

THE

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

DENTAL LINK

SPRING 2025



ILLUSTRATION BY JACOB HANNON

THE DENTAL LINK

Spring 2025

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SEND COMMENTS AND UPDATES TO:
jack-rossi@uiowa.edu

DEAN
Clark Stanford

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Jack Rossi

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Michael Tilley
Barb Colbert
Chris White
Jeffrey Akey

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Jake Hannon
Sean Kelley

DESIGN
Benson & Hepker Design

Visit the college online at dentistry.uiowa.edu.

IOWA College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics



FROM THE DEAN

Dear member of the University of Iowa alumni community and friends,

The UI College of Dentistry operates on four main fronts: education, patient care, research, and service. All four of these aspects of the college are woven together and it gives us our unique identity. Our ability to crossover in each of these areas allows us to collaborate more effectively, resulting in more efficient learning and higher quality service. Collaboration is ingrained into our workdays as instructors and that makes its way into the classrooms and clinics where students can see first-hand how a dental professional connects with patients and collaborates across disciplines. After students graduate, we hope they take a collaborative approach with them to their practice, residency, or institution because our ability to connect with others is a powerful tool that creates tangible results. I'd like to ask the alumni who are reading this message to reach out to a fellow classmate, friend, or faculty member from dental school who you may have lost touch with and see if you're able to reconnect with them. We all share our love of dentistry and the Hawkeyes. Who knows where the conversation will take you.

The stories you'll read about in this spring's *Dental Link* highlight ways in which our alumni, faculty, and students are able to leverage the power of connection toward a common goal. I hope you enjoy them.

Cheers! And Go Hawkeyes!

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

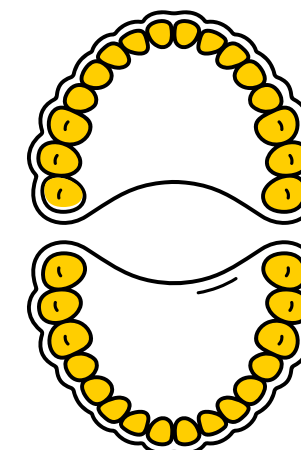
Together Hawkeyes

CAMPAIGN

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

\$32.0M goal
\$31.9M raised
\$0.1M remaining



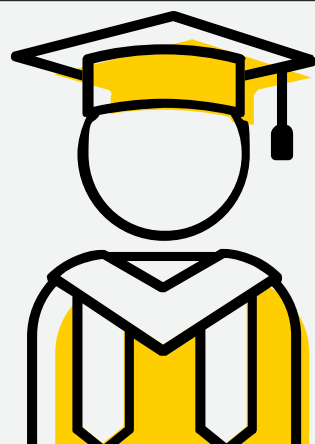
>160,000₇ patients served



\$8M
in annual
research
funding

419

total students
(pre- and post-doc in 2024–25)



>5,500₇ living alumni

~80

student research poster
presentations



“There are advancements in dentistry that I would never get if I wasn’t an adjunct faculty and connected to the school as I am now.”

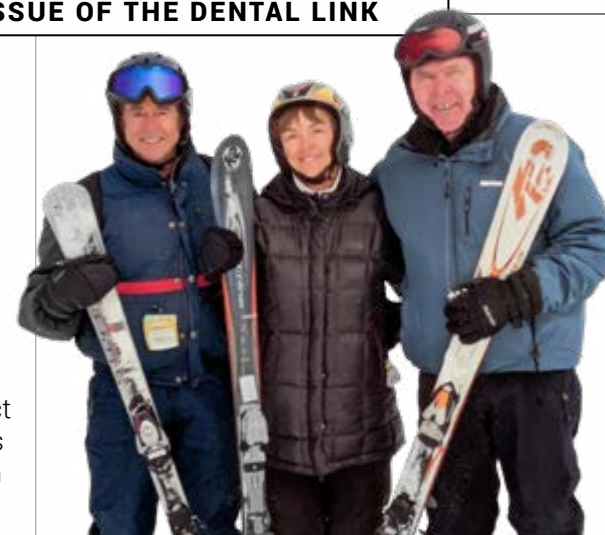
ADJUNCT PROFESSOR SALVADOR “BUDDY” ATIENZA (’94 DDS); STORY ON PAGE 8

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How mentorship and support from an adjunct faculty member at the College of Dentistry is shaping Brian Dang’s (’24 DDS) journey from student to successful dentist.



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Four Iowa alumni combined strengths to create a first-of-its-kind clinic in Iowa.



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At His Hands Dental Clinic, Iowa dental students volunteer to change a patient’s life.

Faculty Footprints



RICHARD WALTON

Professor Emeritus Richard Walton was a Professor of Endodontics at the College of Dentistry and chair from 1983-1996. He is an American Association of Endodontics (AAE) Life Member and Diplomate. He was also a recipient of the I.B. Bender Lifetime Educator Award and Louis I. Grossman Award from the AAE.

Where am I living? Why Iowa?

Laura and I remain in the home I purchased in 1983 when I relocated to Iowa. I came as Endodontic Department Chair. I accepted the position because of the prestige of the College and being part of a major university in the Big Ten. Another attraction was being in the Midwest and the quality of life and the amenities in Iowa City. Neither my wife nor I see any reason to leave our home or to move to another part of the country.

What are our activities? Hobbies and interests

Although we engaged in many forms of outdoor activities for most of our earlier lives, this has decreased somewhat. The major recreation now is bicycling and hiking. I wander into the fields in the fall to pursue the elusive pheasant.

We are major Hawkeye fans and have season tickets for football and for men's and women's basketball and attend other sporting events. Volunteering in the community also is important and occupies a portion of each week.

Am I still involved with the college?

I am a Professor Emeritus. Laura is a Ulowa graduate and our loyalty to the College and University remains. I continue to teach some, but on a much more limited basis. I enjoy student contact and am still very interested in dentistry, although our profession (including endodontics) evolves continually. We attend many university-related events and other community activities.

Rick and Laura Walton on a bike and barge in northern Italy, 2002





CLAUDIA JUN
FROM: WEST DES MOINES, IOWA
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF DENTISTRY?
"Although my favorite part of dentistry is the hands-on-aspect of being able to see an immediate impact, I'd also say working closely with patients and building a relationship with them from start to end of their treatment, is one of the most rewarding parts."



ALYSSA GEORGE
FROM: SUMNER, IOWA
WHAT SPECIALTY WOULD YOU LOVE TO WORK IN?
"I see myself in general dentistry because it allows me the opportunity to focus on both esthetics and restorative dentistry. My background as a nurse specializing in ophthalmology has given me a unique perspective on facial balance, and now in dentistry, I have the opportunity to combine that knowledge."



JAMES GLEASON
FROM: BRICK, NEW JERSEY
WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF DENTISTRY?
"I enjoy problem solving to provide the best tailored solution to each individual case."



ANDREW CRANE
FROM: CLEAR LAKE, IOWA
WHERE DO YOU WANT TO BE IN 10 YEARS?
"I'd love to be back near home, practicing in low access communities."

Get to know the class of 2028

The Impact of Adjunct Faculty

W

BY JACK ROSSI

hen **Brian Dang** ('24 DDS) walked across the stage during the College of Dentistry's commencement ceremony last year, he gained more than a diploma. He joined a supportive community of Iowa dental graduates, known for their camaraderie and collaboration.

But before he graduated Dang gained insight into that community during his D4 year in the Department of Family Dentistry with adjunct professor **Salvador "Buddy" Atienza** ('94 DDS), who became a mentor to Dang as he finished dental school and entered the workforce as a Des Moines area dentist.

"Buddy was a great mentor at the college. It's nice to see an adjunct faculty who's been practicing for decades and the amount of education he has," says Dang, "He shows his experience of, oh, this is how you maneuver it a little better and this is how you get this isolation a little better."

Adjunct faculty members at the College of Dentistry take time out of their week to instruct at the college. For many adjunct faculty members, the tradeoff is leaving a day at their practice to educate their future peers in Iowa City.

"Adjunct faculty are great resources," says Atienza, "We get to see the college and private practice, so we bring that perspective to the students' learning. For adjuncts it keeps us well-rounded," says Atienza, "Dentistry changes a lot. There are advancements in dentistry that I would never get if I wasn't an adjunct faculty and connected to the school as I am now."

Adjunct faculty are crucial to the education of dental students as each dental student spends their final year taking all the components of dentistry and putting them together to perform comprehensive care. Adjunct faculty provide a different perspective to students that are rooted in their own real-world experiences.

"For the first three years you learn from the faculty and they are all very knowledgeable but the adjuncts have been in private practice and provide different feedback," says Dang, "They might say 'this is how you might see it in private practice' or 'this is something I've seen a couple of times' I have definitely used some of those tricks (Buddy) taught me and it's made me feel pretty comfortable as a dentist after graduating."

Within the first eight months after graduating, Dang was thrown into a high-volume environment, seeing more 40 patients of his own plus hygiene. While he became more comfortable in some respects, he also realized this is not what he wanted to do long term.

"Within eight months I saw more than 1,000 patients, so I got pretty comfortable doing bread and butter dentistry doing extractions and root canals," says Dang, "Buddy showed me ways to continue my education and re-emphasize the good practices I learned at Iowa."

Atienza told Dang about Spear Education, a program where Dang could continue his dental education. Dang's situation was relatively unique in that he

was too busy in his practice rather than not busy enough. In addition to providing ways for him to continue his education, Atienza was also able to help provide avenues for Dang to find new opportunities in search for a better fit.

"He was busier than he ever wanted to be, and he felt that it was too much for him," says Atienza, "He needed to get into a place where he can do a lot more quality dentistry, which fits his personality very well."

Now in a new practice, Dang has found a better balance between continuing his dental education and serving his patients. He is now able to focus on providing high-quality dental care while also pursuing advanced training and professional development opportunities, which may not have been possible if not for his relationship with Atienza that started as a dental student.

"Serving as an adjunct faculty member opens up a whole new aspect of dentistry," says Atienza, "Not only does it keep you young because you are working with students, but I have the entire college at my hands to stay informed and be part of a great department."

"Having a mentor like Buddy is great and at Iowa we all want to help," says Dang, "Even after you leave the school you have people that want to help you and that is what is so great about Iowa."



Salvador "Buddy" Atienza and Brian Dang outside the Family Dentistry Clinic at the College of Dentistry.



How Worms Provide Insight into Immune Responses of Immunocompromised Patients

Dr. **Ransome van der Hoeven**, a microbiology and immunology expert, has advanced our understanding of innate immune responses by studying the nematode *C. elegans*. His research focuses on mitis group streptococci, bacteria that produce hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2), posing risks to human cells while defending against other microorganisms. By examining these bacteria in *C. elegans*, Dr. van der Hoeven aims to uncover innate cellular defenses against bacterial threats.

His team investigates basic leucine zipper (bZip) transcription factors, particularly ZIP-2 and ZIP-10, which help cells manage oxidative stress caused by bacterial H_2O_2 . Insights from *C. elegans* are validated using human gingival fibroblasts, extending findings to oral health.

Dr. van der Hoeven's work has broader implications, potentially leading to therapies that bolster immune defenses in immunocompromised individuals. As an associate professor at the University of Iowa, he values collaboration and mentors students, integrating them into his research to bridge science and clinical care.



Fluoride Skepticism in Focus: Alex Harper's Research on Attitudes about Fluoride Use

Alex Harper, a fourth-year dental student at the University of Iowa, is investigating public attitudes towards fluoride and tap water amidst growing debates. His research, motivated by his ties to Green Hill, Alabama, surveyed local adults and revealed that while 92% believe fluoride prevents cavities, two-thirds prefer bottled water over tap water, despite its lack of optimal fluoride levels. This highlights a disconnect between recognizing fluoride's benefits and actual water consumption habits.

Harper credits his mentor, Dr. **Steven Levy**, for guiding his research journey. Dr. Levy emphasizes the importance of understanding both science and public attitudes for effective public health education. Harper's findings call for better public education on fluoride's safety and benefits.

As Harper prepares to graduate, he aims to blend private practice with ongoing research, contributing to the field and improving patient care. His work underscores the importance of bridging science and community, showcasing the impact of mentorship and evidence-based practice in advancing public health.

Iowa hosts 2025 AADOCR annual meeting

On Feb. 11, the UI College of Dentistry hosted the 72nd annual meeting of the Iowa Section of the American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research. It was a day of celebrating the groundbreaking research done in the college by students, faculty, and staff.

Featured speaker **Aline Petrin** presented research on the epigenomics and genomic factors of orofacial cleft.



Featured speaker **Karin Weber-Gasparoni** presented research on preventing early childhood caries.



Keynote speaker Dr. Marcelo Araujo, Dean at the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine.

UI Alumni Pioneer Unique Dental Clinic in Iowa

In Mason City, Iowa, four UI College of Dentistry graduates have joined forces to reimagine patient care for their community and create the first-of-its-kind clinic in Iowa.

BY JACK ROSSI

Drs. **Lyell Hogg** ('95 DDS, '99 R), **Aaron Kotecki** ('18 DDS), **Gregory Gell** ('95 DDS), and **Grace Moore** ('19 DDS) recognized that the traditional referral model created delays and logistical challenges for their patients so when the idea was raised that they could combine oral and maxillofacial surgery, periodontics, and endodontics to create a new, innovative type of clinic for Iowans, they began the intricate process of creating The Dental Specialists and Implant Clinic of Iowa.

"All four doctors attended the University of Iowa College of Dentistry. We saw the synergy between the various clinics that allowed for efficient patient care," says Hogg, "The clinical care and education that we were provided set us up perfectly for private practice and gave us an amazing clinical skill set to be successful."

Hogg's practice covers a very large referral zone and saw an increased need for more complex treatments. Hogg had also admired Mayo Clinic's integrated model of care after visiting the clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Iowa and Mayo's clinics inspired Hogg to create a similar practice in order to provide unified specialty care for the Mason City community.

So when Hogg and his then-associate and soon-to-be partner, Kotecki, began exploring ways to grow their practice, they started putting the pieces together. Kotecki's wife, Kristin, who is also a 2018 College of Dentistry graduate, suggested merging with Moore's practice. While Gell, who was a classmate of Hogg's at Iowa, had toyed with this idea at an Iowa football game several years ago while talking to Hogg.

"After acquiring a periodontal practice in 2022, I was approached by Drs. Hogg and Kotecki with the idea of forming a group specialty practice," says Moore, "This idea immediately appealed to me as my specialty training was structured in the same manner."

The main building was created in 2013, so the group added an endodontic and periodontal clinic to the existing structure and ensured that each wing maintained a consistent design.

The spaces allow each doctor to represent their personalities and aesthetic preferences, but it was not a simple task creating something that has never been done before in Iowa.



(L-R): Dr. Aaron Kotecki, Dr. Lyell Hogg, Dr. Grace Moore, Dr. Gregory Gell.



PATIENT SUCCESS STORY

Eight months ago, a 24-year-old healthy young male was referred to oral surgery for evaluation of a large maxillary cyst. The cyst was associated with teeth numbers 9 and 10. Both teeth had previous root canal therapy. #9 had an apical endodontic lesion separate from the cyst, and #10 also had a vertical root fracture. The cyst was approximately 2 x 2 cm and occupied a large portion of the anterior maxilla. With consultation between oral surgery, endodontics, and periodontics, the ultimate treatment plan decision was for the patient to undergo removal of tooth number 10 and enucleation of the cyst with oral surgery. He then underwent surgical apicoectomy of #9, performed by endodontist, Dr. Gell. Dr. Hogg performed a PRF bone graft, utilizing allograft and autogenous plasma to reconstruct the bony defect. A custom-printed titanium mesh was developed utilizing CBCT technology, and this was installed to allow for the graft to consolidate but also provided good anatomic form that will allow for eventual implant reconstruction. Because of the size of the titanium plate, closure of the wound primarily would've been difficult, but also would've deformed the periodontium around the surgical site, and therefore the decision was made for a periodontic connective tissue pedicle flap to be developed from the palate, performed by periodontist, Dr. Moore, which was then utilized to help close the graft and cover the titanium mesh membrane. This was all accomplished within the same appointment for the patient, and therefore the patient underwent treatment in the same room on the same day by three different practitioners who specialized in three different dental specialties.

"Each clinic has specific details and design requirements for each specialist such as operatory size, chair positions, consult rooms, etc.," says Gell, "Dealing with contractors, bankers, and lawyers is simply something you learn over time, and I appreciate that our group had a variety of doctors with different experiences that blended well."

With 13,500 square feet dedicated to three specialties, the quartet had the space to provide streamlined care for those in and around Mason City, but this would not be possible without the proper infrastructure to support them.

"One of the largest challenges was integrating three practices into one true practice and not three separate practices," says Kotecki, "We needed to find software that was able to work with oral surgery, endodontics, and periodontics because we all have very specific requirements, and we needed our notes to communicate with each other."

This also extends to their technologies. The Dental Specialists and Implant Clinic of Iowa is fully digital, which includes cone beam CT, a CareStream 9600, and Dentsply Serona Axeos. These tools allow for quicker and more efficient care, especially for those patients who drive further for treatment.

"We have full 3D printing capabilities, and this allows us to manufacture and print our surgical guides, which increases efficiencies while also reducing practice overhead costs," says Hogg.

All four doctors began working under one roof in January 2024 and this unique concept is ensuring that Iowans receive high-quality specialty care.

"We routinely see patients who drive over an hour to our clinic, so the benefit of a multi-specialty clinic is immediately seen," says Moore, "Aside from the University of Iowa, no other place in Iowa offers this kind of setup."

CENTER FOR ADVANCEMENT

Ways to Give

There are numerous ways to support the University of Iowa's College of Dentistry. No matter how – or how much – you give, you are supporting the mission of the College of Dentistry

Give Now

Make a gift to the University of Iowa with the click of a mouse or tap of a finger. This is a secure and convenient process that helps you support the UI.



You can also make multi-year pledge commitments and establish ongoing, recurring gifts when you donate online.

Give By Phone

To give by phone, call 800-648-6973

Give By Mail

You can mail a check to the University of Iowa Center for Advancement at P.O. Box 4550, Iowa City, IA 52244-4550. Please make the check payable to the University of Iowa Center for Advancement and include the fund name in the memo.

Electronic Transfer

EFT is a system of transferring money from your bank account directly to the UI Center for Advancement. You can initiate a monthly EFT donation by completing an EFT form and returning it to the UI Center for Advancement with a voided check.

Matching Gifts

Multiply your generosity through your employer's matching gift program. Check online to see if your company will match gifts made to the University of Iowa.

Using your Will, Investment, or Retirement Account

You can work with your financial adviser, attorney, or fiduciary to make a gift to the University of Iowa. Learn more about these and other ways to give by visiting our planned giving website.

You may need to provide the following information to your financial institution:

- UICA Legal Name: State University of Iowa Foundation
- Tax ID/EIN: 42-0796760

Meet the College of Dentistry's Development Officer: Kelly Garvin



**KELLY JOINED THE
CENTER FOR ADVANCEMENT IN:**
February 2018

FAVORITE IOWA SPORT:
Football and Wrestling

PET PEEVE:
Automated customer service systems

FAVORITE BOOK/MOVIE:
National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation

FAVORITE THING ABOUT IOWA CITY:
Parks and Recreation

**FAVORITE RESTAURANT
IN IOWA CITY AREA:**
30Hop

**IN ANOTHER LIFE
SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN AN:**
Attorney

BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:
Raised 3 kind, courageous, and
hardworking kids.

CONTACT

Kelly Garvin

📞 319.467.3503

✉️ Kelly.Garvin@foriowa.org

A Smile for Hanny

BY JEFFREY AKEY,

They say that a smile is “a curve that straightens everything out.” Behind a smile is usually joy being expressed, laughter taking place, kindness being shown. But some people are limited in their expression of joy, laughter, and kindness because they are embarrassed of their smile.

His Hands Dental Clinic in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is a nonprofit ministry that provides free healthcare to Cedar Rapids and surrounding communities. In May 2024 the dental clinic, led by Dr. **Jeffrey Akey**, a 1987 UI College of Dentistry graduate, was able to reintroduce a patient named Hanny to her smile.

Hanny arrived at His Hands with many teeth that were either unrestorable or infected.

“She needed extractions, fillings, and upper and lower removeable partial dentures to replace the missing teeth,” says Akey.

A few years ago, His Hands partnered with the College of Dentistry to invite students to volunteer and help at the clinic.

“God impressed upon our hearts to recruit ‘smile makers,’ says Akey, “We went to the college with pizzas and invited students to bring their talents to the patients at His Hands. As it turns out, we just needed to ‘ask and you shall receive.’”

Over the past two years, His Hands has had over 70 students volunteering two Saturday mornings a month during the fall and spring semesters.

Hanny is from the Marshall Islands, an island country in the Pacific Ocean

that consists of over 1,200 islands. She came to the clinic with her daughter and granddaughter to help translate. For the next five appointments, six different students — Jack Joyce, Morgan Swanger, Ben Gilles, Olivia Bartholomew, Saba Manafi, and Tanveera Vasdev — worked on Hanny.

“Some did extractions, some fillings, some assistant, some making the impressions for her partial, and some selected the shade of the teeth and tried the teeth in her mouth,” says Akey, “I saw Hanny to deliver the finished partials then a week later I saw her for a follow-up to fine-tune her fit and relieve areas that were bothering her.”

During her final appointment and after the final adjustments were made, Akey realized that she was finally comfortable. He handed her a mirror to look at her teeth.

“When she looked at the mirror, she got very excited and I said, ‘You have a

beautiful smile! Look at that, go out in the world and smile, Hanny,” Akey recalls, “We all rejoiced over the finished product and as I walked them to the door to say goodbye, Hanny started to sing me a song in her language. Tears filled my eyes.”

The result is a collaborative effort of His Hands, Iowa dental students, and the community.

“Our dental volunteers, staff, Iowa’s dental students, DPS lab, donors and prayer support all worked together to bring Hanny a beautiful smile,” says Akey, “This whole experience was like a true mission trip right here in Cedar Rapids and it was beautiful.”

(L-R) Jack Joyce, Ben Gilles, Morgan Swanger, Olivia Bartholomew, Tanveer Vasdev, Saba Manafi.



“When she looked in the mirror, she got very excited and I said, ‘You have a beautiful smile! Look at that, go out in the world and smile, Hanny.’”

Dr. Jeffrey Akey

Kyungsup Shin, the Ross D. Christensen Family Professor of Orthodontics, was invited to Jordan as a keynote speaker at the Jordanian Society of Pediatrics Dentistry and Special Needs Congress.

Steven Levy, the Wright-Bush-Shreves Endowed Professor of Research published an editorial in JAMA Pediatrics, which raised concerns of the evidence base in a study on associations between fluoride exposure and children’s IQ scores.

Azeez Butali, the Gilbert E. Lilly Professor of Diagnostic Sciences was awarded the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) by the White House.

Robert Bowers, Teresa Marshall, and **Jeff Banas** were named recipients of the Innovations in Teaching with Technology Awards by the Office of Teaching, Learning, and Technology.

Richard Downs (’75 DDS) published a book titled *Beautiful Faces: The Architects of Enhanced Attractiveness and Improved Human Breathing*, which emphasizes dental sleep medicine, which Downs is an expert in.

After 45 years, Associate Professor of Preventive and Community Dentistry **Marsha Cunningham-Ford** retired from the UI College of Dentistry. She taught more than 4,000 predoctoral dental students and hundreds of graduate students during her time at Iowa.

The UI College of Dentistry was named the winner of two significant awards from the American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research (AADOCR) National Student Research Group (NSRG). Iowa was recognized for having the most student abstracts accepted for the 2025 AADOCR Annual Meeting and Exhibition and was awarded for having the greatest percentage of new AADOCR student members in 2024-25 relative to its dental school enrollment.

The Iowa American Student Dental Association (IASDA) was named a Gold Crown finalist for district 8. The Gold Crown recognizes institutions that excel in all six of the Gold Crown categories: Member Engagement and Value, Community Service, Advocacy, Health & Wellness, Member Communications and Professional Development & Leadership.

Drs. **David Lyle** (’19 DDS) and **Lauren Schau** (’16 DDS) were the 2025 recipients of the loan repayment award from Fulfilling Iowa’s Needs for Dentists (FIND).

Dean **Clark Stanford** (’87 DDS, 92 PhD, 92 PROS) was named a 2024 fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the world’s largest general-scientific society and publisher of the journal Science.

Dr. **Noor Asfar**, second-year resident in the Department of Operative Dentistry, was named recipient of the 2026 Ralph Student Research Award by the Academy of Operative Dentistry to support her research project. She is invited to present her findings at the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Academy in Chicago.

Dr. **Waheed Awotoye**, first-year resident in the Department of Orthodontics, was named the winner of the Harry Sicher Research Award from the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO). Awotoye’s research is titled ‘Novel Pathogenic Mutations Contributing to the Risk of Non-Syndromic Orofacial Clefts’

Kecia Leary (’04 DDS, ’07 MS, 07 PEDOS), associate dean of clinics, completed the

American Dental Education Association Leadership Institute program as the class of 2025.

Aaron Cho, Department Executive Officer in the Department of Prosthodontics, completed the American Dental Education Association Leadership Institute program as the class of 2025.

Emma Mueldeener (’20 DDS, ’21R, ’23CER, ’23 MS) was awarded a \$20,000 grant to participate in the American Association of Orthodontics Foundation Legacy Collection Project aimed to preserved historically significant orthodontic research.

Teresa Marshall (’87 PhD), professor of preventive and community dentistry, published one of the top 10 most cited papers published by the Journal of Dental Education in 2023. Her paper was titled, “Food insecurity is associated with lower diet quality among dental students.”

Dean **Clark Stanford** (’87 DDS, 92 PhD, 92 PROS) has transitioned to the Omicron Kappa Upsilon (OKU) National Honor Dental Society Immediate Past President after serving a one-year term as Supreme Chapter President.

Alex Rubinov, a third-year resident in the Department of Periodontics, won first place in the ePoster competition at the Academy of Osseointegration’s annual meeting.

David Tucker (’65 DDS) graduated in 1965, practiced in Haiti, Dominican Republic from 1975-1978 for several 2 week sessions. Worked with my father (Dr. Elon G. Tucker, DDS), for 25 years.

Brian Secrist (’83 DDS) recently left The University of Texas School of Dentistry in San Antonio, TX, after building a highly successful general practice from scratch in less than 3 years for the university (a beta site). Currently working full-time for the Veterans Administration in the Midwest treating disabled veterans.

Kelly Bridenstine (’87 DDS) was appointed to be a national dental license examiner by the CDCA-WREB-CITA.

Paul Kunch (’91 DDS) accepted the full-time dentist position at Iowa State Penitentiary and yes, “I get to go home every night!”

Noemi Cruz-Orcutt (’11 DDS) won the Nathaniel D. Hill Rising Star Award at the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry.

Preventive and Community Dentistry CE Day

The Department of Preventive and Community Dentistry hosted the inaugural PCD CE Day at the UI Stanley Museum of Art — a one-of-a-kind experience that combined art and dentistry in a way never offered by the College of Dentistry before. The day’s first presentation was led by Kimberly Datchuck, the Stanley Museum of Art’s Curator of Learning and Engagement, who discussed the intersection of art and dentistry. Her presentation provided valuable insights into how artistic approaches can enhance patient care and set the tone for the day’s activities. Faculty members Brendan Young, Rohit Nair, Robin McNeil, Jhanvi Desai, and Julie Reynolds followed and gave presentations on dry mouth, the use of data to improve patient-centered care, and more. The day concluded with a scenic dinner at The Vue Rooftop.



ADA President Kessler visits the College of Dentistry

On May 7, President of the American Dental Association (ADA) Dr. Brett Kessler visited the UI College of Dentistry ahead of the Iowa Dental Association’s annual meeting later that week. Kessler met with collegiate leaders, faculty, staff, and held a town hall for students over the lunch hour. Kessler discussed the ADA’s trajectory, what changes are coming to dentistry and how students and faculty can stay engaged and support one another through organized dentistry. Kessler, who received his undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in 1991, currently practices in Colorado.



Building for the future

Construction is officially underway on the University of Iowa's newest infrastructure project — the Arena Parking Ramp — adjacent to the Dental Science Building.

Throughout the project's 18-month timeline, members and visitors of the college will see some changes:

- Relocated loop drive and entrance, shifting access from Elliott Drive to Newton Road.
- Several reconstructed parking lots.
- Newton Road improvements, including a turn lane at Valley Avenue
- Enhanced pedestrian access with crossings at Hawkins Drive and Hawkeye Ramp Drive.

While any major construction project brings challenges — shifting traffic patterns, detours, and temporary access adjustments — the College of Dentistry is determined to maintain access and services for members of the college and community.

Once complete, the ramp and its surrounding parking lots will mark a significant improvement in capacity and safety for faculty, staff, students, and visitors.





IN MEMORIAM

- DDS 1944, MS Cert. Orthodontics 1948: **Jackson Roe** of Mount Pleasant, IA, died October 4, 2024.
- DDS 1953: **Paul Maxwell** of Iowa City, IA, died March 10, 2025.
- DDS 1953: **James North** of Lanesboro, MN, died January 13, 2025.
- DDS 1955, Cert. Orthodontics 1959: **John Goode** of San Pedro, CA, died February 8, 2025.
- DH 1955: **Margaret Johnson** of Des Moines, IA, died May 3, 2025.
- DDS 1957: **Richard Carrothers** of Mesquite, NV, died March 2, 2025.
- DDS 1957: **Richard Hingtgen** of Marion, IA, died March 27, 2025.
- DDS 1959: **D. Dean Anderson** of Lewistown, MT, died March 6, 2025.
- DDS 1962, MS Operative Dentistry 1972: **James (Jim) Fuller** of Iowa City, IA, died February 11, 2025.
- DDS 1963: **Donald Cassidy** of Fort Dodge, IA, died April 17, 2025.
- DDS 1963: **Richard Ranney** of Mineral, VA, died November 13, 2024.
- DDS 1965: **John Duro** of Fort Dodge, IA, died March 31, 2025.
- DDS 1968: **Kenneth Carlson** of Clinton, IA, died February 27, 2025.
- DDS 1969: **Robert Anderson** of Cedar Falls, IA, died February 21, 2025.
- DDS 1969: **Gerry Gienger** of Fountain Hills, AZ, died October 1, 2024.
- DDS 1969: **Thomas Hays** of Deerfield Beach, FL, died March 18, 2025.
- DDS 1975: **James Hauck** of Naples, FL, died June 5, 2024.
- DDS 1975: **F. Roger Murray** of Cape Coral, FL, died November 7, 2024.
- DDS 1978, MS Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery 1984: **George Muller, II**, of Rapid City, SD, died December 23, 2024.
- DDS 1979: **Jeffrey Westercamp** of Cedar Rapids, IA, died October 22, 2024.
- DDS 1980: **James Townsend** of Cedar Falls, IA, died March 12, 2025.
- DDS 1981: **John Siegmund** of Green Valley, AZ, died October 23, 2024.
- DDS 1982, MS Operative Dentistry 1995: **Deborah Scheckel Cobb** of Iowa City, IA, died April 2, 2025.
- DDS 1984: **Keith Knudson** of Sussex, WI, died January 29, 2025.

EMERITUS FACULTY:
Robert Staley of Iowa City, IA, died March 27, 2025.

The Dental Link

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

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HISTORICAL IMPRESSIONS

The History of Dental Hygienists

In 1819, dentist Levi S. Parmly identified that dental caries resulted from lack of cleaning teeth and introduced the idea of dental flossing to maintain better oral health.

It was rare to have teeth examined and cleaned, even during the early 20th century. However, in 1907, Dr. Alfred Fones, realizing the significance of oral health care, trained his cousin, Irene Newman, to work as a “dental nurse” in his clinic. In 1917, Irene became the first licensed dental hygienist in the world.

In 1913, Dr. Fones established the first dental hygiene program in Connecticut and later changed the job title from “dental nurse” to “dental hygienist.”

Meanwhile, five dental hygienists met in Des Moines in 1921 to organize the Iowa State Oral Hygienists Society (now the Iowa Dental Hygienists Association). Then two years later, the American Dental Hygiene Association (ADHA) was established.

In 1935, a high school diploma was accepted for dental hygienist licensure, but by 1940, a two-year program was required. That same year, the ADHA approved the job title registered dental hygienist.

In 1968, the first regional board examination occurred. Continuing education standards were implemented by the ADHA in the 1970s.

Dental hygienists are required to complete continuing education courses to renew their licenses.

Today, sixteen dental hygienists at the College of Dentistry give patients oral health exams, clean and polish teeth, apply fluoride, screen for diseases like oral cancer, and offer patients oral health education.



Irene Marshall Newman