I was delighted to receive the recent issue of the Dental Mirror of December 2012. It was very interesting to learn of the enterprising new developments at the Glasgow Dental Hospital and School and gratifying to read of the outstanding achievements of staff and students. The School is clearly in good heart and, this year, the Dental Students’ Society is celebrating its Golden Jubilee.

This edition of the Dental Mirror is devoted to Glasgow Dental Alumni and their relationships with the Dental Hospital and School and the University of Glasgow, a subject very close to my heart.

In 1979 we celebrated the Centenary of the Glasgow Dental Hospital and School and many alumni returned from home and abroad to enjoy a memorable reunion. Events were held at the University, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons as well as the Dental Hospital and School. At this Centenary we formed the Glasgow Dental Alumni Association which met annually and played an important role in establishing the West of Scotland Centre for Postgraduate Dental Education in 1985.

The new centre, the first of its kind in the UK, has been very successful in promoting postgraduate and continuing education, distance learning and much good fellowship in our profession. However with the increasing demands on professional time and the success of the Postgraduate Centre, the attendance at the Annual Dental Alumni Association Meetings was reduced and since 2004 it has ceased to meet. This has resulted in some loss of communication between the Dental School, which brought us all together, and the Dental alumni it has produced.

So this new edition of the Dental Mirror from our old Dental School is timely and Professor Bagg, Will McLean and all concerned are to be congratulated. I have no doubt that it will inform, help us to recall past memories and facilitate further reunions in the future. It can also provide the feedback and the free exchange of ideas which are the essential lifeline of a progressive educational institution like the Glasgow Dental Hospital and School.

My best wishes for the success of the Dental Mirror and everyone concerned in these new developments.
Together – William McLean describes current activities in re-engaging Alumni

In my role as part of the editorial team of the Dental Mirror and also as one of the people that are working towards re-engaging alumni of the Dental School, I am happy to be able to tell you that both groups could not have wished for a better start to the year. The latest issue of the Dental Mirror has been very well received; we thank all of you that have passed on your thanks and well wishes. It is my response, to an E-mail from an alumni having received the Dental Mirror, that conveys our intentions and so I have included it here: “One of the goals of resurrecting the Dental Mirror was to re-engage Alumni. Although not a graduate of Glasgow, I felt it essential to facilitate the continuation or rekindling of Alumni relationships. We generally have fond memories of our Alma Mater, but it is all too easy to lose touch due to our busy lives. It is shame that the relationship so often ends at, or soon after graduation. The School also has a great deal to gain from an active alumni group, but there is a genuine pride in the graduates that leave and an interest in their journey”.

This is a landmark year for the Glasgow Dental Student Society (GDSS), being the 50th birthday of the GDSS. It is with this in mind that with the help of Professor Bagga, the current GDSS committee invited past-presidents of the society and alumni to attend the Annual Dental School Ball and GDSS Golden Jubilee Ball at The Grand Central Hotel (see photograph) Richard Hogan (GDSS Ball Convenor) said “that the event received very positive feedback with students from all years congratulating the committee on a successful event”. Richard also mentioned how the students were pleased that the past-presidents were able to attend and that they would like to see even more staff and alumni involvement in future years. The charity raffle also proved to be a success and over £300 was raised for the Ben Walton Trust (www.benwaltontrust.org).

We are in the process of developing other alumni events. The first will be an open evening to showcase current research undertaken in the dental school and give alumni an opportunity to view the new clinical areas and the Dorothy Geddes Multimedia Laboratory. The date for this event is yet to be confirmed, but invitations will be sent out shortly.

We have also been approached by a couple of reunion groups lately, and are currently tailoring events specifically for them. One of the groups is the class of 1963 due to celebrate their Golden Jubilee. This group will be attending the Dental School on June 11th 2013 (the day before University Commemoration Day) and will "be-enrolling" in phantom head and histology classes to experience the latest in multimedia enhanced learning. Is your year arranging anything? If you are, you are welcome to drop me a line and we can see what is possible.

Another very exciting piece of news is that the Glasgow Dental Alumni Association (GDAA), which was founded in 1979, is entering a phase of renewed vigour. Although over the past few years it has not been active, the future looks bright. It has a strong heritage, and amongst past achievements are the establishment of the Glasgow Dental Educational Trust and the creation of the West of Scotland Postgraduate Dental Centre. A new committee overseen by David Still (a past president of the GDAA) is setting its sights on promoting alumni welfare through development of a strong alumni network and strengthening ties with the Dental School. I am sure you can see from the preceding that these are exciting times for the Dental School and Glasgow Dental School Alumni. The Dental Mirror will annually have an alumni focussed issue so look out for that. If you are aware of any alumni that are not receiving the Dental Mirror ask them to get in touch so we can ensure they receive future issues. We will keep in touch, and look out for forthcoming communications about alumni events.

John Gibson is the recently appointed Professor of Medicine in Relation to Dentistry and here he tells Dental Mirror about his journey, as a Glasgow graduate, away from Glasgow and back again.

Although born in Ayr, I grew up initially in Cumnervald but we moved back to Ayrshire (this time, Kilmarnock) when I was seven years old as my father had been made redundant. It was very character-forming to be an Ayr United supporter living in a tweed mill town! We had moved from a high-rise flat to a house with a garden where I experienced freedom beyond measure! There were woods nearby and I spent every day (and night!) building dens and swings, dams and stockcades. It was here that I developed my love for nature and the great outdoors. Long-term orthodontic treatment sparked my interest in Dentistry.

I arrived in Glasgow Dental School as a first year dental student in 1981. I will never forget the feeling of delight as I walked through the University cloisters to matriculate. It was such a privilege to be there! Many people today see university education as a right, but I would encourage us all to see it as a great privilege with great responsibilities. I made the most of university life and enjoyed every second of it. Many of the teachers I met at that time, particularly Drs Jim Rennie, David Sternhouse and David Still and the late professor Gordon MacDonald, were the inspiration to pursue an academic career and to strive to be a good teacher. I still remember fondly the day my first paper was published!

After Dental School and early postgraduate years, I entered Medical School, again in Glasgow. We had a year full of characters and my time at Medical School was great fun as well as an outstanding learning opportunity. I maintained links with the Unit of Oral Medicine and worked on various projects and locum posts throughout. After graduation and house jobs in Glasgow and Stirling, I was appointed Lecturer in Oral Medicine in the University of Glasgow. I completed my Higher Clinical Training and PhD, spending some time in Charlotte, North Carolina, USA, before being promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2000, and Associate Dean for Teaching shortly thereafter. I also spent two years as Associate Dean for Postgraduate Dental Education with NHS Education for Scotland. It was at that point that I left Glasgow as I needed to explore the possibility of a call to Church of Scotland ministry. I realised very quickly that I was not going to be a full-time minister but I had a wonderful year studying Theology, part time at the University of the Highlands and Islands. Education is never wasted!

I then, in 2004, joined the staff at Edinburgh Postgraduate Dental Institute before joining the staff at Dundee Dental Hospital & School in 2006 where I had responsibility for the Clinical Medical Sciences course and pursued my research interests in Education and Oral Cancer. I am also a member of the General Dental Council’s Fitness to Practise Panel where I am a chair of the Professional Conduct, Health and Interim Orders Committees. I have to say that when I knew the Chair in Glasgow was being advertised, I couldn’t hide my excitement of returning to my much loved alma mater. My daughter told me that I needed to get back to Glasgow to top-up my after dinner speech repertoire as all my best stories revolve around Glasgow students and patients! I started back in Glasgow in February this year. What are my thoughts since I started? I am hugely impressed with the curriculum and, in particular, with the robustness and fairness of the system of assessment. I am also very impressed with the dedication of the teaching staff and the wide range of clinical experience offered by the BDS course. I look forward very much to being part of the clinical and teaching team in Glasgow for the years ahead and to meeting all the students in due course. Via, veritas, vita!”

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Calling all alumni...

In these challenging economic times, alumni support plays a vital role in helping to ensure that our students can fulfil their potential, the Development and Alumni Office describe how you can get involved.

Here at the University of Glasgow we love to keep in touch with our much valued alumni community, using a variety of methods; one such way being with telephone campaigns which take place throughout the year. Over the years, the University has benefited enormously from the generosity of its graduates and friends, and since 2003 over £1 million has been pledged as a result of receiving a phone call from a current student. Without these funds the University would not have been able to fully support previous capital projects or provide much needed support to smaller, University-wide projects. Over 300 gifts have been generously donated by BDS graduates through the campaign. These gifts have supported a wide range of Glasgow priorities, but supporting Dentistry through the Medical Fund is obviously a particular favourite. As well as an opportunity for alumni to support the fantastic initiatives here at Glasgow, the telephone campaign is a great way for you to share your memories of the University and the city.

Patrick Watson, a previous caller and current student, graduating this year with a BDS says: ‘Being on the Telephone Campaign Team was a great opportunity for me to speak to graduates of the University, and as a dental student it was especially enjoyable to speak to dental graduates. Many of the people we called had graduated many years ago, and it was fascinating to find out how University life had changed. When I mentioned Student Unions, it was more balloon dancing than Thursday night lives! The alumni were often keen to find out which members of staff were still working there, or how the course has changed. It also gave them a great opportunity to reconnect with the Dental School and the University.’ Our calling team is comprised of 26 students, all of whom are more than happy to discuss current developments, update alumni on relevant information and answer any of their questions. And they are always fascinated to hear about an alumnus’ own experiences during their time at Glasgow! ‘The call was very friendly and relaxed, and gave me all the important information without being pushy or overbearing. A very good ambassador for the university!’ - Yasmin Galloway (BSc Psychological Studies, 2010)

We receive lots of kind feedback from alumni who have thoroughly enjoyed their conversations and wish to compliment our callers and thank us for the opportunity to stay connected with the University. We’re always pleased to serve our University of Glasgow alumni and we love to hear from you. If you would like more information on the Development and Alumni Office or the telephone campaign, please visit our website at www.glasgow.ac.uk/alumni.

Glasgow’s Dental Fund

The Medical Fund was established in 2005 to build on the existing goodwill and enthusiasm generated from two medical capital campaigns; the Wolfson Medical School Building and the BHF Glasgow Cardiovascular Research Centre. The Fund supports medical research and education within the College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences and donors can choose to give to a particular ‘theme’ that interests them. The Fund has raised over £5.5m since its inception.

In 2008, it was decided that due to the large number of engaged dental alumni, Dentistry should be added to the themes within the Medical Fund. This has proved popular, raising over £50,000 and supporting students and education projects within the Hospital and School. If you would like to join the 170 donors who have supported the Dental Fund then you can find out more at: www.gla.ac.uk/about/givingtoglasgow/medicalfund/dentistry or call Laura Morton on 0141 330 3878.

Taught Postgraduate Training in Glasgow

Professor Richard Welbury, Director of Postgraduate Dental Education provides an update.

The current taught postgraduate programme opened in 2007 with the three-year part time MSc in Primary Dental Care (POC) - Programme Director Professor Richard Welbury. This programme is designed for dental graduates who are currently working in either the Salaried Primary Care Service or Dental Practice. The first year involves a core course, the second year a chosen specialty course (Endodontics, Periodontics, Fixed and Removable Prosthodontics, Orthodontics, Paediatric Dentistry or Special Care Dentistry), and the third year a research course. By 2014 some 48 students will have graduated from this programme and many are fulfilling valuable roles as members of managed clinical networks throughout Scotland.

The two year full-time MSc in Fixed and Removable Prosthodontics (FRP) - Programme Director Professor Daryl Jagger, the two year full-time MSc in Oral and Maxillo-Facial Surgery (OMFS) - Programme Director Professor Ashraf Ayoub, and the three year full-time DClinDent in Orthodontics - Programme Director Dr Iain Buchanan, all opened in 2008. We have welcomed overseas students from India, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and the United Arab Emirates. Spaces are limited on these full-time programmes because of dental chair availability and we have about 15 applicants for every place. Fixed and Removable Prosthodontics can now take five students every alternate year, Oral and Maxillo-Facial Surgery two to three students per year, and Orthodontics one overseas and one NHS Specialty Registrar per year. The students on all the programmes, be they home or overseas, complete a ‘Core Course’ in basic, health, and research sciences in year one which is coordinated by Dr Marcello Riggio.

By the end of this academic year seven students will have graduated in FRP, fourteen in OMFS, and eight in Orthodontics. Many overseas students have graduated with distinction and merit and are now in senior positions or even running departments in their own countries. We hope they will continue to forge new friendships with us in Glasgow by recommending their younger colleagues to come to Glasgow to study.

Periodontics, Fixed and Removable Prosthodontics, Orthodontics, Paediatric Dentistry or Special Care Dentistry).

The teaching of postgraduate students demands a lot of time, effort, patience, and dedication, especially when English is not the first language. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my teaching and administrative colleagues in the Dental School for their enthusiasm and skill which has enabled the Postgraduate Programme to continue to grow.

Glasgow Careers Alumni Network

For more than 500 years the University of Glasgow has produced business leaders, creative thinkers, academics, professionals and talented individuals in every field and industry. Our 3,200 strong dental alumni community stretches around the globe, offering a wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise.

The Glasgow Careers Alumni Network aims to draw on this invaluable resource to support the career development of our current students. By giving your time to the network as one of our valued alumni, you can shape and inspire the dentists of tomorrow.

Your personal knowledge and experience will form an invaluable contribution to the network regardless of what stage you are at in your own career. Our students want the opportunity to learn from a range of voices – everyone from recent graduates up to industry veterans. You can guide them through an increasingly competitive recruitment market giving insight into what it takes to make the leap from student to dental professional.

There are several ways you can contribute to the Glasgow Careers Alumni Network:

• Provide an alumni profile
• Join the ‘Ask our Alumni’ advisory scheme
• Participate in an employability event
• Provide internship or work placements

For more information or to get involved, please contact Sarah Armour at sarah.armour@glasgow.ac.uk
University Teacher Donald Cameron describes how relations with alumni far and wide have led to exciting opportunities to take world class teaching from Glasgow overseas and also gives us an insight to his experiences of Malaysia.

One of the most interesting and rewarding things about being a university teacher is demonstrating the breadth of the student population, which includes meeting overseas students and discovering their expectations of what universities in different countries and cultures. I have also been fortunate to work with colleagues from other universities on projects related to different parts of the world; it’s been a fascinating experience. To give an example, I have been invited as visiting lecturer to two occasions in Malaysia in 2009 at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, and last summer at the Universiti Teknology MARA in Shah Alam, Selangor which is about 15 miles west of Kuala Lumpur. These invitations came from two MSc postgraduate students in Fixed and Removable Prosthodontics, Siti Fauziah from 2006-8, and Abdu Galhi from 2009-11. Upon graduating both became lecturers in their respective institutions and recommended and recommended to their Heads of Department, Deputy Dean at UTM, Prof. Dr. Norsiah Binti Yurun and the Dean at UiTM, Prof. Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim. Both lecturers have since been promoted and are graduates from UK dental schools. Indeed Norsiah was an undergraduate at Glasgow at the same time I was a dental technician in the prosthetic laboratory of the dental hospital. Indeed Norsiah was the chief technician at UiTM and was fortunate together with other staff to lecture to staff at one of their regular half day CPD events that take place on Saturdays, which all staff are expected to attend. At this event there were also two visiting examiners from Australia and New Zealand presenting. Following my presentation, I received an invitation to speak at an invited audience at the Ministry of Health in the administrative centre of Putrajaya.

The impression that it was all work and no play is not the case as during my free time I was looked after wonderfully by Haziha, her husband Kamal and their two young children. I visited several different states during my weekend visits, including visits to Penang and West Malaysia which borders Borneo. I also met up with some of our current undergraduates who were home for the summer vacation including one afternoon in Penang when we went to a ‘fruit fair’ where there was a variety of grapes, dates, melons and cantaloupes. I also had the opportunity of meeting two other expatriates from the UK, who had been invited as visiting lecturers to UiTM. This was a great experience and I was even invited to be at the top table as a VIP guest which was in itself a great honour.

In 2008 for my elective period I spent two months in Hama helping Syrian children who had little or no access to dental services. Since qualifying as a dental hygienist in 2004 it is the only time I have ever travelled to a place and been working in such different circumstances to help some of the same Syrian children, this time in refugee camps in Turkey. On my first impressions of the camp, I have to say it was a very crowded place. It was close to freezing, the travelling conditions as a result of the previous night’s rain. My first impressions of the camp were that there was clearly no local authority or any aid agency in charge of running this camp. I was not sure what I could do for these cases for the same reasons that I had been unable to assist the children in the refugee camps in Syria. I was made to feel welcome and was provided with all the basic necessities to assist the community. The conditions were very challenging with a general lack of electricity and running water for the majority of the time the children were there. This was also exacerbated by the travelling conditions which made life very difficult for the children.

The 10 days I spent in the camp was a very tough experience for me. It has its challenges, but I learned a lot from the situation. I found the very poor conditions that the children were living in and the lack of basic amenities they were used to at home, I found this a very difficult situation to work in. I felt that I could do nothing for these children and I was not able to provide them with any assistance.

Ammar Al Hourani (Class of 2009) tells of his charity work and aid efforts in Syrian Refugee Camps

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Staff News

We would like to welcome the following new university staff members.

Ruth Donald – Administrative Officer

Ruth has joined the Dental School after 5 years in the Undergraduate Medical School in a similar role. Before that she worked for Glasgow Caledonian for 12 year in roles which nearly all involved admissions work in addition to academic admin work. Ruth says that she is pleased to have joined the team at the Dental School. When asked about her interests, Ruth says - "outside of work I enjoy films and the theatre but, as I moved house last year, I mainly spend my time in B&Q".

Tricia Hassan – Admissions Assistant

Having provided administrative support in one of Glasgow’s Further Education colleges for 20 years, she took up a position within the Law School at The University of Glasgow. After a move to the University of the West of Scotland, to provide admissions support for their BSc Health Studies degree, Tricia has returned to the University of Glasgow to join the admissions team at the Dental School.

Adrian Pace-Balzan – Senior Clinical University Teacher/ Honorary Consultant in Restorative Dentistry with subspecialty interests in Prosthodontics and Endodontics

Adrian graduated from the University of Malta in 1995. Following graduation he completed his vocational training and worked in general dental practice in Malta before moving to the UK in 2000. He held a series of junior training posts gaining his MFDS (Glasgow) in 2001.

He undertook his Specialist Training Programme in Restorative Dentistry at the Edinburgh Dental Institute achieving his CCST in 2010. During this time he gained an MPhil (Liverpool) in 2006 (The Development & Validation of the Liverpool Oral Rehabilitation Questionnaire), an MClinDent (Prosthodontics) in 2008 (Effect of ageing of resin-based composite on the microtensile bond strength with a resin-based luting cement) and FDS (Rest Dent) RCPS (Glasgow) in 2010. During this time he was Programme Director for the Clinical Dental Technology Course at the Edinburgh Dental Institute and is a member of the Advisory Boards for DCPs and an Examiner for the Diploma of Clinical Dental Technology.

He subsequently took up the position of Consultant in Restorative Dentistry in Crosshouse Hospital, Kilmarnock and Dundee Dental Hospital before moving to the University of Glasgow earlier this year. His research interests have focused on the impact of oral rehabilitation on Health-Related Quality of Life following Head & Neck Cancer.

Important Dates

3-6 May Pedalling Profs sponsored cycle ride from Inverness to Glasgow - www.justgiving.com/Jeremy-Bagg1

13 June Commemoration Day - www.universitystory.gla.ac.uk/commemoration-day/

25 June Graduation (11am)

Editorial Comment

Thank you for reading Issue 10 of the Dental Mirror. The editorial team want to thank everyone who has contributed to this issue. We hope you have enjoyed catching up on all that is happening. The next issue will have a Research focus and describe the successes of our clinical and basic science research groups within Glasgow Dental School.