To: UF College of Dentistry,

I am sure that many of you are celebrating that spring is (finally) in the air, the trees are greening and our gloves are tucked away until October or November! As usual we have many upcoming events, changes and plans coming up; as well as some successes to share.

First, however, let me share my personal sadness about the passing of Dr. Frank Collins. I know we were all surprised about his passing; it was certainly unexpected and he will be missed. I was very moved and grateful for the comments that were spontaneously shared by Frank’s colleagues and friends at the college. We have collected those comments and will share them with his family.

The college is coordinating a memorial service for Frank on Thursday, April 1 at 5pm in the Shands Auditorium, Room 6120. We’re honored that his wife, Nancie, is planning to join us.

2010 Staff Retreat

Based on feedback during and after our annual staff retreat on March 12, I’d call it a grand success. The retreat was held at the Skate Station/Splitz Bowling Alley complex and attendees enjoyed a morning of programs created to share information about the college and how our departments interact and support the college’s mission.

The afternoon program included bowling and laser tag (go carts were canceled due to the day’s rain), and other team building activities.

We received many positive comments about the venue, the program and the activities. When next year’s retreat is scheduled, I encourage department chairs and supervisors to take steps to ensure your staff can attend the retreat. While I realize that an institution our size and scope can’t cancel all activities for a retreat, it would be nice to know that as many people as possible have the opportunity to attend.

As part of my presentation in the morning I asked people to write on a card the first three things come to mind when they think about the college. The comments were interesting and mostly positive. Not surprisingly, “parking” made the list for many, and I don’t think that was meant as a “thumbs up!” Some of the other comments:

--thankful for my job; learning new things; sometimes frustrating
--comraderie; standard of excellence; benchmark for other schools
--spacious; clean; no windows
--complicated; plucky; cheerful
--busy; busy; busy
--great school; opportunity; down to earth

And one attendee created this lovely artwork which I interpret to be a patient with clean straight teeth who is happy with the care they received at the college -- a strong statement as to the quality of our patient care.
These are the voyages of . . . THE STARSHIP DENTERPRISE!

The Staff Retreat program also included a sneak preview of Episode One of the Starship Denterprise, debuting our communications plan for the AxiUm Clinical Management System. Why the Denterprise? Everyone kept calling the software “lightyears ahead” of where we are now. The idea took hold and became our theme -- one I think we'll have a lot of fun with in the coming year.

We are working on an implementation timeline and, as soon as details are final, you'll receive an email from Captain Teresa A. Dolan with links to more information and to the Episode One video. We'll also let you know how you can be involved in this process - we really do need input from all areas of the college and we hope you'll be willing to join the voyage.

Pedo Renovation & Dedication

There was “standing room only” for the dedication of our newly renovated Dr. Robert E. Primosch Clinical Education Center on March 19. The waiting area and hallways were packed more than a hundred people - graduates of the Pediatric Residency Program, plus college faculty, staff and students.

Both President Machen and Sr. VP for Health Affairs David Guzik participated in the program and ribbon cutting, as did the project's major donor, George MacMaster, DDS. Dr. MacMaster and his wife donated $172,000 of the total $750,000 in private donations for the major renovation of the clinic.

The most memorable part of the event for me was experiencing the obvious emotion and pride in the room especially when people were talking about Dr. Primosch and the strength of his reputation and the positive impact he's had on his students and colleagues. We are truly fortunate that he's a part of our college.

If you haven't yet seen the clinic, please take some time to visit. It is a beautiful, welcoming space. For now, patients are still being seen in the temporary clinic on the 2nd floor, but the clinic will move to the new space in April and see their first patients in the clinic on April 19.

To view a video news release produced by the HSC, go to:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B4gerrPsVwc

Photos of the dedication and the clinic are online at
Research Awards - January through March 25, 2010

Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science
Dr. Henrietta Logan
“Evaluation of the Efficacy and Cost Effectiveness of Oral Health”
University of Chicago NIH/NIDCR RC2-DE20779 ARRA Consortium
$126,478 for one year

Dr. Margarete Ribeiro-Dasilva
“Clinical and Translational Science Institute Scholar”
NIH/NCRR KL2RR029888 CTSI Subaward
$201,500 for two years

Operative Dentistry/Dental Biomaterials
Dr. Kenneth Anusavice
“Translational Basic-Clinical Analysis of Implant-Borne Ceramic Bridge Survival”
NIH/NIDCR R01DE006672-26A1
$1,839,967 for five years

Oral Biology
Dr. Jeanne Brady
“Immunomodulation by Exogenous Streptococcal Antibody”
NIH/NIDCR R01DE013882ARRA Funded
$99,987 for one year

Dr. David Culp
“Oral Infectious Disease: Virulence and Host Determinants Carbonic Anhydrase Knock Out Mice Component”
University of Tampere, Finland
$55,000 for one year

Dr. Nicole Grieshaber
“Small Regulatory RNAs in Porphyromonas Gingivalis”
NIH/NIDCR R21DE019861
$402,875 for two years

Dr. N. Ingvar Magnusson
“A Crossover Study to Assess Plaque”
Corporate
$60,000 for one year

Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
Dr. Donald Price
“Brain Imaging and Pain: Analysis of Placebo Analgesia”
NIH/NCCAM R01AT001424 (Subaward from M. Robinson; Clin Hlth Psy, PHHP) ARRA
$ 252,545 for five years

Periodontology
Dr. Theofilos Koutouzis
“Innate Immune Receptor Expression from Peri-Implant Tissues of Patients with Differences in Susceptibility to Periodontal Diseases”
International Congress of Oral Implantologists
$20,000 for one year
Honors & Awards

Teachers of the Year
Congratulations to the college’s Teachers of the Year for 2009-10, Lorie Primosch, MEd, an associate in the Department of Periodontics, and Clay Walker, Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Oral Biology.

Each year the sophomore, junior and senior students vote to select a basic sciences and a clinical Teacher of the Year, recognizing their excellence, innovation and effectiveness in teaching of the dental sciences. Primosch was selected as 2009-10 Clinical Teacher of the Year and the students selected Walker as the 2009-10 Basic Sciences Teacher of the Year. Both receive a $2,000 cash award and a trophy, their names will be added to a plaque in Room D3-3, and they’ll be honored at a reception with UF President Machen later in April.

Arthur Nimmo, D.D.S., F.A.C.P., a professor of prosthodontics and director of predoctoral implant dentistry at the University of Florida College of Dentistry, was elected as an examining member of the American Board of Prosthodontics and will serve a seven-year term.

Nimmo earned his bachelor’s degree from SUNY College at Oneonta in 1975. He earned his D.D.S. from the University of Maryland in 1979 and completed specialty training in prosthodontics at the UCLA Center for the Health Sciences in 1983. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics and a Fellow of the American College of Prosthodontists.

Timothy Wheeler, D.M.D., Ph.D., a professor and chair of the Department of Orthodontics, Assistant Dean for Advanced and Graduate Education, and the Academy 100 Eminent Scholar Chair, was elected president of the Edward H. Angle Society of Orthodontists during its recent meeting in San Antonio, Texas. Wheeler joined the society in 1996 and has served on the Board of Directors since 2001. Wheeler will serve a two-year term as president.

Dennis Beliveau, UF College of Dentistry Class of 2013, won first place in the Clinical Science Category in the 2010 DENTSPLY/Caulk Competition of the AADR National Student Research Group during the March annual meeting of the American Association of Dental Research (AADR) in Washington, DC. His research poster presentation, “Timing Effects of Systemic Antibiotics in Aggressive Periodontitis Treatment,” was co-authored by Drs. Luciana Shaddox, Shannon Wallet, Ikramuddin Aukhil, and Ingvar Magnusson, and was based on research he conducted during the 2009 Student Summer Research Program at the college.

Congratulations to the Clinical Education Model Transition Team members -- winners of a a 2010 Prudential Davis Productivity Award from UF. The Prudential Davis Productivity Award annually honors Florida state employees, and recognizes teams and individuals and who have adapted or implemented previous years’ award-winning achievements to add additional value to the organization.

The college’s Clinical Education Model Transition Team won a Plaque Award. Congratulations to the team members: Dr. Boyd Robinson, Richelle Janiec, Dr. Ronald Watson, Charles Lesch, Justus Weber, Lamar Brooks and Stephen Kostewicz.
Save These Dates

Spring Synergy
April 8 - 10
Gainesville, Florida
http://www.dental.ufl.edu/SpringSynergyWeekend/

Retirement Reception for Ken Anusavice and Ron Watson
Wednesday, April 14 from 3 to 5pm in D4-16

American College of Dentists Ethics Seminar
April 15 & 16
April 15 - Class of 2010 from 5 to 7pm
April 16 - Class of 2011 from 7:30am to 5pm
Juniors & Seniors will receive an email with specifics about rooms, locations and other details

4th Annual Acid Etch Talent & Comedy Show
Wednesday, May 12 from 6:30 to 10pm
MSB Auditorium
Contact Patricia Botero or Jenna Godwin for more information or if you’d like to perform

Senior Banquet
Saturday, May 15 at 6:30pm
Emerson Alumni Hall, UF

College of Dentistry Commencement
Friday, May 21 from 2:30 to 4pm
UF Center for the Performing Arts

FNDC Meeting
Orlando
June 10-12
www.floridadental.org

Family Day & White Coat Ceremony
Saturday, June 26