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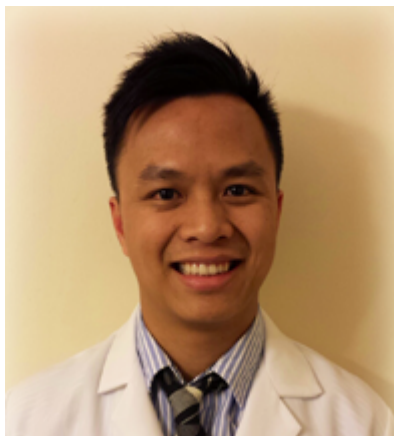
## Top Gum Times: Fall '14- Our apologies if getting this again

November 18, 2014

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### What's New at AIP?



#### Dr. Giac Dang, Our New Doctor in Barre!

– We are very pleased to announce that Dr. Giac Dang, D.M.D. has joined the AIP team! You can visit him on Thursdays and Fridays in Barre.

Dr. Dang earned his B.A. with honors from Tufts University in 2007, and continued his education at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine.

During his time at Tufts Dental, he received myriad scholarships and honors, including recognition for his achievements on the national board exams. After receiving his Doctor of Dental Medicine in 2011, Dr. Dang decided to specialize in periodontics.

He graduated from Tufts Dental with a certificate in Periodontology in 2014. Dr. Dang strives for perfection in his work, and loves interacting with his patients. When he's not at work, you can find him cheering for the Patriots, or exploring the outdoors. He was married on August 30th, and we can't wait to see pictures!

*Welcome to the practice, Dr. Dang, and congratulations!*

**Wendy Baldwin**– Wendy has joined us as the new Front Office Coordinator in Barre! She enjoys interacting with the patients, and seeing their "sunny smiles" after treatments. She's an avid nature-lover with a passion for flowers – come in and see her and the vase of fresh flowers that always adorns her desk! When she's not at the office, she enjoys volunteering, and spending time with her friends and family. Welcome to the AIP team, Wendy, we're so happy to have you!

**Jen Bonner** – We're excited to announce that Jen, who has been with AIP for over 8 years as the Front Office Coordinator in Barre, has been promoted to Office Manager! She's enjoying splitting her time between the Barre and South Burlington offices, which allows her to spend more time with her colleagues. She loves the excitement of her new position, the new challenges that come her way daily, and playing a role in helping the whole practice run more smoothly. She's my right-hand-woman in the office, and has truly risen to the occasion in this new position.

**The Everseat Smartphone App** – It's a free app that helps you schedule your appointments with ease, even at the last minute. You can find the link to download it on our blog ([www.vermontperio.com/blog](http://www.vermontperio.com/blog)) or on the right side of this newsletter. Let us know what you think!

### Special Olympics Summer Games

On May 31st of this year, over 400 Special Olympic Athletes geared up for two days of competition at the University of Vermont. Beyond participating in events such as bocce and softball, the athletes also had the opportunity to visit the team at the Special Smiles tent.

Inside the tent you could find local dentists, dental hygienists, assistants, and students from Tufts Dental School, VTC Hygiene School, and Essex Technical

### Dr. Shuman Receives Distinguished Service Award



Harkening back to his days as an athlete, Dr. Shuman took to the

stage with a group of cheering fans (his staff, family, friends, and colleagues) to accept the most prestigious award granted by the Vermont State Dental Society: the Distinguished Service Award. The award was presented on September 18th at the VSIDS annual meeting "in recognition of his many years of dedicated service to the field of dentistry. His volunteer positions on the Vermont State Dental Society Continuing Education Committee and the Annual Meeting Committee, as well as his co-chairing of the Special Olympics Special Smiles program exemplify his exemplary commitment to the dental profession and oral health of Vermonters."

Dr. Shuman was grateful and humble in a characteristically humorous acceptance speech. Though his attempt to downplay the achievement was valiant, Vaughn Collins (Executive Director of the Vermont State Dental Society) took to the mic as Dr. Shuman tried to leave the stage, "I just want to say, he's unbelievable. I mean, he's a committee of one for the [Continuing Education] Committee and he's been on the Annual Meeting Committee forever. He just does a tremendous amount of work for us, and we couldn't do what we do without him."

"You never expect anything like this," Dr. Shuman said in a quiet moment after the ceremony, "you do these things simply to do them, because it's what you believe is right. You never expect to be honored." Clearly still reveling in the surprise of being rewarded for

School of Dental Assisting, all there to screen athletes and educate on oral health. This year, we saw a record of 190 athletes come through. I was so gratified to see the increase in the number of volunteers this year, and in turn, the increase in the number of services we could provide, including one on one teaching of home care. The program has morphed into something way beyond our expectations, but consistent with our original vision. It is wonderful to not only help the athletes, but also to show dental students from across the world what a fantastic place Vermont would be to set up their future dental offices. Looking forward to next year already!

how he has chosen to live his life, Dr. Shuman seemed (perhaps for the first time) speechless.

## Quick Links

[Visit our web site >>](#)

### Dr. Levi's Book Chapter & Article

Dr. Levi has always been extremely prolific; he has been published in numerous journals and books over the course of his career. This year, his work can be found in the July edition of the *Journal of Periodontology*. [A Survey: How Periodontists and Other Dental Professionals View the Scope of Periodontics](#) addresses questions such as: how do periodontists think of themselves when they define their practices, and how do other dental professionals view the scope of the specialty of periodontology? You can flip to chapter 6 of *Clinical Maxillary Sinus Elevation Surgery* to find his chapter: [Avoiding and Managing Complications for the Lateral Window Technique](#). And we are anxiously awaiting the release of *A Handbook for the Prevention and Control of Periodontal Diseases*, of which he is the lead author.

Dr. Levi puts a tremendous amount of effort into these publications. "The amount of time to complete all of these endeavors is enormous," he says of the task, "Doing this writing is not for the faint of heart; however, the contribution to dental education is well-worth it!"

### Summer Interns

Every summer for 15 years, AIP has hosted an internship program for college students who are interested in dentistry. Learning everything from doctor-patient confidentiality to chair-side assisting, students get in-depth exposure to multiple fields of dentistry. Following the internship, the students write reflections on their experience. We are happy to share excerpts from these reflections from our 2014 summer interns, Amanda and Julianna. We are proud of you both, and look forward to remaining available as mentors in the future!

#### Amanda Kempainen:

My favorite office to work at was of course AIP. The staff is incredibly friendly and made me feel like I was part of the team. I also loved how the last days at AIP I really realized how much I had learned about dentistry from Dr. Levi, Dr. Shuman, Shanin and Keta. I look back at the first week at AIP and remembering how scared I was; I now see how much I have learned. I believe the best way to learn is to be challenged. I remember my second day at the office I was struggling with an evaluation and asked Shanin to switch with me. Instead, Dr. Shuman looked up and told me in a stern voice to switch back -- he had confidence in my ability and knew I could handle the task. This experience had helped me learn to handle situations that made me uncomfortable.

The entire AIP staff was very helpful. Shanin was a phenomenal mentor. She taught me so much from the first day all the way until the last. She answered all of my questions and gave me many pointers on assisting. She also made me feel comfortable in the office and was always putting me to work. When we had free time she would explain to me different procedures or show me anything I didn't know. I would like to thank Dr. Levi and Dr. Shuman for giving me this opportunity and for mentoring me through the entire experience. Their dedication and love for dentistry is an inspiration to their patients and to me.

#### Julianna Ko:

I was grateful that AIP trained me in dental assisting, because seeing someone set up, clean up, assist, and construct appliances is very different from doing it on your own. My proudest moments were the actual contributions I made to running the clinic: when I would sit by the chair and assist for a surgery; when I made ice packs for a patient; when I brought patients in to take blood pressure and help teach brushing & flossing. The staff at AIP was very friendly and professional, and Shanin was particularly exceptional.

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