

New Students

Adrienne Jennings currently is a clinical dentist at Primary Health Care, Inc in Des Moines, Iowa. She is enrolled as a part-time DPH graduate student. Adrienne received her bachelor's degree from Texas A&M and her dental degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. Prior to her current clinical position, she worked for Angel Dental Care (Maryland) and as a contractor for the U.S. Army.

Elham Kateeb received a BDS degree from the University of Jordan and a MPH degree from the University of Massachusetts. She has been the Director for Dental Clinics and a lecturer in the preventive and community department at Al Quds University (Jerusalem).

JJ Shelley is a Colonel, U.S. Army. She earned a bachelor's degree from University of North Texas, her dental degree from the University of Texas Dental Branch at Houston, a MHA degree from Baylor University, and a master's in strategic studies (Army War College). She has been in the U.S. Army for 26 years and has had five command posts within the Dental Corps.

Alejandra Valencia received her DDS degree from the University of Antioquia in Medellin, Colombia. Recently, she received a MPH degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she has been addressing oral health access among Latinos living in rural Illinois.

Graduate Student Dental Public Health Field Experiences - 2008

Richie Kohli – Reassurance to Private Practice Dentists about Federally Qualified Health Centers Dental Programs: Development of a Draft of Frequently Asked Questions

Site Directors: Deb Kazmerzak (IANEPCA), Bob Russell (Iowa Department of Public Health)

Scott Rankin – Updating U.S. Army Dental Care Implementation Guidelines and Creating Educational Materials for Prevention Practices to Serve as a Resource for Providers in the U.S. Army Dental Care System

Site Director: LTC Jeff Chaffin, Office of the Surgeon General

Bhagyashree Pendharkar – Oral Health Needs Assessment of University of Iowa Area Health Education Centers

Site Directors: Raymond Kuthy (UI College of Dentistry), Kathleen Hansen (UI College of Nursing)

Susan McKernan – 2008 Survey of Illinois Local Health Departments-Evaluating Oral Health Content

Site Director: Julie Janssen (Illinois Department of Public Health)

Current Graduate Students

PhD candidates

Oitip Chankanka (DDS, Thailand)

Donald Chi (DDS, Washington)

MS Program candidates

Veerasathpurush Allareddy (BDS, India; MBA, PhD, Iowa)

Pradeep Bhagavatula (BDS, India; MPH, Alabama)

Richie Kohli (BDS, Luxmi Bai, India)

Susan McKernan (DMD, Florida)

Bhagyashree Pendharkar (BDS, Nagpur, India)

Scott Rankin (DDS, Missouri-Kansas City)

Adrienne Jennings (DDS, Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio)

Elham Kateeb (BDS, Jordan)

JJ Shelley (DDS, Texas at Houston)

Alejandra Valencia (DDS, Antioquia, Colombia)

Pediatric Dentistry/Dental Public Health Students

Yousef Al-Yousef (BDS, Saudi Arabia)

Aaron Blackwelder (DDS, Baylor)

2008 Graduate (and title of research thesis)

Paul Colthirst (MS)

Utilization of Dental Service by Foster Care Children in Iowa

Major Colthirst was recently appointed as the Dental Public Health Staff Officer at U.S. Dental Command (DENCOM)

Rahul Nair (MS)

Determinants of Early Childhood Caries among WIC Enrolled Children in Linn County, Iowa

Dr. Nair has recently begun a faculty position at the dental school in Singapore.

Pradeep Bhagavatula has accepted a faculty position at Marquette University School of Dentistry.

A Note from the Graduate Program Director ~

The past year has been an active and busy one, and also one of transitions. I personally have been very involved with several ADA and CDC fluoride task forces and committees, and completing my second year on the Examining Board for the ABDPH. As you will see discussed below, the College of Dentistry has received substantial recognition, grant funding, and a leadership award to help with the first major renovation of the Dental Sciences Building since it was constructed.

Concerning transitions, Dr. Kuthy has settled into a more active teaching and research role since stepping down as chairperson – and he's also very active as associate director of the DPH graduate program. We're very pleased that Dr. Slayton (Pediatric Dentistry) has returned to the College. And, we're especially fortunate to have Dr. Dan Caplan back at the College as our new Department Executive Officer (see below for a short personal profile). He's already provided important leadership in a number of areas. Dr. Caplan almost joined our MS program in DPH a number of years ago, but instead we "lost him" to the Oral Epidemiology PhD Program at the U. of North Carolina. We're very glad he "found his way" back to Iowa.



Steve Levy

Meet the New Chair



Dan Caplan

Dan Caplan grew up in Iowa City, only about a mile from the dental school. After high school, he attended the University of Virginia and then worked in Ohio for a couple of years before coming back to Iowa for dental school. After that, he completed a GPR at the VAMC in Minneapolis before returning to Iowa City for a three-year stint as an associate in a private dental practice. He then went to the University of North Carolina (UNC) to get his PhD in Epidemiology, and ended

up staying there on the dental faculty for 12 years before coming back to Iowa City for this position. He and his wife are both happy to be back home.

In his free time, Dan likes to stay pretty active, playing squash, riding his bike, walking around town, and mowing the lawn. Two ex-racing greyhounds take up a lot of their time. Dan truly enjoys teaching and so far has taught a bit in the D1 Preventive Clinic and also some in the D1 Problem-Based Learning curriculum. Just recently he served as a clinical instructor in Oral Diagnosis, and he will continue doing that if things work out.

His primary research interest involves epidemiologic assessment of endodontic disease and treatment. He was always amazed that we don't have much scientific evidence about how long teeth survive in the mouth if endodontic treatment is done, and also that there aren't more epidemiologic studies to support treatment decisions in endodontics. Lately, he's also become interested in the potential for oral-systemic disease connections as they relate to chronic endodontic inflammation.

At UNC there was no Dental Public Health graduate program in the School of Dentistry, so Dan's Dental Public Health background is somewhat limited. He does, however, have plenty of experience with Oral Epidemiology curricula and would like to pitch in there as needed. Probably his most important contribution will be to help mentor graduate student thesis projects, especially ones involving clinical decision-making or dental outcomes research.

Dan's main priorities for the department include enhancing the stability of the Special Care Clinic and Geriatric Mobile Dental Unit; assisting with development of the Communications curriculum and the Geriatric Fellowship program; and helping young clinical and tenure-track faculty members navigate their way along their academic career paths. With regard to the graduate program, he's thrilled that we continue to get such high-caliber applicants to the program and that its leadership is on such solid ground. He says that, "To be honest, the graduate program has been so solid and steady through the years that I haven't thought much about changing its priorities."

Inaugural ADEA Award to the College

The College of Dentistry recently received the inaugural William J. Gies Award in the Outstanding Achievement, Academic Dental Institution category. The College was honored for its 125th anniversary celebration; the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) Gies Foundation picked the College because its submission “displayed superior quality among a pool of entries demonstrating outstanding vision, innovation, or achievement in support of global oral health and oral health education.” Dean David Johnsen accepted the award at the ADEA meeting in Dallas in May.

College Ranks First in NIDCR Funding

The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research of the National Institutes of Health has listed the University of Iowa as first in funding for the 2007 fiscal year, with a grant total of more than \$12 million. This amount represents grant recipients from across the entire University of Iowa campus, but primarily from the College of Dentistry and College of Medicine.

Delta Dental of Iowa Awards \$1.5 Million to College

Delta Dental of Iowa has made a \$1.5 million gift commitment to help fund a planned major renovation of the Dental Science Building. The gift was made by the newly formed Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation through the University of Iowa Foundation. The College will name the Geriatric and Special Care Clinic area in the renovated dentistry building in recognition of Delta Dental of Iowa’s gift.

Congratulations...

To graduate students Donald Chi and Aaron Blackwelder for passing the quite challenging written American Board of Dental Public Health exam.

To just completed graduate student Paul Colthirst for being promoted to Major in the U.S. Army.



JJ Shelley congratulating Paul Colthirst

HONORS & AWARDS

Faculty

Jane Chalmers received the Student Research Group Mentor of the Year Award for 2007-2008. The award is presented by the Iowa Chapter of the American Association of Dental Research (AADR) Student Research Group “in recognition of devotion and tireless efforts to enhance student research.”

Pete Damiano was one of six UI faculty who received the 2008 Regents Award for Faculty Excellence. Faculty members who are nominated for the Regents Award must have rendered significant service to the University of Iowa and/or to the State of Iowa.

Rhys Jones was recognized for his long-term service to the Dental Public Health graduate program

Graduate Students

Oitip Chankanka

1st Place – Iowa Chapter, IADR Graduate Student Award in Preventive/Community Dentistry

2nd Place – American Association of Public Health Dentistry’s Leverett Graduate Student Merit Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dental Public Health (*The Associations between Dietary Intake from 36 to 60 Months of Age and Non-cavitated Caries in the Primary Dentition*)

Donald Chi – 1st Place – Iowa Chapter, IADR Graduate Student Award in Pediatric Dentistry

Paul Colthirst – Keith E. Heller Dental Public Health Graduate Research Award



Above: Steve Levy and Rhys Jones
Below: Steve Levy and Paul Colthirst



AlumNEWS

Ron Hunt (‘82), professor and dean of the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry, was installed as the ADEA President-elect at the ADEA Annual Session in Dallas.

Hayley Harvey (‘96) led a conference for UI DPH graduate students and pediatric dentistry residents in January about cultural competence.

Jessica Meeske (‘99) received the prestigious J.G. Elliott Award for improving health services for Nebraskans. Jessica is an adjunct professor in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry at the UNMC College of Dentistry. She was recognized for her role as a leader in addressing the dental health needs of underserved populations, both as a clinician in Hastings, NE, and as a public health policy advocate statewide. She is founder and clinical director of the Sonrisa Dental Project, which provides basic dental services for underserved children.

Arwa Owais (‘00) has been conducting research at the Jordan University of Science and Technology and recently submitted two articles on her findings. Her research interests are Dental Public Health and Pediatric Dentistry. She is also beginning to establish a research team in child abuse recognition, reporting and prevention in Jordan – a fairly new concept there. She will be the director of the team. In addition, she conducted a pilot study on access to dental care in Jordan and will be following up with a national study for all age groups, including people with special needs.

Kari Steinbock (‘01) is attending the Physician Assistant program at the University of Washington in Seattle. It’s a two year program. Previously, she had been on the dental hygiene faculty at Mt. Hood Community College in Oregon.

Boipelo Mariri (‘01) is leaving public service in Botswana to start her own dental practice. She already has everything in place and is just waiting for her baby to come before she is ready to start working. Boipelo and her husband have two children, Tshenolo and Apula, who are now in primary school.

Regional Dental Public Health Conference

The University of Iowa College of Dentistry hosted a regional conference for Dental Public Health practitioners on November 2-3, 2008 in Coralville, Iowa. This year’s theme was “Perspectives within the Dental Public Health Community: Access to Care”. Dr. Donald Marianos, former Director of CDC’s Division of Oral Health, gave the keynote presentation. This conference was funded, in part, by a HRSA-supported training grant and various Delta Dental Foundations.

Yogita Butani (‘02) writes that her pediatric dentistry clinics in San Francisco are busy and she doesn’t have a lot of time for much of anything else! Yogita is currently in a Pediatric Dentistry residency at UCSF.

Justine Kolker (‘03) was elected Secretary of the American Board of Operative Dentistry. Justine is currently a faculty member in the UI Department of Operative Dentistry.

Michelle McQuistan (‘04) and husband Gary Small had a baby girl, Alexa, on May 17, 2008. Michelle is a faculty member in the UI Department of Preventive and Community Dentistry.

Zhaomin Huang (‘04) was awarded a contract with ReachOutAmerica and the Chicago Department of Public Health/Chicago Public School System. Through a mobile clinic, she will be applying sealants to the teeth of students in 21 Chicago public schools serving about 15,000 children. The contract is for two years, with a possibility of extending it to five years. She is so excited to be able to help those underserved children and start her “real-life” public health experience.

Linda Saleh (‘06) has joined an oral health coalition in Wichita, KS. It is a group of people from different backgrounds who are really interested in promoting oral health among low income populations. It is so exciting to get to know other people who are also interested in helping this population. In March, they had a free day of oral health services for uninsured kids 0-10 years old which went very well.

Elizabeth Gaskin (‘06) conducted an oral health needs assessment for children in the local Department of Defense School in Japan. Her guide was the ASTDD Seven-Step Model. To her knowledge, this is likely the first oral health assessment for this population.

Kecia Leary (‘07) received Honorable Mention recognition in the AAPHD’s Leverett Graduate Student Merit Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dental Public Health.

Welcome Back

Rebecca Slayton, DDS, PhD, is now the Chairperson and Graduate Program Director for the Department of Pediatric Dentistry. Dr. Slayton, who received her dental and doctoral degrees and Pediatric Dentistry Certification from the University of Iowa, had been serving as the Pediatric Dentistry graduate program director at the University of Washington.



Rebecca Slayton