It is my pleasure to share this “special edition” of our newsletter. The past few months have been particularly filled with emotions, accomplishments, awards, honors, additions and much more. The Division of Prosthodontics continues to significantly contribute to the mission of our college in all aspects: teaching, research and service. In the area of teaching, the faculty members revised and updated our preclinical courses to improve the quality of our students' education. New lectures, psychomotor activities, videos and demonstrations were made. In addition, we have constantly revised our clinical policies and procedures and calibrate our faculty for consistency of the grading and management of the clinical cases.

Our sophomores completed the “Fundamentals of Occlusion” course directed by Dr. Dasilva and Dr. Castellanos and are currently taking the introduction to fixed prosthodontics concepts in the “Fixed Prosthodontics I” preclinical course under the direction of Dr. Fernandez. Our junior class completed their prosthodontics preclinical instruction with the “Removable Partial Denture” course, in which they not only learned this area of dentistry but also experienced a new teaching methodology with the structure of Team-Based Learning (TBL) which provides a framework that teaches students how to be life-long learners placing an emphasis on pre-class preparation and encouraging student exploration and analysis during in-class time. It has shown that this active learning supports increased knowledge retention as I have experienced the past five years directing this course under this methodology. Our juniors are ready to start their clinical experience in prosthodontics. They were enrolled in the “Clinical Prosthodontics 1” course and began to treat a variety of patients. We continue to guide and mentor our senior class as they move along their clinical cases and are getting ready to become a dentist. This semester they will challenge the Mock Board Examination in preparation for successful completion of the Florida Dental Licensure examination; a requirement for our future professionals.

In the area of research, Dr. Esquivel-Upshaw received an NIH grant of more than $3 million over the next five years. This is quite an accomplishment as funding for this type of research is difficult to obtain at this time. In addition, she received a UF seed grant and has continued working on a 3M Industrial grant with the mentorship of Dr. Buddy Clark. This academic year, faculty members have published 13 abstracts, 10 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals, four book chapters and two patents; all in collaboration with members of other divisions, departments and colleges. Furthermore, we have represented our university well in various national and international conferences.

In the area of service, the Division of Prosthodontics is well-represented in several college, department and university committees. Seven of our faculty members currently treat patients in Faculty Practice providing specialized prosthodontics care. Our prosthodontists have the clinical and laboratory expertise in esthetics, crowns and bridges, complete and removable partial dentures, dental implants, complex oral rehabilitations and digital dentistry including digital dentures. They also provide additional services by treating patients with TMJ disorders, traumatic injuries to the mouth’s structures, congenital/birth anomalies to teeth, sleep disorders, oral cancer reconstruction and continuing care within our clinic which also include a certified high regarded anaplastology.

The Graduate Prosthodontics program continues to provide a high level patient care with the most challenging and unique clinical situations. The program has been well-ahead the of new CODA standards in the placement of dental implants as this treatment was introduced many years ago in our program. New residents, interns and a fellow joined the program in July and our new residents for the class of 2020 have been selected. As you read this issue, you’ll learn more about all of these topics. I hope you enjoy the news...

Sincerely, Luisa F. Echeto
is a tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Restorative Dental Sciences, Division of Prosthodontics. She obtained her dental degree from the University of the Philippines in 1991 and her Master’s of Science in Advanced Dental Education and Certificate in Prosthodontics from Northwestern University Dental School in 1994. She started her “first life” at the University of Florida College of Dentistry where she was hired as a Clinical Fellow in 1994 and then as an Assistant Professor in 1995. She was promoted to Associate Professor and awarded tenure in 2000. She moved to the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio the same year to follow her husband’s career. She worked in the General Dentistry department where she was appointed a Group Leader (or Team Leader) in charge of 20 undergraduate students and also worked in faculty practice. She returned to the University of Florida in 2006 as an Associate Professor and Associate Chair in the Department of Prosthodontics. She was accepted as a Fellow in the Advanced Postgraduate Program in Clinical Investigation (APPCI), now Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) where she obtained her Master of Science in Clinical Investigation degree from the UF College of Medicine. She is involved in clinical research and ceramic research. She recently received a $3.4 million NIH grant to study the effect of novel coatings on the strength of dental ceramics.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Her other activities include taking care of her two children (ages 9 and 12) as well as her four dogs (three standard poodles and a rescued cotonese) and a cat. She loves to travel, read fiction novels and crochet. Her current project involves crocheting all the characters in Winnie the Pooh’s Hundred Acre Wood.
“As many of you may already know, I was diagnosed with Invasive Ductal Carcinoma, triple negative, on June 2nd, when I was 26 weeks pregnant with my daughter. When my doctor called to inform me of the diagnosis, after several weeks of agony, I felt as my life had ended. A feeling of loneliness and helplessness completely took over me. The fear that my daughter would have to go through this with me almost drove me crazy. However, I could not let myself down as I had to fight for my little baby, my son and my husband. Although I was trying to be positive all the time, it was very hard for me. Then, in the middle of this “storm”, I started to receive so much support from so many of you, emails, messages, positive thoughts and prayers that lift me up and gave me the strength to keep fighting and believing that everything was going to be alright. And everything did go well! My doctors decided to do the chemotherapy every two weeks instead of every three weeks, although it was challenging because I could not get shots to improve my blood counts due to the pregnancy. But we did not have a choice since I would have to go through four rounds of chemotherapy before she was born. And it worked!

During these two months of chemo, as sick as I was due to the side effects, at the following chemotherapy session I was healthy again and most of my blood counts were back to normal. Every time I thought I would not make it, I made it! I attribute this to all of your prayers and positive thoughts…

Sophia was born on August 18th at 9:42 am at UF Shands Hospital. One week before birth, the ultrasound showed her at 2.2 kg and at a size of a 34-week baby. However, to everyone's surprise, she was born weighing 3.2 kg and measuring 50 cm! She is a very healthy baby! She will be monitored for several months, but so far everything is good. She adapted very well to the bottle and is gaining weight very well. Again, I attribute this to all your prayers and positive thoughts.

Therefore, I would like to once again, thank every single one of you who supported me during this difficult time, sending us your prayers and thoughts. I could not make it without you and my lovely husband and family. You all took away my feeling of loneliness and hopelessness. You showed me what true love really means!! Also, I want to recognize and thank my OBGYN doctor (Dr. Patrick Duff, UF Shands) who promptly listened to me, quickly diagnosed my condition, and supported me throughout my pregnancy, always being there for me and Sophia.

I still have a long journey ahead of me, and I ask all of you to keep me in your prayers as I have to go through 12 additional sessions of chemotherapy, surgery, and radiotherapy. Although I know how hard this will be, I also know that I will win this battle and I will be back to school to do what I love the most: teaching, research and helping my patients!!!! See you all next year!”

Maggie Dasilva

This is a beautiful and inspiring story. Maggie and Sophia are my heroes! I really admire her and I am certain that she will win this battle and several good things are coming her way. God bless her, Sophia and her family. ~ Love, Luisa Bcheto
Dr. Rene Brignoni
completed his dental degree at the University of Puerto Rico in 1987, a General Practice Residency program in the Department of Veterans Affairs in Dayton, Ohio, in 1988, a certificate in Prosthodontics in the Department of Veterans Affairs in Maywood, Illinois, in 1990 and an Oral and Maxillofacial Prosthetics Fellowship in 1991 at the University of Texas in Houston, Texas. Dr. Brignoni is Diplomate of the American Board of Prosthodontics and Fellow of the American College of Prosthodontists and the American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics. He is the section chief of Oral and Maxillofacial Prosthetics in the Dental Oncologist Clinic in the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System in Gainesville since 1996. Dr. Brignoni used to teach as a part-time faculty member in the former Department of Prosthodontics at UFCD from 1996 to 2002. He also has a private practice limited to Advanced Prosthodontics and Maxillofacial Prostodontics in Gainesville.

Dr. Margarita Silva
graduated from Javeriana University in Bogota, Colombia, with her dental degree. Upon graduation she participated in one year of social service and then joined a general dentistry practice providing care to a diverse population of patients. She later completed a Master’s Degree in Public Health at the University of Illinois in Chicago. During this training she was involved in the creation of strategies aimed at improving the dental health of children as well as improving dental health within the Hispanic communities of rural Illinois. In addition, she completed a two-year Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) program. She developed a passion for teaching while in the second year of the program when she was responsible for teaching and supervising dental students in a clinical setting. After finishing her AEGD, she joined the HOPE Institute in Springfield, Illinois, a non-profit organization devoted to caring for children and adults with disabilities and no access to dental care. Dr. Silva served as a practitioner and the director for the HOPE Dental Clinic.

Dr. Elizabeth Patino
Is a UFCD alumni from the Class of 2004. While a student, she enjoyed being an active member in the Student Dental Association, an officer in the Hispanic Student Dental Association, and a professor assistant in the department of prosthodontics. She practiced as an associate dentist for two years before transitioning into her current, sole proprietorship, a general dentistry practice. Besides being an active member in the local, Florida and American Dental Association, she continues to enjoy learning and implementing current dental technology to provide high-quality comprehensive dental care. Some additional certifications she has obtained include, Botox®, dermal fillers, laser for hard and soft tissue (Biolase®), and CEREC. She proficiently cares for patients of all ages and meet their diverse preventive, hygiene, restorative, prosthodontic, cosmetic, surgical and periodontal needs. Providing dental treatment to local and international underserved communities also give her great joy.
A Caucasian 83 year old female presented to the Graduate Prosthodontics clinic with the chief complain of “My crowns have lasted for 25 years and I want a new smile.” Medical history revealed a penicillin allergy and recent myocardial infarction. Partially edentulous maxillary and mandibular arches were present. The maxillary arch presented with failing FDP’s with defective margins. TMJ crepitus, clicking and popping were present. Patient is a heavy bruxer without an orthotic appliance. No caries was found. Uneven zenith points on maxillary anterior teeth was observed. Defective composite restorations on mandibular anterior teeth were also found. The treatment was initiated by previous resident Dr. Jennifer Santos.

Occlusal surfaces in the maxillary arch FPD were showing wear pattern and misalignment of anterior maxillary teeth. Torus palatine, canted occlusal plane and gingival recession in all maxillary anterior teeth were observed. A partially edentulous mandibular arch with adequate residual ridge for a distal extension removable partial denture fabrication was present.

After removal of existing crowns, replacement of build-ups with amalgam or composite, endodontic treatment on tooth #10 and fiber post & core placement; crown lengthening was performed from teeth # 6 to # 14 by Dr. Justin Craighead. Teeth # 29 and #31 were extracted after removal of existing crowns due to their poor prognosis.

Metal ceramic FDP’s with metal lingual surfaces and a bilateral distal extension removable partial denture supported on surveyed crowns on teeth #21 and #28 were delivered. An occlusal guard and instructions were provided to the patient.

Thank you Dr. Ehesar Caffroni for sharing this case with us.
This academic year started with a great group of residents, interns and fellows.

On September 14, 2016; 11 candidates were interviewed to select the next group of residents who will begin their training in 2017. Drs. O’Neill, Nimmo, Fernandez, Castellanos and Echeto spent the day evaluating a strong group of applicants with many different strengths, backgrounds and experiences. We are pleased to announced that Martin Lalama and Mailis Soler were selected as the Graduate Prosthodontics Residents Class of 2020!
The FPA 2016 Annual Meeting was held July 29-31, 2016 in Orlando, Florida. “Contemporary Implant Concepts” was the topic this year. Sunday morning was dominated by UFCD.

Drs. Ehesar Caffroni, Nicole Martino, Mohanad Atwa and Fadi Al Farawati were part of the residents’ presentations this year. Drs. Mark Montana, Lyndon Copper and Luiz Gonzaga were the diamond sponsored by ITI Straumann and Denstply Sirona companies. Well done!

The Executive Committee of the FPA and their members are all smiles as they unanimously voted to become the Florida Section of the ACP.

"The Florida Prosthodontic Association has long been recognized as an outstanding organization representing prosthodontists in the state and providing outstanding educational opportunities for its members. Although it was started prior to the ACP, most of its principle beliefs and tenants parallel those of the American College of Prosthodontists," said Regional Membership Director Dr. Paul Scruggs.

The ACP is thrilled to welcome the Florida Prosthodontists Association (FPA) members to the College. The ACP now has 39 state sections.

The FPA Florida Section Executive Council:
Drs. Sundeep Rawal, Frank Lozano, Benjamin Tindal, Ralph Attanasi, Ethan Pansick, Javier Martinez and Luiz Gonzaga.
Kudos to Dr. Fadi Al Farwati, a third year resident in the Graduate Prosthodontics Program, who was selected as ambassador at the 2nd annual University Ambassador Program in Boston.

We are very proud to have another representative of our university, department and program in this internationally recognized event. He and Dr. Castellanos have been honored with this opportunity.

CONGRATULATIONS

We are certain that he will do a great job advising the students on the right steps to take...

Well deserved!

Dr. Arthur Nimmo serves as Board Examiner for the American Board of Prosthodontics and a member of the CODA Review Committee on Prosthodontics Education.

He will become the President of the American Board of Prosthodontics in fall 2016.
Following the new Accreditation Standards – effective July 1, 2016 – for the Advanced Specialty Education Programs in Prosthodontics; (“all dental practitioners who pursue specialty training in prosthodontics will be competent in the surgical placement of dental implants, as defined in the Standards”); Drs. Echeto, O’Neill and Castellanos coordinated a surgical implant course for prosthodontists in our department.

On behalf of the Division of Prosthodontics faculty, I would like to thank Dr. O’Neill, DENTSPLY, Drew DeBarry from DENTSPLY and all of the presenters for such a great course on implant placement. All the presenters were excellent and the material was highly informative. It was a great opportunity and experience for all of us which culminated with an enjoyable dinner at Blue Agave sponsored by DENTSPLY Sirona company. A special thank you to Kelley Lewis, the residents, interns, and fellow for their help setting up the sessions.

Surgical Implant Course Schedule

- Radiographic Imaging & planning – Matt Garis from DENTSPLY Sirona company.
- Hard/Soft tissue Biology – Dr. Luiz Gonzaga
- Wound Healing – Dr. Fadi Al Farawati
- Suturing – Dr. Christie Eastman
- Grafting & membranes – Dr. Justin Craighead
- Implant Placement – Dr. Edgar Davila & Drew DeBarry
- Maintenance & Complications – Dr. Ada Parra

Ivoclar vivadent

All residents were invited to an Ivoclar course in their facility located in Sarasota, Florida. The first two days focused on advanced complete dentures procedures and the 3rd day was devoted to a hands-on session on e-max characterization and staining. They also learned how to repair a ceramic margin and proximal contact.

The three days were extremely packed with educational information and the course faculty were very impressed with our residents. Ivoclar did an excellent job hosting our residents, and faculty members Drs. William Martin and Luiz Gonzaga also attended this course and highly recommend it.
Refereed Publications


2. Rosalia Rey, Eduardo Mondragon, **Chiayi Shen.** Bond strength of repaired amalgam restorations, General Dentistry. 2015 Sep; 63(5):5-9.


Book Chapters


