Dr. Joseph Legan came to IUSD in January of 1990 after a stellar career as an endodontist in the Air Force. From the very beginning, Dr. Legan endeared himself to the undergraduate students by his helpful, friendly, and professional approach in directing the Pre-Doctoral Endodontic Course. Over the past 24 years, he has won numerous teaching awards, served on countless committees, and developed an outstanding Pre-Doctoral Endodontic Course which has been used in dental schools throughout the country. Even with all the accolades, Dr. Legan has remained a humble academic leader in our department. When asked which of these awards means the most, he said, “Being a Hooter is the highest recognition a dental school class could give to an instructor.” He has poured himself into his job and hundreds of students have benefited from having him as a teacher.

Thank you, Dr. Legan, for all you have done for our department, our school, and our university. We admire your commitment to endodontic education and we’ll miss your carefree whistling as you walk down the hall to your next class!

Blessings to you and Mrs. Legan as you enter the next phase of your lives.
As Chairman of the Department of Endodontics at IUSD I hope this note finds all of you thriving in your practices and healthy and content.

I would like to update you on the current status at IUSD. The Endodontic Department is excited as plans for a new clinic are progressing. I, again, want to thank all of you who have contributed to the building fund and encourage those who have not to think about a contribution; every little bit helps!

Our graduate dinner was held on June 28 at Crooked Stick Country Club and Ki Wan Kim, Andrew Nerness, and Blake Prather all received their diplomas. Ki Wan has purchased a practice in San Diego; Andrew purchased a practice in Minnesota; and Blake is staying in Indiana and joining Drs. Brian Tate and Michael Aslin in their Carmel-Kokomo practices. We wish these three wonderful endodontists nothing but the best as they start their careers.

Our new second year graduate students are Drs. J. Ben Adams, Scott Hill, and Avni Maru. The newbies are Drs. Chris Kutanovski, Dan Jenks, both from IUSD, and Sarmad Alyas from Detroit Mercy.

Another exciting development in the Endodontic Department at IUSD is welcoming two new faculty members. Drs. Jim Bringas and Ned Warner joined the faculty this year; Jim primarily working with the graduate students and Ned as our new Pre-Doctoral Program Director. Both faculty members have unique backgrounds.

Dr. Bringas received his DMD from the University of the Philippines in 1991, followed by a certificate in Prosthodontics at IUSD in 1997. He then obtained a DDS at Detroit Mercy in 2000. Further studies included his MS and certificate in Endodontics from Detroit Mercy in 2005. Jim then became a full-time faculty member at Detroit Mercy (2005-2014) progressing to Associate Professor.

Dr. Warner received his DDS from IUSD in 1984. After a short time in general practice he returned to IUSD to complete a certificate in Periodontics in 2000 while concurrently obtaining a PhD in Immunology from the Department of Pathology IUMC. This was followed by a certificate in Endodontics in 2002 from UCLA. Ned returned to IUSD as a visiting Clinical Professor for two years and then went to private practice in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

We are very fortunate to have these excellent faculty join our department and keep up the tradition that Drs. Mychel Vail and Joseph Legan established while they were full-time faculty. In fact, both Mychel and Joe plan to continue their participation in the department as adjunct faculty instructors for Current Literature and the Pre-Doctoral Endodontic Clinic, respectively.

I hope and pray all of you have a great year and I look forward to seeing you soon. Please don’t hesitate to call (317-274-5306) or e-mail me (kspolnik@iu.edu) if you have any questions or need anything.

Best Regards,
Ken

Halloween 2014

The Endodontic Department revealed its Colts’ pride and true blue colors as everyone dressed up for the IUSD Halloween costume contest. Adjunct faculty, Drs. Sean Hart and Curt Warren, provided their super powers in the Pre-Doctoral Endodontic Clinic as Captain America and The Flash, respectively. As always, they used their endodontic powers for good as well as comic relief. Curt’s wife, Dr. Sara Warren, brought cupcakes decorated with wings and eyeballs to look like bats.

The Endodontic Department was the only group in the school to have 100% participation in the festivities. Although Dr. Warner gave it his all in the IUSD costume competition as a Colts-Zombie fan, he lost out to a jellyfish and a D3 student dressed as a star from a black and white movie.
for several years, she came to IUSD as a full-time dental assistant in 2007.

Desiree works in the Pre-Doctoral Endodontic Clinic and enjoys observing the dental students gain confidence as their endodontic diagnostic and clinical skills improve.

When not at IUSD, Desiree is busy raising her two children, Joseph, age 8, and Gabby, age 5, and spending quality family time with them. She hopes to persuade them to pursue careers in dentistry.

In her spare time, Desiree’s hobbies include reading, listening to music, solving puzzles, and being an avid movie enthusiast. Desiree earned her certificate in expanded functions in 2013. She followed that accomplishment by completing a Bachelors of Science degree in General Studies last August.

Desiree Hollenbaugh was born and raised in Indiana. She completed a two-year dental assisting program in 1996 at the Ralph E. Eder Vocational Center. After working in the private sector

Residents - Class of 2016

Charles F. Hine

At the end of June we said good-bye to three great residents. Ki Wan Kim, Andrew Ner-ness, and Blake Prather will surely be missed and we wish them the best as they move forward in their careers. I’d like to take this time to introduce the class of 2016.

Dr. Sarmad Alyas comes to us from Michigan. Sarmad was born in Baghdad, Iraq and grew up there through most of high school. He moved to Dona, Qatar to complete high school. Sarmad knew early on that he wanted to pursue dentistry as a profession because both of his parents are in the field. His father is an endodontist and has begun a faculty position at Detroit Mercy where Sarmad completed dental school. When Sarmad isn’t thinking about root canals he likes to stay busy playing tennis, soccer, and golf. In the future, he would like to find a location where he can contribute to endodontics in both private practice and academia.

Dr. Daniel Jenks was born in Twin Falls, Idaho and grew up in the small town of Wendell, Idaho. Dan attended the College of Southern Idaho and then completed his BS at Boise State University. From there his Indiana adventure began as he moved his family to Indianapolis when he became a dental student at IUSD. Following graduation, Dan completed a GPR at the VA hospital. Dan enjoys outdoor activities and spending time with his wife, Dawn, and their daughters, Jenna and Leigha.

Dr. Chris Kutanovski hails from Crown Point, Indiana which makes him the Hoosier representative in this class. He may not like that designation considering his undergraduate degree is from Purdue. Chris completed his dental training at IUSD followed by a GPR at the VA hospital. It was during his GPR that Chris decided he would pursue his desire to specialize. Chris enjoys spending time with his wife, Katherine, an Indianapolis native who met Chris at Purdue. He also enjoys spending time outdoors. Chris is an avid hunter and fisherman, as well as pretty good golfer.
The Class of 2015 is progressing well. Recent NERB participants at IUSD scored a 95% pass rate. The Pre-Doctoral students have an opportunity to take a mock board exam in their clinic prior to the actual NERB. As with NERB requirements, the mock board consists of accessing, cleaning-shaping, and obturation of a maxillary anterior incisor, in addition to accessing a maxillary first molar. Dr. Legan and I graded the mock boards and, in the words of several students, we were, “way harsh!”

That being said, as Dr. Legan and I coordinate the activities of the Pre-Doctoral Clinic I hope to continue the long tradition Joe has established for the highest standards with an optimal clinical experience for the students. The requirements for the D4 students to be cleared from our department remain at 10 canals; 3 of those canal credits are obtained in the second year (D2) technique course. This is completed through a Dexter model by having the students access, mechanically debride, and obturate a mandibular molar.

The department continues to struggle with a limited number of dental school patients. At this time, due to the limited number of patients, only D4 students are completing endodontic procedures in the clinic. This situation is currently prevalent at most dental schools across the nation and not unique to IUSD. I would like to form a task force to direct activities that would help alleviate the conditions responsible for the lack of patients available for endodontic care.

Even with these obstacles, Drs. Spolnik, Bringas, Ehrlich, and I are committed to stringent criteria for those cases treated by the D4 students. These limitations may further strain the number of cases available; however, our department strives to impart on the students a philosophy of care that is, above all else, in the best interest of the patient.

Dr. Shane Christensen
Shane has a two-location practice with two partners in Parker and Aurora Colorado. *Endodontics of Colorado* was started in 1992 by undergraduate alumni, Dr. Garo Chalian. Shane joined the practice as an associate after his graduation in 2009. After a one year associateship, he became one of two practicing partners. He lives in a downtown Denver neighborhood known as the Lower Highlands with Stephanie, his beautiful wife of six years, their two wonderful boys, Cooper and Mason, and the only Indiana native in their family, their dog Griffy. Cooper, just 2 years 7 months old, was on skis on his second birthday and is looking forward to this year's season. Little Mason, born last March, eagerly tries to keep pace with his big brother. The Christensen’s enjoy spending time together as a family, entertaining, skiing, and attending Bronco games.

Dr. Paul Ley
Following graduation Paul joined Indianapolis Endodontics and transitioned from Associate to Partner in January 2010. He enjoys working with Drs. Bill and Ben Adams, Spolnik, Deardorf, Pfotenhauer, Rexford, and Bringas. Paul also teaches in the Pre-Doctoral Endo Clinic on a part-time basis. Paul and Diana welcomed Finn Joseph Ley to the world on 1/23/2011 and then decided more is better and welcomed Whitney Malone Ley on 10/3/2013! They feel very blessed to have two wonderful children and, even more so, as it seems both kids are football fans like their proud mom and dad. Paul and Diana are currently building a home in Westfield, IN and plan to move in March or April of 2015. Diana opened her own pediatric dental practice in Westfield earlier this year. They occasionally find time to travel and with parents in NW Indiana, Adirondacks NY, and Palm Springs FL they have plenty of destinations for the grandkids. They are both very thankful for the education they received from IU and the opportunities it has granted them.
The American Board of Endodontics launched the website for the new digital case history submission at www.amboardendo.org. Current candidates now have the option of submitting their portfolios in either a traditional binder or online in the new digital form. A transitional period permits either method of submission for current candidates, but all new candidates will be required to submit digitally.

The case portfolio continues to be the biggest obstacle to completing the process and the ABE has made several changes to the requirements in recent years to promote participation. In addition to the changes in the written and oral exams that have significantly increased the number of candidates, the number of cases required for the Case Portfolio has been reduced to 10 and the medically compromised care has been eliminated. All cases still require 1-year recalls, except the diagnostic case.

More importantly, an independent opinion from a psychometric company analysis indicates that the examination is still valid and reliable in measuring knowledge, skill, and clinical decision-making. There is no reason that any practicing endodontist cannot identify qualified cases with an adequate degree of difficulty during any 1-2 week period in their office. Provided, of course, that the records are kept, good images are taken, a good outcome is achieved, and recall is pursued.

The Helpful Hints discussion page on the ABE website contains general suggestions from recent successful candidates with a common theme of valuable advice.

### 2014 AAE Joint Symposium

**Kenneth J. Spolnik, DDS, MSD**

The July event, sponsored by the American Association of Endodontists (AAE) in collaboration with the American Academy of Periodontists (AAP) and American College of Prosthodontists (ACP), developed this conference with the purpose of discussing recent advances resulting in best-treatment outcomes for patients.

The conference presentation, “Teeth For A Lifetime: Interdisciplinary Evidence For Clinical Success,” provided a variety of research and clinical studies revealing clinical advances making patient care better and hopefully more predictable. Topics discussed included regenerative endodontic therapy, restoration of endodontically-treated teeth, endodontic technology for tooth retention, periodontal esthetic procedures, interdisciplinary care, multidisciplinary team relationships, peri-implantitis risk factors, and cloud computing. Panel discussions included the role of the different disciplines in a multi-team approach to improving patient care and treatment outcomes.

Several AAE members joined an impressive roster of experts in their field including Ove A. Peters, DMD, MS, PhD; Alan S. Law, DDS, PhD; and James Gutmann, DDS.

### Meet Our New Diplomates

According to the President of the ABE, Dr. Patrick Taylor, 92 endodontists achieved Diplomate status in 2014. The number of Candidates taking the oral examination averaged over 150 per year over the last 3 years. The large number of Candidates was able to take the orals due to moving the fall exam to the American Board of Orthodontics facility in St. Louis, MO. This facility has 10 examination rooms, which allows for 40 exams per day.

Our Department is proud to recognize three new Diplomates, Dr. Joseph D. Spolnik in making assignments. Each semester has a requirement until the 10 case portfolio is completed. I provide a thorough editing of each case and the improvement each semester is obvious.

The effort to achieve Diplomate status is worthwhile personally and is of great benefit to the specialty. Organized dentistry is encouraging all specialties to increase the percentage of board certifications and the ABE is doing a commendable job to achieve this. Every possible effort is being made to make the process fair, inclusive, accessible, efficient, relevant, and representative of modern endodontic specialty practice.

IUSD graduates have been very active and successful recently on all of the exams. Dr. Spolnik has been very encouraging and supportive. He is also currently serving as President of the College of Diplomates of the ABE. An appropriate way to support him and show thankfulness for the opportunity IUSD has helped provide for you is to become a Diplomate.

I have been involved with the ABE for the past 12 years; first as a Director, and now I continue my involvement in test construction, conducting examinations, and as a Case Portfolio reviewer. I have had the privilege of monitoring many successful candidates and remain committed and available to assist any IUSD graduates who need advice in any way to become Diplomates.

When asked, “What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate?” Joe stated, “I have committed myself to strive to achieve the highest levels of knowledge and skill possible in order to provide the highest possible quality of care to my patients. The ABE has really changed the exam quite a bit over the last few years to make it more easily attainable. I would strongly encourage anyone who is considering taking the exam to take the plunge and do it now.”

Haris states, “It’s a great honor and I feel it is important that we strengthen the future of our specialty through board certification. I will strongly urge new endodontists to pursue board certification as the process has been immensely streamlined.”

Dr. Joseph Spires

“Complete the process as quickly as possible.”

“Start early and don’t give up.”

“Don’t procrastinate.”

“Set a personal goal to complete the process and plan to accomplish it.”

“Follow the guidelines.”

“Treat every case as a potential Board patient.”

“Start collecting cases during your Graduate Program.”

“Read Helpful Hints thoroughly and repeatedly.”

Healey’s Comments

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The annual Harry J. Healey Endodontic Study Club Reception was held at the Gaylord National Resort in Washington DC last May. Many of our colleagues were in attendance including Drs. Adams (Ben & Bill), Allen, Bringas, Christiansen, DeNardo, Gideon, Glassley, James, Legan, Magura, Meier, Nazzal, Newton, Norton, Pfotenhauer, Putnam, Risser, Sahni, Spolnik, Steffel, Thiessen, Zent and of course, our residents, Drs. Kim, Nerness, Prather, Adams, Hill and Maru. Also in attendance were IUSD staff members, Linda Chaney and Dianne Heid, and AAE President, Dr. Gary Hartwell.

Dr. Spolnik presented Dr. Joseph Legan with the Harry J. Healey Achievement Award, only given two other times in our history, for his dedication and contributions to our specialty.

Ashleigh Rexford was elected as the Harry J. Healey Endodontic Study Club President, Vice-President is Paul Sahni, and Secretary/Treasurer is Ken Spolnik. Next year’s Harry J. Healey Reception will be held in Seattle, Washington on May 7, 2015. Letters will be mailed to inform you of details for the gathering.

We greatly appreciate our Endodontic Community. Your generous donations are critical to the quality and level of graduate education that our program is fortunate to maintain. Thank you for your continued support!

**News and Notes**

**Births**
- Drs. Elizabeth Miller and Stephen Holka welcomed a baby boy, Thomas, to their family on May 9th. Big brothers, Miles and Henry, are very enthusiastic about the new addition.
- Danyelle Reynolds and her husband, Jeff, welcomed baby Jeffery on May 18.

**Honors**
- Dr. Joseph Baldassano (1992) was inducted as a fellow in the American College of Dentists at the ADA in New Orleans.
- Dr. Andrew Nerness passed the ABE Oral Exam.
- Dr. Kenneth J. Spolnik was elected President of the College of Diplomates of the ABE.
- Dr. Dennis Zent was elected Indiana State Representative

**2014 Practice Moves**
- Dr. Abby Edds moved to Bowling Green, KY.
- Dr. Tony Griglione has joined Endodontic & Periodontic Associates in the Chicago area.
- Dr. Haris Iqbal opened a practice in Raleigh, North Carolina.

**IUSD Welcomes:**
- Dr. James Bringas, Associate Professor of Endodontics
- Dr. Ned A. Warner, Associate Professor of Endodontics

**IUSD Website — www.iusd.iupui.edu**
- New Case Reports - Drs. Kim, Nerness, and Prather.
- Thesis Abstracts are posted.