



*George Stookey (left) and John Williams*

## **IU Distinguished Professor Emeritus George Stookey addresses 216 IU dental school graduates**

Before graduating students of dentistry crossed the stage one by one to accept their degrees and take their place in the history of the Indiana University School of Dentistry, they listened to parting words from IU Distinguished Professor Emeritus **George K. Stookey**, one of the world's renowned leaders in the field of preventive dentistry.

"You are about to go into an absolutely wonderful profession," Stookey told the graduates in an address presented at the dental school's pre-commencement ceremony, held in the Sagamore Ballroom of the Indiana Convention Center in downtown Indianapolis on May 10.

The IU dental school's classes of 2014 are composed of 216 students from hometowns in 18 U.S. states and commonwealths and 16 nations and regions. About 70 percent of the candidates are from Indiana hometowns:

- 102 candidates for the Doctor of Dental Surgery degree

- 39 candidates for the Associate of Science degree in Dental Hygiene
- 28 candidates for the Dental Assisting certificate
- 7 candidates for the Bachelor of Science degree in Public Health Dental Hygiene
- 40 candidates for degrees and certificates in advanced dental programs



***Dental Assisting graduate Katelynn Todd on stage with Prof. Pamela Ford (left) and Dr. John Williams***

Long considered one of the IU dental school's living legends, George Stookey devoted his entire career as a scientist, academician, and administrator to Indiana University.

He got his start in the mid-1950s as a young IU graduate in the lab of Joseph Muhler, whose research with IU chemistry professors Harry Day and William Nebergall was on the verge of bringing world-wide acclaim to IU through development of the first successful stannous fluoride formula, which became the caries-preventing agent in Crest toothpaste.

He quickly emerged as a pioneering dental researcher in his own right in such areas of study as fluoride and the early detection of dental caries (decay), turning the IU dental school's Oral Health Research Institute into a global leader in preventive dentistry research and product testing. His myriad roles at IU have also included service as the dental school's interim dean, executive associate dean, and associate dean for research.

Holding three IU degrees (B.A.'57, MSD'62, Ph.D.'71), Stookey received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from IU this year. IU awarded him the title of distinguished professor of preventive and community dentistry in 1998.

In his address, Stookey spoke of the enormous strides dental researchers have made in fighting dental disease since the 1940s, when dental caries was rampant in the general population across the nation. When research began to show that fluoride reduced tooth decay, Indiana became one of the leaders in

water fluoridation in 1948. Stookey also spoke of the challenges that still lie ahead, particularly with a population that is now living longer – the oral health of geriatric patients, he cited as an example, is often compromised by medications that interfere with the flow of saliva, the body’s natural defense mechanism against dental caries.



***Dental Hygiene graduates Caitlan Schafer (left), Ranjana Shrestha, and Mo Thi Nguyen***

Dentistry, said Stookey, stands among a small group of truly outstanding helping professions. “As a dental professional, you are automatically a respected member of the community you live in,” he said. “You are accepted into your local environment as a real asset to the community – a professional, a person with great respect from the very beginning. It’s an opportunity for us to be the best we can be to treat our patients....”

In the dental profession, Stookey said, practitioners have a chance to spend each day – and every *hour* of that day – helping patients achieve a better quality of life.

Since retiring from IU in 2001, Stookey has continued to contribute to Indiana’s economic development as president and chief executive officer of Therametrics Technologies, originally one of the first businesses in the IU Emerging Technologies Center in Indianapolis and now located in Noblesville, Ind.



*DDS graduates, foreground from left: Daniel Henricksen, Trevor Hess, Jillian Hodge, Jason Hua, Jordon Jacobs, and Thomas Jahnke*

During the pre-commencement program **John N. Williams**, dean of the IU School of Dentistry, gave the welcome and opening remarks. **Nasser H. Paydar**, executive vice chancellor and chief academic officer, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, welcomed the graduates on behalf of the campus; and **Jeffrey T. Allen**, president of the IU School of Dentistry Alumni Association board of directors, congratulated the classes.

The dental assisting, dental hygiene, and dental classes each recited a pledge to professionalism led by **Cathy J. Roberts**, president of the Indiana Dental Assistants Association; **Melissa J. Spriggs**, president of the Indiana Dental Hygienists' Association; and **Desiree S. Dimond**, president of the Indiana Dental Association.

Students receiving the Doctor of Dental Surgery and Doctor of Philosophy degrees were hooded either by a dental school professor or a loved one who holds a doctorate. The hooders representing the IU faculty were **Daniel S. Bennett**, **Angela Bruzzaniti**, **Steven E. Dixon**, **Richard L. Gregory**, **Kellie M. Schaub**, and **Daniel E. Shin**.



*DDS graduates in U.S. Army commissioning ceremony, from left: Danielle Cory, Jeffrey Croarkin, Trevor Hess, Ryan Smith, and Stephanie Steele*

Dentistry's pre-commencement program was preceded on the afternoon of May 10 by an open house and reception for graduates and their families. At this event, six of the Doctor of Dental Surgery graduates took the oath of office as captains during a United States Army commissioning ceremony: **Danielle M. Cory** and **Thomas G. Jahnke**, who will be stationed in Fayetteville, North Carolina; **Jeffrey D. Croarkin**, El Paso, Texas; **Trevor D. Hess** and **Stephanie R. Steele**, Tacoma, Washington; and **Ryan C. Smith**, Landstuhl, Germany.

Dentistry's degree candidates officially graduated on May 11 during IUPUI's commencement exercises, also held at the Indiana Convention Center.



*Advanced dentistry graduates, from left: Ala'a Sabrah, PhD Dental Science; Maryam Alghilan, MSD Operative Dentistry; and Nadia Al-Angari, MSD Prosthodontics*

Additional celebrations for dental graduates and their families included the school's awards program and breakfast preceding IUPUI's commencement. A total of 59 graduating students of dentistry were recognized with 108 honors and awards, including 17 men and women who were inducted at a previous ceremony into Theta Chapter of Sigma Phi Alpha national dental hygiene honor society and Theta Theta Chapter of Omicron Kappa Upsilon national dental honor society.

In addition to the awards published in the brochure, dental hygiene graduate **Beth Powers** received the Student American Dental Hygienists' Association Leadership Award (rather than the Colgate S.T.A.R. Award), and dental graduate **Hani Ahdab** received an Alpha Omega Scholarship Award.

This year marks the 136<sup>th</sup> graduating class for Indiana's dental school, which began as the Indiana Dental College in 1879 and became part of IU in 1925. Classes have graduated every year since 1880 except for 1920, the year the school transitioned from a three- to a four-year dental program. To aid in the war effort during World War II, the dental school graduated two Doctor of Dental Surgery classes in 1942 and 1944.

***Commencement Photos by Nicole Alderson and Tim Centers***