



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

To: UF College of Dentistry

It is my pleasure to extend a warm **'Welcome Back'** to our faculty, staff, residents, researchers and DMD students who have returned to campus in Gainesville and throughout the state. To those of you still phasing in: we cannot wait to have you back, safely of course. It is wonderful seeing more smiling faces, from 6 feet away or through masks, instead of on screen during our customary Zoom meetings, and to get back to doing what we love – educating, learning, serving and discovering!

It is hard to believe it's already been three months since our world turned upside down with the emergence of the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2. I am filled with pride when I reflect on how our UF College of Dentistry family banded together in so many astounding ways to adjust on the fly, ensuring our important work continues.

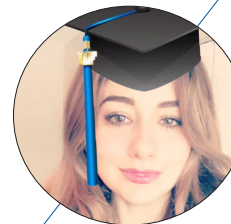
COVID-19 created unprecedented challenges for higher education, global and local health care, and in the oral health profession. I cannot thank you enough for your dedication over the last several months towards the good of our college, faculty, staff, students and residents. Planning, moving, teaching and taking classes online; providing emergency screening and care; launching a teledentistry service; adjusting to meet the highest infection control measures possible, all while communicating, researching, learning and preparing for what the immediate future holds.

And in the midst of it we graduated a newly-minted class of Gator Dentists. Senior Banquet and Commencement celebrations looked a little different via Zoom; I am so grateful to the Office of Education and the Office of Student Advocacy & Inclusion for the tremendous amount of time invested in creating adjusted celebrations for our graduates. Thank you to the DMD Class of 2020 and our advanced and graduate residents for your resilience and professionalism.

**Our work is far from over.** The State of Florida reported its highest-single day increase three times this week since the pandemic began. We must remain very diligent and

## CONGRATULATIONS *DMD Class of 2020!*

The College of Dentistry's 45th commencement celebration looked a little different this year in the midst of the novel coronavirus pandemic. After hosting DMD Senior Banquet via Zoom, we then honored our graduates through a virtual commencement ceremony on May 15, 2020. The class gathered together on Zoom to celebrate and watch the ceremony for the first time together. These unprecedented times have only made you more resilient and ready to tackle the next step of your careers. Congratulations, Class of 2020! If you missed the video, [check it out on our website](#), along with the [senior video](#). Here's how some of our grads celebrated:



#UFGrad | #GatorDentists

continued



flexible, and continue to steadfastly observe all safety measures in place. Face coverings are mandatory in all UF and UF Health facilities; please continue to wear your mask, wash your hands and observe physical distancing. And note that when you are leaving our facility in groups and in scrubs, you should be wearing masks even once you exit the building. I have seen too many people not following protocols. Please think about what message you send to the rest of the community seeking our care and trusting us to exercise our best judgement. Do not be lulled into a sense of safety here in Gainesville and assume that the COVID-19 problems "are elsewhere." As we now know, it only takes one case, or two, to quickly change that false sense of safety.

I hope that through our initial daily, then bi-weekly, and now weekly updates, you felt well informed. I know that it can be information overload, but it is very important that you review and remain updated on our plans and changes. In this issue of Fast Forward, you will find a list of UFCD coronavirus resources, detailing where we have archived important communications, along with helpful links.

I know that many in our college are still anxious and concerned about safety and health, and are looking for answers about what the next month, six months and year will look like at school, work and home. While I cannot tell you what the future will look like, I can assure you that we are much better prepared to respond to what the SARS-CoV-2 brings our way than we were in February.

#### ACADEMICS FOR BLACK LIVES

In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, the senseless murders of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Rayshard Brooks and countless other black Americans has brought the brutal indicators of systemic racial injustice into the spotlight once again. As I shared with you at the beginning of June, we hurt one another, and especially our black students, faculty, staff, colleagues, alumni & friends, every *single moment* we allow racism to continue.

We do not tolerate racism at the UF College of Dentistry, and will actively continue to listen, educate and make concrete action plans to promote equity and foster trust within our diverse community. We are all responsible for healing racial divides in our community, to better understand different perspectives and experiences, and to discover ways to bring our community, nation and world closer.

The College of Dentistry is proudly participating in **Academics for Black Lives** June 19-25 to do our part to intervene against anti-black racism in academia, to enhance the safety and wellness of black students, staff, residents, faculty and community members.

Our Office of Student Advocacy & Inclusion has a fantastic compilation of resources for us to get started, and now is our time to act. To our black faculty, staff, students and residents – our eyes, ears and office doors are open. We acknowledge your anguish and we are committed to leading the way for change.

All my best,



## UF Health Parking Announcement

Parking Vouchers Needed for Patient Garages Beginning 6/22



On **Monday, June 22**, patients/visitors will once again need to be issued parking vouchers to exit the patient garages without having to pay charges. Please remember to give your patients vouchers or they'll have to come back for them.

Also, please note that **patient parking garages are only for patients**. Faculty, staff, residents and students should not be using those spaces. UF Health Shands reported this week that patients and visitors, with appointments, are having trouble finding parking during peak hours.

## Research Rankings

2019 Funding to U.S. Dental Schools

Congratulations to our entire research enterprise. For the third straight year the college ranked No. 5 among all U.S. dental schools in National Institutes of Health funding last fiscal year, according to the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research. The college also checked in at No. 3 in National Institutes of Dental and Craniofacial Research funding.

The Office of Research and our researchers have been busier than ever during COVID-19 submitting grant proposals, and even working on several research projects surrounding the novel coronavirus. Look for a story soon about how our UF College of Dentistry researchers are making an impact on SARS-CoV-2 research.

We are incredibly proud, and excited to welcome our researchers back to campus.

2019 FUNDING TO U.S. DENTAL SCHOOLS

# No. 5 in NIH Funding



The UF College of Dentistry ranks fifth in NIH funding for the third straight year.

# Ensuring Safety for All

With the UF College of Dentistry reopening our clinics following two months of emergency-only care during COVID-19, things look a little different during dental appointments. We encourage everyone to pay heed to 'Screen, Test & Protect' signage throughout UF Health and the College of Dentistry, keeping in mind that face coverings are required in all UF and UF Health facilities.

Infection control has always been a top priority for UFCD centers so when patients receive care, it's both safe and comfortable for patient and provider.

During March, April and the beginning of May, the college took steps to minimize transmission of the novel coronavirus in the short-term, and began making plans for permanent changes to the environment including installing engineering controls such as physical barriers, HEPA filters, and increasing ventilation in clinical areas and more.

These changes took place while the college continued to provide emergency care for current patients and for others in the community, sometimes requiring constant adaptations as recommendations from the CDC, OSHA and ADA emerged. Our faculty, staff, students and residents have completed training on new safety procedures and equipment, and clinical spaces have been fully-outfitted with the proper equipment.



Visible changes include plexiglass shields at front desks, HEPA air filters in dental suites and high-grade plastic barriers that seal off areas where patients are receiving care – protecting everyone in the area. When necessary, providers are now wearing face shields and other higher-level personal protective gear, including N95 masks. Everyone entering UF dental facilities – patients, visitors, faculty, staff, dental students and residents – will have temperatures taken and recorded daily, whether they work in a clinical, research or office setting, per American Dental Association recommendations.



## We Wear Masks Here

LET'S CHOMP OUT COVID-19 — TOGETHER



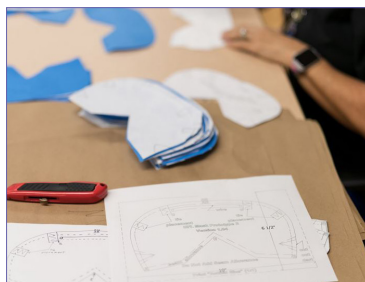
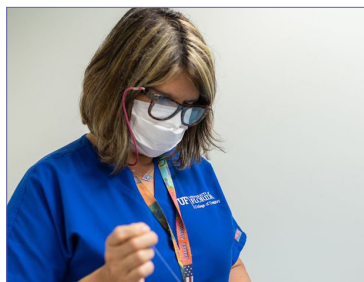
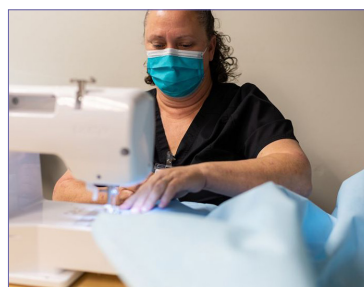
**Screen. Test. Protect.**

UF Health Screen, Test & Protect

**UFHealth**  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA HEALTH



# COVID-19 | *Through the Lens*

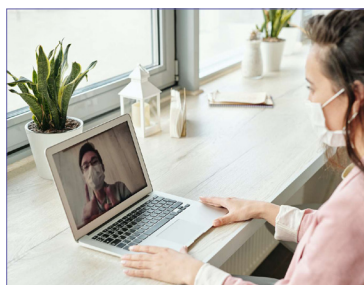


## **MAKING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

So much has changed through COVID-19. What hasn't changed is the dedication and heart of our faculty, staff, students and residents: some involved in emergency care and teledentistry services, others in online education and planning for the future, and then there's the group of individuals who volunteered their time daily during the heart of the pandemic to making personal protective equipment, or PPE. Clinic Administration volunteers hand-made PPE to ensure our dental centers in Gainesville, and throughout the state, were well-equipped to provide emergency care through COVID-19. Hand stitching, sewing, tracing, cutting and packaging equipment. Thank you.



## **EMERGENCY CARE & SAFETY CONTROLS**



Our core team providing patient screening and emergency care during our two-month closure was nothing short of fantastic; Resilient, flexible, dedicated and resourceful to ensure we could continue providing care for those with dental emergencies in the safest environment possible.

The college's Zoom [teledentistry service](#) was launched during COVID-19 and implemented at our centers statewide, ensuring patients could remain at home for dental screening and appropriate management. Teledentistry allowed the college to preserve PPE, limit patients with oral emergencies visiting the Emergency Room and support physical distancing directives.

Finally, a tremendous thank you to our facility and building operations team, Charles Lesch, Tommy Provau & Steven Garcia, who worked tirelessly on purchasing, installing and implementing our environmental and physical safety controls at our dental centers throughout the state. Thank you.



# Fillingham Receives Professorship

[Roger Fillingham, Ph.D., received a 2020 UF Foundation Term Professorship Award](#), created in 2013 to invest in the research endeavors of UF faculty members whose work is transforming lives. Only two UF faculty members receive the award each year. Fillingham is the first UFCD researcher to be honored with the prestigious award.



## June is Pride Month

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month is currently celebrated each year in the month of June to honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan. The Stonewall Uprising was a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States.

In the United States, the last Sunday in June was initially celebrated as “Gay Pride Day,” but the actual day was flexible. In major cities across the nation, the “day” soon grew to encompass a month-long series of events.

Today, celebrations include pride parades, picnics, parties, workshops, symposia and concerts, and LGBTQ Pride Month events attract millions of participants around the world.

Memorials are held during this month for those members of the community who have been lost to hate crimes or HIV/AIDS.

The purpose of the commemorative month is to recognize the impact that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals have had on history locally, nationally, and internationally.

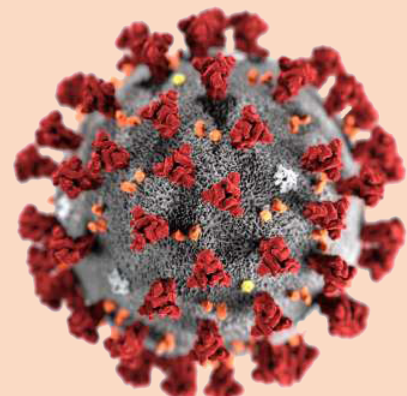
In 1994, a coalition of education-based organizations in the United States designated October as LGBT History Month. In 1995, a resolution passed by the General Assembly of the National Education Association included LGBT History Month within a list of commemorative months. National Coming Out Day (October 11), as well as the first “March on Washington” in 1979, are commemorated in the LGBTQ community during LGBT History Month.

HAPPY PRIDE!

## COVID-19 Resources

There’s been no shortage of information emerging from UF Health and the college about COVID-19, screening, testing, the measures the college is taking to ensure patient safety, new PPE protocols, and more. Some quick links to helpful information:

- [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect Website](#)
- [UFCD Return to Care Protocol](#)
- [UFCD COVID-19 Information Hub & Resources](#)
- [Details About the Safe Return of Patients](#)
- [Teledentistry Emergency Request Form](#)
- Miss an email or communication from Dr. Garcia, UF or UF Health Emerging Issues? We’ve archived every email through COVID-19 on the college’s shared drive at the following mapping:  
**V:\All UFCD\Coronavirus Communications**





ACADEMICS  
*for*

# BLACK LIVES

“Academics for Black Lives” is June 19-25, and the UF College of Dentistry is proudly participating. The purpose of this week is to intervene against anti-Black racism in academia and, in turn, enhance the safety and wellness of Black students, staff, faculty, and community members. The following contains resources organized by UFCD, the University of Florida and our Office of Student Advocacy & Inclusion. There has been a lot to absorb over the last several weeks with events unfolding across the nation related to racism and social injustice. Many in our college – students, residents, staff and faculty – feel the impact firsthand in both large and small ways. In order to truly enact social justice and show solidarity and care for our Black faculty, staff, students, residents, alumni and our UF College of Dentistry and University of Florida family, we encourage you to take time to explore how you might promote Black wellness given your roles and environmental contexts.

We face an immense, entrenched challenge. Each one of us has the power to affect change; to listen, and learn. This is just the beginning. The time to act is now.



# ACADEMICS *for* **BLACK LIVES**



## **Academic Resources**

### **Racial Equity Terms Defined**

Familiarize yourself with racial equity terms [here](#).

### **UF Libraries' Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Anti-Racism Resources**

[These UF Libraries resources](#) offer a helpful start, with upcoming events to help you become more aware of the experiences of others.

### **LibGuide for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Academic Libraries**

[This LibGuide](#) is a space for a selection of resources focusing on EDI work in academic libraries and higher education. Here you will find definitions of key terms, open-access journal and news articles, social media content, and more to help contextualize the ways this work manifests in predominantly American cultures and societies. There are numerous stories, voices, and perspectives to EDI work, and this LibGuide is just one of many.

### **Anti-racism in Medicine Collection**

[MedEdPORTAL](#), the Association of American Medical Colleges journal of teaching and learning resources, has a collection dedicated to anti-racism. By increasing awareness, providing professional development, contextualizing content in culturally relevant ways, and spurring explicit dialogue about racism, the journal joins the fight against health inequity and racial injustice.

### **Teaching Tolerance**

[Tolerance.org](#) is a resource mostly focused on K-12 settings, but some strategies may be adapted to the higher education context.

### **The American Association of Colleges & Universities (AAC&U) Webinar Series**

[Learn about some strategies and approaches to teach more inclusively](#). AAC&U webinars highlight the work done at colleges and universities around the country to address challenges and identify best practices for enhancing the teaching and learning experience, demonstrating the value of liberal education, and preparing students to contribute to a diverse democracy and global citizenship.

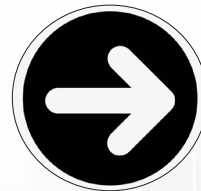
### **Addressing Race, Culture, and Structural Inequality in Medical Education**

[A Guide for Revising Teaching Cases](#)

Aparna Krishnan, MPH, Molly Rabinowitz, MD, MPH, Ariana Ziminsky, Stephen M. Scott, MD, MPH, and Katherine C. Chretien, MD

### **University of Florida Multicultural and Diversity Affairs Resources**

University of Florida Multicultural and Diversity Affairs [put together a list of resources](#) helpful in understanding the complex nature of diversity, equity, inclusion, social justice, and racial justice. This includes readings, videos, websites, professional organizations, podcasts, etc.





# ACADEMICS *for* **BLACK LIVES**

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## ***Educational Programming to Watch***

- 13th (Netflix)
- Selma (All Digital Platforms)
- Just Mercy (YouTube)
- American Son (Netflix)
- Dear White People (Netflix)
- If Beale St. Could Talk (Hulu)
- King in the Wilderness (HBO)
- See You Yesterday (Netflix)
- The Hate You Give (Cinemax)
- When They See Us (Netflix)
- The Next Question - Austin Channing Brown (TNQ Watch)
- Finding Your Roots (Amazon Prime)



### **Have a Suggestion to Add?**

Send a note to [Dr. Patty Probert](#), [Anthony Licari](#) or [Jerrell Blackburn](#) in our college's Office of Student Advocacy & Inclusion.



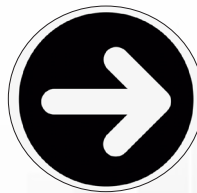
# ACADEMICS *for* **BLACK LIVES**

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## ***Listening Resources***

- 1619 (New York Times)
- About Race
- Code Switch (NPR)
- Intersectionality Matters! Hosted by Kimberle Crenshaw
- Momentum: A Race Forward Podcast
- Pod For the Cause: Leadership Conference on Civil & Human Rights
- Pod Save the People (Crooked Media)
- Seeing White
- Parenting Forward Podcast: 'Five Pandemic Parenting Lessons with Cindy Wang Brandt' episode
- Fare of the Free Child Podcast



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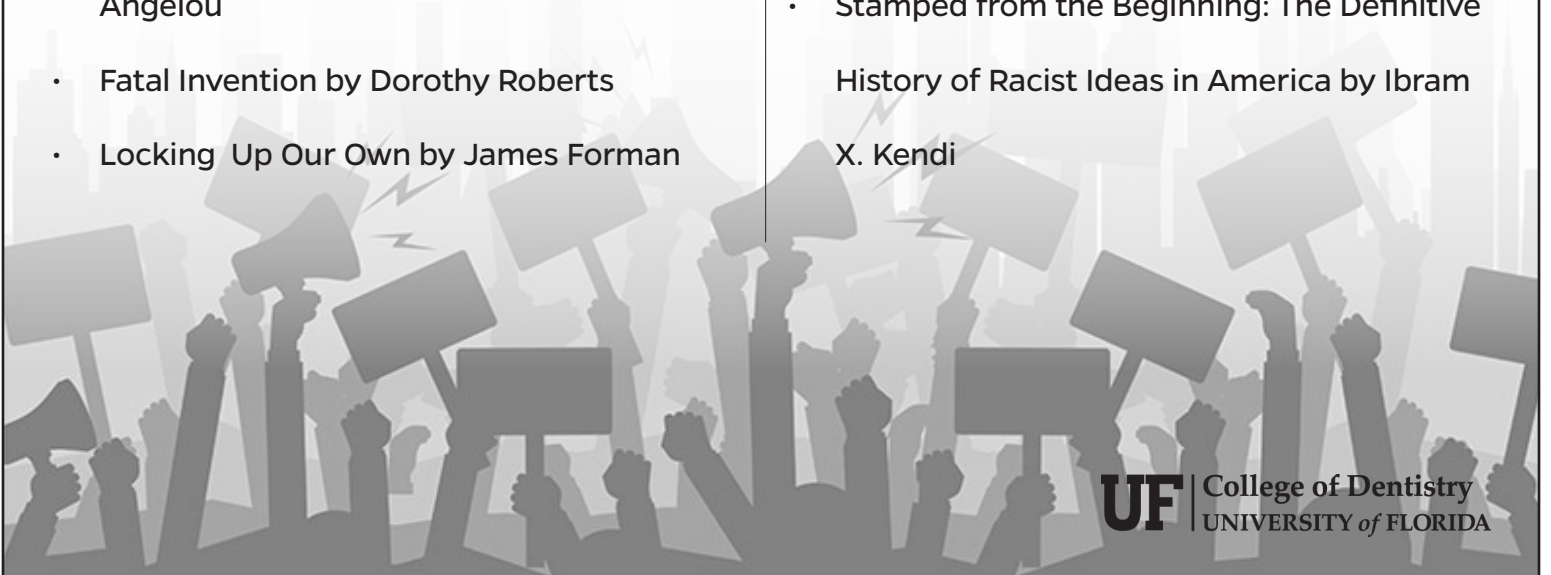
# ACADEMICS *for* **BLACK LIVES**

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## ***Reading Suggestions***

- White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo
- So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo
- How to Be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi
- The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander
- Divided Sisters by Midge Wilson and Kathy Russell
- The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison
- Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston
- They Can't Kill Us All by Wesley Lowery
- I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou
- Fatal Invention by Dorothy Roberts
- Locking Up Our Own by James Forman
- The Miner's Canary by Lani Guiner and Gerald Torres
- The Wretched of the Earth by Frantz Fanon
- Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor by Layla Saad
- I'm Still Here; Black Dignity In A World Made For Whiteness by Austin Channing Brown
- To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
- Why Are All The Black Kids Sitting Together In The Cafeteria? by Beverly Daniel Tatum
- The Sun Does Shine by Anthony Ray-Hinton
- Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America by Ibram X. Kendi



# ACADEMICS *for* **BLACK LIVES**



## ***Having a Conversation***

### **STOP HESITATING**

A quick, highly directive guide to initiating conversation with your black colleagues, students and friends about George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, other lives lost, Minnesota, Louisville, and Racial trauma:

Adapted from Elizabeth McCorvey, MSW, LCSW  
[elizabeth@hmacounseling.com](mailto:elizabeth@hmacounseling.com)

#### **1. Not sure how to start? Pick a phrase, any phrase, and tailor to your liking:**

"I've been thinking about you lately with everything that has been going on in Minnesota and the racial trauma you might be experiencing. Would you like some space to process?"

*They may tell you no. Own your discomfort. Sit with it. Move on.*

"I feel a little nervous bringing this up. I want to give you the space to talk about race and everything that has been happening in the news lately; I am committed to learning how. I'm not going to do this perfectly, but I don't want to pretend this isn't happening."

"I know that I am white/not of your race and can't possibly understand what you might be going through. I want you to know that I am open to hearing anything you need to talk about right now."

"Would you like to talk about the protests in Minnesota and around the country? Please feel free to say no."

*This might feel shocking for your student/faculty/staff if you have never talked about race before. They might feel flustered. You might feel flustered. I promise you, if you've never talked about race before, it is far more damaging to not talk about it than it is to stumble through a few awkward moments. I promise you.*

#### **2. Be careful not to talk too much because you feel awkward. Appropriate responses to their experiences are:**

"I hear you."

"I see you."

"I'm so sorry."

"I can't begin to understand what this must be like for you."

"Would you like for me to bring this up again in the future? I won't be hurt if you say no."

"I want to show up for you/support you, let's brainstorm together for what that might look like."

*And, then: validate, validate, validate*

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**Please remember, this is not a time to disagree or have a debate; this is about their experiences, their reality, their feelings.**

**Do not talk about your own personal experiences with racism unless invited, or unless you have asked permission.**

***Also, check on your black colleagues.***





# ACADEMICS *for* **BLACK LIVES**



## ***Other Resources & Info***

### **Becoming Anti-Racist**



# ACADEMICS *for* **BLACK LIVES**



## ***Other Resources & Info***

### **What is the Significance of Juneteenth?**



**Juneteenth** is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas, with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free.

Note that this was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which became official January 1, 1863. The Emancipation Proclamation had little impact on Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops to enforce the new Executive Order.

However, with the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865, and the arrival of General Granger's regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance.

### **Meaningful Conversation & Action at UFCD**

The conversations we've had, the support we have shown, the movies and documentaries we've watched, books we've read, podcasts we've listened to...are just the beginning. Becoming anti-racist takes hard work, understanding, communication, continuing education and open dialogue. We have already met with members of our Black Student Advisory Group to listen and learn about how we can better to support our black students in our College of Dentistry community. We concluded the meeting with concrete actions to undertake in the days and months ahead.

Fostering a safe, diverse and inclusive environment where everyone is equal, loved and supported is our top priority.

### **#WhiteCoatsforBlackLives**

Faculty, staff, residents and students at UF Health joined colleagues for a nationwide demonstration on June 5: kneeling in silence for 10 minutes for George Floyd and countless others. Health professionals take a sacred vow to heal the sick & serve humanity, without discrimination. To those hurting: we acknowledge your pain & stand with you in solidarity.

