University of Florida President

Dr. W. Kent Fuchs

Dr. Kent Fuchs became the 12th President of the University of Florida in January 2015. Building on many years of excellence and focused leadership, the university has reached its goal of joining the nation’s top-ten public research universities.

Dr. Fuchs has set UF on a path to joining the top-five public research universities and becoming the nation’s number one university for comprehensive excellence. UF is working toward those goals through the creation of 500 new faculty positions, the addition of advanced and beautiful university facilities and an ongoing $3 billion fundraising campaign.

Previous to the UF presidency, Dr. Fuchs was provost of Cornell University. He has served in academic leadership positions and as a faculty member of electrical and computer engineering at Cornell, Purdue and the University of Illinois.

He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and the Association for Computing Machinery, and has received numerous awards for teaching and research. Dr. Fuchs earned his doctorate in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Illinois, and a Master of Divinity from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He also holds a bachelor’s in engineering from Duke University.

Dr. Fuchs is married to Linda Moskeland Fuchs, an art historian. The Fuchses have three sons, a daughter, and three grandchildren.

Born on an Oklahoma farm in 1954, Dr. Fuchs spent much of his youth in Alaska before moving to Miami, where he graduated from Miami Killian Senior High School.

College of Dentistry Dean

Dr. A. Isabel Garcia

A. Isabel Garcia, D.D.S., M.P.H., joined the University of Florida College of Dentistry as its seventh permanent dean on February 16, 2015. Dr. Garcia’s career spans 39 years in public health, clinical practice, research, teaching and administration at the local, state and national levels. She retired from the U.S. Public Health Service in 2014 as a rear admiral, lower half. Prior to joining UFCD, she was the Deputy Director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, part of the National Institutes of Health, directed dental care and public health programs in Virginia and Ohio, and worked in private practice in Richmond and Hopewell, Virginia.

She received a doctorate in dental surgery in 1980 from Virginia Commonwealth University, a master’s degree in public health from the University of Michigan in 1988 and completed a residency in dental public health at the University of Michigan and a fellowship in primary care policy from the U.S. Public Health Service.

A fellow of the American College of Dentists and the Pierre Fauchard Academy, Dr. Garcia is a Diplomate and past president of the American Board of Dental Public Health and an active member of the American Dental Education Association, the International Association for Dental Research and the American Dental Association.
On behalf of the University of Florida, our faculty and our entire university community, I would like to extend my deepest congratulations to you, the UF College of Dentistry graduates of Spring 2020.

I celebrate your remarkable accomplishment in earning an advanced degree from one of the world’s leading research institutions. I applaud you for your years dedicated to in-depth scholarship and I join you in thanking your faculty, mentors and the family and friends who have supported you in your journey to reach this day.

Today is a day for celebration, and also for reflection of your future. Whether you choose to pursue a career in academe, the private sector, government or the nonprofit world, I am confident that the skills you honed and knowledge you acquired at the UF College of Dentistry will serve you well. The complexity and global nature of today’s professional opportunities demand nothing less.

The university has benefitted from your work, patient care, insights and discoveries, and we are grateful to you for your time here. We hope you will recall these years fondly, and that you will remain connected to UF as active members of our distinguished alumni.

Good luck, best wishes, and Go Gators!

W. Kent Fuchs
University of Florida Leadership

State Board of Education
Richard Corcoran  Commissioner of Education
Andy Tuck  Chair
Marva Johnson  Vice Chair

Florida Board of Governors
Marshall M. Criser III  Chairman
Richard Corcoran  Commissioner of Education
Sydney Kitson  Chair
Brian Lamb  Vice Chair

University of Florida Board of Trustees
Morteza “Mori” Hossaini  Chair
Thomas G. Kuntz  Vice Chair

Deans of the University
R. Elaine Turner, Ph.D.  College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
Onye P. Ozuzu, M.F.A.  College of the Arts
John Kraft, Ph.D.  Warrington College of Business
A. Isabel Garcia, D.D.S., M.P.H.  College of Dentistry
Chimay Anumba, Ph.D.  College of Design, Construction and Planning
Glenn E. Good, Ph.D.  College of Education
Cammy R. Abernathy, Ph.D.  Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering
Henry T. Frierson, Ph.D.  The Graduate School
Michael Reid, Ph.D.  College of Health and Human Performance

President and Vice Presidents of the University
W. Kent Fuchs, Ph.D.  President
Joseph Glover, Ph.D.  Provost and Senior Vice President - Academic Affairs
Charles E. Lane, D.P.A.  Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer - Administration
David R. Nelson, M.D.  Senior Vice President - Health Affairs
Jack Payne, Ph.D.  Senior Vice President - Agriculture and Natural Resources
Elia E. Alderiji, M.B.A.  Vice President and Chief Information Officer - Information Technology
Zina Evans, Ph.D.  Associate Provost and Vice President - Enrollment Management
Antonio Farías, M.F.A.  Chief Diversity Officer and Senior Advisor to the President
Jodi Gentry, M.A.  Vice President - Human Resource Services
Amy M. Haas, J.D.  Vice President - General Counsel
Mark E. Kaplan, J.D.  Vice President - Government and Community Relations
Thomas J. Mitchell, M.S.  Vice President - Advancement
D’Andra Mull, Ph.D.  Vice President - Student Affairs
David Norton, Ph.D.  Vice President - Research
Nancy Paton, M.S.  Vice President for Strategic Communications and Marketing
Curtis Reynolds, M.B.A., M.S.E.  Vice President - Business Affairs

ADDITIONAL COPIES of this commencement program will be available in the UFCD Office of Student Advocacy & Inclusion after and you can download it from the college website here: dental.ufl.edu/education. A VIDEO of the ceremony is also available at a link on our website: dental.ufl.edu/education.

Commencement Agenda – Friday, May 15

Presiding
A. Isabel Garcia, D.D.S., M.P.H

National Anthem
A. Isabel Garcia

Welcome & Introductions
Kristopher R. Harth, D.M.D.

Academy of Alumni & Friends Remarks
Matthew R. Dawley

Senior Class Address
A. Isabel Garcia

Presentation of Doctoral Candidates
A. Isabel Garcia

Confering of Degrees

Presentation of Master’s Candidates

Confering of Degrees

Presentation of Doctoral Hoods, Diplomas & Certificates
A. Isabel Garcia

Florida Dental Association Remarks & Dentist’s Pledge
Rudy Liddell, D.M.D.

Closing Remarks
A. Isabel Garcia

Alma Mater
College of Dentistry Leadership

A. Isabel Garcia, D.D.S., M.P.H.
Dean
Abimbola Adegumobi, B.D.S., FDSRCS
Program Director, Pediatric Dentistry
Ikramuddin Aukhlil, B.D.S., M.S.
Chair, Periodontology
Robert A. Byrne, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Research
Donald Cohen, D.M.D., M.B.A., M.S.
Interim Chair, Oral & Maxillofacial Diagnostic Sciences
Mary Ellen Davey, Ph.D.
Interim Chair, Oral Biology
Deborah Dilbone, D.M.D.
Chair, Department of Restorative Dental Sciences
Calogero Dolce, D.D.S., Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Orthodontics
Richard Donatelli, D.M.D., M.S.
Program Director, Orthodontics
Wagner Duarte, D.D.S., Ph.D.
Program Director, Periodontics
Danielle Freburg-Hoffmeister, D.D.S., M.D.
Interim Program Director, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
Micalea B. Gibbs, D.D.S., M.H.A.
Interim Chair, Community Dentistry & Behavioral Science
Program Director, Community Based Programs
Anita Gohel, B.D.S., Ph.D, FICO
Program Director, Oral & Maxillofacial Radiology
Lauren Governale, D.M.D., M.P.H.
Clinical Director, Pediatric Dentistry - Naples
Marcio Guellmann, D.D.S.
Chair, Pediatric Dentistry
James E. Haddix, D.M.D.
Assistant Dean for Continuing Education
John H. Hardeman, D.D.S., M.D.
Interim Chair, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
Program Director, Fellowship in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
Nadim M. Islam, B.D.S., D.D.S.
Interim Program Director, Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology
William C. Martin, D.M.D., M.S.
Clinical Director, Fellowship in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery in the Center for Implant Dentistry
César Migliorati, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs & Quality
Edgar O’Neill, D.D.S., M.S.
Program Director, Prosthodontics
Patricia Pereira, D.D.S., Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Program Director, Operative & Esthetic Dentistry
Roberta Pileggi, D.D.S., M.S.
Director, School of Advanced Dental Sciences
Chair, Endodontics
Program Director, Endodontics
Thomas C. Porter, D.M.D.
Program Director, Advanced Education in General Dentistry - Seminole
Joseph L. Riley III, Ph.D.
Interim Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs
Pamela R. Sandow, D.M.D.
Assistant Dean for Admissions & Financial Aid
Rodrigo Souza, D.D.S.
Program Director, Advanced Education in General Dentistry - Hialeah
Patricia Xirau-Probert, Ph.D.
Assistant Dean for Student Advocacy & Inclusion

2019-2020 Teaching Awards

The Teachers of the Year are selected by the sophomore, junior and senior D.M.D. students. The Excellence in Dental Education Awards recognize the incredible impact our faculty teachers have on the education of tomorrow’s dentists. The winners have demonstrated excellence, innovation and effectiveness in teaching of the dental sciences.

Teachers of the Year

Indraneel Bhattacharyya, B.D.S., D.D.S., M.S.
Basic & Behavioral Sciences
Teacher of the Year

Luisa F. Echeto, D.D.S., M.S.
Clinical Sciences
Teacher of the Year

Excellence in Dental Education Awards

Sustained Exemplary Teaching Awards
Ana P. Dias Ribeiro, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D.
Jacqueline Abranches, Ph.D.
Larry Cook, D.M.D

Exemplary Teaching Awards
Andrew Corsaro, D.M.D.
Eleonora Bakiri, D.D.S.
Frank C. Gibson III, Ph.D.

Special Commencement Speakers

Rudy Liddell, D.M.D., is the president of the Florida Dental Association. He earned his dental degree in 1982 from the UF College of Dentistry. He practices general dentistry in Brandon and has served at all levels of leadership for the Hillsborough County Dental Association and the West Coast District Dental Association.

Kristopher R. Harth, D.M.D., is the vice president of the Northeast District Dental Association. He graduated from the UF College of Dentistry in 2008 and has earned masterships from the Academy of General Dentistry and the International College of Oral Implantologists. Dr. Harth was awarded Outstanding Young Alumnus from the University of Florida.
Doctor of Dental Medicine

Ana Dias Ribeiro, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D.
DMD Class of 2020 Faculty Advisor

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<th>Name</th>
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Advanced & Graduate Education

**Master of Science in Dental Sciences with a Certificate in Endodontics**

Dr. Christian Cain
Dr. Adam Hinkley
Dr. Olga M. Iglesias
Dr. Mani Mirpourian
Dr. Jeffrey Westra

**Master of Science in Dental Sciences with a Certificate in Operative & Esthetic Dentistry**

Dr. Roaa Sabri Alshafei
Dr. Jennie Gabriela Ferrer-Romero

**Master of Science in Dental Sciences with a Certificate in Orthodontics**

Dr. Rosalie Brao
Dr. Kelsey Cronauer Wahl
Dr. Jonathan Ben Murray
Dr. John Edwin Witcher II

**Master of Science in Dental Sciences with a Certificate in Periodontics**

Dr. Abeer Essam Hakam
Dr. Bruna Tanello Neiva
Dr. Charles A. Taylor Jr.

**Master of Science in Dental Sciences with a Certificate in Prosthodontics**

Dr. Martin S. Lalama
Dr. Maiils Daelis Soler

The Doctor of Dental Medicine candidates selected Thomas L. Bowers IV, D.M.D., M.D., FACS, and Luisa F. Echeto, D.D.S., M.S. to hood them during commencement, however because the hooding was not part of the 2020 ceremony, Dr. Bowers and Dr. Echeto instead will share special messages during the commencement video. Candidates names will be read in order of their clinical care groups; clinical care groups are listed on page 14 of the program.
Advanced & Graduate Education

Certificate in Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology
Dr. Abdulaziz Mohammed Banasser

Certificate in Oral & Maxillofacial Radiology
Dr. Abrar Ahmed H. Alamoudi
Dr. Michelle Briner Garrido
Dr. Nicholas Shuff
Dr. Cleo Vidican

Certificate in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
Dr. Daniel Sanovich
Dr. Justin Brett Stanford
Dr. Thomas Calvin Vaughan III

Certificate in Pediatric Dentistry – Gainesville
Dr. Andres Jorge Alvarez
Dr. Andy Kang
Dr. Mi Sook Lee
Dr. Danielle Miller
Dr. HongAn Mimi Duc Nguyen-Hirano
Dr. Kiersten Pannell

Certificate in Pediatric Dentistry – Naples
Dr. Irene E. Apata
Dr. Deeva K. Bhatt
Dr. Kristen Dreyer
Dr. Lauren Melendez
Dr. John Tawadrous

Advanced & Graduate Education

Certificate in Advanced Education in General Dentistry – Hialeah
Dr. Hiba Al Rubaye
Dr. Claudia Arboleda
Dr. German E. Bohorquez
Dr. Isabel Rossetti Cruz
Dr. Camila Diaz Molina
Dr. Predrag Dordevic
Dr. Laura Elena Fuentes Diaz
Dr. Susette Fuentes Rodriguez
Dr. Javier Francisco Izquierdo Valdes
Dr. Keyurkumar Patel
Dr. Paola Andrea Pineros Castillo
Dr. Andrea Mariana Terris

Certificate in Advanced Education in General Dentistry – Seminole
Dr. Liel Allon
Dr. Lester Castillo
Dr. Todd C. Cleary
Dr. Yesenia Fernandez-Riera
Dr. Emily Joy Gimness
Dr. Joseph J. Lanzi
Dr. Courtney M. Lombardo
Dr. Dhanika D. Patel
Dr. Casandra M. Perez
Dr. Sara M. Sardano
Dr. Nicole C. Swanson
Dr. Lindsey White

Class of 2021 Honor Marshals
Victor Chan
Hannah Eder
Brandon Gervasi
Melinda Lian

Jonathon Lucas
Daniela Perez
Joshua Roeder
Laura Vergara Campero
DMD Class of 2020 Awards

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society
Kelly Campbell Bean
Hayden Adams Bell
Matthew R. Dawley
Onni Menashe Franco
Benjamin Rex Harrison
Reinol Ignacio Gonzalez
Hannah Elizabeth Jones
Morgan Michelle Kubis
Justin Tyler Norell
Eric Jason Rabinowitz
Dixie Lynn Smith
Lauren Michelle Soekirman

Clinical Excellence and Professionalism Award
Marcel Fundora
Hannah Elizabeth Jones
Tyler Joseph Merritt
Amanda Margaret Panousis
Kevin Roger Phanord
Nikola Skakavac
Aishwarya Subramanian
Shane Mitchell Soekirman

Scholastic and Professional Awards

American Prosthodontics Society
American Student Dental Association Award of Excellence
Reinol Ignacio Gonzalez
Hannah Elizabeth Jones

American Society of Periodontology
Class of 2020 Highest Ranking Scholar Award
Reinol Ignacio Gonzalez
Matthew R. Dawley

Delta Dental Student Leadership Award
Dennis/Foerster Award
Jackson Steven Redlick
Kelsey McCurdy Murphy

Dentsply Award for Removable Prosthetics
Dr. Carroll Bennett Award for
Academic Excellence in Pediatric Dentistry
Reinol Ignacio Gonzalez
Ryan R. Clance

Dr. Charles Fain Award/Florida Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
Hu-Friedy Golden Forceps Award
Miral Ahmed Gomaa

Dr. J. Frank Collins Professionalism Award
Hu-Friedy Golden Scaler Award
Carol Gilbert Orrego

Dr. John Kincheloe Excellence in Oral Surgery Award
International College of Dentists - Humanitarian
Summer B. Young

Dental Services Group Award
International College of Dentists - Leadership
Reinol Ignacio Gonzalez
Mark Zavala

Endodontic Molar Award
Florida Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Dr. Lebowitz Award
Justin Tyler Norell

Hanau Excellence in Prosthodontics (Whip Mix)
International College of Dentists - Leadership
Reinol Ignacio Gonzalez

Hu-Friedy Golden Forceps Award
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Summer B. Young

International Congress of Oral Implantologists
International Congress of Oral Implantologists
Reinol Ignacio Gonzalez

LD Pankey Award
Korea Student Dental Association Quantitative Research Award
Kevin Roger Phanord

Orthodontics Clinical Achievement Award
International College of Dentists - Humanitarian
Eric Jason Rabinowitz

Outstanding Tutor Recognition Award
International College of Dentists - Humanitarian
Natalie Nicole Atyeo

Pierre Fauchard Academy
International College of Dentists - Humanitarian
Eric Jason Rabinowitz

Quintessence Award for Clinical Achievement in Periodontology
International College of Dentists - Humanitarian
Anthony J. Michelotti

Quintessence Award for Clinical Achievement in Restorative Dentistry
International College of Dentists - Humanitarian
Natalie Nicole Atyeo

Quintessence Award for Research Achievement
International College of Dentists - Humanitarian
Benjamin Rex Harrison

Research High Honors
International College of Dentists - Humanitarian
Natalie Nicole Atyeo, Kyulim Lee

Research Honors
International College of Dentists - Humanitarian
Natalie Nicole Atyeo, Eric Jason Rabinowitz

SNDA Leadership and Community Service Award
International College of Dentists - Humanitarian
Kevin Roger Phanord

Spirit of UFCD
International College of Dentists - Humanitarian
Matthew R. Dawley

SPIT Award
International College of Dentists - Humanitarian
Joshua Richard Lovelace

The Southeastern Academy of Prosthodontics
International College of Dentists - Humanitarian
Amber Lynn Medellin

DMD Class of 2020 Awards

Scholastic and Professional Awards

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The document contains a list of names associated with various clinic care groups. Each group is named and includes multiple individuals' names. The groups are labeled as Clinic Care Group 2, Clinic Care Group 3, Clinic Care Group 4, and Clinic Care Group 5. The individuals listed are likely associated with dental or medical care, given the context of the document.
UF Alma Mater

Florida, our Alma Mater,
thy glorious name we praise.
All thy loyal sons and daughters,
a joyous song shall raise.

Where palm and pine are blowing,
where southern seas are flowing.
Shine forth thy noble Gothic walls,
thy lovely vine-clad halls.

‘Neath the Orange and Blue victorious
our love shall never fail.
There’s no other name so glorious,
all hail, Florida, hail!

~ Composed in 1925 by Milton Yeats

The Dentist’s Pledge

I, as a member of the dental profession, will keep this pledge and these stipulations. I understand and accept that my primary responsibility is to my patients, and I shall dedicate myself to render, to the best of my ability, the highest standard of oral health care and to maintain a relationship of respect and confidence. Therefore, let all come to me safe in the knowledge that their total health and well-being are my first considerations.

I shall accept the responsibility that, as a professional, my competence rests on continuing the attainment of knowledge and skill in the arts and sciences of dentistry.

I acknowledge my obligation to support and sustain the honor and integrity of the profession, and to conduct myself in all endeavors such that I shall merit the respect of patients, colleagues and my community. I further commit myself to the betterment of my community for the benefit of all of society.

I shall faithfully observe the Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct set forth by the profession.

All this I pledge with pride in my commitment to the profession and the public which it serves.
Commencement 2020 during COVID-19

In Spring 2020 the University of Florida, along with academic institutions across the country, was forced to cancel in-person commencement ceremonies as a safety measure to protect our communities against spread of the COVID-19 virus. The UF College of Dentistry produced a commencement video to celebrate the 148 students and residents who comprise our 45th graduating class of Gator Dentists. While nothing could replace being together with classmates, colleagues, family and friends, the true spirit of accomplishment, joy and pride was in no way diminished.

We hope that we will never undergo a similar experience but if we do we know we will approach it with the same strength, resilience and professionalism with which we approached this pandemic. Go Gators!

Dean Isabel Garcia

Caps and Gowns, An Explanation

The academic regalia worn by graduating students and faculty in commencement ceremonies evolved from a style of dress worn by members of guilds and religious orders in medieval times. The academic gown is worn by individuals who have earned a degree in higher education. In addition, hoods are worn by graduate degree candidates, but not by undergraduate degree candidates.

At the University of Florida, the lining of the hood has a blue chevron on an orange background to represent the university colors. University faculty members who hold degrees from another college or university wear the colors of their alma mater.

The velvet edging on the academic hood is the color that represents the particular degree held by the wearer. Dentistry is lilac. Distinctions among sleeves indicate the type of degree held by the wearer. A long, pointed sleeve indicates a bachelor’s degree, while a long, closed sleeve with a slit near the upper part of the arm designates a master’s degree. A round, open sleeve identifies a doctoral degree.

The doctoral regalia also has velvet running on the rest of the gown, including crossbars on the sleeve. Colored tassels on the degree candidates’ caps indicate a candidate’s school or college.
Alma Mater

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All thy loyal sons and daughters
A joyous song shall raise.
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