

UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

The School of Dentistry

Text Version

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## **August 2011**

### **Professorial Wedding Celebrations**



Here are the pictures you have been waiting for. Professor Deborah White marries Professor Giles Perryer. The wedding and reception took place over the August Bank Holiday. Pictures show Deborah's Mum and daughters of Deborah and Giles with the happy couple. Don't you love that Cup Cake Wedding Cake!



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## **August 2011**

### **Birthday for Trevor**



There were a few people around to celebrate Trevor Burke reaching 65 and we gathered in School Office to raise a glass or two on his behalf. As Professor of Primary Dental Care and Editor of Dental Update he has had countless highlights in his career but celebrating birthdays is always good when you are amongst friends. Here is Trevor with Lyn Malthouse who helps with the successful Masters in General Dental Practice.

## Report on Staff Student Golf Day



Some news to catch up is the Staff/Student Golf Match and this is a report from Phil Murphy so it may be a bit biased!

*This is the 58th year of the Staff/student golf match, it started in 1953, 43 matches have been played, 5 draws, 13 student wins and 25 staff wins. The match took place at Telford golf and Spa on the 17th and 18th June, in total 36 people attended of which 28 played golf. The event was fantastic; those were the words of Kevin Fairbrother. We were lucky with the weather, the hotel and food was excellent and the course was good, but most of all everyone enjoyed themselves and great interaction with the students. The staff student golf match went very well for the staff :) we won 11-2.*

- The nearest the pins prizes were won by Richard Caddick, Adrian Shortall, Dave Hall and Gary Fleming.
- The individual prizes 3rd place Rob Harrison, 2nd place Yog Badham and in 1st place Philip Murphy.

## July 2011

### John Gilmour



It was with deep sadness that the School received the news of John Gilmour's untimely passing away on 23rd July.

John was the Associate Dean of the West Midlands Postgraduate Dental Deanery, and a passionate supporter of Dental Education. John qualified in Dentistry at Birmingham University in 1980, and many at the School recently got together with him and his year at their 30th reunion last October in Staff House. John had already achieved a Diploma in Medical Education, and was looking forward to starting a Masters Degree next year.

John also ran a successful partnership in General Practice for many years with Philip Burnell in Chasetown, where he was a popular and highly effective Vocational Trainer for newly qualified dentists. He later became the VT advisor for Stafford before taking on the role of Associate Dean in 2009.

John was a keen footballer when younger. He was a good midfielder who played for his year team "The Dregs" and for the Dental School team while a student. He carried on playing in the Wolverhampton leagues after qualifying (with some interesting characters!), and dental meetings were rearranged more than once depending on the England and Oldham Athletic fixture lists.

Everybody who knew John would agree he was an upstanding, caring, and scrupulously honest man, devoted to his family about whom he would frequently update his colleagues and friends. He was also committed to helping our profession, and will be sorely missed by his BDA colleagues at our regular meetings in Edgbaston.

Our thoughts and deepest sympathies are with John's wife Serena, his three children, and his friends and family at this time.

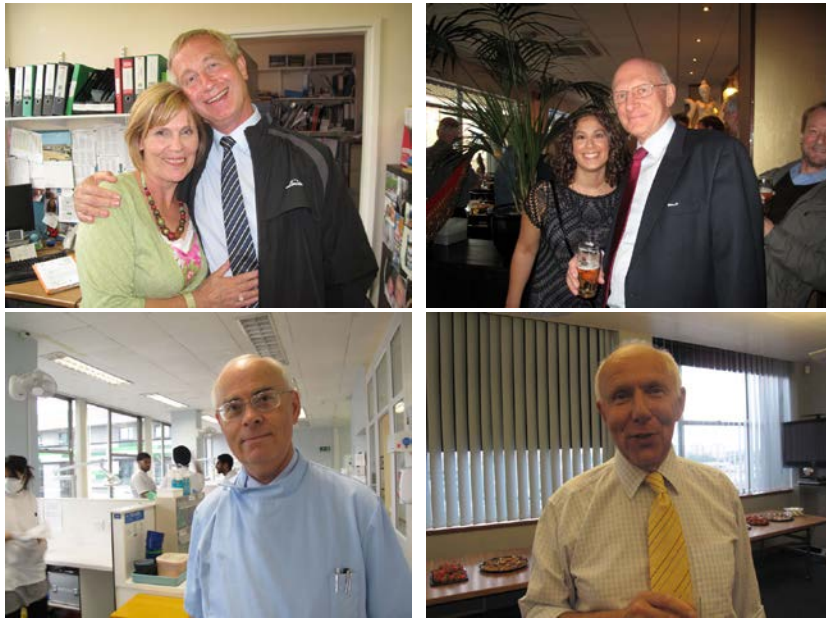
The funeral will be held on Monday 8th August at St Nicholas' Church, Church Road, Codsall, WV8 1EH at 11.30 am

*Giles Perryer and Dai Gingell.*



## Saying goodbyes and celebrating events

The last week of term saw the retirement of several key members of the part time staff, Richard Caddick, Roger Mosedale, Roger Pearson and Peter Neal.



It is difficult to single any one of them out as all of them have given tremendous service to the school over the years. Calculating the total years of service all four have given is the region of 70 plus years. There was a presentation in the board room where their achievements were recognised.



At the same time a small present was given in celebration of the forthcoming marriage of two Professors, Giles Perryer and Deborah White. So the term has finished and the students are now on their holidays. The blog will be quiet for a time and I wish you a happy and restful holiday.

## Graduation Day 2011

Graduation ceremonies are always lovely days. It does not matter if you have been to only one or many of them, they never fail to move you. Today was no exception and the pictures tell the story of many happy qualified dentists who are about to set off on life's journey. They are all well prepared, they are sad to be leaving Birmingham but they will be great ambassadors for the school.



Not forgetting our undergraduates there were also four PhD graduands and it was the 10th anniversary of the Advanced MSc in General Dental Practice. Well done to all of them and thanks for being such great students. Best of luck in your careers.





### Prize giving 2011

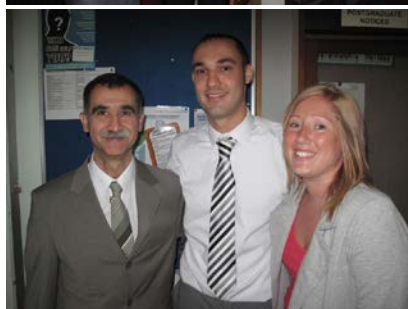


This year it is all a different way around. Usually there is the Graduation at the University followed by Prize giving. The Graduation Ball then follows at the weekend. Well as you can see we have already done the Ball and on a rainy Monday morning it was the Prize giving.

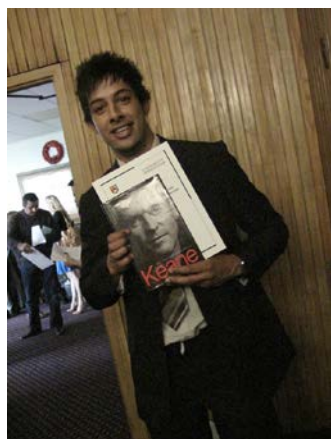




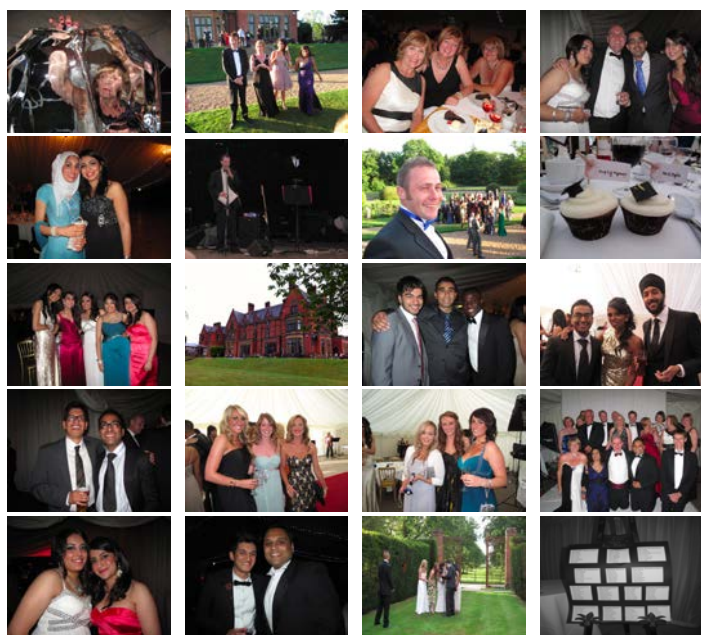
However there was much excitement and enthusiasm before the ceremony and this year the blog has decided to focus on the parents, partners and other supporters for our dental students. It is nice to mingle with the proud parents before the prize giving and exchange stories about the student. The prizes were awarded by Dr Janet Clarke, President of the British Dental Association who herself was a prize winner 30 years ago. Professor Lumley then gave his Annual Report to the assembled audience. There were the photographs and people then slowly made their way to the campus for this afternoon's ceremony.



**Postscript:** Have you ever wondered what student's may select for their prize. Maybe a book on dentistry perhaps? As this photograph shows they have other interests.



## Graduation Ball



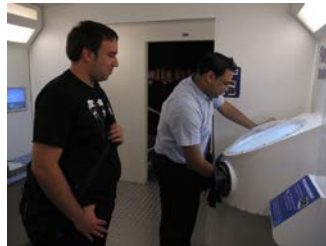
The 2011 Graduation Ball was held at Wroxall Abbey in the glorious surroundings of the Warwickshire Countryside. The morning weather was not promising and there was plenty of rain but by 6pm the clouds parted and the sun shone. This allowed time for a group photograph and predinner drinks in the grounds of the hotel. There were lovely touches to the meal including beautifully decorated cup cakes with individual names on. During the meal there was a speech by Professor Iain Chapple, literally singing the praises of the final year and then a thank you to Rima Patel and Meera Pajpani who led the final year organising committee. Afterwards there was a chance to try out the ice sculpture vodka luge or if you're more energetic take to the dance floor. There was much conversation to be had in the bar as well. This was almost the last time that the students would be together as a year, as after graduation day on Monday they would all be going their separate ways. But for the time being there was still much to enjoy and the evening was still young!!

## Visit to ThinkTank

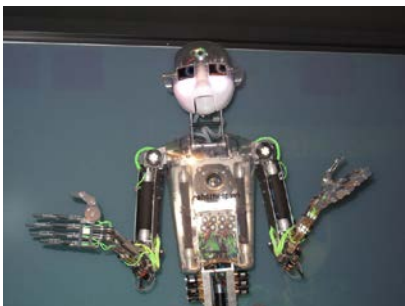




Communicating our research and learning how to engage the public in our work is an important skill for scientists. Therefore as part of our training programme for our postgraduate students, we visited [Thinktank. Birmingham science museum](#). The evening started with a buffet meal and then Dr Kenny Webster the resident scientist talked to us about public engagement. In his talk he dispelled some myths about the subject but gave us practical examples of how to undertake such activity. The aim is to enthuse non-scientists about the research work that we do in a practical and compelling way.



Afterwards we were allowed to wander around the Thinktank and interact with the exhibits. Popular exhibits were the recycling area, Dino jaws and Robothesbian. Professor Smith also found his first car was parked in the museum. The students found the evening very enjoyable and some were interested in taking part in some of the ongoing activities of the Birmingham Science Museum. Thanks to Thinktank, Dr Kenny Webster and to Sarah Knaggs for organising the evening and to our students and supervisors who participated in the event.





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### 10th Anniversary of MSc in Advanced General Dental Practice.

Somewhat inclement weather forced the band to stay inside. However it did not damp the spirits of Trevor Burke as he led the celebrations of 10 years of the MSC in Advanced General Dental Practice. A great time was had by all. Invites were extended to all past graduands, as well as those currently undertaking studies. Tom Addison was the first Graduate of the course. Professor Burke thanked all those involved, with particular thanks to Lynne Malthouse the programme secretary. Thanks to Dr David Attrill for the pictures and text.



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### How do they do that?

Here is a picture of Ellen jumping in front of the University Clock on the recent community open day on campus. A





great photo and thanks to David Attrill for sending it in.

It is Ellen Attrill by the way!

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### Simon Lea leaving party



It was the last day of work for Research Fellow Simon Lea as the research contract funded by the EPSRC came to an end. Simon has led on the research into ultrasonic scalers and other instruments at the School publishing over 30 papers on the subject. However it was time to say goodbye and we have a picture of Simon with Prof Gabriel Landini.

Comments on the leaving card mention Simon's sense of fun and his ability to cheer people up. As a school we wish to thank you for your work that you have done for us and wish you all the best in your future life and career.

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### June 2011

#### Glastonbury



Glastonbury is over for another year and one of our dental students Hurjoht Virdee was playing drums for **Eternal Taal**, a Bhangra music group hailing from Hansworth in Birmingham. Here we see Hurjoht in his wellies relaxing in the mud at Glasto. He performed on the same day but not the same stage as Beyonce. Rumour has it there is a picture of himself with Beyonce but it has not yet surfaced.

## United Nations Millennium Goals project



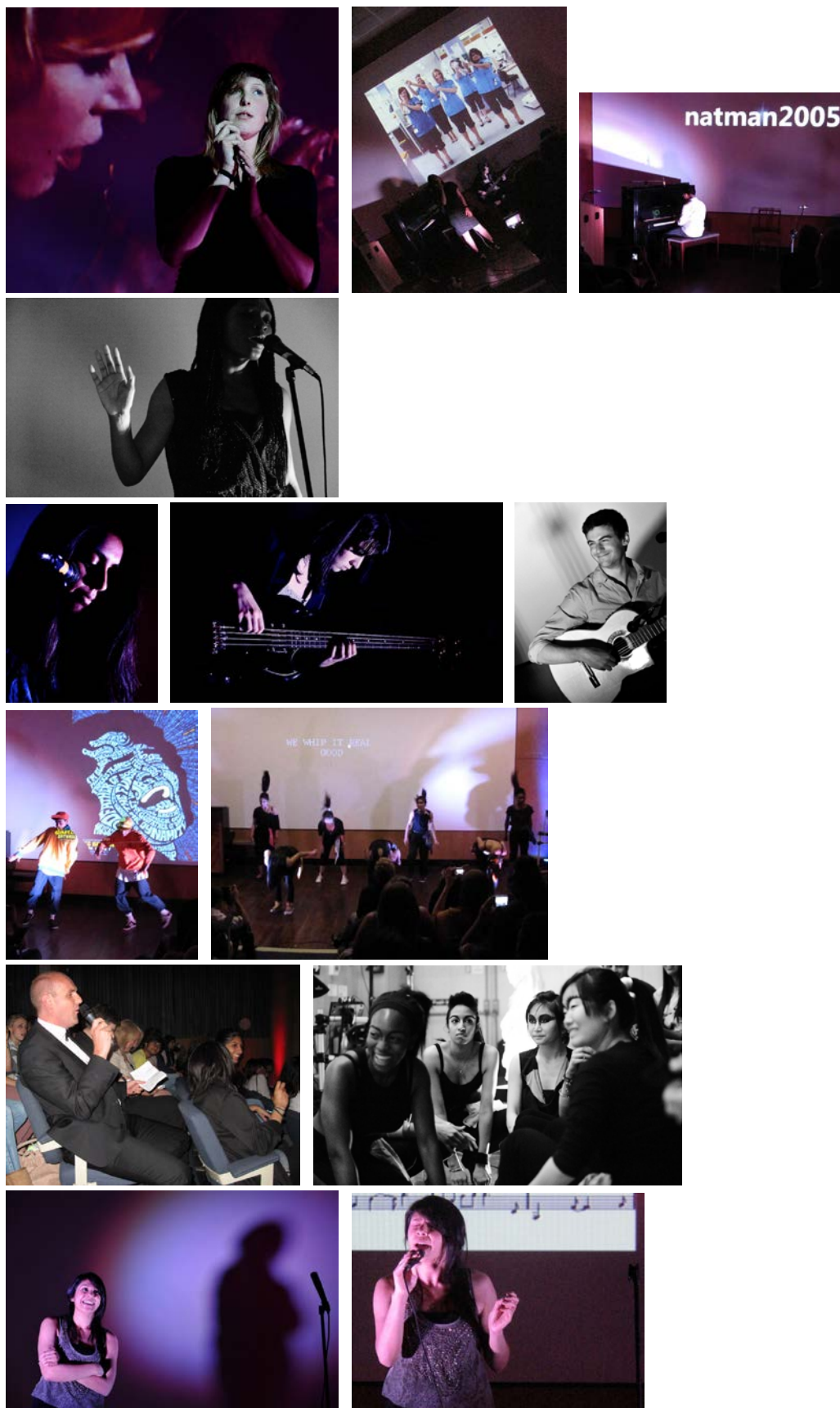
The **United Nations Millennium Goals** project are a commitment by the United Nations to establish peace and a healthy global economy by focusing on major issues such as poverty, children's health, empowerment of women and girls, sustainable environment, disease, and development. The Health Sciences group of **Universitas 21** of which the University of Birmingham is one, has taken up this challenge and are putting together interdisciplinary projects that focus on these issues. **There is a web site** that gives some further information.

Three of our now newly qualified dental students attended a meeting at the University of Nottingham where a group of 35 students ranging from medics, nurses, midwives and physiotherapists came together to discuss two interdisciplinary case studies based around the indigenous population in Australia and a community in the Punjab, Northern India. Both cases raise fundamental public health issues in developing countries focussing on inequalities. The discussion amongst the group of interdisciplinary health care students looked at strategies on how to help those communities. A very enjoyable day and thanks to Jessica Morris, Anna Holden and Ahmed Din for coming along to participate on behalf of the dental school at Birmingham.

## TALENT NIGHT

Here are the official photographs for the night of the year. You can see how much fun the School had and how much talent our students possess outside dentistry. Thanks to Steve Duttine and the Blogger for the pictures. I am sure you will agree that they tell the story of the night!!









It is that time of year that the tourists in Stratford upon Avon get to see not so famous Actors and Actresses. Although there were many Japanese tourists who had their cameras out taking photographs of our students in their fancy dress. The costumes were very imaginative especially the ones shown in the pictures. The final year students were so pleased and happy about passing their exams and much of the conversation was about how they went. The fun is not over because tonight is the Birmingham talent show. This is the week of weeks at Birmingham, and we just know how to work hard but also have serious fun.



Professor Lumley looks like he is the middle of a scrum but it is only our dental students milling around the basement notice board. Yesterday the finals results were released and the tradition is for them to go onto the notice board. An hour later the board is quiet with the students celebrating their success with friends and family. Well done to all who passed the exams. This is a busy week for the school and we move on to a night at Stratford upon Avon and the Talent Show. So stay tuned for more news.

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**Good luck to all our Final Year Dental Students on their examinations taking place on Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th.**

### May 2011

#### **Marathon King**

Last weekend Philip Lumley, Head of School, took part in the Edinburgh Marathon. The weather conditions consisted of gale force wind and rain but in spite of this Philip put in a time of 3 hours 10 mins. I am informed that this leads to automatic entry to London for two years as Philip is good for his age group of 40 to 59 year olds!



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**It is BACK !**

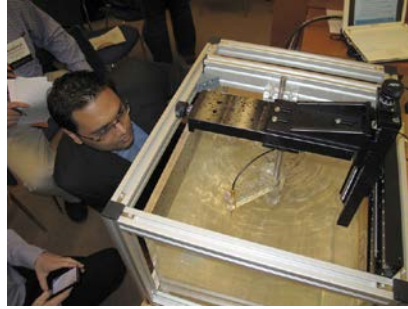


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#### **Ultrasonics Industry Association**

Upen Patel and Damien Walmsley were in a stormy Glasgow for the Ultrasonics Industry Association meeting. The first day featured Medical ultrasonics. Upen presented his work on "An in vitro set-up to study low-frequency ultrasound effects on dental cells" which was well received by the Association. Damien presented a keynote on "Ultrasonics in Dentistry". The conference included seminars and practical demonstrations on all aspects of ultrasound. There are close links between academia and industry at such a conference which leads to further

research projects. A highlight was Andrew Hurrell from Precision Acoustics giving dramatic demonstrations of power ultrasound. The weather in Glasgow was bad and a view from the lecture room window gives an idea of what was happening whilst we were listening to the speakers.



## BDA Conference







The BDA conference is held in Manchester and there has been a real buzz about the place. It was also fantastic to be there when our very own Janet Clarke was installed as President of the Association. There have been many highlights of which the visit of the Health Secretary Andrew Lansley was one. He spoke about his views on the NHS and then was prepared to take questions from the audience. His performance was impressive although many people came away still uncertain about how dentistry would operate in the future NHS being described. Birmingham Dental School and Hospital provided several highlights including Professor Chapple speaking on Periodontal Medicine and John Rout on Radiology. Professor Perryer was interviewed on DentisTV and the presenter remarked on his "BBC voice". Many of last year's students were around. Usual questions were how was the School doing, is it really that time of year for finals etc. They are all looking forward to next year and future jobs. Some of our present students came to the conference and were seen networking as well. The trade stands were exciting especially as there was the launch of several new products and the chance to get hold of new powered toothbrushes or toothpastes. One stand had several green Ninjas running around the exhibition hall that provided much entertainment. Manchester is a lively city almost as good as Birmingham and evening activity at several venues proved to be very popular including the Friday night conference party at Tiger, Tiger. Manchester continues to be a very popular venue so much so that next year the conference will be held here.

### The Dental School has Talent



The forthcoming Dental School has talent night will take place on 9th June. As a taster here is a rundown on one of our talented students - Shiraz Khan Competition:

#### FLOOR WARS

Date: 19th March

Location: Vega club, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Shiraz reached the top 16 in the world of the footwork battles, out of 65 dancers who registered worldwide. A little something from Shiraz:

*"It was amazing experience, not only to visit such an 'aesthetically-pleasing' city, but also to compete at such a level. I find that the stresses of the undergraduate training program sometimes make it difficult to chase those hobbies that we all mentioned in our interviews, however, am just grateful that the opportunity has arisen. In addition later this year houses some of the biggest competitions in Europe, such as 'Outbreak Europe, the winners of which are whisked away to Florida all expenses paid in late December. I am allowed to dream....'. So to my next venture, 'Boogie Down Horsens', in Horsens, Denmark .."*

ps, I have been able to track down a video for your dental blog, with the details listed below.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKvdVLhECx4>

I am the third dancer and

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KMiiZhOapSY&feature=related>

second dancer.

## Birmingham dental graduate assumes Presidency of BDA



Dr Janet Clarke, Clinical Director of Birmingham Community Healthcare Trust Community Dental Service (CDS) and Honorary Clinical Lecturer at Birmingham Dental School, will become the 125th President of the British Dental Association (BDA) this Thursday, 19 May. Janet qualified from Birmingham in 1981 and also has a Master of Community Dental Health which she received in 1989. Janet is a strong supporter of the School of Dentistry and her local and national work was recognised when she was awarded a MBE in 2010 for services to dentistry.

There will be a strong representation from Birmingham at the BDA conference in Manchester to see Janet being presented with her chain of office as BDA President.

## 3M ESPE Award

At the recent 3M ESPE awards for innovation our very own Hurjoht Virdee was the winner from the School of Dentistry, University of Birmingham. Here he is at the award ceremony with Professor Trevor Burke at the award ceremony.



## Good to be back

Sorry to all fans of the blog but there was a lot to catch up with after Easter. There is a backlog of news but just to bring you up to date here are some pictures from an event that took place over the last few days. The Dental Hospital Boardroom became a suite of three surgeries for three days. The School and Hospital were assessing dental chairs from suppliers in anticipation of moving to a new Dental School/Hospital. It was good fun but also a serious exercise as we evaluated the dental chairs from three different companies.



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