

Our College Community

We are deeply saddened to share the passing of Dr. James W Buckman, Professor of Restorative Dentistry, on Saturday, October 24, 2015. Dr. Buckman was a leading faculty member for 50 years. He was a trusted colleague, friend and deeply respected by all. We have attached the obituary prepared by the family.

A memorial mass will be held, Thursday, October 29th, at 11:00 a.m. at the Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist, Park Drive and Leavitt Avenue, Flossmoor, IL where he was an active member since 1967. Memorials to the church, the American Red Cross or a charity of your choice would be appreciated in lieu of flowers. For further information, www.tews-ryanfh.com or 708-798-5300.

Dr. Buckman began his 50-year academic career in 1965. He was one of our own, graduating from the UIC College of Dentistry in 1964. He subsequently completed specialty training at the College in Fixed Prosthodontics in 1975. He served as Assistant Professor from 1965 through 1973, being promoted to Associate Professor in 1973. He was promoted to Professor in 1980. He was one of the very few Prosthodontic specialists in Illinois during this era of the 1970's and 1980's.

Dr. Buckman had a career of teaching and service excellence. He was widely regarded within the College of Dentistry as a model dental educator that helped lead our entire College of Dentistry to national prominence and excellence. During his 50 year academic career he maintained and helped lead a commitment of graduating the best of oral health clinicians from our College.

Dr. Buckman was elected to OKU Dental Honor Fraternity as a graduating DDS student. Membership is limited to those dental students who have distinguished themselves by excellence in scholarship, while demonstrating exemplary traits of character and potential qualities for future professional growth and attainments. This is a distinct honor reserved for fewer than 10% of all graduating students.

Dr. Buckman served the College of Dentistry and our community for 50 years. He served as a full and part-time faculty member for 30 years from 1965 through 1995. He subsequently continued to teach part-time following his retirement in 1995, encompassing the past 20 years. During this entire period, he maintained a private practice, serving the citizens of Chicago and our State.

Dr. Buckman served as Interim Head of the Department of Fixed Partial Prosthodontics from 1987-1991. He also served in various other leadership roles including the Director of Fixed Partial Prosthodontics, numerous courses, and as the Director of Preclinical Section for the Department of Restorative Dentistry. As Director of the Preclinical Section for the Department of Restorative Dentistry, Dr. Buckman helped lead the transformation of our College's pre-patient care curriculum that continues today, including our comprehensive care curriculum. He taught and directed a long list of courses including Fixed

Prosthodontics, Occlusion, Complete Dentures, and Clinical Patient Care. He received numerous teaching awards.

Dr. Buckman served multiple terms on the College of Dentistry's Executive Committee, the COD Admissions Committee, Deans Advisory Committee, Faculty Promotions Committee, Student Disciplinary Committee (Chair), and Student Promotion Committee. He provided a long list of invited external lectures through the 1970's and 1980's, as an expert in Prosthodontics and Occlusion.

Dr. Buckman was also been engaged in organized dentistry at a high level, as an active member of the American College of Prosthodontists, American Academy of Fixed Prosthodontics, and the American Equilibration Society (AES). He served on the Board of Directors, as Program Chair, and ultimately as President of the AES in 2013-14. This is an incredible honor and recognition of his national standing. He has been our nationally recognized Occlusion guru, a foundational component of oral health education and therapy.

He positively influenced the lives of thousands of students and practitioners over his 50-year academic career. Ultimately, the impact on patients and our entire Chicagoland and State practice community has been significant. Dr. Buckman was simply one of the most special individuals we have ever had in the College of Dentistry. He was widely regarded by all of the faculty, and the students' lives he touched.

I deeply regret his passing and will miss his counsel, humor, and enduring friendship.

With Deepest Sympathy,

Steve

Professor and Head
Department of Restorative Dentistry