

# DEAN'S UPDATE

To: UF College of Dentistry,

It is my great pleasure to wish you a very happy holiday season, and I'm sure you are looking forward to our annual winter break -- one of the rare times that the University of Florida slows down almost to a stop and allows us time to relax and take a break in preparation for 2010! We can truly disengage from our identity as "faculty, staff or student," and focus on the season and our valuable time with family and friends.

You've earned a rest! As a college we've performed well in all aspects of our mission. We're seeing more patients, our educational benchmarks are excellent and our research funding is pacing well ahead of last year.

I hope you'll join our **holiday celebration this Wednesday, December 16**, in the Dental Courtyard from noon to 2 p.m. It's a casual event that affords us some time to relax together. In addition I know many of us will be bringing gifts for children as part of the Wish Upon a Star program and also donations of food for people in need.

Enjoy your holidays because I predict an **action-packed 2010** for the college.

We're launching the new **AxiUm Clinical Management System** – the rollout will take about nine months from initiation to completion. Many of you are likely to be engaged in the planning, training and rollout of this new system.

We are also putting some finishing touches on the **college's strategic plan** that lays out a thoughtful program of goals, strategies and measurements to take us from 2010 through 2012. The draft plan can be

Forward  
& Together  
at Dentistry

found online, under the heading "Strategic Plans" at  
[http://www.dental.ufl.edu/SharedGovernance/Committees/CommitteeMinutes\\_Strategic\\_Planning.php](http://www.dental.ufl.edu/SharedGovernance/Committees/CommitteeMinutes_Strategic_Planning.php)

I encourage everyone to review the plan and provide feedback either to me or to any of the members of the Strategic Planning Committee. The HSC has titled their plan "Forward Together" so we've titled our's "Forward Together at Dentistry." The HSC is developing a web site dedicated to the strategic plan with a launch planned for January.

In addition the **state's budget constraints** are likely to continue which means we will continue to focus on increasing revenue, controlling costs and improving efficiencies to ensure our continued financial health and success at meeting our mission.

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# Honors & Awards

## Faculty Enhancement Opportunity Awards

I'm pleased to congratulate two faculty members who recently received FEO awards.

**Arthur "Buddy" Clark**, D.M.D., Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Prosthodontics, will apply his FEO funding to release him from some of his teaching duties during 2010 so he can focus more effort on a study that examines different design variables in implant-supported all-ceramic bridges, and how they can be made to last longer in the mouth.



**Valeria Gordan**, D.D.S., M.S., a professor in the Department of Operative Dentistry, received support to attend the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) which was developed for senior women faculty to hone their leadership skills and manage in today's complex healthcare environment. The program focuses attention to the unique challenges facing women in leadership positions.



**Sharon Cooper**, Ph.D., R.D.H., M.S., M.Ed., successfully defended her Ph.D. dissertation in Higher Education Administration, "Dental Faculty Perceptions of Workplace Environment and Career Satisfaction at the University of Florida College of Dentistry." She graduates on December 18. Cooper's dissertation research investigated faculty perceptions of the academic work environment that best predicted career satisfaction at the College of Dentistry, and that would affect the recruitment and retention of dental faculty at the college.

**Fong Wong**, B.S.D., D.D.S., C.A.G.S., M.S.D., was elevated to Full Fellow status of the American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics (AAMP) during their annual meeting in San Diego, Ca., in November. Wong joined the University of Florida College of Dentistry in 2004 and is an assistant professor in the Department of Prosthodontics.

## OKU installs new officers

In November the local chapter of Omicron Kappa Upsilon (OKU), a national dental honor society, installed a new slate of officers to serve for the 2009-10 year.



**Arthur Nimmo**, D.D.S., F.A.C.P., a professor in the Department of Prosthodontics and director of Predoctoral Implant Dentistry at the University of Florida College of Dentistry, was installed as president of the Xi Omicron Chapter of OKU. **Donald Cohen**, D.M.D., M.B.A., M.S., a professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Diagnostic Sciences was installed as president-elect. The new vice president is **Matthew Dennis**, D.D.S., a clinical associate professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial surgery. **Ronald Watson**, D.D.S., M.A.E., an associate professor of in the Department of Operative Dentistry, continued in his role as secretary-treasurer. **Ulrich Foerster**, D.D.S., a clinical associate professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, is the immediate past president.

## Warm welcome

And I'd like to extend a welcome to **Magda Swierkowicz**, who recently joined the college's Human Resources Department as a coordinator of administrative services. She will be responsible for coordinating VISA paperwork for faculty and employee hiring, updates/amendments, and transfers between departments within the college.

Magda earned her bachelor's in Language and Communications from the University of Wroclaw in Wroclaw, Poland. She is currently pursuing her master's in business administration degree from UF. Magda came to our college after spending four years in UF's central Human Resources office.



*Wishing you and your family an enjoyable winter break,  
and a Happy New Year!*

*Terri*