To: UF College of Dentistry,

Happy New Year and welcome to the start of the 2013 spring semester. One of the first emails I received on January 2 was the news that U.S. News and World Report recently ranked dentistry as the #1 profession for 2013. Not a bad way to start our year! The rankings are based on 10-year growth volume, 10-year growth percentage, median salary, employment rate, future job prospects, stress level and work-life balance.

January 2 also marked the beginning of a new DMD clinical schedule that includes schedule changes for meetings and classes. The college also rolled out an upgrade to AxiUm, our electronic health record/clinic management software.

From all reports, the rollout went smoothly in the dental tower and for our dental centers in Hialeah and St. Petersburg. Most of the success is directly attributable to excellent and detailed planning and preparation by our IT and Clinic Administration teams involved in the transition. But some of the success is because the most primary users of the system paid attention to our requests to complete training and have their I.D. cards updated so they were swipe-capable with the new software – thank you! We appreciate the high level of cooperation in our college.

About the holidays – it was a restful and wonderful break for most of us. But there are always the few, the proud, the “essential” personnel who come to work during the break to staff clinics for emergency patient needs, and also IT personnel who worked to deploy the software upgrade. I am extremely grateful for the dedication of all those who attended to the needs of our patients and the college over the break.

Cara Boring, Justus Weber, Andrew Keller, Phillip Edwards, Gerald Hammond and Steve Kostewicz worked during the break coordinating the AxiUm rollout.

Emergency clinical coverage was handled by faculty, staff and students. Students include Caitlin Buchanan, Johnny Williams, Joey Sorentino, Luisa Betancur, Tracy Aburto, Jan Garcia, Keith Polizois, Cara Weldon, Nicolas Mann, Ludmills Antonos, Brittany Dickinson, Kayanna Beckmann, Samuel Landrian, and Magda Abdel Fattah.
Clinical staff who worked include Craig Kirkbride, Jerri Wainer, Richelle Janiec, Pam Williams, Sandra Watkins, Sabrina Gelman, Joyce Lee, Beth Cockill, Kathleen Leigh, Mindy Register, Debra Johnson, Pauline Coleman, Diana Little, Kathleen Leigh, Dianne McReynolds, Tara Taylor, Marisara Alequin, America Acosta, Kim Dixon and Eduardo Mondragon.

Faculty members who covered emergency needs include Drs. David Barnes, Deborah Dilbone, Katherine Karpinia, Nery Clark, Jean-Francois Roulet, Rosalia Rey, Saulo Geraldeli, Boyd Robinson, Robert Morris, Bryan Adams, Franci Stavropoulos, Randy Sanovich, Rushi Patel, James Ruskin, and also Dr. Bonita Wynkoop who serves as courtesy faculty.

Some highlights of recent accomplishments and things on the horizon:

- The Admissions Office spent the last six months interviewing and selecting the DMD Class of 2017, making the first round of offers on December 3. The advanced education programs were also busy hosting candidates for their programs. All of our academic programs continue to attract a strong, highly-qualified pool of applicants from across the United States and around the world.
- We continue to integrate the college’s IT team and services with the HSC/Shands team and have received positive feedback about the level of support and cooperation shown by the IT personnel in our college and in HSC/Shands IT.
- The ECO – RSS Feed is currently in beta testing. If you are a course director or teach in a course, you can click on the RSS Feed button and it will populate your Outlook calendar and inform you of updates.
- In the research arena, Cayuse is operation and should assist with grant submissions. Principal investigators and research support staff are working to complete required training in Cost Principles which will help us manage our grant resources.

Administrative changes in the college

Boyd Robinson, D.D.S., is serving as the Interim Chair of Restorative Dental Sciences
Deborah Dilbone, D.M.D., serving as Director of the Operative Division of RDS
Luisa Echeto, D.D.S., M.S., serving as Director of the Prosthodontics Division of RDS
Wendell Willis, D.D.S., remains as Director of the TEAMs program of RDS
Roberta Pileggi, D.D.S., M.S., serving as Interim Director of the School for Advanced Dental Sciences
Calogero Dolce, D.D.S., Ph.D., is serving as Interim Chair of the Department of Orthodontics
Richelle Janiec is covering the administrative functions in Clinical Affairs while we develop a strategy for a permanent replacement for Dr. Robinson.

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Have you seen the new Clinic 1A?
Our “Center for Advanced Periodontology and Prosthodontics”

If you haven’t, please take a moment to wander through the newly renovated space which is, frankly, just beautiful. Funded primarily through gifts and donations to the college, the dental center has beautiful woodwork, flooring and lighting, plus state-of-the-art technology and equipment. It was designed to flow nicely from our renovated lobby and truly allows us to envision what we can do, with funding and planning, to renovate our entire building as part of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of our building plan.

About the building
We continue to make positive progress with our goal of building an addition to the Dental Sciences Building. In November, I met with President Machen and Dr. Guzick, along with the lead architect from Kahler-Slater, Larry Schnuck. We gave a detailed presentation about the building plans, fundraising feasibility, the need for a new facility and plans for how we would use the facility to maintain the excellence we have built over the past 40 years. Machen and Guzick approve of the direction in which we’re headed and shared a verbal commitment to continue to work with us to fund Phase 1 of the three-phase building plan.

Budget update
We are projecting shortfalls in our AEF and state components of our budget. On Thursday, January 17, we have scheduled a half-day workshop on-site to discuss and prioritize options for closing this budget gap. Participants include the college deans and chairs, members of the Budget Steering Committee (including Faculty Assembly chair) and Strategic Planning Committee, and a representative from the Vice President for Health Affairs office.

Following the workshop I will share a report of our deliberations with faculty, and will follow the recommendations of the Faculty Advisory Board as to the best forum for sharing that information.

So it looks to me as if we have plenty to work on in 2013 and I am grateful to know that our college has one of the most dedicated groups of faculty, staff and student at the University of Florida. I want to thank you all for the incredible accomplishments of 2012 and look forward to a new year, full of new projects and successes.

Warm regards,
Dean Terri Dolan

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Progress toward accreditation for OMR residency accreditation

The Commission on Dental Accreditation completed an initial accreditation site visit for the UF Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology residency program, to be initiated in July of 2013. Dr. Sherin Tooks served as the CODA staff and the site visitors were Dr. Sanjay Mallya and Dr. James Geist.

The site visitors were very complimentary about the quality and comprehensiveness of the initial site visit documentation, the quality of the program dentistry faculty, and the outstanding support provided by the College of Medicine Department of Radiology. The report of the site visitors will be reviewed by the CODA Review Committee and then the full Commission in early 2013. We look forward to a successful launch of the program next July.

$2.5 million for DMD scholarships was a team effort

Congratulations to Pamela Sandow, D.M.D., assistant dean for admissions and financial aid for a September 2012 grant award that will help provide financial assistance to disadvantaged students. Sandow credits a number of people for helping her write and submit the grant on short notice: Dr. Frank Catalanotto, Censeri Abare, Dr. Patti Probert, Tom Kolb, Beverly Coleman, Dr. Nini Sposetti, Stacy Buford, Emily Orrock and Sarah Bowser.

Through their joint efforts the college received a four-year, $2.5 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration, or HRSA, Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students. The award will provide $15,000 scholarships to 43 students and is focused on recruiting and retaining students from disadvantaged backgrounds and to help reduce their student debt. Ultimately the hope is that a lower debt load will make it possible for them to provide care to underserved patients without worrying about a lower salary.

She said that she tells our applicants about the family atmosphere in our college and noted that, during this submission, she experienced the benefits of being a part of our large, talented and dedicated college family. Click here for more information.

CODE of Conduct

The D.M.D. Class of 2016 signed their class Code of Conduct on Dec. 5, 2012.
Teaching the teachers

Congratulations to the Department of Community Dentistry and Behavioral Sciences for their grant of $2.5 million from the Health Resources and Services Administration to execute a multifaceted, interdisciplinary plan to improve faculty development.

“The idea is to help develop new and better skills in our faculty,” said Frank Catalanotto, D.M.D., co-principal investigator for the grant. “If the grant is successful, our students will be better dentists when they go out into practice. Better dentists are going to improve the health of the public.”

The five-year grant, which went into effect in July, in part supports the ongoing revision of the college’s curriculum. Click here to read more.

Three D.M.D. students selected for A.D.E.A. program

Ann Decker, Class of 2014, and Nina Guba and Olga Luaces, both of the Class of 2015, were selected to participate in a year-long American Dental Education Association (ADEA) program.

Their participation will be funded through part of a $2.5 million grant awarded to the College of Dentistry to enhance faculty and student development.

The program provides dental and allied dental students at U.S. and Canadian institutions an opportunity to experience the benefits and rewards of teaching and an academic career.

Faculty Assembly
March 14, D3-3 from 8 to 9:15 a.m.

ADEA Annual Session & Exhibition
March 16-19, 2013, Seattle, Wash. For info and to register click here.

AADR Annual Meeting
March 20-23, 2013, Seattle, Wash. For info and to register click here.

Florida National Dental Convention
June 13-15, 2013 in Orlando, Florida For more info and to register click here.

Save the dates

Faculty Assembly
May 4, D3-3 from 8 to 9:15 a.m.

Faculty Assembly
July 11, D3-3 from 8 to 9:15 a.m.

Faculty Assembly
September 5, D3-3 from 8 to 9:15 a.m.

Faculty Assembly
November 7, D3-3 from 8 to 9:15 a.m.

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In 1974, the HSC’s publication ran an article about our brand new college’s highly-regarded curriculum. In light of the curriculum revision currently underway today, we thought it might be a nice story to share.

NIH Sponsors Curriculum Forum

College of Dentistry Approach To Education Gets National Attention

Curriculum Forum I which, in effect, put the University of Florida College of Dentistry modular curriculum on stage for the nation’s leading dental educators in February, offered a broad scope of the school’s self-instructional approach to dental education.

The Forum, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, shared the experiences the University of Florida College of Dentistry has had in modular development and implementation. Two points were apparent to the 75 dental educators from 52 of the 58 dental schools, and representatives of federal agencies, and national dental organizations who came to observe the two-year-old curriculum in action:

• The curriculum poses an unparalleled challenge in developing student-centered programming;
• The students involved in “taking” the modules are finding they can learn at their own pace; there is greater flexibility in what and how they learn; and there is greater opportunity for feedback in determining how much they are learning, and in changing their programming to improve their intake.

Said Don Allen, D.D.S., principal architect of the modular concept at Florida: “Traditionally, a course is evaluated in and of itself. We are not interested, for example, in a student’s pure knowledge of anatomy, but in how he can use that knowledge to care for the people he serves. The modular curriculum is designed to give us that information.

“By using high quality self-instructional technology as the basic teaching methodology rather than as supplemental material, we build into the curriculum a continuous process of feedback from the students to refine the effectiveness of the teaching strategies. In the traditional lecture-demonstration approach, a student must depend on the ability and spirit of the professor on a given day to deliver the message.

“While health professions have had very little input from education specialists in the past, we are thus far delighted with the success we are experiencing by utilizing their expertise to reach our students and instill in them self-generated study and evaluation techniques. These learning skills are valuable to the students (continued on page 3)