

DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

Ms. Cathy Skotowski RDH, MS

In June we bid farewell to our four graduating residents. Dr. Greg Dietz has opened up a new practice in Bloomington, IL. Dr. Drew Goebel has joined his brother and father in a practice in Bismarck, ND. Dr. Kelly Jones is working in two practice locations, one in Rochester, MN and one in LaCrosse, WI. Dr. Treagan White joined a practice in the Salt Lake City, UT, area. We wish all of them continued success and happiness as they embark on their pediatric dental careers.

We welcomed four new residents: Drs. Vanessa Axelsen, Sam Christensen, and Annie Fencil are 2013 U of IA College of Dentistry graduates. Dr. Bryon Murphy is a 2002 graduate of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry. After completing an AEGD residency at the Virginia Commonwealth University, Dr. Murphy has been practicing dentistry in Georgia.

As the new academic year begins, we would like to acknowledge our adjunct faculty members who will assist us throughout the year teaching D3 students and pediatric dentistry residents. This year we are fortunate to have Drs. Erik Balster, Todd Hoeppner, Polly Iben, Steve Kelly, Mike Mathews, Tom Maurice, Matt Pyfferoen, Hilary Reynolds, Ed Rick, Mike Stufflebeam, and faculty emeriti, Drs. Cynthia Christensen and Jerry Walker. We thank them for their generosity, dedication and commitment!

Dr. Tad Mabry recently received the 2012-2013 College of Dentistry's Collegiate Teaching Award, the college's highest honor recognizing excellence in teaching. During the past few years, Dr. Mabry has been the pre-doctoral director. As course director for the D3 Pediatric Dentistry seminar and clinic courses, he has continually modified and

improved the coursework in response to comments from students. An innovative approach that former faculty Dr. Cynthia Christensen developed, and which was expanded by Dr. Mabry, was creating self-directed teaching modules. When dental patients fail to show up for their appointments, dental students can devote their extra time to going through modules. Dr. Mabry's clinical teaching includes both pre-doctoral and post-doctoral students. He has developed a number of objective structure clinical examinations (OSCE) to assess students' clinical knowledge. He also routinely supervises residents during their treatment of patients in the operating room under general anesthesia.

The department recently received a \$15,000 Philips Sonicare grant towards its community outreach and dental care programs from the National Children's Oral Health Foundation (NCOHF). The mission of the NCOHF is to eliminate pediatric oral disease and promote overall health and well-being for millions of children from vulnerable populations. The organization NCOHF is a comprehensive resource provider for non-profit community programs delivering critical preventive, educational, and treatment services. Funding from this grant will enable the department to expand and enhance their ability to provide vital services to underserved children. Ms. Gayle Gilbaugh and Ms. Cathy Skotowski are the lead investigators with this project.

Four individuals from the department were inducted into the dental fraternity Omicron Kappa Upsilon (OKU), Mu Chapter on June 6th at the Coralville Holiday Inn. Ms. Cathy Skotowski was inducted as an honorary member as well as all three of our U of IA incoming residents Vanessa Axelsen, Sam Christensen and Annie Fencil.

Dr. Karin Weber-Gasparoni has been selected to participate in the 2013 Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) - Department Executive Officer (DEO) Program, which will be held in Chicago November 14-16. The three day seminar's objectives are to hone the skills of participants in key areas and also develop a cadre of highly trained and motivated individuals to more effectively instill their skills and experiences on their own campuses. The seminar, which has been held annually since 1997, introduces participants to a variety of strategies and skills that will enhance their effectiveness as department chairs.

During the past 20 years, pediatric dentistry residents, departmental faculty, and dental students have partnered with Proteus Inc., a nonprofit organization that has been serving migrant and seasonal farm workers, to provide dental care services to the children of local migrant farm workers. On July 16 and 23, we packed up the department vehicle with all of the necessary portable dental equipment and supplies and traveled to two local migrant camps within an hour's radius of Iowa City. Dental exams and fluoride varnish applications were provided on-site to 40 children. Follow-up restorative dental care for 10 children were arranged for and provided on August 6 at the College of Dentistry. Although this outreach event always seems to fall on some of the hottest days of the summer, everyone seemed to enjoy the event! It is worthwhile to see the smiles on the children's faces when they hop out of the portable dental chair and receive their new toothbrush, toothpaste, and sugarless gum!

At the All-College Conference held August 19, several department staff were recognized for their years of service to the College of Dentistry. Lisa Brenneman, Heather Hill, and Anna Kluesner were recognized for five years of service; Mary Akers

for 25 years; and Anita Forbes for 35 years! We are fortunate to have outstanding people in our department and are immensely grateful for all they do!

In our last issue, we reported the Iowa graduates who were acknowledged by the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry as having successfully completed their oral clinical exams and were installed in the College of Diplomates at the annual AAPD meeting. Unfortunately we inadvertently left off two names: Drs. Robert Burns and Yousef AlYousef. We apologize for the oversight and extend our congratulations to them!



[Photo included: first-year residents, Drs. Sam Christensen, Bryon Murphy, Vanessa Axelsen, and Annie Fencil.]



[photo included: Dr. Vanessa Axelsen, Diana Pelzer (D4 student) and Dr. Sam Christensen at a recent outreach event at a local migrant camp.]