The College of Dentistry Welcomes Dr. Paula Weistroffer

The Department of Periodontics is pleased to welcome Dr. Paula Weistroffer as a clinical assistant professor. Paula is a familiar face in the College of Dentistry. She completed her DDS in the College in June 2002 and recently received her certificate in periodontics in June 2007 and her MS in oral science in July 2007. Paula is from Aurora, Illinois. She also completed her BS degree at Iowa in 2002 and her BA in biology and Spanish in 1996 from Cornell College, Mt. Vernon. Dr. Weistroffer will be an asset to the department as she undertakes the role of course director for the D-2 periodontics course (Periodontics Methods II) as one of her responsibilities.

Please stop by S456 to welcome Paula to her new position as faculty member!

RefWorks Workshop at Hardin!

RefWorks: Learn the fundamentals of this Web-based bibliographic management program.

Thursday, September 6, 3-4 pm, Information Commons East
Go to http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/hardin/regform.html to sign up for this course.

Drs. Steve Aquilino, Bill LaVelle and Bill Olin Join Iowa MOST Team on Trip to Guatemala

Dr. Steve Aquilino, Department of Prosthodontics, was a member of the Iowa MOST team (Miles of Smiles Team) that traveled to Huehuetenango, Guatemala, in February 2007. The trip was sponsored by Iowa’s Rotary District 6000, and there were approximately 30 volunteers who included medical, dental, and nursing professionals as well as volunteers who provided non-medical/dental support.

The dentists included Drs. Bill LaVelle and Bill Olin, professors emeritus, Department of Otolaryngology, and Steve Aquilino.

The MOST team examined children with cleft lips and palates. Drs. LaVelle, Olin and Aquilino evaluated the children’s dental needs, performed tooth extractions, made molds and impressions, and constructed prostheses that would enable the children to eat and speak with less difficulty.

For one week, the group worked 12-14 hour days in Huehuetenango’s small hospital clinic. The team and their supplies were housed in a large classroom they dubbed “The Yellow Room,” which was also used as a work area for non-medical tasks. Conditions were not optimal – there was no lab available, but the team created one by using a banquet table in a well-lit back corner of the classroom. There was also no running hot water in the hospital so they used heated water from a water cooler that also served as their source for bottled drinking water.

Because prosthetics work is a messy process, they draped old bed sheets over their blue surgical scrubs when polishing the prostheses.

Sue Huff, a photojournalist for the MOST team, commented about the dentists, “These men were nothing short of heroic in the work they did with the children…Dr. Bill Olin, the senior dentist, was fun because he came into the room in a brightly colored cloth cap with a Snoopy comic strip on it to entertain the children…this made him seem less frightening.”

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Iowa MOST trip to Huehuetenango, Guatemala
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One of the Guatemalan children who received treatment was 11-year-old Enrique (left), who had traveled with his mother several hours by bus from a mountain village to be treated. The dentists made a removable partial denture and obturator for Enrique that also restored his missing maxillary anterior teeth. For the first time, he was able to smile and eat normally like the other children who had teased and ostracized him. Dr. Aquilino gave Enrique a soccer ball from the supplies the MOST team had brought with them, and the boy was delighted because soccer is his favorite sport. Sue Huff commented, “There wasn’t a dry eye in the room as we watched Enrique proudly walk out of the clinic with new teeth and a soccer ball…”

Sue Huff noted that despite the team’s long work days, they never lost their sense of humor. “…One afternoon, someone called our command central on the walkie-talkie to ask one of the dentists to come to the operating room for a consultation.

“Which one do you want us to send?” our communication team member asked in return.

“The good looking one!” quipped the wise guy on the other end. At that point, both Bill and Steve jumped up grinning and made for the door.

“As they went out the door, someone asked, ‘Who’s going to win that race?’

“He is because he’s younger,” said Bill, motioning to Steve, and they went off down the hall at a quick pace.

“Later, when they returned, another team member couldn’t resist asking, ‘So, who got there first?’

“‘He did!’ said Bill, chuckling. ‘But they sent him back because I’m better looking!’

“That made everyone laugh and brightened the day for the whole team…”

During their week in Huehuetenango, the Iowa MOST team screened 80 patients; treated 42 patients; performed 26 cleft lip repairs; 6 cleft palate repairs; 1 lingual frenectomy; 1 dental trauma (bike accident); 8 BMACs (ear tubes); 7 EUAs (ear canal evacuation); 19 dental extraction patients (109 teeth); and 4 obturators.

The Iowa MOST team hopes to return to Huehuetenango, Guatemala, in a couple of years. The Iowa Rotary members make this trip possible. If you are interesting in giving a donation, please contact Gary and Nancy Pacha (319-351-6251) for additional information.

For some additional photos from the trip, see pages 3-6 (online only).
(Left to right) Dr. Bill Olin and his son, John Olin (head legal counsel for DHL); Dr. Steve Aquilino, and Dr. Bill LaVelle. Because of John Olin’s association with DHL, the company agreed to ship their supplies to Guatemala at no charge.

Dr. Steve Aquilino working near a window in the back corner of a crowded and noisy room under very primitive conditions. The dentists draped old bed sheets over their scrubs as they worked on the children’s prostheses. Sue Huff, their photojournalist, commented “They looked like they were going to some kind of bad toga party.”

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Iowa MOST trip to Huehuetenango, Guatemala (continued from page 3)

(Above) Drs. Steve Aquilino and Bill LaVelle working at their makeshift lab bench.

The schedule board that the Iowa MOST team created for all of their patients' appointments/procedures.

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Iowa MOST trip to Huehuetenango, Guatemala (continued from page 4)

(Above) A photo of Enrique’s cleft palate.

A photo of Enrique’s mouth with his partial denture inserted.

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A photo of Dr. Steve Aquilino and Enrique with his new partial denture.

(Left to right) Dr. Sheny Hernandez, DDS; Enrique and his mother; and Dr. Paola de Garcia, DDS.

Drs. Hernandez and de Garcia are dentists from Huehuetenango's local hospital.

Enrique is holding the soccer ball that Dr. Aquilino had given him. Note that the ball is not quite fully inflated — there was no pump available so Steve Aquilino inflated the ball as much as he could.