



A college update from **A. Isabel Garcia, D.D.S., M.P.H.**
Dean, UF College of Dentistry



To: UF College of Dentistry,

Three weeks ago we had an unconventional disruption to our classes and clinics in Gainesville, as well as our clinics in Hialeah, Naples and St. Petersburg, when Hurricane Irma swept through the Caribbean and worked its way north through Florida.

I want to extend a personal note of thanks for all you did for the greater good of our college, the university and your respective communities before, during and after the storm. Many of you played a role on the front lines of communication in activating the college's disaster response plan as we worked to ensure the safety of all students, residents, faculty and staff. I know that many of you helped with recovery efforts in the aftermath, cleaning damage in your neighbor's homes and yards, and serving the community in other ways.

With so many throughout our state suffering significant loss, and with Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands on our minds after Hurricane Maria, we remain committed to providing necessary support and assistance. We are all thankful the storm's impact on our areas, though considerable, was less than originally anticipated; we will continue to work through the aftereffects in our facilities and with employees who have experienced significant disruptions. Please note that UF has set up [Aid-a-Gator](#), an emergency funding program to help those experiencing hardships due to the hurricane and its aftermath.

Overall, I could not be more proud of the way all members of our college responded to Hurricane Irma and I want to thank everyone for the part they played in response.

Strategic Planning Update

As you know, we are in the midst of developing a new

Top 10!



The University of Florida is the first Florida school, and the first school in the Southeastern Conference, to break into the list of top 10 best public universities, coming in at No. 9, according to the 2018 U.S. News & World Report.

Now the state's highest-ranked university, UF last year was ranked No. 14 among U.S. public institutions.

The U.S. News rankings are based on up to 15 key measures of quality that are used to capture the various dimensions of academic quality at each university. The measures fall into seven broad areas: undergraduate academic reputation; graduation and retention rates; faculty resources; student selectivity; financial resources; alumni giving; and graduation rate performance.

UF's quest to become a top-10 public research institution officially began in 2013, when the Legislature passed, and Scott signed, a bill designating it a preeminent university and providing special funding to be used for helping it reach top status.

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UFCD Strategic Plan for 2018-2022. Our strategic planning work groups have diligently worked during the past few months to identify priorities for their respective areas of emphasis, and finalize recommendations to the Steering Committee. With the work group reports now completed the focus will turn to discussions with the Steering Committee on October 12, and drafting of the plan.

It has been rewarding to read each group's recommendations, which touch on important issues and concerns relevant to dental education, research, patient care, and institutional growth, support and advancement.

We will follow the Steering Committee meeting with a luncheon on October 13 for retired UFCD faculty in coordination with UF's Capital Campaign Kickoff. We will provide them with a college update, discuss our strategic planning process and provide a forum to gain their insights and feedback.

I am deeply grateful to everyone for playing such a critical role in this process; for the important feedback, attention to detail and the thoughtful dialogue. We remain on track to complete the first draft of the plan in 2017. I will continue to provide updates on our progress. Please remember you can always visit our [shared governance page](#) for updates on the process.

UF Foundation Capital Campaign Launch

It's hard to believe October is here, which means the public launch of the university's capital campaign, "Go Greater," is upon us. The official campaign kickoff event is scheduled for Friday evening, October 13, from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in Exactech Arena at the Stephen C. O'Connell Center.

All students, residents, faculty and staff are invited to attend the kickoff festivities, which include a pre-kickoff reception in the arena lobby at 6:15 p.m., followed by an after party inside the arena at 8:30 p.m. after the evening's programming.

We are excited to engage in the campaign kickoff and this next phase of fundraising that will enhance our ability to fulfill our college's mission, and to make our mark in the UF community and beyond. Among the areas of priorities for our college are endowed professorships and scholarships, as well as initiatives focusing on children's oral health and digital dentistry.

Our college's fundraising goal through 2022 is \$28 million, and we have currently raised \$10.8 million towards that goal. The future is bright as we "Go Greater!"

Regards,
Dean Isabel Garcia

UF has since used preeminence funding to hire more than 100 senior leading faculty from all over the world. Earlier this year, the university announced a plan to increase the faculty by an additional 500 members to continue to increase research excellence and reduce class sizes.

Many new UF researchers have cited the school's exceptional breadth of disciplines and the numerous opportunities for collaboration that brings with it a reason for coming to work at the university.

We are so proud to be Gators! For more on Dr. Fuchs' comments regarding UF's top-10 status, visit the [official announcement](#).

Irma Can't Break Our Spirit!

When Hurricane Irma tore through the Caribbean, the state of Florida and other parts of the southeastern United States three weeks ago, it caused massive destruction and hardships for many people. We are so lucky that all of our clinics, including community-based care centers throughout the state, suffered minimal damage and were all up and running within a week of the storm. Thank you to each and every one of you for your patience and diligence as we dealt with interruptions of operations and resumed normal schedules. How about this team work for clean up in Hialeah? The crew of faculty and staff in Hialeah also answered a call for help from the Department of Health, donated a number of oral hygiene items and assembled bags for displaced special needs individuals from Monroe County. They personally delivered the bags to the shelters on FIU's campus.



St. Petersburg Residents

Class of 2018



We are thrilled to welcome 12 new residents to our St. Petersburg Dental Center, where they'll complete a 12 month Advanced Education in General Dentistry certificate program. The St. Pete AEGD program is designed to provide advanced clinical and didactic training in all disciplines of general dentistry beyond the training received in dental school.

Getting to know our St. Petersburg residents:

Olivia Bassilly, University of Florida:

I love traveling and mission work. I have been to six of the seven continents and have been on several mission trips around the world, including Egypt, Ecuador, Bolivia, Mexico, Dominican Republic and Guatemala.

William Edwards, University of Augusta:

I'm from Georgia and I love doing anything outdoors.

Kylen Hughes, Ohio State University:

I like to make people laugh and pick creative gifts to brighten someone's day.

David Babb, Medical University of South Carolina:

I started an outdoor clothing company called *Flyin' the Flats, Inc.* right before dental school and have continued building the brand throughout dental school and residency. I also have a beautiful and loving chocolate lab named Mako.

Rogelio de la Rosa, University of Florida:

I used to raise pigeons and Beta fish as a hobby back in Cuba.

Laura Koberda, Medical University of South Carolina:

I like happy hour and long walks on the beach. Polish is my first language.

Kelli Riddle, Virginia Commonwealth University:

I like spending time in the sun and playing with my yellow lab named Blue.

Nareh Issayans, University of Maryland:

I am originally from Maryland. I like the beach and watching movies. I also speak fluent Armenian.

Keri Eberhart, University of Michigan:

I enjoy spending time at the beach and watching Michigan football. Go Blue!

Brittany Pidgeon, University of Louisville:

I love to bake, power vinyasa yoga is my favorite (at my studio, cold lavender towels at the end of each class was the best!), and I love living by the ocean for the first time in my life.

William Hackett, University of Kentucky:

I am one of the co-hosts of the [Life and Dentistry Podcast](#), and I enjoy hunting, fishing and hiking.

Laura Jean Varadi, Medical University of South Carolina:

I'm from Charleston, S.C., and enjoy going on the boat and to the beach!

SUPERIOR 2018 ACCOMPLISHMENT AWARDS

Know someone who is deserving of a *University of Florida Superior Accomplishment Award*? You're in luck! The Superior Accomplishment Award nomination period has begun.

The Superior Accomplishment Award Committee is accepting nominations through **October 31, 2017**. Division 5, the Health Science Center, will present 46 awards from six different categories.

The university not only recognizes faculty and staff who have done extraordinary work from August to July, but also celebrates two other important initiatives: the Diversity and Inclusion Award and the Community Service Award.

Nomination forms are found [here](#).

Ever known dental students to turn away free snacks? This massive bag of popcorn made its way to the Professional Student Lounge a couple weeks ago after being left over from a UF Health event. It's safe to say it was enjoyed! —>

Coming soon...Hospitality Training!

Hospitality training has been made available to hundreds of UF Health managers, staff and health care providers, and the College of Dentistry will take part! The college will not only focus on hospitality training in the context of quality clinical care, but will be expanding the concept to improve our working environment across the board, ensuring our professionalism touches every part of the college's mission.

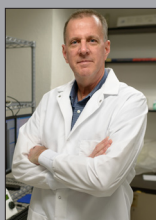
Upcoming Hospitality Training Dates

Deans, Chairs & Program Directors: Oct. 16

Staff: Oct. 27



Faculty, residents, students & community-based clinics stay posted!



Celebrating Distinction ~ Oct. 26, 3:30-5:30 p.m., McKnight Brain Institute

All faculty and staff are invited to **Celebrating Distinction** on Oct. 26 at the McKnight Brain Institute. During this event, all UF Academic Health Center faculty who have recently been appointed to endowed professorships are installed. This year, President Kent Fuchs will host the event, and we are proud that **Dr. Robert Burne** will be one of the endowed professors honored. We hope to see you there to show your support! **RSVP requested: RSVP@hsc.ufl.edu**

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](#).



October 6
UF Homecoming

October 13
UF Capital Campaign Kickoff

October 19-23
ADA Annual Meeting, Atlanta

October 23-27
DMD Break Week

October 27
College Staff Retreat

November 10
Veteran's Day

November 17 & 18
Dental Fall Weekend

March 17-20
ADEA in Orlando

March 21 - 24
AADR in Ft. Lauderdale