

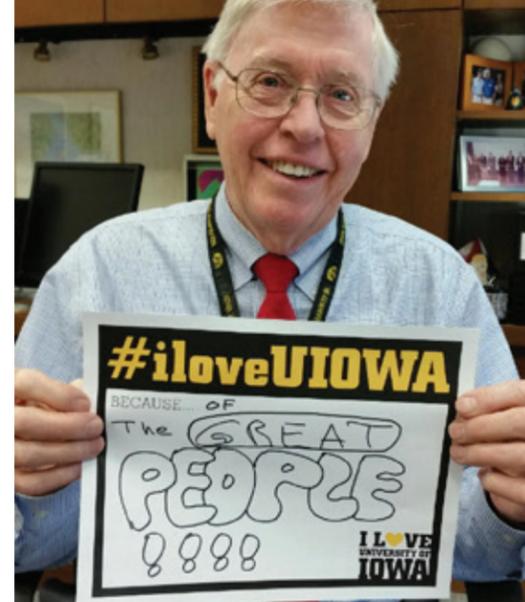
DENTAL LINK

FALL 2021



Twenty-Six Years of Accomplishments

Twenty-Six Years of Our Together Accomplishments



It

was 1995. Val Kilmer was Batman in the top grossing film, Coolio's Gangsta's Paradise was the Number 1 song, and the criminal trial for O.J. Simpson was the biggest news event.

It was also the year that **David Johnsen ('73 MS, '73 PEDOS)** became dean of the University of Iowa College of Dentistry. Johnsen served as dean for 26 years, stepping down from the role in 2021. His 26 years as dean make him the longest serving dean in the history of the College of Dentistry, and his years as dean account for almost 20% of total number of years for the entire college. It is exceedingly rare for anyone to serve as long or as successfully as Johnsen did.

One afternoon shortly after Johnsen had stepped down as dean. I ran into him walking home, and I mentioned that I was writing this article. Johnsen quickly reiterated to me, as he had done numerous times previously, that the accomplishments of the past 26 years are not his, but they belong to the people who make up the college—the faculty, staff, students, and alumni. He calls them our “together accomplishments.”

“With Dean Johnsen what you see is what you get. He is humble and has never sought to be in the spotlight or to receive accolades for himself. It has always been about our college and its people,” said **Ana**

Diaz-Arnold ('87 MS), professor in the Department of Family Dentistry.

Diaz-Arnold served on the dean's search committee that ultimately selected Johnsen. The aim of the search committee was to bring in someone with a proven record of national leadership in each of the core areas: administration, research, education, and patient-centered care. The committee wanted someone at the peak of his or her career and aware of and able to communicate the central role that dentistry plays in overall patient health.

“Dean Johnsen checked all boxes and was perhaps our easiest interview,” said Diaz-Arnold. She added, “He was genuine and forthcoming with ideas, and he knew Iowa and the values that Iowa represents. His interest in our patients and students was sincere and he has held true during his tenure at Iowa.”

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

Over the past 26 years, the college has cemented its legacy as a premier dental school, educating the next generation of dentists for Iowa and the world. Since 1995, around 2,000 students have graduated from the University of Iowa with their DDS degrees, and several hundred more have earned advanced certificates in dental specialties.

The number of hours that Iowa dental students spend in clinics is unique among top-flight dental schools, consistently ranking among the top 5 dental schools and the top-ranked Big 10 dental college. This kind of training has made a difference in the dental education that Iowa students receive and is one reason that Iowa graduates regularly score above the national average in the clinical portion of their national board exams.

This focus at Iowa has made a difference for countless alumni who regularly speak to how competent and ready they were to enter the dental workforce.

Dan Kegler ('75 DDS) credits this success to the excellent faculty at Iowa who “thirst for knowledge” and “desire to be the best in their field.” He added, “Their mindset challenges our students to find the best within themselves on a daily basis.”

The faculty have this mindset, in part, because of the example that Johnsen set. “David Johnsen cares about each of the students as individuals; they are all important to him,” explained Kegler.

Prioritizing dental education has long been a feature of Iowa's program, and Johnsen's leadership in the field of dental education has been felt across the nation. Five of the deans of Big 10 dental colleges are from Iowa, and Johnsen has served as a mentor to many of them.

Clark Stanford ('87 DDS, '92 PROSS, '92 PhD), dean of the University of Illinois Chicago College of Dentistry, highlighted this feature of Johnsen's leadership.

“Dean David Johnsen's impact on the dental education includes coaching/mentorship of a wide cadre of current leaders in education, including multiple deans, to his thoughtful guidance on critical thinking and defining outcomes for the educational process,” Stanford said.

Keith Mays ('93 PROSS, '94 MS), dean of the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry, also spoke of Johnsen's influence in dental education. Since Mays had left Iowa just as Johnsen arrived, Mays first met Johnsen about a decade ago at an ADEA event. They hit it off when Johnsen found out that Mays was a graduate of Iowa, and Mays' echoed Stanford's sentiments.

“I have been fortunate enough to benefit from his wisdom as a member of the Big Ten Dental Deans. I love David's energy, smile, wisdom, kindness, pragmatism, and warmth. His presence will be missed on many levels from the circle of dental deans,” said Mays.

Over the past quarter century, Iowa has continued to be a leader in the dental education. This legacy has had a lasting impact on Iowa, providing excellent and well-trained dentists to benefit the entire state.

Above right: Eight of the nine Big Ten dental deans at a 2018 meeting in Chicago. At the time, four of the eight were graduates or former faculty members at Iowa. Since then, that number has increased to five with **Keith Mays ('93 PROSS, '94 MS)** now the dental dean at Minnesota.

“His presence will be missed on many levels from the circle of dental deans.”

KEITH MAYS ('93 PROSS, '94 MS), DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN RESEARCH

Excellence in dental education at Iowa is closely connected to the research mission of the college. For any dental college, a successful research enterprise is a delicate matter that requires sustained and consistent commitment over time, including a commitment to recruiting and retaining a critical mass of promising junior and mid-career researchers, providing excellent facilities and technology to meet the research needs of those faculty, developing statistical and grant support infrastructure, cultivating a grass-roots culture of collaboration among faculty and other colleges on campus, and incorporating a broad mixture of basic science, translational,

and clinical research into the overall research mission of the college. Each of these elements are crucial to the health and vitality of the research mission here at Iowa, and over the course of the past 26 years, the college has made remarkable progress.

David Drake, professor in the Iowa Institute for Oral Health Research, has been at the College of Dentistry throughout Johnsen's entire tenure. According to Drake, "The research mission has grown considerably under Dean [Emeritus] Johnsen. His leadership has led to greater interaction amongst basic science and clinical scholars, and he has been an avid supporter of faculty pursuing NIH grants."

The results speak for themselves. For 2020, the University of Iowa was ranked 10th in the country for the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) funding, and 2nd in the Big 10, with over \$6.4M in grant funding. These successes are also likely to continue given the trajectory of research at the college. The recent P3-to-P50 grant, a Public-Private Partnership (P3) grant to develop the infrastructure needed for a P50 oral cancer research-center grant application with the National Cancer Institute and the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, would make a second NIDCR-supported center grant adding to the on-going one in craniofacial biology. Additionally, the college's new seed grant program, which began again in 2020, supports innovative projects from early career investigators so that they can be competitive for peer-reviewed grants from national funding agencies. Both initiatives point to greater research success on the horizon.

Iowa not only has a reputation as a global leader in oral and craniofacial research, but research is also seamlessly integrated into the overall approach to dental education. The college has one of the nation's strongest dental student research programs with one of the greatest participation rates among U.S.

dental schools. This program, which Johnsen speaks of with great pride, provides opportunities for students to learn about cutting-edge research in the oral sciences, so that they can draw on those research skills in a clinical setting. Most Iowa dental graduates will practice in Iowa, and this research focus ensures that Iowa dental graduates have the skills to learn about and evaluate new treatments and procedures so that they can always provide the best, cutting-edge care available throughout their careers.

FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

One of the reasons that Iowa has established itself as a global leader in oral and craniofacial research is because of sustained investment in updating and transforming the facilities and infrastructure at the college. In 1998 three years after Johnsen began, the \$4 million Simulation Clinic was completed.

From 2005 to 2016, the Dental Science Building underwent a \$65 million transformation that was completed on time and under budget. This project included a 35,000-square-foot addition; renovation/transformation of all of the clinics; renovation of the research areas; and upgrades to infrastructure (e.g., heating and cooling).

These building and infrastructure improvements are a result of the commitments of Johnsen, the dental administration, faculty, staff, alumni, the University of Iowa, and the State of Iowa. Each invested in the oral health of Iowans by ensuring that the state has a first-rate dental college.

As an alumnus, **Dan Kegler** was proud to have been a part of this saying that Johnsen left the college "with facilities and systems that are second to none" transforming the college "into a 21st Century beacon of light that will carry us forward for many years into the future."

ACCOLADES FOR JOHNSEN

During his time serving as dean of the College of Dentistry, Johnsen has also earned numerous prestigious awards highlighting his contributions to teaching, research, and service. In 1996, Johnsen received a Distinguished Service Award, the most prestigious award given from the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recognizing individuals who have made a major national or international contribution to the improvement of children's health. In 2010, Johnsen earned the Jack Hein Public Service Award from the American Association for Dental Research to recognize his exemplary service in the area of public affairs on behalf of oral health research.

Early this year, Johnsen was presented with the 2021 American Dental Education Association Distinguished Service Award recognizing his significant contributions to ADEA through teaching, research, and service. Over his career, Dean Emeritus Johnsen has been a fierce advocate for dental educators and an innovator in teaching and assessing critical thinking in dental education. Each of these awards speak to Johnsen's lasting impact on the profession, whether in his own field of pediatric dentistry, public advocacy for oral health research generally, or in the wider field of dental education.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

When Johnsen was named dean in 1996, the hope was for him to serve the college and the state with excellence in administration, research, education, and patient-centered care. The past 26 years have been a testament to the lasting influence of our "together accomplishments" during Johnsen's tenure as dean. As Johnsen steps down from his role as dean, he leaves Iowa's only dental college and thus the profession of dentistry in Iowa in capable hands with a proud legacy and bright future.

The college has one of the nation's strongest dental student research programs with one of the greatest participation rates among U.S. dental schools.

Below: Dean Emeritus **David Johnsen ('73 MS, '73 PEDOS)** could always be found around the college visiting with students, faculty, and staff. Here he hosts a jump roping competition for an Amana ham a few years ago and then learns how to do the floss dance that was made popular in 2018.



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Visit the college online at dentistry.uiowa.edu.

Site Visit Review of Iowa's Advanced Education Program in Geriatrics and Special Needs

Gretchen Gibson, an expert in oral health care for older adults who have special needs, conducted a site visit and review of the College of Dentistry's Advanced Education Program in Geriatrics and Special Needs. The review was overwhelmingly positive and highlighted the great need for advanced training in the area and Iowa's role as a leader in the field.

Howard Cowen ('76 DDS, '95 MS), the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation Professor in Geriatrics and Special Needs, is the director of the program, and he and **Jennifer Hartshorn ('12 DDS)**, clinical associate professor in preventive and community dentistry, facilitated and helped make Gibson's visit a success.

Older and special needs adults are a critical underserved population in dentistry, and dental care for this population is closely linked to their overall health outcomes. Iowa's program is designed to address the needs of this group, and Iowa has become a leader in the field.

Dental treatment planning for geriatric and special needs patients "often appears straight forward, they can quickly become complex due to the systemic and psychological issues that are involved," Gibson explained.

She explained that the level of skill required is beyond the scope of what can be addressed in a DDS program, and Iowa's "unique program" fills "a critically important post-graduate education opportunity that is almost absent in dental education."

Given the strengths of the faculty and this program, Iowa is well suited to spearhead efforts to bring this specialty into the mainstream as a distinct specialization within dentistry more broadly.

SITE VISIT REVIEW OF IOWA'S ADVANCED EDUCATION PROGRAM IN OPERATIVE DENTISTRY

Edward Swift ('89 MS), Executive Vice Dean for Education and the Thomas P. Hinman Distinguished Professor in Restorative Dentistry at the University of North Carolina and an expert in operative dentistry, conducted a site visit and review of the College of Dentistry's Advanced Education Program in Operative Dentistry. The review was extremely positive and showed the strengths of the Department of Operative Dentistry.

Program director **Sandra Guzman-Armstrong ('99 MS)** led preparation efforts for the visit. Swift spoke highly of the program's strengths:

- A highly structured and coherent curriculum that enables the program to accept students with different levels of training, experience, and expertise and develop them as knowledgeable and skilled graduates.
- A clearly defined emphasis on preparing its students for academic careers, and an impressive track record of placing graduates in academic positions, including leadership positions, around the world.
- Productive collaboration, particularly in research, with other faculty and departments within the college and around the university.
- A wide range of expertise in the department, which exposes the graduate students to knowledge in many areas and provides for capable research mentoring.

"Our advanced operative dentistry program is an integral part of our department and it stems from a tradition of 60 years of excellence in providing patient care, teaching, and research," said Associate Professor and Chair, **Erica Teixeira ('18 MS)**, "and the majority of our alumni are engaged nationally and around the world practicing and teaching operative dentistry. They are the ones enhancing our vision of being global leaders in operative dentistry."



FROM THE INTERIM DEAN

Dear Friends:

I became Interim Dean June 12, 2021. As a 1991 alumnus and faculty member for the past 22 years, I have long believed in the college and its mission of teaching, patient care, research, and service to the university, state, and beyond. As stewards of our college, we want to use our time, talents, and resources to serve our patients, students, and profession. Our Iowa spirit brought us together to navigate the uncharted pandemic challenges, and as we look to the future, I know these attributes will continue to help guide us forward.

Providing our evidence-based, patient-centered dental care served us well over the course of the pandemic. Our team conducted and implemented ground-breaking research on the safest and most effective ways to provide safe patient care during the pandemic. As a result, our clinics now see approximately the same number of patients as we were seeing prior to the pandemic. Moving forward, we see opportunities for continued growth providing evidence-based, patient-centered care with the expansion of new digital technologies to provide state of the art dental treatment for our patients. These new approaches will help develop our next generation of Iowa dentists.

These technology advances in patient care are also being implemented in our educational curriculum and programs. As our faculty and staff came together during the pandemic to meet the needs of our students, we also made exciting educational advances. Our D4 students began a newly developed rotation in Geriatric and Special Needs dentistry. We continue to strive to become a leader in the use of digital technology in our classrooms and in training and education our students. These advances will build on our already strong clerkship educational model and comprehensive FAMDC care clinic.

As a college of the University of Iowa, an R1/Tier 1 research institution, we have the privilege of outstanding collaborative research efforts, and these efforts help drive our approach to patient care and our teaching. These successes, despite the challenges of the pandemic, also helped us achieve a new milestone in research success: among all dental schools in the nation, we are currently ranked in the top 10 for NIH/NIDCR (and #2 in the Big 10) funding with over \$6.4 million for our college in 2020! We look forward to seeing these research successes amplified with the upcoming submission of our Oral Cancer P50 NIH/NCI SPORE grant in collaboration with other university colleges such as Medicine and Pharmacy. We are poised to continue to grow our enterprise to be a global leader in dental and craniofacial research.

As our college enters a new period of transition to a new permanent dean, I want you to know that I will continue to work hard to maintain our forward momentum for the good of our college, the university, our state, and our profession. As your Interim Dean, it is my goal to steward my time, talents, and resources to fulfill this vision.

Kind Regards,

Galen B. Schneider, DDS, PhD, FACP
Interim Dean
Executive Associate Dean

Incorporating Dental Care into Palliative Care

Health care in the United States has historically and is still largely focused on prevention and treatment of specific diseases. This approach to health care, including dental care, creates challenges for patients living with serious illness. Palliative care is a specialized form of health care that attempts to meet the needs of the whole patient, taking into account each patient's values and goals to make informed decisions about managing pain and making treatment decisions. Millions of patients receive palliative care each year, and the number is growing.

In Atul Gawande's *Being Mortal*, he gives practical examples of how this might look. He speaks of one patient whose primary joy near the end of life was watching sports and eating ice cream. For patients like these, pulling a tooth, filling a cavity, or recommending a patient avoid sweets like candy and ice cream may cause unnecessary distress and sacrifice their overall wellbeing for short-lived dental benefits.

Xi Chen, associate professor in the Department of Preventive and Community

Dentistry, is bringing these kinds of insights about palliative care to dentistry. The focus is on improving oral health awareness, relieving pain, and helping a patient live as well as possible for the rest of their life.

"Overall, our goal is to provide evidence for improving the quality of dental care for older adults with complex medical histories, with particular attention to patients suffering from terminal cancer, congestive heart failure, COPD, dementia or terminal illness," Chen said. "We want to establish a new evidenced-based model of care for adults in palliative care."

As is the case in medicine, while dentists often have some patients who fit these profiles, few have the training and expertise to meet the needs of this population. In addition, evidence-based dental practice guidelines are not available for these individuals. Therefore, it is common to use practices that are beneficial for the general population but accomplish little for older adults with serious illnesses. Likewise, it is common to think that dental care is not needed, since this population of patients might not

need the same kinds of treatments and interventions that more commonly served populations need.

But these issues are correctable with training and the use of evidence-based practices.

For instance, Chen and his team found that many older adults with terminal illness suffer dry mouth, dental pain, oral infection, chewing difficulty and other oral health conditions. However, many of these patients are not able to get the dental care they need because of their medical appointments, feeling guilty for imposing on their caregiver, thinking dental care is a low priority, lack of transportation, and financial hardship. This is especially hard for patients with functional disabilities or cognitive impairment. The lack of timely dental treatment for these individuals may further impair their already compromised quality of life.

One of their findings was that it was important to get caregivers trained and involved in daily oral health care, since many of the nurses or other care providers felt unequipped to help their patients.

Another significant barrier is that oral health care has not, thus far, been integrated into daily palliative care practices, and physicians often treat oral health as an effect of aging, medications, or disease-directed treatment, which in turn results in patients and their caregivers not appropriately valuing oral health care. Yet, oral pain, inability to eat, and other related ailments can degrade the quality of life and many such patients have undiagnosed and untreated dental conditions.

In response, Chen and his team are attempting to make dental care one part of the comprehensive palliative care team, and the National Institutes of Health awarded them a \$425,000 R21 exploratory grant for this purpose.

This particular research project will identify patients at the University of Iowa Palliative Care Clinic, and conduct oral examinations and perform in-depth interviews with the patients and their caregivers to determine the patient's oral health care needs, treatment goals, and care preferences.

"We can use this information to develop an oral health care plan tailored to our palliative care patients," said Chen, "and help improve oral health awareness of the entire palliative care team—from physicians to nurses."

In addition to this intervention, a palliative dental practice building in the University of Iowa Palliative Care Clinic will also be developed to provide on-site assessment and consults for palliative care patients, and students and residents will perform rotations through this clinic.

The hope is that these evidence-based practices will reshape the practice and paradigm of dentistry for this population, and that it will be mutually beneficial for dentists and palliative care teams while helping older adults with serious illness live a good life.

Timothy Thomsen, director of the Palliative Care Clinic at UIHC, expressed his excitement about having dentistry as part of the palliative care team alongside pharmacy, nursing, and medicine. He said, "I suspect that the 'dental disease screening tool' and oral examinations will identify pathology and symptoms which contribute to patient suffering and detract from quality of life."

If you are interested in learning about these opportunities, reach out to your local hospital or nursing home. Take a continued education course focusing on dental care for older adults. And as patients get older, encourage caregivers to be active participants in daily oral health care routines supporting them with instructions for such care.

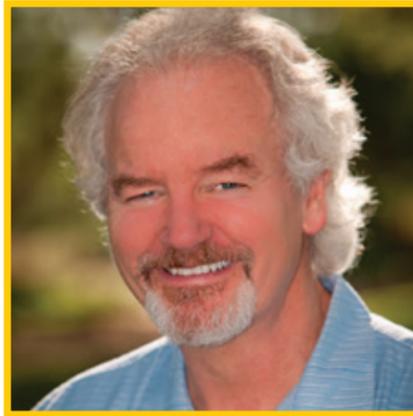
Chen and his team found that many older adults with terminal illness suffer dry mouth, dental pain, oral infection, chewing difficulty and other oral health conditions.

Associate Professor Xi Chen discussing the role of dentistry in palliative care with his research team.



THANK YOU!

IOWA



Brien Harvey

A huge thank you to **Brien V. Harvey ('81 DDS, '83 MS, '83 PERIS)** for helping us to fulfill the fundraising efforts for the Phillip A. Lainson Professorship in Periodontics. Dr. **Phillip Lainson ('62 DDS, '68 MS, '68 PERIS)** was Dr. Harvey's mentor while he was in the periodontal graduate program and they remain friends to this day.

Dr. Harvey has been running a successful periodontics practice in Tucson, Arizona for nearly 35 years.

As a result of the generosity of donors like Dr. Harvey, we were able to hold an investiture ceremony to appoint Dr. **Gustavo Avila-Ortiz** as the inaugural Lainson Professor in Periodontics earlier this year.



Joseph & Carole Long

Joseph Long ('69 DDS) and **Carole Getz Long ('66 DH)** have generously set aside an estate gift to establish the Dr. Joseph and Carole Long Faculty Development Fund. This flexible endowed account will make funding available to all College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics faculty members, regardless of department.

Dr. and Mrs. Long are proud UI alums and have for many years made regular contributions in support of the UI College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics. They are Iowa natives and high school sweethearts. Together, they ran a successful dental practice in Maine for nearly fifty years.



Pam Wicks and Darrell Dang

Darrell Dang ('84 DDS, '86 MS, '86 ENDOS) and **Pam Wicks ('87 DDS)** met while students at the College of Dentistry. Upon graduation they moved to California and practiced there until retirement in 2018. Darrell and Pam returned to Iowa City in 2019 for a simpler life and to be closer to Pam's family in Decorah.

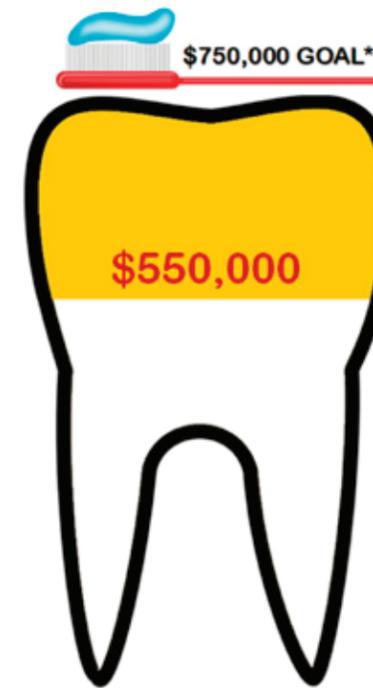
Their son **Connor** obtained his DDS from the College of Dentistry in 2021. He started his Endodontic Residency at Iowa following in his dad's footsteps. Their daughter Anna is a graphic designer for Pottery Barn Teen and lives in the San Francisco Bay area.

Darrell and Pam are proud of their dental education from Iowa and in turn have been generous supporters of several campaigns at the college.



In memory of
Arne M. Bjorndal, DDS
1916 – 2012

Professor and Founding Chair
Department of Endodontics
College of Dentistry and
Dental Clinics



*When \$650,000 is raised, the AAE Foundation will contribute the remaining \$100,000.



Arne M. Bjorndal Advanced Education Professorship Fund

We are just \$100,000 away from receiving a \$100,000 grant from the American Association of Endodontists Foundation to fully endow the **Arne M. Bjorndal Advanced Education Professorship Fund**. To make a contribution toward our goal, please contact **Kelly Garvin**, Director of Development for the College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics. She can be reached by phone at (319) 467-3503 or by email at Kelly.Garvin@foriowa.org.

Endodontics is at the root of the comprehensive dental education offered at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry. In addition to providing pre-doctoral dental students an excellent foundation in endodontic therapy, the department provides graduate students an advanced education that is second to none. A problem-solving approach is used to develop skills in the diagnosis and decision-making process of endodontic treatment strategies. Our residents receive hands-on instruction in the clinics. Protocol-driven research and the opportunity to teach in the pre-doctoral program are also integral components of this exceptional advanced program.

Arne Bjorndal ('55 DDS, '56 MS) initiated the Department of Endodontics in 1962. Originally part of the Department of Operative Dentistry, endodontics became an independent specialty program in the early 1970s under Dr. Bjorndal's direction. Today, the Department of Endodontics is housed in a newly constructed wing of the Dental Science Building.

Dr. Bjorndal retired from UI College of Dentistry in 1984 and he died in 2012 at the age of 96. He and other endodontic pioneers of his time established the educational standards and foundation of knowledge that endodontists still rely on today. His contributions continue to influence the profession far beyond his 30 years of service to the department. It is in his honor that we seek private funds to sustain a bright future for the UI Endodontic graduate program.

Chris Barwacz ('07 DDS) was named head and Department Executive Officer for the Department of Family Dentistry.

Building on his February 2020 NIH grant, **Azeez Butali** was awarded a \$154,000 supplemental award to determine the role of community gatekeepers, including community elders and religious leaders, in shaping opinions about undergoing genetic screenings and learning about genetic risks.

Azeez Butali was recognized as 2021 Mentor of the Year by the Student Research Group. Butali was nominated by his students, Chichi Adeleke (D4) and Mary Young (D2).

The National Institutes of Health awarded **Xi Chen** and his research team a \$425,000 R21 award to explore ways to improve oral health for older adults receiving palliative care.

Xi Chen was formally recognized as a fellow of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA). Currently there are fewer than 10 dentists out of the 1,580 current fellows in the GSA.

Pete Damiano ('86 DDS) is serving as the co-chair of the UI Path Forward Strategic Plan Engagement Work Group, which is responsible for developing IowaRISE—an initiative to expand the campus's capacity for students to be involved in experiential research, especially students from underrepresented backgrounds (e.g., first generation, underrepresented minority, student veterans).

At the conclusion of the IADR/AADR meeting in July, **David Drake** became the new treasurer and a member of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) Board.

The Osteology Foundation awarded **Satheesh Elangovan** and **Aliasger Salem** \$28,000 for their proof-of-concept investigation, "A Novel Topical Molecular Therapeutics to Induce Keratinization in Non-Keratinized Mucosa."

The first edition integrated study companion book *Newman and Carranza's Essentials of Clinical Periodontology* edited by **Satheesh Elangovan** was

published by Elsevier in March of this year. The book was developed primarily for students to deepen their understanding of core concepts in periodontology and implantology.

For the IASDA Faculty of the Year Awards, D1 students selected **Amira Elgreatly**, D2 students selected **Ahmed Mahrous ('16 PROSS, '17 MS)**, and **Nidhi Handoo ('09 MS)**, D3 students selected **Manuel Gomez ('05 ENDOS)** and **Steve Vercande**, and D4 students selected **Ana Diaz-Arnold ('87 MS)**, **Michael Murrell ('81 DDS)**, and **Bot Johnson**. D4 students also selected **Ahmed Mahrous ('16 PROSS, '17 MS)** as Faculty of All Four Years.

Aaron Figueroa ('12 DDS) was awarded a 2021 challenge coin by the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) recognizing "oral and maxillofacial surgeons who have made significant advocacy contributions on behalf of the Association" and who "transcend the efforts of their colleagues to further the specialty."

Sukirth Ganesan and a team of researchers in the Carver College of Medicine were

awarded a Carver Trust COVID-19 Pilot Collaborative Award for their project *Unraveling the role of saliva in COVID-19 pathogenesis using a comprehensive multi-omics approach*.

Liu Hong was awarded a supplemental \$125,000 subcontract from the National Institutes of Health via the company NaturemiRI. The goal of the project is to help develop a synthetic bone-graft substitute that promotes high-quality bone growth in the alveolar ridge of dental patients, thereby offering a new tool in the treatment of craniofacial defects and tooth extractions performed in anticipation of dental implantation.

Brian Howe ('13 MS) was appointed as a member of the executive committee for the Coalition for Modernizing Dental Licensure (CMDL). The mission of the group is to ensure patient safety, increase access to care, and promote professional mobility by modernizing the dental licensure process.

David Johnsen ('73 MS, '73 PEDOS) was presented with the 2021 ADEA Distinguished Service Award recognizing his

significant contributions to ADEA through teaching, research, and service at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

Mike Kanellis ('79 DDS, '82 MS, '95 MS) published the book, *Novocaine*, a novel about a dentist, a dental assistant, and the mob.

Leo Marchini was elected vice president of the Special Care Dentistry Association and **Jennifer Hartshorn ('12 DDS)** was elected chair of the Council of Geriatrics for the Special Care Dentistry Association.

The Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation awarded **Leo Marchini** a grant to support the final step in the development of a tool to measure the degree of ageism among dental students.

The Delta Dental Institute awarded **Leo Marchini** almost \$100,000 to evaluate the effect that the mobile application, GeriaDental, has on oral health outcomes for older adults who receive most dental care from a caregiver.

The Iowa Department of Human Services and the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services awarded an

interdisciplinary team of investigators from the University of Iowa Public Policy Center's Health Policy Research Program, which included the College of Dentistry's **Susan McKernan ('09 MS, '12 PhD)**, **Julie Reynolds ('11 DDS, '13 MS)**, and **Pete Damiano ('86 DDS)**, a five-year extension of their project evaluating the Iowa Wellness Plan, Iowa's version of the Medicaid expansion.

Lina Moreno-Urbe ('05 PhD) was named chair and Department Executive Officer for the Department of Orthodontics.

Teresa Marshall was installed as faculty senate president for the 2021-2022 academic year after serving as vice president for the prior year.

The US Department of Health and Human Services awarded **Julie Reynolds ('11 DDS, '13 MS)** almost \$100,000 for her project, "Dental Coverage for Pregnant Women and Parents in Medicaid: Impact on Children's Access to Dental Care." The project investigates how Medicaid coverage for parents, which some states provide and some states do not, affects how much children and parents use dental services.

The American Association of Orthodontists Foundation awarded **Kyungsup Shin ('15 MS, '15 ORTHS)** and **Aaron Figueroa ('12 DDS)** a \$30,000 grant for their project, "Anti-fibrotic Effect of Exosomes on Human Temporomandibular Joint Tissues: A Pilot Study." The project is aimed at understanding the anti-fibrosis therapeutic effect of exosomes on fibrous tissues retrieved from human patients' temporomandibular joint (TMJ).

The Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation awarded **Amanda Shoemaker** and **Karin Weber-Gasparoni ('99 MS, '99 PEDOS, '03 PhD)** \$10,000 to support the Arthur Nowak Professorship/Pediatric Dentistry Continuing Education program.

Erica Teixeira ('18 MS) was awarded a \$35,000 subcontract from the National Institutes of Health via the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio to help develop a boron nitride nanosheet (BNNS)-based filler system to enhance dental composite performance in tooth restorations.

The medical equipment manufacturer SONENDO of California gave **Fabricio Teixeira** and his team an award valued at \$539,000 for their 1-year clinical project, "Effectiveness of GentleWave on the Healing of Apical Periodontitis: a prospective cohort study."

At the 2021 Annual Meeting of the AAPHD, **John Warren ('86 DDS, '91 MS)** became president of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD) after spending the past year as president-elect.

The American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) has awarded **Shaoping Zhang** a 2021 AAP Teaching and Mentoring Award.

Hawks Provide Free Dental Care Across Iowa

Zach Kouri ('03 DDS) says there's nothing more satisfying for him as a dentist than restoring a patient's front teeth.

"They may have had hard times getting jobs, being in relationships, and wanting to smile," he says, "but when you give them their front teeth, they are just beaming with joy."

Kouri, president of the Iowa Dental Association and president-elect of the Iowa Dental Foundation, was one of many University of Iowa alumni dentists who helped organize or participated in the annual Iowa Mission of Mercy event, which brought free dental care to Iowans who can't otherwise afford it or who don't have insurance.

Every year since Iowa Mission of Mercy began in 2008, the UI College of Dentistry has co-sponsored the Iowa Dental Foundation-run clinic and sent student and faculty volunteers to assist. Kouri says Iowa Mission of Mercy provides UI students with invaluable clinical experience. "Their excitement is palpable," he says. "They finally get to use their skills to help people, and they're just great to have around."

The event is typically hosted in one Iowa city each year, but in 2021 dentists statewide selected dates in October to offer free dental care in their clinics. Services included cleanings, scaling and root planing, extractions, fillings, and simple root canals. For more information about the Iowa Mission of Mercy fall clinics, visit iowamom.org.

Alberto Gasparoni Receives the 2021 James H. and Hermine E. McLeran Faculty Award

As the course director for the fourth-year Dental Emergency Course, **Alberto Gasparoni ('03 PhD, '10 DDS)** exemplifies the characteristic features embodied in the James H. and Hermine E. McLeran Faculty Award and the namesakes for the award—a passionate commitment to dental education focused on excellence in teaching and patient-centered care.



Gasparoni earned his international DDS degree from the University of Siena in Italy. After operating a private practice and conducting research at the University of Siena for several years, Gasparoni earned an MS in Oral Biology from the University of Missouri at Kansas City. Gasparoni went on to earn a PhD in Oral Science from the University of Iowa, and he would later earn a US-accredited DDS degree from Iowa.

Since 2010, Gasparoni has been a clinical associate professor at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry serving in Dental Clinic Administration and the Department of Oral Pathology, Radiology, and Medicine. Gasparoni is now the course director for the dental emergency course, which teaches students how to diagnose and triage one patient per hour in a fast-paced and stressful environment.

Mike Kanellis ('79 DDS, '82 MS, '95 MS), the associate dean of clinics, says of Gasparoni, “Dr. Gasparoni is an excellent role model for our D4 students while they are in the course. They can readily see his hard work ethic, his passion for dentistry, and most of all his compassion for our dental patients regardless of their background or circumstances.”

Gustavo Avila-Ortiz Named to Endowed Lainson Professorship

On April 26, 2021 the College of Dentistry conducted an investiture ceremony for **Gustavo Avila-Ortiz**, the chair of the Department of Periodontics, as the inaugural Philip Lainson Professor of Periodontics. An endowed faculty position is the highest honor the university can confer on a faculty member, and this particular endowed position is due to the extensive efforts of alumni and friends who wanted both to honor Professor **Phil Lainson ('62 DDS, '68 MS, '68 PERIS)**, the longtime chair of the Department of Periodontics, and to support advances in the field of periodontics.

After an extensive and rigorous nomination and review process Professor Avila-Ortiz was named to this endowed professorship. Avila-Ortiz has excelled as a leader, clinical scholar, teacher, mentor at predoctoral and advanced levels, international collaborator, and trend setter in the national councils where policy and standards for patient care are set. As DEO, he has shown stellar talents as a team builder.

In addition to a generous commitment to clinical and didactic teaching at predoctoral and advanced levels, Professor Avila-Ortiz has successfully mentored more than 30 individual predoctoral and postdoctoral students over the past decade

As a clinical scholar and trend setter, he has participated in all aspects of scholarly development, manuscript preparation and submission, which has resulted in more than 100 peer reviewed publications, more than 100 presentations in scientific events and CE programs, and several national and international awards

and recognitions. He also has an active and sought-after private practice.

He received his DDS degree in 2003 from the University of Granada (UGR), School of Dentistry (Spain) and a PhD degree, Department of Stomatology from UGR in 2006. In 2009, he received his MS degree in periodontics from the University of Michigan, School of Dentistry. From 2009 to 2011 he served as adjunct clinical assistant professor, Department of Periodontics and Oral Medicine, University of Michigan, School of Dentistry. In 2011 he joined the University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics as an assistant professor in the Department of Periodontics, becoming professor in 2018. In 2017 he became department executive officer in the Department of Periodontics, University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics. He has been an energetic team builder, recruiting an impressive group of teachers and scholars, including several who have already secured external funding. His international network in periodontology circles has brought many benefits to the team.

Professor Avila-Ortiz has an impressive list of national and international awards and invited presentations including the AAP (American Academy of Periodontology) Outstanding Periodontal Educator Award in 2013, 1st Prize in the category of Clinical Research at the Academy of Osseointegration Meeting, in San Diego in 2016, 1st Prize, Clinical Research category at the Dentsply Implants World Summit in San Diego in 2017, Honorary Alumnus – University of Granada School of Dentistry (Spain) in 2018, and 1st Prize at the International

Osteology Symposium – Basic Science Category in 2019, presented by **Miguel Romero-Bustillos ('20 PhD)**. He was a member of the Editorial Board of *Journal of Dental Research* from 2014 to 2021. Currently, he is an associate editor, *Journal of Periodontology* starting in 2020, and co-editor, *Clinical Advances in Periodontics* starting in 2020. He has over a dozen privately supported clinical trials with support of over \$800K. Professor Avila-Ortiz has more than 90 peer reviewed papers mostly on clinical research, clinical topics, and patient policy, and 10 book chapters. Professor Avila-Ortiz has given more than 100 lectures nationally or internationally. Topics have included alveolar ridge preservation and extraction site management for implant placement.

Professor Emeritus **Phil Lainson ('62 DDS, '68 MS, '68 PERIS)**, Periodontics Professor **Georgia Johnson ('81 DDS, '83 MS, '83 PERIS)** and Lainson Professor **Gustavo Avila-Ortiz** at the investiture ceremony last April.



20+ Years of Service

More than 30 College of Dentistry staff members have been employed at the college for 20 or more years. The college thanks these staff members for their years of dedicated service and work.

STUDENT NEWS

At the 2021 AADR/IADR Annual Meeting, 15 dental students earned AADR Bloc Travel grants including **Chichi Adeleke** (D4), **Jonathan Brennan** (D3), **Teagan Byrnes** (D3), **Bethany Doolittle** (D3), **Jennifer Greif** (D3), **Chris Han** (D3), **Madison Kasperek** (D4), **Jamie Liu** (D3), **Sheng Hao Lu** (D4), **Cyrus Mansouri** (D3), **Katherine Moore** (D4), **Shannon Osland** (D4), **Benjamin Phan** (D3), **Sydney Woods** (D3), and **Mary Young** (D2).

Waheed Awotoye, a postdoctoral research fellow in the Iowa Institute for Oral Health

Research, earned second place for the 2021 IADR Hatton Award in the senior category.

The Iowa Dental Foundation (IDF) awarded five scholarships to dental students at the University of Iowa this year. The recipients were **Melissa Draughn Williams** (D4), **Sheng Hao Lu** (D4), **David Strabala** (D4), **Kobi Voshell** (D4), and **McKenna Woodward** (D4).

Arshi Munjal (D2) was appointed as Councilor within the National Student Research Group (NSRG) of the America

Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (AADOCR). The Councilor represents the NSRG at the annual AADOCR Council meeting, determines issues with other NSRG officers to present to the AADOCR Council, reports to the NSRG on the actions of the AADOCR Council, and is responsible for organizing NSRG competitions.

Four students from Iowa were recently selected for leadership positions in District 8 of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) with **Alex Hsieh** (D3)

as Chapter President, **Megha Puranam** (D4) as Diversity & Inclusion Chair, **Arshi Munjal** (D2) as Diversity & Inclusion Associate, and **Brooke Frazier** (D2) as Pre-Dental Chair.

JoElla Guagliardo (D4) was awarded the Oral Health Foundation of the Pierre Fauchard Academy Dental Student Scholarship for 2021.

Taylor Samse (D4) won the 2021 Arm Wrestling State Championship at the Iowa State Fair, taking first in the left-hand contest and second in the right in the "light" weight division.

Morgan Scholtes (D2) received the 2021 American Student Association Award of Excellence for the University of Iowa College of Dentistry to recognize her superior level of involvement, leadership, and service to her peers, school, and community.

Megha Puranam (D4) received a 2021 Student Research Day Award based on her presentation at the Iowa Section of the AADR Annual Meeting.

The 2021-2022 officers for the Student Research Group at

the University of Iowa College of Dentistry are President **Abigail Wieland** (D4), Vice President **Sara Saey** (D2), Secretary/Treasurer **Cyrus Mansouri** (D3), D4 Class Representative **Emily Starman**, D3 Class Representative **Sydney Woods**, and D2 Class Representative **Mary Young**.

Mary Young (D2) was recognized at the 2021 IADR/AADR Annual Meeting for winning a Student Research Fellowship in support of her research project, which was mentored by **Azeez Butali**.



In April, **Bob Margeas** ('86 DDS)

hosted a hands-on esthetics workshop for 40 D3 and D4 students. The title of the course was "Discolored Maxillary Central Incisors and Basics of Polishing and Contouring," and the event was hosted by IASDA's Practice Management Series.



BETTER TOGETHER

The College of Dentistry boasts a strong tradition of leadership and excellence in research, education, and patient care. Alumni and friends play an important role in our success by staying connected and giving back.

DID YOU KNOW?

From July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021,

650+

alumni and friends came together to commit more than

\$3M

in donations to support current and future generations of dentistry students, faculty, and innovative programs.

THANK YOU!

IOWA College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics
2021 GIVING BY THE NUMBERS



51

students received a donor-funded scholarship last year.



13

faculty held prestigious, donor-funded named faculty positions.



1,110

dentistry alumni participated in University of Iowa events.



ALUMNI LEGACIES

CONTINUING THE FAMILY DENTAL TRADITION



CARTER LILLY, D2



JANE MATHEUS LILLY '92 DDS (Mother)



KEVIN LILLY '92 DDS (Father)



Improving Dental Outcomes for Underserved Populations



PhD student Jennifer Sukalski ('17 MS) discusses her dissertation project with her mentor, Susan McKernan ('09 MS, '12 PhD), associate professor in the Department of Preventive and Community Dentistry.

“As a child I hated going to the dentist. So, I became a hygienist because I wanted to make patients comfortable in ways that I was not.”

JENNIFER SUKALSKI (MS '17)

For dental patients, the work of a dental hygienist shapes the experience of the patient. For **Jennifer Sukalski ('17 MS)**, however, it was her work as a dental hygienist that shaped her interest in dentistry and public health.

“I always liked working with people—whether as a youth counselor or taking care of kids—and as a child I hated going to the dentist,” Sukalski explained. “So, I became a hygienist because I wanted to make patients comfortable in ways that I was not.”

While working as a hygienist in a private practice, Sukalski saw firsthand the barriers that underserved populations faced in receiving high-quality dental care. Whether it involved challenges with transportation, unavailability during standard business hours, or financial barriers, large portions of the US population do not receive any dental care.

During this time Sukalski also began adjunct teaching in Preventive & Community Dentistry at the College of Dentistry, and she later earned a master’s degree in Dental Public Health.

One of the first projects she worked on examined how the then newly established Dental Wellness Plan (DWP) brought in patients who had never been seen for preventive dental care. The DWP began when the Affordable Care Act was passed in 2014 and Iowa incorporated dental care into Medicaid expansion.

“Many providers had a steep learning curve given the complexity of the DWP, its finances and the dental needs of this previously unserved population,” Sukalski said.

This research and her own experiences working in a private practice gave her a unique perspective on structural barriers facing many Iowans. Her master’s project on the periodontal treatment needs of the DWP population refined her interest in health disparities, access to care, and patient use of available options.

For her dissertation project, Sukalski is investigating the extent to which a person’s own perceived social status affects access to care and health disparities, and she received a F31 award from the NIH to support the project. Most studies of structural barriers to dental care tend to focus on socioeconomic status as the primary barrier to care. This research is powerful but, building on her undergraduate degree from Iowa in psychology, Sukalski is investigating whether it leaves out an important element. Thus, she asks patients to identify where they see themselves on a “social ladder.”

“Seeing where they place themselves on the ladder can capture their life experiences and background better than models that just take into account socioeconomic markers like income, occupation, or education levels,” Sukalski commented.

Sukalski hypothesizes that those who place themselves lower on the social ladder will tend to have less desirable oral health care experiences, but providers can make a difference for these patients and help them come back for care, maintain good oral health habits, and improve outcomes. Sukalski is using one-on-one interviews to help develop a set of tools to help providers improve outcomes for this population.

“Educating our patients and ourselves

is important, but developing cultural competency and understanding your patient and what they are going through is also important,” Sukalski said. “As dental care providers, we have to pursue an active and ongoing relationship with our patients and we can’t look down on them or their choices if we want to achieve better outcomes.”

Sukalski already sees three helpful tools. First, we need providers to take financial barriers into account when providing advice and encouragement to patients; second, providers must understand and have compassion for patients as they phase in or out of care for reasons that are largely out of their control; third, patient education requires that a patient and provider reach a shared understanding of that patient’s needs in the confines of a supportive environment. These are all tools for helping patients see themselves as deserving and worthy of dental care—that is, to see themselves further up the ladder, which will have an impact on oral health outcomes.

Overall, Sukalski’s work is aimed at making a difference in the lives of dental patients across the state of Iowa, but she knows her work would not have been possible without encouragement from **John Warren ('86 DDS, '91 MS)**, **Peter Damiano ('86 DDS)**, and **Marsha Cunningham-Ford**, and without the guidance and support from her mentor, **Susan McKernan ('09 MS, '12 PhD)**. She also credits **Steve Levy**, **Brad Amendt ('89 MS, '94 PhD)**, and **David Drake** for their support of her F31 grant application.

James Simon ('69 DDS) retired June 30, 2021 from the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry after 42 years in dental education (this was his third dental school). In February 2021, he received the Distinguished Faculty Award from the University of Tennessee faculty.

At the annual Memorial Day ceremony hosted by the Burlington Area Veterans Council,

Charles Thie ('69 DDS), a retired Lt. Colonel in the US Air Force, spoke about his experience serving as a dentist during the Vietnam War and following the September 11, 2001 terrorists attacks on the United States in Burlington's *The Hawk Eye*.

Thomas Taylor ('74 DDS), professor and head of the Department at Reconstructive Sciences at the University of Connecticut School

of Dental Medicine, received the 2020 Distinguished Service Award from the American College of Prosthodontists recognizing his outstanding service to the organization and the characteristics of a true humanitarian.

Daniel Bartlett ('86 DDS) retired August 17, 2020. His awards include the U.S.A.F. Tactical Air Command "Real Professional" in 1988 and the Air National Guard

Dental Officer of the Year in 2003.

Timothy Trulove ('89 MS, '89 ORTHS) was installed as the secretary/treasurer of the American Board of Orthodontics.

Ricardo Araujo ('93 DDS) opened a second location of Small World Children's Dentistry in Pewaukee, Wisconsin.

Keith Mays ('93 PROSS, '94 MS) was appointed

as dean of the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry after serving as interim dean. Five of the deans currently serving at Big 10 dental schools are alumni of the University of Iowa College of Dentistry.

Eva Anadioti ('13 PROSS, '13 MS), assistant clinical professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, received the 2020 Presidential Citation

Junior Educator of the Year Award from the American College of Prosthodontists. The award recognizes Anadioti's academic dentistry achievements and contributions to the advancement of the specialty of prosthodontics, science, and the health profession.

Casey Goetz ('17 DDS, '19 PEDOS) created a new podcast *Brews and Tiny Teeth: the Unfiltered Pediatric Dentistry*

Podcast—one of two pediatric dentistry podcasts.

At the 2021 Spring Student Research Group Meeting, Senior Research Achievement Awards were presented to **Jasmine Butler ('21 DDS)**, **Connor Dang ('21 DDS)**, **Aminata Dumbuya ('21 DDS)**, **Ryan Hemsley ('21 DDS)**, **Hannah Klaassen ('21 DDS)**, **Caroline LaRoy ('21 DDS)**, and **Jordan Roszhart ('21 DDS)**.



2021 Alumni Reunion Game Watch Party—Dental alumni from the class years ending in 0's, 1's, 5's and 6's gathered at the Radisson in Coralville to watch the Iowa Hawkeye football game against Kent State during the Double Alumni Reunion Weekend. The Hawkeyes beat Kent State 30-7. **Save the date for the 2022 Alumni Reunion weekend scheduled for September 16-17, 2022.**



ANA DIAZ-ARNOLD

2021 Educator of the Year

For 34 years, **Ana Diaz-Arnold ('84 GPR, '87 MS)** has been a fixture in the Department of Family Dentistry, teaching countless fourth-year dental students, mentoring and working alongside adjunct faculty, and treating her own patients. As she retires in June 2022, her impact on the college and the dental profession in Iowa will remain long afterward.

Diaz-Arnold originally ended up at the College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics after following her husband, Mark Arnold, to Iowa. In Family Dentistry, Diaz-Arnold is the prosthodontist for the senior clinic, and thus, she sees our dental students grow from fledgling clinicians into competent professionals as she collaborates with other faculty and adjunct faculty members.

Ana Diaz-Arnold's story has impacted the lives of countless students, faculty, and staff. As she retires next summer, she looks forward to spending more time with her three sons and their families, including a 6-month-old grandson, but her legacy and impact at Iowa will be felt long after. It is, thus, a great honor for the University of Iowa Dental Alumni Association and the College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics to honor Ana Diaz-Arnold as the 2021 Educator of the Year.



ROY L. IRONS

2021 Leadership of the Year Award

Mississippi native **Roy Irons ('76 DDS)** came to Iowa in 1972. Coming from humble beginnings, Irons became a leader in the dental profession in Mississippi and the nation.

Irons graduated from Tougaloo College, earned his DDS from Iowa, and served in the US Navy for 28 years (24 of them in the reserves) retiring as a U.S. Navy Captain. During his time in the reserves, Irons returned to Gulfport, Mississippi to establish a private practice.

Over his career, Irons served on a variety of national, regional, and local boards, including president (1980-1982) and board chairman (1982-1984) of the Mississippi Dental Society; president of the Tougaloo College National Alumni Association (1986-1988); and the 88th president of the National Dental Association (2012). Irons also served as a Commissioner for the Mississippi State Port Authority, which is the third largest port in the Gulf of Mexico.

In the more than 45 years since he graduated from the College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics, Roy Irons has become a man of discipline, grace, and wisdom and the University of Iowa Dental Alumni Association and the College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics wish to honor Roy Irons with the 2021 Leadership of the Year Award.



JUDY GREENLEA TAYLOR

2021 Leader of the Year Award

Since her time at Iowa, **Judy Greenlea Taylor ('91 DDS)** has had a long and successful career as a dentist in private practice, a leader in the dental profession, and a public health professional.

During her time at Iowa, Greenlea Taylor was already establishing herself as a leader with numerous awards and rechartering the Iowa chapter of the Student National Dental Association (SNDA). Later in her career, Greenlea Taylor went on to serve as President of the National Dental Association, where she led national collaboratives and initiatives to promote the importance of oral health, health equity, and advocate for minorities in the profession.

Currently, Greenlea Taylor serves as Dental Director for CareSource, the largest nonprofit managed care organization, serving Medicaid. She has also practiced dentistry in the private sector for 30 years and is CEO of her practice in Union City, Georgia (southwest of Atlanta).

Throughout her career, Greenlea Taylor has made it her mission to improve public and oral health for underserved populations. Thus, the University of Iowa Dental Alumni Association and the College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics wish to honor Judy Greenlea Taylor with the 2021 Leadership of the Year Award.



KIM SWANSON

2021 Alumnus of the Year

An accomplished oral surgeon, **Kim Swanson ('86 DDS)** is a dedicated alumna who has left a mark in the field of oral and maxillofacial surgery and in the dental profession more widely.

Hailing from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Swanson attended the University of Iowa for her undergraduate and DDS degrees. She completed a General Practice Residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore from 1986-87, and received her Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Certification in 1991 from Virginia Commonwealth University/Medical College of Virginia. Swanson was in private oral surgery practice from then until her retirement in 2008.

She also became a leader in the field of oral and maxillofacial surgery, serving as the first woman on the board of the Southeastern Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. Throughout her career and in her retirement, Swanson has been a dedicated alumna to the University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics.

Her humility and excellence in all that she does exemplifies the Iowa spirit. It is with great pleasure that the University of Iowa Dental Alumni Association and the College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics recognize Kim Swanson as the 2021 Alumnus of the Year.

Iowa City Free Medical and Dental Clinic Celebrates Its 50-Year Anniversary



Top: The early days of the Free Clinic where clinicians treated patients on the Wesley Auditorium stage.

Bottom: The staff of the Free Medical and Dental Clinic of Iowa City.

For 50 years, the Iowa City Free Medical and Dental Clinic has served the local community and partnered with the University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics. Beginning in 1997, the Parrott-Stiles Free Dental Clinic has provided access to needed care for hundreds of uninsured people in our community. The original group who started serving at the clinic included **Dick Parrott ('74 DDS)**, **Dick Perkins ('75 DDS, '83 MS, '83 ORTHS)**, **Howard Cowen ('76 DDS, '95 MS)** and **Brad Stiles ('84 DDS)**. After being recruited by Parrot, Professor Emeritus **Rick Walton** began and continues to volunteer at the clinic. During this time, Walton began recruiting dental students to treat patients under his supervision, and Preventive & Community Dentistry Department Executive Officer **Dan Caplan ('88 DDS)** eventually formalized student participation under the direction of his department. Associate Dean of Clinics **Mike Kanellis ('79 DDS, '82 MS, '95 MS)** was an early volunteer at the clinic, and **Rohit Nair** has also been an active volunteer and advocate for the clinic.

In its early years, the Free Clinic was located in the basement of the Wesley Center, and dental services were provided on the Wesley Foundation's basement auditorium stage. Volunteers built barriers around the dental chairs for privacy, as the auditorium also served as the Clinic's waiting room!

After a few years, the Dental Clinic moved upstairs, to a room on the second floor of the Wesley Foundation.

The Free Clinic moved to its current location, at 2440 Towncrest Drive in Iowa City, in 2006.

Today, the Parrott-Stiles Free Dental Clinic has two private dental rooms. The Clinic employs three part-time dental assistants and a dental hygienist. These four part-time staff work with volunteer dentists and dental students to provide patients with exams, x-rays, treatment plans, fillings, extractions and hygiene.

For 24 years, volunteer dentists—many from the College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics—have generously donated their time and skills. In addition, local dental offices and businesses have donated essential equipment and supplies.

SHAPE THE FUTURE:

BECOME A FAMILY DENTISTRY ADJUNCT FACULTY

- ▶ Mentor fourth-year dental students, our future colleagues
- ▶ Model professionalism and patient-centered care
- ▶ Develop lifelong friendships & learn with fellow faculty
- ▶ Complimentary CE, e-journals access, Office 365, & more

➔ FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: chris-barwacz@uiowa.edu

IN MEMORIAM

- DDS 1950: Donald Ostrus** of Los Altos, CA, died September 26, 2021.
- DDS 1952: Louis Montgomery** of Waterloo, IA, died April 30, 2021.
- DDS 1952: James (Jim) Sommers** of Norwalk, IA, died June 13, 2021.
- DDS 1954: R. L. Bieber** of Clear Lake, IA, died December 21, 2020.
- DDS 1954: James Dow** of Santa Barbara, CA, died December 4, 2020.
- DDS 1954: James Kruse** of Colorado Springs, CO, died March 25, 2021.
- DDS 1955: Ronald Harms** of Morehead City, NC, died September 14, 2021.
- DDS 1956: Stanley Cejka, Jr.** of Mesa, AZ, died August 11, 2021.
- DH 1956: Carolyn Orvis** of Carson City, NV, died May 25, 2020.
- DDS 1956: Richard Teeple** of Spokane, WA, died February 11, 2010.
- DDS 1957: James Hanno** of Sanborn, IA, died July 11, 2021.
- DDS 1957: Harry Hilmer** of Villa Rica, GA, died February 2, 2021.
- DDS 1957: Don King** of Vero Beach, FL, died.
- DDS 1958: Robert (Bob) Ogesen** of Spirit Lake, IA, died December 25, 2020.
- DDS 1958: Richard Smith** of Florence, AL, died June 17, 2021.
- DDS 1959: Charles Woodruff** of Burlington, IA, died November 18, 2020.
- DH 1960: Mary Baruch** of Mimbres, NM, died December 9, 2020.
- DDS 1960: Christian Schwabe** of Charleston, SC, died.
- DDS 1961: Charles Pinkerton** of Laguna Woods, CA, died July 16, 2021.
- DH 1963: Virginia Bartlett** of Reno, NV, died March 21, 2018.
- DDS 1965: Robert Golly** of Mead, OK, died July 31, 2019.
- DDS 1965: Richard Squiers** of Marshalltown, IA, died May 27, 2021.
- DDS 1967: Conrad Jungmann** of West Des Moines, IA, died July 16, 2021.
- DDS 1967: Mike Redenius** of Billings, MT, died July 2021.
- DDS 1971: Timothy Bokmeyer** of Dallas, TX, died March 9, 2021.
- DH 1972: Joan Bregman** of Estero, FL, died August 2, 2017.
- MS Cert. Oral Surgery 1972: William Wood** of Council Bluffs, IA, died October 27, 2019.
- DDS 1973: James Snyder** of Spring Hill, FL, died January 7, 2021.
- DDS 1975: Rudy Kubik** of Independence, IA, died August 30, 2021.
- DDS 1977: Alan Cady** of McAlester, OK, died December 9, 2020.
- DDS 1977: James Clevering** of Seattle, WA, died September 11, 2021.
- DDS 1977: Timothy Menke** of Spencer, IA, died April 8, 2021.
- DDS 1978: Norman 'Joe' Joseph Stender** of Elkader, IA, died September 7, 2021.
- DDS 1986: Steven Christensen** of Spirit Lake, IA, died March 30, 2021.
- MS Cert. Operative Dentistry 1991: Aly Elhabashy** of Columbia, MO, died February 19, 2018.
- Pediatric Dentistry Cert. 2003: Jonathan Shenkin** of North Yarmouth, ME, died August 23, 2021.

Gary Blodgett ('62 DDS, '67 ORTHS, '67 MS) died on May 19, 2021 at the age of 83.



After completing his military service in the US Public Health Service and completing his orthodontics training at Iowa, Blodgett joined the Mason City orthodontic practice of **Lowell Oldham ('33 DDS, '34 MS, '34 ORTHS)** in 1967 and practiced until 1992, when he was elected to the Iowa House of Representatives. During his four terms in the Iowa House of Representatives, he was elected by his peers to be Deputy Majority Leader and chaired several standing committees. He was known as a legislator who got things done and was honest, fair, and willing to work in a bipartisan manner to pass legislation he believed would benefit Iowans. In 2001, he was appointed by President Bush to serve as a Federal Judge with jurisdiction over the Provider Reimbursement Review Board and retired in 2007 to Clear Lake, Iowa.

Blodgett was elected president of the Iowa Orthodontic Association in 1971, and in the 1990's, he served as a member of the American Dental Association's Political Advisory Board. In 2007, he was named the University of Iowa College of Dentistry's Distinguished Alumni of the Year.

Lawrence R. Huber ('74 PROSS) died on October 18, 2021 at the age of 85. Huber was a prosthodontist in Davenport, Iowa and a faculty member in the Department of Prosthodontics for 44 years from 1971 until he retired in 2014 as a clinical assistant professor.



Interim Dean **Galen Schneider ('91 DDS)** spoke highly of Huber saying, "Larry was a fantastic clinician, but even more so a kind and incredibly generous individual. His presence and service to the college and profession are unparalleled."

*The Dental Link*College of Dentistry
Dental Science Building
Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1010**HISTORICAL IMPRESSIONS****Dr. David C. Johnsen, College of Dentistry Dean, 1995–2021**

The UI College of Dentistry has had eleven deans. Our most current dean, **David Johnsen ('73 MS, '73 PEDOS)**, has served the longest, from 1995-2021. Although he recently stepped down, Dean Emeritus Johnsen remains a faculty member of the UI Department of Pediatric Dentistry.

Dean Emeritus Johnsen received his DDS degree in 1970 from the University of Michigan and his MS in pediatric dentistry from the University of Iowa. Before working at Iowa, Johnsen was with the West Virginia University dental faculty from 1974-1980, then with Case Western Reserve University from 1980-1995.

Impressive transformations at the college under Dean Emeritus Johnsen include a new Simulation Clinic, the Hospital Dentistry Institute's new facility at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC), the new west addition of the Dental Science Building, and the renovation of both the north and south buildings of the dental college.

During his tenure, he had a strong relationship with Iowa legislators and Iowa dental alumni; he traveled frequently throughout the state to promote the college.

Dean Emeritus Johnsen also served on the national level: on the American Dental Education Association Council of Deans Board from 1998-2001 and as president of the American Dental Education Association from 2002-2003. Additionally, he served at the University of Iowa as chair of the search committees for the UIHC CEO, the UI nursing dean, and the UI presidential search in 2007.

The College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics thanks Dean Emeritus Johnsen for his dedicated service and remarkable accomplishments as dental dean at Iowa.

