The faculty has gone from strength to strength in the last quarter despite operating within a fiscally constrained environment.

Three established academics, Professor Iven Klineberg, Associate Professor Ayman Ellakwa and Dr Philip Burke, are leading a conversation to actively increase our research and technology in curricula. In an exciting development, they have arranged with Stonelglass to support research progress by trialling CAD/CAM design and fabrication of implants and bridges.

A number of other innovative steps have also been taken to encourage and generate conversations around research. The introduction of clinical translational discussion groups and faculty research dinners is encouraging a lively dialogue.

A key achievement in our strategic objectives has been the opening of the newly refurbished Bioengineering Laboratories at the Westmead Centre for Oral Health, providing a focal point for our clinical translational research and innovation.

Also recently opened is a second refurbished area in Westmead providing vital additional clinical chair space. This has allowed us to enhance our teaching capability and ensure effective usage through specialist treatment for private and disadvantaged patients.

We congratulate Associate Professor Peter Barnard and his BDS 1953 alumni cohort for driving the Dentistry Alumni Museum project. The museum will be housed in various locations around the Westmead Centre for Oral Health, giving patients, staff and students a tour of yesteryear as they view equipment used over the last century in dentistry. Professor Barnard is now calling for alumni volunteers interested in selecting relevant items for display in the various cabinets around the centre.
COMMUNITY
SHINING SMILES ON EFATE ISLAND, VANUATU

The dramatic increase in consumption of westernised foods has had a major negative impact on the oral health of the population of Vanuatu.

Awarded the Dentsply Prize for Best Bachelor of Oral Health (BOH) Poster Presentation at the 2014 Faculty Research Day, final year BOH students Irene Papatheodorakis and Laura Righetto report on their visit to several disadvantaged schools on the beautiful island of Efate, in Vanuatu.

With the aid of Dr Rhonda Bule, the students recorded the plaque and DMFT/dmft scores of 100 children at Mele Primary School. This aided their preparation and allowed them to gain a better understanding for their needs analysis of the child demographic.

Irene and Laura’s project, “The Shining Smiles on Efate Island”, is a program plan to be delivered over three hours, and was created to heighten awareness and understanding by children of the importance of a healthy diet and good oral hygiene. The program involved engaging activities and discussions tailored to the appropriate age group of the children, along with pre- and post-evaluation surveys administered to the school staff.

“We had an amazing, once-in-a-lifetime experience in Vanuatu where we helped many disadvantaged schools while expanding our own knowledge and awareness of not only national, but global oral health problems. The success of our program has led us to consider the next project – to develop and implement an additional program in the near future,” say Irene and Laura.

DIARY DATE

STAFF RECOGNITION EVENT – 3 DECEMBER 2014
Temporomandibular disorders and oral rehabilitation and cognition are receiving some much-needed attention from our researchers.

The Jaw Function and Orofacial Pain Research Unit was established in 1980 at the Sydney Dental Hospital for research into jaw function, specifically, muscle activity and jaw movement. It later relocated to the Westmead Centre for Oral Health and has since evolved to cover temporomandibular disorders, oral rehabilitation and cognition, and more recently, education research.

Essential to the success of the unit are the members of the team: Head of Unit, Professor Iven Klineberg; Dean, Professor Chris Peck; Professor Greg Murray; Associate Professor Tania Gerzina; Associate Professor Max Guazzato; Terry Whittle; and Kamal Wanigaratne.

They are supervising a host of bright research postgraduate students, both local and international, including Alex Wirianski, Paul Tawadros, Shalinie King, Chris Moule, Amy Chen (China), Afnan Nassar (Saudi Arabia), Bushra Malik (Pakistan), Magda Amhamed (Libya), Kavitha Harendrababu (India) and Marianna Culaciati (Chile).

Temporomandibular disorders
Temporomandibular disorders (TMD) is a painful, life-changing disorder severely affecting a significant portion of the population. Onset for TMD is generally in early adult life, the formation years for lifestyle stability. Symptoms vary in intensity from pain and clicking noises with jaw movement to an inability to chew or speak without intense, continuing pain.

Current projects in this area include: Predictors for the development of persistent musculoskeletal pain; Brain changes with chronic orofacial pain; Muscle retraining in the jaw system; Biopsychosocial impact of acute and chronic jaw muscle pain; Translational clinical research in the Orofacial Pain Clinic.

Key researchers: Professor Iven Klineberg, Professor Greg Murray, Professor Chris Peck.

Oral rehabilitation and cognition
Oral implants have transformed prosthodontic treatment options. The implications are highly significant for oral rehabilitation which is tasked with maintaining an occlusion to support optimum function. Recent data has identified another dimension to maintaining the occlusion for mastication – enhancing cognition and higher level cognitive skills.

The unit’s research work in this area is led by Professor Iven Klineberg, who says: “The inability to manage complete dental prostheses and particularly the edentulous mandible is an almost universally problematic experience which impacts on function, diet and nutrition, aesthetics, psychosocial wellbeing and quality of life.”

Researchers are modelling normal jaw function through refined recordings of muscle activity and jaw movement in three dimensions as well as computer tomography and magnetic resonance imaging to assess the effectiveness of current treatments and develop new ways to treat a condition detrimental to the quality of life.

Current projects in this area include: Oral rehabilitation with implants in adult cases; Ectodermal Dysplasia (oligodontia, hypodontia and anodontia).

Key researchers: Professor Iven Klineberg, Dr Chris Moule, Associate Professor Lavier Gomes (Head MRI Unit, Westmead Hospital); Associate Professor Christine Wallace (Head of Department Oral Restorative Sciences), Dr Suhas Deshpande (ORS), Dr Mayuresh Korgaonkar (Brain Dynamics Centre).

For more information about the Jaw Function and Orofacial Pain Research Unit, please visit sydney.edu.au/dentistry/research/ageing.php
In our first edition of *Encompass* in November 2011, we featured dental alumna Nancy Saunders-Clay, reflecting on her work in remote communities and its impact on her. As we said then: “Shocked by the state of Indigenous oral health in the Northern Territory, recent Bachelor of Dentistry graduate Nancy Saunders-Clay welcomed the opportunity to help improve dental care in the region.”

Nancy’s concern for the wellbeing of her community led her to practice as a dentist in Taree, where, in 2012, she was featured in the *Sydney Morning Herald* as a “dentist happy to take avocados for her work”. Since then, while remaining a practising dentist, Nancy has continued her lifelong passion for rural and regional practice by enrolling in the small Northern Territory Medical Program (NTMP) in Darwin. Its annual intake is only 24 students.

Nancy says: “Don’t get me wrong – it has been hard going – working as a practising dentist, studying medicine full time and observing the maxillofacial team. Why are there only 24 hours in a day?! But I find time in the Territory so rewarding that it has been well worth the sacrifices.” She adds that she is “very lucky to have a partner, friends and family who are always there to support me, which has made the transition back to study far easier”.

The Northern Territory has the highest per capita rate of jaw fractures in the world. Nancy’s hope is to become “dual qualified and eventually bring another maxillofacial surgeon to an area where they are always needed”.

“I really enjoy Indigenous and aid work,” she adds. “This is definitely the area that I hope to specialise in.”

She credits her studies at the University of Sydney, along with an equal amount of time in public and private practice, as an “amazing springboard to returning to study medicine”.

“I never realised what a wealth of knowledge I had gained from such vast experiences,” she says. “Now when new graduates ask me what I think they should do, I always recommend that they follow their heart. There is no right or wrong place to start. Every different job will provide a wealth of knowledge and I think as long as you remember it is a privilege to be able to help others, and you practise accordingly, you will always be happy.”

THREE YEARS DOWN THE TRACK

ALUMNA – DR NANCY SAUNDERS-CLAY

Now adding medicine to her dentistry skills and qualifications, Dr Nancy Saunders-Clay is as busy as ever.
THE 2014 BIG PICTURE PROGRAM

DMD2 student Lyle Worrell talks about a visit by Warrane College.

On 8 July, 30 students from high schools across NSW, ACT, Queensland and New Zealand visited the Sydney Dental Hospital (SDH) clinical facilities as guests of the Big Picture Program – a Warrane College initiative to introduce tertiary options to their students.

The Warrane students observed patient treatment in the SDH state-of-the-art simulation environment. This was followed with a visit to patient clinics, where they viewed a workstation setup for a variety of procedures including surgery, general restorative and prosthetics and, most importantly, learned the importance of infection control.

Lyle Worrell, DMD2 student and host, says: “We are very happy to share our passion in this profession and hope to have shed some light and spark additional interest in these bright young individuals whom we hope to see again as prospective dental students.”

Enthusiastic about his experience, Michael Gonzaga, a Year 10 Warrane College student told us: “This visit really opened my eyes to the possibility of a career in dentistry.”
Since 2000, an innovative team of staff and students have been involved in vital research on the provision of dental care in NSW aged care facilities.

The project collaborators include Dr Bettine Webb, Ms Terry Whittle, ex Faculty Dean Professor Eli Schwarz (Oregon University USA) and Professor Cyril Thomas (retired).

Their research involves Bachelor of Oral Health students, and aims to raise the dental profession's and dental societies' awareness of geriatric needs. The research team is also lobbying the NSW government to highlight the dental needs of geriatric persons in care, in order to influence dental and nursing schools to include this subject in their curricula.

Part of this important research compared residents’ perceptions of oral care with a professional dental examination where the residents were aware of their retained natural teeth, dentures worn and perceived dry mouth, but were less aware of the need for oral hygiene, restorative treatment and the need for a dental check-up.

Dr Webb, who has been sharing her enthusiasm in this area with BOH students since 2008, speaks of the importance of "increased awareness of oral health across leaders, caregivers and residents". She adds that "appropriate dental health education and dedicated space within facilities would provide much-needed improvements for addressing the oral health issues of facility residents. As future cohorts of residents will have more natural teeth and complex medical situations, this is the right time to plan for the future challenges that will need to be met by the NSW care system".

HOMELESS CONNECT 2014

The third annual Homeless Connect saw another great turnout.

On 3 June, Faculty of Dentistry staff and students joined other health professions at the Sydney Town Hall to provide much-needed basic oral health advice and free dental products to homeless clients. The guests were also treated to relaxing massages, salon-styled haircuts and fine dining provided by local restaurateurs.

Volunteer Bachelor of Oral Health students provided assistance by setting up cleaning bays and sterilising equipment, while teachers vetted patients for immediate urgent attention in the mobile dental clinic staffed by two dentists and dental assistants.

For two of our BOH2 students, Arruni Kandasamy and Aylin Savran, Homeless Connect gave them the opportunity to witness firsthand the serious gaps in oral health present at low socioeconomic levels in our community, stressing the important role that health professionals play in bridging such gaps in healthcare. “Being able to provide the smallest amount of care on the day and seeing so many smiles was an extremely humbling experience,” say Arruni and Aylin.

Redginar Cayetano, now in his final year of the Bachelor of Oral Health, volunteered at Homeless Connect for the second time this year. For him, “this event shows how much we take the simple things for granted. Most people find brushing their teeth a chore; they don’t realise that some people can’t afford toothpaste, let alone a toothbrush. The basic luxury of tooth brushing could mean the world to another. It’s not much, but being able to provide free toothpaste, toothbrush and advice on free dental services available at the Sydney Dental Hospital and Westmead Centre for Oral Health was truly appreciated”.

Cathryn Forsyth, Associate Director Health Education and Promotion, was very proud of the student volunteers’ efforts at the event. “Observing our students’ compassion, I feel confident that their caring attitude will carry across into future clinical practice upon graduation,” she says.

GENERATORS OF NEW KNOWLEDGE
RESIDENTS’ PERCEPTIONS OF DENTAL CARE IN NSW AGED CARE FACILITIES

Dr Bettine Webb and final year BOH students
FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROLAND BRYANT CUP

With basketball, netball, soccer and mixed touch, great sport was had by all.

It was Charles Sturt University’s turn to make the trip to Sydney on 3 May for a sports day with their dental counterparts at the University of Sydney.

The first fixture, men’s basketball, comprised veterans and rookies, who provided fresh legs and new skills to the side. Following plenty of defensive play with a few blocked shots and steals, Sydney trailed CSU at the end of the first quarter. The second quarter had Sydney’s shots not connecting and CSU further in the lead. The final quarter started with a scoring burst from Sydney aided by a few steals from the guards, but CSU’s strong athletic prowess proved too much for Sydney, and they closed the game with a 16 point lead.

Next, it was the women’s turn to take to the courts for netball. Despite a telling scoreboard, the game provided some great entertainment and much fun to the enthusiastic crowd, with a final victory for the CSU team who demonstrated strong, confident passing, tight defence and almost flawless shooting.

Touch football was next up. An explosive diving try from Nick Stratas was shortly followed by Lyle Worrell breaking through the CSU defensive line and giving an offload to Diana Bruncke for two points. CSU replied, taking advantage of a mismatch on the outside and scoring on the wing. Sydney finished the first half with fancy footwork from Johnny Harrison, scoring to end the half 4–1. CSU responded with their captain making a break and offloading to score two points. Thrilling the spectators, both Sydney and CSU scored back to back, and Sydney provided a flourishing conclusion to win the game 5–4.

Looking forward to an exciting match was a keen Sydney women’s soccer side. Striker Priyanka Ponna scored a terrific goal early on with a beautiful curve ball just sliding into the net at the last moment and Kara Everingham saved many shots on goal. However, CSU prevailed for a final score of 2–1 after a tight, exciting game provided by all players.

The final men’s soccer game was a very physical affair for both teams, providing a fantastic spectacle. The second half saw CSU achieve a resounding victory of 4–1. While the price of admission entitled spectators to a full seat, excitement meant many only took up the edge!

SOME HEALTHY COMPETITION BETWEEN THE HEALTH FACULTIES

Rugby is firmly entrenched as one of the major events in our calendar.

This year the interfaculty rugby series between Dentistry, Medicine, Pharmacy and Veterinary Sciences saw us coming into 2014 as the two-time defending champions. BDent4 student and captain, Alex Ryan, was determined to bring home the championship for the third consecutive year.

After a loss to Vet and a forfeit by Pharmacy, Dentistry headed into the much-anticipated game against Medicine with a 1–1 record. Medicine had won their two prior matches, which meant Dentistry needed to win to force a final game and decide the championship.

A highlight was DMD2 student Lyle Worrell picking up a chipped kick and running 60 metres for a fantastic try.

However, despite a fierce encounter – as is the norm between these strong combatants – Dentistry fell short this year and the series, along with the championship, returned to Medicine.

Although a disappointing outcome for Dentistry, they were encouraged to see the number of students, staff and alumni of the Dentistry faculty in attendance cheering on the team.

We’re confident that with a little more experience the trophy will be back in our hands in 2015!
HONOURING WOMEN IN DENTISTRY

Now in its third year, the annual Women in Dentistry evening was hosted by Sydney University Dental Association (SUDA) and the Alumni Society of the University of Sydney (DASUS), partnering with the Recent Graduates Committee of the Australian Dental Associations (NSW Branch).

Guest speaker, Associate Professor Elizabeth Martin, charmed the group with her down-to-earth wisdom and reflections of an impressive career path since leaving dental school. Also sharing her global journey was another highly respected Sydney alumna, the first female President of the ADA (NSW Branch), Associate Professor Deb Cockrell.

A great night was had as students and graduates mingled with enthusiastic teachers, fellow alumni and professional women who came along to share personal and professional experiences and offer valuable advice to their younger colleagues-to-be.

SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT
THANK YOU FARZANA

It was a proud moment for Farzana Zuhair’s family as she stood on the podium in March 2011 to receive a University of Sydney testamur declaring her a graduated dentist. Farzana’s dream of becoming a practising dentist was cut short by her sad passing this year. However, Farzana has left a lasting legacy: her books and equipment, including loupes, dental supplies and a brand new air compressor will be given to students in need of financial assistance.

The University’s Poche Centre for Indigenous Health gratefully received the compressor and other equipment. Kylie Gwynne, Poche Centre director, said the donation will play a vital role in improving the oral health of Aboriginal people, which is fundamental to closing the gap in life expectancy. “We are indebted to Farzana,” Ms Gwynne says. “Through her generosity, much relief will be brought to people in situations of great need. Her spirit is an inspiration to all her colleagues and friends.”

The University of Sydney is committed to working in partnership with Indigenous communities to increase engagement, tackle inequities and learn to connect with our country’s past, present and future. Your support can help us make a lasting contribution. www.alumniandfriends.usyd.edu.au/Poche.asp

Farzana Zuhair graduating with the Bachelor of Dentistry in March 2011