

JADA: Student Debt and Career Choice

A new study published in *JADA* (November 2015) looks at whether there is an association between the amount of education debt on completing dental school (initial debt) and certain career decisions. The study surveyed 1,842 practicing dentists who completed dental school between 1996 and 2011.

Dentists with higher initial debt were less likely to specialize and more likely to enter private practice, accept high-paying jobs on graduation, and work longer hours. Choice of employment setting, practice ownership, and whether to provide Medicaid and charity care were associated with dentists' sexes and races but not debt.

High debt levels influenced some career decisions, but the magnitude of these effects was small compared with the effects of other demographic factors.

To access the *JADA* article:
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.adaj.2015.05.015>

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The American Dental Association (ADA) meeting is underway this week in Washington, DC. Whether it is enhancing our understanding of new diagnostic techniques, the use of digital dentistry, oral health policy, or considering a transition from practice to an academic position, there is something for everyone to see and learn at this premier dental meeting. These professional growth opportunities enable us to grow as a profession much like I hope we continue to do as we advance the Vision and Mission of IUSD to make *Indiana University School of Dentistry one of the best dental schools of the 21st century*. Thanks for your support.

Progress Continues: New Building Schematic Plans

Since August 14, when the IU Board of Trustees authorized Step 1: Project Approval for the new building project, we have been working diligently to plan the schematic design and determine the best site selection for the new clinical building on the IUSD campus. The architectural team has been creative and thoughtful to listen to our needs and plan accordingly within our budget. I am very pleased to share that we have made substantial progress on the schematic design phase such that we will be moving ahead for Step 2: Design Approval by the IU Board of Trustees in early December! It has been a very busy fall working on this schematic design.

While I don't have any pictures, renderings or floorplans to show publically at this time, I will share with you some of the fundamental components of what is being considered for this exciting new addition. The site selection appears to be to the east and will consume much of the existing patient parking lot. As a three-story building with a penthouse for mechanical items, we are looking at the potential of 120 to 130 dental operatories overall, but this number can change based on clinical and support function space requirements. The new building will create a courtyard like area between the new and old structures with corridors to link them. A covered patient drop off/pickup area is included as well as substantially enhanced waiting/reception areas. We hope to relocate dental faculty practice to the first floor of the new building and provide for independent operation of this clinic and offer expanded after hours care. The exterior will blend with the existing old architecture and transform to a new dynamic eastern facing façade, exuding the confidence of a contemporary oral health care facility for the 21st century.

We couldn't be doing any of this work without the early believers who contributed gifts and pledges of more than \$4 million to this project. Each day, I thank you because your belief is paying huge dividends! While the building is mostly underwritten, we still are raising funds for the project. The time is right to make a big push for IU-IUPUI Dentistry to have new facilities as the University celebrates 200 years of service and IUSD celebrates 140 years of service to the people of Indiana and beyond. Thank you for your belief in the possibilities — we are making significant progress on this project!

Multidisciplinary Clinic-IUSD 4th Floor...Opening Soon

For a glimpse of the IUSD clinic of the future, go visit the new multidisciplinary clinic on the 4th floor. The construction is almost complete, and the cleaning team was doing their part earlier this week. Look for an opening announcement soon! When this clinic opens, we will have 25 new operatories to support graduate operative, dental hygiene and TEAM clinical programs.

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Evansville Groundbreaking

October 23 marked the groundbreaking ceremony for the new IU Health Education building in downtown Evansville. IUSD has been invited to locate a clinical within this marvelous new multidisciplinary building, which may house a dental residency program and provide extramural rotations for IUSD students.

What are Simulated Patients?

Beginning our fourth year, IUSD is once again partnering with BOSMA Enterprises to educate our second-year DDS students about working with patients who are blind or visually impaired. BOSMA has been helping Hoosiers who are blind navigate their path to independence for more than 100 years. Throughout the month of November, seven BOSMA clients will be working at IUSD as standardized patients and will be participating in objective structured clinical examinations (OSCE) with our students. Please join me in giving our BOSMA partners a warm IUSD welcome when you see them around the school. David Zahl, academic specialist, directs this innovative program.

IUSD Staff Advisory Council 2015-16

Damon Spight, 2015-16 president of the IUSD Staff Council, has re-established the Staff Advisory Council, which is a working group of staff members who share the vision and mission of IUSD. This group will meet with the dean periodically to bring matters of concern forward for discussion and problem solving. Working with staff as well as the broader IUSD community becomes more critical as big changes are on the horizon with the construction of the new clinical building soon. Thanks, Damon, for your leadership of the Staff Council.

Dr. George Willis to Retire in 2016

IUSD is saddened to announce the retirement of longtime faculty and administrator, Dr. George Willis. Dr. Willis has served with distinction at IUSD since 1980, beginning his career as coordinator of Expanded Functions for Dental Auxiliaries (1980 to present), followed by appointments as chair of Restorative Dentistry (1995-1997) and as an associate dean for Clinical Affairs (1997-present). Dr. Willis was a member of the 1979 IUSD DDS class and completed a certificate of Operative Dentistry in 1990. He will retire July 1, 2016.

• Upcoming IUSD Events

- Friday, November 6 – IUSD ADA Alumni & Friends Reception, Washington, DC
- Monday, November 16 – ASDA Vendor Day & ADA President Carol Summerhays' visit
- Thursday & Friday, November 26 & 27 – Thanksgiving Holidays

IUSD First Friday Social

We will again be hosting the First Friday Social starting at 7:30 a.m. in the basement student lounge with complimentary coffee, donuts and fruit until 9 a.m. Unfortunately, I will miss the FF Social as I am attending the ADA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. Enjoy!



Thanks to each of you for your dedication to and support of the Vision and Mission of IUSD. I'll be back next month with another edition of *First Friday...Dean's Update*.

-John

Check out all the current IU Dentistry news on our website: www.dentistry.iu.edu or on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/IUDentistry

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