

THE CENTRAL GROOVE



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Fall 2007

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Get acquainted with Dr. Combe
- Find out what happened at the 2007 ASDA Annual Session
- See what's coming up in November
- Find out what has been going on in your favorite committees

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My View of Ethics, Integrity and Professionalism in Dental Education

**JAMES Q. SWIFT DDS
PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR
DIVISION OF ORAL
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In the past two years, there have been reports of "cheating" scandals in at least five of our US dental schools. This number of reports of cheating in this time-frame is unprecedented and has caught the interest of the public as well as the dental profession. Dentistry has declined in the eyes of the masses as one of the most trusted professions. Many groups and organizations have conducted meetings and conferences to dissect the issue, determine the cause and offer resolutions to the problems.

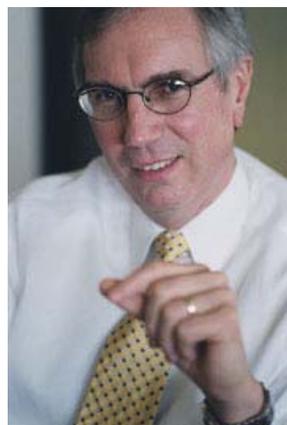
I would challenge however the idea that this is "news". Some of the cheating scandals have involved the collection and dispersal of previously administered tests or test questions that

through various means have become available to students. I recall from my own dental education close to 30 years ago that this was a practice that was apparent and known but not condemned. The mechanisms of procurement of the questions and the distribution for profit may have differed but the concepts were comparable. Whether access to these test questions affected performance had not been determined but they were available to most students and most reviewed them. Studying test questions is a current practice for students preparing for their required national board examinations. Condoning the practice in one situation and condemning it in another sends an inconsistent message.

My experience with a clinical board exam in an unnamed state, close to 30 years ago also created ethical concerns. Although I was a board certified and practicing oral and maxillofacial surgeon without having performed restorative dentistry for over 7 years, I was required to do a two surface amalgam restoration.
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The Dean's Den

MAKING CONNECTIONS AND MORE...



Over the next two months the School of Dentistry will host a series of appreciation receptions for the many groups and individuals who helped make our new Simulation Clinic a reality. And there are many for us to thank.

First, we'll be thanking the committee that helped plan and design the facility. With broad-based input from those involved in our pre-clinical education

program, dentists from the community and facilities experts, this group began nearly three years ago to research our space and equipment needs and to work with architects and designers to plan our new Simulation Clinic.

A special note of gratitude will also be expressed to our two fund-raising committees. One committee was responsible for encouraging faculty and staff
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NOVEMBER 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 LNL	8	9 ASDA DIST. 8 MEETING	10 ASDA DIST. 8 MEETING
11	12 JOINT LNL WITH HYGIENE	13	14 LNL	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 	23	24
25	26	27	28 D2 LNL	29 KID'S DAY	30	

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- ◆ Nov 7—Metro Dental and Intercosmetic Dentistry LNL
- ◆ Nov 9 - 10—ASDA District 8 Meeting
- ◆ Nov 12—Densply joint LNL with Hygiene
- ◆ Nov 14—3M LNL
- ◆ Nov 28—LNL for D2s with Oral B



6 Questions for Dr. Combe



Dr. Combe working hard in his office

How long have you worked at the SOD and is there any truth to the rumor you are retiring?

I started in 1994 and recently have changed to a 75% appointment – this is not a phased retirement. I have no timeline for retiring.

What is your favorite part of working at the SOD?

Teaching and communicating given that the task I have is to take a potentially boring subject and I'm not a member of the dental profession. I have the task of analyzing, interpreting and presenting scientific concepts in the dental context. I find it to be a stimulating challenge.

What is your favorite biomaterial and why?

It's an older material called Durelon. It is a polycarboxylate cement that is not used these days. It is superseded by glass ionomer. I chose this because it was the first ever dental adhesive cement and I worked in the inventor's lab, he was my PhD mentor. I was in Manchester in 1968 while it was discovered, developed, and tested. It shaped my life, I was wondering where to go after I got my PhD and this fired me up for adhesion.

What's an interesting factoid students may not know?

I'm a priest in the Church of England. I hope that when I

eventually retire to get a better degree in theology.

What is the craziest classroom experience you've had?

I used the word b..u..t and the students interpreted it as b..u..t..t. They don't use that word in England, they use b..u..m, it took me a bit to figure out why people were laughing

If you had to choose between the Minnesota Twins or Manchester United which would it be?

I would watch both, I like both. I have a loyalty to sports teams of the area I live. I like Manchester City as well, I support Manchester.

President's Minute



I would like to start out by thanking those of you who joined ASDA again this year. We have an exciting year coming up with lots of new things going on. One of our main focuses this year will be better communication within our chapter. With that in mind, we have decided to dust off the idea that is the Central Groove. It is our hope that this newsletter can help us communicate with all of our members about current events and upcoming ASDA events. The other big part of this attempt is

the launching of our new ASDA website. The address will be MNASDA.net. On it you can find information about upcoming events, a copy of our most up-to-date ASDA calendar, and a number of other useful links. We decided to go with this new page because we wanted to have an address that was easy to remember. Between the newsletter, website, and calendar in the locker room, all the pieces are in place to disseminate information effectively.

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"UPDATING ITS MEMBERS ON ONGOING LEGISLATIVE ISSUES IS ONE OF THE BEST THINGS ORGANIZED DENTISTRY CAN DO FOR ITS MEMBERS"

2007 ASDA Annual Session

ASDA held its annual session in Ft. Lauderdale, FL from August 29-September 2. The following describes the issues, actions, elections, and activities that took place during the week.

The first day included nominations and speeches from three candidates for National ASDA President and two candidates for Speaker of The House. After the votes were placed and reviewed, the new National ASDA President, Wayne Stephens (Columbia University '09) and the new Speaker of the House, Timothy Levine (Univ. of Connecticut '08) were introduced. Their platforms and C.V.'s can be found at www.asdanet.org.

Please share congratulations for Amy Truong as she was voted in as Trustee for our district. Amy is one of 11 District Trustees that sits on the ASDA Board of

Trustees and is responsible for coordinating ASDA chapters in U of MN, Creighton, Nebraska, Iowa, UM-Kansas City. She's a pretty big deal.



ASDA acted on several noteworthy resolutions during the session. ASDA passed a resolution supporting the elimination of human subjects in the clinical licensure exam with the exception of a "curriculum integrated format" or CIF. This basically means ASDA supports licensure exams that are completed during the course of our clinical experience as part of an appropriately

sequenced treatment plan on an existing patient and that the school and examining agency should mutually agree to make this possible.

Also, ASDA passed a resolution to lobby the ADA for financial incentives for graduating ASDA members to encourage membership in the ADA. According to the proposal, graduating ASDA members would pay no ADA dues the first two years post graduation and then reduced dues for the next few years. This would provide an additional benefit for ASDA members if the ADA decides to adopt this proposal.

ASDA also passed a resolution that suggests the incorporation of the oral effects of methamphetamine use in dental school

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District 8 Meeting Preview



Amy Truong
ASDA District 8
Trustee

Welcome to a new year of ASDA! Every year ASDA votes on a new executive committee and its board of trustees, which help make decisions through out the year regarding meetings, resolutions, issues going to the legislature, national lobby day, and issues that affect each ASDA dental student in America, which includes 17,000 people! ASDA is the largest student run organization and this year in Fort Lauderdale I had the privilege to run as District 8 Trustee and be chosen by our district, which includes Iowa, Missouri, Minnesota, Creighton and University of Nebraska to serve on the ASDA board of trustees.

I will sit on the Board of Trustees for ASDA, organize national meetings, sit on ASDA research councils, report on important issues facing our profession, meet with other dental schools, students and the ADA.

Every year ASDA has a District Meeting, which is hosted by a dental school in the US. This year I am excited to announce that Minnesota will be hosting this conference on Saturday, November 10. Usually we are limited to the number of people we can bring to the conference, but this year we are able to help plan, host and have an opportunity to have more participants at the meeting. This will be a great opportunity to meet

the dental students from District 8.

It is an important time in dentistry and there are many issues we will learn more about at the meeting including, Advance Dental Hygiene Practitioners, Meth mouth, Access to care and licensure. You will also find out more about ASDA, the importance of it and how to get involved. This is a great opportunity for the dental students at Minnesota to learn more about making a difference in the profession of dentistry and I look forward to seeing many of you there!

ASDA District 8 Meeting
Saturday, November 10 2007
8:00-5:00pm

Meeting Location: The University of Minnesota School of Dentistry
Room TBA, Moos Tower
Breakfast, snacks and lunch provided.

Speakers will include:

Dean Lloyd, U of MN School of Dentistry
Mitch Borneman, Speaker on "Meth Mouth"

Pat Glasrud, Minnesota Dental Association
Joseph Laudie, National ASDA Council
Chair on Professional Issues
University of Missouri- Kansas
City School of Dentistry Medical
Center

Annual Session...

curricula. Methamphetamine use is becoming a more prevalent problem, and we as dental students should push to receive more education and training related to the drug.

The topic of student ethics was also passionately debated and several ideas were introduced. It is apparent that there is no easy way to prevent cheating and other unethical conduct in dental schools, but we as students should work towards an introspective, yet collaborative solution

because it is our reputations at stake.

Although no immediate action was taken, ASDA is going to revisit this topic at the next annual session.

In addition to the meetings, NOVA Southeastern School of Dental Medicine hosted us all at their school for an evening, which included a tour of their facility and clinical areas. The other activities of the week included beach time, piano bar dancing, and socializing with dental students from all over the country (and even Canada).

~Mike Lee
President Elect

The group
with the
Crest
Healthy
Smiles 2nd
place
award



President's Minute Continued

One of our other main focuses this year will be on the legislative side. As I am sure many of you know, there are a number of issues going on in the state this year. The ADHP is probably the one that has received the most attention here at the school but there are a couple of others as well. As things happen

throughout the year, we will do our best to either post updates on the website, or have a legislative update written in the Central Groove. It is my belief that monitoring and updating its members on ongoing legislative issues is one of the best things organized dentistry can do for its members and we will do our

best to follow through with that.

I would just like to once again re-state how excited we are about some of the changes being made in our chapter this year, and I look forward to seeing all of you at some of our events.

~Brad Anderson
President



Dean's Den Continued...

contributions. Successful beyond everyone's expectations, it generated support from 86% of our faculty and scores of staff! A second committee – the Campaign Cabinet – worked to generate financial support from outside the school. Composed of alumni and dentist colleagues from around the state and region, this group met frequently



for the last two and a half years, developing strategies, critiquing promotional materials, identifying prospects, hosting fundraising events and soliciting gifts. Cabinet members traveled with me to meetings in the Twin Cities and throughout the state, Midwest, and country to share news of our Simulation Clinic

plans and to generate financial support for the project. Along the way we met hundreds of alumni and friends of the school.

Public thank-you's will also be made to President Bruininks who provided \$3 million to launch the campaign. His support got us one-third of the way to our goal, legitimized our effort, and let people everywhere know that this important University project had his backing. We'll also thank the 3M Foundation whose generous \$1 million award demonstrated to the entire corporate community both the merit of our project and its benefit to the profession, and helped generate additional corporate contributions.

These appreciation events will also recognize major gift donors – corporate, professional, organizational, and individual. These include the many companies who work with and support our profession, dental associations and societies with which we partner, friends of the school, and hundreds of School of Dentistry alums.

One special way we'll acknowl-

edge our supporters is by featuring their names on a "wall of recognition." Installed in the main lobby, the signage will include the name of every committee member and major benefactors. One special display will feature the names of our staff and faculty contributors, a recognition that has special significance for me.

More than three years in the making, this new Simulation Clinic is a significant accomplishment. Not only does it enhance learning and teaching in the digital age, it's turning heads on campus, causing other schools to take note, and exciting the public. One of its lasting impacts is the connections and re-connections we made with groups and people who've taken a new interest in our future. The Simulation Clinic and wall of recognition will be daily reminders to us all that our school is part of a greater professional community that works together to meet the needs of today's students and, ultimately, tomorrow's oral health care workforce and the oral health of our region.

"MORE THAN THREE YEARS IN THE MAKING, THIS NEW SIMULATION CLINIC IS A SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT. NOT ONLY DOES IT ENHANCE LEARNING AND TEACHING IN THE DIGITAL AGE, IT'S TURNING HEADS ON CAMPUS"





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 Secretary: Thyra Jagger D3, jagg0006@umn.edu
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Ethics...

ration on a live patient that I had recruited from a shopping mall in the city of the exam only days before the examination. The focus was only on the restoration, not the overall oral or systemic health of the patient. This is unethical behavior.

It seems to me that most of the ethical challenges we face are associated with performance assessments. Ethical behav-

ior should be expected in all situations and circumstances, but reducing the temptation and opportunity to cheat would also result in more frequent and consistent ethical behavior. Movement away from multiple-choice questions on examinations toward objective competency evaluations would be an essential step. Lastly, universal ethical behavior by dental educators,

examiners, state boards of dentistry and practicing dentists would go a long way to demonstrate to oral health care students, those interested in potentially becoming oral health care providers and those actively practicing dentistry and oral health care that professionalism and integrity are key features of a capable and competent individual.

Committee Happenings

ACTIVITIES

The Activities Committee hosted its first event at Brit's Pub this September. Dental students found their way down the Nicollet Mall in downtown Minneapolis to en-



joy free lawn bowling. ASDA members enjoyed the perfect fall evening on Brit's rooftop as they socialized with classmates and future colleagues. Although only a few minutes away from Moos tower, it helped remind all of how relaxing and

enjoyable life can be outside of school.

We hope everyone enjoyed the opportunity to join us for lawn bowling and we hope to see you again at our next events! Mark your calendars!

G.V. Black Tie Dance, Feb. 15, 2008, The Grand Hotel, Minneapolis



CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The career development committee, or CD as insiders know it, is probably the greatest ASDA committee there is. We put on events with the pre-dent club at the U of MN, go to elementary schools to teach 1st graders about oral hygiene, and plan Give Kids a Smile Day. We are the outreach group to the community, working with the Union Gospel Mission to provide care to the underserved. Our meetings are usually the 1st Tuesday of each month over lunch. Upcoming events include an elementary school science fair, Kid's Day for D2-4, and pre-dent events including an impression session, wax-n-relax, sealant session, and some class 2 preparations. There is always a ton to do and help out with if you want to get involved in ASDA, so just ask! Plus, as a bonus, we usually have some awesome baked goods at the meetings...