It’s with great pleasure that we bring you this departmental update, with news and information to help you stay in touch with your orthodontic program. The faculty, staff and residents continue to work hard to make this program the best it can be.

We are currently searching for a replacement for Dr. Timothy Wheeler who retired in June 2016 following a long and very successful career at the university. Dr. Page Jacobson also retired in June after more than 30 years as an adjunct faculty member of the department. We held a party for him at UF’s Lake Wauburg and many of our program alumni joined us. Dr. Leandra Dopazo who served on faculty previously and now practices in Jacksonville is replacing Dr. Jacobson. We are very happy to have her working with us and our residents again.

We remain extremely proud of the research achievements of our program residents, many of whom were recognized nationally. Dr. Melissa Alfonso Sedeno, who served as chief resident before graduating in May, won first place at the American Association of Orthodontists meeting in Orlando.

I am also very pleased with the excellent new residents we have joining our program this year. I hope that you will all have a chance to meet them during their three-year program and can share lessons learned during the course of your careers. They are a great group and, although I am always sad to see our great residents graduate, it is also always wonderful to welcome in a new class of high caliber orthodontists-to-be.

Recent graduates
Dr. Melissa Alfonso Sedeno is practicing in Miami.
Dr. Chelsea Brockway is practicing in Tampa.
Dr. Nick Mann is practicing in Tampa.
Dr. Angie McNeight is practicing in Melbourne.

New Residents
Dr. Lan La is from St. Petersburg. She earned her bachelor’s degree from UF and her dental degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Katharine Freeman joins our program from Texas. Her hometown is Helotes, Texas, she earned her bachelor’s degree from Texas A&M University and completed dental school at Baylor.

Dr. Gabrielle Zuzo moved from Michigan to pursue her orthodontics residency with us. She earned her bachelor’s and dental degrees from the University of Michigan.

Dr. Estela Truzman is from Miami. She earned her dental degree from Santa Maria University in Venezuela, and then completed an AEGD at the college’s program in Hialeah.

Dr. Emmanuel Alfonso-Oropesa has already completed his orthodontics training at Gran Marsical de Ayacucho University in Venezuela. He spent a year as a Fellow with our program and now will be joining our residency program for two more years of training.

Sincerely,

Cal Dolce, D.D.S., Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
The UF Orthodontic Residency Program marks its 40 year anniversary in 2016. It was started by Dr. Nan Wickwire in 1976 at the same time that a newly-minted orthodontist arrived in Gainesville, Florida. That orthodontist was Page Jacobson, D.D.S., and he offered to assist with teaching in the new program. His retirement in June of this year ends a long and dedicated career as an Orthogator - the end of an era.

Jacobson, who earned his master’s in orthodontics from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, was the one consistent component of a program and profession that, over the past 40 years, has seen many changes. Since its inception, our residency program has graduated 108 Orthogator alumni and there are currently 12 residents enrolled in the three year program. Jacobson has had a hand in educating 120 Orthogators over these many years.

In addition, throughout his career he remained actively involved in organized orthodontics having served as the president of the Florida Association of Orthodontics and as a delegate to the American Association of Orthodontics for many years. Jacobson also served in the U.S. Navy and continued in the naval reserve until retiring as a captain from the Navy Dental Corps in 1984 after serving for 21 years. “Dr. J,” as he is warmly referred to by residents past and present, is well respected by the residents for his experience and knowledge that he brings, and for the wonderful attitude he shares with all residents and patients. He has been a great mentor and role model to all the orthodontic graduates.

“We are so grateful for his amazing dedication to this program over the years. It won’t be the same without him and he will be missed,” Cal Dolce, chair of the department, said.

Congratulations to our faculty member, John Neubert, D.D.S., Ph.D., who was selected as the 2015-2016 Basic Sciences Teacher of the Year for the college.

Neubert graduated from the University of California Santa Barbara in 1990 and earned his dental degree in 1994 from the University of California Los Angeles. He earned specialty certificates in orofacial pain management from UCLA in 1996 and in orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics from UF in 2013. He joined UF faculty in 2003 and, in addition to treating patients, he serves as the director of predoctoral orthodontic education. He is also an established translational researcher whose work is recognized worldwide.

Each year the sophomore, junior and senior students vote to select a teacher of the year in the basic sciences and clinical sciences categories. The winners are selected for demonstrating excellence, innovation and effectiveness in teaching of the dental sciences.

John Neubert
RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Two faculty members, a current resident and two recent graduates received prestigious awards recently.

**Neubert receives AAOOF award**

John Neubert, D.M.D., Ph.D., an associate professor in orthodontics, received an American Association of Orthodontics Foundation Award for Biomedical Research in recognition of his project, “Effects of genetics on the expectation and experience of orthodontic pain.” He also received a three-year grant from The Facial Pain Research Foundation.

**Rody receives AAOOF award**

Congratulations to Wellington Rody, Jr., D.D.S., M.S., who became a member of the Edward H. Angle Society of Orthodontists in 2015 and received the 2015 B.F. Dewel Memorial Research Award for his research project, “Gene expression profile analysis of osteoclasts and odontoclasts.” Rody is an assistant professor in orthodontics. Rody joined UF in 2012 after 10 years in private practice.

**Bowden wins national research award**

Congratulations to Laura Bowden, D.M.D., a third-year orthodontics resident, and her research mentor, John Neubert, D.M.D., Ph.D. Bowden received a Research Aid Award of $5,000 from the American Association of Orthodontics Foundation for her project, “Operant Behavioral Instrument for Measuring Trigeminal Neuropathic Pain in Rodents.”

This marks the first time a UF orthodontics resident has received this prestigious award.

**McNeight wins research honor**

Orthodontics resident, class of 2016, Angela McNeight, D.M.D., was honored during the Dentsply GAC-GCARE University Research Award Competition at the 2016 Orthodontic World Congress for her abstract, “Effect of AcceleDent® Aura on Orthodontic Tooth Movement and Gingival Crevicular Fluid Biomarkers with Aligners.”

McNeight worked on the project along with fellow orthodontics resident Melissa Alfonso, D.M.D., and orthodontic faculty members Timothy Wheeler, D.M.D., Ph.D., and Wellington Rody, D.D.S., M.S.

**Sedeno wins first place award**

Melissa Alfonso Sedeno, D.M.D., who served as chief resident before graduating in May, won first place in the clinical research category for the Charley Schultz Resident Scholar Awards at the American Association of Orthodontists meeting in Orlando.

Her research project was titled, “Orthodontic Tooth Movement with Aligners using AcceleDent® Aura Device Versus a Sham Device in Adults: A Single-Center, Randomized Controlled Clinical Trial.”