

gator dentist^{TODAY}

A Publication of the University of Florida College of Dentistry Fall 2007



A PLACE TO CALL
HOME
Deamonte Driver

UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA

THE GATOR NATION IS EVERYWHERE. VIRTUALLY.

From every corner of the globe to every corner of the web you will find us,

Gators sharing a unique bond that defines us for the rest of our lives.

GoGatorNation.com was designed to connect members of The Gator Nation

and allows us to follow each other's accomplishments and share stories.

We encourage you to visit frequently, contribute your own material and make a difference

by actively participating in this inspiring global community.

Visit GoGatorNation.com and share your own personal stories.



UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA
The Foundation for The Gator Nation

www.ufl.edu

Gator Dentist Today

FALL 2007

Published annually for
the alumni, faculty, staff,
students and friends of
the University of Florida
College of Dentistry

Dean

Teresa A. Dolan, D.D.S., M.P.H.

Editor

Communications Director
Lindy McCollum-Brounley

2007 - 2008 Editorial Board

Barry Setzer, The Academy
of Alumni and Friends

Teresa A. Dolan, Dean

Tom Fortner, Health Science Center
News and Communications

Kathy Galloway, Research

Jay Garlitz, Alumnus

Sue Guido, Alumni Affairs

James Haddix, Faculty

Cathy Jenkins, Development

Bill Martin, Alumnus

Will Martin, Faculty

Melanie Ross, Health Science Center
News and Communications

Ted Spiker, UF College of
Journalism and Communications

J.R. Taylor, Alumnus

Photography

Sam Brill

Lindy Brounley

Anney Doucette

Sarah Kiewel

Linda Kubitz

Design

JS Design Studio

Printing

Storter Childs Printing

For additional copies, contact:

UF College of Dentistry

Communications Office

P. O. Box 100405

Gainesville, FL 32610-0405

(352) 273-5782

FAX: (352) 392-3070

www.dental.ufl.edu

(352) 273-5800

UF College of Dentistry
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

FROM THE DEAN



The death of Deamonte Driver, a 12-year-old Maryland boy who contracted a fatal brain infection from a dental abscess, is a dramatic example of the plight of millions of American children who never receive regular, preventive dental care. Despite public programs in place to provide for them, children like Deamonte are seen every week in hospital emergency rooms across the state.

With Deamonte's tragic death as our cover story (see page 6), this issue of Gator Dentist Today is dedicated to examining barriers to accessing dental care for Florida's vulnerable populations. The

lead stories also highlight some of the people within our state's dental community who have made personal and professional commitments to be a part of the solution to the access to care problem.

UFCD also seeks to be part of the solution through the education of future dentists whose dental educations include rotations through Statewide Network for Community Oral Health dental safety net clinics here at the college and in partner clinics statewide. These clinical experiences underscore our students' understanding that it takes everyone's effort to make a difference in opening access to dental services.

Groundbreaking for the college's newest addition to the Statewide Network for Community Oral Health, the UF Naples Children's Dental Clinic (see page 11), takes place Oct. 30. Construction and programming of the clinic is supported through a unique public-private partnership between the University of Florida College of Dentistry, the Naples Children and Education Foundation, Collier Health Services Inc., and Edison College. The Naples Children and Education Foundation's gift to UFCD of \$5.65 million, which received a state match of \$4 million through the Alec P. Courtelis Facilities Enhancement Challenge Grant, is a great start to the college's effort in the University of Florida Capital Campaign, which kicked-off Sept. 28. The \$8-million clinic will serve the dental needs of at-risk Collier County children during 15,000 patient visits each year, and we are very proud to be a part of this innovative solution working in collaboration with our community partners.

The launch of the University of Florida Capital Campaign couldn't be more timely, given the fact that the college is experiencing the greatest demand for dental education in its history during a time of shrinking state support for higher and professional education. We need the support of alumni and friends more than ever as we strive to build our faculty endowment and address the needs of our aging facility in terms of renovation and new space.

The applicant pool seeking a dental education is enormously talented, and they deserve the best dental education we can provide.

Best Regards,

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

features

6 A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Deamonte Driver died for lack of a dental home.

14 PEELING THE ONION

Stripping away the layers impacting access to care for special needs patients.

18 PROFILE

Operative icon, Marc Gale retires.

21 BUILDING BRIDGES

From bench to chairside, translational research spans the gap.

departments

4 In Brief

13 Education

24 Students

29 Faculty

30 Alumni

continuing dental education

See back cover for course list.



LINDA DAVIDSON/THE WASHINGTON POST

ON THE COVER

Deamonte Driver, the Maryland 12-year-old who died this year of an infection caused by an abscessed tooth, desperately needed a dental home. Read his story on page 6.



Hialeah Dental Clinic Turns

10

Opened in 1997 to serve the large Hispanic population in south Florida, the UF College of Dentistry Hialeah Dental Clinic celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. In

the past decade, the clinic has conferred nearly 150 dental certificates from the Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) and Internationally-Educated Dentist (IEDP) programs. Besides training programs, the clinic also provides dental care to low and moderate-income residents in Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe counties with the support of more than 60 volunteer dentists.

The vision of the Hialeah Clinic became a reality due to the collaboration among Hialeah Hospital, the City of Hialeah, state legislators, University of Florida, and leaders within the south Florida dental community. With this team in place and the educational mission established, funding was approved to extensively renovate and equip donated facilities that would become a modern 20-operator clinic. The clinic has become a model for quality dental education with laboratory facilities and central sterilization. Always on the technological edge, the clinic was recently equipped with digital radiography and a videoconferencing capability to facilitate in house seminars and distance learning.

Today the Hialeah Dental Clinic sees approximately 250 patients weekly, and more than 85 percent of them speak Spanish as their primary language. That's why the IEDP and AEGD programs are especially important—each year eight internationally-trained dentists and four dental residents receive training at the clinic, and many of them are from Caribbean and Latin American countries. They later apply for board licensure to practice in Florida, broadening access to dental care for the state's growing and culturally diverse population.

For more information, visit www.dental.ufl.edu/Hialeah.

Dental Diversity

UF one of top producers of Hispanic Dentists

The University of Florida College of Dentistry has been ranked the No. 3 producer of Hispanic dentistry first professionals out of 56 dental institutions in the nation by *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* magazine.

The college was ranked No. 15 for overall minority dental graduates, No. 12 for African-American dental graduates and No. 23 for Asian-American dental first professionals.

The *Diverse* rankings use U.S. Department of Education data for the 2005-06 academic year to rank the top 100 minority graduate degree-producing American institutions in the categories of master's, doctoral and first professional degrees awarded. Groups designated as minority include African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans but do not include foreign minority students.



UF was ranked No. 9 for total minority doctorate degrees conferred in the health sciences and tied for No. 26 for Hispanic medicine first professionals.

For more information on UF's minority graduate and doctoral degree rankings, visit www.diverseeducation.com. ♦



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF DENTISTS

Members of the American College of Dentists visited UFCD March 30 to meet with junior dental students to discuss ethical situations they may come across during their future in dental careers. The annual event includes lectures and break-out sessions, in which the dental juniors enjoy in-depth group discussions with their peers and ACD discussion leaders.

KAPLAN SCHOLAR



Thomas D. Taylor, D.D.S., M.S.D., professor and head of the department of oral rehabilitation, biomaterials and skeletal development of the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine was the college's 2007 Kaplan Scholar. Taylor lectured to senior D.M.D. students and prosthodontic residents during his January visit to UFCD, hosted by the department of prosthodontics.



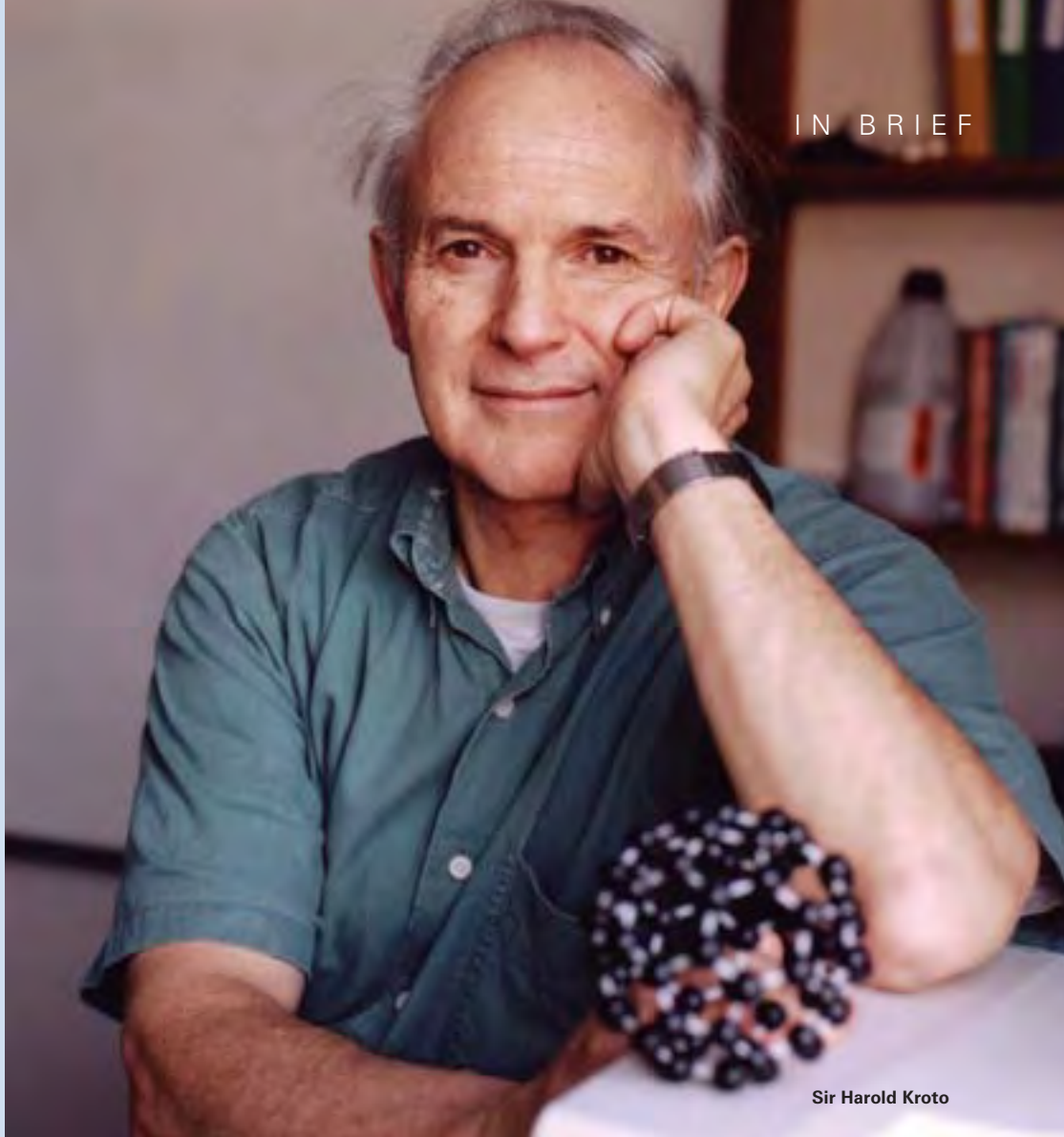
The Campaign for the University of Florida

What is Florida Tomorrow? Florida Tomorrow is about all the ways the University of Florida is changing the world for the better, starting in Florida and extending throughout the United States and far beyond. Florida Tomorrow is a belief that our land grant mission gives us the responsibility to use teaching, research, and service to solve the greatest challenges of our time and to inspire and nurture the next generation of great leaders. In the health professions. In the arts. In education. In business. In government.

Florida Tomorrow is a comprehensive campaign that will raise more than a billion dollars to impact every corner of the university and extend to every corner of the earth. It is an opportunity to invest in dreams—dreams that, because of the University of Florida, truly have the possibility of becoming realities.

At UFCD our dream is to be the benchmark against which other dental schools compare themselves. Our capital campaign goal is \$15 million, which will build our faculty endowment, build new space, and build our future.

For more information about Florida Tomorrow, visit www.floridatommorrow.ufl.edu.



Sir Harold Kroto

Buckyball

Expect BIG changes from small science

Nanotubes, nanotransporters, nanochips, nanoparticles, nano this, nano that....

With nanometers at one billionth of a meter, nanotechnology is what some have labeled the science of small. But, to many, the probability of nanotechnology producing itty-bitty nanobots that help heal the body from the inside out seems even smaller. Have you heard the one about teeny-weeny nanogenerators that produce electricity from vibrations made by the flow of blood through vessels? How about the big-fish story of an inexpensive and efficient plastic solar sheet made of nanofibers to capture the energy of the sun on virtually any surface?

It's no tall tale... these developing nanotechnologies are already here, and hundreds more are soon coming. Now, it's up to the scientists and engineers to put nanotechnology

to work to improve the human condition across the globe and to create a sustainable society.

That was the message of Sir Harold Kroto, Nobel laureate, fellow of the Royal Society, professor of chemistry and biochemistry at Florida State University, and co-discoverer of the carbon molecule that established the foundation for modern nanoscience — C₆₀ Buckminsterfullerene, otherwise known as the "Buckyball."

Kroto's was the keynote address of the College of Dentistry's 5th Annual Research Day held April 13. Delivered to a standing-room-only audience in the Cancer and Genetics Research Compound, Kroto's presentation is available online for viewing on dentistry's Web site, located at www.dental.ufl.edu. ♦

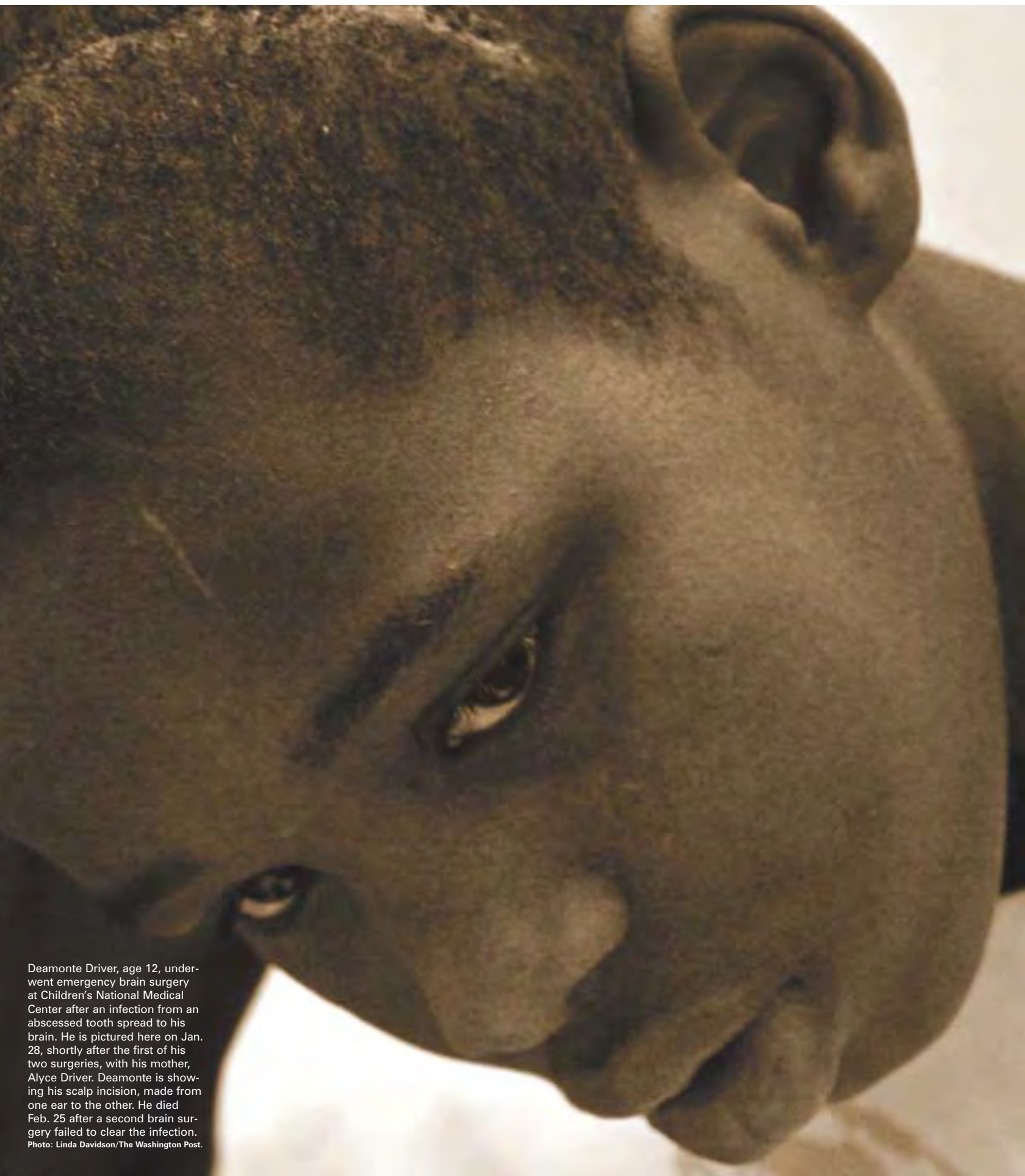
(PHOTO COURTESY OF HAROLD KROTO)



A Place to Call Home

EXPANDING ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE FOR
CHILDREN AND SPECIAL NEEDS PATIENTS

BY LINDY MCCOLLUM-BROUNLEY



Deamonte Driver, age 12, underwent emergency brain surgery at Children's National Medical Center after an infection from an abscessed tooth spread to his brain. He is pictured here on Jan. 28, shortly after the first of his two surgeries, with his mother, Alyce Driver. Deamonte is showing his scalp incision, made from one ear to the other. He died Feb. 25 after a second brain surgery failed to clear the infection. Photo: Linda Davidson/The Washington Post.

DEAMONTE DRIVER, THE 12-YEAR-OLD MARYLAND BOY WHO DIED IN FEBRUARY FROM A BACTERIAL BRAIN INFECTION THAT SPREAD FROM AN ABSCESSSED TOOTH, IS A TRAGIC EXAMPLE OF A CHILD WHO NEEDED A PLACE TO CALL HOME.

Deamonte's family was poor and living in a homeless shelter. He and his four brothers, though enrolled in the state's Medicaid program, never had primary dental care providers and suffered from untreated dental disease. In trying to access dental care for her children, Deamonte's single mother, Alyce, became hopelessly mired in the confusing bureaucracy of the Maryland Medicaid HealthChoice managed health program. Dental providers participating in the program were sparse, and the wait times for appointments, even for urgent care, were measured in months rather than days or weeks.

"The Driver boys all had a primary care doctor — a medical home — a pediatrician who treated their childhood illnesses, gave them their immunizations, made sure they were healthy to play sports," said Laurie J. Norris, an attorney for Maryland-based The Public Justice Center, during her testimony before the Congressional Domestic Policy Subcommittee, Oversight and Government Reform Committee's May 2 hearing on Deamonte's death.

"But the Driver boys never had a regular primary care dentist — a dental home," she said. "An identified provider who could assess their risk for developing dental disease by age 1, check their mouths and new teeth every six months during toddlerhood, provide education to their parents about preventing dental disease, instruct the boys in how to properly brush and floss, recommend fluoride treatments and dental sealants as they grew older, clean their teeth every six months, and watch for developing cavities that could be nipped in the bud, preventing severe disease, pain, tooth loss, and in Deamonte's case, death."

Ironically, it was Deamonte's younger brother, DaShawn, who seemed to be in the gravest need of dental care. His face was swollen with six abscessed teeth, and he was suffering from terrible pain. Deamonte never complained of dental pain but began having excruciating headaches, which were first diagnosed as sinusitis, then as a brain infection in mid-January. Deamonte died Feb. 25 after six weeks of hospitalization, two brain surgeries and one tooth extraction.

Following Deamonte's death, the first of DaShawn's abscessed teeth was extracted in March by an oral surgeon participating in

Maryland's Medicaid managed care program. But no antibiotics were prescribed, and the attending oral surgeon recommended pulling one tooth per month over the course of five months. A panicked Alyce transferred DaShawn's care to the pediatric dental clinic at the University of Maryland, Baltimore College of Dental Surgery where the remaining five abscessed teeth were extracted at once.

A NATIONAL SHAME

Although Deamonte's death was an extreme outcome of preventable dental disease, his family's story of dental neglect, disease, pain and seemingly insurmountable barriers to accessing dental care can be repeated for the families of millions of American children and special needs patients.

Despite provision of dental care through Medicaid, access to dental care for needy children remains dismal. Of the 28.8 million Medicaid-eligible children nationwide, only about 30 percent have ever received any dental care. The surgeon general's 2000 report, *Oral Health in America*, estimated that 25 percent of the nation's most vulnerable children carried 80 percent of the burden of untreated dental disease, and that poor children were twice as likely as their more affluent counterparts to suffer from untreated dental disease.

This trend is confirmed as continuing by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announcement in April that, despite across the board improvements in America's oral health, tooth decay in children aged 2 to 5 years old increased by 15 percent during the period between 1999 and 2004. The CDC's report, *Trends in Oral Health Status—United States, 1988-1994 and 1999-2004*, also stated that dental disease is untreated in 74 percent of the children experiencing it.

Clearly, society is failing these kids, despite federal and state programs in place to provide for them. The question is, why?

FLORIDA MEDICAID DENTAL SERVICES

Medicaid was born of Title XIX of the Social Security Act of 1965. Through Medicaid, the federal government subsidizes state medical health for certain vulnerable, low-income populations



PHOTO BY LINDA KUBITZ

“25 percent of the nation’s most vulnerable children carry 80 percent of the burden of untreated dental disease.”

SURGEON GENERAL’S 2000 REPORT, *ORAL HEALTH IN AMERICA*.

through matching funds but allows states broad discretion in establishing eligibility qualifications and service coverage.

Nonetheless, in order to receive federal matching funds, state Medicaid programs must meet certain federally mandated service requirements. This includes dental care for children, aged 0 to 20, through the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) program, which provides for preventive health services equal to the access to care received by privately insured children. The State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), established under Title XXI of the Social Security Act in 1997, gives states funding with the option of broadening health care coverage, including dentistry, for uninsured, Medicaid-ineligible children from low-income families, although it does not specifically mandate dental services as a required benefit. Disabled adults also receive full dental services through Medicaid. For non-disabled adults, Medicaid covers only emergency services related to extraction of abscessed teeth, and, for a qualifying few, dentures and denture-related services.

According to state figures, Florida’s 2004 Medicaid expenditures provided health coverage for nearly 1.5 million low-income and foster children in the state. Only about 25 percent of these children ever received dental care, and of the state’s \$12.8 billion Medicaid budget, less than 1 percent of expenditures on services went to dental care of any kind for children and adults combined. These figures almost exactly mirror national averages of Medicaid expenditures on dental care, wherein dental services represent only 1 percent of the \$258 billion national Medicaid budget.

Why is it that such a tiny fraction of Medicaid is spent on dental services when dental disease in poor children is so widespread? Presumably, children have the opportunity to receive dental care through Medicaid, and Medicaid would fund the services if they were provided. Yet, in 2005, of Florida’s nearly 9,500 practicing dentists, less than 1 percent were active as Medicaid providers. That same year, 42 percent of the state’s 4,761,499 children were enrolled in Medicaid or HealthyKids (SCHIP) and eligible to receive dental treatment, but the ratio of covered children to Medicaid dental providers was a staggering 2,213 children for every enrolled provider dentist.

Regardless of the reasons at the core of these disparities, Florida is among a growing number of states forced to defend its Medicaid program in federal court. In a class action suit brought against the state’s Medicaid administering agencies — the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, the Florida Department of Children and Family Services, and the Florida Department of Health — on behalf of the state’s 1.6 million Medicaid-eligible children, claims are made that the allowable reimbursements do not cover costs of delivering medical and dental care and the reporting requirements to receive payment are burdensome. The plaintiffs in the suit, which was filed in November of 2005 in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida in Miami, include the Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Florida Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, and the families of six children enrolled in Medicaid who experienced significant hardship when attempting to obtain access to care through the program.

“Deamonte’s tragic and unnecessary death due to inability to receive proper care should be viewed as morally unacceptable in this country,” said Florida Academy of Pediatric Dentistry President Peter B. Claussen, D.D.S., a Panama City, Fla. pediatric dentist. “It is unconscionable to have children wasting away in one of the wealthiest nations in the world due to inadequate funding of health care programs such as Medicaid.”

Claussen said the Florida Academy of Pediatric Dentistry has repeatedly requested the Florida Legislature to adequately fund Medicaid and other health access programs for Florida’s children. But funding has actually decreased over the years due to legislative inaction, inflation, and the increase in the state’s Medicaid-eligible population.

“The Florida Academy of Pediatric Dentists felt obligated on behalf of Florida’s children to seek judicial relief through the federal courts,” Claussen said. “We believe that the courts will follow what has been the ruling in other states and mandate adequate Medicaid funding in Florida, and we look forward to the day when every child in Florida can have adequate access to dental care, notwithstanding their economic situation.”



PHOTO BY LINDA KUBITZ

“Does my practice work hard enough in providing a dental home for vulnerable children?”

The class action suit alleges that the state has not been effective in complying with federal law in regards to its obligations to provide eligible children with “primary, preventive, acute and specialty care and services which are necessary to their good health and development” as required by the Title XIX Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Services program.

“The Florida Dental Association has committed \$100,000 over a three-year period in support of this lawsuit,” said Florida Dental Association President Nolan W. Allen, D.D.S., a general dentist practicing in Clearwater, Fla. “We’re trying to get an increase in reimbursements to increase the number of providers willing to participate. Right now, the state ranks 49th in reimbursement rate, and we’re at the 25th percentile of the usual and customary rate.”

Allen notes the FDA has lobbied for years for significant increases in the reimbursement rate and says the state’s managed dental care program is further exacerbating the access to care problem for children receiving dental services through Medicaid.

“We’re going backwards at this point with the state’s managed dental care program. Fewer children are being screened and fewer children are being treated within the program,” Allen said. “That’s why the FDA is supporting this lawsuit, because it’s the right thing to do for our kids.”

The suit, which is now being heard after the state’s failed dismissal attempt earlier in the year, seeks a judgment forcing the state to provide reimbursement for services adequate to assure providers will participate in the program; to “bring” health care services to the children through education, cooperative partnerships with other agencies serving children to boost enrollment; and in providing scheduling, transportation and case management assistance to assure families are able to make and keep health appointments for their children. Finally, the suit petitions the court to require the state Medicaid program to assure that any health maintenance organizations that participate in Florida’s medical assistance program — like Atlantic Dental Inc., the state’s prepaid managed dental care plan pilot project in South Florida — have the ability to effectively deliver health care to all the children enrolled to receive it.

“As a pediatrician and secretary of the Agency for Health Care Administration, it is clear to me that ensuring access to dental care for

Florida’s children must continue to be a priority for the agency,” said Andrew C. Agwunobi, M.D., secretary for the Agency for Health Care Administration, the agency responsible for administering Medicaid and a co-defendant named in the suit.

The agency acknowledges access to dental care and other specialty areas is problematic for children nationwide and in the state, especially those living in rural areas, but points to recent agency efforts to address the issue here in Florida.

“The agency has already implemented pilot strategies to attempt to improve access to dental care and has placed improving access to specialty care, including dental care, as one of our top priorities for the next few years,” Agwunobi said. “However, we cannot solve this issue single-handedly. Achieving this goal requires collaboration. The providers, the state and all other stakeholders, including beneficiaries themselves, must work together to improve access to specialty care.”

ARE WE DOING ENOUGH?

Many dentists provide pro bono services to needy patients, and private practitioners are credited by the state for providing 58 percent of all dental care to Florida residents at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. Additionally, according to state figures, more than 1,400 dentists participating in Project Dentists Care, Inc. extended 19,000 volunteer hours to provide dental care to low-income Florida residents. Organized dentistry estimates this to be more than \$4 million in reduced fee and pro bono care.

While the profession has made strides in increasing volunteerism, an economic solution to balance the operating expenses of a typical practice with continuity of care for needy patients is still the ideal rather than a practical model. The need for low cost dental care far outstrips the availability offered by the profession and the questions remain, “Does my practice work hard enough in providing a dental home for vulnerable children like Deamonte Driver? Or, does the business plan of my practice turn a blind eye to their needs?”

Each dentist holds the answers to those difficult questions in his or her own heart. ♦



Opening Doors to Dental Care

UF children's dental clinic to serve at risk children in Collier County

Thousands of disadvantaged children will soon benefit from a \$5.5 million gift to the University of Florida College of Dentistry that will fund the construction and operation of a state-of-the-art pediatric dental facility in Collier County.

The gift was announced last December by trustees for the Naples Children & Education Foundation, the founder of the hugely successful Naples Winter Wine Festival. The exclusive event, featuring international celebrity chefs and prestigious vintners, has raised nearly \$40 million for local children's charities since its inception in 2000 and is billed as the "most successful charity wine event in the world."

The foundation's gift is the result of a needs assessment by the UF Lastinger Center for Learning, commissioned by the foundation in 2005. As a result of the findings, the foundation, whose vision is to make a profound and sustaining difference in the quality of life of Collier County children, devised four strategic initiatives – Early Learning, Medical/Oral Health, Out of School Programs and Social Welfare – aimed at filling gaps identified in services for underprivileged and at-risk children.

According to the Lastinger study, more than 25,000 Collier County children are eligible for dental care through Medicaid, but less than 14 percent actually receive any care.

"One of the study's most alarming findings is that there is an oral health crisis among Collier County children," said Bruce Sherman, NCEF Grant Committee chair. "We know from the Surgeon General's report that children with painful dental problems are less successful in school and later in life.

Above: The UF Naples Pediatric Dental Clinic will be located on the Collier County campus of Edison College, serving the largely disadvantaged and minority population of East Naples.

Bringing a top-notch pediatric dental program to Collier County will help close the gaps in oral health, with Edison College's East Naples campus ideally located near the greatest population of at-risk children."

Of the foundation's gift to the UF College of Dentistry, \$4 million was

matched through the Alec P. Courtelis Facilities Enhancement Challenge Grant Program and will fund the construction and equipping of the UF dental facility on the Collier County campus of Edison College. The remaining \$1.5 million will cover the dental program's start-up operational expenses.

The \$8 million building, for which groundbreaking will take place in October, is modeled after the UF dental clinic on the Seminole campus of St. Petersburg College in Pinellas County. It will be a two-story, 20,000-square-foot dental clinic and education facility. The UF dental program at Edison College is expected to open in the fall of 2008 and eventually will expand to provide specialized pediatric dental treatment to Collier County's Medicaid-eligible and at-risk children during an estimated 15,000 patient visits each year. The dental visits will provide a diverse patient population to train pediatric residents and continuing dental education in treating pediatric and special needs patients.

The project represents an innovative collaboration between the philanthropic Naples Children & Education Foundation, UF, Edison College and Collier Health Services Inc., or CHSI.

Edison College's district board of trustees approved a long-term land lease agreement with UF to give the facility an academic home. While the first floor of the two-story building will be dedicated to UF's clinical operations, Edison College will share use of second floor classrooms and laboratory space.

CHSI, which has long been a UF partner in extending dental services to Collier County residents through its community health centers, will manage the clinic's billing and collection activities and supply procurement. Additionally, CHSI community health clinics and its Ronald McDonald Care Mobile will refer patients to the dental clinic.

The dental facility at the Edison site will be the UF College of Dentistry's newest clinic in its Statewide Network for Community Oral Health. The network comprises UF's Gainesville and community-based clinics in Hialeah, St. Petersburg and Jacksonville as well as 14 county health department, community health center and private not-for-profit partner clinics statewide.

This strategy of community partnerships focusing on vulnerable, indigent and special needs populations has led to the UF College of Dentistry becoming one of the largest providers of low-cost dental care in Florida. ♦

Peeling the Onion

STRIPPING AWAY THE LAYERS IMPACTING ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE FOR
SPECIAL NEEDS PATIENTS IS A LOT LIKE PEELING AN ONION...
IT CAN MAKE YOU CRY.

BY LINDY MCCOLLUM-BROUNLEY

People with special needs are integral members of our community. They are the young man with Down Syndrome bagging groceries at the local supermarket; the neighbor's child diagnosed with autism or cerebral palsy; a co-worker's nephew confined to a wheelchair because of a spinal cord injury; a parent, perhaps your own, impaired by Alzheimer's or some other age-related dementia.

Most of these special needs populations have access to medical care, assisted living programs, and other mechanisms of social support in place to assure their basic physical and mental needs are met. Dental care, however, is one of the most difficult services for special needs people to access, and is often left unaddressed until preventable dental conditions become painful and expensive medical emergencies.

"As far as special needs patients receiving dental care, it's a big access to care problem that I don't think is unique to Florida," said Timothy Garvey, D.M.D., a University of Florida associate professor of pediatric dentistry and director of the Tacachale Dental Clinic. "My guess is that it's a universal problem. There are a lot of people in need of dental care that, for various reasons, are not receiving it — some of those reasons we, as dental professionals, can address and some of the reasons are beyond our capacity to address."

Garvey oversees the dental clinic at Tacachale, the state's oldest and largest residential community for people with developmental disabilities. The clinic's mission is to provide comprehensive dental care to Tacachale's

nearly 500 adult residents, but desperate families of special needs patients from across the state seek out the clinic, hoping it will serve as a dental safety net for their underserved loved ones.

Their stories are strikingly similar. Untreated dental disease develops into painful infections over a period of years, during which the patient or his caregiver has sought dental care from dozens of dental providers who turn the patient away because they don't accept Medicaid or Medicaid Waiver, and/or because the person in need has a disability perceived to be a limiting factor to treatment.

"It's such a common story. The care they receive is episodic, once every five or six years if they can find somebody to extract an abscessed tooth," said Paul Burner, D.M.D., an associate professor of pediatric dentistry who also works at Tacachale. "However, there is no one willing to provide preventive care every two or three months to try to help them keep their teeth. And, for this population, it's extremely important to help them keep their natural teeth as long as possible."

UF pediatric dental faculty treat as many of these patients as they can, prioritizing whom they accept for treatment based on the urgency of their conditions, and drawing on facilities at the Tacachale clinic, the UF pediatric dental clinic and Shands Hospital operating rooms. Yet there are thousands of special needs patients who appeal to UF clinics for dental care that the college cannot accommodate. The volume of need is too great.



Tim Garvey at the Tacachale Dental Clinic. Tacachale is the state's largest residential community for people with developmental disabilities.

A GROWING ISSUE

Census data indicate approximately 51.2 million Americans have some sort of disability, and about 32.5 million of those are severe disabilities that impact an individual's ability to function independently. People with severe disabilities are more likely to live below the poverty level and to have Medicaid or Medicare coverage.

According to state figures, more than 3 million Floridians have a physical or mental disability. These include cognitive impairment, autism, Alzheimer's Disease, mental illness, brain and/or spinal cord injuries, spina bifida, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, visual or hearing impairments, and others.

Add to that the fact that Florida is currently ranked No. 1 in the nation for the percent of residents over the age of 65 — a figure representing 3 million Floridians. That segment of the population is projected to swell exponentially, reaching 8.5 million people by the year 2030, in what the Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy at Florida State University calls a "silver tsunami" of aging Baby Boomers. Many of these Boomers will enter the special needs category as they become elderly, medically fragile and more problematic to treat.

"I think that the access to care issue is really going to hit the fan in Florida as we have more older people, who were once vibrant adults, going into nursing homes," said Barry Setzer, D.D.S., a pedi-

atric dentist in Jacksonville and a northeast delegate to the Florida Dental Association's House of Delegates. "Dentistry did such a good job of saving everybody's teeth over the last 40 years, and now these people are going into nursing homes with their teeth. If they have their teeth, we need to find a way to take care of them."

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 places an emphasis on mainstreaming people with disabilities into "normal" society and makes it unlawful for health providers to deny care to patients based on their disabilities. Yet, medical and dental providers report they do not feel prepared by their education and training to treat people with disabilities, and reimbursement mechanisms are not always adequate to cover the cost and extra time necessary to treat them.

AT WHAT COST?

The question of who will pay to support dental services is one of the essential issues that cross-cuts access to dental care for all special needs and vulnerable populations.

"I would say there's a problem with the system, and the immediate way to alleviate that problem is to raise the fees the state pays for Medicaid services," said Setzer. "Medicaid is still working from fee schedules 20 years old. That's unworkable if they pay you 10 or 20 cents on the dollar but your overhead is 67 percent. It's easier to do the work for free and not bother with the hassle of billing it out (to Medicaid)."



Kent Weitzel

“IF DENTISTS WOULD ACCEPT SPECIAL NEEDS PATIENTS AS A VERY MODEST PORTION OF THEIR PRACTICE...IT WOULD TAKE CARE OF A LOT OF THE ACCESS TO CARE PROBLEMS WE SEE WITH THIS POPULATION.”

—KENT WEITZEL, D.M.D.

experience in managing them. This can result in dentists turning away patients that they actually may be able to treat.

“What would be great is if people in a traditional office setting could try to treat the special needs patients they are able to treat within the framework of their practices,” said Garvey. “It’s true, there can be a lot involved in treating some special needs patients, but, quite honestly, much of it is really easy in the sense that many people with minimal disabilities don’t require a lot of accommodation.”

Setzer, who’s pediatric practice sees more than 500 special needs patients, agrees.



People with intellectual disabilities often suffer from poor oral hygiene because they are unable to care for themselves and are resistant to the efforts of care-givers who try to perform daily oral hygiene procedures for them. They require more frequent dental visits for cleanings and other preventive care.
(PHOTOS COURTESY OF PAUL BURTNER)

To increase access to care for developmentally disabled adults, the state instituted the Medicaid Waiver program, which allows dentists to charge their usual and customary fees for services extended to the adult special needs population. Despite the program’s good intentions, enrollment is cumbersome, treatment plan approval can sometimes take months, and accommodation of unexpected but necessary changes in approved treatment plans can be inflexible. These issues have led some dentists to decline enrollment in or drop out of the Medicaid Waiver program.

Although the dental profession has an obligation, both legal and ethical, to provide care to special needs patients, it’s clearly unfair to expect dentists alone to carry the financial burden of doing so. Raising Medicaid reimbursements and streamlining treatment plan reporting and approval requirements for Medicaid Waiver would help address that aspect of the access to care dilemma.

But, those improvements won’t overcome another major hurdle — concern among private practitioners regarding their ability to treat special needs patients. Many special needs patients present with medical complexities, behavior management needs and condition-specific issues which can be daunting for dentists who have not had hands-on

“Many patients with Down Syndrome could be treated by a caring, loving general dentist without too many worries about medical issues,” Setzer said. “Some patients with autism could be seen. You could take a child or adult with cerebral palsy and work on them, because they’re trying... they might be moving around but you can still work on them. It’s just a matter of being comfortable with what you have to do, to be up on your medical, the drugs being used, and how those may interfere with the dental treatment.”

Setzer said many general dentists have the caring, patient-centered personality necessary to treat special needs patients and encourages dentists to make the effort to treat them when they can.

“You just have to have that desire to want to work with these patients, and it doesn’t have to be a lot,” he said. “If everyone took a few into their practice, it would make a big difference.”

WE CAN DO MORE

Kent Weitzel, D.M.D., an Ocala, Fla. general dentist, and his wife, Suzanne, who runs the business end of the practice, have a special passion for treating people with special needs. Their son, Joshua, was born with profound brain injuries and died last year at the age of 24 after a massive seizure.

"I feel a personal mission to provide treatment to this population," said Weitzel. "I've been in dentistry for 25 years and have always taken care of special needs patients."

Weitzel understands why some dentists might be reticent to treat the special needs population but encourages private practitioners to at least give it a try. He believes most special needs patients can be treated in the offices of general dentists, and only the most challenging need be referred to a specialist.

"I think part of the problem is that dentists are unsure about taking care of this population. It does take some education to know what to do under specific situations, and to know your own limits, when to say, 'I can't see this patient,' " said Weitzel.

He suggests continuing education courses to help with that, but he and Suzanne also welcome interested dentists and dental students into their practice and hope people will view them as a resource for information on how to accommodate treatment for this underserved population.

"If dentists would accept special needs patients as a very modest portion of their practice, maybe even as small as 1 percent, it would take care of a lot of the access to care problems we see with this population," said Weitzel.

Dental education also has a role in expanding access to care. Surveys of private practitioners indicate a willingness to treat special needs patients, but they don't feel adequately trained to do so. Other studies have demonstrated that dentists who have completed a general practice residency are more likely to treat special needs patients and patients in non-traditional settings, such as nursing homes.

"I think dentists shy away from providing care to special needs patients either because they're anxious or because they're not well equipped," said

Teresa A. Dolan, D.D.S., M.P.H., a professor and dean of the UF College of Dentistry. "I think we need to do more to overcome those barriers and introduce practice strategies that make sense and would work within the comfort zones of the dentist and the dental hygienist, because it's really the dental team that has to be comfortable in meeting the needs of these patients."

Dolan is a public health dentist with the unique perspectives of a clinician who has served in the trenches of delivering care to special needs patients and a dental educator who wrestles with how to effectively incorporate special needs dentistry into the college's D.M.D. curriculum.

"Just as in private practice, there are challenges associated with treating special needs patients in the dental school environment," Dolan said. "It's not that we shouldn't live up to our obligations to meet the needs of these patients, but they do require more clinical expertise, some specialized equipment, and it is usually essential to have a dental assistant chairside, which our student dentists don't have."

But, she's quick to point out, that doesn't mean it can't be done. Student dentists are already exposed to pediatric, special needs and community dentistry during their rotations, but Dolan would like to see that exposure expanded with an elective course for students who have a strong desire to pursue training in special needs dentistry. She envisions students enrolled in the elective gaining hands-on experience working with Garvey and Burtner at Tacachale and in the private dental offices, like Setzer's and Weitzel's, serving the population.

"We have an elective on our books, but we need to offer it often enough so that students have an opportunity to gain this specialized clinical knowledge," Dolan said. "It would provide those students who are particularly motivated to learn about how to provide care to special needs

continued on page 34...

"I WANT SOMETHING THAT I CAN GIVE BACK."

—BILL TRAUX



Bill Traux



MOVING DISCOVERIES FROM BENCH TO CHAIRSIDE, TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH SPANS THE GAP

BY LINDY MCCOLLUM-BRUDUNLEY

Imagine two people standing on opposite banks of a mighty river. Each can see the other, may even be able to hear the other's calls over the roaring flume, but there is no way—and, considering the swift and deep water, little desire—for them to meet in the middle.

The clinical and research efforts of dental schools are often like those two people, isolated from each other by differences in disciplines that do not facilitate obvious interactions. The clinicians treat patients in the clinics, and the basic researchers add to the body of scientific knowledge from their laboratories.

Under these circumstances, direct application of basic science discoveries to the treatment plan of a patient seems an unlikely outcome. Something has to happen between the laboratory bench and the operator chair to put the science into a clinical context that benefits the patient.

"Traditionally, the National Institutes of Health had been funding a lot of research that was very fundamental, very cutting edge, and it was stuff that we really needed to understand," said Robert A. Burne, Ph.D., a professor and chairman of oral biology at the University of

Florida College of Dentistry. "But it was funded by taxpayers, and the question became, 'How is this research getting to the patient?'"

The NIH recognized translational research was the bridge to span that gap. Translational research requires an interdisciplinary mix of people examining the same problems from different perspectives and bringing the most advanced genetic and molecular tools to bear on improving patient health. This idea became the core of the NIH Road Map initiative, adopted in 2002 to define NIH research funding goals.

"In institutions that have strong translational research programs, you'll see research teams that flow between departments and between missions," said Burne. "It is a culture that exists in many medical schools, but not in many dental schools, and it is critical. I think, for the future of the profession."

PLANNING FOR SUCCESS

Aiming to foster a culture change that would bring its research enterprise into alignment with NIH funding priorities to improve patient care, the college was one of a handful of dental schools that applied for and received a one-year, \$100,000 NIH Research Infrastructure Planning Grant in 2004. This grant funded an exhaustive strategic needs assessment and planning process that involved college, Health Science Center and university stakeholders.

"The planning grant provided the opportunity for the college to reflect on its history and research accomplishments to date, which

U24 infrastructure plan architect, Robert Burne, with new faculty recruits.

PHOTO BY JAMAR KURTZ

enabled a thoughtful articulation of a vision for our future," said Teresa A. Dolan, D.D.S., M.P.H., a professor and dean of the UF College of Dentistry. "That process was core to the development of our plan to improve oral health through basic, clinical and translational research."

The end result was an innovative expansion plan, which would use the college's robust basic science research enterprise as the underpinning on which to build its clinical and translational research efforts. The plan would connect the dots between the college's research on systemic and oral diseases and the genetics and diabetes research underway elsewhere in the Health Science Center. It would also build "critical mass" within the department of oral biology's areas of infectious diseases, molecular immunology and cell biology. Overall, the plan would enhance the college's research activities in the areas of health disparities, caries, periodontal diseases, oral cancers, Xerostomia, and pain.

To achieve this, the plan outlined targeted recruitment of junior research faculty to develop translational research teams made up of basic scientists, translational researchers and clinician-investigators.

THE PLAN WOULD CONNECT THE DOTS BETWEEN THE COLLEGE'S RESEARCH ON SYSTEMIC AND ORAL DISEASES AND THE GENETICS AND DIABETES RESEARCH UNDERWAY ELSEWHERE IN THE HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER.

These teams would establish interdisciplinary links with others involved in the university's ongoing research initiatives in cancer, diabetes, genetics and neurosciences.

In addition, a Pipeline Program to mentor existing clinical faculty would be established with the goal of positioning them to develop their own NIH-competitive research programs. An internal funding mechanism would provide these mentored researchers with salary and start-up program support.

"We wanted to invest in training for endogenous personnel," said Burne. "Those would be clinician-scientists unable to gain enough traction to develop hypothesis-driven, cutting-edge research programs by virtue of the fact that they either didn't have the requisite formal training and/or could not gain sufficient relief time from their clinical obligations."

In support of the plan, the Health Science Center committed to assigning another 13,000 square feet of laboratory and office space within the Dental Sciences Building to the College of Dentistry. Additionally, the college and the university's Division of Sponsored Research agreed to provide match support should NIH fund implementation of the college's research infrastructure enhancement plan.

Not surprisingly, NIH liked what it saw in the plan, and, in 2005, the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research awarded the college \$2 million in direct costs under its Enhancement of Research Infrastructure and Capacity Building for Dental Schools (U24) funding initiative. With another \$2-million in match support from the uni-



Luciana Shaddox (left), one of the UFCD periodontal clinicians working on the Leon County project, reviews a patient's radiographs with first-year periodontology resident Carline Jermanus (center) and periodontal research assistant Prathibha Pillai at the Leon County Health Department Molar Express dental clinic in September.

versity and the College of Dentistry, the award provided a \$4-million infusion of cold, hard cash into the college's research infrastructure plan. The business of implementation could begin.

Young research faculty were hired in the departments of community dentistry and behavioral science, oral biology, oral and maxillofacial surgery & diagnostic sciences, and periodontology. These individuals brought an array of expertise to broaden translational research activities, and much-desired interdisciplinary linkages immediately began forming between clinicians and researchers, within the college and without.

An excellent example of this synergy occurred within the Department of Periodontology where a translational research team seemed to form of its own accord once targeted faculty recruits were in place. Periodontal Chairman Ikramuddin Aukhil, B.D.S., M.S., a recent recruit to the college himself, drew on this synergy after he was contacted by the Leon County Health Department regarding an unusual population of pediatric patients in Tallahassee suffering from advanced and aggressive periodontal disease.

Aukhil and two periodontal faculty members initially visited the clinic to conduct chart reviews and examine the children.

"We were amazed by the magnitude of bone loss around the molars and incisors," Aukhil said. "The clinic staff said they saw a couple of kids like this each month. That's a lot, to see a couple of cases a month. It almost qualifies something to be called an epidemic."

The affected group turned out to be a total of 60 Leon County children, mostly African-American and between the ages of 7 to 20. Aukhil obtained permission from the university's human use committee to pursue a more formal project, and he assembled a translational dream team to begin work.

continued on next page



“THE PLANNING GRANT PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE COLLEGE TO REFLECT ON ITS HISTORY AND RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS, WHICH ENABLED A THOUGHTFUL ARTICULATION OF A VISION FOR OUR FUTURE.”

“We’ve put together a team of clinicians, immunologists, pathologists, and microbiologists,” Aukhil said. “Our goal is to collect blood samples, plaque samples, gingival crevicular fluid, and, of course, clinical measurements of bone loss and so forth.”

The clinicians in this multidisciplinary group include Aukhil, Luciana Machion-Shaddox, D.D.S., Ph.D., an assistant professor of periodontology with research interests in the relationship between periodontal disease and diabetes mellitus, and Ingvar Magnusson, D.D.S., Ph.D., a professor of oral biology and a seasoned periodontist with published research on the disease progression and treatment of periodontal disease.

Research infrastructure recruit, Shannon Wallet, Ph.D., an assistant professor of periodontology, is the team’s immunologist with expertise in inflammatory responses and oral systemic health as it relates to diabetes. She and collaborator Michael Claire-Salzler, M.D., a professor of pathology, immunology and laboratory medicine in the College of Medicine, are conducting immunoassays on the blood samples to tease out the genes and molecules involved in how the host cells respond to bacterial insults.

Clay Walker, Ph.D., a professor of oral biology, is the team’s microbiologist, sussing out which strains of bacteria and enzymes play a dominant role in the childrens’ disease.

Once the team has gathered the clinical, microbiologic, and biochemical data on the children, a disease pattern is likely to emerge which will dictate what treatment strategies can be used to address it, Aukhil said.

Because the disease pattern disproportionately affects African-American children in Leon County, Aukhil intends to submit a grant proposal to NIDCR to fund a broader study of similar patterns of pediatric disease affecting other African-American communities in the state. Geneticists are likely to be included in that study.

“It’s very important for clinicians and basic scientists to interact,” said Aukhil. “There must be a dialog between the two which makes sense and has applications. That’s what we’re trying to do. This is a classic example of a translational theme of research.”

A TRANSFORMATION OF CHARACTER AND FUNCTION

There’s no doubt that the cadre of translational researchers hired through the NIDCR (U24) research infrastructure award

serves as a sort of intellectual bridge between the college’s clinical and basic science research enterprises.

“We view the U24 at Florida as a good investment in the future of dental and craniofacial research,” said Kevin Hardwick, D.D.S., M.P.H., NIDCR’s chief of research training and career development. “The school already had a solid research base but was able to leverage the U24 funds to develop its mid-level faculty to build a more cohesive research program that extends across the various departments in the dental school.

“The approach has really been encouraging to these faculty members, allowing them time to focus on their research,” Hardwick said. “I think the school’s research program is stronger because of this.”

The free flow of people, ideas and research missions facilitated by the new, more dynamic interdisciplinary mix of research faculty has blossomed into surprising interactions between clinicians and basic scientists that directly lead to improved patient care.

“I’ll use Valeria Gordan as an example; she’s an associate professor of operative dentistry enrolled in the Pipeline Program,” said Burne.

Gordan received salary support through the Pipeline Program, enabling her to enter the College of Medicine’s NIH-funded K30 training program, which will result in a master’s in clinical investigation. Her research interests are applying basic science findings in cariology to the management of clinical caries, and she has applied for NIH grants toward that end.

“We now have a clinical faculty member who has submitted two competitive NIH grant proposals in a three-month time frame to use Real-Time Quantitative PCR, gene expression profiling and measurement of biochemical activities in plaque from caries-active and caries-free subjects to understand why some people get caries,” said Burne. “This is exactly the type of research that will lead to new discoveries and treatments for oral diseases.”

“We’re in much better shape as a college to expand this type of research as a result of support from the U24,” he said. ♦

Visit www.dental.ufl.edu/Bridges to view the new faculty recruits and mentored Pipeline faculty facilitated by the U24 award.



YOUNG AT HEART

T.K. Tibby, D.M.D.

Class of 2000

Family: Mother of adopted daughter, Tyana Renee (2)

Practice: Senior dentist at the Palm Beach County Health Department Dental Clinic, July 2002—present

Studies: Pediatric residency at Harvard School of Dental Medicine/Children's Hospital Boston 2000-2002

PHOTO BY GREGORY ALLEN HOWARD

Tamara-Kay (T.K.) Tibby, D.M.D., loves kids. At home she plays with her adorable two-year-old daughter and at work she helps to maintain a healthy smile on children's faces. A senior dentist with the Palm Beach County Health Department Dental Program, Tibby's fluent Spanish and soothing voice make her a favorite dentist among young patients. But it took a detour in her career path for Tibby to rediscover her true calling.

After graduation from the UF College of Dentistry in 2000, Tibby went on to complete her pediatric residency at Children's Hospital Boston. In July 2002, she returned to her hometown and started working at both the county health department's dental clinic and in private practice. In February 2005 a car accident left her with serious injuries, and she began practicing part-time in both settings. After almost two years of extensive physical therapy, Tibby felt she needed to cut back her working hours and make a choice between private practice and dental public health. Though the compensation and working conditions in private practice were more appealing than those offered in a public setting, Tibby quit private practice in December of 2006 and started working at the Palm Beach County Health Department only.

Having six dental facilities throughout the county, the dental department provides preventive, restorative and emergency dental

services to a largely Hispanic pediatric patient base in the Palm Beach area. Most of her patients are minorities, immigrants or low-income residents who face considerable social and economic barriers to care. Coming from an immigrant family herself, Tibby feels their pain.

"My family came to America when I was three," Tibby said. "We are Jamaicans so we spoke English, but I just couldn't imagine if we didn't, how difficult it would be to navigate through the health care system here. I feel the responsibility to help immigrant families. I want them to have the best care possible."

Now on a busy day, Tibby sees 15 children at the West Palm Beach clinic, with ages ranging from 2 to 13. Occasionally she has children as young as 18 months in the chair. Due to lack of knowledge on oral health and limited access to dental care, children from vulnerable populations develop dental problems much earlier than others. Tibby works to counterbalance this through her involvement in the WIC-Dental Early Intervention Pilot Program. The program provides free oral health examinations and fluoride varnish treatment for the patients, and teaches parents the importance of a balanced diet, oral hygiene and regular dental check-ups for their children.

In her office Tibby has a television continuously playing kids' TV shows. One patient

Tibby has seen for five years used to get hysterical and throw up before a dentist visit. But now when she comes to the office, her favorite TV show is playing, the doctor talks to her in Spanish, and the once scary experience of visiting the dentist is completely transformed into one that is pleasant and entertaining.

"Usually kids have a fear of dentists, but if you approach them in a way that's fun and provide dental care that prevents them from needing future treatment, they love it," said Tibby. "I want them to have the best dentist. That's why I always knew that I was going to be a public health dentist. That's my calling."

Answering that call, Tibby has worked at the clinic for five years. Her former colleague, Jason Wanuck, D.M.D., a classmate of Tibby's, also worked at the clinic for two years before opening his own practice. Wanuck said Tibby's dedication to public health care is rare among dental professionals nowadays.

"She could do fantastically in a private setting, but she felt it's her primary interest to work with public health dentistry," Wanuck said. "She has left private practice altogether to go into public health. It's wonderful."

Tibby couldn't agree more.

"As far as what I'm doing with my life, I'm completely satisfied," said Tibby. "I'm happy with where I am, and I know that's where I need to be."

—Yan Yang



2007 Dental Fall Weekend

NOVEMBER 15-17, 2007 • Gainesville, FL • FL Gators vs. FAU Owls

■ Continuing Dental Education with Linda Miles!

"Team Building: Accountability, Motivation, Attracting and Retaining Great Employees, Leadership at all Levels." (6 CEUs). Author of three best-selling books and recipient of the Hinman Society 2005 Distinguished Service Award, Linda Miles, CEO of Miles & Associates, a premier speaking and consulting business, has enjoyed 28 years of speaking and consulting success in 50 states and four continents. She is known as a speaker who truly understands the business and people skills of dentistry. Miles is a 25-year member of the National Speakers Association, a member of the Institute of Management Consultants, the Academy of Dental Management Consultants, and the American Academy of Dental Practice Administration. She serves on the editorial advisory board of *Dental Practice Report*, and is a featured columnist in *ACCESS* magazine, an ADHA publication.



JOIN US FOR...

Class Reunions! Beta Class, Eta Class, Mu Class, Rho Class, Chi Class and the Class of 2002

Saturday Pre-game Brunch! • Gator Football!

For more information, visit www.dental.ufl.edu/DFW

2007 ALUMNI EVENTS

October 26, 2007

Pedogator Alumni & Friends

7:30am-5:00pm
Hilton University of Florida
Continuing Education Century B & C
Business Meeting Luncheon
Albert's Restaurant

November 16 - 17, 2007

Dental Fall Weekend

Hilton University of Florida:
November 16 CE, Reception and Reunions

Hilton University of Florida:
November 17 Business Meetings

UFCD Campus:
November 17 College Tours,
BBQ and Gator Football: FL/FAU

December 10, 2007

Society of Senior Faculty Holiday Luncheon

Hilton University of Florida
December 10, 2007

January 26, 2008

Freshman Family Day, Class of 2011

UFCD
Date and Time TBA

For more information:

contact Sue Guido,
Alumni Affairs Director,
at 352-273-5781, or email
aguido@dental.ufl.edu, or visit
www.dental.ufl.edu/alumni.

A message from the Academy of Alumni & Friends president, Barry Setzer

Dear alumni and friends:

As we enter a new fiscal year, I am pleased to announce the installment of several new officers of the Academy of Alumni and Friends Board of Directors: Steve Bogdanoff, Class of 1980, is now our vice president and president elect; Eva Ackley, Class of 1981, is elected secretary/treasurer; and Gerald Weaver, Class of 1979, is appointed north east District representative.



With the installation of new officers, I was reminded of the AA&F mission of promoting strong ties between Florida's dental community and the UF College of Dentistry to advance dental education and the dental professional.

As a dental practitioner and a friend of the college for more than 30 years, I know our association is succeeding in its purpose. Measurements of success are defined by our memberships' participation in organized dentistry, campus events, continuing education, and by our contributions of time and resources to the college. I am proud the Academy of Alumni & Friends' accomplishments.

It is a pleasure to report that our 2006-2007 AA&F annual giving campaign, the *Alumni Affairs and Student Activities Fund*, raised nearly \$100,000 to sponsor 29 student dental organizations and events. These events include the Coating and Professionalism Ceremony, tutoring, evening SIM labs, ADA ethics/success workshops, the activities of the Dental Ambassadors, Dental Fall Weekend, Freshmen Family Day, and Senior Banquet, to name just a few.

Support of these important student activities is a meaningful accomplishment and one that is definitive of our purpose. I encourage each of you to support these endeavors through your own contribution to the 2007-2008 *Alumni Affairs and Student Activities Fund*.

Thank you for staying in touch and I look forward to seeing you in Gainesville for Dental Fall Weekend 2007!

GO GATORS!!!

Barry P. Setzer, D.D.S.

President, Academy of Alumni & Friends,
2007-2008

Class Notes

1976

William Marchese practices general dentistry in Starke, Fla. He is proud to have his son, **Adam Marchese (05)**, as an associate to his dental practice.

Craig Bridgeman practices restorative dentistry in Boone, NC. His son, Rob, graduated from University of North Carolina Dental School in 2006 and has joined him in his restorative dentistry practice. Craig was proud to eulogize Dr. Jose Medina during the Aug. 2 memorial service commemorating Dr. Medina's life.

1978



Stuart Dropkin practices cosmetic and restorative dentistry in Winter Park, Fla. He and wife Christy will celebrate their eighth wedding anniversary in September and are expecting the arrival of their third grandchild. Stuart and Christy traveled to Iceland in May, and plan to visit Chile and Easter Island in February of next year. Along with travel, Stuart enjoys golf, poker and lawn maintenance.

C.R. (Bob) Fort practices general dentistry in Fort Meade, Fla. He has been married to his wife, Carol, for 33 years, has two grown sons, two grandsons, and feels that "life is good." Bob has taken trips to Hong Kong, and Beijing, China. He enjoys bicycling, playing tennis, and fishing. Bob is active in church, is an officer in a local dental association, and is a study club member.

David S. Sarrett is a professor of dentistry and associate vice president for health sciences-academic affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University. He is the editor for the new *ADA Professional Product Review*, a program he helped develop while serving on the ADA Council on Scientific Affairs. His daughter, Courtney, is a second-year dental student at VCU and his son, Drew, is a first-year law student at George Mason University.

1980

Andrew I. Cobo practices general dentistry in Lake Panasoffkee, Fla. He has taken trips to Hawaii, and often travels to Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana. He enjoys hunting and fishing, and spending time with his eight "beautiful" grandchildren.

1981

Yvonne M. Rausch practices general dentistry in Orlando, Fla. Last summer, Yvonne traveled by boat to Uruguay, and took a cruise on the Canal du Midi in France. She enjoys gardening, raising orchids and renovating property. She has been

awarded the "Best of Orlando" dentist award the past three years in a row. Yvonne is an accredited member of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry and is a fellow of Academy of General Dentistry.

1982

Alberto de Cardenas practices general dentistry in Miami Lakes, Fla. In 2003, he constructed his own office building where he opened a state-of-the-art dental clinic.

1983

Jack McDonald returned to medicine in 1988 and is a diagnostic radiologist with a specialty in breast imaging. He practices in Denver, Col. Jack went to Latvia on a missionary trip last year, followed by a vacation in Italy. During his time off, he enjoys the great outdoors and racing his road Cyclocross and mountain bikes. Daughter, Caitlin, will be married next year and daughter, Megan, who was born while he was in dental school, was married last year.



Good Fella's... Make that, "Fellows"

The Academy of General Dentistry Convocation was held June 30 on the USS Midway in San Diego, Cal., during the academy's 55th annual meeting. Honored during the convocation and standing "in uniform" on the flight deck in front of an A-7 Corsair II attack jet, AGD fellows Gary Nawrocki ('80), Scott Jackson ('95), Marci Beck ('84), Remedios "Mitzi" Santos ('83), and Laurence Grayhills ('85), are joined by AGD diplomates Bill Britton (back row, left) and Charles Benner (second from right). The group completed UF's two-year AGD mastership preparation course, involving earning 600 CDE credits and demonstrating a life-long pursuit of education in the art and science of dentistry. The course is a postgraduate course in comprehensive dentistry that meets one weekend per month in Gainesville. Classes consist of lectures, discussion, in-office projects, literature review, and intensive hands-on participation. For more information, visit www.dental.ufl.edu/CE. (PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURENCE GRAYHILLS)

1985

Bruce E. Carter practices general dentistry in Lawrenceville, Ga. He is the founder of "Brighter Smiles for Brighter Futures." The organization raised \$110,000 for breast cancer this year and \$650,000 since its inception in 2001.

Mary Hencinski practices general dentistry in Freeport, Fla. and is celebrating the one-year anniversary of her new office building. Last summer, Mary traveled to Poland with her husband, Marcus, where she met more than one hundred of his family members, most of whom spoke no English.

1986

Steven R. Bateh practices general dentistry in Jacksonville, Fla. In his free time, Steven enjoys his family and volunteering at church. His daughter, Brittany, started her freshman year at UF this summer.

Craig Malin practices endodontics in Carlsbad, Cal. Daughter Kelli graduated from high school in 2006 and will cheer for the University of Arizona. In summer 2006, he and his family took a cruise to Italy, Greece and France.

1987

Greg Huang lives in Bellevue, Wa. and is an associate professor in the department of orthodontics at the University of Washington.

1988

Stanley H. Asensio lives and works in Orlando, Fla. where he practices general dentistry with advanced training in orthodontics, cosmetics, sedation and forensics. He participates in the UF/UAB Dental Practice-Based Research Network to improve clinical dentistry, and was a recent dentist of the month and cover story for the *Orlando* magazine. He is married to Linda and they have a son, Stanley. Dr. Asensio is an active community and school volunteer, and also enjoys professional sport fishing with his nationally recognized team, *Caliente*.

Michele Conti-Zrulluck practices general dentistry in Titusville, Fla. She and her husband, Larry, are the proud parents of a baby girl born March 3.

Margaret Hartwig practices dentistry in Warner Robins, Ga. This year, she and her husband, George, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in Bermuda; their daughter, Eva, graduated from high school and their youngest, Ilona, is entering high school. Margaret wants her classmates to know that she is supporting the Claire Pitts Brown Endowed Scholarship ("we still miss her") and asks them to join her.

Michael McCorkle practices general dentistry in Orlando, Fla. Mike is a member of the American College of Dentists. He recently enjoyed a great trip to Bermuda with the Florida Academy of Dental Practice Administration. Mike and his wife, Corina, have a daughter, Morgan (17), a high school senior and a state pole vaulting champion. Their son, Colton (13) is in the 8th grade and has earned a second degree black belt. Mike and Corina also enjoy playing golf.

1991

T. Merrell Williams practices periodontics in Tampa, Fla. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology. Merrell traveled to South Africa and Zambia for two weeks for missionary work. He also enjoys collecting coins and paper money.

1993

David J. Ferlita is current president of the Atlantic Coast District Dental Association. For the last five years, David has served as president of the FDA Project Dentists Care, a statewide dental volunteer network that provides dental care for underserved citizens and coordinates the Give Kids A Smile program. David and Christine, along with their children Taylor (8), Bailey (6), and Dawson (3), love returning to Gainesville to cheer on the Gators!

Robert Perdomo III practices dentistry in Coral Gables, Fla. He and his wife, Arev, celebrated the birth of their fifth child, Samuel Luis, on March 29. Arev and Samuel Luis are both in excellent health and doing well.

1994

Kristin M. Shinnick practices general dentistry in Shalimar, Fla. Her husband, Joseph, a retired Air Force pilot, is now a pilot for FedEx. Kristin and Joseph have two daughters. The family has visited Australia, Japan, Italy, the South Pacific, and Kristin made a trip to Guatemala for missionary care. She enjoys the beach, boating, diving, arts and crafts, baking and dancing.

1995

Jeff Gully practices general dentistry in north Jacksonville. His wife Michelle, a registered dental hygienist, is now a stay at home mom to their sons Grayson (3) and Max (8). Jeff has made his annual trip to the Keys in August for lobster season, in which he had "lots of fun!" Jeff and Michelle are wrapping up the restoration of their early 1900s house in Riverside, Fla. It has taken them three years to complete, while having babies in between and "living through the chaos."



Richard D. Morales II has a solo private practice in general dentistry and fixed prosthodontics/reconstructive therapy in South Miami, Fla. Richard and his family went on a skiing trip to Breckenridge, Col. in April.

David Rowe and wife, Penny, were married April 14. David practices general dentistry in Port Charlotte, Fla. and is a fellow in the Academy of General Dentistry, an associate fellow in the American Academy of Implant Dentistry, and is near the completion of the Master of the Academy of General Dentistry program at UFCD.

1996

Amy Fine Anderson recently purchased and completely remodeled a building in St. Petersburg, Fla. for her orthodontics practice. She and husband, Chris, have two sons, Tate (6) and Sawyer (2). The family uses the extensive counter space of the new office for scrap booking on the weekends.

Susan Barr Jones practices general dentistry in Lumberton, NC. She is an avid marathon runner and has completed three marathons in Vermont as friends and classmates, **Amanda Nevin** and **Natalie Accomando** cheered her on. She plans to run the Disney Marathon in 2010! Susan is the mother of sons Hunter and Colin and a baby daughter, Bailey Nora, born March 5.

Nick DeTure specializes in periodontics and implants and practices in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. He and his wife, Connie Aresehault, are the proud parents of Austin Nicholas, born May 21, on their one-year anniversary. Nick is a diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology, and served as the president of the Broward County Dental Association in 2006.

Sharon Day-O'Steen practices general dentistry, in DeBary, Fla. Sharon has earned certification in Botox and Resylane treatment.

1997

Jennifer Brown-Jackson has been in private solo practice in general dentistry for eight years, but is now building a new dental office with six operatories and is excited about going digital. She is most proud of her "biggest accomplishment — being a mother to Madison (5), and Savannah (2), and a wife to husband, Scott."

Maria-Cristina Castellvi-Armas is an American Board of Orthodontics certified practicing orthodontist and an associate professor at the orthodontic graduate program at the University of Puerto Rico. She married in 2005 and honeymooned in Italy. Last year she visited Frana, Belgium for an Orthodontics Convention. On her time off she enjoys her beach house in Rincon, Puerto Rico.

Mike Fowler and his wife, MarLee, have two daughters and a son on the way. Mike practices general dentistry in Melbourne, Fla. and was the 2006 president of the Brevard County Dental Society.

1998

Michele Conti-Zrullack practices general dentistry in Titusville, Fla. and has a baby daughter, born March 5.

David Petrilli is a private practice partner with Drs. Caldwell, Bills and Petrilli in Charlotte, NC. He enjoys Gator sports, golf and skiing on Lake Norman. David is married with a son, Grant (2) and a baby-daughter Kate, born in May.

1999

Cynthia Dickson Haug has been practicing family and cosmetic dentistry for six years in Jonesville, Fla. She has two children, Pexton and Sim. Cynthia loves the beach and has visited Las Vegas and Amelia Island.

Thomas Doan practices general dentistry in Lakewood Ranch, Fla. He and his wife Linda are the proud parents of daughter, Mischa (9 months) and are expecting a second child next year. Thomas is a recipient of the Partners for Peace Award from the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry and also received a community service award from the Sarasota County Dental Association. His favorite hobby is Japanese swordsmanship.

Axel McGuffie practices general dentistry in Marco Island, Fla. He is a fellow in the Academy of General Dentistry.

James E. Oser enjoys his practice, Sunshine Family Dentistry, in Lake Placid, Fla. He and wife, Monique, and children, Tanner (8) and Melina (6) enjoy sports and travel. James loves flying, softball, basketball, fishing, and has completed his first triathlon—"without dying!" Last year the family traveled to Japan and this year to the Bahamas and Jamaica.

2000

James T. Cannon practices general dentistry in Osprey, Fla. James moved his practice to a new office building in April. He completed levels I and II in advanced dental education at The Pankey Institute. James and his wife, Stephanie, vacationed in Alaska this summer. They have a daughter, Gabrielle (2).

Darren Huddleston practices general dentistry in Grants Pass, Or. He recently built a new office building for his practice and other businesses. Darren received an appointment to serve on the Oregon Board of Dentistry, and he is as an examiner for the Western Regional Board Exam. Darren and wife, Heidi, have two children, Kiersten (7) and Scott (4). He and his family enjoy river rafting.

Chris Ross specializes in endodontics and practices, along with **Rodney Anthony '86**, at Bay Area Endodontics in Clearwater, Fla. Chris earned a certificate in endodontics and a Master of Science in oral biology in June from the University of Louisville. He was a featured speaker at the 2006 annual session of the American Association of Endodontics in Hawaii, where he delivered a presentation on oral research.

2001

Vivian (Terhune) DeLuca practices comprehensive and esthetic dentistry in Tampa, Fla. Vivian was

IN MEMORIAM

E. Monroe Farber, a Florida visionary

Dr. E. Monroe Farber, one of the founding fathers of the University of Florida College of Dentistry and the Academy 100, passed away at the age of 95 on May 17. His wife of 70 years, Martha Innskeep Farber, preceded him in death nearly two years to the day in May of 2005.



Dr. Farber was a vibrant man who will be remembered for a career of service and dedication to dental education and to the dental profession. His distinguished career spans three quarters of a century, during which he served as the 81st president of the Florida Dental Society, now known as the Florida Dental Association, and was the founding president of the Academy 100.

Robert Fitzgerald, influential caries researcher

One of the dental profession's most influential and distinguished researchers, Robert James Fitzgerald, Ph.D., died Jan. 18 at the age of 89 at the V.A. Medical Center in Miami, Fla. Fitzgerald, with fellow research investigator Paul Keyes, was the first to conclusively demonstrate the essential role of *S. mutans* bacteria in dental caries development, and the first to document the infectious transmission of dental caries. Reported in the Journal of the American Dental Association in 1960, this research is considered to be among the most important influences on the course of modern dental caries research.

Jose Medina, former dean

Jose E. Medina, D.D.S., former dean of the University of Florida College of Dentistry and UF assistant vice president for facilities planning and operations, died July 19. He was 81.

Medina, who arrived at the College of Dentistry in 1967 as associate dean and a professor of clinical dentistry, served as dean from 1969 to 1974, the college's formative years. He supervised the development of an innovative, self-paced dental curriculum and spearheaded faculty recruitment initiatives. Under Medina's watch, the college's first class of dental students was admitted in 1972 and, in the summer of 1974, three members of that charter class were the first students in state history to deliver dental care to Florida residents.

Medina helped shape the character of the Health Science Center campus. He was appointed director of health center space planning and utilization in 1974, and was promoted to UF assistant vice president for facilities planning and operations in 1976, a position he held for 10 years. Medina was instrumental in guiding facilities planning and implementation during the historic "Project I" expansion of the Health Science Center campus. Project I encompassed construction of the Dental Sciences Building, the Communicore Building and facilities to house the College of Veterinary Medicine. He retired from the university in 2000 as a professor of operative dentistry.

Medina's teaching career spanned more than 50 years, and he was a mentor to students, practitioners and dental educators worldwide.



FNDC 2007

Gator Nation members (from left) Kenneth Schweibert ('80), former UFCD faculty member Ray Webber, James Edwards ('78), Don Tillery, Jr. ('78), Tom Floyd ('78), Ray ('78) and Peggy Della Porta, and kneeling, Gary Herbeck ('78), reconnect and re-energize during UFCD's reception at Florida National Dental Congress. More photos of Gator dentists at FNDC, held June 14 – 16 at the Gaylord Palms Resort in Orlando, Fla., can be viewed at www.dental.ufl.edu/FNDC.

married in 2005. She and husband, Anthony, honeymooned in Paris, Greece and Venice. Vivian received a fellowship in the Academy of General Dentistry at the June FAGD commencement in San Diego, CA.

William Pantazes earned a Masters of Science in craniofacial pain from Tufts University, and practices general dentistry in Largo, Fla.

Cesar M. Pareja practices general dentistry in Melbourne, Fla.

2002

Amy Crary Lindstrom graduated from the Las Vegas Institute for Advanced Dental Studies and opened her own practice in general, cosmetic and neuromuscular dentistry in Stuart, Fla. in 2004. She is married to Brendan and they have two children, twins Benjamin and Emily born in April.

2003

Kelly L. Borders practices general dentistry in Plant City, Fla.

Amy Bryan Peters married Greg Peters on Dec. 29 and is currently a real estate agent for ERA Fernandina Beach Realty.

2004

Sara Droker recently bought an existing general dentistry practice in Ormand Beach, Fla. She and her husband, Marcus, enjoy spending time with their two daughters, Ilari (2), and Haley (7 months).

Frank Lozano completed prosthodontic residency in June and practices prosthodontic dentistry in Gainesville, Fla. He went to Switzerland in January to tour the Straumann implant production facilities. Frank and his wife, Melody, are settling into their new home and are expecting their first child in September.

2005

Michael C. Foreman graduated from the endodontic program at Saint Louis University in Jun and opened his endodontic practice in Lake City, Fla on Aug. 6. Michael enjoys spending time with family and friends and is the proud father of Emma Beth,

born Jan. 30. He also enjoys fishing, hunting, and hiking, and hiked in the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park last year.

Kawveh Nofallah practices general dentistry in Lakeland, Fla. In his free time, Kawveh enjoys sports and fishing, and he recently traveled to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

Cathy Taylor practices general dentistry in Gainesville, Fla. She and husband Andrew will welcome their first child, a girl, in November!

**2006**

J. Cary Bonham and his wife, **Amy Bonham**, ('07) are in private practice with Cary's father, Chris Bonham, in Largo, Fla. Cary took the Costa Rica Invisalign study club for his Invisalign certification. Cary and Amy also traveled to Colorado, Utah and Lake Alberta. In his free time, Cary enjoys skiing, boating, fishing, hunting, running, climbing, and bike racing. Cary and Amy won first place in the Swamp Stomp 30-hour Adventure Race.

2007

Angela Matriciano practices general dentistry in Naples, Fla. She enjoys motorcycle riding, hiking, watching movies, and wedding planning. Angela went on a European cruise to Spain, France, and Italy.



Riley's No. 15 Formula Ford racecar jockeys for position during the South Atlantic Road Racing Championships (SARRC) Invitational Championship Race, held Sept. 24, 2006 at Roebling Road Raceway in Savannah, Ga. (PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSEPH RILEY)

Formula for Fun

Dental researcher lives life in the fast lane

BY LINDY MCCOLLUM-BROUNLEY

One might take a look at clinical psychologist Joseph L. Riley, III, Ph.D., an associate professor of community dentistry and behavioral science in the College of Dentistry, and think he'd be a sedate, quiet sort of fellow with a sedate, quiet sort of hobby ... like clipping Bonsai to the lilting sounds of classical music.

Think again. Riley's hobby is all about speed, the smell of hot asphalt, and the roar of 117 horses chomping at the bit to burn rubber on a fast course. We're talking Formula Ford car racing, baby, and at speeds up to 140 mph, it's not for the faint of heart.

For 56-year-old Riley, who owned a chain of foreign auto part stores in the Orlando area for 20 years before entering academia, Formula Ford auto racing seemed the perfect hobby to occupy his spare time.

"Cars are kind of my thing," Riley said. "In my youth, I wanted to be a professional race car driver and started racing when I was 21. But I blew up the engine in my car after about a year, started a business and put

are covered by the car body to reduce drag, but Riley's car is a classic 1975 Titan chassis with outboard suspension that places him at a 5 mph disadvantage at higher speeds — a disadvantage that disappears below 100 mph. So his competitive edge at lower speeds is driving skill and the mechanical preparation that went into the car before the race.

"My car is in my garage, and I do all the work on it," Riley said. "I don't actually build the engine itself, I send it off to a professional engine builder, but I put it in my car and do all the maintenance, all the setup work on the chassis, put the car on my trailer and drive it to the race."

Riley must be doing something right. He won the 2006 championship for the Southeastern Division of the Sports Car Club of America, competing against drivers with newer, more aerodynamic cars, called Swifts. The Swifts car bodies have covered springs and shocks, and are the car to beat at Formula Ford races.

"The good news is that the guys who have Swifts didn't run enough races, and they were unreliable," Riley said with a laugh. "The young guys are crazier, they go off track ... So they had won some races, but I had won six races before I went to the championship race, and I only had to finish fourth to be series champion."

Riley placed third, his Titan kept pace with the newer Swifts to take home the SCCA Southeastern Division Formula Ford Championship.

Although he's modest about his achievement, Riley is accustomed to being at the top of his game. In what he calls "another life," Riley was a nationally ranked triathlete. Now, he's the recipient of dentistry's University Research Foundation Professorship Award, which consists of a one-time \$3,000 grant to support his ongoing research and \$5,000 each year over the next three years as a salary supplement.

Riley and his wife, Denise, a nurse practitioner in the department of neurology, are delighted with the recognition, and Riley plans to use the award to support his research on cultural differences in pain management behaviors, a subject he finds even more exciting than car racing.

"Research is just as thrilling as an auto race," Riley said. "If you put in the preparation time and pay attention to details, the payoff is exciting — your paper is published, your grant is funded or you win a race." ♦



Riley, on the winner's podium at right, placed third during the final race, but still took home the SARRC championship. (PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSEPH RILEY)

racing on the back burner. So in some ways, this is unfinished business."

Formula Ford cars are open wheel, single-seaters slung low and without the aerodynamic wings seen on the Formula One cars. The newer car chassis have springs and shocks that

Larkin Bids Farewell

Gross anatomy prof retires

BY YAN YANG

Every fall since 1972, Lynn Larkin, Ph.D., professor emeritus of anatomy and cell biology, has welcomed a class of freshman dental students into his anatomy course. In fact, Larkin has taught gross anatomy to every UF dental student since the college's charter class—that's nearly 2,100 dentists.

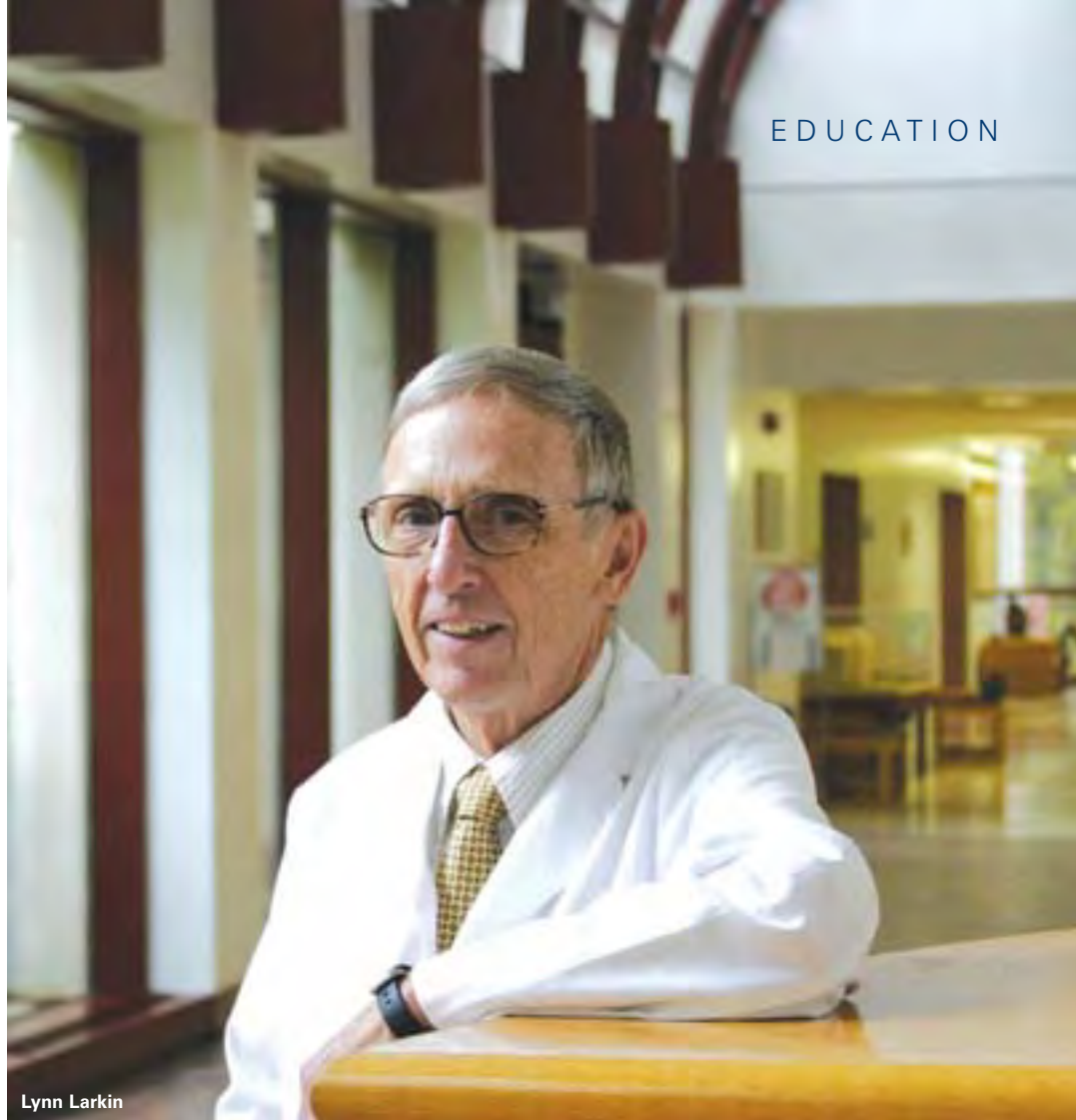
But, the class of 2010 was the last of dentistry's freshman classes Larkin would teach the differences between a sphenoid and a mandibular notch. On June 30th, Larkin is retiring from his 39-year teaching career.

"I've really enjoyed teaching here," Larkin said. "There are lots of things to like in Florida, and the students are bright and fun to be around."

Originally from Ohio, Larkin earned his Ph.D. in anatomy from the University of Colorado Medical Center in Denver, Colo. in 1967. After one year post-doctoral work in Boulder, Larkin came to teach in the department of anatomy and cell biology at the UF College of Medicine, and he never left. In 1997 Larkin retired as professor emeritus but was hired on a yearly basis to teach dental students at the College of Dentistry.

"Each school has its own personality. The physician assistant students are older and more experienced, while most of the dental students are just out of college and very social. It's a fun group."

Though fun, anatomy is not an easy class to teach. It's difficult to visualize the tissues underneath the skin and you'll need the memory of a spelling bee champion to remember all the terms. To help students grasp perceptual knowledge of the human body, Larkin developed a syllabus looking more like a "coloring book." It's a workbook that contains all the lecture diagrams. As the semester goes along, the instructor discusses and labels each diagram in different colors while students do the same on their copies. It keeps the students



Lynn Larkin

PHOTO BY ANNEY DOUCETTE

involved and the lecturer on track. The colors they use—red, brown, and, of course, orange and blue.

During his 35 years of teaching at the college, Larkin has won dentistry's Teacher of the Year Award twice, in 1992 and 1994. He is one of the few outside faculty members that have been given this prestigious award. Larkin has educated two generations of Florida dentists, including Dennis Connaughton of the Delta Class ('79) and daughter Kelly Connaughton, class of 2008, who are both impressed by his approachable personality.

"To me it's hard to get excited about working on cadavers at 8 o'clock in the morning, but knowing that Dr. Larkin was going to be there made that journey a lot easier," Kelly Connaughton said. "If it were anybody else, I don't think I would have the same experience."

Kelly's father, Dennis, took Larkin's class in 1975. Interestingly, Connaughton now teaches anatomy class at Brevard Community College

in Cocoa, FL. When asked about Larkin's teaching style, "relaxed" was the word that came to Connaughton's mind.

"Dr. Larkin was always smiling, always with a good attitude. He never made us feel intimidated to approach him and ask a question. It was a very relaxed lab session and a lot of it had to do with Dr. Larkin."

Though a professor of the classic *Gray's Anatomy*, Larkin is not a fan of TV Land's "Grey's

Anatomy" on ABC. He said even if he watches the show, it's not for the anatomy in it. But he did find the "goofy interns getting into trouble show" on Comedy Central amusing ("Scrubs").

Having retired in 1997 and working six months out of the year since then, Larkin said he has had a taste of retirement.

"I've been practicing for 10 years," Larkin teased. "And I know I won't miss getting up at 6 for the 8 o'clock class."

No more skulls or skeletons, Larkin will be working on his old cars or boating on the Suwannee River. To him, life after anatomy class is—enjoyable. ♦

Larkin has won dentistry's Teacher of the Year Award twice, one of the few outside faculty members that have been given this prestigious award.



PHOTO BY ANNEY DOUCETTE

Unconquerable Soul

Marc Gale retires from operative dentistry

BY LINDY MCCOLLUM-BROUNLEY

At his retirement reception last year, Marc Gale, an associate professor of operative dentistry, stood up before the audience gathered to honor him, unfolded his notes, adjusted his glasses and somberly launched into a speech about his career in dental education.

"For me, this has been a journey," he read. "A journey is defined as 'travel, or passage, from one place to another'.... In other words, a *TRIP!*"

"I will say that my 34 years at this dental school have definitely been a trip," Gale quipped with a grin.

With impeccable comedic timing and in typical fashion, Gale's force of personality took possession of the room, engaging his audience in the same way generations of dental students have been engaged since the Charter Class first fell under his spell in 1972.

Over the years, more than 2,000 dental students have developed their knowledge base and honed clinical skills under his tough but fair tutelage. His quick, sarcastic wit suffers no fools but is leavened with genuine care for his students. He makes a point to know each student, by name and by deeds.

"I think that teaching is a burning in your belly," Gale said. "It's no different than teaching in high school, or middle school, or elementary school. Why do those people choose teaching? There is something within each person that says, 'This is how I want to contribute to society.'"

Gale's contribution has been enormous, touching the lives of students and fellow faculty.

"Dr. Gale has been an integral part of my academic life at the college, beginning with his service on the search committee that hired me in 1989," said Dean Teresa A. Dolan. "It's been a fun ride working with him over the years on student affairs and other programs, and most recently on fundraising to assure the continued excellence of dental education at UF."

Dental education was the furthest thing from the mind of this self-described, "nice Jewish boy from Boston" when he graduated with his dental degree from Tufts University in

1967. Gale's intention, after completing a two-year stint in the Army as a captain in the Dental Corps, was to complete an orthodontics residency program and open a swank ortho practice on Park Avenue in New York City.

He wrote a former Tufts professor and mentor, Dr. David A. Grainger, asking for a reference for his residency application. What he received instead was an invitation to come to the University of Florida as a faculty member of a new dental school where Grainger served as a professor and chairman of operative dentistry.

"Dr. Grainger was really an icon, and everyone kind of feared him. He said they were opening a new dental school in Florida and this would be a great opportunity," said Gale. "So, I finally made the decision to come down here and try teaching. It was an exciting time."

Gale found himself surrounded by giants of dental education at the University of Florida, all working together to hammer out an innovative, technology-based, self-paced curriculum.

As a junior faculty member in their midst, Gale was awed by the figures whose names had been on the text books he'd studied when he was in dental school. These included Jose Medina and Bill Collett from the University of Maryland; Harold R. Stanley from the National Institute of Dental Research; Bruce Bell from Tufts; Davis Henderson from the University of Kentucky; Floyd Peyton from the University of Michigan; and Richard Mackenzie and John Bowman from the University of Pittsburgh.

But not even awe could suppress the irrepressible Marc Gale.

"Why do those people choose teaching? There is something within each person that says, 'This is how I want to contribute to society.'"

"When I arrived, I was a brash young man," Gale said with a laugh. "My first day, there was an all day faculty meeting. Being the new guy on the block and sitting in a room with people I considered to be idols in dentistry, a normal person would have just sat there and listened. Of course, I would have none of that, so I dove right in there and haven't shut up since!"

Somehow, despite the bluntness of his freely expressed opinions, Gale has survived seven university presidents and seven dental deans, and has become somewhat of an idol himself.

"During the course of my first week here at the dental school, I came to realize that not only did Dr. Gale know my name, but he also knew about my past education, my family, my interests," said Manav Malik, who graduated magna cum laude this May. "And that is what makes Dr. Gale so unique. He views each student as a

dynamic individual, truly cares about students and always seeks to understand them more fully.”

In student circles, Gale is known for laying down the law, administering it fairly, and making no exceptions. But his counsel when students get down on themselves is gentle and generous.

“Most dental students try to make everything perfect,” said Gale. “But, perfection is not repeatable. It is an unattainable goal that will make you neurotic and it will depress you. So, I encourage students to strive for excellence. Excellence is the best you can do on any given day.”

Teaching is Gale’s passion, and although he enjoys retirement, he devotes a day each week to teaching operative dentistry. Finally being free to focus only on teaching—without juggling committee meetings, administrative duties, and other responsibilities—has broadened his perspective on the challenges today’s faculty face as dental educators.

“We have great faculty, but I do think the pressures placed on them are far different than when we first started this dental school,” said Gale.

As members of a public university with top tier aspirations, clinical and instructional faculty are expected to pursue at least some research to meet promotion and tenure requirements. That, combined with the necessity of augmenting salaries through faculty practice, can, in Gale’s opinion, become a distraction from their primary roles as educators.

In addition, recruiting young dentists to the ranks of dental educators is difficult due to the disparities in what dentists can earn in practice versus what one may earn as junior faculty.

“Many of our students who just graduated in May are going out and getting salaries as new dentists that are more than my salary after 34 years at the dental school,” said Gale. “Now, that puts it into perspective!”

According to Gale, faculty endowments are one way to remove salary pressure from faculty so that they can focus on teaching, and to attract the best and brightest to pursue careers in dental education. An endowed professorship in his name was established with several key gifts from alums to honor his legacy of excellence in dental education, and \$201,000 in pledges toward the \$600,000 endowment goal has been received.

Gale hopes the professorship will attract future dental educators into the profession he has found so rewarding. As an associate professor emeritus of operative dentistry, Gale reflects on the many wonderful people he’s taught and doesn’t regret a single day of his teaching career.

“Teaching is challenging,” said Gale. “But to watch their faces when it really starts to click in, you realize you’ve made an impression on someone’s life.”

“For me, this has been a wonderful journey. I feel blessed.” ♦

Teachers of the Year

Dental faculty named 2007 teachers of the year



Soderholm



Gremillion

Student comments regarding Soderholm:

- “He is very enthusiastic about the subject.... Also very willing to help with long study sessions and lots of availability for questions.”
- “He is a library of dental knowledge.”
- “Genuinely concerned for the students. He was very approachable and always available for extra help outside of class time.”
- “Dr. Soderholm really challenges your logic/science skills. (His class) prepares you on how to determine what materials should be used and how to determine their validity.”

Student comments regarding Gremillion:

- “You have the best and most clear teaching/lecturing skills!”
- “Excellent at letting us know what is expected and excellent at speaking and lecturing in class.”
- “Dr. Gremillion sincerely cares about the students and it shows. He’s awesome!”
- “Enthusiasm. Concern for students. Knowledge.”
- “He is amazing in every aspect.... It was an honor to be a part of his course.”

Each year dental students in the sophomore, junior and senior classes are asked to nominate their favorite course instructors for University of Florida Teacher of the Year Awards. The classes nominate professors for the basic and clinical sciences based on their innovation in course design and/or instruction and effectiveness in teaching.

Once the ballots were tallied this year, Karl-Johan Soderholm, L.D.S., M.Phil., Odont. Dr., a professor of materials science, and Henry A. Gremillion, D.D.S., a professor of orthodontics and director of the Parker E. Mahan Facial Pain Center, stood out as the clear winners of the college’s 2007 Teacher of the Year awards—Soderholm as the basic science teacher of the year, and Gremillion as the clinical science teacher of the year. Both were recognized during the university’s Faculty Awards Banquet in April with award plaques and checks in the amount of \$2,000.

Student comments regarding each instructor gleaned from anonymous course evaluations demonstrate the impact each instructor’s integrity and commitment to dental education made on the student learning experience. ♦

Gator Bytes

■ Faculty

■ **Kenneth Anusavice**, D.M.D., Ph.D., associate dean for research and a professor and chairman of the department of dental biomaterials, was honored as the 24th recipient of the Greater New York Academy of Prosthodontics Foundation Distinguished Lecturer Award.

Given to Anusavice last December during the academy's annual meeting, held at Lincoln Park Center in New York City, the award recognizes Anusavice for his exceptional didactic skills as a dental educator.

■ **Jaana Autio-Gold**, D.D.S., Ph.D., an assistant professor of operative dentistry, has been appointed the college's coordinator for preventive dentistry. In this role, Autio-Gold will work with faculty to develop and implement evidence-based clinical curriculum in preventive dentistry, and to assure vertical integration of preventive dentistry through all four years of the D.M.D. curriculum.

■ **Linda Bartoshuk**, Ph.D., an internationally known researcher in the chemical senses of taste and smell, has been appointed a presidential endowed professor of community dentistry and behavioral sciences in the College of Dentistry. Bartoshuk is a fellow of the National Academy of Sciences and the only woman NAS member at UF. Bartoshuk was the first to discover that burning mouth syndrome, a condition predominantly experienced by postmenopausal women, is caused by damage to the taste buds at the front of the tongue and is not a psychosomatic condition, as many believed.

■ **Paul Blaser**, D.D.S., M.S.D., a clinical professor of operative dentistry, has been appointed chair of operative dentistry after serving nearly two years in an interim capacity. Blaser earned a master's of science in dentistry from Indiana University School of Dentistry and a doctor of dental surgery degree from Case Western Reserve University Dental School and. A retired U.S. Air Force colonel, Blaser has been a faculty member at the college since 1993 and brings notable expertise in operative dentistry and course development to the position.

■ **D. Lawrence Brock**, D.M.D., assistant clinical professor of periodontology at the University of Florida College of Dentistry, was honored with the 2007 Educator Award from the American Academy of Periodontology. Brock was cited for his contributions to the department as interim director of the post-graduate program while teaching in the undergraduate arena, as well as his recent board certification in periodontology.

■ **Robert A. Burne**, Ph.D., a professor and chair of oral biology, was one of 52 UF faculty honored with the 2007 Faculty Achievement Recognition Award. Burne received his award during the April 4th awards reception held at the Samuel L. Harn Museum of Art and sponsored by the University of Florida associate provost for faculty development.

■ **Frank Catalanotto**, D.M.D., a professor of community dentistry and behavioral science with a joint appointment in the department of oral biology, was elected to the executive committee of the board of directors of Oral Health

Dental duo review National Board Dental Exam questions

Arthur Nimmo, D.D.S., F.A.C.P., a professor of prosthodontics at the University of Florida College of Dentistry, and Margot L. Van Dis, D.D.S., M.S., a professor of oral and maxillofacial radiology at the Indiana University School of Dentistry, completed their six-year terms of service on the American Dental Association Consultant Review Committee for the National Board Dental Exam last fall.

As consultants, the duo reviewed every question on Part II of the National Board Exam for content, format, grammar and verification of radiographs and clinical



photographs in the clinical cases. All U.S. dental students take Part II of the National Board Dental Exam in their senior year prior to completing state boards to become licensed to practice dentistry.

America. He also serves as chairman of the OHA communications committee.

■ **Matthew Dennis**, D.D.S., a clinical associate professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery and diagnostic sciences, has been awarded the Florida Dental Association's Dental Educator Award. Dennis was nominated by student members of the Gainesville chapter of the American Student Dental Association based on his outstanding contributions to the quality of dental education. He received the award in June during the Florida National Dental Congress, held in Orlando, Fla. This was the second time Dennis was honored with the award, which he first received in 2004.

■ **M. Franklin Dolwick**, a professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery, received the 2006 Distinguished Alumni Award from his dental alma mater, the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry. Dolwick was tapped to receive the distinguished alumni award because of his international preeminence as an oral and maxillofacial surgeon and researcher. His and co-investigator Richard Katzberg's pioneering report on their investigation of temporomandibular joint disorders using magnetic resonance imaging in the *American Journal of Roentgenology* has become one of the journal's top 100 most-cited articles of the past 100 years.

■ **Carol Haggerty**, D.D.S., M.S., M.P.H., a clinical assistant professor of community dentistry and behavioral science, earned her Master of Public Health from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in August, and was inducted this April into UNC's Theta Chapter of Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health. Her induction to the society was in recognition of her outstanding devotion to and work in dental public health.

■ **Marc W. Heft**, D.M.D., Ph.D., a professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery with joint appointments as professor of neuroscience and professor of clinical & health psychology, is president of the American Association of Dental Research. Heft will serve as the 36th president of the AADR during his 2007-2008 term, which began

at the conclusion of the March AADR annual meeting held in New Orleans, La.

■ **Richard Lamont**, Ph.D., a professor of oral biology, is the editor of a new microbiology textbook, *Oral Microbiology and Immunology*, printed by ASM Press. The book is one of the first of its kind to focus primarily on the knowledge and understanding of the oral ecosystem and its unique role in human health and disease. Intended for dental students, dental practitioners and health-care professionals, it details the ecology, virulence, molecular biology and immunogenicity of oral bacteria, viruses and fungi and examines their interface with host cells and secretions.

■ **Samuel Low**, D.D.S., M.S., M.Ed., associate dean for faculty practice and continuing education, has been elected secretary-treasurer of the American Academy of Periodontology. As secretary-treasurer, Low will become president of the organization in 2010. Low also has been appointed associate dean for continuing education and strategic partnerships. This represents a new and important initiative for the college of providing a faculty liaison for the college's existing and developing relationships with professional organizations, the state legislature and corporate sponsors.

■ **William Martin**, D.M.D., M.S., a clinical assistant professor with joint appointments in the department of oral and maxillofacial surgery and diagnostic sciences and the department of prosthodontics, and clinical director of The Center for Implant Dentistry, became board certified in prosthodontics in 2006 and is now a diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics.

■ **Marc E. Ottenga**, D.D.S., a clinical associate professor of operative dentistry, received the Faculty Award from the American College of Dentists in recognition of his outstanding representation of ethics and professionalism as a faculty member of the University of Florida College of Dentistry.

■ **K. David Stillwell**, D.D.S., a clinical associate professor of operative dentistry, is president-elect of the Florida Academy of General

Dentistry. The Florida Academy of General Dentistry is the state's largest general dentist constituent group and consists of more than 1800 members. The academy serves the state's general dentists through advocacy and continuing education, and members are inducted based on demonstrated commitment to improving patient care through life-long learning.

■ **Scott L. Tomar**, D.M.D., Dr.P.H., a professor and chairman of community dentistry and behavioral sciences, has been elected vice president of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry during the association's May annual meeting held in Denver. Tomar will automatically be named the organization's president in 2009. The association is the world's largest multidisciplinary professional organization focused on improving public oral health.

■ **Charles Widmer**, D.D.S., M.S., an associate professor of orthodontics and the director of clinical research in the Parker E. Mahan Facial Pain Center, has been reappointed for a second two-year term on the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research Special Grants Review Committee.

■ **Roger D. Wray**, D.D.S., a clinical associate professor of community dentistry and behavioral science, has been appointed program director of the University of Florida College of Dentistry Faculty Practice. Wray previously served as residency program director for the college's clinical program in Apopka. As director of Faculty Practice, Wray will be responsible for its day-to-day operations, including faculty and staff supervision, financial planning and quality assurance. Wray will also teach in the college's D.M.D. program.

■ Three University of Florida College of Dentistry faculty members have been elected to membership to the national dental honor society, Omicron Kappa Upsilon. **Calogero Dolce**, D.D.S., Ph.D., an associate professor of orthodontics, **Nicklaus J. Minden**, D.M.D., M.B.A., M.Ed., an associate professor of operative dentistry, and **Arthur Nimmo**, D.D.S., F.A.C.P., a professor of prosthodontics, were inducted into the organization last month by Xi Omicron section president and UF associate professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery Carol Stewart, D.D.S., during the section's annual meeting in Gainesville. Members are selected on the basis of outstanding contributions to the art, science or literature of dentistry.

■ Three pediatric dental faculty members have earned board certification from the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry. These diplomats include **Daniela Silva**, D.D.S., M.S., and **Flavio Soares**, D.D.S., M.S., both assistant professors of pediatric dentistry, and **Marcio Guellmann**, D.D.S., associate professor and chairman of pediatric dentistry. Their diplomate status demonstrates successful completion of an advanced educational program accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation and completion of the board's examination process.

■ Promotion & Tenure

Madhu Nair, D.M.D., Ph.D., a professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery and diagnostic sciences, has been granted tenure; **Cliff Star**, D.M.D., has been promoted to the rank of clinical professor; **William Martin**, D.M.D., has been promoted to clinical associate professor.

■ New Voice for Faculty Affairs

William P. McArthur, Ph.D., a professor of oral biology and director of the University of Florida's Periodontal Disease Research Center, has been appointed the College of Dentistry's associate dean for faculty affairs, effective June 29. In this new position he will advise faculty and college and campus administrators on matters affecting faculty and will provide administrative support for the faculty's role in shared governance.

The position is the result of an administrative reorganization that encompasses recent additions of the associate dean for clinical affairs and associate dean for continuing education and strategic partnerships and the elimination of the senior associate deanship. The new administrative structure is intended to be more adaptive to the highly competitive nature of recruiting and retaining excellent dental faculty, and to UF's still-developing efforts toward shared governance.

McArthur has a long and distinguished career at the college as a professor and

researcher. He received his doctoral degree from Purdue University in 1969, was a postdoctoral fellow at New York University Medical School and held a faculty position at the University of Pennsylvania before coming to UF as an associate professor of basic dental sciences in 1981. McArthur previously served as interim chair of the department of basic dental sciences and was the first assistant dean for research of the college. He was instrumental in shaping the basic science curriculum for the college's D.M.D. program and is currently leading the college through its self-study for accreditation process.



McArthur

■ New Periodontology Program Director

Tord M. Lundgren, L.D.S., Odont. Dr., is appointed clinical professor and graduate program director of periodontology. Lundgren comes to UF from Loma Linda University School of Dentistry, where he served as professor and program director of the clinical periodontology program. He earned his dental degree and certificate in periodontics from University of Umea, Sweden, a certificate in periodontics from Loma Linda University, and his doctor of odontology from University of Malmo/Lund, Sweden. He has led a distinguished career as a dental practitioner, educator and leader in organized dentistry.



Lundgren

■ New Faculty

Sang-Joon Ahn, Ph.D., is appointed research assistant professor of oral biology as of Oct. 20. He earned his doctorate degree in plant pathology (bacteriology) from University of California-Riverside, and has served as a post-doctoral associate in Dr. Burne's laboratory since 2003. His research in Dr. Burne's laboratory has included dissecting molecular genetic control of the maturation of pathogenic biofilms, stress responses, competence and autolysis in *Streptococcus mutans*.

Andrew G. Jakymiw, Ph.D., is appointed research assistant professor of oral biology. Jakymiw was most recently a post-doctoral associate in the department, with a project focus of GW bodies and mammalian RNA interference. He earned his doctorate in biochemistry and molecular biology from the University of Calgary, and is a member of the American Society for Cell Biology.

Lakshmya Kesavalu, B.V.Sc., M.Sc., S.C.C., is appointed associate professor of periodontics. Dr. Kesavalu comes to the college from University of Kentucky, where he was an associate research professor in the department of oral health science. Dr. Kesavalu earned his veterinary medicine degree from Madras University, Madras, India, and his master's in medical microbiology from All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi, India. Dr. Kesavalu's research interests include periodontal microbial pathogenesis, host response and genomics, and periodontal disease models.

Theofilos Koutouzis, D.D.S., M.S., is appointed visiting assistant professor of periodontics. Dr. Koutouzis' one-year appointment began Sept. 1, and he comes to the college from private practice. Dr. Koutouzis earned his dental degree from Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, Greece, and specialist training in periodontics from Gothenburg University in Sweden.

Shannon Pop, Ph.D., was appointed assistant professor of periodontics as of Sept. 1. Dr. Pop comes to the college after completing her post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Dr. Pop earned her doctoral degree in oral biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her area of research emphasis includes the interactions of the diabetic host with mucosal pathogens and how these interactions contribute to the disease process of diabetes as well as how diabetic host responses differ from that of a non-diabetic host. In addition, she is interested in how these potentially aberrant innate immune responses may affect other disease processes classified as secondary complications of diabetes, such as periodontitis, cardiovascular disease and arthritis.

Rosalía Rey, D.D.S., has been appointed clinical assistant professor in the Internationally-Educated Dentist Program (IEDP). Rey is a 1998 graduate of the college's IEDP, where she was recognized with the Outstanding Student Award. She earned her dental degree from Colegio Odontológico Columbiano in Columbia, South America, and a certificate in orthodontics for general dentistry from the Institute for Graduate Dentists in New York. She comes to the college from 10 years in private practice in the Lake Mary/Orlando area.

Christopher J. Spencer, D.D.S., has been appointed clinical assistant professor of orthodontics, joining the Parker E. Mahan Facial Pain Center as a fulltime faculty member. Previous to this, he served as a visiting clinical assistant professor after having completed his fellowship in the Facial Pain Center last year. Spencer earned his dental degree from the University of the Pacific, Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry in 1978.



Fifth Annual UFCD Research Day Friday, April 13, 2007

DMD Student Oral and Poster Presentation Division

First Place

Cara Clark, clinical science, "Decreased Retronasal Olfaction is Associated with Decreased Oral Sensation." C.J. Clark*, D.J. Snyder, F.A. Catalanotto and L.M. Bartoshuk

Second Place

Del Greenhalgh, basic science, "Effect of P. gingivalis on ATP Activated P2X7 Receptor Expression in Gingival Epithelial Cells." D. Greenhalgh*, L. Yao and Ö. Yilmaz

Third Place

Yue "Maggie" Wang, basic science, "Topology Mapping of LevQ, LevT and LevS of Streptococcus Mutans." Y. Wang*, L. Zeng and R. Burne

MS/Resident Oral and Poster Presentation Division

First Place

Eric Berry, clinical science, "Enamel Surface Hardness after Exposure to Acidic Drinks and Brushing." S.E. Berry*, C. Shen and R.G. Jerrell

Second Place

Amanda Velazquez, clinical science, "Restoring Proximal Lesions in Primary Molars: Does Age and Lesion Stage Influence Success?" A.P. Velazquez*, D.R. Silva and M. Guelmann

Third Place Tie

Mindy Hall, clinical science, "Incidence of Adverse Reactions Following Septocaine Use in Children." M. Hall*, A. Adewumi, M. Guelmann, J. Riley

Third Place Tie

Aaron Carroll, clinical science, "A Long-Term Comparison of Treatment Impacts Between Invisalign® and Fixed Appliance Therapy." A.W. Carroll*, S.P. McGorray, R. Womack, C. Dolce, T.A. Dolan and T.T. Wheeler

PhD/Post-doc Oral and Poster Presentation Division

First Place

F. Bridgett Rahim-Williams, clinical science, "Functional and Emotional Impacts of Orofacial Pain Among Middle and Older-aged Adults with Diabetes." F.B. Rahim-Williams*, J. Riley, III and J.M. Nogle

Second Place

Shangli Lian, basic science, "Short Interfering RNAs Induce Target-dependent GW Body Assembly." S. Lian*, M.J. Fritzler, J. Katz, T. Hamazaki, N. Terada and E. K.L. Chan

Third Place

Kaleb Pauley, basic science, "Effects of Innate Immune Signaling on GW Body Assembly." K.M. Pauley*, M. Satoh, Y. Li, W.H. Reeves and E. K.L. Chan

Pictured: Second year pediatric resident and second place winner in the MS/Resident division, Amanda Velazquez, reviews her poster abstract with Ulrich Foerster, a clinical associate professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery and diagnostic sciences, in the Founder's Gallery. Dentistry's April 13 Research Day featured a keynote address by Nobel Laureate, Sir Harold Kroto, oral presentations, division awards and poster presentations. (PHOTO BY SAM BRILL)

Family Day



Freshman Patricia Botero shows her 10-year-old sister, Alicia Botero, the differences among some histology tissues during Freshman Family Day, held Jan. 27 at the college. One of the most popular events at the college, Family Day invites freshmen family and friends to tour the college clinics and learning labs and get a better understanding of the educational and clinic experience the students receive. Nearly 200 guests attended this year's event, including Botero's family, who drove from Naples, Fla. "It's totally worth the driving," said Botero. "They got to see and feel the things I talk to them about all the time."

Summer of Learning



Renato "Sal" Salazar, teaching laboratory specialist, showed examples of dental prosthetic appliances to participants of this year's Summer of Learning program.

Targeting ethnic minority students or Florida residents from educationally or economically disadvantaged backgrounds, the Summer of Learning program gives them an opportunity to produce hands-on projects in dental simulation lab environments. Participants shadow dental students, network with the faculty and receive advising from admission officers. This program has received accolades from minority students who have a genuine interest in the dental profession.



WHITE COAT

The Professionalism & Coating Ceremony honoring the Class of 2009 was held July 14 in the J.W. Reitz Union Grand Ballroom. 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. To view the complete photo gallery of the White Coat Ceremony, visit www.dental.ufl.edu/WhiteCoat

Dentistry drills the competition during the first ever Grad Cup

Move over Gator football and basketball, we've got new Champs in town! Grad Cup Champs, that is! About 70 dental students took to the field during UF's first-ever Grad Cup, held March 26 - 31, and cleaned up the competition to win the championship and the right to carry the cup.... At least until next year!

The Grad Cup competition is a friendly, fundraising match between students from the professional schools of dentistry, law, medicine and pharmacy. About 250 students competed for supremacy in men's and women's divisions in the sports of softball, football, soccer, volleyball and basketball.

"The women's team was phenomenal," said third-year dental student and women's team captain Kelly Bliss. "They won softball, football, volleyball and soccer. They lost basketball in a thrilling overtime game! It was almost a clean sweep!"

The men's team dominated in volleyball and softball, came in second in soccer, and finished third in basketball and football.

Grad Cup, which is slated to become an annual friendly competition, raised more than



\$5,000 in support of student mission trips and free legal services for disadvantaged children.

Grad Cup T's are now on sale

for \$18, including shipping. To purchase a Grad Cup T-shirt, make your check out to Vincent Leth, and mail to Grad Cup T-shirts, 6280 SW 8th Place, Gainesville, Fla. 32607. **GOOOOOOOO DENT!**



PHOTO BY AMANDA WELLS

Toughin' It Out

Dental graduate finds strength in family

BY LINDY MCCOLLUM-BROUNLEY

As dental senior Sasha Minor will tell you, family serves as an emotional compass for students as they navigate the complicated high-ways and byways of dental school. That compass always points to the heart, but the ties that bind are a two-way street.

"My sister and I are only 11 months apart," Minor said. "I'm the big sister, but we're basically like twins. We're tight."

Although they shared similar aspirations, after high school Minor and her sister, Mackinzie, chose different paths. Mackinzie married and became a mom, staying in Panama City. Minor went on to college, eventually becoming one of UF's top dental freshmen entering as the Class of 2007.

By her sophomore year, Minor had established a routine that helped her keep up the grades, participate in extracurricular activities with her class and serve in the UF chapter of

the American Student Dental Association. She also mentored undergraduate students involved in UF's pre-dental ASDA chapter, which she helped establish.

As Minor hit her groove in dental school, Mackinzie stalled at a marital road-block. Feeling the need to help her sister through a difficult time, Minor invited Mackinzie and her 4-year-old son to stay with her in her one-bedroom apartment in Gainesville.

"My little nephew, his name is Von, and he's the only man in my life," Minor said with a laugh. "He's the cutest thing ever!"

Coming home presented new challenges for Minor — dinosaurs in the bathtub, grocery shopping times three,

cooking every night, finding time to study ... and finding time for herself. Minor developed a new and profound appreciation for her classmates with spouses and children.

"Our parents helped as much as they could, but money got tight," she said. "I was taking my boards around that time, and it was hard to find time to study. Because when I got home it was, 'Hey Aunt Sasha!

Look at me! Let's play Hungry Hippos! Let's play dinosaurs!' And I did."

Things got better, and Mackinzie and Von returned home to Panama City after several months. Normalcy returned to Minor's life, but her perspective was forever changed.

"We stuck together," said Minor. "It was fun, and it was tough, but we got through it. It made me a stronger person, and I'm doing great. I passed all my boards, got a license and graduation is right around the corner." *

"Minor developed a new and profound appreciation for her classmates with spouses and children."

UFCD Dental Ambassadors take a bow



The Ambassadors organized the 2nd annual Acid Etch Talent and Comedy Sketch, held May 8, showcasing the talents of dental students and faculty — including 1st place winners, Erin Smith and her Freshman Rappers, who performed “Floss it right, floss it right, floss it tight.” Videotaped class skits added to the fun, and more than 200 people filled the auditorium to enjoy the show.

The judges, Drs. Marc Gale, Ariela Notzer and Boyd Robinson, provided witty feedback to each performer, while the repartee of MCs Maggie Novy and David Yates kept the comedic dialog buoyant. Diverse acts such as guitar performances, vocalists, piano, percussive perfect pizza-making, acts of magic and vaudevillian song and dance routines graced the stage. For videotaped performances, check out Acid Etch Online, at www.dental.ufl.edu/AcidEtch.

Senior Awards

The College of Dentistry honored graduating students with senior awards during the college’s annual Senior Banquet, held May 12 in the J.W. Reitz Union Grand Ballroom. For the complete award listing and photo gallery, visit www.dental.ufl.edu/SrAwards



High Honors “magna cum laude” were bestowed on Andrew Deitrich, Manav Malik, Angela Matrisciano and Maggie Novy.



Honors “cum laude” were bestowed on Glenn Cohen, Karly Fabres, Allison Harris and Dan Stewart.



STUDENTS

COMMENCEMENT 2007!

New dentist, Esmeralda “Esmy” Chiang, was cheered by her family during dentistry’s May 18 Commencement Ceremony, held at the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. During the ceremony, dentistry graduated 79 new dentists, 12 internationally-educated dentists, and 46 graduate and advanced education students. To view the complete online commencement photo album, visit www.dental.ufl.edu/Graduation.

■ 2007 Hinman Scholars

Dental juniors **Lindsay Ringdahl** and **David Yates** are the college’s 2007 Hinman Scholars. Ringdahl and Yates received their \$3,000 cash awards during the March Hinman Dental Society meeting in Atlanta, Ga.



Ringdahl



Yates

■ Multicultural Award

Dental senior **Sanjie Jackson** was honored with a Multicultural Award by the UF dean of students office during the April awards ceremony. Jackson was recognized with the award for her academic excellence and student leadership activities.



Jackson

■ Scholarship

Dental senior **Maggie Novy** is the recipient of the 2007 American Dental Education Association/Listerine® Preventive Dentistry Scholarship. The \$2,500 scholarship award was presented during the March ADEA annual meeting held in New Orleans, La.



Novy

■ Fellowship

Freshman dental student **Yue Wang** received a \$3,000 American Association of Dental Research (AADR) research fellowship, which is intended to encourage the recipient to consider a career in oral health research. The AADR awarded 19 research fellowships to dental students nationwide during the association’s March meeting in New Orleans, La.



Wang

patients with additional didactic training and hands-on experience treating patients, interacting with practitioners and learning from them, either by assisting or by working side by side."

Some students become so inspired after working with special needs patients during their rotation at the Tacahule clinic, that they begin actively seeking additional opportunities for treatment exposure. Garvey works hard to foster this interest, inviting them into the operating room to assist him during oral surgeries of patients under general anesthesia. One such student, fourth year dental student Bill Truax, is passionate about serving special needs and vulnerable patients, and sees himself actively pursuing their treatment with hospital privileges as a part of his practice after he graduates next year.

"Actually, I'm really interested in this," Truax said. "I'm still sort of searching out what my calling is, and I know I want to be a general dentist and work with my father (William Truax, II) back in Fort Myers. But I want something that I can give back, something that I can do so that when I die I'll know the world is a better place and that I didn't just take up oxygen while I was here."

Valerie Kanter, also a dental senior, values her experience caring for a special needs patient in the Student Comprehensive Care Clinic. The patient was born with intellectual impairment caused by a chromosomal disorder. Her case had been shuffled amongst other students before being assigned to Kanter, an indication that some did not feel comfortable taking her into their patient families. Kanter had her own misgivings about treating the patient but saw in the chart that Garvey had treated her in the past.

"So, I called Dr. Garvey and talked to him about everything, and he said, 'She's a great patient, do it!'" Kanter said. "And, she is a great patient. She isn't moving around in the chair, she isn't distracted. So long as you can get the work done in a timely fashion, I don't see any problem with treating a special needs patient."

These are exactly the kinds of hands-on learning experiences Dolan sees as necessary to preparing dentists to serve special needs patients. Ideally, dental students and established dentists with an interest in treating special needs patients could learn from those already providing these specialized services in the practice environment — to observe how the practice is equipped and managed, to learn the skills necessary to treat the patients, and to gain confidence to do it themselves in their own practice.

"One of the take home messages is that we will continue to see lots of special needs patients. They will be living in our communities, and they and their parents and family members will be looking for health care professionals willing to treat them," Dolan said.

"We can't turn our backs on this segment of the population," she said. "The challenge is trying to find a way to meet their needs, and that is our collective professional responsibility." *

Special Olympics Special Smiles



MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR SPECIAL NEEDS PATIENTS: The before and after photos of James Pierce, a patient of Henry Hood, D.M.D., of the Underwood and Lee Clinic in Lexington, Ken., demonstrate the dramatic impact comprehensive dental care can make on the life of a special needs patient. After decades of dental neglect — both in terms of professional care and self-care — Pierce, who has a moderate intellectual disability, presented in Hood's operatory suffering from severe dental infection and pain. After receiving comprehensive treatment, Pierce's smile, his feelings about himself, and the impression he makes on other people, have been transformed. (PHOTOS COURTESY OF HENRY HOOD)

The Special Olympics Healthy Athletes® Program has developed one of the largest databases on the health status and needs of people with cognitive disabilities. This data is gathered during screenings held at Special Olympics competitions, and over the past five years, the oral health of nearly 5,500 Special Olympics athletes in the U.S. has been screened through the organization's Special Smiles® Program.

Special Smiles screening data, collected by volunteer dentists and dental hygienists, indicate that nearly one in 10 Special Olympic U.S. athletes are in need of urgent dental care — 26 percent had untreated caries, and 12 percent reported oral pain at the time of screening. Periodontal disease was present in 43 percent of the athletes, and many have extensive calculus buildup. One of the most telling findings of the Special Smiles data is that 25 percent of the athletes are missing teeth, and the proportion of missing to filled teeth is high, indicating extraction rather than restoration was the primary treatment for this population.

If you would like to volunteer to screen and provide oral health instruction to Special Olympics athletes through Special Smiles® during one of 11 state area competitions in Florida (and receive AGD continuing education credits and FACD/AGD credit), contact Nancy Sawyer, senior vice president for programs at 352-243-9536, or email: nancysawyer@sofi.org, or visit www.sofi.org.

Dental providers serving special needs patients are also invited to participate in a Web-based directory hosted by Special Olympics, located at www.specialolympics.org. This serves as an online referral center for special needs patients and their parents or caregivers to locate dentists willing to treat special needs patients.

Resources

■ **Dr. Kent and Suzanne Weitzel**
Phone: 352-671-8077 • Email: suzanneweitzel@aol.com

■ **UF Continuing Dental Education**

www.contedu.ufl.edu/cet2

- Safe management of the high-risk geriatric patient
- Pediatric dentistry mini-residency
- 2-Year AGD mastership preparation course — comprehensive dentistry program

■ **Dr. Paul Burtner's Special Care Dentistry Links**

www.contedu.ufl.edu/continuingeducation/specialcare/specialcarelinks.htm

Provides exhaustive list of national organizations serving special needs people, links to online educational resources, online learning modules, online sources of information, and full-text journal articles.

■ **Special Care Dentistry Association**

www.scdonline.org

20th Annual Meeting on Special Care Dentistry, March 14 - 16, 2008

A silhouette of a person in a suit climbing a dark, jagged rock formation against a bright blue sky with a sunburst effect. The person is positioned on the left side of the frame, reaching upwards.

Make a gift to the future.

As state dollars for dental education diminish, the University of Florida College of Dentistry depends more and more on the generosity of its alumni and friends to support educating the state's future dentists and dental specialists. These gifts are applied to faculty endowments, student scholarships, and improving college facilities.

Your support helps assure the college graduates the best and brightest dental clinician-scientists to join the ranks of dental professionals in our state.

Ways you can help.

Outright gifts include one-time cash gifts or pledges paid over a five-year period. Gifts of stocks, bonds, and real estate can be beneficial to the college while realizing significant tax benefits for you, the donor. Cash gifts and pledge payments are even more convenient when made using Master Card, VISA, Discover, or American Express.

Bequest gifts are those made by provision in your will. These can include monetary gifts as well as gifts of stocks, bonds or real estate. A life insurance bequest is another way of making a bequest, as suggested by UFCD Charter Class member, Bill Martin:

"I am grateful for the abundance in my life and my dental education has enabled me to have a career and a lifestyle that are fulfilling. I feel it is my responsibility to "give back" to the University of Florida College of Dentistry for providing that education, because there is no other investment I've made that has yielded a better return than my tuition dollars.

I chose to give back by taking out a life insurance policy for \$100,000 and making the college the beneficiary. I know my small annual investment in the policy premium will make a difference for future UFCD students and faculty.

Cathy Jenkins made the process so easy, and I urge all UFCD graduates to take advantage of this opportunity to give back."

—Bill Martin, Charter Class

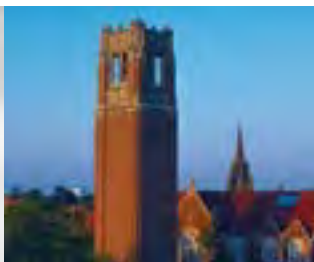


How to make a gift

Learn more ways of enhancing dental education through your charitable support. Many giving options provide for the future of dental education while providing excellent financial benefits for donors. We are happy to discuss giving options that make financial sense for you. Contact: Catherine Jenkins, Development Director, UF College of Dentistry, P. O. Box 100217, Gainesville, FL 32610
352-273-5779 • email: cjenkins@dental.ufl.edu www.dental.ufl.edu

UF | FLORIDA
TOMORROW
THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Continuing Dental Education OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2007



■ Craniofacial Pain and Pathofunction Part IV: Mini-Residency

Oct. 3 - 5, 2007

Henry Gremillion, D.D.S., M.A.G.D. and Christopher Spencer, D.D.S.
Gainesville, Fla.

■ Avoiding Lawsuits in Your Dental Practice: Protecting Yourself from Employee Liability

Oct. 5, 2007

Annelise Ydstesbo Driscoll, Ph.D., M.B.A.
Gainesville, Fla.

■ ADVANCED SKILLS for the Dental Team: Nitrous Oxide Psychosedation

Oct. 5 - 6, 2007

Franci Stavropoulos, D.D.S.
Gainesville, Fla.

■ Orthodontic Intervention in Esthetic & Restorative Dentistry

Oct. 6, 2007

Mark S. Coican, D.M.D., M.S.
Gainesville, Fla.

■ Canada/New England Fall Color Cruise: Pediatric Dentistry

Oct. 6-13, 2007

Robert Primosch, D.D.S., M.S., M.Ed.

■ Basic Radiology Skills for the Dental Auxiliary: Certification Training

Oct. 19 - 20, 2007

James Pettigrew, D.M.D.; Madhu Nair, D.M.D., Ph.D.; Glenda Guarino; Mae Bell Wilson
Gainesville, Fla.

■ Effective Periodontal Therapy Through a Workshop in Technology

Oct. 20, 2007

Samuel B. Low, D.D.S., M.S., M.Ed.
St. Petersburg, Fla.

■ Pharmacology: Latest Information to Keep your Practice Current & Save Patients' Lives

Oct. 26, 2007

Robert L. Wynn, Ph.D., lead author of Drug Information Handbook for Dentistry
Orlando, Fla.

■ Bahamas Cruise: Day of Core & Required Courses

Nov. 1 - 4, 2007

Nicholas Grimaudo, D.M.D., Ph.D.
Cruise

■ UF CDE Study Group

Nov. 9, 2007

Michael Koczarski, D.D.S.; Thomas McGarry, D.D.S.; and

Cherilyn Sheets, D.D.S.
Gainesville, Fla.

■ In Search of...The Best Materials for Impressions, Crowns & Bridges

Nov. 16, 2007

Robert S. Cowie, D.D.S., F.A.G.D.
St. Petersburg, Fla.

■ Craniofacial Pain and Pathofunction Part II: Oral Facial Pain-Advanced Diagnosis

Nov. 29 - Dec. 1, 2007

Henry Gremillion, D.D.S., M.A.G.D.; Frank Dolwick, D.D.S., Ph.D.; John Neubert, D.D.S., Ph.D.
Gainesville, Fla.

■ Introduction to Cerec 3D Cad-Cam Technology

Nov. 30 - Dec. 1, 2007

Amer Abu-Hanna, D.D.S., M.S. and Mark Davis, D.D.S.
Gainesville, Fla.

■ The SECRET WEAPON of Champion Dental Assistants: Expanded Functions for DAs

Nov. 30 - Dec. 16, 2007

UF Faculty
Gainesville, Fla.

■ Safe Management of the High Risk Geriatric Patient

Dec. 7, 2007

John Thomas, D.D.S., M.S.
Gainesville, Fla.

■ Basic Radiology Skills for the Dental Auxiliary: Certification Training

Dec. 7 - 8, 2007

James Pettigrew, D.M.D.; Madhu Nair, D.M.D., Ph.D.; Glenda Guarino; Mae Bell Wilson
Gainesville, Fla.

■ Advanced Techniques for the Accomplished Dental Hygienist: Airpolishing & Ultrasonics

Dec. 14, 2007

Robbi Hoskins, R.D.H.; Lorie Primosch, R.D.H., B.S., M.I.L.Sc., M.Ed.; Sharon Cooper, R.D.H., M.S., M.Ed., B.S.
Gainesville, Fla.

■ The Dentist and Sleep Disorders: A Multidisciplinary Approach

Dec. 14 - 15, 2007

Charles D. Smith, D.D.S.
Gainesville, Fla.

★ Courses Eligible for TEAM Discount of \$25 per registrant

CALL TOLL-FREE

1-888-550-4590

or Register ONLINE at

www.dental.ufl.edu/CE

UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

College of Dentistry
P.O. Box 100405
Gainesville, FL 32610-0405

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 94
GAINESVILLE, FL