



FAST FORWARD

February 2022

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

UF College of Dentistry,

The hustle and bustle of the spring semester always gives me energy and fills me with the realization that we have so many wonderful things happening at UFCD for which we can be very proud.

UF's fourth annual Gator Nation Giving Day is today! Every year I am amazed by your generosity – our students, faculty, residents and staff – and that of our alumni and friends, who stand up in ways I could have never imagined. With each Giving Day our results increase! We are so very grateful for the support Giving Day garners for our college.

I hope you'll take time out this afternoon to visit a special Giving Day event, **Pop Out & Give**, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the HPNP Courtyard to join students and colleagues from our fellow Academic Health Center colleges. Crowd favorite Beau the Therapy Dog will happily accept mid-afternoon pets, and everyone can enjoy a kettle corn cart and much more with a suggested minimal donation to our college. More details are available in this issue.

Several other springtime traditions are coming soon. On April 8, we hold our annual Spring Synergy research day which returns to an in-person format. That will be quickly followed by our annual commencement on Saturday, May 14, and the Professional Coating Ceremony for the DMD Class of 2025 on Sunday, May 22.

We are ramping up our preparation for the 2023 CODA Accreditation Site Visit. With the help of the Data Working Group, our Ad-hoc Accreditation Committees are gathering data and drafted initial reports of our Strengths, Weaknesses and Opportunities for each standard. Please check the accreditation timeline on our [on our website](#). I want to thank everyone who is leading and serving on accreditation committees. The two-year process requires time, effort, a lot of thought and is an intensive task that brings us together to document the excellence of our programs. As they say, "it's a marathon and not a sprint." I hope you will take a moment to read more about this important process in this issue of Fast Forward.

While our world has somewhat stabilized from the threat of the delta and omicron variants of COVID-19, I'd be remiss to not recognize that it's been almost two years since the coronavirus upended our lives and commenced a global pandemic. Since then, we've been so consumed with learning, preparing, responding and adapting to the ever-shifting landscape of our lives that we've had little time to reflect on our achievements.

As a college we were incredibly resourceful and creative, taking early initiative to protect ourselves and our patients as best we could. For instance, sewing masks and gowns isn't in any of our job descriptions, but when supplies were scarce some of our staff and faculty launched a PPE "assembly

line” to create masks and gowns for our providers. The same sense of ingenuity was displayed by staff who, literally overnight, erected protective barriers, by faculty who keep our programs running, and students and residents who handled each and every change with patience and poise.

These are just a few examples of the countless ways that our College of Dentistry community exemplifies the UF Core Values every day, in everything we do. UF's Core Values approved by the UF Board of Trustees in December 2020 are:

- Inclusion
- Freedom and Civility
- Community
- Excellence
- Discovery and Innovation
- Stewardship

There's more about the UF Core Values in this issue of Fast Forward, and you'll learn more about them in the coming months from UF, culminating in a 2022 Day of Celebrating UF Core Values to launch the fall semester.

In the meantime, I hope you can take time to reflect on the successes we've had as a college, as a community and as individuals.

And speaking of celebrating, we're in the midst of Black History Month. I hope you've enjoyed celebrating our college community – present and past – through our Black History Month social media profiles. I encourage you to take a moment to read senior DMD student Wunmi Oni's reflection in Fast Forward, as well as all other student and alumni insights about the meaning of Black History Month for them.

I am also lifting a huge round of applause for our 2021-22 Superior Accomplishment Award Winners: Sarah Bowser (Admissions), Danny Johnson (NDPBRN), Margeaux Johnson (Academic Affairs), Christina Ray (St. Pete), Christina Ryan (Academic Affairs) and Michelle Watson (RDS).

I hope you will join me in giving them a 'Congratulations!' next time you see them.

To close, I would offer that there's nothing we can't do with the power of trust, teamwork and collaboration. I am grateful for our progress in all areas of our mission and so proud of our college community.

All my best,



FLORIDA CORE VALUES

In 2015 the University of Florida adopted “The Decade Ahead” strategic plan comprising seven university wide goals and objectives and one overarching aspiration: That the University of Florida will be a premier university that the state, nation and world will look to for leadership. In 2020, the university augmented the plan with the “[UF Core Values](#)” underpinning its goals and overarching aspiration with six central values. The values were shaped by input from all of UF’s key stakeholders to ensure they reflect the diverse UF community.



A COMMITMENT TO:

Excellence

Strive for greatness as an institution that brings out the best in each individual.

Discovery & Innovation

Collaborate on the uncharted frontiers of knowledge to seek truth and make the world a better place.

Inclusion

Celebrate differences in identities, thoughts, and abilities, and seek to provide equitable access to opportunity.

Freedom & Civility

Embrace the freedom to inquire and express ideas without condemnation, and to show respect for the right of others to do the same.

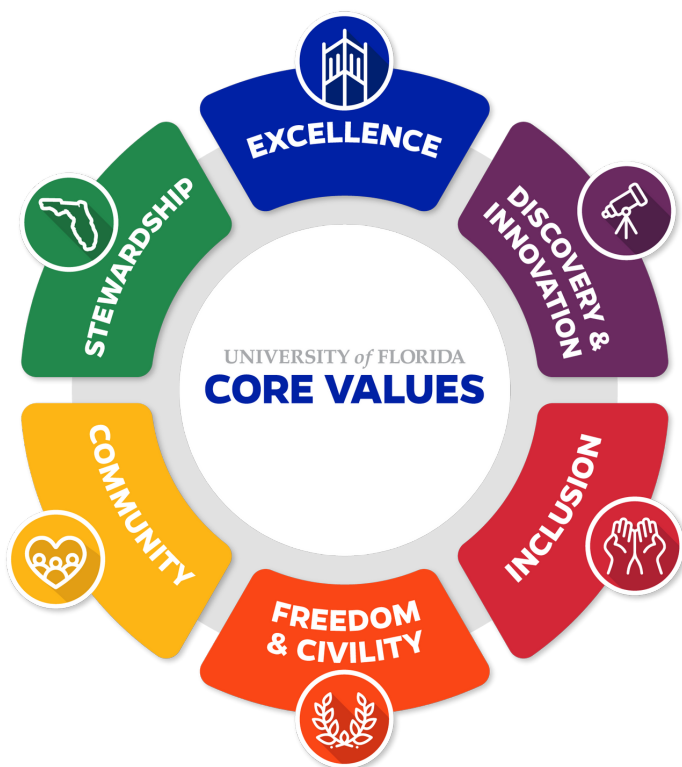
Community

Create a safe, welcoming community and a shared purpose that builds a sense of belonging and togetherness.

Stewardship

Show respect for those who came before us, responsibility for those now with us, and the commitment to leave a just and habitable world for those who come after us.

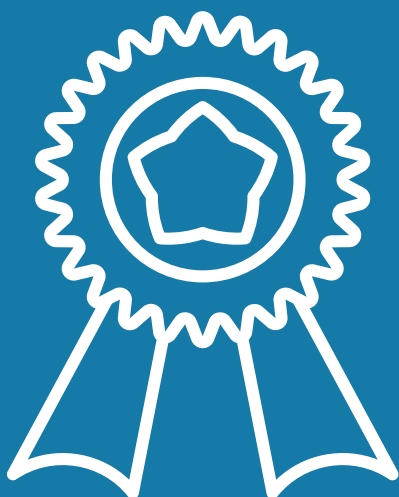
The Core Values:



SUPERIOR ACCOMPLISHMENT AWARD WINNERS



Congratulations to the College of Dentistry's six 2021-2022 Superior Accomplishment Award Winners in Division 5, announced by UF Health President Dr. David Nelson on February 1. The awards program recognizes faculty and staff who have shown efficiency or economy in their work, have contributed outstanding and meritorious service, or who have improved the quality of life provided to students and employees. Each receives a cash award of \$200, a framed certificate, a commemorative coffee mug, and will be considered for university-level awards, which offer \$1,000 and \$2,000 cash prizes. We're so proud of you!



Staff Appreciation Day is Today!

A reminder that UFCD's Student National Dental Association, in conjunction with the Office of Student Advocacy & Inclusion, will once again be holding a Staff Appreciation Day Feb. 17 to thank UFCD staff for their hard work in assisting dental students in so many different ways throughout their journeys at the college.

SNDA and SAI will express their gratitude with a grab-n-go brunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in D3-21.

WHO: UFCD Staff

WHEN: Thursday, February 17

TIME: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

LOCATION: D3-21

2022

GATOR NATION GIVING DAY

Anyone up for a challenge?! Last year, the **Department of Periodontics** won the inaugural UFCD Giving Day Cup for the most participation during Stand Up & Holler: Gator Nation Giving Day. Collectively, we raised over \$145,000 with 226 gifts to the College of Dentistry. This year we're aiming for 250 gifts to unlock Dean Garcia's pledge of \$2,022, and today is the day to show we're **#AllForTheGators**.

Gifts to UFCD support scholarships, specialty programs, endowed professorships and so much more. We hope you'll join us in donating \$1, \$5, or \$10 to UFCD -- 2 Bits, 4 Bits, Every Bit Counts!

Give Now!



STANDUP & HOLLER
GATOR NATION GIVING DAY

Pop Out & Give

Join UFCD and our Academic Health Center colleagues from medicine, nursing, pharmacy and public health and health professions for our annual Gator Nation Giving Day "Pop Out & Give" event.

Beau the Therapy Dog welcomes all the snuggles and pets, and we hope you'll stop by the UFCD table, show proof of a \$5 or more donation and receive a ticket to pick up a kettle corn sweet treat on your way out!



**POP
OUT &
GIVE**

HPNP Courtyard
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

2.17.22
Suggested minimum donation of \$5

**Kettle corn,
Beau the Therapy Dog
and more!**

College of Dentistry | College of Medicine | College of Nursing | College of Pharmacy | College of Public Health & Health Professions

#AllForTheGators

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

For Black History Month, we're amplifying the impact, voices and leaders of the UF College of Dentistry on our social media channels and online, and we hope you'll take a moment to visit and read the impactful statements of the legacies they've left, or hope to leave, as Gator Dentists.

Wunmi Oni, DMD Class of 2022

"I hope to leave a legacy of the importance of support for Black students at UFCD. Growing up, I have always had a mindset of paying it forward, leaving a legacy and creating opportunities for Black students to thrive. I want Black students to not only see the University of Florida as a place where they would fit in, but to also maximize their experiences here and become amazing future physicians!"

I firmly believe that little things add up to great impact. Whether it is making it a point to know all the Black students well, spending time having fun with them or connecting them to Black alumni or faculty, I try to be as intentional as I can. Although we are few, Black students are an integral part of the UFCD family, and I love supporting that in any way."

READ MORE STORIES:



ACCREDITATION 2023

The Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) works to maintain the highest professional and ethical standards in dental schools and programs across the nation. Every seven years, UFCD's DMD program, and most specialty programs, go through the accreditation process. Accreditation includes a comprehensive self-analysis and self-study on resources, curriculum, policies and operational standards, followed by a site visit from CODA team members to conduct interviews and evaluate if the program meets accreditation standards.

UFCD's Accreditation Site Visit is September 26-28, 2023

CODA STANDARDS

1. Institutional Effectiveness
2. Educational Program
 - a. Instruction
 - b. Biomedical Sciences
 - c. Behavioral Sciences
 - d. Clinical Sciences
3. Faculty & Staff
4. Educational Support Services
5. Patient Care Services
6. Research Program

Our ad-hoc self-study committees just finished their SWOT analyses of each standard as it relates to our college, and are currently in the process of gathering and evaluating data to support UFCD's compliance with each standard. Thank you to every committee member for your tireless work.



Be on the lookout For:

- [Accreditation Survey](#) -- your input from accreditations in the past is valuable to shape how we approach the accreditation process, self-study and site visit.
- [Faculty & Staff Accreditation Retreats](#) -- coming later this spring and summer, respectively!

Accreditation Steering Committee

Dr. Isabel Garcia, Dean & Chair
Christina Perez, Vice Chair

- Dr. Jacqueline Abranches (Standard 2; biomedical sciences)
- Dr. Emily Bartley (Standard 2; behavioral sciences)
- Ronda Breton (Standard 6)
- Tammy Crews-Sutton (Dean's Office liaison)
- Dr. Yenisel Cruz-Almeida (Standard 2; biomedical sciences)
- Dr. Deborah Dilbone (Standard 2; clinical sciences)
- Dr. Josephine Esquivel-Upshaw (Standard 2; clinical sciences)
- Dr. Valeria Gordan (Standard 6)
- Richelle Janiec (Standard 5)
- Dr. Olga Luaces (Standard 2; behavioral sciences)
- Dr. Patricia Pereira (Standard 2; educational program)
- Amanda Phelps (Standard 3)
- Dr. Patty Probert (Standard 4)
- Karen Rhodenizer (Dean's Office liaison)
- Dr. Ana Dias Ribeiro (Standard 2; educational program)
- Dr. Joseph Riley (Standard 3)
- Dr. Pamela Sandow (Standard 4)
- Kelly Sobers (Dean's Office liaison)
- Jean Sweitzer (Standard 1)
- Dr. Panos Zoidis (Standard 5)

**View Self-Study
Committees**



UFCD RESEARCH DAY



DR. MARGHERITA FONTANA

*University of Michigan School of
Dentistry*

Clifford Nelson Endowed Professor

*Director, Global Initiatives
Program in Oral and Craniofacial
Health*

**Spring Synergy Kaplan
Scholar & Keynote Speaker**

APRIL 8, 2022

Reitz Union
Second Floor | Grand Ballroom
686 Museum Rd
Gainesville, FL 32611

2022

COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY

Spring Synergy

The UF College of Dentistry Office of Research is currently accepting abstract submissions for poster presentations at the college's annual research day, Spring Synergy, scheduled for Friday, April 8, 2022, at the Reitz Union.

We welcome poster presentations from undergraduate/pre-dental students, current DMD students, master's degree candidates and residents, Ph.D. students, post-docs, faculty and staff.

Applicants can submit for a poster presentation in the areas of:

- ➔ Educational Research
- ➔ Clinical Research
- ➔ Basic Research

ABSTRACT DEADLINE:

MARCH 11, 2022

Submit an abstract today!

COLLEGE EVENTS & CALENDAR



FACULTY REMINDER | RSVP FOR COMMENCEMENT & REGALIA

We are delighted that we will all be able to gather safely this year for commencement in the Stephen C. O'Connell Center to celebrate the achievements of our graduates. We really missed the tradition and shared experience of celebration with our limited number of attendees last year.

Faculty **MUST RSVP** and complete the form to order your regalia by **February 28**.



Upcoming Events

- February 17 | Gator Nation Giving Day
- March 8 | National Dentists Day
- March 14-18 | AADOCR/CADR Virtual Awards
- March 21-26 | AADOCR/CADR Hybrid Meetings
- April 8 | Spring Synergy
- May 14 | Commencement
- May 22 | Class of 2025 White Coat Ceremony



What another incredible **Super Sealant Saturday** in the books! Thank you to all our UFCD faculty, staff, students, residents and other volunteers who worked tirelessly to host the 'Safari' this year. Your impact and service to the community is immeasurable.

