

# GRADY E. JOHNSON, D.M.D.

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General Dentistry

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Dean Terry Hynes  
UF Alumnae of Distinction Committee  
University of Florida  
Box 118400  
Gainesville, FL 32611-8400

Dear Dean Terry:

I wish to nominate DR. EDNA SAFFY as a UF Alumna of Distinction. Dr. Saffy already is considered by this community to be an Alumna of Distinction, for she personifies those characteristics that place her with the outstanding men and women in our state. Her resume which I have attached will, in part, demonstrate that her achievements have been not only on a local and state level, but also on a national one. Though the criteria in "Focus" suggested the nominee be recognized in only one listed area, Dr. Saffy's credentials are in all three: (1) a record of distinguished service to her community, (2) a record of distinguished service to her university, (3) a distinguished career.

## A RECORD OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO UF

At UF's celebration of the Fortieth Anniversary of admission of women to the University, September 23, 1987, "UF Women Across the Decades" Dr. Saffy represented one of the decades of women of achievement and delivered a major speech.

While earning on her doctorate from 1972-76, she served on the President's Committee on the Status of Women and worked in conjunction with the administration, other students, and the faculty in seeking equal rights for women. As founding president of the University of Florida National Organization for Women she played a major role in forcing Florida Blue Key to accept women as members. Dr Saffy was honored by the President as an outstanding student, elected to UF Hall of Fame, Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, the Reitz Union Board of Managers, and served several terms in the Student Government Senate. She assisted in showcasing the UF during Legislative Weekend and worked closely with then Senator Buddy Mackay, Attorney General Bob Shevin and Governor Reubin Askew.

After receiving her Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Public Address, through the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Department of Speech, she continued her support of UF and served several terms in Jacksonville on the then existing University of Florida Alumni Board of Directors.

She continues working with the Alumni Office is currently on the UF Merit Scholars Committee. In the 1980's Dr. Saffy worked within her community to expand health services for those who could least afford them. She was appointed by Mayor Jake Godbold to the Duval County Hospital Authority and was liaison to the Board of Directors of University Hospital. She played a major role in facilitating the partnership that resulted in the University of Florida College of Medicine Urban Campus being located in Jacksonville at University Hospital.

Since her dissertation was on the private papers of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings that were housed, but at that time not catalogued, in the UF archives, Dr. Saffy was an obvious person to be a founding Trustee for the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society which is located in the Graduate English Department at UF.

#### RECORD OF SERVICE TO COMMUNITY, STATE, AND NATION

Her distinguished record of service to her community and country continues with her most recent appointment, for in April, 1995, she was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. One other recent national honor was her election to the National Leadership Council of the Arab American Institute.

Her Florida activities include her office as State President of the Florida Women's Political Caucus in 1977, her election to Who's Who in Florida in 1989. She is a charter member of The Florida Women's Alliance, the Founder of the Jacksonville Women's Network, and serves on the Florida Women's Consortium Board of Directors. Currently she is a candidate for "Governor Lawton Chiles Florida's Finest".

#### A RECORD OF A DISTINGUISHED CAREER

Since receiving her Masters Degree, 1968, she has been on the Communication faculty of Florida Community College at Jacksonville. Dr. Saffy has served on many college committees ranging from search committees to those setting policy for CLAST, General Education Requirements, and a variety of others. She co-authored the federal grant resulting in funding for the creation of The Women's Center at Florida Community College.

The college has shown continued support for Dr. Saffy by selecting her as a National Master Teacher, nominating her for Leadership Jacksonville, awarding her grants for continued professional study, etc. Dr. Saffy continually represents her college through her various activities not only as an education, but as a prominent speaker and consultant.

Dr. Saffy, through her appointment by President Clinton to the Advisory Committee on the Arts of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, has played a major role in creating a partnership between FCCJ's Nathan Wilson Center for the Performing Arts and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

As you can see from her resume, she continues to represent her college through her various professional activities. Please review her attached resume since it lists in detail so much of what I have omitted.

I hope that I have adequately stated her credentials, for I know she is an excellent choice for the "UF Alumna of Distinction".

Sincerely,