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If you have arrived here in San Francisco this week ready to learn about the latest clinical and technological advances in the industry, earn C.E. credits, network with colleagues and hear from some of dentistry’s most captivating speakers, then you are in the right place.

One highlight of this week’s CDA Presents Art and Science of Dentistry is sure to be the series of cadaver dissection workshops, which will teach attendees about such things as the indications and contraindications for functional and esthetic crown lengthening surgery, predictable outcomes for vertical and horizontal ridge contours and attached gingival, key anatomical relationships in the orofacial region, anatomical factors relating to vascular pain that may mimic odontogenic or temporomandibular-related issues and more.

The cadaver workshops include:

- A golden opportunity

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The cadaver workshops include:

- A virtual museum image from the online exhibit ‘Business Cards of the Victorian Dentist,’ viewable at www.dentalmuseum.pacific.edu. (Photos/Provided by University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry)

S.F. dental school’s virtual museum highlights dentistry’s history

Images and text document evolution of dental chairs, handpieces, business cards and more

Five new exhibits showcasing artifacts of dental history are now available for viewing on the recently launched website www.dentalmuseum.pacific.edu, which was created by the University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry.

The exhibits are also accessible to the school community on digital kiosks located on the first and fourth floors of the school. The digital exhibits are part of the ongoing Virtual Museum Project, which began in 2012 as a creative way to present the school’s A.W. Ward Museum collection. For the past two years, Dr. Dorothy Dechant, curator of the A.W. Ward Museum, has been working closely with school photographer Jon Draper to photograph artifacts of all shapes and sizes—from tiny dental burs to heavy antique dental chairs.


Dechant said that the idea for the virtual museum took shape in conversations with former dean, Patrick J. Ferril Jr., in 2012, when discussing how the museum would transition to
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Homayon Asadi, DDS, associate professor and course director of advanced head and neck anatomy at the University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry, will co-host the full-day program with Henry A. Gremillion, DDS, dean at Louisiana State University in New Orleans.

In addition to the cadaver workshop, there are plenty of other lectures and workshops that give both dentists and their staff an opportunity to learn new things about the profession. One specific lecture, “Ultimate Dental Boot Camp: No-Shows and Cancellations, New Patients, More Treatment,” will show you how to see more new patients, perform more treatment and reduce no-shows. The lecture will focus on understanding how better intra-office communication will make for a more enjoyable work experience.

If you are interested in learning more about conducting oral cancer screenings to help spread awareness and spot oral cancer before it becomes irreversible, you might want to attend Jonathan A. Bregman’s “Enhanced Oral Cancer Detection: A Hands-On Experience” on Friday.

At this workshop, dentists and dental hygienists will be able to touch, feel and experience the new technologies that are available to enhance early detection of oral cancer. Working in pairs, you will experience each enhanced detection technology to determine which one works best for you.

Get the app
To make sure you don’t miss anything this week, download the CDA app. The app features show schedules and speaker information, exhibitor and product listings, interactive maps, real-time alerts such as for course availability, an integrated social media hub and information on local hotels, restaurants and attractions. You also can get the latest news about the profession of dentistry as well as breaking-news alerts.

The app is available for iPhone, iPad, Android phone, Android tablet and Mobile Web (BlackBerry, Windows Phone).

Tribune America, LLC
116 W. 23rd St., Suite 500
New York, N.Y. 10011
Phone: (212) 244-7181
Fax: (212) 244-7185
E-mail: info@dental-tribune.com
www.dental-tribune.com

Managing Editor
Fred Michmashruzen
fmichmashruzen@dental-tribune.com

Managing Editor
Sierra Rendon
s.rendon@dental-tribune.com

Managing Editor
Robert Sellick
r.sellick@dental-tribune.com

Product/Account Manager
Humberto Estrada
h.estrada@dental-tribune.com

Product/Account Manager
Maria Kaiser
m.kaiser@dental-tribune.com

Product/Account Manager
Will Kenyon
w.kenyon@dental-tribune.com

Business Development Manager
Travis Gittens
t.gittens@dental-tribune.com

Education Director
Christiane Ferret
c.ferret@dtstudyclub.com

Accounting Department
Nirmala Singh
n.singh@dental-tribune.com

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its space in the new school building, which opened last summer in downtown San Francisco. A virtual presentation was the solution that would allow broader access to the museum and digitally showcase artifacts that have been in storage due to space limitations. Some of the artifacts have now been gifted to other dental museums or sold at auction.

A team of colleagues in the school’s design and photo, marketing and communications, and information technology departments worked with Dechant to put finishing touches on the website and kiosk exhibits. "Please Have a Seat: Evolution of the Dental Chair" charts the dental chair during a 300-year span. Prior to the 17th century, tooth extractions were performed with patients sitting on the floor, their heads wedged between the dentist’s knees. Dentists then took matters into their own hands, constructing their own dental chairs until the mid-1800s, when commercial manufacturers took over. The chair has come a long way since then, and today’s design maximizes patient comfort while providing the dentist with adjustability that provides optimal access to the oral cavity.

"A Dynamic Decade: Speeding Up the Handpiece" includes this bit of history: Bur speeds increased dramatically in the 1950s when the idea of using turbines in airplane design inspired a new patent for the air turbine handpiece, accelerating the average handpiece from 6,500 rpm to 250,000 rpm. Pacific’s very own Dr. Arthur A. Dugoni (then serving as assistant clinical professor of operative dentistry at the College of Physicians & Surgeons, which later became Pacific Dugoni) was one of the first to share his confidence in the new high-speed handpiece.

A wealth of information is stored in the A.W. Ward Museum, and Dechant has unique insight into the school’s place in the histories of dentistry and San Francisco. One of the exhibits, “There & Back Again: Our San Francisco Story,” charts the school’s circular path through the city to its most recent move to its current Fifth Street location — almost the same spot as the school’s original location in 1896.

The “Still Lives in Dentistry” and “Business Cards of the Victorian Dentist” exhibits showcase images of ornate objects from the 1800s and 1900s. Many of the photographs of the smaller artifacts were taken using a new photo tent set up, which enabled Draper to control the lighting of the objects, minimizing shadows and isolating the subject from the background.

Future exhibits being planned
What’s next for the virtual museum? Dechant said that she would like to work on an exhibit comparing items used in the dental school’s early years with modern instruments used by Pacific Dugoni students today. She thinks viewers would be particularly interested in seeing the materials and methods students once used and learned — such as the gold foil technique and casting taught at the dental school up until 1980.

The A.W. Ward Museum of Dentistry was founded in 1974 in honor of one of the school’s early graduates and a pioneer of surgical periodontics, Abraham Wesley Ward, class of 1902. Since then, the collection has grown through donations, made primarily by alums. Most of the artifacts date from the mid-1800s to mid-1900s. Donated items are catalogued, with description and donor information maintained in an EmbARK database. Those interested in studying the collections may contact Dr. Dorothy Dechant, museum curator, at (415) 929-6627 or ddechant@pacific.edu.

(Source: University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry)