



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

To: UF College of Dentistry,

It is hard to believe that a new academic year is well under way, and that we are already heading rapidly through fall towards the holiday season. Please join me in sending a warm welcome to our new class of D.M.D. students and first-year residents. We are proud to have you at the UF College of Dentistry!

The start of a new semester always brings me such gratitude as we embark on new challenges and endeavors together as a college, while similarly striving to make our mark within the University of Florida community and the communities in which we serve daily.

Last month just as the fall semester kicked off, the [University of Florida rose to No. 7](#) in U.S. News & World Report's Top Public School rankings. You can read more in this edition of Fast Forward. What a tremendous achievement for this institution to be in the top-10 ranking of national public universities for a third consecutive year.

It is a daily reminder of our larger purpose as an integral part of a preeminent public research university that holds its administration, faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends to the highest of standards while striving for the greatest impact – people helped and lives improved.

Our vision to be global leaders in dental education, research, patient care and service affirm that the work we do here, and the quality of education provided, contributes to the national stature and impact of one of the very best public universities.

#### Research Honors

As you will read in this issue of Fast Forward, the college's research enterprise ranks fifth nationally for a second straight year among all U.S. dental schools in National Institutes of Health funding, with \$11.2 million awarded through the 2018 fiscal year.

## UF Rises to No. 7 in U.S. News & World Report Rankings

UF IS THE HIGHEST RANKED UNIVERSITY IN THE STATE



For the third year in a row, [the University of Florida has risen in the U.S. News & World Report Top Public Schools rankings](#), climbing to No. 7. UF once again remains the most highly ranked university in Florida and the only university in the state in the top 10.

The 2020 U.S. News top-10 list reads as follows:

- 1 – University of California, Los Angeles
- 2 – University of California, Berkeley
- 3 – University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- 4 – University of Virginia
- 5 – Georgia Institute of Technology
- 5 – University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- 7 – University of Florida**
- 7 – University of California, Santa Barbara
- 9 – University of California, Irvine
- 10 – University of California, San Diego

“Our faculty and staff continue to do amazing work, and the latest U.S. News ranking is a wonderful affirmation of that,” UF President Kent Fuchs said. “The rankings are also an indicator of our national stature among the nation’s very best research universities, the quality of the education our students are receiving and the steadily increasing value of a University of Florida degree.”



Congratulations to all of our faculty, staff, students and residents for your dedication. This ranking signifies your commitment and talent to our science.

### Dental Building Infrastructure and Environmental Quality Assessment

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond and share your experiences and observations through the indoor environmental quality assessment survey sent to faculty and staff in the dental tower a couple of months ago. The survey is complete and the outside contractor, Terracon, is analyzing and finalizing the results.

As you may have noticed, Terracon was on site last week for inspections of offices, clinics and labs where problems have previously been reported or were identified by the survey.

Meanwhile, our work is continuing with the architects and designers from Kahler-Slater, the firm that UF has contracted with to draft initial building concepts. Our efforts are ongoing as we consider various options and building sites, identify needs, space and funding streams.

I will keep everyone updated as things progress. You can also [find information on our website](#) about the various projects, scope and expected steps.

### On the Horizon

We certainly have a busy fall ahead and first and foremost, I would like to take a moment to recognize Dr. Nini Sposetti, who will be retiring this month after almost four decades of service to our college. Nini has been devoted to this college since graduating with her dental degree in 1979 and has been a tremendous leader and servant, working tirelessly to create and foster opportunities for our students. Her impact is truly unmatched. I hope all faculty and staff will join me on October 16 in the Dean's Office as we honor Nini at our Open Afternoon, thank her for her endless dedication and service, and wish her all the best in retirement.

I am also looking forward to our Dental Fall Weekend festivities coming up November 8-9. As always, the weekend provides such fun and fellowship for our classes celebrating reunions and all Gator Dentist students, alumni and friends who join us for CE, tailgating and the Gator football game each year.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Fast Forward. We have a lot to be proud of as a college, and I thank each of you for your hard work daily so that, collectively, we make the most impact.

Sincerely,

**Dean Isabel Garcia**

# Congratulations

UFCD FACULTY on the following promotions, tenure and appointments:

## Promotions



Alex Delgado, DDS, MS | **Clinical Associate Professor**  
Restorative Dental Sciences



Josephine Esquivel-Upshaw, DDS, MS | **Professor**  
Restorative Dental Sciences



John H. Hardeman, DDS, MD | **Clinical Associate Professor**  
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery



Kesavalu Lakshmyya, BVSc, MSc, SCC | **Professor**  
Periodontology



Thomas Porter, DMD | **Clinical Professor**  
Community Dentistry & Behavioral Science

## Tenure Approval



Mary Ellen Davey, PhD | **Tenured Associate Professor**  
Oral Biology

## Appointments



Patricia Pereira, DDS, PhD | **Associate Dean for Academic Affairs**



Eleonora Bakiri, DDS | **Endodontics Program Director**



Richard Donatelli, DMD | **Orthodontics Residency Program Director**



Marcelle Nascimento, DDS, MS, PhD | **Dental Clinical Research Unit Program Director**





# Open Afternoons

hosted by Dean Isabel Garcia

OCTOBER 16  
2-4 p.m.  
D4-16

*Please join us for a special Open Afternoon to celebrate the retirement of Dr. Nini Sposetti following four decades of service to the UF College of Dentistry.*



## UFCD Ranks No. 5 in NIH Funding

Congratulations, UFCD!

The UF College of Dentistry research enterprise ranks fifth nationally for a second straight year among all U.S. dental schools in National Institutes of Health funding, with \$11.2 million awarded through the 2018 fiscal year.

The Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research rankings include award data from all NIH institutes. The college ranks fourth among public institutions and has been ranked in the Top 10 among dental schools in NIH funding since 2006.

The college receives an average of \$15 million in sponsored funding each year. Approximately 93% of UFCD-sponsored funding derives from external sources, and of that external funding, 87% comes from federal sponsors, including the NIH, the Health Resources and Services Administration and the U.S. Department of Defense.

Last fiscal year, the college received more than \$15 million total from all sources in contracts and grants.

[Read the full UF Health News story here](#)





# OFFICE OF STUDENT ADVOCACY & INCLUSION

The [Office of Student Advocacy & Inclusion](#) was created to nurture a humanistic environment honoring the values of integrity, honesty, respect, fairness, cooperation and professionalism. Our vision is to create a student body and community of scholars that reflects the rich cultural and ethnic diversity of Florida and the United States.

## Student Support

- ▶ Personal & academic counseling
- ▶ Conduct & conflict resolution
- ▶ Connection with student resources on & off campus
- ▶ Advocate for students with faculty & administration

## Diversity & Inclusion

- ▶ Support students who need accommodations
- ▶ SHPEP (Summer Health Professions Education Program)
- ▶ Recruitment of disadvantaged and underrepresented minority communities

## Events

- ▶ Orientation, Professional Coating Ceremony, Commencement
- ▶ Friends & Family Day, Clinical Associate Reveal
- ▶ Annual holiday party, welcome back breakfasts and other fun student activities



**Dr. Patty Probert** | Dean of Students

Not a dentist :) ~ Licensed Mental Health Counselor ~ Student Advocate ~ Office = Safe Space  
Has seen at dealt with it all: substance abuse, eating disorders, domestic violence, sexual assault, depression, schizophrenia. What you talk about is confidential; we make decisions together.



**Anthony Licari** | Coordinator of Student Affairs

Also not a dentist :) ~ Master of Education in Student Affairs ~ Student Advocate ~ Guides students in overcoming personal & professional barriers ~ Collaborates with faculty, staff, administration to address student concerns  
Also: White Coat, Commencement, scholarships, tutoring, student government elections.



**Jerell Blackburn** | Program Assistant

Again, not a dentist :) ~ Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences & Disorders from UCF ~ Orientation Coordinator  
Oversees all 11+ student organizations, the Student Organization Fair each fall and accommodated testing



**Jordan Sharpshair** | SHPEP Coordinator

Bachelor of Science in Higher Education Administration from Bay Path University ~ Summer Health Professions Education Program  
Coordinates all aspects of the six-week academic enrichment SHPEP program, collaborating with all six HSC colleges; calls UFCD home.



**Ashley Brickhouse** | Student Assistant

Psychology major at UF  
Assists UF SHPEP and the Office of Student Advocacy & Inclusion throughout the year.





# Upcoming Events

## October

- 16** Open Afternoon: Honoring Dr. Sposetti
- 17** UFCD at Swamp Head: 5 - 7:30 p.m.
- 18** Used Books, Music & Movies Sale (all \$1)
- 18** Clinic Exam II - manikin
- 21-25** Fall Break
- 26-27** Florida Board Exam Traditional Format

## November

- 8** Professionalism Day (D4)
- 8-9** Dental Fall Weekend
- 11** Veteran's Day Holiday
- 27-29** Thanksgiving Holiday
- 30-Dec 1** Florida Board Exam Manikin CIF

## December

- 20** Classes and Clinics End
- 23-Jan 1** Semester Break

## UFCD Traditions

### Big/Little Reveal [Facebook gallery](#)



## Congratulations

### 2019 AAWD Chapter of the Year

