

COMING UP

Indiana University School of Dentistry Calendar of Events



 **December '11-January '12** 



Dine with the Dean:

John Williams Invites Faculty and Staff for a Holiday Breakfast on Dec. 14



*Put a Smile on Your Own Face by Making a Soldier Smile:
Dental School Staff Collecting for IUPUI Staff Council Gift Drive*

Faculty Member Sivaraman Prakasam Brings Home a National Prize

*Author, Author!
Dental Student Eric Westergard Is Published
in Prominent National Journal*



December

Dec. 2 (Fri.)

RESEARCH COMMITTEE, 9 a.m. in DS S421

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE for Student Research Subcommittee's Dec. 16 meeting

Dec. 5 (Mon.)

IUPUI DAY OF REMEMBRANCE, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Campus Center 307. Offered to the IUPUI family periodically, this brief program provides a format in which IUPUI employees and students can come together to honor the memory of IUPUI friends, colleagues, and associates who have passed away in recent months. The list of more than 60 names to be read aloud on Dec. 5 will include those of longtime dental school friend **Judy (Mrs. Lawrence) Goldblatt**, who served as IUSD's "first lady" during Dr. Larry Goldblatt's nearly 14-year tenure as dean; and two outstanding educators from the Department of Periodontics and Allied Dental Programs: Ms. **Elizabeth Hughes**, clinical associate professor of dental hygiene; and Dr. **James Sarbinoff**, clinical assistant professor of periodontics.

Dec. 7 (Wed.)

Relics from Captain Kidd's pirate ship are among the treasures you'll encounter during the annual IUPUI ALUMNI HOLIDAY NIGHT, this evening from 6:30 to 9 at the Indianapolis Children's Museum. IUSD students, staff, and faculty are welcome. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$13 for children 3-12, and free for younger kids. The price includes a festive Italian buffet. Register by Dec. 2:
http://events.iupui.edu/event/?event_id=5084.

Dec. 7-10 (Wed.-Sat.)

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL RADIOLOGY annual meeting, Chicago

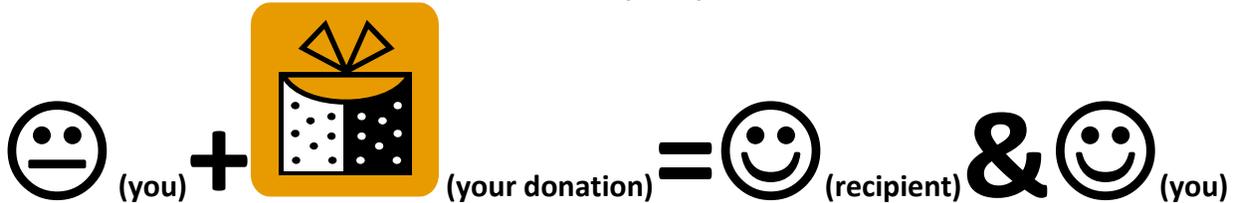
Dec. 9 (Fri.)

EXAMS OVER – FIRST SEMESTER ENDS

Dec. 10-January 2 (Sat.-Mon.)

IUSD LIBRARY'S HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: The Library will be closed on the weekends of Dec. 10-11 and 17-18, and from Dec. 24 through Jan. 2. There will be no evening hours on the weekdays of Dec. 12-16 and Dec. 19-23. Regular schedule resumes on Tues., Jan. 3.

Dec. 13 (Tues.)



The sure-fire way to put a smile on your own face is by doing a good deed that puts a smile on the face of another. During the first half of December, the IUPUI Staff Council is hoping you'll choose to MAKE A SOLDIER SMILE by contributing an item that the council can add to its holiday shipment of gifts to deployed military personnel. Leading this effort on the dental home front are staff members **Kristy Chapman**, Academic Affairs, DS106; **Monica Doyle**, Restorative Dentistry, DS S316; and **Julie LeHunt**, Oral Pathology, Medicine, and Radiology, DS S110. Gifts will be gratefully accepted through Dec. 13.

Gifts can be very modest – and feel free to exercise your goofy side when you make your choice. Stuff like Silly Putty® is a seriously cool gift for young men and women in need of light-hearted distractions from stressful surroundings. All types of board and hand-held video games, decks of cards, romance and mystery novels, flicks on DVD, temporary tattoos, and NFL or IUPUI knickknacks and tchotchkes are desired – see the full list Kristy sent you on Nov. 17, which will likely inspire you to come up with some fun ideas of your own. Cash gifts to help cover shipping and personal notes and cards to the troops are also welcome.

Dec. 14 (Wed.)

RISE AND SHINE: DINE WITH THE DEAN



Staff members Kathy Nichols (left) and Ina Jackson prepare to sample the breakfast bounty at last year's holiday buffet while party host Dean John Williams (background) serves up another plate of early morning goodies. (Photo by Terry Wilson)

All IU School of Dentistry employees are invited to DINE WITH THE DEAN this morning in celebration of the holiday season, in recognition of our hard work and achievements in 2011, and in anticipation of an exciting year ahead. The IUSD HOLIDAY BREAKFAST with Dean **John Williams** is from 7:30 to 9:30 in the lower level lounge. Bring an appetite – and your best tidings for your colleagues.

Dec. 16 (Fri.)

STUDENT RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE, 8 a.m. in DS B29

Nominations and applications for the campus's DR. JOSEPH T. TAYLOR AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY are due today: <http://diversity.iupui.edu/taylor/index.html>.

IUSD CLINICS CLOSE FOR THE HOLIDAYS at 5 p.m. (except emergency clinic)

Dec. 24 (Sat.)



Indiana University lost one of its legends with the passing of the School of Dentistry's **Joseph Muhler** (DDS'48, PhD'52) on Christmas Eve in 1996, two days after his 73rd birthday. He gained fame in the 1950s as the dentist on a three-member IU research team that patented the first successful stannous fluoride formula, which became the caries-fighting agent in Crest toothpaste. Dr. Muhler's death was worldwide news. In its January 5, 1997, obituary for Dr. Muhler, *The New York Times* called him "a latter-day alchemist who helped turn stannous fluoride into tubed gold": <http://www.nytimes.com/1997/01/05/us/joseph-muhler-73-dies-made-crest-formula.html?scp=1&sq=joseph+muhler%2C+73%2C+dies&st=nyt>.

Dec. 25-Jan. 1 (Sun.-Sun.)

ALPHA OMEGA INTERNATIONAL DENTAL FRATERNITY's annual meeting, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Dec. 26 (Mon.)

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY OBSERVED (school closed)



January

Jan. 2 (Mon.)

NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY OBSERVED (school closed)

Jan. 3 (Tues.)

IUSD CLINICS REOPEN (AFTERNOON)

LIBRARY RESUMES REGULAR HOURS

FACULTY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM, 9 a.m.-noon (no morning classes or clinics). Ms. **Marguerite Watkins**, IUPUI Affirmative Action, addresses the topic of Civility from 9 to 10:30 room TBA).

Jan. 6 (Fri.)

ORIENTATION FOR CAMPUS DENTAL ASSISTING CLASS

Jan. 7 (Sat.)

ORIENTATION AND SECOND SEMESTER BEGINS FOR DISTANCE-LEARNING DENTAL ASSISTING CLASS

Jan. 9 (Mon.)

SECOND SEMESTER BEGINS

Jan. 13 (Fri.)

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE for Student Research Subcommittee's Jan. 27 meeting

Jan. 14 (Sat.)

IUSD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS winter meeting and luncheon, 11 a.m. at Bravos restaurant, 2658 Lake Circle Drive, Indianapolis

Jan. 16 (Mon.)

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., HOLIDAY (school and library closed)

Jan. 18 (Wed.)

DENTAL DAY AT THE CAPITOL: <http://www.indental.org/DentalDay>

Jan. 27 (Fri.)

STUDENT RESEARCH SUBCOMMITTEE, 8 a.m. in DS B29

Jan. 31 (Tues.)

Deadline to submit your FACULTY ANNUAL REPORT (through OneStart) for calendar year 2011

People, Places & Things



Sivaraman Prakasam

PERIODONTICS PROFESSOR WINS HIGHLY REGARDED PRIZE IN HIS SPECIALTY. As we reported last month, periodontics professor Dr. **Sivaraman Prakasam** was heading off to Miami Beach, Fla., as one of eight national finalists in the American Academy of Periodontology's Balint Orban Memorial Competition for students and recent graduates of periodontics graduate and postgraduate programs.

We're delighted to report that he returned home to Indy with one of the two prizes awarded by the academy – as one of four finalists in the clinical research category, Dr. Prakasam won \$500 for his presentation titled "Profile of Salivary Biomarkers in Chronic Periodontitis and Changes in Response to Scaling and Root Planing."

Dr. Prakasam joined the IU faculty after graduating from IU's periodontics program in 2010. He also holds a dental degree from Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, Chennai, India; and a PhD in oral biology and pathology from the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

"This is wonderful recognition for Siva," says Dr. **Vanchit John**, chair of Periodontics and Allied Dental Programs. "Siva is the first IU perio grad to win this award. It speaks volumes for what we do at IUSD."



Eric Westergard

DENTAL STUDENT EARNS A PROMINENT NATIONAL SPOT IN THE PROFESSIONAL LITERATURE. Lots of seasoned professors can tell you about the thrill they felt the first time their name appeared as the primary author of a research article published in a prominent journal. It's a rite of passage in the career of academic scholars – and an achievement few experience when they are still in dental school. That's why we are extremely proud to tell you that fourth-year dental student **Eric Westergard** is now the published author of a research article appearing in the November 2011 issue of one of the world's leading dental journals – the *Journal of the American Dental Association*. Eric is the first author of "Controlling Bacterial Contamination of Dental Impression Guns." His co-authors are Dr. **Laura Romito**, Oral Biology; Dr. **Michael Kowolik**, Periodontics and Allied Dental Programs; and Dr. **Charles Palenik**, the school's former director of Infection Control Research and Services, now retired, and current director of the national Organization for Safety, Asepsis, and Prevention. Eric's research is timely, since bacteria such as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* – better known to the general public as MRSA – have become of increasing concern throughout society, including the dental profession. Looking specifically at the contamination of dental impression guns during clinical use, Eric and his research team found that these dispensing guns had their highest reduction in contamination -- 95% -- through steam sterilization followed by the use of plastic gun covers and disinfection. You can read the full text of the article at this site: <http://jada.ada.org/content/142/11/1269>. Congratulations on your research and JADA publication, Eric – may you have many more in your career!

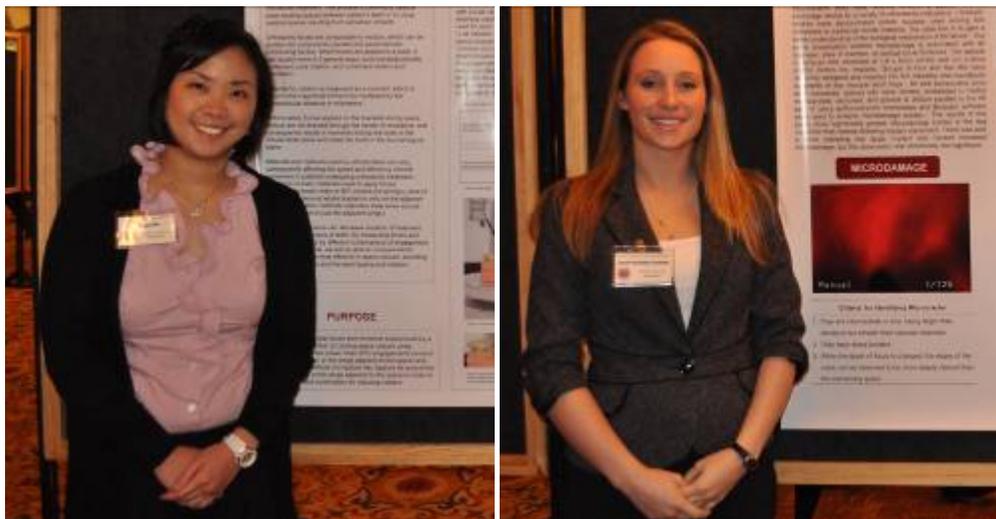


FIRST A POET, NOW A PRESIDENT. Congratulations to IU graduate and published poet **Michael D. Higgins**, who was inaugurated as the ninth president of Ireland on November 11. He is a 1967 graduate of IU Bloomington's master's degree program in sociology: <http://www.president.ie/index.php?section=20&lang=eng>.

IU DENTISTRY VOICES MATTER. • Two-time IU School of Dentistry alumnus **John Hasler** (DDS'62, M'69 Oral Diagnosis/Oral Medicine), a professor emeritus of the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, University of Maryland, offered his opinion about the role of the American Dental Association's Commission on Dental Accreditation in an *ADA News* letter to the editor published on Nov. 21. See what he has to say at <http://www.ada.org/6583.aspx>.

• Also, when a newspaper reporter in Nebraska went in search of dental experts to talk to for a story he was writing on the relationship between dental health and heart health, he homed in on a nationally prominent figure in this field of study: our own Dr. **Michael Kowolik**, associate dean for Graduate Education, who gave the *Omaha World-Herald* his views on the subject based on his own longtime research. Check out the article Dr. Kowolik contributed to here: <http://www.omaha.com/article/20111113/LIVEWELL01/711149951/1161>.

• Also, the School of Dentistry Staff vs. Faculty IUPUI IMPACT fundraising campaign that Mr. **Terry Wilson** of Dental Illustrations designed and implemented this fall has garnered the attention of Indiana University officials and drawn praise for its success and creativity. At the IU Communications and Marketing Conference, a system-wide meeting for a couple of hundred marketing and communications employees held on the IUPUI campus in November, Terry's work was chosen as one of only four marketing projects (out of 52 submissions!) to be featured at the Creativity Sharing Session as "the best of the best" IU marketing ideas in 2011. I sat in on Terry's excellent presentation. He did the School of Dentistry proud – and also acknowledged the IUSD staff and faculty for their great generosity and support of the project. Well done, Terry!



Hinman dental student research presenters Diana Wu, left, and Jaclyn Ponder in Memphis

IUSD REPRESENTED AT HINMAN SYMPOSIUM. Some 120 dental students and faculty mentors from North American dental schools gathered in Memphis, Tenn., for the annual Hinman Student Research Symposium for three days in October, including IU representatives Dr. **Richard Gregory**, director of the PhD and Student Research programs, and dental students **Diana Wu**, D4, and **Jaclyn Ponder**, D3. Diana presented a poster titled "Rotational Tendency Experienced by a Lateral Incisor During Space Closure," and Jaclyn's poster subject was "Assessment of Microdamage Caused by Mini-implants in the Mandible and Maxilla." Both students worked with research teams associated with the Department of

Orthodontics and Oral Facial Genetics. The symposium is sponsored each year by the Hinman Dental Society and the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry.



Margot Van Dis

AUTHORS OF NEW DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING BOOK INCLUDE IU RADIOLOGY PROFESSOR. A new thousand-page diagnostic imaging hardback book is fresh off the press this fall, offering a comprehensive package of three-dimensional imaging information assembled and written by nine experts in the field, including IU's Dr. **Margot Van Dis**, a professor of dental diagnostic sciences in Oral Pathology, Medicine, and Radiology and director of the dental school's Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) Imaging Facility. Lead author of *Diagnostic Imaging: Oral and Maxillofacial* is Dr. Van Dis's Wisconsin colleague Dr. **Lisa Koenig**, director of oral medicine and oral radiology at Marquette University School of Dentistry.

Published by Amirsys in October – in time for it to be featured at the annual session of the American Dental Association in Las Vegas – the reference book is the latest in the company's *Diagnostic Imaging* series. It is intended primarily as a reference tool for dentists who are using or getting ready to introduce Computed Tomography or CBCT technology in their dental offices.

Books this size are an enormous undertaking, and like many reference tomes and textbooks today they come with extras from the electronic side of publishing. Dr. Van Dis says she's excited to see the long-term project come to fruition. "The book is written in Amirsys's unique 'bullet style' for quick reference," she says. "Each book comes with an access number to an e-book, which is the same reference but with additional material available only in the e-book format."

Dr. Van Dis, who is a board-certified oral and maxillofacial radiologist, got IUSD's CBCT system up and running a couple of years ago. You can see a photo of the book's cover and read more about its content at this site: http://www.lww.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/product_11851_-1_9012052_Prod-9781931884204.



INDIANA DENTAL COLLEGE STUDENTS PLAYED BIG-TIME B-BALL. As we've reported periodically, it's a little-known fact that our school's predecessor, the Indiana Dental College (1879-1925), featured an impressive basketball team composed of dental students and coached by dental faculty that in its heyday fearlessly went up against big-shouldered components including Indiana University's Hoosiers. Well, that fact may be little known, but it's not forgotten by sports aficionados and historians. The Indiana Dental College basketball team from 90 years ago was mentioned in the *Indianapolis Star* just a few days ago – albeit for its role in helping IU enjoy a string of successes today. When IU's Hoosiers beat Savannah State 94 to 65 on Nov. 21 this year, it was only the sixth time in the team's history that it scored four consecutive wins of 20 points or more. The very first time this happened, according to the *Indianapolis Star*, was way back in the 1920-1921 season, when the Hoosiers beat the Indiana Dental College as well as Armour (now Illinois) Institute of Technology, Evansville YMCA, and Manchester College.



Only a slight exaggeration of the Indiana Blizzards of 1977 and 1978

8-HANDED DENTISTRY: PERFECT STORM, PERFECT DENTAL TEAM. It's not likely that any Midwesterner older than 40 will ever forget the Blizzard of 1978, which temporarily ended life as we knew it during a megastorm that started Wednesday, Jan. 25, and pummeled us for four days, imprisoning us in our homes (if we were lucky; plenty got stuck in their cars). This was back in the day of no computers, no social networking, hit-and-miss communications, and no Weather Advisory from IUPUI. Our campus has an excellent notification system in place today, but back then IUPUI had a policy of "never" officially closing – it fell to each employee and student to figure out whether hitting the road on bad weather days was worth the risk.

Happily, the citizens of Indiana were threatened with arrest if they dared venture out into the frozen mess and buried tundra that became the Blizzard of '78, providing the incentive we needed to stay safely at home on Thursday and Friday.

But the Blizzard of '78 was so traumatizing and over time has developed into such a storm of legend that many of us have forgotten there was a blizzard exactly one year earlier that was a bear-and-a-half in its own right. Although the Blizzard of January 1977 is remembered today primarily for the damage it did in Buffalo, New York, Indianapolis was hard hit, too, as were other places.

With no hopeful promises of jail time hanging over us in January 1977, a few of us did attempt to go to work. I got a ride to campus with someone braver behind the wheel than I. The dental school wasn't a complete ghost town, but it wasn't exactly teeming with activity, either. I remember bumping into a lone grad student – I think it was Dr. **Jack Schaaf** – in a first-floor hallway.

I went to my department (the former Complete Denture department on the fourth floor, where Dental Hygiene is now), and decided it would be less creepy to sit in the receptionist's office than in my usual windowless office in a back hallway.

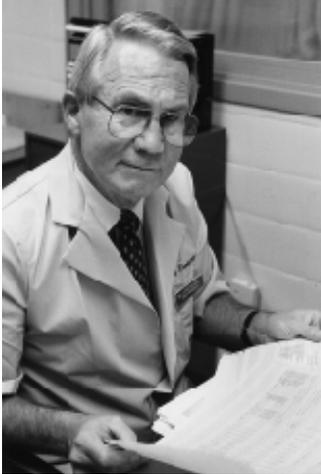
When I flung open the Complete Denture reception window, preparing for my long, lonesome day of watching snow flying horizontally past the fourth-floor lobby windows, I was horrified to see standing before me an elderly man. Seemingly oblivious to the storm, the gentleman was checking in for his appointment – and quite excited because today was the “big day” he'd been waiting for: denture delivery day!

There was no Comp Care back then – students roamed with their equipment-laden tackle boxes from department to department all over the building to see their patients (what an *Indianapolis Star* reporter once described in an article he wrote about IUSD as a “nomadic approach” to dental education). I had no contact information on students.

As the minutes ticked by the patient grew more and more crestfallen, and the pleasant small talk between us grew more and more strained. Earlier I had been feeling sorry for myself for having to spend the day alone, and now I would have given anything not to have acquired my new companion, who needed the kind of assistance I couldn't provide.

But then – the glorious sound of the elevator bell, and into the lobby stepped the dental student, whose name unfortunately I no longer remember but whose reputation in our department was one of high professionalism and diligence. The student had tried to cancel the appointment, but decided he'd better attempt to drive in when his patient didn't answer his home phone.

The patient was ecstatic by the sight of the student – until I told the student the awkward news that I was the only live body on the Complete Denture premises. The student in turn had to explain to the perplexed patient that an unsupervised appointment was not permissible – no doc, no denture. So now I had a keenly disappointed elderly man and a deeply irritated young man on my hands. I never felt so uncomfortable or so useless. Walking the seven miles to my home was starting to look like a not-so-unattractive option.



Dr. John Risch, Complete Denture Professor 1960-1993

But just as the three of us were getting ready to pack it in – off the elevator ambled Complete Denture professor Dr. **John Risch** – his hat, coat, and boots heavy with snow. At that moment, to the patient, to the student, and to me, Dr. Risch was a vision of beauty: a snowman, an angel, a superhero, and a father figure all rolled into one. None of us kissed him, but I’m pretty sure we all wanted to.

With me subbing as cashier and watching with pride (and relief!) from the wings of the clinic, our perfect little eight-handed dental team fell into graceful motion. The student used his hands to carefully deliver the denture to the patient, Dr. Risch used his hands to thoroughly examine and approve the fit of the denture, I used my hands to “ring up” the denture (actually, Dr. Risch locked the cash away in a drawer since we couldn’t access the register), and the delighted patient – flashing an unabashedly gorgeous smile with his handsome new teeth – used his hands to vigorously shake all of ours, even mine, as he thanked us, even me, for making his dream come true of regaining normal use of his mouth.

The Blizzard of ’77 is among my best memories of this dental school and of the late, great John Risch, who was a class act through-and-through and one of the most knowledgeable, caring, and devoted teachers Indiana University has ever known. Strange as it was, the snowy day I spent observing that microcosm of clinical dentistry drove home to me, as a young, relatively new employee of the school, how lucky I was to work in an environment with such talented and committed students and educators (and by educators I mean both faculty and staff). It made me realize how important the teamwork is that we do for the thousands of Hoosiers who entrust us with their oral healthcare, and for the thousands of students who have depended on us for generations to light their paths in the field of dentistry, to provide them with the finest education we possibly can.

Those feelings have grown stronger with every year, every decade. The wonderful John Risch was by no means an anomaly of excellence; rather, he was representative of the amazing caliber of professionals who have composed the IU School of Dentistry’s teaching and education programs throughout our history and certainly in the 21st century. I wish for every staff member, faculty member, and student a spectacular holiday season – may you spend it in the company of the family and friends you hold most dear. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!—*Sue Crum, editor*



End December '11-January '12 Calendar

Send items for February calendar by Jan. 23: Indiana University School of Dentistry, Room B32, 1121 West Michigan Street, Indianapolis IN 46202-5186. Fax: (317) 274-7188. E-mail: smcrum@iupui.edu

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