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 Guzick’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.

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
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 calendar 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.

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

"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."