The Harvard Dental Bulletin is published three times a year for alumni and friends of the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. We look forward to receiving your feedback and news.

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From the Dean

As spring settles in here on Longwood Avenue, with flowers and trees beginning to bloom, my thoughts turn to the students whose futures will begin to bloom with their graduation from HSDM this May. HSDM faculty and staff have given their time and expertise to ensure a strong foundation for those leaving the School to continue their professional lives. Our DMD and advanced graduate students have received the best that HSDM has to offer; now it is up to them to go forth and carry the School’s values and traditions with them wherever they may go.

These exceptional young people will be tomorrow’s leaders in oral health education, human health research, and quality patient care. And it is thanks to you, HSDM’s loyal donors, that these new graduates will be so well prepared to take their next steps. Your contributions enable HSDM to continue to excel in problem-based learning, to stand at the forefront of basic science research on tissue and bone, and to exist on the cutting edge of technological breakthroughs in oral health care. HSDM’s students are the direct recipients of your generosity, but our communities and the world are the true beneficiaries.

In this issue of the Bulletin, you will find highlights of recent initiatives undertaken by faculty, staff, and students. You will read about unique research and about public health activities. And you will note that this, our annual Donor Issue, acknowledges those who make the School’s work possible. This issue celebrates your commitment to the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, to its mission and its future.

HSDM has recently created a new giving society, the Order of the Golden Crown, to honor the School’s most steadfast donors, those who have made continuous annual contributions for five years or more. Two members of that society are profiled on page 5.

As our students move forward to become alumni, we also look forward—both to the near future and to upcoming major milestones. New DMD and advanced graduate students will be arriving at HSDM during the summer, and we happily anticipate welcoming them into this special community. Further out, HSDM will celebrate its sesquicentennial in 2017. This 150th anniversary of the founding of the School will serve as a point for us all to reflect on where HSDM has been, to rejoice in how far it has come, and to create a vision for the following decades. The future is ours to write; at HSDM, we have the energy and the curiosity, the leaders and the supporters, to make this future tremendously exciting. I look forward to living it with you.

Bruce Donoff, DMD67, MD73
Heejoon Sun, DMD88, MPH88

Born in Seoul, South Korea, Heejoon (Joon) Sun came to the United States with her family when she was nine years old. They settled in New York City. Sun was always interested in science. Growing up, she wanted to become a doctor, so she explored the fields of medicine and science by volunteering in hospitals and participating in scientific research. At Mount Holyoke College, she was a premedical student majoring in biology.

During her sophomore year in college, however, her direction changed after she attended a symposium entitled “Women in Science.” There, she interacted with women whose professions were in a variety of science fields, including medicine, engineering, computer science, and dentistry. “Until then, I had not considered dentistry as a career, because I was just not aware of women entering the field,” she says. “The dentist on the panel spoke about how she loves her job, how she enjoys the personal interaction with her patients, how well she can balance her career with her personal life, and how she uses her talent to serve the needs of her community. I was very impressed by her and her enthusiasm. She pitched dentistry as the career for those who are passionate about people, love to work with their hands, pay attention to detail, and have a desire to set their own hours. I was sold. That year, I made a switch from premedical to predental, and I have never regretted my decision.”

After college, Sun came to HSDM and soon realized the advantages of the small class size. “There were only 13 students in my HSDM graduating class,” she says. “As a result, we received a lot of attention and one-on-one guidance from our dental faculty, especially in the Teaching Practice. I never had to worry about finding a patient to work on or an instructor to help or guide me.” She did not realize how fortunate she was with this situation until she graduated and went into private practice. “Talking to dentists from schools whose class sizes were over 100,” she remembers, “I learned that my HSDM classmates and I had the unique experiences of practicing periodontal surgery, extractions, and orthodontics on patients. My colleagues who came from other schools did not feel comfortable performing root canals in their private practices, because they had not gained the experience and training in dental school.” In addition, since HSDM students spend their first two preclinical years learning alongside the medical students, Sun entered the dental clinic “with a firm understanding of my patients’ health problems that reached beyond their oropharynx.”

Sun remembers her HSDM adviser, Dr. Joseph Henry, with great fondness. “He was so encouraging and was always available,” she says. “His office door was always open, and I often popped in to either say hello or to just talk. Coming to Harvard was intimidating, but I was fortunate to have an adviser who was so kind and friendly. I have warm memories of spending time with fellow classmates and Dr. Henry over his homemade chili at his home. I knew I had a friend among the professors.”

After graduating in 1988 with a DMD from HSDM and a master of public health degree from the Harvard School of Public Health, Sun completed a hospital residency at St. Francis Hospital, in Hartford, Connecticut. Thereafter, she established a private dental practice in Naperville, Illinois. Sun serves many...
patients outside of her practice, as well. Through the Christian Dental Society, she has participated in several dental mission trips to Jamaica with her family. And for many years, she has been regularly volunteering at a dental clinic in a homeless shelter in Chicago.

Sun and her husband, Bill, have been married for 25 years and have four children. The eldest, Christina, graduated from Wellesley College in 2011 and is a second-year student at Harvard Medical School. Katie graduated from Bryn Mawr College in 2012 and is pursuing a master’s in education and special education and teaching eleventh-grade math in Washington, D.C., through the Urban Teachers Center. Michael, 16, is a sophomore in high school, and Lauren, 13, is in the seventh grade.

After all these years of a busy life since receiving her dental degree—years filled with work and family and service—Joon Sun still very much appreciates her experience in Boston. “My education at HSDM gave me the training and confidence I need to deliver quality care to my patients,” she says with gratitude. “I strive for excellence, because that is what my patients expect from a Harvard-trained dentist. This is why I support the School. I am very thankful for the last 25 years of my life as a wife, a mom, and a successful dentist and businesswoman, and I have HSDM to thank for the education I received. I feel very blessed, and I’m proud to have recently made a large increase in the amount of my contribution to the School. HSDM launched me on a most interesting and rewarding life.”

HMS/HSDM Reunion: Thursday, May 30

HSDM alumni whose class years end in 3 or 8, please join us for the joint HSDM/HMS Reunion on Thursday, May 30. Register online at http://alumni.hms.harvard.edu/reunion. See you there!

HSDM Alumni Day: Friday, May 31

Come one, come all! All alumni are welcome and encouraged to participate in Alumni Day. Connect with former classmates and with HSDM faculty and staff. We look forward to seeing you!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS — FRIDAY, MAY 31

8:30 AM
Check-in and Continental Breakfast
HMS New Research Building, 77 Avenue Louis Pasteur

9:30–10:00 AM
Harvard Dental Alumni Association Annual Business Meeting and Presentation of Distinguished Alumni Awards
HSDM Research and Education Building Auditorium, 188 Longwood Avenue

10:15–11:45 AM
Alumni Symposium: Global Oral Health Initiatives
HSDM Research and Education Building Auditorium

Noon–12:30 PM
State of the School Address, Dean Bruce Donoff
HSDM Research and Education Building Auditorium

12:30–1:00 PM
Tour of HSDM (optional)

12:30–2:00 PM
Lunch (tickets required)
HMS New Research Building, 77 Avenue Louis Pasteur

Registration is required. Please visit: http://hsdm.harvard.edu/news/reunion-2013
Alumni Enjoy Florida Reception

On January 24, alumni from the eastern Florida area gathered at the home of Donald, DMD59, PD62, and Phoebe Giddon, who graciously hosted a reception for those enjoying the warmth of the southern clime instead of the cold of the Northeast winter. During the evening, Dean Bruce Donoff updated the group on several initiatives under way at HSDM, and the guests enjoyed the collegial and convivial atmosphere.

Clockwise from top right: Alexa Weber, MPH83, PD83 (prosthetic dentistry), and her children; Mady Donoff, left, and Phoebe Giddon; Howard Needleman, DMD72, PD74 (pediatric dentistry), left, Ann Freedman Spoont, DMD79, and faculty member Joel Dunsky; Donald Giddon, DMD59, PD62 (periodontology), left, and Dean Bruce Donoff; and J’Nelle Delica, DMD10, MPH10.

Photos by Wanda Meck
Hey met in college, married two days after graduation, and have practiced together at Lindner Dental Associates in Bedford, New Hampshire, for the past 27 years. To say that Rochelle and Gary Lindner are devoted to each other and to their profession is perhaps an understatement. Theirs is a partnership in the truest sense. And this fall, their daughter Heidi will be joining the practice after graduating from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in May, making dentistry a bona fide family affair.

At Brooklyn College of the City University of New York, Gary was interested in biomedical research, and Rochelle concentrated in both piano and chemistry. After graduating, she became a middle school teacher in Philadelphia, while he earned his DMD from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine. During his studies, he continued in biomedical research, working at Leon Levi Oral Health Research Center at Penn Dental. Eventually, Gary became interested in working with children, and Rochelle, ready to leave teaching behind, had decided to pursue her own dental degree. Happily, they were both accepted at HSDM, she in the DMD program and he in the pediatric dentistry program at Boston Children’s Hospital.

“My best memory of HSDM was that as a student, you could pursue anything you were interested in,” Gary says. “They made it happen. Your future was there for the picking; you could choose like a kid in a candy store. They welcomed you and valued you.” He was drawn to genetics, so Dr. Hargreaves, head of pediatric dentistry, took Gary to the office of Dr. Park Gerald, a clinical geneticist at Harvard Medical School. Gary became involved in research at Children’s Hospital on the genetics of cleft lip and palate, which became his DMSc research. Hargreaves also introduced Gary to a professor of orthodontics, and Gary ultimately earned certificates in orthodontics and pediatric dentistry—both of which he practices today. “My mission in life is to show kindness to children,” he says.

Rochelle, too, found HSDM to be an extraordinary place. Returning to school after having been a teacher for a number of years, she was ready for the Harvard experience. “It was great to hear from people who were doing research on the cutting edge of their fields,” she says. “And with the small class sizes—there were 20 in my class—we couldn’t hide, but we received a lot of attention. The externships were great, and the people we were training with were exciting and bright.” After receiving her DMD, she completed a general practice residency at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Brockton, Massachusetts. While there, she received advanced training in the care of patients with complex dental and medical problems. Both Gary and Rochelle served as faculty members at HSDM.

Gary established the New Hampshire practice in 1985, and in 1986, the family moved to Manchester. “We didn’t

continued on page 17
The Harvard School of Dental Medicine honored the DMD Class of 2013 with a special tea time on January 28. With celebratory cake, remarks from faculty, and good cheer all around, the atmosphere was one of excitement and anticipation. In a short five months, these students would become dentists and begin making their way in the world as oral health professionals.

Excited classmates clustered around the posted match lists, finding out who would be going where for the next step in their careers.

Every year, students from HSDM and Harvard Medical School (HMS) present their research in a poster session on a special day devoted to student research. The event is named in honor of Soma Weiss (1899–1942), who was an inspiring teacher and physician at HMS and an ardent supporter of student research.

This year marked the 73rd annual Soma Weiss Student Research Day, held on January 17. The atrium in the Tosteson Medical Education Center was filled with colorful posters, their creators, and visitors. Prizes were awarded for outstanding posters; this year, Neha H. Patel (DMD 2015) received second place in the Robert Ebert Prize for Community Health Delivery or Service for her poster, “Disease Management of Early Childhood Caries: Part II.” Patel carried out her research under the mentorship of Man Wai Ng, chief of the Department of Dentistry at Boston Children’s Hospital and an assistant professor of developmental biology at HSDM.


Above: The atrium in the Tosteson Medical Education Center was buzzing with activity.

Martin Nweeia Studies an Enigma

Martin Nweeia, a clinical instructor in the Department of Restorative Dentistry and Biomaterials Sciences, has been closer to narwhals than most of us. So close, in fact, that he has placed electrodes connected to electrocardiograms and electroencephalograms on these whales as part of his research into the purpose and function of the narwhal’s single tusk—a mystery that has eluded scientists for more than 500 years.

Narwhals, elusive creatures whose closest relative is the beluga whale, live in the Arctic. Each year, Nweeia travels to the northern tip of Baffin Island in Canada, donning a dry suit in 36-degree waters to conduct novel experiments to learn about the narwhal tusk. He has led four expeditions to the Canadian High Arctic and collaborated on eight additional expeditions with the Arctic Research Division of Canadian Fisheries and Oceans, braving polar bear encounters, 120-mile-per-hour winds in an Arctic hurricane, and a near-fatal aircraft landing to study this unusual whale.

The narwhal’s tusk is a hollow spiral canine tooth that projects from the left side of the male animal’s upper jaw. Tusks can extend up to 10 feet long in an adult. “If you had to choose the most extraordinary tooth in nature to study, this would be it,” says Nweeia. “There is so much about its expression, anatomy, and evolution that just doesn’t make sense.”

Research Implications

Nweeia and his team conduct experiments on the narwhals (which are captured and then released) that show a connection between an introduced stimulus and a physiological response, including brain activity and heart rate. “We have been successful in attaining positive heart-rate responses, as narwhal heart rate increases significantly when high salt solutions are introduced and likewise relaxes when fresh water is introduced,” says Nweeia. “This makes sense from an oceanographic perspective, as high salt concentrations would normally be associated with rapid ice formation—the only...
natural way high salt areas would exist. In such cases, this condition is an immediate threat to the narwhal and naturally would be associated with an increased heart rate.”

A positive correlation between increased heart rate and introduced sensory stimulus demonstrates that the tusk is capable of sensing its environment. It is an excellent in vivo model for the Brannstrom hydrodynamic theory of mammalian teeth—dental tubules conduct sensory information through interstitial fluid conduction to odontoblasts at the dentin-pulpal interface and to sensory nerve–associated tissue in the pulp, and then conduct information to the brain via the maxillary branch of the fifth cranial nerve.

The research is first focused on the function of the tusk. “We are perplexed at a dental organ system that in its embryological development has eight pairs of teeth and then genetically silences them at birth and uses its tooth-forming ability to generate this large single tusk. Why?” asks Nweeia.

“There must be some compelling reason, especially since the narwhal eats some pretty large fish. Why not have a set in the mouth used for biting and chewing?” Of the eight pairs, six are silenced and one of the two remaining pairs forms the tusks; in females, the tusks are embedded horizontally in the upper jaw, and in males, the right side is embedded and the left erupts to the full tusk. The final remaining pair form vestigial teeth, which have been shown by Nweeia’s work to have no functional significance.

The narwhal dentin is another area of interest, particularly the tissue’s uncharacteristic combined strength and flexibility. “We are looking at this tissue for possible future restorative uses,” explains Nweeia, “as these are qualities one seeks in developing good restorative materials.”

―Martin Nweeia
The researchers are also studying the adaptation of this organ system in relation to all modern odontocetes (toothed whales), as whales in general have adapted unusual mechanisms to develop and express teeth. The strap-toothed whale, for example, has two teeth in its lower jaw that wrap around the upper jaw, preventing it from opening.

In addition, notes Nweeia, “we have few links in evolution to inform us how such structure develops, so the more we can discern about the narwhal tusk’s expression, the more we can piece together parts of this missing evolution.”

Finally, the narwhal may provide some information on genetic silencing in teeth that can be actively studied and thus help unlock some of the mysteries of uncontrolled growth, such as cancer cells. “There is no known mechanism for turning such tooth buds off,” says Nweeia, “and studies would assist such work. Our research is not involved with this latter aspect, but is certainly one that deserves attention.”

Nweeia’s research is funded by two divisions of the National Science Foundation (NSF), one in neuroscience and the other in polar research. His work has attracted international attention, as he combines Inuit traditional knowledge with the basic sciences. Nweeia recently led a symposium at the Inuit Studies Conference, hosted by the Smithsonian Institution, that focused on methods of combining traditional knowledge with science, which brought leading researchers in arctic science together. His study is one of the models cited by NSF for inclusion of traditional knowledge and science. In a recent article in *Scientific American*, Nweeia describes how one Inuit hunter’s observation of narwhal molting in fresh water inlets can change the scientific understanding of this unusual marine mammal and overshadow, change, and add to scientists’ perceptions.

Nweeia and his team have received significant media coverage of their work investigating the function of narwhal tusks. A new BBC series, *David Attenborough’s Natural Curiosities*, featured Nweeia’s findings on the tusk in a show that first aired in February on the Eden channel. Also recently released was a new book, *Narwhals: Arctic Whales in a Melting World*, by Todd McLeish. The book features Nweeia’s research, assisted by collaborating teams of Harvard researchers, including Peter Hauschka, an associate professor of developmental biology at HSDM and Boston Children’s Hospital, and Winston Kuo, an assistant professor of developmental biology at HSDM and director of the Harvard Catalyst Laboratory for Innovative Translational Technologies. Nweeia was named a National Geographic Explorer of the Week in September 2012.

In addition to his work at HSDM, Nweeia is a research associate in the Department of Vertebrate Zoology at the Smithsonian Institution and the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University. “I’m just a curious kid who found a fascinating dental organ system to study,” he says. “With a great team of researchers, many of them at Harvard, we have persisted over 12 years of hard work to unlock some of the mysteries of this wonderful cetacean and its extraordinary tusk.”

The plate at left shows, from top to bottom, a fetal narwhal, adult female, and adult male skulls from CT scan reconstructions. On the bottom, histology of the vestigial dentin to the left and erupted tusk dentin on the right. On the right of the plate are various examples of vestigial teeth. This was the first time these vestigial teeth were ever photographed and documented with images.
HSDM was well represented at the general session of the International Association of Dental Research (IADR), held in Seattle, Washington, in March. Among other HSDM participants, Shigemi Nagai, an assistant professor of restorative dentistry and biomaterials sciences, presented a keynote address, “Computer Color Formulation and Reproduction.” In addition, several faculty and students made oral presentations of projects, and more than 50 HSDM poster presentations were displayed. HSDM jointly hosted a packed reception with Forsyth, attended by several HSDM alumni, faculty, and students, who enjoyed strengthening friendships and professional relationships.

Below: The joint HSDM/Forsyth reception was filled to capacity.

Photos by Jan Reiss

continued
HSDM at ADEA

Members of the HSDM community had a major presence at the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) annual session in Seattle in March. As treasurer/secretary of the ADEA Leadership Institute Alumni Association, John Da Silva, chair of the Department of Restorative Dentistry and Biomaterials Sciences, was a moderator of the Signature Series panel. HSDM faculty member Romesh Nalliah was among the graduates of the Leadership Institute Class of 2013 who were honored at a graduation celebration during the ADEA annual session; he and Veerasathpurush Allareddy, a clinical fellow in developmental biology, also presented three posters.

HSDM boasts several participants in the ADEA Gies/AADR Academic Dental Careers Fellowship Program. HSDM fellows for 2013–14 (all DMD 2014) are: Derek Hou (mentor: John Da Silva), Tien Ha-Ngoc (mentor: Romesh Nalliah), Adam Fagin (mentor: Sang Park), and Lisa Simon (mentor: Peggy Timothé). Harlyn Susarla, a 2012 fellow, was mentored by Nadeem Karimbux.

ADEA Gies/AADR Academic Dental Careers Fellows and their mentors. From left: Derek Hou (DMD 2014), Tien Ha-Ngoc (DMD 2014); Romesh Nalliah; Harlyn Susarla (DMD 2014); Adam Fagin (DMD 2014); Lisa Simon (DMD 2014); John Da Silva; Sang Park; Peggy Timothé.
In Gratitude: Honor Roll of Donors

The Harvard School of Dental Medicine gratefully acknowledges the following individuals, corporations, and foundations for gifts received during the calendar year January 1, 2012, through December 31, 2012.

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Henry Warren made the first planned gift to HSDM in 1899 in the form of a bequest for $23,000. Today’s planned gifts may include annuities, life insurance, trusts, and bequests and may perpetuate a family name, assist deserving students, or simply strengthen the School. We are exceedingly grateful to those who have expressed their intention to provide for HSDM in their estates. To recognize this thoughtfulness, the School established the Henry C. Warren Society, and it is with gratitude and pleasure that we recognize all of the Society’s members.

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initially intend to practice together,” says Rochelle. “But this area was growing tremendously in the mid-80s.” Lindner Dental boasts “the largest concentration of Harvard-affiliated dentists north of Route 128” (a Boston ring road). Lesleyann Splagounias, their first dental partner, is a graduate of Harvard College. Kathleen Chan, MMSc02, who recently left, was with the practice for 10 years. Nina Casaverde, DMD03, a pediatric dentist, has been with Lindner Dental since 2005. And in 2012 pediatric dentist Bradley Field, PD12, joined the team.

The Lindners are grateful to have continuing relationships with HSDM. They collaborate with the oral and maxillofacial surgery group at Massachusetts General Hospital and with Bonnie Padwa, an associate professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery at Boston Children’s Hospital, and the craniofacial team there. “It’s a coordinated effort,” says Gary. “We have a comfortable relationship after so many years of working together.” They also collaborate with other HSDM alumni who are practicing in Nashua, New Hampshire.

Gary and Rochelle Lindner choose to strengthen HSDM and celebrate their continuing relationship with the School through consistent financial contributions. They have given an annual gift to the School for 17 consecutive years, believing that contributing to HSDM is important. “We were given unique opportunities to pursue our goals,” they say. “We hope our gifts in return will enable others to pursue their dreams as well.”

The Lindners have two daughters: Heidi, age 29, who will receive her DMD this spring; and Melanie, 27, who completed a master’s in education and is teaching at a private school in Manhattan. The couple’s son, Douglas, is deeply interested in politics. A second-year law student at New York University, he is also pursuing a master’s in public administration. “He ran for state office when he was 19 years old,” says Gary, “and he lost by a narrow margin.”

With deep family bonds, strong ties to their community, and a continuing relationship with their alma mater in Boston, Gary and Rochelle Lindner have established not only a dental practice but a life of love and respect, kindness and compassion, and unwavering care for others.

Aaron Havens, DMD10

Aaron Havens decided to become a dentist during his sophomore year of college. “My brother, Dave, was in dental school while I was in college,” says Havens, “and his experiences guided me away from medicine and into dentistry. My brother and I have always been close, and with both of us being dentists, we always planned to work with each other throughout our careers. Once he pursued orthodontics, I also focused on following his lead into orthodontics.” Havens will graduate in June with a master’s degree in orthodontics from the University of Michigan—his college alma mater in his home state.

Although he is pursuing orthodontics as a career, he has recently been acknowledged for his research with two important awards: the American Association of Orthodontists Milo Hellman Research Award, which recognizes the most meritorious research paper submitted by a resident in a graduate orthodontics program in the United States and Canada; and a second place American Association for Dental Research Hatton Award, which recognizes junior investigators who have the potential for a productive career in dental research. Mentored by Russell Taichman (DMSc90, PD90), a professor of dentistry in the Department of Periodontics and Oral Medicine at the University of Michigan, Havens is exploring whether it may be possible to use a person’s cells to develop therapies that can regenerate tissues in the craniofacial region following trauma or infection, or perhaps to repair congenital maladies.

Havens calls his HSDM education “second to none. What people outside of our HSDM community do not realize is that HSDM prepares students better than any other school. If you push yourself, the faculty will provide patients, procedures, and tutelage to make you the best you want to become. Our faculty at HSDM individualized my education to best suit my career path and gave me the freedom to explore all areas of dentistry.”

On August 31, Havens will marry Elizabeth Marcuz, an emergency medicine physician. He plans to enter private practice but leaves the door open to conducting research in the future.
Give Kids a Smile 2013

The emphasis at HSDM’s Give Kids a Smile Day 2013 was on treating each patient as an individual. “We wanted to ensure that each child—and their parents—left the clinic knowing how to keep not only their mouths healthy but also their entire bodies,” says George Chen (DMD 2016), one of the three event organizers. “Therefore, we integrated education as a part of their care. First- and second-year dental students taught children about what causes cavities, how dental materials work, what foods to eat and avoid at the dinner table, and of course, how to brush and floss.” The young patients practiced by brushing the teeth of stuffed animals, while the older patients enjoyed taking impressions of their thumbs with alginate and cement. “As treatment and education at the clinic is only the beginning of good health,” says coorganizer Grace Gianneschi (DMD 2016), “we wanted to ensure that we educated every child and parent about how to keep themselves healthy all year round.”

In the fast-paced environment of the HSDM Teaching Practices, third- and fourth-year students, under faculty supervision, provided oral exams, cleanings, and fluoride treatments to 64 children from the greater Boston area, including families from Cambridge, Lawrence, Lynn, Quincy, and Roxbury. Patients were native speakers of several languages, including English, Japanese, and Spanish. “Attaining such a diverse patient base took the collaborative effort of a great group of students and faculty,” says coorganizer Stephanie Slate (DMD 2016). “So many students took the time out of their schedules to contact and travel to youth groups, community centers, churches, and many other locations to help spread the word of this tremendous day. It was made possible only through the participation of all these dedicated individuals.” As is the case every year, the smiles on the students’ faces were at least as large as those of the kids.

Give Kids a Smile provides both oral health screenings and oral health education. Middle photo: George Chen (DMD 2016) was one of the coorganizers of the event. Bottom photo: Adam Fagin (DMD 2014) returns to the clinic from the area in which oral health education and goodie bags containing toothbrushes, floss, and more were provided to the kids.

Left: A bust of early HSDM benefactor Harriet Lowell oversees the Give Kids a Smile day.

Right: Diane Lee (DMD 2014), together with Jean Choi, performs a knee-to-knee exam on Choi’s daughter, Esther Ju, 23 months.

Below: Finn Hampshire, age 4½, looks up at the arrival of Andrew Huynh (PD 2014, pediatric dentistry). Chelsea Aldridge (DMD 2014), left, performed Finn’s initial screening.

Below: Stephanie Slate, George Chen, and Grace Gianneschi (all DMD 2016) organized the very successful Give Kids a Smile day.

Photos by Jan Reiss
International Senior Dental Leaders Gather at HSDM

The seventh annual Senior Dental Leaders Program, produced jointly by King’s College London Dental Institute, the Global Child Dental Fund, and HSDM, was held this year at HSDM in early March, with 35 participants from around the world. The program, directed each year by HSDM Dean Bruce Donoff and Professor Roman Bedi of King’s College London Dental Institute, functions as a catalyst for sustainable change by equipping local leaders to solve the challenges faced by their own countries and regions. Henry Schein Inc. hosted the participants at a reception and gala dinner at the Downtown Harvard Club. The photos below are from the reception.

*Left:* Dr. Nalumino Sayela, principal of the Dental Training School in Lusaka, Zambia, was delighted when Boston experienced a snowstorm during his visit. He had never before seen snow.

*Above:* Dr. Carol Onyango, left, a clinician from Wurzburg, Germany, and Dr. Leenu Rajo Maimanuku, head of the Dental School at Fiji National University.

*Left:* Steven Kess, left, president of Henry Schein Cares Foundation; Dean Bruce Donoff; and Gerard Meuchner, vice president and chief global communications officer at Henry Schein.

*Above:* Photos by Jan Reiss
Above: Dr. Samuel Prophète, dean of Haiti Dental School.

Below: HSDM faculty member Romesh Nalliah, left, and Dr. Kathleen O’Laughlin, executive director of the American Dental Association.

Above: Dr. Sally Hibbert, left, staff specialist in pediatric dentistry at the Children’s Hospital at Westmead and Westmead Centre for Oral Health in Sydney, Australia, and postgraduate course coordinator for pediatric dentistry at the University of Sydney; and Professor Dianne Rekow, dean of King’s College London Dental Institute. Rekow was a featured speaker at the dinner; she spoke about issues facing women in dentistry.

Above: Leon Dogon, an HSDM professor of restorative dentistry, and Associate Professor Leonie Short, a dental therapist in Queensland, Australia.

Above: Dr. Vian Omar Majeed Salayi, left, a lecturer at Hawler Medical University, Kurdistan Region, Iraq; Dr. Kerry Maguire, an associate clinical investigator at Forsyth Institute; and Dr. Fighan Jalal Hussein, assistant lecturer in pedodontic, orthodontic, and preventive dentistry, Hawler Medical University.
Women in Dentistry CE Course

By Jane Shin (DMD 2013)

On the evening of Thursday, February 28, 2013, the HSDM Research and Education Building lobby and auditorium filled up with students, instructors, and local area dentists for the first continuing education course held at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine by the Women’s Dental Society of Massachusetts (WDSM). WDSM was founded by a group of European and US dentists at a time when women in the field were rare. The establishment of WDSM was a wonderful opportunity for female practitioners to work together and support each other. In recent years, WDSM has been revitalized through the establishment of an executive board, made up of students and faculty from all three Boston dental schools, including, from HSDM, Risha DeLeon, Cannon Society senior tutor, president; Peggy Timothé, Holmes Society senior tutor, vice president for external affairs; Nithya Chickmagalur, DMD12 (MMSc 2014, orthodontics), vice president for internal affairs; Jane Shin (DMD 2013), secretary; and Kathryn Coyle and Samira Salari (both DMD 2014), student board members.

For this CE course, the WDSM executive board organized an interactive event allowing for collaboration among the three Boston dental schools, as well as a chance for conversation between dental students and local dentists. A diverse group of speakers shed light on the many paths available for women in dentistry and the ways in which they have overcome challenges in their respective fields. Sawsan Salih (PD 2013, dental public health) spoke about her journey from working as a general dentist in Saudi Arabia to a career in dental public health. Sang Park, interim codirector for predoctoral dental education at HSDM and Peabody Society senior tutor, described the experiences that led her to a career in academia. Recently appointed to lead the HSDM Office of Diversity Inclusion, Peggy Timothé spoke about issues in dentistry, not only as a woman but also as a minority. The group also heard from Dr. Lagina Bickham, director of Dimock Community Health Center in Roxbury; Dr. Traci Portnoff, chair of the Standing Committee of Women in Dentistry of the Massachusetts Dental Society; Dr. Neda Shah-Hosseini, a prosthodontist and former senior tutor and faculty member at HSDM; and Dr. Kristi Seibel, a pediatric dentist. Camille Gannam and Miguel Ortiz (both DMD 2014) moderated the panel discussion. Attendees ranged from local dentists in private practice to clinical instructors, research fellows, residents, and dental students from Boston University, Tufts University, and HSDM. The evening provided a great occasion for all attendees to meet, share experiences, and develop lasting friendships and mentor-mentee relationships.
HSDM Students Receive Major Grant

An HSDM student group was one of four inaugural winners of a major Abundance Agents of Change Challenge Grant from the Harvard Medical School (HMS) Center for Primary Care. The project, “Integrating Oral Health into Diabetes Group-Visit Models: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Primary Care,” involves four HSDM students and one HMS student working in collaboration with the Windsor Street Health Center in Cambridge, Mass. Participating students are Raina Chandiramani (DMD 2016), George Chen (DMD 2016), Seana Hedayatnia (DMD 2016), Viet Nguyen (MD 2016), and Helen Yang (DMD 2016). The Challenge Grants, which award the groups up to $20,000, charge students to create projects that promote innovation in health care delivery designed for populations in the Greater Boston Area who are served by community health centers.

Diabetes, which affects more than 26 million adults, is poised to become one of the most significant contributors to disease burden and health care costs in the United States. The American Diabetes Association estimated that one out of every three children born after 2000 in the United States will be directly affected by diabetes and that approximately one in 10 health care dollar expenditures are now attributable to diabetes. While it is well known that diabetes harms the kidneys, heart, eyes, and nerves, periodontitis—inflammation and infection of the gums and alveolar bone that causes pain, bleeding, and tooth loss—is often overlooked as a complication of diabetes.

Emerging research has shown that diabetes and periodontitis are interrelated: diabetics have a higher risk of developing severe gum disease, while periodontitis is associated with poorer blood sugar control and disease progression.

With the rise in chronic diseases, expenses, and disparities in access to care, providers are seeking new health care delivery models to address these issues. Promising models, such as group visits and the patient-centered medical home, emphasize comprehensive and integrated care. Dentists have not generally been part of the primary care team, but mounting evidence on the oral-systemic connection of many chronic diseases suggests the importance of increasing collaboration between physicians and dentists.

Under the grant, the student group plans to create a new model, in which a dental team (consisting of a dentist, hygienist, and translator, when needed) is incorporated into the existing diabetes group visits at the Windsor Street Health Center and trained to provide screenings, basic oral care, and oral health education in a group setting. In addition to oral health, the group will focus on holistic chronic care management, by training the health care team to address issues of mental health, nutrition, and overall wellness. By providing patients a community of peers, with similar goals, backgrounds, and experiences, the group seeks to increase health literacy and support lifestyle changes. This model has the potential to be cost effective, efficient, and transferable across health centers. Ultimately, the group plans to showcase this model as an example of the value of interdisciplinary communication and collaboration between dentists and physicians.

From left: Raina Chandiramani, George Chen, Helen Yang, and Seana Hedayatnia (all DMD 2016), and Viet Nguyen (MD 2016).
Alumni Gather at Yankee Dental

Alumni, students, faculty, and staff of HSDM mingled and enjoyed themselves at a reception hosted by HSDM during the Yankee Dental Congress in early February. Below are selected images from the evening, which featured buzzing conversation, delectables and beverages, and good cheer, as old friends got together and new friendships were made.
Above: Shadi Aryanpour, DMD01, MPH03, PD04 (endodontics); and Jack Gilad, MMSc98, PD98 (endodontics), an HSDM clinical instructor in restorative dentistry and biomaterials sciences.

Right: Maritza Morell, an HSDM clinical instructor in oral and developmental biology at Boston Children’s Hospital, is president of the Hispanic Dental Association.


Right: Alumni Adrienne Weisner, DMD12; Sharon Schrott, MMSc08 (prosthodontics); and Alexander Schrott, MMSc07 (periodontology), DMD12.

Right: Sajal Swaroop, Thomas Burk, Peter Dennis, and Qian Yang, all DMD 2013, flank Dean Bruce Donoff.

continued
Dental Bites

**HSDM News**

**STEPHEN T. SONIS, DMD, DMSc**, a clinical professor of oral medicine at HSDM, has been named to the newly formed Medical Advisory Board of Soligenix Inc., a development-stage biopharmaceutical company. The new board will provide medical and clinical strategic guidance to the company as it advances the development of a new treatment for oral mucositis, a common complication of cancer treatments.

Two members of the HSDM community, **ROMESH NALLIAH** and **CATHERINE LANE**, received diversity awards from the Harvard Medical School Office of Diversity Inclusion and Community Partnership. Nalliah, an instructor in restorative dentistry and biomaterials sciences, senior tutor of the Castle Society, and interim codirector of predoctoral education, was honored with a Harold Amos Faculty Diversity Award. The award recognizes HMS/HSDM faculty (clinical, preclinical, research, administrative) who have made significant achievements in moving HMS/HSDM toward being a diverse and inclusive community. Lane, assistant dean of clinical operations for the Harvard Dental Center, was honored with the Sharon P. Clayborne Staff Diversity Award, established to recognize HMS/HSDM staff who have made significant achievements in diversity.

**NALLIAH** and **VEERASATHPURUSH ALLAREDDY**, an HSDM clinical fellow in developmental biology, published the article “What Is the Dental Profession’s Contribution to Worsening Access-to-Care Problems?” in the Winter 2013 issue of the *Journal of the Massachusetts Dental Society*. Also profiled in that issue was **DEREK HOU (DMD 2014)**, the HSDM First Delegate of the American Student Dental Association.

The Winter 2013 issue of the *HDA News & Reports* newsletter of the Hispanic Dental Association featured an interview with **MARITZA MORELL**, an HSDM clinical instructor in oral and developmental biology, who is president of the organization.

**HSDM’s BRITTANY SEYMOUR**, an instructor in oral health policy and epidemiology, and **JANE BARROW**, assistant dean for global and community health, and colleagues published the article “Including Oral Health Training in a Health System Strengthening Program in Rwanda” in *Global Health Action* 6 (2013).

**PAUL LEVI JR.**, a clinical instructor in oral medicine, infection, and immunity at HSDM, is editor of the new book *Phosphate and Vitamin D in Chronic Kidney Disease*, to be published in May 2013. The enormous scientific progress made during the last decade has resulted in a better conceptual understanding of mineral ion metabolism in general. The book provides an overview of the physiological aspects of phosphate and vitamin D metabolism and the ways in which their pathological dysregulation facilitates organ damage, ranging from blood vessels to bone to kidney. The book also contains a chapter describing how phosphate content in saliva might be an early biomarker of evolution of childhood obesity. Razzaque included numerous illustrations in the book to provide an easy outline for the reader to appreciate the complex biological pathways that are involved in phosphate and vitamin D metabolism.

**MOHAMMED SAWKAT RAZZAQUE**, an assistant professor of oral medicine, infection, and immunity at HSDM, has been elected as a director of the American Board of Periodontology.

**HSDM IMPLANTOLOGY** received the Best Research Poster Award at the 2013 ITI Congress North America. The poster, prepared by implantology fellows **D. JIAMJARIYAPON** and **S. BORZANGY**, presents preliminary results of a randomized controlled clinical trial comparing clinical outcomes of zirconia CAD/CAM vs. prefabricated titanium abutments. **ANDREA RADICS**, senior dental laboratory coordinator, and **SUNG-KIANG CHUANG**, an assistant professor of oral...
and maxillofacial surgery, were among several collaborators on this investigation. **GERMAN O. GALLUCCI**, head of the Division of Regenerative and Implant Sciences at HSDM, and **H.-P. WEBER, DMD90**, were principal investigators.

**JUNHYCK KIM (MMSc 2013, prosthodontics)** completed Part 4 (Removable Complete Denture) of the American Board of Prosthodontics. The ABP allows for the a candidate to take a clinical component during the last year of a three-year, CODA-approved program.

**EDWARD K. BROWN JR. (DMSc 2013, prosthodontics)** presented his DMSc research at the American Prosthodontic Society in Chicago on February 22, 2013. His poster received an honorable mention.

**SAMANTHA JORDAN (MPH/PD 2014, dental public health)** received the Herschel S. Horowitz Scholarship of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD). This annual scholarship is awarded to a dentist entering the discipline of public health through a master’s-level degree program in public health. The scholarship pays for tuition and other expenses. According to the AAPHD, “Those selected for a scholarship are required to ‘pay back’ the specialty by spending one year in a dental public health residency program and one year in a dental public health position, thus disseminating the information and skills they have acquired.” Jordan, whose concentration is in health and social behavior, holds the Delta Dental of Massachusetts Dean’s Scholarship in Oral Public Health and Epidemiology at HSDM.

**JANE SHIN** (DMD 2013) was recently selected to receive a Medical Research Fellowship from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute for the 2013–2014 academic year. The fellowship is a one-year award for full-time research.

DMD students, led by faculty adviser **RISHA DE LEON**, an instructor in restorative dentistry and biomaterials sciences and Cannon Society senior tutor, continue to provide oral health education to teens through Boys & Girls Clubs around Boston. In February, student volunteers **CHELSEA ALDRIDGE, LAUREN FELDMAN, CHIARA RIVAS-MORELLO, and SAMIRA SALARI** (all DMD 2014) presented the group’s second session at the Yawkey Club in Roxbury, interacting with some 24 interested and engaged youth.

Ten teams of finalists were recently chosen from an initial pool of 127 applications for the 2013 President’s Challenge, a University-wide competition designed to encourage social innovation. Among the finalists was an HSDM team led by **GINO INVERSO (DMD 2014)**, who are developing a mobile application called Healio that will allow doctors to remotely follow their patients’ healing processes through time-lapse images. The finalists presented their projects in early May, and the winners will be announced at the end of May.

**Alumni News**


Former faculty member **KENNETH R. RANKIN** passed away on February 25, 2013, in Port Charlotte, Florida, at age 89.

Former longtime HSDM dental laboratory technician **HAROLD VELLEMAN**, 89, of Peabody, Massachusetts, passed away on March 20, 2013.

**JOHN H. MANHOLD, DMD44**, writes that he and his wife, Enriquetta, “recently flew to San Francisco and then cruised down the west coast of South America, around the Horn and back up to Buenos Aires, visiting penguins, sea lions, and seals in some sun and rain, wind and cold, and saw whales and huge sea turtles, as well as the usual dolphins and a couple of hammerhead sharks…. The overall experience was fantastic, and although we previously have visited much of South America, any other places were new and almost unbelievably fascinating. Contrarily, it also provided its periods of sophistication. We were entertained at the last golf course at the bottom of the world—just before the Tierra del Fuego outside of Punta Arenas, Chile…. I still have my gold earring, which one traditionally earns the right to wear by ‘Rounding the Horn.’”

In late January, HSDM received an update from **STUART FISCHMAN, DMD60**: “Greetings from Jerusalem. I am pleased to report that Jane is continuing to make progress here at home and in ‘Day Treatment’ at Hadassah’s Mt. Scopus Rehabilitation Center. A few weeks ago there was a (very) Mini-HSDM reunion! **ERNEI HAUSMANN, DMD56**, was in town to visit his daughter, and Stu, Ernie, Jane, and Britta got together for coffee. We had a good time talking about the good old days, as we tried to remember them! Ernie and I spent our academic careers at Buffalo and fondly recalled our classmates and faculty at HSDM.”

**LESLIE MILLER, PD74 (endodontics)**, published an article in the Winter 2013 edition of the Journal of the Massachusetts Dental Society entitled, “The Use of Limited-Field Cone Beam Computed Tomography in Endodontics.”

Old friends held a mini-HSDM reunion in Jerusalem. From left, Jane Fischman; Stuart Fischman, DMD60; Ernie Hausmann, DMD56; and Britta Hausmann.
BRUCE THOMPSON, DMD 76, an endodontist, writes: “I retired from clinical work in April 2010. I am now working as a part-time clinical instructor in the Dental Hygiene Program at Elizabethtown Community and Technical College in Kentucky. In October 2012, I rode my bike 750 miles over the Appalachian Mountains, from Yorktown, VA, to Harrodsburg, KY.”

DAVID MOMTAHENI, PD 78 (oral pathology), writes that he is one of 16 oral and maxillofacial pathologists in the United States. He has been promoted to clinical professor in the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the Columbia College of Dental Medicine. His nondental activities include sailing, golf, tennis, skiing, motorcycling, and collecting exotic cars.

SAMUEL YOUNG, DMD 80, will retire on May 6, 2013, as a captain in the US Navy after 33 years of service in oral and maxillofacial surgery. His retirement is hosted by Captain William N. Norman, Commanding Officer, 1st Dental Battalion, Naval Dental Center Camp Pendleton.

EARL FREYMILLER, DMD 84, MD 86, was recently honored with the inaugural Bob and Marion Wilson Endowed Chair at the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Dentistry. The chair was established to support the teaching, research, and public-service activities of a distinguished faculty member who has demonstrated leadership in dental surgery and education and a strong commitment to community service in the field of dentistry. “I hope that by involving UCLA dental students and residents in future humanitarian endeavors, I can plant a seed early in their careers to help them realize that they have been given knowledge and skills that can be used to make a significant difference in the lives of those less privileged,” said Freymiller.

JAMES H. DOUNDOLAKIS, PD 85 (prosthodontics) was recently installed as the 125th president of the New York County Dental Society, one of the largest groups of practicing dentists in the country.

KEITH JEFFORDS, PD 89 (general practice residency), was named to Atlanta Magazine’s 2012 Top Doctors, one of only 10 plastic surgeons on the list.

EMANUEL ALVARO, MMSc 98 (endodontics) writes that among his nondental activities, he is an instrument-rated pilot.

KARINDEEP CHIMA, DMD 05, MMSc 08, PD 08 (orthodontics), and her husband, VLADIMIR SHUSTER, DMD 05, write with exciting news: “Our son was born on December 10, 2012, in San Francisco at 9:52 am. He weighed 6 lbs., 13 oz., and his name is Naveen Ori Shuster.” Chima is in private practice in Los Altos, California, and Shuster is in private practice in San Francisco and teaches part time at University of the Pacific.

SCOTT CARDALL, DMD 10, recently joined the family-owned practice Utah Orthodontic Care. Cardall completed his orthodontics residency at Oregon Health and Science University.

JARED SPRAGUE, DMD 11/PhD 2015, writes, “I am pleased to announce Zavia Lu’s birth—our third little girl. Both Zavia and Laura are doing well. Zavia was born very healthy. She weighed in at 2890 grams (6 lbs., 6 oz.) and measured 50 cm (19.75 in.) tall. Born 1/14/13 at 9:11 am in Cambridge, Massachusetts.”

Jared Sprague holds swaddled newborn Zavia Lu Sprague.

Dean Bruce Donoff visited with a group of HSDM alumni last fall in Atlanta. In photo, from left: Shahrokh Bagheri, DMD 97, PD 97 (general practice residency); Jane Puskas, DMD 87, MPH 87; Steven Roser, DMD 68, MD 72; Michelle Greenberg Hutchinson, DMD 87, MPH 87; Tina Patel, DMD 05; Adesegun Tewogbade, DMD 04; Melanie Burns, DMD 93, MPH 93, PD 93; Priya Madhiwala, DMD 06. Not pictured: Julius Park, DMD 01.
Developing and fostering a community of global leaders advancing oral and systemic health.