Dr. Lewis Humbert reduced his time to half time and resigned as the director of the advanced education program in periodontics on July 1, 2016. Our thanks and appreciation to Lewis for his excellent service and leadership over the past 10 years! Our students will continue to benefit from his ongoing teaching expertise.

Dr. Gustavo Avila-Ortiz, associate professor, has been appointed as the new advanced education program director. He joined the University of Iowa in 2011 after a five-year period at the University of Michigan, first as a resident and then two years as a faculty member,

In June 2016, both Dr. Vrushali Abhyankar and Dr. Christopher Hutton, third-year residents in the Department of Periodontics, successfully defended their MS theses. The title of Dr. Abhyankar’s thesis was *The Chemokine and Cytokine Response of a Keratinocyte, Dendritic Cell, and T-cell Co-culture Model Treated with Porphyromonas gingivalis Hemagglutinin B*. Her mentor was Dr. Kim Brogden. Dr. Hutton’s thesis title was *Comparison of Two Different Surgical Approaches to Increase Peri-implant Mucosa Thickness: A Randomized Controlled Clinical Trial*. His mentor was Dr. Gustavo Avila-Ortiz.

Dr. Gustavo Avila-Ortiz received a $107,000 grant from Sunstar Americas (Schaumburg, IL, USA) to conduct a study entitled “Prospective, Comparative Assessment of Alveolar Ridge Preservation Using Guidor Easy-Graft® Classic: A Randomized Clinical Trial.” Dr. Kelsey Tengan, a second-year resident in the Department of Periodontics, is the main co-investigator, and this project will be done in
conjunction with his Master of Science degree in oral science. Other co-investigators include Dr. Georgia Johnson, Periodontics; Dr. Veeratrishul Allareddy, Oral Pathology, Radiology and Medicine; Dr. Chris Barwacz, Family Dentistry. This is a multicenter study in conjunction with the University of Maryland School of Dentistry.

Dr. Gustavo Avila-Ortiz participated in the International Osteology Symposium, held in Monaco from April 21–23. One of the highlights of this event was the official launch of ‘The Box,’ which is the representation on Internet of the Osteology Foundation Global Community. Dr. Avila-Ortiz had the privilege to be selected as one of the six members of an international team that collaboratively worked on the creation and development of The Box. The Box is a platform that contains a plethora of tools and functions designed to enable practitioners, researchers and educators to connect, share information and learn all together. Registering and using The Box is free of charge. For more information and to register, click here: http://box.osteology.org/

Dr. Kim Brogden, director of the Iowa Institute for Oral Health, and professor in the Department of Periodontics, obtained research support by an NIH grant and also a grant from Cellworks Group, Inc (CA, USA).

Dr. Georgia Johnson served as an examiner for the American Board of Periodontology examination held in May 2016 in Dallas, TX.

Ms Nancy Slach was a CRDTS examiner at several tests this spring.

Dr. Satheesh Elangovan has been appointed as an assistant editor of Newman and Carranza’s Clinical Periodontology, 13th edition, planned for a 2018 release, and published by Elsevier. This textbook is the most popular resource utilized nationally and internationally in predoctoral periodontal education and is the recommended text for our
dental students. In addition to traditional didactic information, the digital format of the text contains videos of procedures, animations, downloadable images and PowerPoint presentations. Dr. Elangovan is also the editor for the Elsevier online resource center, “Essentials in Clinical Periodontology and Implant Dentistry” (http://www.essentialsindentistry.com/) and associate editor for “Trends in Clinical Periodontology and Implant Dentistry” (http://www.trendsperiomplantresourcecenter.com/), which aim to provide dental, graduate and practicing dentists with up-to-date evidence based clinically relevant information.

Dr. Gustavo Avila-Ortiz participated as one of the keynote speakers in the 12th International Symposium in Periodontics and Restorative Dentistry (ISPRD), held in Boston June 15-19. The title of his presentation was “Management of the Extraction Site: Contemporary Evidence and Therapeutic Reflections.”

In June we celebrated the graduation of one of our third-year residents, Dr. Christopher Hutton, at a party hosted by the Dr. Georgia Johnson and her husband, Bill. Chris will make great contributions to the community; he is going to practice in the Milwaukee area. Congratulations, Chris! At the end of June, we also welcomed our new Class of 2019 residents, Dr. Joseph Ballatore (DDS '16 University of Connecticut) and Dr. Nicholas Salava (DDS '16 A.T. Still). We look forward to seeing the contributions of Joseph and Nicholas to our specialty.

Ms. Kyla Miletich, dental assistant, and Mary Bruning Anderson, dental hygienist, retired from the College and their roles in our department in July and August, respectively. Kyla had worked in the college for 16 years and Mary for 14 years. Our
department thanks both of these outstanding individuals for their commitment and work to support high standards of patient care. Both are enjoying retirement and the increased time that they now have to spend with their children and grandchildren. We miss them both!

In August, Dr. Leandro Chambrone, a periodontist from Brazil and a world-renowned expert on mucogingival surgery and evidence-based dentistry, became a visiting assistant professor of the UI Department of Periodontics. He lectured to the residents and faculty on evidenced-based dentistry on August 16. On Friday, August 19, as part of the Periodontics Teaching In-Service, he gave a seminar on the application of different root coverage procedures based on contemporary evidence and clinical expertise.

(Photo included with this news)