



A COLLEGE UPDATE from *Dean A. Isabel Garcia, D.D.S., M.P.H.*

To: UF College of Dentistry,

Congratulations to the D.M.D. Class of 2019, and all of our advanced and graduate Gator Dentists who earned degrees and certificates at commencement. It was a wonderful ceremony and day of celebration. I wish you all the best, and know you will carry on the legacy of great Gator Dentists who go on to serve our profession in a multitude of different ways.

Leadership

The past couple of months have been exciting for the future of the University of Florida, UF Health and our college. On April 30, we entered a new era of leadership when Dr. David Nelson was named senior vice president for health affairs at UF and president of UF Health after serving in an interim role for the past year. He is a highly talented physician, researcher, scholar and educator; I have thoroughly enjoyed working with him through this transition and look forward to his leadership in a permanent capacity.

Teachers of the Year

Last month, we celebrated our college's education program at our third annual Spotlight on Dental Education reception. I'd like to extend my congratulations once again to our UFCD Teachers of the Year. Our Sustained Exemplary Teaching awardees were Dr. Marcelle Nascimento, Dr. Arthur Nimmo and Dr. Patricia Pereira; our Exemplary Teaching Award recipients were Dr. Annetty Soto, Dr. Olga Luaces and Dr. Panos Zoidis; and Dr. Alex Delgado and Dr. Donald Cohen were named Clinical Teacher of the Year, and Basic and Behavioral Sciences Teachers of the Year, respectively.

It takes a village to keep our college's educational wheels turning, and I am grateful for the many faculty, staff, residents and students who contribute to making our educational programs great – from our educators



SAVE THE DATE
July 10

*Sustained Exemplary
Teaching Award
Recipients*



*Clinical and Basic and
Behavioral Sciences
Teachers of the Year*

*Exemplary
Teaching Award
Recipients*



to tutors, teaching assistants and committee members: thank you!

Celebrating Research

We had a fantastic showing for 2019 Spring Synergy with nearly double the poster abstract submissions this year. It was a beautiful day, and a pleasure to welcome Dr. Nico Geurs from UAB as our Kaplan Scholar, in addition to hearing from our own research keynotes Dr. Josephine Esquivel-Upshaw and Dr. Edward Chan. Congratulations to all of this year's oral and poster presentation winners. You can visit the column in this issue for the full list of winners.

We welcomed Leslie Hollier du Plooy from Dentsply Sirona to campus a couple of weeks ago, as she presented first-year student Naeem Motlagh with the AADR Dentsply Sirona SCADA award from Spring Synergy. As the Dentsply/SCADA winner, Naeem will travel to Washington, D.C., next year to present his research at IADR/AADR/CADR on behalf of Dentsply Sirona.

I'd also like to congratulate Dr. Nascimento, who was one of UF's 2019 Research Professorship awardees, recognizing her distinguished record of research, particularly in the area of cariology.

While summer is clearly here, based on the heat outside, things are still busy and buzzing in the college. We welcomed the 2019 cohort of the [Summer Health Professions Education Program](#) to the UF Health campus at the end of May, and many faculty and students are gearing up for both AADR/IADR/CADR and Florida Dental Convention coming up this month.

Thank you for all you continuously do to support our college, ensuring success in each aspect of our mission.

Sincerely,

Dean Isabel Garcia

Dr. David Nelson Named Senior VP for Health Affairs at UF, President of UF Health

NELSON WAS APPOINTED APRIL 30



Dr. David R. Nelson has been named senior vice president for health affairs at the University of Florida and president of UF Health, the university's academic health center, UF President Kent Fuchs announced. The appointment is effective immediately.

For nearly a year, Nelson — also a professor of medicine, assistant vice president for research and director of the UF Clinical and Translational Science Institute, or CTSI — has done an admirable job as the interim in this important role, Fuchs said, and has impressed faculty, staff and students alike with his ability to ensure the university's research, teaching and patient care missions have continued to move forward on their upward trajectory.

"Dr. Nelson is a highly respected and remarkably talented physician, researcher, scholar and educator — all qualities that make him the right leader for UF Health at a key moment in its trajectory," Fuchs said. "With him at the helm, I am confident that UF Health in Gainesville, Jacksonville and throughout the state will accelerate its rise as one of the most exceptional and influential academic health centers in the Southeast and beyond."

View full story on ufhealth.org

Congratulations **KELLY RAULERSON!**



Congratulations to **Kelly Raulerson** from Community Dentistry & Behavioral Sciences for winning a Special Recognition Award at the university level Superior Accomplishment Awards Ceremony April 17 at the Reitz Union. Raulerson was awarded

\$1,000 and a commemorative plaque by UF President Kent Fuchs for her outstanding and meritorious service. Raulerson was one of UFCD's five Superior Accomplishment Award winners this year at the UF Health level, joining Kervin Daniel, Angela DeBono, Quincy Allen and Dr. Ana Dias Ribeiro from the college.

Spring Synergy

2019 AWARD WINNERS



Oral Presentations

D.M.D.

First: **Naeem Motlagh**

Second: **Carson Smith (tie)**

Second: **Callahan Katrak (tie)**

M.S./Resident

First: **Abdulaziz Banasser (tie)**

First: **Abeer Hakam (tie)**

Ph.D./Postdoctoral

First: **Kyulim Lee**

Second: **Danielle Vermilyea**

Dentsply/SCADA Winner: **Naeem Motlagh**

AADR Student Research Day Award: **Kyulim Lee**

Poster Presentations: Awards for Excellence in Research

D.M.D. Recognition

Priya Sabharwal

James Jang

M.S./Resident Recognition

Mauricia Brown

Gabriella Zuzo

Ph.D. Recognition

Lauren Roberts

Mahmoud Mona

Postdoctoral Recognition

Aravindraja Chairmandurai

Surabhi Mishra

Undergraduate/Pre-Dental Recognition

Anthony Spurduto

Madeline Howe

Staff Recognition

Thomas Hong Nguyen

Katherine Glickman



NAEEM MOTLAGH

was the 2019 Spring Synergy AADR Dentsply/SCADA Winner, and was presented his award by Leslie Hollier du Plooy from Dentsply Sirona on May 21. Motlagh earned a trip to Washington, D.C., to present his research at the 2020 AADR meeting on behalf of Dentsply Sirona.

Gator Dentist Today



SPRING
2019

[click to read](#)

View a full recap of Spring Synergy awards and presentations [here](#)

Upcoming Events

June

- 19-22** IADR/AADR/CADR General Session
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- 27-29** Florida Dental Convention
Orlando, Florida
- 28** FDC Gator Dentist Reception
5:30-6:30 | Emerald Plaza

July

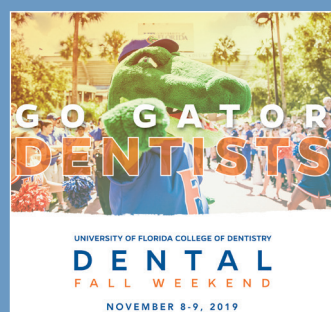
- 1-5** Summer Break
- 4** Independence Day

Please join us during
2019 Florida Dental Convention

Friday, June 28

Gator Dentist Reception
5:30-6:30 p.m. | Emerald Plaza

To RSVP, email RSVP@dental.ufl.edu



DENTAL FALL WEEKEND
November 8-9, 2019

CLASS OF 2019

Commencement Ceremony



[Facebook Photo Gallery](#)
[Program and Awards](#)
[Video Stream](#)



PridePINS

It's #PrideMonth, and [Ally-Gators](#) is selling pride tooth pins! Show your support for the LGBTQIA+ community and its allies at UFCD, and beyond, with the purchase of a pin (or several).



1 for \$7 | 2 for \$12 | bulk order available!

[ORDER A PIN](#)

Make Note...



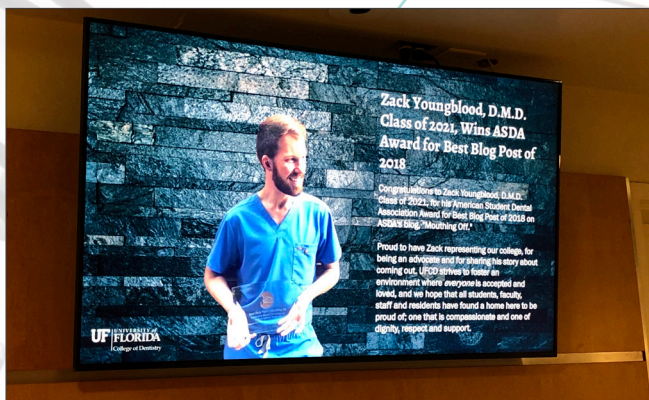
Congratulations to DMD Class of 2022 members Rhonda Sneij and Lynn Phu on taking the next steps to a lifetime of service as dental professionals, and now second lieutenants commissioned in the U.S. Air Force. Rhonda and Lynn join a proud line of service men and women who are a part of the UFCD community.

*Did you know? We graduated **six** commissioned officers in the DMD Class of 2019 who will serve our nation: **Dr. Byron Amador**, **Dr. Gabrielle Klatt**, **Dr. Shane Mobley** and **Dr. Long Nguyen** will serve in the U.S. Navy, and **Dr. Tanner Brunsworth** and **Dr. Cam Tran Nguyen** will serve in the U.S. Air Force.*



Digital Signage

If you haven't noticed yet, our digital signage displays are back up in the college on the first, second and third floors. Have an event, award, honor or announcement that you think should be included? Send a PowerPoint slide to [Karen Rhodenizer](#) or [Kelly Sobers](#) in the Dean's Office Communications Department.



CALLING ALL UFCD ARTISTS

You're invited to submit a design for the college's new staff service pins!

UFCD's Service Pin Ceremony is a special tradition held annually each December to honor significant milestones in staff service and commitment to the college.



Details:

- ▶ Design must fit the size of a penny
- ▶ Design must include "College of Dentistry" and "University of Florida" or "UF College of Dentistry"
- ▶ Incorporate amethyst/lilac, our college's commencement tassel color, and navy
- ▶ Note: five-year pin will have one lilac gemstone; an additional gemstone will be added for each five-year increment (i.e. 10-year pin will have two stones, 15-year pin will have three, etc.)
- ▶ Questions? Contact Jennifer Horn in HR: jhorn@dental.ufl.edu
- ▶ Submissions are due **Monday, June 17**, to hr@dental.ufl.edu

**Artists
WANTED!**