

**Boston University Henry M. Goldman
School of Dental Medicine
American Student Dental Association**

ASDA News Bite



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BU Debate Team Wins at Tufts

by Megan Ryan DMD 10 & Heather Parsons DMD 11

Congratulations to our BU ASDA Debate Team, who made us proud at Tufts on Friday, February 12! GSDM and Tufts students were invited to participate in a formal debate about current dental issues, take a tour of Tufts, and enjoy a cocktail reception sponsored by ASDA and the Massachusetts Dental Society.

The BU team, composed of four students - Brandon Johnson DMD 10 and Michael Visser DMD 10, Heather Parsons DMD 11, Dara Shah DMD 13, and coach, Dr. Paula Friedman, were judged by faculty members at GSDM and Tufts, along with an MDS representative. Debate topics included the following:

1. Midlevel Providers
2. Licensure: PGY1 (Post-Graduate Year 1) vs. National Exam (NERB, WREB, etc)
3. National Boards: Pass/Fail vs. Scored



BU ASDA Debate Team 2010

The BU Debate Team worked hard to research their topics, and their preparation paid off as they won an exciting debate with their solid background knowledge on all of the topics.

Following the debate, guests were given a tour of the new Tufts vertical expansion, and also able to socialize with other students, faculty, and staff at the evening reception. We are all hopeful that this will continue as an annual event, and we are looking forward to hosting at GSDM next year. BU ASDA would like to thank the GSDM faculty and students that came out to support the team, and extend a huge congratulations to the BU Debate Team. We are proud of you!

Food Driving Success = Night of Fun for BU Dental Students & Staff

by Megan Ryan DMD 10

Approximately 200 BU students, faculty, and staff attended the men's BU vs. Maine [hockey game](#) on Friday, February 12. Dean Hutter generously donated 200 hockey tickets to all GSDM community members who donated non-perishable food items to the Greater Boston Food Bank. Over 400 cans of food were collected for this great cause.



BU ASDA members enjoy the Food Drive hockey game

The Greater Boston Food Bank distributes food to over 600 hunger-relief agencies in eastern Massachusetts. Recent reports indicate donations are down, and the hunger need across MA is great. GSDM is proud to be a contributor to the Greater Boston Food Bank.

Everyone in attendance enjoyed a great game at [Agganis Arena](#), with BU powering ahead to beat #12 Maine by a final score of 7 to 4. Rhett the Terrier made an appearance in the GSDM section, and there were numerous appearances on the JumboTron.

Thanks to all who donated and joined BU ASDA at the hockey game and thank you to Dean Hutter for the ticket donation!

Op-Ed Column: "You don't want me as a patient anymore?"

by Michael Visser DMD 10

I am three months away from graduating from dental school. As the light at the end of the tunnel gets brighter and brighter the requirements left to complete in order to graduate become clearer and clearer. I know exactly what I need to do get my DMD and I know exactly what treatments my remaining patients need to receive. An interesting situation arises when what I need to do and what my patients need done does not match.

I don't need to do any more partial dentures. At least I don't think I do. It's probably going to take as many appointments as I can get with a few miracles along the way for me to graduate on time. Last week I finished a recall appointment with one of my patients. We determined that one of her posterior teeth would need to be removed necessitating a partial denture to restore the edentulous space. Looking at the time left before May 14th and the work I have left to do I informed her that it might be best for her to transition to a younger student dentist who would have the time to address her treatment immediately. I was shocked at her response. She looked as though I had just told her I was going to sell her to a band of traveling gypsies.

"You don't want me as a patient anymore?"

This was not a patient I had anticipated as having a hard time with the transition. Nor was it a patient I had anticipated having a hard time seeing go, but as shocked as I was by her response, I was even more shocked at how I felt after I

had said it. As frustrated as I had been by the canceled appointments and as many signatures as I had to chase down to get her appointments closed, I felt sad at the thought of her moving on to another student.

I have long believed that “continuity of care” does not exist in dental school. It can’t. By definition dental school is 4 years long with no more than 2 in the clinic with patients. So “continuity”, in a school setting, means nothing more than “until I graduate.” I think, in situations such as mine, the best thing for both the patient and myself is to transition her treatment into the capable hands of a DMD 11.

Perhaps, in that moment, I felt what it means to be responsible for a patient’s well being. Perhaps I started to understand how good it can feel to use the knowledge I have learned to make sure people are healthier and happier. I knew that patient’s health history, I knew what made her sick and what medications she took to feel better. I knew how to give her injections so that she didn’t complain that it hurt. I knew that she would probably need a couple of bathroom breaks during the appointment because she drinks so much coffee.

I have always understood what continuity of care is. Maybe now, I’m starting to understand why, even when a patient is challenging and exhausting, it’s so important.

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Dating a BU dental student: Take home message, verbatim et literatim!

by Mayank Pahwa AS 11

1. You have had bad experiences with dentists in the past? It will continue, read on.
2. Don’t expect them to not whine. Ever.
3. They are not leading spreaders of the Kissing Disease.
4. When they tell you that they are busy studying every other day and can’t talk, they are not lying. *Bête examens.*
5. When they work late till midnight, don’t feed your brain with weird thoughts of infidelity. They are in the SLC, busting their rural posteriors to get those annoying block temporaries seat.
6. Wait for a long weekend to get their attention, only if there’s no exam or summative in the following week. It’s a good idea to call and see if they pick up. Don’t leave a voicemail, by the time they will get to it, it will be too late.
7. Be wary of the dental instrument(s) left on your couch. If those poke you, it’s not their responsibility. And call them as soon as possible informing that you have said instrument(s), before they send a mass email to everyone and humiliate themselves.
8. NO, they are not leading spreaders of the Kissing Disease.
9. When they ask you out on a romantic date, they actually mean a free and quick home delivery from a convenient pizza place while they catch up on their favorite tv show. Needless to say, it lasts for 20 mins of no or limited attention to what you have to say and is followed by a peaceful goodnight’s sleep.
10. Whenever they wish you happy birthday, even when it’s not, consider it and celebrate... Pronto. Despite dental school conditioning of their organizing skills, their schedules don’t have space for anniversaries and birthdays. Understand.
11. When they tell you that dental students should have a sitcom of their own along the lines of Scrubs, House MD et al... Just nod.

12. Consider this as a guide to a cariogenic relationship... or rather, a *sweet* relationship.

Events and News

Annual Boys and Girls Club Oral Health Fair: Interested in participating in community service? Join BU ASDA for their upcoming [Boys and Girls Club](#) Oral Health Fair on March 5, 2010 from 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Volunteers can sign up for shifts, so please contact Courtney Brady (cbrady@bu.edu) if you are interested. Hope to see you there!

Goldman Gala: Hope you're all planning to attend the newly-renamed ASDA-sponsored evening formal, the Goldman Gala. It will be held this year on Friday March 26, 2010 at the [Westin Copley Boston](#). Tickets will go on sale in early March, so get yours before they go!
