Cornhusker Impressions

for alumni and friends of the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry

College of Dentistry expands its outreach to inner city youth  see pg 12
From the Dean

My first year as dean has gone quickly and I have thoroughly enjoyed my interactions with faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of the college near and far. Over the course of the year, through my experiences at the college in Lincoln, at our clinical programs in Omaha, at our West Division Dental Hygiene Program in Gering, and my travels across Nebraska, I have gained an even greater sense of appreciation of our important role to our state. I also have challenged our faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends to think about how we can have an even greater impact on oral health in Nebraska.

In this issue, we are pleased to highlight some of our expanded service initiatives to our underserved communities in Nebraska. We are honored to be able to better serve the children and elderly in our communities through the newly awarded Health Resources Services Administration grant and through many community partnerships and in partnership with the UNMC College of Nursing. Restoring smiles and function can be life changing for both the young and for seniors, and these partnerships provide wonderful learning opportunities for our students and residents. Our hope is that it inspires them to continue to serve these populations after graduation.

In October, we celebrated national recognition when an article in the Journal of the American Dental Association reported that our College of Dentistry ranks No. 1 among all dental schools in the United States in the number of graduates returning to rural communities to practice. We recognize that this No. 1 ranking is also due to strong relations and commitments by other programs in the State of Nebraska, including the Rural Health Opportunities Program – a pipeline program for rural undergraduate students considering careers in dentistry and state-funded rural incentive programs. And, while we recognize that 67 percent of Nebraska dentists are UNMC College of Dentistry graduates and 83 percent of rural dentists are our graduates, we know that underserved areas in the state still exist. Therefore, one of our goals is to provide additional opportunities and exposure to underserved areas to our students during their extramural experiences, with the intent that even more graduates will seek these areas out for their future practices.

In this issue, we also celebrate…

• Our new faculty member, Dr. Sung Kim, an oral and maxillofacial radiologist – welcome to Sung, his wife, Sion, and their new baby, Chloe.

• Our new students.

• Grant Essink (third-year dental student) - participant in the NIDCR Summer Dental Student Award program.

• The Dr. Henry & Anne Cech Professorship – the first professorship in orthodontics established by Anne Cech. Take time to view the wonderful online interview with Anne.

• Homecoming festivities, our honor classes and our distinguished awardees.

• Our alumni and friends of the college who have provided amazing support through their many gifts – thank you!

Importantly, we also celebrate, every single day, the opportunity and the honor we have to impact our students and their education, the world of oral health research and discovery, and the service we provide to our patients across the state.

Janet M. Guthmiller, D.D.S., Ph.D.
Professor and Dean, College of Dentistry, University of Nebraska Medical Center
Sung K. Kim, D.D.S.

Hometown:
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Title and department:
Assistant Professor,
Department of Oral Biology

Research (or Professional) Interests:
CBCT scan analysis on obstructive sleep apnea patients

How I fell in love with Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology:
Having had strong training in physics and mathematics from my undergraduate study, topics in radiation physics always came easy to me. The field of oral radiology was the perfect specialty choice, reflecting knowledge from engineering and dentistry.

Degrees:
B.S. (Mechanical Engineering), University of Colorado at Boulder
D.D.S., University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine, Aurora, Colo.
Certificate (Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology), University of California, Los Angeles School of Dentistry, Los Angeles, Calif.

Memberships:
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology
American Society of Head & Neck Radiology
Radiology Society of North America

Three things people may not know about me:
- I am happily married to my beautiful wife and we welcomed our first baby girl, Chloe, in August. She quickly became our center of attention as well as the queen of our house.
- I enjoy taking photographs of people and nature and I look forward to exploring the beautiful landscape of Nebraska.
- I came to the United States at the age of 15, and grew up in Colorado Springs, Colo. It has been a fun life journey since then.

Calendar

Weeth Lecture 2016
Jan. 8 | 8:15 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Ross Theater
Lincoln, Neb.
Presented by Dr. Edward Swift, University of North Carolina School of Dentistry

What’s New 2016
Feb. 26 | 8:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
East Campus Union
Lincoln, Neb.
Presented by UNMC Faculty

“Radiology for Dental Auxiliary”
May 2016, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
UNMC College of Dentistry
Lincoln, Neb.
Presented by Dr. Jennifer Kalio

“Coronal Polishing for Dental Auxiliary”
Summer 2016 | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
UNMC College of Dentistry
Lincoln, Neb.
Presented by Darlene Carritt

College of Dentistry Continuing Education
Constance Whitson
Program Coordinator
402-472-2611 | codce@unmc.edu
Dr. Mary Lynn Froeschle
Director
402-472-7993
To register, call 402-472-2175 or toll free 866-700-4747, or online at http://universityofnebraskamedicallcenter-cod.eventbrite.com
Four dental leaders honored

The 2015 Homecoming Reunion sponsored by the UNMC College of Dentistry Alumni Association was an opportunity to celebrate long-standing friendships as well as to honor alumni, faculty, and friends who have provided distinguished service to the college and the dental profession. The following individuals were recognized in September at the reunion’s banquet and awards presentation:

**Outstanding Educator Award**

**Dr. Michael Houk** graduated from the UNL College of Dentistry in 1977, after having attended Augustana College in Sioux Falls, S.D. He entered into private practice in Sioux Falls in July 1977 and continues to practice in Sioux Falls today, with no plans for retirement in the near future.

Dr. Houk was active in organized dentistry, having served as South Dakota Dental Association President in 2002-2003, as well as serving for 34 years on the Delta Dental Board of Directors, five as the board of directors chairman. He also participates annually in the SDDA “Donated Dental Services,” where patients are treated for no charge, and has volunteered often on the Delta Dental Care Mobile, treating some of South Dakota’s most vulnerable populations.

Dr. Houk was awarded the SDDA Humanitarian Award in May 2012, which is the highest award conferred by the South Dakota Dental Association.

Dr. Houk was given the opportunity to teach part time in the UNMC College of Dentistry’s Adult Restorative Dentistry in September 2010. He taught in this capacity for five years, only retiring due to the 500-mile per week commute. Over a five year period, Dr. Houk was humbly honored when he was awarded the “Part-time Teacher of the Year Award” 10 different times from the students at the College of Dentistry. Teaching was easily the pinnacle of his professional career. It is and has been an experience that afforded him an incredible feeling of accomplishment as his goal was met when he helped influence young dentists who would share his dream of providing dental care to those people who desperately needed it the most.

Dr. Houk took 22 dental students and dental professionals to Yanahuara, Peru, over a period of six years, to provide care for some of the most impoverished and dentally challenged people on Earth. Dr. Houk felt that this was, indeed, the greatest opportunity on earth, to teach!
Alumni Achievement Award

Dr. Darold Opp was born in Eureka, S.D. He graduated from Eureka High School in 1972. After attending college for two years, he joined the U.S. Navy and served a six-year active duty/reserve enlistment as a dental technician. He returned to Northern State University and received his bachelor’s degree. He worked for the State of South Dakota as a chemist until his acceptance into the University of Nebraska College of Dentistry. While at the College of Dentistry he re-enlisted in the Navy Reserve. He received his degree in 1984.

Dr. Opp has taught sessions in Dr. Dunning’s practice management courses for the past four years. Topics include entrepreneurship, marketing, celebrity branding, authorship, and how to be an out-of-the-box thinker. He is a co-author of a chapter on external marketing in the textbook, “Dental Practice Transitions: A Practical Guide to Management, 2nd Edition.” In addition, he is a co-author with Jerry Jones in “The Definitive Guide to Dental Practice Success,” co-author with Brian Tracy in “Transform: How the World’s Leading Entrepreneurs and Professionals Transform Your Life, Business, and Health,” which was a best seller on Amazon in 2014, and co-author with Sir Richard Branson in “Performance 360 Special Edition: Success” to be released in 2016. He was inducted into the National Academy of Best Selling Authors in 2014.

In 2008, Dr. Opp created a free, community kids event in Aberdeen called “SmilePalooza” that has attracted more than 30,000 people over the past seven years. In 2010, the Aberdeen American News called SmilePalooza “South Dakota’s version of Disney World.” In May, the College of Dentistry accepted a donation of the entire SmilePalooza collection. Dr. Opp currently advises dentists across the United States, Canada and Australia on two coaching programs that focus on building a recession-proof dental practice by winning the hearts of moms and their children.

He has been featured in the Wall Street Journal, USA Today and on financial web sites, Yahoo Finance and The Street. He has been honored with various community awards and in 2014 was one of three finalists for the prestigious GKIC International Marketer of the Year Award.

Dr. Opp and his wife, Pamela, are most proud of their son, Brian and his wife, Courtney (fellow entrepreneurs) along with their philanthropic endeavors. They live by the belief that “to whom much has been given, much is required.” Since a humanitarian trip to Russia in 1993, Brian and Courtney have worked with projects across the world and their most blessed accomplishment is chronicled in a recent Ted Talk featured on YouTube titled, “Love, Faith and Hope on Trash Mountain”— the rescue of children from a hopeless existence in a trash dump and the fulfillment of their hopes and dreams of attending the university.
Distinguished Service Award

Kenneth L. Kalkwarf, D.D.S.

Dr. Ken Kalkwarf was born and raised on a farm outside of Waverly, Neb. A first generation college student, he received his D.D.S. in 1970 from the University of Nebraska, College of Dentistry. He continued his training in a general practice residency at Marquette University and Milwaukee, Wis., Veterans Administration Medical Center, and then returned to UNMC’s postgraduate program in periodontics. He later received a certificate in financial planning from Florida State University. He taught at UNMC and the University of Oklahoma from 1973–1987, before moving to The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio where he served 25 years as dean of its School of Dentistry and two years as interim president. He retired from the University of Texas System in 2014 as dean emeritus.

Dr. Kalkwarf served San Antonio and South Texas through community activities including: the San Antonio Community Action Group, Leadership San Antonio, the South Texas Higher Education Authority Executive Board, the San Antonio Air Force Community Council, the United Way of San Antonio Board and the Bexar County United Way Allocation Panel. He is a member of the UNMC College of Dentistry’s Dean’s Club, the University of Texas Health Science at San Antonio President’s Council and the University of Texas System’s Chancellor’s Council.

He is the principal author of more than 175 published articles, chapters and abstracts. He has presented more than 280 lectures and continuing dental education courses at universities, associations, and study clubs throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Western Europe, Scandinavia, the Mid-East, Africa, China, Japan, Korea and Australia.

A recipient of numerous awards, he has received the American Dental Association’s highest award – The Distinguished Service Award – in 2009; the American Dental Education Association’s Distinguished Service Award in 2014; presidential citations from the ADEA in 2001 and 2009; and the Alumni Achievement Award from the UNMC College of Dentistry. He has been recognized by Who’s Who in America since 1995.

Dr. Kalkwarf is a diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology, was a member of the Nebraska Board of Dentistry and participated in numerous activities of the American Dental Association, including the Committee on Practice Parameters, the Future of Dentistry Oversight Committee, the Task Force on the Role of Patient-Based Examinations, the Joint Commission on National Board Examinations, the International Accreditation Task Force, the Commission on Dental Accreditation, the Working Group on Alternative Entry-Level Licensure Exams, the President’s Committee to Study International Standards for Dental Education and the President’s Task Force on the Commission on Dental Accreditation. He has served on the administrative boards of several professional associations, including the American Association of Dental Examiners, the Friends of the NIDCR, the San Antonio Cancer Therapy and Research Institute, The Audie L. Murphy VA Hospital, the Dental Interactive Simulation Corporation and the Western Regional Examining Board.

He served in various leadership capacities within dentistry including as president or chair of the ADEA; the American College of Dentists; the Commission on Dental Accreditation; the Joint Commission on National Board Dental Examinations; the Supreme Chapter of Omicron Kappa Upsilon; ADEA’s Commission on Change and Innovation in Dental Education; the Western Conference of Dental Examiners and Dental School Deans; ADEA’s Council of Deans; the Southwest Society of Periodontists; and the Southern Conference of Dental Deans and Examiners.

He currently serves, in a part-time capacity, as chair of MetLife’s Dental Advisory Council, senior consultant at the Academy for Academic Leadership and senior policy fellow at the ADEA. He has been married for 41 years to Sharon (a 1973 graduate of the UNMC Dental Hygiene Program). They have two sons: Kyle, a chief surgery resident at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, and Kevin, a consultant with Boston Consulting Group.
Dr. Jeffrey Payne is a native of Merrick, Long Island, N.Y. He received his B.S. in biology from Adelphi University in Garden City, N.Y., in 1982, and a D.D.S. from the State University of New York at Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine in 1986. He completed his periodontology residency and received a master of dental science degree from the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine in 1989. He then spent two years on the faculty of the University of Connecticut, while he engaged in the private practice of periodontology in Bristol, Conn.

In 1991, Dr. Payne joined the UNMC College of Dentistry as an assistant professor in the department of surgical specialties. He was promoted to associate professor in 1996, and assistant dean for research and postgraduate and graduate education in 1998. In November 2000, after accreditation, his administrative appointment changed to assistant dean for research so that he could focus on leading the college’s research program. In 2001, he was promoted to full professor and was named the F. Gene and Rosemary Dixon Endowed Chair in Dentistry. In 2004, he was appointed associate dean for research. Under his leadership, the college has finished in the top 30 in NIH funding to dental schools for 13 of the past 14 years. Also, during his tenure, dental student research has grown significantly. At the 2015 International Association for Dental Research Meeting in Boston, Mass., 15 dental students gave presentations, the most in the college’s history.

Engaged in research, Dr. Payne studies the relationship between periodontitis and oral inflammation with systemic diseases, including osteoporosis and rheumatoid arthritis. His work was featured as the cover story for the Journal of the American Dental Association’s March 2011 issue. He is an author of more than 120 peer-reviewed publications and abstracts and has given more than 40 invited national and international presentations.

He also teaches and advises dental students, dental hygiene students and postgraduate periodontology students. He is board-certified in periodontology and maintains a private practice limited to periodontics in University Dental Associates at the college.

Dr. Payne values and enjoys working with the faculty, staff and students at the college. He immediately became a “Husker” upon his arrival in 1991 and enjoys Nebraska football and basketball, as well as biking and gardening. Dr. Payne and his wife, Dr. Jodie Stein, have three children, Samantha, Jeremy and Jonah, and a cat named Maggie Moo.
The UNL College of Dentistry Class of 1965

ABOVE:
Pictured left to right in the front row: Doug Hazlett, Alan Kusek, Gene Huebner Ken Laughlin, Charles Zidko
Back row: Richard Hendriksen, Jon Taylor, Dave Gleason, Charles Prowant, Alan Boon
In attendance but not pictured: Gene Keller

RIGHT:
Pictured left to right in the front row: Alan Hergenrader, Doug Hohman, Jon Sawmborn, Scott Hass, Hilary Nieberg-Baskin, Yosh Ameku, Judi Belitz

BELOW:
Earl Lampshire, a member of the 70-year honor class

To see more photos from homecoming visit the UNMC College of Dentistry Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/unmccod/
There aren’t many counties across Nebraska that the UNMC College of Dentistry hasn’t impacted in some way. From the hundreds of children treated each year through Children’s Dental Day events in Lincoln and the Panhandle, to the families who receive care at clinics in Grand Island, Columbus, Macy, Hastings, Gering and Omaha, to the residents living in nursing homes in Milford and Seward, the College of Dentistry has impacted people across the state.

“The College of Dentistry has proven a reliable source of oral care for the citizens in the state, especially children,” said Terry Krohn, dental program manager for Two Rivers Public Health Department, in Holdrege, Neb.

Krohn has been involved with bringing children from seven south central Nebraska counties to the annual Children’s Dental Day event every February since 2004.

“They continue to meet the ever growing and changing dental needs in the state in a way that is admirable,” she said.

For many of the children served through the twice-a-year dental day events, the College of Dentistry is their dental home, said David Brown, Ph.D., a professor of oral biology and executive associate dean at the college.

Since 2001, the College of Dentistry has treated more than 5,600 children and provided services valued at nearly $3 million to low income and underserved children in the state, he said.

For senior citizens living in nursing homes in Milford and Seward, Neb., the weekly visits by dental hygiene students proves invaluable.

“We have a unique population,” said Cari Stukenholtz, director of nursing at Sunrise Country Manor near Milford, Neb. “Living in a small rural town, it’s not always easy for us to get someone to a dentist.”

More than 160 nursing home residents have received oral exams and screenings by senior dental hygiene students who have been making the weekly trips in a unique program overseen by Darlene Carritt, an instructor in the department of dental hygiene.

Carritt said they first approached officials at the nursing homes in 2012 about providing services and education to the residents as a way for the dental hygiene students to become exposed to the unique challenges faced by the elderly.
“It’s been a win-win for both the residents who receive that one-on-one attention and for the students who have the opportunity to really see the effects different medications can have on oral health,” she said.

“The students also have conducted education sessions with the staff on the importance of good oral care in the elderly, even if they don’t have teeth, because of the known connections between heart disease and gum disease, as well as the relationship between the presence of bacteria in the mouth and lung infections,” Stukenholtz said.

And, for people living in the far corners of the state, the access to care through a tele-health connection between their local critical access hospital and experts at the college in Lincoln means less time spent traveling on the highway to see a dentist, and greater immediate access to care.

For instance, in Burwell, Neb., a doctor with a patient with a particularly challenging dental issue can consult with experts at the College of Dentistry using an intraoral camera. This device allows dental college experts to see what the problem is and provide direction on treatment.

“It’s one more way we can not only provide access to dental care to patients living in rural parts of the state, but support health professionals who are often the first line of care for residents in their communities,” Dr. Brown said.

Tele-health was first introduced as another tool for physicians and dentists in the state in 2006. That’s when the technology was tested at Box Butte General Hospital on a trip to serve children at a dental day event in the Panhandle.

Since then, dentists and physicians in at least five communities, including Alma, Columbus, Alliance, Norfolk, and Gering, Neb., have used intraoral cameras to consult with experts at the college, he said.

Below: Sidney, Neb., is one of several panhandle communities served by the College of Dentistry’s annual children’s dental day event in June.
UNMC College of Dentistry ranks No. 1
National ranking highlights graduates who return to rural communities to practice

Of all the dental schools in the United States, the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry ranks No. 1 in graduates who return to rural communities to practice, a new report indicates.

Thirty-three percent of the UNMC College of Dentistry’s graduates end up practicing in rural areas, according to an article published in the October issue of the Journal of the American Dental Association.

“As a state-supported college, one of our primary missions is to provide dental professionals for Nebraska,” said Janet Guthmiller, D.D.S., Ph.D., dean of the UNMC College of Dentistry. “We are aware of the need for dentists in rural Nebraska and the partnerships with the state are pivotal in attracting rural students and retaining our graduates in rural areas.”

Through UNMC’s Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP), Dr. Guthmiller said 83 percent of dental graduates (38 of 46 students) participating in the pipeline program between 1997 and 2012 have returned to work in rural communities.

Along with the RHOP program, the UNMC College of Dentistry also works closely with the Nebraska Office of Rural Health, said Marlene Janssen, health program manager providing support to the Rural Health Advisory Commission in the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

Janssen said two state-funded rural incentive programs have contributed to the College of Dentistry’s success in placing a higher percentage of graduates in rural Nebraska:

• The Nebraska Loan Repayment Program funded in 1994 with dentists added in 1998; and

• The Nebraska Rural Health Student Loan Program that added dental students in 2000 by the Nebraska Legislature.

“For more than 100 years the UNMC College of Dentistry has provided exceptional dental education and service to Nebraskans and beyond through premier educational programs, innovative research and clinical care,” said UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.

Dr. Gold noted that 67 percent of all the dentists practicing in the state are graduates of the UNMC College of Dentistry and 83 percent of rural dentists are graduates.

“In the past five years, our graduates have chosen to practice in 29 different counties in the state,” Dr. Guthmiller said. “Today 47 percent of the dental students currently attending the College of Dentistry are from rural communities.”

“While our students are in school, they also provide a dental safety net for underserved and low income patients providing more than $6 million in free and reduced care annually to citizens across the state,” she said.

Those accomplishments reflect only a few of the ways in which the UNMC College of Dentistry impacts the state. Other highlights include:

• Fourth-year dental students spend several weeks in extramural rotations working alongside UNMC graduates and faculty in 24 different counties across Nebraska.

• Since 2001 the school has treated more than 5,600 children and provided nearly $3 million in services to low income and underserved children in the state.

• Pediatric dental residents spend six weeks every year in Columbus, Macy, Hastings and Grand Island providing dental care for approximately 3,000 pediatric patients.

• For years, faculty, staff and students have participated in the Nebraska Mission of Mercy, an annual charitable dental clinic that provides care to the needy in the state. Their support has helped provide dental services to more than 10,000 Nebraskans.

• Students and faculty volunteer their time weekly and provide dental care at the People’s City Mission dental clinic which caters to the needy and homeless community in Lincoln.

• College of Dentistry students provide sealants, fluoride treatments and education to 3,411 school children throughout Nebraska every year.

To read the entire Journal of the American Dental Association article go to:  http://jada.ada.org/article/S0002-8177(15)00842-9/fulltext
One in 10 children in almost every classroom in Douglas County is in pain due to oral health issues.

And more than 30 percent of children in Douglas County do not have a dental home. Those statistics don’t sit well with pediatric dentist Jill Wallen, B.D.S., or her partners at Building Healthy Futures, an Omaha nonprofit that aims to improve health for underserved children and youth through collaboration and advocacy.

As chair of the department of growth and development at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry, Dr. Wallen is determined to change those numbers.

Through a $2.2 million, five-year grant from the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Health and Human Services, Dr. Wallen, in partnership with Building Healthy Futures, has developed a plan to provide dental care to children in need right in their own school.

Ten Omaha public schools, identified by Building Healthy Futures — including: Central Park, Fontenelle, King, Lothrop, Minne Lusa, Mount View, Skinner, Rose Hill, and two others yet to be determined, will be a part of a new program that pairs one pediatric dental resident with each school.

The grant will allow residents to go into schools and provide restorative care using a portable dental unit that includes a chair, stool, and all the hookups needed for air, water, suction equipment and drills, paid for by the grant, said Dr. Wallen, principal investigator.

Preethy Nayar, M.D., Ph.D, an associate professor and director of doctoral programs in the UNMC College of Public Health, leads the research and evaluation team for the grant.

"This is a huge benefit to children and families,” Dr. Wallen said.

The residents will work with the school nurse, who will pre-screen the children and evaluate their needs. Those with urgent dental needs that cannot be addressed at the school dental clinic will be referred to the UNMC pediatric dentistry clinic at Children’s Hospital & Medical Center, she said.

“We’ll also be working with the dental clinics at Charles Drew Health Center, One World and Creighton University, along with UNMC’s pediatric clinic, to help establish dental homes for these children,” Dr. Wallen said.

The need is great, said Jeanee Weiss, CEO of Building Healthy Futures.

"We are seeing decay in 31 percent of children in the schools, and of those, 11 percent have serious dental needs,” Weiss said. “These are children in pain, who have infection or cavities impacting multiple teeth.”

The hope is that by working directly with the school nurse and providing restorative care, such as sealants and fillings, at the school, the incidence of children impacted by dental disease will diminish, Dr. Wallen said.

Along with the urban school program, pediatric dental residents also will continue to work with the rural community clinics in Hastings, Columbus and Macy, Neb., established in 2010 with two previous HRSA grants.

Through those grants senior dental students and pediatric dental residents spend up to 30 days at one of the rural clinic sites providing services.

Not only do the children they serve learn about the importance of oral health, but the residents also get a unique perspective on the challenges faced by rural and underserved communities, Dr. Wallen said.

All of the sites have access to pediatric dental specialists through tele-health equipment, an intraoral camera and iPad that the school nurses or pediatric residents can use to get advice on diagnosis, she said.

Every Thursday from 9 to 11 a.m., a pediatric dentist will be available to answer questions and help discern what is normal and abnormal, Dr. Wallen said.

"This project eliminates a lot of barriers in Omaha,” Weiss said. “We want to make sure kids have access to quality oral health care and deliver it where children and families are already comfortable.”

There are 6,000 children ranging in age from 4 to 12 years in pre-K through sixth-grade who will receive oral health education, fluoride varnish, screenings, sealants and restorative care through the program.

“I'm very thankful to UNMC for including us in this work and for seeing the value of addressing the oral health needs of these children,” Weiss said.
College of Dentistry and Nursing students team up to provide care

Interprofessional education (IPE) is more than just the latest buzz word. It’s proven to be the best method of nurturing a spirit of teamwork among health professionals throughout their careers.

“In the end IPE improves the quality of patient care,” said Chao “Mickey” Zhang, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the UNMC College of Nursing—Lincoln division.

According to a 2014 report by the Institute of Medicine, interprofessional collaboration must begin in the education setting, which is exactly why Dr. Zhang decided to introduce team training to nursing and dentistry students this fall.

Through a $25,000 grant from the University of Nebraska Kelly Funds, Dr. Zhang launched a pilot project in collaboration with grant co-investigator David Brown, Ph.D., executive associate dean at the UNMC College of Dentistry.

The two-year grant paired nursing and dentistry students who conducted oral health screenings at seven Lincoln middle and high schools. More than 2,000 seventh- and 10th-grade students were screened over the course of four weeks between mid-September and early October.

Before going out into the field, the students completed several online training modules – a TeamSTEPPS (Team Strategies and Tools to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety) module created by Katherine Jones, Ph.D., associate professor and health services researcher in the College of Allied Health Professions; and an oral screening module related to senior health care created by Caren Barnes, a professor of dental hygiene at the College of Dentistry.

“It was a valuable experience,” said first-year nursing student Payton Smock. “When it comes to kids and oral care you often only think of cavities, but the dental students pointed out other issues they encounter, such as gingivitis and ulcers in the mouth that children experience as well.”

After the school screenings were finished, the students then went to the two Senior Health Promotion Center locations in Lincoln and conducted oral screenings for 40 seniors.

“I really wanted to be a part of this project,” said Cassandra Hoang, a first-year dental student. “Nurses have knowledge that we don’t and vice versa and it’s important to share that information with each other to provide the best care possible for the patient.”

Communication is key in preventing medical errors, Dr. Zhang said.

This project is intended to bring together disciplines that don’t normally interact by the very nature of where each profession practices, one in a more traditional setting such as a dentist’s office and the other in a hospital, she said.

By bringing the students together early in their education, it creates a dynamic where each can see and understand how their respective professions operate, the value of service provided and how each can enhance the other to provide comprehensive care to their future patients.

“Teeth are often an indication of other health problems in the body, so to recognize those indicators and respond appropriately will only benefit the patient,” Dr. Zhang said.

Along with oral screenings, the students also conducted height, weight, hearing and vision screenings at the schools, as well as bone density, blood pressure, glucose and foot care checks at the senior centers.

“Teamwork training should be a part of every curriculum,” Hoang said. “We learned a lot from each other.”

“The College of Dentistry is very pleased to be able to work with the College of Nursing on this ground breaking project,” Dr. Brown said. “What makes it important for IPE is the opportunity to work together delivering care to patients in real world settings.”

First-year student Cassandra Hoang, at left, and first-year nursing student Payton Smock took part in a grant that encourages interprofessional team training.
Dental student selected for national research program

Sjogren’s syndrome.

It’s an autoimmune disease Grant Essink has encountered through patients coming to the dental clinic at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry but didn’t know much about – until this summer.

Essink is the fourth UNMC College of Dentistry student in the past eight years chosen to participate in the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) Summer Dental Student Award program at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md. It is an experience he will never forget.

“You get a ton of knowledge from people passionate about their research. To be a part of that is really special,” Essink said.

“Nationally, only a small number of dental students participate in this program each year. Having this unique opportunity to work alongside leading scientists is an experience that will serve Grant well for many years to come,” said Jeffrey Payne, D.D.S., associate dean for research and F. Gene and Rosemary Dixon Endowed Chair in Dentistry at the UNMC College of Dentistry.

During his time at the NIDCR the third-year dental student learned much more about Sjogren’s syndrome than just why it causes a dry mouth.

“It attacks the salivary glands and decreases the production of saliva, which can lead to rampant caries and decay in the mouth, which is what we often see in the clinic,” he said.

More than four million Americans are living with Sjogren’s, which has no cure, and can cause joint pain, digestive problems, difficulty eating and talking. It affects mostly women in their 50s and 60s but also can affect younger people as well. The most notable being tennis pro Venus Williams, Essink said.

While there is no cure, there are treatments that make symptoms more manageable – artificial tears, saliva stimulants and anti-inflammatory drugs, he said.

At the NIDCR Essink studied the overexpression of specific genes in people affected by Sjogren’s targeting three different cell types in the salivary gland. By doing so Essink was able to see and compare what was happening at the cellular level in patients affected by Sjogren’s to those unaffected.

“It really helped me to better understand the disease process in a way that makes it easier to not just talk to those patients affected by Sjogren’s but connect with them in a way that I don’t think I would’ve been able to do had I not done this research,” Essink said.

The experience will help Essink who plans to specialize in orthodontics and knows that during his residency he will need to conduct research.

“This summer was a good stepping stone in knowing what to do in the lab when that time comes,” he said.

“We are so honored that Grant was able to participate in this very prestigious NIDCR program,” said Janet Guthmiller, D.D.S, Ph.D, dean, UNMC College of Dentistry. “These kinds of opportunities can be life changing experiences for students in thinking about their future careers and impressing upon them how basic science knowledge can be translated into provision of optimal clinical care.”

---

Third-year dental student, Grant Essink, at right, with his lab supervisor and friend, Mayank Tandon, during a research symposium at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research in Bethesda, Md.
Meet the Dental class of 2019

26 Women
23 Men
6 Home states: Nebraska, North Dakota, Wyoming, Kansas, South Dakota, Wisconsin
4 RHOP participants
25 Rural backgrounds

Meet the Dental Hygiene class of 2017

22 Women
2 Men
2 Home states: Nebraska and Kansas
2 Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP) participants
16 Rural backgrounds
Thirty one students over the last four years have settled in 29 rural communities upon graduation.

The communities students located in are Alliance, Auburn, Beatrice, Bennington, Blair, Chadron, Cozad, Crawford, Creighton, Doniphan, Fairbury, Fremont, Geneva, Grand Island, Imperial, Kearney, Laurel, McCook, Norfolk, North Platte, O’Neil, Ponca, Scottsbluff, Seward, Sidney, York and Valentine.

Rural rotations by the numbers

2011 through 2015

266 Students
32 Rural sites including: Alma, Bridgeport, Broken Bow, Burwell, Columbus, Crawford, Fullerton, Gering, Grand Island, Hastings, Kearney, Lexington, Macy, North Platte, Norfolk, Ogallala, Ord, Pierce, Sidney and Valentine. Some communities have more than one practice that serve as preceptors.

7,989 Restorative procedures
3,133 Oral surgeries
5,210 Diagnostics

Since 2010, 27 dentists and dental hygienists have completed the UNMC Rural Health Opportunities Program. These 27 providers come from 15 rural counties in Nebraska.

unmc.edu/dentistry
Thirty one students over the last four years have settled in 29 rural communities upon graduation. The communities students located in are Alliance, Auburn, Beatrice, Bennington, Blair, Burwell, Chadron, Cozad, Crawford, Creighton, Doniphan, Fairbury, Fremont, Geneva, Grand Island, Imperial, Kearney, Laurel, McCook, Norfolk, North Platte, O'Neil, Ponca, Rushville, Scottsbluff, Seward, Sidney, York and Valentine.
College of Dentistry Remembers

**Dale Capek**, ’54, D.D.S., Lincoln, Neb., died Oct. 10, 2015. After graduating from dental school, Dr. Capek served in the U.S. Navy, after which he joined his father’s dental practice retiring in 1999. A 55-year Husker Football ticket holder, Dr. Capek was known for his kind smiles and sense of humor.

**Dean Dutter**, ’78, D.D.S., Omaha, Neb., died June 23, 2015. Dr. Dutter was passionate and dedicated to his profession as he touched countless lives in the 35 years of practicing dentistry. He was active in many charitable organizations including: Clinic with a Heart, Friendship Home and Heartland Equine Therapeutic Riding Academy.

**Gary Duven**, ’77, D.D.S., Appleton, Wis., died May 24, 2015. Dr. Duven was defined by his love for life, adventure, his work and family.


**Karla Sue Hays**, ’77, R.D.H., Beatrice, Neb., died Oct. 8, 2015. Hays was a member of the Sigma Phi Alpha dental hygiene honor society.

**Eugene Merchant**, ’47, D.D.S., Lincoln, Neb., died Oct. 6, 2015. Dr. Merchant served in the Navy Dental Corps from 1947 to 1949, after which he opened his practice in Omaha, Neb., that he operated until 1965. He was a professor of dentistry and associate dean at the UNMC College of Dentistry from 1965 to 1988. He served as interim dean from 1980 to 1981. He was a fellow in the American College of Dentists and received the lifetime achievement award in 2012.

**Jonathan Nelson**, ’99, D.D.S., Windsor, Colo., died Aug. 22, 2015. Dr. Nelson was an active member of the American Dental Association, Colorado and Wisconsin Dental Associations, and the Academy of General Dentistry. He was a member of the local Seattle Study Club for dentists. He also donated his time and talents to many charitable organizations including Colorado Mission of Mercy, Give Kids a Smile, Northern Colorado United for Youths, and Men for Change.

**Edward Packard**, ’48, D.D.S., South Bend, Indiana, died Dec. 2, 2014. Dr. Packard practiced dentistry in South Bend for 45 years. Dentistry and flying were his passions.

**Rex Swett**, ’67, D.D.S., Denver, Colo., died Aug. 2, 2015. After graduating from the UNMC College of Dentistry, Dr. Swett opened his practice in Huron, S.D., which he operated until 1971 when he moved the dental practice to Evergreen, Colo., where he lived and practiced until his retirement in 1998. He mentored and coached youth basketball, was an avid skier and volunteered as a member of the Colorado Ski Patrol.

Henry and Anne Cech liked to be part of something larger than themselves.

Henry was a member of the Huskers’ back-to-back Big Seven champion basketball teams, in 1949 and ’50. Anne had a passion for team sports, too. Her dad coached high school football in Hastings and Holdrege. She caught balls and carried water and helped in any way she could. At the University of Nebraska, she studied physical education. She was part of a sorority, Kappa Delta.

They had a lab class together while undergrads but didn’t have their first date until after they both had graduated and Henry was in dental school. He’d drive by her on his way to dental school, while she was walking to work, and he’d wave. He did this several times before finally asking her out.

They married in 1956 and formed a team of their own. They raised two daughters. Their lives revolved around the people and organizations they loved.

“I made up my mind a long time ago that I would never marry someone who wasn’t interested in sports or wasn’t in it,” Anne said, “because I figured they knew teamwork.”

That’s one reason Anne started the Dr. Henry & Anne Cech Professorship – an endowment to support faculty in orthodontics – to help a place and programs they love grow even stronger.

Henry, who died in 2011, received his dental degree from the UNMC College of Dentistry in 1956 and his orthodontic degree in 1958. His Class of ’56 had stayed close over the years.

“I think he would be pleased,” Anne said. “He was proud of the dental school and the orthodontic department.”

The endowed professorship is the first one for the orthodontics program at the UNMC College of Dentistry. It fulfills a standing priority need at the university – endowed faculty positions.

“It will help us recruit talented, world-renowned professors to our school,” said Sundaralingam Premaraj, Ph.D., associate professor and orthodontic program director at the UNMC College of Dentistry.

A professor of orthodontics typically has an income that is less than half of what an orthodontist working in private practice makes, Dr. Premaraj said. The Cech Professorship will help to close that gap and will give professors more time to conduct research, teach and serve people in other ways.

Henry loved orthodontics, Anne said. He seemed to know each patient by name – and what he’d done for their teeth – even years later when they ran into his patients around Lincoln.

“That always amazed me.”

Henry practiced orthodontics for years in a one-story mid-century modern building at the corner of 13th and A Streets in Lincoln.

Over the years, Anne and Henry generously supported the College of Dentistry. In 2006, they also helped fund a seminar room and library in the College of Dentistry building.

They also supported Husker athletics.

Anne had her own seat in the Bob Devaney Sports Center for basketball games. She was the first and the last person to sit in that seat. She also served as community representative on Bob Devaney’s 1973 Title IX Committee. She had a season pass to UNL football and basketball games for 50 years, and she still keeps in contact with college classmates.

“The university is just sort of in the family,” Anne said. “It’s just been in the family forever; my folks and both of my parents’ families all were graduates of Nebraska.”

Henry, who was president of the Alumni “N” Club, was proud to be a Husker.

He was proud of the College of Dentistry. He served as president of the College of Dentistry Alumni Association in 1968, and received the CODAA’s Alumni Achievement Award in 2008.

He was proud of his Czech heritage. He even acted as grand marshal of the Wilber Czech Days Parade one year.

He also was president of the Country Club of Lincoln.

Even though the two were a team, Anne says, they also had their own interests.

Anne was co-founder of the Nebraska Special Olympics and went on to become a member of the planning committee for the national games held in Nebraska in 2010. She just retired after serving 38 years as a track official and received a lifetime pass for any UNL track meet. She received the Nebraska Alumni Association’s Distinguished Service Award in 2008.

Anne says she owes a lot to the College of Dentistry, and to the University of Nebraska as a whole.

“It’s always been Nebraska,” she said. “No place else for us.”

Web extra: See a video interview with Anne Cech at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bb8ycJzM5I
The College of Dentistry is pleased to offer this Honor Roll in

Thank you to all our alumni and friends who generously support

the UNMC College of Dentistry. Private gifts allow our dental
college to build upon its tradition of excellence and provide the very

best in oral health clinical education, research, and patient care.

The College of Dentistry is pleased to offer this Honor Roll in
grateful recognition of its loyal alumni, faculty, and friends who have generously supported the college through gifts, pledges, and bequests to the University of Nebraska Foundation.

The lists below were provided by the University of Nebraska Foundation. Every effort has been made to insure that the names and categories are correct. Please direct your questions and/or changes to the University Foundation Office, tel. 800-432-3216. Thank you.

College of Dentistry Honor Roll

Dental College Dean’s Club

Membership in the Dental Dean’s Club is conferred to donors whose cumulative giving to any dental college fund(s) exceeds $10,000 (if pledged, the qualifying amount of $10,000 can be paid over a period of up to 10 years). New members are indicated with an asterisk:

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Lana Lobiger Flagtwet
Rebecca M. Fricke Scott, D.D.S.
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Dr. Steven A. Buechler  
Mrs. Elda Vejraska  
Anonymous  

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Alumni and friends whose donations for the College of Dentistry were received between January 1, 2014, and December 31, 2014:

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In Memory of Dr. Charles Clement (D.D.S. 1969) | Anonymous  
In Memory of Dr. Charles Decker (D.D.S. 1969) | Anonymous  
In Memory of Dr. Allan Kestner (D.D.S. 1969) | Anonymous  
In Memory of Dr. Louis Vejraska (D.D.S. 1945) | Mrs. Elda Vejraska

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Robert R. Aarvig, D.D.S.  
Dr. & Mrs. James R. Adams  
Dr. & Mrs. George F. Bellby  
Dr. Blye W. & Carol A. Bonness  
Dr. David G. Brown & Ms. Susan Whitmire  
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Alumni and friends whose donations for the College of Dentistry were received between January 1, 2014, and December 31, 2014:

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PLATINUM Century Club  ($5,000 to $9,999)  
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GOLD Century Club  ($1,000 to $4,999)  
Adaj, Salwan W. Allen, Richard D. & Tammy

College of Dentistry alumni whose donations have benefited the college between January 1, 2014, and December 31, 2014:

1945
Linch, Harry J.

1947
Reinhart, Caryle G.

1948
Moser, Earl C.

1949
Cooley, Gordon H.

1950
Lewis, Buell L.

1952
Bate, Harry W.

1953
Williams, Donald L.

1954
Grove, Raymond L.

1955
Smith, Lloyd L.

1956
Cecch, Anne

1957
Mosher, Ralph J.

1958
Etzel, Miller, Phil R.

1959
Leeper, Stephen H.

1960
Bonde, Roger H.

1961
Andersen, John D.

1962
Peck, Robert S.

1963
Kont, John N.

1964
Bone, Bryce W.

1965
Smith, Lloyd L.

1966
Bloom, Donald A.

1967
Anderson, Charles W.

1968
Vogt, Robert H.

1969
Anderson, Steven F.

1970
Aldott, Lawrence J.

1971
Bush, John R.

1972
Ahlschweide, John P.

1973
Sanders, John P.

1974
Bird, Albert R.

1975
Donlan, Kenneth L.

1976
Barth, Tom L.

1977
Alder, Stephen

1978
Bailey, Dana L.

1979
Benjamin, John W.

1980
Brown, Julie A.

1981
Beck, Marcia K.

1982
Benjamin, John L.

1983
Anderson, John D.

1984
Auer, Randy S.

1985
Bennion, Douglas B.

1986
Best, Jeane M.

1987
Bennion, James A.

1988
Beilby, George F.

1989
Beatty, Mervin W.

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2018
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2019
Bennion, John W.

2020
Beatty, Mervin W.

2021
Bennion, John W.

2022
Beatty, Mervin W.

2023
Bennion, John W.

2024
Beatty, Mervin W.
DENTAL HYGIENE

1966 DH
Adams, Judy K.  Cox, Jenny L.

1968 DH
Bolton, Linda L.

1969 DH
Hansen, Cynthia J.

1970 DH
Holtenauer, Mary A. Rhodes, Jacqueline K.

1971 DH
Henderson, Marilyn D. Kruse, Mary S. Williams, Carol G.

1972 DH
Gatto, Emily L. Havia, Gena L. Lovell, Maria R.

1973 DH
Belby, Robin L. Kalkwarf, Sharon R. Kent, Sheryl L.

1974 DH
Barth, Sandy J.

1975 DH
James, Joan M. Nelson, Christine D.

1976 DH
Hansen, Kathy A. Watson, Cheryl A.

1977 DH
Sullivan, Theres A. Yost, Leslee A. Henry, Mitchell J.

1978 DH
Davis, Catherine C. Hungerford, Susan M. Merginis, Gwendy K. Pilant, Linda L.

1979 DH
Crist, Lisa M.

1980 DH
Anderson, Lue Sore Otte, Carolyn S.

1981 DH
Garrison, Manuee E.

1982 DH
Elke, Susan J. Schroeder, Cynthia L.

1983 DH

1984 DH
Grubach, Sarah J.

1985 DH
Ham, Jennifer A. Kneji, Janice J. Lessig, Kathy A.

1986 DH
Henry, Lisa M. Vanderbosey, Mary J. Zucht, Jan R. Stavely, Richard L. Weiss, Lisa A.

1987 DH
Waters, Cori A.

1988 DH
Piper, Renee M.

1990 DH
DeLaet, Kristin A. Mattson, Sheila R.

1991 DH
DeBueh, Tammy S.

1992 DH
LaBef, Dana E. McGinley, Trace A.

1993 DH
LaBef, Dana E. McGinley, Trace A.

1994 DH
Kingston, Amy J.

1995 DH
Stineham, Kandace G.

1996 DH
Crawford, Leanne

1997 DH
Prichard, Pamela J.

1999 DH
Coun, Mary Lou

2000 DH
Lott, Jane L.

2001 DH
Witschblitz, Emily L.

2002 DH
Dietz, Scott R.

2003 DH
Wilson, Robert C.

2004 DH
Weisner, Christopher R. Witschblitz, Andrew T.

2006 DH
Toysa, Ashley R.

2007 DH
Schlegel, Kala J.

2008 DH
Baker, Nicole M. Mathews, Sara F.

2009 DH
Monard, Tracy E. Webster, Katie L.

2011 DH
Snow, Sarah L.

2012 DH
Clark, Amanda M. Korthout, Holly H. Shatz, Melanie R.
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**ADVANCED EDUCATION IN GENERAL DENTISTRY**
- 1989: Truong, Thanh
- 1991: Ameku, Yoshiharu
- 1998: Rush, Jeri R.

**ENDODONTICS**
- 1972: Bonness, Bryce W.
- 1974: Rosenfeld, Edward F.
- 1975: Zartner, Robert J.
- 1978: Corcoran, William C.
- 1981: Donlan, Kenneth J.
- 1983: Sargent, Frank H.
- 1984: Goodrich, John L.
- 1985: Panther, Robert B.
- 1989: Eckles, Terry A.
- 1992: Holmes, Brad L.
- 1995: Corcoran, William C.
- 1996: Vogt, Merlyn W.
- 1997: Maunder, David A.
- 2001: Rush, Jeri R.
- 2002: Schwandt, Nathan W.
- 2004: Alsallieh, Fahd M.
- 2007: Laird, Bradley
- 2012: Wieseman, Christopher R.

**GENERAL PRACTICE RESIDENCY**
- 1989: Truong, Thu T.
- 1992: Moffenbier, Stacy L.
- 1998: Rezac, James T.
- 2004: Neal, Jesse M.
- 2005: Hardy, Benjamin G.
- 2007: Luther, Kristen M.
- 2009: Beaudette, Hayley C.

**ORAL SURGERY**
- 1972: Morgan, James G.
- 1984: Bennion, John W.
- 2002: Kelly, Bradley J.
- 2005: Harris, Christopher R.

**ORTHODONTICS**
- 1958: Cech, Anne
- 1959: Morris, Lightle Y.
- 1960: Gibbs, John P.
- 1961: Zeiler, Karl B.
- 1963: Chan, Byron C.
- 1966: Harman, Kenneth A.
- 1969: Edgren, Burdett R.
- 1970: Mulick, Edward J.
- 1973: Clarke, Lawrence S.
- 1975: Jurgens, Roger E.
- 1979: George, Mark D.
- 1980: Lorenz, Allen L.
- 1984: Schoettger, Robert A.
- 1990: Alexander, Steven R.
- 1991: Omana, Hamid M.
- 1994: Cooper, Bret E.
- 1995: Harre, Paula L.
- 1998: Hoff, Michael H.
- 2002: Hukmani, Navin
- 2004: Hohl, Rebecca L.

**PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY**
- 1958: Lynch, William R.
- 1969: Davis, William K.
- 1970: Myers, David R.
- 1972: Ching, Kin H.
- 1971: Shelton, Preston G.
- 1973: Uchida, Clyde Y.
- 1977: Boyd, David W.
- 1983: Moyer, Barbara A.
- 1984: Olsenbaugh, Mary V.
- 1986: Asher, Randall S.
- 1988: George, Theodore M.
- 1991: Olsen, Joey S.
- 1996: Thompson, Jane M.
- 1997: Furtado, Gregory A.
- 2000: Kileen, Martin D.
- 2008: Rothe, Vincent V.
- 2010: Uchida, Chere C.
- 2011: Hoge, Mikala A.
- 2012: Laahn, Gary M.
- 2014: Hajek, Ryan T.

**PERIODONTICS**
- 1971: McCleary, Lanny L.
- 1972: Brazil, Robert W.
- 1973: Amerman, Gary W.
- 1975: Robeson, George A.
- 1976: Needham, Kenneth D.
- 1977: Walker, James A.
- 1979: Clarke, John E.
- 1981: Kassube, Thomas L.
- 1983: Harris, Arthur W.
- 1984: Kull, Stanley L.
- 1985: Okano, David K.
- 1986: Harmeson, Raynor L.
- 1988: Eckles, Terry A.
- 1989: Schoenenberger, Edwin R.
- 1991: Alley, Catherine D.
- 1992: Echols, Donald G.
- 2000: Crump, Brad
- 2001: Wilde, Jerold C.
- 2003: Smith, Kyle T.
- 2010: Kileen, Amy C.

**PROSTHODONTICS**
- 1973: Pudwill, Myron L.
- 1995: Marshall, Julie A.
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