

## **DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY**

Ms. Cathy Skotowski RDH, MS

Our dental students have been very active in pediatric dentistry activities. The student pediatric dentistry group participated in a large Halloween event at Sycamore Mall in Iowa City on October 29. They delivered oral health education and materials to the many children who paraded through in their Halloween costumes. The annual event has become a popular Iowa City tradition and the U of IA's pediatric dentistry students have been notable participants for several years. The following day they participated in a health fair at the Coral Ridge Mall where they again provided oral health education and materials.

IASDA (another dental student group) was awarded an \$8,000 mini-grant from Delta Dental to produce and distribute a second edition of Dr. Karin Weber-Gasparoni's flip chart "Healthy Smiles for Young Children." The original flip chart, developed in 2004, is a twenty-one page double-sided, 8 ½ X 11 inch, self-standing, color, spiral bound flip chart. Initially designed to be utilized by non-dental health professionals in WIC clinics and Head Start centers, there has also been an interest for the flip chart in public and private dental offices and clinics. It is the goal of this mini-grant project to make the flip chart available to Iowa general dentists and other health professionals. The dental students plan to distribute the flip charts at the next IDA annual session and at the Iowa Public Health Association's annual session so make sure to stop by their booth and receive a copy. Ms. Cathy Skotowski and Dr. Karin Weber-Gasparoni, the faculty representatives working with the IASDA students on this project, are excited that the resource will be now available to a much larger group of Iowa professionals.

On October 30, the department sponsored its second "Pediatric Dentistry Boot Camp." The all-day continuing education course provided meaningful updates and instruction on traditional

pediatric dentistry topics. In the early afternoon, two sessions were offered simultaneously: a hands-on exercise in the simulation clinic for dentists and a session for the entire dental team on prevention strategies and examination techniques for the pediatric dental patient, practical tips in the dental management of children with disabilities, and a review of oral health resources on the Web including resources available on our department Web site. (Several pediatric oral health fact sheets and educational videos have been developed and added to the department Web site and we encourage everyone to access them at [www.dentistry.uiowa.edu/pediatric](http://www.dentistry.uiowa.edu/pediatric).) Department faculty who participated in the course included Drs. Mike Kanellis; Cynthia Christensen; Richard Burke, Jr.; Rebecca Slayton; and Karin Weber-Gasparoni, as well as Ms. Cathy Skotowski and Ms. Gayle Gilbaugh.

On November 17, Ms. Gayle Gilbaugh provided a continuing education course entitled “Bleeding Disorders: What Every Hygienist Should Know” to the Iowa City dental hygiene component. She presented an overview of hemophilia and von Willebrand disease, including dental implications.

Dr. Rebecca Slayton was recently appointed chair of the Scientific Advisory Board of the National Children’s Oral Health Foundation. The National Children’s Oral Health Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization that focuses on supporting the delivery of comprehensive oral health care for economically disadvantaged children. Congratulations, Dr. Slayton!

As part of his annual active duty training for the Navy reserve, Dr. Richard Burke, Jr. recently traveled to Saipan, the largest island and capital of the United States Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a chain of 15 tropical islands in the western Pacific Ocean. Dr. Burke and three other dental professionals (a pediatric dentist, an oral surgeon and an endodontist)

made up the Innovative Readiness Training Team. The team provided dental services with a value of over \$260,000, which included 1,669 procedures and 266 patient visits, including 31 operating room cases. They also provided continuing education for local dentists in the community and grand rounds to local medical staff. Dr. Burke reports he enjoyed the experience and a lot of needy children were served.

Our department is excited to announce the arrival of a new faculty member, Dr. Tad Mabry, who joined us November 23 as a clinical associate professor! Dr. Mabry is a U.S. Public Health Service captain (retired) who recently completed 21 years of service with the Indian Health Service (IHS). Dr. Mabry has held IHS positions in New Mexico, Colorado, Nebraska, and most recently in Oklahoma where he served as an IHS national pediatric dental consultant working with other agencies to develop and implement policies as they pertain to the oral health care of American Indians/Alaska Natives. We are extremely grateful that Dr. Mabry and his family have chosen to be a part of our Iowa pediatric dentistry family and look forward to the knowledge and expertise he brings. Welcome, Dr. Mabry!



Crest Sparkleman and a group of dental students are shown above with their puppets ready to provide oral hygiene education to children at a Halloween event at Sycamore Mall in Iowa City.