



## DEAN'S UPDATE

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University of Florida College of Dentistry



*Happy holidays to you and yours!*

December 2011

To: UF College of Dentistry,

Congratulations on the successful conclusion of another busy and productive year! I continue to be proud of all members of the College of Dentistry family and your strong commitment to our vision, mission and values.

Last December we were rigorously preparing for the AxiUm clinical software launch and while I can't say we have something as monumental as that scheduled for the beginning of 2012, we are in the midst of a number of important initiatives.

Many of you are already involved in the College Visioning exercise which started in October 2011 and continues through March 2012, when we should have a "blueprint" of sorts for the building renovations and/or additions that will meet the needs of the college's future. This exercise provides valuable input from across the college and other parts of the university and I appreciate everyone who is taking the time to participate.

We have created a [web page](#) with details about the process; the site will be updated as we move forward, so please check it often to learn more.



STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
SYSTEM  
of FLORIDA  
Board of Governors

### **New dental schools; expanding our class size**

If you've been following the media coverage and my updates, you'll know that during the past six months, dental education has been on the radar for the Florida Board of Governors. Several universities brought proposals before the board for approval to open dental programs, and our college asked for funding to expand the size of our D.M.D. classes.

Due to the economic realities in our state that make it difficult to support new ventures, we have withdrawn our proposal for a legislative budget request to expand our class size for the time being. But it is possible that when the economy recovers, and appropriate funding is provided to the college, we may readdress this proposal.

## Renovations in store for our website too

Our physical infrastructure isn't the only area getting an update. The college is moving our web design to a new template created for all of the HSC colleges and business units. The new template is very attractive and was designed to be more patient friendly, in addition to being easier to navigate for external users. There are a number of benefits in the new structure.

- Information on the pages will be easy for a general computer user to update through a simple content management system (CMS). Using the software is similar to working in Word or Publisher.
- Our patient information and links will be housed in the main UF&Shands.org site, which will allow us to benefit from the marketing and advertising efforts of Shands and UF Physicians. Interested patients will be able to select "find a dentist" on the main page, and also use search functions to look for information about dental conditions and find out who in our college treats those conditions.
- The HSC IT team is working with the CTSI so that all research studies are represented and people can search to find out about studies that interest them, who is conducting research on those topics, and also find out about studies that are looking for participants.
- For a preview of the dental site, [click here](#).

Interested in seeing what other colleges and departments have done? Here's some sites for your viewing pleasure:

[UF College of Veterinary Medicine](#)

[UF College of Medicine Department of Radiology](#)

[UF College of Medicine Department of Anesthesiology](#)

[UF College of Medicine Department of Community Health and Family Medicine](#)

## Now is the time to update

While the migration to the new site is in progress, please take the time to look at any web pages that pertain to you or your area and make sure the information is accurate and updated. If you, or someone in your area, would like access to the CMS so you can update the information yourselves, or if you need guidance on how to send updates, please contact our webmaster, Sarah Zachrich Jeng, at 352-273-5650 or [email her](#).

## AxiUm Update

I want to thank the many individuals and work teams who made significant contributions to the implementation and refinement of this very important clinical management software. I especially want to recognize the AxiUm Steering Committee members who were so instrumental in the successful implementation. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

With the completion of the AxiUm implementation and data conversion, this would be the appropriate time to sunset the Steering Committee and address ongoing issues related to the interface with AxiUm to the appropriate college administrator:

Clinical issues: Dr. Boyd Robinson

Finance and related business matters: Ms. Ana Dropps

Educational Interface issues for the DMD program: Dr. Nini Sposetti

Educational Interface issues for Advanced Dental Education programs: Dr. Tim Wheeler

Research Issues: Dr. Bob Burne

IT support issues: Mr. Ron Cigna





## Lobby renovations & remodeling

By now you've all noticed that our lobby is in the midst of the substantial renovation that should be complete in February/March 2012. The renovation includes enhanced and upgraded lighting, flooring, walls and furniture.

The College of Medicine entry, which is located between the Sun Terrace and the Founders Gallery, is also being redesigned with new lighting, seating and flooring – you won't recognize it when it is finished. The two areas were designed by the same architects and will complement each other and provide a new "front door" for both the College of Dentistry and the College of Medicine.

## Good impressions on State Lobby Day



On November 15, 2011, a group of D.M.D. students from the University of Florida College of Dentistry traded their scrubs for business attire and traveled to Tallahassee to participate in State Lobby Day and, not surprisingly, they made a good impression on the hill.

The students met with state legislators on behalf of the college to advocate for important dental issues. Melissa Alfonso, Class of 2013, organized the meetings between the students, and the state senators and representatives.

"We had an amazing experience. The day went smoothly and, although some legislators were more receptive than others, we made them well aware of how passionate we are about the issues we presented," said Shaun R. Young, president of the Class of 2013.

The attendees learned more about legislative issues that the Florida Dental Association are involved in and were invited to return for Dentists' Day on the Hill on February 1, 2012.

## First Impressions!

On October 15, the Student National Dental Association (SNDA) successfully launched the first Mini Impressions Program at the University of Florida College of Dentistry. For more photos, visit our [Facebook page](#).



## Thank you to UF College of Medicine's Nancy Hardt

When Dr. Nancy Hardt of the UF College of Medicine won a "Spirit of Gainesville" award for her efforts in mapping health care disparity and implementing solutions, she had a choice of where to donate a \$1,000 award and she chose our college saying, "People in Gainesville have easier access to oxycodone on the street corner than they do dental care."

That was incredibly kind of her and we are very grateful. If you're interested in reading more about Dr. Hardt and her award, [click here](#).



## Honors, Awards & Appointments

### Rueda receives FEO

Luis Rueda, D.D.S., M.S.D., received a Faculty Enhancement Opportunity Award (FEO) from UF during the Fall 2011 award cycle. Rueda, an assistant professor in the Department of Restorative Dental Sciences Division of Prosthodontics, received \$25,000 so he could pursue oral appliance therapy training to treat Obstructive Sleep Apnea disorders.



OSA is a disease that involves the upper respiratory system; the breathing airway collapses during sleep resulting in reduced airflow or even total airflow blockage. It interferes with the patient's sleep creating tiredness and sleepiness during the day. An oral sleep appliance is a custom plastic device that helps open the airway during sleep for patients with mild to moderate degrees of the disorder.

### Bhattacharyya coordinator of international programs

Indraneel Bhattacharyya, D.M.D., M.S. an associate professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Diagnostic Sciences was recently appointed Coordinator of International Education Programs for the University of Florida College of Dentistry.

"Dr. Bhattacharyya will work closely with our faculty and students to coordinate the college's international efforts including outreach efforts in other countries which involve our students and faculty, and representing the college to the Health Science Center and university in regards to international affairs," said Teresa A. Dolan, D.D.S., M.P.H., professor and dean, "We wish him the best in this new role."



### Catalfamo receives NIDCR grant

Dana Catalfamo, a pre-doctoral fellow in the Department of Oral Biology, received a F31 Individual Pre-Doctoral National Research Service Award (NRSA) grant from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR).

Catalfamo's research project, "Osteoclast Differentiation and Activation in the Context of Diabetes," looks at the role of osteoclasts, the main bone-destroying cells, in the pathogenesis of inflammatory bone destruction in a mouse model of type 1 diabetes. The grant covers most of her stipend through 2013 in support of her research.



## Honors, Awards & Appointments

### Karpinia appointed to IRB



Congratulations to Katherine Karpinia, D.M.D., M.S., an associate professor in the Department of Periodontics, who was recently appointed to serve a three-year term as a member of the University of Florida's Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the Gainesville Health Science Center beginning August 2011.

"It is a privilege to serve as an IRB member. Ours is a challenging arena of expanding federal regulations, continued protection of the rights and welfare of human subjects, and rapid expansion of 'bench to bedside' research," Karpinia said, "I look forward to this new opportunity."

### Aguilar receives NIH grant



Maria Lucia Aguilar, D.D.S., M.S.D., M.S.-C.I., a prosthodontics professor in the department of restorative dental sciences, received a research supplement award of \$258,037 from the National Institutes of Health, National

Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research.

The 21-month Research Supplement to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research Award supplements the parent NIH grant, "Increasing Oral Cancer Screenings by Dentists," and will support Aguilar's mentored research training and career development in qualitative and survey research.

### Gibbs, Foerster inducted into ACD

Congratulations to Micaela Gibbs, D.D.S., and Ulrich Foerster, D.D.S., University of Florida faculty members who were inducted into the American College of Dentists (ACD) during their annual meeting in Las Vegas on October 10 -11, 2011.



Gibbs is a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Community Dentistry and Behavioral Sciences; Foerster is a clinical associate professor in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

## Gator Advantage

The college's Faculty Practice, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, and our resident clinics are participants in the UF Health Science Center's Gator Advantage program.

The program provides fast access for UF employees and their families who want to schedule appointments with Shands, UF physicians, and now UF Dentistry.

Please direct all patient inquiries about Gator Advantage to (352) 273-7954.

## Free parking

Beginning January 9, all patients at UF&Shands, the University of Florida Academic Health Center, receive free parking. The college will receive vouchers to provide patients and their visitors, and also research participants, and guests of the college.

More information about handling the vouchers within our college, and all specifics relating to the parking changes at the HSC, will be available soon.

For questions relating to the college, please contact [Richelle Janiec](#). For other information contact UF Transportation and Parking Services at 352-392-PARK or 352-392-7275.



## THERE'S A NEW TOOTH IN TOWN

The college's mascot, The Mighty Molar, was in need of a makeover. We worked with a design company to spiff up the overall look, add some color to his outfit, and make him a little easier to wear for those willing! He made his official debut during the UF Annual Homecoming Parade, proudly riding the DCC's float.

He spends most of his time in a closet on the 10th floor but he loves to get out at health fairs, schools, college events and community events. If you'd like to reserve him, please contact [Karen Rhodenizer](#).



## *Happy holidays!*

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the college's annual holiday get-together on December 14. We enjoyed some hot tea, warm cookies and posing for iconic Santa Claus photos. Thank you to the members of the college's Special Event Planners for another relaxing, fun event! For more photos, just go to the Share drive: [Public / Photos / 11 / Holiday Tea](#).

