



## FAST FORWARD

May 2022

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

UF College of Dentistry,

What an exciting couple of weeks for our college. Congratulations to our DMD Class of 2022 and our advanced education residents whose accomplishments we celebrated during our 47th annual commencement on May 14 in the Steven C. O'Connell Center. Then on May 22, our DMD Class of 2024 celebrated progressing to the clinical phase of their training during the professional coating ceremony at the Curtis M. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts.

It's certainly been a busy time, and the joy and excitement during both events was palpable. It's been deeply refreshing to return to the traditional format for events in our college, gathering in person with friends, family and fellow classmates and colleagues to celebrate these milestones.

It is unique to have two such large events just a week apart, and I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who led the way in making each a resounding success, especially Dr. Probert and her Student Advocacy & Inclusion staff – Anna Kvam, Jordan Sharpshair and a special thank you to Alex Franklin who coordinated both commencement and white coat beautifully just six months after joining our college. Thank you so much.

### *Accreditation Update*

We are also moving along with our timeline for accreditation planning and preparation. Our ad-hoc committees for each standard have been meeting all spring, and have begun writing and editing each standard. The Data Working Group continues to gather information to aid and support the writing and documentation efforts for each standard. The steering committee expects to review preliminary reports this summer.

We're also in full planning mode for both a faculty retreat and a staff retreat. The faculty retreat is scheduled for July 22 and we should have a date reserved for the staff retreat soon. Stay tuned for more info on each. I know our planning committees are sparing no detail to make sure these are engaging, worthwhile – and also fun – retreats.

### *New Chairs*

I know you will join me in giving a warm welcome to our new Oral Biology and Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science chairs, who arrive this summer. Many of you are familiar with Dr. Shannon Wallet, who rejoins to UFCD on August 1 as professor and chair of the Department of Oral Biology and the Louis and Marge Atkins Endowed Professor after spending the past four years in North Carolina. I am also thrilled to welcome Dr. Daniel McNeil as professor and chair of the Department of Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science and the Parker E. Mahan Endowed Professor on July 1.

Believe it or not, Dr. McNeil has some Gator in his blood as well during his trainee years at UF in the 1980s. You can read more about both in this issue of Fast Forward!

I would like to draw your attention to an important announcement in Fast Forward from UF Information Technology. Beginning July 1, the UF email retention policy is changing. Emails older than three years in your inbox and sent folders will be deleted. These deadlines tend to sneak up on us, so please read the information thoroughly to understand the policy, and where to create – or shift – folders to ensure emails you’d like to save will be retained.

Finally, congratulations to our Office of Research and our entire research enterprise at the college for ranking No. 5 overall, and 3rd among public institutions, in the 2021 Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research funding rankings. That makes us top-10 every year since 2000, and we don’t take the distinction lightly. I am so proud!

As we head into the summer months, I hope you’ll enjoy some time off to recharge when you can. I am so appreciative of each and every one of you. We move forward successfully as a whole because of the great work you all do in your individual roles each day.

And not to skip too far ahead, but this fall but this fall we celebrate 50 years of excellence at the UF College of Dentistry and our inaugural class of Gator Dentists who began their education in 1972. We have some wonderful things planned and I am looking forward to commemorating this significant milestone with our UFCD family.

All my best,



Dr. Belanne J. Estimé was one of 12 Advanced Education in General Dentistry residents from our Hialeah Dental Center to walk across the stage on commencement day.



*Congratulations, Class of 2022!*



[COMMENCEMENT](#)  
[FACEBOOK](#)  
[GALLERY](#)







*Celebrating 50 years of UF Dentistry*

**50**  
*Years of Excellence*

**UF COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY**

EST. 1972

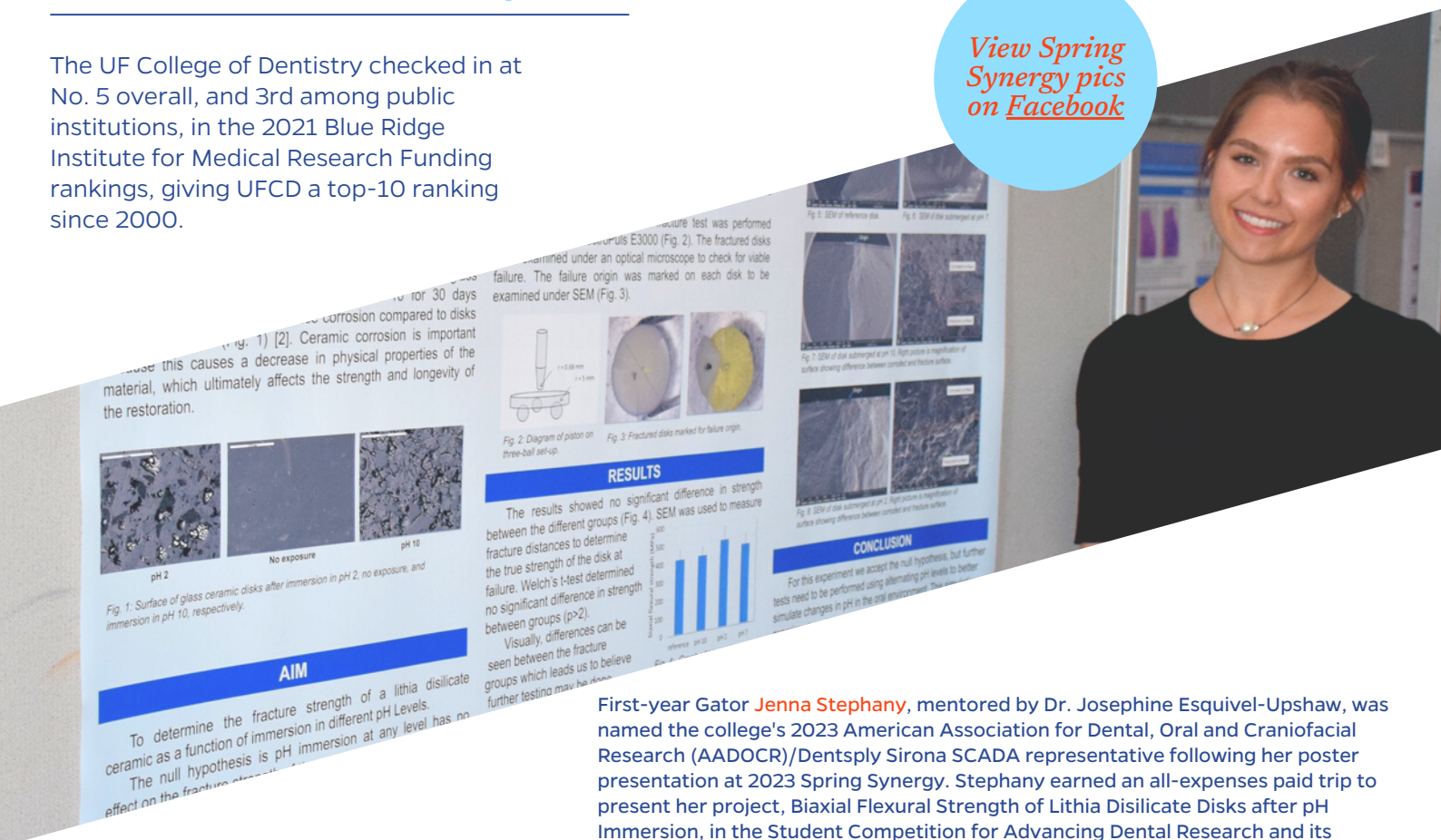
The 2022-23 academic year marks a special milestone for UFCD: 50 years of Gator Dentistry! It's been 50 years since our first class stepped on campus in 1972 (check out that UFCD 'building' in the photo above)! Our planning committee has been hard at work organizing celebratory activities, kicking off with our alumni reception at Florida Dental Convention in June, and wrapping up with a 50th Anniversary dinner in December. Stay tuned as we gather faculty, staff, students, residents, alumni and friends throughout the fall to celebrate the inaugural class of Gator Dentists, 50 years of excellence, our past, present, and most of all, look ahead to many more decades of sensational success through education, research, patient care and service at one of the best dental schools in the nation.



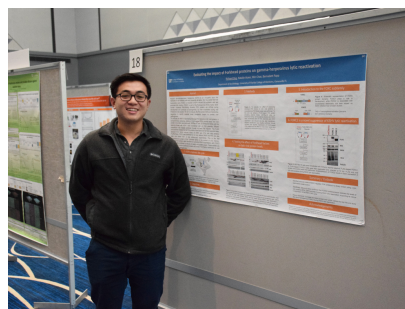
# UFCD Ranks No. 5 in NIH Funding

The UF College of Dentistry checked in at No. 5 overall, and 3rd among public institutions, in the 2021 Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research Funding rankings, giving UFCD a top-10 ranking since 2000.

*View Spring Synergy pics on Facebook*



First-year Gator **Jenna Stephany**, mentored by Dr. Josephine Esquivel-Upshaw, was named the college's 2023 American Association for Dental, Oral and Craniofacial Research (AADOCR)/Dentsply Sirona SCADA representative following her poster presentation at 2023 Spring Synergy. Stephany earned an all-expenses paid trip to present her project, Biaxial Flexural Strength of Lithia Disilicate Disks after pH Immersion, in the Student Competition for Advancing Dental Research and its Application on March 15-18, 2023 at the AADOCR Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon.



For the first time since 2019, **Spring Synergy** returned in person at the Reitz Union. Congratulations to our 2022 poster presentation winners!

## UNDERGRAD

- **1st place: Andie Kim**, mentored by Dr. Mateus Rocha Lab | Synthesis and Characterization of Silver-Arginine Nanoparticles
- **2nd place: Pritika Patel**, mentored by Drs. Jean-Francois Roulet & Mateus Rocha | Characterization of Light Curing Units' Lateral Beam Profiles – A Pilot Study

## DMD

- **1st place: Richard Ong** (D1), mentored by Dr. Bernadett Papp | Evaluating the Impact of Forkhead Proteins on Gamma-Herpesvirus Lytic Reactivation
- **2nd place: Luke Fischer** (D3), mentored by Dr. Zsolt Toth | Role of ID Proteins in Gingival Keratinocytes During KSHV Infection

## MS/RESIDENTS

- **1st place: Dr. Mahmoud Mona** | Morphological and Molecular Changes in Human Periodontal Ligament Fibroblasts in Contact with Root Restorative Materials: A Proteomics Systems Biology Approach; Authors: M.Mona\*, H. Huang, J. Chang, M. Goli, Y. Mechref, R. Pileggi
- **2nd place: Dr. Adam Hadsell** | A CBCT Analysis of MB2 Canal Morphology in Maxillary First Molars; Authors: A.Hadsell, R. Pileggi, E. Bakiri, C. Cerrud, V.Diaz, P. Pereira and A. Gohel

## PHD/POSTDOCTORAL

- **1st place: Natalie Atyeo**, mentored by Bernadett Papp | Herpesvirus Infection of Oral Epithelial Cells Induces Host Transcription Factor FOXQ1 to Sustain Lytic Infection
- **2nd place: Gabriela Peguero Kushner**, mentored by Bernadett Papp | Characterizing Gamma-glutamyl Transferase 6 (GGT6) in Breast Cancer

*Thank you to the Office of Research, Continuing Education & our chapter of ASDA for a successful event. We had a great turnout!*



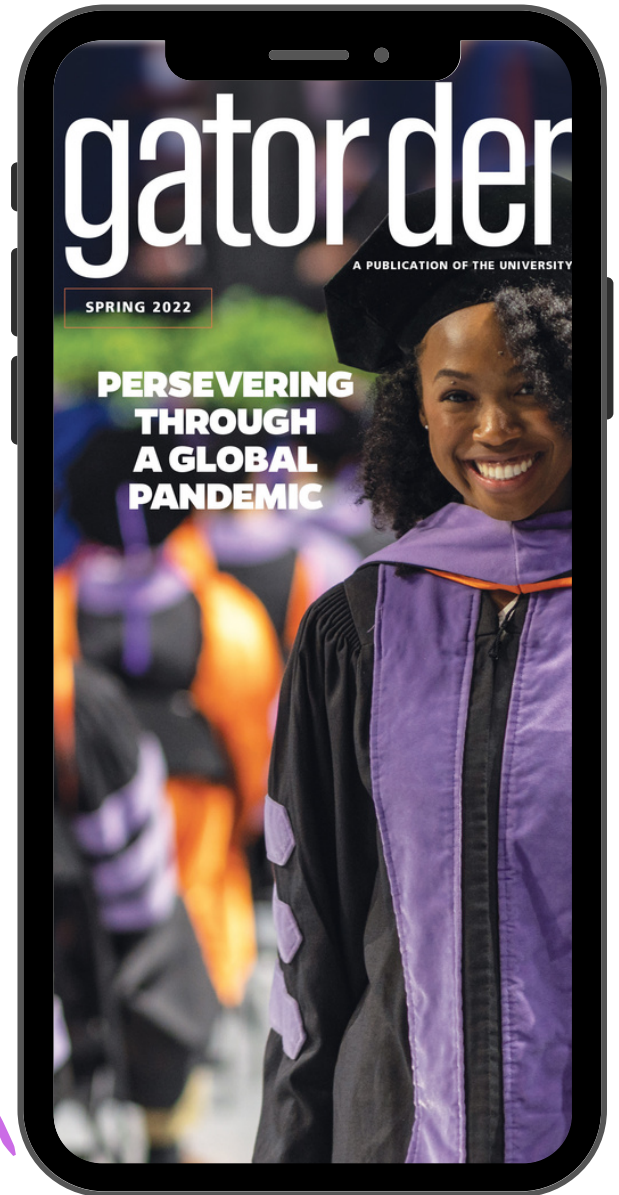
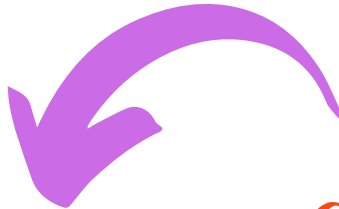
# Gator 100 Honorees

Congratulations to Gator Dentists **Drs. Phillip Claassen** and **Mitch Zientz** who checked in at No. 33 on the UF Alumni Association's 2022 Gator 100 tally, celebrating the world's fastest-growing Gator businesses. Claassen, DMD Class of 2015, and Zientz, DMD Class of 2014, were roommates at UFCD and went on to found Wellspring Dental in Brooklyn, New York, in 2016. Since then, the business grown to include five doctors across four offices in Manhattan and Brooklyn.

## GATOR 100 UF

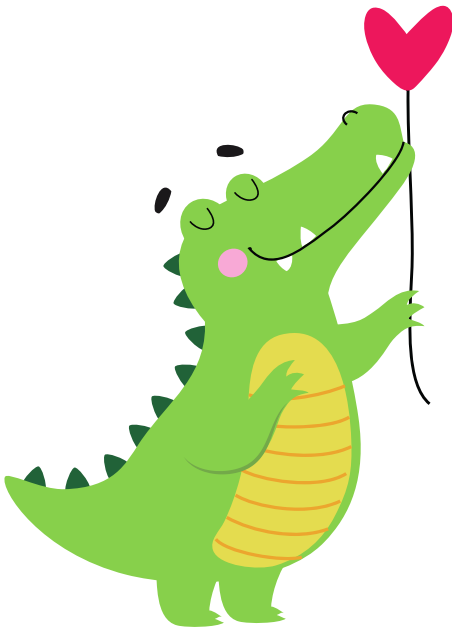


*Dr. Phillip Claassen Dr. Mitch Zientz*



### On the Cover

Dr. Chemika St. Juste, DMD Class of 2021, is now a dental resident at the Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC) in Asheville, North Carolina.

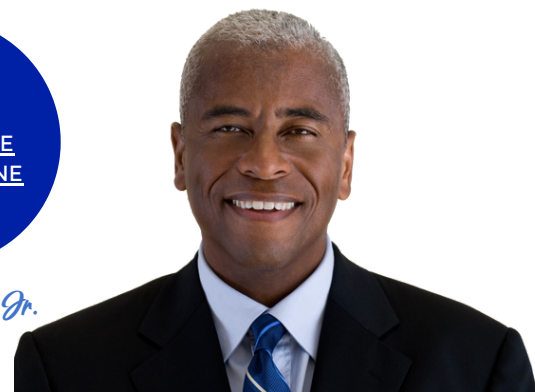


### Gator Dentist Today

The latest edition of our college's magazine, Gator Dentist Today, is here! Check it out online for a really nice recap about how our college has persevered through the COVID-19 pandemic, and catch up on the latest college, development and alumni affairs news, including an awesome new fund, [the Dr. Cecil White Jr. Scholars Fund](#), to support students at the college who have demonstrated a commitment to breaking down barriers, and including and welcoming individuals from underrepresented ethnic or socioeconomic groups that are also underrepresented in the dentistry profession.

READ THE  
LATEST ISSUE  
OF GDT ONLINE

*Dr. Cecil White, Jr.*





# Welcome

## DR. BILL DUNCAN



Dr. Duncan is the college's first artificial-intelligence focused hire.

Duncan joined the college in mid-March and is helping to guide and support UFCD in the development of the college's vision for Artificial Intelligence and AI-related research initiatives and goals. He came to the University of Florida from the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California where he spent the last three years as a software developer, and his academic home is the Department of Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science.

Dr. Duncan brings more than 15 years of experience developing and using biomedical ontologies and health informatics, as well as computer programming. He is well-versed in dental research, having led the development of the open-source Oral Health and Disease Ontology and served as co-investigator of several NIH-funded projects, including one on the application of dental data for clinical research. Some of his recent research includes the National Microbiome Data Collaborative funded by the Department of Energy, Immuno-Oncology Translation Network and a National Cancer Institute-funded cooperative agreement during his time at Roswell Park, also focusing on Immuno-Oncology.

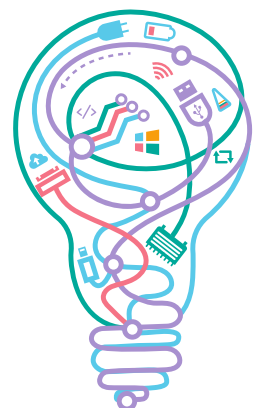
He has previously collaborated with UF's Department of Health Outcomes and Biomedical Informatics and will continue to work with the group while also partnering with other AI faculty and staff across UF and UF Health.

Dr. Duncan will focus primarily on projects and research initiated by our faculty such as improving patient outcomes and prognoses in a range of oral, dental/craniofacial diseases and conditions, developing methods to warehouse and utilize our electronic dental health records and strengthening interprofessional care teams. He'll also serve as a mentor to predoctoral, Ph.D. and postdoctoral students and residents on artificial intelligence-related projects.

AI at the  
University of Florida

AI at  
UF Health

AI at the  
College of Dentistry







REMEMBERING

# Max Rudie

AUGUST 30, 1988 - FEBRUARY 24, 2022

The college was extremely sad to hear of the untimely passing of Max Rudie, an alum of our pediatric residency program in Gainesville, in February. Max graduated from the peds residency program in 2019, and moved back to Charlotte, North Carolina, to commence his career practicing as a pediatric dentist. Max passed away after losing his battle against Myelodysplastic Syndrome, leaving behind his wife of almost eight years, Amanda, and their two-month-old daughter Sienna, "SiSi." SiSi is now five months old, and friends and family established a GoFundMe to honor his legacy and to help support his young family through this life transition. To garner awareness and help others who may be facing the same battle, donations are encouraged in Max's memory to [Be the Match](#).

MAX RUDIE'S

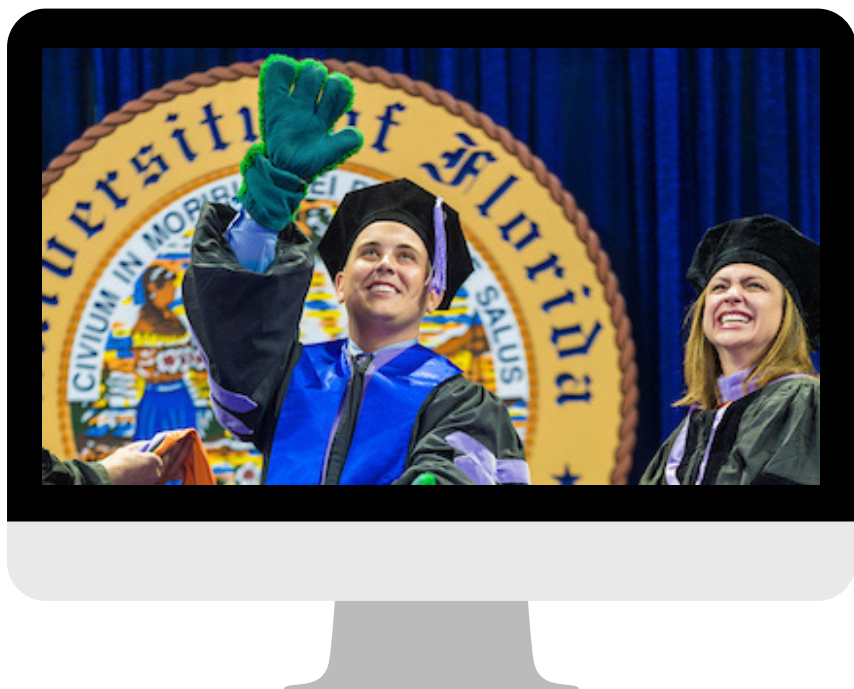
[Obituary](#)

HONOR MAX'S

[Legacy](#)

## CARSON SMITH: LEADING THE FLORIDA WAY

*Carson Smith, president of the DMD Class of 2022, has done it all, and then some, to leave a lasting legacy as a leader at the University of Florida.*



If you know Carson Smith, you know the DMD Class of 2022 president, president of the Dental Ambassadors, winner of the National Student Research Group President's Award two years ago, "Friend of Albert" – yes, that Albert – as captain of the Florida Gators Mascot Program, and chair of the Florida Letterman Awards for the University Athletic Association this year.

And that's, quite literally, just a few of the top — and recent — highlights of Smith's seven-page resume detailing a long list of accomplishments, research endeavors, awards, community service and areas of involvement during his time at the University of Florida.

[READ  
THE  
FEATURE](#)



## How to Retain Mail

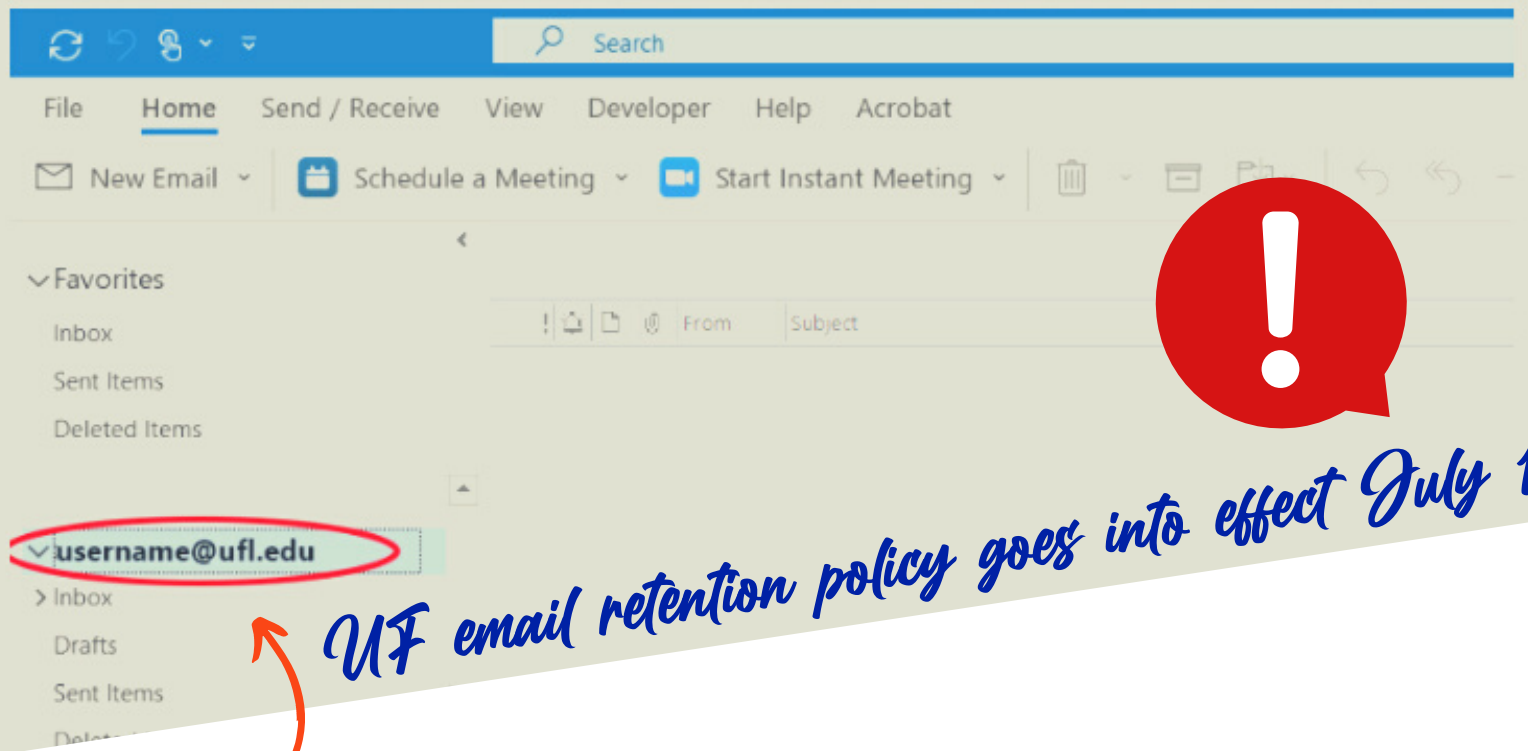
Mail in your 'Inbox' and 'Sent Items' older than 1,095 days will automatically be moved to the 'Deleted Items' folder. Mail that you wish to keep permanently must be moved to a folder created directly under your mailbox itself. Mail that remains in your 'Inbox', 'Sent Items', or a sub-folder of either will be automatically deleted by the email retention policy.

In the example below, a new folder is created for indefinite retention called 'Retain Permanently'. Follow the instructions below in order to create your 'Retain Permanently' folder. You may also include sub-folders within the 'Retain Permanently' folder. For example: one folder for Inbox mail and one for Sent.

### Creating a Folder

#### Step 1:

To create a folder to permanently retain email, it must be located in the root 'Mailbox', **NOT** under your 'Inbox'. Your root mailbox will be shown as your email address by default.



**Please note, emails in folders under your inbox will NOT be retained. It would be best drag ALL folders underneath your root mailbox (denoted above, which shows your email address by default.)**

### More Information & Instructions

- [UF email retention policy](#)
- [UF email retention FAQ](#)
- [How to retain your email](#) (create folders)
- If you need assistance please visit the [IT Help portal](#) to log in and complete a "New Service Request" (link on the right). For urgent support, call 352-265-0526.

On **July 1**, UF's automatic email retention will shift to three years. This means that anything older than three years in your inbox or sent folders will be deleted on July 1. Moving forward, the email system will continuously delete items older than three years in those folders.

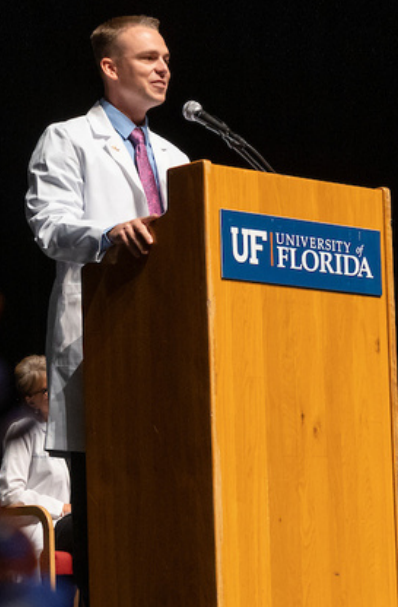
#### Why does this matter?

- If you've been here awhile, there are likely older emails you'll want to keep for various reasons.
- HIPAA related emails must be retained for six years.
- FERPA related emails must be retained for five years.
- In the next two months, you'll need to do some email organization to ensure you're keeping the emails you need to and want to.





DMD CLASS OF 2024 WHITE COAT CEREMONY





# Hello

We are thrilled to welcome **two** new chairs to the UF College of Dentistry this summer to lead our Department of Oral Biology and our Department of Community Dentistry & Behavioral Science, respectively. One may be familiar to many of you as we welcome **Shannon Wallet, Ph.D.**, back to Gainesville as professor and chair of the Department of Oral Biology and the Louis and Marge Atkins Endowed Professor. Dr. Wallet will return on August 1, 2022 after most recently serving as the associate dean for research, director of the Clinical Research Unit and interim chair for the Division of Oral and Craniofacial Health Sciences for the Adams School of Dentistry at the University of North Carolina.

And on July 1, 2022, **Daniel W. McNeil, Ph.D.**, will join our college as professor and chair of the Department of Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science and the Parker E. Mahan Endowed Professor. Dr. McNeil also had a short stint in Gainesville as a trainee early in his career for four years from 1981-1985, including a behavioral dentistry/medicine postdoctoral fellowship with our college. He joins UFCD after over 25 years at West Virginia University in Morgantown, where he is currently an Eberly Distinguished Professor with faculty appointments in the Department of Psychology and the Department of Dental Public Health and Professional Practice.



*Dr. Shannon Wallet*



*Dr. Daniel McNeil*



JUNE 23-25	Florida Dental Convention
JULY 4-8	Summer Break
AUG 22-26	Semester Break
AUG 22-24	D1 Orientation
AUG 29	Classes Begin
SEPT 5	Labor Day Holiday
SEPT 29	Dental Fall Weekend

# Goodbye

While bittersweet, we also bid farewell to two of UFCD's finest, **Dr. Arthur Nimmo** and **Dr. Donald Cohen**.

**Dr. Nimmo** is already enjoying his retirement, spending his time with his wife, Dr. Susan Nimmo, children, grandchildren and will devote more time to piano, Pilates, gardening, travel, and cooking. Dr. Nimmo officially retired May 2 as an emeritus professor following 39 years as a dedicated dental educator. Nimmo joined the college in 1999 as a tenured professor. He served as chair of the Department of Prosthodontics from 1999 to 2005 and from 2010 to 2011. Nimmo was appointed as director of the predoctoral implant dentistry program in 2009 and served in this capacity until his retirement. Nimmo contributed to the education of more than 3,200 general dentists and countless prosthodontic specialists on the use of implants in dental care during his career, and has been active at the national level, serving as president of the American College of Prosthodontists from 1999 to 2000, Commissioner on the ADA Commission for Dental Accreditation from 2001 to 2005, and as president of the American Board of Prosthodontics from 2016 to 2017.

After 20 years of dedicated service to UF and our college, **Dr. Cohen** will be retiring in August 2022. Dr. Cohen is a professor and the chair of the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Diagnostic Sciences, which includes the divisions of Oral & Maxillofacial Radiology, Oral Medicine, and Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology, and related clinics that offer services for patients and for practitioners. Dr. Cohen is a national leader in his specialty and is the immediate past president of the American Academy of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology. He has received numerous teaching awards, including several college and university-wide, and is a sought-after speaker, having given hundreds of lectures on the topics of oral medicine and oral pathology.



*Dr. Arthur Nimmo*



*Dr. Donald Cohen*