

DEAN'S UPDATE

A Brief Intro

This marks the beginning of regular updates I will be writing and sending to the college to keep everyone apprised of good news, changes, challenges and events. I hope you'll enjoy hearing from me and, if you have something you think needs to be shared, please send me an email and let me know.

NCEF Pediatric Dental Center

Accreditation site visit

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who played a part in the accreditation site visit at our new pediatric dental clinic on June 5. Given the challenges of establishing a new satellite academic program, we should all be very proud of the positive site visit results. The facility itself is outstanding of course. However our site visitors were more focused on the quality of the academic program, the outstanding faculty, both full-time and courtesy in Gainesville and Naples, the excellent staff and administrative support, and the great support from the Naples Children & Education Foundation (NCEF) and other community organizations. They were truly impressed by what we've been able to accomplish in a relatively brief period of time.

As you know, the site visit report must be reviewed by the CODA Review Committee and the full Commission, but the site visit team did not identify any deficiency that would result in a recommendation, or any status other than full "accreditation without reporting requirements." This is the highest rating offered by CODA. The successful site visit reflects your hard work and commitment to the program.

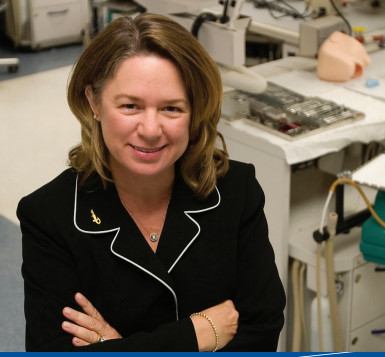
A Special Note

Many of you may not be aware that, working with Physician's Regional Hospital in Naples, we are able to offer surgical care, and sedation services when necessary for children or handicapped and disabled adults. Certainly this ability makes a world of difference for the patients who need care. I'd like to share a note written to us from a grandparent of a child recently treated in the program:

I want to thank the entire surgery staff. We were welcomed from the time we arrived. I was reassured that all would be fine. That everyone would take very good care of (patient). I realized from the first moment with the warm smiles and tender hands that (patient name) was indeed in good hands. It sure made the next three hours easier to take. Thanks again to everyone who had a hand in taking care of my special little angel.

Richard Lamont's NIH Award

You may have noticed on our web site that Rich Lamont, one of our Oral Biology professors, recently received a very prestigious NIH MERIT Award. I just want to share my personal congratulations to Rich for an amazing achievement – something of which we're all proud!



FNDC

I just returned from the annual Florida National Dental Congress meeting in Orlando where dentists from all over our state convene. We held meetings there on Friday for our Development Advisory Committee and the board of the Academy of Alumni and Friends. We also annually host a Gator Dentist Reception and this year it was very well attended. During the course of the three-day FNDC, you can imagine that I cross paths with many former students, faculty, courtesy faculty, and people who are friends of our college.

Without fail, I am greeted with warm handshakes, smiles and I often get the question, "How's the college?" The message to me is that so many people care about and support our school. And it was heartening to feel their goodwill and dedication.

We kicked off our annual giving campaign for the AAF Fund, which supports student groups, local and international dental service trips, and faculty events, among other things. It was a wonderful kickoff this year despite hard economic times. In one day, people donated almost \$20,000 -- a spectacular start for the campaign.

Conflict of Interest

Last week the college's Executive Advisory Board approved a policy addressing industry relations and conflict of interest. The policy is currently being reviewed by legal counsel at the HSC and isn't posted yet. However I do want to make everyone aware of the policy and especially its intent of protecting patients from any possible negative effects of decision-making resulting from gifts or financial incentive from vendors/dental industry to the college. At the same time we do recognize the vital role that vendor relationships bring to our educational program and want to preserve the positive aspects of that relationship without violating the spirit of ethics.

We do view the policy as a beginning, and expect to see changes to it as we move forward based on industry standards and expectations of the HSC leadership.

Thank you all for everything you do to make this a college that people care about and support. Have a great, and safe, Fourth of July holiday weekend.

Go Gator Dentists!

Dean Terri Dolan

