

**UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM****The School of Dentistry**

Text Version

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August 2009

The **Association for Dental Education in Europe** held its 35th meeting in the beautiful city of Helsinki, Finland. The theme of the meeting was Lifelong Learning and Continuing Dental Education. Keynote speakers from Helsinki and Leeds set the theme with presentations on Student Motivation to Learning and integrating learning into practice. This theme continued with a session devoted to Continuing Education in Europe. There was a Birmingham connection with Stephane Simon providing the French view. Stephane has now returned to Paris where he is working both as specialist in Endodontics and teaching part-time at Paris 7 Dental School. Stephane's talk was very humorous and well received.

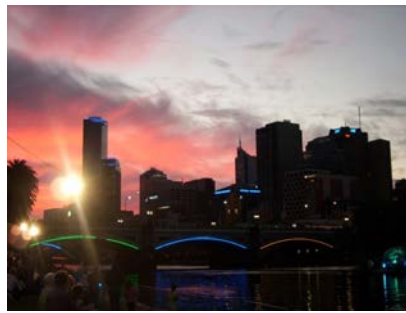


There was strong representation from Birmingham at the research poster sessions. Upen Patel, Deborah White and Damien Walmsley presented their posters during the thursday and friday sessions. There was also the chance to sample life in Helsinki. The conference venue, hotels and sights were all on the No 4 tram route. Upen Patel became an instant expert on how to traverse the City via the tram network and passed on this knowledge to the rest of us. The Social highlight of the conference was the opening ceremony which included a spell bounding performance from a young local folk group called Kardemimmit. This concert took place in the University of Helsinki Great Hall and was followed by a civic reception at the City Hall. The European Dental Students Society also took place before the ADEE conference and there was representation from BUDSS at the meeting as well.





The University holidays have allowed a chance for staff to 'get away', and saw several individuals travelling both far and wide. **Kris Coomar** returned to his home city, Melbourne (Australia) for the first time in five years for some 'R&R' and to work on the 'Aussie' accent he now has lost! Although in mid-winter, the Australian weather was mild and sunny. During his trip to Melbourne, Kris also spent time at the University of Melbourne Dental School touring their facilities, observing undergraduate/postgraduate teaching, exchanging ideas and discussing potential future collaborative projects. Despite their distance apart, the University of Melbourne and the University of Birmingham Dental Schools have close ties through the **Universitas 21** consortium, an international network of leading universities globally. Although back in the UK now, Kris and others will continue to visit/exchange between the UK and Australian dental schools into the future, further enriching the institutions and reinforcing their international influence.



If you have been looking at the covers of the British Dental Journal then you will see that they are featuring the Dental Schools. Each School has had a photograph taken of the building in a particular looking-up close-up style. This week it was the turn of the Birmingham Dental Hospital and School and the photographer has taken a suitable photograph. Trouble is no one told the photographer that he was taking a picture of our link block featuring our Toilets! Enjoy the view!

The front cover of the British Dental Journal featuring the Birmingham Dental Hospital and School.

I hope you are enjoying the last fling of summer and ready for the new term. I found that Birmingham has started to grow Flowers everywhere! Not sure if you have noticed them but on my walk from Birmingham Snow Hill there were all these mega plantpots. The larger ones are multicoloured whilst the smaller ones have red flowers in them. Certainly brightens up the day!

Here are a few pics to enjoy!





July 2009

So we are once again at the end of the Academic Year. It has been an exciting year with many positive outcomes for the School. The most positive one must be our RAE result that showed the school in a good light with our research being ranked at the International level. Already post RAE, research active staff have been successful at attracting new sources of funding and publishing in high citation journals. This last week has also seen dentistry showcased by a series of lectures at the College of Medical and Dental Sciences. Presentations on our research were given on both Tuesday and Thursday which will lead to links with other research groups in the College.

As a final flourish to the term on the Learning and Teaching front, we have the part-time teachers away day. Not only do we have the delight of the fire lecture but it will be an opportunity for the different speciality areas to relay information on what they teach to the students.

At the end of the day the term will officially finish and staff and students will be taking a well deserved rest. Your blogger will still be active as he has a few places to visit and will keep you up to date.

So for all readers of the Blog on behalf of the School may we take this opportunity of wishing you a great summer and see you all in September (if not before!).



The University of Birmingham Open Day was held a few weeks ago and our very own Donald Spence was there advising on entry to Dentistry. I knew someone had taken a picture of him and I finally tracked it down to the [Live updates site for the recent Open Day](#).

So here is a picture of Donald in his best suit.

Thanks for the memories



Many of you will remember the 8th Floor phantom head laboratory. It has seen many dental students and recently hygiene and therapy students pass through. The basic layout has not really changed since the building was opened in the Sixties but the technology has changed. However the fabric of the room was in need of updating.

Last weekend work started on the refurbishment of the 8th floor phantom head laboratory and will be completed towards the end of September. There has been a tremendous amount of pre-planning and this has been co-ordinated by Phil Tomson and his team. There will be much building activity during the summer months and the school is excited to see what the new state of the art facilities will look like.



The phantom heads were a little sad at the passing of an era and so they got together for a farewell party. Here we see them chatting away and some even put on party hats for the occasion!



The Graduation Ball was held outside Birmingham at the impressive Forrest of Arden near Meriden. First off let me tell you that it was a fun night and the organising committee had gone to a lot of trouble to make sure it was going to be successful. There was a lot of detail including special gold painted dental casts to hold the menus (Well done Mr T). Prof Lumley and Saniel Gandesha made the introductions at the start. There was a string quartet playing during the meal and there was a magician/hypnotist who worked the tables. He even managed to hypnotize Saniel and make him believe that he had not clothes on! The speeches were given by Giles Perryer and Dominic Stewardson who remembered the small things that many of the final year had done during the year but did not necessarily want their friends to remember. Then it was time for dancing to the Band or catching up with people for the last time. It was a great mix of students, University and NHS staff.



Good luck to all those new dentists who will be starting work in August. Remember to Fly the Flag for Birmingham and the School wishes you every success in your future careers.

Graduation 2009

The Day started very early as I arrived to have photos taken with Bernhard's family. It was very different being on the receiving end of the degree process. We queued up in the Avon room with all the other students waiting for our photos. Many of the dental students were there with proud parents and I met Rob MacKenna and his Mum. The picture of the two of them shows how important degree day is to everyone. It was time for a coffee and a chance to meet up with people but the ceremony was starting at 10.30am. So as members of staff we headed up to the top of the Aston Webb to Ede and Ravenscroft to get our robes. Dentistry teachers turn up in their numbers and many of the part time practitioners are there. This shows the loyalty that is given to the school. Time to process and the Great Hall is just wonderful when it is full on degree day and the organ playing is at its finest. The Faculties being presented to the Chancellor Dominic Cadbury were Law and Dentistry. Our very own Head of School Professor Philip Lumley welcomed the congregation. The honorary graduant was Sir Michael Lyons, Chairman of the BBC Trust who gave an uplifting address. As always it is with a sense of pride and pleasure that the graduands are presented and there were PhD, MPhil, MSc, BDS, Biomaterials and Hygiene and Therapy presented. The Chancellor closed the congregation and we possessed out to the Thunderbirds theme. The day was glorious and we went past old Joe the clock and moved onto the Library steps where photographs were taken. Time to congratulate and have fun.

For me it was time to be with Bernhard's family and we went to Michelle's for lunch. Also there were Prof Chapple and Prof Burke entertaining our sponsors.





Prize giving was held at the School and Prof Lumley addressed a packed Alex MacGregor Lecture theatre he welcomed the guest of honour, Professor Peter Marquis. The prizes were announced by Jan Poller and as each one came forward they had their photograph taken. Peter Marquis came to the lectern to deliver his speech which followed the theme of "Always look on the bright side of life" from Monty Python. His humorous and uplifting speech was appreciated by the assembled guests, staff and students. Prof Lumley gave his annual address on the many different and varied activities of the School and praised the staff for all their efforts. This was followed by the formal pictures and everyone went up to the Staff Restaurant to have Strawberries and Cream washed down with some Fizz. For some of the staff, there was a short walk to the Bull for a quiet get together reflecting on a successful day. We await the Graduation Ball but today was a special for the year of 2009 graduates.





Readers of the Blog will know that we have the occasional series on our Golden Girls. subtitle life after retiring from the Dental School. Here we have another item from the girls

Hi there,

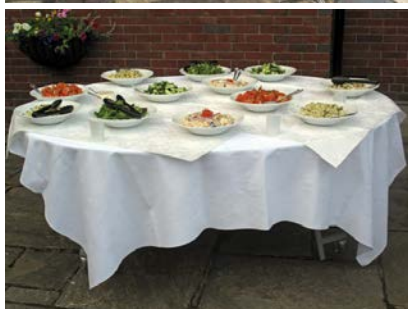
Yes, we are at it again. Using our retirement fund to venture forth - to Royal Ascot this time.

We had a lovely time on Ladies Day and it was wonderful to be so close to Her Majesty when she entered the parade ring in her carriage.

(sorry no photo of that because my batteries went flat at the crucial moment)- stupid woman, that is me of course -not our lovely Queen.

Hope you are well. We are still keeping up with the Blog.

Love Sandy & Ann



Another summer and another Masters BBQ. The Course goes from strength to strength and on a bright but becoming chilly evening, the School gathered at Horton Grange at the University. Music was provided by a jazz band led by former student Adam Joy and we were greeted with drinks and savories. The Food was of a high standard and it was a chance for Students and Staff to chat and mingle with each other. The pictures show how interactive the course is and also the enthusiasm and drive shown by Trevor Burke in his organisation and leadership for the degree.



The Masters course is for 5 years and allows general dental practitioners to gain an MSc in General Dental Practice. This qualification is based on a series of modules, which can be taken part-time over a period of up to five years. The course includes 60 credits of core modules, the successful completion of which will result in a Postgraduate Higher Education Certificate in General Dental Practice. The successful finishing of a further six modules, selected from a range of options, can then lead to a Postgraduate Higher Education Diploma. Broadly speaking, students will need to commit the equivalent of 1 day per week to this programme.

More information on course is at www.mds.bham.ac.uk/dentalpractice
Download the brochure - click on the icon below



**For further information on the GDP programme,
please contact
Professor FJT Burke - f.j.t.burke@bham.ac.uk Tel 0121 237 2768**



Will Palin and Mike Adams are seen taking coffee during the Science City Advanced Materials 2 Away Day on

Friday 3rd July 2009. This event took place at the **Radisson SAS Hotel** in Birmingham City Centre in the Lunar Suite.

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This is part of an initiative by Advantage West Midlands and the Dental School is part of the team led by Prof Mike Adams at the School of Chemical Engineering. The School has benefited by the acquisition of several items of research equipment. The aim of **Birmingham Science City** is to develop and use science and technology to improve the prosperity and quality of life of the city-region, the West Midlands and the UK. Further details of the overall scheme is on the Science City Web site.

On my stroll back to the Dental School, I took a few pictures in Victoria Square for you to enjoy.



What great fun! On Thursday evening, a few of us gathered in the local Pub to the Dental School to celebrate Dr Landini being elevated to Professorial status. As we were buying our drinks, a BBC Midlands today reporter and camera man came into the pub to film pubs that are bucking the trend and are successful. Therefore many of the Dental School were on Midlands today newsround over the weekend. It is not possible to show you the video, but here is a collage that Gabriel put together. See who you can spot from the Dental School!



It is always great to report good news and here is some in abundance. The School is pleased to be able to announce that the Promotions and Titles Committee at the University of Birmingham has conferred the title of Professor of Analytical Pathology on Gabriel Landini from 1st October 2009. I am sure everybody would wish to congratulate Gabriel on this achievement. Here we have a picture of Gabriel looking very pleased with himself as he has a celebratory drink at the Bull across the road to the Dental School.

June 2009

Good Night and Good Morning from Vancouver.



Louis MacKenzie and Damien Walmsley are following up a Universitas 21 Initiative on the International Blogging Project. They are attending a conference in Vancouver with representatives from Universities of British Columbia, Hong Kong, Monterey (Mexico), California San Francisco, Saskatchewan and Melbourne. Louis and Damien arrived a day early to get over the jet lag and discover Vancouver. Here are a picture of Sunset on Saturday and Sunday morning to make your Monday morning start off with a smile.



What is in the back of your car? This Blog entry is a Cribs view of my car boot. You are able to see from left to right the following: - My shopping which has the ingredients for my spaghetti bolognese meal yesterday, my travel money for Vancouver where I am off to this weekend and a black bin bag of clothes to drop off to St Mary's Hospice.

But in the middle are 4 volumes of a PhD thesis belonging to Dr Bernhard Felver.

This is just to let Bernhard know who is back in Austria that his PhD is safe and sound and waiting for him when he comes for his degree ceremony in July. Not only will the degree ceremony be celebrating our undergraduate dental students but there will be several Postgraduate students from the school who will be getting their MPhil or PhD degrees. We congratulate our postgraduate students and wish them well on their

future careers.



The School of Dentistry was represented at the University elearning day with presentations by Giles Perryer on the "MagScope – a component-free virtual microscope / image viewer" and Damien Walmsley on "International Peer Review Project for Dental Students in BLOG Format". The College of Medical and Dental Sciences were well represented with talks on capture techniques for lecture recording and the use of the PebblePAD ePortfolio system. The day provided examples of good e-learning practice. There was also the chance to network and take part in general e-learning issues. Thanks should go to Trevor Batchelor and the elearning team for putting together a very interesting and interactive day.



Mike Hofmann, a Lecturer in Biomaterials, has been awarded an EPSRC first grant to fund his work on "Optimising a bioresorbable brushite bone cement for porosity controlled adjustable drug release". The project is a follow-up of Mike's research on resorbable ceramic bone cements. He started working on these cements when came to the Biomaterials unit here at the School of Dentistry as an EU Marie Curie research fellow in 2004.

Congratulations go to Mike on obtaining this prestigious funding.

Europerio was held in Stockholm from June 4th to 6th and we have news of the conference from Professor Iain Chapple who is Treasurer of the European Federation of Periodontology (EFP).

The meeting was a huge success with over 6500 attendees and over 5000 official delegates. It was the largest meeting in Periodontology & Implantology in Europe if not the world, with 28 countries represented. Birmingham was well represented and Mike Milward gave a keynote paper on "The impact of aging in the periodontitis patients. Iain gave two presentations which were entitled "21st century technology in practice: a novel approach to improving patients' oral care behaviours" and "How does diet affect inflammation?" Professor Thomas Dietrich was also at the meeting giving a presentation on "Periodontitis and edentulism increase all-cause mortality in men."

Paul Weston and Amit Patel were also there from Birmingham Dental School/Hospital.



Iain Chapple was busy with several meetings including the coming together of the two executives in the world of Periodontology. The European Federation of Periodontology and the American Association of Periodontology met agree common strategic goals. Iain was also on hand to greet Enric Masdevall, the owner of Dentaïd who have become the first official Partner of the EFP.



----- **Winner - University of Birmingham Graduate School Poster Competition !**

I'm delighted to report that Upen Patel won first prize for the Life & Health Sciences Deanery (includes all of MDS college and Biosciences etc) at today's competition during the University Graduate School Research Poster Conference for his poster entitled "Ultrasound induced dental regeneration" – well done Upen and I'm sure that the substantial cash prize will help your research ! This is a very significant achievement and highlights the importance of emphasising the School's research profile within the University.

Tony Smith
Director of Research
School of Dentistry

So you have passed finals successfully and it is about time to take a holiday. Nothing else to do but wander around the shops where you get an interview with the Birmingham Post.

So here is a Q & A piece about one of our recently qualified students. Have fun reading!



Just returned from the BDA conference in Glasgow which was under the Presidency of Dr John Drummond. John was last seen in Birmingham as our external examiner at the beginning of June. There were several good speakers including an old friend of the School, Niek Opdam from the University of Nijmegen. Niek spoke on posterior composites. Other speakers included Damien Walmsley who gave a systematic review on the use of Botox and Paul Speight on mouth cancer screening. There was also many core CPD lectures and seminars for the whole dental team including dental radiology and infection control. Phil Lumley informs me that Gavin Hastings talk on Leadership was very inspirational. Many current and ex Birmingham students were spotted out and about at conference. As always it was good to see VT dentists and other old friends of the school and

hospital.



The School is pleased to welcome John Clement who is the Professor and Inaugural Chair of Forensic Odontology at the University of Melbourne, Australia. John has come on a Universitas 21 funded grant to work with Giles Perryer. The aim is to produce several elearning modules on forensic odontology for use on the Universitas 21 network.

Whilst he was here Prof Clement gave a lecture to Staff and students on the recent Bushfires that took place in Victoria. His work as a forensic odontologist assisted the police and other services in identifying the victims. The description of what happened to people in the fires and how they were identified proved to be a difficult but essential lecture. The main theme of John's lecture demonstrated how important the teeth and related structures assist in identification after such distressing disasters. John emphasised the vital role of General Dental Practitioners in keeping up to date records of their patients.

Congratulations

to all Final Year students on passing your examination.

Well done!! Have a great evening and see you tomorrow!

To all our Final Year dental students who start their presentation cases today and the unseen tomorrow. Good Luck from all staff at the School and Hospital

May 2009

Two pieces of news the first is a happy event.

Marcus Alexander was born to Emma and Simon Lea this week. Simon is a research fellow in the School and we have a happy family picture to show everyone.



Secondly it is with sadness that I wish to inform you that Russell Robinson recently passed away. For those who remember Russell, he was a tremendously enthusiastic person with boundless energy. He ran a very successful dental practice in Sutton Coldfield but he was also a great supporter of the School and Hospital. As a clinical teacher in Prosthetics many ex-students will remember his kind and enthusiastic approach on the clinics. On the Hospital side he was actively involved with the League of Friends and organised many fund raising events which led to improvements in patient services throughout the building. He will be fondly remembered.

For those wishing to attend Russell's funeral, it will take place at 12.30pm Thurs 4th June at Sutton Crematorium.



The School was visited this week by Professor Theunis Oberholzer from the School of Dentistry and Oral Health at Griffith University, Queensland, Australia. Professor Oberholzer is Head of Restorative Dentistry and Clinical Operations and is keen to set up a practice based research network in Australia. He came to the UK to talk to Dominic Stewardson and Trevor Burke who organise the BRIDGE group (Birmingham Research in Dental General practice) and to seek their advice on starting a similar group in Queensland. Following their discussions, it is planned that Birmingham will help in setting up this Australian project and carry out some collaborative work with them in the future.

Weekend is almost upon us and the weather forecast looks very good. It will be a well deserved rest for everyone but spare a thought for the final years who will be getting prepared for their final examination in the first week of June.



If you are thinking of something to do then why not go to the ThinkTank museum and look at their new exhibit on the BBC's Walking with Dinosaurs. As part of the Physical Sciences Imaging in Biological Sciences (PSIBS) doctoral training centre, we are hoping to enhance the postgraduates ability to communicate their science with the general public. We have been holding some preliminary meeting with Dr Kenny Webster, Cheif scientist at the ThinkTank to discuss various ways that the PSIBS students could assist. The pictures show Kenny Webster, Hamid Dehghani (Lecturer in Computer Sciences and PSIBS) and Prof Walmsley looking at the dinosaur exhibits. Couldn't resist taking a few pictures of those dinosaur teeth. Not sure if I would want to give them a scale and polish or do any fillings!

Dear Dr Adrian Shortall

So today is the big day and you have reached the big 6 - 0. Well done on this achievement and many congratulations from everyone in the School of Dentistry.



I hope that you are going to put your feet up and not be reading up any of those papers on composites or veneers. Just for today you can put away the Journal of Dentistry, Journal of Dental Research, British Dental Journal, Operative Dentistry, Dental Materials, Dental Update, Journal of Adhesive Dentistry etc and concentrate on enjoying yourself. The picture shows you carrying all that work so please don't open the case and bag. Treat yourself and have a day off! Also take some time to read your card from all your friends in the School and have a great day you deserve it.

What happens to the writers of textbooks such as Osborne and Lammie's partial dentures (first published in 1954) and then subsequently updated in 1986 with Laird as one of the authors? Many past students of Birmingham Dental School will remember such textbooks fondly (!). Ronnie Laird recently celebrated his 70th Birthday and Sandy Lammie was one of the guests. The picture shows both of them chatting away but I can reassure you that they were not looking to update their textbook just yet.



The UK may have only been 5th in the recent Eurovision Song Concert but on Friday night the School of Dentistry really showed the dental world who has got talent.



This is the second year that the concert has taken place and the anticipation of another entertaining night was evidenced by the packed Alex MacGregor lecture theatre. The place had been transformed into an atmospheric stage by clever floor lighting. Prof Chapple was Compère for the evening and began the proceedings by introducing the judges for the contest. They were Giles Perryer, Dominic Stwardson, Louise MacKenzie, Kathy Porter and Phil Lumley. The ten acts ranged from Mr Perryer and his accordion to the sexy Austin Powers dancers. One of the more bizarre acts of the evening was the Ferrer Rocher chocolate eating by Martin Ling and Harmeet Gill. Throughout the judges gave acidic and barbed comments interlaced with praise for all the acts.



There were so many artists who sang or performed that it would be difficult to single out individuals without upsetting others. One of the highlights was the various commercial breaks screened in-between acts. These consisted of clever videos featuring staff and students as you had not seen them before. The Mr Baylis/Mr Thomas video showed off some great eyebrow movements. Whilst the Cadbury's flake video featured Frances Deen from School Office looking rather fetching in black stockings. These clever videos were shot by 4th year students Jess Smith and Claire Bolton. So who won? The audience voted with an electronic voting system and awarded first place to Saquib and Jacqueline with Jess on Drums.



This was a memorable night and demonstrated the tremendous spirit and fun that is encapsulated in the School and Hospital. But the concert could not have happened without the drive and enthusiasm of Claire Bolton. She led a great bunch of students to put together the show. Well done to all. Finally all proceeds of the night went to St Mary's Hospice



The School of Dentistry is pleased to welcome two International researchers who will be with us for a 12 months sabbatical. The picture shows Professor Tony Smith, Director of Dental Research with Yusuke Takahashi and Jack Ferracane. Yusuke Takahashi is Assistant Professor at the Institution Osaka University Graduate school of Dentistry and Jack Ferracane is Professor and Chair, Biomaterials & Biomechanics at Oregon Health & Science University. Both will be working with key research staff in the school Tony Smith,

Paul Cooper, Will Palin and Adrian Shortall. The School looks forward to working with them over the coming year and also introducing them to the many and varied attractions of Birmingham and the West Midlands.

Birmingham wins prize in Scotland



After the success at BSSPD, Birmingham also won the 2009 British Society for Restorative Dentistry (BSRD) Poster Prize held at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. Karun Dewan Specialist Registrar in Restorative Dentistry presentation on *"Audit-Management of patients on warfarin by General Dental Practitioners in South west Wales"* got the best poster award.



Karen Gardner from University of British Columbia, Canada is visiting the school this week. Karen runs the International Blogging Project. This is an ambitious project involving several international schools from North America, England, Hong Kong and Australia. Its correct title is International Peer Review in Blog Format. This project is designed to promote BLOG format dialogue and collaboration between dental students internationally, with the aim of facilitating dental students to develop professionalism, global awareness and global citizenship. The project operates at the undergraduate level and is one of the projects funded by Universitas 21. Karen has been meeting staff and students during her weeks stay. She presented to the Curriculum Development Committee. A Scones and Cream tea was organised where she met the 16 students from the 3rd year of the course who volunteered for the project. The students shared their experiences of having their work peer reviewed from other dental schools. The project is an exciting one and has caught the imagination of the students who participated. The dental schools involved are University of British Columbia, Birmingham, Southern California San Francisco, Hong Kong, Melbourne, Tec Monterrey Mexico and Saskatchewan.

STAFF VS STUDENT FOOTBALL MATCH 2009



Dear All,

For those of you who haven't heard, the students' team narrowly won this annual epic encounter. The final score was a nail biting 5-5 followed by penalties which the students won 8-7. Pictures from the match are shown below.

I would like to thank everyone who took part in this years match as well our special guest referee Naheem Khan. Also a special thank you to all those who came and showed their support.

Kind Regards.

Jagdeep Hans
BUDSS Chairman



Special report from Naheem Khan, Sports Rep, BUDSS





Thanks to Karun Dewan and Vanesha Patel for the pictures.

Report on the game from Karun Dewan - SpR in Restorative Dentistry.

The University football pitch at Selly Oak witnessed an enthralling friendly match between students and staff. The confident staff team led by Daniel Saund was hoping that they would turn the tide this time around but their smiles were short lived due to an early injury of their strike player Puneet Patel in the first few minutes of the match and in spite of their spirited performance the score read 3-1 against them at the end of the first half.

Rahul Khiroya (goal keeper) inspirational speech motivated the staff team at the break time which led to the performance of the match by Richard (wearing the No. 7 shirt)

scoring a hat trick of goals, the score read 5-4 in favour of staff at the 89th minute. As it's always the case the match is never over until the final whistle, a late goal scored by the students took the game to penalties.

Naveen Karir's spectacular penalty at the top left corner could not win the match for the staff as the students held their nerves at the end and beat the staff with the narrowest of wins (7-8) which ended happily with a joint photo session of both the teams together. (thx to Karun for the report)



What a trio! Vince Higham from the hospital joins Damien Walmsley and Phil Lumley at the start of the 26th Annual Knowle Fun Run. It was a lovely day and Vince, Damien and Phil were supported by friends and family. All of us completed the 5 mile course and afterwards we retold the stories of the run in the Red Lion Pub Knowle. We all ran for St Mary's Hospice and Vince has a tub where you can add your donations. If you want to know how we all go on then go to [Knowle Fun run](#) but I can tell you that Phil was the fastest (but you would have already guessed that!)



It is a busy time if you are a dental student. Whilst final years students are sitting their papers for the

final examination this week, a new generation of dental students start off on the clinical course. Second year students are taking part in the plaque project in Periodontology, the 8th floor where they are learning Conservative Dentistry and there are lectures on all aspects of clinical techniques and orientation. One of the fun areas is in Prosthetics where they are taking impression of each other with the aim of making an occlusal appliance. Not only are the students working hard but it is a big day where the elections for the dental students society take place. Also you can forget about the UEFA semi finals taking place because the big football event of the week Staff vs. Students Annual match takes place tomorrow. I will see if there are any survivors from the match to get a report to you later this week.

Hope you had a good bank holiday weekend and that you were able to take the opportunity to relax.



On Friday the Science Munch & Lunch Seminar took place which is an opportunity for researchers in the building to share their work. It is primarily aimed at the younger researchers and we had the opportunity to hear Mike Milward present his work on the "Modulation of the host response to periodontal bacteria using a natural antioxidant". Ben Scheven introduced the session and following Mike's talk there was pizza for everyone.



Friday night saw the first Hospital ball. It was held at the botanical gardens and well over a 100 people attended. Kath Jakeman thanked all the organisers including Donna and Cheryl for their hard work to make the evening a success. The gardens were open for people to stroll around before the dinner. The food and company was excellent with people dancing the evening away till the early hours. YourBlogger was out and about with his camera and here a few people that were there!



So all whilst everyone was having fun spare a thought for the final years who are busy studying and waiting for the finals papers that take place this Tuesday and Friday. The School wishes them all the best of luck on this long journey to finals.

April 2009



The School says goodbye to.....



John Morris leaves the teaching staff after many years as a Lecturer in Dental Public Health. John has been a great supporter of the school and his great sense of humour and wit has endeared him to all. Colleagues gathered in the Osborne room to wish him well as he now commits his time fully to the NHS as a Consultant in Dental Public Health in Stafford. Deborah White outlined John's achievements and his contribution to the School. John will still remain in contact and provide teaching support in the Dental Public Health Unit. Amongst John's skills is his unnerving ability to mimic other member of staff superbly in various student reviews over the years. If only we had the video archives! We wish John all the best in his future career.



Peter Mann, representative for Claudius Ash retires this week and his last visit to the Hospital was on Thursday 23rd April. A strictly orange juice drinks reception was held for Peter in the Basement Stores where Hospital and University Staff gathered to say thank you to him for his quiet behind the scenes work that he has done throughout the building. He always had a smile on his face and a word to say to nurses about the material supplies. A lifelong Manchester City supporter many of his presents reflected his love for the team. Yourblogger certainly will miss his banter in this area. I am now left with Aston Villa followeres and a lone Arsenal supporter to talk to.



Association Of Basic Science Teachers In Dentistry



Traditionally, meetings of the ABSTD have tended to focus more on the biological than physical sciences and it is important that these areas integrate more, especially in view of the increasingly biological focus to materials applications. The meeting that was held at Birmingham gave delegates the opportunity to consider developments in materials science education within the curriculum.

The picture above shows both the speakers and members of the ABSTD. L to R - Robert Hill, Paul Anderson, (Both QMUL), Josie Beeley (Glasgow), Mangala Patel (QMUL), Paul Hatton (Sheffield) Owen Addison and Will Palin (Birmingham). The first session of the afternoon covered "Materials Sciences in the Dental Curriculum" whilst the second discussed "New Horizons in Dental Materials".

Delegates to the meeting came from around the country and there were a few familiar faces included Alistair Sloan who is shown here with Paul Cooper and Owen Addison. Well done to all at Birmingham who organised a successful meeting in this important area of teaching in the dental curriculum.



Welcome back

.....to another term and an exciting one at that. Sorry the update comes on the second day but the first day was exceptionally busy for many people including the Curriculum team. There was the small matter of the second year examinations to be done and the students were milling around the school waiting for their results to be released yesterday evening. The Final Years are getting ready for the final push towards finals. Their emails and conversation ranges from presentation cases to finals questions. There is also the small matter of the West Midlands VT list being announced this week. For those staff who are acting as referees then there are references to be done. In fact Your Blogger has several CVs and testimonials to either look through or sign and I know that this is repeated across many other members of staffs' desks. Just paid my cheques for the Graduation Dinner as well as the Dental Hospital Ball. The Graduation dinner is being held at the Marriot Forest Of Arden Hotel which will be something to look forward to in July.

And I still have not mentioned the most important event of the year so far taking place in May, the release of the new Star Trek movie. Sorry but there is also life outside dentistry! Just to get you thinking of all the nice weather out there and for those looking forward to the forthcoming holidays here is a rather nice sunset from a foreign warm climate. So Welcome back and stay tuned for more updates.



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