As a national leader in advanced and graduate dental education, the University of Florida College of Dentistry officially launched the School of Advanced Dental Sciences on July 1, 2011. Included in the new school are the departments of Endodontics, Orthodontics, Pediatric Dentistry, Periodontology, and the Prosthodontic Graduate Program, and the college’s Continuing Education Program.

During the last ten years, the number of dental students who continue in advanced education programs has grown: nationally, 60 percent of all dental students enter an advanced education program. The UF College of Dentistry currently enrolls 122 advanced education students; 66 of those are in programs that will be part of the new school.

The school will facilitate the integration of these advanced education programs, ultimately improving the education that residents receive and better preparing them for the future, while improving the patient experience involved in interdisciplinary care. The school also allows for better utilization of existing business personnel and other resources.

Timothy Wheeler, D.M.D., Ph.D., has been appointed senior associate dean and director of the school, and is also the chair of the Department of Orthodontics. He spearheaded our effort for developing the school and has a long history of advanced educational background and experience.

The School of Advanced Dental Sciences places our college at the forefront of educational change and positions us well to meet the emerging educational expectations of today’s dental students.

A New Home for the Perio & Pros Graduate Programs

For many years, Clinic 1A has been the clinical home to D.M.D. students and their patients. Starting in September 2011, a comprehensive renovation begins to transform that clinic into integrated clinical space for students in the Periodontology and Prosthodontic graduate programs. The renovation will take about nine months to complete, after which this innovative practice will facilitate a more patient-centered approach to combined diagnostic, surgical and restorative care for our patients.

At a cost of $583,000, the renovation will require significant investment. The department is hoping to engage several of our corporate partners as well as alumni and friends to support the project. Some alumni and friends have already made significant gifts to this effort—our thanks to all. Please consider making a gift to the Periodontology Renovation Fund. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated by today’s residents and the patients they treat. To make your gift today, please visit the college website at www.dental.ufl.edu and click “Make a Gift Online” at the left side of the page. Choose “Periodontology Renovation Fund #011339.” Thank you for your support.

For more information about making a gift to the college or to learn about other ways to give, please contact Thomas LaFleur, Senior Director of Development, at 352-273-5779 or tlafluer@dental.ufl.edu.
From the Department Chair

I am delighted to write to you, and to all of our alumni and friends, to report on the recent activities of the department. As in the years past, this has been a very busy year and I am grateful to all the members of our department for making this a very successful one. I want to thank you as well for your continued support.

The academic year 2010–2011 was full of achievements for us. Under Dr. Rodrigo Neiva’s leadership, the Graduate Program in Periodontology is flourishing and the new residents from the class of 2014 started July 1. Our faculty have excelled this year in academic leadership and scholarly work. In the area of service, we are well represented in important committees within the College of Dentistry, and our faculty members have been invited speakers at several national and international programs.

We are pleased to be a part of the newly formed School of Advanced Dental Sciences, and will work hard to obtain the remaining funds necessary for the Grad Perio Clinic renovation.

I would like to thank all the faculty and staff members of our department for a very successful year. I also thank the alumni for your continued support and encouragement. Many of you come on a regular basis to interact with and teach our residents. We are much obliged for your generosity and look forward to working with you in the future. Together we can make the Department of Periodontology at the University of Florida College of Dentistry the most successful one in the nation.

With best wishes,
Ikramuddin Aukhil
Professor & Chairman
Department of Periodontology

School of Advanced Dental Sciences: What it Means for Grad Perio

We are proud to be part of this exciting new program!

The Graduate Program in Periodontology will now offer more interactive training with orthodontics, endodontics, pediatric dentistry and prosthodontics residents.

New core courses have been designed that will provide better didactic and clinical interactions.

The much-awaited renovation of the Graduate Periodontology Clinic is scheduled to start in Fall 2011 and the new clinic will reflect our theme of interactive clinical training by combining our clinic with the Graduate Program in Prosthodontics.

TRANSITIONS IN GRADUATE PERIODONTOLOGY

2011 Graduates
Dr. Ruben Mesia
Dr. Michael Tesmer

2011 New Residents
Dr. Richard Rasmussen (Nova)
Dr. Mary Rauth (UFCD)
Dr. Leah Strange (UFCD)
FACULTY HONORS, AWARDS & APPOINTMENTS

• Peter Harrison, D.D.S., B.D.S., is the new Director of the Pre-Doctoral Program in Periodontology. Dr. Harrison was recently awarded the AAP Foundation Scholarship. He has played a large role in the favorable rating of the Department of Periodontology by D.M.D. students, as well as the 100% success rate in the Periodontology section of the state boards for our D.M.D. graduates.

• Ms. Lorie Primosch, chosen as the Clinical Teacher of the Year by D.M.D. students in the year 2009-2010, continues to dedicate her time to high-quality clinical instruction.

• Dr. Luciana Shaddox won the prestigious AAP Teaching Fellowship Award this year as well as the Excellence Award for Assistant Professors at the University of Florida.

• Dr. Özlem Yilmaz was selected as an upcoming Fellow of Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine, the only national program dedicated to preparing women faculty for senior positions of academic leadership.

• Our most recent faculty recruit, Dr. Kevin McHugh, will be joining us on August 15. Dr. McHugh is a bone biologist coming to us from Harvard University. He is funded by the Department of Defense.

Please keep in touch

The college is working to improve outreach efforts to program alumni and friends. In the interest of saving trees and money, we are shifting as much as possible to email and other electronic forms of communication.

If you would like to update your contact information, please email us at alumniandfriends@dental.ufl.edu. And for more about news and events at the college, please visit our website at www.dental.ufl.edu.

FACULTY RESEARCH & CONTINUING EDUCATION

We have been successful in obtaining research funding despite slow economic times. The department’s current levels of research and scholarly activity are the highest among the clinical departments of the college.

Members of our department serve as reviewers or editorial board members of seven international journals. In addition, members of our department serve on Study Sections at NIH and the American Diabetes Association.

• Dr. Katherine Karpinia is a co-investigator on a four year, large multi-center clinical trial from the NIH.

• Dr. Özlem Yilmaz remains funded from the NIH with a new R21 grant to add to her existing RO1 grant examining molecular aspects of microbial infection.

• Dr. Shannon Wallet was awarded one of the four Career Development Awards (Five year award) from the American Diabetes Association nationally. She studies Osteoclast function in diabetes.

• Dr. Kesavalu Lakshmyya was awarded a new five-year RO1 grant from NIH to study periodontal pathogens and cardiovascular disease. In addition he is funded to study the association between periodontal disease and rheumatoid arthritis.

• Dr. Luciana Shaddox is in her third year of the large clinical study on aggressive periodontal diseases also funded by the NIH. In addition she has received notice of approval on another large study on effects of periodontal treatment on metabolic control in diabetics.

• Dr. Theo Koutouzis is funded by contracts from Astra Tech and Friadent (GMBH) to support his clinical studies in implantology.

• Drs. Neiva, Koutouzis and Aukhil completed an extensive Continuing Education Program for dentists from overseas on the biology and clinical aspects of implant osseointegration.