

ALUMNI

2020 VOL 30 | NO 2

INSIDE:
WE DID IT!

First online graduation for Class of 2020

DR. LEONARD SCOTT

(DDS'73) owns the largest independent gospel record label in the world

Educational excellence prevails during COVID-19

RESILIENCE



INSIDE

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As with so many events in 2020, IUSD's online commencement was historic. Pictured here, DDS graduate Hannah Groh.



10

Brad Metz installs hand sanitizer dispensers throughout the dental school for COVID-19 infection control



16

Dr Brooke Scott (DDS'19) joined her grandfather Dr. Leonard Scott (DDS'73) at Scott Dentistry



from the **DEAN**

Dr. Carol Anne Murdoch-Kinch

Resilience.

The faculty, students, and staff of the Indiana University School of Dentistry have demonstrated extraordinary resilience over the past eight months as we have adapted dental education to the constraints associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Not since World War II has so much flexibility and adaptability been asked of the dental school community. Our faculty and staff have labored, collaborated, and persisted to recreate and deliver our curriculum. With unmatched creativity and ingenuity, they transformed didactic and clinical courses into online formats, and provided excellence and continuity of care for our patients. Despite the almost four-month shutdown, they also have conducted and disseminated their research.

Our students, who are essential members of our health care teams, have worked hard and demonstrated perseverance, patience, and flexibility in adapting to change. Dental school is hard enough; the pandemic has added a layer of uncertainty, and our faculty is also working to address the social-emotional needs of our students.

Our overarching goals during the pandemic have been ensuring the health and safety of the dental school community while supporting the academic progression of our students. We have prevented significant interruptions to our clinical education activities by following CDC guidelines for dental settings during the COVID-19 pandemic, including making major modifications to the building space to allow for physical distancing, as well as increasing disinfection and air filtration measures.

We are so proud of the Class of 2020 and the faculty and staff who helped them get to graduation! As you will read in the pandemic cover story, despite the four-month shutdown, all students graduated on time. This is extraordinary.

In the past year we also have made progress in every area of our new comprehensive strategic plan. Even though our resources were significantly impacted by the four-month interruption of clinical and research operations during the shut-down, we have balanced the FY2020-2021 budget, with minimal impacts on personnel. The decrease in clinic revenues has necessitated postponing some building improvements and faculty recruitments, although exceptional faculty have recently joined us in oral surgery and prosthodontics. We are optimistic that if we have no major interruptions in the coming year, we will recover from this financial blow within the next 12 months.

The dental profession has led during infectious disease outbreaks before. We are called upon once again to care for those most affected, to rely upon science to base our decisions, and to commit to social justice and equal access to care. The pandemic has highlighted the health disparities caused by social determinants of health, and oral health continues to be one of the largest unmet needs among the vulnerable and underserved. As the only dental school in Indiana, we once again will lead and serve those whom society has forgotten.

On behalf of all of us at the IU School of Dentistry, I thank you for your support and wish you great health and resilience during these extraordinary times.

Warmly,

Carol Anne Murdoch-Kinch,
DDS, PhD, FDS RCDS(Ed)

Dean, Indiana University School of Dentistry

NEWS BRIEFS



Providing care in hard-to-reach places

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced IUSD's SEAL Indiana program to pause its preventive care services for children in need. However, that has not stopped Dr. Armando Soto, community engagement director, and his resourceful students from reaching the children, some of whom live in homeless shelters. On June 29-30, 2020, IUSD dental students gave lively Zoom presentations on oral health to children at Coburn Place, which provides supportive services and housing options to survivors of intimate partner violence.



Congratulations to IUSD's Elite 50!

IUPUI selected five IUSD students to be among the university's Elite 50 of graduate and professional students: Drs. Joshua Bussard (DDS'20), Gina Castiblanco-Rubio (PhD, Dental Science), Periodontology residents Upasna Janu and Charmi Solanki, and Leah Stetzel (DDS'20). They were recognized for demonstrating excellence beyond the classroom in leadership, scholarly work, and community engagement.



The IUSD exam assistance team and the Commission on Dental Competency Assessments (CDCA) team are all smiles (under their masks) at the completion of the ADEX/CDCA DDS licensing exam.

IUSD Class of 2020 is 100%

Despite the clinic pause during the statewide stay-at-home order, all D4 students passed their licensing exams by July. "We had a 100% pass rate for the exam for licensure in Indiana, with the new non-patient-based options," said Dr. Harvey Weingarten, associate dean, Clinical Affairs. "A big thank you to the faculty and staff who guided the students to this day."

ORAL HEALTH CARE FOR DV AND IPV SURVIVORS

The Women's Philanthropy Leadership Council at IU awarded a \$20,000 grant to Dr. Stuart Schrader, Dr. Armando Soto, and graduate student researchers to assist with preventive and restorative oral health care for survivors of domestic violence and intimate partner violence (DV/IPV). The grant money will help underserved and disenfranchised DV/IPV survivors by providing direct fee-for-service dental care at IUSD and developing sustainable civic partnerships with local community organizations to strengthen referrals and increase access to oral health care.



INDIANA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY RESEARCH DAY 2020

AWARDS PRESENTATION
STREAM ONLINE FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2020
12:00 PM EDT



Research Day: Stay-at-Home Edition

IUSD's 28th Annual Research Day, held May 1, 2020, shifted successfully to an online format. More than 80 student and graduate researchers presented their research and posters to judges online.

“Research is core to our mission,” said Dean Carol Anne Murdoch-Kinch. “We have a proud tradition of excellence in research going back to our inception as a dental school. This year, the impact and necessity of research for the health of the global community is felt acutely.”



Photo by Liz Kaye, Indiana University

IUSD RESEARCHERS STUDYING COVID-19 SALIVA TESTING

The Regenstrief Institute has awarded IUSD researchers a grant to explore saliva tests for COVID-19 diagnosis and surveillance. “Unstimulated whole saliva or spit is a complex mixture that includes secretions from the throat and post-nasal drip. We think that the saliva test to measure the COVID-19 viral load will help in the early identification of infection in exposed individuals,” said co-principal investigator Mythily Srinivasan, PhD, associate professor, Oral Pathology, Medicine, and Radiology.

This multidisciplinary research combines basic science, clinical research, and informatics approaches to determine whether a saliva test is more effective than nasopharyngeal swabs to detect asymptomatic COVID-19 carriers.

Drs. Thankam Thyvalikakath and Domenick Zero are co-investigators.



Donating toothpaste to food bank

Drs. Jeffrey Steele, director of Global Service Learning (pictured), and Armando Soto, director of community engagement, donated approximately 2,000 tubes of toothpaste in March to a local Indianapolis food bank and a northern Indiana program that provides food boxes to the community. The toothpaste had been earmarked for the Global Service Learning trips, SEAL Indiana, and other community services cancelled because of COVID-19. The donated toothpaste would have expired by the time the school could use it, so IUSD shared it with community members in need.



Congratulations

CLASS OF 2020!

The ongoing pandemic asked the Class of 2020 to be adaptable and accepting when they were forced to forgo IUSD's traditional, in-person commencement ceremony. Instead, this year's graduates were honored in a multi-platform, online recognition event.

IUSD Dean Carol Anne Murdoch-Kinch; keynote speaker Dr. Paul Halverson, founding dean of the Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health; and other honored speakers recognized our remarkable new oral health care professionals with a live video stream on Facebook, Zoom, and YouTube on Friday, May 15, 2020.



It will be a year we will always remember.



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9



10



11



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- 1 Karima Lubbadeh, Cristiane Jereissati, Saboori Sobti, and Aya Mansour
- 2 Mariah McHale, dental assisting, Fort Wayne
- 3 Chelsea Myers and her pup, George
- 4 Michelle Otieno, Class of 2020 treasurer
- 5 Jireh Lin
- 6 Public Relations and Marketing Director, Terry Wilson, pulled off a seamless multimedia production, that included live and pre-recorded messages, a Zoom gathering so graduates could be with each other virtually, and a Facebook live event that wove all the speeches and graduate recognitions together.

- 7 Hannah Groh and Ken Leezer
- 8 Shawn Perry, Marcus Fenn, Jeffrey Receveur, and Daniel Frost
- 9 Matthew Ferguson and Brianne Cipich
- 10 Vruti Patel
- 11 Maria Contreras
- 12 Christopher Holcomb
- 13 DDS Class of 2020 President Leah Stetzel watched from her home with her family, including father Mark (DDS'84) and sister Jill (DDS'19).
- 14 Dr. Eric White hooded his daughter, Lauren, at home when her name was called.

Welcome new students!

Although their dental education began online, IUSD is so happy to welcome our pre-doctoral DDS students, new graduate residents, and allied dental students to the IUSD family in Indianapolis and Fort Wayne.



Your journey begins...



RESILIENCE

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE PREVAILS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

By Leslie Flowers

On a typical day at the IU School of Dentistry, approximately 1,000 people come and go in the clinics and classrooms. But from March to June 2020, the hallways and clinics at Indiana's only dental school were empty. Indiana's governor and the university mandated students, faculty, and staff work and study at home. Elective dental procedures would be rescheduled to dates unknown. IUSD shut down all non-emergency clinical activities.

The transformation of Indiana's dental school during the pandemic began on March 6, 2020, when Indiana's first case of COVID-19 was reported. Dean Murdoch-Kinch called the first Incident Management Team meeting. This group of school leaders and staff experts from facilities, infection prevention, communications and marketing, staff and faculty human resources, compliance, and IT, met at 8 am almost every weekday morning for the next month, and several times weekly thereafter, to implement infection control measures and rework curriculum and research as the global pandemic unfolded. "We realized very quickly how serious this could become," Dean Murdoch-Kinch said.

The implications of COVID-19 were immediate at IUSD, which runs like a dental hospital. As one of the largest aerosol-generating professions, dental practices at IUSD and across the globe suddenly were bereft of patients and staff.

"We had to reduce potential transmission of the novel virus and preserve personal protective equipment (PPE) for emergency medical and dental personnel," Dean Murdoch-Kinch said. "Early in the pandemic, we also shared our PPE with frontline health care workers at IU Health."

After addressing critical health and safety concerns, other challenges emerged:

- How would we procure enough and new types of PPE for our clinical operations when the worldwide demand was exponentially exceeding the supply?
- How would our senior DDS, dental hygiene, and dental residency students complete their educational requirements, graduate on time, and complete clinical board examinations for licensure?
- How would faculty transform in-person curriculum to online formats in a matter of weeks?
- How would we welcome and orient new students virtually?



Patients are screened with temperature checks before entering the building

Indiana's only dental school pivoted rapidly. Over the next few months, IUSD faculty and staff worked around the clock to quickly transform the curriculum and the physical space to meet the challenges of dental education during a pandemic.

In a measure of grace, the shutdown orders came just before spring break. IU added an extra week to the respite so leadership could determine best practices and faculty could transform their didactic curricula to an online platform. IUSD faculty labored intensely during those two weeks. School leaders were on Zoom calls daily with their dental school counterparts around the country, formulating plans and sharing the best evidence to protect patients, students, and personnel while continuing IUSD's education and research missions. Dean Murdoch-Kinch led an IUPUI Health and Safety Practices task force.

"We have an incredible community of faculty, staff, and students, who have demonstrated a resilience perhaps not required since World War II," Dean Murdoch-Kinch said. "They rapidly reimagined and converted didactic curricula to online formats and reconfigured spaces and schedules in the classroom, labs, and clinics to ensure safe physical distancing and mitigate aerosol production and transmission.

"Early on in the pandemic we created a school identity – #IUSDTogetherStrong – and we truly have emerged that way."



To reduce aerosol generation, D4s Brett Turek and Taylor Dufinetz practice four-handed dentistry, assisting each other, under the guidance of Dr. Bob Taylor.



Former Clinics A, B, C have been converted into temporary pre-clinical lab space to accommodate physical distance requirements for the approximately 230 D1 and D2 students.

ZOOM U

Dean Murdoch-Kinch created numerous IUSD task forces to tackle teaching and learning through a pandemic, such as repurposing facilities and applying best practices for curriculum content delivery. IUSD's Office of Academic Programs and IUPUI's Center for Teaching and Learning supported faculty in using online instructional technologies.

Getting the D4s and dental specialty residents graduated and through their clinical board examinations was a nail biter to the end. But by July, all D4s had completed their graduation requirements and passed their clinical boards – on par with previous years' classes. "This was remarkable," Dean Murdoch-Kinch said. "By the time all of our seniors graduated, many other dental schools were expecting delays of eight or more weeks for their seniors to complete their programs, and some did not yet have students return to campus."

In addition to the brass tacks of graduation, curriculum redesign, and infection control, there were psychosocial and emotional needs to address. When the dental school shutdown, many members of the school community felt isolated and fearful of contracting the virus or losing their jobs. Others were burdened with working from home and caring for family members simultaneously. Students were fearful they would not graduate on time. Part-time jobs at the university they relied on for living expenses had disappeared. Some experienced food insecurity. A cohort of students did not have a quiet place in their homes to study while campus libraries were closed.

Dean Murdoch-Kinch communicated relentlessly. She sent an uplifting email almost daily schoolwide, and she and other school leaders held frequent Town Hall meetings via Zoom to apprise everyone of university developments and disseminate resources for psychosocial support. The Development team created an Emergency Fund to help students in need. Leslie Flowers, director of communications and director of student wellness, added a second online weekly mindfulness meditation session. "People who had never been interested in meditation before showed up to find ways to cope with their stress," she said.

Since colleagues could not be with each other in person, the school communications team created a digital blog, #IUSDTogetherStrong, to stay socially connected. Community members submitted pictures of themselves in their home environments and shared how and what they were doing. Students produced a touching video thanking faculty and staff for all they were doing to continue educational excellence. Faculty and staff returned the gesture with a lively music video to express how much they missed the students (view both on the IU Dentistry YouTube channel).

GRADUAL CLINIC RESTART

During the first four months of the COVID shutdown, IUSD's Emergency Clinic, Pediatric Dentistry at Riley Hospital, and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at University Hospital never stopped operating, caring for about 2,000 patients with acute pain or infection (see Emergency Clinic sidebar on p. 13).

By June, as the state and university gradually lifted stay-at-home orders, other IUSD clinics were ready for a slow restart, prioritized by patient needs in the graduate clinics and Dental Faculty Practice. IUSD had purchased all new PPE – N95 masks, face shields, more gowns, hair coverings, booties – which previously only had been used in graduate clinics, and began bringing back D4s and faculty to deliver crowns and prostheses for which patients had been waiting. Researchers returned to their labs.

In early July, D3s, D4s, dental hygiene, and dental assisting students gradually resumed clinical education activities. New D2s and D3s began in-person pre-clinical lab instruction. But before any work commenced, everyone was fit-tested on N95 masks and oriented on new infection control and clinical practice procedures through videos and in-person trainings. The dental school implemented numerous strategies to maintain physical distancing and reduce the density of people in the building. New HEPA filtration and other environmental controls, such as plexiglass shields and curtains in some areas, also were added.



Thanks to Curtis Gardner and all the cleaning services team, who wipe down touchpoints with virucide throughout the building three times daily.



Physically distanced staff lunchmates

Dean Murdoch-Kinch wrote in her Dean’s Update email on July 6: “Today was the first day of our Summer Session II, and my first day back inside the school in a very long time. The building looks good, with many new signs to help with wayfinding and reminders to wear a mask, wash our hands, and keep our distance to keep everyone safe and healthy. We are ready to re-start the clinical activities that have been paused these past 3.5 months!”

Scheduling student education activities with physical distancing has been a logistical puzzle. Space is always an issue at the dental school, but with the need to spread everyone out by at least six feet – it has become paramount.

The Academic Facilities Planning Task Force was charged with safely distancing 110 students plus 15 faculty for the D1/ D2 preclinical lab courses as well as accommodating make-up sessions for spring preclinical lab courses delayed during the shutdown. The dental school had one large unoccupied space – the former Clinics A, B, C with the iconic windows that overlook Michigan Street. It had been vacated when the Fritts Clinical Center became operational. Although fundraising had begun to transform the space into a student commons, IUSD’s amazing facilities services team rapidly turned the empty clinics into a bench lab.

To make physical distancing work, D1 and D2 students come to the school either for morning or afternoon lab sessions and do not eat lunch at the dental school. Additionally, the dental school invested \$1 million to purchase electric hand pieces and waxers for every pre-doctoral student so they can practice skills at home.

In the clinics, D3 and D4 students alternate work days, which include expanded evening hours two days a week. As of this writing, clinical productivity is at about 70% of normal operations.

“We’ve made it work, thanks to the ingenuity of faculty and the hard work of our facilities personnel,” Dean Murdoch-Kinch said.

MASK UP

The first topic of every Dean’s morning meeting is PPE supply. Like all other health care providers, IUSD has a limited number of N95 surgical masks. When the COVID-19 virus

began making its way across the globe, vendors were quickly depleted, and supplies diverted to hospitals, shutting down our supply chain. However, with ingenuity, tenacity, and the good old golden rule, the dental school found enough to support Emergency Clinic personnel in the early months and now in all of the clinics.

Ken Burgess, a microbiologist and director of IUSD infection control, has worked in overdrive from the beginning of the pandemic to research and test methods to disinfect the N95 masks and extend their use, with assistance from IUSD research scientists, and following CDC guidelines and published scientific evidence. The school’s first N95 mask preservation protocol included daily disinfection using ultraviolet germicidal irradiation light available in one of our faculty’s research labs.



Ken Burgess

Dr. Harvey Weingarten, associate dean for clinical affairs, received an unexpected gift of 200 N95 masks from St. Francis Health, the order of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, a convent in Mishawaka, Ind., where Dr. Weingarten has been the convent’s dentist for about 30 years. Endodontics Chair Dr. Kenneth Spolnik faced down the ire of building contractors in April when he showed up at a Lowes the moment the store opened and bought out its N95 masks.

Beginning in June, when the clinics began reopening, IUSD fit tested every student, faculty, and staff member who delivers patient care for N95 masks. Adequate PPE supplies continue to be top of mind. When one vendor was no longer able to supply our 3M N95 masks, we quickly shifted to another manufacturer. To keep everyone safe, we had to re-fit test everyone on this new mask to ensure they were fully protected, shutting down the Comprehensive Care Clinic for two days while this was completed. Some of our providers needed to be fitted with elastomeric masks instead.

INFECTION CONTROL

In the clinics, IUSD follows the most current CDC guidelines for dental settings during the COVID-19 pandemic and continuously investigates technologies and strategies to mitigate aerosol generation, dispersal, and viral transmission. Our clinic staff screens patients for signs and symptoms of infection before they enter the building, by history and by measuring body temperature. And prior to treatment, patients rinse with an antimicrobial solution.

Infection control measures in the pre-doctoral dental clinic include pairing D4s with D3s to assist each other with four-handed dentistry to reduce and mitigate aerosols. Students also use high-volume suction with dental dam isolation or isolate auxiliary suction when dental dams are not feasible. We are also in the process of installing auxiliary external suction devices on all clinic chairs for the future, which will allow us to reduce the need for a chairside assistant for some procedures.

“After six months of using these protocols, we know of no COVID-19 infections in our faculty, staff, or students associated with our clinics, classroom, or labs. Indeed, there have been no reports in the United States of virus transmission in dental practices that are following CDC infection-control protocols,” Dean Murdoch-Kinch said.

IU increased HEPA filtration in the air handling systems, and IUSD installed air purifiers in rooms where people eat lunch and in the bathrooms. Three times daily, cleaning

Led by Dr. Michael Sovanich, IUSD’s Emergency Clinic didn’t skip a beat. Patient screening protocols were established and staff from different clinics merged together in what they described as a dentistry MASH unit. They were the first in the dental school to learn how to work in N95 masks and face shields. In four months, while dental practices were closed or limited around the state, they relieved more than 2,000 patients of pain and infection. »

A story of many heroes

EMERGENCY CLINIC TREATED MORE THAN 2,000 PATIENTS DURING COVID-19 SHUTDOWN

In the early months of the pandemic, as dental offices around the world went dark, a bright light illuminated the west side of the IUPUI campus. The dental school’s Emergency Clinic stayed open to serve Hoosiers with acute oral pain and infection.

From March through July 2020, about 20 faculty and staff members commuted on eerily quiet streets and highways to operate the state’s only dental emergency clinic. Dr. Michael Sovanich, clinical assistant professor and clinic director, led the dental school Emergency Clinic staff, who provided care for 10-20 patients daily, three or four days a week. Endodontics residents were on call for emergency root canals, and oral and maxillofacial surgical residents performed emergency surgeries at IUSD, University Hospital, and were on call for other hospitals. Pediatric dentistry faculty and residents continued to treat children’s dental emergencies at Riley Hospital for Children.

“This is a story of many heroes,” said Dr. Harvey Weingarten, associate dean of Clinical Affairs. “Multiple people, all playing essential roles, came together for a common goal. When we remember the COVID-19 crisis of 2020, I will remember the way IUSD’s Emergency Clinic, in conjunction with the Graduate

service personnel wipe down touchpoints (elevators, doors, stair handrails) with a virucide disinfectant. Seats in the lecture halls have been taped off to ensure appropriate physical distancing. “Disinfectant and cleaning supplies are available throughout the school so that faculty, staff, and students can clean their own spaces as well. We all use it so we all clean it,” Dean Murdoch-Kinch said.

“By developing and enforcing strict protocols, IUSD is performing at the highest level of infection control, sanitation, and cleaning,” said Adam Smith, director of facility operations and auxiliary services.

The university also provides access to COVID-19 testing and treatment through an IU Health virtual portal, is conducting required random COVID-19 testing of thousands of students, faculty, and staff weekly, and is administering required flu shots.

“Since the 1980s, with the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, dental professionals have become experts in infection prevention and management of aerosols generated during dental treatment,” Dean Murdoch-Kinch said. “We have been through similar trials that have challenged our thinking on how to deliver care differently to ensure patient and provider safety. Dentistry has shown it can adapt and scale up, using the best available evidence. The oral and overall health of the public depends upon this. Science is the answer, and we’ve got this.”

Endodontics, came to the rescue to treat the patients in pain during the shutdown.”

The dental school’s Emergency Clinic was designed specifically for accelerated ventilation. Located in the James J. Fritts, DDS Clinical Care Center, a new state-of-the-art clinic that opened at the dental school in 2018, the Emergency Clinic was constructed with negative pressure operatories, which circulate air from the ceiling down to the floor and move it outside through special HEPA filter vents.

“An awesome group of dental professionals, many of whom had not worked together before, staffed the Emergency Clinic,” said Jennifer McKee, dental hygienist in IUSD Faculty Practice. “We pulled together and quickly created a new working rapport to care for patients who were extremely grateful that we remained open and successfully addressed their dental emergencies.”



GETTING IT DONE

Faculty and a student leader share how they rapidly transformed the curriculum to online formats and reconfigured spaces and schedules to maintain physical distance

Dr. Lisa Willis

Clinical Assistant Professor, Cariology, Operative Dentistry, and Dental Public Health



To meet the physical distancing requirements of COVID-19, the only thing Dr. Willis and her colleagues had to change was everything.

“We’ve worked outside the box to develop innovative

ways to deliver the same material within COVID guidelines and protocols,” said Dr. Willis, who recreated an online curriculum with faculty colleagues Drs. Brooke Adams and Michele Kirkup. “Every document, whether it was a PowerPoint, Word, video, grading, or competency sheet, had to be re-imagined with different criteria and evaluation rubrics.”

They also developed new ways to welcome D1s online for their summer courses and prepare them for their first full semester. “We’ve worked hard to create human connections for the D1s through Zoom simply by being caring and kind. We conduct the Zoom sessions as if we were all in one of the lecture halls, just like usual. We maintain a positive approach and keep smiling,” Dr. Willis said.

Dr. Willis and colleagues turned Introduction to Patient Care for D1s into an online course. They created lab technique homework assignments, and students uploaded photos of their work. Additionally, the dental school purchased electric hand pieces and waxers so that D1s and D2s could practice at home.

Despite the hour-by-hour changes during the early days of the pandemic, Dr. Willis said creating new teaching formats has led to course improvements and

more evidence-based pedagogy. “Every step backward turned into many steps forward. I’m so thankful for my colleagues and their passion and compassion and humor. Laughing kept us all going at times.”

How have the students responded? “They are incredibly resilient and flexible. They are just so happy to be in school and connect with us in person, even on a limited basis, or on Zoom.”

Dr. Vanchit John

Professor and Chair, Periodontology

The pandemic hit at a critical time of the academic year, as the end of the spring semester rapidly approached with project deadlines, incomplete patient work, and graduation. When the governor and chancellor ordered campus closed, IUSD’s pre-clinical labs and clinical activity ground to a halt.

“We were clear from the beginning of the shutdown that we needed to compensate for the clinical time that our residents were going to miss,” said Dr. Vanchit John, professor and chair, Periodontology, who, with co-authors and third-year Periodontology residents Drs. Chandni Batra and Niloufar Daneshparvar, shared impressions of the early impact of COVID-19 in articles published in *Decisions in Dentistry*, *Dimensions in Dental Hygiene*, and the *Journal of the Indiana Dental Association*.

In place of direct patient care, faculty employed case-based learning. The residents broke out into small rooms on Zoom to discuss assigned clinical



situations and then reported back their diagnosis and treatment plan to the larger group and faculty.

For the DDS students, hands-on assignments in scaling and root planing and in the Adult Prophylaxis Clinic had not been completed. Both were rescheduled until the clinics and labs began to reopen slowly in July. For D3s, faculty delivered their remaining periodontology lectures online.

There was more on the line for the graduating Class of 2020. “We still had a small cohort remaining that needed to complete their patient experiences,” Dr. John said. Since no in-person contact was permitted, an objective structured clinical exam (OSCE) was constructed as a surrogate for the clinical experiences. “Imperfect as it was, it was the best option available,” he said. “However, we felt that the alternatives that we came up did not compromise the quality of learning for the students.

“Dentistry and periodontology are procedure-driven professions. They require patient care and what we refer to as ‘wet fingered work.’ Virtual learning will take us only so far.”

Dr. Neetha Santosh

Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor, Comprehensive Care and General Dentistry

Thankfully, there were no COVID-19 diagnoses in her family last spring, but Dr. Neetha Santosh was quarantined nonetheless. She locked herself away, working 15 hours a day, including weekends, to convert her



lectures on orofacial pain, oral histology, and biomedical sciences to a recorded online format in less than 30 days.

"Orofacial pain was offered for the first time to IUSD students this summer. Developing a course from scratch and then recording the lectures in one month was the biggest challenge," Dr. Santosh said. The course on one of the most common patient complaints was only to be delivered to D3s; however, D4s also got to take it while clinics were closed.

Dr. Santosh shared that while online technologies allow dental education to continue, she has missed face-to-face interactions with her students. "During the pandemic, when physical distancing is the most important priority, technology like Kaltura recordings and Zoom meetings have greatly helped bring faculty and students together on a virtual platform for uninterrupted education. However, once the pandemic resolves, I prefer to go back to a traditional classroom where I can teach my students in person and make lifelong connections."

Her advice to faculty facing a similar dilemma: "Change is always hard, but never give up!"

Nathan Buck

D4, Chair, Student Curriculum Assessment Committee

D4 Nathan Buck has been impressed with IUSD's quick turnaround of facilities to accommodate

physical distancing and the almost overnight renovation of the former Clinics A, B, and C into bench labs.

"Our faculty has done a great job still delivering the highest-quality clinical education," Buck said. "D4s are now paired with D3s in the clinics, which is providing great opportunities for mentorship and vertical learning."



Buck also is a teaching assistant for D1s, who are learning how to tooth wax mostly at home with hand pieces and waxers the school purchased for them. The D1s alternate coming to the dental school one day a week for in-person lab work. "It's very non-traditional, but it's working."

He said a positive result of the reconfigured online curriculum has been updated lectures. Also, since most are recorded, students can decide when to listen to lectures in the quiet and comfort of their own home, rather than sit in class for eight hours a day. The main negative is missing out on the in-person comradery of peers, especially for the D1s, Buck said. "They just don't know each other as well yet."

For D3s and D4s, Buck said the state-of-the-art Fritts Clinical Center has been a lifesaver. "Without that we would have been absolutely sunk," he said. "We have been able to fully utilize the space, and patients like it so much better."

He said the clinical faculty has worked incredibly hard to ensure the students will be graduating with the skills they need to be excellent dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants. "The Prosthodontic and Periodontology departments have done a great job of working with Comprehensive Care faculty to adjust competencies to fit the current patient needs, while still emphasizing the essential clinical concepts to excel as an independent practitioner."

Buck gave a big shout-out to the part-time adjunct faculty, who returned after the clinic reopened to teach the next generation of dentists. "The students are so grateful that the dental school is open at all. There are plenty of schools that stayed closed for much longer. Ultimately we just want the opportunity to learn," he said.

Dr. Angeles Martínez Mier

Professor and Chair, Cariology, Operative Dentistry, and Dental Public Health

Dr. Martínez Mier had just a few weeks to transform her dental public health summer school course for D1s from in person to online.



She said the most challenging part of the process was rethinking her teaching practices and understanding that what works in person does not necessarily work online. "You have to pay attention to format and timing as much as content," she said. "We created weekly lessons with Zoom sessions, recorded lectures, online group assignments, and virtual help forums."

In the past, students could choose their classmates for group assignments. This year she had to assign groups, since the D1s had not yet met in person and did not already know each other.

"For guest lecturers, I had to ensure they had access to the right equipment and in some cases provide training on the online technologies. Prior to COVID-19, they had to just show up for lecture."

To keep students engaged on the screen, Dr. Martínez Mier created interactive lectures, employing the Zoom question button or a chat moderator in addition to the presenter.

She said to compensate for the lack of live interactions she offered more opportunities for students to connect with her one-on-one outside of class. "I always tell students my office doors are open, but this semester I scheduled optional online help forums where I answered student questions individually or in small groups. I was surprised to see I had anywhere from 20 to 30 students every time taking advantage of these sessions."

Dr. Martínez Mier said the response to the online teaching format has depended on the student's learning style. "Some of them have responded really well; it has been more difficult for others," she said. "I will most likely keep some of the practices I have implemented after we return to 'normal.'"

Getting it done!

Leonard Scott



SOLID GOLD

DENTIST, BISHOP, AND GOSPEL RECORDING ARTIST DR. LEONARD SCOTT (DDS'73)

Dr. Leonard Scott, bishop of Rock Church. His dental office, gospel recording studio, record label, and church are in the same complex on East 71st Street in Indianapolis.

By Jill Jansen

It's not every day you walk into a dental office and see gold record albums hanging alongside dental school diplomas. Or discover that the dentist, who's been practicing for over 40 years, also founded a record label, writes gospel songs, and records music videos. But to stop there fails to capture the fullness of Dr. Leonard Scott's life and work. Probe a little further, and you'll learn he's also a published author, and his dental office is just steps away from the church he started nearly 20 years ago.

In fact, listening to Dr. Scott's story, it's easy to forget it's the life of just one man. Born in Indianapolis, he grew up and attended church with his family near Fall Creek Boulevard and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street. His father, who taught business courses at the adjutant general's school at Fort Benjamin Harrison, largely influenced his decision to become a dentist.

"I remember his encouragement, 'You've got a good head on your shoulders. Why don't you be a doctor or something?'" Dr. Scott recalled. Always eager to please his father,

he enrolled at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, and in time began considering a career in dentistry.

"I didn't like the sight of blood, so medicine was out. That shows how naïve I was because most dentists see more blood than physicians."

It was during this time that music started to play a bigger role in Dr. Scott's life. It began years earlier when his dad gave him a clarinet and arranged for lessons at a neighborhood church. At ISU, he traded the clarinet for a saxophone and joined his cousins in a band.

"I don't know if we were good or not, but a lot of opportunities started coming. We got a manager who flew us to New York City and to Minneapolis, and we opened here in Indianapolis for Tiny Tim at Clowes Hall and The Byrds at the Fairgrounds Coliseum," Dr. Scott said. "We were invited to play for a party in Kendallville, Ind. But because we were in an integrated band, the Town Council had to vote on whether they would let us play."

Dr. Scott continued to play in the band while in dental school, traveling

every weekend, often arriving back in town just in time for Monday morning class.

"My dad was scared I was going to flunk out of dental school, but the band was on a roll, and I was sure we were going to make it," he said. "I made a deal with my dad that if we didn't make it in a year, I'd do it his way. Of course, we didn't make it, and I finished dental school. I still remember my dad telling me, 'For every rich musician, I'll show you a hundred poor ones who are better than the rich ones.'"

Four decades and three generations

Dr. Scott graduated from IUSD in spring of 1973 and joined the dental practice of Dr. William Swatts in Indianapolis. He learned a lot from Dr. Swatts and they got along well, but the business wasn't able to support two full-time dentists.

"I had only worked there for two or three months, but he drove me around town looking for another practice for me," Dr. Scott said. "When



Dr. Brooke Scott joined her grandfather and aunt in practice when she graduated IUSD in 2019.

“I really enjoy working with my grandfather, and as far as treatment planning goes, it’s great to be able to exchange ideas.”
 — DR. BROOKE SCOTT (DDS’19)

I left, he even sent some of his patients to start me off. I didn’t know it at the time, but it was one of the best things that could have happened.”

With just that short-term work experience and some basics from a one-hour class on practice management at the dental school, Dr. Scott opened Scott Dentistry on North Keystone Avenue near 34th Street in Indianapolis in October 1973. From answering the phone and scheduling appointments to performing all of the dental services, he was completely on his own in the early years. As the practice grew, he hired an assistant and then more staff. He had several associates over the years, but practiced solo until 2007 when his daughter, Dr. Lynna Scott-Diggs, a graduate of the University of Iowa College of Dentistry, joined the practice.

From an early age, his granddaughter, Dr. Brooke Scott (DDS’19), frequently visited her aunt and grandfather’s office. By the time she was a teenager, she began watching them more closely. Sparked by a love of science and inspired by what she was learning about dentistry from her family, Brooke followed in their footsteps. After earning a bachelor’s degree from South Carolina State, she returned to Indiana and her grandfather’s alma mater, graduating from IU School of Dentistry in May 2019.

Today, practicing alongside his daughter and Brooke, Dr. Scott marvels at the tremendous changes

in dentistry in the years spanning three generations.

“We didn’t wear masks and gloves when I started out; thankfully, a lot of those things have changed,” he said. “For my granddaughter, the future is so bright — with research now into stem cells and advancements in technology that make taking impressions a thing of the past — all of that is really exciting.”

For Brooke, joining her grandfather’s practice has made the transition from dental school to private practice easier.

“I really enjoy working with my grandfather, and as far as treatment planning goes, it’s great to be able to exchange ideas,” Brooke said. “It feels pretty special when he asks for my advice, as if he isn’t the expert — it’s definitely given me confidence.

“It’s so rewarding to see patients who’ve had past dental trauma leave completely different than when they came,” Brooke said. “Just to see the transition of how afraid they are, and how we’re able to make them comfortable here — it’s very moving.”

And then there was music...again

While music was an integral part of Dr. Scott’s life in college and his early dental school years, after what he describes as a “spiritual experience,” he left music behind altogether. He quit playing in bands and shifted his focus to finishing dental school and starting his practice.

“Music had been my God —

anything that is more important to you than God is your God,” Dr. Scott said. A few years later, Dr. Scott joined his church’s choir. “When I gave up the band and rock ‘n roll, God changed it and gave it back to me.”

Dr. Scott started writing gospel songs. He shared them with church organist Craig Tyson, who suggested the choir record some of the compositions.

“We needed a label to release the recording,” Dr. Scott said. “I had the dental practice and a couple other businesses at the time, and my attorney advised me to incorporate the label to protect myself. We thought it was just for this one recording, but then other artists started asking if they could use our label, and it just grew.”

Tyscot Records was founded by Tyson and Dr. Scott in 1976 and today is the largest Black-owned independent gospel label in the world, Dr. Scott said. The label has represented more than 35 recording artists in the past 40 years, including a number of award-winning gospel artists — and a few number one hitmakers. Under contract with the label, Anthony Brown & group therAPy has earned one gold record in recent years and 13 gospel music industry Stellar Awards. Founding artist Dr. Scott released his 15th album, “Jesus Love Legacy,” in 2018.

“Making music is very rewarding for me,” he said. “I’m not one of the top-selling artists, but they keep letting me do it.

“When we first started, it was

CONTINUED »

The Low Down, an IUSD cover band from the Class of 1973. Dr. Leonard Scott, singer; Dr. John Green, keyboard; and Dr. Michael Badell, drums



Dr. Leonard and Christine Scott, married for 43 years, parents to seven children and 17 grandchildren and one great grandchild on the way



just a hobby, something I enjoyed doing,” said Dr. Scott, who managed Tyscot Records in its early years and kept it going through some hard times, including the bankruptcy of a distributor, which nearly wiped out the label. In 1988, his son Bryant Scott (Brooke’s father), abandoned his aspiration to become a dentist and joined the record label full time to help save the struggling company.

“There have been times we should have been out of business, but God has given us favor; He uses people,” Dr. Scott said. “When my son started running it, things turned around, and Tyscot’s a very viable business now. It supports a lot of people, including our staff and the artists.”

Black at IUSD

Dr. Scott said being Black at IUSD in the late 1960s/early 1970s “was a little different than it is now.

“My mother had me make an admissions appointment at the dental school over spring break of my junior year of college,” Dr. Scott said. “I had all the necessary prerequisites because I was pre-dental. Back in the late 1960s, the dental school accepted two Blacks and two women each year. But the government said if you don’t do better we’ll cut your funding. So, the year I applied, the dental school accepted four Blacks and four women. Thanks to my mother, I applied just at the right time. They invited me to begin the next semester.”

Dr. Scott said he experienced more

discrimination in dental school than he cares to share. He did recall how some members of white dental fraternities would not let black students have access to previous year’s exams to use as study guides. “You would do well if you could look at past exams. Jewish dental students couldn’t get into those fraternities either, so they had their own fraternity and invited me to join.”

Reflecting on today’s Black Lives Matter movement, Dr. Scott said, “I do think all lives matter. But in our society and in our culture, Black lives are not fully valued. During slavery, Black people were looked at as three-fifths of a person. We have come a long way, and we have a long way to go.

“Racism is not a white or black thing. It’s a heart thing,” said the church bishop. “It’s not natural for us to put others before ourselves – naturally we want to put others down. I become big if I put you down. We do it with race, culture, money, social status. We find ways to make ourselves bigger than others to make us feel better about ourselves. When in reality, we only really feel better about ourselves when we give to and love others.”

Almost 50 years and two generations later, granddaughter Dr. Brooke Scott said, “Being Black at IUSD wasn’t terrible, but also not ideal. There was a lot of support in the Diversity Office. But I knew that there were still people at the school that didn’t believe I should be there. And I can’t fault them for that, because I’ve

grown to understand that some beliefs are passed down from generation to generation.

“The hardest part about being Black for me is being in a career where there are not many of us, and not really knowing what my colleagues think about me. I wish racism didn’t exist, and I could just assume everyone is genuine.”

Dentistry as ministry

While Dr. Scott has cut back his time in the dental office to just one day a week, he prefers to think of himself in transition and not retired. In fact, Dr. Brooke Scott will tell you he never stops moving. On Tuesday and Sunday, he leads worship for his congregation at the Rock Church. He’s working on his fourth book related to health and spiritual well-being, and he still enjoys working out at the gym.

Whether referring to Dr. Scott the singer, pastor, author, or businessman, what ties his interests together is a dedication to serve in ministry to others. And his career in dentistry, he explained, is no exception.

“I look at dentistry as a ministry, too. Giving people a smile they’re proud of — that lets them drop the hand that’s been in front of their mouth because they’re embarrassed. It’s one of the most rewarding parts of dentistry.”

FACULTY NEWS



Odette Aguirre



Andrew Bartels



Oriana Capin



Simone Duarte



Grace Felix Gomez



Brenda Hanes



E. Angeles Martínez Mier



Nigel Matthews



Jeffrey Platt



Laura Romito

Dr. Odette Aguirre, visiting clinical assistant professor, Biomedical Sciences and Comprehensive Care, was named president of the American Society for Dental Ethics.

Dr. Andrew Bartels (DDS'19) has been appointed visiting clinical assistant professor, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Hospital Dentistry.

Dr. Oriana Capin, clinical assistant professor, Cariology, Operative Dentistry, and Dental Public Health, was presented the Dr. Donald W. Johnson Public Health Faculty Community Service Award by the Indiana Dental Association.

Dr. Simone Duarte, associate professor, Cariology, Operative Dentistry, and Dental Public Health, received the 2020 IUSD Alumni Association Distinguished Faculty Award for Research.

Dr. Grace Gomez Felix Gomez has joined IUSD's division of Dental Informatics as a post-doctoral research fellow.

Dr. Brenda Hanes was appointed visiting clinical assistant professor, Prosthodontics.

Dr. E. Angeles Martínez Mier, professor and chair, Cariology, Operative Dentistry and Dental Public Health, was elected president of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry.

Dr. N. Shaun Matthews has joined Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Hospital Dentistry as clinical professor.

Dr. Jeffrey Platt, chair, Biomedical Sciences and Comprehensive Care, received the Indiana Dental Association (IDA) Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award, as well as the IDA Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award.

Dr. Laura Romito, Biomedical Sciences and Comprehensive Care, was promoted from associate professor with tenure to the rank of full professor. Dr. Romito leads the Comprehensive Pain Assessment Clinic through IU's Responding to the Addictions Grand Challenge. The clinic, which has trained over 130 students and helped over 90 patients, brings together primary care physicians, physical therapists, occupational therapists, social workers, and marriage and family counselors to collaboratively address each patient's needs.

CONTINUED »



David Zahl has been appointed assistant dean of curriculum development and assessment in the Office of Academic Programs. Zahl supports curriculum development, innovation, and redesign; leads curriculum and program assessment initiatives; oversees instructional design support; and supports faculty educational research.

Faculty News continued



Michael Sovanich



Thankam Thyvalikakath



LaQuia Vinson



John Williams



Chao-Chieh (Randy) Yang



Juan Yepes



Domenick Zero



Mark Ziemba



Waldemar Polido



Dean Morton



Wei-Shao Lin

Dr. Michael Sovanich, clinical assistant professor, Biomedical Sciences and Comprehensive Care, received the 2020 IUSD Alumni Association Distinguished Faculty Award for Teaching.

Dr. Thankam Thyvalikakath, director, Dental Informatics Core Group and associate professor, Cariology, Operative Dentistry, and Dental Public Health, was granted tenure.

Dr. LaQuia Vinson, Pediatric Dentistry graduate program director and associate professor, was granted tenure.

Dr. John Williams, dean emeritus, has returned to IUSD as a professor in Cariology, Operative Dentistry, and Dental Public Health. Dr. Williams served a one-year term as interim president of Transylvania University, his alma mater.

Dr. Chao-Chieh (Randy) Yang, clinical assistant professor, has been appointed assistant program director of the Advanced Education Program in Prosthodontics.

Dr. Juan Yepes, associate professor, Pediatric Dentistry, was promoted to full professor with tenure.

Dr. Domenick Zero, professor and director, Cariology, Operative Dentistry, and Dental Public Health, co-authored "Nonrestorative Treatments for Caries: Systematic Review and Network Meta-analysis," published in the *Journal of Dental Research* in 2019 and received the William J. Gies Award in Clinical Research by IADR/AADR.

Dr. Mark Ziemba, former adjunct faculty member, has been appointed visiting clinical assistant professor, Prosthodontics.

Papers co-authored by **Dr. Waldemar Polido**, interim chair and professor, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Hospital Dentistry; **Dr. Dean Morton**, professor, Prosthodontics; and **Dr. Wei-Shao Lin**, interim chair, associate professor, Prosthodontics, were the top downloaded papers of 2018-2019 in Clinical Oral Implants Research.

BRIDGES



Indu Chauhan, dental assistant, Endodontics, retired from IUSD on Feb. 7, 2020, after 21 years with the school. Chauhan graduated IUSD's Dental

Assisting program in 1999. Just two months later, she joined the IUSD staff as a dental assistant in Comprehensive Care, followed by positions in Pediatrics and Graduate Endodontics.

Chauhan said the people have been her favorite part of the school and made the experience of working at IUSD wonderful. "I have learned many things during my years at IUSD. Everyone has taught me a life lesson," Chauhan said. "I would like to thank everybody in IUSD who crossed my path and made this journey successful."



Mary Cooper, associate dean, Division of Allied Dental Education, IU Fort Wayne, retired on June 30, 2020. For more than four decades, Cooper

has been part of allied dental education on the Fort Wayne campus, where she received an associate's degree in dental hygiene in 1977. She also holds a bachelor's degree in dental health education and a master's degree in secondary education.

Over the years, Cooper was promoted to the rank of professor and associate dean of the College of Health and Human Services, later the Division of Allied Dental Education, when the Fort Wayne health sciences campus became IU Fort Wayne in 2018.

She has co-authored several textbooks, book chapters, and numerous journal articles. Among her many honors, Cooper was a member of the Faculty Colloquium of Excellence in Teaching and received the Gloria H. Huxoll Award and the IPFW Friends of the University Outstanding Teaching Award. She is a member of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi and was named in the Who's Who Among America's Teachers.

In her reflections about Cooper, Jennifer Bryant, IUPFW Dental Hygiene director shared, "Mary leads by example, exhibiting professionalism and strong moral ethics. She serves as a mentor to so many. Throughout my career, I have often thought 'What would Mary do?,' and her voice in my head has served me well."



Jan Polakoff, director, Bioresearch Facility, retired on Jan. 31, 2020. She said her greatest accomplishment was maintaining the Bioresearch

Facility with executive standing. IUSD was the first school in the IU system to hold Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International accreditation; Polakoff maintained that accreditation at the highest level throughout her 39-year career. Working with the faculty and students was her favorite part of the job, she said. She also loved caring for the plants throughout the building; they were her garden at work.

"For those of you who know Jan, she tends to be a little accident prone. With the help of her loyal staff, her broken bones, black eyes, and bionic body parts never kept her from doing her job or delayed faculty research projects. Jan cannot be replaced, and she will be missed," said Jude Wilkinson, fiscal officer and industrial liaison, Office of Research.



Pam Nichols, senior administrative secretary, Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting, retired on Jan. 31, 2020, after 36 years of service to IU. Nichols joined

Dental Hygiene in March 1984, where she worked for six years until leaving for a promotion in the Department of Biochemistry in the School of Medicine. In 2006, after a major reorganization, her position was eliminated and she was out of a job.

"I felt that it was a miracle when I saw my old job in Dental Hygiene was available," Nichols said. "It was like coming home again when I was rehired in Dental Hygiene."

Fourteen years later, after 36 years of getting up at 4:45 am and traveling over 100 miles to and from work, Nichols felt it was time to retire. Her husband, Allen Nichols, also is retiring after 30 years with Campus Facilities as manager of the Lockshop and Special Crafts.

Retirements

PASSAGES *The IUSD family grieves the*



Dr. Phillip Conn (DDS'78)

practiced general dentistry in Danville, Illinois, for 42 years. He served as president of the IUSD Alumni Association, which recognized him with the Distinguished Service Award in 2018. He was a member of the Dean's Society and has an operatory named for his generosity in the James J. Fritts, DDS Clinical Care Center.

A devoted IU alumnus, Dr. Conn was a member of the Indiana University Executive Council and was on the search committee when IU appointed Dean Emeritus Dr. John Williams in 2010. He also served as president of the Danville District Dental Society.

Known by many as the kindest of men, Dr. Conn ran Halo Project dental days from his dental office, volunteered for Head Start, was a hospital dentist, and was active in his church. He provided dental care in impoverished communities during numerous mission trips to the Ghana-Ivory Coast border of Africa.

Dr. George Zundo (DDS'80) and Dr. Conn met as IUSD students and became close dental colleagues and friends in Danville. They fished, hunted, and traveled to professional conferences together.

"We counted up one time that we went to 182 dental meetings together," Dr. Zundo said. "Phil loved his work. He loved his staff. He loved the people at church. We always talked about it. He'd say 'God put me on this earth to be a dentist.'

"He just wanted to help everybody," Dr. Zundo said. "I don't think he turned away any person because of payment. He'd always say, 'We'll worry about it tomorrow.' He accepted payment in tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, and sweetcorn especially. I believe he got paid with a quilt and a blanket once. He'd make it work for that person in a way they never felt it was charity."

Dr. Conn was especially helpful to the IUSD Alumni Association staff. He always volunteered to lend a hand at any event he attended. It was commonplace to see him at alumni functions manning the registration desk and checking in attendees. Usually he would share a funny story with them about dental school and make them feel welcome even if they had not been to an event in years. "He was so dedicated he flew to Hawaii for the last ADA meeting to help with the alumni reception and run the alumni continuing education on the 7-day Hawaiian island cruise," said Karen Jones, IUSD Alumni Association senior director.

Dr. Conn is survived by his wife Kandis, four daughters, and seven grandchildren.



Dr. Lloyd Hagedorn (DDS'66, Perio'68)

died suddenly in May 2020. "Dr. Hagedorn devoted time, energy and effort, as well as financial resources, to lead us to successfully raising almost \$9 million dollars for the James J. Fritts, DDS Clinical Care Center," said Dean Carol Anne Murdoch-Kinch. "He

made lasting contributions to the dental profession on every level during his lifetime. His warm smile and kind heart will be greatly missed by all who knew him."

Dr. John N. Williams, dean emeritus, worked closely with Dr. Hagedorn during fundraising for the Fritts Clinical Center. He shared these thoughts about the generous alumnus who became his friend.

"I met Dr. Lloyd Hagedorn in the first year following my arrival at the IU School of Dentistry as the 'new dean' in summer of 2011. I knew him through the American Dental Association but not all that well. I sensed he was very highly regarded for his work and was actively involved in state and national dental leadership. He impressed me as a tremendous role model one could follow.

"A trip that same summer took John Hoffman, assistant dean of development at the dental school, and me to visit with Lloyd and his wife Jan at the lake. The purpose of our visit was to seek Lloyd's willingness to serve on a building steering committee, which we were forming to raise money to build a new dental building – a project that had been discussed for several decades but never initiated. After a lovely lunch at a lakeside café, I asked Lloyd about serving not only on the steering committee, but also heading up the campaign as chair. At that point we had an idea and nothing else – no blueprints, drawings, nor cost estimates. I was looking for champions and IU dental alumni who could embrace this ambiguity, yet could get excited about the journey before us to bring folks together for the ultimate benefit of enhancing dental education in Indiana with modern clinical facilities.

"Lloyd was very polite and open to hearing me out. He told me that he would think about what I had suggested and get back in touch with me in a few days. John and I departed with a sense of cautious optimism that Lloyd was interested. Twenty minutes down the road, however, my cellphone rang. It was Lloyd calling to tell me, with excitement in his voice, that he would gladly accept my invitation to chair the new building steering committee.

"I was so impressed with Lloyd's gentle and insightful nature, always helping us focus on the end goal, while having some fun along the way. The naming of the Dr. Lloyd and Jan Hagedorn Main Street corridor is both tangible and symbolic, as this corridor links the past to the future.

"Dr. Hagedorn was proud of his family and proud of our profession. He dedicated his life in full measure to seeing that both would grow and flourish to stand as a testament of his grace, foresight, and dedication. Well done, good and faithful servant, Lloyd J. Hagedorn. Future generations of dental school students will benefit from your foresight and dedicated service."

passing of four alumni giants in 2020



Dr. Charles “Chuck” Pritchett (DDS’67) died on Aug. 20, 2020. He practiced orthodontics in Greenfield and Indianapolis, Indiana, for more than 50 years.

The first in his family to attend college, Dr. Pritchett graduated IUSD with distinction, earning membership into Omicron

Kappa Upsilon dental honor society as well as Xi Psi Phi international dentistry fraternity. While in dental school, he participated in research for Proctor & Gamble that led to the creation of Crest toothpaste. Dr. Pritchett completed his orthodontic training at the University of Kentucky School of Dentistry. He placed a high value on education and served as part-time faculty at the University of Kentucky for 35 years and at IUSD for over 25 years.

In his self-written obituary, Dr. Pritchett said he “truly loved the day-to-day interactions with ‘his’ residents. I did my best to instill a strong work ethic in my children and in my staff.”

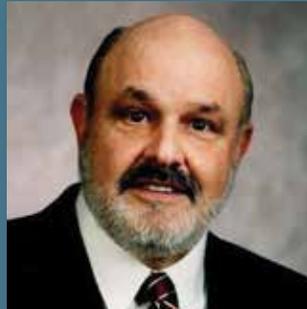
Feeling the need to give back, Dr. Pritchett helped fund the James J. Baldwin Professorship in Orthodontics at IUSD and the Preston Hicks Chair in Orthodontics at University of Kentucky. He also served on the IUSD Building Steering Committee that led fundraising to make the James J. Fritts, DDS Clinical Care Center a reality.

“Dr. Chuck Pritchett served as a beacon of professionalism and excellence at IUSD and within the Indianapolis community,” said Dr. Kelton Stewart, chair of the Department of Orthodontics and Facial Genetics and James J. Baldwin Professorship in Orthodontics. “Affectionately called the ‘Godfather of Orthodontics,’ he seemed to know everyone and everything, especially regarding orthodontics, the Indy 500, and high fashion. His love and passion for orthodontics and teaching, combined with his extensive business acumen, helped train generations of Indiana and Kentucky Orthodontic alumni who now positively impact communities around the world.

“He had a teaching style all his own that craftily combined knowledge, experience, warmth, and humor, with just a touch of sass,” Dr. Stewart said. “You always knew he was about to impart an important pearl of wisdom when he would tip his head down, allowing his sleek Prada glasses to slide to the tip of his nose, and don his one-of-a-kind, sly Chuck Pritchett smile. All his students will recall that these pearls of wisdom were almost always preceded by his famous catch phrase, ‘At the end of the day...’

“At the end of the day, Chuck lived an extraordinarily impactful life – one that brought smiles and light into our world, as well as joy and peace into the hearts of those he met. At the end of the day, he lived a life that embodied the ideals of compassion, sacrifice, integrity, diligence, and lifelong learning. He will be missed but never forgotten.”

Dr. Pritchett is survived by his wife, Karen Sue Clark, his children John (DDS’94) and Mary, four grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.



Dr. Frederick Sputh (DDS’77, Ortho’79) began dental school in 1973 after serving as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. He graduated with distinction as a member of Omicron Kappa Upsilon dental honor society. After receiving a master’s degree in orthodontics from IUSD, he practiced in Lafayette,

Indiana, for more than 30 years.

Dr. Sputh served as president of several dental organizations, including the Indiana University School of Dentistry Alumni Association, West Central Dental Society, and the Hoosier Orthodontic Forum. He was inducted into the International College of Dentists and the American College of Dentists.

Dr. Sputh’s numerous awards include the Maynard K. Hine Medal of Leadership, Honor Dentist of the West Central Dental Society, and the Distinguished Service Award of the IUSD Alumni Association, which nicknamed him “sea captain” for initiating and planning many of the alumni cruises.

Dr. Sputh was dedicated to IUSD students as well as alumni. “He frequently would call the alumni office to discuss an idea he had about connecting alumni with students,” said Karen Jones, IUSD Alumni Association senior director. “He was proud of his alma mater and wanted to do as much as he could to make students and alumni also proud and connected to each other. A few weeks before he passed away he made a trip to Indianapolis to discuss another program that he thought would benefit IUSD students. He was always thinking about ways to help make IUSD better because he cared so much about our school.”

“So many memories make up my 41 years with my dear friend,” said Dr. Ron Ditto (DDS’69, Peds’74). “Fred came to Lafayette in 1979 and our practices were side-by-side with a common waiting room, x-ray and laboratory areas. We became fast friends, with daily workouts at the YMCA and enjoying lunch together after.

“Fred and I attended many IUSD cruises together along with our wives. A couple’s trip to India in 2018 will always be a ‘stand-out’ memory, with many stories to tell. Fred was a member of my weekly Bible study and attended Bible Study Fellowship for years. He was an important part of my life and his passing leaves a deep hole in my heart.”

Dr. Sputh married his high school sweetheart, Ann Stoelting, whom he met in the first grade. She survives with their son Dr. Eric Sputh, daughter Amy Shelton, their spouses, and six grandchildren.

PASSAGES

1940s

Albert R. Giordano, DDS'48, Rehoboth Beach, Del., March 21, 2020

Joseph F. Karpinski, DDS'48, Auburn, N.Y., April 11, 2020

1950s

William C. Baker, DDS'52, Oral Surg '65, Indianapolis, March 18, 2020

Richard L. Berger, DDS'57, Indianapolis, Aug. 22, 2019

Dean M. Brubaker, DDS'52, Goshen, Ind., May 14, 2020

John J. Buyer, DDS'57, Indianapolis, June 27, 2017

Robert J. Dawson Jr., DDS'54, Olympia Fields, Ill., Feb. 1, 2020

Gene M. Fryar, DDS'56 Ortho'60, Kernersville, NC, Oct. 2, 2020

Richard E. Harrison, DDS'55, Anderson, Ind., Jan. 30, 2020

Paul G. Havlick, DDS'51, Valparaiso, Ind., Sept. 23, 2015

Don E. Lahrman, DDS'57, Ortho'65, Fort Wayne, Ind., June 10, 2019

Francis E. McCormick, DDS'53, West Chester, Ohio, March 30, 2020

Carl R. McKee, DDS'56, Terre Haute, Ind., May 1, 2020

Parvin R. Raibley, DDS'54, Evansville, Ind., Oct. 10, 2020

Charles W. Rigg, DDS'53, Portage, Ind., Feb. 1, 2020

Mary G. (Greenlee) Russ, ASDH'56, Spartanburg, S.C., March 2, 2020

George Von Mohr, DDS'57, Crown/Bridge'62, Blythe, Cal., June 9, 2020

V. Richard Williams Jr., DDS'55, Winchester, Ind., June 11, 2020

James A. Yeager, DDS'52, Bloomfield, Conn., Feb. 1, 2020

1960s

Richard P. Bianco, DDS'67, Las Vegas, Nev., May 13, 2020

Emory W. Bryan, Jr., DDS'66, Fort Wayne, Ind., Aug. 12, 2020

Lloyd J. Hagedorn, DDS'66, Perio'68, Fort Wayne, Ind., May 26, 2020

Joel Knapp, DDS'65, Gallatin, TN, Sept. 22, 2020

Joyce M. (Perkins) Lavengood, ASDH'60, Evanston, Ill., Feb. 24, 2020

Ann (Cleveland) Mann, ASDH'63, Elkhart, Ind., Feb. 26, 2020

Charles E. Pritchett, DDS'67, McCordsville, Ind., Aug. 22, 2020

Ronald P. Rheinlander, DDS'69, Evansville, Ind., May 16, 2020

Richard G. Scering, DDS'60, Covington, Ind., June 10, 2020

Jack E. Showley, DDS'65, Newville, Penn., Sept. 11, 2020

Roy A. Smudde, DDS'66, Valencia, Cal., May 13, 2020

1970s

Phillip W. Conn, DDS'78, Danville, Ill., July 31, 2020

Steven J. Keiser, DDS'70, Santa Ana, Cal., Feb. 23, 2020

Raymond G.W. Kubisch, DDS'74, Oxnard, Cal., Jan. 7, 2020

Michael J. Lawyer, DDS'78, W. Lafayette, Ind., June 27, 2020

Savvas D. Mintatos, Oper. '78, Newington, CT, April 24, 2019

Ruth J. (Gore) Oliver, ASDH'76, Green Castle, Ind., April 11, 2020

Frederick L. Sputh, DDS'77, Ortho'79, Lafayette, Ind., July 27, 2020

Marcus E. Trombley, DDS'70, Rock Hill, S.C., Jan. 15, 2020

Ronald L. Wines, DDS'72, Plainfield, Ind., Sept. 1, 2020

1980s

John R. Bean, DDS'82, Lebanon, Ind., Feb. 17, 2020

Donna R. (Bisson) Gillis, ASDH'84, W. Lafayette, Ind., Sept. 21, 2020

Brian P. Tinny, DDS'86, New Lenox, Ill., Jan. 28, 2020

Faculty

Dr. Joseph J. Legan, Endodontics professor, 1990-2014,
Poquoson, Va., June 9, 2020

David C. Vandersall, Periodontics associate clinical professor,
1980-2002, Indianapolis, April 1, 2020

ALUMNI EVENTS

CLASS OF 1970 VIRTUAL REUNION

The Pediatric Dentistry Class of 1970 held its 50th reunion on Zoom in June 2020. The group had a lot of fun catching up.

If you would like us to organize a virtual reunion for your class, please contact Karen Jones at kdeery@iupui.edu.



Pictured, top row, Brian Lee; Melissa Evans, director of Development; Bottom row, Phil Pate, Bob Rimstidt, and David Avery.

Marty Szakaly (DDS'78)
assumed the presidency
of the IUSD Alumni
Association for
2020-2021 at the
annual Dean's Society
celebration on Oct. 29, 2020.



Thank you to outgoing president Dr. Amy Gerardot (DDS'97)
for serving as 2019-2020 president.

Congratulations

2020 IUSD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

Dr. Harvey Weingarten (DDS'79)

was selected to receive the Distinguished Alumni Award for his outstanding achievements as a clinician, educator, state dental board member, national dental examiner board member, and lecturer. At IUSD, Dr. Weingarten is associate dean of clinical affairs and clinical assistant professor. He is a member of the IUSD Board of Advisors. Previously, he served as IUSD director of continuing education.



Dr. Weingarten has operated his dental practice in South Bend, Ind., for 40 years. He chairs the Commission of Dental Competency Assessments and has served as president of the Indiana State Board of Dental Examiners. Dr. Weingarten has consulted with local law enforcement on forensic dental identification cases and worked for the Department of Correction as a consultant dentist. He lectures about dental ethics for the ADA.

While combining his love for dentistry and his faith, Dr. Weingarten volunteered for one month as a dental care provider in a small town in Israel, for which he received the Alpha Omega International Service Award. He has also served on the board of a local hospital in the South Bend area.

"He is the consummate professional and he has been successful at every endeavor along the way," said Dr. William Gitlin (DDS'78), Dr. Weingarten's practice partner. "He cares passionately about the dental profession and his community and has worked his entire career to make both of them better for all of us."

Dr. Weingarten's memberships include the American Dental Association, Indiana Dental Association, North Central Dental Society, St. Joseph County Dental Society, Chicago Dental Society, American Association of Dental Consultants, Indiana State Board of Dentistry, American College of Dentists, International College of Dentists, Indiana Society of Forensic Odontology, American Society for

Dental Ethics, and Alpha Omega.

Dr. David Wolf (DDS'87) was selected to receive the Distinguished Alumni Award for his long-term commitment and service to the dental profession in Indiana and internationally.

Dr. Wolf is president of the Indiana Dental Association and has been an IDA trustee.

Dr. Wolf was president of the Indianapolis District Dental Society (IDDS) in 2000. As founder and president of the IDDS Foundation and current IDDS trustee to the Indiana Dental Association, he was recognized for 30 years of continuous membership to the IDDS in 2016.

Dr. Wolf founded the IDDS Foundation to provide funds in perpetuity to improve access to oral health care. The fund offers financial support to underserved patients in local clinics and the IUSD Global Service Learning program, which provides dental care for patients in underdeveloped countries.

Dr. Wolf's impact extends globally. Through his fundraising, he established dental clinics in Haiti and Romania and has recruited fellow oral health providers to travel to provide care there with him. He also participates in Donated Dental Services and Give Kids A Smile.

"Dr. Wolf is an inspiration to all who know him," said Dr. Matt Bojrab (DDS'03), IDDS past president. "He sees a need and fills it. He has had patients suffering from cancer who had financial issues – he thought nothing of organizing successful fundraisers for them. He had an elderly patient diagnosed with cancer whose bucket list included running the Boston Marathon. Dr. Wolf helped arrange that and ran the race with him."



CONTINUED »

Alumni Association Award Recipients continued

Dr. Gene Ranieri received the Certificate of Appreciation for his contributions to IUSD and the profession. Dr. Ranieri received his DDS degree in 1975 from Loyola University School of Dentistry and has specialized in periodontics for 45 years. He is a member of the American Dental Association, Northwest Indiana Dental Society, American Academy of Periodontology, Indiana Dental Association, Midwest Society of Periodontology, Indiana Society of Periodontics, and many others. An innovative leader, in 2004 he established a division of the Seattle Study Club in Northwest Indiana, where he created an outstanding curriculum with world-class speakers. In 2006, Dr. Ranieri combined his knowledge and content from the prestigious Seattle Study Club with his practice expertise to create an interdisciplinary treatment planning course for fourth-year dental students at IUSD.



Dr. Ranieri was a leader in founding the Northwest Indiana Dental Society Foundation. When the foundation raised \$75,000, he was one of many who advocated donating the money for construction of the IUSD Fritts Clinical Center.

"Dr. Ranieri maintains a very busy periodontal practice in Northwestern Indiana; however, he has made educating young dentists and dental students at IUSD a great priority and an integral component of his life," said Dr. Robert Corns (DDS'98), director, Northwest Indiana Dental Society. "He enjoys teaching and takes pride in seeing the students learn and grow in the dental profession. He is a true visionary with a passion for educating students and young dentists."



Judy Murfitt received the Certificate of Appreciation for her contributions to organized dentistry in Indiana and her support of IUSD. She is retired executive director of the West Central Dental Society (WCDS), serving from 2008-2019. She invested in all her members and got to know them personally.

She actively recruited new dental school graduates to organized dentistry, encouraging them and current members to remain connected to WCDS, the Indiana Dental Association, and the American Dental Association. Murfitt invited Dr. John Williams, IUSD dean emeritus, to speak at WCDS on several occasions to provide updates on the dental school. As a result, WCDS made a large contribution to the Fritts Clinical Center. Murfitt assisted with the WCDS annual golf fundraiser, Chic-Nic, which raises money for local programs and philanthropy, including the Riggs Dental Clinic and the Ivy Tech Dental Assistant Program.

Her nominees said, "Judy was always there when anyone needed assistance. You could always find her laughing and enjoying the dentists in attendance. She promoted organized dentistry and IUSD in all things she undertook. She loved nothing more than helping young dentists settle into their practices."

Murfitt owns and operates Broken Oak Ranch with her husband, Larry, in Westpoint, Ind.



Dr. L. Eric Pulver received the Honorary Member Award in recognition of his contributions to IUSD. He serves as volunteer adjunct faculty, as an Indiana Dental Association delegate, and is a board member for his local study club. Dr. Pulver received his DDS in 1989 at the University of Toronto Dental School and his oral maxillofacial surgery specialization in 1995 from Northwestern University.

Dr. Pulver is considered an expert and innovator in the adoption of artificial intelligence as a tool for clinical decision making. He is the founder and director of an interdisciplinary treatment planning course that is part of the elective track for pre-doctoral IUSD seniors, in which they learn a systematic treatment planning approach to actual clinical cases. Dr. Pulver is a member of the American Board of Oral Maxillofacial Surgery, Royal College of Dentists, American Dental Association, and American College of Dentists. He practices in Highland, Indiana.

Chicago Midwinter

ALUMNI REUNITED ON FEB. 20-22, 2020, at the annual Chicago Midwinter meeting. None of us knew it would be the last time we gathered in person for a professional meeting prior to the pandemic. So great to see everyone!



1 Joseph Wnek (DDS'09), Kristen Mannia Wnek, (DH South Bend'04, Public Health DH'06), Michelle and Paul (DDS'10) Mannia

2 John Rufatto (DDS'74), Sarah Knepfelpkamp (DDS'18) and her fiancé Joseph Cesaretti

3 Philip Polus (DDS'81) and his daughter Alexandra

4 The Bachman brothers: Matthew, D4, and Andrew (DDS'16)

5 Catherine Murphy (DDS'05, Ortho'10) and Amanda Pickett, executive director of the Northwest Indiana Dental Society

6 The gang's back together! DDS Class of 2016 buddies Andrew Bachman, Marissa Kendra, Jessie Scott, Kyle Scott (DDS'17), Taylor Kendra, and Megan Daniels

7 Professor emeritus Ted Parks with 2019 DDS classmates James Pierle, John Chau, Kyle Harrison, and Syed Hassan

8 Greg and Kelly Willhite (DDS'91) celebrated the DDS graduation of their son Jake this year. The junior Dr. Willhite entered IUSD's orthodontics residency program in July.



JOHN HOFFMAN

Assistant Dean of Development

There is no need on my part to elaborate on the unique times we are all experiencing. I certainly hope you have been able to stay well both physically and mentally during the pandemic.

The IU School of Dentistry has navigated the many challenges brought by the pandemic and has continued to offer a first-class education to our students. Dean Murdoch-Kinch and the faculty and staff have done a masterful job ensuring IUSD's ability to stay on course in education, research, and patient care.

Let me take a moment to thank you for your continuing philanthropy during these times. We greatly value and appreciate your support of the newly established IU School of Dentistry Emergency Fund to help students with urgent financial needs, the Dental School Priority Fund, as well as other departmental and school-wide funds. It has made a huge difference as the school recovers from the Comprehensive Care Clinic closure for almost four months this past spring.

Now, more than ever, I respectfully ask you to continue your loyalty and thoughtfulness. Please look for a year-end mailing asking for your support of the Dental School Priority Fund. This fund is used at the discretion of the dean to support various programs at the dental school, which allows us to continue our mission of education and patient care. I promise you that Dean Murdoch-Kinch will apply your support appropriately and thoughtfully.

I certainly hope our paths cross again sooner than later. I miss seeing all of you!

jhoffma@iu.edu | (317) 274-5313



KAREN JONES

Senior Director, Alumni Association Relations

Almost everything is different in 2020 and that includes alumni relations. By nature, our job is to connect alumni to each other and the school. I have been extremely lucky to have been your alumni relations staff member for over 25 years. When numerous events were canceled this year, we needed to figure out how to stay connected with you. We also want you to know what is going on at IUSD during COVID as the school continues to safely educate students, run the clinics, and conduct research. Alumni and students are the heart of the school and we need you.

We are still connecting with alumni but just in different ways. You should be receiving newsletters and the *Alumni Bulletin*. We are also holding town hall meetings, virtual class reunions, and Zoom board meetings. We started a series of continuing education workshops in October. Periodontic alumni will have a virtual alumni reception in November since their national meeting was canceled. Plans are underway for spring events, including dental and dental hygiene class reunions, alumni receptions, alumni conferences, and many other events. For now, our alumni continuing education cruises are on hold with hopes of resuming with a Caribbean cruise in 2022. Look for details about future events in upcoming email blasts and mailings. If we do not have your email, please contact me at kdeery@iupui.edu so I can update your record.

My final reminder is that we need you to stay connected to the school. Students look not only to the school for guidance but to our alumni. There are many ways you can help. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me and I can connect you to your area of interest. If we can be of assistance to you just let me know. This year we lost several of our alumni. I try to reach out to classmates when I hear we have lost one of our alumni because I know how important you all are to each other. You are also important to us.

kdeery@iupui.edu | (317) 274-8959

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The Indiana University School of Dentistry gratefully acknowledges the following individuals for their generous support of the school's efforts in the past fiscal year. The Dean's Society recognizes gifts of \$1,000 or more, given between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

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*denotes deceased

Practicing Dentistry in the Pandemic

- How has your practice survived, or even thrived, through the COVID-19 pandemic?
- What has kept you going?
- The stressors?
- The silver linings?



PLEASE SHARE YOUR PANDEMIC PRACTICE STORY WITH FELLOW ALUMNI IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE IUSD ALUMNI BULLETIN. SEND YOUR STORIES TO LESLIE FLOWERS, EDITOR, LESFLOWE@IU.EDU.



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DENTAL SCHOOL FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS IS UNLIKE ANY OTHER IN IUSD HISTORY.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, students learn online at home except for one in-person lab each week, where they wear masks and maintain physical distance. Pictured here, DDS Class of 2024 officers Cordin Mirise, president; Brittany Gehlhausen, secretary; Danielle Kluttz, vice president; and Cameron Rigley, treasurer.