



EMERGE NEWSLETTER

2016 MIDWINTER MEETING

From March 18-20, 2016 the SNDA Executive Board worked together in Atlanta, GA planning the 44th Annual National Convention. Each student dentist worked tirelessly with their assigned committee members on different aspects of the convention and scheduling. Special thanks to the Student Dentists from the Dental College of Georgia: Atijah Collins and Busola Olaseinde, for your attendance and help with finalizing the plans for a great weekend for our fellow student dentists.

Executive Board members in a planning meeting



SNDA STUDENTS ATTEND ADEA GO DENTAL CONFERENCE—DENVER, CO MARCH 12-14, 2016

-Elizabeth Fadoju, D3 Columbia University-

During the ADEA GO Dental Fair, I had the opportunity to speak with prospective pre-dental students about the application process, my experience at Columbia University and what diversity looks like there, SNDA and my experience as a Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP) participant in the U.S. Navy.

I had the chance to participate in the Student Diversity Leadership Program during the American Dental Education Association annual conference in Denver, Colorado. Headed by Mark Lopez of ADEA, two students from each dental school were selected by their deans and invited to participate in this two-day workshop to identify strategic action plans for addressing diversity issues at their respective schools. Students identified mentoring needs, developed impact statements, resources and allies. My impact statement was “authentic confrontation of privilege in efforts to create access and make reparations for institutionalized injustices”.

Some content shared was the Black Bruins video that spearheaded movements such as Being Black at University of Michigan and I Too Am Harvard. It was great to meet and network with other likeminded students for whom the issue of diversity is made personal when we reflect on how underrepresented we are in the field of dentistry. Representatives from ADEA did share that there were many resources on the ADEA website that shed light on the statistics of representation at each dental school, and charged students to develop action plans that they could take back to the leadership of their schools.



SNDA ATTENDACE @ ADEA GO DENTAL CONFERENCE—DENVER, CO MARCH 12-14, 2016

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personal narrative. We will offer a platform for our members to be real about what it is like to pursue dentistry in their respective environments. I look forward to hear some of these narratives and hope they will offer a safe haven and help to generate some meaningful action points.

-Elizabeth Fadoju (pictured above), D4 Columbia University-

Following the SDLP program, I had the opportunity to attend some ADEA general sessions, for example a talk from Harvard faculty and students on how to economically address disparities through pipeline programs encouraging students at an early age to consider dentistry. It is encouraging to note how much progress has been made and that there are specific bodies that exist to tackle the issue of underrepresentation but there is still a great more that needs to be done. I hope that ADEA along with SNDA can continue to be on the forefront of this issue. There will be an opportunity during the SNDA conference this July to voice some of these frustrations with "our"



I was nominated by my dental school, the Dental College of Georgia, to participate in the Student Diversity Leadership Program during the ADEA Annual session held on March 11-12th in Denver, Colorado. During the session, we discussed many issues and trends that affect the minority student experience while matriculating through dental school. Throughout the program, there was an emphasis on developing an all-inclusive cultural climate within dental schools. It was very inspiring to meet other motivated students from diverse backgrounds who have the same goals and aspirations to promote and encourage the increase of minority enrollment and retention in dental schools across the nation. As much as we discussed trying to change certain aspects within our schools, the one obstacle that kept coming up was finding the time to implement some of the changes that would improve the underrepresented minority student experience. For this reason, it is so important to not let such advocacy stop at graduation but continue the effort long into our careers. The changes may not be evident during our tenure but can aid in making the dental school journey for the generation behind us a better one.

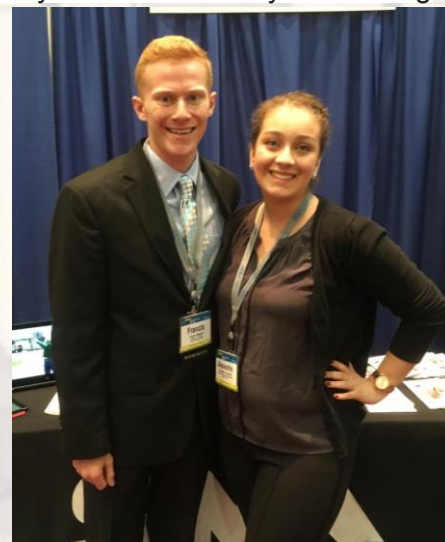
Atijah Collins, D4 Dental College of Georgia



Starred above from top to bottom: Atijah Collins (Dental College of Georgia), Clora Evans (University of Mississippi), and Elizabeth Fadoju (Columbia University)

Alexandra Fitzgerald, D2 University of Maryland-

Do you remember what it was like to be a pre-dental student? You possibly day-dreamed about your exciting future: waxing central incisors, drilling an ideal MOD, and making your patients smile brighter. You wondered where you should apply, or even better, how does the AADSAS process work? Luckily, the American Dental Educational Association (ADEA) hosted its Annual GoDental Recruitment Fair for pre-dental students on March 12th in Denver, CO. The fair consists of 54 exhibitors. I represented SNDA and was fortunate to meet with both current and potential USNDA members. We raffled Amazon gift cards to students who visited the table to learn more about our SNDA family. SNDA is dedicated to the advancement and retention of



minority students within the field of dentistry, and providing support to undergraduate and pre-dental students is one of the ways we are able to increase diversity within our field. Many students showed interest in establishing chapters at their institutions and fostering a relationship with their local SNDA chapters. They look forward to attending more events, such as Impressions Day, Open Houses, or Oral Cancer Walk. Please make sure to keep submitting events to be sent to USNDA members via email at memberatlarge.snda@gmail.com! Continue encouraging those attending your events to learn more about and join USNDA, as it is a great organization to prepare them for dental school. Finally, at the ADEA GoDental Recruitment Fair, flyers for National Convention were distributed. USNDA will have separate events during the SNDA Conference to be held in July in Atlanta. Please make sure your pre-dental network is aware of this opportunity. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to me via email.

Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?' -Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

ASDOH students recognize Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during Black History Month!

The Student National Dental Society was established in the years following Dr. King's I Have A Dream speech, with the purpose of increasing the number of minorities in dentistry, providing a pipeline for underrepresented minorities into dentistry and to provide oral care for our communities. We believe this organization is a fruition of Dr. King's Dream.

Because of the sacrifices and efforts made by Dr. King and Civil Rights Leaders of the 1960's, we are able to fulfill our mission without prejudice, bias or defiance. On this day, we not only celebrate the life of Dr. King, but rejoice in his legacy, perseverance and leadership.

Lexi Wabara, Graduating Senior of ASDOH writes:

The ASDOH SNDA Chapter joined forces with Hashtag Lunchbag to distribute oral hygiene products to downtown Phoenix's homeless population in February. Hashtag Lunchbag creates and distributes lunches with inspirational handwritten notes penned on each bag to instill hope and love. Nearly 75 bags, which included toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss, were distributed. A 'Holiday Happy Hour' fundraiser was held at BJ's Restaurant in the previous months to fund the items to be distributed.



**HASHTAG (#)
LUNCHBAG!
with ASDOH**

Dental Mission Trip to Jamaica
-Syeda Zafrin, Case Western

This summer, seven students from Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) School of Dental Medicine had the opportunity to volunteer in Jamaica for a week to provide dental care in Clarendon and St. Thomas. The trip was organized by CWRU- Student

National Dental Association and Zion Care International. The goal was to promote and preserve the health, welfare and physical wellbeing of the economically challenged and needy. In these towns, there is limited access to dental care and oral hygiene education for adults and children. People stood in line all day with their kids to see a dentist for their desperate dental needs. The Dental Mission treated over 620 patients with 872 procedures that included extractions, pedodontics, prophylaxis, fluoride treatments and oral hygiene instruction. The buildings that were used to setup the clinics did not have the luxury of modern technologies. For many services, headlights were used to light the field to work in the mouths, and plastic cups were used instead of suction. These barriers were a constant reminder of the ongoing need to improve access to dental care facilities. The team faced



many challenges daily, however, despite these difficulties, the goal was to improvise and change people's lives for the better.

Dental health is often one of the most critically underserved healthcare fields in many countries, and there is a desperate need for dentists in rural America and abroad. The Jamaica Mission trip created a professional network for dentists and CWRU dental students where the team built a lifelong friendship. This was a great project that allowed CWRU dental students to mobilize their skills to bring smiles across Jamaica. Looking back, helping to relieve the patients' prolonged pain while boosting their self-confidence made the experience all the more rewarding. Through this trip, it was learned that the success of the dental mission isn't just through the dental care provided, but the underlying foundation it builds. This voluntary opportunity not only aided in development of new skills, but also offered a marvelous experience to interact with people from another culture and bring great personal satisfaction in helping the underprivileged. It was an honor to be able to donate the time, skills, and passion for a good cause. As Winston Churchill said, "You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give."



Leneshia Haynes, D1 at Creighton University School of Dentistry

Have you ever tried to be the positive person? Yes, that one. The one whose perspective always considers that the alternative could be worse. Well let me tell you, it is not easy. It was not until my colleagues began to show their appreciation towards me, regarding my positive influence that I began to take my job as a motivator seriously. I never realized that having a strong, positive perspective on life would have such an effect on the people around me. I began to realize that the world we live in exploits negativity, while positivity seems to be nowhere in sight—and here I am shining as a beacon of light.

As a first year dental student at Creighton University School of Dentistry, I realize my influence. No one can deny my status as the African American woman from the inner-city of Chicago, Illinois. In fact I embrace my past and use it daily as a tool to influence cultures and societies not exposed to black excellence. As a first year student representative and member of Creighton University School of Dentistry's Student National Dental Association, I have been able to participate in different community service events as well as a mentor to undergraduate students interested in dentistry. These different opportunities have given me a firsthand perspective on how important my job as a healthcare service professional will be.



Even though I was unable to give oral exams at the local health fair, I found myself teaching the young children, who were waiting with their parents, proper tooth brushing techniques. Naturally I have been able to communicate effectively with people from different cultures and backgrounds, and when given the opportunity, I do my best to perform as a servant leader. Therefore, when SNDA hosted Impressions Day at Creighton University, I took the opportunity to give the undergraduate students a positive perspective about dental school, and warned them to be prepared to work hard. I even told them about my less than ideal journey into dental school because I wanted to make sure that they remained encouraged on their journey and to learn from my mistakes.

There are many times that I think about my current circumstances, and I never would have thought that I would be living in Omaha, Nebraska. However, when you pursue a dream, you will follow it wherever it takes you. So as I continue to embark on this life journey, I embody the strength of my late grandmothers who were living testimonies of what faith and hard work can do. Nothing will stand in my way of success. My passion for dentistry and its ability to transform patient's lives will continually motivate me after I graduate from dental school.

Impressions Program @ Pitt dental
By: Ann Lin, SNDA Regional Coordinator

Pitt dental hosted the annual Impressions Day for pre-dental students from Pitt, Penn State, and CMU on March 19th. This event was a trip down memory lane to all of us. We brought in faculty, residents, and fourth-year dental students to speak to the pre-dental students, just to give them an idea of how life in dental school is from the different perspectives. In terms of taking the DAT, we invited a Kaplan representative to give a talk on how to prepare for the DAT, since, let's not forget, we all remember what that was like when we were just in those shoes a few years ago! Alas! Remember those good old days as a pre-dental student? Anything and everything in the dental school or a part of a dental procedure rallied up our sympathetic nervous systems! Sure, now that taking impressions has become part of our lives, we certainly had to give them newbies the opportunity to experience the routine. So we obviously had these dental-students-to-be take some impressions of our typodonts in the manikin heads! It was a heck of a lot of fun!! We also conducted mock interviews and FAQ sessions. With the help of our very own first and second year dental student volunteers, everybody went home with



their perfect maxillary and mandibular stone casts as a souvenir! Yay! Impressions Day! Success!

HUCD in the Community: Lessons in a Lunchbox

By: Morgan Adamson

On February 24th, thirty volunteers, consisting of both dental students and dental hygiene students from Howard University, gathered at Raymond Elementary School in Washington, DC for the “Lessons in a Lunchbox” program. The HUCD chapter of the Student National Dental Association (SNDA) in partnership with The Children’s Oral Health Institute (COHI) organized the event. Together, they were able to provide 125 packaged lunchboxes as well as deliver interactive oral hygiene instruction and nutritional guidance for the 1st through 3rd graders at Raymond Elementary.



Each lunchbox included a pamphlet from the HUCD pediatric clinic as well “Dental care in a Carrot Case” which was a carrot shaped container with a toothbrush, toothpaste, and floss inside. The students at Raymond were especially thrilled with the carrot case and the overall presentation. They showed their appreciation by sending a book of personalized thank you notes to SNDA and COHI for a job well done!



Pictured: (Above) dental students and dental hygiene students, (Right) lunch box display and dragon puppet for demonstrations

**By: Terrence Campbell, D4 ECU
SNDA Regional Coordinator**



ECU SoDM SNDA students partnered with ECU

SoDM *Preparing Tomorrow’s Dentist Professional Development Workshop* and local dentists to provide hands-on activities with 25 pre-dental/prospective students. The PTD program exposes pre-dental students to dental material and insight into the world of dentistry. Students spent the day receiving small group instruction on operative dentistry, local anesthetics, and suturing techniques. There was also a keynote speaker and a panel discussion where students could ask questions about resume writing, the application process, and “life as a dental student.” This event was a collaboration with ECU SoDM, ONSDS, and NC A&T at NDA member Dr. Roslyn Crisp’s Pediatric Dentistry office in Burlington, NC.

Greetings fellow SNDA members,

The University of Florida chapter has had a great year and we just wanted to share some of our highlights with everyone. To begin we must recognize our sponsors who have definitely made this awesome year possible for us by collectively donating over \$3000 in funding and supplies to our organization. These sponsors include Patterson Dental, GSK, Delta Dental, Proctor & Gamble, DSG Clearwater, Johnson & Johnson, UF Student Government Finance, and Henry Schein. Through these sponsorships we were able to host a number of events and do a lot of good in our local communities. We hosted our annual Wax N' Relax event for D1 students where upperclassmen SNDA members spend the evening assisting them with waxing and carving. We also hosted our annual Soiree Dinner which is a formal event for our chapter to get together for food, drinks and laughs. In addition, we had a bowling social this year where we served appetizers and had free bowling for our members. Some of the community service events we held include but are not limited to Lessons In A Lunchbox, high school classroom visits, Greater Gator Health Fair, and a plethora of other things. We are currently in the process of preparing for our Oral Cancer Awareness 5K walk and our annual Impressions program. We are definitely looking forward to seeing how these events turn out this year. Amongst other things, another event we had this year was a leadership dinner for our e-board. At the leadership dinner the e-board, along with representatives from the D1 and D2 classes, discussed the plans and goals for the year as well as delegated certain duties for upcoming events. This was a great opportunity to make sure the e-board was on the same page and to strategize for the upcoming year. We hope to continue this new tradition as it deemed itself as successful this year. We also picked up a few tips at last year's SNDA national conference and threw a Clinic Faculty/Staff Appreciation Luncheon. It turned out to be a big hit and definitely earned us some recognition on campus. Overall, our chapter has had a very exciting year with plenty of lunch and learns! And as the end of the school year approaches we are trying our best to wrap things up on a continuous positive note. With that said all the hard work put in this year has definitely paid off, and we look forward to what next year has in store!!

Monique Belin, D4
UF Chapter President



SNDA PARTICIPATES IN ORAL CANCER AWARENESS

Howard University College of Dentistry SNDA Presents:

**9th Annual
Oral Cancer Walk
Saturday, April 2, 2016
9am to 3pm
Where: Howard University
College of Dentistry**



Registration: \$20 (include T-shirt, Oral Cancer Walk Activities and Free Oral Cancer Screening)
Join us at our After Walk Social (Location TBD)
Email: huoralcancerwalk2016@gmail.com for more info

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2016
ORAL CANCER FOUNDATION
5K Walk/Run for Awareness
UF College of Dentistry
Registration 7:30 AM - Walk/Run 8AM - 12 PM
COST:
\$25 Walkers/Runners (Online Registration)
\$15 Student Walkers/Runners (Online Registration)
\$10 Children 6-10/FREE Oral Cancer Survivors & Kids 5 & Under
LOCATION:
Gator Community Ministries
238 SW 4th Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601
Free Public Oral Cancer Screenings
Prizes for Top Fundraisers - Raffle - Goodie Bags
REGISTRATION:
For more information or to register, please visit:
<http://donate.oralcancer.org/event/UFL2016>
GIVE ORAL CANCER A VOICE!
www.oralcancer.org



APRIL IS ORAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Did you know that the MAJOR contributor to the development of oral cancer is related to the contraction of the oral HPV 16-18 virus?

Bottom line?

- smoking/tobacco is still a large risk factor
- get a THOROUGH oral-cancer exam/screening annually
- check out the link below for offices near you who are offering FREE screenings this month

@thedailydentist



Oral Cancer Walk, Dental College of Georgia

RUN DMD

SNDA Annual Oral Cancer Awareness 5K run/walk
Hosted by UK College of Dentistry & UofL School of Dentistry

April 30th, 2016 @ 8am
Coldstream Park, Lexington KY
\$25 includes RUN DMD T-shirt

Registration: www.rundmd.org
or directly: sn-da.uk@gmail.com

Registration Deadline: April 4th, 2016

Prizes, refreshments & good time included!

April is Oral Cancer Awareness Month. UKCD & ULSD SNDA chapters are leading a statewide awareness effort by encouraging the community to participate. Each year these schools put aside rivalry to focus on community healthcare in Kentucky. Through this collaboration, the schools hope to bring statewide attention to oral cancer and meaningfully raise public awareness.





On February 19-20, 2016, The University of Louisville SNDA and SNMA chapters teamed up to host our 2nd Annual Minority Pre-Medical/ Pre-Dental Symposium. We welcomed 48 students to our university to aid them in preparing to apply for medical and dental school. On February 19, we had our meet and greet where the students asked current medical and dental students various questions. They had a great time learning for the students what to expect once on the journey to becoming a dentist or physician. On February 20, the undergraduate students, participated in a full day of seminars and hands-on activities. The students learned about the admissions process for both professions, interviewing skills, admissions

essay techniques and so much more. I think a unique touch we added this year was having vendors available to the students between each seminar. We were so grateful to have the Air Force, Navy, Kaplan Test Prep, The Princeton review, University of Louisville SMDEP, University of Louisville School of Public Health, University of Kentucky SNMA members, University of Louisville Research Program and other vendors speak with the students.



We plan to invite more SNDA and SNMA chapters to attend next year because we want the minority students to get as much exposure to the diversity in these professions as possible. The highlight of the participant's day was touring the medical school's simulation clinic, and taking impressions on manikins at the dental school. The participants were so excited! I really hope we are able to keep this collaboration with the University of Louisville SNMA chapter going because we were able to really impact the lives of so many future doctors. My favorite part of the day was when one participant walked up to me and said "he came because his girlfriend needed someone to ride with her but after everything that he learned he wants to go to school again." That showed me we did our job again this year, and every year we will continue to we strive to let these students know we need them, they can succeed in this world, and that we are here to inspire them to do so.

Amirah Jackson
University of Louisville SNDA President

April 2016

Student Representative at 2016 AADR Annual Session

Los Angeles, California

Dental College of Georgia at Augusta University

Evidence-based practice should be the core foundation in the delivery of oral healthcare. It provides a solid step-wise approach, based on scientific understanding and data analysis. It also allows for a thorough vetting of clinical applications to best treat patient diagnoses. Research allows students to advance their knowledge by translating bench-top experimentation into integrated clinical practice.



Current 2nd year dental student, and DCG Pre-Doctoral Research Award Recipient, Cornelius Daniel, recently had the opportunity to present research at the American Association of Dental Research's (AADR) Annual Session in Los Angeles, CA. His research focused on evaluating genetic and biomarkers as targets for therapeutic agents in the treatment of Chronic Localized Periodontal Disease.

He chose this project based on its overwhelming impact on the US population, and on minority populations derived from low-income areas. According to the CDC Division of Oral Health, nearly half of Americans over age 30 are impacted by periodontal disease, and 7 in 10 Americans over age 65 have been diagnosed with the disease.¹ The CDC has also documented that periodontal disease impacts nearly 70% of individuals who fall below the federal poverty line. This impact can be seen across the demographical spectra as related to race, gender, and socioeconomic status (SES). Thus, there must be a targeted and financially-sustained effort to find more effective treatments for the disease.

Daniel's abstract is an ongoing study evaluating new and improved approaches as a methodology to treatment. The data compared the genetic differences from healthy and diseased sites from within the same patient, evaluating differences of snoRNAs (small nucleolar RNAs), miRNAs, Y-RNAs, inflammatory markers, and common bone homeostasis regulators. Additional research is warranted to measure and verify the results of the current experimentation; however, the current data does provide intriguing information concerning future approaches to targeting specific genetic markers as a means of combating periodontal disease.

[Click here to view poster presentation.](#)

¹Periodontal disease. (2015, March 10). Retrieved April 1, 2016, from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: <http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/conditions/index.htm>

Impressions Program at The University of Maryland School of Dentistry

-by: Ebbie Njoku

On Saturday, April 9, 2016, The University of Maryland School of Dentistry Chapter (UMSoD) of the Student National Dental Association (SNDA) hosted their 11th annual Impressions Day Program. Student attendees came from near and far across the state of Maryland, with some traveling from as far as Pennsylvania and Virginia to participate. The event was chaired by Third Year Dental Student, Binait Kabir. Under Kabir's leadership, the goal to expand the program's impact and PreDental attendance was surpassed. With over 95 registered and eager PreDental students, the chapter record was easily raised to a new height. Faculty Advisor Dr. Andrea Morgan, provided attendees with opening guiding inspiration and insight into the character of the student dentists at the University of Maryland. Morgan stated that in pursuit of joining the profession to never lose sight of the passion to provide care to those in need and spoke words of wisdom from Nelson Mandela, stating that, "If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language that goes to his heart".

Attendees received hands on laboratory activity demonstrations, commentary from student dentist and resident dentist panelist discussions, mock interviews as well as financing information from representatives from the armed forces. Students also had a chance to practice their Class I occlusal preparations, many of which well exceeded G.V. Black's rule for extension for prevention, with no caries (or enamel and dentin) left behind!

Maintaining a focus of the Impressions Day Mission, The UMSoD Chapter of The SNDA opened and closed out the day with the importance of DAT preparation to make for a winning application. "Responsible preparation is key, and ignorance of the examination material or format is not an excuse for poor performance on exam day. We are really excited with Crack the DAT's support and all the preparation pointers that we are able to give our attendees today!" said Second Year Dental Student, and Impressions Day Co-Chair Ebbie Njoku.

Impressions Day Program attendees received a participant guide outlining the breakdown of the questions and time allotment for the DAT as well as a few pointers on how to get registered to take the exam. Unique to this year's program, was closing trivia in which enthusiastic participating recipients won a coupon towards a scoop of ice cream from Baltimore's renowned Charmery Ice Cream Shop while two quick witted PreDental participants were the recipients of Crack the DAT test preparation material.

The program could not have been brought to fruition without the help of the University of Maryland School of Dentistry SNDA and student body as a whole. The event received much acclaim from both participants and volunteers students alike. Second Year Dental Student and Volunteer Margo Nagel, stated "My sister really enjoyed the event and so did all the kids I got to talk to. And it was fun to be at for me too!" Despite the unseasonably cold weather, the day closed with an ice cream social and left an indelible mark on attendees that was sure to last longer than an irreversible hydrocolloid alginate impression!



MUSC Demonstrates the Role of STEM in Dentistry

By: Joshlyn J. Wilson, D4 Medical University of South Carolina



On February 6, 2016, members of the Medical University of South Carolina chapter of the Student National Dental Association participated in the 3rd Annual Charleston STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Festival. Approximately 50 exhibitors provided hands-on activities, live performances, interactive demonstrations, and family-oriented STEM entertainment. The event provided an opportunity for children, teens, families and local STEM professionals to engage.

The MUSC chapter of SNDA provided an interactive activity called “Whack a Crown”. The festival attendees had the opportunity to use a rubber mallet to attempt to break a Zirconia crown milled using CAD/CAM technology. This activity demonstrated the strength of a Zirconia crown and allowed SNDA members the opportunity to explain the properties that contribute to the strength of the crown. The SNDA members also used tooth models to demonstrate proper oral hygiene instructions and the technique that dentists use to prepare teeth for amalgam and composite restorations.

This event increased awareness of the role of STEM in society, promoting responsible science in the region, while also conveying the joy of STEM and the role of dentistry in STEM.



Texas A&M University Baylor College of Dentistry presents the G.R.A.C.E Event

By: Esther Oluwo



Gathering Respectfully to Appreciate Compassionate Employees, this is what G.R.A.C.E means and represents. Have you ever walked into your schools wet lab in the morning and saw plaster, stone, and wax everywhere and come back in the evening to study and it spotless? You ever wonder how all the dispensary assistants know your name, know exactly what you need and make your day better even when everything possible is going wrong? How about those long nights studying, and that security guard that keeps an eye on you and walks you to your car to make sure you're safe? These are just some of

the employees that play a vital role in making sure that our dental school experience is a positive one, yet their efforts often go unnoticed.

SNDA members a few years ago noticed that these hard working and compassionate individuals should be recognized, and that is when G.R.A.C.E began. It has grown from a small lunch for staff to a large luncheon and dinner to appreciate Janitors, Staff, Assistants, Schedulers, Dispensary and more. SNDA has led by example and now the whole school including all student organizations, faculty and alumni association has chipped in to make it a successful event. The students and faculty come together and get to serve those who serve us every day. We get to finally appreciate those little things that make our school run. This year was our biggest to date, headed by our impressions chair Kenekwukwu Nwankwo who has made it his goal to serve. We were able to serve lunch and dinner and provide gifts to over 200 staff members at our school. We got to eat with them, serve them, get to know them, and personally thank them. No words could explain the joy it gave us to get the whole campus involved in appreciating those members of the Baylor family!



UCSF SNDA PROMOTES *TALK, READ, SING* CAMPAIGN

by: Danielle Rapadas, c/o 2017

The Student National Dental Association: UCSF Chapter has teamed up with UCSF Dental School Alum, Dr. Pamela Alston to bring awareness to the *Talk, Read, Sing* Campaign. *Talk, Read, Sing* is a campaign that works to increase parents' awareness of the part they play in their child's development and encourage them to take a more active role in it. The campaign emphasizes the idea that simply talking, reading, and singing to children at early ages can help improve a child's vocabulary and development. To promote this campaign we hosted parties for families from underserved communities and provided a fun learning environment for parents and their children. At these events we would talk about the importance of interacting with your children at an early age. Volunteers would socialize with families and sing songs that procure interest in healthy dental hygiene habits and early childhood development. Together with the *Talk, Read, Sing* initiative we were able to promote learning and good oral health habits to families and children!



The UAB Chapter of the Student National Dental Association hosted the "Lessons in a Lunchbox" program at Robinson Elementary School on Monday, February 29. Our group educated 40 third and fourth graders on how to brush and floss, discussed healthy snack options, and gave each student a lunchbox that showed proper food group proportions on a plate. The lunchbox also had other dental essentials including a new toothbrush! Many thanks to the Tri-County (AL) Chapter of the Links, Inc. for supporting our program in conjunction with their Health and Human Services Committee.

By: Marteki Codjoe
SNDA Secretary
UAB School of Dentistry
Class of 2018



Tayla Cunningham, SNDA President
University of North Carolina

Race relations across the nation have reached a fever pitch and oftentimes individuals are unaware of the issues minorities face and how it affects everyday life. SNDA is an organization with several components to its mission, one of which is to fully support the welfare of its members. Moreover, it is our goal as a chapter to support minorities both within and outside of the walls of the School of Dentistry. In doing so, we felt this was an excellent opportunity to raise awareness about issues surrounding cultural sensitivity and inclusivity not only across the nation, but specifically in the dental profession. One of our members, Donna Thomas, came up with the idea of hosting a school-wide lunch and learn geared towards doing just that. On February 25, 2016, the UNC Chapter of SNDA hosted a "lunch and learn" open to all students, faculty, and staff in the UNC School of Dentistry. The discussion, titled "Creating Context for Human Flourishing", was presented by Dr. Rumay Alexander, professor in the UNC School of Nursing, Director of Multicultural Affairs, and co-chair of UNC's Inclusive Excellence Committee. Approximately 80 individuals participated.

Dr. Alexander dove right into the discussion as she shared her own personal definition of diversity, stating, "...Diversity is holding multiple perspectives without judgment." Throughout this discussion, the focus remained on how this definition of diversity and the ideas of inclusivity impact how we interact with others and provide care for our patients. Dr. Alexander stated, "Whenever we as providers are operating out of our own natural thoughts and impulses, [...] we are not just impacting the person that's sitting in that chair, [...] we're really impacting three or four generations beyond them." Dr. Alexander stressed the importance of reflecting on our own behaviors, how it affects others, and how these behaviors/actions can either make or break a patient's trust. Moreover, the greater the amount of differences that exist between you and the individuals that you are relating to, the greater the possibility of you misunderstanding each other if you don't take the time to learn one another. It is this reason why we as providers must do what Dr. Alexander described as "*cultural due diligence work*". In other words, we must take the time to really understand who it is that we're caring for and get into the practice of asking questions rather than assuming. For example, it cannot be assumed that all individuals in any one group operate a certain way, because in reality there tends to be more difference within groups than in between groups. Additionally, when we assume, we fall into the trap of stereotyping. Dr. Alexander described stereotyping as a form of identity theft, and if we as providers do not take the time to learn and understand our patients, we are essentially robbing them of their individuality. Therefore, in order to provide optimal care for our patients, taking the time to get to know our patients is essential.

Overall, this lunch and learn was informative, interactive, and gave all participants an opportunity to discuss the importance of cultural sensitivity and inclusivity as dental providers. We are looking forward to holding another school-wide lunch and learn in the near future and possibly establishing a "Diversity Workshop Series", as there is so much to be learned and discussed with respect to the many aspects of diversity in the dental profession. As Dr. Alexander would say, "minimize certainty.... maximize curiosity," and what better time than now!

Letter from the Editor

ArNelle R. Wright, D4 University of Florida College of Dentistry

Greetings SNDA members both near and far,

Thank you all again for taking the time to submit articles for and reading this Spring 2016 edition of The SNDA Emerge. You guys have been wonderful to work with and to talk with during our Conference Calls. Your participation throughout this year made my work easier, and very worthwhile. I would also like to thank all of the chapters again for your participation thus far throughout the 2015-2016 academic school year. SNDA grows and will continue to grow because of your activity. As mentioned before, as your chapter continues to excel please feel free to share such information with me at directorregcommunications.snda@gmail.com. Keep up the great work and I look forward to further advancing the organization with you all!!

Sincerely,



ArNelle R. Wright

DMD Candidate c/o 2017

University of Florida College of Dentistry

SNDA National Director of Regional Communications





Pictured, Top (L to R): De'Ja Alexander (UNC), Alexa Lampkin (Mississippi), Ashli Cumberbatch (Columbia), Clora Evans (Mississippi), Roderick Dunham (Louisville), Lauren Gordon (Howard), Stephanie Reed (Mississippi), ArNelle R. Wright (UF), Alexandra Fitzgerald (Maryland); Bottom (L to R): Amadia Giles (Mississippi), Alexis Irby (Tufts), Christopher Cathy (Mississippi), Elizabeth Fadoju (Columbia), Johnique Fonville (ECU)