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From tooth-drawer to dental surgeon

— *The Story of The Dental Museum*
BY HENRY F. ATKINSON

In 1884 a group of dentists formed the Odontological Society of Victoria with the aims of the regulation and education of dentists in this State. At an early meeting the Society decided to develop a library and museum for which 'Mr Blix, a member, gave a cedar wood cabinet'. Sadly, no trace of this cabinet remains today, but the museum still exists, together with some volumes from the original library. The Dental Museum is now one of the oldest and most fascinating collections owned by the University of Melbourne.

The museum is also the most comprehensive and significant dental

collection in Australia, containing both an archival and object record of the development of dental education at the University and dentistry in the general community. For example, the collection gives us an insight into a society in which authorities differentiated between 'the poor', 'the deserving poor' and those who could afford private services.

The records of the Odontological Society, whose members took their own microscopes to meetings, are significant in indicating the level of knowledge in the profession in Victoria in the 1880s and the desire for the advancement of learning. The early instruments in the collection were already old when brought to Victoria by the first European settlers and thus the objects in the collection cover a wider time span than the written records. Together, these archives and artefacts dramatically illustrate the changing role of the dentist from tooth-drawer to dental surgeon.

The archival material dates from the 1880s to the present day. It includes the minute books of the Odontological Society of Victoria, Dental Hospital, Australian College of Dentistry and their subcommittees; correspondence; letter books with pasted-in correspondence; ledgers and cash books; records of private practice; negotiations for professorial chairs; the Lucas-Amies file detailing a crisis in management between College and Hospital; teaching notes and early educational texts; instrument catalogues; photographs and press cuttings.

Amongst the artefacts are dental chairs including one from the 1890s, which is raised or lowered by means of a large crank handle operating a rack and pinion mechanism; dental units showing their development from the first wall-mounted switchboard to today's 'Doctor's Cart'; X-ray machines with massive oil-filled transformers, exposed tubes and high-tension leads;

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A word from the Head

PROFESSOR ERIC REYNOLDS

I am very pleased to provide a report for this inaugural newsletter for the staff, alumni and friends of the Dental School. At the outset I would like to thank and congratulate those involved in contributing to, and producing, this newsletter.

A recent climate survey of the Dental School staff conducted by the central university administration indicated that the majority of School staff are reasonably happy with the School's administrative procedures and collegial environment. However, a common suggestion was that lines of communication within the School could be improved. This newsletter is therefore an important step in trying to improve the flow of information both within the School but also, just as importantly, to the wider School community especially the alumni.

One of the most important issues for the School at the moment is the relocation to the new Dental Hospital building at 720 Swanston Street. I am pleased to report that the University and Dental Health Services Victoria have now signed a sublease agreement and an operating deed for the School to be located and to operate in the new building. Before the School can relocate, the fit out of the School's areas must be completed and this will include a fit out of new preclinical teaching laboratories with state-of-the-art equipment. The relocation of the Dental School to the new hospital will cost the University in excess of \$20 million. It is anticipated that the fit out will take 6 to 12 months and therefore the School is unlikely to be relocated until mid 2005. Although the delay in relocation is frustrating for all involved, the new school will be worth the wait as it will be a state-of-the-art dental education and research facility. I am extremely grateful to students and staff,

particularly the part-time clinical demonstrators for their patience and understanding of the logistical problems we are facing operating at two sites.

Another important issue for the School is the introduction of new curricula for the BDSc, Doctor of Clinical Dentistry, replacing the MDSc(coursework) and the new Bachelor of Oral Health, replacing the Diploma in Oral Health Therapy to be introduced in 2005. The first four years of the new BDSc curriculum have been implemented and this year the new final year is being introduced. From all indications, particularly student questionnaire data, it would appear that the first four years of the new BDSc curriculum have been well received. The integration of the basic and clinical sciences has been successful as has been the hybrid approach of problem based learning with more traditional forms of learning. Students appear to have found the new approaches to learning intellectually stimulating and enjoyable. They have acquired the generic skills of problem solving, self-directed learning, communication and teamwork while being soundly grounded in scientific principles and clinical skills. We are confident that the new curricula for the Doctor of Clinical Dentistry and the Bachelor of Oral Health will also be well received by the respective students.

Dental workforce data have indicated that a shortage of dentists and auxiliaries exists in Victoria, particularly in rural locations and in the public sector. The Dental School is being requested by stakeholders to increase its number of local dental and dental auxiliary students. Due to these requests the University has applied for more HECS places for dentistry from the Federal government's Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) and the State's Department of Human Services has offered state-funded HECS places for therapy training. While the School can accommodate extra students in its preclinical areas, the facilities at the Dental Hospital



used for clinical training are at capacity and cannot accommodate increased student numbers. It is imperative therefore that the School find ways to increase student numbers by introducing a clinical outplacement program. It is envisaged that this program will involve outplacements in both the public and private sectors. We hope that one of the major locations for the public clinical placements will be the rural dental clinic being established at Shepparton. We would like to rotate final year BDSc and BOH students as well as postgraduate DCLinDent students to this rural clinic, however funding to cover the costs associated with student travel and accommodation needs to be found. There are a number of issues still to be resolved before a full clinical outplacement program will be operational and this is the next major challenge for the Dental School.

The Dental School has again been ranked first out of the five Australian dental schools in terms of its research performance for 2003 by DEST. The Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Oral Health Science, which will receive \$22 million in Commonwealth funding has now been established in the Dental School. The CRC together with the Victorian Centre for Oral Health Science, which received \$3.5 million of State government funding and is also based in the School, will help cement the Dental School's position as the leading institution for dental research in Australia. The State and Commonwealth funding for dental research attracted by the School together with the new teaching and research infrastructure provided by the State government and the University augurs well for the future of the School.

I would like to congratulate and thank all staff and students of the Dental School for their contributions and their dedication and commitment in enabling these great achievements.

PICTURES:

Front cover: The author holds a modern type of dental X-ray machine head containing a protected tube and transformer.

The compactness of this unit contrasts with the size of the equivalent X-ray machine of the 1920s which had an exposed tube (left), high voltage leads and a mechanical timer.

2. Typical dental surgery chair of the 1880s, with treadle drill, stool and spittoon. The handle for raising the chair can be seen by the edge of the seat.

3. Montage:

3.1. 'Crimea Teeth' a general term for teeth removed from corpses on the battle field for use in the making of dentures;

3.2 Upper and lower dentures with human front teeth and molars of carved bone fixed to gold alloy plates. The dentures were held in place for speaking and eating by means of coiled springs.(c1800);

3.3 Scales used (by Dr.W.J.Tuckfield in his practice in the early 1900s) in early dental practice for weighing the gold required in the making of crowns, bridges and dentures. (Troy weights were used.);

3.4. A bow drill used for making holes in metal plates for the fixing of posts to which teeth were later cemented or riveted. (This type of drill was an essential part of a student's work room kit until as late as 1910.);

3.5. A part lower swaged metal denture prior to the attachment of teeth.



...CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

extraction instruments from the 1700s onwards, including numerous dental keys and more than 200 pairs of forceps, many of unusual design; finger, hand and pedal drills, including a most original electric drill that acted also as a rotatory converter changing the DC mains to a safe 12 volts; numerous dentures of wood, bone, ivory, and swaged and cast gold; 'Crimea teeth' obtained by ghouls from corpses on the battlefield; and a set of George Washington-style dentures, made of gold plate with human teeth and springs to hold it in place in the mouth (similar to the set that the first President of the United States of America

used with considerable difficulty).

The history and growth of the collection reflect the leadership of key figures in the training of dentists in Victoria. Mr John Illiffe (1847-1914), a

member and later President of the Odontological Society of Victoria, was the driving force in negotiations for the regulation of dentistry in this State and the establishment of a hospital and college in Melbourne. He was an educator and researcher and the guardian of the dental museum through its formative years. Thanks largely to his efforts, The Melbourne Dental Hospital opened its doors in 1890 and was followed in 1897 by the Australian College of Dentistry devoted solely to the education of dentists. In 1904 a Faculty of Dental Science was established and the College was affiliated with the University.

Dr F C Wilkinson (1889-1979), appointed the first Professor of Dental Science in 1924, was accommodated in the College at 193 Spring Street, Melbourne, where he developed the museum collection further. A photograph taken at that time shows typical Victorian-era display cabinets, together with a window

bench and student microscopes. In his plans for a new dental school, to be built where the University's medical school now stands, Wilkinson included a specific area for a museum.

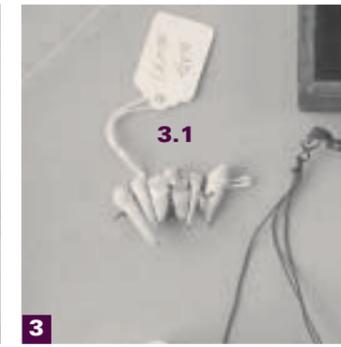
Dr A B P Amies (1892-1976) was the second professor, succeeding Wilkinson in 1934. During his tenure, ever-increasing demands for teaching space resulted in the packing away of the collection into storage.

When I was appointed to the Chair of Dental Prosthetics in 1953, I found to my dismay that the museum collection and early records apparently no longer existed, but was then inspired to find that the original ideas of Professor F C Wilkinson for a

museum had been included in the plans for a new dental building, to be located opposite the Royal Melbourne Hospital. An agreement between the College,

University and State Government stated that on completion of this new building, the original one in Spring Street would be transferred to the Government to meet some of the costs of construction, with other assets going to the University. At the formal opening of the new school and hospital in May 1963, this transfer was confirmed.

Shortly after settling into the new building the museum was re-established with storage and public exhibition space, but history soon repeated itself with student numbers increasing and demands being made for additional library facilities. Once again the museum collection was packed and stored. On my retirement in 1978 I commenced work on a history of the Melbourne Dental Hospital. In the course of this research, many objects and much of the early archival material previously thought to have been lost forever were found.



The latter has now been placed in the University of Melbourne Archives for safekeeping.

The object collection is currently held in the old Dental School building in Elizabeth Street but, by the end of 2004, is to be displayed in the School's new building on Swanston Street. Grants from the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences and the University's 150th anniversary fund have enabled the catalogue of objects to be refined and transferred to the web, at

<http://www.cshs.unimelb.edu.au/mhm/guides/dhm/dhm.htm>.

For further information on the Dental Museum consult the online catalogue or contact the Honorary Curator on hfa@unimelb.edu.au



The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Science Historical Compendium, which includes Dental School history, is also available on line at: <http://www.cshs.unimelb.edu.au/umfm/>

FOOTNOTE
Professor Emeritus Henry F Atkinson MBE, is Honorary Curator of the University of Melbourne's Dental Museum. The article by Professor Henry Atkinson was published in UniNews Vol. 13, No. 5. Reproduced with permission.



Staff news

Dr Neil O'Brien-Simpson has been awarded the CR Roper Fellowship which is a 3-year research fellowship to enable Neil to continue his research into the development of a synthetic vaccine that can be used either nasally or injected to treat periodontitis. This is the first time that this prestigious award has been presented to an academic staff member in this School. Congratulations to Neil.

Student Awards

ADRF Leonard Hansen Prize 2002
DeAngelis, A., Huq, N.L., Lucas, J. Cross, K.J. and Reynolds E.C. (2002) *An exploratory study of saliva from children with high and low caries experience. Australian Dental Journal.*

IADR Colgate travel award 2003
Deangelis, A., Huq, N.L., Cross, K.J. and Reynolds E.C. (2003) *Molecular modelling of the anticariogenic casein phosphopeptide aS2-CN(2-20) using NMR derived constraints.*

Annual International Association of Dental Research Conference ANZ Division, Melbourne

IADR Hatton Undergraduate Award 2004
DeAngelis, A., Huq, N.L., Cross, K.J. and Reynolds E.C. (2003) *Molecular modelling of the anticariogenic casein phosphopeptide aS2-CN(2-20) using NMR derived constraints.*

Annual International Association of Dental Research Conference, Hawaii

Pierre Fouchar Academy Award 2004

Profiles

Dr David Manton
David was appointed in September 2002 as a Lecturer in Growth and Development and Paediatric Dentistry. He continues to have a part-time specialist paediatric practice in Albury, New South Wales.

His research interests are enamel mineralisation, fluorosis, CPP-ACP, and caries diagnosis.

Dr Julie Satur
Julie Satur graduated as a dental therapist in Melbourne in 1977. She worked for 18 years for the Victorian School Dental Service as a field dental therapist in the dental health education unit and as a community project officer designing and implementing the Waverly Preschool Dental program.

In 1994 Julie moved into the education area, initially as a lecturer in the Dental Therapy School in Melbourne and in 1996 was the first dental therapist appointed to a University Dental School

Julie has a keen interest in developing the profession of dental therapy at both policy and association level. She was also the first dental therapist appointed to the Dental Practice Board of Victoria and has been actively involved in advocating for dental public health and dental therapy over a number of years in many settings including the Auditor Generals' review of Community Dental Programs in Victoria. In 2003 she completed a Doctor of Philosophy with a thesis entitled *Australian dental policy reform and the use of dental therapists and hygienists.*

Professor Louise Brearley Messer

Louise Brearley Messer is the Elsdon Storey Professor of Child Dental Health, Director of Graduate Studies.

Louise received an honorary Fellowship from the RACDS on March 25th and was awarded the WT Smith Award for excellence in teaching by the graduating fifth year class of 2003. WT Smith was the Director of the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne when it was located at Spring Street and when it first moved in to our current building in 1963.

Dr Ivan Darby

Ivan Darby graduated in 1991 from University of Glasgow, Scotland. After working in general dental practice in the United Kingdom, he passed his DipGenDentPrac in 1994. Ivan went home to Glasgow in the mid-90's to undertake a PhD in Periodontics, investigating the changes in the microflora and humoral immune response following non-surgical periodontal therapy. He completed his PhD in 1999 which then followed an 18 month post-doc in London investigating the pathogenicity of P. gingivalis.

In June 2001, he was appointed as a lecturer at Melbourne University, then in 2003 promoted to senior lecturer and convener of the periodontics postgraduate program. Research interests include perio microbiology and immunology, effect of smoking on periodontal and implant therapy, and immediate placement of implants. Ivan works as a Registered Specialist in Periodontics one day a week at the RDHM.

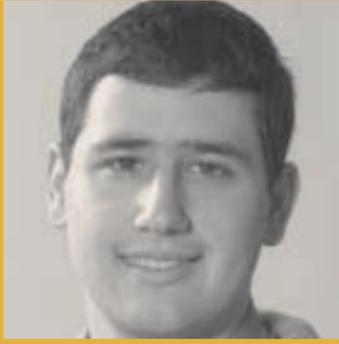
Dr Menaka Abuzar

Menaka has been appointed as a Senior Lecturer, Rural (50%) and Restorative (50%) to provide support to the student placement program at Shepparton. Menaka obtained her BDS degree from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka and was appointed as an assistant lecturer there. She was awarded a Commonwealth scholarship and completed her PhD at the University of Bristol in 1985. Menaka served as a Assistant Professor at the School of Dental Science, King Saud University, Riyadh, from 1990 to 1995. She obtained a BDS degree from the University of Adelaide in 1997.

After joining the postgraduate program at the University of Melbourne, Menaka was awarded, the degrees of Diploma in Clinical Dentistry and MDSc (Prosthodontics) in 2002. She practices as a Prosthodontist in Shepparton and also works at the Specialist Clinic, Royal Dental Hospital Melbourne.

Adrian deAngelis 4th Year BDSc

A student perspective on the course
While I still find that during lectures I can recall a seemingly obscure point from some of the early subjects we studied it is the practical classes which make dentistry so interesting. It's not just about knowing how bis-GMA resins react and what the advantages/disadvantages are but actually being able to apply that knowledge to your practical work . There is also the satisfaction gained in slowly learning a hand skill and then being able to use it to improve all of your other work. All in all, it is the 'doing' in this course that really makes it all worthwhile. Having originally wanted to do medicine, I now feel sorry for the meds in that they will spend their first three and a half years only in lectures and with textbooks - and then the greater part of the rest of their life doing the same - dental students definitely get the better deal!



Pictured above from left: Dr David Manton Professor Louise Brearley Messer Dr Menaka Abuzar Dr Julie Satur Dr Ivan Darby Adrian de Angelis

The undergraduate programs

This year sees the culmination of a number of years of hard work in the undergraduate area. The new Bachelor of Dental Science curriculum has been completely rolled-out and the current 5th year students will be the first to graduate from the program. The curriculum for the Diploma in Oral Health Therapy has also been revised recently, but has been reviewed again in order to introduce the new 3-year Bachelor of Oral Health degree course which will replace the current 2-year undergraduate diploma course from 2005.

Why, you might ask, did we change the curricula? Well, because as you will all be aware, there have been considerable changes in dental practice since the days of the introduction of the old curricula and, there have been changes in the patterns of oral health in the community. It was becoming apparent too, that national and international trends in dental education suggested a re-evaluation of the old curricula , and reviews obtained from student feedback, from School staff and from the Australian Dental Council, all indicated the need for change.

Some of the differences in the new curricula are that the traditional subject content has been re-organised, mixing established teaching practice with problem-based-learning (PBL). The hours committed to basic sciences have been reduced and concentrated in the early years, freeing up time in later years for dental subjects. Clinical activities are introduced earlier and the final years have been re-modelled

and re-organised so that they are almost entirely clinical. In order to reflect and maintain our current strengths, a significant research component has also been included and this, together with increased clinical exposure, gives students increased independence.

As you can see, there is a strong focus on clinical training in the later years of both our undergraduate courses. Our aim is to provide final year students particularly, with an intense, varied and high level of clinical training so that they can enter the workforce as highly competent and confident professionals.

To do this we have to increase our use of external agencies. While we continue to clinically educate students at the dental hospital more and more

Some of the differences in the new curricula are that the traditional subject content has been re-organised, mixing established teaching practice with problem-based-learning (PBL).

of this increased clinical experience will have to be provided out in the community. We are placing a particular emphasis on giving students experience in rural areas and those students who have had

that opportunity so far, have been very enthusiastic about the experience and keen to return for more. While government initiatives are working towards addressing the shortage of dental chairs in the community, finding health centres willing to take students is proving to be quite a challenge. This challenge will increase as student numbers increase.

As part of its role in addressing the current workforce shortage, the school will be increasing the number of dental student places in both the Bachelor of Dental Science and the new Bachelor of Oral Health. For a long time, as many of you will know, the school has been unable to significantly increase the number of students studying dentistry because of the limitations imposed by the available clinical and laboratory

facilities. Now however, with increased-capacity laboratories soon to be constructed in the new dental hospital building, and the prospect of finding clinical sites for students in both public clinics and possibly private dental practices, these limitations will be largely overcome.

Under the Higher Education Reforms announced earlier this year additional Commonwealth supported places have been made available to the tertiary sector and the university has put in a bid on behalf of the school for some of these places. Additional Australian fee-paying places have also been made available under the same reforms.

The Higher Education Reforms have also ushered in a change to the fee structure for Commonwealth supported places and the University recently announced a 25 per cent increase in these fees from 2005. To assist Australian fee-paying students, the Commonwealth has introduced a loans scheme for the first time

As part of the university's response to the Higher Education Reforms from 2005, at least 20 per cent of the University's government-supported undergraduate intake each year will enter through Access Melbourne, a program designed to address some of the academic, social and financial barriers faced by students who previously would have found it difficult to take up places at the University of Melbourne.

More information on the reforms can be found at: <http://www.backingaustraliasfuture.gov.au/> and the University's response to the reforms at <http://www.unimelb.edu.au/highereducationreforms/>



Reunion of Class of 1953

Associate Professor John Harcourt organised the 50 year union for the Class of 1953 16th April. Some received 50 year certificates from the ADA Victoria.

By JOHN HARCOURT

Many of us were first registered by the Dental Board of Victoria on December 1, 1953 but we did not receive our BDS/C certificates until our graduation ceremony on 10 April 1954. Because December 1, 2003 was so close to Christmas, it was felt more appropriate to hold a reunion as close to our graduation date. However, 10 April, 2004 was Easter Saturday, so 16 April was chosen as the day for celebrations. We met for lunch at Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club where we had two reserved tables and 29 attendees, including a number of spouses. There were eight apologies, but quite a number of those written to did not reply – some of whom live overseas. Unfortunately also we have lost contact with quite a number of our colleagues and a number are deceased.

Those who attended:

David Bennett*
 Alan Carman
 Arthur and Margaret Ellis
 Peter Evans
 John and Wilma Godfrey*
 Don* and Betty Hall
 John Harcourt*
 Eustace Jeffrey*
 John* and Peg Julian
 Pam (O'Farrell)* and Eugene Lynch
 Janet (O'Loughlin) McCombe
 John* and Margot Rasmussen
 Neville Ridgway*
 Len* and Eve Ryder
 Peter and Jacquelin Smith
 Ian* and Maureen Stewart
 John* and Therese Zettl
 Elaine Harty (widow of Fred)
 Phyllis Varley (widow of Harry)

Pictured:

Reunion—Class of '53 Our first year photo from 1949 taken on the Mildura campus.

Apologies:

John Cary*
 John Gill
 Bev Gutteridge*
 Ray Hart
 Ann (Brennan) Heath
 Les Langford*
 June Porter*
 Bill Ralph*
 Des Ryan

John Godfrey emailed me after the reunion with the following comment: 'I have always been reluctant for some reason to go to these reunions; and I have to say that it took just a little time to recognize some of those old men and women, and then it hit me between the eyes that I was one of them! But then the speech, the gestures and the mannerisms made the time slip away and I saw them all as of 50 years ago. It was a very pleasant afternoon.'

I believe this reflects the views of everyone who attended – we had a very happy three hours or so together and decided that we could not really wait another five years before the next one.

It would be fair to say that we were not all truly 1953 graduates, as we picked up some students on the way through the course and some dropped behind to finish perhaps 6 to 12 months later. Those names marked with an (*) were from the original class that started the dental course at the University of Melbourne Mildura Branch in 1949. There were a large number of exservicemen in the class and many of them have been retired for ten years or more. John Cary, Peter Evans, John Godfrey, Eustace Jeffrey and John Rasmussen are still practising, though not necessarily full-time.

On April 30, the Australian Dental Association Victorian Branch honoured a number of us with a presentation of 50 year membership certificates and a free lunch as part of their Graduate Education Committee Scientific Meeting. (Garry Pearson, CEO of ADA/VB can supply details and photos if you would like them).



Memories

If you know of any of your fellow classmates who have lost contact with the School, please let us know and we will put them on our mailing list.

Please send your contributions for the next issue to sifonios@unimelb.edu.au

Pictured top:
Melbourne Dental Students' Society 1961 Committee
 Back row: A.P. Garrett (SRC Rep.)
 D.N. Fenwick (1st year Rep.)
 D.J. Johnston (3rd year Rep.)
 G.J. Luk (Sports rep.)
 R.J. Summerfield (4th year Rep.)
 P.J. Cunningham (5th year Rep.)
 L.B. Lewis (SRC Rep.)

Front row: R.A. Brothers (Secretary)
 R.J.F. Butler (Vice-President)
 G.S. Andrews (President)
 Miss L.J. Brearley (Women's Rep.)
 A.M.J. Roseman (Treasurer)
 Inset: J.E. Matthews (2nd year Rep.)

Pictured above:
1976 Committee
 Back row: T. Clark (5th year Rep.)
 J. Gibson (President)
 R. Malouf (Co-Opted)
 T. Hall (4th year Rep.)
 G. Irving (Treasurer)

Front row: P. Durham (Women's Rep.)
 G. Plunkett (Secretary)
 A. Gronow (Vice-President)
 M. Lacy (Sports Rep.)
 D. Churcher (3rd year Rep.)

Coming up

20 year reunion for the Class of 1984

Dr David Manton is organising a 20 year reunion for the Class of 1984 this year. For further details please call David on (03) 9341 0249 or email djmanton@unimelb.edu.au.

10 year reunion for 1994 Graduates

It seems like only yesterday that we graduated and set off on different career paths. For those interested in attending a reunion to celebrate 10 years since graduation, please contact Matthew Hopcraft at m.hopcraft@unimelb.edu.au or 03 9341 0445 for more information.

We hope you have enjoyed reading this first edition of Dent-al, the School of Dental Science's newsletter for alumni. We are planning on two issues per year with the next one coming out towards the end of October or early November. We would be very pleased to have your feedback on this issue and if you would like to contribute in any way, or have any suggestions for future issues, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

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