



INDIANA  
UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF  
DENTISTRY

# First Friday

Dean's Update to the IUSD Community

## Improving Health in the United States: Oral Health Is Key to Overall Health

*JADA Editorial, July 2017*

The vital relationship between health and the economy has been recognized and studied, and countries with a healthier workforce see strong economic performance.<sup>1, 2</sup> What often goes unnoticed, however, is the significant role dentists can play in improving the overall health of the population.

The oral health-systemic connection has been well documented for many conditions, with strong evidence in 2017 connecting oral health and rheumatoid arthritis.<sup>8, 9</sup> The results of this analysis indicated a strong correlation between dental visits and overall self-rated health, and this relationship is getting stronger over time. In other words, states in which adults are more likely to visit the dentist also tend to have the lowest proportion reporting fair or poor health. Yet, the lack of detailed national- and state-level data means understanding the role of oral health in state-level health economics remains a challenge. The authors conclude that it will require a coordinated multisystem solution, and oral health is a key to improving the overall health of the nation.

Read the entire [JADA editorial here.](#)

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**August 4, 2017**

Fall term is about to begin at IUSD and on the IUPUI Campus. August 14 marks the official start of school, but D1 DDS students and new graduate students have been hard at work, beginning their studies at IUSD right after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. I have had some vacation and time to read and reflect on my statement from the June 2017 *First Friday*: "As I think about these new DDS students and all of our students, I think of our huge responsibility to [prepare future generations of leaders to function in the interprofessional oral health domain until 2060](#) (See JDE article on drivers of Curriculum Change-CC12) and beyond. What will society need? What will contemporary oral health science look like? And what will be the patient care delivery model?" An intriguing summer read for me has been Susskind & Susskind's book [The Future of the Professions: How Technology Will Transform the Work of Human Experts](#). The societal and technology trends are important to consider as we educate our new students with the knowledge and skills to enable graduates of Indiana to be proud alumni of...*one of the best dental schools of the 21st century.*

### IUSD Alumni Bulletin Electronic Archive – 1938 to 1969 Available

Sean Stone, IUSD Librarian, has announced that the first phase of digitizing IUSD's *Alumni Bulletin* magazines (1938-1969) is now complete and available for you to browse and search at <https://archives.iupui.edu/handle/2450/5825>. The issues are NOT indexed by author, title or subject, but you can browse "By Issue Date," so my quick browsing of the August 1938 issue revealed that IUSD had only enrolled 16 DDS students in the previous class as national enrollment had taken a major downturn. The dental school also: 1) reorganized the Operative Department and 2) installed new benches in the technical laboratories. Some things never change! Read all the [August 1938 Alumni News](#) here. Thanks to Sean and the library team for bringing more of our IUSD history to life.

### Fritts Clinical Care Center: August 2017

I got my first inside look inside the emerging Fritts Clinical Care Center in mid-July. What a thrill! A team of IUSD folks walked through the building for the first time. We saw drywall being applied on the first floor and the installation of glass panels along the east elevation of the project. The perimeter is really taking shape. The covered patient drop-off area is very evident. The two building connectors are up with their glass panels and are attached to the current dental buildings on floors one and three.



**FULFILLING *the* PROMISE**

## Michigan Street Two-Way Progress

In addition to the Fritts project, more renovation is happening immediately north of IUSD, as Michigan Street is converted from one-way to two-way traffic. The good news is that in recent weeks the fenced barricades along the front of IUSD's north face have been removed, and we can walk on the new sidewalk and access the east and north entrances of IUSD. The completed Michigan Street project, looking east from Barnhill (our corner) toward Blackford Street, will include a grassy median between eastbound and westbound traffic. It will also include a wide bicycle lane running the entire length of Michigan Street on campus. The project is on schedule and should be completed in December 2017.

## IPFW Dental Education Programs Transferring to IUSD – July 2018

On Friday, June 16, 2017, the Trustees of both IU and Purdue signed the IPFW Campus Realignment Agreement. There will be changes coming at the dental school as we become fully responsible for the newly named **Indiana University School of Dentistry-Fort Wayne** dental education programs on July 1, 2018. Over this next year, we will look at restructuring the Indianapolis and Ft. Wayne programs to create closer alignment, including the admissions processes and student support services. I look forward to working with the dental community in Ft. Wayne to make a smooth transition of these programs to address oral health workforce needs in Northeast Indiana. You can read the joint Boards of Trustees news release [here](#).

## [Evansville Medical Education Center](#) – IUSD Expanding to the South

The new downtown Evansville IU Medical Education Center is well into construction. IUSD will have a presence in the new facility on the first floor, occupying about 5,000-square-feet for the provision of oral health care as part of our Community-Based Dental Education rotation and the planned establishment of a one-year post-graduate year (PGY1) program in July 2019. Pam Ford (Director, IUSD Dental Assisting), Trisha Cahill (IUSD-D2), and I attended a series of meetings recently in Evansville to gather more in-depth knowledge of the community. A highlight for me was presenting the IUSD plan for the Evansville facility to the Evansville Rotary Club. Both Pam and Trisha have deep Evansville roots and have been most helpful as plans develop. Thanks to you both.

## Heads-Up: IUPUI Commencement 2018 — Not on Mother's Day!

It appears that the 2018 IUPUI Campus Ceremony will happen on Saturday (May 12) rather than Sunday (May 13) – Mother's Day. Not sure about IUSD ceremony, but most likely we will change our date, time and perhaps location. More details to follow.

## Coffee & Donuts

Join us this Friday, August 4, from 7:30 to 9 am for the monthly First Friday school gathering. Complimentary coffee, donuts and fruit will be served in the student lounge.

## Upcoming IUSD Events

- August 9 – Faculty Orientation, 8 am to noon, IUPUI Ballroom
- August 14 – IUSD Fall Term Begins – Classes and Clinics Open
- August 20 – DDS Class of 2021 & IDP Class of 2019 White Coat Ceremony, 2 pm IUPUI Campus Center
- August 23 – Team registration for the 2017 IUPUI Regatta, 8 am
- September 4 – Labor Day Holiday (school closed)
- September 6 – All-School Picnic, Garfield Park



Thanks to each of you for your dedication to and support of the Vision and Mission of IUSD. I will back next month with another edition of First Friday.

— John

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