

# The Newsletter

For Alumni and Friends of the UNMC College of Dentistry's Department of Surgical Specialties

## The Chair Report



Bavitz

It's time for another edition of the *Newsletter*, updates from the Department of Surgical Specialties. We are currently saying goodbye to the graduating residents and hello to the new; an exciting and labile period for the department. We also have a brand new administrative assistant, **Abigail Beardsley**, who started this May. She is a winner and we are glad to have her on the team.



Beardsley

Those of you living in the state know that there has been much budget drama secondary to reduced tax income and this has definitely affected the university. A hiring frost is in effect, not a total freeze but all unfilled positions are being thoroughly scrutinized. Despite the budget issues, we were able to acquire some new tools, using alumni donations as a key funding source. Pictured in the *Newsletter* is a perioscopy device, essentially a miniature subgingival camera enabling enhanced visual diagnosis of cracks and hiding chunks of calculus. **Drs. Amy Killeen, Jeffrey Payne, Rick Reinhardt**, second-year perio residents **Jessica Gradoville, Erica Jasa**, and our hygienist **Megan Christiansen** are engaged in a project with this instrument. Bad gums have met their match. Soon to arrive is an intraoral scanner and new implant planning software. The entire college will be using this latter technology to facilitate guided implant surgical procedures as well as to fabricate custom abutments and crowns. All good indeed.

This past year has seen the undergraduate clinical dental program morph into a group model designed to facilitate more efficient comprehensive patient care. Fortunately, periodontal, endodontic and oral surgery will still continue to be performed under the supervision of the specialists in our department.

This *Newsletter* highlights some of the past year's accomplishments of our faculty and residents and I continue to be impressed with all that they accomplish.

Thank you again for your contributions back to the school; time, money and energy, are all appreciated. As always, I look forward to hearing from you, and feel fortunate and proud to be associated with this stellar department. INI

J. Bruce Bavitz

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**Left: A portrait of Lactobacillus presented to Dr. Ellen Hahn from the endodontic class of 2017: Drs. Hunter Bennett, Dylan Downs and Tate Vanicek**

**Right: The periodontic residents (L to R) Bryan Saunders (2018), Art Salinas (2017), Paul Johnson (2017), Jessia Gradoville (2019), Erica Jasa (2019) and Zack Krei (2018).**

# News of the alumni

## A special thank you, Dr. Crump!

We would like to give a special thanks to **Dr. Brad Crump** (class of 2000) for sponsoring the third-year residents, **Paul Johnson** and **Art Salinas**, to attend the Southwest Society of Periodontology meeting in Dallas in January. The residents were able to attend C.E. and interact with residents from other programs in the region. They found the experience very enlightening and enjoyable and we hope to continue our relationship with this organization. Thanks again, Dr. Crump!



Also more kudos to Dr. Crump: He has been elected to the American Academy of Periodontology Officer Nominating Committee for District 5. He will begin his term after the 2017 Annual Meeting. Congratulations, Brad! 🎉



**Matthew Byarlay, graduate-perio director, shares a few stories and presents certificates to Paul Johnson (left) and Art Salinas Jr. at the perio party. Congratulations to Paul and Art!**



**Jessica Gradoville (left) demonstrates the new "perio-scopy device" to Megan Christiansen and Erica Jasa.**

**Gum disease:  
Our eyes are on ya!**

## I ♥ the College of Dentistry

The heart in the photo to the upper left was installed outside the College of Dentistry building in May. It is part of the Nebraska By Heart public art project. The statue was commissioned by the Nebraska Heart Institute and created by artists Bri Murphy and Katelyn Farneth. It is titled "Internal Connection." 🎉

## The Newsletter

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# Faculty and resident publications/abstracts

**Killeen, A.C., Harn, J.A.,** Erickson, L.M., Yu, F, **Reinhardt, RA.** Local minocycline effect on inflammation and clinical attachment during periodontal maintenance: randomized clinical trial. J Periodontol 87: 1149-57, 2016.

Schwenzer, A., Jiang, X., Mikuls, T.R., **Payne, J.B.,** Sayles, H.R., Quirke, A.M., Kessler, B.M., Fischer, R., Venables, P.J., Lundberg, K., Midwood, K.S. Identification of an immunodominant peptide from citrullinated tenascin-C as a major target for autoantibodies in rheumatoid arthritis. Ann Rheum Dis 75: 1876-1883, 2016.

Sellers, R.M., **Payne, J.B.,** Yu, F, LeVan, T.D., Walker, C., Mikuls, T.R. TLR-4 Asp299Gly polymorphism may be protective against chronic periodontitis. J Periodontal Res 51:203-211, 2016.

Li, S., Yu, Y., Yue, Y., Liao, H., Xie, W., Thai, J., Mikuls, T.R., Thiele, G.M., Duryee, M.J., Sayles, H., **Payne, J.B.,** Klassen, L.W., O'Dell, J.R., Zhang, Z., Su, K. Autoantibodies from single circulating plasmablasts react with citrullinated antigens and *Porphyromonas gingivalis* in rheumatoid arthritis. Arthritis Rheumatol 68:614-626, 2016

Redman, R.S., Kerr, G.S., **Payne, J.B.,** Mikuls, T.R., Sayles, H.R., Huang, J., Becker, K.L., Nylén, N.S. Salivary and serum procalcitonin and C-reactive protein as biomarkers of periodontitis in United States veterans with osteoarthritis or rheumatoid arthritis. Biotech Histochem 91:77-85, 2016.

Mikuls, T.R., **Payne, J.B.,** Deane, K.D., Thiele, G.M. Autoimmunity of the lungs and oral mucosa in a multisystem inflammatory disease: the spark that lights the fire in rheumatoid arthritis? J Allergy Clin Immunol 137:28-34, 2016.

**Bradley, A.D.,** Zhang Y, Jia, Z., Zhao, G., Wang, X., Pranke, L., Schmid, M.D., Wang, D., **Reinhardt, R.A.** Effect of simvastatin prodrug on experimental periodontitis. J Periodontol 87:577-82, 2016.

## Recent Abstracts

Ciu X., Monacelli EA, **Killeen AC, Reinhardt RA.** Patient Risk Factors for Alveolar Bone Loss During Periodontal Maintenance. Poster Presentation. University of Nebraska College of Dentistry, 2016-2017.

**Jensen J, Reinhardt RA, Killeen AC.** "Repeated local minocycline to reduce future inflammation in periodontal maintenance patient," First place Graduate Poster Presentation, University of Nebraska College of Dentistry, 2016.

Mikuls, T.M., Walker, C., Qiu, F, Yu, F, Thiele, G.M., **Payne, J.** Subgingival microbiome signatures in patients with established rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis. Arthritis Rheumatol 68 (Suppl):Abstract 2559, 2016.

## Recent Presentations

**Bavitz, JB:** "Contemporary office based oral surgery for the general practitioner," (7 hours) Springfield, Massachusetts, November 2016.

"Advances in local anesthesia, sedation and oral surgery," UNMC College of Dentistry, Lincoln, Nebraska, October 2016.

"Comprehensive minimal sedation training," for Nebraska State Permits (16 hours) Lincoln, Nebraska, September 2016.

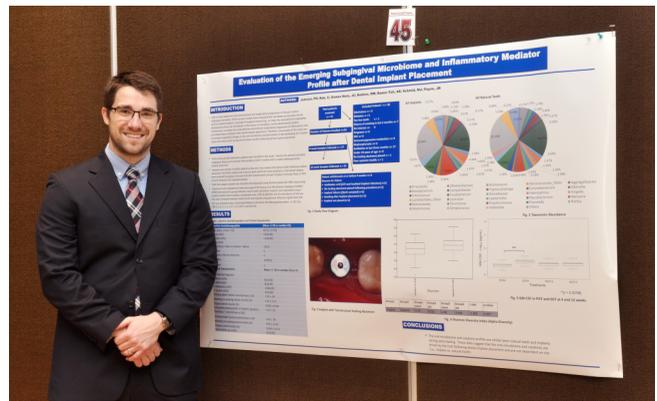
"Advancements in local anesthesia, sedation and oral surgery germane to the general dentist," South Dakota State Meeting, Rapid City, S.D., May 2016.

**Ebke, DJ:** "Medical Emergencies in the Dental Office: Hands On With SimMan." UNMC College of Dentistry, Lincoln, Neb., November 2016.

**Killeen, AC:** "Inside the Periodontal Office." UNL Introduction to Dentistry, UNL, Lincoln, Neb., October 2016.

**Reinhardt, RA:** "Effect of Minocycline Microspheres During Two Years of Periodontal Maintenance Therapy: Clinical Outcomes" American Academy of Periodontology Annual Meeting, San Diego, Calif. **IN**

## Congratulations!



At the 31st Annual Professionals Day and the 50th Annual Student Scientific Program, our periodontal resident **Dr. Paul Johnson** won first place in the graduate poster competition with his presentation of "Evaluation of the Emerging Subgingival Microbiome and Inflammatory Mediator Profile after Dental Implant Placement." Faculty mentor: **Dr. Jeffrey Payne.**



**Drs. Hunter Bennett, Tate Vanicek and Dylan Downs,** our endodontic residents, won second place with their presentation of "Success of Direct Pulp Caps in Permanent Teeth: A Four-Year Retrospective Study." Faculty Mentor: **Dr. Lane Stephenson.**

# Straight from the chief

## Your Cornhusker Sports Update



Gerry Tussing

With the football commitments coming from four-star athletes for 2018 signing class, the expectations of Husker Nation is sky-rocketing. At the present we are ranked 10th in the country in quality of recruits. Never in Nebraska history has there been so many elite athletes committing to us. Of course, Tom made do with classes ranked much lower so rankings may not be the whole story.

**Coach Mike Riley**, along with **Athletic Director Shawn Eichorst**, have made the recruiting of top quality athletes a priority.

If you are at all aware of major college sports, you'll not be surprised that the Nebraska athletic department earned over \$112 million in the past fiscal year. Total expenses for all programs included \$103 million which amounts to an \$8 million surplus. We at the College of Dentistry have not seen any of it. Ten years ago, we thought it astonishing that we raised 60 million dollars. Now, one would think with that kind of resources, we could buy national championships, apparently not so. Want to know where we rank nationally in income? We are 22nd nationally. We are only eighth in the Big Ten behind such schools as Minnesota and Iowa. This would suggest that we at least need to be in the top 25 in football rankings every year.

Getting back to expectations for the 2017 football season, Husker Nation is excited to see an improvement over the 9-4 2016 season. Those four losses came in the last six games. This history of fading at the end of the season is becoming a habit that Coach Riley would like to break. But consider that we have an untested quarterback, a questionable offensive line, lack of a dominant running back, the graduation of our top two receivers, [by the way, our four-star wide receiver recruit, **Keyshawn Johnson Jr.**, is back in California after being cited for using pot in the dorms]. Continuing on the defensive side of the ball, we have an unproven defensive line, a totally new defensive scheme, and three new defensive coaches, including a new defensive coordinator. In addition, we have one of the most difficult and challenging schedules in the country in 2017. All that makes one wonder upon what are the lofty expectations based. It definitely will be a challenging year, but hope springs eternal.

Volleyball is always easy to talk about in that their quality is outstanding. **Coach John Cook** just keeps rolling along destroying the competition. The quality of Nebraska volleyball has driven Big Ten volleyball to heights never previously attained. We had six schools in the top ten in volleyball at one time last season. Nebraska's only two losses in the regular season occurred to Ohio State and Minnesota, both ranked. The final loss of the season, tragically, was to Texas in the NCAA finals. Coach Cook will be starting this season missing his top guns from last year and his top assistant coach. However, if the recruiting news is accurate there shouldn't be much of a drop off in skill positions. Now they need to gel as a

team, which takes time and great coaching. The college volleyball world keeps raiding our assistant coaches in an effort to upgrade their programs. This year Cook will be introducing two new assistant coaches into the program.

Basketball is hardly worth writing about. Both men's and women's programs are currently in the dumper. The women's program downturn was expected, what with the sudden firing of longtime **Coach Connie Yori**. **Coach Amy Williams** was a fast hire with an excellent coaching resume. The firing triggered multiple key players transferring to other programs and a rash of de-commits of recruits followed closely. With time that program will rise again. Men's basketball is another drama all its own. It remains a serious question if **Coach Tim Miles** can solve the men's basketball mystery. He has had five years to make us winners and that has not happened. A 12-19 for last season just doesn't cut it. With no post season invites in the last four years, the word out on Miles' status is win now or he's gone. Athletic Director Shawn Eichorst feels that they have spent whatever was necessary and desired in upgrading facilities (new practice facility, Pinnacle Bank Arena) and on recruitment. Yet the results are dismal. Now we are experiencing players abandoning ship and transferring to other universities, which further complicates the issue. The fans are here; they will buy the tickets, but they just want an opportunity to support a quality team.

Under the coaching of former major leaguer **Darin Erstad**, baseball is definitely on the rise. They had a great season right up until crunch time. Then the bats went silent and we were out of the Big Ten tourney and out of the NCAA regional with immediate losses. This is becoming an undesirable habit. The very same scenario occurred last year. And, to Erstad's credit, he takes the heat for it but then he is the hitting coach for the team.



Photo: wikipedia.org

Erstad with the Houston Astros

### Gerry Tussing's early predictions on the clinic model

More from the Chief is now up. We advised you of a new clinical model that was to be put into effect last August. It may be a bit premature to attempt evaluation of the system after only two semesters. However, the idea of a group practice (each class divided into four groups) headed by an experienced group leader is intended to provide a more realistic practice model for the students. Of course, it was hoped that it would stimulate an increase in clinical income, the results are still under review. The students seem to embrace the concept and the impression of our clinical faculty is that there appears to be an increased activity in the clinics. The most vital part of this arrangement is the group leaders. It is a very challenging job so retention of quality professionals will be essential. Stay tuned. **NT**

# Kudos to our most recent board certified alumni!

Congratulations!



**Jeffery W. Keippel**, Tucson, Ariz., Class of 2012

*What does it mean to you to be a diplomate of the ABE?*

A goal for many years, achieving diplomate status has been a major accomplishment in my professional journey. Without hesitation, I can attest that the board certification process has been a beneficial and transformative experience. It has helped me be a better endodontist. If anyone reading this is considering going through the process or questioning the value of board certification, don't second guess yourself. Go for it! You will not regret it. The future of endodontics as a specialty lies in our individual and collective commitment to clinical excellence and scientific inquiry. In my opinion, one of the best ways to support these efforts is going through the board certification process. I would like to thank everyone who has helped me along the way: my faculty at UNMC; my mentors; and my wife and children, who for many hours allowed me to dedicate myself to the pursuit of professional excellence.



**Matthew M. Kruszewski**, Tampa, Fla., Class of 2015

*What does it mean to you to be a diplomate of the ABE?*

It's a ceaseless reminder of the humbling reality that the more I know, the less I understand. A handful of questions accompany every new discovery, slowly peeling back the layers of the elusive unknown. ❧

## Kudos to our most recent board-certified alumnus!



**Dr. Jeffrey Jensen**

**Periodontics  
Class of 2016**

## Oral Surgery Fellow



**Roy Burkhalter** grew up in Rome, Georgia. He received his B.S. degree in nutritional sciences in 2013 at Kansas State University and his D.D.S. in 2017 from UNMC. After completion of his oral surgery internship, he would like to pursue a residency program in O.M.F.S. He has a wonderful family that consists of his beautiful wife Samantha and their wonderful children Landon and Cooper.

After you've read about all the great things happening at the **UNMC College of Dentistry...** help make it even greater.

If you have any questions about charitable gifts, donation, options, pledges or bequests benefitting the orthodontic program, please contact:

**Mr. Brook Jobs, Director of Development**  
1010 Lincoln Mall, Suite 300  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
402-458-1183  
800-432-3216  
brook.jobs@nufoundation.org.



Contributions may be sent to the address above. To be properly credited to the program, please specify:

**"Endodontic Development Fund #3097" or  
"Periodontic Development Fund #3096."**

# Postgraduate Periodontics

Program updates from Director Matthew Byarlay



Byarlay

Welcome back to another addition of the fabulous *Surgical Specialties Newsletter*. I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying summer and the warmer weather, wherever that might be. I'm sorry I missed everyone this last year at the annual meeting in San Diego, an unanticipated knee surgery derailed my plans to attend, but I hope to see

everyone at this year's meeting in Boston. One of the unique aspects of this program has been the ability to send all of the residents to the national meeting each year. The residents gain much insight into the specialty, new advances in technology, and the wide range of procedures and techniques that are practiced today. We, of course, would not be able to do this if it were not for your continued support of the program and we truly are appreciative.

As a dental college and graduate program, we are continually looking at ways to improve how we deliver care and teach the residents. We have made some great strides toward improving our guided implant surgeries (thanks to **Drs. Paul Johnson** and **Bryan Saunders**) and we will soon have a digital scanner and 3D printer, which will help us continue to improve this aspect of the program. We hope that everyone stays in touch, and comes to back to visit whenever you are in the area.

## Visiting Professors

It is important each year to acknowledge the outstanding group of local periodontists who voluntarily teach in both seminars and in clinic. They are a tremendous asset to the program and we can't thank them enough. These individuals are **Drs. Cathy Alley, Dennis Anderson, Barry Feldner, Daryl Malena, Melissa Lang, John Rutledge, Hoang-Oanh Le, Natalie Frost, Scott Morrison, Stacy Moffenbier, Larry Parrish, Van Sanderfer, Takanari Miyamoto, Rob Cline** and **Pat Kelsey**. The residents and I certainly appreciate these individuals and their commitment to the program.

## Congratulations!

At the 31st Annual Professionals Day and 50th Annual Student Scientific Program, our third-year resident, **Paul Johnson**, placed first in the graduate division of the Student Scientific Program (photo on page 3). Paul won with his research presentation titled "Evaluation of the Emerging Subgingival Microbiome and Inflammatory Mediator Profile after Dental Implant Placement."

## Changing of the Guard

Once again, we have to say goodbye to our third-year residents as they embark on a new journey. **Drs. Art Salinas** and **Paul Johnson** have been outstanding residents and have bright futures ahead of them. Art will be heading south to the great state of Texas to start his own periodontal practice and Paul will be heading north to join a practice in Sioux Falls, S.D. We will all miss them and wish them the best of luck.

We will now be looking forward to the addition of two new residents beginning this July. These individuals are **Drs. Mattie Bertels** and **Sara Qadi**. Sara is a graduate of the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry. She also received her undergraduate degree in chemistry from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Mattie is a graduate of UNMC College of Dentistry and the college's dental hygiene program, western division, previous to dental school. Her background is in psychology, receiving her undergraduate degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. These two are both outstanding individuals and we can't wait for them to join us here. **III**

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## Meet the perio residents



**Paul Johnson** (third year) was raised in Brookings, S.D. He received his B.S. in biology from South Dakota State University and his D.D.S. from the UNMC College of Dentistry in 2014. Paul and his wife, Molly, stayed in Lincoln after graduation for the birth of their son, Boyd Lincoln Johnson, on May 30, 2017. They are returning to South Dakota, where Paul has joined Midwest Periodontics in Sioux Falls.



**Art Salinas Jr.** (third year) was born and raised in McAllen, Texas. He graduated with a B.S. in civil engineering from the University of Texas in 2006 and completed his B.S. in Biology from the University of Texas Pan in 2009. For dental school, Art graduated with his D.D.S. in 2014 from Texas A&M Baylor College of Dentistry. He and his wife, Nicole, have been married for seven years and have identical twin daughters, Madison and MacKenzie, born in March 2015. They welcomed another daughter, Macie, in February 2017. Art plans to return to Texas.

More [Perio Residents](#) on page 7



**Zack Krei** (second year) grew up in the small town of Coleridge, Neb. He received his B.S. in nutrition science from UNL in 2010 and graduated from UNMC College of Dentistry in 2014. He enjoys spending time with family and friends on the lake in the summer and has begun his quest to get up on a slalom ski. Zack also enjoys spending down time in Lincoln working on various woodworking projects.



**Bryan Saunders** (second year) was raised in Harrisonburg, Va., and received his B.S. degree in biology from Bridgewater College where he also played baseball. He then received his M.S. in immunology from James Madison University and his D.D.S. from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Bryan enjoys hunting, fishing, anything outside and hanging out with friends.



**Jessica Gradoville** (first year) is from Council Bluffs, Iowa, and received her B.S. in biochemistry from UNL in 2012. Following her time at UNL, she went to the University of Iowa College of Dentistry where she received her D.D.S. in 2016. In her free time she enjoys running, reading, traveling, hanging out with her husband, CJ, and co-residents.



**Erica Jasa** (first year) is from Omaha, Neb. She received a B.S. in biology from UNL in 2007 and a B.S. in dental hygiene from UNMC in 2010. She then went on to attend dental school and graduated from UNMC College of Dentistry in 2016. She enjoys traveling, volunteering on dental mission trips, and spending time in the summer boating with friends. **INI**

Giving back to the program

## Perio development fund

We keep repeating ourselves but those gifts are extremely important to our residency program. For those of you who did not participate this past year, please consider a gift for the 2017 year. Remember, your gifts are specifically identified for the periodontal graduate program and used exclusively for resident education. Examples are guest speakers, research for master's programs, resident travel to present scholarly papers, instruments and finally for expenditures for which state funds are not allowed.

<b>Surgical Specialties Alum</b>		2017-09
_____		20
PAY TO THE ORDER OF <i>University of Nebraska Foundation</i>		\$ _____
_____		DOLLARS
<i>Periodontal Development Fund 3096</i>		_____
Memo	Alumnus	

### The Dental Museum Open: September 5-16, 2017



## 2016 PERIODONTAL DEVELOPMENT FUND DONORS

- Dr. Cathy and Mr. Todd Alley
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- Dr. Angela and Mr. Paul Wilson

# Postgraduate Endodontics

Program updates from Director Lane Stephenson



Stephenson

Greetings everyone!

It's time to start thinking about the fall schedule. This year the traditional Endodontic Alumni Day will take place on September 15, 2017, at the East Campus Union, hosted by the college's postgraduate endodontic division of surgical specialties. There will be a catered, sit-down lunch provided. Please let Deb Dalton know if you have any dietary restrictions. I will be sending a flyer with the day's schedule, as we get closer to the date and look forward to seeing you all there and renewing old acquaintances.

Our speaker for the Bryce Bonness Endodontic Alumni Day seminar will be **Dr. Satish Alapati**. He will be speaking on a range of topics during the day, including NiTi rotary instruments - current technology and clinical translation, contemporary root canal sealers and bioactive materials in endodontics, regenerative endodontic procedure – REP: The future directions and clinical translation, and cutting-edge research related to endodontics.

Dr. Satish Alapati is a tenured associate professor in the Department of Endodontics, College of Dentistry, and serves as an adjunct faculty in the Department of Bioengineering at the University of Illinois at Chicago. His previous appointments include assistant professor at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), Department of Materials Science, until June 2009.

Dr. Alapati received his D.D.S. in India; a certificate in general practice residency; an M.S. in dental materials, his Ph.D. in oral biology from The Ohio State University, and a certificate in endodontics from University of Illinois at Chicago. He has authored two book chapters, 30 published papers and more



Dr. Satish Alapati

than 65 published research presentations at national and international dental research meetings and currently serves on multiple national committees related to clinical endodontics and oral health research. Dr. Alapati serves as a Consultant / Council for Scientific Affairs for ADA ISO TC 106, Endodontic Instruments and Materials. He was an American Association of Endodontists (AAE)

Foundation Educator Fellowship award recipient in 2009 and now a Trustee on the Foundation for Endodontics. He receives funding from both NIH and private foundations. Dr. Alapati is active at Allen Anderson Faculty Dental Practice – limited to endodontics and clinical translational research laboratory (ctrl) focusing on regenerative clinical science and tissue bio printing.

## BRYCE BONNESS ENDODONTIC ALUMNI DAY

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2017

EAST CAMPUS UNION

GUEST SPEAKER: DR. SATISH ALAPATI

### The Residents and Volunteers

We have three residents this year completing their formal advanced endodontic training. **Dr. Hunter Bennett** will be returning to warm and sunny Arizona where he has secured a position with a successful endodontic practice; **Dr. Dylan Downs** is returning to Wisconsin because he says Nebraska is not cold enough in the winter for him; and **Dr. Tate Vanicek** will be remaining in Lincoln, Neb., to pursue his dream of becoming the preëminent endodontist in the region.

These three presented their research at the AAE annual meeting, "Success of Direct Pulp Caps in Permanent Teeth: A Four-Year Survey." This is a retrospective study of pulp capping here at the UNMC College of Dentistry from 2012 to 2016. The results were consistent with other studies of its kind.

Congratulations are in order for two of our graduates who have successfully completed the board certification process and were pinned at the AAE Annual Session Grossman Ceremony. Their comments when asked by the board regarding their achievement are on page 5.

Our three new residents started July 1 and all are very excited about the opportunity afforded them to join this endodontic fraternity. **Dr. Randy Middleton** completed a GPR in Houston, Texas, **Dr. Saro Oknaian** graduated from Las Vegas last year and has since been in private practice. **Dr. Steven Smith** has been in private practice for a few years in Florida.

Each year, interviews have been occurring earlier and earlier. We interviewed this year on August 10-11. It won't be long before acceptance will occur at conception, as has been opined by **William T. Johnson** in the past. This is earlier than last year and some programs interview as early as July. We have two positions open for the 2018 fall start and are looking forward to meeting this year's applicants. We hope we have a good turn out to choose from and continue the tradition, as **Dr. Fahd Alsalleeh** put it, "of being the best postgraduate endodontic program in Nebraska."

We would like to thank our endodontic volunteer faculty for providing excellent clinic instruction and guidance. They are **Drs. Chris Pobanz, Jeri Rush, Tom Beeson, Corey Karimjee, Toby Comer, Chris Wieseman, Dave Maixner, Tom Gound, Stephen Pryor, Cliff Leffingwell, Jay McConnell** and **Adam Retallick**.

I am looking forward to seeing you all this September. Peace, hope, joy, prosperity and good health to you all. **IN**

## Meet the endo residents



**Hunter Bennett** (second year) grew up in a suburb of Phoenix, Ariz. After receiving a B.S. degree in business management from Brigham Young University, he was able to return to Arizona for dental school. During his third year while on a dental service trip to the island of Tonga, Dr. Bennett discovered his love and passion for endodontics. In 2015, he received his D.M.D. from Midwestern University and shortly after moved to Lincoln. He and his beautiful wife, Lacy, have three children: Riggins (4), Gibson (2) and Monroe (four months). He will be returning to the greatest place on the planet, Arizona, to begin his career in endodontics.



**Dr. Dylan Downs** (second year) is originally from central Illinois. He completed a seven-year combined B.S.-D.M.D. program at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine. He received his B.S. degree in Biology-Medical Sciences in 2010 and his D.M.D. in 2013. Afterwards, Dr. Downs moved to Madison where he completed a general practice residency at Meriter Hospital and then went into private practice as an associate dentist in a local group practice. He completed his advanced training in endodontics at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry where he received his certificate in endodontics in 2017. Dr. Downs is excited to be back in Madison and to be a part of Capital Endodontics. He and his wife live outside Waunakee with their two children where they enjoy spending time with friends and family.



**Tate Vanicek** (second year) was raised in Lincoln and graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2010 with a B.S. in biology. He then attended UNMC College of Dentistry where he received his D.D.S. in 2014. He attended the endodontic residency at UNMC and became certified in 2017. He bought an endodontic office and will continue his career in Lincoln. He is married to Jenn. Together they have a daughter Madison and a son Kalen.



**Alan Chee** (first year) is from San Francisco. He studied psychobiology at UCLA and earned his D.D.S. at the University of the Pacific. After completing a GPR at the Jesse Brown VA in Chicago, he joined his father's family dental practice in San Francisco where they practiced together for three years. He is enjoying his time in Lincoln, and when he's not busy with school he spends his time exercising and brewing beer. He intends to return to the Bay Area to practice after graduating.



**Andy Luong** (first year) was raised in Wichita, Kan. He received his bachelors from Wichita State University and his D.D.S. from UMKC School of Dentistry. He then worked in private practice for a few years and decided return to school for endodontics. He enjoys spending time with his nieces and his dogs. Upon graduation, he plans to return to Kansas to practice.

## 2016 ENDODONTIC DEVELOPMENT FUND DONORS

**Dr. Jeff Adams**  
**Dr. Fahd Alsalleeh and**  
**Mrs. Loulwah Almarshoud**  
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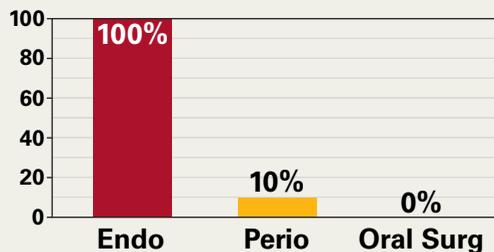
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