To: UF College of Dentistry,

A few weeks ago I let you know that the college created a new administrative office: Office of Student Advocacy & Inclusion. The new office incorporates and broadens the responsibilities of Student and Multicultural Affairs, previously a part of the Office of Education and is being led by Patty Xirau-Probert, Ph.D.

This new administrative office places a distinct emphasis on student advocacy efforts and promoting a diverse culture – aims that align with priorities of the University of Florida.

Anthony Licari was promoted to coordinator of student affairs and is working directly with Dr. Probert. Censeri Abare, continues to support the Office of Education and also share her expertise with Dr. Probert and Anthony. Together they serve as advocates for students, provide services that support students holistically, and continue to cultivate a thriving learning environment. Anthony’s office is now in D3-22 and Censeri remains in D3-11A.

The mission of the office is to educate, engage, empower, and support each student and resident at the College of Dentistry to realize their full academic and professional potential. The Office of Student Advocacy & Inclusion works collaboratively with college, university, and community partners to create a trusting, mutually-beneficial atmosphere for all members of the college.

You can learn more about the plans and focus for the office in this issue of Fast Forward.
Strategic Planning
The four strategic planning work groups have made impressive progress on their respective areas of emphasis. During our meeting with the work group co-leads on August 10, I was extremely pleased with the quantity and quality of their efforts at creating a UFCD road map for the next five years.

Since launching this process, we have met with many people to talk about the college’s strengths and weaknesses and the future challenges facing dental education, among other topics. We have received feedback from students, residents, faculty, staff, alumni and friends, and senior leaders at UF and UF Health.

On October 13, we are inviting retired faculty to a lunch and meeting that will focus on getting their insights and feedback on the progress of our strategic planning. That day coincides with the launch of the University of Florida’s Capital Campaign and we will also review plans pertaining to the college’s campaign initiatives.

We remain on track for finalizing the plan in 2017 for implementation in January 2018. I will continue to keep everyone up to date on progress and please remember that there’s a web page here where you can see upcoming meeting dates, minutes and more.

Alhambra Theatre & Dinner
There are multiple plans in the works to enhance and expand our engagement with alumni and friends. Megan Poole has led the charge to coordinate some fabulous, new events including a fundraiser at the Alhambra Theatre & Dining in Jacksonville on September 1 which was initiated by one of our alumni, Dr. Shreena Patel. The tickets are $100 and the event includes a champagne reception, a silent auction, dinner, and a show starring Morgan Fairchild, The Dixie Swim Club Show. All proceeds will benefit the college and if you are interested in attending, please purchase tickets here.

As always, I appreciate the dedication and commitment of everyone in our college. I recently attended the Dental School Dean’s Summer Institute and came back to UF with an even greater appreciation of our strength, expertise and reputation. I have every confidence that, in the next five years, the college will prosper and further contribute to the preeminence of our great university.

Regards,
Dean Isabel Garcia
Office of Student Advocacy and Inclusion

An overview of the focus and plans for the office

Student Support
- Counseling for academic and personal support
- Career counseling
- Conduct and conflict resolution: encourage responsible community conduct, facilitate conduct violations process, and mediate between faculty, students and staff
- Connect students with resources on and off campus
- Student Affairs Committee: open forum for student concerns and ideas
- Lunch/coffee sessions
- Provide college-wide programs to address global issues: safety, crisis intervention/suicide prevention, substance abuse, self-care and effective communications

Academic Success Programming
- Peer tutoring program
- Leadership skills programming
- Accommodations support
- Study and success strategies

Wellness
- Health and wellness programming
- Wellness Advisory Council

Diversity and Inclusion
- Collaborate and participate with UF Presidents Council for Diversity, HSC Diversity workgroup and future VP of Inclusion Excellence
- Education and training
- Summer Health Professions Education Program
- Recruitment targeting disadvantaged and URM communities
- Diversity & Inclusion Committee/Workgroup Advisory Council

Collaborative Programming
- Annual thematic programming in collaboration with college departments

Events
- Orientation: develop, facilitate, set tone
- Family Day

Leadership
Opportunity to explore personal strengths, think critically about how to lead others, develop techniques to facilitate interpersonal collaboration, and proactively envision and articulate a new future for the dentistry profession
We’re extending a warm welcome to the Class of 2019 residents in Hialeah. They are beginning a two-year Advanced Education in General Dentistry program for internationally-educated dentists. The program provides additional training in clinical dentistry beyond the level of a pre-doctoral education and includes experience in the recognized dental specialties.

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100 Percent PASS RATE on NDBE Part 1

Congratulations to the DMD Class of 2019! The class achieved a 100% first time pass rate on Part 1 of the National Dental Board Exam. During a lunch celebration, they were all smiles and toasted* to their success.

* Toasted using Texas toast

TV20: Spotlights National Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness Month

Dr. Abi Adewumi was invited to highlight July's National Cleft and Craniofacial Awareness Month on the TV20 Medical Spotlight. She appeared on July 27 to explain what measures parents should take if their child has a cleft lip or palate. You can watch the segment here.

Mark Your Calendars

The college's online calendar includes lots of important dates and information for upcoming events, professional development opportunities and more. To add an event, email Karen Rhodenizer.