



A college update from **A. Isabel Garcia, DDS, MPH**
Dean, UF College of Dentistry

To: UF College of Dentistry,

I trust that everyone is settled into the new semester and looking forward to this very busy part of our academic year.

For me, the year began with an annual activity at UF Health – reflecting on the prior year and reporting some of our achievements for the “[The Year in Review: Celebrating Our Achievements in 2016](#)” that is part of Dr. David Guzik’s [On The Same Page](#) column. I hope you will take a moment to review the summary and celebrate the very meaningful accomplishments highlighted – all a testament to the collective expertise, effort and energy of all of you.

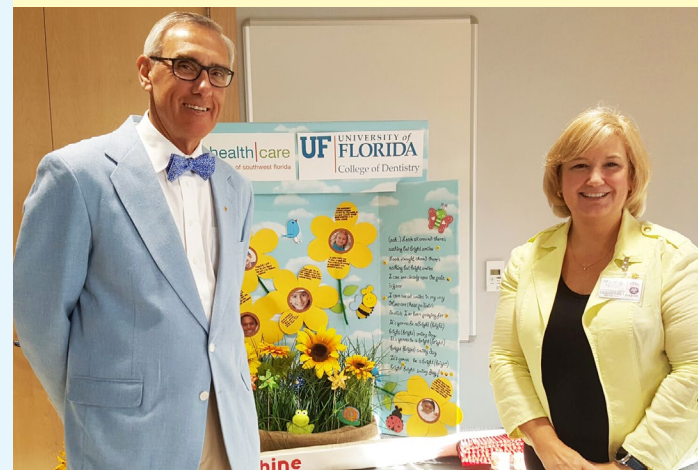
New faculty and searches

During 2016, we hired 10 new faculty members and six faculty searches are underway for the Departments of Community Dentistry & Behavioral Science, Oral & Maxillofacial Diagnostic Sciences, Periodontology and Restorative Dental Sciences.

Our year started with several additional hires. On January 3, Dr. Annetty Soto and Tina Treloar, joined the Department of Restorative Dental Sciences. Dr. Soto is a clinical assistant professor and is our newest team leader in the Division of Pre-doctoral General Dentistry. Ms. Treloar is the new program director of Santa Fe Dental Programs; previously she served as research coordinator in Dr. Luciana Shaddox’s laboratory in the Department of Periodontology. On March 1, Dr. Cesar Migliorati, will join the college as associate dean for clinical affairs and quality and professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Diagnostic Sciences. You can read more about Dr. Migliorati [here](#).

continued

Naples Children & Education Foundation 2017 Meet the Kids Event



We were honored to participate in the 2017 Meet the Kids event for the 2017 Naples Wine Festival, the annual signature fundraising event for the Naples Children & Education Foundation.

Through the generosity of this event, the Naples Children’s and Education Foundation established the NCEF Pediatric Dental Center in 2008 to bring oral healthcare to the underserved children in Collier County.

Thank you to courtesy faculty member Dr. Neal Benham, left, and staff member Susan Gorman for representing UF at this great event.

Throughout these multiple search processes, it is clear that we continue to attract extremely well qualified applicants – evidence of our school's excellent reputation, the extensive efforts of the departments involved, and our extremely hard-working human resources staff.

Spotlight on Education

On February 8 we celebrated the First Annual Spotlight on Dental Education event, created to acknowledge and honor teaching excellence in our college. The event included two segments. From noon to 1 p.m., everyone was invited to a presentation by Erik Black, Ph.D., "Considering Innovation in Contemporary Education," in C1-9. Teaching award winners were announced during an afternoon awards ceremony. Students who serve as tutors, and curriculum and SPEC committee members were also recognized. For a list of awardees, please visit our [online story here](#).

2017 Spring Synergy

This year marks the [8th Annual UFCD Spring Synergy](#) on March 31 which brings together research, continuing dental education, vendors and UF's ASDA events into one "synergistic" event. Everyone is invited to participate; a [detailed program is available here](#). To facilitate what I hope will be record attendance, the event will be held on the Health Science Center campus at locations in the Harrell Medical Education Building and the Founder's Gallery.

A renovation in progress!

Our students and residents will be pleased to know that UF Health is nearing completion of a renovation on the ground floor of Communicore, to serve as a Professional Student Lounge. Also underway in a nearby area of Communicore is a Graduate Student Lounge. The Professional Student Lounge is slated to open in early April and will include, in addition to space to study, relax and gather, new ping pong and foosball tables, which will be purchased with funds donated by the UFCD DMD Class of 2015. A plaque will acknowledge the class' thoughtful gift to help future dental students relax, reduce stress and keep up their gaming skills.

I am looking forward to everything that 2017 has to bring and I hope you all are as well. As always, I welcome your comments, input and suggestions.

Regards,

Dean Isabel Garcia



Dr. Tarek El-Kerdani and Dr. Indraneel Bhattacharyya, winners of a 2017 Sustained Excellence in Teaching Award.

2016 Spring Synergy



Renovation!



These senior DMD students are looking forward to being able to enjoy the new Professional Student Lounge on the ground floor of Communicore, due to open in April 2017, so much so that we snuck them in for a sneak preview.

From left, Andrew Jattan, Josh Allore, Richard Tamayo, Alex Thanh, Walmir Da Costa, Sean Williams, Ari Tow, and Duy Truong.

Migliorati appointed associate dean

Cesar Migliorati, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D., will join the college on March 1, 2017, as a professor in the UF department of Oral and Maxillofacial Diagnostic Sciences and has been appointed associate dean for clinical affairs and quality.

Migliorati is currently a professor and chair of the department of diagnostic sciences and oral medicine at the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry where he also serves as director of oral medicine. He has been in Tennessee since 2009, having previously worked at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale; the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil; Clinic for Geriatric and Handicapped Dentistry, Health Department- Zurich, Switzerland; and the University of California in San Francisco.



Joining the University of Florida is something of a homecoming for Migliorati who was with the college from 1990 to 1993 as an assistant professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Diagnostic Sciences Division of Oral Medicine.

"Our college is very fortunate to have Dr. Migliorati join our ranks once again – his depth and breadth of experience, and his vision for leading our clinical enterprise are impressive. I am confident everyone in our college will enjoy working and interacting with him and that I can count everyone to extend a warm Gator Dental 'welcome home' to the University of Florida," said Dean A. Isabel Garcia, D.D.S., M.P.H.

UF Student National Dental Association Val-o-grams



It's become an annual tradition near Valentine's Day. They come in a group near the lunch hour, usually wearing cell blue scrubs, with big smiles on their faces. They're the Lingual Grooves, they're here to serenade as a fundraiser for SNDA and they're fantastic!

You can enjoy them on YouTube.

Mark Your Calendars



The college's [online calender](#) includes lots of important dates and information for upcoming events, professional development opportunities and more. To add an event, email [Karen Rhodenizer](#).

March 6-10
DMD Break Week

March 18-21
[ADEA](#) in Long Beach, California

March 22 - 25
[AADR](#) in San Francisco, California

March 28 at 5:30 p.m.
Acid Etch Talent Show

March 29-31
[UFCD Spring Synergy](#)

April 8
[Super Sealant Saturday](#)

April 21 - 28
DMD Spring Break

June 22-24
[FDA meeting](#) in Orlando

Educational Programs

R.A.D.

The Rape Aggression Defense program is a self-defense program for women. UFPD also offers a program developed for [men](#).

R.A.D. Kids

radKIDS Summer Camp is a personal empowerment safety education program to provide children with skills to help recognize, avoid and escape violence and abuse.

Coffee With a Cop

This is designed to help foster interaction between students and officers in an informal way where they can openly discuss issues with each other. Upcoming dates include February 27 from 10am to noon at Broward Dining Hall, and March 20 and April 7-9 from 8am to 5pm at Gator Corner Dining Center.

The University of Florida Police Department provides a wide range of educational programs all of which are free for UF students, residents, staff and faculty. You can find a [list of their programs here](#). Of special interest are the many programs aimed at helping to keep you and others safe, and to develop understanding between law enforcement and members of the community. For more information, contact the UFPD Community Service Division at 352-392-1409.

Active Shooter Defense

UFPD's active shooter presentation is a 45-minute presentation to share information about how to respond in an active shooter situation to help protect yourself and others around you.

UFPD Spring Break Safety Fair

This annual event is held to provide information to students to help protect their safety during Spring Break. This year's fair is scheduled for March 1 from 10am to 2pm on the Reitz Union North Lawn.



They Share How We Care

The college's [Facebook page](#) has a section where our patients can post reviews. While we won't reprint any identifying information that the patients or guardians share on the page, here's some excerpts from some of our reviews. We hope you enjoy them as much as we do!

"I wish everyone who treats my daughter's medical issues could be this amazing. She has been receiving dental care from here for about four years. She can be an extremely difficult case. But the doc and assistants get right down to her level and have her calmly responding to their gently delivered requests. Not everyone can work with her without getting frustrated."

"Love my dental student Rodger. He is the best."

"They were so good with my girl. Her tooth needed a root canal due to the damage after she fell and chipped her tooth at school. She had a very bad infection on the nerve and they worked on it put medicine and said let's wait til the infection is gone before we fill it so that there will be no chance of a flare up. So we will be going back to finish soon. Thanks so much! Go gators!!"

"Great team of dental professionals who are learning, applying, and gaining experience that will provide exceptional dentists for decades to come."

"Dr. McPherson was so thoughtful and kind yesterday during my visit. My oral surgery was a success and pain free."