In June we bid farewell to our four graduating residents. Dr. Sandy Fox has joined the Westown Pediatric Dentistry practice in West Des Moines. Dr. Steve Leifker has joined the Dubuque Pediatric Dentistry practice in Dubuque. Dr. Kayla Risma has joined the Peckosh Pediatric Dentistry practice, also in Dubuque. Dr. Greg Weinberg has joined Dr. Richard Eggers’ practice in Moline. We wish all of them continued success and happiness as they embark on their pediatric dental careers.

We welcomed four new residents. Dr. Diana Pelzer is a 2014 graduate of the University of Iowa. Dr. Julie Smith graduated in 2012 from the University of Iowa and has practiced general dentistry in the Des Moines area for the past two years. Dr. Kyle Beulke graduated from the University of Nebraska in 2013 and did a GPR at the Ohio State University last year. Dr. Peter Stanley is a 2014 graduate of the University of Tennessee. We look forward to working with them the next two years.

As the new academic year begins, we would like to acknowledge our adjunct faculty members who will assist us throughout the year teaching D-3 students and pediatric dentistry residents. This year we are fortunate to have returning adjunct faculty Drs. Erik Balster, Todd Hoeppner, Polly Iben, Steve Kelly, Mike Mathews, Tom Maurice, Matt Pyfferoen, Hilary Reynolds, Ed Rick, Mike Stufflebeam, and faculty emeriti, Drs. Cynthia Christensen and Jerry Walker. Also helping us out this year will be two of our recent graduates, Dr. Steve Leifker and Dr. Sandy Fox. We thank them for their generosity, dedication and commitment!

During the past 21 years, pediatric dentistry residents, departmental faculty, and dental students have partnered with Proteus Inc., a nonprofit organization that has been serving migrant
and seasonal farm workers, to provide dental care services to the children of local migrant farm workers. On July 15 and 22, we packed up the department vehicle with all of the necessary portable dental equipment and supplies and traveled to two local migrant camps within an hour’s radius of Iowa City. Dental exams and fluoride varnish applications were provided on-site to 30 children. Follow-up restorative dental care for eight children were arranged for and provided on August 5 at the College of Dentistry. Although this outreach event often seems to fall on some of the hottest days of the summer, everyone seemed to enjoy the event! It is worthwhile to see the smiles on the children’s faces when they hop out of the portable dental chair and receive their new toothbrush, toothpaste, and sugarless gum!

At the All College Conference held August 18, department staff were recognized for their years of service to the College of Dentistry. Gayle Gilbaugh was recognized for 15 years of service and Dr. Mike Kanellis and Cindy Becker were recognized for 30 years of service. We are fortunate to have outstanding people in our department and are immensely grateful for all they do! (Two photos are embedded with this document and also being sent separately as jpgs.)

First-year pediatric dentistry residents Drs. Kyle Beulke, Peter Stanley, Julie Smith and Diana Pelzer.
Dental public health resident, Dr. Daisy Patino, and pediatric dentistry resident, Dr. Kyle Beulke, performing a dental exam on a child living in a local housing area for migrant farm workers and their families.