

This is an eventful time for the University of Florida and the College of Dentistry. The state's budget cuts to education reflect a challenged national economy that affects all of us professionally and personally. As an educator, I am profoundly disturbed by the future damage wrought on education through these cuts. It is shortsighted to threaten the future economic opportunities of children in Florida's educational system, from preschool through graduate programs at our state universities and colleges.

However, my responsibility is to strengthen our programs and look to the future, regardless of the economic situation. Fortunately our college significantly diversified funding sources in recent years as part of our strategic planning efforts, moving from being primarily dependent on state funding to depending on state dollars, including tuition paid by students, for about 30 percent of our budget. The current year's state allocations decreased by 10 percent and we expect ongoing reductions unless the economic outlook improves.

Even though the college was financially positioned as well as possible, the reduction had a significant impact, removing \$1.8 million from our budget and forcing us to close two important programs. The Parker E. Mahan Facial Pain Center closed in June, although services to many patients continue through former pain center faculty members who work in different college areas.* We were also forced to schedule an end to the two-year IEDP program. The IEDP students who began in summer 2008 are the last class for the foreseeable future unless the legislature provides additional support for this important program. We also eliminated two staff positions; a very personal and difficult decision.

It would be easy to retreat and bide our time until the economy improves, and simply maintain our status and programs. However, my responsibility is ensuring strategic growth for educational programs, clinical services, and research endeavors. Our commitment to students, Florida communities and the state education system demands that we leverage this challenge to better ourselves and our operations.

The Class of 2010's White Coat Ceremony was proof that our college's future is bright. These dynamic and talented students rely on us to meet their expectations. Just as they count on our faculty and staff, their families and future patients are depending on them. There is a circle of trust, an implicit agreement that we will all do our best, even in difficult times.

You'll read about the new clinical education model for the D.M.D. program deployed in August that improves the student and patient experience, and also strengthens the program's business model. We are also pursuing long-term plans to break ground on a new dental sciences building in Gainesville, an addition to our current building.

Another exciting program on our horizon is a \$5.3 million NIH grant to fund a research center to reduce health disparities related to diagnosis, treatment and survivability of head and neck cancers. The center, led by Henrietta Logan, Ph.D., a professor in community dentistry and behavioral science, promises to make a long-term difference in access to care and brings together professionals from different aspects of medicine and health.

This year our Dental Fall Weekend, Oct. 24 and 25, includes a tailgate with our student dental fraternity - something our alumni requested and the students were pleased to coordinate. Students are asking for opportunities to interact with alumni and we've scheduled a Dental Spring Weekend in Gainesville on April 24 and 25 that combines our Continuing Education program with the American Student Dental Association program.

We are committed to improving the frequency of communication with our alumni and friends. With an eye on costs we trimmed our magazine to this newsletter format. Expect to receive this new format quarterly.

We're boldly striding forward, investing in the future of our students, patients and research. We hope you'll join us and catch the wave!

UF College of Dentistry

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Best regards,

Lerisa A. Dolan

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

* FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FACIAL PAIN SERVICES, PLEASE CALL (352) 273-7619

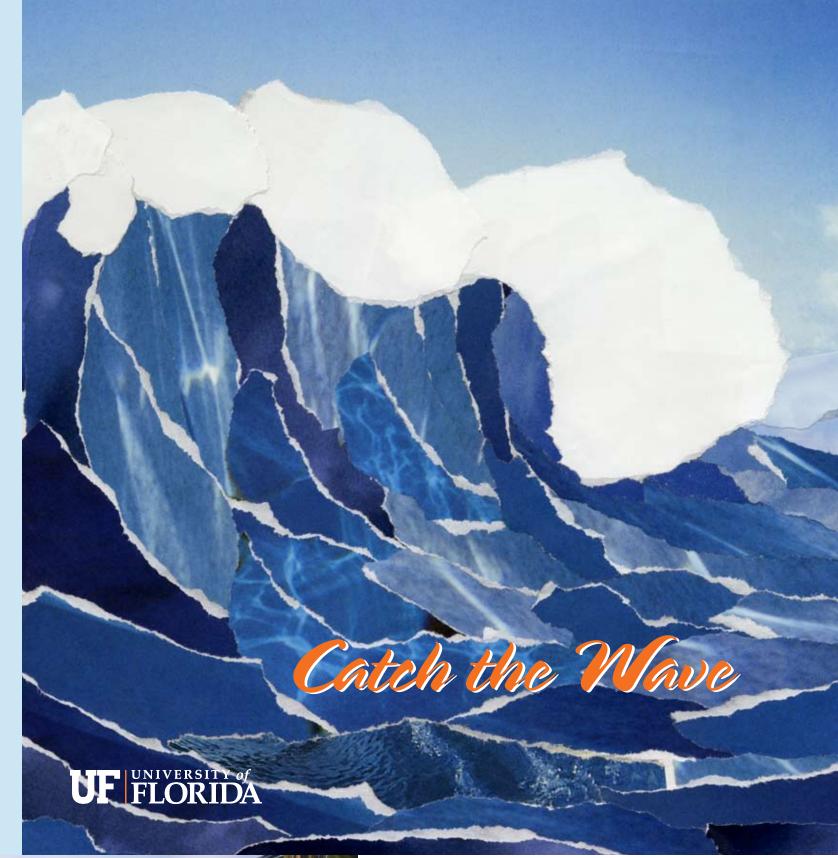


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An overall overhaul

To meet Dolan's timelines, staff and faculty moved quickly planning and implementing the necessary changes. The new model has a faculty member leading each of the ten teams. Current faculty filled eight of the positions and two were hired from outside the college.

Space remodeling presented a challenge for Ken Tomlinson, associate dean for

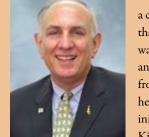


Gator Kids, **Healthy Smiles**

Breaking a link in the chain

Medically underserved children suffer from a lack of access and funding for oral health care. It affects their ability to perform well in school and contributes to absenteeism. This creates damage that extends beyond their physical health, to their education and future ability to provide for themselves and their family.

"Unfortunately, only about 10 percent of Florida Medicaid recipients under age 6 receive any dental care," said Frank Catalanotto, D.M.D., a pediatric dentist and professor in community dentistry and behavioral science.



It's a big problem, a chain reaction, that Catalanotto wants to break. He and a coalition from different health specialties initiated "Gator Kids, Healthy

Smiles," coordi-

nated by UF's College of Dentistry, to create a larger pool of service options for children and their family.

This program, similar to ones in 25 other states, builds from a recent decision by Medicaid to reimburse physicians for oral health procedures on young children. But before the funds can make a difference, physicians and their staff need to know how to screen, treat and refer the patients. "Gator Kids, Healthy Smiles" employs dental hygienists in Florida to administer the training free of charge.

During the program's first two months of operation, dental hygienists completed 30 training sessions with a total of 331 participants, with another 11 sessions in the planning phase.



On a recent break, D.M.D. students Danny Bass and Sean Altenbach prepare to catch some waves

Patient-centered, student-friendly

Growing up in the 60's near Santa Cruz, Ca., it was natural that Boyd Robinson developed a surfer's "knobby knees." After all, it was here in the late 1800's that Hawaiian royalty introduced surfing to the mainland; locals and visitors have ridden the waves ever since.

Robinson graduated from Chico State University and earned his D.D.S. from the University of the Pacific. Then Robinson joined the U.S. Navy, to spend "a few years" gaining more knowledge and experience in dentistry, but instead served 26 years before retiring from a career that included serving as the dentist for Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush.

So it's not surprising that, as Robinson led the College of Dentistry through a major transformation in the clinical teaching model, he relied on his watery, wavy past and encouraged everyone to Catch the Wave of the new model.

The start of the fall semester launched a major initiative that came full circle at the college - using a clinical education model for the DM.D. program that resembles the real-world operation of a dentist's office. When the college opened in 1972, that's the way the clinics were organized. But after a few years, the organization changed into the specialty-based model that had been in place since.

There were several attempts to a change it, but it never quite happened. In February 2008, following recommendations from a Future Search conference, Dean Teresa Dolan decided it was time and, with the agreement of the then-junior class that would be most affected by this major shift, she decided implementation would begin in August 2008. This gave only six months for the necessary planning, moving, building, hiring and training required.

"We needed to do this for multiple reasons but the most important reason is that it makes sense educationally," said Dolan.

Robinson agreed and immediately began talking to faculty, staff and students about "catching the wave."

He says that the imagery of the wave signifies change, "Some people see change coming, prepare for it and then enjoy the ride, just like surfing. But when you're not prepared or willing to accept it, it passes you by or even pushes you under. Either way, the wave is coming and it's your decision as to how you'll respond."

As he prepared for the new model, he told people to "catch the wave," creating a communications campaign that included surf lingo, surf décor in clinics, and a luau launch party.

The clinical model plan was developed three years ago by Dr. Ron Watson who proposed five clinics with 10 teams, and scheduling to be coordinated by five treatment coordinators. With a few minor adjustments, this was implemented in August. The goal of the new model is improving the student and patient experience, and creating better financial outcomes.

"The old system had inefficiencies that meant it could take months for a new patient to have their first treatment. The new system provides better chair utilization combined with efficient scheduling that sees patients getting treatment quickly and, more importantly, the students have increased access to experiences," Robinson said.

He explained that in a dental office, everyone knows that an empty chair means a loss of income, "But an empty chair in a dental school means a student isn't having an experience, and that's the true cost to our school and students."

The new model improves the college's ability to provide comprehensive care to patients in a general dentistry setting. Now a coordinator schedules patients for the teams, and since the model makes more chairs available the school can see more patients, more quickly, which should improve the "patient mix." In other words, patients who can pay for dental service elsewhere may instead choose the convenience and expertise offered at the college.

Dolan points out that, with the current budget crisis in the state, UF is encouraging all colleges to be entrepreneurial in nature, "Essentially this means we can no longer operate strictly like an academic institution. Yes - our primary focus remains education but when possible we must analyze, evaluate and operate like a business so we remain solvent and relevant in today's world.

"The new clinical model makes us more attractive to patients who expect fast, convenient service and this operational change couldn't have come at a better time for our college," said Dolan.

administration, and for the dental maintenance team, "It's like deciding to remodel your guest bathroom at home and, before you know it, the domino effect takes over and your entire house is in play."

Over the years, clinic operatories were converted to office space. To create five clinics with the same footprint and capabilities, numerous administrative areas and clinical units had to be moved and renovated. The end result was another positive in that all of the areas have improved, better utilizing space.

"The staff and faculty who moved or assisted were amazingly cooperative and I think that's because in reality everyone's on board in terms of understanding the need for this comprehensive shift in the D.M.D. program and are supportive of making it work," Tomlinson said.

So as the sun set on the old model, on Aug. 25, a new day dawned for the D.M.D. students. The surfers had their boards waxed and were ready to catch the wave when the first patient came in that morning.

Smooth sailing

"Many of us expected choppy seas, especially during the first few weeks, and we kind of held our breath," Robinson joked, "but as it turned out, it was smooth sailing." Robinson admits some lessons learned in the beginning but the main goal of the program, increased student dental experiences (Student Friendly) and providing better patient service (Patient Centered), is well met.

A comparison of the first few weeks in 2007 shows an average of 150 to 200 more procedures each week for 2008. Team leaders report fluid movement between specialties in clinics and, as far as students are concered? Here's what two have to say:

D.M.D. student Danny Bass, Class of 2009, said, "The new clinical model is great. With the private practice set-up, I can schedule patients for cleanings and fillings in the same appointment without having to run around to different clinics. When my patients are available to come in, I can do whatever they need, all in one spot. Brilliant! Go Gators!"

"In the new system, I do more dentistry in a week than I did in an entire month with the old clinical model," D.M.D. Student Sean Altenbach, Class of 2010, said, "It's greaaaaaaaaaa."

Dean Teresa Dolan and Dr. Boyd Robinson were dressed for success at the **Catch The Wave Launch** Luau on Aug. 15.

Building a balanced dentist

Micaela Gibbs, D.D.S., has a passion for community dentistry you can see in her eyes and face when she talks about the college's mission and her dedication to creating "balanced dentists."

With the help of a new two-year, \$200,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Gibbs is building on programs already in place to enhance students' experience with how patients are affected by healthcare gaps and how they can help fill those gaps.

Gibbs is quick to point out that she didn't start this process at the college but that the programs and passion were in place before she came to the college in 2002.

That year, Dean Teresa Dolan applied for the RWJ Foundation grant for a program to take D.M.D. students from the relatively safe and predictable environment of the Gainesville clinics, to more urban areas where lack of care is severe. This would be an extension of the Statewide Network the previous dean, Dr. Frank Catalanotto, began in 1996.

In 2002, the grant wasn't funded but the college initiated the program anyway and Gibbs believes that's the reason the grant was funded this year, "I call it the 'perfect storm.' This time we have an existing, respected and effective program with a proven impact. We also have a presence and partnerships in the community we're targeting. And, probably most importantly, we benefit from amazing internal and administrative support."

During the first year, Gibbs says, funding will allow for expanded time in The Sulzbacher Center's dental clinic in Jacksonville, Fla., which provides safety net care to the homeless, "None of our D.M.D. students had this opportunity before. Now about 70 seniors will rotate through the Sulzbacher Center during the year."

The students will also spend time on the streets with homeless; learning who they are, how they live and why they live like they do.

"In class students learn about 'lack of access to care.' But the best way for them to understand what that means is to experience it with all their senses," Gibbs said.

The second year plan includes expanding the rotation at the Jacksonville clinic to six weeks for seniors and adding services through collaboration with the Department of Health.

Micaela Gibbs, D.D.S.

UFCD JACKSONVILLE LEON COUNTY HEALTH DEPT. DUVAL CO. HEALTH GADSDEN COUNTY HEALTH DEPT. DEPT. & I.M. SULZBACHER CENTER spent half of her senior year on rotation, which convinced her that community ACORN, EASTSIDE, SANTA FE CC dentistry was where she was meant to be. UF COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY & TACACHALE She is energized by the college's service mission that **GAINESVILLE** brought her to UF which, in her eyes, stands out in terms of • WINTER GARDEN CENTER & SOUTH LAKE CENTER internal support, dedication and passion; that the college's MARION CO. HEALTH DEPT. administration doesn't just say it's the core, "they live it." "Money is the biggest roadblock to success, yet service becomes more important in challenging economic times. And even as funding becomes tighter, more research points to the critical part that oral health plays in overall health, which means the dental UFCD ST. PETERSBURG professional's role is increasingly vital," she said. Gibbs says that increased exposure to the underserved gives the dentists of tomorrow a powerful understanding of dental disparities and their role in eliminating them. "I don't expect all dentists to forego private practice and dedicate themselves to service. Each aspect has its place and plays **FLORIDA CLINICS** a vital part. But these students are in a learning phase of their lives, and we have this incredible chance to teach them something • UFCD OWNED O CHSI/M.E. FETHER CENTER **O EXISTING PARTNER** important while they're establishing their view of professional CHSI/GOLDEN GATE CENTER PROPOSED PARTNER UFCD NAPLES Her hope is that, as they build their practice, they save space in their professional habits for service and education and become UFCD HIALEAH

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non-taste sensations produced by fatty foods. This intensified the

palatability of those foods; that is, people who'd had multiple ear

And the damaging effects of ear infection compounds over time.

Bartoshuk contacted the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with

The older we get, the more we enjoy fatty foods and so we eat more

her findings and asked them to put her in touch with researchers

with similar information, asking them to analyze their data to see if

"We were delighted to use this cost-savings approach to research

especially during a time of financial crisis. The other groups, a hearing

loss study at the University of Wisconsin, an otitis media research

center at the University of Minnesota, and epidemiologists using a

national database collected by the Federal Government were happy

to cooperate with us and, in the end, our findings were corroborated

Bartoshuk said, with obesity being such a problem in our society,

new information is always valuable in determining how to control

eating behaviors because it helps us understand what drives some

of those behaviors, "and since ear infections are not genetic, this is

something we can influence now that we've identified it."

infections enjoyed fatty foods more.

they yielded similar results.

by all three sets of data," Bartoshuk said.

of them.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

dentistry," she said.

"balanced dentists."

Gibbs was raised in

Denver, Colo., and gradu-

Medicine in Denver. She

ated from the University of

Colorado's School of Dental

The college can work with interested individuals and groups to establish scholarships to pay for care that Medicaid won't cover. You can also volunteer in college-owned or affiliated clinics in Florida. For more information, please contact Micaela Gibbs, mgibbs@dental.ufl.edu or call (352) 273-6801.

For more information about the Sulzbacher Center, visit their web site at www.sulzbachercenter.org.



Major Steven Bogdanoff, D.M.D., joined the Florida Army National Guard in March 2007 knowing it meant he would be in line for deployment to Iraq and seeing it as a chance to serve his country and help fill a void created by a lack of dentists serving military personnel in the area. His chance to serve came quickly - he deploys to Baghdad in October 2008 and will serve 90 days "boots on the ground" as a dentist in the Florida Medical Detachment.

He's also serving his dental school this year as the president of the Academy of Alumni & Friends and we'll keep him updated while he's overseas via email. Past President Barry Setzer volunteered to fill his shoes during Bogdanoff's deployment.

You can send him a note via email at sbogdanoff@aol.com or keep up with his experience by visiting his blog at http://bogdanoffdmd.com/





Gator Bytes

Faculty Awards, Honors & Achievements

Abi Adewumi, B.D.S., M.Ped. Dent., F.D.S.R.C.S., a faculty member in pediatric dentistry, passed the Oral Boards and became a member of the College of Diplomates of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry, one of the highest forms of recognition and accomplishment in the specialty of pediatric dentistry. Adewumi joined the college in 2004 as a fellow and became a faculty member in 2005.

Linda Bartoshuk, Ph.D., was appointed to a three-year term on the Council of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and in May she was elected president of the Association for Psychological Science (APS), a group for which she was a charter member when it was founded 20 years ago. Since then she served on the board of directors twice. One of her primary areas of interest is the how the study of behavior can contribute to solving many of the world's social problems.

Leandra Dopazo, D.D.S., M.S., clinical assistant professor of orthodontics, received the Michael Matlof Memorial Teaching Fellowship Award from the board of the American Association of Orthodontics Foundation for the third year. Dopazo joined the faculty of the college in December 2005 and is currently involved in teaching and research, and practices in the faculty practice clinic.

Henry Gremillion, D.D.S., M.A.G.D., was appointed dean at the LSU School of Dentistry, his alma mater and also recently won an Award of Merit from the American College of Dentists. Gremillion joined the UF College of Dentistry in 1991 as an assistant professor. He was promoted to associate professor in 1998 and to full professor in 2005. His expertise is in the area of orofacial pain and he took over as director of the Parker E. Mahan Facial Pain Center in 1992. In 2008, he was named the first Parker E. Mahan Endowed Professor.

Henrietta Logan, Ph.D., a professor in the department of community dentistry and behavioral science, won an Award of Merit from the American College of Dentists. The award recognizes and acknowledges specific, outstanding achievements of non-dentists that link to the ACD's mission of promoting excellence, ethics, professionalism and leadership in dentistry. Her research has focused on psychological and biological correlates including immune changes of the human stress and pain response which has theoretical and clinical applications, and included development and validation of a scale to measure individuals' perception of personal control.

Samuel Low, D.S.S., M.S., M.Ed., received the 2008 Florida Dental Association's J. Leon Schwartz Lifetime Achievement Award. Given during the annual Florida National Dental Convention in June in Orlando, this is the highest achievement award bestowed by the FDA and is presented to someone who has displayed a lifelong commitment to enhancing dentistry. Low, associate dean and professor in periodontology, is a past president of the FDA and played an integral role in the growth and development of the FDA.

Low was also installed as President Elect of the American Academy of Periodontology Board of Trustees during its 94th Annual Meeting in Seattle in September. An AAP member since 1975, Low served on the Board of Trustees as Vice President in 2008 and acted as the Academy's Secretary/ Treasurer in 2007

Roberta Pileggi, D.D.S, M.S., assistant professor and assistant director of postgraduate endodontics, completed the yearlong American Dental Education Association Leadership Institute Program. Since 2000, the Leadership Institute has developed the nation's most promising dental educators to become leaders in dental and higher education. Fellows complete a project relating to a key issue in dental education.

K. David Stillwell, D.D.S., M.A.G.D., received the Lifetime Learning and Service Recognition Award during the Academy of General Dentistry's 56th Annual Meeting Convocation in Orlando in July. The award is presented to those who demonstrate ongoing commitment to continuing dental education, volunteer services to communities in need, mentorship to associates and new dentists and participation in organized dentistry.

Henry "Mac" Young, D.D.S., and Kenneth Anusavice, D.M.D., Ph.D., were selected as 2008 Teachers of the Year for the College of Dentistry, recognizing their excellence, innovation and effectiveness in teaching. Anusavice, professor and associate dean of dental biomaterials, was selected by the students as the 2007-08 Basic Sciences Teacher of the Year. Young, associate professor of operative dentistry, was chosen as Clinical Teacher of the Year. The awards are based on student ballots and, as such, certainly demonstrate the strong impression these faculty members have made on our students.

Where are you now?

We'd like to know. Please send an email to the communications office at krhodenizer@dental.ufl.edu and let us know where you are now. We'll share your update via alumni profiles on our web site and in other alumni forums.

Please visit us

The college's web site is updated regularly and is a great source of information about what's happening in the college. Visit us at www. dental.ufl.edu and see what's new in the world of Gator dentistry today.

Think before we ink

This summer UF launched a program aimed at decreasing dollars spent and trees felled by reducing printing and copying expenses. The campaign, "Think Before You Ink," asks all of us to think before we print. . . well. . . anything. You can help by sharing your email contact information with us. If you don't already receive emails from the college, please email our alumni affairs office and let us know how we can contact you without inking. Email Rebecca Graves rgraves@ dental.ufl.edu

Coming events for alumni & friends **Gator Dentist Reception** Hosted by the Academy of Alumni & Friends

Friday, June 19, 2009 Florida National Dental Convention, Gaylord Resort in Orlando.

Dental Spring CE Weekend April 24 & 25, 2008 Gainesville, Fla.

Gator Dentist Today

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www.dental.ufl.edu

Dentistry students bring home the grad cup Five days . . . five grueling sports . . . four graduate programs represented . . . and in February the College of Dentistry's team took home the Grad Cup for the second year in a row

Bartoshuk research finds link between ear infections and obesity

Researchers don't always find what they're looking for – a fact that often leads to the most interesting results.

Linda Bartoshuk, Ph.D., in the UF College of Dentistry's community dentistry and behavioral science department is an expert in taste and genetic variations in taste perception. She collected information for several years by having lecture attendees complete surveys that included demographic informa-

tion. She and her team, including graduate

student Derek Snyder, entered responses into a database and found a surprising link between a history of ear infections and adult obesity.

"We knew that ear infections can damage taste. The major taste nerve, the chorda tympani, goes through the middle ear on its way to the brain and can be damaged by the pathogens that cause ear infections, " said Bartoshuk. "But the link between ear infection and obesity later in life was quite new and unexpected."

Bartoshuk and her team learned that taste damage can intensify the

Dr. Aquilas E. Mas February 8, 1939 – February 12, 2008

When Dr. Aquiles E. Mas passed away in February, the South Florida dental community and the UF College of Dentistry lost a leader and a friend.

Mas had the foresight to bring a UF dental clinic to Hialeah in the early '90s and was instrumental in making his vision a reality. Once the clinic was opened in 1996, Mas maintained a personal commitment to it, serving as a local advisor, treating patients and delivering lectures each month to the clinic residents.

More than anything, Mas was a devoted husband, father and a grandfather. He loved fishing and hunting, and snow skiing and traveling with his family and friends.

"My father was extremely dedicated to the dental community and the preservation and advancement of the profession of dentistry. He loved to teach and was able to touch many lives and careers through the University of Florida. The Hialeah Clinic was a great source of pride and motivation for him," his daughter, Ana-Marie Wing, said.

"He was such a good friend to us. Whenever we called on him, he was there," Roberta Diehl, D.D.S., program director for the Hialeah clinic, said.

In July, Hialeah's 12th Annual Graduation Banquet program featured a tribute to the life and achievements of Mas, and an announcement of the establishment of a permanent memorial to be installed in the reception area of the clinic.



Charles G. Widmer, D.D.S., Ph.D., associate professor of orthodontics. and Robert A. Burne, Ph.D., professor and chairman of oral biology, were elected to membership in the national dental honor society, Omicron Kappa Upsilon. Burne is a new honorary member and Widmer is a new faculty member. Elections are based on outstanding contributions to the art, science or literature of dentistry.

Administrative Changes

Robert E. Bates, D.D.S., M.S., was appointed department chair of prosthodontics. He has been a valued faculty member since joining the college in 1984 and has served the college in many roles, including assistant and associate dean for clinical affairs, and interim department chair for periodontology, prosthodontics, and most recently in oral & maxillofacial surgery & diagnostic sciences.

Luisa Echeto, D.D.S., M.S., was appointed the new prosthodontic undergraduate program director for the college. Echeto joined the college in 2003 and has served as a Clinical Assistant Professor in prosthodontics. In her new role, she is responsible for the prosthodontic undergraduate program and its mission, and played an integral part in developing a new prosthodontic curriculum in the move toward a comprehensive care clinic.

Henry "Mac" Young, D.D.S., B.S., was appointed interim chair of the department of operative dentistry in May 2008. He is responsible for managing the academic, administrative and fiscal affairs of the department, and supporting the professional development of department faculty and research activities. Another key area of responsibility is focusing on the D.M.D. curriculum and assisting in a smooth transition to the new clinical education model.

Promotion & Tenure

Ann Progulske-Fox, Ph.D., oral biology department, was promoted to distinguished professor. The title recognizes her as one of the university's most outstanding and dedicated faculty members, and the overall excellence of her academic record. The promotion makes Progulske-Fox one of only four distinguished female professors currently serving at the University of Florida

The following faculty members were promoted to professor:

Robert Caudle, Ph.D., oral and maxillofacial surgery and diagnostic sciences

Valeria Gordan, D.D.S., M.S., operative dentistry

Carol Stewart, D.D.S., M.S., oral and maxillofacial surgery and diagnostic sciences

The following faculty members were also promoted:

Pamela Sandow, D.M.D., oral and maxillofacial surgery and diagnostic sciences, was promoted to clinical professor

Myriam Belanger, Ph.D., M.S., oral biology, was promoted to research associate professor

Lorie Primosch, M.Ed., periodontology, was promoted to associate in dentistry

