

FROM THE DEAN



Making the grade in Florida

INCREASING ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE FOR FLORIDA'S MOST VULNERABLE CITIZENS

Florida's "F" grade from the Pew Foundation report on the "State of Children's Dental Health"¹ and public discussions about the adequacy of our dentist workforce has captured the attention of many local and state leaders and made access to dental care a front page news story throughout Florida. But will a rapid expansion of dental schools in Florida improve access to care?

The size of the dentist workforce is a consideration in "access to care" issues, but expanding it, particularly by enrolling students in a very expensive academic program resulting in heavy debt at graduation, isn't likely to make a dent in Florida's "F" grade. It is also unlikely to impact access for adults, older adults and vulnerable populations such as individuals with disabilities or those who live in long-term care facilities.

What could make a difference? A recent report from the Florida Department of Health² made excellent

recommendations for allowing all Floridians access to quality dental care. The Workforce Task Force studied the issues and concluded that we need innovative approaches to delivering appropriate and high quality dental care to underserved populations. Recommendations included expanding public health education and prevention services, improving the Medicaid dental program, using incentives to attract dentists to safety net clinics, and allowing expanded duties and reduced supervision levels for allied dental providers who practice in health access settings.

The Task Force did not recommend expanding the number of dental schools. Instead, they recommended expanding learning experiences through dental school externship or residency programs in safety net facilities, and establishing short-term training programs in pediatric dentistry. UFCD is a national leader in these areas and is open to expanding programs like these.

High quality, affordable, science- and evidence-based dental education is an important public resource, and UFCD is grateful for the public investment in dental education. Adding dental graduates, particularly with large educational debts, will not improve access to care, particularly for vulnerable Floridians. A more thoughtful, comprehensive view of public policy issues and state-wide dentist workforce planning to ensure high quality and affordable dental education in our state will yield a more positive impact.

Our college has a number of ongoing programs in place to help bridge the gap, and we know we're not alone in trying to make a difference. Hundreds of Florida's dentists volunteer alongside other health professionals in clinics, mobile care centers and outreach programs. Even so, it's not enough.

The Florida Board of Governors (FBOG) discussed dental education during recent Strategic Planning Committee meetings, and in presentations to the FBOG, I had the opportunity to suggest ways to increase access to care including a modest expansion of our dental class, and pursuing debt-relief through a state-funded loan repayment program for dental graduates working in underserved communities. And the Florida legislature approved funding for a significant increase in children's Medicaid fees during the prior legislative session. The access-to-dental-care issue is also on the radar of state and national media as seen in the increasing coverage of this important public health issue.

Maybe we have reached a place where change is just over the horizon. Stay tuned!

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season, and as always, thank you for the many ways you support the College of Dentistry!

Best regards,

Teresa A. Dolan

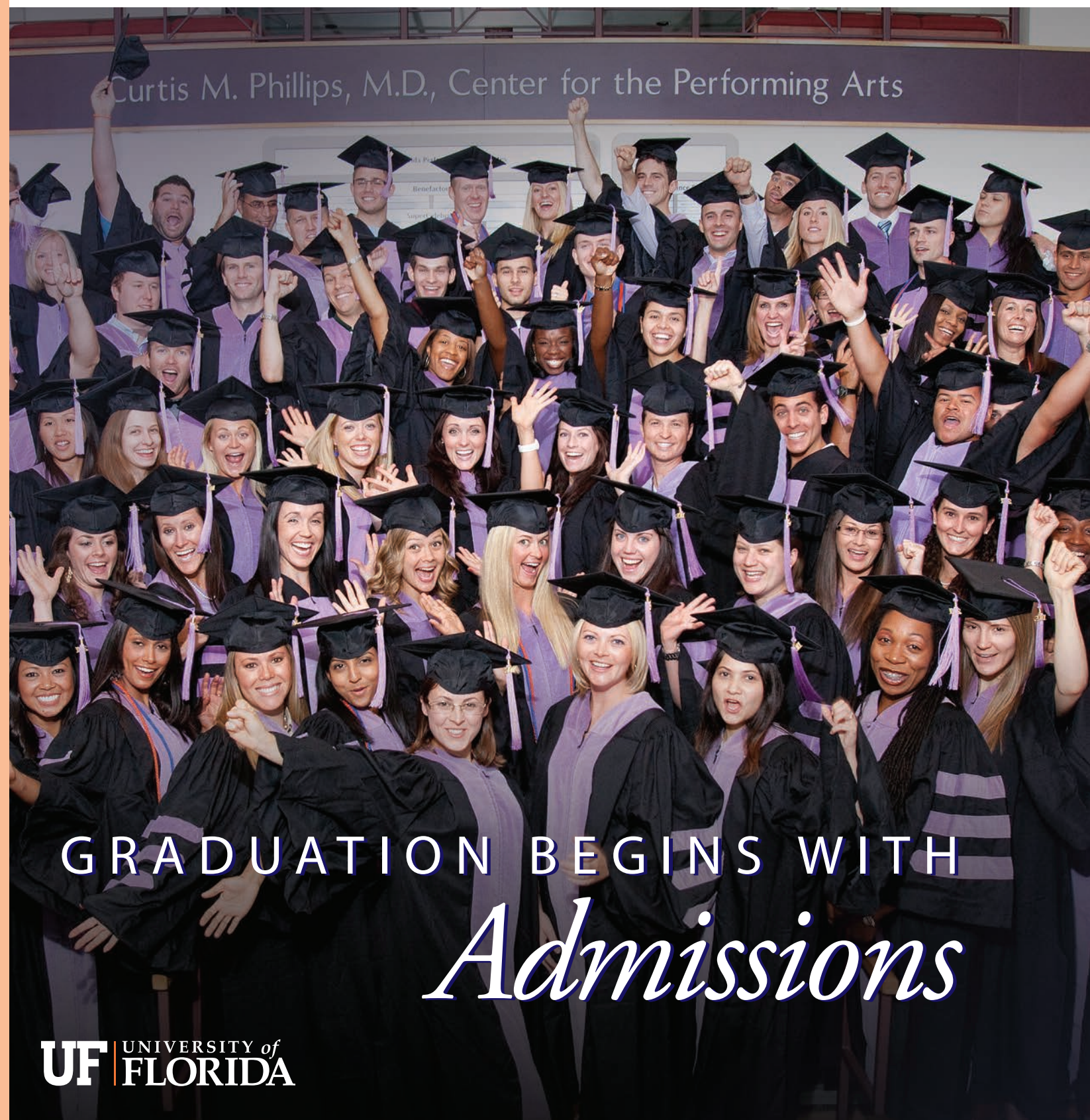
Teresa A. Dolan, D.D.S., M.P.H.
Professor and Dean

¹ http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/The_State_of_Children's_Dental_health.pdf, accessed June 5, 2011.

² http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Family/dental/OralHealthcareWorkforce/200903Dental_Workforce_Report.pdf, accessed June 5, 2011.

gatordentist TODAY

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GRADUATION BEGINS WITH Admissions

Everyone wants to be a dentist.

At least that's how it seems to the college's admissions team, which for many years has been in the somewhat enviable position of being able to accept only about 5 percent of those who apply for admission to the Doctor of Dental Medicine program each year.

Even though debt load for dental school graduates is among the highest of all graduate degrees, averaging \$180,644 for all U.S. dental schools and \$130,667 for UFCD graduates in 2009, the application trends at the

University of Florida College of Dentistry mirror national trends: a growing number of people want to join the profession and the challenge becomes selecting the best candidates for the school and the state.

Venita Sposetti, D.M.D., faced that challenge from 2001 to 2011 as assistant dean for admissions and financial aid, a role she kept for 10 years. She passed the torch to Pam Sandow, D.M.D., in July 2011 when Sposetti was appointed associate dean for education. Both Sposetti, Class of 1979, and Sandow, Class of 1986, earned their D.M.D. degrees from UF.

Things have changed a bit since Sposetti's years in dental school. She was one of only six women in her graduating class; today more than half the entering D.M.D. class is female.

"Everyone remembers their dental school interview. I never imagined that one day I would be

sitting on the other side of the table, interviewing applicants for my alma mater," she said. "But I think it gave me strong insight into the minds of our dental school applicants and helped steer me during my 10 years focused on admissions."

Sposetti points to two things she believes influenced a spike in dental school applications that began in the late 1990s: the dot-com bust and several *Wall Street Journal* articles. "It was really driven by economic forces," she said. "A lot of people who were interested in careers that paid well were either in the dot-com industry or were planning to head into it. Then that industry kind of collapsed in the mid-90s, and at the same time the *Wall Street Journal* published several articles listing a dental office as one of the top five startup businesses. It took a few years for us to see the effects—because people redirected their focus, took pre-requisite courses and the D.A.T.—but by the mid-2000s, the

entire country saw a sharp increase in dental school applications, peaking around 2007 and it hasn't dropped yet."

UF received 1,429 applications for 83 spots in the 2011 entering D.M.D. class. As the only state-funded dental school in Florida, the college focuses on accepting in-state candidates, who are more likely to stay in Florida and serve the needs of its residents.

The class includes 46 women and 37 men; 76 of them are Florida residents and minorities make up 33 percent of the overall class. Ranging in age from 20 to 47, the students have an average GPA of 3.59, an average DAT score of 20, and an average age of 23. But there's nothing average about this class. "Due to the excellent quality of the applicant pool, the class is made up of some of the best and brightest of Florida's future dental workforce," Sposetti said.

Sandow is now in the middle of her first round of applicant interviews as assistant dean, and is excited to continue to advance the quality of the college's student body. Of the more than 1,400 applications received this year, the admissions committee members will interview about 350 candidates, and Sandow attends almost all of the interviews.

"We've made strong inroads in recruiting highly qualified under-represented minorities to the college in recent years and I hope to continue that trend," Sandow said, noting that UF is currently ranked eighth of all dental schools in the nation for under-represented minority enrollment.

She mentions that Sposetti was her advisor when she was a student at the college and while she hasn't exactly followed in Sposetti's footsteps at UF—Sandow specializes in the management of oral complications from head and neck cancer therapy in the Oral Medicine Center—she is grateful to be able to work closely with Sposetti as they've arranged for a

smooth transfer in the admissions arena.

New challenges ahead for Florida's dental landscape include bridging a significant gap in access-to-care for underserved Medicare and Medicaid patients in some areas of the state. One solution is to attract dental students who want to practice in underserved areas. The solution starts with dental school admissions.

Looking to the future

A tradition that dates back to the 1400s, graduation marks a transition in a student's life from one stage to another. It symbolizes more than just academic achievement. It also represents a hope for the future and dreams realized.

The 81 members of the D.M.D. Class of 2011, which graduated on May 20, spent the past four years together on one path to becoming dentists. They have now scattered far and wide in search of additional training, new experiences and for some, to serve their country.

National trends in dental education show that an increasing percentage of graduates pursue advanced education programs. The class of 2011 is no exception with 28 members pursuing residencies in programs across the United States including San Francisco, Dallas, New York City, Boston, Baltimore, Miami, Minneapolis, Nashville, Naples, Fla., and, of course, Gainesville. "Many of this year's class wanted to move to a big city, having spent four or more years in a college town," said Teresa A. Dolan, D.D.S., M.P.H., professor and dean. "We were also proud that seven of this year's



Of the more than 1,400 applications received this year, the admissions committee will interview about 350 candidates. The 2011 entering D.M.D. class has 83 members.

Sandow's Eight: Reasons to choose UF College of Dentistry



Pamela Sandow, D.M.D.

Pam Sandow, D.M.D., says there are many great reasons to choose the University of Florida for dental school, but here are her top eight:

1. Tradition of excellence: UF has the oldest dental school in Florida with a long history of outstanding graduates and a tradition of excellence that spans education, patient care and research.
2. Community service: We practice what we preach and value service to others. We emphasize service in our curriculum and provide many opportunities for students to get involved in the local and state community, as well as other parts of the world.
3. Organizational culture: We foster a "family" atmosphere and there are numerous school-related and social organizations for student involvement.
4. Research: As one of the top research-intensive dental schools in the U.S., we offer amazing research opportunities including a D.M.D./Ph.D. program, research electives and a chance to work with some of the best dental researchers in the world. The sky is the limit!

5. Gainesville: This is a great city with a lot of culture for its size, resonating with a youthful energy that is surrounded by nature. The community caters to UF students since most Gainesvillians are involved in UF in some way.

6. Health Science Center: As one of six health colleges in a large academic health center, students have a rich opportunity to work with patients who have challenging medical and dental problems. This includes seeing oral cancer patients in the Oral Medicine Clinic with me in their senior year as well as attendance at the Shands Head and Neck Tumor Conference.

7. Diversity: We celebrate diversity at the UF College of Dentistry and view ethnic and cultural diversity as a way to enrich the educational experience for all our students, faculty and staff.

8. Gator Nation: You're not just a part of the Gator Nation, you're at the heart of it! And Gator pride isn't just about football, although our sports programs add to the fun; being a UF graduate gives one a feeling of pride that is hard to describe or quantify.

graduates chose to serve our country in various branches of the Armed Forces. It is heartwarming to know that our dental graduates will be taking care of the oral health of other Gator Nation members where they are also serving the United States, literally all over the world," she said.

During their time in dental school, the students made a difference in countless ways. Some conducted award-winning research with faculty mentors, and presented their work at national and international research meetings. Others went above and beyond, performing volunteer service work for local community organizations like the Alachua County We Care program, and on international mission trips to places like the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Guatemala.

Members of the very active Student National Dental Association focused, through various programs, on encouraging under-represented minority students to choose dentistry as a career. The chapter also won several national awards.

During the graduation ceremony Gerald K. Weaver, D.M.D., a member of the college's Class of 1979 and current president of the Academy of Alumni and Friends, spoke on behalf of the AAF. His two sons were graduating. Robert Weaver, D.M.D., completed his Certificate in Pediatric Dentistry and James Patrick Weaver, D.M.D., received his Doctor of Dental Medicine.

"One of the greatest achievements for the members of this class was getting in the class," he said, pointing out that for each one accepted to the class, there were 19 other qualified applicants to the college. "Despite how qualified you were, dental school was still very challenging and difficult, and you should be proud that you are graduating from one of the best dental schools in the world."

Roulet appointed restorative chair



Jean-François Roulet, D.D.S.

Jean-François Roulet, D.D.S., was appointed the first chair of the University of Florida College of Dentistry's new Department of Restorative Dental Sciences, effective October 7, 2011.

For the last eight years, Roulet has been director of the Department of Research and Development / Clinical at Ivoclar Vivadent, and currently serves as a senior expert in Professional Services at Ivoclar Vivadent.

Roulet is responsible for administration, faculty recruitment, mentoring and professional development, and fiscal management, as well as setting strategic direction for the department and its teaching, research and service endeavors. Roulet earned his D.D.S. from the University of Bern School of Dentistry in Switzerland in 1974 and immediately began his academic teaching career as a lecturer at the University of Bern. Since then he has taught at institutions in Switzerland, Australia, Germany, Italy and the United States. His most recent academic appointment was chair of the Department of Operative and Preventative Dentistry and Endodontics at Charité Berlin, the Medical Faculty of the Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany.

In addition to his work at the University of Michigan from 1980 to 1981, his U.S. experience includes spending 1989 to 1990 at our college as a visiting professor in the Department of Dental Biomaterials working with Dr. Ken Anusavice.

Roulet holds four patents, is a member of many professional organizations, has won numerous awards, mentored many students through dissertations, and is also actively engaged in research. His current research interests are minimal invasive dentistry, composites, ceramics, adhesive dentistry, esthetic dentistry, digital dentistry and application concepts in preventive dentistry.

Wheeler appointed senior associate dean, director of School for Advanced Dental Sciences



Timothy T. Wheeler, D.M.D., Ph.D.

Timothy T. Wheeler, D.M.D., Ph.D., was appointed senior associate dean and director of the School of Advanced Dental Sciences.

This new position was created to lead the new School of Advanced Dental Sciences. The chairs of endodontics, pediatric dentistry, periodontology, and the graduate program director in prosthodontics report to Wheeler as part of the new school's structure.

He will also continue to serve as chair of the Department of Orthodontics and is currently the college's Academy 100 Eminent Scholar.

"Tim took the reins in leading the creation and development of the School of Advanced Dental Sciences, which places our college at the forefront of educational change and positions us well to meet the emerging educational expectations of today's advanced and graduate education students. I am sincerely grateful for his ongoing dedication in the past, and his willingness to lead us as we move into the future of dental education," said Teresa A. Dolan, D.D.S., M.P.H., professor and dean of the college.

His new responsibilities include fiscal and administrative oversight and management of the school and departments in the school, oversight of the school's continuing education activities, and ensuring a culture of excellence, collegiality and collaboration among the departments and within the school. In addition he will be responsible for developing and implementing the school's strategic plan in a manner consistent with the strategic goals of the college, health center and university, and facilitating professional development opportunities for faculty in the school.

Mark Your Calendar

Spring Synergy Weekend
March 30 & 31, 2011

A weekend for alumni, students and faculty to convene for continuing dental education, research poster presentations and the ASDA Vendor Fair.

More info: www.dental.ufl.edu/Offices/CE

Florida National Dental Convention: "Step Up to the Future of Dentistry"

June 14-16, 2012
Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center, Orlando

You don't need a time machine to find out the future of dentistry—just attend the official meeting of the Florida Dental Association. More than 115 CE courses; exhibit hall with more than 275 companies; networking opportunities (especially with your fellow Gator Dentists).

More info: www.floridadental.org

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Gator Dentist Today

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Letter from

By John A. Batlle, III, D.M.D., Class of 1983
August 6–14, 2011

Planning for our mission trip to Ecuador started in July 2011, when Bill Martin, D.M.D., Class of 1977, invited me over for pizza and beer.

I met Dr. Martin's wife, Judy Banks, M.D., who is a local pediatrician, and his sons David and Paul, both of whom have applied to UF for dental school and also went to Ecuador with us. Eric Broe, Class of 2012, and my son, Jonathan Batlle, pre-dental at UF, joined us on the trip, which was sponsored by Rotary International of Suwannee Valley and Ambato, Ecuador.

On August 6, we caravanned to the Orlando airport. The next morning a junior UCF pre-dental student, Estefania Villar, joined us. Estefania is a native of Ecuador, and her translation skills and understanding of the local culture proved invaluable during our trip.

Our first stop was Panama City, Panama. I was surprised by the number of high-rise buildings dotting the skyline adjacent to where the Panama Canal empties its ship traffic into the Pacific. Our next stop was Quito, Ecuador, which has an elevation of nearly 10,000 feet.




It was almost a struggle to catch our breath after walking up the inclined jetway and most of us had a mild altitude headache for the first 24 hours.

At 8:00 each morning our team assembled in front of the Plaza Roka Hotel. Our group included two Ecuadorian dentists, Dr. Alex Medina and Dr. Josué Barzallo.

We spent three days in clinical operations. It took about 90 minutes to reach the sites—typically health clinics or schools. The roads were steep and narrow, often taking us above cloud level in the mountains. Once we arrived we quickly set up stations using desks and tables, treating patients until 5:30 p.m. and

envisioning the college's future



When we ask UFCD alumni about their experiences as students, one topic often comes up: the lack of windows in our building. But the windows, or lack thereof, are really a symbol of the aging infrastructure of the facility—it's 30 years old—and the problems go far beyond the fact that there's little natural light in which to study, teach, treat patients and conduct research.

But there's good news today. The college recently received funding from the university to launch a visioning and conceptual planning activity that addresses space planning and future facility needs. The process started in October 2011 and will continue over the course of five months. Faculty, students and staff will meet in small groups to provide input to architectural firm Kahler Slater about supporting new ways for students to learn, how patients experience the clinics, community space and other college needs.

The efforts will yield a plan to be used in development and fund-raising, to create a long-term strategy to meet the facilities needs of the college and to support a proposal for state funding for a building expansion.



then arriving back at the hotel as late as 8:00 p.m. We saw approximately 290 patients; two-thirds were children. The patients were of the indigenous Quechan people, direct descendents of the Incans. With poor oral hygiene, an abundance of candy in their diet, and little or no access to dental care, a high percentage displayed rampant decay.

We left with some unforgettable memories. Eric Broe saw two sisters; the younger one was in severe pain. Eric gave her a toy bracelet and calmed her down. The sisters left, but then surprised him by returning at the end of the day. The younger sister, with the older holding her hand, calmly opened wide and without a flinch allowed Eric to extract her deciduous second molar. Eric said he will never forget her broad "thank you" smile with gauze sticking out the side of her mouth.

David and Paul Martin's highlight was assisting their father with an appreciative eight year-old boy. The child was apprehensive, but never moved during the extraction of two deciduous molars. He smiled broadly at the end and gave a "muchas gracias!"

Twenty minutes later David and Paul looked over their shoulders and saw this boy looking in through the classroom window, surrounded by friends. Still smiling, he waved eagerly.

Dr. Judy Banks was, by far, the most

overqualified team member and happily helped in whichever station was short-handed.

My son, Jonathan, enjoyed learning to triage patients with toothaches and assisting me with challenging extractions.

We did have some time to explore and enjoy the area as tourists. One day we went mountain biking on Ecuador's snow-capped Chimborazo volcano, stopping near the bottom to drink from a pure mineral spring. We swam in the hot springs at Termas de Papallacta mountain. In our travels we learned not to buy meat empanadas and roasted corn with mayonnaise sauce from street vendors. Enough said.

Saturday was we celebrated Ecuador's Independence Day in downtown Quito. We



toured the Presidential Palace, museums and the stunning Iglesia de la Compañía de Jesús. Nearly the entire interior of this soaring, majestic cathedral is glittering gold leaf over the most ornate carvings.

Dinner that evening was at an open-air rooftop-seating restaurant with a commanding view of the city. The moon was full as we watched fireworks off in the distance and celebrated our last night in Ecuador.

Campaign Updates

AAF Annual Fund: \$150,000 goal for 2011–2012

The Academy of Alumni & Friends Annual Fund has set an ambitious goal of \$150,000 this fiscal year. To support programs that directly impact the lives of current D.M.D. students including scholarships, student support and tutoring, commencement, white coat ceremony, family day and more, please make a gift today to the AAF Annual Fund.

UF's "Florida Tomorrow" campaign

The University of Florida's Florida Tomorrow fundraising campaign is poised to surpass its goal of \$1.5 billion. With support from generous alumni and friends, the College of Dentistry contributed successfully to this campaign, already exceeding our \$15 million goal by 13 percent with a current total of nearly \$17 million in gifts and pledges to the college.

Included in this comprehensive campaign are all gifts to the college supporting faculty, students, programs, research, campus enhancement and renovations, and annual funds.

If you would like to discuss making a gift, please contact Thomas LaFleur, Senior Director of Development, at 352-273-5779, tlafleur@dental.ufl.edu.

Three ways to give

Secure online donations:
Visit www.dental.ufl.edu and click "Make a Gift"

By phone: 1-877-351-2377

By mail: use the enclosed envelope to make a gift by mail (please make checks payable to the UF Foundation with a note of "Fund #11179" in the memo line)

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Jan Westberry, D.M.D., Class of 1984

"It is truly great to be a Florida Gator, but it's much better to be a Florida Gator family!"

Jan Westberry, D.M.D., Class of 1984, is one of those people who embody an "I can do it all" spirit. She's a wife, mother, general dentist, mission trip volunteer for the U.S. Navy; she is a first responder volunteer for disasters, a class leader for the college, and treasurer for the Academy of Alumni and Friends (AAF). And that's probably just a sampling of her activities.

She and her husband, Richard S. Westberry, D.M.D., Class of 1982, are both loyal Gators. They have three children, all with UF connections:

Wendy is in her second year at the UF College of Dentistry; Kaitlin is an undergraduate student at UF with her eye on studying to be a veterinarian; Will is hoping to study dentistry.

In addition to serving as treasurer of the AAF, Westberry is class leader for the Iota Class of 1984. After graduation, she spent two years working as an associate and then opened a private practice in New Smyrna Beach, Fla., where she's been the sole dental practitioner for 25 years.

During summer 2011, Westberry, Wendy and Will volunteered for four weeks on the USNS Mercy, providing dental care in Southeast Asia.



"What a fantastic experience!" Westberry said. "I worked on the ship doing restorative dentistry and at remote sites doing extractions. As anyone knows who has done volunteer work in foreign countries or in their practices at home, it is very rewarding to give your services to those in need. This experience showed me and most importantly, my children, how rewarding giving can be. We are privileged to have knowledge and skill to help others, and we are blessed to be able to use what we have to help the underserved."

Most satisfying for Westberry was helping people who would not otherwise have access to dental services. The ship was deployed for five months, and during that time they saw 109,000 medical and dental patients, completed 1,505 onboard dental procedures, 859 surgical procedures, provided 60,000 pairs of eyeglasses and sunglasses, 2,800 veterinarian procedures and over \$1 million in repair of hospital medical equipment.

Westberry said, "To be part of this exceptional mission was a once in a lifetime experience."



Teachers of the Year

Each year the sophomore, junior and senior students vote to select a basic sciences and a clinical sciences Teacher of the Year, in recognition of their excellence, innovation and effectiveness in teaching of the dental sciences. This year they chose Indraneel Bhattacharyya, D.M.D., M.S., and Ulrich Foerster, D.D.S.

"Teachers have a profound impact on their students, and great teachers even more so. I believe that there is no higher honor than having students single you out as one of the best and these two faculty members are highly deserving of this honor," said Robert Primosch, D.D.S., M.S., M.Ed., former associate dean for education.

Foerster, a clinical associate professor in oral and maxillofacial surgery, was selected as 2010-11 Clinical Sciences Teacher of the Year. Jenna Godwin, D.M.D., described Foerster as an unwavering advocate, coach and friend to the Class of 2011, "He truly understands his students, pushes them to strive for excellence and has a genuine conviction for the profession."

Bhattacharyya, an associate professor in oral and maxillofacial diagnostic sciences, was voted the 2010-11 Basic Sciences Teacher of the Year and also received this honor for the 2004-05 year. Alex Fetner, D.M.D., praised Bhattacharyya's colorful and entertaining lectures about diagnosing oral pathologies that brought the subject alive for the students, "He is an amazing teacher and person."



Ulrich Foerster, D.D.S.



Indraneel Bhattacharyya, D.M.D., M.S.

Gator Bytes

Faculty Awards, Honors, Appointments & Promotions

■ **Maria Lucia Aguilar**, D.D.S., M.S.D., M.S.-C.I., professor in the Department of Restorative Dental Sciences, received a research supplement award of \$258,037 from the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research.

■ **Indraneel Bhattacharyya**, D.M.D., M.S., associate professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Diagnostic Sciences, was recently appointed Coordinator of International Education Programs for the University of Florida College of Dentistry.

■ **Lorena Baccaglini**, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D., C.C.R.P., assistant professor in the Department of Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science, received Certified Clinical Research Professional designation by successfully completing the national clinical research certification examination on January 29, 2011.

■ **Jeannine Brady**, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Oral Biology, was one of 33 UF faculty members named as UF Research Foundation Professors for 2011–2014 for her distinguished current record of research and a strong research agenda that will likely lead to continuing distinction in her field.

■ **Robert Burne**, Ph.D., was named a distinguished professor effective July 1, 2011. He serves as the college's associate dean for research and is chair of the Department of Oral Biology. Burne earned his bachelor's degree in 1981 from Pennsylvania State University in State College, Pa., and his doctorate in 1987 from the University of Rochester in Rochester, N.Y.

■ **Teresa A. Dolan**, D.D.S., M.P.H., professor and dean of the University of Florida College of Dentistry, was appointed to serve a four-year term on the National Advisory Dental and Craniofacial Research Council of the National Institutes of Health beginning December 2011. The council advises, assists, consults with and makes recommendations to the secretary of Health and Human Services and the director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) on regarding activities and policies of the NIDCR.

■ **Katherine Karpinia**, D.M.D., M.S., associate professor in the Department of Periodontics, was recently appointed to serve a three-year term as a member of the University of Florida's Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the Gainesville Health Science Center beginning August 2011.

■ **Madhu Nair**, D.D.S., Ph.D., M.S., was promoted to full professor effective July 1, 2011. He joined the university in 2005 and is chair of the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Diagnostic Sciences. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology. He earned his master's from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill in 1997, his D.M.D. from the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania in 2000, and his Ph.D. from Goteborg University in Sweden in 2003.

■ **Marc Ottenga**, D.D.S., clinical associate professor, has been appointed to serve as the interim director of the Division of Operative Dentistry, effective July 1, 2011. His responsibilities include providing leadership to the division faculty and staff during the transition of phasing in the new Department of Restorative Dental Sciences, continuing his active, insightful participation in the department planning process, overseeing all aspects of the D.M.D. curriculum in operative dentistry, and facilitating professional development for division faculty.

■ **Joseph Riley**, Ph.D., M.S., was promoted to full professor effective July 1, 2011. He came to the university in 1998 where he works in the Department of Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science. He earned his master's in psychology in 1994 and his Ph.D. in clinical and health psychology in 1996, both from UF. His research interests focus on the study of behavioral, emotional and cognitive responses to pain.

■ **Pamela Sandow**, D.M.D., clinical professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Diagnostic Sciences, has been appointed assistant dean of admissions and financial aid effective April 1. She will also continue to serve as the director of the Oral Medicine Clinic where she provides care for head and neck cancer patients.

■ **Luciana Shaddox**, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Periodontology, was selected for a University of Florida Excellence Award for Assistant Professors. Shaddox was one of only 12 selected for the award, given by the Provost's Office. The award focuses on junior faculty and recognizes their potential for excellence in research.

■ **Venita Sposetti**, D.M.D., associate professor in the Department of Restorative Dental Sciences, has been appointed associate dean for education effective April 1, 2011. Since July 2001, Sposetti has served as the assistant dean for admissions and financial aid. In that role she managed dental admissions and financial aid and lead efforts to implement holistic admissions practices in the D.M.D. program, and effectively managing the program during a decade of dramatic growth in application numbers.

■ **Scott Tomar**, D.M.D., Ph.D., received the 2011 H. Trendley Dean Memorial Award during the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) annual meeting in San Diego, Ca., in March 2011. One of the highest honors bestowed by the IADR, the award recognizes distinguished accomplishments in research and development in the fields of behavioral science, epidemiology, and public health, and is supported by the Colgate-Palmolive Company.

■ **Clay Walker**, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Oral Biology, has been appointed associate dean for faculty affairs, effective March 1, 2011. His new responsibilities include providing advice and guidance to the dean, department chairs, center directors and individual faculty on matters affecting our faculty with an emphasis on the effective mentoring of junior faculty. He was also accepted into the 2011–2012 University of Florida Advanced Leadership for Academics and Professionals Program (ALAP). This year-long program is designed to support ongoing development for faculty and professionals in leadership positions at the university.

■ **Fong Wong**, B.S.D., D.D.S., C.A.G.S., M.S.D., was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor in the Department of Restorative Dental Sciences. She earned her D.D.S. at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, her certification in advanced graduate study in prosthodontics and her master of science in dentistry from Boston University's Goldman School of Dental Medicine, and her fellowship in maxillofacial prosthetics from the University of Chicago Hospitals.

■ **Özlem Yilmaz**, D.D.S., Ph.D., has been selected as a 2011–2012 fellow for the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM), a program of Drexel University College of Medicine. Yilmaz, an associate professor in periodontology and oral biology, is one of 54 women faculty, from across the United States, selected for the competitive program that prepares senior women faculty for leadership positions at academic health centers.