

# LDA Journal

VOL. 68, NO. 1 SPRING 2009

Journal of the Louisiana Dental Association



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# LDA Journal

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A MEMBER PUBLICATION  
OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF DENTAL EDITORS

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### Mission Statement

The purpose of the Louisiana Dental Association is to encourage the improvement and to protect the health of the public, to promote the art and science of dentistry and to represent the interests of the members of the dental profession and the public it serves.

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**On the cover:** (Clockwise from top left) Rep. Steve Carter helps a student show off her smile at Dr. Johnnie Hunt's event; Katherine Kidd, marketing coordinator and dental educator for Dr. Rob Delarosa, poses with children who attended their event; (Front, from left) Dr. Johnnie Hunt and Amanda Bergeron. (Back, from left) Dr. Brooke McCallum, Dr. Kramer Irby, Dr. Nick Rauber and Dr. Bradley Fruge; Sarah Boudreaux, R.D.H. gives an informative presentation about the importance of eating the right foods to maintain strong, healthy teeth and gums; Karvin Griffin, a second grade student at Westminster School, shows his enthusiasm after receiving a screening and sealants from dental hygiene students Brooke Richard, left, and Megan Alexander. (Photo by Judy LaBorde, LSUSD) For complete coverage of GKAS events, check out pages 24-28.

LDA members can view the *Journal* online  
at [www.ladental.org](http://www.ladental.org).



## from the editor

Dr. David N. Austin  
Editor, LDA Journal

### Our Work is Not Done

I think it's time to bring you up-to-date on what is going on within the LDA concerning some priorities that will be presented to the House of Delegates. Our LDA Council on Government Affairs has chosen four priorities that hopefully will come before our state and monies found for their funding.

**Water Fluoridation:** You may recall that during the 2008 Louisiana Legislative Session, Act 761 was passed with a tremendous push by the LDA and member dentists. Act 761 calls for each public water system that has at least 5,000 service connections and natural fluoride levels that are outside the optimal range, to install and maintain equipment that supplies the level of fluoride that is within the optimal range to protect the dental health of our citizens. *However no public water system will be required to comply with this law unless sufficient funds have been identified by the state to fund these endeavors.* The LDA should continue to support funding for community water fluoridation in order to protect the dental health of the citizens of this state.

**Prohibition Against Balanced Billing:** Under current Louisiana law, dentists are allowed to bill their patients for the difference in a bill that was not fully covered by an insurance provider unless the dentist has signed a contract with that insurer. Through a bill that was introduced during the 2008 Louisiana Legislative Session, dentists (mostly oral surgeons and pediatric dentists) who practice in hospitals and similar facilities *would no longer be able to bill a patient for the remainder of the unpaid bill, even if they had not contracted directly with the patient's insurer.* As a direct result, insurance companies would increase their profits, while prohibiting health care providers the freedom to contract for fair reimbursement rates for services provided to our citizens. Access to care could and would be vastly decreased. This bill was killed in 2008 and the LDA would like to continue to oppose any balanced billing legislation in order to help protect patients and dentists in our state.

**Increase Funding for Dental Medicaid/EPSDT Program:** In the past, due to low reimbursement rates, many dentists could not afford to participate in Louisiana's Medicaid program. *The largest obstacle facing patients wishing to participate in this program is the scarcity of dentists who participate.* After seven years of consecutive increases, we are finally getting to a point where a dentist could make a living participating in Medicaid. Yet, dental office overhead averages approximately 64%. LDA should continue to strongly support raising reimbursement rates to the 70th percentile of the NDAS fee survey.

**Donated Dental Services (DDS) Program:** DDS serves elderly and handicapped patients by connecting them with volunteer dentists across the state who are willing to donate their services to this population, who otherwise would have no way to obtain needed treatment. Costs for DDS are fairly minimal and cover administration and dental laboratory materials when the demand exceeds the donated amount. DDS has received support in the past primarily from two sources: United Way and the DHH Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities. *Continued funding of \$50,000 from the state is necessary to continue to generate \$600,000-700,000 worth of donated dental services for the next fiscal year.* The LDA should recommend that the **state** allocate sufficient funding to ensure \$50,000 each year for DDS as core support to continue these services in 2009 and beyond.

The LDA office has some talking points on all of the above issues that could be helpful within your community or district. After all, if we don't become proactive for our profession, who will? I hope you will get involved with any or all of these issues. Our LDA Council on Government Affairs does an incredible job of representing us and our profession. Special thanks to this council, headed by Dr. Bill Hadlock. I would also like to congratulate Dr. Bill Hall, who has recently become the vice chair of the council and will become chair in July as Dr. Hadlock steps down to become the 2010 chair of the New Orleans Dental Conference and LDA Annual Session.

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— W. Ronald Redmond, DDS, MS, FACD



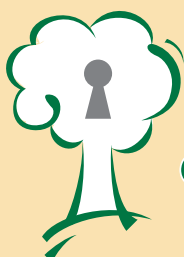
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# LDA from the president

Dr. Maurice B. "Marty" Garrett  
President, LDA

## See you in New Orleans!

Your LDA is looking forward to another great Annual Session/ New Orleans Dental Conference in April! New Orleans is the ideal location for folks to gather to enjoy great food and entertainment, while reconnecting with friends.



This year's conference is once again featuring outstanding speakers and programs. Participants can get up to 18 hours of continuing education credits for as low as \$300 (preregistration fee). Special events highlight the city's culinary history with presentations from chefs including Paul Prudhomme and John Besh.

Just as in all good meetings, there are also several great parties. Social events scheduled include the LSUHSC School of Dentistry Alumni Association Reception on April 3 and several class reunions, including classes from 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, and 2004! And, for the first time ever, the Thursday night Welcome Reception and LDA President's Party is at Blaine Kern's Mardi Gras World. The reception will include live entertainment, food and drink and will be great fun for all ages!

We'll also have some of the latest and greatest in dental products and services in the Exhibit Hall. This year's meeting is a fine example of how your statewide LDA members are working together to make this a great regional event. This year's chairman, Dr. David Hildebrandt, and 2010 chairman, Dr. Bill Hadlock, have brought a great group of committee members together to plan and host an outstanding meeting. Please plan on supporting their efforts by coming to New Orleans April 2-4.

Your LDA is committed to being your voice in local, state and national issues involving dental practices and the delivery of safe and effective dental care to our patients. One part of our legislative session focus

will be on increasing the communities that fluoridate their water supplies. We will now work on getting state funding for fluoridation. Our Medicaid Task Force headed by Dr. Don Donaldson will continue to work to improve reimbursement rates for providers to increase access to care for our children and geriatric patients. The LDA will also monitor national trends to ensure that we support dental care that keeps properly trained dentists as the leader and supervisor of the dental team.

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## Why the New Orleans Dental Conference and LDA Annual Session, April 2-4, 2009?

*The ability to combine fantastic continuing education at one extremely affordable price in an exciting and fun-filled vacation destination should be enough to place the New Orleans Dental Conference and LDA Annual Session on your 2009 to-do list!*

**VALUE** - Incredibly low price (\$300 for pre-registrants or \$350 for late registrants) for up to 18 hours of C.E.

**QUALITY** - Some of the biggest names in dental C.E. will be lecturing at this meeting.

**CULTURE** - Easy access to outstanding food and lots of opportunities for fun.

**SPECIAL EVENTS** - New! New! New! Welcome Reception and LDA President's Party (honoring outgoing LDA president, Dr. Marty Garrett) held at Blaine Kern's Mardi Gras World. Also, special events, such as cooking and entertaining with the likes of Chefs Paul Prudhomme and John Besh, an evening in New Orleans event at Arnaud's Restaurant, a raffle with a chance to win a 2009 C300 Mercedes-Benz or \$15,000 in cash, and a lunch and learn with Dr. Robin Daniel. Plus, don't forget about the LSUHSC School of Dentistry Alumni Association Reception.

**New! The Thursday night Welcome Reception will be held at Mardi Gras World, so come and see where Mardi Gras is made!**



# Celebrating 50 and 25 Years OF MEMBERSHIP

*In commemoration of 50 and 25 years of membership and in recognition whereof your fellow members and associates in dentistry extend their warm commendation and express their high esteem for this singularly outstanding achievement in your chosen profession of dental science.*

.....

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Dr. Sam S. Vinci	Greater Baton Rouge
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Dr. Robert J. Clark	Northlake
Dr. James G. Cosse	Northwest
Dr. Cecil R. Lloyd	Northwest
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# *Dr. Melisa Christian, a Fortress Dentist.*

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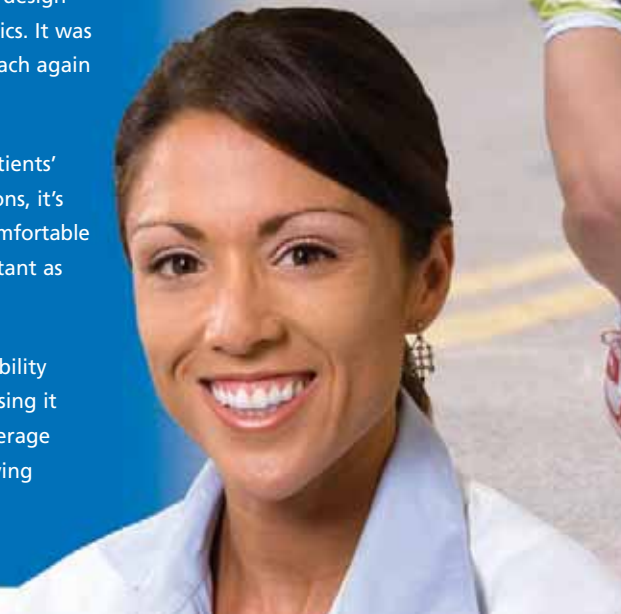
*I practice* in a general dentistry office with the most supportive and energetic staff. I became interested in dentistry after meeting a dentist who inspired me by the way he made his patients feel so comfortable.

*I recharge* by running. It's an avenue to find your inner strength and do things you never thought possible. I compete in marathons and triathlons, and I also volunteer coach. In 2008, I competed in the Olympic Marathon Trials in Boston.

*I love* teaching. I've taught second year students at Baylor College of Dentistry how to design and fabricate removable prosthodontics. It was an amazing experience! I'd love to teach again when I have more time.

*I hope* to make a difference in my patients' lives. Dentistry is more than restorations, it's caring for people. Making patients comfortable and helping them trust me is as important as making their smile beautiful.

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# LDA Louisiana dental services, inc.

Dr. C. Richmond Corley, Jr.  
Senior Vice-President/CEO, LDS

## The Endorsed Products and Services Program Remains Strong

The last of the royalty revenue generated from our LDA members through the LDA/LDS Endorsed Products and Services Program for 2008 has been received, and through your support, LDS was able to reach just over 101% of the goal for the revenue estimate that was set in October 2007 by the LDS Board of Directors. This shows that together, LDS, along with LDA members, have a continuing business relationship that is a winner in producing non-dues revenue for the support of LDA membership programs and benefits.

On behalf of LDS, I would like to thank you for your continued support and patronage of the endorsed companies. For those of you who may not know, each geographic area of the state (corresponding to each LDA component) has representation by a director on the LDS Board of Directors (with exception of NODA, which has two directors to correspond to the LDA Board representation). Listed below are the names of the current LDS Board Members along with the area they represent and each of their contact phone numbers.

These board members are available to answer your questions about how to do business with LDA/LDS endorsed vendors and/or handle any problem you may

encounter in doing business with an endorsed vendor. You may also contact Tiffany Waddell at the LDA office who is the primary LDA staff support person for LDS. She can be reached at (800) 388-6642 or [tiffany@ladental.org](mailto:tiffany@ladental.org). You can always reach me by phone at (337) 540-8206 (24/7) or via e-mail at [rcorleyjrdds@suddenlink.net](mailto:rcorleyjrdds@suddenlink.net) or [rich.ldspdp@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:rich.ldspdp@suddenlinkmail.com).



A listing of all endorsed products and services available through the LDA/ LDS program is available from the LDA Office or by visiting [www.ladental.org](http://www.ladental.org) and click on the "News and Info for Your Practice" link.

The primary goal of the LDA/LDS Endorsed Products and Services Program is to offer LDA members high quality products and services at competitive pricing backed up by a high quality of service. Your use of this program generates royalty revenue to support LDA membership services. The LDA/LDS Endorsed Products and Services Program has grown steadily since its establishment in 1991. This program can continue to grow with your support. You can be our best advocate by encouraging another member who has not given the program a try to do so. As always, we at LDS appreciate your support.

Dr. Michael J. Maginnis, LDS President, Greater Baton Rouge	(225) 201-1000
Dr. Kenneth Guilbeau, Acadiana	(337) 896-3267
Dr. Curtis Zeringue, Bayou	(985) 532-3364
Dr. Stephen Ortego, Central	(318) 640-1470
Dr. Scott Bonson, NODA	(985) 649-4881
Dr. Brant W. Schmidt, NODA	(504) 885-6600
Dr. Lane Eddleman, Northeast	(318) 322-2013
Dr. Joseph F. FitzPatrick, Northlake	(985) 626-9791
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## Satisfaction GUARANTEED

*Dear Colleagues,*

It is not often that we have something pleasurable to talk about concerning insurance! My comments are an example of the wonderful job that Robert Ellis & Associates do for our LDA members. I have been a member of the Louisiana Dental insurance plans for almost 30 years and originally served with Bob Ellis when he was representing Gilsbar approximately 27 to 30 years ago on the insurance committee. So I was very familiar with Bob early on.



Last year, my wife had to be treated at a hospital in another state, which of course this was out of network. But with Bob's help we were able to prove that the services she needed could only be provided at another location that happened to be in another state. I cannot begin to tell you the amount of work and cooperation that Penny, Stormy and Bob did in order for us to recoup our expenses. You can imagine how expensive hospitalization is for a lengthy stay. After we got our first reimbursement check, we realized that the insurance company was not treating this as an in-network claim. I want my colleagues to know that Bob Ellis himself personally took this issue on and we now have received a second check as a reimbursement as an in-network claim. I cannot say enough to recommend Robert Ellis & Associates. I would also like to thank the LDA Council on Insurance for their dedication in finding an insurance company that truly cares about our members. Where else would an LDA member get the chief executive to take on an insurance problem and work for the individual dentist? I know of only one.

This is just another example of the many services that the LDA provides for its members. I hope you will use this letter in getting other dentist to join the LDA and take advantage of the wonderful insurance program we have. Again, thank you LDA and thank you Bob, Stormy and Penny for what turned out to be a better experience than I thought possible.

*Fraternally yours,  
Ronald B. Marks, D.D.S.*

*It's time to start thinking about packing your bags  
for fun in the sun at this year's*

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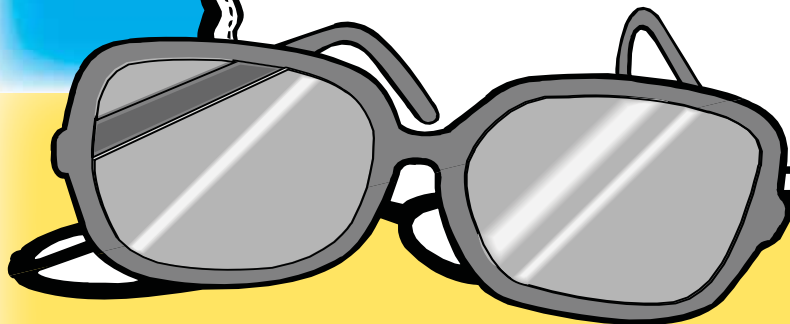
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*Thanks to our sponsors (as of 3/4/09):*

*Robert Ellis and Associates (LDA Events Partner), Patterson Dental,  
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*Speakers: Dr. Michael Ragan,  
Dr. Neal Patel,  
Dr. Martin Goldstein  
and Dr. Peter Baragona.*



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## Ask Jim Donelon

### Your Commissioner of Insurance

**Q: I recently heard about the Citizens special assessment refund on the news. Are there any other insurance-related rebates or refunds I should know about?**

A: I'm so glad you asked. The Department of Insurance is trying to get the word out about two important tax savings for the upcoming tax season. These are the Louisiana Citizens Tax Rebate and Federal Hurricane Tax Deduction.

Property owners are eligible for a state tax rebate if you were charged the Louisiana Citizens assessment on your 2008 homeowners policy. Almost \$21 million or 33 percent of available money went unclaimed in 2007. If you have not yet submitted your rebate for 2007, it is not too late to do so. Please submit an amended tax form, along with the declarations page of your policy, to recoup the full amount paid in Citizens assessments.

Homeowners impacted by Hurricanes Gustav or Ike can claim damages that exceeded \$100 with Federal Hurricane Tax Deduction on their 2008 taxes. This will help those who faced property losses, especially unexpected hurricane deductibles. Previously, hurricane casualty losses were limited to 10 percent of adjusted gross income. Now, qualifying disaster losses are not subject to that limit. This addition to the national rescue package is one we in Louisiana know will lift the burden of everyone facing storm related expenses.

Remember to claim your 2008 Citizens State Tax Rebate and Federal Hurricane Tax Deduction when filing your taxes. For more information, call us here at the Department at 1-800-259-5300, or refer to the IRS publication 547 for details on the Federal Hurricane Tax Deduction.

Anyone with insurance-related questions or concerns is invited to contact the Louisiana Department of Insurance at 1-800-259-5300 or 225-342-0895 in Baton Rouge or write Department of Insurance, P.O. Box 94214, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9214. Our internet address is [www.ldi.state.la.us](http://www.ldi.state.la.us).

## I Switched To LAMMICO

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# LDA

## alpine lecture series

Meghan Speakes  
LDA Intern

### LDA Members Hit the Slopes for the Alpine Lecture Series Mardi Gras Extravaganza

Many LDA members chose freshly-fallen snow over Mardi Gras beads and took their families to Lake Tahoe for a few days of skiing and C.E. This year, the LDA visited The Village at Squaw Valley USA for the Alpine Lecture Series and our members had a fantastic time. Dr. Jeff Hooton of Monroe is a regular Alpine participant and he said, "I always enjoy the Alpine Lecture Series and this year was especially nice because it was in Tahoe. Alpine makes for a great family vacation and the opportunity to earn C.E. is an added bonus."



Dr. Fletcher Sutton and his wife, Paige McCartney, show their LSU spirit as they hit the slopes.

The LDA arranged for some truly phenomenal Alpine speakers. Dr. William van Dyk, who provided an impressive presentation last year, was invited back. His lecture, "Keep Quality Patients Coming Back Even in Difficult Economic Times" was designed to show dentists how to cater to their patients needs and wants while still maintaining a profit and the dentists were able to take away some very valuable information. Attendees were also treated to Dr. Lemon and Dr. Mickel's



Dr. William van Dyk presents his C.E. course to a group of attendees.

presentations. Lemon's, "Let's talk Endo" presented an exciting course that educated participants about the latest techniques in endodontic therapy and Mickel provided an informative overview of the comprehensive management of cleft lip patients during his course, "Multidisciplinary Management of Cleft Lip and Palate."

Guests were able to earn up to 12 hours of C.E. credit at the Alpine Lecture Series, but don't think it was all work and no play. The venue provided the dentists and their guests beautiful views of snow-covered mountains, as well as some fantastic amenities. In addition to skiing, The Village at Squaw Valley offered attendees ski lessons, snow tubing, snow shoeing, a Skyjump Trampoline and the opportunity to experience world class shopping and dining.

As always, we would like to recognize our sponsors who make it possible for the LDA to offer exciting and informative events at such reasonable rates. Robert Ellis & Associates served as the event partner and Henry Schein Dental, Elavon, Paragon Dental Practice Transitions and Louisiana Dental Services (LDS) were sponsors.



Attendees socializing at the Welcome Reception. From left, they are Anne Foy, Catherine Foy, Ward Blackwell, Elizabeth Foy, Robert Ellis, Margie Sullivan, Dr. William van Dyk and Dr. Jeff Hooton.



Couples mingle at the Welcome Reception. From left, they are Julia Noblin, Lisa Falkenheimer, Dr. Lee Falkenheimer and Dr. Todd Noblin.



Attendees get together to show off their Alpine t-shirts.



Attendees pose for a picture as they enjoy the Welcome Reception. From left, they are Pat Sampognaro, Dr. Charlie Sampognaro, Lisa Hummel, Dr. Glenn Hummel, Grant Shepard, Dr. John Shepard and Gayle Shepard.



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# LDA

## interview with the president-elect

### An Interview with the President-Elect: Dr. Charles B. "Charlie" Foy, Jr.

**As all of our members might not know you, can you tell us a little about your background, education, family and hobbies?**

I grew up in LaPlace, La., and graduated from Leon Godchaux High School. After attending LSU Baton Rouge, where I received a BS (no jokes) degree in Zoology, I did some graduate work in the Center for Wetland Resources at LSU, and then attended LSU Dental School and graduated in 1984. (I am proud to say that my fellow classmates are very active in the LDA; some notable examples are Dr. Gary Blanchette and Dr. Steve Ortego both previous LDA presidents, Dr. Bill Hadlock, Dr. Eddie Hebert, Dr. Jeff Hooton, Dr. Dennis Preau, Dr. Ron Madere, Dr. John Ward and Dr. David Hildebrandt, just to name a few.)



*(From left) Anne, Sarah, Elizabeth, Catherine and Dr. Charlie Foy.*

Continuing education has been a priority to me and includes completion of all continuums at the Pankey Institute, F.A.C.E. and achieving the designation of Master in the Academy of General Dentistry.

I am happily married to Anne Bailey Foy and have been for 14 years. We have three beautiful daughters, Elizabeth (10), Catherine (9) and Sarah (7). Lately, I don't have a lot of time for my hobbies, but I do like to restore old cars (1954 Ford pickup, 1965 Volvo P1800 and a 1956 MGA). I also do volunteer work with the coroner's office in St. Tammany and have a Fellowship from the University of Texas in Forensics.

**What inspired you to take an active role in LDA leadership?**

Dr. Tom Wingo, a pedodontist from Hammond, is responsible for my interest in becoming involved in the LDA. Dr. Wingo was president of the Northlake Dental Association around the time I joined the association, and he asked me to be the Northlake representative to the LDA's Council on Insurance, so it was trial by fire. Dr. Lou Gallo asked me to be an alternate delegate to the ADA in Seattle when he was LDA president and we had an extra slot. These two opportunities gave me a peek at the inner workings of organized dentistry, and I was hooked. Sometimes all it takes is just asking people to get involved.

**What are your goals for the LDA during your term as president?**

There are great things going on within the LDA, and I am proud to be a part of the process of organized dentistry. I recently attended the President-Elects' Conference in Chicago hosted by





Anne Foy (left), Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal and Dr. Charlie Foy.

the ADA. It was an eye-opening experience as a lot of the other states have a number of problems that we have not had to deal with. I credit this to our ability to head off a lot of problems before they get too far along in the legislative process, and I believe this is due to our strong legislative presence and our reputation for working for the good of our profession.



Dr. Foy's girls, Anne (back) and (from left) Sarah, Catherine and Elizabeth.

Obviously, the enactment of water fluoridation is going to be a priority. Access to care is another issue that I feel the LDA can be proactive with, all the while avoiding government interference. The LDA has done a great job in protecting the issues of dentistry. I want to make sure that we keep doing our part to let our members practice the way that they feel is best for their patients. The LDA has had great leadership in the past, and I hope to work diligently in order to fit into the shoes of my peers who have gone before me in leading this great organization.

### What are your future predictions for organized dentistry, as well as dentistry as a profession?

Organized dentistry will face serious challenges in the future if government tries to become an all-encompassing entity. The ADA is investigating adding a new team member to the traditional dental office. We need to make sure that we keep striving for the best treatment that we can provide to our patients without interference from outside agencies. Any changes to the traditional team should proceed cautiously and with foresight into what is best for our patients and the profession.

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# LDA

## from the executive director

Ward Blackwell, M.J.  
LDA Executive Director

### Headline News and Honey-Do's?

A quick glance at my To Do list reminds me of one reason the LDA is a good place to be: it never gets boring!

With so much going on at the LDA, it's hard for any member to stay abreast of everything. However, the following "headlines," direct from my To Do list, might give you a better idea how your dues dollars are being spent.

**School-based private practice** is the hottest issue at the moment. On one side are some Louisiana dentists who state they are expanding access to care by treating Medicaid-eligible children in public schools. On the other side are dentists who treat Medicaid children in their offices and believe the school-based program has numerous, potentially catastrophic flaws. The LDA Board created a task force to study this issue and work with the State Board of Dentistry (LSBD) on new laws or regulations, which appear to be needed. The potential language of any new law or regulation are largely the focus of current efforts, in addition to preparing materials for the LDA House of Delegates (HOD) to use in its deliberations when it meets on April 4 in New Orleans.

**General supervision limits for Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)** will also be discussed in the HOD. FQHCs are federally chartered non-profit entities. A number of meetings have already been held to hear their request to have the same exemption from the 20-day per year limit on hygienists practicing under general supervision currently afforded to public institutions and schools.

**2009 Appropriations** for dental Medicaid, Donated Dental Services and community water fluoridation have been the focus of LDA lobbying the past few weeks, including meetings with the DHH Secretary and a presentation for the Health and Human Services Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee.

**Meetings of government agencies** take place year round, unlike the Legislature. The LDA has representatives protecting dentists' interests at meetings of the LSBD, Patients Compensation Fund, Prescription Monitoring Program, LA Health Care Commission, Workers Comp Advisory Council and more.

**Hygienists wanting to administer nitrous oxide** legally have continued to press their case. The LDA is keeping the dialogue flowing with LDHA, but not specifically with a mind to changing the LDA's position on this issue.

**Balanced billing prohibition for institutional providers** is an issue on which the Insurance Commissioner will simply not relent. The LDA is continuing efforts with other groups to ensure this unfair provision never becomes law in Louisiana, thereby setting a disastrous precedent.

**LSUSD's Rural Scholars Program** received a vote of support from the LDA in communications with DHH. This program provides scholarship support for dental students who commit to practicing in underserved areas.

**LADPAC/DAPPAC checks** totaling nearly \$67,000 were delivered to 68 legislators so far this year.

**Local dental association installation dinners** are a great opportunity for discussion of important issues, and each one was attended by either LDA President Dr. Marty Garrett, President-Elect Dr. Charlie Foy and/or myself.

**The New Orleans Dental Conference/LDA Annual Session** is in final preparations for a much larger crowd, great speakers and exciting new activities. A meeting this awesome only happens with lots of planning, especially when combined with meetings of the HOD, Past Presidents, Board of Directors, LADPAC, LSUSD Alumni, etc.

**The LDA Alpine Lecture Series** concluded with great reviews for the Squaw Valley facilities and speakers, but low attendance and laments about poor weather.

**The LDA Summer Conference** program has been finalized with speakers on risk management, imaging technology, veneers and orofacial pain management. And, all the familiar fun, food and luxurious accommodations of Tops'l Resort will be offered with no price increase.

**ADA CERP Recognition** allows the LDA's CE to be used for AGD fellowships, etc. but requires a complex renewal every 4 years, which the LDA just completed.

**GKAS programs** that provided dental education, products and/or services to more than 2,600 kids statewide received support and PR coordination from the LDA.

**"Lunch & Learn" programs at LSUSD** have been conducted by LDA and/or LDS five times this school year.

**The LDA Senior Dental Students Reception** on March 13, our most crucial and effective member recruitment event, featured great food, fun and prizes.

My column in the *Journal* can only be so long, unlike my To Do list, which has plenty more on it. If you want to see the rest, stop by the LDA... or just wait till next issue!



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# lsu school of dentistry

*Dr. Henry Gremillion  
Dean, LSU School of Dentistry*

## Smiling is a Two-Way Street

I've had a smile on my face since becoming dean of the dental school last October. I knew I would be happy to be home but I didn't anticipate the many, many reasons I experience on a daily basis.

Some of you have asked why I wanted to come back, especially now, when some of the scars and bruises from Katrina are still readily apparent. The answer is easy: it's the spirit of the people and the potential for the future of LSUSD.

While it's true that no other school has been through what we've been through, it's also true that no other school has what we have. The passion of our students, faculty, staff and alumni inspire me. I think the common denominator is a strongly felt sense of service and purpose.

Just last week, an enthusiastic team of dental hygiene students provided screenings for adults with disabilities living at the Magnolia School on River Road in New Orleans. Shortly before Christmas, a dedicated group of general practice residents and hygienists provided screenings for homeless veterans at the New Orleans Mission.

On a year-round basis we partner with Children's Hospital to provide clinical services. Pediatric clinics at the dental school provide care to the Medicaid population. Weekend community outreach events, such as the Special Olympics and Central City health fairs, are common occurrences.

During the recent Give Kids A Smile event, hundreds of school children poured into our clinics in Baton Rouge, New Orleans and Alexandria. Talk about high energy! They raised their hands and shouted the



*Dr. Matthew Ganey screens young Abel Shields at the LSUSD clinic in New Orleans during the annual Give Kids A Smile event. (Photo by Judy LaBorde, LSUSD)*

answers about the right way to brush, floss and choose healthy foods. Later the children were screened and treated with sealants. There were a lot of smiles.

The Give Kids A Smile event is just seven years old and it has grown to be an extraordinarily successful event. The idea is to devote one day to intensely focus on low-income children. By volunteering dental services, we not only help the child but also put the public spotlight on the much larger issue of access to care. This year, 1,689 sites around the country provided dental care to 458,209 low-income children. I think those statistics are impressive. The numbers say that community service is germane to the dental profession. As aspiring dentists, we were taught that in school. As practicing dentists, I think it's important to never

forget those lessons. Serving others goes to the heart of who we are as a person, the purpose of our lives, the humanitarian nature of dental care for those who can't afford it.

If we accept that the mission of medicine is to alleviate suffering, then the next step is to help a child in pain. No dental provider can be happy that more than 51 million school hours are lost each year to dental-related illness.

Even when the dental school was temporarily located in Baton Rouge and our future was uncertain, our students and faculty made time to volunteer their services for Give Kids A Smile. That's such a good example of the passion and spirit that makes me happy to be home. It also makes me especially proud

of my daughter, Lindsay, who is pursuing a pediatric residency at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

Over the past several months, I've traveled around the state in order to reconnect with our alumni. It's good to walk into a room and see people I went to school with. I'm inspired by the stories of our alumni

**“Serving others goes to the heart of who we are as a person...”**

when they talk of their pride in the LSUSD.

Many of you have stepped forward and agreed to work as part-time faculty which is providing a vital need as we

rebuild our full-time faculty. I want you to know I appreciate you. Your teaching also provides our students with priceless real-life experiences.

I also want to personally invite you to attend the Annual Alumni Reception set for April 3 at the Plimsoll Club at the top of the World Trade Center in New Orleans. This event is part of the New Orleans Dental Conference/LDA Annual Session. I think it's important for us to personally reconnect.

For those who play golf, I hope you'll consider playing in our golf tournament scheduled for April 17 in Marksville.

It's been easy to smile since coming home. Seeing you at our alumni events would give me even more reasons to be happy!

**Friday, April 3**

Alumni Reception  
Plimsoll Club, New Orleans  
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, April 3 & Saturday, April 4**

Class Reunion Dinners for the years  
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# LDA wealth management

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## The Stages of Financial Planning: Part 2

In the Fall Journal, we discussed that financially, your life can be broken down into four basic stages: The Early Starter, The Prime Timer, The Pre-retiree, and The Retiree. After the first two stages, you should have built up savings, fully funded your retirement each year, and established your insurance safety nets, as well as laid the foundation for your estate. Now let's take a look at the steps you should take to prepare for retirement.

### **Stage 3: Pre-retiree (10 Years before Retirement)**

The Pre-retirees are truly getting ready for the day when they will stop working and phase into retirement. Planning is crucial. Within five years of the official date, a more conservative investment allocation should be adopted. Beyond investment allocations, are four main aspects of planning for Pre-retirees:

#### *How much money do you really need in retirement?*

The Pre-retiree has a good idea of how much income is currently needed to support their lifestyle, but how does that number equate for retirement? First, you need to know exactly what and how retirement will look for you and your family. Start by asking a few questions:

- 1) What will an ordinary day in retirement look like?
- 2) What would you like to accomplish in retirement?
- 3) How much Social Security income will you have and are there any other income sources?
- 4) How will you pay for your medical expenses, including medication?
- 5) Do you have a current budget?

After answering these questions, you should have an idea of how much income will be needed. Keep in mind that the price of goods gets more expensive because of inflation. As a result, an inflationary rate of 2 to 3% per year should be added on the retirement income amount.

At the pre-retiree stage it is important to find all of the possible ways to put away and save for retirement.

Look for ways to maximize your contributions to company retirement plans. The 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan will allow for a maximum total amount, with employer contributions and profit plan contributions, of \$49,000 for 2009 (if over 50 years old, add \$5,500 catch-up for a total of \$54,500). A Defined Benefit Pension Plan would allow for additional contributions up to \$195,000. All of the contributions would be deductible from gross income and could help give a needed boost to your retirement nest egg.

#### *How much debt should you carry in retirement?*

This is a great question and a good game plan is needed in order to answer it. To take pressure off of your retirement income, it is best to have as little debt as possible. Your mortgage should be paid off, but if it is not and you have more than 10 years left on the mortgage, you should do an accelerated payoff plan. Any other debt needs to be looked at carefully to see if it makes sense to bring it into retirement with you.

#### *What type of insurance will you need?*

The goal is to find yourself debt free and have a substantial retirement investment portfolio (one that can easily yield you 3.5 to 4% return) to cover your family's income needs. If this is the case, as your fixed-term insurance policies expire, then there would not be a need to continue them. At this time, long-term care insurance should be considered. Long-term care insurance can be viewed as a necessity for those who have assets to protect or who want to avoid becoming a financial burden to their families. When it comes to financial planning, you always plan for the worst and hope for the best.

#### *What changes should be made to an estate plan?*


Your wills need to be looked at and adjusted to reflect your current situation. The proper trusts should be established to take advantage of the unified credit



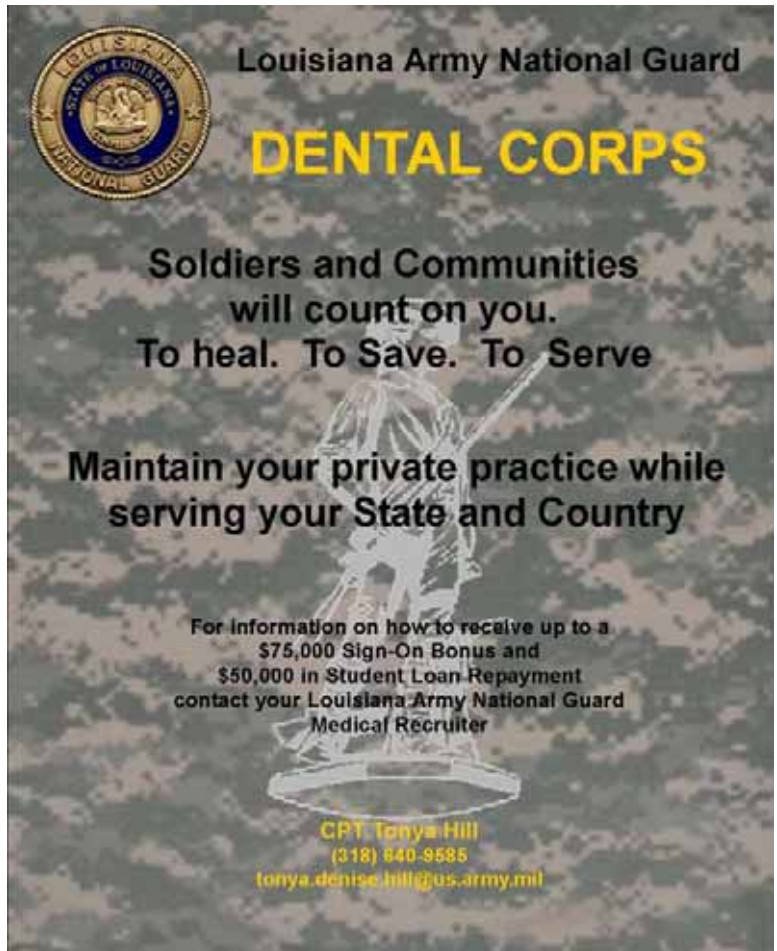
each individual receives. Also consider estate taxes: If it looks as if there may be an estate tax – you will need to figure out what is important in terms of distribution to your kids and the federal government. At this time, some advance estate techniques may be necessary, such as setting up a life insurance trust.

Answering these four main questions will provide a solid foundation to start planning for retirement. Next issue, we will discuss what financial strategies to use in the final stage, The Retiree.

*Chad Olivier is author of "What Medical School Did Not Teach You about Financial Planning" and owner of the firm The Olivier Group, LLC in Baton Rouge, La., which specializes in retirement planning and wealth management for physicians, dentists and other affluent individuals and families. If you have any questions about this article or future topic suggestions, please call (888) 465-2112 or visit us on the web at [www.oliviergroup.com](http://www.oliviergroup.com). Securities and Financial Planning are offered through LPL Financial Member FINRA/SIPC. Please note that the above article is for informational purposes only, nor is The Olivier Group specifically endorsed by the LDA. Financial planning requires detailed individualized analysis of each person's specific situation.*

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# LDA

## council on communications

Dr. Brian Basinger  
Chair, LDA Council on Communications

### Why GKAS? Why me? Why should I participate?

In February, the American Dental Association sponsored its 60th National Children's Dental Health Month, an initiative intended to raise awareness about the importance of oral health education. To commemorate the occasion, dentists nationwide joined together to participate in Give Kids A Smile events to help children in their communities who do not have access to dental care. Louisiana dentists participated and were able to provide educational materials, dental screenings, cleanings, fluoride and sealants (where possible) to more than 1,500 of Louisiana's disadvantaged children. (Numbers reported to the LDA by our members.)



A first year hygiene student dresses as the tooth fairy at Northwest's event.

All of the dentists involved, including many of their staff members and dental and hygiene students, donated their time and services to various events throughout the state. On the following pages, you will see an overview of several of the events and a chart listing many of the volunteers and the number of children who were able to take part in the program. If you did not participate this year (or even if you did), please allow me to give you a few tips that will make next year's preparation a breeze.

1. Get involved with local non-profit groups who work with children. Many of the Greater Baton Rouge dentists found it helpful to work with an organization called Health Care Centers in Schools. This organization identified schools most deserving of the assistance and arranged for consent forms and transportation to the dental offices. They also make sure teachers accompany the kids to keep them calm in the waiting rooms.
2. We also recommend that you figure out what you expect your event to entail so you can order FREE supplies from the ADA. The deadline for requests is usually in November, so it is beneficial for you to know you are going to do an event so that you can order supplies from the national sponsors.
3. Partner with your colleagues. Creating your own event may seem like a daunting task, but you can share the "burden" and the fun with other area dentists. The LDA can also help you find scheduled programs in your area. Regardless of how you go about it, you'll be helping the children in your community who need it most.

Also, before reinventing the wheel, visit the ADA Web site at [www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org). From this site, you can find an incredible amount of information such as program planning kits, including timelines and to do lists.

The photos accompanying this article were taken at GKAS events throughout the state. If you have any photos from an event you hosted or attended or any information to report to the LDA, e-mail [info@ladental.org](mailto:info@ladental.org).

*"In certain rural areas, there is a tremendous unmet need where access to care is limited. This event and others like it are a great way to get the ball rolling."*

– Dr. Joseph Yale



Bre Landry, dental assistant, and Dr. Nelson Daly



Katy Kimball, R.D.H. and Brynn Martinez, EDDA



Dr. Sarah DeJean

*"In the United States, there are a number of programs designed to help children, but I haven't seen any aimed at helping adults. They need dental care too, especially parents because they will have a strong impact on their children. This is why I started doing Dentistry from the Heart for adults during Dental Health Month."*

– Dr. Ed Hood



Dr. Jeff Silmon



Dr. Ed Hood, his staff members and a number of volunteers pose for a picture outside of his office.



Dr. Ed Hood and Becky Merritt, EDDA

Dr. Aimme Russo Mounger

*"Volunteering with fellow dentists is a lot of fun and a very rewarding experience. I can tell the kids really appreciate what we're doing for them and it's great to be able to give back to the community. I'd encourage any dentists who haven't participated to give it a try."*

– Dr. Justin Tarver



Melissa Roberson, EDDA and Dr. Brad Comeaux



*"I hate to see the long-term effects of poor dental care; the restorative treatments are both more expensive and painful than preventative care. I'm grateful for this opportunity to teach the youth about the importance of caring for their mouths from an early age."*

– Dr. Kramer Irby



State Reps. Steve Carter and Franklin Foil pose with a group of school children for GKAS.

*“Some of the kids we see have never been to the dentist before. I’ve met kids who expect their ‘permanent’ teeth to fall out. I think it is very important that we expose them to dental care in a fun, positive atmosphere so they will not be afraid of the dentist’s office.”*

– Dr. Nick Rauber

*“GKAS Day was fun for all of us, dentists and staff. The kids we saw were happy and appreciative. I have been participating in GKAS since returning from Alaska in 2000. It warms my heart to give to these children, all of which come from families with little or no education or income. Many of these children do not have parents that bring them to us to provide dental services and, therefore, are in dire need of treatment.”*

– Dr. Kirt Touchstone



Dr. Brian Basinger



Dr. Joe Yale and Andi Guidry, EDDA



Dr. Joey Roberson



Northeast dentists and dental hygiene faculty and senior dental students participating in a GKAS event at the ULM Hygiene School.



Dr. Ben Record gives an interview to Randy LeDuff from WBRZ in Baton Rouge.



Dr. Justin Tarver and Caitlin Ainsworth.



Group photo of fourth graders from Bernice who attended Dr. Touchstone's event (from left) Dr. Matt Turpin, Dr. Stephen Turpin and Krystal Wowles, primary assistant and EDDA.



Dr. Nelson Daly



Dudley the Dental Dinosaur helps Dr. Robert Delarosa examine a patient's teeth.

*"I believe that people are heavily influenced by their childhood experiences. For this reason, children should learn about dental care very early on. We need to see them before they are in pain so that they will have a lifelong, positive connotation with visiting the dentist."*

– Dr. Aimee Russo-Mounger



The Banner, February 12, 2009

## Give Kids A Smile Day Events

Component	Dentist/Dental Office	Patients Helped	Procedures Provided
Greater Baton Rouge	Dr. Johnnie Hunt, Dr. Brooke Mccallum, Dr. Bradley Fruge, Dr. Nick Rauber, Dr. Kramer Irby, Dr. Justin Tarver	91	Examinations and Sealants
	Dr. Ben Record, Director of the LSU Dental Clinic in Baton Rouge, and many faculty, staff and students of the LSUSD	185	Examinations and Sealants
	Dr. Nelson Daly, Dr. Anne Uzee	41	Examinations and Sealants
	Dr. Aimee Russo-Mounger	18	Examinations, Fluoride and Sealants
	Dr. Lee Koschel	25	Examinations and Sealants
	Dr. Shelly Fallin, Dr. Lance Fallin	42	Examinations and Sealants
	Dr. Rob Delarosa, Dr. Paige Sigsworth, Dr. Brad Comeaux	166	Examinations, Fluoride and Sealants
Northwest	Dr. Brian Basinger, Dr. Larry Robinson, Dr. Robert Hill, Dr. Adam Cormier, Dr. Jana Cormier, Dr. Gary Caskey, Dr. Jeff Silmon, Dr. Maureen Fenton, Southern University at Shreveport hygiene students	75	Examinations and Sealants
Northeast	Dr. Kirt Touchstone, Dr. Stephen Turpin, Dr. Matt Turpin, Dr. Paige Volentine	33	Examinations and Hygiene Education
	Dr. Karla Robertson, Dr. Lance Donald, Dr. John Snuggs, Dr. Joe Yerger, Dr. Chris Owens, Dr. Lane Eddleman	39	Examinations, Bite Wings and Hygiene Education
	ULM Hygiene School and Students, Dr. Wayne Cranford, Dr. John Shepherd, Dr. Scott Brown, Dr. Jeff Anzalone, Dr. Troy Bostick, Dr. Joey Roberson, Dr. Kristi Davis, Dr. Jennifer Boles	62	Examinations and Hygiene Education
NODA	Dr. Jason Parker, Dr. Janice Townsend, Dr. Claudia Cavallino, Dr. Pamela Shaw, Dr. Lisa Wyatt, Dr. Ron Curran, Dr. Dwight Landry, Dr. Wendy Maes, Dr. Darrell Bourg, Dr. Dick DuBois, Dr. Wanda Augillard	25	Screened in the LSU Pediatric Dentistry Department in New Orleans and received comprehensive examinations, prophies, radiographs and fluoride treatment. Children will then be seen for treatment by the LSUSD or by a NODA member volunteer.
	Dr. Jay Dumas	100	Examinations, Bite Wings and Cleanings
<b>Other Dental Health Month Events</b>			
Greater Baton Rouge	Dr. Ed Hood, Dr. Joe Yale, Dr. Clint Sandefer, Dr. Mindy Moore, Dr. Michelle Carlton, Dr. Blair Gremillion, Dr. Alan Sandifer	85 (adults)	Dentistry from the Heart event: Extractions, Fillings and Cleanings
Bayou	Dr. Danny Melancon (chair)	All 5 <sup>th</sup> graders in the area	Dental health poster contest. Fifteen children will receive \$100 savings bonds and one school will win a computer.
NODA	Dr. Jason Parker (chair)	Approximately 1,000 children	New Orleans Hornets Game. About 100 NODA members attended. Informational table set up in concourse and volunteers handed out stickers, posters and toothbrushes to children.
	Dr. Claudia Cavallino (chair)	200	Passed out posters, stickers and toothbrushes to children at Lakeside Mall.
	Dr. Priya Ritwik, Dr. Jamilyn Aubel, Dr. Sapna Patel		Held a seminar for 15 school nurses in order to teach them about pediatric dental emergencies.
	Dr. Jason Parker, Dr. Tom Giacona	350	Puppet show, tooth prints, and handouts (stickers, toothbrushes and posters).
	Dr. Pamela Shaw	100	Placed a display in the lobby of Children's Hospital and gave out toothbrushes, posters and stickers to children.
	Dr. Jason Parker, Dr. Mike Giorlando	100	Set up a display at a Loyola men's basketball game and gave out posters, stickers and toothbrushes to children.

*Note: State Oral Health Director, Dr. Dionne Richardson, played an integral role in this year's Give Kids A Smile events by providing sealants for dentists who hosted events that included placing sealants and working with dentists to find children who are in need of the services. Also, these events were reported to the LDA from our members and components.*



# ladpac LDA

Dr. David Kestel  
Chair, Louisiana Dental Political Action Committee (LADPAC)

I hope everyone had a Happy Valentine's Day and a great Mardi Gras. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to LADPAC by making the volunteer contribution that is part of your annual dues payment. I encourage everyone who has not made that commitment and contribution to do so as soon as possible. On the following pages, you will see the names of your fellow dentists who made that commitment in 2008. Again, I thank you.

As you know, our presence in the state legislature has been very effective. As I have mentioned before, your involvement with our legislators is critical to our success in the legislative arena. There are two things

you can do to enhance and preserve the good rapport we have in the House and Senate.

First, speak with your area legislators, and thank them for their past help with the dental-related legislation. Second, join you colleagues in supporting LADPAC by making an annual contribution. If you would like to make a contribution, contact the LDA office at (800) 388-6642.

The flowers, cards, candy and dinner you bought for your spouse or loved ones on Valentine's Day, and the money you spent on Mardi Gras costumes, beads, etc., last for only one day. But, your LADPAC contributions last for the entire year. I'd say that's money well spent!

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Dr. Eric J. LeBlanc  
Dr. Joseph R. Lott  
Dr. Wayne H. Marionneaux  
Dr. John H. McConnell  
Dr. James M. McCormick  
Dr. James R. McCormick  
Dr. Charles R. McInnis  
Dr. Thomas E. McNeely  
Dr. Cynthia M. Miciotto  
Dr. Chris A. Mott  
Dr. Andrew G. Murphy  
Dr. Galen L. Norgard  
Dr. Pope W. Oden III  
Dr. Robert A. Palmer, Jr.  
Dr. Rodney L. Pendleton  
Dr. Andrew W. Porter  
Dr. Robert L. Price  
Dr. Melvin H. Procell  
Dr. Gary L. Roberts  
Dr. Robert W. Rockefeller  
Dr. William C. Sanders, Jr.

Dr. Maureen Sheridan-Fenton  
Dr. Brian R. Smith  
Dr. John E. Stafford, Jr.  
Dr. Caroline L. Vergis  
Dr. Ryan G. Walker  
Dr. Edwin E. Westmoreland  
Dr. Paul L. Wood  
Dr. Michael E. Woolbert  
Dr. Kaylan F. Worley  
Dr. Steven J. Worley

#### Southwest

Dr. Randolph H. Alexander  
Dr. Charles J. Ardoin II  
Dr. Peter T. Bayles  
Dr. Gary J. Blanchette  
Dr. Nathan H. Bray, Jr.  
Dr. Charlie Buller III  
Dr. Harry K. Castle  
Dr. Carl W. Churchman, Sr.  
Dr. Robert C. Cochran  
Dr. Emma M. DiCarlo  
Dr. Dennis E. Donald  
Dr. Michael W. DuBose  
Dr. Chester L. Ellender  
Dr. Judith K. Ellender  
Dr. George R. Fisher  
Dr. Nathan R. Fontenot, Jr.  
Dr. Barney H. Harper  
Dr. Robert S. Hays III  
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Dr. G.M. Karam  
Dr. David A. Kestel  
Dr. Steven R. Latiolais  
Dr. Richard L. LeBlanc  
Dr. James A. Leithhead, Jr.  
Dr. Charles S. Mackey  
Dr. Bryan Manning  
Dr. Dean L. Manning  
Dr. Richard J. Martin  
Dr. James J. McGee  
Dr. Mark M. Miller  
Dr. Kenneth W. Parks  
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Dr. Paul C. Perry  
Dr. Randall R. Perry  
Dr. James E. Pollard  
Dr. Thomas H. Price  
Dr. Hugh W. Raetzsch  
Dr. Rodney J. Rentrop, Jr.  
Dr. Tim L. Robinson  
Dr. Eric A. Sanders  
Dr. Edward T. Savoy  
Dr. Thomas H. Shirley  
Dr. Ronald M. Short  
Dr. John L. Speer  
Dr. Robert R. Vaughan  
Dr. Paul D. Vidrine

This list includes all LADPAC contributions submitted with payments of 2008 LDA membership dues and/or received from individual dentists through December 31, 2008.



# LDHA Louisiana dental hygienists' association

*Suzanne K. Farrar, R.D.H., M.S.H.C.M.  
Past President, Louisiana Dental Hygienists' Association*

## It's Time to Educate and Get Motivated

It's that time of year again! It is a phrase we use again and again when we are talking with our patients. They know they will be seeing us for their annual exam. We do our exam and maintenance and possibly restorations. Then when they leave they are once again motivated and armed with their dental armamentarium; a new toothbrush, floss and toothpaste.

As professionals we say to ourselves, 'It's that time of year again.' February was National Children's Dental Health Month. We always plan in our minds what we will do far in advance, and then all of a sudden it is upon us. Things have certainly evolved from that first celebration and observance of Children's Dental Day. It began as a one-day event in Cleveland, Ohio, on February 3, 1941. Two gentlemen, Dr. Lawrence Graham and Dr. Arthur Heibert, organized an event to focus on children's dental health. Not to be outdone by the people in Cleveland, the Akron population decided to make it an entire week which spanned from February 3-7, 1941. The idea was beginning to catch on. In 1949, the ADA sponsored Children's Dental Health Day on February 9 as a nationwide event. By 1955, the program grew to a week-long affair and finally, in 1981, February was dubbed National Children's Dental Health Month (NCDHM) by the ADA.

Its purpose was to raise dental education awareness in the underserved population of children and their families. Around 20,000 to 40,000 dentists, dental hygienists and dental auxiliaries joined together some 1,500 to 1,700 sites. The sites ranging from large clinics to schools to individual offices, the dental professionals will try to reach the underserved children with the message that healthy teeth are an integral part of their total health. Since 1941, it has grown from a two-city event to a nationwide program.

So what is the difference between NCDHM and Give Kids a Smile (GKAS)? NCDHM is celebrated all

month long. Give Kids a Smile is part of NCDHM, but is held on the first Friday in February. GKAS was organized to provide preventive and restorative care to low-income children who do not have access to care. It can range from toothbrushing demonstrations in the school, to a private or public clinic where a dentist and dental hygienist are providing chairside care.

What a great opportunity to educate and spread the word and get patients motivated. The ADA's theme this year was "Turn Up Your Smile Power." The American Dental Hygienists' Association's theme this year was "A Healthy Smile Lasts a Lifetime."

Remember to inform your patients that the most common chronic childhood disease is tooth decay. Once again I applaud all of the dentists, dental hygienists, dental auxiliaries and all the other health care professionals that have gotten motivated and have given their time and resources to a worthy cause.

**March 27- 28, 2009**

LDHA Annual Session  
Hotel Acadiana/Crowne Plaza  
Lafayette, La.

**May 13, 2009**

LDHA Lobby Day  
Capital Rotunda  
Baton Rouge, La.



# LD Louisiana state board of dentistry

*Dr. Lynn Philippe  
President, Louisiana State Board of Dentistry*

## Seven Words...

Welcome 2009! Although I hope you all had a joyous holiday season, I'm certain that no one regrets saying goodbye to 2008. Therein lies a desire for something new and hopefully better.

A person that I admire once said that there are seven words that most humans hate to hear (and for those gray enough to remember, NO! they are not the infamous seven words expounded by the late comedian George Carlin). The dreaded seven are "we never did it like this before" or in short "change." As human beings with a free will we can effect change throughout our personal, social, political and professional lives for our earthly existence. It is because of this ability to adapt that we do not become stagnant, but yet continue to grow and evolve as a society. We must be willing to continue to "take the leap" and attempt to experience and learn new things. This allows growth and, with proper instruction and development, should bring positive results. After all, this is why the study of history is so important so that we learn from the mistakes of the past and hopefully never repeat nor continue them.

This brings me to one of the changes that I feel we should strive to accomplish - changing the delivery of the printed word. Communication has evolved in its format, whether verbal, pictorial, or written from hammer and chisel to handwritten ink and paper, to the printing press and now to electronic delivery. And all of these improvements have allowed for wider and more rapid dissemination of information, which is critically important in our fast paced world of today. To put it simply, I am talking about Web site and e-mail communications for official information, notifications, and license and permit renewals.

By moving into this 21st century mode, we can accomplish at least four objectives: 1) A more rapid turnaround in the dissemination and processing of information, permitting and licensing (both new and

renewal). The LSBSD staff spends approximately 25% of their working hours on the physical handling, sorting, copying, stuffing and mailing of the necessary documents. This is time better spent on ensuring the accuracy of these and other duties, 2) A significant reduction in the operating expenses of the LSBSD, since a portion of the operating expenses of the LSBSD comes from the aforementioned duties (and postage and supply costs alone will never decrease). And remember, the expenses are covered by the income which is obtained from you and me in the form of license and permit fees. Therefore, this can help delay and offset future increases in said fees, 3) Legally mandated storage of all necessary public documents. This is also costly and time and space consuming, and 4) And last but certainly not least, it helps eliminate a magnitude of wasted office supplies as we continue to try to conserve our resources. Please join me in bringing this to fruition this year for it is through our concerted effort that we can accomplish this task.

I also wish to thank the LSBSD members whose terms have expired for their dedication and time, encourage the sustaining members for their continued diligence and welcome the newly appointed members to openly participate in fulfilling the mission of the LSBSD. I am also extremely grateful for the participation and input from the representatives of the LDA and its the component societies, the Louisiana Dental Hygienists' Association, the Louisiana Dental Assistants Association and the LSU School of Dentistry.

[www.ladental.org](http://www.ladental.org)

Dr. Ed Moody II

## How I Spent My Spring Vacation or Life on the Other End of the Instruments

The first Great Rule of Life: There are no rules except those that apply to our actions. The results are another issue entirely... ungoverned... the proverbial wild card if you will. I know, I know; there are no coincidences and everything happens for a reason. I'm on board with that as a concept but since those meaningful results are unpredictable until they happen, they might as well be random. In February of last year, I had that concept brought home to me in a very personal way. It came in the form of a confirmed biopsy of squamous cell carcinoma of the tongue. Me! No impersonal third person tragedy... me! I haven't smoked since 1979 and I'm a light "social" consumer of alcohol... I mean, I'm Irish. I have to drink a little or the cosmos would become unbalanced. I have never dipped snuff and I see my dentist every day at the office because he's my son. See? Even if it all happens for a reason, there's that unpredictability thing.

Okay, so I've picked my metaphorical self up from the floor where I landed upon receiving the bad news, right? So what's next? Treatment options and someone to perform them would be a good starting point. My local oral surgeon buddies don't get into this sort of adventure but they knew someone who does, Dr. Ghali E. Ghali... the surgeon so nice they named him twice. Unfortunately for him, but very lucky for us,



(Front row, from left) son-in-law Wesley, daughter Jacky, granddaughter Annabelle, grandson Collin, wife Marita, granddaughter Jillian, and daughter-in-law Crystal. (Back row, from left) future daughter-in-law Jenny, son Bryan, author Dr. Ed Moody II, and dental partner and son Dr. Ed Moody III.

he deals with this sort of cataclysm on a regular basis. Also very lucky for me, he turned out to be not only immensely capable but a truly compassionate human being who would get me and my family through this roller coaster ride. Okay, he **is** a gunner, but it's okay to use up a lot of the oxygen in the room if you're not wasting it, right?

Time out here for a couple of caveats... first, my tumor and

the course of treatment was about as good as one can have with cancer. The only thing significantly better would have been not to have cancer at all. Second, remember the "me and my family" phrase? Pay attention here, this is important, cancer does not happen to a person, it happens to the family. It is by nature a team sport. Unlike solo synchronized swimming (whatever that may be) it involves the entire group we refer to as family.

Okay, back to the story now. At that point I was dealing with palpable fear and tons of uncertainty. What would the rest of my life be like, and would there be any "rest of my life" to even worry about? What would the result look like? I mean, at 54 years old, I had finally gotten used to what I looked like **pre-surgery**; would I have to get used to some sort of elephant man countenance? I was just getting into my destined role of grandpa and now I might end up looking too scary for the kids to look at me. I had so little experience to rely on because fortunately very

few of my patients had gone through anything similar. All of the C.E. in the world doesn't adequately prepare you for the real deal.

Suffice it to say that everything did not go as well as planned but it did not go as badly as it could have either. I woke up earlier than expected because they could not sedate me as deeply as planned without depressing my blood pressure farther than they were willing to. Now if you haven't had this experience, I can tell you that waking up partially sedated, with a tracheotomy, IVs in one arm and the other arm in a splint (to protect the tongue graft donor site), sprouting drainage tubes like weeds in a neglected garden, and a nasogastric tube dangling from your naso... well let's just say that's a lot of surprises to deal with all at once. Fortunately I was sedated enough to render me more or less accepting of these unusual circumstances.

Now here is something for you to wrap your professional clinical mind around... you know how frustrating it is to try to get a decent crown margin prepped on the distolingual of #15 on a patient who just can't manage to cooperate? Okay, now imagine that the margin of the tooth in question is your face instead and you just woke up and you vaguely recall that you did agree to let the team do some serious remodeling on that face because your other choices

involved premature departure from this vale of tears. Kicking the bucket, the big dirt nap, Ed sleeps with the fishes. These euphemisms become fascinatingly desperate when you are going to leave behind loved ones who will have to deal with the trauma... alone... you won't be there to help due to the circumstances of your being recently departed. It pretty much sucks to be you at that point but one thing keeps you in the game; you want to be the best patient ever. That loads the odds of a favorable outcome in your favor. You see, if your hypothetical patient isn't being cooperative, it's probably because they aren't capable of being logical at that moment and so you just *do your best*, right? Well, when it dawns on you, the patient, that *doing your best* really means compromised results, you decide to cowboy up in one hell of a hurry. This decision is probably what my all too gracious surgeon has mistaken for patience.

Slowly, little by little, things began to fall into place and improvement accumulated until I was pronounced fit to go home. Things are always better in your own little corner of the world and the horizon brightens up a lot once you are in familiar surroundings. Talking was forbidden for the first two months following surgery so visits from friends and family were welcome but a test of willpower and discipline which I failed miserably. After all, I had been to the brink of disaster and returned

*Continued on page 36.*



## STAR OF THE SOUTH DENTAL MEETING

April 16-18, 2009

George R. Brown Convention Center  
Houston, Texas

### THE STAR SHINES BRIGHT DEEP IN THE HEART OF HOUSTON

We invite you to Join us April 16-18, 2009 at the 38th annual Star of the South Dental Meeting. We have put together an exciting continuing education program, filled with entertaining "Texas Themed" social events and excellent opportunities for camaraderie and networking. Various certification courses designed to meet licensing requirements of the dental team members will also be available. Come let Houston's warm hospitality welcome you to a rewarding and enjoyable educational experience. We look forward to seeing you in Houston April 16-18, 2009!

#### ADDITIONAL CE PROGRAMS

- Scientific Table Clinics
- Breakfast Sunrise Seminars
- Lunch and Learn Program

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

- Exhibit Hall Happy Hours
- "Tastes of Texas" Wine and Beer Tasting and UTDB Houston "Celebration of Success"
- "Dance Across Texas" Friday Night Party
- Chairman's Cup Golf Tournament

#### CERTIFICATIONS OFFERED

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- Invisalign I and II
- CPR and First Aid

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- CE Center

Call the Society office at (713) 961-4337 to request a Registration Brochure or visit our web site at [www.starofthesouth.org](http://www.starofthesouth.org) for more information!

Continued from page 35.

to tell the tale. How could fate be so cruel as to deny me the satisfaction of relating such an epic saga. You can bet that nobody told Beowulf that he couldn't talk about beating Grendel. Geez, talk about not being able to catch a break! And then there's the guilt issue too; So *Dr. Moody, we here in heaven decided to allow you to live and here you are griping about not being allowed to speak. In the end, gratitude won out assisted by my refusal to go through anything as difficult as this and not take away something good from it.*

That something good has come to me in many forms. I've been able to talk with people who were facing worse situations and help them feel more secure about facing their struggle. It has definitely made me vigilant to the point of paranoia in the exam room with my patients. No extra charge... I couldn't turn that off if I tried to. Another blessing is the realization that my place is in the cavalry, riding in to rescue the helpless folks in the wagon train. I hadn't been aware of it but a lot of my self image is invested in being the rescuer. Having been stuck in the wagon train for a few weeks made me very happy to saddle up and rejoin the cavalry. And you know what else? It also gave me a glimpse of how satisfying it must have been to the people who rode in to rescue me.

And then there's the exquisite joy of vanilla ice cream. What? What's so great about vanilla ice cream you say? Well that's because you haven't spent two weeks being fed kitty litter through a tube dangling from your nose my friend. When that little cross is lifted from your shoulder and your personal cavalry troopers allow you to have that first little cup of creamy white heaven on earth, you experience a joy that defies description. Five star restaurants be damned; that was a moment of pure exhilaration I will not soon forget. So that's another lesson to hold close children... taking joy in the little things in life is not just a cliché. It is a treasure that lies hidden in plain sight throughout most of our days until some apparently bad thing brings it into sharp focus. Like stars in the daylight, you have to be in a dangerous place like the edge of space to see them. They've been there waiting patiently for you like those un-smelled roses that everyone talks about.

So students, what do we take away from this story? The appreciation that we have been blessed to be problem solvers; a heightened awareness of the many small pleasures that are so easily overlooked; and maybe some increased incentive to see ourselves and our calling from our patients' point of view. That's when we get an opportunity to justify all that oxygen we've been sucking up on this planet. Of course, that's just my opinion... I could be wrong.

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*Gordon Christensen* Gordon Christensen, DDS, MS, PhD, NFDH Board Member, DDS Volunteer

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## NODA'S 2008 HONOR DENTIST

In recognition of outstanding contributions and exemplary conduct in the profession of dentistry, Dr. F. Thomas Giacona, Jr. has been presented the 2008 NODA Honor Dentist Award. He has been a member of the ADA, the LDA and NODA since his graduation from LSUSD in 1977.



Dr. Giacona has been extremely active in organized dentistry throughout his years of membership. He has been an integral part of the conference committee for the New Orleans Dental Conference for many years. He has also been a member on the NODA

Board of Governors from 1999-2003 when he held the offices of treasurer (1999-2000), president-elect (2001), president (2002), and past-president (2003). He also has been a member of NODA's Children's Dental Health Committee and a delegate to the LDA House of Delegates from 1994-2008, to name just a few of his offices held.

Dr. Giacona has served NODA at the LDA and ADA level by having been NODA's representative on the LDA Distinguished Service Award Committee and then its Chairman from 2004-2008. He is in his second term as a LDA Delegate to the ADA House of Delegates representing NODA (2005-present). Also, he has just begun his two year term as one of NODA's Directors to the LDA Board of Directors which also means he has started a concurrent term on NODA's Board of Governors. In 2008, he was inducted as a Fellow to both the American College of Dentistry and to the International College of Dentistry. From 1996-1998, Dr. Giacona was selected and served his state and his profession as a member of the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry.

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### Classified Advertising Online

Go to [www.ladental.org](http://www.ladental.org) and click on the **Classified Advertising link.**

For all classified advertising, payment is required in advance and ads will be placed on the LDA Web site on the next possible business day after payment is received. Make checks payable to the Journal of the Louisiana Dental Association. Placement of a classified ad up to 30 words is \$30 for LDA members and \$50 for non-LDA members. For each additional word, LDA members pay \$0.15 and non-LDA members pay \$0.30. Ads will remain on the LDA Web site for three months and will appear in one issue of the *LDA Journal*.

For more information or to place a classified ad, contact Dr. William Hall at (318) 865-1469 or [dr802@bellsouth.net](mailto:dr802@bellsouth.net) or *LDA Journal* Managing Editor Annette Drodgy at (225) 926-1986 or [info@ladental.org](mailto:info@ladental.org).

# LDA

## c.e. and lda events calendar

For information on any of the following continuing education courses, please contact the course sponsor. To list your course in the next calendar, please contact the LDA office at (800) 388-6642, or (225) 926-1986 in Baton Rouge. Please also check our Web site for the most up-to-date listing of all LDA-sponsored continuing education events ([www.ladental.org](http://www.ladental.org)).

**DATE/TIME:** March 27, 2009 (registration from 8:30 to 9 a.m., course from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.)  
**COURSE TITLE:** A Modern Paradigm for Understanding and Managing Dental Caries  
**LOCATION:** 7th floor of ULM Library Conference Center  
**SPONSOR:** ULM School of Dental Hygiene, Division of Continuing Education, contact: Laura Washer at (318) 242-1049. AGD-PACE recognized provider. Visit [www.ce.ulm.edu](http://www.ce.ulm.edu) for more information.  
**CREDIT HOURS:** 7, clinical, lecture  
**DESIGNED FOR:** All  
**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Steven C. Steinberg  
**FEES:** dentist - \$330; hygienist - \$165; staff - \$75 (NOTE: Special pricing for signing up for the three courses that will be held on Jan. 30, March 6 and March 27, 2009, dentist - \$795; hygienist - \$380; staff - \$180.)

### New Orleans Dental Conference and LDA Annual Session

**April 2-4, 2009**, New Orleans Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, La. – for more information or to register, call (504) 834-6449, visit [www.nodc.org](http://www.nodc.org), or e-mail [norma@nodc.org](mailto:norma@nodc.org). Registration booklets can be downloaded from the LDA Web site at [www.ladental.org](http://www.ladental.org). Don't miss out on this incredible value!

**DATE/TIME:** April 17, 2009 (registration from 8 to 8:30 a.m., course begins at 8:30 a.m.)  
**COURSE TITLE:** For Want of a Nail – What to Know Before Attempting to Restore Teeth  
**LOCATION:** Clarion Hotel, 1419 E. 70th Street, Shreveport, La. 71105  
**SPONSOR:** Ark La Tex Academy of Dentistry, contact Dr. Clint Bruyere at (903) 753-0337 or [clint.bruyere@arklatexacademy.com](mailto:clint.bruyere@arklatexacademy.com). AGD-PACE and ADA-CERP recognized provider. Visit [www.arklatexacademy.com](http://www.arklatexacademy.com) for more information or to download a registration form.  
**CREDIT HOURS:** 7, clinical, lecture  
**DESIGNED FOR:** All  
**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Tom Colquitt  
**FEES:** Dr. non-member fee - \$245 (non-refundable \$45 if not received by deadline) and staff/lab tech fee - \$45 (non-refundable \$55 if not received by deadline)

**DATE/TIME:** May 22, 2009 (8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.)  
**COURSE TITLE:** Oral Pathology  
**LOCATION:** Baton Rouge, Manship Theater in the Shaw Center  
**SPONSOR:** Continuing Dental Education of Baton Rouge, contact Dr. Joey Porter at (225) 291-9900. AGD-PACE recognized provider.  
**CREDIT HOURS:** 7, clinical, lecture  
**DESIGNED FOR:** All  
**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Jim Weir  
**FEES:** CDEBR member – free; non-member - \$200; hygienist - \$25; staff – first two free.  
**DATE:** July 29-August 1, 2009 (8 a.m. to noon each day)

### LDA Membership Fishing Rodeo

**July 17-18, 2009**, Sand Dollar Marina, Grand Isle, La. Watch for more information as it becomes available!

**COURSE TITLE:** LDA Summer Education Conference  
**LOCATION:** Tops'l Beach and Racquet Resort  
**SPONSOR:** LDA - For reservations, call (800) 380-4808. For event information or to register, call (800) 388-6642 or go to [www.ladental.org](http://www.ladental.org). ADA-CERP recognized provider.  
**CREDIT HOURS:** 16, lecture  
**DESIGNED FOR:** All  
**INSTRUCTORS:** Drs. Martin Goldstein, Neal Patel, Michael Ragan and Peter Baragona  
**FEES:** \$295 for LDA members, \$335 for ADA members, \$365 for non-members, \$99 for dental staff, \$79 for LDA associate members, \$79 for dental school students.

### LDA Last Chance Seminar

**November 13, 2009**, Baton Rouge, La. Watch for more information as it becomes available!



# 2009 Course Schedule

(All courses are held at LSUSD unless stated otherwise.)

COURSE NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION & SUBJECT CODE		FEES	Cr.HRS C or NC
09-09	March 20 Friday	<i>Medications that are Important to Dentistry [a Pharmacology Update] and Drug Abuse: Its Impact on Dentistry [a Brief Overview]</i> w/Pamela Sims, PhD	DDS RDH	\$265 \$165	07 L C
11-09	March 27 – 29 Friday - Sunday	<i>“Expanded Duty Dental Assistant” (“EDDA”)</i> w/Nancy Weiss, RDH, EFDA, Henrietta Frederick, CDA, EDDA and B. J. Triay, CDA, EDDA	Assistant	\$389	24 L/P C
14-09	March 28 Saturday	<i>Digital &amp; Conventional Radiology for Dental Assistants</i> w/Drs. Kavas Thunthy and J. Sean Hubar	Assistant	\$139	07 L/P C
10-09	April 16-18 Thurs. – Sat.	<i>Cosmetic Dentistry 301 #780</i> w/Dr. Jimmy Eubank <b>LIMITED ATTENDANCE</b>	DDS Lab Tech RDH/Asst.	\$2,995 \$1,495 \$395	14 L 10 P C
12-09	April 24 Friday	<i>Five-Minute Temporaries #610</i> with Dr. Harry Goza	DDS or 1 <sup>st</sup> Attendee 2 <sup>nd</sup> Attendee	\$245 \$195	07 L/P C
13-09	May 8 - 10 Friday - Sunday	<i>“Expanded Duty Dental Assistant” (“EDDA”)</i> <b>[Sold Out]</b> w/Nancy Weiss, RDH, EDDA, Henrietta Frederick, CDA, EDDA and B. J. Triay, CDA, EDDA <b>at Lafayette Health Care Clinic</b>	Assistant	\$449	24 L/P C
15-09	May 15 Friday	<i>A New Way of Looking at Endo Instrumentation and Filling Techniques</i> w/Dr. Sergio Kuttler <i>We thank DENTSPLY Tulsa Dental Specialties for their support</i>	DDS	\$215*	04 L 03 P C
16-09	June 5 – 7 Friday - Sunday	<i>“Expanded Duty Dental Assistant” (“EDDA”)</i> w/Nancy Weiss, RDH, EDDA, Henrietta Frederick, CDA, EDDA and B. J. Triay, CDA, EDDA	Assistant	\$389	24 L/P C
17-09	June 6 Saturday	<i>Digital &amp; Conventional Radiology for Dental Assistants</i> w/Drs. Kavas Thunthy and J. Sean Hubar	Assistant	\$139	07 L/P C
18-09	June 12-14 July 17-18 August 21-23	<i>Local Anesthesia for Dental Hygienists</i> w/Drs. Michael O’Brien and Frank Drongowski A Three (3) Session Course	Hygienist	\$1,265	70 L/P C
19-09	June 26 Friday	<i>Digital Dental Photography 101</i> w/Dr. Harry Goza and Dr. Michael Robichaux <b>at LSU Main Campus, Baton Rouge, LA</b>	DDS RDH/Asst. 2 to 4 Asst. 5 or more	\$269* \$209* \$199* \$189*	06 L/P C

L = Lecture P = Participation C = Clinical NC = Non-Clinical  
\*Early Registration Fee Available

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David Austin

## Corduroy pillows are making headlines!

It's no secret that most of the nation is in one of the worst recessions ever. Why don't we just call it a depression and get it over with.

Recently, I hired a new staff member. She asked what her salary would be and I told her that she could name her own salary. Except, I had already named mine Fred, so she couldn't use that one. Unfortunately, she did not stay very long. Seems she wanted payment in money, and I was having an out-of-money experience at that time.

The other day I had a long-time employee quit after I found out she had a pet cat. I like cats too, so I suggested we exchange recipes.

No doubt about it, times are tough. I have had many patients lose their jobs. I had a patient the other day pay me in several bottles of wine. He had heard that I love cooking with it. Sometimes I even put it in the food.

I try to encourage everyone I see. I tell them that life is too short and now is a good time to follow your dreams. Except the one where you're walking around naked in a cemetery. Please, don't do that one.

When I found out that my 401K had become a 201K, I developed a slight kleptomania habit. But when that gets really bad, I take something for it. All this worry has caused me to suspect that I may also be schizophrenic. It's really not so bad because when I'm really down, at least I have each other.

It really does us no good to lament the fact that the economy is down, our retirement savings are dwindling and we might not be as busy as we would like to be, and I have a vulture nesting in my back yard that stares at me every morning, and lately my short-term memory is not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my short-term memory's not as sharp as it used to be.

With all the worry going on in the world, I think it is worth reflecting on the death of a very important person. Larry LaPrise, a man I have always looked up to and who wrote "The Hokey Pokey" died peacefully recently at the age of 93. The most traumatic part for



his family was getting him into the coffin. They put his left leg in. And then the trouble started.

Things could be a lot worse than they are. What is left of my retirement savings is securely ensconced in the hallowed vaults of Bear Stearns. Actually I believe it is now with Lehman Brothers. No, that's not correct. Must be with Bank of America. No that's not right either, perhaps with AIG, no that's not it...

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