

THE

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

# DENTAL LINK

FALL 2025



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JACOB HANNON

# THE DENTAL LINK

Fall 2025

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



Dear members of the University of Iowa College of Dentistry alumni community and friends,

Dentistry has always been more than just a profession—it's a calling, often nurtured by the people closest to us. For some, like myself, that calling starts early. Both my parents worked in the dental profession. Growing up in suburban Chicago, their passion and commitment shaped my understanding of what it means to care, lead, and serve in this profession.

But family in dentistry doesn't always begin with parents in the field. For many of our students and alumni, they are the first in their families to wear a white coat. They are blazing a new trail—one that may inspire siblings, children, and even grandchildren to follow. Whether you're part of a multi-generation lineage or the proud founder of one, your presence in this profession matters.

In this edition of *The Dental Link*, we highlight stories that celebrate family. Not only in the biological sense, but in the broader sense of connection, mentorship, and shared purpose. These stories remind us that dentistry, like family, thrives on support and compassion.

To our alumni: thank you for being part of this extended family. Your work, mentorship, and pride in Iowa Dentistry help shape the future of our profession.

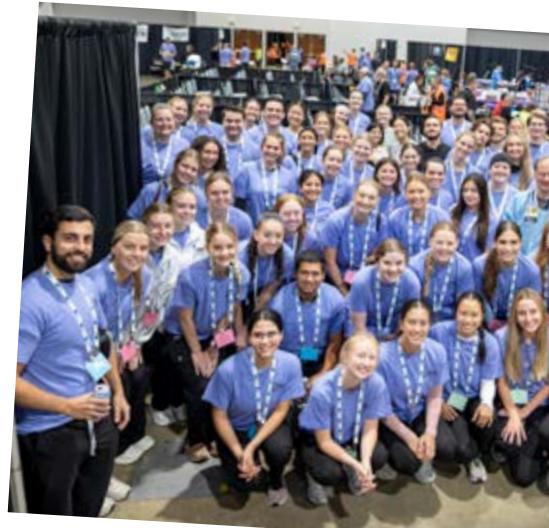
Cheers and Go Hawkeyes!

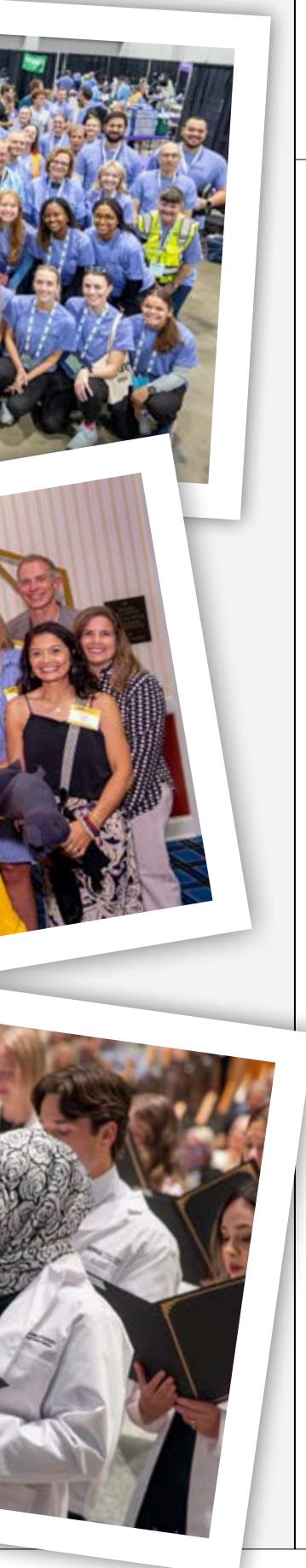


Clark Stanford DDS, PhD, MHA  
Professor and Dean  
Edwin B. Green Chair  
College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics

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# Snapshots in Iowa Dentistry





**“We are the quarterback of a child’s dental team. It takes a village, and we bring the village together.”**

KARIN WEBER-GASPARONI; STORY ON PAGE 10

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE OF THE DENTAL LINK**

# 8

### **A legacy built upon compassion**

When a new dental care center in Brazil was named for his late father, University of Iowa faculty member Dr. Leo Marchini found renewed purpose in carrying forward his father's lifelong commitment of compassionate dental care.

# 10

### **How family shapes pediatric dentistry at Iowa**

Inspired by her daughter and empowered by the University of Iowa's collaborative spirit, Dr. Karin Weber-Gasparoni draws on personal experience to ensure every child receives the care they deserve.

# 16

### **Research Spotlight**

Research highlights at the CoD



**PAGE 12**

### **2025 Alumni Award Winners**

Celebrating Garland Hershey, Eric teDuits, and Sara Stuefen



**PAGE 18**

### **Why Iowa**

Alumni share their “Why Iowa” during this year’s alumni reunion

**PAGE 6**

### **By the Numbers**

**PAGE 15**

### **From the UI Center for Advancement**

**PAGE 13**

### **Introducing the class of 2029 and new residents**

**PAGE 20**

### **Catching up at the CoD**

**PAGE 14**

### **Faculty Footprints**

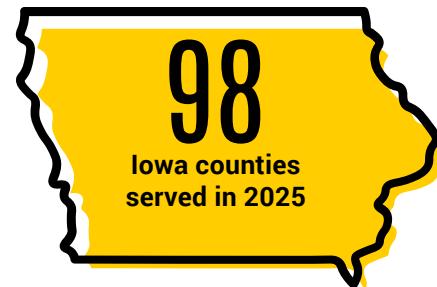
**PAGE 22**

### **In Memoriam** Remembering who we've lost

**157,303**  
patient visits in  
FY25

**396,881**

dental procedures  
performed by the College  
of Dentistry this year





~\$9M

in external grant funding was awarded this year



58,718

square feet of clinical space

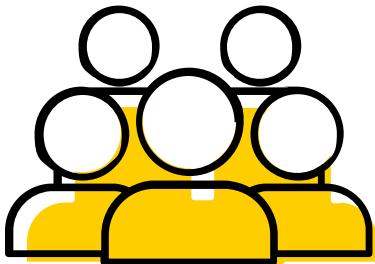
12,699

square feet of classroom space



396

dental chairs in the Dental Science Building



17

Communities served through extramural rotations



# A Legacy Built Upon Com

## On

BY JACK ROSSI

a July morning in São José dos Campos, Brazil, a ribbon stretched across the entrance of a brand-new dental care facility. As the mayor handed over the ceremonial scissors, members of the Marchini family stepped forward. **Leo Marchini**, watching on a video call from Iowa City, felt both the ache of distance and the fullness of pride as his mother and sister—joined by his young nephew, who carries his father's name—cut the ribbon to open the Centro de Especialidades Odontológicas Dr. Norberto Marchini.

For Leo, Professor and DEO of Preventive and Community Dentistry at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry, the moment was more than a dedication. It was the public recognition of the man who had shaped his life's work. The Dental Specialties Center was named in honor of Norberto who left an important legacy in dentistry in the municipality.

"My father was certainly the most influential person in my life, and his values live in me," says Leo, "We worked together for 17 wonderful years before I moved to Iowa. I also learned a great deal of dentistry from his mentorship."

Dr. Norberto Marchini graduated from dental school in 1981 and spent four decades caring for patients in São José dos Campos until his passing in 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic. He divided his career between private practice and public service as a municipal dentist. From children at a community school to older adults receiving dentures,

his patients saw not just a clinician but a steady presence of empathy.

"He always wanted what was best for his patients," he recalls, "That was his main guiding principle. And he tried his best to deliver treatment in a compassionate way—making people feel at ease and building relationships of trust with the community."

Those relationships endured. Former patients, now adults, would often stop him within the community to share how his care had influenced not only their health but their career paths. Many had become health care providers themselves, inspired by his example.

The new facility carrying his name will continue that mission, serving the city's 700,000 residents with both primary and specialty dental care. For Leo and his family, the tribute reflects the deep gratitude of a community that recognized Norberto's quiet but transformative service.

At Iowa, Leo carries forward his father's philosophy in every setting—whether in the clinic, the classroom, or working alongside colleagues.

"The compassionate care extended to every person who comes to be treated, regardless of their paths in life, is an important lesson," he says, "That same care extends to the whole dental team and the community we serve." Although speaking about his father remains difficult since his passing, Leo knows his students and peers see the legacy in how he treats others—with respect, patience, and kindness.

Top Photo: A young Leo Marchini with his father

Middle right photo: Leo Marchini with his parents when he was younger.

Middle left photo: Leo Marchini and his wife Adriana take a picture with Leo's parents.

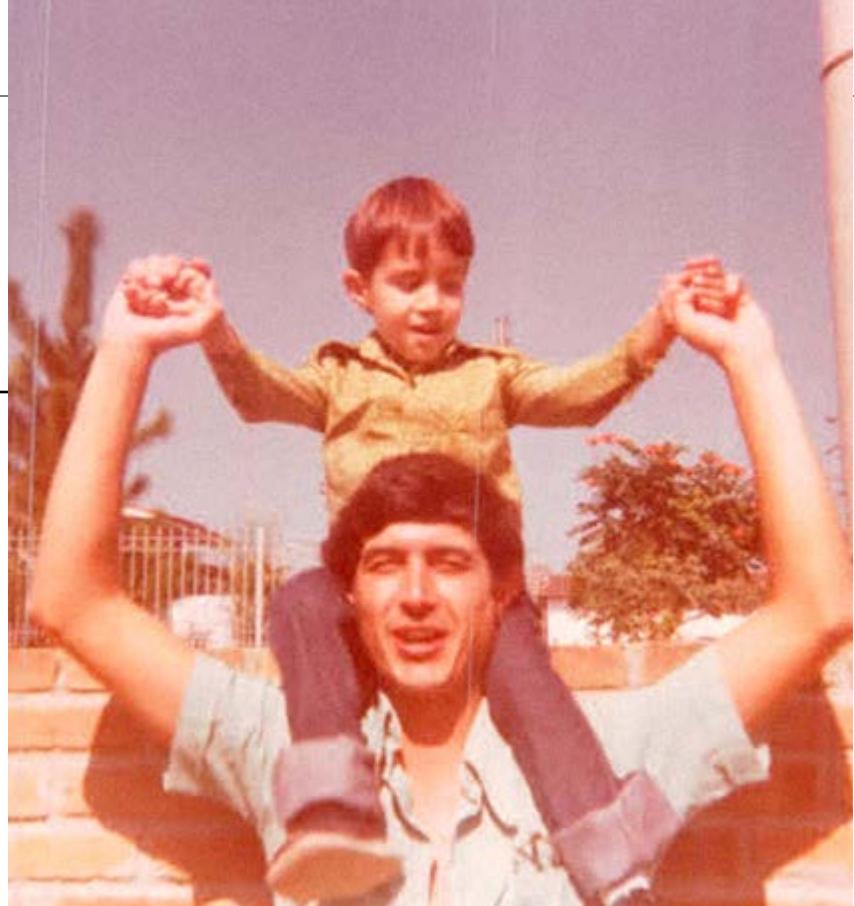
Bottom right photo: Leo and Adriana take a picture with Leo's mother and father in front of the Old Capitol in Iowa City

Bottom left photo: Marchini family group photo.

# passion

“What I hope people remember when they see his name on that facility is simple,” Leo says. “That he was a compassionate dentist who did his very best to improve oral health in the community.”

For Leo, honoring that legacy means living it—spreading compassion in every appointment, every lecture, every interaction. It is a thread connecting São José dos Campos to Iowa City and a father to a son.



# How family shapes pediatric dentistry at Iowa

# On

BY JACK ROSSI

clinic mornings, **Karin Weber-Gasparoni** meets young patients at eye level, her voice soft but sure. She notices the way small hands grip a caregiver's sleeve and how nervous feet swing.

"I have walked in those shoes," she says. "Being a mother of a child with special health care needs changes how you see everything."

Weber-Gasparoni, department executive officer and chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry in the University of Iowa College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics, traces her "why" to her daughter, Nathália, who lives with Smith-Magenis syndrome.

Long before Iowa became home, Karin was a young single mother in Londrina, Brazil, pushing through financial strain and complex care.

"My life experience led me to pediatric dentistry," she says. "It was a no-brainer that I would provide the safest, most comprehensive care for any child who enters my office—regardless of medical condition or socioeconomic status."

That conviction drew her to Iowa in 1996. She arrived to specialize in pediatric dentistry and earn graduate degrees in dental public health and oral science—and found mentors like Dr. Michael Kanellis, who believed prevention starts at the very beginning.

"Iowa is a pioneer of infant oral health," she says. "Children should be seen by age 1. That philosophy shaped me."

It also shaped programs. Seeing that many high-risk infants were not reaching the College of Dentistry, she helped launch a first-of-its-kind infant oral health program with Johnson County's Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) clinic in 1998.

"We couldn't wait for families to come to us," she says. "We needed to go where they already receive care."



Karin (R)  
takes a photo  
with a young  
Nathália (L).

The team has since provided free preventive services to thousands of infants and toddlers while training dental and pediatric medicine residents side by side.

“The education and the community service—there’s no price you can put on that,” she adds.

Her family story continues to guide the work across the university. Pediatric dentistry faculty and residents treat children at the College of Dentistry, the Center for Disabilities and Development, and the University of Iowa Stead Family Children’s Hospital, where the team collaborates with colleagues in medicine, offers care under general anesthesia when needed, and responds to after-hours emergencies.

“We are the quarterback of a child’s dental team,” Weber-Gasparoni says. “It takes a village, and we bring the village together.”

Research is part of that village. As principal investigator of a multi-site National Institutes of Health (NIH) study—Birth to Three, Cavity-Free—she and collaborators test a motivation-based approach to help low-income families prevent early childhood caries beginning in pregnancy.

“If we reach a child at age 3 with healthy habits and no decay, we give that child a chance at a life free of pain and infection,” she says.

Through it all, family remains the quiet metronome. Iowa has been a haven for Nathália, and a professional home that feels like an extended family for Karin.

“There’s a true sense of belonging here,” she says. “I want every parent who walks in to feel understood—no judgment, only our best. My goal is always to go above and beyond for the child, and, if something is outside our scope, to find the right person who can help.”

She smiles. “We’re here to restore function, restore confidence, and restore childhood. That’s why I’m here.”



Top Photo: Karin and Nathália take a picture.

Middle Photo: Nathália celebrates her 40th birthday in 2025 alongside family and friends.

Bottom right photo: Karin, Nathália, and the rest of their family take a family photo at a wedding.



# 2025 Alumni Award winners



## DR. H. GARLAND HERSHY JR.

Dr. H. Garland Hershey Jr. ('58 Diploma, '63 BA, '65 DDS, '71 MS) has been named the 2025 Dental Educator of the Year by the University of Iowa College of Dentistry, honoring a career that spans decades in academic dentistry, health care leadership, and service.

An Iowa City native, Hershey spent more than 20 years on campus, from preschool through his orthodontic residency. After serving as a U.S. Army dentist in Germany, he returned to Iowa to complete his training, expecting a brief academic career that instead became a lifelong calling.

At UNC Chapel Hill, Hershey held roles including professor and vice chancellor for health affairs at UNC Medical Center.

Though based in Chapel Hill, Hershey has remained deeply connected to Iowa. "I'd like to continue to be helpful to the dental school," he says. "It gave me an education and a springboard to everything else I've done."



## DR. ERIC TEDUITS

The University of Iowa College of Dentistry has named Dr. Eric teDuits ('90 DDS, '92 MS, '92 PEDOS) the 2025 Dental Alumnus of the Year, recognizing a career devoted to children's oral health, education, and advocacy.

A pediatric dentist in Madison, Wisconsin, teDuits has spent more than 30 years caring for underserved children. His multi-location practice is widely known for welcoming patients with special health care needs, complex conditions, or Medicaid coverage.

For more than 25 years, he has supported the Dane County Head Start program, providing care to more than 1,000 children each year.

"Eric is a tireless advocate for children's dental health," wrote Karin Weber-Gasparoni, chair of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry. "His impact on the dental community is profound."

"The College of Dentistry changed my life," he says. "I am forever grateful."



## DR. SARA STUEFEN

Dr. Sara Stuefen ('10 DDS) has been named the University of Iowa College of Dentistry's first Rising Star, a new award recognizing early-career dentists who are already making a meaningful impact.

A solo practitioner in Vinton, Iowa, Stuefen also serves on the American Dental Association Board of Trustees, representing the 10th District. "My goal is to leave the profession in a better place than I found it," she says.

Her path to dentistry began as a patient. She traveled to Iowa City for dental care, where a faculty member encouraged her to consider dentistry and arranged a tour of the college. After initially exploring other health care paths, she found her calling.

As one of the youngest trustees in ADA history, she is helping address issues such as fluoride access and dental insurance reform.

"It's a time of transition," she says. "But I believe in our mission and the people behind it."

# Introducing the Class of 2029 and New Residents



Earlier this fall, the College of Dentistry welcomed a new cohort of dental students to the Dental Science Building.

The class of 2028 symbolized the beginning of their dental school journey by completing the White Coat Ceremony on Aug. 22, 2025.

The college also welcomed the addition of 34 residents to campus, who will expand upon their exceptional skillset with specialized training at the college. This group will become future leaders in dentistry.



# Faculty Footprints

**KIM BROGDEN**

PROFESSOR EMERITUS, PERIODONTICS



**BOB SCHNEIDER**

PROFESSOR EMERITUS, PROSTHODONTICS



## Where are you living?

Both Kim and his wife, Kathy, are from central Iowa and now live in Coralville, close to their daughter, Nicole, and her husband, Ken. They are also a short drive from their son, Shawn, his wife, Ashley, and their two grandchildren, Claire and Henry, who live in Urbandale. Living nearby allows them to spend plenty of quality time with both families.

My wife and I were both born and raised in southern California. After dental school I practiced general dentistry in Arizona for six years. I was accepted into the Iowa graduate pros program and we loved Iowa and so did both of our young boys. We had never experienced living close to a major university with all of the amenities. We have lived in the same house for over 40 years and still love it, the only thing we do miss is the beaches in southern California (sometimes).

## What are your activities?

Kim and Kathy love to travel, and in the past few years have taken numerous trips. This summer, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Portugal. Shortly after retiring, they bought an English Setter named Barkley, who keeps them both plenty busy. Kim rides his bike and takes daily walks. He and his son, Shawn has also ridden RAGBRAI in recent years.

Both my wife and I have a few activities that keep us busy. I have been involved with stained glass and fused glass art for quite a few years. We also enjoy camping and bike riding. Many people have asked why did I become involved with glass, well as a ceramic dental technician it goes hand in hand and I really enjoy it. My wife and I have done many art shows.

## Are you still involved with the College of Dentistry?

Kim remains active in research with one of his former students, Dr. Kimerly A. Morio of Apex Endodontics in Hiawatha, Iowa, and with Dr. Jeffrey Banas, Associate Dean for Research at the College of Dentistry. Kim is helping both of them secure federal funding and is grateful he is able to stay connected in this new phase of his life.

I really don't lecture very often but I have lectured to the Iowa Pros Club and have put many thoughts down on paper in two recently published text books, one on occlusion and one on removable partial dentures. I am so old I am pleased to say your wonderful dean was one of my students.

# 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 mouth 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.

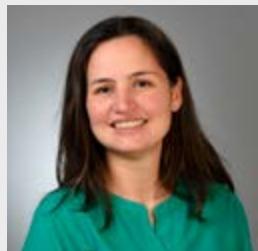
## CONTACT

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Kelly.Garvin@foriowa.org

## Understanding What Lies Beneath: Leme Kraus Studies Hidden Causes of Tooth Damage



Small notches or wedge-shaped defects near the gumline—known as noncarious cervical lesions (NCCLs)—are among the most common dental problems affecting adults, yet their causes remain largely unclear.

With support from a new grant from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, Dr. **Ariene Leme Kraus**, assistant professor in the Department of Operative Dentistry at the University of Iowa, is leading a project to uncover how these painful lesions form and progress.



"NCCLs can cause lifelong discomfort and damage," Leme Kraus says. "We suspect that changes in the tooth's proteins and minerals, particularly in the dentin, make certain areas more vulnerable to breakdown. If we can identify those changes, we can develop better strategies to stop the damage before it begins."

Her team is using advanced imaging and nanoscale testing methods to compare the composition and biomechanics of healthy and affected teeth. By studying how the tooth's organic matrix weakens under stress, the researchers hope to pinpoint early warning signs of disease at the microscopic level.

The findings could reshape how dentists diagnose and prevent tooth wear, paving the way for stronger restorations and personalized care.

"This work will help us move from treating symptoms to understanding causes," Leme Kraus says. "That shift—from restorative care to preventive, patient-focused strategies—is key to lasting oral health."



## Fluoride Research Continues to Strengthen Public Health

For more than 75 years, community water fluoridation has quietly protected millions of mouths across the country and ongoing work from the University of Iowa College of Dentistry continues to affirm its safety and benefit to the public.

**Dr. Steven Levy**, Wright-Bush-Shreves Endowed Professor in the Department of Preventive and Community Dentistry, has spent his career studying fluoride's role in preventing tooth decay and improving community health. His research and public health outreach have helped clarify and reinforce how fluoride supports strong teeth for everyone, regardless of age or income.

"Community water fluoridation is one of the most effective and equitable public health measures we have," Levy says. "It provides a passive benefit and people are protected simply by drinking tap water."

Fluoride occurs naturally in water, and when adjusted to the optimal level of 0.7 milligrams per liter, it reduces tooth decay by about 25 percent in both children and adults. The Centers for Disease Control estimates that every dollar invested in fluoridation saves roughly \$20 in dental treatment costs.

Recent national discussions about fluoride and health have sparked renewed attention, but Levy emphasizes that extensive reviews continue to find no evidence of harm at recommended levels.

"Fluoride remains a cornerstone of oral health prevention. It's simple, safe, and it works."

DR. STEVEN LEVY,  
WRIGHT-BUSH-SHREVES ENDOWED  
PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT  
OF PREVENTIVE AND COMMUNITY  
DENTISTRY



# WHY IOWA?

On Sept. 12, 2025, the College of Dentistry welcomed alumni from class years ending in 5s and 0s for a reunion weekend full of activities, including continuing education, a tailgate, and a reception at The Graduate Hotel in downtown Iowa City. During the reception, alumni were asked to share their “Why Iowa” on why they chose the UI College of Dentistry.

Could see patients as a D1!

Felt like home. I said no to Northwestern and Michigan to come here.

The quality of education and post-graduate opportunities.

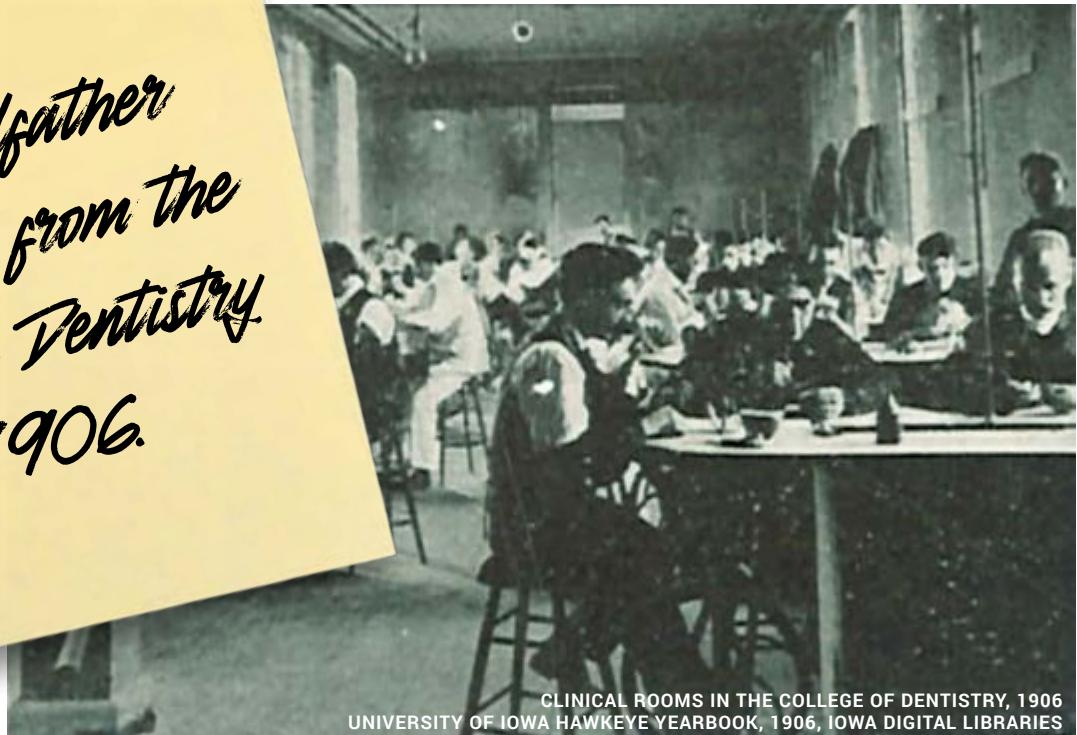
*The most genuine, down-to-Earth people I came across during interviews. Can't imagine a better place to become a professional.*

Went to undergrad here and fell in love <3

I AM A LIFELONG HAWKEYE



*My grandfather  
graduated from the  
College of Dentistry  
in 1906.*



CLINICAL ROOMS IN THE COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY, 1906  
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA HAWKEYE YEARBOOK, 1906, IOWA DIGITAL LIBRARIES

After four years of  
undergrad here, Iowa was  
my only choice.

Big ten football and basketball and of  
course a top-5 dental school.

Keeping  
the family  
tradition.

To be a Hawkeye  
and learn from  
the BEST

**It's a  
Hawkeye  
State!!**

Went to undergrad and had to stay.  
**Go Hawks!**

**THE  
PEOPLE**

<p><b>Sandra Guzman-Armstrong</b>, clinic professor of operative dentistry, was selected to serve on the Commission on Dental Accreditation's Ad Hoc Committee.</p>	<p>annual session, recognizing original and impact research conducted by graduate students.</p>	<p><b>Azeez Butali</b>, the Gilbert E. Lilly Professor of Diagnostic Sciences, was awarded a National Institutes of Health grant to identify rare genetic variants that contribute to orofacial clefts.</p>	<p><i>Progress Over Perfection: The Research Writer's Companion.</i> This book is designed for students, educators, and professionals who want to turn their ideas into published science.</p>	<p><b>Julie Reynolds</b>, associate professor of preventive and community dentistry, and <b>Peter Damiano</b>, the Bernstein Endowed Professor in Preventive and Community Dentistry, renewed a grant from the CareQuest Institute for Oral Health to expand its Patient-Centered Dental Home project.</p>
<p><b>Carlos Garaicoa-Pazmiño</b>, clinical associate professor of periodontics and director of pre-doctoral periodontics, was awarded a 2025 Faculty Award at the Career Impact Award Ceremony, hosted by the Pomerantz Center, for his ability to go above and beyond for students in supporting their career success.</p>	<p><b>Saba Manafi</b>, a fourth-year dental student won second place in the prestigious Hatton Competition at the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) in Barcelona, Spain. Her award-winning research presentation was titled, "Functional Assessment of an Oculo-Auricular-Vertebral Spectrum Associated Variant in Zebrafish."</p>	<p>Four dental students – <b>Anna Ellis, Destiny Ho, Hannah Johnson</b>, and <b>An-Vi Phan</b>, were named recipients of the 2025 Iowa Dental Foundation Scholarships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The UI College of Dentistry received a five-year grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to expand and enhance its Dental Public Health Program.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Jeff Banas</b> was appointed the UI College of Dentistry's next Associate Dean of Research. Banas has worked at the college since 2006, serving as Professor of Pediatric Dentistry and Director of the Iowa Institute for Oral Health Research.</p>	<p><b>Marcela Hernandez</b>, clinical professor of family dentistry, was recognized as the recipient of the 2025 James H. and Hermine E. McLeran Faculty Award.</p>
<p><b>Robert Schneider</b>, professor emeritus in prosthodontics, recently published two texts culminating over 40 years of experience. The texts are titled "Understanding and Developing a Morphologic Occlusion" and "Removable Partial Dentures: Their Diagnosis, Design, and Fabrication."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Waheed Awotoye</b>, resident in the Department of Orthodontics, was named a 2025 recipient of the prestigious Harry Sicher Research Award. The award is presented annually at the American Association of Orthodontics</li> </ul>	<p>2022 Iowa dentistry graduate <b>Kobi Voshell</b> chaired the Local Planning Committee ahead of the 2025 Iowa Mission of Mercy held in Coralville, Iowa. The 2025 Iowa Mission of Mercy saw 1,048 patients and performed 6,015 dental procedures valued at over \$1M.</p>	<p><b>Christopher Hogden</b>, assistant professor of endodontics, was named a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics.</p>	<p><b>Huojun Cao and Eric Van Otterloo</b> were awarded a \$3 million National Institutes of Health R01 grant to investigate how genetic programs guide the development of oral, dental, and skin tissues in the lower jaw.</p>	<p>A research group led by <b>Brad Amendt</b> has successfully tested a technique that stimulates a gene to prevent craniosynostosis. The study, "Inhibition of craniosynostosis and premature suture fusion in <i>Twist1</i> mutant mice with RNA nanoparticle gene therapy," was published online Aug. 22 in the journal <i>Science Advances</i>.</p>
	<p><b>Steven Levy</b>, the Wright-Bush-Shreves Endowed Professor of Research in the department of preventive and community dentistry, received a subaward as Co-Investigator on an R21 grant funded by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research.</p>	<p><b>Ariene Leme Kraus</b>, assistant professor of operative dentistry, received a National Institutes of Health grant to investigate how subtle changes in enamel and dentin contribute to the development of noncarious cervical lesions.</p>	<p><b>Azeez Butali</b>, the Gilbert E. Lilly Professor of Diagnostic Sciences, received the Honoris Causa award by the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria where he is also a Fellow.</p>	<p><b>Keith Krell</b> (81 DDS, 83 ENDO, 83 MS) was named a 2025 Distinguished Alumni Awardee by the University of Iowa Center for Advancement.</p> <p><b>Clark Stanford</b> (84 BS, 87 DDS, 92 PhD, 92 PROS) contributed a chapter in J. Timothy Wright's second edition book. Stanford's chapter is titled, "Syndromic Hypodontia and Oligodontia: Ectodermal Dysplasias."</p>

<p><b>Liu Hong</b> was appointed interim director of the Iowa Institute for Oral Health Research. Hong now oversees daily operations of the college's research laboratories and facilities.</p>	<p>They presented on key topics including AI, 3D metal additive manufacturing, and the future of the specialty.</p>	<p><b>Sukirth Ganesan</b>, associate professor of periodontics, was featured in a <i>New York Times</i> article on losing taste as you age and oral health problems that may contribute.</p>	<p>meeting, SmileCon, on how dietary choices affect both oral and systemic well-being.</p>	<p>years. I rode my bicycle for many years in numerous states.</p>
<p><b>Hongli Sun</b> was named director of the Graduate Program in Oral Science, bringing his expertise in nano-biomaterials and regenerative medicine to the program.</p>	<p><b>Jeffrey Marschall</b>, assistant professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, was recognized as a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.</p>	<p><b>Catherine Miller-Geroy</b> and <b>Gary Geroy</b> established an endowed prosthodontics chair in honor of Miller-Geroy's father, <b>Dr. Thaxter "Thax" Miller</b> (54 MS, 54 PROS).</p>	<p><b>Linda Bieri</b> (78 DDS) was named a recipient of the 2025 Distinguished Service Award from Luther College, her undergraduate alma mater.</p>	<p><b>Marilyn Paulsen</b> ('60 DH) in 1970, the American Dental Hygienist Association sent me to Italy to participate in a dental forum in Florence, Italy. I had written a paper on periodontal lesions and they wanted me to speak on the topic. Practiced dental hygiene for 40</p>
<p><b>Hiromi Saisho</b>, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Family Dentistry, received a CRISP grant to evaluate the mechanical performance of flowable resin composites.</p>	<p>The UI College of Dentistry appointed <b>Derek Smith</b> as director of the Division of Biostatistics and Computational Biology within the Iowa Institute for Oral Health Research.</p>	<p>College of Dentistry alumna <b>Sara Stuefen</b> (10 DDS) was featured by <i>The New York Times</i> in a story examining common misunderstandings about dental insurance.</p>	<p><b>Cris Vidal</b> was appointed Departmental Executive Officer of Operative Dentistry. Vidal joined the college in 2016 and was most recently serving as an associate professor.</p>	<p><b>Susan Lorenz</b> ('93 DH) going back to school again after 32 years and I'm pursuing my 2nd BS degree June 25, 2025. I will now focus my studies on a BS-Criminal Justice/ Forensic Science specialty.</p>
<p><b>Michelle McQuistan</b>, associate professor in the Department of Preventive and Community Dentistry, received a CRISP grant to study whether the Teach-Back Method can improve patient understanding and reduce complications following wisdom tooth extractions.</p>	<p>Department of Prosthodontics faculty members <b>Mai El Najjar</b>, <b>Dewey Duhyeong Lee</b>, and <b>Dean Clark Stanford</b> presented at the 2025 International College of Prosthodontists meeting in Toronto.</p>	<p><b>Hiromi Saisho</b>, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Family Dentistry, received the Colgate Early Career Faculty Travel Award to attend the 9th Annual American Academy of Cariology Conference.</p>	<p><b>Jeremy Bobera</b> (22 DDS, 25 MS) was named a recipient of the 2025 Balint Orban Award at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Periodontology.</p>	<p> <b>COD TOOTH COLLECTION PROGRAM NEEDS CONTRIBUTORS</b></p> <p><b>Are you a dentist who extracts teeth?</b> <b>If yes, the University of Iowa College of Dentistry needs your help!</b></p> <p>The College is looking for extracted teeth for student courses and projects. Dental students use the teeth to learn pre-clinical procedures in their Operative and Endodontics courses, as well as research projects. If you are a dentist who extracts teeth, please consider saving the extracted teeth and sending them to the College of Dentistry. We'll send you a container for collection and pay for shipping.</p> <p><b>For more information, please contact Hunter Floyd (319 335 0230) or hunter-floyd@uiowa.edu</b></p>





DDS 1953: **Wendel Coon** of Iowa City, IA, died July 3, 2025.  
DDS 1955, MS Cert. Periodontics 1974: **Arnold Webster** of Urbandale, IA, died June 13, 2025.  
DDS 1957: **S. Michael Fideler** of Spencer, IA, died May 7, 2025.  
DDS 1958: **Rodman Goltry** of Huntley, IL, died July 4, 2025.  
DDS 1958: **Craig Kauffman** of Anchorage, AK, died August 13, 2025.  
DH 1958: **Jo Ann Miller** of Janesville, IA, died May 8, 2025.  
DDS 1958, Pedodontics 1959: **LeRoy Strohman** of Algona, IA, died May 28, 2025.  
DDS 1960: **Lawrence Baldwin** of Des Moines, IA, died July 21, 2025.  
DDS 1960: **Raymond (Buzz) Finn Jr.** of Edwards, CO, died April 28, 2025.  
DH 1960: **Diane Miller** of Winnetka, IL, died May 14, 2025.  
DDS 1960: **Kenneth Sahs** of Rochester, MN, died May 12, 2025.  
DH 1961: **Margaret Barnes Hearson** of Forest Hill, MD, died May 27, 2025.  
DDS 1962: **David Turpin** of Seattle, WA, died May 29, 2025.  
DH 1964: **Mary Wherry** of Jenkintown, PA, died August 25, 2025.  
DH 1966: **Ruth Dyas Wirtz** of North Liberty, IA, died June 2, 2025.  
MS Operative Dentistry 1970: **Gerald "Jerry" Denehy** of Iowa City, IA, died June 1, 2025.  
DDS 1971, MS Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery 1975: **Dennis Lowman** of Chapel Hill, NC, died September 26, 2024.  
DH 1973: **Jo Ann Stewart** of Coralville, IA, died April 8, 2025.  
MS Cert. Pedodontics 1973: **Gary Westerman** of Omaha, NE, died August 21, 2025.  
DDS 1975: **Lawrence Jones** of Canon City, CO, died June 19, 2023.  
DDS 1975: **Daniel "Dan" McInroy** of Marshalltown, IA, died May 14, 2025.  
DDS 1975: **Randall Ruisch** of Johnston, IA, died June 27, 2025.  
DDS 1976: **Drexel Nixon** of Omaha, NE, died May 23, 2025.  
DDS 1978: **Valarie Rodgers** of Morrison, IL, died June 14, 2025.  
DDS 1990: **William Kroner** of Johnston, IA, died May 22, 2024.  
DDS 1991: **Shawn Bailey** of Le Claire, IA, died April 24, 2025.

Dr. **Robert A. J. Olson** of Braintree, MA, died April 27, 2025. He was the Head of the College of Dentistry Hospital Dentistry and Department Head in the Oral Surgery Department from 1979-1993.

#### EMERITUS FACULTY:

**Stephen "Steve" Goepferd** of Iowa City, IA, died November 14, 2025.

#### Notable passings

Dr. **Gerald "Jerry" Denehy** June 29, 1943 – June 1, 2025  
Dr. **Deborah Cobb** March 19, 1954 – April 2, 2025  
Dr. **Jim Fuller** September 29, 1936 – February 11, 2025

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

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## HISTORICAL IMPRESSIONS

### Pierre Fauchard: Father of Modern Dentistry

Born in France in 1679, Pierre Fauchard had no formal education. At age 14, he joined the French Royal Navy, where he was mentored by a surgeon major who studied oral diseases aboard the ship.

After leaving the navy, Fauchard's mentorship inspired him to practice medicine at an Angers hospital. During this time, he wrote *Chirurgien Dentiste: Ou Traité des Dents* (Surgeon Dentist, or Treatise on the Teeth). His first publication was in 1723, but following feedback from peers, a two-volume set (783 pages) was published in 1728. Fauchard's publication became the primary dentistry textbook for the next 100 years.

Fauchard was ambidextrous and had excellent manual skills. As a surgeon dentist, instead of extracting teeth as was commonly done in the 17th century, he improvised

with his "dental instruments," using tools commonly utilized by other occupations, such as barbers and jewelers. Fauchard used amalgams for dental fillings (gold, tin, or lead) and recommended that a patient's teeth be cleaned regularly by a dentist.

As his reputation widened, Fauchard's research suggested that sugar could be a cause of dental caries. He advocated the importance of washing one's mouth with water and using a wet sponge to "brush" teeth.

Fauchard pioneered the concept of a dental prosthesis using bone or ivory. He also created dental braces, using silk or waxed linen threads to attach braces to adjoining teeth. He also suggested the idea of how to position the patient and the utilization of a chair light.



Pierre Fauchard died in 1761 at age 82. Now considered the father of modern dentistry, in 1961, Fauchard was featured on a French stamp to commemorate the 200th anniversary of his death.

In 1936, the Pierre Fauchard Academy was established in Baltimore, Maryland. While only three percent of dentists worldwide are invited to join, today there are more than 5,000 PFA Fellows.

And at the UI College of Dentistry, a PFA Senior Student Award is given to fourth-year dental students who demonstrate leadership and dedication to dentistry.