To: UF College of Dentistry,

Happy New Year! We’re off to a strong and busy start to 2010. We have quite a lot of “transitioning” going on this year in terms of faculty retirements and recruitments, a department consolidation, and new software systems. I sincerely appreciate your continued support as we work through these important changes.

**Holiday generosity**

This past holiday season members of our college organized several collections for local food banks, ensured that more than 50 children in foster care had their gift wishes fulfilled through Partnership for Strong Families, and arranged a Christmas Toy Drive for needy families through the Catholic Charities Bureau.

I am both proud and humbled by the generosity displayed by our students, staff and faculty.

**Fresh Outlook & AxiUm**

As you know, we are in the process of converting our Groupwise email software to Outlook. Email certainly plays a critical role in communications, scheduling and productivity for our world today.

This change was strongly endorsed by our IT Advisory Committee and ultimately will result in cost-savings as well as improved efficiencies by being part of the UF Active Directory group. Our IT department proactively communicated these changes and arranged training sessions for interested faculty and staff. All such large scale conversions have issues here and there. I want to thank our IT department for facilitating this important change.

Later this year we will be preparing for another significant software conversion. Our clinical management system will move from Quick Recovery to AxiUm, pending contract approval. Once that is complete you will hear more about conversion plans and timelines, and the Steering Committee will ask for people interested in participating on a variety of sub-committees to ensure solid planning for training and transition.
Please review this list of subcommittees and consider joining one more workgroups. Information about each committee’s goals will soon be available on our web site.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chair/Co-Chair</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DMD Grading</td>
<td>Dr. Luisa Echeto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient Flow</td>
<td>Dr. Boyd Robinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Practice</td>
<td>Nery Clark/Julie Thompson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Education</td>
<td>Dr. Tim Wheeler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Support</td>
<td>Richelle Janiec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Office</td>
<td>Jodi Geiger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheduling/Patient Contacts</td>
<td>Craig Kirkbride</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiology</td>
<td>Dr. Madhu Nair/Dr. Jim Pettigrew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>Kyle Platte/Cara Boring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Collection</td>
<td>Dr. Boyd Robinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications Plan</td>
<td>Karen Rhodenizer/Sarah Zachrich Jeng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reporting</td>
<td>Lamar Brooks/Justus Weber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
<td>Dr. Marcio Guelmann/Dr. Daniela Silva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Dr. Josephine Esquivel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Retirements & Administrative Transitions

On February 28, 2010, Mr. Ken Tomlinson, Dr. Bill McArthur and Dr. Frank Vertucci retire from the College of Dentistry. We sincerely thank them for their many years of dedicated service to the college.

- Mr. Tomlinson’s duties as associate dean for administrative affairs have been distributed among existing Dean’s Office staff. If you have questions relating to Human Resources, you can contact Melissa Long. For questions about contracts, see Jean Sweitzer. And for financial questions, please see Julie Thompson. I appreciate your patience as we work through this transition as a team.
- I am pleased to announce that Dr. Roberta Pileggi has accepted the position of Chair of the Department of Endodontics, and Dr. Claudio Varella will serve as the predoctoral director.
- Dr. Bill McArthur will take a much deserved short break and returns to work appointed 0.4 FTE and continues for one additional year in the role of Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs.
- Dr. Bob Yezierski will be appointed to serve on the UF Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), replacing Dr. McArthur. Dr. Culp will replace Dr. McArthur’s as our DMD basic sciences coordinator.

Dr. Sam Low retires on June 30, 2010. Dr. Haddix will become the Assistant Dean for Dental Continuing Education reporting to the Office of Education. He’ll continue to teach endodontics, but will no longer serve as the predoctoral director.

In addition, Dr. Bob Bates, Dr. Bill Williams, Dr. Bill Wharton, Dr. Don Price, and Dr. Ken Anusavice decided to take advantage of the university’s retirement enhancement program and we will be working to transition their respective responsibilities.
Consolidation of Operative Dentistry and Prosthodontics departments
A proposal to consolidate the Operative Dentistry and Prosthodontics departments has been forwarded to the University Senate for review and approval after being supported during a faculty open forum and during a December 17, 2009 meeting of the college’s Executive Advisory Board.

Pending university approval, the new department will be named, the Department of Restorative Dental Sciences. Dr. Robert Primosch is chairing a search committee to assist in the recruitment of a new chair; we hope to have this position filled by summer.

Our financial outlook
The university is moving forward for the 2010-11 fiscal year with implementation of a new model for budgeting – Responsibility Centered Management – most often referred to as the “RCM model.” The RCM model alters the way state dollars are allocated through the university and we certainly expect some challenges as we all learn how it works and how to work within this new model of resource allocation.

The implementation of this new model and potential state cuts for the next fiscal make for an uncertain budget outlook. I’ll share information with the college as it becomes available, as we’ve done for the past several years during these challenging economic times.

Have you seen the Sim Lab?
During the break, while most of us were not working, some of our colleagues were here giving the Sim Lab a much-needed facelift.

Butch Dees and Charles Lesch, in Dental Maintenance, installed new operator lights and curing lights at each work station. Jim Dial and Emily McAllister from Academic Technologies designed and installed the hardware for the system.

The project cost about $90,000 and was funded by the students’ instrument leasing funds.

An unusual State Board exam
During the college’s Spring Break (March 8 – 12), don’t be surprised when you see lots of somewhat-anxious students milling about with lots of patients as well – we’re hosting the Florida Licensure Examination. That part is not unusual.

What is unusual is that most of our seniors are taking the early boards this year; usually only about 50% take them in the spring. In addition, the examination is not being offered at Nova Southeastern this year, so we will be hosting the Nova students as well. Normally we have about 80 candidates taking the exam but we’re expecting about 200 this March.
A Rolling Good Time at the Annual Staff Retreat

Friday, March 12

I strongly encourage all staff to attend this year’s Annual Staff Retreat. The Special Event Planners have planned a fun and informative program for all.

I’ll give a State of the College Update including budget expectations for 2010-2011 and some questions submitted through a recent survey. Some of our departments will provide insight into what they do and how it supports our college’s mission. And the fun part?

How about two hours of bowling and/or go-carts? Your choice! The retreat is being held at the Skate Station/Splitz Bowling complex that is just off Newberry Road near I-75.

Pediatric Clinic Renovation & Dedication

On Friday, March 19, from 11:30am to noon, the Department of Pediatric Dentistry will have a ceremony to dedicate their newly renovated clinic the “Dr. Robert E. Primosch Clinical Education Center.”

The $700,000 clinic renovation was paid for entirely by donations and we sincerely appreciate the alumni and friends of the college who supported this much-needed renovation project.

UF Public Health Dentistry student chapter

We just received word that the American Association of Public Health Dentistry (AAPHD) has just chartered the college’s student chapter, which makes it just the third student chapter chartered by the national association.

Founded in 1937, the American Association of Public Health Dentistry provides a focus for meeting the challenge to improve oral health. Dr. Scott Tomar currently serves as AAPHD’s national president. Congratulations to our students who formed the new group. Public health dentistry is very close to my heart and I am proud of this accomplishment.

Warm welcome to our new facilities manager

Please join me in welcoming Larry Abbott, who starts on February 12 as our new facilities manager. Larry comes to us after 16 years with the City of Gainesville where he was a facilities maintenance manager where he was responsible for the maintenance of all city-owned facilities and served as the project manager for construction and renovation projects. Larry is a state-certified general contractor and also has worked with the Alachua County Board of Commissioners. He has a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from St. Leo University. In his first two weeks he’ll spend much of his time meeting many of you and becoming involved with our existing and future facilities-related projects. Larry’s office will be in the dean’s suite (D4-13) so please drop by and welcome him.

As always, thank you for your hard work and dedication. I look forward to working with you all year on the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Sincerely,
Dean Terri Dolan