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# NEWSLETTER

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

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January-February, 1986

In this issue of the Newsletter we introduce a new look and a new staff member. The blue-topped Newsletter that circulated for 10 years has given way to a cream-and-crimson design. "Excellence in dental education" is an important theme of the mid-1980s that we hope to reflect in our format as new ideas and challenges shape the future of the School of Dentistry. It is our pleasure to announce that Mr. Mark Dirlam of Dental Art and Illustrations joins us as staff artist beginning with this issue. Mark designed the new heading for the Newsletter. The School's other multi-talented artist, Dr. Rolando DeCastro, is a Newsletter staff member of long standing. The redesigned publication will allow for much greater input from these two gifted artists.

We hope you like what you see. Now, to our news and features....

## **Dr. William G. Shafer Retires: A Great Teacher Who Exerted Influence in Unexpected Ways**

Dr. William G. Shafer, distinguished professor of oral pathology at Indiana University School of Dentistry, decided to take early retirement on November 1, 1985, after a long and most successful career in teaching and research. He graduated from Ohio State University in 1947, and then accepted an Eastman fellowship in pathology at the University of Rochester, New York. He joined the faculty of I.U.S.D. in 1950.



Dr. Shafer quickly became recognized as an outstanding oral pathologist, and many of his graduate students are teaching oral pathology throughout the world. He is the senior author of the leading oral pathology textbook (with M.K. Hine and B. Levy) which is in its fourth edition. He was a demanding teacher, but his students recognized his ability and dedication to quality performance.

EXCELLENCE IN DENTAL EDUCATION

Countless letters from former students have expressed their gratitude for his contribution to their education. Dr. Shafer recently received a letter from a pedodontist, Dr. Roy V. Green, which read in part:

My long hours of memorizing your book in preparation for your examination 18 years ago were repaid this week. Thank you for making your course so comprehensive and so demanding of students.

Dr. Green then described the oral condition of one of his patients and concluded his letter as follows:

Today I am very proud to be a health professional who is interested in the welfare of the total patient and his family. My excellent training at Indiana University School of Dentistry enabled me to recognize and diagnose this patient's condition and make appropriate referrals.

Often in the past Dr. Shafer and/or one of his students has been cited for outstanding service. In the spring and summer of 1985, newspapers carried many stories about the skeletal remains of a man believed to be the Nazi death camp doctor, Joseph Mengele. Three scientists from this country, including Dr. Lowell Levine, a New York dentist, were sent to Brazil to help identify the skeleton.

What was not widely reported was the role played by Dr. Stephen Dachi, a former graduate student at I.U.S.D., in the identification. Dr. Levine was quoted thus (in the A.D.A. News for August 5, 1985): "Though hindered by the absence of current records, the investigation got an assist from an unexpected source. The U.S. Consul General for Sao Paulo turned out to be a board-certified oral pathologist and A.D.A. member." Dr. Levine went on as follows:

Dr. Stephen Dachi, the Consul General, invited us to his office as official representatives of the Justice Department. There on the wall, next to his appointment as Consul General from President Reagan, was his certificate in oral pathology. When he said he still kept an active membership in the A.D.A., we joked about having a Sao Paulo chapter of the American Dental Association. He agreed to help out in the investigation, and in fact he did an analysis of the bony defect in the left antrum.

He got very interested in the case. He called back to Washington, D.C., and had some of his colleagues get out his slides, which were being stored at a relative's house there, and spent a night going through slides of similar cases he had treated. He really got a kick out of being able to use dentistry again. And it was really nice to have an oral pathologist to back up my opinion that we were dealing with an antral fistula, and not an artifact.

(Dr. Dachi, who received his D.D.S. at the University of Oregon, and a master's degree in oral pathology from Indiana University, served as the first chairman of the department of oral diagnosis and oral medicine at the University of Kentucky dental school in the early 1960s. Later joining the Peace Corps, he had tours of duty in Brazil, Colombia, and Venezuela, before joining the U.S. Foreign Service.)

Dr. Dachi is to be commended for his contribution to dentistry, as well as to the Peace Corps, and to the Mengele identification. This is another instance of the widespread and often unexpected influence of our dental school, and is a tribute to the excellent teaching of Dr. William Shafer and his oral pathology staff.

#### Maynard K. Hine

Dr. Shafer has recently donated his professional journals to the IUSD Department of Pathology, as well as a collection of micro-slides that have been sent to him over the past 35 years. The collection represents about 17,000 rare, unusual and/or prime teaching cases, each with a case history and diagnosis.

#### **People in the News**

Dr. Charles E. Hutton, chairman of oral and maxillofacial surgery, was program chairman for the 26th annual meeting of the Central Association of Dentists and Physicians in Aspen, Colo., Feb. 2-6. Dr. Jack E. Schaaf, associate professor of oral diagnosis/oral medicine and radiology, and Dr. Larry L. Graham, associate professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery, were among the program presenters. Dr. Schaaf spoke on oral-facial pain and myofascial pain dysfunction syndrome and Dr. Graham on temporomandibular joint pain and dysfunction.

**Dr. Chris H. Miller**, chairman of oral microbiology, has been appointed by the ADA Board of Trustees as consultant to the Council on Dental Therapeutics in the area of infection control. Dr. Miller was also recently elected secretary and member of the Board of Directors of the Office Sterilization and Asepsis Procedures Research Foundation (OSAP). OSAP is a not-for-profit organization which establishes standards in aseptic techniques in dentistry and provides information on the development of asepsis programs in private offices. At the annual meeting of OSAP in Denver, Dr. Miller spoke on "Barrier Techniques for Infection Control."

**Fellowship** in the American College of Dentists was conferred upon three IUSD faculty members at the Annual Convocation in San Francisco: Dr. Lawrence I. Goldblatt, professor of oral pathology; Dr. Ronald K. Harris, associate professor of operative dentistry; and Dr. William F. Hohlt, assistant professor of orthodontics.

**Fourteen students** from Indiana University School of Dentistry have been chosen for inclusion in the 1986 Edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. They are Steven R. Wert, Kirk T. Ripley, David M. Cummins, Michael J. Koufos, Frederick C. Abel, Jr., Steven J. Hoagburg, Richard A. Moll, Bryan J. Roy, Martin G. Fitz, Eileen R. Robrock, Robert J. McDonough, Thomas M. Banta, Nicholas J. Volz, and Jay C. Platt. These outstanding IUSD students join an elite group of men and women selected from more than 1,500 institutions of higher learning in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and several foreign countries.

### **Dean's Message**

The beginning of spring semester appears to be going smoothly with both faculty and student body. The new **student registry** has been very helpful for locating the junior and senior students and very effective in encouraging attendance and clinical activities. At this time the patient supply is adequate and the program appears to be prepared for the final push in the clinical areas.

Examination results of the senior practicals indicate that much preparation will be necessary to establish the clinical competencies required of all class members. The departmental examinations were justly organized and administered, but the overall performance level of the class was lower than expected. The three months remaining in the semester do not leave much time for establishing the clinical and diagnostic skills levels that are used as test items for licensure.

The **teaching committee** has organized an excellent program for their interim meeting March 7, 1986. Several key speakers have been scheduled to follow up topics that were studied by the faculty at the fall retreat. The all-day session will include a faculty council session to consider important curricular adjustments that the curriculum committee is proposing. All faculty should attend.

A new project on faculty development is being conducted by **Dr. James E. Jones**, who is currently a fellow for the American Fund for Dental Health. As part of his doctoral program in education, he will survey the faculty about aspects of faculty development and the effectiveness of the promotion and tenure system.

Surveys report that more patients are required if today's dental students are to be taught properly. The success of preventive measures means that patients present fewer clinical problems. Moreover, the increase in insurance coverage, with patients going to private dentists for treatment, makes it important to protect and serve the I.U.S.D. patient population. Special committees are studying the patient entry, record and treatment planning systems to improve the school's management abilities. The selection and care of patients will be a critical priority for all dental schools during the next decade. "Cluster teaching" is the term being used to describe departmental combinations that complement the learning situations as well as the patient flow.

In July **Mr. Danny Dean**, currently on the IU alumni staff, will be joining our faculty as the first full-time development officer. He will be working to expand outside support for the School of Dentistry within the IU Foundation. Mr. Dean's qualifications are ideal to build a case for faculty support and to direct the total fund-raising effort. We are fortunate to have him.

A timely thought comes from a professor of economics in The Essence of Good Teaching. "Liking students, respecting them, deriving enjoyment from teaching them was the first of my cardinal rules for good teaching."

Working with students, conducting research and enhancing our pride in the School of Dentistry are important faculty goals for this dreary time of the year. -- **HWG**

### Do You Want to Help Others?

Be a volunteer for the Crisis and Suicide Service. Clinical Associate Volunteers staff the line in their home once a week for six hours. Training is provided to teach the information and skills necessary to handle a variety of crisis calls. The Crisis Line is now accepting applications for March 1986 training. Classes will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. and all day on Saturdays during March.

**CALL NOW!** Your application must be in by February 26, 1986. For more information and an application form, call 269-1569. If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them.

**Hazel Clark**  
Dental Materials, ext. 8408

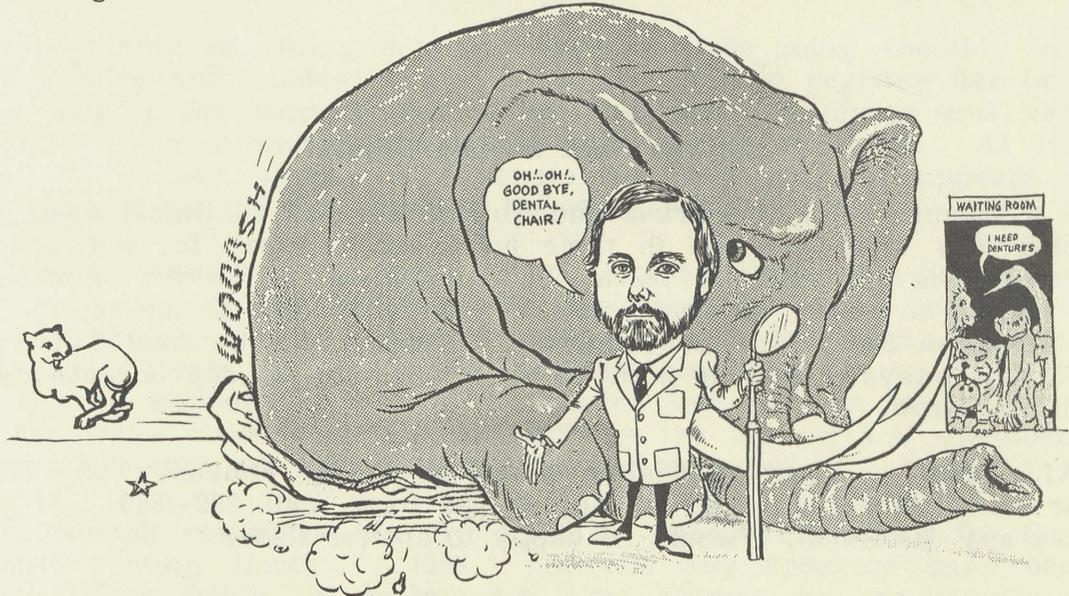
### T-rrific T-Shirts!

Don't be the only kid on the block (or in your department) to miss out on adding an IUSD T-shirt to your wardrobe! The IUSD Non-Academic Staff Council, sponsor of the T-shirt sale, needs at least 144 advance orders before an order can be placed. The cotton and polyester shirts are white with purple trim and sport the IUSD logo over the left breast. Place your order February 17 through March 7 with Bob Wegner (Order Office) or Karen Vibbert (Main Clinic). Price is \$7.00 and April delivery is planned.



**Dr. Willis Joins  
'Colorful' Guests  
On T.V. Talk Show**

A parrot named Ozark jabbered throughout the program and a 1,200-pound elephant named Ivory upstaged the other guests, but Dr. George P. Willis, assistant professor of dental practice administration, and other health care professionals for the Indianapolis Zoo still managed to present fascinating details about animal care on a recent TV talk show. Host Dick Wolfsie of WXIN's Night Talk led a panel of two veterinarians, an animal pathologist, the zoo curator and Dr. Willis, who has been staff dentist at the Indianapolis and West Lafayette zoos for several years. (A wallaby, an alpaca and an ostrich rounded out the guest list.)



Ivory, a three-year-old native of Zimbabwe, was transported to the TV studio on a freight elevator. She is experiencing her first dental problem, an impacted tusk, which is to be dealt with soon. Dr. Willis describes tusks as modified incisors that grow throughout an elephant's life span, which is similar to ours. Ivory will also grow several sets of molars over the years, exfoliating them as they wear out. Teeth can present serious health hazards -- one elephant at a zoo lost 600 pounds while suffering from a rotated molar. Surgery to open a passage for Ivory's tusk will be scheduled as soon as a specially ordered anesthetic, M-99, arrives. M-99 is 1,000 times more potent than anesthetics used on human beings. The large-animal veterinarian will perform the surgery with Dr. Willis serving as consultant. Lowering Ivory to the floor with pulleys as the anesthetic takes effect will require careful planning to make sure she falls on the side opposite the impacted tusk. Surgery must be performed quickly since an elephant in a reclining position can be injured under its own weight.

A video-tape and photos of Dr. Willis' work with tigers, lions and baboons were also shown on the Night Talk program. An animal lover at heart, Dr. Willis says he is attracted to animal dentistry because the challenges are endless. Clearly he's found the perfect hobby to complement his career at the School of Dentistry.

### **Office of Clinical Affairs Stresses Communication Skills**

Improving patient relations is the goal of Ms. Donna Dobbs in her new role as Dental Admitting Supervisor in O.C.A. The position was created last October and Donna, who has been employed at the dental school for 16 years, says her main responsibility is "being there for anyone who has a problem related to patients and seeing how they are served at the school." She is also a go-between for patients with questions or complaints and the people with answers and explanations. Why did she accept a job with considerable headache potential? "Because I love being where the action is!" Donna says. The action is indeed there. She and her assistants admit on the average some 65 patients daily for the taking of radiographs and for treatment planning and emergency care.

The best part of her job so far is the patient contact, she says. "When patients come in and are upset, I'm learning to convey my interest in their problem by taking time to talk with them, keeping my voice calm, and recognizing occasions when it's necessary to bring someone else in, such as a faculty member. We all need to remember that we are communicating first **people-to-people**. The staff member-to-patient relationship is important, but secondary."

One improvement in service noted by Donna is that patients are beginning to move more quickly from the admitting stage into the various clinics for treatment. She invites any student, faculty or staff member with patient-related problems to see her in O.C.A. or call her at ext. 4545.

### **Delta Sigma Delta Blood Drive a Success**

Mr. Marty Buchheit, fourth year student and chairman of the January blood drive sponsored by the Delta Sigma Delta Fraternity, reports that donations far exceeded expectations this year. In 6½ hours 49 units of blood were collected in a bloodmobile parked in the dental school lot. Jan Horn, spokesman for the Central Indiana Regional Blood Center, stated that it was the most successful blood drive at IUSD in recent memory. "We are very pleased," says Marty, "and we thank all students, patients, faculty, staff and others who took time to give." Plans are in the making for another dental school blood drive to be sponsored by the fraternity in early April. It takes just 30-45 minutes of your time to make a contribution that can save a life. More information regarding the spring drive will be forthcoming.

### **A New Friend From London**

The last issue of the Newsletter noted that Dr. Ronald K. Harris of the Operative Dentistry Department would participate in an exchange from January to July with Dr. P. Brett Robinson of King's College Dental School in London. The two doctors have now made the trade, including workplaces, homes and cars. We looked in on Dr. Robinson

in his temporary office on the fourth floor of the Medical Science building to ask him to share his first impressions of our school and American culture. His reaction was enthusiastic: "I'm very impressed with your dental school," he said over the drone of handpieces in the laboratory, where the fourth year students' Mock Boards were underway. "Standards at Indiana are obviously very high."

The proper title for dentists in England is "Mr.," but Robinson holds the title of "doctor" because he has a Ph.D. in anticonvulsant bone disease, as well as a degree in dental surgery. His purpose at Indiana is to carry on an exchange of teaching methods between the two dental schools. He notes that the Mock Boards, which last all day, are much longer than any examination dental students sit for in England. Lectures at King's College are also shorter, lasting about 35 minutes, and class sizes are half as big as ours.

On the personal side, Dr. Robinson has adapted to driving on the "wrong" side of the car and road, despite receiving a parking ticket on his first day here and a reprimand for driving east on a one-way street west. He says that Ron Harris got the worst of it in the traffic trade-off, since densely populated London is almost impossible to drive in. (Word is that Dr. Harris is commuting by the Tube, London's version of the subway.)

Other impressions of Indianapolis: No petrol stations on the interstate....ample parking provisions everywhere....a 24-hour weather report on cable television....the yellow "coaches" that take children to and from school....Ron Harris' kitchen, containing a wonderful myriad of household gadgets but no tea pot (a suitable one was found at Peoples Drugstore)....bread three times as expensive in the States....soft drink machines everywhere and people drinking the stuff a lot....people "queuing" (standing in line) at fast food places....cars passing on the left....policemen patrolling parking meters on three wheelers instead of on foot....a huge selection of name brands in grocery stores.

Dr. Robinson has found Indiana people helpful and friendly and says that he feels much at home in his new surroundings. Our first impression of Dr. Robinson: An amiable Englishman with great Hoosier potential!

**In addition to Dr. Robinson,** the Newsletter Staff welcomes to the School of Dentistry the following persons who joined our ranks in January. Faculty appointments are: Dr. Cecil E. Brown, Jr., associate professor and director of the graduate program in endodontics; Dr. Gregg A. Noll, instructor in complete denture; and Dr. Travis R. Osborn, assistant professor of complete denture. **New staff members** are: Ms. Barbara J. Lerner, student affairs; Ms. Karen J. Mann, Ms. Janet L. Mulherin; and Ms. Carol E. Thompkins, pedodontics; and Ms. Kathryn L. McKay and Ms. Mary Beth Weimer, oral microbiology.



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