On Ending a Teaching Season

he German poet Goethe observed that teaching is a mysterious art, since knowledge cannot be put in a mind like coins in a bag. Teaching is really all about preparing others for the learning they must do themselves. At best, clinical teachers are intellectual couriers delivering accurate and often provocative news, which translates into gratifying deeds for the public we prosthodontists serve—a unique and collective commitment to society. This editorial completes the second act of my own academic journey, one made possible by an IJP editorial team of distinguished international clinical teachers, my Toronto editorial assistant Janet deWinter, and a marvelously supportive QPC Chicago staff. The editorial team sought a better world of prosthodontic learning and teaching through their collaborative efforts, and, arguably even more significantly, through their participation as faculty members in the pro bono seminal Karlsruhe Workshops for Young Prosthodontic Educators. All of this has made for a gratifying personal career choice. The American poet Robert Frost provides the best summation of my farewell sentiments in his poem "Reluctance":



Ah, when to the heart of man Was it ever less than a treason To go with the drift of things, To yield with a grace to reason, And bow and accept the end Of a love or a season?

The group picture below from the recent October 2018 Karlsruhe Workshop includes many of the clinical exemplars whose unflinching intellectual honesty helped make our discipline and this journal what it is today. They also helped burnish and sustain a scholarly ethos that inspired—indeed, continues to inspire—young clinical educators from around the world. Ours has been a formative and academically driven initiative, and I continue to be so very grateful for their collegial and invaluable contributions to our IJP's scholarly mandate.

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