

THE

NEWS FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY

# DENTAL LINK

SPRING 2024



JESSIE GOMEZ, D1, FIRST-GENERATION STUDENT

## Shaping the future of dental excellence

THE  
**DENTAL LINK**

Spring 2024

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**IOWA** | College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics



Dear members of the University of Iowa Alumni community and friends,

The UI College of Dentistry is preparing to celebrate the class of 2024 this spring. It's exciting and rewarding to watch students graduate and pave their own path with the knowledge and support the college has provided over these last four years. In turn, we will soon look toward welcoming the class of 2028 as a new wave of eager students and future leaders begin dental school. When I look back on my four years at Iowa, I remember how ingrained I become in the profession – even as a student – with research and prosthodontics specifically catching my eye. It was challenging, there was adversity, and plenty of long nights, but I knew I had my family, who also worked in dentistry, and a great community to fall back on if I needed help. I remained in Iowa City following my graduation and worked as a faculty member in part because our community at Iowa is so strong. So, when I left Iowa to become the dean at University of Illinois-Chicago, I came to realize that my community was much larger. I had made connections throughout the profession across the country and around the world to support me as I navigated my career. It gave me peace of mind as I moved to a new state with new challenges because Hawkeyes are everywhere, and Hawkeyes help Hawkeyes. Of course, we all know there is no place like Iowa City, and I was thrilled to jump at an opportunity back in 2022 to lead this wonderful college.

I want to use this message to remind us about the responsibility each one of our alumni, faculty, and staff have to our students and young professionals in the industry. More students than ever are pursuing dentistry who are either first-generation students or have no family connection to the profession. It is on us to uplift, guide, and support

these students who are finding their way whether in the Dental Science Building, out on rotation for extramurals, or looking for opportunities to join a practice after graduation. Our students are the future of this profession and I know that with our support, they will become future leaders.

Cheers! And Go Hawkeyes!



Clark Stanford DDS, PhD, MHA  
 Professor and Dean  
 Edwin B. Green Chair  
 College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics

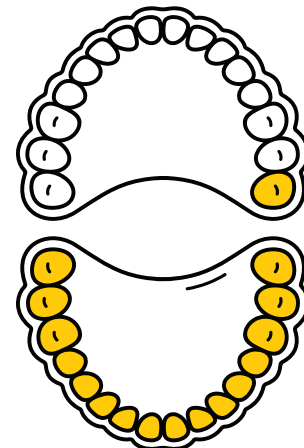
## Together Hawkeyes

C A M P A I G N

Together, Hawkeyes are making a difference. The Together Hawkeyes Campaign is raising \$3 billion, connecting with 300,000 alumni and friends, and establishing 3 million points of connection.

**The UI College of Dentistry is tasked with raising \$32M which will impact four key areas of our college:**

- Faculty recruitment and retention
- Student wellness and success
- A building for the future
- Transformative clinical technologies



### CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

\$32M goal  
 \$17M raised  


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 \$15M remaining

# Snapshots in Iowa Dentistry



**ABOVE:** Olivia Bartholomew presents research during Iowa's annual research day.

**MIDDLE:** Dean Stanford poses with Herky before the Annual Meeting of the Iowa Section of the AADOCR.

**RIGHT:** A group of dental students pose for a picture in *The Link* during Iowa's annual research day.



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LEFT: Operative Dentistry department chair **Erica Teixeira** sees a patient in the clinic.

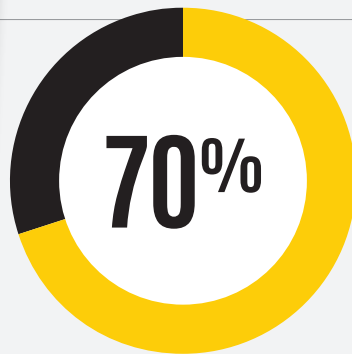


ABOVE: A first-year dental student working in the simulation clinic.

LEFT: The class of 1994 during a Continuing Education course in Aruba (**Seuss Kassisieh** (AZ), **Randy Pas** (IA), Tim Boeyink (CO), **Jeff Johnson** (TX), **Ingrid Schwarz Wolf** (IN), **Salvador Atienza** (IA), **Jeff Smith** (IA), **Kirk Opdahl** (MO), **Paul Wolf** (IN), **Thor Anderson** (WI), **Walker Love** (GA)).

#2

Total clinical revenue in North America



Students from Iowa

#2

In Big Ten NIDCR funding (doubled since 2020)

\$18M

Awarded in external funding in 2022

\$55M

Grant proposals submitted annually



#1

Medicaid provider in Iowa

80

Students per class

400

Average # of patients seen by a dental student over four years

>160,000

Total number of patient visits per year

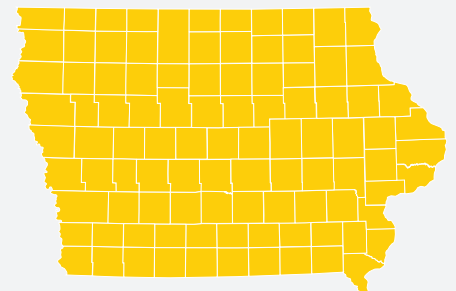


5,235

Living alumni

#2

Among UI colleges in percentage of alumni who give back



We see patients from all of Iowa's 99 counties

# Sara Stuefen's voice for change

IN

BY JACK ROSSI

October, **Sara Stuefen** ('10 DDS) will become the District 10 Trustee for the American Dental Association (ADA). It's an important opportunity for Stuefen to bring a new perspective to organized dentistry that fosters more diversity, continue advocating for dentists and patients, and be part of something bigger than herself or her Vinton, Iowa, practice.

"The direction I see the ADA going? I see positivity, opportunity for growth, and even more advocacy for our patients. We want more," says Stuefen. "But many organizations, whether within the dental community or elsewhere, are seeing less and less involvement. That's something we can work to change."

As one of the youngest elected members of the ADA Board, Stuefen will soon become one of 17 trustees as she represents the 10th District, which is comprised of Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The Board of Trustees are tasked with guiding the profession at the national level and Stuefen's appointment will mean she is serving as the collective voice of more than 6,500 dentists and even more patients.

"The biggest thing the ADA does is advocacy. That is not just for dentists, but also for patients. When we're talking about potential legislative changes, a lot of them are for our patient's access to care," says Stuefen, adding that "diversity in this profession is important to expand access for all patients. This position is for the dental community and the stronger our voice, the better."

So when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, it provided Stuefen an opportunity to think what her long-term goals were, what kind

of impact she wanted to have, and how she might affect change at a higher level.

"I think a lot of dentists and a lot of people I talked to were reevaluating what they were doing with themselves," says Stuefen, "Part of that was me going, I love doing dentistry, I love working on a patient and helping them, but I also have this major passion for something bigger than my practice."

Stuefen started building her practice in 2010 following her graduation from the University of Iowa College of Dentistry. Over the 13 years since her practice was established, there is one aspect she is most proud of.

"The strong bond that we have within my team and the ability for everyone to work together" says Stuefen, "is one of our strengths — to work together and provide exceptional care for our patients."

As an undergraduate at Iowa, Stuefen had unknowingly found a close-knit community that instilled those traits in her while at a visit to the college's clinics. It helped shape the future of a student who was unsure of which medical field to pursue.

"I was a patient at the College from middle school on, so I was coming here, and I was thinking medicine all along," says Stuefen, "I was getting my teeth cleaned and my mom was bragging to Dr. (John) Warren about my grades, and Dr. Warren said, 'you should think about dentistry.' He got the director of admissions to come down and talk to me and got me thinking that this could be a pathway for me. Things just clicked."

And when she was a student in 2008, classmates and faculty members came to

“The biggest thing the ADA does is advocacy. That is not just for dentists, but also for patients. When we’re talking about potential legislative changes, a lot of them are for our patient’s access to care.”

SARA STUEFEN (’10 DDS)

her aid when historic flooding forced her out of her home.

“My husband and I had just purchased a house in Cedar Rapids and our house flooded, but one of the things you get from a close-knit group of students and faculty working together, is that they helped me out a lot,” says Stuefen. “I could still study but we lost pretty much everything.”

Stuefen said they were just trying to make it through. Her classmates helped clean out her house and faculty donated furniture to replace some of what she lost. Those acts of kindness gave a blueprint for the type of dental community she wanted to remain part of.

Now, Stuefen will give back in her own way. Her experiences at Iowa have translated into how she runs her practice and established values she will bring to the ADA later this year in hopes of making lasting change at a higher level.

And while getting to this point was tough, she wouldn’t substitute it for anything and will tell any student the same thing.

“Dentistry is such a wonderful profession to be a part of and it provides so many different avenues,” says Stuefen. “It will all be worth it.”



# @ChasingDrGomez

## Demystifying Dentistry for First-Generation Students

BY JACK ROSSI

**F**or many first-generation students, being the first member of their family to pursue a higher education presents difficulties and challenges, but for **Jessie Gomez**, it was an opportunity for her to share those experiences on social media to help others.

Through her Instagram account, @chasingdrgomez, Gomez was able to document how she studies for exams, practices clinical skills, volunteers in the community, and more to over 1,000 followers. It is all an effort toward demystifying the profession for other first-generation students and encouraging more students from diverse backgrounds to pursue their dreams.

“I was probably 15 or 16 when I decided I wanted to be a dentist,” Gomez said. “I have always had an appreciation for aesthetics and art, and I think teeth are visually pleasing. I grew up the oldest of four and I wanted braces because my teeth were bad, but I understood that financially it wasn’t a top priority for my family.”

Gomez and her family looked around town and found an orthodontist that would work with them. She realized how much of a sacrifice it was for her family, yet she always found her experiences with her orthodontist and dentist positive. She developed an emotional attachment to the profession.

“I remember when I got my braces off and how much better I felt about myself. It was a sign,” Gomez said. “I had a feeling I wanted to go into healthcare but wasn’t

sure what. I realized that dentistry is science and healthcare, but you’re also helping people and using your hands. I wanted to stick with it.”

While Gomez visited Iowa City on an undergraduate visit, she ultimately chose Marquette University because of its proximity to home. As an honors student studying psychology and biological sciences in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Gomez started her Instagram to share what it is like as a pre-dental student.

“I just thought, ‘Oh well, I know I’m not in dental school yet, but this is what I want to do. Why don’t I showcase what it is like as a pre-dental student,’” Gomez said. “You can go on Instagram and see what it is like to be a dental student but a pre-dental student, especially a first-generation student? You don’t really see that.”

Gomez launched her account in the summer of 2020. She began by featuring pictures of her experiences as a dental assistant, then taking the Dental Admission Test (DAT), and it kept growing from there.

“I eventually got a big enough following that I had first-gen students pursuing other health sciences like pre-medicine and pre-pharmacy direct message and ask me questions,” Gomez said. “I even started getting requests to review personal statements. These connections I’ve made with people are even more reason to keep going.”

But this venture is more than just sharing fun pictures and answering direct





# Catching up with retired faculty

## STEVE AQUILINO



## GERALD DENEHY



### Where are you living now?

Mary and I are living in Santa Rosa, CA. We moved here shortly after we retired to be close to our daughter, son-in-law, and grandchildren, Andie who is 9 and Jack who is 6 years old. Our daughter and son-in-law work at the UC Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory. Our daughter Kristin is the associate director of the Marine Laboratory and our son-in-law is the diving safety officer.

I still live in my old house in Iowa City. No better place as far as I am concerned! The availability of sports, arts, medical care, and outdoor activity is unparalleled!

### What are your hobbies or interests you partake in?

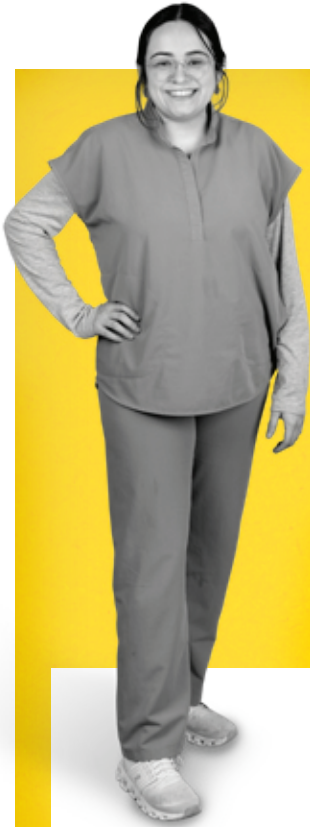
I spend my time biking and hiking in Sonoma and surrounding counties. The biking community is outstanding and the cycling is world class. When I'm not biking or hiking, I enjoy reading and spending time with my family.

I am involved with attending many Iowa sporting events, biking, canoeing with graduate students, and hiking two hours a day with my dog. I usually take photographs when hiking. I take trips to see my children and grandchildren in California, Massachusetts, and Missouri. I also have been involved with several land trust organizations to help preserve Iowa land.

### What do you miss most about Iowa?

I miss the Iowa City community, my friends and former colleagues. I also miss the relationships that I had with the students, both graduate and predoctoral. I developed lifelong friendships with many former students and those relationships are very special to me.

I loved dentistry when I was active in it, but have had no connection with it for over five years. What I miss most about the College of Dentistry now are the people. The patients, Departmental faculty, graduate students, and dental students were all very special to me! Fortunately, I still am able to connect with many of them.



**JESSIE GOMEZ**

**FROM:**  
OAK LAWN, ILLINOIS

**WHERE DO YOU WANT TO BE IN 10 YEARS?**

"In ten years, I see myself working as an endodontist in an area that is heavily populated with Spanish-speaking patients. I also see myself publishing a book series one day, so hopefully by then I'll be started with that!"



**CALEB PETERS**

**FROM:**  
JOHNSTON, IOWA

**WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO BECOME A DENTIST?**

"I shadowed a dentist, and I witnessed him perform an extraction and I was immediately hooked. I like how the objective is so simple yet requires so much finesse."



**LILY WEISE**

**FROM:**  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

**WHY IOWA?**

"Iowa has a great reputation of leaving students feeling prepared and confident come D4 year to go out into the real world and practice on their own."



**BEN FISCHL**

**FROM:**  
SEYMOUR, WISCONSIN

**WHAT SPECIALTY WOULD YOU LOVE TO WORK IN?**

"At this point, I envision I will start with an Air Force AEGD and do at least a few years as a general dentist. After that, I may apply to another specialty with the Air Force."

# Get to know the class of 2027

# Improving Dry Mouth and Or

The University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics has the most accomplished student research program in the country.

Thanks to the efforts of the Student Research Program led by Dr. Teresa Marshall, Iowa's dental students have the opportunity to pursue research in an area of their choosing. Here are a couple featured student researchers and their work.

“Learning how to think critically and appraise research is extremely important—nothing in dentistry is going to stay the same, and we need to be able to take what’s new, evaluate the strength of the research and apply it to practice.”

COLTON CURTIS, A FOURTH-YEAR DENTAL STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

The Dental Student Research Program at Iowa Dentistry has a long and venerable tradition of instilling these kinds of commitments in its students.

Curtis’ experience over the course of his dental career illustrates this well. He began doing research in his first year, but it took him a while to zero in on the right topic.

“I started doing a literature review with my first idea only to discover that it wasn’t a feasible option for a study,” Curtis explained.

That’s when he began working with Robert Bowers, assistant professor of family dentistry and they settled on a research idea.

Fourth-year dental student **Colton Curtis** has an effective and productive relationship with his research mentor, **Robert Bowers**.

“The problem was that older patients with a denture often have already demonstrated an increased susceptibility to tooth decay, and they also frequently experience dry mouth,” Colton said, “both of which put them at even higher risk to lose more teeth, which can significantly reduce quality of life for these older adults.”

Curtis and Bowers began to explore MI Paste, a topical product that can protect teeth from decay and promote remineralization. Their idea was for MI Paste to be applied to the underside of a person’s denture, rather than its labeled use for wiping on the teeth, so that it wouldn’t be washed away as easily via saliva, eating, or drinking, thereby sustaining release of the paste and prolonging the duration of its effect.

# Oral Health in Older Populations with Dentures

In the first clinical study, Curtis took baseline measurements of acidity levels and buffering capacity of patients' saliva, took out their dentures, applied the MI paste under the dentures, placed the dentures back in the patient's mouth for 15 minutes, and then measured acidity levels and buffering capacity again. Buffering capacity is the degree to which the saliva can resist a significant increase in its acidity level after, for example, drinking an acidic beverage.

The results were promising as the intervention significantly increased the saliva's buffering capacity.

"The study showed us proof of concept—that the paste would release appropriately from under the dentures," Curtis explained.

Curtis and Bower's second clinical trial took this proof of concept and designed a daily intervention for patients to use. In this study, patients were asked to apply the MI Paste to the bottom side of their dentures. After wearing them, they would report the subjective assessments related to dry mouth, comfort, and so forth. This study also introduced the use of a second product, Biotene Dry Mouth Gel, to be applied in a similar fashion.

This study adds to the previous laboratory data to show that the off-label use of these products provide patients significant subjective benefits of extended duration, especially for those who suffer from dry mouth.

"This is a really awesome and interesting population to conduct research for," Curtis said, "it is a very unique group and there is little research aimed at improving oral health care using

therapeutics specifically designed for older adults wearing dentures."

Curtis plans to continue his education in an orthodontics residency program at Virginia Commonwealth University next year.

And he intends to take the insights he's gleaned from research into his career.

"Researching and designing a trial teach you how to make improvements, and you learn so much about evaluating other research," Curtis explained.

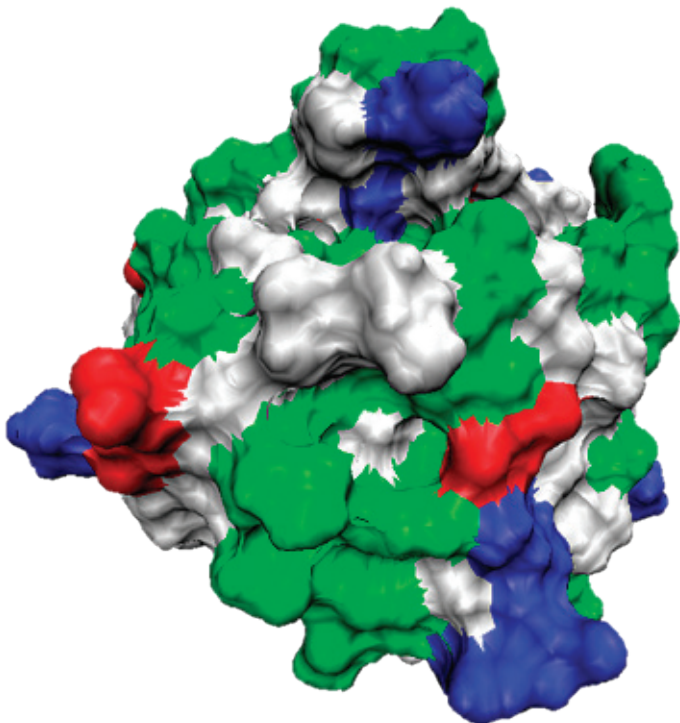
Curtis credits his success in research to Bowers' influence.

"He's been an incredible mentor, treating me as a colleague while offering guidance and resources well beyond what I expected," Curtis added.

**Colton Curtis** working with his mentor **Robert Bowers** in a laboratory.



# Iowa Periodontist examines the function



**P**eriodontal disease is caused by infections and inflammation of the gingiva (gums) and bones that support teeth. In some form or another, the disease affects almost 47% of the adults over the age of 30 in the United States and over 70% of adults over the age of 65.

There are strong associations between periodontal disease and various other systemic conditions particularly diabetes. These relationships are well established and often bidirectional. That is, diabetes can increase the risk of periodontal disease and vice versa.

Like many other diseases, prevention tends to be much more effective than treatments. Once established, periodontitis can only be controlled and not cured.

# of PGRPs in periodontal disease

“If we identify and disrupt the disease process early before it becomes particularly destructive, periodontitis is relatively easy to prevent and reverse,” said **Sivaraman Prakasam**, associate professor and head of the Department of Periodontics.

Prakasam’s work on Peptidoglycan recognition proteins (PGRPs) hopes to add a tool for early identification and treatment of periodontitis that can help dentists and periodontists before periodontitis becomes difficult to treat.

PGRPs are known to recognize essential structures in bacteria.

“This recognition process has evolved over millennia such that their proteins effectively discriminate between good and bad bacteria, and thus helping the body produce an immune response against those bacteria that are harmful to the health of the organism,” explained Prakasam.

For one variety of PGRP, Prakasam and his research team found that those who are periodontally healthy have lower quantities than do those with periodontitis, and for another variety of PGRP, they found that those who are periodontally healthy do not have any of that PGRP expressed in samples, but high levels were found in those with periodontitis.

Prakasam joined the Iowa faculty in August 2023 as head of the Department of Periodontics. His research is focused on a group of proteins (Peptidoglycan recognition proteins) that are biomarkers for oral inflammatory diseases such as periodontitis, and he has received an exploratory grant from the National

Institutes of Health and several private industry and foundation grants in support of this research. He has published over 20 journal articles and has already established strong collaborations with Iowa dental researchers, with many of them contributing to his journal articles.

Rather than looking at these proteins merely as a biomarker for periodontitis, Prakasam and his team approached the issue another way.

“These proteins and their functions are poorly understood, so we are exploring what these proteins are doing and how they are interacting with the immune response beyond merely recognizing the unhealthy bacteria,” Prakasam explained. Right now, it isn’t clear which direction the research will take them.

“We know that the proteins are highly increased in saliva and in tissues, but we don’t know why they are increased, We also found in gingiva an increase of these proteins in an unexpected cell type” said Prakasam.

The National Institutes of Health and the National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research awarded Prakasam and his team an R03 grant, an exploratory grant to develop preliminary data for a larger project, to explore the functions of these proteins.

“We used to think that these proteins just recognized good and bad bacteria, but now we are finding important and novel interactions and signaling from these proteins. Our goal is to better understand what these interactions and signals are doing so that we can develop therapeutic targets for periodontitis,” said Prakasam.

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“If we identify and disrupt the disease process early before it becomes particularly destructive, periodontitis is relatively easy to prevent and reverse.”

SIVARAMAN PRAKASAM,  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
AND HEAD OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
PERIODONTICS

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# A Legacy of Excellence

## How One Iowa Alumna Followed Her Father's



**Curtis Bush**

From the 1927 *Hawkeye* yearbook



**Charles and Judith Dickerson**

Bush's daughter and Iowa graduate



**Sherry Timmons**

Dr. Curtis C. Bush Memorial Fund recipient and Iowa Associate Dean for Student Affairs

**W**hen **Judith Bush-Dickerson** was four-years-old, she visited the University of Iowa campus for the first time with her parents. She was mesmerized by the sights and sounds of the Homecoming festivities, the marching band, and the star football players. Little did she know that this would be the beginning of a lifelong connection to the Hawkeye community.

Judith's father, **Curtis Bush**, was a proud Iowa alumnus who graduated from the UI College of Dentistry June 1, 1927. He was one of few Black students at the time, and while he enjoyed a successful career as a dentist in Sioux City, Iowa, Judith thought he would have pursued engineering instead.

"I don't know why he chose dentistry," Bush-Dickerson said. "He had a keen mechanical and mathematical mind and

liked to work on detailed tasks. He always said his engineering courses were the most impactful on his dental training and made for a reputation of success in prosthetics. His favorite work was creating a natural appearance for his patients who had dentures."

There were limited employment opportunities for black people and during that period in American history, many people gaining their education went into professions where they could work for themselves as opposed to others.

"My father may have figured that out and chose dentistry based on reality as he knew it," Judith added.

At Iowa, Curtis found friendship and support from fellow alumni such as Fred "Duke" Slater and Ozzie Simmons, who were pioneers in breaking racial

BY JACK ROSSI



# nice

## Footsteps

barriers in sports and society, as well as Helen Lemme, a renowned African-American civil rights advocate, who has an Iowa City elementary school named after her. These individuals provided a vital support group for Curtis, a first-generation student, as he navigated higher education.

After Curtis graduated with his DDS, he moved to Sioux City, Iowa, where he practiced for 45 years. He was a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Iowa Dental Society, International Visitor Committee, and took great pride in his military service in World War I.

He lived and practiced in Sioux City until his passing in 1974. That same year his widow, Madge Bush, established an award, the Dr. Curtis C. Bush Memorial Fund, in his honor.

“The intent was to provide some financial assistance and encouragement to dental school students of color to help alleviate financial stress and because dental graduates faced much greater debt than graduates of medical school in meeting practice start-up costs,” Judith said.

So when Judith began applying to schools, Iowa was atop the list. She became familiar with Iowa City and comfortable with the institution thanks to her parents.

Judith pursued a degree in speech pathology, and audiology and graduated exactly 40 years to the day after her father.

She went on to have a successful and varied career as a speech therapist, a corporate manager, a presentation trainer, and a college administrator. She worked in different cities and organizations, such as Detroit, Chicago, McDonald’s, Exxon, INROADS, and NJ Higher Education.

And during all of those ventures, she remained committed to her father’s fund as it evolved after a recommendation from the University.

“The award was initially established as a revolving student loan administered through the UI Center for Advancement (Formerly UI Foundation), but it was recommended that the distribution would be more effective if utilized as an endowed scholarship,” she added.

And it was. Every year since 1992, a select student who has shown a financial need, and are in good standing with the college receives \$1,000 to be matched by the AT&T company, equaling \$2,000.

In 1992, when the fund was re-established, current Associate Dean for Student Affairs **Sherry Timmons** was the first recipient.

“It was hugely helpful,” Timmons said. “I was a first-generation student that was paying for my education with a combination of military support as a National Guard member and personal finances.”

Judith’s support is a foundational piece of providing more diversity in dentistry, which will directly relate to patient outcomes. Timmons says we are seeing this now with faculty members at the college.

“Our diversity is coming from institutions around the globe,” Timmons said. “You bring in all these voices and philosophies of care and then we all learn

“The intent was to provide some financial assistance and encouragement to dental school students of color to help alleviate financial stress and because dental graduates faced much greater debt than graduates of medical school in meeting practice start-up costs.”

JUDITH BUSH-DICKERSON

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“Legacy of Excellence” continues on page 20.

# Geriatric and Special Needs Dentistry

The Geriatric and Special Needs Clinic (GSNC), housed in the University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics, provides oral health care to a range of underserved populations. It is one of only five fellowship programs in the nation providing advanced training to treat adults with special health care needs. Due to low stipends we can currently provide, many debt-loaded graduates cannot afford to take an advanced clinical education fellowship to treat medically frail adults and those with special needs.

The University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics is a national and international leader in research, education, and provision of care for frail older Americans and those with special health care needs. Only a few dental schools in the country educate and train all dental students using hands-on, practical experience to provide care to frail seniors, nursing home residents, and adults with special health care needs—



including those living with cerebral palsy, autism, Down syndrome, severe mental health issues, and others.

While our students are better prepared to provide this care, the need for oral health care continues to be critically important for the overall health and well-being of these populations.

- There were 42.5 million persons with disabilities in the United States in 2021 (U.S. Census), including almost 400,000 Iowans.
- Older Americans are much more likely than younger adults to have disabilities or multiple chronic health conditions.
- Adults with disabilities are more likely to be living below the poverty level, making it more difficult for them to access dental care.
- Frail older adults and adults with special health care needs are less likely to have a dentist, and therefore, more likely to have oral health problems and suffer from dental pain.

## A NATIONAL LEADER IN ORAL HEALTH CARE

Our Geriatric and Special Needs Clinic (GSNC) provides world class, compassionate, and comprehensive dental services to vulnerable populations—including those under Medicaid coverage. For many Iowans, the GSNC is the only place they can go to alleviate their dental pain and suffering while receiving appropriate oral health care.

In addition to the care provided by the GSNC, we also offer a Geriatric Mobile Unit (GMU) that provides comprehensive

dental care to residents of nine local nursing home facilities. Many residents within these facilities would not be able to access regular dental care if not for these services.

During the 2022–23 fiscal year, the GSNC and GMU:

- Provided care for 1,485 unique patients.
- Offered services to patients in 89 of Iowa’s 99 counties.
- Totaled nearly 5,000 clinical visits.

While providing these critically needed services, the Geriatric and Special Needs Program (GSNP) educates and trains the future oral health workforce on how to provide compassionate and comprehensive oral health care for persons with disabilities and vulnerable older adults. All Iowa pre-doctoral dental students rotate through the GSNP for five weeks in their fourth year. Iowa is one of only five dental schools in the nation maintaining an advanced education course in Geriatrics and Special Needs—a one-year certificate program for dentists who want to specialize in the advanced care of these populations.

This program is widely described by experts as the best geriatric and special needs program in the entire world and has been a model for other dental schools for decades, during which the program received many national and international awards. For instance, the program received the prestigious 2022 American Dental Education Association’s William J. Gies Award for Achievement for Academic Dental Institutions, which recognizes

trailblazers in academic dentistry and oral health. Students trained in the GSNP would be the very people who will be setting up practice in our communities, taking care of us, our families, and our communities.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

Because there are so few programs nationally that provide advanced clinical training fellowships in geriatric and special needs care, it’s vitally important for the University of Iowa to continue to prepare graduates who can teach, mentor, and conduct research in this space. Iowa has had a highly successful fellowship program, graduating 19 residents over the past decade—many of whom are now University of Iowa faculty members. Without this advanced education program, gaps in faculty and thus training of dental students would have been discontinued.

However, residents cannot receive a competitive stipend, usually precluding an increasingly vast number of debt-loaded dentists from applying. Additionally, many times the best treatment options cannot be conducted for the patients who need it most due to insurance constraints coupled with patient’s poor financial situation.

Funds would allow the GSNP to:

- Provide an annual stipend to at least two residents per year, competitive

“Center for Advancement” continues on page 20.

During the  
2022–23 fiscal  
year, the GSNC  
and GMU:

Provided care for

**1,485**  
unique patients

Offered services  
to patients in

**89**  
of Iowa’s  
99 counties

Totaled nearly

**5,000**  
clinical visits



**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOUR SUPPORT CAN MAKE AN IMPACT, PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Kelly Garvin**

College of Dentistry Director of Development

📞 319.467.3503

✉️ [Kelly.Garvin@foriowa.org](mailto:Kelly.Garvin@foriowa.org)



## ALUMNI NEWS

**“Legacy of Excellence”** continues from page 17.

from each other and that creates a direct line to how we are teaching and training our students. Our students and patients are better because of this.”

Judith has not been back to Iowa City since 1967, but says coming back is on her bucket list. In the meantime, she is happy to hear from the students who receive the funding from Dr. Curtis C. Bush Memorial Fund.

“These letters let us know about the recipients’ accomplishments and plans for the future,” Judith said. “It’s a reminder of just how impactful the funding is.”

**“Center for Advancement”** continues from page 19.

with other advanced education programs, and cover program costs.

- Pay for non-covered Medicaid dental treatments for patients in need.
- Allow students, both pre-doctoral and residents, to present their research in geriatric and special needs dentistry.
- Be able to constantly adapt the space and technology in the GSNC to accommodate the special health care needs of our patients.
- Help recruit and retain the most talented and compassionate faculty for the program.

We need your help to ensure dental educators in geriatric and special needs dentistry remain available to teach our future dental workforce. People living with disabilities should not continue to struggle accessing oral health services.

**David Wolf** ('57 DDS) married 68 yrs. to Carol Wolf. Received my B.A. on June 9, 1956. Have a son **Paul Wolf**, ('94 DDS) and his wife **Ingrid Schwarz Wolf** ('94 DDS). I retired in 2007 after selling my practice to Dr. Renee Moon.

**William Johnson** ('75 DDS, 81 MS) received the I. B. Bender Lifetime Educator Award from the American Association of Endodontists.

**Michael Kanellis** ('79 DDS, 81 PEDS, 82 MS, 95 MS) helped raise

nearly \$10,000 for children’s dental care by selling his self-published cookbook.

The American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) are dedicating their 2024 annual session, to be held in Orlando, FL, in September of this year, in **James Swift’s** ('80 DDS) name. This is the highest honor bestowed by the AAOMS.

**Clark Stanford** ('87 DDS, '92 PROS, 92 PhD) was named the Omicron

Kappa Upsilon (OKU) Supreme Chapter President in March.

**Craig Hollander** ('91 MS PEDO) was awarded the Greater St. Louis Dental Society’s Gold Medal Award, the highest award the society can present.

**Zach Johnson** ('23 DDS), **Maxwell Loew** ('22 DDS), and **Chet Meneely** ('19 DDS) were named recipients of the educational loan repayment awards from the Fulfilling Iowa’s Need for Dentists (FIND).



UI College of Dentistry alumni pose for a photo during the college’s alumni reception in Denver, Colorado, last February.

### **Are you a dentist who extracts teeth? If yes, the University of Iowa College of Dentistry needs you!**

The College is looking for extracted teeth for student courses and projects. If you are a dentist who extracts teeth, please consider saving the extracted teeth and sending them to the College of Dentistry. Dental students use the teeth to learn pre-clinical procedures.

**For more information, please contact Hunter Floyd at 319.335.7151 or [hunter-floyd@uiowa.edu](mailto:hunter-floyd@uiowa.edu)**

STUDENT NEWS

**ABIMBOLA OLADAYO**

Examines gene research in Africa



IOWA

**MICHAEL CHAVEZ**

Seeks regenerative treatment for teeth



IOWA

**SENTHILGURU KULANTHAIVEL**

Pioneers possibilities of tooth repair



IOWA

**ARSHI MUNJAL**

Relates diet to oral microbiome



IOWA

**SAMANTHA WUEBKER**

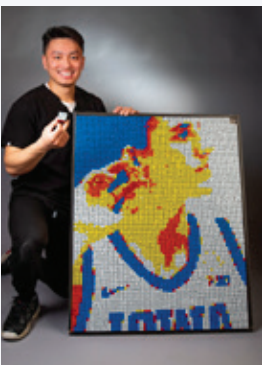
Extracts how teeth harden



IOWA

Five University of Iowa College of Dentistry students—**Abimbola Oladayo**, **Michael Chavez**, **Senthilguru Kulanthaivel**, **Arshi Munjal**, and **Samantha Wuebker**—were named 2024 Dare to Discover students. Dare to Discover highlights 80 students each year who make an impact in research, scholarship, and creative activities.

Fourth-year dental student **Brian Dang** caught the nation's attention with his Rubik's Cube portrait of Iowa women's basketball's Caitlin Clark. He was featured on ESPN, MSN, Sporting News, as well as several Iowa news outlets.



In February, dental students **Madeline Slater**, **Claire Kettle**, and **Olivia Bartholomew** along with Director of Dental Counseling and Wellness **Cari Anderson**, facilitated the Green Bandana Suicide Prevention Training program. The students became proficient in understanding and assisting individuals with mental health challenges.

Third-year dental student **Mallory Obenauf** was named the National American Student Dental Association (ASDA) Legislative Liaison of the Year. The liaison is responsible for promoting engagement in advocacy initiatives.

Second-year student **Tyler Jenness** was named a 2024-25 American Student Dental Association (ASDA) District 8 Trustee.

The Iowa American Student Dental Association (IASDA) was named a finalist for the 2024 Gold Crown Award, which recognizes member engagement, community service, advocacy, health and wellness, member communications, and professional development and leadership.

**Tabitha Peter**, a PhD candidate in biostatistics and a graduate research assistant for the Iowa Institute of Oral Health Research, was awarded a Fulbright Study/Research Grant to Colombia for 2024-25.

Third-year dental student **Mallory Obenauf** was named the National American Student Dental Association (ASDA) Legislative Liaison of the Year awardee.



## IN MEMORIAM

**DDS 1953: John Jones** of Des Moines, IA, died October 25, 2019.

**DDS 1955: Forrest Barnes, Jr.**, of Santa Fe, NM, died March 10, 2020.

**DDS 1955: Robert Guenther** of Bettendorf, IA, died March 22, 2024.

**DH 1959: Virginia Campbell** of Ellensburg, WA, died June 7, 2020.

**DDS 1959: Stanley Quick, Jr.**, of Storm Lake, IA, died December 12, 2023.

**DDS 1962, MS Cert. Prosthodontics 1967: William "Bill" LaVelle** of Coralville, IA, died February 6, 2024.

**DH 1963: Nancy Arbogast** of Venice, FL, died April 8, 2020.

**DDS 1963: James Paul** of Monmouth, IL, died March 10, 2024.

**DDS 1964, Cert. Periodontics 1981: Dennis Rose** of Marion, IA, died January 3, 2024.

**DDS 1965, MS Cert. Pediatric Dentistry 1969: Dale Jansen** of Des Moines, IA, died February 22, 2024.

**DH 1966: Pamela Brunstrom** of Chicago, IL, died February 25, 2024.

**DDS 1966: Gary Fingert** of Iowa City, IA, died November 25, 2023.

**DDS 1969: Joe Purdie** of Bonita, CA, died December 25, 2023.

**DDS 1976: Jeffrey Bassman** of Davenport, IA, died January 12, 2024.

**MS Cert. Prosthodontics 1979: Asterios Doukoudakis** of Voorhees, NJ, died November 27, 2015.

**DDS 1979: Steven Wettach** of Mount Pleasant, IA, died January 10, 2024.

### EMERITUS FACULTY:

**Jimmy Pinkham** of Iowa City, IA, died April 13, 2024.



*The Dental Link*

College of Dentistry  
Dental Science Building  
Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1010

The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination in employment, educational programs, and activities on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy (including childbirth and related conditions), disability, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, service in the U.S. military, sexual orientation, gender identity, or associational preferences. The university also affirms its commitment to providing equal opportunities and equal access to university facilities

**HISTORICAL IMPRESSIONS****Dr. Martin Dewey (1881-1933):  
His Impact on Orthodontics and the College of Dentistry**

Dr. Martin Dewey graduated from the Keokuk College of Physicians and Surgeons (DDS 1902 and MD 1904). (Keokuk's college later merged with the University of Iowa.) Dewey then studied under Dr. Edward Angle and taught at the Angle School in St. Louis for several years.

In 1911, he opened the Dewey School of Orthodontia in Kansas City, which offered a short postgraduate course to dentists. Dewey also became a faculty of the Kansas City dental school (now UMKC) and became internationally recognized for his teaching, writing, public speaking, and forceful personality.

He co-created *International Journal of Orthodontia* (now AJO-DO) and was editor from 1914-1931.

In 1915, Dewey published *Practical Orthodontia*, used by many dental schools, including Iowa. Dewey also co-authored *Comparative Dental Anatomy*.

He came to the UI College of Dentistry in 1918 to teach, but maintained a relationship with his own school (now in Chicago), and still edited AJO-DO. Traveling to Iowa City for lectures, an assistant, under Dewey's supervision, handled his clinical cases. As head of the newly separate Department of Orthodontia, Dewey's curriculum included the biological influences on malocclusion.

Dewey's stay at Iowa, however, was short-lived. His request to advertise his Chicago Dewey School in conjunction with his Iowa ties was denied. In autumn 1919, Dewey left for New York City and his Chicago school followed him.

In 1922, Dewey was elected president of the American Association of Orthodontists; in 1931, he was also elected president of the American Dental Association. He became affiliated with (now) Columbia University and also helped organize the American Board of Orthodontics on whose board he served.

Martin Dewey died of a heart attack in 1933. He was 52.