

# 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,

Part of the rhythm of the academic year is preparing for graduation, annual award ceremonies, and special events, while also are gearing up for a new group of students, residents and fellows and making plans for the fall. Since graduation is around the corner, I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who has a hand in shaping the lives of, and inspiring, our next generation of dental health professionals. Whether you are involved in pre-doctoral, postdoctoral, residency training, supporting our interns and fellows or guiding junior faculty – thank you for all of your support and commitment.

I am delighted that UF President Kent Fuchs will attend our commencement, making a special event even more so with his presence. There are substantial changes in [commencement](#) plans and program as part of a university effort to ensure consistency across commencement ceremonies at UF colleges.

Some important points:

- Faculty, students and residents should arrive no later than 2 p.m. The “march” into the auditorium begins about 10 minutes before the ceremony starts, with the ceremony beginning promptly at 2:30 p.m.

- Students and residents will be seated in the “house” (audience) in reserved seats; faculty will be on stage.
- All faculty members are expected to attend commencement and those who cannot attend should discuss with their department chairs in advance.
- More information is available on our [website](#) and you can also download the commencement program.

This time of year is also “awards season” and many UF faculty, staff and students have been recognized for their exemplary work. Our students, residents, staff and faculty have received many awards and accolades this year.

Recent awardees include:

[KyuLim Lee](#), a DMD/PhD student, was selected as AADR’s Gert Quigley Fellowship, a unique opportunity to work in AADR headquarters in Virginia and experience hands-on how a large research organization furthers their legislative and advocacy agenda. This is a first Quigley fellowship for our college.

[Yandy Gonzalez Marrero](#) won first place in the 2016 DENTSPLY/Caulk Competition in the Clinical Science Category during the AADR Meeting in Los Angeles. Yandy participated in the Summer Research Program prior to his start as a DMD student.

Zinnia Sotolongo, a DMD student, received a \$2,500 Underrepresented Minority Dental Student Scholarship Award from the American Dental Association Foundation.

Orthodontics resident [Laura Bowden](#), D.M.D. received a research award of \$5,000 from the American Association of Orthodontics Foundation, another first for the UF orthodontics residency program.

[Five dentistry employees](#) were honored with 2015-16 Superior Accomplishment Awards: Sarah Bowser, Martha E. Pennock Schaub, Tammy Lee, Mary F. Taylor and Michelle Watson.



[Alex J. Delgado](#), D.D.S., M.S., clinical assistant professor in RDS, won the 2015 Judson C. Hickey Scientific Writing Award for a research article, "Survival rate of lithium disilicate restorations at four years: A retrospective study," that was published in The Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry.

[Alex J. Delgado and John Neubert](#) were selected as 2015-16 Teachers of the Year by the members of the sophomore, junior and senior DMD classes.

Our community-outreach and service has been equally successful. A number of recent special events include the [Acid Etch Talent Show](#) that raised funds to help support Super Sealant Saturday. During [Super Sealant Saturday](#), coordinated by D.M.D. students, free exams, oral health instruction and sealants were provided to 161 children in one day. The following weekend a number of faculty, residents, and students volunteered during the FDA's Mission of Mercy two-day event in Jacksonville, during which 2,465 volunteers provided free care to nearly 3,000 individuals.

On the research front UFCD continues its research grant success. I invite you to visit the [Office of Research page for announcements](#) about research awards received by our faculty this year. They include an impressive array of topics ranging from probiotic approaches to manage tooth decay, oral biomarkers of rheumatoid arthritis, type 1 diabetes, metabolomics of oral biofilms, regulation of CFTR expression by vitamin D, implant placement protocols, Sjögren's Syndrome, *Strep Mutans* adaptation, and salivary epithelial precursors.

Our Office of Development & Alumni Affairs has launched a series of Meet the Dean events around the state where we have a high concentration of alumni. These events are hosted by alumni and friends in the community and have been an effective way for me to become better acquainted with our network of supporters.

Thank you for taking the time to read these short communications. I welcome your continued input and suggestions as we work together to make UFCD an amazing place to work, learn, study and teach.

Regards,  
Dean Isabel Garcia

## Howard appointed division director

[W. Stephen Howard](#), D.M.D., F.A.G.D., clinical associate professor in the UF department of restorative dental sciences, has been appointed the new director of the division of general dentistry. He will be responsible for providing overall leadership to the division and overseeing the aspects of the predoctoral curriculum that fall in the purview of the division and facilitate professional development opportunities for division faculty. Howard will also continue his role as director of digital dentistry, guiding its growth in the DMD clinics and pursuing training opportunities for digital dentistry for clinicians and staff.



## Jumping for joy!



Congratulations to all our graduates!



The UFCD women's softball team, the [Drill N Fills](#), won the UF intramural softball championship for the second year in a row.



## Spotlight on Maxillofacial Prosthetics



Robert Mann

You might not think about Maxillofacial Prosthetics as a place where you could get a nose guard – but you can. Recently, in fact, Robert Mann created a special mask so that a patient could safely return to athletic activities without fear of reinjuring a broken nose. Mann, a maxillofacial prosthetics anaplastologist in the department of restorative dental sciences, created a protective sports mask for a patient who was referred from UF Health Shands ENT.



Mann took an impression using alginate that is poured over the patient's face and then backed by a layer of fast-setting plaster. The plaster is connected to the alginate layer by partially embedding 4 x 4 gauze into 50 percent of the surface of the alginate layer just before the alginate fully sets. Then Mann casted a plaster model and adapted a 4mm UVEX thermoplastic sheet over the model.



The patient then tested the first model to ensure that it was comfortable and didn't cause any issues with field of vision. After that, Mann reinforced the mask with stainless steel mesh and Orthocryl over the nasal area to provide additional laminated strength and support. Once complete, the mask is held in place with Velcro strapping.



This is just one of the many ways that Mann's work helps patients return to normal life. He also creates prosthetic replacements to rebuild faces that were damaged by cancer, injuries or birth defects. He joined the college in 1984 and has changed the lives of thousands of people over the years from his clinic at the northern end of Faculty Practice.

## FDA 2016 Mission of Mercy



Faculty, residents, students and staff joined volunteers from across Florida to treat underserved patients during the FDA's Mission of Mercy, two-day event.