Welcome to our second issue of the Operative departmental newsletter. My/our many thanks to Michelle Zubcic for authoring and arranging this newsletter with the excellent team in Technology & Media Services here at the College of Dentistry. Please keep us up-to-date on your contact information and submit any personal or professional news items that we can include on our departmental website or in our next newsletter website. We really enjoy hearing from you and reporting on our Operative family – read about our current and former adjunct faculty, Drs. Jeremy Tu and Jon Ryder, respectively, in this issue.

Wishing you all the best in Peace,
Steve

Dr. Steven Armstrong

On June 30, 2015 we said goodbye to Mary Yoder, Dr. Deb Cobb and Val Vevera as they started a new phase of their lives. A retirement reception with family, friends and colleagues was held on June 17, 2015 to thank them for their 90 combined years of service.

Retirements

Michelle Zubcic has moved from her role as clinic clerk to assume Mary’s duties as Department Administrative Specialist.

Appointments

Dr. Justine Kolker and family: Jaxon (3 ½), Nettie (18 months) and Nile (18 months).

Building Update – Progress Continues

In late August 2015 the department moved into newly renovated office, lab and clinic spaces. On September 8, 2015 a ribbon cutting ceremony was held with Orthodontics and Preventive and Community to celebrate another completed remodeling phase.

A new operatory in the Graduate Clinic area.
Dr. Jon Ryder
Appointed Dean of the University of New England College of Dental Medicine

Dr. Jon Ryder (DDS ’96) has been appointed Dean of the University of New England (UNE) College of Dental Medicine. At UNE Dr. Ryder has served as Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, Executive Associate Dean, and Interim Dean.

Dr. Ryder received his BA in Asian studies from Augustana College, Rock Island, Ill. After receiving his DDS from Iowa, he earned an MS in oral medicine and orofacial pain from the University of Southern California (USC).

He had two dental practices in Iowa for 10 years and was an adjunct faculty in our Department of Operative at the College of Dentistry for 12 years (1996-2008). Before becoming a dental faculty member at UNE, Dr. Ryder was part of a large international group practice in Singapore.

He has led many dental humanitarian trips to Southeast Asia since 2004, as a volunteer and lecturer, particularly in Cambodia where he worked as part of a team to advise two dental schools on curriculum design and educational development.

Dr. Jeremy Tu, DDS, MS
Adjunct Associate Professor

How did you first get interested in dentistry?
I grew up next door to a dental clinic when I was in the elementary school. I used to sneak into their lab to watch the lab tech melting gold and mixing silver with mercury. I was fascinated but soon forgot about this experience. I did not really consider dentistry as my choice of profession until my younger sister got into the dental program at the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1988. I was having a hard time deciding whether to go into academia by getting a PHD for Hematology or just starting working as a full time Medical technician at UCLA. My sister came to visit me in L.A. and reminded me of my childhood experience with dentistry and that really excited me again and quickly I decided to pursue dentistry as my profession.

You recently built a new office building and brought on an associate. What motivates you to continue in dentistry?
Even though my ideal work environment is for me to work solo with a couple of hygienists and a couple of great assistants in a 4 chair office, but as my patient pool grows, we must grow with it as well. After 13 years in North Liberty, our practice steadily grows to the point where I see the need for a second doctor become necessary. I am very fortunate to have recruited Dr. Emily Morio (used to be Emily Wang) to be my associate. She has brought a lot of energy and laughter to my office. A lot of challenges as well. But we will grow together and continue to mature in our clinical skills and business management.

How do you predict dentistry will change in the next 10 years?
In 10 years, I believe dentistry will be improved by more high tech diagnostic tools and treatment methods. Even though there are many new things coming out every year, but I personally believe the only thing that can safe guard our integrity and efficacy is our own knowledge and integrity. Does not matter if we are a solo practice or in a giant organization, at the end, dentistry is personal and very precision based profession. It still goes back to you and you alone, what you believe, what you know, and how you treat others.

GRAD NEWS

Dr. Rodrigo Maia and Dr. Sandra Guzman-Armstrong (first row, white shirts) have become the new Graduate Program Co-Directors. They (along with Dr. Jerry Denehy, first row, far right) took all nine current grad students in September 2015 to IMOM in Council Bluffs.

Dr. Amira Ahmed (2nd year resident in Operative) and Dr. Ahmed Mahrous (graduate fellow in Prosthodontics) welcomed their son Yosef on December 5, 2015. Congratulations to the happy family!
Meet Our Current First Year Residents

Tom Grubbs
How did you first become interested in dentistry?
High school during my time shadowing several different professionals.

What do you wish other people knew about the College of Dentistry? UICOD is uniquely supportive to all students; specifically the Grad Oper Residents. All staff and faculty are passionate within their respective job scopes, approachable and provide materials or instruction to guide residents during program pursuits.

Which topics of research are most interesting to you? Dental procedural topics, those topics that may improve the effectiveness and ease of dental health delivery for patients and practitioners alike.

What about Iowa/Iowa City has surprised you most? It really does go below 0 degrees!
What interests do you have outside of school? My beautiful wife and two wonderful children.

Tamer Theodory
How did you first become interested in dentistry? Since dentistry is basically a medical service that aims to serve people and alleviate their dental pain, also it is regarded as the art and science of restoring teeth that are a major influence of one's esthetics, all of this made me interested in becoming a dentist. Additionally my biggest influence in choosing dentistry as my prospective profession was my father, also a dentist, who grew inside me the passion for dentistry.

What would you tell someone who is considering becoming a dentist? If someone has the real interest and the passion for dentistry, he/she should go for it since dentistry is still in need for more skillful, creative and artistic practitioners.

What about Iowa/Iowa City has surprised you most? The nice and friendly Iowan people and the University of Iowa.
What interests do you have outside of school? Any teamwork based activity such as hiking, camping and hanging out with friends, as well as traveling and working out.

Hamad Algamaiah
How did you first become interested in dentistry? During my high school years I felt affection for math and science, gaining full marks. Furthermore, my love was for symmetry and art, and the eye I had for beauty especially in the artistically aligned shapes. I believe these and more had a great influence on my future career decision to become a dentist.

What do you wish other people knew about the College of Dentistry? The College of Dentistry is an institute of research, care and accomplishments. People tend to be overwhelmed when they find out about the vast variance in specialties, what is offered by dentists, in addition to the capability of diagnosing non-dental related diseases.

What about Iowa/Iowa City has surprised you most? After visiting the school in November 2013, where I met Dr. Deborah Cobb and some of Operative department's faculties, I was attracted by the work environment and how nice and gracious the people in Iowa city. I felt just like home and the people in school were just like family. Alongside the school's powerful pedagogical resource and comprehensive curriculum, I believed that the University of Iowa was the perfect place to live and continue my education.
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