Dr. Steve Armstrong

Welcome to Volume 1 Issue 1 of our departmental newsletter. Our plan is to send two issues a year but between issues please make regular visits to our departmental website: www.dentistry.uiowa.edu/operative for valuable information such as “best practices”, materials, techniques and catch up on news from your Operative family.

I implore all of you, especially those of you involved in academics, to be advocates for the discipline of Operative Dentistry. See the 2001 Operative Dentistry editorial (Volume 26 Issue 6) by Dr. Melvin Lund titled “The Vanishing Discipline” in which Dr. Lund eloquently and passionately expresses this message. Dr. Lund states that the training of dental students within a specific discipline should be done by educators who have specialized training and passion for that discipline. The Operative Dentistry diagnosis, prevention, repair and surgical management of caries and non-caries lesions in a non-invasive highly esthetic manner comprises the majority of the performed dental procedures and annual expenditures. Be an advocate for your discipline – be loud and proud.

Please stay in touch and keep us informed of your personal and professional activities and accomplishments. Email your information to Penni Ryan at penni-ryan@uiowa.edu.

Wishing you all the best in 2015.
Peace, Steve

Bob Margeas Gets Married

Yes it’s true. Dr. Bob Margeas was joined in holy matrimony to Andrea Robbins on October 18, 2014. Dr. Andrea Robbins-Margeas maintains a dental practice in Port Huron, MI.

We’re also proud to announce that Bob received the Iowa Dental Association President’s Award for his service to the organization and the profession at this Spring’s annual meeting.

Welcome Katie Mims

Katie Mims joined the Operative Department in October 2013 after dental assisting in the Waterloo and Cedar Falls areas for 17 years. Katie grew up in Fairbank, Iowa and went to Hawkeye Community College in 1997 and also attended Kirkwood for Expanded Functions duties in 2004. Katie and her husband Jamie were married on December 13, 2014 and live in Iowa City. Katie brought a yellow lab and Jamie a cat to the household and were happy to say that everyone is getting along beautifully. In her free time Katie enjoys live music, reading, finding new restaurants and Title Boxing. Katie will help us primarily in the resident clinic.

Breaking News...

With deep gratitude for their service to the department and friendship to all, and mixed emotions, we are announcing the “early” retirement of Dr. Deb Cobb, Mary Yoder and Val Vevera as of June 30th, 2015.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.dentistry.uiowa.edu/operative
**Erica Teixeira, DDS, MS, PhD**  
Associate Professor, Department of Operative Dentistry

**Where did you grow up?** I grew up in Campinas, in Sao Paulo State, located in the southeast part of Brazil. There are no beaches in Campinas, if someone is wondering about that. Campinas means “grass fields.”

**How or when did you become interested in dentistry?** I always wanted to become a dentist. My dad is a general dentist and my mom is a pediatric dentist. Growing up, I would hear them talking about their day in practice and just sounded very appealing and rewarding.

**What book are you currently reading?** Do children’s books count? Every night I read something new to my boys. *Fly Guy* books are a favorite.

**Some of your personal interests or hobbies:** I like watching movies of any kind: drama, romance, thrillers, etc. It is just a good way for me to relax. I also like to go swimming.

**What is your idea of a perfect meal?** To enjoy a good steak, grilled vegetables, and dessert in the company of family and friends.

**If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you like to go?** I would like to go to Italy and Paris.

**What is your favorite class to teach and why?** Biomaterials has always been exciting to me.

**What does teaching at the dental college mean to you?** It is amazing to be in such a renowned school and have the opportunity to interact with colleagues that have so much to offer.

**What advice would you give to dental students?** Always try your best and remember that other people are counting on you. Be a life-long learner, because when you become competent, it just means you have reached a landmark – there is still a lot more to learn!

---

**Dr. Fernando Oliveira Jr., DDS, MS, PhD?**  
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Operative Dentistry

**Hawkeye fan with long commute!** (See map at right)

- **Tell me how you first got interested in dentistry.** I got interested in dentistry when I was a child. My dad was (and still is) a well-known dentist in my hometown, Belo Horizonte, Brazil. He was also a professor at Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil. He played a big role in my decision to become a dentist.

- **What was your first impression of the field?** From the beginning, dentistry seemed to be a very challenging profession. We have to put a lot of effort to become successful. On the other hand, there is also recognition by people and by our patients, which makes the profession very rewarding.

- **What do you find most challenging about the profession?** To keep myself updated. Nowadays, there’s a lot of information, new technologies and a big demand for quality dentistry. As a professor, you have to realize that keeping yourself updated is a must in order to give the correct information to students. As a dentist, you not only have to show your knowledge and skills to the students but also obtain their confidence and trust.

- **What’s the best/worst thing that happened since you started with the College of Dentistry?** I made two very interesting decisions in my life after I had initially started with the College of Dentistry. The first was to go back to Brazil after I finished my graduate studies in order to establish my own private practice and get experience and recognition in my area.
  The second and possibly the most interesting decision was to establish myself back in Iowa City after 30 years of hard work in Brazil. I had a dream of coming back to Iowa and sharing my experience and knowledge in the place where I started professionally and became who I am today.
Tell me how you first got interested in dentistry. I didn’t visit the dentist until I was 3 years old (gasp!) but I loved it so much that I told my mom I wanted to be a dentist. Twenty-six years later I graduated from the Ostrow School of Dentistry at USC in Los Angeles, Cal., and the rest is history!

What was your first impression of the field? That the people weren’t scary (I was terrified of my pediatrician as a child)! The staff at my dentist’s office were personable and did their best to make my experience a positive one. At that point in my life, I had no idea what they were doing inside my mouth, I only knew that they were friendly and it didn’t hurt (and I got a prize at the end if I was good)!

What has surprised you the most about working with patients? How patient and tolerant people can be when you are working on them for 3-4 hours at a time during dental school.

What’s the best/worst thing that happened since you started with the College of Dentistry? I have been here only a few months and have met some amazing people. I’m very excited to get to know them over the next three years. I couldn’t ask for better co-residents, also. It’s such a diverse community in Operative Dentistry, and I love it. You really get to see how dentistry is done all over the world!

When strangers find out that you are a dentist, what do they say or ask? I usually get, “Oh, you clean peoples’ teeth?” To which I like to respond, “No, I enhance peoples’ smiles!”

Tell me how you first got interested in dentistry. Dentistry is the subject that combined science with art harmoniously.

What’s your personal philosophy on what should be done about dental care? Treat my patients like my family. What might someone surprise to know about you? I’m not the smartest person, but I am a person with extreme effort.

What do you think will change about dentistry over the next five years? New technologies and new treatments that are beneficial for patients.

If you weren’t a dentist, what would you be doing instead, or what would your life be like? I would like to be a teacher because I like teaching.

What do you do when you aren’t working/studying? I enjoy watching TV as well as exercising such as running or swimming.

What motivates you to continue in this field? Advance technologies and up-to-date knowledge are the reasons that motivate me to continue in Operative Dentistry.

Tell me how you first got interested in dentistry. I became interested in dentistry because I have always wanted to be involved in a profession where I am helping people. Besides, I am interested in the human biology. I choose dentistry over medicine because dentistry involves delicate manual work, which I wanted to be an aspect of my career.

What do you find most challenging about the profession? Sometimes working in the patient’s mouth gets really challenging, since the mouth is a small, dark space, and fluid is everywhere. In some situations getting my work done is a challenge.

When you are a dental patient yourself, how does it that make you feel? Sitting in the dental chair and opening my mouth for a long time is not really comfortable.

What’s your personal philosophy on what should be done about dental care? My philosophy is conservation of the tooth structure as much as possible because there is nothing better than the natural tooth.

What do you do when you aren’t working/studying? I take a break and explore new places around here in Iowa City; I love downtown Iowa City. If the weather is nice, I go for a walk, stop at a coffee place, and enjoy a cup of coffee.

What’s your idea of an ideal weekend? A perfect weekend involves spending time with my husband. Having dinner in a nice restaurant and spending some time together at home just relaxing, and watching a movie or a show together.
We appreciate any support you’re able to give – please consider a donation to the Department of Operative Dentistry today.

http://bit.ly/1cgUWBq

Stay in Touch

The Operative Dentistry newsletter is published twice a year as a service to Operative Dentistry. To keep up on the latest news between issues, visit our departmental website:

www.dentistry.uiowa.edu/operative