Elaine Halley gives us an insight into the blood, sweat and tears in the life of an MSc student

Next installment has involved lecture after lecture along the subject of complex cases – multi-disciplinary. I have been on an intense catch-up (déjà- vu?) in preparation for the residential which takes place in Manchester from Thursday to Monday. I must say that the current batch of webinars has been excellent. Anthony Laurie gave an excellent lecture around the role of the laboratory in complex case management. Years ago (at least 12 I think!), I attended the Mike Wise Year Restorative course back when Tony was involved. I remember the impact he had on my learning then, and the ethos of systematic, error-reducing techniques are still evident in Tony’s teaching, together with beautiful photography and presentation. Dr E. Mirzai gave an upbeat orthodontic lecture; Stephen Davies has given us more to think about in the decision about confirmative or prescriptive re-organised exclusion. We’ve had endo from Richard Kahan with really interesting diagnostic scans to reveal how limited our general practice radiographs are at diagnosis. I learnt things I did not know about the presentation of endo-lesions – very interesting. There is a lecture from Paul Tipton sitting on my learning plan but I missed it and can’t access it for some reason – so I have time to catch up with my webinars! I am looking forward to being able to catch up on my webinars! However, I found myself mostly looking forward to being able to catch up on my webinars! Imagine my delight when I discovered there was free Wi-Fi in the rooms! Even returning to Edinburgh, I planned my route home via a hotel where I could have lunch and webinar at the same time. Headphones, notebook and laptop are now glued to my side... I have to remember to take an imp of himself and had a frantic text from one of my classmates explaining how his nurse had walked in to find him slobbering whilst trying to take an imp of himself and had been laughing at him all day! Thanks for the warning Richard, I will avoid that particular humiliation!! All in the name of education...

In preparation for the residential, we have had to submit a complex case to present to the class and possibly to be our complex case for the course. I must say that my dental nurse Rosewen, who has been through nearly two years of fixed-ortho – probably completely against her will (only joking of course – full informed consent has been obtained – phew!) but because she doesn’t have the heart to quash my enthusiasm for ‘improving’ her smile. I have been warned I am not allowed near her crowns until at least August – but I am itching to get started!

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whilst I have got up at this ungodly hour, it must be fate that I have time to catch up with this blog!

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In case you were wondering, I did manage the Edinburgh marathon – just! I had been ill all the week of it with some undefined viral something; my glands were all up and it wasn’t until the day before that I started to feel I could run it. My poor family and team were all warning me gravely not to do it – but of course, being a stubborn so and so, I listened politely but knew I was at least going to try. No way was I going to let all those hours of training go to waste!! It’s amazing if you Google ‘running a marathon with swollen glands’ what comes up!! I did want to check I wasn’t risking my life...! Even in the face of unbelievable winds – I kept running and made it!!

For any of you considering this MSc – I must warn you that it becomes all-consuming. I recently went to the BACD road show in Belfast and was looking forward to a night away from home and the chance of some decent sleep without shouting at children bed-time fifty times before 9 o’clock, which is my usual evening routine! However, I found myself mostly looking forward to being able to catch up on my webinars! Imagine my delight when I discovered there was free Wi-Fi in the rooms! Even returning to Edinburgh, I planned my route home via a hotel where I could have lunch and webinar at the same time. Headphones, notebook and laptop are now glued to my side... I have to remember to take an imp of himself and had a frantic text from one of my classmates explaining how his nurse had walked in to find him slobbering whilst trying to take an imp of himself and had been laughing at him all day! Thanks for the warning Richard, I will avoid that particular humiliation!! All in the name of education...

About the author

Elaine Halley BDS (UK) is the BACD Immediate Past President and the principal of Cherrybank Dental Spa, a private practice in Perth. She is an active member of the AACD and has studied extensively in the United States, Europe and the UK.