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UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA
College of Dentistry

FROM THE DEAN



In the wake of Hurricane Katrina and the human suffering she inflicted on our nation's Gulf Coast communities, this Gator Dentist Today issue's theme of dental public health is both relevant and poignant.

As Katrina's devastation demonstrated, it is too often the poorest and most vulnerable in our communities who bear the brunt of human suffering. Those who could ill afford to evacuate remained in their homes during Katrina and paid a terrible toll. These are the same people who suffer even during times of prosperity. As the Centers for Disease Control recently reported, America's poor and

minority populations continue to carry the burden of oral health disease, even while the oral health of the rest of the country improves.

Certainly, health disparities exist in Florida as they do elsewhere in the nation, but the College of Dentistry and its partners are making a difference for many of Florida's residents.

In this issue, you will read of oral health screenings conducted by college faculty and students on more than one thousand school children in one of the state's poorest counties; of a unique social marketing initiative to reduce oral cancer deaths in Jacksonville's African-American population through early detection; and a story on the problem-based oral health approach too many of Florida's rural residents assume, attempting to self-medicate to avoid a dental visit, even when suffering from extreme pain.

Recognizing the tremendous need for improved dental public health in Florida, the college is in the process of creating a new Department of Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science. This new department will encompass community based programs, dental public health epidemiology and research, as well as teaching and research in ethics and the behavioral sciences of dentistry. As the department's newest faculty member, we are fortunate to have recruited Dr. Robert Selwitz, former chief of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research branch on population research and health promotion. Dr. Selwitz will be based in Jacksonville, where he holds joint appointment as the dental director for the Duval County Health Department.

The point of this issue's stories of suffering and recovery is to demonstrate that each of us has an opportunity and responsibility to contribute to the health of our communities. The college is working hard and doing its part to improve oral health through teaching, research and service.

My challenge for every reader is to make a positive impact on the public's health in your own back yards, one person at a time –volunteer your services, get involved in the ADA's Give Kids a Smile program, participate in oral health issues at the local and state levels, or serve as a courtesy faculty at one of the college's dental facilities.

Opportunities to make a difference for the underserved people in your community are endless, and the rewards are great.

Teresa A. Dolan

Teresa A. Dolan, D.D.S., M.P.H.
Professor and Dean

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Craniofacial Center hosts international program

The University of Florida Craniofacial Center hosted its 12th Annual International Program on “Speech, Language, Hearing and Swallowing Disorders: Advances in Diagnosis and Treatment” in partnership with the University of Sao Paulo at Bauru College of Dentistry and Department of Fonoaudiology. The week-long summer program attracted 22 Brazilian private practitioners, University of Sao Paulo faculty and graduate students in the field

of speech-language pathology. The UF Craniofacial Center and University of Sao Paulo will host a dual program in 2006 with a speech pathology course and a workshop, directed by Facial Pain Center Director Henry Gremillion, for dental specialists interested in temporomandibular joint dysfunction and facial pain. For additional information on this UF/Brazil program please call (352) 846-0801 or visit www.cleft.ufl.edu.

UF Craniofacial Center Director William Williams, Ph.D., (pictured second from left) hosted the group of 22 Brazilians from the University of Sao Paulo at Bauru (USP). Program co-organizers and USP faculty Maria Ines Pegoraro-Krook, Ph. D., (far left) and Jeniffer Dutka-Souza, Ph.D. (third from left).



Generations

Five dentistry deans joined the College of Dentistry during the Sept. 10 Dental Fall Weekend alumni homecoming and Philanthropy Center dedication activities. Front row, from left sit Jose E. Medina, D.D.S. (1969-1973) and Teresa A. Dolan, D.D.S., M.P.H. (interim 2003-2004, dean 2004 to present). Back row from left, Donald L. Allen, D.D.S., M.S., (interim 1973-1974, dean 1974-1982), Frank A. Catalanotto, D.M.D., (1994-2003), and Donald M. Legler, D.D.S., Ph.D., (1983-1994).

Class of 2005 gets high board marks

Final results are in for the performance of the Class of 2005 on Part II of the National Board of Dental Examinations. Their performance was ranked 11th out of 54 dental schools participating in the examination. This outstanding achievement placed University of Florida dental graduates in the top quintile in the nation for the first time in five years, during which time UF's ranking ranged from 18th to 21st in the nation. In addition to their outstanding efforts on the NBII, the Class of 2005 achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the Florida State Licensure examination.

Congratulations to the Class of 2005!

Dental licensure exam

Now offered four times annually

The Florida Department of Health (DOH), in a continued effort to improve access to dental care for everyone in the state, has arranged for the dental licensure exam to now be offered four times each year.

“The Department of Health is committed to finding ways to improve access to dental care for everyone in our state,” DOH Secretary John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A., M.P.H., said. “Finding ways to increase the number of licensed dentists in Florida should directly and positively impact that access.”

Beginning in March, the Dental Clinical Licensure Examination will be given by the North East Regional Board of Dental Examiners, Inc. (NERB). NERB will offer the examination four times annually in March, June, September and December at the University of Florida and Nova Southeastern University. In addition, as a service to the applicants for licensure, preliminary scores are being given to them immediately upon completion of the examination, making Florida the first in the nation to offer this service.

Agwunobi said lower income individuals, who

have been shown to be three to four times less likely to have a dental visit and have two to three times the dental needs of higher income persons, were feeling the greatest impact of limited access to dental care. Agwunobi said additional measures to increase the number of dentists in the state were being considered, including possible use of a national clinical licensure examination, which members of the Florida Board of Dentistry are assisting in developing, for future licensure.

Agwunobi also pointed to the continued efforts by DOH to facilitate an integrated, coordinated oral health system between the public and private sectors as the key to reducing oral health disparities throughout the state. DOH continually works to expand community and school-based preventive, education, and treatment programs; several mechanisms – temporary certificates, non-profit corporation permits and limited licenses - also exist to allow dentists unlicensed in Florida to provide care to those in most need.

For more information, contact Lindsay Hodges at 1-800-245-4111.

International Educational Exchange



“Dime con quien andas y te dire quien eres.” Tell me who your companions are and I’ll tell you who you are.

In early September, the college hosted 12 Mexican dental students and one faculty member, Dr. Sylvia Morales (pictured third from left in back row) as part of its ongoing international educational exchange with sister dental institution, Universidad Autonoma de Yucatan Facultad de Odontologia (UADY). The UADY students arrived in Gainesville Sept. 5 for a week of curricular instruction, clinic shadowing and cultural exchange with UFCD students and faculty. UADY and UFCD students – who bonded during the March UFCD visit to Yucatan – were thrilled to be reunited, and it was often difficult to identify UFCD from UADY students in the chattering and laughing group. Inset: Dean Dolan provided game tickets for the UADY students to join UFCD students and faculty in the Swamp during the Sept. 10 Gator game against Louisiana Tech as a final component of the cultural exchange aspects of the visit – during which, a stadium full of 99,000 Gator Nation and Louisiana Tech fans delivered a fun crash course in college football hysteria.



AADR/IADR Meeting

Top: Javier Mendez stands next to his AADR/IADR poster presentation, “Promoting culturally competent oral health in vulnerable populations.” Mendez was one of 22 UF students presenting posters during the joint IADR/AADR meeting in Baltimore, Maryland last March. Inset, from left to right: Dental student Christopher Latham, UF President Bernie Machen and Assistant Professor of Oral Biology Myriam Belanger. Machen, a pediatric dentist and former dental dean at University of Michigan, was a member of the UF contingent attending the IADR/AADR in Baltimore.



UF DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Changing lives ONE SMILE

AT A TIME

BY LINDY MCCOLLUM-BROUNLEY

Dental public health scientists at UF are making strides in improving oral health of Florida's most vulnerable residents. Their research leads the country in identifying the state's at-risk populations and access to care barriers, as well as implementing innovative strategies to change behaviors impacting oral health. Whether screening children in Florida's poorest counties, increasing awareness of the risk factors of oral cancer, examining treatment barriers for rural residents or reinforcing the benefit of fluoridated water in the face of irrational opposition — these scientists attempt to transcend culturally ingrained beliefs and behaviors for the public good. No one said it would be easy, but the pay-off in improved dental health, even lives saved, could be huge.

Sometimes it really does take a village

Rep. Curtis B. Richardson, who's legislative district includes economically depressed Gadsden County, is no stranger to access to care disparities; according to Department of Health statistics, more than 80 percent of his district's low-income and largely minority residents have no access to dental care.

To address this problem, Richardson worked with the Gadsden County Health Department to receive a \$71,000 National Institutes of Health, Center for Minority Health Disparities grant. The grant enabled the Gadsden County Health Department, which has limited infrastructure to support dental treatment, to contract with the UF College of Dentistry to provide oral health screenings, dental treatment and dental hygiene training for the county's low-income and minority residents.

Under the contract, UF dental faculty and students conducted oral health screenings of more than 1,000 Gadsden County elementary school children in October of last year. In June, children identified during screening as having the greatest need received full treatment plans from UF dental faculty and students working from the Southern Baptist Convention's mobile dental bus. Parked at the Earl Willis Community Center in Greensboro, Fla., bus operatories served as ground zero for more than \$9,000 in dental care provided at no charge to 150 Gadsden County children and adults.



Micaela Gibbs, D.D.S., assistant clinical professor of community-based programs, examines a Gadsden County school child during the college's October 2004 weeklong screening activities.



Most people with a head for business are familiar with the four Ps of marketing – *Product, Price, Place* and *Promotion*. Now, University of Florida dental public health researchers are adding a fifth P – *Prevention* – to the equation in their social marketing efforts to stem the rising tide of deaths from mouth and throat cancers in Florida.

The first four Ps of their social marketing campaign include: *product* as oral cancer screenings, *price* as barriers and facilitators of participating in oral cancer screenings, *place* as the targeted audience's preferred channels of communication, and *promotion* as messages the targeted audience would find most memorable and persuasive.

Spurred by a \$1.25 million, five-year grant from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, National Institutes of Health (NIDCR/NIH), these scientists plan to use advertising to raise awareness of their fifth P – *prevention* as early detection of oral cancer in the group of people most at risk of dying from the disease.

"We conducted a lot of analysis of epidemiological data of cancer history to see what the oral cancer rates are in different parts of the state in terms of new cancers, deaths related to these cancers, as well as the stage at which the cancers are diagnosed," said Scott L. Tomar, an associate professor of public health services and research in the College of Dentistry. "What we found is a band across the northeast part of the state, the extended Jacksonville/Duval County area, which experienced the highest incidence of these cancers, higher rates of deaths from these cancers and later stage diagnoses.

"It was also the area where we happened to find the greatest racial disparity," Tomar said.

Uneven ground

Nationwide, men, in general, are twice as likely as women to be diagnosed with mouth or throat cancer, but the incidence of oral cancer is 35 percent higher for black males than for white males. Additionally, the mortality rate for black men is twice as high as that of white men.

Tomar's analysis of Florida Cancer Data System records of 27,000 Floridians demonstrated that the national trend of racial disparities in oral cancer incidence and mortality was consistent with that of Florida. Black men in the state not only carried a disproportionate burden of oral and pharyngeal cancer incidence, but they were also more likely to be diagnosed with aggressive pharyngeal cancers and their cancers were more likely to have metastasized. Black men also underwent surgery for their cancer less often and died 44 percent earlier than their white counterparts.

Surprisingly, despite the high incidence of oral and throat cancer in Florida, Tomar's telephone surveys of adult residents of the state revealed that nearly 16 percent of adults aged 40 years and older had never heard of oral cancer and another 40 percent reportedly knew little or nothing about it. Only 28 percent correctly identified oral cancer's major risk factors.

"In our view, people aren't going to take action when they don't understand the disease or perceive themselves to be at risk," said Tomar. "That's what really led us into our current project."

Can you hear me now?

Tomar's NIH/NIDCR-funded project is taking a novel, science-based social marketing approach to sell survival to African-American men over the age of 40 – the segment of Florida's population at greatest risk for oral and pharyngeal cancer incidence and mortality. The project coordinators are developing an advertising campaign in the greater Jacksonville area, in

which 28 percent of the area's approximately 800,000 residents are African American. The campaign aims to increase awareness of the signs and symptoms of oral cancer, the major risk factors of tobacco and alcohol use, and the benefits of early detection, which offers a cure rate of 90 percent.

Focus groups and telephone surveys of African-American residents in the Jacksonville and outlying areas have been conducted to establish baseline data about current behaviors and attitudes, level of awareness, information sources and media and message preferences. Telephone surveys of African-American respondents in the Miami area have also been conducted to establish control data.

This fall, a public relations/media agency will be hired to develop the advertising campaign, which is expected to roll-out early in 2006. The campaign will employ African-American actors and models to help the message resonate with its targeted audience. Radio public service announcements, billboards, and printed brochures are materials expected to be developed and distributed during the campaign by mass media and through the health networks of the IFAS health and nutrition extension program and the Duval County Health Department.

"Choosing appropriate models, messages and methods of disseminating the messages we're hoping, at a minimum, will change awareness and knowledge, and ultimately, behavior in terms of people saying, 'Yes, I am at risk, and yes, there are things I can do to detect this disease earlier,'" said Tomar.

Stand by your man

African-American men are not the only campaign targets; mothers, daughters, girlfriends and wives will be encouraged to "Stand by Your Man" with the message that one of the best things a woman can do for the man in her life is to make sure he's regularly examined for mouth and throat cancers.

Radio PSAs and other campaign materials will offer a toll-free telephone number for people to call for more information. The hotline will be staffed by trained operators at the UF Survey Research Center who will collect demographic and behavioral information about tobacco and alcohol use. Those callers interested in receiving more information will be mailed a packet of materials produced for the campaign and by the National Cancer Institute and the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research.

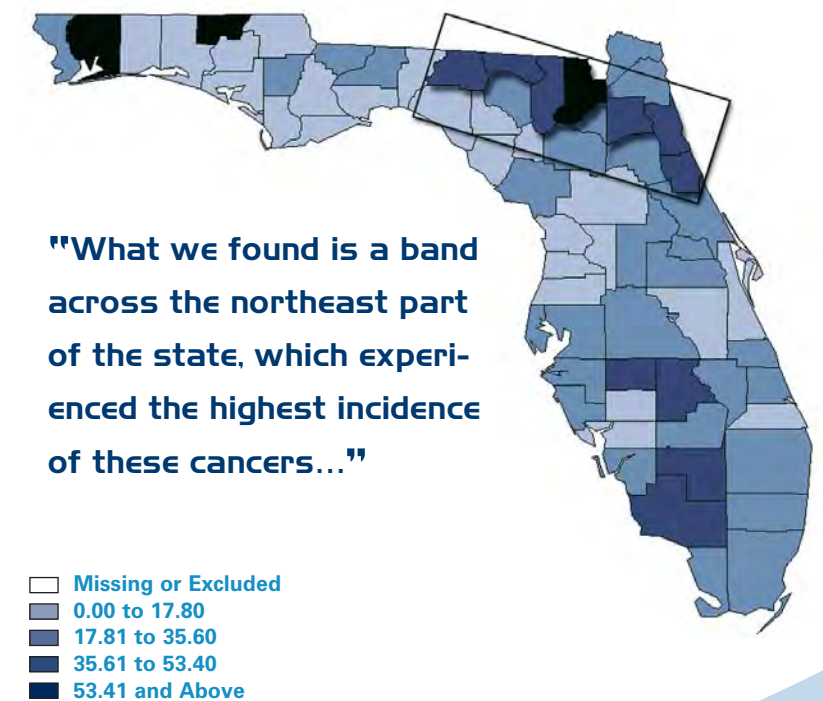
"Dr. Tomar's research can be pivotal to increasing oral cancer literacy and increasing oral cancer examinations. Most adults do not know that an oral cancer examination exists and that they should have one," said Alice Horowitz, an education specialist with the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, National Institutes of Health. "When oral cancers are diagnosed and treated in their early states, the 5-year survival rate is more than 80 percent, compared to about 50 percent for late stage diagnoses."

Evaluation of the campaign's effectiveness in achieving its goals of raising awareness and increasing oral cancer exams in the targeted audience will be conducted using follow-up telephone surveys. The hypothesis is that a greater change in health beliefs and behaviors will be seen in the intervention community of Jacksonville/Duval County than in the control community.

"Increased awareness and knowledge may not be sufficient to change health behaviors," said Tomar, "but we know behavior changes will not occur without it. If we can help change behaviors, we can help save lives and improve quality of life. That's what public health is about."



Scott L. Tomar leads the social marketing effort to prevent deaths from oral cancer among Jacksonville's African-American population.



The Waiting Game

Rural residents with oral pain suffer too long before seeking help

Rural residents are nearly twice as likely as their urban counterparts to postpone timely trips to the dentist, seeking help only after they develop a problem and oral pain is severe, University of Florida researchers report.

The delay results in widespread dissatisfaction with treatment and less than optimal outcomes.

“What we found is there is a group of people who wait until their condition is of sufficient painful intensity and duration before deciding that it’s bad enough to pick up the phone and call the dentist,” said study investigator Joseph Riley, an assistant professor of public health services and research at UF’s College of Dentistry. “There is evidence that these people assume this problem-oriented approach to oral health because of low access to care, whether that be due to an inability to pay or the lack of dentists practicing in rural areas,” Riley added.

UF researchers, writing in the April issue of Public Health Reports,



Joseph Riley

to track financial status, symptoms of oral pain, and usage of dental services and treatment. Study participants were also interviewed in person and underwent additional oral examinations two and four years into the study.

Study investigators found rural residents and people who take a problem-oriented rather than preventive approach to oral health care were more likely to need emergency dental care for oral pain. People who live in rural areas and take a problem-oriented

noted similar trends among blacks and women, though men with painful symptoms were the group most likely to entirely avoid dental visits, possibly attempting to self-medicate their pain at home to avoid going to the dentist.

Over a four-year period, the researchers studied patterns in access to dental care among 703 randomly selected people aged 45 years and older living in rural or urban counties in North Florida.

Researchers interviewed each participant and conducted an oral examination at the beginning of the study. They then conducted follow-up telephone interviews at six-month intervals



DAVID TROOD/GETTY IMAGES

approach of opting to wait until oral discomfort worsened were at the highest risk of anyone for needing pain-related emergency treatment.

Over the course of the study, 23 percent of the participants experienced at least one emergency dental visit because of painful symptoms due to afflictions such as toothaches and abscesses. Sixty-seven percent of those who reported an emergency dental visit due to pain rated their discomfort severe.

Overall, men were 20 percent less likely to seek and receive dental care at all, even when suffering from severe oral pain.

Only 56 percent of patients who visited the dentist for emergency treatment of painful oral conditions described themselves as “very satisfied” with the outcome of their treatment, versus 79 percent of those who sought urgent care but were pain-free at the time.

“What we found is that patients who had urgent dental visits because of pain were less likely to be satisfied by the time it took to be seen, the dental treatment they received and by the actual outcome of the visit,” said Riley.

Riley said there is nothing unique about the dental choices people in rural North Florida make compared with residents living elsewhere. The UF study findings are consistent with data gathered by the National Center for Health Statistics, wherein minority and poor populations carry the burden of oral health problems, he said.

(continued next page)

“The recent Surgeon General’s report on oral health underscores the public health impact of oral health problems in the United States,” said study co-investigator Gregg Gilbert, professor and chairman of diagnostic sciences at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry. “Unfortunately, in the oral health arena, those most in need of care are the least likely to get it, and a significant amount of suffering and embarrassment is part of everyday life for certain segments of our population.”

The U.S. Surgeon General’s landmark 2000 report on the country’s oral health outlines substantial access to care barriers, such as ability to pay and a shortage of dentists in certain areas, and notes 11 percent of the nation’s rural population has never visited a dentist. The report also calls the oral cavity the “mirror of health and disease.” More than 90 percent of systemic diseases — such as diabetes, leukemia, cardiovascular disease and anemia — have oral manifestations, and people who have neglected their oral health are more likely to also have other medical problems.

Riley said he believes that access to care is not the only factor at play in determining why people with oral pain delay seeking dental treatment.

“Dentistry is really about social and psychological factors; it’s perspective, and the preventive versus problem-oriented approach to dental care is an attitudinal belief,” he said. “Therefore, it’s something that can be changed.”

CDC Releases Oral Health Report

Dental public health efforts in the U.S. have paid off over the past ten years according to a recent government report. Water fluoridation, the application of dental sealants, encouragement of regular dental visits and programs teaching good oral hygiene are making a positive impact on the oral health of America.

Some highlights of the Centers for Disease Control and National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research include:

- ▶ 15 percent less tooth decay in permanent teeth for children ages 6 to 19 years
- ▶ 64 percent increase in the use of dental sealants among children and adolescents
- ▶ a 20 percent decrease in endentulous adults aged 60 years and older

The bad news is that the nation still has a long way to go in improving oral health, and economic and racial disparities in oral health and access to care remain a problem. Some statistics include:

- ▶ 65 percent of teens 16 to 19 years have tooth decay or fillings in permanent teeth
- ▶ 14 percent of smokers older than 20 were endentulous, compared to less than five percent of non-smokers
- ▶ 32 percent of Hispanic children and 27 percent of black children aged 2 to 11 years had untreated tooth decay in primary teeth, compared to 18 percent of white children
- ▶ 30 percent of low-income adults had untreated tooth decay

“The report provides us with another wake-up call that more must be done to improve access to oral health care,” said American Dental Association President Richard Haught, D.D.S. “We can and must do more to improve access to care, particularly for the underserved. Society as a whole must place value on good oral health care.”

Old objections to water fluoridation die hard

Dr. James Rotella never wanted to be known as an anti-fluoridation crusader. He never even thought much about the fluoride added to his town’s water until a few of his patients asked him about it earlier this year.

“I didn’t want to create any fears in the community,” said Rotella, a podiatrist and city commissioner in Eustis, Fla. “I just wanted to have a thoughtful discussion.”

But when he publicly questioned whether Eustis should continue adding fluoride to its water, something the city has done for 20 years, he inadvertently stepped into a hornet’s nest of controversy that has raged since the first drop of fluoride was added to a Michigan community’s water 60 years ago.

Years of research have shown that fluoride prevents cavities. Experts tout the practice of adding fluoride to public water as one of the greatest health achievements of modern time. Yet, fervent activists still protest it, claiming fluoride causes everything from cancer to low IQ, links experts say are unsubstantiated.

That’s why when seeds of an impending fluoride debate were sown in Eustis, UF dental faculty joined representatives of the Florida Dental Association and the Lake County Dental Association in speaking to the Eustis City Commission in May to defend a policy they believe saves teeth and money.

“It’s probably the most well-researched public health measure in history,” said Scott Tomar, an associate professor of dentistry in the division of public health services and research and former Centers for Disease Control epidemiologist. “It benefits virtually everybody.”

Before the first community fluoridated its water in 1945, nearly everyone experienced tooth decay, said Dr. Howard Pollick, a University of California at San Francisco dental professor.

Things are better 60 years later, but tooth decay is still a problem, and for some people among lower socioeconomic levels, fluoridated water is the best dental care they receive, Pollick said.

But a quick Internet search yields more than a dozen Web sites devoted to stopping water fluoridation. Many of these sites, like The Fluoride Action Network, link to research that claims fluoride causes cancer and other diseases. Most of these articles, however, are not from peer-reviewed scientific journals, a standard for accepted and credible research today, Tomar said.

Other groups have different reasons for opposing fluoridation, like not wanting government to add anything to water or not trusting “the so-called experts,” Pollick said.

“Ever since someone proclaimed the earth is round, there have been people opposed to it and there still are, even to this day,” Pollick said.

Rotella voted to keep fluoridation in Eustis after listening to dentists during the May meeting, but he is skeptical.

“There are a lot of unknowns,” he said. “We thought drugs like Vioxx were safe ... Is it possible that one day we’re going to wake up to find (fluoride) is not safe?”

Yet, there is no credible research linking fluoride to any serious health problem like cancer or low IQ, Tomar said.

“At those levels, it’s just been found time and again to be safe,” he said. “So the health concerns, I think, are not really concerns. Which is why water fluoridation remains strongly endorsed.”

—APRIL FRAWLEY BIRDWELL



UF facial pain
team tackles
most baffling
cases of the...

'world's most acutely painful

disorder'

BY ARLINE PHILLIPS-HAN

Computer business executive Hal Kingsley of Buffalo, N.Y.; writer and landscape business owner George Weigel of Harrisburg, Pa.; retired corporate executive Michael Pasternak of Gainesville, Fla. and medical information specialist Cindy Ezell of Jacksonville, Fla. share in common a shocking life event.

All underwent unnecessary root canals before discovering their electrically shocking "tooth pains" were not related to their teeth or gums. Each was found to have a facial nerve disorder called trigeminal neuralgia (TN), now widely defined as one of the world's most acutely painful human disorders. They now share an uncommon passion for building awareness of the problem that remains virtually unknown, despite the fact it was first described in the 11th century.

"When friends ask me what the pain is like, I say imagine plugging your mouth into a 220-volt outlet and attaching a chainsaw to it at the same time," said Kingsley, 37, who now keeps the pain under tolerable control with medication. His search for expert care led him to undergo three unnecessary root canals before he found a dentist who identified the key symptoms of TN.

The confusing nature of TN itself can baffle the best medical and dental diagnosticians.

"This is a nerve disorder that frequently mimics toothache; one or more teeth may be the trigger point which, when stimulated, will set the pain off, making diagnosis extremely difficult," said Henry Gremillion, D.D.S., an oral facial pain specialist who directs the UF dental college's Parker Mahan Facial Pain Center.

Gremillion oversees almost 1100 patient visits a year, of which about 400 are new patients, many of whom have suffered intense pain for years before seeking help at the referral center. The multidisciplinary team of specialists at the Mahan center finds that 20 to 25 percent of the patients have some form of neuropathic facial pain. Their challenge is to figure out which type, then direct the patient to the most appropriate course of treatment.

"Because TN pain can be set off by chewing, talking, drinking beverages or brushing the teeth, it can easily be mistaken for a dental problem," he said. "In addition, nerve pain in the tooth is not that different from the sharp lacerating pain of TN."

To make things more challenging, Gremillion points out the same trigeminal (three-part) nerve that energizes the face is the main nerve supplying the dental structures; it controls the muscles involved in chewing.

"The fact that gum tissue, cheeks and lips are key trigger zones can further the idea that the patient might have a dental problem," Gremillion said. "In one study of 49 patients, 64.5 percent were found to have a pain trigger zone inside the mouth. This explains why so many individuals with this type of pain start out seeking help from a dentist."

Gremillion's statement is echoed by the observations of UF neurosurgeon Albert Rhoton Jr., who has, over the past 40 years, treated close to 2,500 patients with TN.

"The majority of patients with TN have pain in the lower or upper jaw,



Henry Gremillion is a national expert in the diagnosis and treatment of orofacial pain.

and almost all begin their search for help with the dentist," Rhoton said. "It's also fairly common for patients to have a root canal or tooth extraction before obtaining a correct diagnosis."

"We're at the tip of the iceberg with our knowledge of the factors that cause and contribute to TN," Gremillion said. "Diagnostic challenges are compounded by the fact there are no absolute objective tests for TN. In addition, the patients we see report many variations in the characteristics and the course of their pain, although most of them at some point are stricken by the lightning-like bolts of facial pain that are described in medical literature as a hallmark of the disorder. Another unique aspect of TN is that the facial pain can be set off by non-painful stimuli, such as a cool breeze, a cold beverage, putting on makeup, shaving or slight touch on the lips."

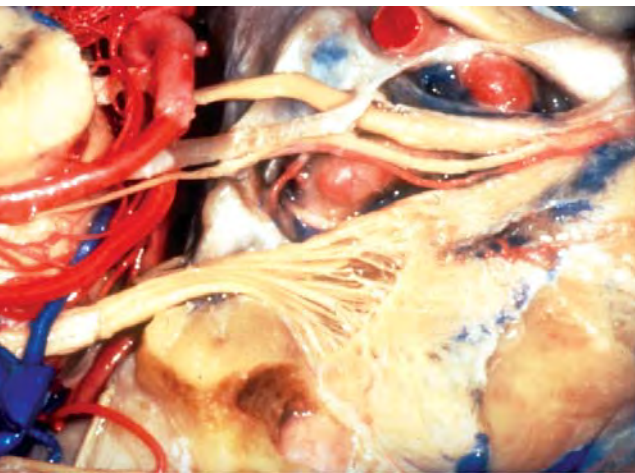
"The longer I am involved in the diagnosis of facial pain, the more I realize the textbook cases don't walk into your office," he added. "For example, I've seen patients with trigeminal neuralgia who've described burning pain, or complained of throbbing or aching pain — not fitting the classic TN characteristics of abrupt electrical shock-like pains."

Gremillion attributes much of the prevalent misdiagnosis of TN to the infrequent presentation of TN in the dental office compared to tooth, gum and/or jaw-related pain conditions; limited exposure to TN in dental schools, and limited history of the patient's chief pain concern in an attempt to expedite pain relief for the patient.

"In my opinion, failure to interview the patient and take a thorough medical history is the greatest impediment to accurate and complete diagnosis," he said. "In emergency situations, it's easy to cut short the history-taking. We need to know about the quality of a patient's pain — when and

(continued next page)

under what circumstances it occurs, how frequently it strikes, whether it's shocking, stabbing, throbbing, burning, episodic or continual, annoying but tolerable, or unbearable? The more information a patient can provide regarding their pain, the better we're able to reach a diagnosis."



"The trigeminal (three-part) nerve is one of the head's largest nerves. It energizes the face and is the main nerve supplying the dental structures; it controls the muscles involved in chewing."

Gremillion suggests one way to distinguish toothache from neuropathic facial pain is to numb the area of pain with a local anesthetic and see whether the pain stops. If the pain does not go away in response to the numbness, then the problem is not in the tooth, he said.

To further pinpoint the source of pain, he said dentists should follow the standard evaluation protocol — examine the soft oral tissues, tap on the teeth to assess their mobility, and look for problems that may be associated with gritting or grinding of the teeth, and obtain appropriate images (X-rays) of the areas in question. He added that it is vital, as part of the effort to identify the patient's problem, to rule out other conditions such as sinusitis, temporomandibular dysfunction, bone pathology and neoplasm.

"Clinical decision-making can be complicated, not due to intentional mistakes by dentists, but often by the desire to relieve the pain," Gremillion said. "And because tooth pain is so common, treatment is sometimes put before diagnosis because of desire to help the patient get rid of the pain. The fact is that we as practition-

ers need to stick to our guns when the diagnosis is not obviously a dental problem, and we should not treat the tooth.

"Pain itself can breed more pain, which gives urgency to trying to minimize it. But with conditions as complex as TN, we need to make haste slowly," he added, tongue in cheek. "I also believe the importance of a team approach to diagnosis cannot be overstated."

Gremillion emphasized dentists need to be aware dental treatments can cause or aggravate pre-existing TN pain, and that special precautions should be taken.

"Sometimes the trigeminal nerve can be injured during a dental procedure or during gum surgery, and consequently, we need to exercise great caution in the delivery of anesthetic drugs and in surgical technique," he said. "For example, we do not want to put a local anesthetic or vasoconstrictor containing an anesthetic drug in an area where a nerve has been traumatized, since this can cause or perpetuate problems. We want to limit the nerve's exposure to the anesthetic."

He further advises, "The preemptive use of pain-relieving medication may be important, and booster doses of anti-neuralgia medicine, as well as preemptive anesthesia, may help to maximize comfort during dental procedures. The use of a long-acting anesthetic at the end of a procedure may reduce the need for follow-up medications."

Gremillion said neuropathic pains affect about 1.5 percent of the general population — more than 4,290,000 people in the United States. He said the various neuropathic orofacial pain problems include neuralgia, deafferentation (pain, usually of a burning type, that occurs when parts of a nerve are injured to the point they're disabled), and dyesthesia, which involves a numbness or abnormal sensation severe enough that a patient considers it disturbing.

"Regarding TN, the number of patient referrals keeps rising because of the growing population of seniors in Florida and because of our close ties with the national Trigeminal Neuralgia Association," said Gremillion, who serves on the TNA medical advisory board.

He noted that while many patients in the past experienced long painful journeys from doctor to doctor to doctor before finding the name of their problem, most TN patients today can obtain help quicker if they educate themselves regarding the disorder and the experts who treat it.

He said the TNA web site at www.endthepain.org has evolved into the most comprehensive source of updated information available. The same site provides information on new consumer books, and personal stories of TN patients throughout the United States and abroad. ■

Dentists' role in TN treatment

In the face of increasing demands from patients, Dr. Henry Gremillion said he believes dentists of the future will have to become physicians of the masticatory system and beyond.

"The fastest growing segment of our national population is over age 50, and the pathologic conditions in the orofacial region that will be experienced by many of these seniors will require that we have a broader appreciation of neuropathic facial pain, including trigeminal neuralgia," he added.

"Currently the treatment of these problems is not in the domain of typical dental practice. However, in a thorough diagnostic workup for facial pain patients, dentists might use local anesthetics and topical pain-relieving compounds as diagnostic aids," he said. "At the same time, we (dentists) need to recognize the expanded responsibility we have for making an accurate differential diagnosis of various neuropathic facial pains.

"In my opinion, it would be rare that we could make a case for dentists to manage the care of patients with classic TN," Gremillion said. "This is a neurological problem and many patients need to be carefully managed with the use medications, typically one or more anticonvulsant, or membrane-stimulating medications. This is an area outside the bailiwick of most dentists, but it's perfectly appropriate for dentists to discuss the potential use of medicines with the patients' physicians and in select cases initiate the mediation regimen."

He pointed out that there is currently an expansion of dental educational offerings related to use of these types of medications as clinical assessment tools, as well as in the treatment of TN and other neuropathic pain conditions.



Henry Gremillion conducts a patient interview in the Parker E. Mahan Facial Pain Center. Gremillion is a nationally known expert in diagnosing and treating orofacial pain, and he directs the Parker E. Mahan Facial Pain Center—the southeast's leading center for treatment for facial pain and dysfunction and one of only a handful of such centers nationwide. A survey of center patients revealed that the average patient has suffered from pain for nearly five years and spent an average of \$17,120 in search of diagnosis and effective treatment before coming to the center. The center's long-term goal is to provide quality patient care and to share important information with the health care providers in the state regarding accepted pain assessment and management strategies—with the expected outcome that patients will be correctly diagnosed and treated before their pain becomes a chronic condition.

Cutting the ties that bind

UF researchers test drug that could cut orthodontic treatment time in half

BY LINDY MCCOLLUM-BROUNLEY

In the first study of its kind, University of Florida researchers are testing the power of a natural human hormone to biochemically move teeth faster and less painfully during orthodontic treatment.

"Most of orthodontics has traditionally dealt with physics, the biomechanics of applying a force against a tooth to move it," said study investigator Timothy Wheeler, D.M.D., Ph.D., a professor and chairman of orthodontics at UF's College of Dentistry. "Ours is the first study to use a naturally occurring hormone, recombinant human relaxin, to biochemically augment tooth movement and retention."

Relaxin is best known as the hormone that helps women's pelvic ligaments stretch in preparation for giving birth. It does this by softening collagen and elastin in the tissues, loosening strong, cord-like fibers until they have the consistency of limp spaghetti noodles.

That ability prompted researchers to consider relaxin a possible way to accelerate tooth movement and prevent relapse, a condition where the tooth migrates back to its original position after braces are removed.

"You can imagine normal collagen and elastin fibers to be like rubber bands that attach to the tooth to hold it in place," said Wheeler. "Those tissue fibers resist the force of the orthodontic treatment applied to move the tooth, and, when that force is removed, say when the braces are taken off, the elasticity of the tissues springs the tooth back into position."

UF researchers will evaluate whether injecting relaxin into the gums will loosen the collagen and elastin fibers and reorganize them so teeth can move more freely into orthodontic alignment. Once the teeth have been moved, researchers will administer another injection of relaxin under the premise that it will further soften gum tissue fibers, preventing them from pulling teeth back into their original position.

The study will be the first of many to test the



A study subject admires the fit of her Invisalign® braces in May after receiving her first injection of relaxin. She was one of 40 subjects to begin the protocol, which ended in October. A complete, peer-reviewed report of study findings is expected to be published in early 2006.

hormone as an orthodontic therapy, and it is hoped the drug could cut treatment time in half and eliminate the need for retainers after braces have been removed.

This may not help the more than 5 million Americans and Canadians estimated by the American Association of Orthodontists to be currently wearing braces, but if it's shown to work it could bring a sigh of relief from those anticipating future tooth-torquing orthodontic treatment that leaves teeth aching and gums throbbing.

The patent for the drug, which received the green light from the Food and Drug Administration last April for testing in human subjects, is owned by BAS Medical, a California-based company. BAS Medical is the sponsor of the UF study, which will establish safety and proof of principle on 40 people before a series of multicenter studies could begin testing the drug on hundreds worldwide.

Researchers won't know which of the 40 subjects receive relaxin and which receive a placebo. One tooth in each subject will be targeted for movement, and, subjects will wear Invisalign braces for eight weeks to move the targeted tooth. At week eight, the aligners will be removed and the teeth evaluated for relapse every four weeks for six months. As a safety measure, the week four outcomes of the first 12 patients entered into the study will be evaluated before the remaining 28 begin treatment. All 40 subjects will have completed the protocol by early October.

Wheeler said researchers hope to determine whether the treatment could eliminate the need for patients to wear retainers to hold teeth in place after

"I want to get completely away from retainers, which for most patients right now are a lifetime commitment."

braces are removed. The issue of retention — a term used to indicate the tooth remains in the position to which it has been moved without relapse — is a crucial aspect of the study.

"Right now, retention is the biggest problem we have in orthodontics," Wheeler said. "I want to get completely away from retainers, which for most patients right now are a lifetime commitment."

When patients don't wear retainers as prescribed, teeth gradually relapse, nullifying years of orthodontic treatment and expense. It is this lack of patient compliance that frustrates orthodontists worldwide.

"If the results of this study demonstrate enhancement of the rate of orthodontic tooth movement and better stability after treatment, it could be an exciting new method of increasing treatment acceptability while decreasing the need for compliance," said Robert Boyd, D.D.S., a professor and chairman of orthodontics at the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry. "Finishing orthodontic treatment without the usual regimen of lifetime use of retainers would greatly enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of current orthodontic treatment."

An important goal of future studies is to determine dosage and timing of drug delivery as well as delivery methods other than injection.

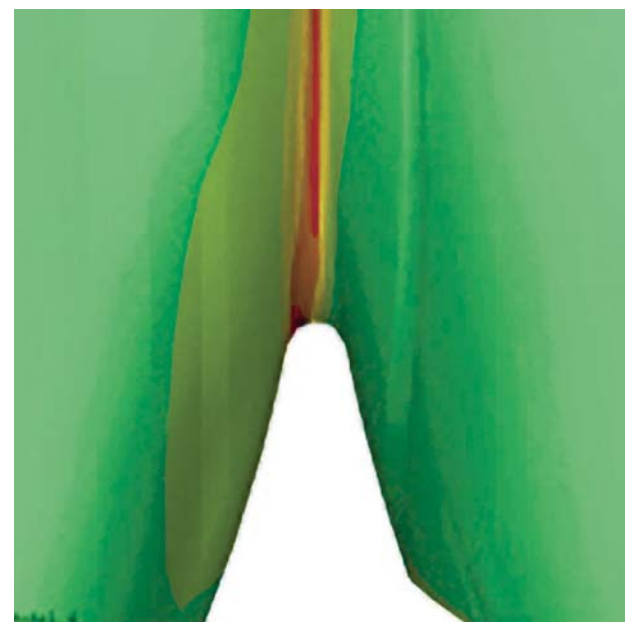
"This is the first step orthodontics has taken to deal with the biologic control of tooth movement, and what the final product will be is hard to tell at this point. Obviously, we want to make it easily available, easily delivered and as pain-free as possible," Wheeler said. "This initial proof of principle trial will help us define how to accomplish that." ■

Inner Space

NASA software goes intra-oral to analyze durability of dental ceramics

Here's a trick question: "What do dental crowns and bridges have in common with the Space Shuttle?"

ANSWER: "Ceramics, expense and software."



It seems dentistry is a lot like rocket science in that the ceramic materials used to construct dental prostheses, like crowns and bridges, are very similar to that of the more than 20,000 ceramic thermal tiles installed on the Space Shuttle. Just as with shuttle tiles, ceramic crowns and bridges are exposed to drastic changes in temperatures (depending on how hot you like your coffee or cold your tea) and must routinely withstand extreme shearing, crushing and grinding forces.

When they fail, dental prostheses are also pricey to replace, sometimes nearly as expensive as the roughly \$10,000 per shuttle tile price tag.

Fortunately, research at the UF College of Dentistry is taking a space-age approach to analyzing survivability of ceramic crown and bridge materials to determine which ceramics work best, how long and under which conditions. Kenneth Anusavice, D.M.D., Ph.D., professor and chair of dental biomaterials and associate dean for research with a joint appointment in the College of Engineering's department of materials science and engineering, has just received the latest installment of \$350,000 for one of the Health Science Center's longest-running National Institutes of Health grant awards, a

Fractographic analysis of retrieved ceramic prosthesis components that have fractured enables dental biomaterials scientists to verify the origin of such fractures. They can then analyze maximum tensile stresses in models of such prostheses subjected to simulated oral forces using finite element stress analysis (red and orange areas indicate highest tensile stress, images above). Various prosthesis designs can then be modeled using finite element analysis to calculate stress distributions, which allow optimum designs to be identified that will ensure long-lasting dental ceramic prostheses.



This three-unit ceramic bridge suffered a clinical fracture caused by excessive tensile stress generated within the tissue side of the molar-premolar connector. The resulting tensile failure initiated below the connector on the left. The remaining two-unit cantilever bridge subsequently fractured because of excessive tensile stress on the upper side of the premolar-premolar connector as a result of occlusal intraoral forces.

project totaling more than \$4,561,209 over the past 23 years.

In its last phase of study, Anusavice's NIH-funded research to predict survivability of ceramic dental bridge and crown prostheses spans a total of 25 years and now uses NASA software developed to analyze durability of shuttle tiles under extreme conditions. The software, Ceramic Analysis and Reliability Evaluation of Structures/Life (CARES/Life), analyzes ceramic dental materials to predict length of service (how long you can expect to keep your crown before it wears out) and fatigue data (why it fractured). The ultimate goal of the study is to identify ceramic materials and processing methods that will provide longer-lasting service lives for dental prostheses, leading to lower failure rates and reduced expense for the wearer.

Not surprisingly, this achievement will represent one small step for dentistry and one giant leap for mankind. ■



New training program develops pain researchers of the future

Robert P. Yeziarski, Ph.D., professor of orthodontics at the University of Florida College of Dentistry and director of the Comprehensive Center for Pain Research, received a \$1.3 million grant from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research/National Institutes of Health (NIDCR/NIH). The six-year grant will fund an interdisciplinary postdoctoral training program focusing on training researchers in pain mechanisms, diagnoses, treatment and management.

The program's goal is to produce pain researchers for the future equipped to develop clinical and/or basic science research programs and to instill in these individuals an appreciation for the benefits of collaborative, multidisciplinary programs in meeting the present and future challenges in the field of pain research.

The two-to-three-year program provides for a well-balanced core curriculum for four post-doctorate trainees entered into the program each year. The training program contains provisions for the recruitment of underrepresented minorities, a required component dealing with the ethical conduct of research, and steps to ensure the program meets the needs of trainees in areas of research, education and professional development.

Conducted by an interdisciplinary group of 15 core faculty members with expertise in neuroscience and psychosocial issues of pain mechanisms, the program offers training opportunities in five designated tracts that represent the faculty's research interests. These include:

- **Orofacial pain** associated with the head and neck, including trigeminal neuralgia, temporomandibular joint disorder, and migraine;

Robert P. Yeziarski directs the Comprehensive Center for Pain Research based in the College of Dentistry, and is the lead on a new \$1.3 million pain training grant awarded to the college by the National Institutes of Health. The six-year grant will fund an interdisciplinary post-doctorate training program to develop researchers and clinicians in the areas of orofacial, acute, visceral, psychosocial, and musculoskeletal pain.

- **Acute and chronic pain mechanisms** studying the neurobiology of the pain system including the anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, molecular biology of peripheral and central pain pathways;
- **Sex, gender, and ethnic differences**, exploring psychosocial issues of pain and how those factors impact the experience of pain;
- **Visceral pain** associated with dysfunction of the GI tract; and
- **Musculoskeletal pain**, which is one of the most common types of chronic pain conditions including back pain and fibromyalgia.

These tracts represent established research programs of core faculty and will provide structure, guidance and a diverse training environment for the program. Additionally, each trainee will receive mentoring from the program's advisory committee to enrich their training experiences.

Trainees will use facilities throughout the Health Science Center for their research training. Although trainees will select one tract of training emphasis, they will be required to participate in a two-week research rotation in each of the five tracts.

For more information about the pain training grant, contact Dr. Robert Yeziarski at ryeziarski@dental.ufl.edu or call the Comprehensive Center for Pain Research at (352) 392-3032.

—ADRIANNA C. RODRIGUEZ

Getting Real

Practice-based dental research networks receive \$75 million

The National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIH/NIDCR) have invested \$75 million to establish three regional practice-based research networks. NIH/NIDCR awarded \$25 million of this amount to University of Florida College of Dentistry and the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry to establish a southeast regional network – named the Dental Practice-based Research Network – to conduct dental practice-based research over a seven-year period. The UF/UAB and its sister networks created by the \$75 million grant will investigate with scientific rigor the everyday issues faced by dentists in their practices during the delivery of oral healthcare.

"This is a major effort by the NIDCR and signals a new approach to clinical dental research," said Ivar Mjör, B.D.S., M.S.D., M.S., Dr. odont., eminent scholar, professor of operative dentistry at UF and co-chair of the Dental PBRN. "The emphasis here is not on basic laboratory research, but on real-world problems that dentists face every day in their practices."

NIDCR's intent is that each of the three regional dental practice-based clinical research networks will involve 100 or more practicing dentists and/or hygienists from at least two states in each research project. These dental practitioners will be recruited and trained as practitioner-investigators. This approach enables networks to draw from a diverse patient base to better address a broad spectrum of racial, ethnic, and socio-economic factors that dental professionals encounter every day in their offices. The practitioner-investigators will draw from their own clinical practice patient base to investigate practical, real-world issues and generate data that will be of immediate interest to practitioners and their patients.



Dental PBRN co-chairs, Greg Gilbert (left) of the University of Alabama and Ivar Mjör (right) from the University of Florida.

The UF/UAB Dental PBRN includes dentists from Alabama, Florida and Georgia who will conduct approximately 15 to 20 short-term and cross-sectional clinical studies over the next seven years, comparing the benefits of different dental procedures, dental materials and prevention strategies under a range of patient and clinical conditions. The Dental PBRN will also have extensions into dental practices in Minnesota, Oregon and Scandinavia. Anonymous chart reviews to generate retrospective data on disease, treatment trends and the prevalence of less common oral conditions may also be conducted.

Details of the Dental PBRN have been published on the network's page located at www.dentalpbrn.org and it will be updated regularly as the work progresses. The first study to be conducted will be on dental restorations.

"The identification of problems faced by clinicians in practice is considered very important, including the effect this identification will have on the dental research agenda sponsored by NIDCR and other funding agencies," said Mjör. ■

Dental FALL WEEKEND

SEPTEMBER 9 & 10

Dental Fall Weekend, although held in September this year, was truly a home-coming experience for alumni, friends and senior faculty. Nearly 120 alumni and friends came “home” to Gainesville for the two-day event, enjoying continuing education, an alumni reception and a whopping **FOUR** class reunion dinners on Friday. More than 225 people attended Saturday’s Dental Fall Weekend BBQ bash at the college, touring college facilities and catching up with friends over a late lunch before heading off to the Swamp to watch the Florida/Louisiana Tech game, handily won by the Gators 41 to 3.

1. Kappa Classman Laurence Grayhills (left) and friend Debbie Luke (right) show their true colors to Gator Mascots Albert and Alberta!
2. Beverly and Mark ('83) Mautner visit with Lee Hauer (perio '86).
3. Retired faculty Bill Collett and wife, Barbara.
4. The Glenn and Lynn Schermer (both '84) family cozy up to the Molar Mascot.
5. Several couples enjoy dinner and socializing at one of the Kappa Class ('85) reunion tables.
6. Dean Teresa Dolan joined Andy ('00) and Kelly Trammell (seated center) and Jamie ('00) and Stephanie Odom (seated far left) at the Class of 2000 reunion table.
7. Dental Ambassador and UFCD Sophomore Jose Sarasola (center) prepares to demonstrate how the Pre-clinical Simulation Laboratory mannequins are fitted with dento-forms, spring-hinged plastic jaws with anatomically-correct teeth. Onlookers Danny and Henry ('85) Rozen (left) and Bill and Kathy Truax (right) were among the many visitors to Sim Lab as part of a three-floor college tour Saturday before the BBQ.

ACADEMY of ALUMNI
and FRIENDS
UFCD



Newly-installed Academy of Alumni & Friends President Gregory Reddish ('80) presents a plaque of appreciation to outgoing President Laurence Grayhills ('85) during the Dental Fall Weekend activities.

Academy of Alumni & Friends Slate of 2006 Officers

New officers were elected to the Academy of Alumni & Friends during the Sept. 9 annual business meeting of the academy's membership held during Dental Fall Weekend in Gainesville, Fla.

President – Greg Reddish
Vice President – Barry Setzer
Secretary/Treasurer – Steven Bogdanoff

2005-2006 CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2005

- **The Third Annual PetoGators Continuing Education, Oct. 28, 2005**
Hilton University of Florida Hotel & Conference Center
1714 SW 34th Street, Gainesville, FL 32607

UFCD pediatric alumni & friends gather for continuing education with guest lecturer, Dr. Gideon Holan presenting *Trauma to Primary Dentition*.

DECEMBER 2005

- **Senior Faculty Luncheon, Dec. 5, 2005**
Hilton University of Florida Hotel & Conference Center
1714 SW 34th Street, Gainesville, FL 32607
Dogwood Room, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

UFCD Senior Faculty gather for an annual luncheon with Dean Dolan and Dental Ambassadors in appreciation for their support and dedication to the college.

JANUARY 2006

- **Miami Winter Meeting & Dental Expo, Jan. 19-21, 2006**
Miami Beach Convention Center
1901 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33169

UFCD alumni and friends are invited to a UF College of Dentistry reception. Friday, Jan. 20, 2006, 6:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2006

- **Freshman Family Day, Jan. 28, 2006**
UF College of Dentistry

MARCH 2006

- **American Association of Endodontists 2006 Annual Session, March 29 – April 1, 2006**
Hilton Hawaiian Village, Honolulu, Hawaii

UFCD endodontic alumni and friends will host a reception on Thursday, March 30 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Hilton Hawaiian Village.

JUNE 2006

- **Florida National Dental Congress, June 15-17 2006**
Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center, Orlando, Fla.

JULY 2006

- **White Coat Ceremony, July 22, 2006**
J. Wayne Reitz Union Grand Ballroom

OCTOBER 2006

- **Fourth Annual PetoGators Continuing Education, Oct. 27, 2006**
UF Hilton Hotel & Conference Center, Gainesville, Fla.

NOVEMBER 2006

- **Dental Fall Weekend, Nov. 10 – 11, 2006**
Special guest and CDE presenter, Dr. Gordan J. Christensen, D.D.S., M.S.D., Ph.D.

For more information, contact Sue Guido at 352-273-5781, or email aguido@dental.ufl.edu, or visit www.dental.ufl.edu/alumni.



1. It's a UFCD/Tufts alumni gathering! Gary Altschuler (left), a former assistant professor of periodontology at UF and 1989 dental graduate of Tufts University, is joined by Julie Nordman, also an '89 Tufts grad, Tom Nordman (UFCD '85) and Jay Pitts (UFCD '85).

2. Dean Dolan and the Oldham clan smile for the camera. (From left to right, top row) Peggy and Craig Oldham ('92), Teresa Dolan. (Left to right, bottom row) The Oldham girls, who are two sets of twins: Evelyn (6), Ellen and Grace (4), and Olivia (6).

3. James ('77) and Debbie Haddix visit with Tom Floyd ('78).

4. The UF Hialeah Dental Clinic represents! (From left to right) Susan Socas ('87), Marta Gainza ('96), Alan Friedel, Clinic Director Roberta Diehl, Lucinda Espinoza and Francisco Espinoza (FTD '96).

5. When classmates reunite, it's a family affair. (From left to right, top row) Maria Teodoru, Becky Holtery, Andy Holtery ('03), Catalin Teodoru ('03), Mark Ashley ('03) and Joseph "Joey" Bongiorno ('03). (From left to right, bottom row) Emily Elizabeth Teodoru (4), Andy Holtery, Jr. (4), Nicholas Teodoru (6), and adorable Christopher Teodoru (4 months).

6. FDA Immediate Past-president Sam Low (left), UFCD Dean Teresa Dolan (center) and FDA President-elect Alan Friedel (right).

ACADEMY of ALUMNI
and FRIENDS
UFCD



wise woman



DIAN M. OLAH, D.M.D. Class of 1985

Age: 57.

Family: Divorced; one married daughter, Stephanie, age 34, who is expecting Olah's first grandchild.

Practice: Contract dentist for the Jicarilla Apache Indian Nation, Dulce, New Mexico

for years in tremendous pain. I'm here now and can do full treatment plans, I can do quadrant dentistry for them, and they're so thankful to save their teeth without a lot of pain or discomfort. The little children are really fearful, so it takes lots of patience and demonstrating, but these beautiful, brown-eyed children just make me feel good inside and out.

What's next? I could go on and on about my life-enriching experiences, but my greatest one is yet to come. My daughter is expecting a baby due March 17. This changes the dynamics somewhat as I'll want to be home more. The nice thing about working as a contract dentist is that I can arrange my schedule to do this.

If I could tell dentists interested in public health one thing, it would be: I encourage anyone who has strong feelings for helping other people to consider working for Indian Health Services. They're looking for dentists who would sign up for civil service or who would join the public health corp. They have great packages added to the salary; a young dentist would receive good compensation and student loan forgiveness.

As a contract dentist, you are not responsible for daily collection, and you have greater flexibility as far as your work schedule. It just takes so much stress off of you while you're being productive and helping people.

I seriously doubt I will work in private practice again. This is much more rewarding and fun. It's one of the best things you can do to lengthen your own life because it just makes you feel so good.

For more information on dentistry jobs with Indian Health Services, visit <http://www.ihs.gov>.

southern Pueblos of New Mexico and, now, the Jicarilla Apache Nation.

Where I am now: Jicarilla Apache Reservation, Dulce, New Mexico. If you've never traveled out this way, you've really missed something. Our health center, which opened November of last year, is 8,000 feet above sea level and surrounded by mountains. It's so beautiful here and wildlife abounds. One morning I watched a bald eagle in flight right outside my operatory window and was nearly brought to my knees with emotion.

The Jicarilla (pronounced "hik-ah-reel-yah") are very gentle and kind. Jicarilla is a Spanish word for "little basket," and the weavers here are famous for their colorful, gourd-shaped baskets. Our health center serves about 4,000 Jicarilla Apaches on the reservation, and they need lots of dental care.

It's been several generations that these people have not had good dental care, and they've lived

Where I've been: My career path has been a real adventure. I taught dental hygiene for 10 years at St. Petersburg Community College in St. Petersburg, Fla. before entering dental school at UF. Once I graduated in 1985, I entered private practice in Clearwater, Fla. After 18 years, I sold the practice in 2002 when I had no debt and could walk away with some money in my pocket. The practice sold so quickly I realized I had not made plans for "What's Next?" I knew I wanted to move to California to be closer to Stephanie, but I didn't know how I would earn an income until my California license would be issued.

One morning, while packing boxes for the movers, a dental magazine clipping fell to the floor; it read "How would you like to work on an Indian Reservation?" I telephoned the number, and by 3 p.m. that afternoon I had a job filling-in for a dentist in Sisseton, South Dakota on the Dakota Sioux Reservation.

Since then, I've worked as a contract dentist serving the Marshallese, Navajo, Kuruk, Ponomo,

Class Notes

CLASS OF 1977

Dennis E. Fisher recently added partner **Max Forni** from the UFCD Class of 2001 to his practice. Fisher's son David is at Stetson College of Law and his daughter Danielle is in her fourth year of pre-med at the University of Florida.

CLASS OF 1987

Howard Pando vacationed in the Smoky Mountains and Vero Beach. He enjoys playing racquetball, weightlifting and spending a lot of time with his family.

Julie B. Skoby opened a new dental office in January 2005. Her twin boys, Matthew and Michael, just celebrated their second birthday, and they enjoyed a family vacation at the beach.

Miguel J. Santamarina has an 8-year-old son and a 10-year-old daughter. His wife, Marile, just finished a four year program in pharmacy to receive her doctoral degree from Nova Southeastern University.



Class of 2004 member, Mark Van Zant is pictured in Colorado after a April weekend trip to Steamboat. Mark emailed his photo to Dean Dolan with the message, "I thought you might like a picture of one of your former students who made it where he wanted to be. Thanks for a great education, and yes, I am wearing my UFCD sweatshirt!"

CLASS OF 1991

Stephen D. Cochran and partner Barry P. Setzer, D.D.S., both clinical associate professors of pediatric dentistry at the college's Jacksonville Dental Clinic, have been named Best Dentist or Orthodontist by the reader's of North Florida Families, a Jacksonville, Fla.-based parenting magazine, who voted during the magazine's annual reader's choice awards for the North Florida Area. In addition to volunteering as courtesy faculty at the college's Jacksonville Dental Clinic, Setzer is also the newly elected vice president of the college's Academy of Alumni & Friends.

CLASS OF 1993

David J. Ferlita is currently the president of the Florida Dental Association's Project Dentists Care and is vice president of the Atlantic Coast District Dental Association. He and wife, Christine, spend all of their free time with sons Taylor (5), Bailey (4), and Dawson (12 months).

CLASS OF 1995

Richard Morales received the prestigious Academy of General Dentistry Fellowship Award during the organization's convocation ceremony held July 16 in Washington, D.C. Currently residing in Coral Gables with wife, Cecilia, and children Emily, Richard III, Matthew and Benjamin, Morales practices in South Miami. He is a member of the Seattle Study Club, the Pankey Institute Alumni Association and immediate past president of the Southeast Florida Academy of General Dentistry.

CLASS OF 2003

Minta Wood was married in September 2005.

Anthea Drew finished her residency program at the Medical University of South Carolina in June 2005. She will associate with a pediatric dentist in Charleston, S.C. She is getting married Dec. 10, 2005 to Mark Austin, an oral surgery resident from Chapel Hill, N.C.

Anissa Ahmadi gave birth to daughter Yasmeen Fatima Mujtaba April 22, 2005. Yasmeen weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. Anissa moved at the end of June to Ft. Myers to join an existing pediatric associateship.

Margaux DeRosset-Grason married in December 2004. She and her husband went to South Africa for two weeks for their honeymoon. She has been in Chicago since graduating from the University of Florida and finished her GPR in June 2004.

Timothy Garvey Alumnus of the Year

Timothy P. Garvey, D.M.D., ('80) received the Academy of Alumni & Friends Alumni of the Year Award for his dedication to providing dental care to underserved people and his mentoring of dental students in the positive impact their profession can make on the lives of others.

Since 1987, Garvey has led UFCD students on dental mission trips to the Dominican Republic. These trips have, over the years, extended care to thousands of people who would otherwise never have received dental treatment. The UFCD students who travel with Garvey on these trips learn the great potential to do good their chosen profession holds, and they gain a new appreciation for their personal roles in meeting that potential.

Garvey is also active in We Care, Inc., donating his services every other Monday evening at the Santa Fe Community College Dental Clinic to help needy patients in the Gainesville area. He is a caring advocate for Florida's developmentally disabled, and serves as the director of the dental clinic at Tacachale, the state's largest institution for the developmentally disabled.

Garvey's dedication to increasing access to dental care for the poor and underserved extends to people both at home and abroad, and he is a worthy recipient of the 2005 Alumni of the Year Award.



Hal Haering, Honorary Fellow of the Year

Hal Haering, D.D.S., received the Academy of Alumni & Friends 2005 Honorary Fellow Award in recognition for his work to achieve better collaboration between the Florida Board of Dentistry and the two colleges of dentistry in the state. The award recognizes a non-alumnus for outstanding service & achievement.

A member of the board since 2000, Haering has served as chair for the past year, diligently working to improve communication between the college and the board and facilitating improved exam processes. Notable changes include an early March exam to enable students to know their licensure eligibility prior to graduation. Another significant improvement includes faster turnaround of exam results – preliminary results are now available immediately on completion of the exam rather than four to six weeks following.

In addition to his work on the board, Haering has consistently demonstrated a true interest in the professional development of the state's dental students, providing seminars for students on laws and ethics. Students learned from Haering's "insider's perspective" how the emphasis college faculty place on thorough record keeping and quality care will make a difference for their future practices.

Haering's vigorous advocacy for improving communication between the Florida Board of Dentistry and the college, and his work to foster skills and attitudes that promote development of a competent dental graduate, are the achievements for which the Academy of Alumni & Friends are pleased to recognize him with the Honorary Fellow Award of 2005.



Gator Bytes

■ Faculty Arrivals



Abimbola O. Adewumi, B.D.S., is appointed assistant professor of pediatric dentistry. Adewumi, who earned her dental degree from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, completed a fellowship in pediatric

dentistry at the University of Florida where she provided undergraduate clinical instruction and postgraduate seminars in pediatric dentistry. Prior to coming to UF, Adewumi served as a specialist registrar in pediatric dentistry at St. George's Hospital, King's Dental Institute, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London. She also earned her Master's degree in pediatric dentistry from University of London. She is a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the Royal College of Physicians of Glasgow, Scotland. Adewumi's research interests include dental traumatology, aesthetic dentistry for children, and law and ethics in dentistry.

Ikramuddin Aukhil, B.D.S., M.S., is appointed chair of the Department of Periodontology. Aukhil comes to UF from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Dentistry, where he served as professor of periodontology and director of UNC's Pre-doctoral Program in Periodontology. Aukhil assumes the chair from **Herbert Towle**, D.D.S., who has stepped down to serve as director of the Periodontics Residency Program. The college's search committee selected Aukhil based on his clinical and administrative ability and the opportunity to create new collaborations between clinician scientists and the research of the college's internationally respected molecular and cell biologists.



Madhu K. Nair, B.D.S., D.M.D., M.S., Lic. Odont., Ph.D. is appointed associate professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery and diagnostic sciences. Nair comes to UF from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental

Medicine where he served as director and assistant professor of oral and maxillofacial radiology. Nair's research interests include tuned aperture computed tomography, radiology informatics, computer-aided diagnostic techniques, and digital imaging and image processing/fractal analysis. Nair's expertise in digital radiology and radiology informatics will be invaluable during the college's conversion to digital radiology, which is scheduled for installation in all college clinics over the next two years.

Edgar P. O'Neill, D.D.S., M.S., F.A.C.P., is appointed clinical associate professor of prosthodontics and program director of graduate prosthodontics. O'Neill comes to UF from the Naval Health Clinic in Millington, Tenn., where he served as department head of prosthodontics and chair of the implant committee. His areas of special interest and expertise are in implant dentistry and full-mouth reconstruction. A Navy man since 1976, O'Neill earned his dental degree from Loyola University School of Dentistry, and his Master of Science from George Washington University. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics, a fellow of the American College of Prosthodontics, holds a certificate of advanced prosthodontic education from the U.S. Naval Post Graduate School in Bethesda, MD, and is a member of the Academy of Osseointegration.



Marc E. Ottenga, D.D.S., is appointed clinical associate professor of operative dentistry. Ottenga comes to the university after 22 years of private practice in the

Orlando area. He earned his dental degree from The Ohio State University School of Dentistry in 1980, and completed his general practice residency at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Miami, Fla. in 1981.

Ottenga will serve as operative instructor in the college's Preclinical Simulation Laboratory and operative clinical instructor for third- and fourth-year D.M.D. students and students in the Foreign Trained Dentist Program.

He is joined in Gainesville by wife, Cathy, and sons Cam (19) and Chris (15).

Flavio Massara Soares, D.D.S., M.S., is appointed assistant professor of pediatric dentistry and in a tenure track. Soares completed his fellowship in pediatric dentistry at UF in August, during which time he demonstrated an outstanding attitude, excellent clinical skills and received the highest teaching evaluation from the undergraduate students in the pediatrics clinical course. Soares earned his dental degree from Pontifical Catholic University in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. His master's and certificate of advanced studies in pediatric dentistry were earned from Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine.



Robert H. Selwitz, D.D.S., M.P.H., has received joint appointment as clinical professor of public health services and research with the UF College of Dentistry and dental director for the Duval County Health Department. Selwitz' responsibilities will be to administer the DCHD dental program with an annual budget of more than \$2.1 million, participating in interdisciplinary public health research and clinical instruction of the college's dental public health residents and D.M.D. students. He will be based in Jacksonville, Fla.

Selwitz comes to UF from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, where he served as the chief of the population research and health promotion branch and director

of the agency's residency program in dental public health. He is board certified in public health dentistry, earned his dental degree from University of Detroit Mercy and his Master of Public Health from University of Michigan.

T. Wendell Willis, D.D.S., is appointed clinical professor in the department of periodontics. Willis comes to UF after 37 years of private practice, although he is no stranger to teaching. Since 1977, he has served the college in a variety of ways, including visiting professor of operative dentistry and teaching in both prosthodontics and periodontics. Willis has been involved in organized dentistry at both the local and state level, serving as president of the Alachua County Dental Association and as a trustee to the Florida Dental Association. He earned his dental degree from the Medical College of Virginia in 1966, and, as a captain in the United States Army Dental Corps, commanded the dental clinic for the 809 Engineering Battalion in Thailand.



■ Faculty Honors, Awards and Appointments



Amer Abu-Hanna, D.D.S., M.S., assistant professor of operative dentistry and **Indraneel Bhattacharyya**, D.D.S., M.S.D., assistant professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery and diagnostic sciences were honored this spring with Teacher of the Year awards. Abu-Hanna was selected a teacher of the year in clinical sciences for his excellent instruction in the pre-clinical simulation laboratory and Bhattacharyya was selected as basic science teacher of the year for



his engaging oral pathology instruction.

The college selection committee chose Abu-Hanna and Bhattacharyya from a competitive field of nominations based on their excellence and innovations in course design and delivery as reported by their students and peers. The college's Teacher of the Year awardees were honored by a recognition plaque that hangs in the college's main lecture room (D3-3), a \$2000 cash award, and a reception at UF President Bernie Machen's home this past spring.

Arthur E. "Buddy" Clark, D.M.D., Ph.D., M.E., has been appointed chair of the Department of Prosthodontics, assuming the position from **Arthur Nimmo**, D.D.S., F.A.C.P., who stepped down as chair for personal reasons. Nimmo, who served as chair for six years, will remain on the college's faculty, concentrating his efforts on D.M.D. curriculum instruction and prosthodontic research. Clark has served as associate chair of the department since 2001, previously served as chair between the years of 1991 to 1996, and is a former executive associate dean of the college.



Roberta Diehl, D.D.S., director of the college's Hialeah Dental Clinic, was inducted as a fellow into the International College of Dentists during the organization's Oct. 1, 2004 convocation in Orlando, Fla. Fellows are inducted for their "outstanding professional achievement and meritorious service" to the profession of dentistry and to their patients.

Teresa A. Dolan, D.D.S., M.P.H., was one of two women dentists honored with the American Association of Women Dentists 2005 Lucy Hobbs Taylor Award. Dolan was tapped by



the association to receive the award due to her excellence as a role model for all women dentists and for representing the spirit and ideals of the award, which celebrates Lucy Hobbs Taylor. In 1886, Hobbes Taylor was the first woman to earn a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree. Dolan will receive the award during the October American Dental Association Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.

Roger B. Fillingim, Ph.D. is the author of a new book, "Concise Encyclopedia of Pain Psychology," published by Haworth Press, Inc. Fillingim's book, which will become available this summer, is marketed as a



Dental faculty trucks on for charity



Fong Wong, B.S.D., D.D.S., M.S.D., assistant professor of prosthodontics, ran the first-ever Ocean City Maryland Marathon on April 16 to benefit CASA and other Maryland organizations serving abused and neglected children. Wong finished the 26.2-mile course that winds through Assateague State Park – home of the wild ponies of "Misty of Chincoteague" fame – in four hours, 32 minutes and 27 seconds. She placed 7th out of 19 women in her age group and 59th of 150 female runners. Wong ran her first marathon, the Disney Marathon, in December of 2004.

broad reference source of clinical and scientific pain psychology topics from A to Z. Pain psychology terms, descriptions, definitions and important findings are listed in the book and supported by an extensive bibliography to facilitate more in-depth study of the topics.



Nicholas Grimaudo, D.M.D., Ph.D., associate professor and director of oral-health maintenance, treatment planning and operative dentistry, received the Florida Dental Association's UFCD Dental Educator of the Year award during the July Florida National Dental Congress held in Orlando.

Marcio Guelmann, D.D.S., associate professor of pediatric dentistry, is appointed chair of pediatric dentistry after an exemplary year serving as interim chair. As chair, Guelmann is charged with developing pediatric faculty through encouraging board certifications and fostering faculty academic and research collaborations, emphasizing interdisciplinary collaborations with Shands Hospital, the College of Medicine and the Craniofacial Center. He will also work with faculty and the college's Curriculum Committee to review and revise pediatric dentistry curriculum for the D.M.D. Program, and will facilitate the development of a combined pediatric dentistry certificate and public health master's degree program.

Guelmann has also been accepted into the American Dental Education Association Leadership Institute's 2005-06 class, which consists of 22 of the nation's most promising dental faculty. As a member of the ADEA Leadership Institute, Guelmann will attend a series of national workshops over the next 12 months that develop and refine participants' leadership, legislative, administrative and teaching competencies.



Marc Heft, D.M.D., Ph.D., is appointed acting chair for the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Diagnostic Sciences. Heft assumes the chair from Frank Dolwick, D.M.D., Ph.D., who stepped down from the position for personal reasons.

Dolwick, who recommended Heft to the college's dean as a candidate for acting chair, continues to serve

as the head of the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Division and director of hospital dentistry for Shands Healthcare.



Nelson S. Logan, Ph.D., former director of multicultural affairs, received a Presidential Citation from Frank Catalanotto, 2004-05 president of the American Dental Education Association, during the association's March 82nd Annual Session in Baltimore. The citation recognized Logan's 35-year career of promoting cultural and ethnic diversity in dental admissions at the University of Iowa and UF. Logan, who is revered by the students he has mentored, left UF last December to pursue his life-long love of aviation.

Thomas C. Porter, D.M.D., clinical associate professor of community-based programs and director of the college's St. Petersburg Clinic, has been recognized as a diplomate of the American Board of Special Care Dentistry with proficiency in the areas of hospital dentistry, dentistry for persons with disabilities and geriatric dentistry.



The College of Dentistry is proud to announce faculty promotions and tenure as recommended by President Bernie Machen to and approved by the UF Board of Trustees. Effective July 1, 2005, **Henry Gremillion**, D.D.S. is promoted to the rank of professor with tenure; **Jeannine Brady**, Ph.D., **Marcio Guelmann**, D.D.S., and **Joseph Riley**, Ph.D., to the rank of associate professor with tenure; and Associate Professor **Robert Caudle**, Ph.D., is granted tenure.



Daniela Rodrigues P. Silva, D.D.S., M.S., assistant professor of pediatric dentistry, is appointed interim director of the Pediatric Dentistry Residency Program. Silva, originally from Brazil, earned her dental degree from the University of São Paulo, her master's in pediatric dentistry from the University of Michigan, and became board-certified in pediatric dentistry in 2003. Since coming to UF in 2004, Silva has been deeply involved with the residency program, and she is welcomed into her leadership role as interim director of the program by residents and departmental faculty.

Student Awards

Dental Senior **Ana P. DeCastro** was selected by the American Association of Women Dentists to receive the 2005 Colgate Research Award. The \$500 award "salutes and encourages students to excel" in dental research, and it is presented to junior or senior dental students who have shown "academic distinction and demonstration of excellence in research."



Ana P. DeCastro



UF students named Hinman Scholars

Charles T. Ruhl (center), a Hinman Dental Society trustee, presents University of Florida dental students, **Leslie J. Rudolph** (left) and **Adam A. Sarnowski** (right) with scholarships from the Thomas P. Hinman Dental Society. The awards were presented during the 93rd Hinman Dental Meeting in Atlanta March 19. The society provided scholarships and gifts totaling more than \$250,000 to support dental education at 34 southeastern schools and universities.

The Right Stuff

General dentistry residents have high implant success rate

First-year general dentistry residents at the UF College of Dentistry Jacksonville Clinic have the right stuff when it comes to successfully placing tooth implants. In fact, their success rate of 98 percent exceeds the 90 to 95 percent reported by the American Dental Association as the average survival rate of implants placed by experienced clinicians.

This is the report of a UF study published in the December issue of the Journal of Oral Implantology regarding the ability of general dentistry residents to learn complex implant procedures and successfully place implants in a diverse patient population.

"Really, the success rate of the residents, although much higher than expected, was not the emphasis of the report," said Clifford Starr, D.M.D., clinical associate professor of community based programs at UF College of Dentistry and director of the college's Jacksonville dental clinic. "What we wanted to show is that dental residents can place dental implants with success – it's something that residents can be taught, it's not too difficult to do and general dentists can learn to place implants and succeed with it."

Dental implants, which look and feel like natural teeth, are the latest hi-tech alternative to dentures and fixed prosthetics like bridges and crowns. Patients are fitted with a metal post implanted directly in the bone to which a prosthetic tooth is affixed. The implant tooth pro-

vides its own support and does not rely on adjacent teeth for support or anchorage. Implants are also used to anchor denture plates, giving the patient a better fit and helping to preserve the patient's supporting bone.

These advantages have fueled increased patient demand for implants and the placement of dental implants by dentists has tripled since 1986. Although some sources state 65 percent of general dentists offer implant restorations as a routine service of their practices, the ADA reports only 8 percent of general dentists are doing the actual surgical placement of the implants. The majority of surgical implants are placed by specialists in oral surgery and periodontology working in conjunction with general dentists.

Cases of 108 UF patients who received 279 dental implants by residents under the supervision of the Jacksonville clinic faculty between the years 1998 to 2002 were reviewed. Patient gender was roughly 60 percent female and 40 percent male, and the majority of patients fell within the ages of 50 to 59 years. One implant system, SteriOss, was used in 94 percent of the cases, and

about 30 percent of the patients required bone grafts to augment the bony ridges of the jaw or to fill-in the space between the implants and the sockets of extracted teeth.

Of the 279 implants placed, only five failed, resulting in an implant success rate of 98 percent over the course of four years.

"Five years would be the gold standard for reporting implant success rates," said Starr. "That's not what we reported – our cases ranged from six months to four years because we haven't done implants for five years. However, I think the overall summary of our report is that we have quality faculty and residents using good implant systems to complete complex cases with great success."

Some examples of implant cases completed by the college's Jacksonville residents can be viewed at <http://www.ufhscj.edu/dentistry/page4.htm>.

"It would be very valuable to the literature if other residency programs doing implant dentistry would publish their results so we can learn from each other's experiences," said Starr. "This would be of great benefit for undergraduate and graduate programs in the process of introducing implant dentistry into their curriculum." ■

"...placement of dental implants by dentists has tripled since 1986."



UF College of Dentistry 30th Annual

COMMENCEMENT

More than 1,000 family and friends of the D.M.D. Class of 2005 and candidates for certificates or graduate degrees filled the Curtis M. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts at UF's Cultural Plaza during the college's 30th Annual Commencement. During the ceremony, 77 D.M.D. students, 46 certificate and graduate degree candidates and 12 foreign trained dentists were rewarded for years of hard work.



- 1. Introducing the D.M.D. Class of 2005
- 2. Academy of Alumni & Friends President Laurence Grayhills ('85) D.M.D. welcomes students into the ranks of organized dentistry after conferral of their dental degrees.
- 3. After the ceremony, new grad Alecia Skipper and husband attend the reception held in the main gallery of the Florida Museum of Natural History.
- 4. Graduate Thuan Nguyen (center) beams with pride while posing with his family and his dental degree.
- 5. Leslie Oakes (center) is hooded by sister Susie Koagel (left) and Dr. Buddy Clark.
- 6. Periodontal residents Gaston Berenguer (center left) and Andrew Forrest (center right) receive a colorful send-off from resident periodontal clinic staff (from left) Richelle Janiec, Leah Paske, Melanie Reidy and Mary Jane Hemmingway.
- 7. Raphael Ason (left) and Brandon Alegre share a smile after transferring their tassels from the right to the left sides of their caps, signifying conferral and acceptance of their dental degrees.



Dental Student Senior Honors and Awards

HIGH HONORS, SUMMA CUM LAUDE, were awarded to **Michelle Aliotti**, **Carmen Briceno Casas**, **Eric Claussen**, and **Vincent Delle-Donne**.

HONORS, CUM LAUDE, were received by **Cody Goslinga**, **Jason Todd Hooper**, **Robert Shelling** and **Amanda Velazquez**.

Olubisi Aina was honored with the American Association of Public Health Dentistry Award. **Jennifer Bailey** received the Organization of Teachers of Oral Diagnosis Award. **Carmen Briceno Casas** received the Alpha Omega Award for Scholarship, the American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, the Dr. Carroll Bennett Award for Academic Excellence in Pediatric Dentistry, and the Quintessence Award for Clinical Achievement in Restorative Dentistry. **Eric Claussen** was awarded the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Dental Student Award and the American Academy of Craniofacial Pain Award. **Joseph De Jongh** was honored

with the American Association of Endodontics Endodontic Student Award and the Senior Class Advisor's Inspirational Award for Professional Ethics. **Alissa Dragstedt** received the Academy of Operative Dentistry Award. **Jodi Fair** was named the recipient of The Charles Fain Award for Achievement in Pediatric Dentistry. **Jeffrey Fleigel** became the first-ever dental student to be honored with the UF Hall of Fame Award. The Hall of Fame Award, established in 1921, is the highest honor the university bestows on senior student leaders in recognition of scholastic achievement and leadership in improving the university through campus and community involvement. Fleigel also received awards from Americus Dental Lab, the Florida Section of the American College of Prosthodontics, the International College of Dentists, AAOMS Dental Implant Student Award, the American Academy of Oral Medicine and the Pierre Fauchard Academy. **Colby Ferguson** received the Quintessence Award for Clinical

Achievement in Periodontology. **Frankie Gomez** was honored with the American Dental Society of Anesthesiology, Inc. Horace Wells Senior Student Award. **Cody Goslinga** received the L.D. Pankey Award. **Shane Goslinga** received the Dr. John Kincheloe Excellence in Oral Surgery Award. **Mindy Hall** was honored with the Dentsply Award for Removable Prosthodontics, the Academy of Alumni & Friends A. Lewis Leo Outstanding Student Award, and the American Association of Women Dentists Eleanor Senior Women Dental Student Award. **Rami Hedami** received the American Association of Oral Biologists Award. **Jason Todd Hopper** was named the Southeastern Academy of Prosthodontics Outstanding Senior in Prosthodontics. **Jeremy Lewis** was honored with the American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry Award. **Victor Lowell** received the American Academy of Dental Practice Administration Award. **Maria Lausan-Madruga** was honored with the American Academy of Oral Facial Pain Award.

Julyenne Nguyen received the Golden Forceps Award. **Disha Patel** was recognized by the Professor Harold R. Stanley Outstanding Pathology Student Award. **Shreena Patel** received the American Association of Orthodontologists Award, the Orthodontics Clinical Achievement Award, and the Quintessence Award for Research Achievement. **Yoel Sanchez** was honored with the International Congress of Oral Implantologists Award. **Alecia Skipper** received the Teledyne Water Pik Award. **Susan Stevenson** and **Tahir Uddin** were honored with American College of Dentists awards. **Jessica Stilley** received the American Academy of Periodontology Award. **Jordan Tarver** received awards from the American Academy of Dental Materials and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. **Cathy Taylor** was honored with the Academy of General Dentistry Award. **Christopher Thompson** was recognized by the American Equilibration Society and **Todd Timko** by the Florida Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

UF College of Dentistry's

WHITE COAT

The Professionalism & Coating Ceremony honoring the Class of 2007 was held July 16 in the Health Professions, Nursing and Pharmacy building on the campus of the Health Science Center. The coating ceremony is made possible by the generous support of members of the Academy of Alumni & Friends, and represents a milestone in the education of dental students – the transition into hands-on clinical patient care.



1. In preparation for the coating ceremony, Alumni Coordinator Sue Guido (left) assists Haysam Tawfik in being fitted for his coat. Months in advance, Guido planned all the details of the event and worked with the Class of 2007 to make sure each of the 82 class members' coats were comfortably fitted and names correctly spelled for the embroidery on the left breast of the coats. Once embroidered, the coats were dry cleaned and smartly pressed for the ceremony.

2. Thai Hur (right) advances the Class of 2007 slide show as his classmates laugh in delight. Hur's slide presentation revealed his classmates to be fun-loving and free-spirited as well as dedicated dental students.

3. Proud dad Howard Cohen (left) adjusts rising junior Glenn Cohen's white coat. The Cohen family contingent attending the white coat ceremony included Glenn's 94-year-old grandmother, Sylvia, who traveled to Gainesville from Miami for the event.

4. Miguel Martinez gets a hug from son, Miguel Jr.

5. Students (from left to right) Charbel Klaiib, Christian De Jesus, Manal Hilali, Irma Iskandar and Sanjie Jackson line-up to pose for photos.



ACADEMY of ALUMNI
and FRIENDS
UFCD



Continuing Dental Education

OCT. 2005 – MAR. 2006

Dates for remaining 2005 Courses listed in **BOLD**.
All courses are in Gainesville, FL unless specified otherwise.

Bottomline Endodontics

Oct. 8, 2005 **

Randy Hedrick, D.D.S.

ADVANCED SKILLS for the Dental Team:

Nitrous Oxide Psychosedation

Oct. 14-15, 2005 or Jan. 27-28, 2006

Franci Stavropoulos, D.D.S.

The SECRET WEAPON of the Best Paid Dental Assistants:

Expanded Functions for Dental Auxiliary

Oct. 14-16 & Oct. 29-30, 2005 or Jan. 27-29 &

Feb. 11-12, 2006

UF College of Dentistry Faculty

Craniofacial Pain and Pathofunction Part II,

Oral Facial Pain: Advanced Diagnosis

Oct. 20-22, 2005

Henry Gremillion, D.D.S., M.A.G.D., Parker Mahan, D.D.S.,
Ph.D., Frank Dolwick, D.M.D.

Seminars at Sea for Dentists and the

Dental Team – Carnival Cruise Line

Oct. 20-23, 2005

All your Board Required Courses – 7 CEUs!

Canaveral to Bahamas

New Courses and Dates for 2006 Cruise

Courses to be announced soon!

BASIC SKILLS for the Best Paid Dental Assistants:

Radiology for Dental Auxiliary

Oct. 21-22, 2005 or Feb. 3-4, 2006 or Mar. 3-4, 2006 or

Mar. 31-Apr. 1, 2006

Douglas Benn, B.D.S., Ph.D., Glenda Guarino, C.D.A., M.S.
and Mae Bell Wilson, C.D.A., A.S.

PHARMACOLOGY: Drugs and Dentistry,

Including Herbals and Natural Products

Oct. 28, 2005 (Orlando)

Richard L. Wynn, Ph.D., Lead Author of Drug Information
Handbook for Dentistry

Costa Rica – Continuing Dental Education in Paradise:

Stress Free Oral Pathology

Nov. 9-16, 2005

Neel Bhattacharyya, D.D.S., B.D.S.

ADVANCED TRAINING for the Best Paid Dental

Hygienists: Creating Healthy Pockets Through a

Workshop in Technology

Dec. 10, 2005 or Feb. 14, 2006

Samuel B. Low, D.D.S., M.S., M.Ed.

Safely Managing the High Risk Geriatric Patient

Dec. 10, 2005

John Thomas, D.D.S.

Snoring & Sleep Apnea: The Dentist and

Sleep Disorders

Jan. 7-8, 2006 (Key West Wyndham Marina)

Charles Smith, D.D.S.

1st Annual Oral Surgery Symposium & Golf Weekend

Jan. 13-14, 2006

(Orlando – Crowne Plaza Resort)

Matthew Dennis, D.D.S., James Green, D.D.S., M.D.

ADVANCED SKILLS for the Savvy Dental Hygienist:

Ultrasonics and Instrumentation

Jan. 20, 2006

Sharon Cooper, R.D.H., Robbi Hoskins, R.D.H., Lorie
Primosch, R.D.H., June Sonntag, R.D.H.

Costa Rica – Continuing Dental Education in Paradise:

Endodontics

Feb. 6-13, 2006

Frank Vertucci, D.M.D.

DIGITAL RADIOGRAPHY for the Dental Team

Feb. 11, 2006

Madhu Nair, B.D.S., D.M.D., M.S., Lic. Odont., Ph.D.

DOUBLEHEADER: Ergonomics AND Ethics for the

Effective Dental Team

Feb. 17, 2006

Geraldine Ferris, D.M.D.

Perspectives on Oral Medicine for the Modern

Comprehensive Care Dentist

Feb. 17, 2006 **

Dr. Nelson Rhodus, Distinguished Professor & Director
Division of Oral Medicine, U of Mn.

ADVANCED TRAINING for the Best Paid Dental

Assistants: Fabricating Temporary Crowns & Bridges

Feb. 18-19, 2006

Henry Young, D.D.S., Jack Jones, D.M.D., Terry Magner,
R.D.H.

3rd Annual Soft Tissue Oral Pathology Symposium

Feb. 24-25, 2006

(Orlando – Disney Contemporary Resort)

UF College of Dentistry Faculty

Craniofacial Pain and Pathofunction Part III,

Head and Neck Anatomy with Dissection

Feb. 27-Mar. 1, 1006

Henry Gremillion, D.D.S., M.A.G.D., Parker Mahan, D.D.S.,
Ph.D., Frank Dolwick, D.M.D., Lynn Larkin, B.S., Ph.D.



We're saving a seat for you!

Craniofacial Pain and Pathofunction Part IV,

Mini-Residency

Mar. 2-4, 2006

Henry Gremillion, D.D.S., M.A.G.D.

***Esthetic Restorative Dentistry: "Catch the Wave"**

Mar. 3, 2006 **

James Braun, D.D.S.

***Improving Your Dental Treatment Efficiency with**

Smart Materials and Better Techniques

Mar. 4, 2006 **

Don Antonson, D.D.S., M. Ed., Al Fillastre, C.D.T.

DIGITAL RADIOGRAPHY for Dentists and Radiologic

Technologists

Mar. 11, 2006

Madhu Nair, B.D.S., D.M.D., M.S., Lic. Odont., Ph.D.

1st Annual General Dentistry Symposium

Mar. 24-25, 2006 (Orlando – Disney Contemporary Resort)

UF College of Dentistry Faculty and Nationally Recognized
Experts

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educational grants, which helped, in part, to make these
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