

SAVE THE DATE

GATOR DENTIST RECEPTION AT FNDC
June 19, 2009
Gaylord Hotel, Orlando, Florida

DENTAL FALL WEEKEND
October 16 & 17, 2009
UF campus, Gainesville, Florida

UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

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FROM THE DEAN



Greetings from Gainesville, Florida. With all that's going on in our world today, from fiscal crises to wars and natural disasters, I must admit that it was a pleasure to join the rest of the Gator Nation on January 8, and enjoy an amazing win for our football team.

I am immensely proud to be a part of this great university. This most-recent national championship makes it even more important that the UF College of Dentistry maintains our history of national prominence in the areas of education, research and service. I am happy to report that, despite current economic challenges, we succeed in all areas.

We're well into the second semester of the new D.M.D. clinical education model, which we've dubbed "Catch the Wave." You'll be pleased to know that the changes provided a much-needed transformation of our clinical education model and enhances the program in ways we expected and more. In addition to facilitating student clinical learning experiences, it's been uplifting for faculty as

well, creating more cross-communications among departments and faculty.

In January the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) announced its research-funding rankings, placing us fourth in the country; last year we were ranked seventh. This is a notable improvement and certainly our recent NIH grant, which funds the new Southeast Center for Research to Reduce Oral Health Disparities highlighted in this issue, certainly played a part in our ranking improvement. This is especially impressive considering the highly competitive nature of securing NIH grant support.

In December we treated our first patient at the new NCEF Pediatric Dental Clinic in Naples and expect to serve approximately 5,000 patient visits during the first year of operation. Within several years, with the addition of faculty and more resident positions, we will deliver up to 15,000 patient visits per year. The clinic is a valuable addition to our Statewide Network for Community Oral Health because it will make a lifelong difference for thousands of children in the Naples area.

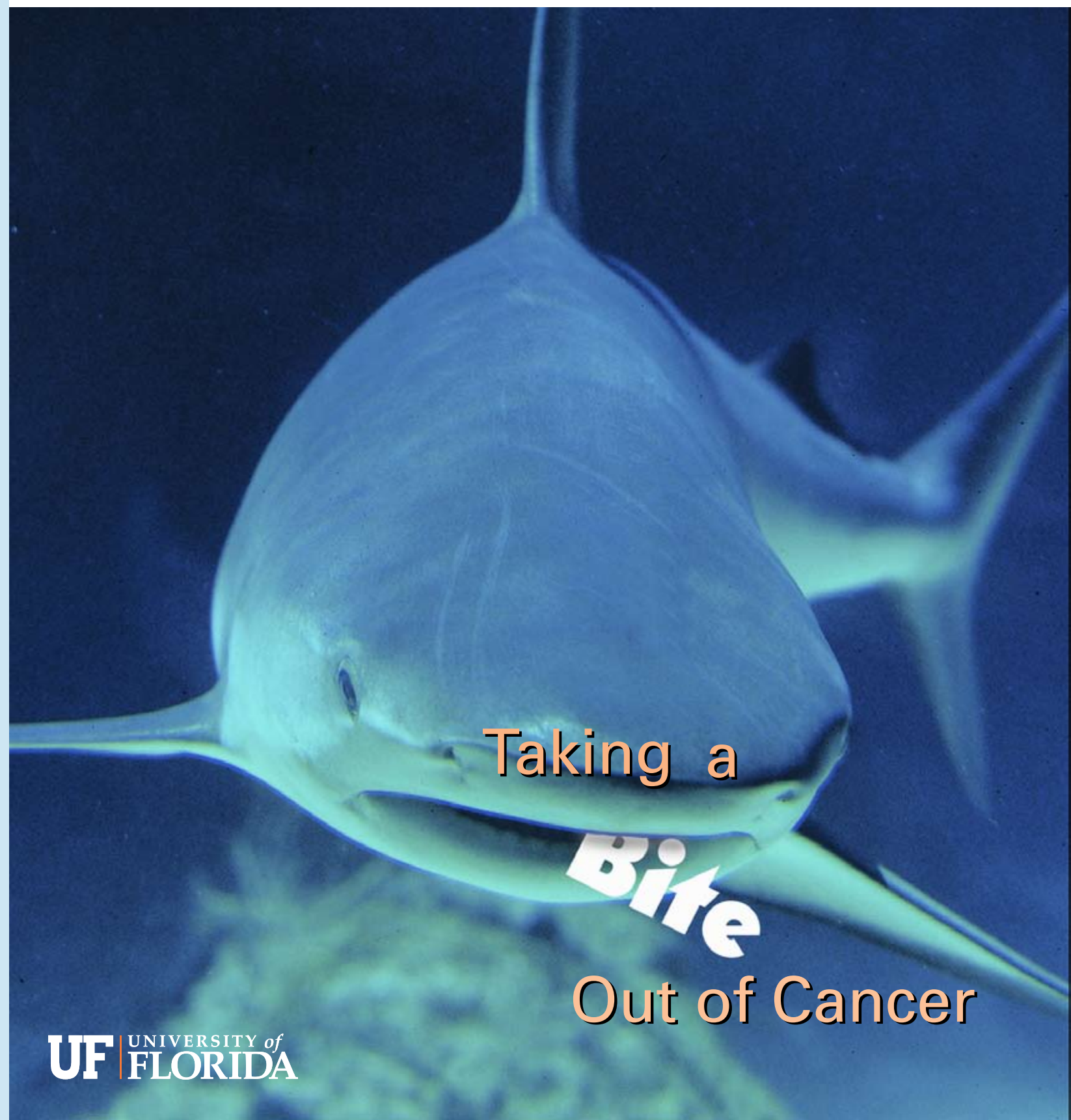
We've got some great events planned for our alumni, donors and friends as well. In this issue you learn more about Spring Synergy Weekend, a CE and networking weekend in Gainesville where 150 attendees interacted with students and with members of the FDA's Central Florida District Association. And make plans now for Dental Fall Weekend, once again scheduled for Homecoming Weekend. The 250 weekend packages, which include tickets to Gator Growl, pre-game tailgate with the dental fraternity, and the UF vs. Arkansas game, are likely to sell fast.

Why? Well, it's Gainesville. It's football. It's dental CE. And it's great to be a Florida Gator!

Best regards,

Teresa A. Dolan

Teresa A. Dolan, D.D.S., M.P.H.
Professor and Dean



We're taking the **BITE** out of **CANCER**

Each year, more than 11,000 people in the United States die because of head and neck cancers and 34,000 new cases are diagnosed.

The statistics are clear; there are serious disparities in detection and treatment of head and neck cancers in the United States. Low income equals late detection and late detection reduces survival rates.

But, as Paul Brodeur wrote in "Outrageous Misconduct," his book that chronicled asbestos litigation, "Statistics are human beings with the tears wiped off."
"I heard that quote during a meeting and it just overwhelmed me. It encapsulates what this center is about. This is about the people affected by head and neck cancers. More importantly, it's about reducing the number of people affected and, in doing so, reducing the number of tears," said Henrietta Logan, Ph.D., a professor in community dentistry and behavioral science, and the principal investigator for a \$5.3 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant to the UF College of Dentistry.



Henrietta Logan, Ph.D.

Head and neck cancer is the 10th leading cause of death among African-American men, who suffer twice the mortality of white men. In Florida, African-Americans are diagnosed at younger ages and more advanced disease stage compared with whites.

The grant, awarded in October 2008, funds a new multi-disciplinary research center aimed at reducing disparities in head and neck cancer survival through prevention and early detection in low-income, minority men. Since 1992 the NIH has supported four regional research centers that focus on minority oral health problems with a goal of establishing an evidence base for the development of prevention and treatment regimens. This is the first NIH-funded center to focus on head and neck cancer in the Southeast.

Officially called the Southeast Center for Research to Reduce Disparities in Oral Health (SCRRDOH), Logan and her team like to say, "We're taking the bite out of cancer. Because that's really our end goal."

Statistics show that early detection increases survival rates but that information is powerless unless it gets to the right audience and creates action. In other words, at-risk people need to see it, believe it and take the steps to protect themselves.

Oral cancer strikes men more than twice as often as it does women. Most African-American men survive about 21 months after diagnosis; white men survive about 40 months.

The center has launched the first phase of the program that focuses on conducting grassroots research to determine how to communicate effectively with the target audience. Logan says, "If we can learn what works, what resonates with our audience, we'll hold a critical key that can help shape state and national public policy and make a difference. Is it celebrity spokespersons? Ministers? Medical professionals? We have the questions and the research will provide important answers we can employ as we move forward."

For instance, in 2006, Scott Tomar, D.M.D., Dr.PH, professor and chair of community dentistry and behavioral science in the College of Dentistry, initiated



Nery Clark, D.M.D., performs an oral cancer screening.

a social marketing campaign in the Jacksonville/Duval County area that focused on tobacco use cessation and also included educational information about the risks of oral cancer and the importance of early detection.

"One of the most effective methods he found was using city buses as billboards by employing 'wraps' around the bus. But this won't help us in the rural areas where public transportation doesn't exist and the challenges of reaching our at-risk population are higher than anywhere else," said Logan.

Logan and her team plans to leverage strong partnerships the college already enjoys within the university, the state and with many smaller, rural communities across the state. Center partners include the Florida Department of Health, Florida Dental Association, Florida National Dental Association, Florida Dental Hygiene Association, Florida A&M University, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), State Oral Health Improvement Plan, Oral Cancer Working Group, Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs (ACORN), and Regional Ministerial Networks.

Survival from head and neck cancer is one of the lowest among all malignancies; it has not improved in recent decades and remains about 58%.

To research the effectiveness of various scientific health promotion models the center is organizing oral cancer screening clinics at locations such as rural health clinics, community centers and churches. They will see how many people attend, and then deploy various educational tools in that community. At future oral screening clinics they will compare attendance to determine which communications model increases the likelihood that African American men obtain oral cancer screenings.

The upside to this type of research is that it's active rather than passive, "We're not just measuring. Every time we have a screening clinic, we're reaching

someone, we're doing something, and we're moving forward. That feels good," said Logan.

Phase two for the center involves educating care providers about the importance of performing an oral cancer screening on each patient, especially during an emergency dental visit.

"It's all too common that the one time our target population might see a dentist is during an emergency visit. Cancer screenings aren't routinely part of emergency dental treatment but it may be the last time that patient will be in a dental chair for years and a simple screening may save their life," Logan said.

Pam Sandow, D.M.D., a clinical associate professor and director of the college's oral medicine clinic, sees the aftermath when patients' oral cancer symptoms go undiagnosed by a professional for too long, "We

see many cases of oral cancer where the patient realizes they have a lesion or lump but doesn't see it as a cause for concern. They think it will go away and only seek care when it becomes painful or interferes with eating or speaking."

One such patient noticed a lump in the floor of the mouth for six months before diagnosis. The patient had a dental cleaning a year prior to the diagnosis of cancer. Sandow realizes that the problem may or may not have been present at that dental visit, "however, we have to wonder if the patient received an oral cancer screening at the time and if so, had the patient been educated to be vigilant for abnormal findings in the mouth?"

Unfortunately, this patient's cancer had advanced to the point of requiring removal of a large portion of his jaw in addition to radiation therapy, greatly compromising the patient's long-term quality of life because of the aggressive therapy required for a cure.

In contrast, another patient had a tooth extracted and the dentist did a biopsy of some suspicious gum tissue that turned out to be an early cancer. Since the cancer was removed in its early stages, the patient did not need radiation therapy and the chance of cure was greatly improved.

Education leads to early diagnosis. Early diagnosis and access to care leads to survival with fewer complications. The end result takes a bite out of cancer and leads to fewer tears.

"We realize this is a long road that begins with our research on effective communication and education, but we're delighted that our trip has started and we're in it for the long haul. We're ready to take the bite," Logan said.

For more information about the center, please visit <http://www.dental.ufl.edu/offices/takethebite/>

IN MEMORIAM



Harry C. Lundeen, D.D.S.
1924 - 2009

Harry C. Lundeen, D.D.S., a professor emeritus at the UF College of Dentistry, passed away on March 2, 2009. Lundeen, formerly chair of the Occlusion and Fixed Prosthodontics department and a co-director of the Facial Pain Center, joined the college in 1971 and served until his retirement in 1986.

"Dr. Lundeen certainly made his mark on the dental profession nationally and shaped the lives of many of our students, his fellow faculty and staff at our college," said Dr. Teresa Dolan, dean of the UF College of Dentistry. "His passing is a sad event for our college and for me, personally. He had many colleagues and friends at UFCD and he will be missed."

Lundeen was born in 1924 in Avondale, Mont., and served in the U.S. Air Force as a B-24 pilot in Europe during WWII. He then attended the University of Minnesota where he earned his bachelors and D.D.S. degrees in 1952. Before coming to the University of Florida, Lundeen was on faculty at the University of Oregon in Portland and the University of Kentucky in Lexington.

Lundeen was active in local and national dental associations and served as a consultant for the VA Medical Center for many years. He received many awards during his career including three Outstanding Clinical Professor awards at the UF College of Dentistry and was voted Teacher of the Year for the college in 1977-78. He developed a wealth of teaching materials, published prolifically for many years and was recognized world-wide for his research on occlusion, TMJ dysfunction, and prosthodontics.

ALUMNI CORNER

Dental Fall Weekend 2008



The 2008 Dental Fall Weekend proved a resounding success. Hundreds of Gator Dentists, and their families and friends, joined faculty, staff and students for a great weekend of continuing dental education, the Homecoming Parade, Gator Growl, tailgating, and a winning football game. Does it get any better than that?

This year we tried a few new things, including tailgating with the dental fraternity in response to students and alumni asking for time to network with each other, and a shortened continuing education course. Feedback was excellent so we're planning a similar weekend for our 2009 Dental Fall Weekend, Oct. 16 and 17.

We were lucky to once again land the UF Homecoming Weekend for our event during which the Gator football team will play the Arkansas Razorbacks. Hotel room blocks are reserved:

SpringHill Suites by Marriott, (352) 376-8873
Best Western Gateway Grand, (352) 331-3336
Fairfield Inn, (352) 332-8292
Paramount Hotel & Plaza, (352) 377-4000
Hilton Garden Inn, (352) 338-1466
Hilton Homewood Suites, (352) 335-3133
Holiday Inn Express, (352) 376-0004

Bogdanoff, Class of 1980, returns safely from Iraq

Major Steven Bogdanoff, D.M.D., came home safely in 2009, after spending 90 days in Bagdad, Iraq, to help ensure that our military service personnel receive the dental care they need during deployment. He kept a blog during his deployment and one entry details his feelings about coming home. "I can't wait to see everyone, eat in a restaurant without standing in line, eating off a tray, and having to dump the tray on the way out. The little things in life. I do get tired of wearing combat boots 15 hours a day, 6 or 7 days a week." *Welcome home - from all your Gator Dentist friends.*

Where are you now?

We'd like to know. Please send an email to the communications office at krhodnizer@dental.ufl.edu and let us know where you are now. We'll share your update via alumni profiles on our web site and in other alumni forums.

Please visit us

The college's web site serves as a great source of information about what's happening in the college. Visit us at www.dental.ufl.edu and see what's new in the world of Gator dentistry today.

Email addresses needed

We are increasingly using email to keep in touch with our alumni, donors and friends. If you don't already receive emails from the college, please email our alumni affairs office and send us your email address by emailing Rebecca Graves rgraves@dental.ufl.edu

Mark your calendar for upcoming Gator Dentist events

Gator Dentist Reception at FNDC

June 19, 2009
Orlando, Florida
Gaylord Hotel

All Gator Dentists (alumni, friends and donors of the college, and their guests) are invited to join us for a relaxing and fun reception. No RSVP required!

Dental Fall Weekend

October 16 & 17, 2009
Gainesville, Florida

Plans for the event include enjoying all Homecoming Weekend activities including a football game against Arkansas, Gator Growl, and Homecoming Parade. Plus a CE course and a pre-game tailgate with the student dental fraternity. For more information, go online: www.dental.ufl.edu and click on "Alumni, Donors and Friends."

Gator Dentist Today

Published for the alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends of the University of Florida College of Dentistry.

Teresa A. Dolan, D.D.S., M.Ph.
Professor and Dean

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NCEF Pediatric Dental Clinic opens

Collier County Campus of Edison State College, Naples, Florida

In December the NCEF Pediatric Dental Clinic, the newest member of the UF-owned family of dental facilities around the state, opened its doors to its first patient and, in doing so, opened a path of increased access to care and healthier smiles for at-risk children in Collier County.

The center began with three UF College of Dentistry residents and two faculty members and, over the course of the first year, expects to complete about 5,000 patient visits. In time, the center plans to have 10 residents on staff along with paid and volunteer faculty to help ensure that children in Collier County receive the dental care they need to have a healthy and successful start in life.

"We expect that, within three or four years when we are fully staffed, we'll be able to accommodate 15,000 patient visits a year," said Lauren Governale, D.M.D., M.P.H., who is a faculty member at the college and serves as the clinical director for the program.

The University of Florida received \$4 million for construction of the center from the Naples Children and Education Foundation (NCEF). The NCEF donated an additional \$1.585 million for start-up costs to help fund operations for the first five years. The university was able to obtain a matching grant of \$4 million from the state's Alec P.

Courtelis Facilities Enhancement Challenge Grant Program, which covered the remainder of the \$8 million construction cost.

"Our clinic was built to address the pervasiveness of oral disease among at-risk children in Collier County by using innovative strategies and collaborative partnerships that we hope will serve as a model for other programs nationwide," said Governale. "With the continued support of the NCEF, we hope to be successful in improving the lives of Collier County children."

The NCEF also donated funds to build the NCEF Early Childhood Development Center on the Edison College campus, right next to the dental center. A special "Meet the Kids" day at the facilities on Feb. 6, 2009, provided an opportunity for NCEF trustees and donors to witness first-hand the result of their generosity. A building dedication for both centers was held on March 29, 2009.



Bringing the dental community together

Past, present and future

The college is listening to our alumni and friends, and to our students by organizing social and educational events that center on creating opportunities for you to get to know one another and learn from each other.

The D.M.D. students want to learn from you about things that aren't part of the curriculum. How did you choose to go into a specialty? How did you select which one? If there was one thing you wished you'd learned before graduation, what was it? What would you do differently? What would you do the same way?

Spring Synergy Weekend

This spring we debuted our first-ever Spring Synergy Weekend, April 24 - 26, representing a collaboration between the Academy of Alumni and Friends, the college's Continuing Dental program, the American Student Dental Association, and the Central Florida District of the Florida Dental Association. It was a "synergistic" weekend of dental activities including CE programs, a reception and vendor fair, networking opportunities and a fundraising golf tournament.

The second Spring Synergy Weekend is tentatively scheduled for March 19 and 20. In addition to having a CE program and the ASDA activities,



we plan to incorporate the third annual Dental Assistant Symposium and the college's eighth annual Research Day into the agenda.

Gator Dentist Reception at FNDC

Please take the time to join us at the next Gator Dentist Reception during the FNDC in Orlando at the Gaylord Hotel, on Friday, June 19. The reception, generously sponsored by Delta Dental, Heartland Dental Care, Inc., and the Academy of Alumni and Friends, is a relaxed and fun way to reconnect with each other and celebrate being a Gator during the state convention.

Everyone is invited and no RSVP is needed!

Dental Fall Weekend

Always a highlight of the year for our friends and alumni, this weekend showcases the Gator football team and reuniting with the spirit of the Gator Nation in our "nation's capital" - Gainesville.

You can access more information about all our dentistry events online at www.dental.ufl.edu.



forward to initiate this fund. I think it speaks volumes to our students, knowing our alumni value their education enough to give back to the college that helped build their career."

Lalane has a general practice in Boynton Beach, Fla., and currently serves as the Atlantic District representative to the Academy of Alumni & Friends. He and his wife have four children: Bobby, a second-year medical student at Duke University; Allison, senior at UNC-Chapel Hill; Charley, who is carrying on the Gator tradition as a freshman at UF; and David who is in the fifth grade. In his free time, Lalane enjoys hunting and fishing, and is an avid Gator fan.

The new D.M.D. clinical education model was launched in August 2008 and represents a major transformation of the educational model for the program and brings a more comprehensive and real-world approach to the students' experiences in clinic.

Lalane takes the lead in catching the wave

Robert Lalane, Class of 1980, is the first donor to the new Catch the Wave D.M.D. Clinical Education Fund, created to pay for additional improvements to the D.M.D. clinics as part of the 2008 transition to a general dentistry model for the educational program.

Lalane and his wife, Monica, gave a generous donation of \$40,000 to launch the fund and, in doing so, began the "second wave" of this successful program.

"I am thankful for the education I received at the UF College of Dentistry. I believe it is the very best education delivered in our profession, and I feel that all alumni have an obligation to do everything we can to support the school," said Lalane.

"While we were able to complete enough of the clinic renovations to meet our launch deadline, we still have remaining software and equipment upgrades that are critically important for the program," said Dean Teresa Dolan. "We were very grateful that Dr. Lalane stepped

Gator Bytes

Faculty Awards, Honors and Achievements

■ **L. Jeannine Brady**, Ph.D., and **Matthew J. Dennis**, D.D.S., were selected by the college's students as Teacher of the Year for the College of Dentistry, recognizing their excellence, innovation and effectiveness in teaching of the dental sciences. Brady, associate professor in Oral Biology, was selected as the 2008-09 Basic Sciences Teacher of the Year. Dennis, clinical associate professor in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Diagnostic Sciences, was selected as the 2008-09 Clinical Teacher of the Year.

■ **Michael Cellitti**, D.D.S., M.S., recently joined the faculty of the UF College of Dentistry having retired from 32 years in private pediatric dental practice in Minnesota. He is a Diplomate and Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and is now serving on staff at the college's NCEF Pediatric Dental Clinic in Naples, which opened in December 2008.

■ **Edward Chan**, Ph.D., a professor in the UF College of Dentistry's Department of Oral Biology, received a one-year grant of \$88,500 from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), a part of the National Institutes of Health, to fund a pilot study on autoantibody determinations and their xenobiotic associations. The study is aimed at determining the frequency and specificity of autoantibodies among healthy individuals and correlating them with exposure to environmental xenobiotic and is the first of its kind to look at a sample representative of the United States population.

■ **Roger Fillingim**, Ph.D., will receive the 2009 Wilbert E. Fordyce Clinical Investigator Award from the American Pain Society at their annual meeting in May 2009. The award recognizes individual excellence and achievements in clinical pain scholarship and is presented to a pain professional whose total career research achievements have contributed significantly to clinical practice. Fillingim has also been asked to deliver a plenary lecture at the annual meeting by the Scientific Program Committee.

■ **Andrew Jakymiw**, Ph.D., a research assistant professor in the College of Dentistry's Oral Biology department, recently received two major grant awards to fund his research aimed at developing RNA interference (RNAi)-based therapies for the treatment of oral cancer. In July 2008, he was awarded a three-year, \$375,000 new investigator research grant from the Bankhead-Coley Cancer Research Program at the Florida Department of Health. In September 2008, Jakymiw received a National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research award that provides one to two years of mentored support at \$97,200 a year, followed by up to three years of independent support contingent on securing an independent tenure-track or equivalent research position, with funding of \$249,000 a year.

■ **Katherine Karpinia**, **Gail Mitchell** and **Carol Stewart** received Faculty Enhancement Opportunity (FEO) awards. FEOs are intended to advance the academic, professional and scholarly abilities of faculty members and provide an alternative to the sabbatical system. **Karpinia**, D.M.D., M.S., associate professor and director in Periodontics, received a FEO award for the spring 2009 semester. Karpinia will train at the World Clinical Laser Institute in Charlotte, N.C., to learn to use lasers to treat dental patients. **Mitchell**, associate professor in Community Dentistry and Behavioral Sciences, received a FEO for the spring 2009 and spring 2010 semesters. Mitchell will study advanced faculty development education, cultivating critical thinking in the classroom and clinical learning environments. Mitchell will create a long-term professional development program and also establish a faculty-learning community to facilitate teaching of critical thinking at UF. **Stewart**, professor in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Diagnostic Sciences, received a FEO for the 2009 spring and summer semesters. Stewart is assessing the feasibility of an Oral Medicine Residency program at the UF College of Dentistry and investigating "best practice" models for successful operation of an Oral Medicine Clinic through site visits to four programs.

■ **Theofilos Koutouzis**, D.D.S., M.S., recently received an American Academy of Implant Dentistry Research Foundation (AAIDRF) Award in order to complete his research project "Comparative Soft and Hard Tissue Responses to Titanium and Polymer Healing abutments." The award of \$2,000, plus \$500 for travel expenses to present the findings during a meeting, was also sponsored in part by Straumann.

■ **Shannon M. Wallet**, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the UF College of Dentistry, recently received a \$402,875, two-year grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to fund a study to investigate regulatory mechanisms of cyto/chemokine expression which directly and indirectly contribute to tissue destruction and periodontal disease progression. In November 2008, she received a \$75,000 contract from Palmolive Corporation. In 2007 she received a three-year, \$414,000 grant from the American Diabetes Association to investigate the role of gingival epithelial cells in innate immunity of type 1 and type 2 diabetes.

■ **Jennifer Watson**, Ph.D., recently received a \$10,000 grant for a pilot research project to teach mothers in WIC clinics about oral health and caries prevention. Funding for the project was provided by a UF College of Dentistry seed grant. Watson, a research assistant professor in the department of community dentistry and behavioral science, joined the college in 2005.

Catch the Wave

Second wave funding needs

About \$2.2 million is needed for software and equipment upgrades that will complete the transformation of the D.M.D. clinics.

New clinic management software	\$700,000 - \$1.2 million
Renovations to center labs	\$500,000
New student lockers	\$100,000
Operator upgrades	\$337,280
• curing lights for each operator	(\$38,500)
• laser units in clinics	(\$24,000)
• new operating units	(\$271,755)
• doctor operating stools	(\$6,090)
• assisting stools	(\$15,500)
• electric pulp testers	(\$12,435)
• x-ray units	(\$10,400)
• x-ray chairs	(\$2,200)
• store room upgrades	(\$20,000)
Total:	\$1.7 to \$2.2 million

How you can help

Please consider making a donation to the D.M.D. Clinical Education Fund

You can give online (www.dental.ufl.edu) and click on "Make a Gift Online") or write a check designating the fund in the memo field. For more information, please contact Cathy Jenkins, Senior Director of Development & Alumni Affairs, (352) 273-5779 or email cjenkins@dental.ufl.edu.