



Dr. Isabel Garcia

FASTFORWARD

A UF COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY UPDATE

from
Dean A. Isabel Garcia DDS, MPH

UF College of Dentistry,

Whether you spent spring break relaxing at home, adventured somewhere new or traveled for Hinman, ADEA or AADOCR like I did, I hope you entered this week refreshed and ready to embrace the last several weeks of the semester.

I really enjoy the buzz that spring brings. It's always a busy, but bittersweet, time in the college as we prepare to bid farewell to our D4s and residents who have completed their programs. But that also means enjoying one another's company more frequently as we celebrate the tremendous accomplishments that the end of an academic year brings at gatherings, culminating with commencement at the Phillips Center in May.

REFLECTING ON THE PAST | LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE

It has certainly been a momentous year for both UFCD and UF. We wrapped up 2022 with our 50th Anniversary event in the Champions Club at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium to honor our first class of Gator Dentists who entered UFCD in the fall of 1972. Almost all living members of the class were in attendance and it was a wonderful evening of reflection and celebration. I think the Class of 1976 would have stayed all night catching up, laughing and reminiscing if we had let them! Check out our 'Reflections of Excellence' video from that evening in this issue.

As for the university, the new year in 2023 marked the start of new leadership at UF when **President Ben Sasse** officially arrived in Gainesville in February. Dr. Sasse is spending the first several months of his tenure making the rounds across campus to learn more about each college. I look forward to sharing the amazing work our college does with him, speaking about the people that compose our UFCD family, discussing our college's priorities, and exploring initiatives we can collaborate on to ensure the current and future success of our college, our faculty, staff, students and residents.

A FEW HIGHLIGHTS

Speaking of success, congratulations are in order for Christopher Browngardt (Oral Biology), Kervin Daniel (OMDS), Dr. Olga Ensz (CDBS), Karen Owens (Pedo), Karen Rhodenizer (Communications) and Jessica Sanchez (Endo), our **2023 UFCD Superior Accomplishment Award recipients**.



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You can read more about their well-deserved honors in this issue, and I'd like to thank those who took the time to complete nomination packets for deserving UFCD faculty and staff.

While we're still waiting on official NIDCR funding figures for the last fiscal year, we are proud to make it 23-straight years ranking in the top 10 for NIH funding, which is no small feat. In 2022, the college ranked 6th among all U.S. dental schools for NIH funding to academic institutions – 3rd among private institutions – which is a perfect segue into Spring Synergy, our annual celebration of research, continuing education and ASDA, coming up next week March 30-31.

We have some fabulous presentations on deck, so if you haven't registered for the CE sessions yet, check them out in this issue and **be sure to sign up for the lectures online.**

ACCREDITATION

Last, but certainly not least, I want to express my deep gratitude to everyone who continues to make our September CODA Accreditation Site Visit a priority on top of normal day-to-day responsibilities. We hosted our Mock Site Visit January 23-24, and no stone was left unturned. I am proud of the way we embraced our three very thorough site visitors. We received extremely valuable, constructive feedback on our self-study, and were able to identify areas of improvement to ensure we are in the best position possible before our official visit September 26-28.

Our Steering Committee and ad-hoc work groups have been diligently working through the feedback to adjust each self-study narrative and finalize data for each standard. We expect a final draft of the narratives by mid-April, and will then solicit third-party comments on UFCD's self-study. We will submit our final self-study report to CODA in June.

On July 19 we will host our Accreditation Retreat at the **Straughn Center** just across Archer Road near Vet Med. Everyone with an active role in accreditation and our CODA Site Visit should have received a calendar hold in Outlook to reserve the time. More details will be forthcoming, but we'll spend the day finetuning our preparation for September. As always, all accreditation details are housed on our **accreditation website** for your reference.

As I reflect on this issue of Fast Forward, I'm reminded how hard we work as a college – from Wildlight to Gainesville, St. Pete, Naples & Hialeah – despite adversity and outside factors that we can't always control. It's truly the passionate people that make UFCD special, and it brings me so much joy to see our success through perseverance and hard work, the impact we have on the communities we serve, and how much fun our faculty, staff, students, residents and alumni have together. I hope you revel in flipping through this issue of Fast Forward and reminiscing on the fun and festive events we've had so far this year.

Enjoy!



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DMD Class of 1976

Celebration

It was so wonderful to welcome our very first class of Gator Dentists back to Gainesville to celebrate 50 years of UFCD in December. The best part of the evening was seeing the joy as they reconnected with faculty, administration and each other. Lots of laughs and stories were shared!



DR. ALAN HAYS, ALUMNI KEYNOTE

50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

A very big thank you to Rick Miller and Kait Simonson in development and alumni affairs, and everyone who played a part, including our Dental Ambassadors, for organizing a wonderful evening to celebrate 50 years of our college at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium! The focal point was our very first class of Gator Dentists, the DMD Class of 1976, our first graduates to walk through the doors who began to pave the way for UFCD. We are incredibly grateful to those alumni & friends who have poured into our college and given back to ensure the success of Gator Dentists for many generations to come. It is hard to believe we are 50 years old, but we are very much looking to a bright and successful 50 years ahead!



WATCH:

Check out our college's 50th Anniversary video ~ Reflections of Excellence | College of Dentistry 50th Anniversary





read more in the
OFFICE OF RESEARCH
NEWSLETTER



DR. VALERIA GORDAN

Distinguished professor has a nice ring to it. Congratulations to Dr. Valeria Gordan on her promotion to distinguished professor, recognizing her exceptional record of achievement, professional and public service both nationally and internationally, and placing her at the top of her discipline. As such, Dr. Gordan will deliver her Distinguished Professor Lecture as part of UF's Distinguished Professor Lecture Series on April 13, 2023 at 5 p.m. in the Harrell Medical Education Building. A reception will follow.



RSVP to Dr. Joseph Riley.

DR. MCNEIL | GRANT & PUB

CDBS Chair Dr. Dan McNeil and his wife, Dr. Cheryl McNeil, a UF Department of Psychiatry professor, received a two-year UG3 grant for the first phase of their NIDCR grant, "Implementing Evidence-based Behavioral Skills in Pediatric Oral Health Care Provider." The project is a multi-site study with the University of North Carolina, University of Arkansas and West Virginia University. Together, they are bringing Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) methods into dentistry. Dr. McNeil is also the proud co-editor of a February 2023 special issue of **Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology: Advancing the Behavioural and Social Sciences to Promote Oral Health. Check it out!**



Miles Turner CEO Raafi Zaman COO Brennan Ertl CFO Thomas Koby CSO



LUBY MICROGRANT WINNERS

GatorGuard: get familiar with the name. This quartet of UFCD innovators was awarded a UF Luby Microgrant for their business idea through the **Warrington College of Business and UF Entrepreneurship & Innovation Center** for GatorGuard, the first mouth guard of its kind to be 3D printed using Digital Light Processing technology, enabling advanced design accuracy down to 25 micrometers for a tailored fit specific to the unique shape of an athlete's teeth. The internal lattice structure absorbs and dissipates energy across the entire mouth guard surface, allowing greater protection using less material compared to custom mouth guards made by dentists. More to come on their project, as they're in the thick of the **Big Idea Competition** now.

PROJECT MENTORS

▶ Dr. Mateus Rocha ▶ Dr. Dayane Oliveira ▶ Dr. W. Stephen Howard



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IF YOU SEE THIS GUY...

The security of our building, people, belongings, equipment, information and, especially, our peace of mind are really important in light of our recent building security concerns. While we work on tangible security adjustments to the building with UF Health, UFPD and our facilities managers, we've come up with something to help us all be more aware and to identify areas we can be better as it relates to the security of our offices, computers and more.

So, if you see this guy on your computer, keyboard, or general desk area, that means you left your computer unlocked and unattended. We'll even leave some sticky notes so you can 'pay it forward' to a colleague or friend who leaves their computer or office unlocked and unattended.

Let's work together to keep our college community as safe as possible!

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES



Our college's five-year strategic plan for 2019-2024, which designates the key priorities and actions to advance the work we do at the UF College of Dentistry, was updated in 2022. Check out our Strategic Plan website for all the updates.

35 YEARS OF SERVICE



On February 8, the University of Florida hosted its annual Service Recognition celebration for staff celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 years of service to the university. We are so grateful for the wonderful people who have been with our college for so long, including this amazing woman, Karen Owens. An incredible 35 years of service!



SIX DENTISTRY AWARD WINNERS

SUPERIOR ACCOMPLISHMENT AWARDS

Once again, UF College of Dentistry faculty and staff shined through UF's Superior Accomplishment Awards. **The college had six award winners** in our division -- Division 5 -- at UF Health on the Academic Health Center campus. The Superior Accomplishment Awards program recognizes faculty and staff members who contribute outstanding service, or who have created an impact on the quality of life provided to students and employees, rewarding each recipient for dedication to their jobs and for going above and beyond to advance the mission of UF. Each of our UFCO recipients earned a \$200 cash award and now advance to compete for the university-level awards to be in the mix for eight \$1,000 and eight \$2,000 cash awards. Congratulations!

- ★ **CHRISTOPHER BROWNGARDT**
Research Coordinator, Department of Oral Biology
- ★ **KERVIN DANIEL**
Manager of Health Care Administration, Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Diagnostic Sciences
- ★ **DR. OLGA ENSZ**
Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science

- ★ **KAREN OWENS**
Program Assistant, Department of Pediatric Dentistry
- ★ **KAREN RHODENIZER**
Director of Communications, Dean's Office Communications
- ★ **JESSICA SANCHEZ**
Clinical Services Representative, Department of Endodontics

OUR IMPACT IN NAPLES



WATCH:

NCEF's mission in Collier County + a beautiful patient story from our NCEF Pediatric Dental Center. [Skip to the 2:00 mark for dentistry.](#)

We are so proud of the work our faculty, staff and pediatric residents do at our NCEF Pediatric Dental Center and in Collier County under the leadership of Dr. Lauren Governale. Whether treating underserved children, partnering with the Special Day Foundation to meet the oral health demands of special needs individuals, or the development of our new Special Needs Oral Health Promotion Center in collaboration with the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation and Henry Schein, we are thankful for our partnership with the Naples Children & Education Foundation and their support to make a transformational difference in the lives and health of our patients in Southwest Florida.



WELCOME NEW/"NEW" FACULTY

We're thrilled to welcome two new faculty to the College of Dentistry, and congratulate two faculty whose talents we are very lucky to keep within our Gator Dentist family. **Daesong Jang, Ph.D.**, joined us from the NIH where he was a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute of Diabetes and Digestive Kidney Disease within the Laboratory of Endocrinology and Receptor Biology. He's a research assistant scientist in Dr. Seunghee Cha's laboratory. **Cynthia Savioli, D.D.S., Ph.D.**, is no stranger to the college after completing her AEGD in Hialeah in 2019. Dr. Savioli has been working in private practice since then, and is a new clinical assistant professor and team leader for our Hialeah AEGD program.

And lastly, we are grateful to have **Surabhi Mishra, Ph.D.**, now a research assistant professor in Dr. Jeannine Brady's Lab, and **Lin Zeng, Ph.D.**, now a tenure-track associate professor in the Department of Oral Biology, with UFCD in slightly new roles! Congratulations to everyone. We are better because of our talented faculty, researchers and educators.



Dr. Daesong Jang

Research Assistant Scientist
Dr. Seunghee Cha Lab



Dr. Cynthia Savioli

Clinical Assistant Professor
Hialeah Dental Center



Dr. Surabhi Mishra

Research Assistant Professor
Dr. Jeannine Brady Lab



Dr. Lin Zeng

Associate Professor / Tenure Track
Department of Oral Biology



CHILDREN'S TRUST OF ALACHUA COUNTY AWARDS UFCD \$100,000 FOR SAVING SMILES

Today we're thankful for the Children's Trust of Alachua County and their generosity so we can continue collaborating to address the oral health needs of children in our community through the **Saving Smiles Program**. Congratulations to Dr. Olga Ensz on her leadership with Saving Smiles, and THANK YOU to our CDBS faculty, staff, students and volunteers for your dedication to making each community event a success. You're making a difference!

[LEARN MORE >>](#)





A huge thank you to our entire College of Dentistry family - faculty, staff, students, residents, alumni & friends, for yet another fantastic Gator Nation Giving Day.

On the University of Florida's fifth annual Stand Up & Holler: Gator Nation Giving Day, UFCD garnered 218 gifts totaling \$194,276 -- seventh among all colleges and institutes on campus -- to benefit our college's missions and many initiatives.

In all, our college contributed to the record-breaking 28,700+ gifts to UF in the 24-hour span.

We enjoyed donuts and coffee with our GNV faculty, staff, students & residents, and look forward to making it a tradition!



Dr. Arlene Genao | Hialeah Resident

Feeling grateful for amazing UFCD humans like Dr. Genao in Hialeah, who selflessly sprang into action after a long day at work recently when a passerby collapsed while leaving Hialeah Hospital and was unresponsive. Dr. Genao administered CPR and, with a nurse who had later joined her, cared for the person until paramedics arrived, and even as paramedics took over, to ensure proper medical care. You inspire us, Dr. Genao, and you embody what it means to be a Gator Dentist. Thank you for being a role model, and for your selfless act of service to help a stranger.



Visit [UFCD Accreditation online](#) for materials, dates & presentations.



ACCREDITATION RETREAT IS JULY 19

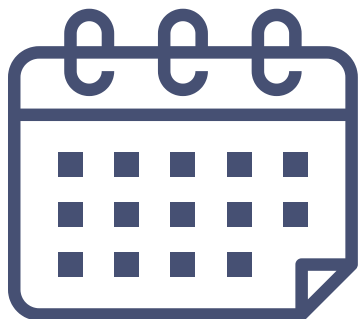


STRAUGHN CENTER

A quick reminder that we'll host our Accreditation Retreat on **WEDNESDAY, JULY 19**, for those with active roles in our September 26-28 CODA Site Visit. Those involved have already received Outlook appointments; the day will be split into two sessions. More info to come!



Upcoming Events



MARCH

MARCH 30-31

Spring Synergy

APRIL

APRIL 1-2

APRIL 6

APRIL 21

APRIL 24-28

Florida Board Exam - Mannikin CIF

TalDent Show & Bakeoff (HPNP)

Last Senior Clinic Day / Last Day of Spring Semester
Semester Break

MAY

MAY 1

MAY 19

MAY 29

Summer Semester Begins

Commencement

Memorial Day

JUNE

JUNE 2

JUNE 19

JUNE 29-JULY 1

White Coat Ceremony

Juneteenth Holiday

Florida Dental Convention

WHAT IS TALDENT?

It's been a few years since we've had UFCD's annual variety show & bakeoff, due to covid. Formerly Acid Etch, TalDent is a chance for UFCD students & residents to showcase their talents outside the clinic and classroom for fellow students, faculty & staff; they'll be judged by Dr. Cabrera, Dr. Terza & Dr. Bauman this year! It's a really fabulous, fun time. We've had comic standups, salsa dancing, skits, songs sung, music performed, a painting crafted while the show was going on, and SO. MUCH. MORE! Hope to see you there; you won't regret this fun evening.

Get your TalDent tickets today!



UFCD
TALDENT
Show
& BAKEOFF

MEET THE JUDGES!

DR. CABRERA DR. TERZA DR. BAUMAN

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!

6TH APRIL, 2023
HPNP AUDITORIUM

Bakeoff: 6pm-7pm
TalDent: 7pm-9pm

TICKETS!



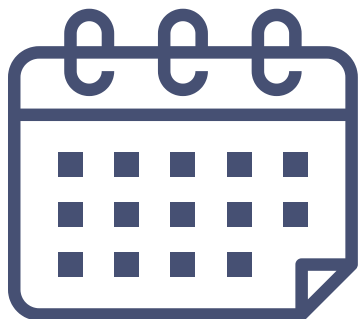
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SPRING SYNERGY RESEARCH DAY

HPNP Building | March 30-31

Thursday, March 30

8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Faculty Presentation: Dr. Lee Ann Brady

The Art of Treatment Planning and Case Presentation
Room D3-3

1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

SADS Residents Presentation: Dr. Lee Ann Brady

2:15 - 3:30 p.m.

Mastering Anterior Implant Esthetics

Room C1-17 | networking break from 2-2:15 p.m.

Friday, March 31

7:00 - 8:00 a.m.

Participant Breakfast and Registration

HPNP Reception Hall

8:00 - 8:05 a.m.

Dr. Robert L. Kaplan Legacy

HPNP Auditorium 1404

8:05 - 10:00 a.m.

Robert L. Kaplan Scholar Lecture: Dr. Lee Ann Brady

Occlusion in Everyday Dentistry

HPNP Auditorium 1404

10:15 - 11:00 a.m.

Research Keynote Lecture: Dr. Yenisel Cruz-Almeida

Understanding Pain and Aging Interactions Using Artificial Intelligence

HPNP Auditorium 1404

11:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Poster Presentations | Sponsored by the Office of Research

HPNP Reception Hall

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Lunch | Sponsored by ASDA

HPNP Courtyard

12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Vendor Fair | Sponsored by ASDA

Biomedical Sciences Building Lobby

PRESENTERS



Occlusion in Everyday Dentistry

DR. LEE ANN BRADY

Director of Education,
The Pankey Institute

Owner, Desert Sun Smiles Dental Care



Understanding Pain and Aging Interactions Using Artificial Intelligence

DR. YENISEL CRUZ-ALMEIDA

Associate Director, Pain Research &
Intervention Center of Excellence

Associate Professor, UFCD



 CE REGISTER

Click or scan to register for CE sessions, and for more information about Spring Synergy.



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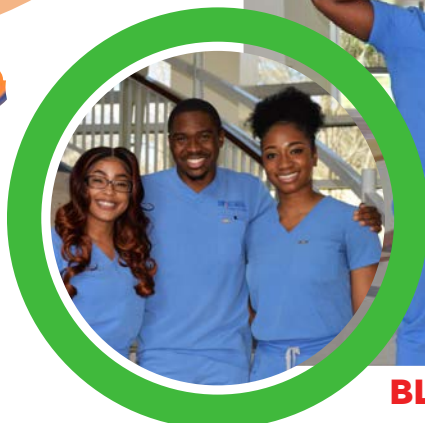
Through the Lens: Latest Happenings



BICUSPID BALL: STUDIO 54 DISCO



UF HEALTH VISION FEST



BLACK HISTORY MONTH



GRAD CUP

DA RECOGNITION WEEK



SUPER SEALANT SATURDAY



ASDA GALA

