was joined on two trips by Lauren Chisholm, oral surgery implantology coordinator at BUSDM, who helped out as a surgical assistant. Volunteers like Booth and Chisholm—usually fifteen to twenty people on each trip—come from across the United States and around the world.

Says Booth, “During the ten-day trip, we operate all day for three days, take a break the next day, and then operate for another three days. In those six days we usually do between 100 and 120 patients.” These 100-plus patients were selected from among several hundred children during the screening days that preceded surgery. “When we get to a community, there can be 300 people just



Dr. Donald Booth poses with one of his young patients

*“one grandmother traveled
ten days to reach us”*



Dr. Frederick Robinson and friend

hoping they're going to be selected," explains Booth. "Because we can't possibly do all of them we screen them first. Urgent cases, such as a primary cleft lip or palate, are operated on first. Less urgent cases, such as secondary defects from previous cleft surgery, are placed on a waiting list." Some cases are so serious that treatment needs to be staged; in such instances, the team makes arrangements to send patients to the United States for surgery.

"There are lots of people who are absolutely devastated because we don't have time to treat everyone," says Booth. Not being able to operate on all patients seeking care is particularly difficult because most children have traveled a considerable distance. "People come for four or five days by foot, boat, or horseback to reach the hospital," says Booth. He uses "hospital" in the most general sense; the term might refer to a small community hospital or, simply, to a place where patients gather for care. He cites a former monastery as an example of the latter. In a very small rural town southeast of Bogotá called Villavicencio, a tiny hospital was the only medical facility for a territory the size of the state of Texas. "One grandmother traveled ten days to reach us," remembers Booth. "It took her three days walking to get a burro to put her grandson on for another four days until they got a bus. All this not knowing whether the child was going to be treated or not."

Goals of the program are to increase the number of children who receive treatment and to improve follow-up care. By training local oral surgeons at the Universidad el Bosque in Bogotá, which has an oral and maxillofacial surgery training program, volunteer surgeons hope to set up a formalized system for following up on patients, and also to instruct doctors to perform the surgery in the first place.

"We try to send all our third-year residents on the trip," says Booth. "It's a wonderful experience. Everyone leaves knowing that if they hadn't been there—and it doesn't make any difference whether they're out washing instruments or unloading supplies or preparing a patient for surgery—if they weren't there, one patient wouldn't have been done. People say, 'Aren't you nice to do this,' and everyone will tell you the same thing: 'You get much more out of it than you put into it.'"

*“people come by foot, boat,
or horseback”*



CHECK-UPS IN CHELSEA

Nothing characterizes a “school without walls” more than providing services to the community. As part of the Boston University-Chelsea partnership, residents in BUSDM’s dental public health program do just that in conjunction with Colgate’s annual Inner City Oral Health Intervention Week.

Colgate’s Bright Smiles, Bright Futures program provides dental screenings to children whose families might not have the resources for dental care. During the last screening, BUSDM postdoctoral students visited the Shurtleff School in Chelsea. Screeners rated the children’s oral health on a scale of 1 to 4 and noted whether they needed specialty care such as orthodontic work. Colgate and the school then followed up with the parents of children whose teeth required further examination.

At the screening, children eagerly waited their turn to board Colgate’s Bright Smiles, Bright Futures Oral Care Van. This mobile dentist’s office contains two child-sized chairs and a video screen for children to watch programs on oral health as they waited to be examined. After they were screened, children received toothbrushes and activity books. “It’s a neat way for them to experience their first trip to the dentist,” says Dr. Aljernon Bolden, director of community health programs at BUSDM. “With the videos and pictures, they’re desensitized to what otherwise might be a frightening experience.”

Bolden emphasizes that the screenings are just a start, not necessarily an end in and of themselves. He says, “We’re here to see what the community’s needs are and to identify resources to meet those needs. Whether education, health promotion, or treatment is required, we want to work with the community either to help meet the need or to identify resources to do so.”

The Boston University-Chelsea School Dental Program, which began in 1991, serves more than 2,000 students each year from the Chelsea public school system. Dental hygienist Maureen Donovan (pictured at right, top) coordinates the program, screening children and making sure they receive follow-up care. BUSDM is proud to be a participant in the BU-Chelsea partnership, one of the first public-private educational partnerships of its kind in the nation. Other Boston University schools involved include the School of Education and the School of Management.



BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS



It's just a short walk down East Newton Street from the school to the home of María Teresa Doña. But the 85-year-old native of Managua, Nicaragua, might as well be miles away. Although she has relatively few health problems, getting around can be difficult. So when she lost her dentures, she was pleased to learn students in the BUSDM geriatric home care program would fit her with new ones right in her own home.

"It was good they came here," she said in Spanish through BUSDM geriatric fellow and translator Dr. David Blanco. Looking at Dr. Jeanne Chung DMD '94, who just finished her fellowship in geriatric dentistry, and Dara Cunnion DMD '99, Doña said, "God will bless you for your work."

Chung and Cunnion had visited Doña ten times to fit and adjust her new dentures. "Her old dentures had been bothering her, but she's doing very well now," said Chung. It's people like Doña BUSDM aims to help through its geriatric home care program, in which approximately 150 patients are seen annually by BUSDM geriatric fellows and students. Operated in conjunction with Boston University School of Medicine, the program removes one of the many significant barriers elderly people experience in receiving care: access.

"By coming to patients' homes, we eliminate the need for their transportation to the school for eight to ten visits," says Dr. Paula Friedman, director of the geriatric program at BUSDM. "That is a big help for this population." Friedman, who started the home visit program in 1982, says the visits often provide patients with one of the few contact points they have with the outside world. "Our patients appreciate our visits not only for the health benefits but for the social opportunities."

Each DMD student is expected to attend at least one home care visit as part of the fourth-year course "Geriatrics and Gerontology." Some students get an in-depth look at geriatric home care through their APEX (Applied Professional Experience) rotations. "Often, students express discomfort or trepidation prior to going out on their first visit," says Friedman. "But after, students say they have a much greater appreciation of the geriatric population, not only in terms of their oral health needs but in terms of their social, economic, and day-to-day living conditions."



From bottom, left to right: Cunnion, Chung, Blanco, and Doña are all smiles during a recent home visit



Chung, Cunnion, and Doña share a laugh

"You do get involved in your patients' lives," says Blanco. "You're seeing them in their homes over a two-to three-month period. They tell you about their problems, and they're very open about things that are going on in their lives. It's really a social service as well."

Cunnion, who was participating in the program as part of a third-year prosthodontics course, said her first visit was such a good experience she looked forward to doing more. "I was one-on-one for an extended length of time with both the patient and the professor," she said. For her, nothing compares with the opportunity to discuss at length individual cases with the geriatric fellow. "We often drive to a patient's home, and on the way back Dr. Chung would talk with me about the entire treatment experience," says Cunnion. "I found that kind of interaction to be extremely valuable."

Making house calls offers unique challenges and rewards. "You learn to be resourceful and make do with what you have," says Cunnion. Lighting and positioning the patient are just a couple of the difficulties the visiting dental team must contend with.

Erich Heitman DMD 00 has completed three geriatric APEX rotations. He notes that while aspects of home care can be frustrating, seeing patients in their own environments provides insight into their lives that can lead to improved communication. "It's really interesting, and adds an element you don't usually see. Everyone we visit is medically compromised, and we often see classic bad perio cases. Seeing patients at home makes you have a better appreciation of good dentistry."

When providing home care, students and fellows are usually constructing and fitting dentures or doing cleanings. "If possible we try to accomplish procedures in the home, as long as they fall within guidelines for patients," says Friedman. "For procedures that require more extensive treatment, such as oral surgery, we ask them to come to the school." In such cases, transportation is arranged for the patient.

Just seeing the smile on María Teresa Doña's face confirms the value of the care provided by BUSDM. "Ellas son muy buenas," she says of Chung and Cunnion. "They're very good."



Phyllis Ritchie, 57, South Boston. Oncology patient at Boston Medical Center. "I couldn't get chemo 'til I had my tooth fixed. My oncologist referred me to the dental school. I am so grateful; they treated me like royalty. I had six chemos and thirty radiation treatments without any complications, due to the excellent care at the dental school. Everyone at the school was marvelous. People who need chemo should get their teeth checked first, like I did. I'm doing very well now, thanks to my oncologist, primary care doctor, and dentists."



Millicent Mendes, 74, Roxbury. "I'd always been afraid of the dentist. That's why I lost my teeth. I'd had work done at another school's clinic in the past—but I was still deathly afraid of the dentist. The students at BU [Monika Vermani DMD '99 and Marc Johnson DMD '99] were wonderful—they put me at ease. I had my upper and lower dentures done by them. They treated me so well."



Dr. Frank Zunino, 70, Watertown. Retired surgeon. Practiced in New York and Italy. "In Italy, I had met dentists who wanted to specialize; from them, I had learned about Boston University School of Dental Medicine. The school has a very good reputation in Italy." Now retired and living in Watertown, Zunino knew where to go when his teeth started to hurt. "When I couldn't eat and antibiotics didn't help, I came to BU Dental. Treatment was done very quickly and securely. Dr. [Santo] Cataudella [associate professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery] made me feel very comfortable."



Susan Tomasetti, Boston University employee and member of BU Dental Health Plan. "I was seen first at the center at 930 Comm. Ave. I was lamenting with one of the dentists about the state of my mouth. I had had a lot of dental problems and wasn't happy with the results. He suggested I look into a dental implant study at the school. I went through the study and had the implants, then proceeded to get other work done, like crowns. I spent a lot of hours at the school and am very happy and impressed. Dr. [Zhimon] Jacobson [DMD] 81, director of the Center for Implantology], all the residents, and Paula Ferrone [implant coordinator/hygienist] were wonderful. Having gone through a lot of painful procedures in the past, I saw how getting implants could have been terrible. But it wasn't—during the whole course of treatment, everything and everyone were great."



Megan (age 11), Matthew (age 4), and Paul (age 8), Jamaica Plain. "I first came to the school twenty years ago when I needed to have major dental work done," says Mary, the mother of these adorable children. "And now I bring my kids. They come in every six months for cleanings. And Megan comes in every six months—plus, because she's getting ortho work done. They're friendly here and everything is very modern and up-to-date." And how do the kids feel? "I like this dentist better than my other one," says Megan, smiling shyly.



Carlos Glennon, 25, Newton. "Every time I go to the school for treatment they tell me I'm a unique case," says Glennon, who is undergoing a series of oral surgeries to correct his TMJ disorder. "I've also had lots of root canals—at least seven. I always worry about my jaw locking, but when I go to the school, everyone goes out of their way to make me feel comfortable. Whatever it takes, they just do it for me. I have to have two more surgeries—the next one is the big one, where they break my jaw and reset it. Before I had the first surgery I could only open my mouth up a small bit. I was eating just ice cream. After the first surgery I was running around with my mouth wide open. Everyone is just unbelievable—they make me feel so at home."



PHOTOGRAPHY

BY

KENT DAYTON

It's no surprise Tony Bennett left his heart in San Francisco.

The Bay area woos like a charmer and intoxicates like a fine wine. This is one reason why it's no surprise our alumni are so happily situated there.

Photographer Kent Dayton and *Impressions* editor Christine McDonald spent a week in and around the Bay area to take an "up close and personal" look at some of our West Coast connections.

From familial vineyards in Fresno to palatial museums in the city by the Bay we bring to you, in the pages that follow, glimpses of the friends and classmates who touched your heart and borrowed your notes.



RAY BRAHAM PEDO 70 MSD 70

This photograph of Ray Braham is quite indicative of his personality—very easygoing with a wonderfully sharp and true British sense of humor. After we met Ray at his office at the University of California Dental School at San Francisco, we brought him to Golden Gate Park, just a block or two from campus. Then we asked him to lay down in a field of clover in his suit and jacket. He didn't blink an eye.

"I have fond memories of Boston and my time at BU. It was such a young school then—I think there were just four full-time faculty; Dean [Spencer] Frankl, of course, was chairman of pediatric dentistry at that time. We saw a great deal of him—he was an amazing teacher. It was a very close-knit school, and Henry [Goldman, founder of the school] controlled everything. He ran that school with an iron fist," said Ray.

"I remember being in a staff meeting just after I had graduated and after Spencer had asked me to stay on for a bit. Henry called a meeting to tell us that the federal government had denied the request for fund-

ing to add the top three floors to the school. He was not happy. I remember him saying, 'To h— with the government—we'll get the money ourselves.' And after a few more expletives, he ended the meeting—and within one week he had raised the \$750,000 to finish the building," Ray explained.

"I believe that kind of determination—especially Spencer's quality leadership over the past twenty years—has kept BU in the forefront of dental education," he said. "He understands the need to be aggressive in fundraising, which ultimately benefits the students. Being here at a state school—where our fate can hang in the balance based on what the legislature decides to do with our budget—I have a real appreciation of funding issues."

Ray has been on faculty at UCSF for twenty-four years, splitting his days between predoctoral and postdoctoral instruction and supervising his students in the clinics. His specialty is high-risk patients. "I treat the ones others are afraid to touch because they are compromised in some way. We call them 'high risk patients' now—when I was in school we called them 'handicapped.' Either way, they all need the best possible care," he added.

When not teaching, Ray and his wife Natalie spend a great deal of their spare time traveling. In fact, shortly after our interview they were headed off to Japan (for the fifth time), where Ray was to deliver a speech at the induction of the new president of the Japanese Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

"Maybe we'll get back to Boston soon—I'm sure Spencer could put me to work! I've kept my Massachusetts license current, you know, in case this California thing doesn't work out."



WAYNE HOTZAKORGIAN
ENDO 83 MSD 84

You could say that Wayne's roots are in roots, so to speak.

Born and raised on a vineyard in Fresno, California, Wayne ("Bud" to his close friends and family) spent the better part of his early years planting roots and growing them into grapes for fine wine. Nowadays he still cares for roots, just not the ones in the ground.

"Believe it or not growing grapes is a lot like endodontics. It's very artistic and it's all technique—just like the BU endo technique, you must prune a vine just as carefully as you treat a root canal," he mused.

So why did Wayne choose dental medicine over running the family business?

"It was an easy choice for me—I knew I wanted to be a dentist since I was in the third grade. Besides, running the vineyard is too unpredictable of a lifestyle for me. You can never know what is going to happen—I like a more predictable kind of life."

While practicing general dentistry in San Francisco, Wayne attended a continuing education course taught

by Dr. Schilder. "He presented the most amazing material. I was in awe. I knew I had to pursue endodontics.

"In addition to the outstanding training I received at BU, I learned a lot about the key to a happy and successful life—Dr. Schilder really instilled in us that mental and physical well-being, a strong family life, and spiritual health were the keys to success."

Just a few weeks after our visit Wayne planned to travel to Santa Monica to attend the wedding of his former student and boss, Irene Yeh. (Her profile follows.)

"Irene is just fabulous—she was a student of mine at BU. She is a consummate professional. Anyway, she graduated and moved out here and took a job at UCSF teaching in their endo department. Next thing I know she's my boss! (Wayne teaches one day a month at UCSE) She went pretty easy on me though—every now and then she let me out at lunchtime for a run."

And run Wayne does. A marathon runner, he has traveled back East every year for the past sixteen years to run the Boston Marathon, which he wouldn't miss for the world.

"I ran my first Boston Marathon while studying at BU—a bunch of us trained, and we all ran it together. I remember Dr. Schilder came up to Hopkinton to support us. That's the way he treated us—just like family."

At the conclusion of our interview and photo shoot, Wayne invited us back to his home where his mother and sister had prepared a traditional Armenian lunch for us, complete with his favorite wines.

"Meeting new people, new friends, and wanting to learn something new every day—these are very special lessons in life. They are the best parts of life."

GRETCHEN BRUCE PERIO 87

To meet and chat with Gretchen Bruce is to realize that she is a teacher first and foremost. A former high school science teacher who is now a professor of periodontology, she brings a passion for helping others learn to all she does.

Gretchen managed to shift her busy schedule on the last day of the academic quarter to spend some time catching us up on her life since graduating from BUSDM's perio program eleven years ago. Nowadays she divides her time between teaching periodontology to undergraduates at the University of Pacific and treating patients at her two practice sites.

"It's all about balance," she offers. "Everyone is busy; I'm no different, but it is crucial to attain that balance between work and nonwork life to remain successful both professionally and personally," she added.

Still a newlywed (she celebrates her first anniversary this September), she and husband James Weaver carefully balance their professional and personal time. "James is a practicing dentist too, so we at least understand one another's career intricacies," she said.



"Attending BU was an easy choice for me. It has such a strong perio program and the faculty is outstanding. A favorite professor? Morris Ruben was great—a very strong, interesting instructor. I think I bring a lot of what BU taught me to my students," she said.

Gretchen was born and raised in California. She left her native state to attend undergraduate and dental schools in Chicago and, later, postgraduate work in Boston. "My family's here [in Los Angeles] and I do believe that you can't beat San Francisco as a place to call home. The city is so diverse, so welcoming. Visit any part of the city and you are sure to find something to interest you, whether that be art, music, food, anything. San Francisco has a charm unlike other cities I've lived in," she said.

This photograph of Gretchen was taken in a eucalyptus tree grove, located on the grounds of the former Presidio, a U.S. Army base in San Francisco.





"It was at Dean Frankl's welcome freshman party. I saw her across the cafeteria and that was it. We were together for the next four years." So Tim Auger explains the moment that would change his life—the moment he met fellow classmate and future wife Meggan O'Connor.

Meggan and Tim spent a beautiful Monday morning with us in Carmel. After nearly two weeks of rain, they were convinced we brought the glorious sunshine from the East Coast. Thrilled to take the morning off, they were great sports about trekking down to Carmel Beach for our interview and photo shoot.

"What still remains pretty magical for me is that I nearly didn't attend BU. I had multiple acceptances to consider, but at the last minute made the decision to choose BU. It certainly was a life-changing decision," says Meggan.

Tim and Meggan finished their DMD degrees at Boston University, complete with a wedding and a baby in between clinic rotations, APEX assignments, and NERBS.

"Austin [their eldest son] was born our senior year. Meggan was in clinic right up to the day she delivered. She took three days off and was back in the mix in no time," explains Tim.

"If I told you it was easy I'd be lying. But I have to say, without the support and understanding of the faculty and fellow students, it would have been a lot more difficult to get through that last semester with a newborn. All our classmates used to babysit and hold Austin for me when I had studying to do or labs to finish," Meggan explains.

Tim and Meggan's class was the first to experience the APEX program. "That was by far a definite highlight and advantage for us," says Tim. "I got to work for an orthodontist just outside of Boston and spent some time with Dr. [Victor] Dietz [BUSDM associate professor]. What an impact that had on my education. I realized when I continued on to postgrad work that none of our colleagues from other schools had that outside experience—it put us all at a great advantage professionally," he added.

Six months to go to graduation and a brand new baby was a small challenge for this motivated couple. After graduating from BUSDM, Tim was accepted to the



MEGGAN O'CONNOR DMD 91
AND TIM AUGER DMD 91

University of California at Los Angeles for his orthodontic residency and Meggan stayed home with their children. After Tim completed his residency, the family moved back to Monterey so Tim could join his dad's practice.

Meanwhile, during the two years of Tim's residency—and with two toddlers, a brand new baby, and Tim's growing practice—Meggan realized she wanted to specialize in pediatrics. She was accepted to University of California at San Francisco and relocated 180 miles away to complete her three-year residency. The commuter marriage began. Meggan was gone Monday through Friday, home only on the weekends.

"Sure, people thought we were nuts, but we had a tremendous amount of support from our families and for each other. We both knew it would have been worse for us if I had not done the residency—I would have resented it later," says Meggan.

Meggan and Tim now practice just across the street from one another; in January, Meggan will become the first female partner in her practice. Their three children—seven-year-old Austin, six-year-old Connor, and five-year-old Tarhyn—are as active as their parents, and their fourth child, a boy, is due in September. Seems like enough to keep any family busy, but not these two. They thrive on having as many balls in the air as possible.

"Let's see, this month we are buying a house, selling a house, I'm opening a new office, Meggan's buying a practice, and we're having baby number four in a couple of months. Nothing too hectic."



IRENE YEH DMD 91 ENDO 94 MSD 94

This petite woman packs a punch, both professionally and personally. When we caught up with her, she was in the midst of packing up her house in preparation for her upcoming move from San Francisco to Denver. This move, prompted by her forthcoming nuptials, has her leaving the Bay area to join a practice in Denver. We met with her as she was wrapping up her last week of work at the office where she has practiced with another Boston University alum, Larry Silva ENDO 91 MSD 92, for the last four years.

"There's an indescribable connection between BU alums, and in particular endo alums," she explains.

Irene was only twenty years old when she moved to the States. After completing just two years of undergraduate work in her native Taiwan, she was accepted to BUSDM's DMD program.

"It was very difficult, I'll be honest. The first year was the most challenging for me, for a number of reasons. I think I was a bit naive when I decided to come to the States, but once I arrived I knew I had made the right choice. The biggest obstacles were language and culture, but by my third and fourth years I was perfectly settled, and I owe a great deal of appreciation to the BU family for aiding my transition," she said.

By the middle of her second year Irene knew she would continue her studies to specialize in endodontics. "It may sound a bit strange, but endodontics is very artistic to me, and I was in awe of Dr. Schilder, Dr. Castelluci, and their colleagues. I knew endo was the challenge for me," she explains.

"The training at BU obviously got me where I am today, but people who know me realize how very much it helped me personally. Being new to the country, I was shy and not as confident as the other students. All aspects of my life in Boston, not just the academics, helped me build my personal and professional esteem," she said.

"My reputation precedes me, based on my academic record and the fact that I studied at BU. It opens doors everywhere for me. Dr. Schilder is my idol! Sure, we all had a love-hate relationship for him at the time but we knew, as did he, that we were going to be the best of the best, and there was no settling for less," she explains.

Irene remains close with Dr. Schilder. In fact, he and his wife Joan were traveling to Santa Monica, California, shortly after we met with Irene to attend Irene's wedding, where Dr. Schilder was to deliver the blessing.

When we arrived at Ernie's new home in Modesto, we were greeted by not just one or two of his children but *three* little ones, all under the age of four and all very curious about the strangers in their hallway. Two dogs also heralded our arrival, one of whom was being chauffeured around the house by Ernie's middle daughter in the back of her PlaySkool wagon.

Ernie bounded around the corner, carefully fixing his tie. "Is this suit okay?" he asked politely, not minding that we had requested he dress in a suit despite the overwhelming early morning heat.

A day off is pretty rare for this dentist/entrepreneur—with two growing practices, a medical/dental supply equipment business, an active family, and his responsibilities as a new BUSDM alumni board member, Ernie was more than gracious when he agreed to spend a morning showing us around Modesto.

"The dentistry thing just kind of happened for me, although I knew I would pursue some type of medicine. Both my parents are physicians, and I've worked in hospitals since I was twelve. I always enjoyed working with my hands, and when my dad took me to watch oral surgery, well that's when the dental bug bit," he explained.

"I was fortunate—I was accepted to eleven schools, but BU was, well, the minute I arrived and walked through the doors, I knew BU was for me."

And what an advantageous choice that turned out to be. There he met Sven Grail, DMD 90 MBA 90. They became fast friends and even ended up marrying sisters. "My best friend from dental school is now my brother-in-law. Sven was dating Claudia Villareal [PEDO 90] and they introduced me to Claudia's sister, Patty. Two years later we were married within one month of each other."



ERNIE HIPOLITO DMD 90



Sven and Ernie now co-own a medical/dental supply business that is growing by leaps and bounds. "Sven's really got a knack for identifying new business opportunities. He's the only guy I know who was awarded two graduate degrees from two BU schools on the same day. He wasn't busy enough in the DMD program, so he went for his MBA at the same time. Now there's a guy you want to go into business with," he said.

"I'm sure a lot of alums say this to you, but I truly believe we were a unique class. We were real tight. We worked hard, but we played even harder. And if one of us was in trouble, we all grouped together to get him through. Of course once we had gotten past the turmoil it was always, 'Let's have a party at Ernie's house.' Those were the greatest times.

"You know the best part? That connection is still there. A lot of us still spend holidays together, and we have fellow classmates to visit in almost any city we go to. We have a real bond there, and I think it was initiated by our professors and especially Dean Frankl. If I had a problem or a concern, I went right to the dean. He had his door open at all times—he was there for me and helped me through some crises, and that was one of the aspects I loved most about BU. We could go to anybody at any time. We weren't just a number—they knew who you were and they helped you out. I'll remember that most of all."



conversation

In 1997, BUSDM established the Division of Community Health Programs (CHP). An indicator of the school's commitment to the community, the division is a part of the Department of Health Policy and Health Services Research. The new division is an expansion of our strategic partnering and extramural programs, which have been an integral part of the school's mission for more than twenty years.

The division is led by its director, Dr. Aljernon Bolden, and associate director, Dr. Michelle Henshaw. We met with them in their newly relocated offices in the Robinson Building at Boston University Medical Center to discuss their work.

BOLDEN: CHP is responsible for the school's community-based activities and serving as a liaison to our external partners, with the ultimate goal of improving the oral health and enhancing the quality of life of the community. We aim to accomplish this by improving the delivery of oral health services to vulnerable populations through implementation of public health initiatives.

HENSHAW: When we began working together, Al felt very strongly that he and I be interchangeable. This philosophy reflects our division's mission—that the school and the community are, in a sense, interchangeable. He and I are part of a team that, along with the school's other departments, is charged with enriching the educational experience of our students through provision of oral health services in community settings. Community activities require teamwork. Al and I each bring unique qualities to the program, but it takes the collective effort of

the faculty, staff, students, and partners to make our community outreach a success.

BOLDEN: And it requires different perspectives to have a better understanding of what is necessary to fulfill our responsibility to the school and its relationship with the community. Creating and maintaining healthy community programs is a way in which we make connections.

HENSHAW: You're right, and to ensure the success of our partnerships and community programs, it is necessary to understand the needs of our institution and the needs of the various organizations that are involved in providing health services to the community. Part of CHP's responsibility is to help fulfill the community service mission of the school by strengthening our existing partnerships and establishing new relationships. These partnerships will allow us to expand the scope of services provided to the community through various activities, from providing clinical services to teaching the importance of oral health to the community, from delivering care to the indigent or homebound to simply providing technical expertise for the design of a new program.

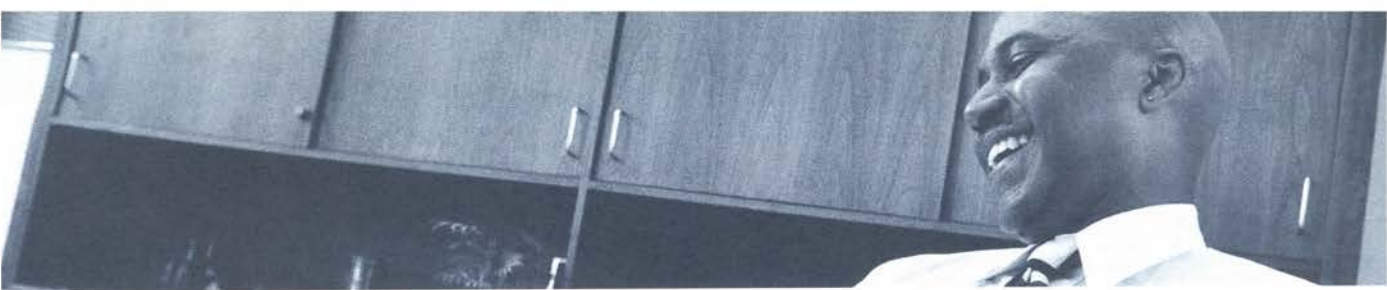
BOLDEN: We also have to understand our partners' missions in order to ensure a successful partnership. Each partner differs because of the needs, resources, and structural arrangements that evolved to address the concerns of the population it serves. Since each entity differs, each provides a unique opportunity to demonstrate to our students how differ-

ent approaches are utilized to address oral health problems. This opportunity to deliver oral health services to various populations greatly enriches the educational experience of our students, who are the future health care providers and policy-makers.

HENSHAW: I think one of our responsibilities is to demonstrate to the community and the BUSDM faculty and staff how our missions are complementary. Our partnerships benefit all involved: our affiliates, BUSDM, our students, and ultimately the community. So it's a win-win situation for everyone.

BOLDEN: We are often asked how we ensure that these partnerships are mutually beneficial. We do this in many ways, such as providing services or technical expertise or





assessing needs in organizations such as community health centers, private practices, dental organizations, academic institutions, and health care organizations on a local, regional, and national level. We like to think of the community in a global sense.

HENSHAW: For example, we are involved with organizations like the Massachusetts Coalition on Oral Health. As part of this organization we work with the Massachusetts Dental Society, private corporations, other Boston-based dental schools, dental auxiliary associations, public health organizations, and private practitioners to improve the oral health of Massachusetts residents.

BOLDEN: An excellent point. We also focus on different types of

delivery systems, that is to say, how care is delivered to different populations. Some will be community-based systems, others will be for the indigent, others will consist of private practitioners working in the community. We, Boston University, exist in a community. So what we're talking about is our activities that occur outside of the school's walls. Our primary concern is partnering with the community and determining what will work. It involves a combination of evaluating and sharing people, facilities, and equipment.

HENSHAW: You're right, each relationship is different, in the sense that we fulfill different needs at each site. For example, when we send our students to a neighborhood health center as part of their extramural requirement, the added presence of caregivers helps that center to treat more patients and/or offer additional services. Over the past year we've expanded our relationships with other academic institutions to include dental auxiliary schools, for example, Forsyth School for Dental Hygienists and Cape Cod Community College. BUSDM has also become involved in a new and exciting area. We've brought together pre- and postdoctoral students and dental hygiene students to provide oral health education and screenings for the children in selected Boston schools.

BOLDEN: The administration of the school has been tremendously supportive of our mission, especially Dean Frankl. He has expressed his willingness to go to any community to assist us, to

leave the walls of the school behind and meet the people.

HENSHAW: These visits convey our commitment to our partners and help them to realize that they are truly part of the school. Dean Frankl's involvement creates a sense of belonging to the BU family.

BOLDEN: We see evidence of this commitment to BU when our community partners and alumni attend school events such as the spring gala. This demonstrates the success of the relationships we're fortunate to have within BU and with our community partners. And I might add that the school has a tremendous national reputation for its activities in the community.

HENSHAW: Yes, and we see this national reputation growing—and it's very rewarding. Recently, the Macy Foundation awarded the University of Connecticut a grant to explore the feasibility of providing dental education in a community setting. BU was recognized as one of the pioneers in this area and was selected as one of the models to be highlighted in this report.

Learn more about BUSDM's community partnerships from our website. See <http://dentalschool.bu.edu> and click on "community service."



progress report

BUSDM Creates New PhD Program in Oral Biology

A new PhD program at BUSDM in oral biology will allow students to focus intensively on basic science research relevant to oral diseases and oral biology. The program, to be administered through the Department of Oral Biology and Periodontology, will welcome its first students in fall 1998.

"We are extremely enthusiastic to add this program to our academic offerings," says Dean Spencer Frankl. "Oral diseases present unsolved scientific challenges and novel biological phenomena. We maintain our dedication to continue in the forefront of research and prevention, and this program will further this goal by educating a new generation of researchers."

Dr. Frank Oppenheim, chairman of the department, says the program will add a new dimension to the graduate programs at BUSDM. "It will train students whose goal is to pursue research in oral biology as their primary professional activity." The new PhD will require five years of study.

The co-author of the proposal to launch this new program, associate professor of oral biology Dr. Philip Trackman, believes the new program will enhance BUSDM's research activities as a whole. "The program will bring our research to a new level, which is important in keeping our academic environment fresh and on the cutting edge."

Grant Highlights

Research at BUSDM continues to expand. During the past ten years, the number of grants received by the school's faculty has almost tripled. Some recent grants to BUSDM researchers include the following:

Paula Friedman

- *Residencies in Advanced Education in General Dentistry*

Dana Graves

- *Mechanisms of Periodontal Destruction*

Carlos Hirschberg

- *Membrane Topology and Biosynthesis of Glycosaminoglycans*

Zhimon Jacobson

- *A Randomized Concurrent Controlled Study of Variable Loading Times for 3I's Colt 45*

Elizabeth Krall

- *Epidemiologic Studies of Periodontal Disease*

Maria Kukuruzinska

- *Development-Dependent Expression of the Salivary ALG7 Gene*

Frank Oppenheim

- *Microbicidal Salivary Histidine-Rich Proteins*

Phillips Robbins

- *Glycosylation and Glycosidases: Cell and Molecular Biology*

Philip Trackman

- *LysI Oxidase Control in Drug-Induced Gingival Fibrosis*

Thomas Van Dyke

- *A 24-Month, Double-Blind, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Study (Merck)*
- *Pfizer MMP Study—Animal Model*

Molecular and Cell Biology Department Formed

Dean Spencer Frankl recently announced the creation of a new department, the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology. This new department, which is located in the Center for Advanced Biomedical Research, will conduct research on the molecular and genetic bases of oral health disorders.

"We've been growing the research mission of the school for about the last decade," says Dean Frankl. "The reason we've been able to get to this point is because we have such a solid group of fine scholars and researchers already on board and doing superb work. This was just a natural next step."

On July 1, Drs. Carlos Hirschberg, Phillips Robbins, Claudia Abeijon, Charles Specht, and Patricia Berninsone officially joined BUSDM as founding members of the department. Also, Dr. Maria Kukuruzinska's faculty appointment has been changed from the Department of Oral Biology and Periodontology to the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology. Dr. Hirschberg is the new department's chairperson.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES BIRD

BUSDM Welcomes New Development Officer

In May, Ivy Nagahiro joined the school as the new development officer. She comes to BUSDM from the university's Charles River campus, where she held the position of manager of international programs. As such, she was responsible for developing alumni relations and promoting Boston University around the world.

"I am thrilled to become a part of the dental school," she says. "Our alumni are a dynamic group of individuals dedicated to offering outstanding health care services to the community."

Ivy hopes to increase alumni involvement, particularly international alumni. "We have a good base of both U.S. and international alumni. One of my goals is to further strengthen the school's ties with all alumni, both across the nation and around the world.

"I would like to meet or hear from BUSDM alumni, either at an alumni event or through participation in annual giving. We are all an integral part of the Boston University community, and I want to get to know you and your concerns as alumni."

Ivy is pursuing a masters in business administration with a concentration in marketing at Boston University's School of Management.

She would love to hear from you. Contact her at 617/638-4735 or inagahir@bu.edu.

BioSquare Development on Track

In April 1998, ground was broken on Albany Street across from BUSDM for the construction of a second Center for Advanced Biomedical Research. Known as "CABR II," the new building will be completed in fall 1999. It is the second phase of the BioSquare development project, a unique partnership between Boston University and private industry to support innovation in science and business by providing research facilities for the academic and business communities.

Phase I of the project involved the construction of the first Center for Advanced Biomedical Research ("CABR I"), which was completed in 1993. BUSDM's Department of Periodontology and Oral Biology, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, and the Schilder Endodontic Research Center are located on the second floor of CABR I.

When the BioSquare development is completed, 1.6 million square feet of office and research space in four buildings, a 1,200-space parking garage, and a 240-room hotel and conference center will provide ample space for researchers from academia and business.



Architect's drawing of CABR II, now under construction



PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES BIRD

100 East Newton Street Gets Facelift

In May, the entrance to 100 East Newton Street was refurbished with new lighting, new paint, and new lettering. This work capped off a year of major infrastructure renovations of the building, including a new roof, new heating and air conditioning systems, and a new fire alarm and sprinkler system.

appreciation

Charitable contributions play a vital role in preserving and expanding excellence as a standard in the classroom, clinic, research laboratory, and community. They help this school provide the finest education and services to our students, patients, and community.

To these alumni, faculty, staff, friends, corporations, foundations, and organizations, we offer a resounding "thank you."

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Through the years, many people have contributed to memorial funds in honor of a friend, loved one, or colleague who has passed on. As the school concludes its thirty-fifth anniversary, we recognize these contributors here.

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These lists are current as of July 1, 1998. Every effort has been made to ensure their accuracy. We thank you for calling us at 617/638-4735 with any corrections.

alumni news



Roger Desilets

1972

Roger Desilets ENDO 72 won Superbowl tickets in a contest organized by Schick Technologies, Inc. Roger and his wife, Kathleen, attended Superbowl XXXII on January 24, 1998, in San Diego, California.

David Federick PROS 72

gave several lectures this year, including talks at the Dallas Mid-Winter Meeting and the Greater Long Island Dental Meeting.

Hema Kapadia-Stallard PEDO 72

celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of her pedodontic practice in Mumbai, India, in February 1998. She married Dr. Richard E. Stallard on December 24, 1996.

1973

Raphael Greenfield ORTHO 73 led a lecture on nonextraction orthodontic treatment at Osaka Dental College in Osaka, Japan, in April 1998



Marvin Steinberg

1975

Marvin Steinberg ORTHO 75 was recently presented with

the City of Peace Award as Man of the Year by the Alpha Omega-Mount Royal Dental Society. This award is presented to an Alpha Omegan who has shown outstanding leadership in both the dental profession and the community. He was also honored as a Fellow of the International College of Dentists in May 1998 for his contributions to dentistry. Dr. Steinberg is a resident of Cote St. Luc, Canada. He and his wife Phyllis have two children, Yarnell and Yaelburton.

1976

Steven Perlman PEDO 76 was recently awarded the Manuel M. Album Award from the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Foundation. This award is given to an individual who has made the greatest contribution to the oral health of special needs patients during the previous year. Dr. Perlman is a BUSDM assistant clinical professor and the clinical director of Special Smiles, a national oral health initiative with Special Olympics. Special Smiles was run through BUSDM from 1993-97.

1979

Anne Green DPH 79 recently passed the Delaware boards. She is practicing at the Stockley Center, a hospital for the mentally disabled, in Georgetown, Delaware.

1981

James Nesti DMD 81 recently became a vice president of the Massachusetts Dental Society.

1985

Frank Helm DMD 85 is the president of the Alameda County Dental Society in California and is a delegate to the California Dental Association. He and his wife Michele have three children, Alex, Graham, and Amelia.

1987

Mitchell Sabbagh DMD 87 recently appeared on "Fox 5 Live," a news program in the greater New York City area. He spoke about teeth bleaching and whitening. He has a dental practice in New York City, is the co-chairperson of the school's Greater New York Alumni Club, and is a member of the school's Alumni Board.

1988

George T. J. Huang ENDO 88 DSC 92 of Los Angeles, California, completed his examination to become a certified diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics. He works as a full-time assistant professor at the University of California at Los Angeles School of Dentistry. Email him at gthuang@ucla.edu.

1989

Maria Lavandro PEDO 89 has finished board certification and became a diplomate of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry in February 1998. She resides in Puerto Rico.

Craig Segal DMD 89

writes, "I am enjoying my two-year old son, Tyler, so

much. . . . Any Mugar third-floor alums looking to catch up, email me at mrcavity.aol.com. Looking forward to hearing from you."

Robert Stern ORTHO 89

became a diplomate of the American Board of Orthodontics in March 1998.

1991

Ricardo Burdiel DMD 91 is the proud father of Ricardo Luis, who was born on September 29, 1997. He and his family live in Rhode Island.

Emanuele Risciotti PROS 91 says hello from Milan, Italy, to all of his classmates. Three years ago, he started a practice that is limited to prosthodontic and implant dentistry. He works frequently with Roberto Rossi PERIO 91. Emanuele was married in 1993 and has two sons.

1992

Ramin Mehregan DMD 92 opened an office in Encinitas, California, in July 1997 with his wife, Maryann Douraghy. The practice is limited to cosmetic and implant dentistry. You can email him at Rmedhdmd92@aol.com.

Robert Moreau DMD 92

is a partner at a pediatric dentistry facility on the north shore of Massachusetts. He has two daughters and a son and lives in Danvers, Massachusetts. He would love to hear from any of his classmates.



Maria (Feddersen)

Vonderlage PROS 92

is working in Plon, Germany, with her sister and brother-in-law in an office that has belonged to their family for more than 100 years. She has a two-year-old daughter and is expecting her second child.

1993

Saeed Epakchi DMD 93

sold his practice in Brooklyn and is now practicing on Long Island, New York. He has a two-year-old daughter named Daria who "is keeping me very busy."

1996

Daniel Feit PROS 96

opened a private practice in Tenafly, New Jersey. He has also been appointed to the faculty at both the New Jersey Dental School and New York University. Daniel practices both prosthodontics and maxillofacial prosthetics.

Dawn-Marie Felicetti DMD 96

is enrolled in a pediatric

dental residency program at Lutheran Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York. She will graduate in June 1999. Her husband, Jeffrey Felicetti ORTHO 96, bought into a partnership with another orthodontist in Bellmore, New York.

Ricardo Recao PEDO 96

has moved back to Caracas, Venezuela, after spending a year and a half as a pediatric dentistry fellow/clinical instructor at the dental clinic at the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center and the Boston University School of Dental Medicine. He plans to open a practice that will focus on pediatric dentistry.

Astrid Ruebenstahl ORTHO 96

sends greetings from Germany. She opened a practice in Munich in October 1997.

In Memory

Allan C. Hirsch OMS 62

James J. Jackson PERIO 63

Waino M. Kaihlanen ORTHO 75

Become a Class Agent!


BUSDM has thousands of alumni across the country and around the world. Our new class agents program will bring the school closer to you—wherever you are.

Class agents will:

- update classmates on school activities and class news;
- support the school's fundraising efforts;
- engage classmates in the Spring Gala and reunions;
- gather alumni news from classmates; and
- get input from classmates on alumni programs.

As a class agent, you will have an important leadership role as a liaison between your class and the school. Are you enthusiastic about our school? Interested in reaching out to your classmates? Then become a class agent by contacting the Office of External Affairs by phone at 617/638-4732 or via email to cjbriggs@bu.edu.

ALUMNI WEEKEND '99




MAY 21-22, 1999

Friday, May 21, 1999
Reunions for the classes of
1979, 1984, 1989, and 1994

Saturday, May 22, 1999
SPRING GALA

OTHER WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS

- Continuing education programs
- Presentation of the Distinguished Alumni Awards



For more information, contact the Office of External Affairs by phone at 617/638-4891 or via email to cjbriggs@bu.edu.

impressions | fall 1998



alumni news

Alumni Events Through January 1999

September 14

School of Dental Medicine Board of Visitors Meeting.

Alumni Reception, American Academy of Periodontology Annual Meeting.
John Hancock Observatory Tower, City View Room, Boston, Massachusetts.
7-10 p.m.

October 7 - 11

Goldman School Endodontic Alumni Association Annual Meeting.
Westin Resorts, Hilton Head, South Carolina. For hotel reservations,
call 800/228-3000. For all other questions and to register, contact
Stacey McNamee at 617/638-4778.

October 14

Greater New York Alumni Club, "The Winning Smile," Dr. David Hoexter.
Harvard Club, New York City. 7 p.m.

Greater Washington, DC Alumni Club, "Posterior Composites: What Would
G. V. Black Think?," Dr. John McManama.
Embassy Suites, Washington, DC. 6:30 p.m.

October 25

Alumni Reception, American Dental Association Annual Session.
Westin St. Francis, San Francisco. 6-7:30 p.m.

November 9

Toronto Alumni Club, "The Importance of Clinical Research to Everyday
Dental Practice," Dr. Thomas Van Dyke.
Sheraton Parkway Toronto North, Toronto. 7 p.m.

December 2

Alumni Reception, Greater New York Dental Meeting.
Marriott Marquis Hotel, New York City. 6-7:30 p.m.

December 9

Greater Washington, DC Alumni Club, "Implant-supported Removable
Prosthodontics," Dr. Steven Morgano.
Embassy Suites, Washington, DC. 6:30 p.m.

January 22, 1999

Alumni Reception, Yankee Dental Congress.
Westin Hotel, Boston. 6:30-8 p.m.

*For updates or more information about these events contact your alumni officer,
Cindy Briggs, at 617/638-4732 or via e-mail at cjbriggs@bu.edu. You can also register
for alumni events online or check updated event listings on the school's web page
at <http://dentalschool.bu.edu/alumni/alumni.html>.*

give us your best...

Call for nominations for the

1999

Distinguished Alumni Awards

NOMINATE one or more of your colleagues
for a Distinguished Alumni Award
in the areas of:

- Service to Boston University
School of Dental Medicine
- Service to the community
- Service to the dental profession

For a nomination form or
more information, contact your
alumni officer at 617/638-4732
or via e-mail at cjbriggs@bu.edu.
Nominations must be received
by December 1, 1998.

THE AWARD
CEREMONY WILL
TAKE PLACE AT THE
SPRING GALA ON
MAY 22, 1999.



ALUMNI BOARD OF UNIVERSITY



Thoughts from
Your Alumni Association President
Ronni Schnell DMD 81

*"The greatest gift is a portion of thyself
and any definition of a successful life must
include being of service to others."*

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Alumni Board members would probably take the above quote to heart. Board members show a commitment to our school and its alumni by dedicating their time, money, and efforts to many programs, such as Alumni Weekend and alumni clubs. Each member was sparked by something different in their educational experience that made them want to support their school. For some, it may have been the relationships they built with friends and mentors. For others, serving on the board may spring from a wish to give back to the school that made them the dentists that they are today. Whatever the reason, the BUSDM community benefits from their work.

As your Alumni Association president, I hope you will be an active part of this community. There are many rewarding ways for you to be involved. Become a class agent and reach out to your classmates. Be a part of the APEX program. Your involvement does not have to be time consuming. It can be as simple as nominating an outstanding colleague for a Distinguished Alumni Award or sending a check to support current students through the Student Revolving Loan Fund. The gift of "a portion of thyself" is the most valuable gift you can bestow on your school, and is a gift that will be repaid in wonderful, numerous ways.

Welcome Back to Boston

Alumni Association President Ronni Schnell DMD 81 welcomed alumni back to Boston at a reception she hosted during the Academy of General Dentistry's Annual Meeting in July. Many alumni and faculty were in attendance.



Mila Haga, Ofeila Villanueva DMD 90,
and Jeanne Chung DMD 94 chat with
Assistant Dean for External Affairs Dan
Nathanson MSD 85 PROS 90



David Youseffi DMD 96 catches up with
classmate Iman Labib DMD 96

check-up



Nadim Baba PROS 99, Maroun Dagher PERIO 00, Mohamed Hamed, Department of Health Policy and Health Services Research visiting scholar, and Hassan Alsawaf DMD 99 share smiles

Special Smiles

On a sunny day in June, 90 volunteers from BUSDM brought smiles to the faces of hundreds of Special Olympics athletes. These athletes were participating in Special Smiles, a national oral health initiative that originated at BUSDM. At the Special Olympics in Boston, which was held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, volunteers gave more than 580 athletes dental screenings, information about nutrition, and tips on good oral health. The volunteers were led by Beverly Fraser, Boston site coordinator and Office of External Affairs staff member, Steven Perlman PEDO 76, BUSDM assistant clinical professor and Special Smiles clinical director, and Carolyn Fetter, Special Smiles Executive Director and member of BUSDM's Board of Visitors.

Hold the Date!

The next Yankee Dental Conference will be held in Boston on January 21-24, 1999. Join us for an alumni reception at the Westin Hotel on January 22 from 6:30-8 p.m.

Our Website

Missed your reunion? Looking for some familiar faces? Check out the photos on our website. See <http://dentalschool.bu.edu/alumni/alumni.html> to access the pictures.

Did you know you can register for BUSDM continuing education courses and alumni events through our website? Our secure server ensures your information is transmitted safely through the Internet. For details and course listings, visit our home page at <http://dentalschool.bu.edu> and click on "continuing education" or "alumni."

the last word



Tuesdays with Morrie is a best-selling book by Mitch Albom about a young professional who goes back to his former professor—a wise man who is dying—to learn about life. One of my favorite quotes from this book is the following: “So many people walk around with a meaningless life. They seem half-asleep, even when they’re busy doing things they think are important. This is because they’re chasing the wrong things. The way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to your community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning.”

As a member of the Board of Visitors for the School of Dental Medicine, I have been very impressed with the outreach programs sponsored by the school. Every person associated with the school—especially Dean Frankl, who has had the vision to initiate and support these programs—should feel justly proud of the good work that is being done.

But perhaps more important, those who participate in the outreach programs learn how much it brings to their lives. They are touched not only by the smiles of gratitude on the faces of those who are helped, but also by their own ability to offer something of value to others. It is a gift of purpose and meaning that is treasured by the dental professionals who continue to volunteer year after year.

As dental students and alumni, consider how can you reach out in your community to support someone in need, and give yourself a more meaningful career in the process.

Carolyn Fetter



School of Dental Medicine
100 E. Newton Street
Boston, MA 02118

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Boston University
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Talk back.

Have you joined a practice, had a baby, sailed a sea?

Have an idea for a future issue or want to react to something you just read?

name

degree/grad year

address

city

state

zip

phone

email

news/message

Are you interested in becoming a class agent? Yes/No