

Fast Forward

A college update from **A. Isabel Garcia, D.D.S., M.P.H**
Dean, UF College of Dentistry



To: UF College of Dentistry,

Last Friday and Saturday, the Florida Dental Association hosted several meetings in Gainesville and part of the schedule allowed members of the FDA Board of Trustees and House of Delegates to tour our college. On Friday afternoon, selected members of our faculty, staff and students took small groups of the FDA visitors through clinic, research and education areas in the dental tower. I want to thank everyone involved in coordinating the visit and hosting the tours. I also want to share the extremely positive feedback I received from these FDA leaders on Friday evening. They praised everything about our school – the technology, the education, the research enterprise, the welcome they received and overall graciousness of everyone here.

Several visitors mentioned that our students were, without a doubt, the best prepared among those they come in contact with. Others expressed how much they enjoyed touring the residency program areas and marveled at the technologies and support we have at our disposal as an educational institution. These comments are a reminder of what I hope each of you know and appreciate – that despite our challenges (e.g. the leaks and creaks of the DSB) our people and our programs are truly exceptional. The energy, intellect and commitment to excellence that permeates our walls is evident to even the most-discerning visitors, like those we welcomed on Friday.

Practice Plan Audit

Each year the college's practice plan is audited by an independent firm that reviews its financial statements including revenues, expenditures and other items. Purvis, Gray & Company completed the FY16 audit and presented it to the Audit Committee on September 28. As I detailed at the December 1st Faculty Associates Annual Meeting, we received, once again, a clean audit report. I would like



Members from the Florida Dental Association's Board of Trustees and House of Delegates toured the college on Friday, December 2.

Can these teeth be saved?

Second year DMD students with their "endo teeth." As part of their course they have to evaluate each tooth to decide whether or not the tooth can be restored.



Dr. Luiz Gonzaga - a YouTube star?

Well, maybe not an actual YouTube **star**, but he does star in a [promotional video](#) for a 2017 ITI World Symposium. Dr. Gonzaga and Dr. Will Martin are both invited speakers as well.



to thank all of you who contribute to the success of our clinical operations. Sincere thanks to everyone on the finance team and in the business office for the exceptional work they do all year long and in preparing our reports. If you are interested in learning more, please look for the reports on the [shared governance website](#).

Strategic Planning

We have made some good initial progress with strategic planning over the last month and next steps include scheduling a two-day site visit to include the program consultants. This is a vital process for identifying our focus areas and priorities for the coming years; I look forward to engaging all audiences in our college as we together set a course and map our future. Thank you, in advance, for your efforts in creating our plan and adhering to it as we move through the next five years.

Welcome New Faculty!

A great deal of time and energy has been dedicated to faculty searches over the past year and I am so pleased to share that our efforts have been worthwhile as we are welcoming new faculty to UFCD. Since July we have had six faculty join us with another arriving in February. We have also welcomed one “new” faculty member who, as an adjunct, has already been here for several years – Dr. Larry Cook.

Faculty Searches

We have ongoing searches for pediatric dentistry, periodontology, restorative dental science, radiology and for the associate dean for clinical affairs and quality. In other words, our searches are not yet over but we are certainly making excellent progress and I am pleased with the incredibly high caliber of applicants we are receiving for our open positions.

With the December holidays around the corner everyone will be very busy over the next three weeks completing our work and exams, and preparing to celebrate. I want to take a moment now to thank all of you for your steadfast efforts over the past year. Whether you contribute to this college as a member of our faculty, staff or student body, you are shaping the careers of future clinicians, educators, and researchers as well as setting the course for the future of the dental profession. I am proud to be a part of the UF College of Dentistry and I hope all of you are as well. Happy and safe holidays, a little in advance!

Regards,
Dean Isabel Garcia

Welcome New Faculty!



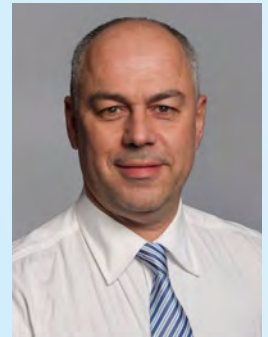
*Thomas Bowers
Oral Surgery
October*



*Randall Brown
Oral Surgery
October*



*Larry Cook
Restorative*



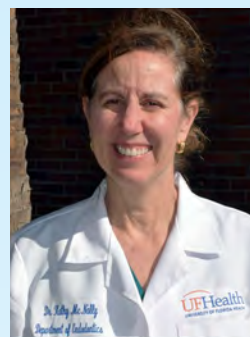
*Wagner Rodrigues Duarte
Periodontology
October*



*Ana Duran-Pinedo
Oral Biology
November*



*Carlo Guevara
Oral Surgery
July*



*Kathleen McNally
Endodontics
October*



*John Zhang
Orthodontics
February*

Spotlight on

Department of Community Dentistry & Behavioral Science

A public health vision for oral health



The [Department of Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science](#) is one of the college's largest departments. The department mission is to eliminate disparities in health status and access to health care services, promote optimal oral health, and prevent disease through our research, teaching and service.

The main offices for the department are on the fifth floor of the 1329 Building, across Archer Road. But [faculty](#) and [staff](#) also have offices in other buildings on campus and in other cities in Florida.

Surprised? If you're interested in learning more about who they are, what they do and how they serve the oral health of our state, keep reading for a sampling of the many great services they provide and work they're doing.



The department's areas of responsibility are varied. They including coordinating and funding for the [UF Statewide Network for Community Oral Health](#). Through this network, the college provides care to patients living in every county in Florida.

The Advanced Education in General Dentistry programs in Hialeah and St. Petersburg are also part of the department. Together, these two dental centers graduate 22 residents each year and completed more than 23,000 patient visits last year. In addition to serving as educational facilities, both dental centers increase access-to-care for the underserved in Florida, with 82 percent of their patient population living at/below federal poverty levels.



When DMD students begin their rotations through partnership clinics throughout the state, it is community dentistry that coordinates the centers involved in this phase of their education. Students are hosted in seven community dental centers and local health department clinics in Florida.

Community Oral Health Screening & Surveillance Program

And then there are the wonderful community health services the department coordinates and executes in Alachua and Collier counties. Each year, all Alachua and Collier county third graders, about 5,000 total, receive a



St. Petersburg Dental Center



Hialeah Dental Center

free oral health screening courtesy of faculty and staff in the department who work with second year DMD students. This event also provides the first clinical experience for our college's DMD students.

School-based Sealant Program

The department works with school boards in Alachua and Collier county to conduct sealant programs in Title 1 schools for second and sixth graders. In fiscal year 2016, the program served 1,127 children. This is another one of the department's programs that benefits the community and provides valuable clinical experience for second year DMD students and, in Collier County, for pediatric dental residents that are working at the NCEF Pediatric Dental Center.

Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Dental Program

Community dentistry and pediatric dentistry faculty work together in support of the WIC Dental Program, in conjunction with the Alachua and Collier county health departments. Children under age six are able to get dental exams and fluoride varnish, and low income pregnant women receive dietary counseling and oral health information. In fiscal year 2016, the program served 1,280 children and their caregivers.

Head Start Preventive Dental Program

In partnership with the local Head Start program, faculty and staff from Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science provide dental screenings and fluoride varnish application for more than 500 pre-school aged children each year. The department's involvement helps the Head Start meet its performance measure on dental screening, which has implications for its funding, and helps connect families of these at-risk children with a dental home.

Research

The department also has an extensive [research enterprise](#) that strives to integrate behavioral, social, economic, and cultural factors into interdisciplinary multi-level studies of health. Experimental, epidemiologic, and clinical studies form the basis for the portfolio of current research on pain, oral cancer detection and prevention, tobacco use, access to care, as well as ethnic and gender health disparities. Community dentistry is also home to of the college's centers, the [Pain Research and Intervention Center of Excellence](#) and the [Southeast Center for Research to Reduce Disparities in Oral Health](#).

What is Community Dentistry or Dental Public Health?

Dental Public Health (DPH) is the part of dentistry providing leadership and expertise in population-based dentistry, oral health surveillance, policy development, community-based disease prevention and health promotion, and the maintenance of the dental safety net.

DPH and the private practice model of care delivery together bear the responsibility of assuring optimal oral health for all Americans - individuals and populations.

Having been an ADA recognized dental specialty since 1950, Dental Public Health (DPH) is unique among the specialties in that it is not primarily a clinical specialty; it is a specialty whose practitioners focus on dental and oral health issues in communities and populations rather than individual patients.

We need to know your *Important Dates*

So you'll know what is happening when, the college has an [online calendar here](#). The dean's office asks that all departments send details about scheduled events so they can be added to this calendar and also that everyone check the calendar before adding an event that will affect others in the college, so we can have as few scheduling conflicts as possible.

Some of the items that need to be coordinated are alumni meetings, program graduation ceremonies and banquets, association meetings, to name a few. To add events to the calendar, email details to [Karen Rhodenizer](#).

New Faculty Award

A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.

~ Henry Adams

The college has launched a new award for teaching efforts – the Recognizing Excellence in Dental Education Program.

There are two categories for the award – one recognizes teaching excellence and a second recognizes those faculty whose excellence at teaching is sustained over time. This program was spearheaded jointly by the Office of Education and the Office of Faculty Affairs.

You can find more information about this award program and others, visit the [Faculty Affairs webpage](#).



Join UF students and community members on January 16 for the National MLK Day of Service, hosted by the David & Wanda Brown Center for Leadership and Service. Get involved in the campus-wide celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his commitment to social justice. Lead a meaningful service project in Gainesville or simply participate in MLK Day events.

Either way, you'll meet new people and experience your community firsthand. Site Leader applications close on December 5 and participant registration is open until January 11. [Apply online today](#).

2017 UF Capital Campaign

The college is looking forward to playing a part in the fall 2017 launch of a university capital fundraising campaign aimed at raising support for strategic priorities. Over the eight-year campaign, all gifts will count towards campaign goals. During the current "silent phase" of the campaign, leadership for each college and unit is assessing opportunities to advance their programs under the umbrellas of leadership, health, environment, innovation and globalization.

Increased investments allow for expanded support for professorships, scholarships, capital projects, key priority programs and to develop centers for excellence around areas where faculty can leverage their expertise to expand science, improve patient care and further the education and training of the next generation of Gator Dentists.

Our faculty and faculty leadership are already playing an important role in the campaign, helping secure a recent major gift to support implant education, patient care and fellow support.

If you have questions about the campaign or want to partner on a potential donor or development, contact [Tom LaFleur](#) at 352-273-5770.