

Faculty/Department News

Department of Endodontics

Dr. Rajaa Alsanea, an endodontics postgrad, discussed her first novel, *Girls of Riyadh*, in the July issue of *Chicago Magazine*. The book follows four 20-something women whose experiments with romance and alcohol are at odds with traditional Islamic society. The book debuted two years ago in her home country of Saudi Arabia; the much-anticipated English translation of the book was released in July.

Dr. Michael Barrows (see Department of Oral Biology).

Dr. Brett Gilbert, Clinical Assistant Professor, and his wife, **Kari**, had a baby girl on June 5. Her name is **Josie Mae** and she weighed 6 lbs., 5 oz. and was 19 inches long.

Dr. Robert Hawkinson, Clinical Assistant Professor, attended the International Federation of Endodontic Associations (FEA) meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Aug. 23 through 25.

Dr. Brad Johnson, Associate Professor, was reappointed to the American Association of Endodontists Evidence Based Endodontics Committee for 2007-08. He attended the American Association of Endodontists (AAE) Educator Workshop for Program Directors on Aug. 17 and 18 in Chicago. He also is President of the Edgar D. Coolidge Endodontic Study Club for 2007-08. Dr. Johnson is author or co-author of the following publications:

Herold KS, Johnson BR*, Wenckus CS. "An SEM Evaluation of Microfractures, Deformation, and Separation in EndoSequence and Profile NiTi Rotary Files Using an Extracted Molar Tooth Model." *J Endod.*, June 2007; 33:712-14.

Crawford JM*, Adami G, Johnson BR, Knight GW, Knoernschild K, Obrez A, Patston PA, Punwani I, Zaki M, Licari FW. "Curriculum Restructuring at a North American Dental School: Rationale for Change." *J Dent Educ.*, April 2007; 71:524-531.

Sridhar A, Drummond JL, Fayad MI, Johnson BR, BeGole EA. "Scanning Electron Microscopic Evaluation of the Resilon™ -Tooth Interface." *J Endod.*, 2007; 33:346.

Johnson, BR. "No Pain, No Gain; Changing the Perception of Root Canal Therapy." *Endodontic Therapy*, Spring 2007; 7(1): 3-4.

Dr. Johnson was an advisor to **Dr. Anupama Sridhar** (Postgraduate Class of 2006), who made

an oral research presentation at the annual American Association of Endodontists (AAE) meeting in April 2007, which also was published as an abstract in the March 2007 *Journal of Endodontics*.

Nancy A. Lee, BS, Assistant to the Head, drove 200 miles to Avon, IN, on Aug. 16 to celebrate the fourth birthday of her grandson, **Anthony James Lee**.

Congratulations to **Dr. Marty Rogers**, Clinical Assistant Professor, and his wife, **Christine**, on their wedding May 5. They traveled to Italy on their honeymoon in September.

Dr. Christopher Wenckus, Head, represented the American Board of Endodontics at the annual Dental Specialty Board Conference held at Ritz-Carlton in Chicago on Aug. 19. On Aug. 20 and 21 he was involved in creating the American Board of Endodontics (ABE) written exam, which will be given to candidates sitting for the ABE exam in May 2008. Dr. Wenckus attended the International Federation of Endodontic Associations (IFEA) meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Aug. 23 through 25. He will also represent the ABE at the Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL) meeting with the dental specialties held on Sept. 17 at the American Dental Association building in Chicago.

The Department of Endodontics graduated six postgraduate students on June 30 as follows:

Dr. Ted Damas, who is from Ajax, Ontario, Canada, is remaining in Chicago for a while practicing Endodontics.

Dr. Milton Davenport III, originally from Markham, IL, is working with **Dr. Brooke J. Benson's** Endodontics Practice in Chicago and joined the endodontics faculty one day a week as Clinical Assistant Professor.

Dr. Danny Kaplan, whose family is in Navajo, AZ, is remaining in Chicago practicing endodontics.

Dr. Rebecca Prescott is enrolled in the MBA program at UIC and will be starting her own endodontics practice in Chicago.

Dr. Regina Romero is practicing endodontics in Chicago and joined the endodontics faculty one day per week as a Clinical Assistant Professor.

Dr. Hongsu Situ, who is originally from Amherst, NY, now is practicing Endodontics in Arizona.

In July, the Department of Endodontics welcomed six new postgraduate students as follows:

Dr. Moayad Alomar comes from Kuwait and

attended the University of Pittsburgh from 1999 to 2002 studying pre-dentistry. He graduated with his DMD in 2006 from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine.

Dr. Bruna M. Burgener comes to the College from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and graduated from the Universidade Federal Do Rio de Janeiro in 2000. She received her DDS in 2005 from the Columbia University College of Dentistry.

Dr. Andrew Calhoun comes from Niceville, FL, and attended the University of Florida where he earned a BS in microbiology in 1999 and an MS in food science and nutrition in 2000. He graduated from the University of Florida College of Dentistry with his DDS in 2004.

Dr. Patrick King comes from Lemont, IL, and attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he majored in biology. He graduated from the UIC College of Dentistry in 2005.

Dr. Annette Kugelmann comes to UIC from Germany and attended Hawaii Pacific University in Honolulu, HI, from 1997 to 2000, where she earned a BS/BA in marketing. She received her DDS in 2005 graduating cum laude from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Dentistry.

Dr. Natanya Marracino Brown reports that she was "raised in many places" including Spain and Puerto Rico. She graduated from Tufts University with a BSE in biomedical engineering in 2001. In 2005, Dr. Marracino graduated from Tufts University School of Dentistry with her DMD.

Department of Oral Biology

During the summer of 2007 **Dr. Loren Goldstein**, Lecturer, worked on restructuring the Biology of Human Dentition course. Dr. Goldstein's work included meetings with other Course restructuring committee members and **Dr. Bill Knight**, Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs. In addition, Dr. Goldstein edited and upgraded the course notes for the newly created Blackboard web-based course and, with other members of the committee, incorporated a new computer-animated 3-D program into the curriculum. Other members of the course restructuring committee are: **Drs. Michael Barrows**, Assistant Professor, Endodontics; **James Buckman**, Professor, Restorative Dentistry; **Courtney Lamb**, Clinical Assistant Professor, Restorative Dentistry; **Ales Obrez**, Associate Professor, Restorative Dentistry; **Anna Organ**, Clinical Assistant Professor,

Restorative Dentistry; and **Adriana Semprum**, Clinical Assistant Professor, Restorative Dentistry. **Dr. Larry Kolar**, now a former faculty member, also was on the committee.

Drs. Jianjun Hao, Research Assistant Professor; **Karthikeyan Narayanan**; **Tanvi Muni**; **Amsaveni Ramachandran**, Senior Research Specialist; and **Anne George**, Professor, had an article, "Dentin Matrix Protein 4, a Novel Secretory Calcium-Binding Protein that Modulates Odontoblast Differentiation," published in the May 25, 2007, *Journal of Biological Chemistry*.

Other Publications

Luan X, and **Diekwisch TGH**. (2007.) "Vienna-Chicago: The cultural transformation of the model system of the un-opposed molar." *Bioessays* 29, 819-830.

Suga T, **Fukui T**, **Shinohara A**, **Luan X**, **Diekwisch TGH**, **Morito M**, and **Yamane A**. (2007.) "BMP2, BMP4, and their receptors are expressed in the differentiating muscle tissues of mouse embryonic tongue." *Cell Tissue Res*. 329, 103-117.

Luan X, **Ito Y**, **Holliday S**, **Walker C**, **Daniel J**, **Galang TM**, **Fukui T**, **Yamane A**, **BeGole E**, **Evans C**, and **Diekwisch TGH**. (2007.) "Extracellular matrix-mediated tissue remodeling following axial movement of teeth." *J. Histochem. Cytochem.* 55, 127-140.

New Grants to the Brodie Lab

\$5 million, NCMHD 1P20MD001816-01, "Building Capacity in Health Disparities Research," to College of Health Professions, Governors State University; **Dr. Thomas G.H. Diekwisch**, department head, is co-investigator with **Linda Samson**, PI; Mentee **Dr. Robert Druzinsky**.

\$100,000 (direct), **Dr. Xianghong Luan**, Assistant Professor, Brodie Lab, IR03 NIDCR Small Grant Award.

\$151,429 (total), **Cameron Walker**, Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards for Individual Predoctoral MD/PhD Fellows F30.

Awards to Brodie Lab Students

Cameron Walker, \$1,000 research award, Chicago Odontographic Society; IADR Craniofacial Biology Group Research Award-Sarnat Award.

College Focuses Effort on Improving Undergraduate Clinics

The College has brought together a strategic planning group of students, faculty, administration, and staff who are directly involved with delivering patient care services in the undergraduate clinics with the goals of improvement, success, and empowerment.

"We are creating an ongoing, formal process whereby we

can empower members of the College to collect and implement ideas, improve the education of students, provide better service to patients, and result in higher levels of work satisfaction for the members of our College community," said **Dr. Steve Zeck**, Clinical Assistant Professor, Restorative Dentistry, and group leader.

The group reports to its sponsor, **Dr. Bill Knight**, Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs. Its steering committee consists of **Seema Ashrafi, Mike Barrows, Blaise Brown, Priscilla Chang, Dave Clark, Cynthia Collins, Eryn Donohue, Gary Drahos, Michael Dunlap, John Foley, Ken Gehrke, Rand Harlow, Kiley Hirons, Pam Jurgens-Toepke, Maria Leon, Ginny Lothrop, Nuha Nakib, Sheila Raja, Jim Ricker, Sue Rowan, Larry Salzmman, Mike Santucci, Kevin Van Kanegan, Robin Waner, and Darryn Weinstein.**

The steering committee went on a two-day retreat in November held at the School of Public Health and led by professional facilitator and organizational psychologist **Andrew Black**, an outside consultant.

The group brainstormed and did a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis concerning the undergraduate clinics.

A "working" mission statement was created by the volunteers: "The mission of the UIC College of

Dentistry Undergraduate Clinics is to integrate the education of future dental health professionals with the provision of quality comprehensive oral health care services."

"We decided to focus our energies on four important areas and created corresponding committees of enthusiasts," Dr. Zeck explained. The committees are:

Communications, headed by Dr. Van Kanegan; members are Ashrafi, Gehrke, Harlow, Barrows, Clark, Raja, and Weinstein.

Patient Experience, headed by Dr. Rowan; members are Drahos, Leon, Lothrop, Nakib, Ricker, and Santucci.

Student Experience, headed by Dr. Foley; members are Chang, Donohue, Dunlap, Hirons, Salzmman, and Zeck.

Finances, headed by Collins: members are Brown, Jurgens-Toepke, Knight, and Waner.

The group then began communicating the plan and soliciting input from the entire College community. Its members met again in January to discuss and incorporate the new information and to decide on initial plans, goals and projects for achieving success. The launch of the projects is expected in February and will continue by creating new projects for the next five years.

Input continues to be sought. Contact committee chairpeople listed above to offer positive suggestions to promote the successful future of the Undergraduate Clinics. For additional information, contact Dr. Zeck at (312) 996-1811 or szeck1@uic.edu.



OKU Faculty Inductees were (left to right) Drs. Adriana Semprum and Ronald Milnarik.



ENDO REUNION—The Department of Endodontics Class of 1982 recently held a reunion at the home of Dr. Taisa Szeremeta-Browwar. Pictured are Dr. Szeremeta-Browwar, Sindy and Dr. Jeff Hopkins, Dr. Joe Van Cura (Program Director, and Dr. Pat Murphy.