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Boston University
"CHANGE" IS THE THEME AT GENERAL FACULTY MEETING

The March 18 general faculty meeting, which was attended by more than 60 GSGD faculty and staff members, focused on the theme of change within the School. The meeting featured the following speakers and topics: Dean Spencer N. Frankl, D.D.S., M.S.D., "Future Changes in Dental Education"; Pat Westwater, M.A., "The Process of Change"; Anthony Jong, D.D.S., M.P.H., D.Sc., "Strategic Planning"; Thomas Kilgore, D.M.D., "Curriculum Changes" and Paula Friedman, D.D.S., "Alternative Health-Care Delivery Systems."

Dean Frankl began his presentation with a discussion of the economic forces currently affecting the nation, noting that the dental profession is not alone in feeling the strains of these forces. Frankl cited the awarding of a $77,000 grant to the School by the Pew Memorial Trust as a cause for optimism in the face of these economic forces. "Since its inception, the School has been able to adapt to change," he said. "The Pew Memorial Trust recognized this ability by awarding us with a grant to support us in our ongoing search for a better way.

"Over the next 18 months, I will be asking for your support and involvement in this change process—your participation and involvement is vital. Our future is bright as long as we deal with the realities and continue to focus on those virtues of flexibility, intelligence and creative problem-solving which have been the hallmark of our School."

The process of change

Pat Westwater, M.A., coordinator for the Pew grant, related the process of organizational change to that of personal change and the ability to learn and grow from these changes. This growth process, warned Westwater, is not easily undertaken. "It's normal," concluded Westwater, "to hesitate before planning to enter a period of change—but enter it we must. The planning for changes that we make will depend on all of us to be open to them. We must proceed carefully," she advised, "but we must proceed now."

The strategic-planning process

Anthony Jong, D.D.S., M.P.H., D.Sc., associate dean for academic affairs and a professor and chairman of the Department of Dental Care Management, discussed the strategic-planning process, which not only will identify the major issues affecting the future of the School, but will also define the issues affecting the profession of dentistry itself.

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Jong announced that a Committee for Strategic Planning, composed of faculty and staff members, would be organized in order to identify and address these issues. Members of the audience were requested to fill out the questionnaires they had received earlier in the evening; these forms asked participants to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the School and to indicate an interest in working with the planning committee. "We are going to look at the problems very carefully and systematically," Jong explained. "We need to develop new ideas and to prioritize our needs for the future. We can position ourselves so that all our programs continue to be the best available anywhere in the country."

Curricular changes

Thomas Kilgore, D.M.D., assistant dean for curriculum and a professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery, spoke on past and future changes within the School's curriculum.

Kilgore discussed the need to adapt dental-education programs to address the practical considerations faced by students planning to enter the profession. This process would include decreasing the overall number of formal clock hours applied to the basic sciences and more closely integrating the basic sciences with clinical sciences. Students would also be introduced to the preclinical sciences earlier in the D.M.D. program.

Alternative delivery systems

Paula Friedman, D.D.S., director of the Division of Oral Diagnosis and Radiology and an associate professor of dental care management, described the area of alternative dental-care delivery systems as a microcosm of the topics covered that night, because it involves making changes in ideas, policies and procedures.

Friedman outlined the School's history of marketing its services to the public, which led to the targeting of the college-aged and elderly populations as those with treatment needs most compatible to the School's services. Pre-paid dental plans were developed for and marketed to three area colleges (Northeastern University, University of Massachusetts/Boston and Wentworth Institute of Technology). Friedman also has received funding which enables the School to provide low-cost dental-care services to people aged 65 and over.

The meeting was concluded with a discussion led by Frankl and Jong, at which time the faculty questionnaires were collected. The following is a summary of responses from the faculty regarding GSGD strengths and suggestions for change:

"On what strengths of the School should we capitalize??"
Dedicated faculty and staff
Affiliations with Boston University and the Medical Center
Small class size—good faculty/student ratio
Quality of students and diversity within the student population
Flexibility and creativity at many levels
The School's international reputation for excellence

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"What are your suggestions for change?"
Decrease the number of required basic-science courses/increase in practice management, behavioral science courses
Focus on meeting the needs of the community
Develop career-counseling service
Make the facility more aesthetically appealing
Provide students with ongoing support—moral, emotional, academic

CLINIC DAY '86——
EDUCATIONAL, ENJOYABLE

The fifth annual GSGD student Clinic Day, which was held on April 3, featured a variety of well-attended activities and special events.

In addition to dental screenings conducted by junior predoctoral students, Clinic Day '86 highlights included research table clinics and commercial exhibitors in the main lobby/cafeteria areas; lectures on "Forensic Dentistry," "Office Emergencies," "Infection Control" and "Maxillofacial Prosthodontics"; continuing education courses for dental assistants; and an open discussion on career planning.

Clinic Day dinner, which was held that night at the Park Plaza Hotel in Boston, drew more than 300 GSGD students, staff, faculty and guests. The evening of dinner and dancing was capped by raffle prize drawings, including the announcement by Anthony Jong of the awarding of a VCR to Ronald Lippitt for his winning school slogan "We Take Pride in Your Smile."

Members of the Clinic Day Organizing Committee were Mitchell V. Sabbagh (American Student Dental Association representative), Lon Polverari, Anthony Amato, Craig Costanza, Richard Forcucci and Andrea Malouf, all class of '87. Catherine Cain of the Dean's office served as the coordinator for the event.

SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES ATTEND AADS/AADR MEETINGS

The American Association of Dental Schools (AADS) and the American Association for Dental Research (AADR) held consecutive sessions in Washington, D.C., in March. The 63rd AADS Annual Session, held March 9-12, was attended by Dean Frankl and members of the faculty; the AADR meeting, held March 12-15, included a number of faculty and student presentations.

School representatives in attendance at the AADS meeting included: Meryl Atwood, class of '86, GSGD student representative; Donald Booth, D.M.D., assistant dean for hospital affairs and a professor and chairman of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery; Farid Boustany, D.D.S., D.M.D., an associate professor of dental care management and clinical director of the Division of Oral Diagnosis and Radiology; Paula K. Friedman, D.D.S., an associate professor of dental care management and director of the Division of Oral Diagnosis and Radiology; Judith Jacobs, registrar; Anthony Jong, D.D.S., M.P.H., D.Sc., associate dean for academic affairs and a professor and chairman of the Department of Dental Care Management; Thomas Kilgore, D.M.D., assistant dean for curriculum and a professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery; Sandra Kranz, R.D.H., coordinator for postdoctoral programs and an instructor in dental care management (Kranz attended the AADR meeting); Harold Newman, clinic administrator; Maxine Peck, M.S., director of the Dental Assistant Program and an assistant professor of dental care management (Peck was also elected Secretary of the Section on Dental Assisting Education at the meeting, effective 1987); Janet Peters, D.M.D., an assistant professor of dental care management; Sydell Shaw, D.D.S., director of predoctoral
admissions and an assistant clinical professor of endodontics; Herbert Schilder, assistant dean for continuing education and a professor and chairman of the Department of Endodontics; and Pat Westwater, M.A., coordinator for the Pew Grant.

The AADR meeting featured presentations of more than 1,700 scientific papers on new research findings, including the following research done by GSGD faculty and students: "Effect of Dentifrice and Toothbrushing on Weight and Color of Castable Ceramic In Vitro," presented by post-doctoral student S.H. Yip, B.D.S.; "Effect of Dowel Design on Stress Distribution Measured by Finite Element Analysis," presented by post-doctoral student A. Al-Amer, B.Ch.D. and co-authored by post-doctoral student A. Al-Raseed, B.Ch.D.; "In Vitro Wear of Posterior Composites," presented by post-doctoral student Huda Al-Daly, B.Ch.D.; "Rebonding Strength of Orthodontic Brackets," presented by post-doctoral student Iskanda Elian, D.D.S.; "Shear Bond Strength of New Cementing Agents for Resin-Bonded Retainers," presented by Massoud Kashanchi, D.M.D., an assistant professor of prosthodontics, co-authored by Farbod Fanian and Paul Ponte, D.D.S. The above presentations were co-authored by Dan Nathanson, D.M.D., a professor and chairman of the Department of Biomaterials, who also attended the meeting.

The following presentations were submitted by the Department of Periodontology: "Ultrastructural Study of Normal and Pathologic Sulcular Epithelium in Humans," presented by Simao Kon, C.D., M.Sc.D., a professor of periodontology, and co-authored by Morris P. Ruben, D.D.S., a professor and chairman of the Department of Periodontology with researchers from S. Paulo University, Brazil; and "Human Tissue Reaction to Interpore," presented by Ruben and co-authored by Kon and Arthur Bloom, an associate professor of oral histopathology with researchers from S. Paulo University and University of Michigan.

The American Association of Endodontists (AAE) will hold its 43rd Annual Session in Boston at the Sheraton-Boston Hotel, April 16-20. Herbert Schilder, D.D.S., a professor and chairman of the Department of Endodontics and president of the AAE, will be a panel member for the scientific session on "Cleansing and Shaping of the Root Canal System."

Other GSGD faculty members participating in the scientific sessions include Henry M. Goldman, D.M.D., dean emeritus of the School and a professor of oral pathology and periodontology; Robert J. Matusow, D.M.D., an associate clinical professor of endodontics; and Kaare Langeland, D.D.S., a visiting faculty member. Boston University President John Silber will also present the Edgar D. Coolidge Award to an AAE member for dedication to the science of dentistry and the specialty of endodontics at a luncheon on Saturday, April 19.

Alumni of the Department of Endodontics will gather on Thursday, April 17, at the Kennedy Memorial Library for a black-tie dinner—for details, contact Nancy Wilson at x4778.

Senior Dinner, originally scheduled for Monday, May 5, will be held on Tuesday, May 6. The dinner will be held in the Hiebert Lounge on the 14th floor of the School of Medicine. For information, contact Roberta Harcourt in the Office of the Registrar at x4708—the RSVP deadline is April 23.

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