



INDIANA  
UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF  
DENTISTRY

# First Friday

Dean's Update to the IUSD Community

Vol. 5, No. 11

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## Health Affairs – U.S. Oral Health

### Highlighting Trends in U.S. Dental Schools

The ADA Health Policy Institute has assembled a short summary of trends in U.S. dental schools over the past 30 to 50 years.

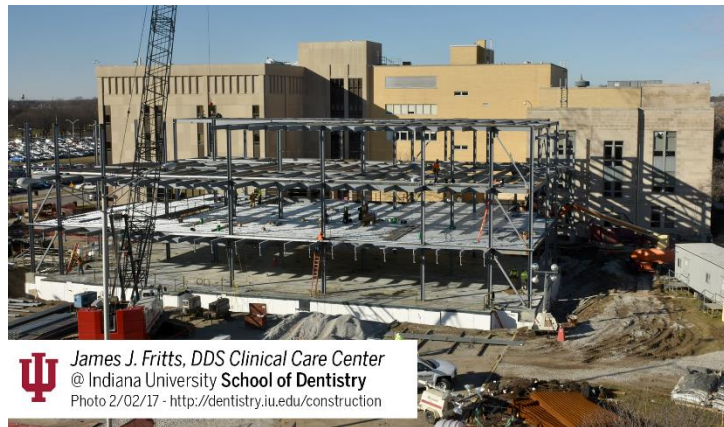
Highlights include:

- The number of dental schools is steadily increasing since 1997 with a net gain of 12 new schools.
- First-year enrollment decreased in the 1980s, but since 1990, first-year enrollment has increased nearly every year and we are almost (not quite) back to the enrollment levels of the early 1980s.
- Applicants to dental school between 2000 and 2015 grew at a faster rate than either applicants to medical school or law school, which has seen a significant decrease.
- Average graduating debt has grown 4.2% annually since 2000 after inflation.

Access the full infographic here: [Trends in U.S. Dental Schools](#)

As February unfolds, I am reflecting on the time I spent away from IUSD last month, focusing my attention on my own scholarship and research interests in oral health policy, economics and workforce research. The benefits of re-reading portions of the 1995 Institute of Medicine report – [Dental Education at the Crossroads: Challenges and Change](#) – include a fundamental re-connection for me to the education, research and patient care missions of IUSD. It has bolstered my commitment to offer recommendations on oral health workforce, access to dental care, dental school curricula, financing for education, strategic research priorities, use of live patients in examinations, and licensing, workforce planning, and other key areas. As I reflect, collectively, we have made limited progress in the past 21 years on these IOM recommendations, but we are moving forward. In addition, I am privileged to serve as a consultant to the [IU Medicine: Bowen Center for Health Workforce Research and Policy Center](#). In another project, the Bowen Center, under the direction of Dr. Hannah Maxey, submitted a multimillion dollar grant to HRSA to establish a national oral health workforce center at Indiana University. Studies coming through the Bowen Center will be pivotal to inform the health policy community on future directions in oral health care. It is through activities like these that make IUSD a learning organization as we advance the Vision and Mission of IUSD to make *Indiana University School of Dentistry one of the best dental schools of the 21<sup>st</sup> century*. My sincere thanks to Dr. Michael Kowolik, Executive Associate Dean, for standing in for me during my time away from IUSD. I'm back with "new" ideas!!

### Fritts Clinical Care Center Progress



 James J. Fritts, DDS Clinical Care Center  
@ Indiana University School of Dentistry  
Photo 2/02/17 - <http://dentistry.iu.edu/construction>

Given the mild winter so far, the core infrastructure steel framework continues on the Fritts Clinical Center as Messer Contracting makes rapid progress. I am amazed at the progress in one month (see photo at left)! Over the final winter months, utility tie-ins will be complete, and we will begin to see concrete decking around the steel structure. In

April, the Fritts facility will be tied in to the north and south connectors of the current dental school buildings to create a rectangular pedestrian walkway on the first and third floors of the integrated complex.

FULFILLING *the* PROMISE

## IUSD Commitment to Diversity, Inclusivity and International Presence

The dental school remains unwavering in our commitment to ensure a welcoming, safe, civil and inclusive community for all of our students, faculty and staff. We recognize the absolute necessity of a diverse and inclusive community to an excellent oral health care education and welcome all students, regardless of their background or country of origin. (See complete [Dean's Statement here](#)) As I recall the heritage of IUSD, we have been enriched throughout our long history by collaborations with students, scholars and universities from around the globe. Our educational and research programs are immeasurably strengthened by the presence and contributions of a wide variety of perspectives and voices, including international students, scholars and faculty. The dental school will continue our long-standing advocacy to expand our international presence both here and abroad. I invite faculty, staff or students who need support during this time to reach out to Dr. Michael Kowolik (faculty), Ms. Terri Ryckaert (staff) and Drs. Melanie Peterson/Pamela Shaw (students). Immigration questions and concerns should be directed to the [IUPUI Office of International Affairs](#). Our ultimate goal at the dental school is student success. In our curricula and programming, in our services and support, in our words and actions, everything we do aims toward preparing students to be excellent oral health care professionals who are active and engaged citizens and who will contribute their knowledge, energy and passion into making this world a better place for all.

## Moderation in our Digital World

A recent article in the *New York Times* sums up an observation I have had for several months as I watch many students, staff and faculty spend their days glued to their smartphones and social media accounts. The article suggests that we might learn something from Lin-Manuel Miranda, creator of the groundbreaking megahit "Hamilton." Asked in an interview with Delta Sky magazine when and where he finds time to be creative, Mr. Miranda, an avid reader of books and enthusiast for unfettered downtime, replied: "The good idea comes in the moment of rest. It comes in the shower. It comes when you're doodling or playing trains with your son. 'Hamilton' forced me to double down on being awake to the inspirations of just living my life." So if you need to be creative, turn off the smartphone and turn on your creativity. The complete article is [here](#).

## IUSD First Friday Coffee, Donuts & Fruit — Student Lounge

Join us this Friday, February 3, from 7:30 to 9 am for the monthly First Friday school gathering. Complimentary coffee, donuts and fruit will be served in the student lounge.

### • Upcoming IUSD Events

- February 10, Winter College and Alumni Reception, Naples, Florida
- February 24 – 25, Chicago Midwinter – IUSD Alumni Reception, Feb. 24, Hyatt McCormick Hotel, Room Grant Park B
- March 18 – 21, ADEA in Long Beach, California
- March 22 – 25, AADR in San Francisco – IUSD Reception, March 22, Marriott Marquis
- March 20 – 24, IUSD Spring Break
- April 10 – IUSD Research Day
- April 21 – IUSD Board of Advisors Spring Session and Hine Legacy Society Dinner



Thanks to each of you for your dedication to and support of the Vision and Mission of IUSD. I'll be back next month with another edition of *First Friday...Dean's Update*.

-John

Check out all the current IU Dentistry news on our website: [www.dentistry.iu.edu](http://www.dentistry.iu.edu) or on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/IUDentistry](https://www.facebook.com/IUDentistry)