

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

The School of Dentistry

Text Version

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Happy New Year !!!

December 2009



Advent Calender Day 25

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all the Staff at the School of Dentistry. For our final picture we have Lynne Reynolds and the First Floor University Staff wishing you all the best on the occasion of the last day of term (a few days ago!)



Advent Calender Day 24



Advent Calender Day 23



Advent Calender Day 22



Advent Calender Day 21



Advent Calender Day 20



Advent Calender Day 19



Advent Calender Day 18



Advent Calender Day 17

Dental School and Hospital Carol Concert

The Annual Carol concert took place on Wednesday lunchtime. Prof Chapple was the Compère for the concert and there was a mixture of individual performances and several songs by the Choir. At the interval there was a raffle in aid of both the charities fronted by Vince Higham, hospital porter and St Mary's Hospital. One of the highlights was Nurse Sarah's rendition of Santa Baby with Prof Chapple as Santa. Mince pies and Mulled wine was also available for the audience.



Advent Calender Day16

Head of School Open House

Professor Phil Lumley hosted his annual open house where staff of the school are invited to enjoy a mince pie with a glass of mulled wine. It was also an opportunity for the school to wish Phil Tomson and Mary Doherty all the best for their forthcoming marriage over the New Year.



Advent Calender Day 15



The Dental School attended a Motown Christmas party night at the Botanical Gardens. The School took over 5 tables and there were friends from the Hospital with us as well. There was a quiz to do which was captained by Phil Tomson which needless to say we did not win. After the Turkey dinner, it was time to dance the night away to a Motown tribute band. Thanks go to Lynne Reynolds for organising the festivities.



Still a few days to go before Christmas. Still some student vivas and lectures to do. Still some last minute research papers and grants to get written. But there are still some more Christmas Parties to get to!



Advent Calender Day 14

Records tumble on Ecourse

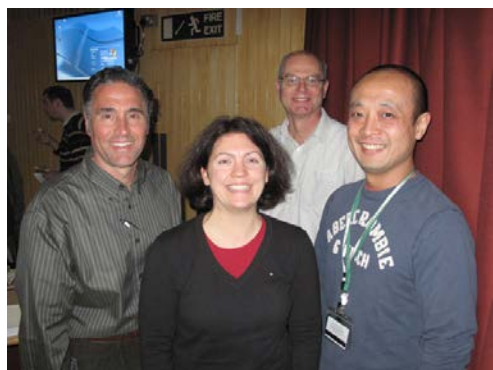
With the end of speciality vivas happening all this week the Ecourse has seen incredible use of the "live" chat area. In June on average there were 600 chats for the whole month. In the month of December there have been over 5,000 chats with nearly 2,000 taking place this last week. On Sunday night the Ecourse was struggling to keep up with the demand for pages as nearly 2,500 chats took place from 7pm. Students are learning by interaction on the chat site and several staff members have been helping out with the questions. All that remains to be said is good luck to everyone with the speciality vivas.



Advent Calender Day 13



Advent Calender Day 12

"Science munch & lunch" seminar


Dr Ben Scheven writes

"The "science munch & lunch" seminar series represent monthly lunch-time research meetings to promote scientific exchange and postgraduate training in the School of Dentistry. Today's meeting (11th December) consisted of three short presentations by visiting research scientists currently working in the School of Dentistry: Prof Jack Ferracane (University of Oregon, USA.), Dr Yusuke Takahashi (Osaka University, Japan), Dr Stephanie Krifka (University of Resenburg, Germany) The speakers as shown in the photograph together with Dr. Ben Scheven, organiser of the science munch & lunch, provided a most interesting insight into their background and research. "



Advent Calender Day 11



Advent Calender Day 10

British Society for Oral Medicine Juniors prize


Ana Poveda has just won the British Society for Oral Medicine Juniors prize for the best presentation given at the recent juniors meeting. Ana presented on a family of 3 siblings who have hypoplasia of the major salivary and lacrimal glands. This is a rare genetic defect, with autosomal dominant inheritance and is probably due to a mutation in the so called FGF10 gene. The picture shows John Hamburger and Ana Poveda just taking a rest inbetween final year Oral Medicine vivas.



Advent Calender Day 9



Advent Calender Day 8



Advent Calender Day 7



Advent Calender Day 6



Advent Calender Day 5



Advent Calender Day 4



Advent Calender Day 3



Advent Calender Day 2



Advent Calender Day 1

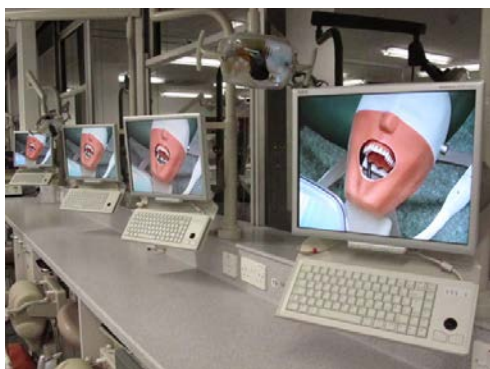
Visit to Lufton College in Yeovil, Somerset.

On 24th October, ten 2nd year students (and I) had an early start and went on a day trip to Lufton College in Yeovil, Somerset. Lufton is a part of **Mencap National College** and is set on two sites in beautiful countryside (very different to Birmingham!). During the day, a variety of activities helped us to get to know some of the students at Lufton and learn some more skills for communication, including our first attempts at sign language, which were interesting! We are looking forward to hosting a visit for students from Lufton College after Christmas and introducing them to life in the Dental School.

November 2009

DDU elective competition

Fatema Maimoon won the DDU elective competition. This was a national competition requiring students to answer a MCQ followed by a tie breaker. The top prize was £1000 to go towards the cost of an elective or special study module. Fatema received her cheque at the Dental School from Mr Chris Hall, the DDU Dental liaison Manager. As you can see Fatema was overjoyed with winning the Prize. Congratulations Fatema.



Professor Adrian Randall, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Academic Quality & Students visited the School of Dentistry to open the newly refurbished 8th Floor. He was taken on a tour of the facilities including the use of the Ecourse e-learning which is integrated with each PC. Philip Tomson demonstrated how the units worked including the intra oral camera. Professor Randall also met with students who are using the state-of-the-art clinical simulation laboratory. The student feedback on use of the facility is excellent.



Professor Philip Lumley thanked all the people that were involved in the project. This was followed by the official opening by Professor Randall. In his speech he congratulated the school of Dentistry for its innovation and ability to deliver a high quality education in dentistry. Both Prof Lumley and Randall praised the co-operation between the University and South Birmingham Community Trust that made this venture possible.



Dr Simon

Congratulations to Stéphane Simon who obtained his PhD recently at Paris 7. This was a joint PhD between Paris and Birmingham. His supervisors from Birmingham were present at the defence of his PhD and included Philip Lumley, Tony Smith, Dick Shelton and Paul Cooper.

The title of his thesis was

"Caractérisations moléculaire de l'Odontoblaste au cours des dentinogeneses primaire, secondaire et tertiaire."

Here are a few pictures for the many friends of Stéphane in the UK who wish to share his success.

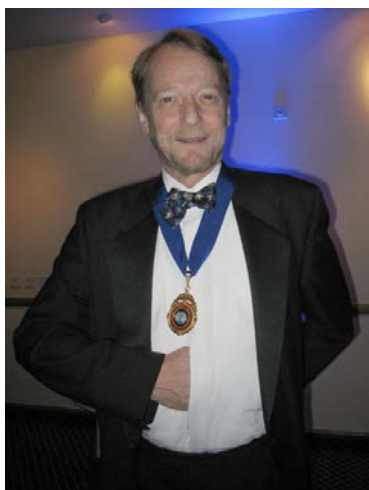


Dr John Rippin



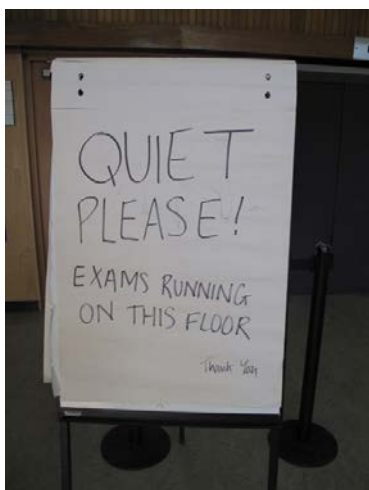
It is with deep regret that the School learnt that John Rippin had recently passed away. John was formerly Senior Lecturer and honorary consultant in Oral Pathology. John had an illustrious career starting from his Rugby days as a student where he captained the Medical and Dental 1st XV. He went on to become a lecturer in Oral Pathology at the School. He was passionate about dentistry and was a popular figure with the students. His interactions with the student body included away weekends climbing in Snowdonia. As an Oral Pathologist, he was considered to be one of the best and his opinions were always sought. As a teacher he was influential in shaping the dental course during his time as Chair of Curriculum Development Committee and the Medical Sciences subcommittee. Even in retirement John maintained close links with the school and was a recent President of the Sands Cox Society. He will be fondly remembered and greatly missed.

President Giles



Never mind all that fuss about the EU Presidency, we have our very own President here in Birmingham. Giles Perryer, course creator and clinical lecturer added another accolade to his career as he was elected President of the Central Counties Branch of the British Dental Association. Here we have a picture of Giles at the BDA Annual dinner dance. Well done Giles.

Watch out there is an Examination about !



It is examination time this week and the 4th years took part in their OSCE on Tuesday. The 5th years have Finals Part 1 on Wednesday. The course discussion board on our elearning site had been going strong with scores of messages posted at all times of night. Well done to all the members of staff for keeping up with the discussions. Soon the discussion areas will be gearing up for the end of specialty area examinations. Busy times ahead for Staff and Students.

Association of Dental Hospitals



The Hospital and School were visited by the Association of Dental Hospitals who held their annual conference at Birmingham. The visit was organised by Kath Jakeman who is at the top of the stairs and tallest person on the photo! Quite a collection of important people all in one place!

Visit of Professor David Eastwood

The Dental School was pleased to welcome Professor David Eastwood, Vice-Chancellor to the University of Birmingham. This was the first visit of the Vice Chancellor since taking up office earlier this year. The Head of School, Professor Lumley hosted the visit and took the opportunity of showing Professor Eastwood around the school. The Vice Chancellor visited the clinical floors of Periodontology, Prosthetic Dentistry and Clinical Practice. Professor Smith briefed the Vice Chancellor on our high quality research which is of International standing and also showed him our laboratory areas on Floor 7 and 8.



The Vice Chancellor was also taken through our award winning ecourse and also saw the new 8th Floor facilities which will be officially opened later in the month. During the tour of the building, many of the students and staff welcomed the opportunity to meet and discuss their work with Professor Eastwood.

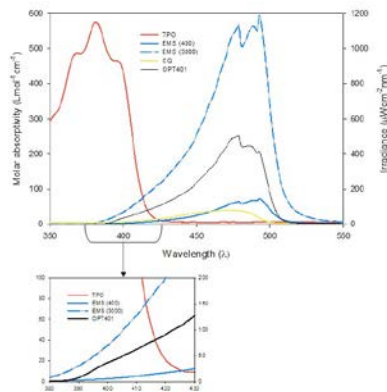


Award for Biomaterials

Julian Leprince (PhD student, Louvain University, Belgium) and Mohammed Hadis (PhD student, Biomaterials, Birmingham) were winners of the "Paffenbarger Award" for research in Dental and Biomaterials Sciences at the recent Academy of Dental Materials conference (Portland, Oregon) for the paper entitled "Lucirin-TPO: Photoinitiator Reactivity and Curing Time Reduction", J Leprince, M Hadis, J Ferracane, A Shortall, G Leloup, W Palin. Julian presented this work at the ADM following a visit to the Biomaterials laboratory for 6 weeks this summer to conduct the research with Mohammed who is currently in the final year of his PhD (supervised by Will Palin and Adrian Shortall). Many congratulations to both students for their achievement in this prestigious international competition.



The following is a figure from the poster which shows the "effective irradiation of a halogen curing light (EMS) operated at different intensities and absorption characteristics of the photoinitiators, TPO and CQ"



Coffee Mug



Just got my Christmas Coffee Mug and it is filled up with special Christmas Coffee. Just the thing to cheer you up for the coming weekend. Staff Development Day today so will be drinking lots of coffee whilst listening to the latest developments in the School. Hope you have a good Bonfire Party if you are going to one tonight.

Postcard from Brazil

Professor Tony Smith has just returned from a gruelling lecture tour of Brazil and this is a few notes from his postcard.

*On Saturday I had a day off in the Pantanal fishing for piranhas and chasing alligators (see pics) ! The rest of the time, I was lecturing on research journal publishing and having discussions on research interactions - see **Research Councils UK sign groundbreaking MoU with Brazil** Interestingly, I briefly visited the FAPESP offices in Sao paulo on Wed am when one of my hosts was submitting a grant application. Maria Fidela de Lima Navarro was my main host and is Secretary General of University of São Paulo and President-Elect of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR). **Sao Paulo is the biggest university in Brazil***



Thanks Tony and I like the alligator!!

End of our Summer



Here is Birmingham on a Monday morning with the Sun shining.

However I think this is the last of our Indian Summer. Enjoy before the rain comes!

October 2009

Halloween in Paediatric Dentistry



Be scared, be very scared as our students (Group 4.5) in the Paediatric Department dress up for Halloween. All the costumes were provided by Tracey Sanders and Gaynor Partridge, Head Nurses on Paediatric Dentistry.

What Trick or Treat do you think we should do with these guys this Halloween?

Thanks to Jason Pike, Gabrielle Stanley and Kris Coomar for alerting me to this photograph.

It is the small things in life that make a difference....



Many staff and students make their way through the city centre and one of the routes is past Snow Hill station. Last week they opened up on part of Snow Hill Plaza allowing you direct access to the new Office Block that is adjacent to the junction between Snow Hill Queensway and Colmore Circus. It may only knock off 1 min off your normal walk to work but as the title says it is the small things in life that make a difference.....

Wedding Congratulations



Congratulations to Nav Karir and Vishali Hondocha who got married at the weekend. Nav is a specialist registrar in Restorative Dentistry at the Birmingham Dental Hospital having previously held a Senior House officer post. Likewise Vishali was also a Senior House Officer and followed this with a clinical assistant post in the Prosthetics Department. Both the School and Hospital congratulate them on their happy event and wish them well.

Student Talking Points in Dentistry 2009



We pride ourselves on being a friendly school and always say hello to visitors. At this year's Student Talking Points in Dentistry lecture we were pleased to welcome Professor Mike Lewis. Mike is a busy chap but he found time to talk to our students in the Alex McGregor Lecture Theatre. His talk was entitled "An essential guide to xerostomia". It was a well illustrated and informative review on this debilitating condition. The introductions were given by John Hamburger and the vote of thanks by Iain Chapple. The students enjoyed both his talk and the free "pizza" lunch afterwards.

Student Talking Points in Dentistry was organised by GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare (GSK)

MSc in Primary Dental Care



Here is proof that the MSc in Primary Dental Care at the School of Dentistry is as popular as ever. This year 9 dental practitioners have signed up for the 5 year course with the University of Birmingham. Here is a picture of the new group at the famous coffee break in the dental hospital cafeteria with the Course Organiser, Professor Trevor Burke.

Two European Treasurers together



Iain Chapple, Treasurer for the European Federation of Periodontology (EFP) and Damien Walmsley Treasurer for the Association of Dental Education in Europe (ADEE) were together for a recent workshop in Spain. ADEE have recently updated the paper on "Profile and Competences document for the graduating European Dentist" and this has instigated many specialities looking at their own educational documents. Prof Mariano Sanz, Dean of Madrid organised a European Workshop in Periodontal Education on behalf of the European Federation of Periodontology. The setting for the workshop was in the picturesque town of La Granja de San Ildefonso, near to Segovia.

There were 4 working groups covering the educational requirements of periodontology. Iain was Chair and Damien was co-Chair of Group 4 which was tasked at reviewing the Innovative educational methods and technologies applicable to continuing professional development in Periodontology.

Although the workshop involved a great deal of work there was time to visit the Palace which was once the summer residence of the Kings of Spain and the gardens are spectacular in their autumn colours.





----- Tooth Music



Ektor Grammatopoulos is currently studying for his MPhil in Orthodontics at Birmingham Dental School and Hospital as part of his specialist training. His research has focussed on the effect of malocclusion on wind instrument playing.

Ektor has shown that playing a wind instrument does not affect the position of the teeth. This is contrary to previous research and popular belief amongst wind instrument players and music teachers who have insisted that there was an effect. Ektor's research was a cross sectional observational study comparing the study casts of different groups of wind instrument players to string and percussion players. His study involved very strict inclusion and exclusion criteria and the clinical material was obtained from 14 orchestras, 4 jazz bands and 3 music colleges. Dr Ashish Dhoptkar, senior Lecturer in orthodontics was Ektor's supervisor

Ektor has received several awards for his work. These include the Ivor Whitehead Prize, British Dental Association West Midland Hospital Group and British Dental Association Central Counties Branch Joint Study Day Meeting, April 2009. The TC White Lecture Award Glasgow (a 1 hour lecture presented at the British Society of Dental Research Conference, September 2009). This prize was sponsored by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Glasgow. He has also won the Hawley Russell Prize- First prize for Poster Presentation, British Orthodontic Society Conference, Edinburgh, September 2009. He will also be presenting this work as an oral presentation at the 7th International World conference, Sydney, February 2010.

The picture shows Ektor with Joe Patton who is from the City of Birmingham Symphony orchestra.

----- Minder : Mindee

Ahmed Din, the BUDSS publicity officer provides a report on the Minder:Mindee event.



It's that time of the year when the newly arrived first years get paired up with their minders. This year they did it dressed up as aliens and astronauts. The evening started with bowling.



First the "Mindee's" had to search for their "Minder's" and once they did they had to try their hardest to swindle as many notes/books/advice out of them as possible!



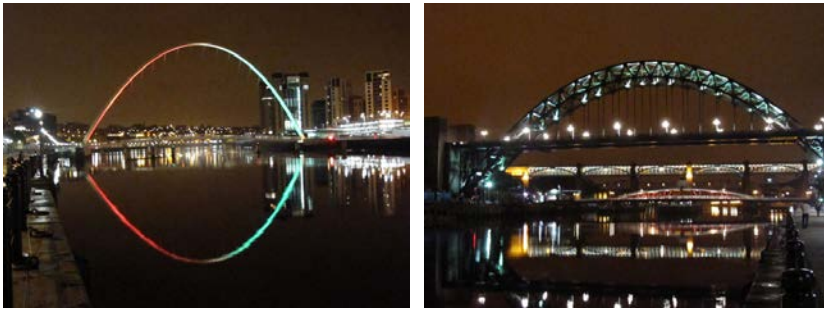
Once everyone had bonded they were moved to Urban Village Bar in Selly Oak where the socialising continued!



Now the "Mindee's" are being looked after!



Brian Schottlander hosted the annual prize BSSPD dinner at Cafe 21 in Newcastle. There was a strong Birmingham connection as the main prize was won by Kushal Gadhia with his presentation "Is botulinum toxin effective and safe? A systematic review of randomised controlled trials". This paper was given earlier in the year at the Annual BSSPD conference in York. Kushal was a Senior House Officer in Prosthetics and has now moved onto the Eastman where he is an SPpecialist registrar in Restorative Dentistry. The picture shows the Birmingham connection with left to right Chris Butterworth (previously SpR at Birmingham), David Attrill, Craig Barclay (BSSPD president and formerly member of staff at Birmingham), Damien Walmsley (BSSPD president-elect), Brian Schottlander and Prize Winner Kushal Gashia.



Here are a few shots of bridges over the Tyne which were taken on our way back to the hotel.

Rohin Butani won a bursary from the Sands Cox Society and presented his work at their Annual meeting. Rohan's talk was entitled "*An Investigation of Ayurvedic Principles in Dentistry and Their Use in Dental Extractions without Local Anaesthetic*". Rohan travelled to India to meet Dr Makwana who is an Ayurvedic doctor from Rajkot, Gujarat. Dr Makwana performs dental extractions without the use of local anaesthetic with the use of an ayurvedic technique called Jalandhar-Bandha Yoga (JBY). Rohan reported that Dr Makwana has a 74% success rate using this procedure. During an entertaining presentation, Rohan showed some interesting videos which demonstrated the technique. Rohan was one of 5 students who won Bursaries, the others being Medical Students who also presented their work to the Society. The picture shows Dr John Rippin (Chairman of the Sands Cox Society), Rohan and Dr Kirsty Hill (Chief Electives Co-ordinator).



After the business of the Annual General Meeting and the presentations by the students, there was a guest lecture by Peter Rock MBE, JP. Peter is a former Reader in Orthodontics at the School of Dentistry and also a Magistrate. He gave a humorous and reflective talk on a "View from the Bench". In his speech he covered the role of a Magistrate and also gave some amusing cases studies which highlighted the varied nature of his role as a Justice of the Peace.

For information [the Sands Cox society](#) is for Medical and Dental Graduates of Birmingham University. It organises 2 to 3 meetings per year, [publishes a journal \(Aesculapius\) annually](#) and supports current medical and dental students in their elective projects.

Well done to all those who took part in the Birmingham Half Marathon yesterday. Runners included Prof Lumley, Rob Mew (4th year dental Student) and Vince Higham (Hospital Porter). These are the ones I know about. If anyone has any photos or stories of people from the School or Hospital who took part then please forward them to the dental school Blogger and I will share them with you.

30 Year Reunion Dinner



At last some news to put on the Blog and what could be better to report than the 30 year reunion dinner that was held on Friday evening. The Arthur Thompson Charitable Trust provides the funding necessary for Birmingham Dental graduates who qualified 30 years ago to come together and to share all those memories of when they were dental students at Birmingham.



The year of 1979 were welcomed at Staff House by the Head of School Professor Philip Lumley. Next to the table plan was a poster of their student "mugshots" which revealed some very interesting hairstyles that were around at the end of the seventies. Staff House provided an excellent meal and followed by speeches from Prof Lumley, Prof McNeish and Dr Peter Rock. Philip reminded us of what happened in 1979; the politics, the sport and entertainment of that year. Prof McNeish welcomed the year on behalf of the Arthur Thompson Trust. The final speaker, Peter Rock, gave a humorous account of memories of the Dental School. There was time for group photographs and endless talk of what people were doing now, how their families are and their exploits/careers since 1979. Glyn Thomas brought along an old instrument box which many of today's dentists looked at with amazement when they consider their present day infection control in dental practice. A few had their pictures taken with the "box".



The party went late into the night and there will certainly be a few tired people in the morning. Special thanks go to Carinna Chilton from School office who organised the event. The 30 year Reunion Event is as always a special evening in the social calendar of the School of Dentistry.



September 2009

European Society of Endodontics - Edinburgh



Birmingham had a strong contingent at the European Society of Endodontolgy biennial meeting in Edinburgh last week which included Prof Phil Lumley, Nick Adams, Stephane Simon, Mike Waplington, Andy McRobert, Giles Round, Phil Tomson and numerous alumni. The congress was attended by nearly 1400 delegates from all over the world. The scientific programme was excellent with 4 simultaneous presentations given at once which made for some difficult choices.

Excellent oral presentations were given by Stephane Simon and Nick Adams. Stephane gave a thought provoking talk titled "the dental pulp - the root filling of the future?" and Nick presented an audit carried out with alumni Adjit Tandy and Karen Darby on the technical quality of root treatments carried out by undergraduates at Birmingham School of Dentistry.



British Society of Periodontology - Diamond Jubilee



The Diamond Jubilee (1949-2009) Autumn Scientific Meeting of British Society of Periodontology took place on 24th & 25th September at the Royal Institution of Great Britain in London. The conference was titled 'Plaque on Trial' which debated the role of plaque and the host response in periodontal disease. The meeting included a celebration of the Sir Wilfred Fish Prize with past winners giving presentations on their research since winning this prestigious prize. Prof Iain Chapple took part in this session with a presentation titled 'The tangled webs neutrophils weave'. On the Friday a keynote presentation was given by Prof Thomas Dietrich entitled 'Gingivitis & Periodontitis - 2 distinct conditions with different aetiologies?'



Fiona Blair, Mike Milward, Paul Weston, Amit Patel, Sue Noble & John Taggart from Birmingham also attended this interesting and thought provoking conference.

Freshers 2009



BUDSS president Jag Hans and his team did a great job for the new intake of dental students. The new students were met at the Medical school and following the necessary Fire talk, Jag gave a presentation on BUDSS and welcomed the new students to the dentistry course and introduced the Committee. There was then a group photograph before the coaches brought them to the dental school where they were met by loads of Pizza. After lunch, the freshers received their second Fire lecture of the day. Don't worry readers of the blog, there will be dentistry orientated lectures next week. Following the Trade fair in the common room, everyone assembled in the lecture theatre for the afternoon presentations including a video on the BDH has talent show that took place earlier in the year.



There was no let up in the proceedings as it was time for the Punch Party in the Common room followed by coaches back to the Vale. The final event was a night in the City. Jag Hans and the Committee must be congratulated on making this one of the best Freshers events ever and I hope that all First Years are ready for lectures on Monday morning!!



Professor Roy Page's swansong lecture delivered at Birmingham Dental School



Professor Roy Page gave the final lecture of his long and illustrious career at Birmingham Dental School on 22nd September 2009. As expected, the lecture theatre was packed with over 300 delegates to hear this iconic figure share his experiences of over 40 years at the forefront of oral health research. He was introduced by Prof Chapple and presented two excellent lectures in his own inimitable style to rapturous applause. Prof Chapple presented Prof Page with a commemorative gold medal as a gesture of our thanks to him for making the long journey to Brum and allowing general dentists, staff and students to share this prestigious event. The event also gave Prof Chapple the

opportunity to showcase the University spin out company **Previsor** which is the first evidence-based online risk prediction system for common oral diseases, specifically periodontitis, caries and oral cancer.



The event was generously sponsored by Johnson & Johnson, and students and staff alike partook in a glass of wine before the event began. The feedback from the event was extremely positive and complimentary, despite some humorous events surrounding an unwelcome security alarm just prior to the start. Professor Page will be joining the British Society of Periodontology as one of the International Honorary Members at the Diamond Jubilee dinner celebrations of the BSP on 24th September 2009.

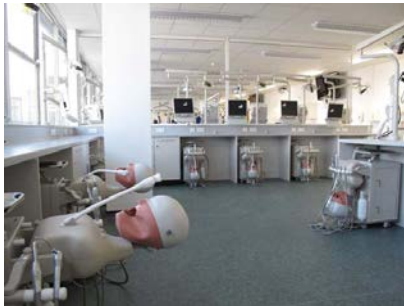


Special thanks to Mike Milward for the excellent pictures

A New Look



What a transformation! The 8th floor was the Ugly duckling of the School of Dentistry. That is no longer the case. The area has changed to a state-of-the-art clinical simulation laboratory. The lab has all the latest gadgetry and ergonomically designed equipment that are needed to train our dental students to the highest standards before they commence their work on patients. The School is pleased that it has opened in time for our new intake of pre-clinical students. It features three bays each with a central console. The phantom heads are central to the individual workstations and each is equipped with the latest high speed handpieces and other essential equipment. Each workstation also has a computer screen which will allow our students to access the Ecourse (Birmingham's award winning elearning environment) and also link to the clinical demonstrator working from the central console.



The pictures show the simulation laboratory just after the handover from the company. As you see the students will also have great views over the city surroundings.

Just to remind you what the 8th Floor looked like back in 2000. I hope you like the retro pictures of some of the staff as well.



British Association of Teachers of Conservative Dentistry (BATCD)

The annual conference of the British Association of Teachers of Conservative Dentistry (BATCD) was held this year in London at Queen Mary, University of London hosted by Barts and the London School of Medicine & Dentistry. Dominic Stewardson and Phil Tomson attended from Birmingham. The theme of the conference was "is there a future for conservative dentistry?" Speakers included Professors Edwina Kidd, Callum Youngson & Lawrence Mair and Drs. Niek Opdam, Ben Roberts & Shakeel Shahdad whose topics included a look forward and back at conservative dentistry, future training in dentistry, the role of conservative dentistry in whole patient care, working without amalgam, e-learning and the impact of implants on treatment planning. Some excellent presentations which provoked lively discussions. Overall this was a very enjoyable and worthwhile conference.

And the answer provided by the speakers (and delegates) to the conference theme question? - a consistent and definite YES!



The Boots Outreach clinic welcomed its first dental student this morning. The picture shows a smiling Sabrina Mulla who attended a New Patient clinic and clerked patients under the supervision of an academic consultant lead.



The 7 chair facility is situated on the ground floor of Boots department store in the city centre. The centre is well equipped with the latest dental chairs and digital technology. The first students will be assisting on Academic lead new patient clinics and it is planned to expand the teaching further over the coming year. At present several NHS consultants already have new patient clinics in the City Centre facility which was set up as a new initiative by South Birmingham Primary Care Trust.



Letter from America

Martin Ling has been fortunate to spend the summer working in the research laboratories in Boston Massachusetts with Dr Kantarci at the Goldman School of Dental Medicine looking at the production of neutrophil NETs as part of his PhD. Although most of the time is spent in the lab he has found time to enjoy the city including Boston DuckTours, Skywalk, visiting the Old State House and going whale watching, along with the occasional Samuel Adam's beer!

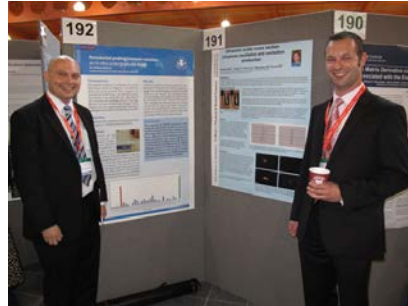


WELCOME BACK to the New Term and the Academic Year

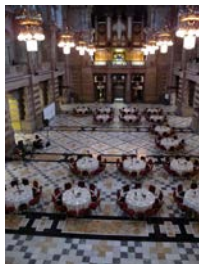
The School is looking rather quiet early this morning and so before it wakes up with the return of all our students. Here are pictures to remind you of the place early in the morning and just before it gets into the groove.



Part 2 of the BSDR conference



Thursday was a busy day at the BSDR and the focus was on our PhD students. First up was James Smith who gave an oral presentation for the MINTIG prize. It was a great performance and he answered his questions well. It was not to be the prize winner but James should be proud of his presentation. Another of our PhD students, Amal Linjawi presented her work on discussion board and elearning. Her performance was of a high standard and her powerpoint was amazing. Several delegates commented on it. Several members of staff had their research work displayed at the poster session. It was also a chance to chat to old friends and discuss new research opportunities.



The Kelvingrove Art Museum which was a stunning backdrop for the BSDR Annual Dinner. We were given the opportunity to see a large range of art and historical items with the doors closed to the public. My favourite was Salvador's Dali, Christ on the Cross. At the Annual dinner it was announced that Kushal Gadhia from the University of Birmingham had won the Voco Dental Materials Prize. Congratulations to Kush and his supervisor Owen Addison. After the formal speeches there was some Ceilidh Dancing for a couple of us and then it was home.

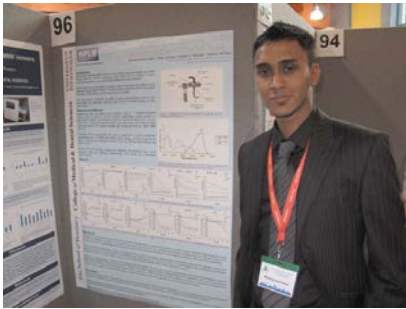
Paul Cooper is presented his research findings on the final day and then it was the journey back to Birmingham. The new term awaits us on Monday but there has been an outstanding performance by Team Birmingham at this BSDR. Well done to everyone who took part. A special thanks to those at base who made it possible for us to have a successful conference.

Birmingham at the British Society for Dental Research 2009 (part 1)

The first BSDR since RAE sees all the UK dental researchers gather at Glasgow this week. The team from Birmingham choose different forms of travel and a "Plane vs. Train" race took place on the Tuesday afternoon with Tony Smith, Paul Cooper and James Smith making it first up to Glasgow. At the Welcome reception, it was announced that Martin Ling has won one of the funding prizes from the Oral and Dental Research Trust. Well done to Martin who is working in the Research laboratories at Boston University. Martin, just to let you know that Tony Smith has your cheque!

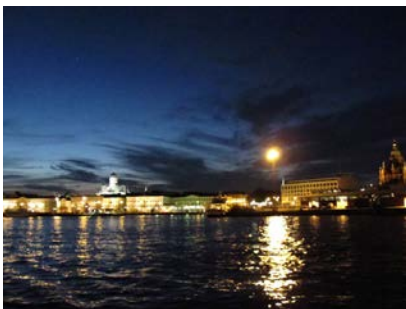


The Welcome reception was also a chance to catch up with old friends and look to future research opportunities. The Glasgow organising committee have put on a good conference and it will be an exciting three days. On Wednesday there were several presentations from Birmingham including Owen Addison and Trevor Burke. I will give you an update tomorrow and let you know how the Whisky tasting experience went. It will be interesting to see how the Birmingham presenters perform on Thursday.



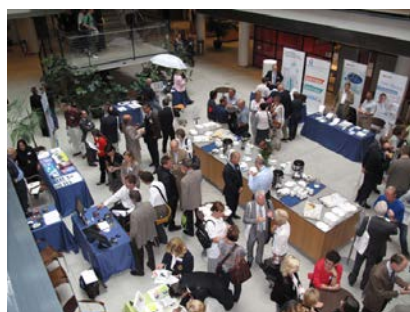
August 2009

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.



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