

# VALUE ADDED: USG Serves Georgia



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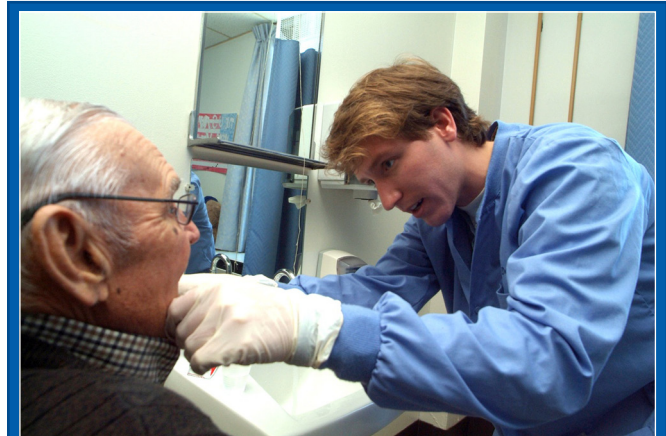
## 'Dentists for Della,' MCG Service Project, Benefits Military Veterans

**M**edical College of Georgia (MCG) dental students will provide monthly oral health care for residents of the Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home through a new service project.

The "Dentists for Della" project was named in honor of MCG School of Dentistry founding faculty member and nursing home resident **Dr. Victor Della-Guistina**, a retired community dentist committed to improving access to dental care.

"We wanted to reach outside the box for this service project, and who better to serve than the elder war veterans who fought for our freedom," said dental student **Chris DeLeon**, who created the project with classmates **Ryan Fulchi** and **Ross Levine**.

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**Chris DeLeon**, an MCG dental student, assists a resident of Augusta's Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home with proper tooth brushing as part of the Dentists for Della service project.

## UGA Marine Scientists Lead Oil-Plume Research Mission, Blog from Gulf of Mexico



UGA Professor of Marine Sciences **Samantha (Mandy) Joye** reports in her blog that there is an entire city of ships (a few of which are visible behind her here) working to stem the flow of the oil spill and assess the impact on the Gulf of Mexico.

**A** team of *University of Georgia* (UGA) marine scientists conducted research on the huge underwater oil plumes in the Gulf of Mexico that resulted from a recent oil rig explosion and has provided regular updates and photos via a blog, [www.gulfblog.uga.edu](http://www.gulfblog.uga.edu).

The team – on board the *R/V F.G. Walton Smith* – was led by **Samantha Joye**, professor of marine sciences. Joye has conducted research in the Gulf of Mexico for about 15 years. When the *Deepwater Horizon* oil rig exploded on April 20, she was coordinating a research mission aboard a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-funded research vessel that was just 8 miles from the disaster site.

Researchers aboard the vessel quickly shifted their focus to quantifying the impact of the oil

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The Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home houses about 200 veterans, many of whom lack the mobility or dexterity to maintain healthy oral habits on their own. During each Dentists for Della event, about 20 dental students thoroughly clean dentures and brush the teeth of nursing home residents and provide oral, head and neck examinations.

The project reaches out to the fastest-growing segment of America's population – the elderly.

“People are living longer, and more people than ever are keeping their teeth throughout their lives,” said **Dr. Kate Ciarrocca**, instructor in the Departments of Oral Rehabilitation and Oral Health and Diagnostic Sciences and the project's faculty adviser. “However, as people age, medical complications and other factors can negatively affect oral health. Our main goal here is to improve the quality of life for the veterans, and a healthier mouth can only lead to better health.”

Dentists for Della is funded by a \$7,500 grant from the Mary Allen Lindsey Brannan Foundation and sponsored by the MCG chapter of the American Student Dental Association.

Patterson Dental of Augusta donated supplies, including denture cleaner and repair products.

“Although we've received a lot of donations, the lack of larger equipment has hindered us from fully utilizing the number of students who want to volunteer,” Fulchi said.

Additional funding would enable the team to purchase a portable dental unit to expand from basic care to extensive dental cleanings and denture adjustments that can be done in patients' rooms. They also aim to provide electric toothbrushes to aid the veterans and their caregivers.

“We're grateful the students chose to bring this special project to us,” said Kay Roland, director of nursing at Georgia War Veterans. “It's going to make a world of difference for these patients to have their teeth or dentures cleaned in house by a dental student.”

The Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home is operated through an interagency agreement between MCG and the Georgia Department of Veterans Service.

For more information on Dentists for Della or to make a donation, contact Ciarrocca at 706-721-2607 or [kciarrocca@mcg.edu](mailto:kciarrocca@mcg.edu). 🏠

## Oil Spill Continued from p. 1

spill on the area and discovered an oil plume estimated to be more than 15 miles long, 5 miles wide and some 300 feet thick at depths ranging from approximately 2,300 feet to 4,200 feet.

On May 25, Joye and her UGA team embarked on a two-week mission aboard the *Walton Smith* to document the plume's distribution, to measure the activity of microbes that break down the oil, and to measure variables such as dissolved oxygen concentration. This cruise was funded by the National Science Foundation.

“Nothing like these plumes has ever been seen before,” said Joye. “This is the first time such a buoyant plume has been documented in a cold, pelagic [open ocean] environment.” Ocean temperatures range from 8 degrees Celsius at the bottom of the plume to about 15 degrees Celsius at the top.

“We saw a lot more oil on the surface today... it's just everywhere out here,” Joye reported on June 4, in contrast to her blog reports three to four days earlier, in which scientists found oil only by collecting deepwater samples, as it was not visible on the surface.

Scientists on the UGA-led cruise used a suite of instrumentation that included sophisticated sonar equipment and an in-situ camera system.

The team sampled water throughout the plume for chemical and microbial analyses. It also conducted mapping surveys in a radial grid around the spill site to find other plumes.

In addition to UGA marine scientists, the team included researchers from University of Southern Mississippi, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, and University of California – Santa Barbara. 🏠