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WINTER 2013

LDA Journal

Journal of the Louisiana Dental Association

ADA Mission of Mercy (MOM)

*New Orleans, LA
November 3, 2013*

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LDA Journal

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OF DENTAL EDITORS

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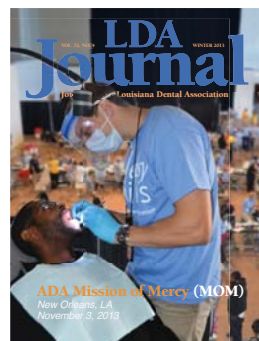
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Established in 1878, the Louisiana Dental Association (LDA) is the largest professional health organization for dentists in Louisiana. It is a statewide grassroots organization whose purpose is to promote, advocate, and protect the dental professional. The LDA has nearly 1,900 members.

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(For more info and photos, see pages 6-8.)

On the cover: The American Dental Association, the Louisiana Dental Association and America's Dentists Care Foundation hosted a Mission of Mercy (MOM) charity dental clinic on Sunday, November 3 at Mardi Gras World in New Orleans. Hundreds of volunteer dentists and dental team members treated over 750 patients. Mardi Gras World was transformed into a 100-chair dental clinic treating adults and children who have limited financial resources or are otherwise unable to visit a dental office. Patients were treated from 5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Pictured here is second-year dental student, Jack Daigrepoint, with a Mission of Mercy patient.

LDA members can view the Journal online at www.ladental.org.



LDA

from the editor

Dr. David N. Austin
Editor, LDA Journal

The Ant and The Grasshopper

You may remember this story from your childhood. But sometimes we get busy and don't remember how the story was told. So let's look at it 21st century style.

All spring and summer long, the ant works hard every day. He does what most normal ants do. He labors building his house and laying up supplies for the coming winter.

The grasshopper thinks the ant is a fool and a complete idiot and laughs and dances and plays the summer away.

Along comes the cold winter and the grasshopper sees the ant inside his warm house eating a hot meal.

So the shivering grasshopper calls a press conference and demands to know why the ant should be allowed to be warm and well fed while he is cold and starving.

CBS, NBC, PBS, CNN, and ABC show up to provide pictures of the shivering grasshopper next to a video of the ant in his comfortable home with a table filled with food.

The **Insect Nation** is stunned, stunned I tell you, by the sharp contrast. How can this be that in a country of such wealth, this poor, forlorn grasshopper is allowed to suffer so?

Occupy the Anthill stages a demonstration lasting days in front of the ant's house where the news stations film masses of grasshoppers holding signs that say, 'Ant's Are Greedy' and 'Ants Sting Grasshoppers Where It Hurts.'

Several of the **Insect Nation** Senators gather together and exclaimed on **The View** that the ant has gotten rich off the back of the grasshopper, and call for an immediate tax hike

on the ant to make him pay his fair share.

The President of the **Insect Nation** condemns the ant and blames previous administrations for the grasshopper's plight.

Finally the EEOC drafts the **Economic Equity & Anti-Grasshopper Act**, retroactive to the beginning of the summer.

The ant is fined for failing to hire a proportionate number of less-educated green bugs to help him during the building months. And, having nothing left to pay his retroactive taxes, his home is confiscated by the **Government Green Czar** and given to the grasshopper.

The story ends as we see the grasshopper and his free-loading friends finishing up the last bits of the ant's food while the government house he is in, which as you recall just happens to be the ant's old house, crumbles around them because the grasshopper doesn't maintain it.

The ant has disappeared in the snow, never to be heard from again.

The grasshopper is eventually found dead in a drug related incident, and the house, now abandoned, is taken over by a gang of spiders who terrorize the ramshackle, once prosperous and peaceful, neighborhood.

If only the busy ant was a member of some ant organization that would have kept him up on current events and actually advocated on behalf of the ant, then perhaps the ending of this story could be different.

But then, this is only a silly story.

LDA RECEIVED ADA GOLDEN APPLE



The Louisiana Dental Association won the ADA's 2013 Golden Apple Award for Achievement in Dental School/Student Involvement in Organized Dentistry for the LDA's outreach to the LSU School of Dentistry. This award is the result of the combined efforts and support of our Council on Membership, Board of Directors and staff. Pictured here accepting the award on behalf of the association are: (from left) Dr. Gary Roberts, 12th District Trustee on the ADA Board of Directors; Dr. Robert Faiella, American Dental Association 2012-2013 president; Dr. Johnnie Hunt, LDA chair of the Council on Membership; Dr. Bob Barsley, representing the LSUHSC School of Dentistry; Sharon Elliott, LDA director of membership development; and Ward Blackwell, LDA executive director.



LDA from the president

*Dr. Stephanie Weaver
President, Louisiana Dental Association*

“We Have the Power to Help ... So We Should.”

The city of New Orleans hosted the American Dental Association Annual Session for the first time since 2002. It is an enormous undertaking that takes more than two years to plan and an army of volunteers to make successful. Dr. Robert Barsley served as chairman of local arrangements and Dr. Bill Hadlock as vice-chair. In addition, Drs. David Hildebrandt, Pete Glaser, Kay Jordan, Eddie Hebert, David DeGenova, and Gerry Williams served various roles on the committee. All of these volunteers have not only given up time at this conference and at planning meetings, but at the prior annual session in San Francisco. We owe them all many thanks for their sacrifices and hard work for making the conference possible again in New Orleans.

More than 23,000 people attended the conference and visited the city. Most of them attended classes, and almost all of them visited the vendors and learned about new products and gadgets. Several hundred people worked tirelessly in the House of Delegates, an often thankless job, deciding policy and fees for the ADA. These are your representatives and your voice, and they give up most of the continuing education and product viewing to attend to House business. We also owe them all many thanks for their sacrifices and hard work. This group works EVERY year to make our association truly “organized” dentistry.

The Annual Session opened with former president Bill Clinton as key note speaker. President Clinton is well known as a dynamic and popular speaker. Regardless of your political affiliations, it is hard to resist hearing a former president in person. However, it was the speaker before Clinton that I will remember always. Dr. Sherwin Shinn is not a paid speaker or a former president, but he delivered a speech that was priceless. He is the recipient of the ADA Humanitarian Award and his message was simple and powerful: “We don’t know which children will turn out to lead their countries and communities ... so we have to save them all. And, we have the power to help ... so we should.” He also said in part, “It’s humbling to see how people are afflicted and know that you have the

capability to fix it. That’s what we dentists do.”

Almost everyone who heard Dr. Shinn would have signed up for mission trips on the spot that morning! But, it isn’t quite that simple. It isn’t the concept of doing good that we wrestle with, it is the scheduling. In a busy world, it becomes too easy to do nothing. This is where we often falter. We think that if we can’t crawl through jungles, that we aren’t doing enough. The challenge is to do whatever you can and then build upon that in the future.

Give to your local charities. A donation to the LSU School of Dentistry or the LDA Foundation is valuable. During this year’s ADA Annual Session, the ADA paired up with the LDA and hosted its first Mission of Mercy (MOM) at Mardi Gras World in New Orleans (see pages 6-8 for more info and photos). It was a great success and the LDA is hoping to repeat this service in Louisiana in early 2015 (probably in Baton Rouge). We will need donations (and will be applying for grants) and volunteers (dentists, spouses, hygienists, assistants, lab techs, friends). If you are interested in mission work, contact the LDA and let them know you want to be part of this revolutionary event here in our own state! Stay tuned for more information as plans are finalized.

No contributions are too small, but dentistry has too much potential to do nothing! As Dr. Shinn said, “We have the power to help ... so we should.”

LDA Summer Education Conference

Date: July 30 - August 2, 2014

NEW LOCATION: Sandestin Golf and
Beach Resort, Destin, FL

Rates can be found at www.ladental.org.



LDA

lsu school of dentistry

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

Center Stage at ADA Annual Session

LSUSD Served Integral Role in Mission of Mercy

Pride, gratitude and reward are words that best describe my feelings about the involvement of the LSUHSC School of Dentistry (LSUSD) in the American Dental Association (ADA) Annual Session this fall. The support of our faculty, students, residents and staff went beyond my expectations. From the local arrangements to the successful Mission of Mercy (MOM) outreach, the LSUSD team served with professionalism, accountability and compassion.

The annual session required a tremendous number of volunteers and 300 of the 365 volunteers required were from Louisiana. In addition to the many dental professionals who participated, all of our students and residents were strongly encouraged to get involved and serve in at least one of over 700 volunteer roles. School schedules were altered to allow for their participation. Following the session, I received so much positive feedback. Dr. Nels Ewoldsen, a dentist from Indiana, called to express his appreciation for our students. “Unbelievable—that’s the best way to describe my experience with the LSU students,” he said. “Their rapport, respect for the profession and overall attitudes were off the charts.”

On a social level, the LSUSD alumni reception brought all the goodwill together. Over 400 alumni, students and friends attended and several of our alumni classes held reunion celebrations in venues throughout downtown. The support of our alumni is integral to our success. Because of their generosity, we are able to do much more with less in these difficult economic times.

In cooperation with the Louisiana Dental Association (LDA), the ADA photography staff held an all-day session at the school to update their stock photographs for print and online publications. Many of their photos were dated and current photos were needed to accommodate their publication needs. They staged the event from a conference room and spent the entire day photographing volunteer dentists, faculty and students on campus. In addition to increased national exposure for LSUSD and the Louisiana dental community, the photos will be



Second-year dental student, Jack Daigrepoint, and Dean Henry Gremillion with Mission of Mercy outreach patient.

released for use in our publications. Special thanks to the LDA for helping to arrange this valuable opportunity.

Earlier in that week, the LSUSD Chapter of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) hosted its annual Loupes Fair to accommodate the schedule of corporate supporters. Its purpose is to increase student awareness of loupes products and to raise funds to benefit ASDA student activities. Nearly \$2,000 was raised to support the chapter’s mission of developing student leaders and community service.

The finale event, Mission of Mercy (MOM), was a meaningful end to a great session. (See photos on pages 6-8.) Setting up a temporary dental clinic is no easy feat. The one-day clinic offered a full range of dental services—from dental prophylaxis to oral surgery, operative and prosthodontic services. Behind the scenes, volunteers were involved in sterilization, supply distribution and making partial and full dentures for patients. Local volunteers worked alongside national coordinators to ensure the services were delivered in

a safe and effective manner. Several of the key local volunteers were LSUSD faculty. In addition to our involvement, Dr. Toby Cheramie, admissions director, enlisted the support of pre-dental society members from colleges statewide and approximately 230 Loyola University students and alumni volunteers set up the clinic.

Overall, 1100 volunteers participated and 780 patients were treated. The event, held at Blaine Kern's Mardi Gras World, was the first MOM held in Louisiana. Dr. Maria Burmaster, the local chairman for the one-day event, hopes to duplicate the outreach in other parts of the state. "It was wonderful," said Dr. Burmaster. "We had a great response from the patients ... they were so grateful. I look forward to partnering with the school and community on future events."

The event was equally meaningful for our students. Opportunities like MOM help our students to understand the importance of service. Reid Owens, fourth-year dental student and LSUSD ASDA president, stated, "It was awe-inspiring to participate in the ADA Mission of Mercy. From sunrise to sunset, Mardi Gras World served as our stage to display how brilliant organized dentistry can be when given the opportunity to serve."

On November 4, LSUSD also had the opportunity to partner with the Alliance of the American Dental Association (AADA) to launch the first "Healthy Smiles from the Start" initiative at Touro Infirmary in New Orleans. The national program aims to educate pregnant mothers on the importance of early prenatal intervention in dental health as well as provide pertinent information on oral health care for their children. Healthy Smiles from the Start, available in both English and Spanish, is engaging and provides helpful information about how and why healthy mouth habits should be a priority for everyone in the family. At Touro, 750 oral health kits were distributed to educate prenatal mothers. AADA members plan to have the program in at least three prenatal classes per state within the first year, increasing to 10 per state by the end of 2016. Henry Schein Foundation has committed to a three-year sponsorship of the effort.

Robert Barsley, D.D.S., J.D., professor, Department of Comprehensive Dentistry and Biomaterials, served as the ADA general chairman on the Committee of Local Arrangements. "So many participants from across the country expressed their appreciation for a great session," said Dr. Barsley. "It was certainly a job well-done and we should all be proud."

Thanks to everyone for their service and commitment to this important event. We especially appreciate the ADA and the LDA staff for their many hours of work to ensure a successful session for all participants. It was an honor for LSUSD to be an integral part of the event's success.



LSUHSC School of Dentistry 2014 Events

A Day of Giving Back

A Full Day of C.E. with All Proceeds Benefiting the Renovation of the Pre-clinical Simulation Labs at LSU School of Dentistry

Friday, March 14, 2014, at LSU School of Dentistry
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*For further information and to register:
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DATE: Saturday, February 1
EVENT: Pre-Dental 101 Workshop
TIME: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
PROVIDER: LSUHSC School of Dentistry
MORE INFO: <http://www.lsupreudent.org/>

DATE: Saturday, February 15
EVENT: 8th Annual Clay Pigeon Shoot
TIME: 8:00 a.m. - til
LOCATION: Southern Shooting Center
Thibodaux, LA

DATE: Friday, September 19
EVENT: Alumni Day
Post TGIF Celebration
TIME: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
LOCATION: LSUHSC School of Dentistry
New Orleans, LA
MORE INFO: For more information, please contact
Katie Kelley or Joanne Courville at
(504) 941-8120 or kkell2@lsuhsc.edu.

2,835 NUMBER OF PROCEDURES

266 x-rays | 553 surgical procedures
| 393 fillings | 270 cleanings | 35
sealants | 205 fluoride treatments
| 17 endodontic procedures | 50
partials | 8 denture repairs | 7 add
teeth | 5 upper and 3 lower dentures
| 1 enamel plasty | 1 palliative
(emergency) treatment of dental pain
| 269 medications delivered onsite



ada mission of mercy new orleans, la

Stats provided by
the America's Dentists Care Foundation.



1,119

VOLUNTEERS

from



42 States





755 patients
785 patient visits
 *30 patients made a second visit

752 EXAMS

(755 medical triage exams – 3 failed, 30 return patient visits recorded, 10 people left between registration and medical, 10 people left after triage without receiving recommended treatment)



YOUNGEST PATIENT AGE 1

OLDEST PATIENT AGE 92

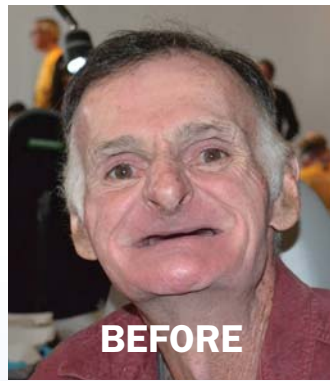
AVERAGE PATIENT AGE 39.46

MEDIAN PATIENT AGE 39



\$387,093.50

The cost of total care provided
 that's **\$512.71/patient!**



**Before and After
Denture Patient:**

This patient received dentures through the MOM program. He lost most of his teeth 33 years ago and his children and grandchildren had never seen him with a mouth full of teeth. He planned to eat anything and everything he wanted that day with his new set of teeth!



(From left) Ward Blackwell, Sen. David Heitmeier (chair of Louisiana Senate Health and Welfare), Dr. Maria Burmaster, Dr. Kent Percy, and Diane Ribando.



(From left) ADA President Dr. Charles Norman, ADA Executive Director Dr. Kathleen T. O'Loughlin, LDA Executive Director Ward Blackwell, Louisiana Senator David Heitmeier, and Past ADA President Robert A. Faiella.



Three volunteers, including local chair Dr. Maria Burmaster (front), at the ADA Mission of Mercy in New Orleans, hard at work.



(Top, from left) Dr. Bill Hadlock, Dr. Marty Garrett, Dr. Kent Percy, Dean Henry Gremillion and Ward Blackwell. (Bottom front) Rep. Scott Simon, chair of the Louisiana House Health and Welfare Committee.



Dr. Larry Wallace, Dr. Chris Rutherford, Dr. Sally Daly and Chris Counce (Patterson Dental) with a denture patient.



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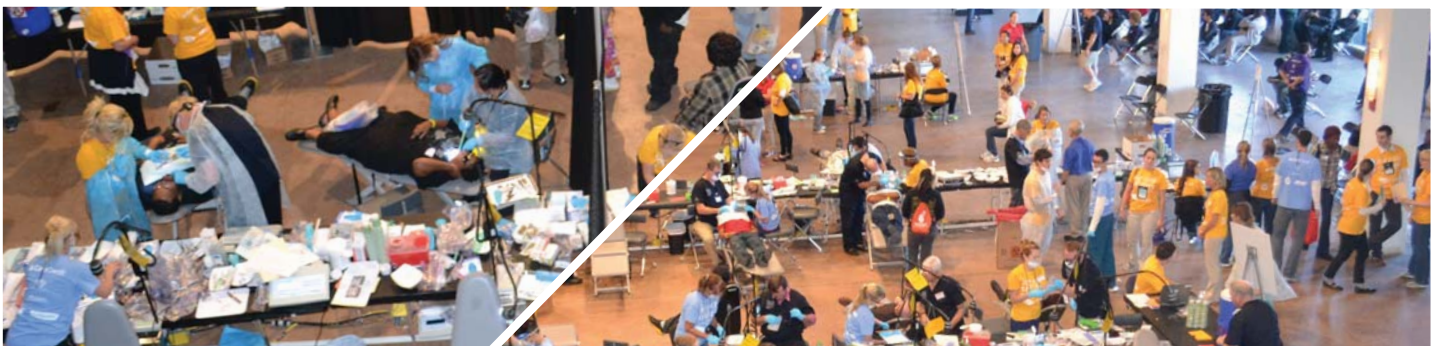
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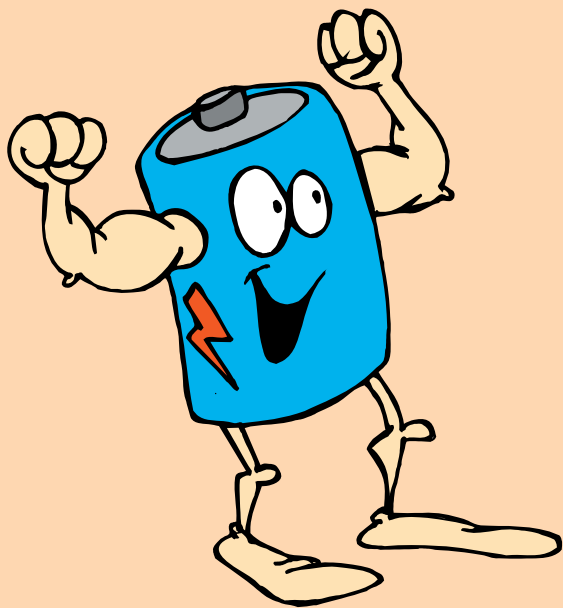


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Patterson Dental would like to thank everyone for a successful ADA Annual Session and a great experience at the ADA Mission of Mercy in New Orleans.

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Dr. Linda Talley, Ph.D.
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Ms. Dawn Wiedow



Dr. Brian Gurinsky, a Fortress Dentist.

I live in Denver, Colorado. God's Country. I skied here once in college and that was it, I wanted to live near the mountains.

I started my own practice in 2003. Our practice is focused on implants and soft tissue grafting and we see patients of all ages. They all call me by my first name.

I chose periodontics because I like the challenge of surgery and the ever-changing techniques and materials. We do a wide variety of procedures and each case is unique.

I believe in creating a caring and nurturing environment for my patients. I see one person at a time and everyone gets specialized care. After surgery we send them home with a bag of food and call them that night. We try to do the little things. That sets our practice apart.

I'm involved in the academic side of the profession. I teach surgery and do active clinical research. I'm the leading researcher on a revolutionary new material that may change the way we do gum grafts.

I am a sports and music junkie. Living here is so conducive to staying fit. I enjoy skiing, basketball, tennis, running and triathlons to help me decompress and stay on top of it all.

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Submitted by Pauline Rick
U.S. Public Relations Coordinator, Mercy Ships

Dr. Michael Walker, A Man on a Mission

Dr. Michael Walker, a ‘life’ member of the LDA, might also be considered a ‘life’ volunteer. He retired from a thriving private dental practice in Monroe in 2003. But, retirement didn’t mean slowing down for this 65-year-old. Dr. Walker was determined to use his dentistry skills to help those in need nearby, and in countries around the world.

During the past 10 years, Dr. Walker has been on 48 mission trips in 16 different countries. He also volunteered in Slidell after Hurricane Katrina. On 24 of those trips he used his dental skills to help patients, many of whom had no other access to dental care.

Dr. Walker recently returned from volunteering with Mercy Ships in the Republic of Congo, Africa. He lived onboard the *Africa Mercy* hospital ship with about 400 other volunteers from 35 nations. Onboard the vessel, surgeons provided free operations to remove facial tumors, repair hernias and release burn contractures, among other surgeries. Dr. Walker joined a dental team that offered free



The Africa Mercy is the world's largest private hospital ship staffed by a volunteer crew of 400 from 35 nations. Currently docked in Congo-Brazzaville, Africa, the crew are providing free maxillofacial, cataract removal, hernia repairs and other operations onboard.

dental procedures in an eight-bed dental clinic housed remotely. Many of his patients had never received dental care before and all were grateful for the free dental treatments.

One young patient sticks out in his mind. A nine-year-old girl needed to have several painful, rotten teeth removed and required multiple pain injections. At the end of the treatment, she handed him a small doll she had been clutching. “She wanted to give me something as thanks for helping her. In America, this little doll wouldn’t have meant much, but to this girl in Africa it was one of a very few toys she had,” said Dr. Walker.

That touched my heart and made the whole trip worth it,” he added. “My time on the Mercy Ship is an experience I wouldn’t trade for anything. I always come home feeling I’ve gotten back more than I ever gave. So many people giving whatever talents or skills they have to help others, it’s truly encouraging.”

Dr. Mark Bullock, lead Mercy Ships dentist commended him by saying, “Dr. Mike Walker was a pleasure to have at my clinic. He has a passion for the poor and dentally needy, which is only surpassed by his commitment to excellence and putting his faith into action. He is a credit to the great state of Louisiana.”

Dr. Walker is indeed a man on a mission – a mission to help others. For more information, visit www.mercyships.org.



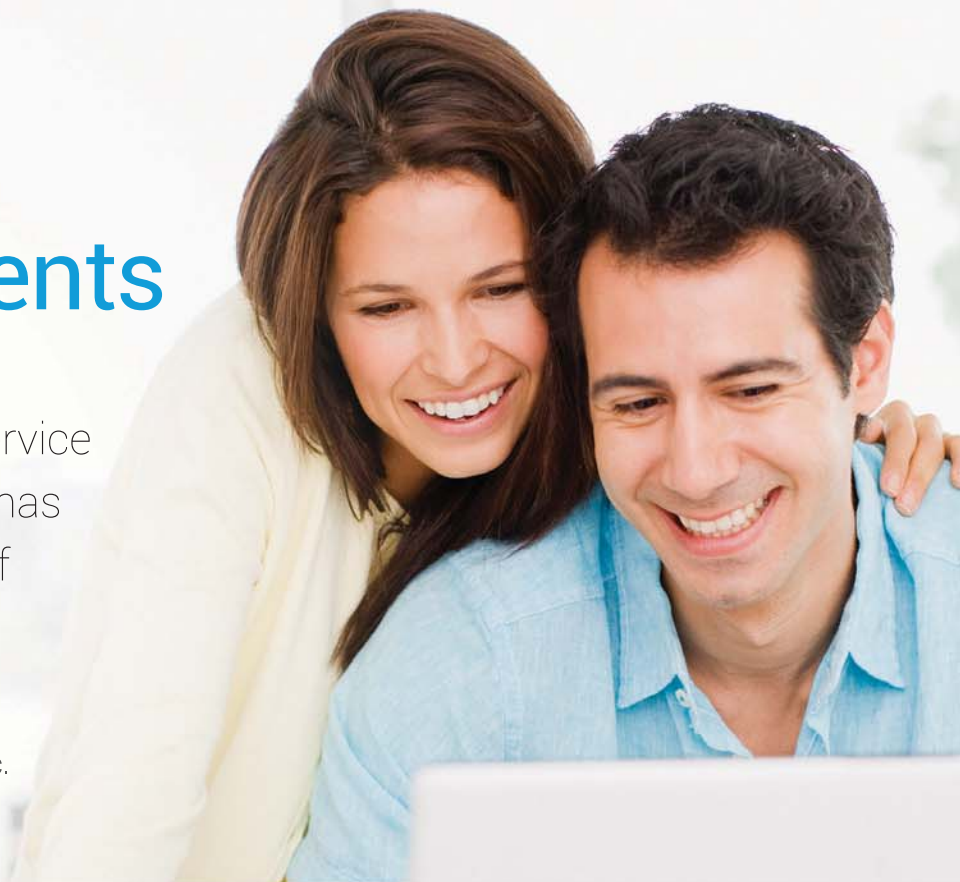
Dr. Michael Walker recently returned from the Republic of Congo, Africa, where he completed his 48th mission trip, which was his third time volunteering with Mercy Ships.

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- Dr. Mike Maginnis

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LDA Louisiana dental services, inc.

Dr. Michael J. Maginnis
President, Louisiana Dental Services, Inc.

LDS Uses New Criteria for Evaluating Current Endorsements

The ADA Annual Session was certainly the highlight of the last few months of 2013. Besides a wide range of C.E. opportunities, over 3,100 vendors were present and offered anything and everything one could imagine. (The foot massage booth was very popular.)

Several of the companies that are endorsed by the LDA were present, including Fortress Insurance Company and its president, Bill Passolt. At the same booth was Stormy Blair of Brown & Brown of LA, LLC dba Robert Ellis & Associates, the LDA's endorsed insurance marketing agency. Listed among the C.E. presentations was ADS Transitions, represented by Gretchen Lovelace and Preston Lovelace, who were presenting advice on buying and selling dental practices.

The C.E. portion of the meeting concluded on Sunday with the Mission of Mercy and the hundreds of volunteers who provided free dental services to approximately 800 patients. The local coordinator, who did a yeoman's task, was our own Dr. Maria Burmaster, one of NODA's representatives on the LDS Board. Thank you Dr. Burmaster for your hard work and dedication!

Just prior to the ADA meeting in New Orleans was the semi-annual LDS Board meeting where Dr. C. Richmond Corley presented a report on his marketing efforts this past year to arrange presentations by selected vendors at local district meetings. This had been a one-year project that Dr. Corley headed up successfully. I say once again, I am so appreciative to Dr. Corley for his many, many years of service to the LDA and LDS! Dr. Corley is now passing on the reigns of local marketing to the LDS Board's own district board members in a similar marketing effort. All district presidents will be asked to allow presentations to be made by selected vendors at the district meetings. We ask that you consider this for one of your component meetings a year, giving members the opportunity to discuss money-saving opportunities for all LDA members.

At the same LDS Board meeting, Ward Blackwell, CEO of LDS, proposed new criteria for evaluating currently endorsed products and services. We plan to identify why a service is favored or used by members or why it isn't, all in an effort to provide the best products and services possible for our members. A list of potential new endorsements was

drawn up and the process has begun to seek proposals that can be presented at the next meeting of the Board in the spring. Certainly, any suggestions for new products or services that any member feels will be beneficial to the LDA as a whole are welcomed.

On a personal note, I spent a few days recently at the Naval Dental School in Bethesda, Maryland, and had the opportunity to tour the facility and observe the efforts being made on behalf of wounded service men and women, particularly with head and neck injuries. The advances in technology and 3D computer printing for producing missing portions of jaws and skulls is astounding and gratifying. Wounded warriors deserve our best.



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LDA dental well-being advisory committee

*Dr. Jamie M. Manders
Chair, LDA Dental Well-Being Advisory Committee*

The Physicians' Health Foundation Takes Over

On January 1, 2014, the Physicians Health Foundation will assume the day-to-day duties formerly performed by the Louisiana Dental Association's Dental Well-Being Advisory Committee. This is truly wonderful news!

As many of you are perhaps aware, the Well-Being Committee (WBC) came into being over 25 years ago when a group of four dental school faculty members and I met to form a committee originally called the Impaired Dentists Committee (IDC). This group was made up of members who had an interest in the problem of addiction among dental professionals, either because they were, themselves, recovering addicts or had been in relationships with addicted dentists. The science of addiction recovery was in its infancy back then, and as members of the IDC, we basically self-educated ourselves. In time, the other members of this original committee either retired or left the LSU School of Dentistry for faculty positions at other schools, leaving me to basically run the committee single-handedly.

Through the years, the WBC functioned under a Memorandum of Understanding – basically a legal collaborative agreement between this LDA committee, the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry (LSBD), and our state legislature. In time it became a race between the WBC and the LSBD to identify dentists with a chemical dependency problem. If an addicted dentist was reported to the LSBD, he or she would often have his or her license revoked or suspended for an arbitrary period of time. If the same addicted dentist was sent to the WBC first, he or she would be referred to an approved treatment center for an evaluation and diagnosis and presented with a treatment plan. In the event that the dentist agreed to the treatment plan and followed it through, his or her name would never reach the attention of the LSBD and the WBC would monitor his or her compliance in adhering to it for a period

of five years. Elements of the treatment plan were individualized but always included requirements to attend after-care meetings, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings and Caduceus meetings, as well as to having the random urine and/or blood screenings. If the dentist were ever reported to the LSBD, he or she would be protected from prosecution by the Board in accordance with the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Approximately two years ago, I decided to retire from the practice of dentistry due to serious health issues. I made a serious effort to locate a dentist willing to assume the now quite considerable duties of the chairmanship of the WBC as an unpaid volunteer, but, not surprisingly, I found no takers. This is probably as it should have been, because in the previous 25-plus years, the field of addictionology had evolved into a profession. As I attended numerous well-being meetings and seminars presented by the American Dental Association in Chicago over the years, I had become increasingly aware that the physicians and dentists of many other states were moving away from the initial volunteer model toward the paid professional model of dealing with addiction.

Often during my tenure as WBC chairman, I relied upon the advice and guidance of the Physicians Health Foundation (PHF), a professional non-profit organization founded by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners (LSBME, the physicians' equivalent of the LSBD). I came to recognize that the physicians' model was far superior to ours. Rather than a race to identify addicted professionals by a professional board and a WBC, the LSBME simply referred all physicians suspected of having a chemical dependency problem to the PHF. Only in the unlikely event that the physician refused to comply with the recommendations of the PHF was he or she referred back to the LSBME for disciplinary action.

I began to understand this to be an advance in the way of dealing with the problem of addiction among professionals. Without going into all of the arduous details, after a couple of years and a presentation to the LSBDB by the PHF, the LSBDB agreed to adopt the physicians' model for the dentists of Louisiana.

There was only one major problem. Professionals do not work for free. However, again following the lead of the physicians, and with the invaluable assistance of the LDA, the necessary legislation was passed to amend the Dental Practice Act in order to assess each dentist \$25 and each hygienist \$15 per year to fund a contract for professional addiction identification, testing, treatment referral and recovery monitoring services. Physicians Health Foundation (fortunately) won the competitive bid to provide those services for the dentists and hygienists of Louisiana.

Some grumbling among some dentists and hygienists over these very reasonable fees is, I suppose, to be expected, for some of these truly believe that the problem of chemical dependency does not affect them. My own extensive experience working with addiction among dentists and

hygienists in Louisiana convinces me, however, that this serious issue touches nearly each and every one of us in some way. Statistically, one in 10 dentists will become "impaired" at some time during his or her career. We all know addicted dentists and hygienists, even if we do not recognize their impairment. We all have had or will have dentist friends or classmates who have died or will die prematurely or as a result of suicide, who have been through or will go through divorces and other reversals of fortune originating, at least in part, out of the problem of chemical dependency. By institutionalizing a treatment rather than punitive approach to the management of chemical dependency, we encourage earlier intervention and mitigate the damage done to practices and lives by (sometimes catastrophic) delays in reporting problems among our colleagues.

Hopefully, you now understand why I believe that the Physicians' Health Foundation assuming the duties of the Well-Being Committee on January 1, 2014, is indeed wonderful news for all of us, and a bargain to boot.

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LDA

from the executive director

Ward Blackwell, M.J.
Executive Director, LDA

'Tis the -30- Season

As the number of days remaining in the year dwindles to single digits, media outlets of all sorts will almost certainly spawn a bevy of "Year in Review" reports. Old school journalists often call these "-30-" stories, a reference to the journalistic convention of ending a news article with the notation "-30-." (Note: this is for the editor's benefit and rarely shows up in actual published material except by accident.)

There are so many of these reports, you're almost certain to catch at least a few by the time you're eating black-eyed peas New Years Day. I figured there ought to be one for the LDA as well. But I can't BEGIN to cover EVERYTHING that happened with the LDA this year. So, here are the highest of highlights.

The ADA Annual Session coming to New Orleans was arguably the biggest single event, attracting a total of nearly 24,000 attendees. ADA and LDA staff were joined by hundreds of volunteer dentists who worked to make the event successful, including quite a few who were among the more than 1,100 volunteers at the ADA/LDA Mission of Mercy (MOM) project held at Mardi Gras World at the end of the Annual Session. Besides providing better than \$350,000 in care for over 750 patients, the MOM generated huge positive publicity for the dental profession.

Dental Medicaid will soon be administered by a private dental benefit plan, as previously reported. (See my column in the Fall 2013 issue of the LDA Journal for more background.) An RFP soliciting bids from plans to do this work is to be released about the time you read this. Major LDA successes in this process include:

- There will be a single plan, unlike the Bayou Health (medical) part of Medicaid which has five plans.
- The 1.5% rate cut enacted in August will be reversed when the selected plan takes over from the State, presumably in April of 2014.
- In both the RFP and in their evaluation of plans that bid, DHH officials have indicated they will take into account specific concerns of Medicaid dentists that were delineated by the LDA in a letter to DHH.

Attempts to collect sales taxes on dental devices that are exempt following audits of dental offices by the Lafayette Parish School System (LPSS) were protested by the Acadiana District Dental Association (ADDA). Late last

year, ADDA retained LDA's legal counsel and received a resolution of support from the LDA board for this effort. In a letter dated July 2, 2013, LPSS notified the LDA/ADDA attorney that they did not intend to pursue litigation in the matter of the dentists' sales tax protests over whether or not they are entitled to exemption from local sales tax under the law the LDA got passed several years ago. Shortly thereafter, the protesting dentists received revised notices of taxes due that were substantially lower than the original notices. Expectations are that this will have a ripple effect in parishes in which similar audits are being conducted or planned.

The LSU School of Dentistry's funding from the State has declined nearly 60% since 2008 and the school has very limited authority to raise tuition, even though it's among the lowest in the U.S. This year, LDA helped LSUSD pass a bill creating new student fees (supported by students) to address some supply costs and partially make up for the funding constraints.

LDA was recognized with an ADA Golden Apple Award for its support for, and outreach to, LSUSD. Student-related LDA programs include participation in freshman orientation, lunch & learns, Senior Reception, Signing Day and support for ASDA fundraisers and Awards Day.

Louisiana Dental Services (LDS) adopted a new evaluation/endorsement process that includes member satisfaction surveys, market scanning, assessment benchmarks, pilot programs and a competitive bidding process to ensure the highest quality and value in its endorsements going forward.

The LDA's Winter Lecture Series is going to Walt Disney World® Resort in February 2014, thanks to a bold initiative of the LDA Council on Dental Education this year. This change has proved so popular that the room block has already sold out, but if you register and book your room immediately, accommodations should still be available. Call the LDA if you have trouble getting a room.

LDA membership topped 1,950 members for 2013, the highest total EVER. That would seem to be a fitting outcome of all the other great accomplishments of 2013.

Plenty more happened this year, and there's plenty more to come. Keep checking the LDA website, Twitter feeds and Facebook page to see all the ways we hope to make 2014 a Happy New Year for all our members!

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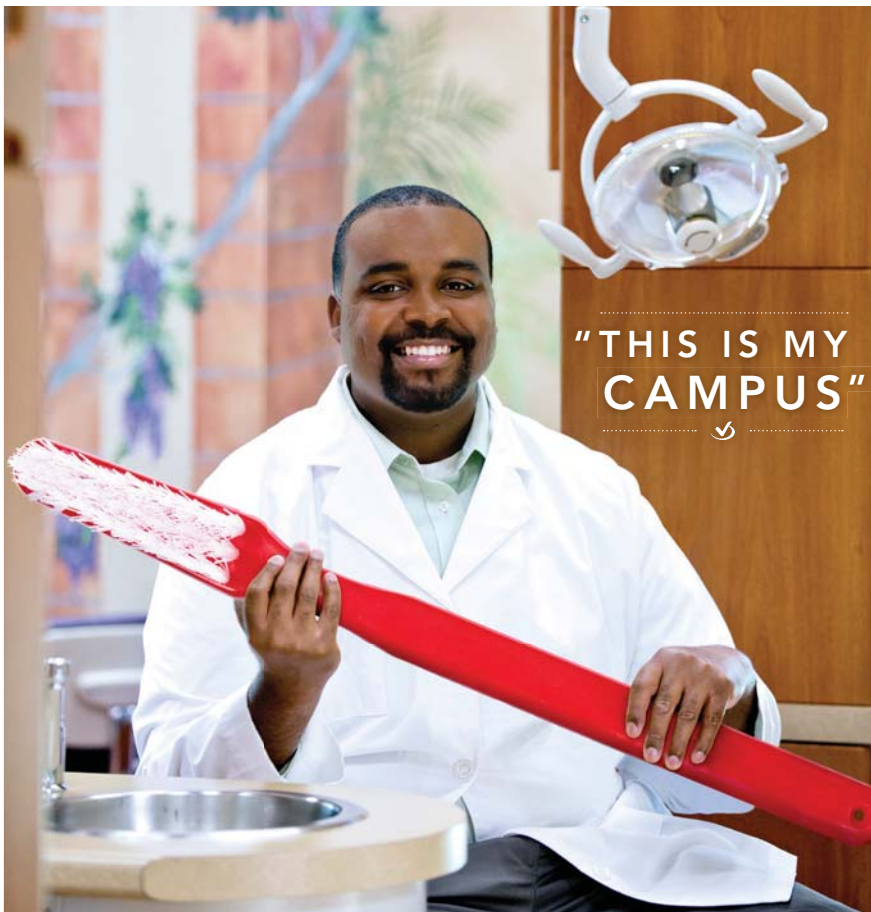
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LDA

last chance seminar

Sherri Jones
Director of Conference Services, LDA

Attendees take their “Last Chance” for C.E. with the LDA

One hundred thirty eight dentists, hygienists and staff chose to finish up their C.E. requirements this year at LDA’s Last Chance Seminar held at The Renaissance Hotel. December 13 was the final opportunity for dentists and their staff to earn seven hours of C.E. credits with the LDA for 2013, and they made sure to take advantage of the affordable price – only \$159 for 7 hours of clinical C.E. for LDA members who registered before the late deadline!

Attendees got an early start to the day with registration and continental breakfast starting at 8 a.m. We were incredibly fortunate to have GC America sponsor our speaker for the seminar, Dr. Todd Snyder. Dr. Snyder, a renowned speaker with a passion for aesthetic dentistry, began his course, “Right Now,” at 8:30 a.m. in which he explored products that create the ability to have earlier diagnostic capabilities to assist in less invasive techniques.

At noon, participants were treated to a robust buffet with traditional Creole offerings such as turtle soup, blackened red fish and bread pudding. Donna Hebert with Brown & Brown of LA dba Robert Ellis & Associates sponsored a gourmet gift basket door prize, won by Dr. Gerard Beyt.

Special thanks to our sponsors who made it possible for the LDA to host such a large C.E. event at an affordable price for our members: **Brown & Brown of LA dba Robert Ellis & Associates (Events Partner), GC America and Garfield**

Refining (Speaker Sponsors), Henry Schein Dental, the LDA Foundation and Louisiana Dental Services, Inc. (LDS).

For more photos from LDA’s Last Chance Seminar, visit www.ladental.org or the Louisiana Dental Membership Facebook page.



Top Image (1): Dr. Chuck Boudreaux, Alicia Hotard, Pam Exnicios and Amber Stabile.

Above (2): Dr. Todd Snyder and Dr. Allan Dennis.



Left: Chasity Faul, Lechelle Emanuel, Dr. Betty Altman, Kylie Stelly, Sarah Forbes and Deidre Howard.



Sarah Gremillion, Casey Mejia, Dr. Rod Cascio and Barbara Tamburo.



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Father/Daughter pair of Dr. Mike Lorio and Kelly Perello.



Dr. Gerard Beyt and Donna Hebert (Brown & Brown of LA dba Robert Ellis & Associates).



Drs. Frances Wiggins and Raphael Baranco.



Dr. Marshall Harrison, Dr. Billy Cannon and Dr. Leroy Boudreaux.



Lori Lee, Dr. Gerald Foster and Dr. Bruce LeBlanc.



louisiana state board of dentistry

Dr. Dean L. Manning
President, Louisiana State Board of Dentistry



Dental Health Professional Monitoring Program Begins Jan. 1, 2014

In my first article this year, I stated our profession of dentistry deserves our respect and protection. By protecting the profession, we can protect the public. The board continues its efforts to protect the public by regulating the practices of dentistry and dental hygiene. Of course, the board cannot do this without the cooperation of its licensees and organized dentistry. The board has made significant strides in protecting the profession this year with the assistance of all concerned.

The board has continued to conduct CDC and anesthesia inspections of dental offices throughout the state. The board has made an effort to communicate with each licensee, both before and after the inspection. The inspector now issues a follow-up letter to each licensee citing any deficiency noted during the inspection. In the event that the deficiency may be corrected, the licensee has a 30 day period within which to provide proof of correction to the board. The board allows for the correction of most deficiencies rather than citing the licensee and initiating a disciplinary action. Of course, there are instances when inspections lead to disciplinary action.

The most prevalent is the failure of the dental practice to properly document the biological testing of their sterilizing units. Spore testing, as it is commonly called, has been in place for many years. The Federal Centers for Disease Control guidelines require the biological testing of the sterilizing unit at least weekly. Therefore, each dental office should be able to document the testing of their sterilizing unit weekly. Each practice should make every effort to comply with the CDC guidelines, most importantly those related to sterilization and infection control. An accurate log can document your efforts if they are called into question in any malpractice action.

Next, beginning in January 2014, each licensee will be entitled to utilize the Dental Health Professional Monitoring Program (Program). The enabling legislation for the Program was the result of a cooperative endeavor between the board and the LDA. The LDA filed the bill and secured its passage in the legislature. We all owe the LDA a debt of gratitude not only for the passage of the enabling legislation, but also for administering the program without charge for so many years. The board

awarded the contract to administer the program to the Physicians Health Foundation of Louisiana (PHFL) in December 2012 and passed the necessary fee provisions which became effective August 20, 2013. Physicians Health has administered the physicians' well-being program since 1984. Therefore, we will have the benefit of PHFL's 30 years of experience in the administration of the Program and the evaluation and monitoring of health care professionals. The board is pleased to have PHFL as the contractor.

I am sure that some of you will be asking exactly what the Program covers and the cost to each of you. The dentists will be charged \$25 and the hygienists \$15, annually. Therefore, at renewal, dentists will pay \$50 and hygienists will pay \$30. The assessed fee covers the Program and monitoring performed by PHFL but it does NOT include the costs associated with any evaluation or treatment, which is required of the licensee that participates in the program.

The primary role of the Program is to offer assistance to dentists and hygienists who may be experiencing any one or a combination of issues that result in impairment or potential impairment. Impairment may include, but is not limited to, one who is unable to practice dentistry or dental hygiene with reasonable skill and safety due to mental illness or deficiency, physical illness, including but not limited to deterioration through the aging process or loss of motor skills, and/or the use or abuse of drugs including alcohol.

It is most important to note that the assistance offered through the Program is confidential. Any licensee who is experiencing one of the noted problems or illnesses for the first time, for which they have not been previously treated, can access the Program without any obligation on the part of PHFL to notify the LSBD. There are a few exceptions which compel notification. PHFL is obligated to notify the LSBD when it receives information indicating a dentist has diverted prescription drugs for sale or trade for other goods and/or services and when a licensee has behaved inappropriately with a patient (boundary violation). While these participants cannot participate confidentially, the board's intent and desire is that potential impairment be detected and treated at the earliest practical opportunity, before it constitutes actual

impairment, thereby preempting the necessity of formal action by the LSBSD.

Once reported to the Program, the staff of PHFL schedules an appointment with the licensee, at which time a review of all of the pertinent information is conducted. At the conclusion of this appointment, the PHFL staff makes recommendations as to whether or not an evaluation would be helpful in determining whether or not an illness exists. An evaluation is often recommended. This evaluation is performed by a team of evaluating/treating professionals and is comprised of a psychiatric assessment with a psychiatrist, an addiction assessment by an addictionologist, a psychological assessment by a psychologist, which includes psychological testing, a history and physical assessment by an internist and a psychosocial assessment by a social worker.

The evaluation and any treatment recommended are not performed by PHFL, rather all evaluations and/or treatments are provided by third parties, approved by the LSBSD. The Program and PHFL do not establish physician-patient or therapist-client relationships with the dentist or hygienist. Rather the licensee is referred to professionals who specialize in treating and assisting professionals. The licensee then typically begins receiving the recommended treatments and at

the conclusion of the treatment, a monitoring contract is executed. The licensee is monitored for a period of time which is consistent with their respective diagnoses, to observe whether or not their illness remains in remission. Monitoring comprises the majority of the work that is undertaken by the PHFL.

PHFL is required to provide an orientation meeting for dentists and dental hygienists in several cities throughout the state during the first year of the contract. At the orientation meetings, the Program will be discussed in greater detail. Suffice it to say, the board and organized dentistry recognize the need for this type of program and its value in protecting the public and the profession.

In closing, I would like to thank my fellow board members, the board staff, and the LDA, its board members and staff, for all that they have done during my tenure as President. Without the cooperation of all of these individuals, it would be impossible to fulfill the mission of the LSBSD.

www.ladental.org

PARAGON

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RECENT TRANSACTIONS

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has acquired the practice of
Kenneth J. Belanger, D.D.S.
& **Ronald P. Bertucci, D.D.S.**
Gretna, Louisiana

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Do You Know Any “Stars?” Help the LDA Honor Them!

The LDA could not deliver so many valuable benefits for its members without the hard work of some truly dedicated volunteer leaders. There are scores of members who serve on state or local boards and committees, in the LDA House of Delegates, as liaisons to state agencies and more. But a few of those volunteers consistently go above and beyond the call of duty. Their efforts are the backbone of many LDA initiatives and their contributions are greatly appreciated by those who are aware of them.

To express that appreciation and make more members aware of these exceptional volunteers, the LDA is launching the “LDA Stars” program. Those volunteers who’ve gone the extra mile and been leaders in the association will henceforth receive special recognition each year at the New Orleans Dental Conference/LDA Annual Session. This will include complimentary admission to the Welcome Reception/President’s Party, a gift from the LDA and background on the Stars’ accomplishments in LDA media.

The LDA is currently seeking nominations to be LDA Stars. The selection criteria are:

- The potential star has within calendar year 2013: 1) executed official duties for the LDA or one of its subsidiaries with highly uncommon dedication and effectiveness, and/or 2) has done significantly more than is generally required to execute those duties to a degree that raises the bar for future expectations of that position, and/or 3) handled a number of official responsibilities in a number of different capacities with all being executed above generally acceptable standards.
- The laudable activities of the potential star have primarily benefited LDA members and in more than one component (as opposed to primarily only at the local level in a single component).
- The laudable activities of the potential star in 2013 have advanced the interests of the LDA in a manner consistent with the LDA’s mission, and no activities of the potential star have detracted from advancement of the LDA mission.

- The potential star has been a member in good standing throughout 2013.
- The potential star was NOT during 2013 serving in a position for which he/she receives compensation from the LDA or one of its subsidiaries other than reimbursement for expenses incurred in the conduct of official business.

If you know an LDA member whom you think fits this description, please let the LDA know. Nominations must be in writing, but may be submitted in any form, including e-mail. The deadline for submissions is January 10, 2014. Nominations should include:

- Position(s), title(s) or role(s) that the nominee filled for the LDA in 2013.
- A brief description of the activities in which the nominee engaged in 2013 for which he/she deserves recognition.
- Name and contact information of the person submitting the nomination.

Nominations are not competitive with each other, but will all be evaluated solely on the nominee’s performance relative to the criteria listed above. So, there is no limit to the number of Stars who may be selected for recognition in any year. If you know several members deserving of recognition as LDA Stars, nominate them all! After all, it takes a lot of those Stars to make the LDA as successful as it is!



LDA

Louisiana dental hygienists' assoc.

Amanda Mullen, R.D.H.
President, LDHA

ADA In the Crescent City

It is always exciting to experience the city of New Orleans, especially when large conventions or festivals are in town to add to the dynamic. With the ADA in town for its yearly convention in October, there was no doubt it would be a grand event. The convention brought together dental professionals from across the country to partake in an environment of learning, research, community service, and, naturally, the numerous festivities within the Crescent City. With an amazing atmosphere, enormous footprint, and the collective celebration of our profession, the event certainly did not disappoint.

As I walked out to the exhibit floor, I was taken aback at the magnitude of booths and unsure where to even begin. Unfortunately, I knew that tennis shoes would have been a much better choice when leaving the house that morning. Walking through the exhibits there was such a wide variety of people, research, supplies, new technology, and more. It was an overwhelming display of oral health awareness.

In addition to the countless exhibits on display, the convention was also an opportunity to strengthen our responsibility as dental professionals. We know that we must constantly better ourselves in order to provide the best possible care to our patients. The numerous continuing education classes offered a chance to gain more knowledge to progress within our respective fields. It is our commitment to improvement that continues to move our profession forward.

Being able to participate in the ADA convention was an amazing experience. It is satisfying to know that we as individuals combine to form such an immense community dedicated to advancing oral health care. It is our ability to educate, promote awareness, and provide professional services to the public that remains most important. I am definitely looking forward to future conventions that continue to strengthen and promote our craft.



LDA's Split the Pot Raffle

Thank you to everyone who supported the LDA's raffle! Winners were drawn Dec. 13 at the Last Chance Seminar by Dr. Kirt Touchstone.

Congrats!

- \$500 – Dr. Darrell Bourg (NODA)
- \$250 – Dr. Mike Maginnis (Greater Baton Rouge)
- \$100 – Dr. Seema Varghese (Southwest)



LDA Louisiana dental assistants assoc.

Elizabeth Schmidt, C.D.A., C.D.P.M.A., E.D.D.A.
President, Louisiana Dental Assistants Association

ADAA Offers Several Certifications and FREE C.E.

The American Dental Association and the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA) conventions were wonderful, and included lots of information on new products, lots of educational opportunities, and lots of visiting with people we haven't seen for a while. My time was spent between the ADAA Annual Session and the ADAA membership booth in the convention center. I am still surprised by the number of people coming by the membership booth that still do not know there is a national membership association for dental assistants. Maybe we are to blame for not getting the word out that we do exist, but the struggle continues to be how to reach individuals in private practices. Hopefully with more online social media sites we will be discovered.

The ADAA is a professional membership association for staff members who work in a dental office, front or back office, which is the only qualification for membership. The focus of the ADAA and Louisiana Dental Assistants Association (LDAA) is education and members who have a passion for dentistry and want to increase their knowledge of the field. With the annual membership, our members receive a magazine every other month that has dental product information, interesting articles about people and places in the dental world, as well as free access to our online education with over 60 courses available. Go to our website at www.dentalassistant.org to get a list of other products that are included with membership, such as hotels and car rental discounts.

The LDAA is the state component of the ADAA and there were really wonderful assistants who donated their time at the ADA/ADAA Conference helping to get the word out about our association.

For those who want to take their learning to another level, there is a national certification that can be obtained. To qualify, there is initial testing and then C.E. requirements to keep the certification current. There are several of these certifications now being offered through the Dental Assisting National Board: Certified Dental Assistant (CDA); Certified Orthodontic Assistant

(COA); Certified Preventive Functions Dental Assistant (CPFDA); and Certified Restorative Functions Dental Assistant (CRFDA). Since each of these certifications has a continuing education requirement, membership in the ADAA (LDAA) is valuable because they offer free online C.E. courses. For an assistant to display their certifications in the practice, acknowledging their achievements as a CDA next to their EDDA and acknowledging their Louisiana achievements raises their self esteem, as well as the patient's confidence level in all members of the staff.

Want a successful practice? Of course that is your goal and it starts with knowledgeable staff committed to their position and growth within the practice.

Visit us at www.ladaa.org for more information. See you in New Orleans in April 2014.

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Dr. Eric T. Geist is 2013-2014 President of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

Dr. Eric T. Geist of Monroe was installed as president of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) during the Association's 95th Annual Meeting, Scientific Sessions and Exhibition, October 7-12, 2013, in Orlando, FL. Dr. Geist assumes this position after serving one year terms as AAOMS's president-elect and vice president. In addition, he was the District III trustee on the AAOMS Board of Trustees, representing the oral and maxillofacial surgeons in Alabama, Florida,

Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

"I am honored to serve as president of this outstanding organization, and I thank my OMS colleagues for their continued confidence and support," said Dr. Geist following his election. "As president, I look forward to enabling the Association to enhance and advance the scope of oral and maxillofacial surgery practice through clinical research that will benefit the health and improve the lives of our patients."

Dr. Geist is in private practice at Oral Surgery Associates, in Monroe, LA, where he provides the full scope of oral and maxillofacial surgery. He is also assistant clinical professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery, Department of Surgery at LSU Health Science Center, Shreveport, and associate professor and course director of head and neck anatomy and general and oral pathology at the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Dr. Geist is a diplomate and past president of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (ABOMS). In addition, he is a fellow of the AAOMS, the American Dental Society of Anesthesiology, the American College of Dentist, and the Pierre Fauchard Dental Honor Society. The LSU School of Dentistry named Dr. Geist outstanding alumnus for 2011, and in 2012, he received the Distinguished Service Award from the Louisiana Dental Association.

LDA Offers C.E. with Character Over Mardi Gras Holiday

Walt Disney World® Resort
 Sunday, March 2 - Tuesday, March 4, 2014
 (Courses will be held each day from 7:30 to 11 a.m.)
 Lake Buena Vista, Florida
 For more info, visit www.ladental.org.

Special Disney Tickets and Savings for 2014 LDA Winter Lecture Series Attendees and Their Guests! Available only to attendees, their guests and family members, Disney's "After 2pm," "After 4pm," and Multi-Day Meeting/Convention Tickets are designed to accommodate any agenda and are not available at the Theme Park ticket windows. And by purchasing Multi-Day tickets in advance, you'll save time and money while avoiding the lines at the Theme Park ticket windows!

Sunday, March 2 - "Practice Value Optimization" with Matt Adrian, Vice President, Bank of America

Monday, March 3 - "CAD/CAM for Everyone from Digital Impressions to Full CAD/CAM Restorations ... The Future is Now!" with Dr. Clark Brown

Tuesday, March 4 - "Digital Dentistry Solutions" with Dr. Clark Brown, Sponsored by Patterson Dental

Thanks to our sponsors (as of 10/23/13):
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LDA

ada annual session

Annette Droddy
Assistant Executive Director, LDA

ADA Annual Session in New Orleans



Former President Bill Clinton was the opening session keynote speaker. His speech focused on humanitarianism.

Besides the hustle and bustle of the C.E. attendees, exhibitors, other affiliated meetings and groups, Mission of Mercy volunteers, etc., delegates and alternates from around the country converged on New Orleans Nov. 1-5 for the American Dental Association (ADA) House of Delegates (the policy-making body of the ADA).

Many topics are considered and debated during a series of meetings. The ADA posts a report of actions on the ADA website at www.ada.org for members' only access. Two highly debated and controversial

topics included a resolution to eliminate the offices of the ADA first and second vice president. This resolution failed. A second resolution that directly impacted our district was a reallocation of delegates of the House.

Membership in the ADA House is based on a formula that determines how many delegates are allocated to each constituent society (state) based on paid membership as a percentage of ADA membership. Despite the efforts of our district (Louisiana, Arkansas, Kansas and Oklahoma) and other districts who supported us, the Arkansas State Dental Association lost one delegate to the House. They may regain a delegate in the future if their membership increases more than the ADA as a whole.

Also, after a thorough evaluation of the ADA's programs and membership benefits, including sunseting those that were not found to be useful to our members in order to focus funding where it would be most useful, it was determined that no ADA dues increase was necessary.

Dr. Charles H. Norman of Greensboro, N.C., also took over as the 150th president of the ADA. Shreveport dentist Dr. Gary Roberts will also continue to serve the 12th District as Trustee on the ADA Board. In balloting at the House of Delegates, Dr. Maxine Feinberg, of Westfield, N.J., was elected president-elect of the ADA, and Dr. Jonathan D. Shenkin of Freeport, Maine, was elected ADA second vice president.

Dr. Curtis Zeringue, a long-time delegate on behalf of the LDA to the ADA House, announced this year that this would be his last HOD. Thank you, Dr. Zeringue, for your dedication and your service to dentistry in Louisiana and to organized dentistry as a whole!



Many attendees arrived in New Orleans on Halloween night. Drs. Stephanie Weaver and Mark Chaney (third and fourth from right) ran into a few friends in costume.



Dr. Jeff Hooton (center) requested clarification on a resolution during one of the 12th District Caucus meetings.



(From left) Drs. Nelson Daly, Gary Caskey, Kristi Soileau, Steve Ortego and Bob Barsley sitting in the Alternate Delegate section of the ADA House of Delegates.



A New Orleans Jazz Band led attendees into the Exhibit Hall.



Delegates and alternate delegates from the LDA to the ADA House were (from left) Dr. Gary Caskey, Dr. Nelson Daly, Dr. Lance Savoie, Dr. Chip Simon, Dr. Kristi Soileau, Dr. Bob Barsley, Dr. Curtis Zeringue, Dr. Steve Ortego, Dr. Stephanie Weaver and Dr. Mark Chaney. Dr. Gary Roberts is the 12th District Trustee on the ADA Board and Ward Blackwell is executive director of the LDA.



LDA

benefits byline

Stormy Blair

Senior Vice President, Brown & Brown of LA, LLC dba Robert Ellis & Associates

Confused About Health Care Reform?



You're in good company. Now, when important decisions need to be made regarding the future of their health insurance, most Americans find the information from government

and news organizations regarding Health Care Reform contradictory and confusing. Because we understand your frustration at the many uncertainties surrounding the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), we've listed below some highlights of a few Health Care Reform "definites" (as of this writing!) for your information:

- Many carriers (including your LDA-sponsored program) have announced early renewals on existing policies to allow current insureds to avoid the anticipated premium increases associated with ACA programs for another year. By renewing prior to the 1/1/14 implementation of Health Care Reform, carriers can guarantee 12 months of current benefits and premiums before transitioning them to an ACA compliant plan or terminating their coverage.
- In the same vein, your LDA program, along with many other carriers, have elected to offer new business effective dates up to 12/31/13 instead of 01/01/14. These non-traditional effective dates may let prospective clients purchase non-ACA compliant programs at lower rates. It's possible that this may cause your deductible to begin early.
- Enrollment is open now to purchase insurance through the National Exchange Program with an effective date of 01/01/2014 or later (though the website continues to have issues). Remember that obtaining coverage through the Exchange is ONLY beneficial to those that will qualify financially for a subsidy or tax credit.
- Employers who have been paying for individual policies for their employees rather than forming

a true group plan should talk to their tax preparers. Although the employer may still be allowed to take a deduction for these individual premiums, under the new guidelines it's possible the employee may have to report the premiums paid as taxable income. There may also be ERISA and possible legal ramifications to this method of providing employee benefits to staff.

- For non-grandfathered groups under 20 employees, Medicare will no longer be primary to those covered employees age 65 and over effective 01/01/2014. This means that the employer's group plan will become the primary coverage, coordinating with Medicare after claims have been processed through the group plan. Carriers can only rate employees (including Medicare age) subject to ACA rating guidelines, basing premium only on geographic location, family composition, age and tobacco use. As a result, employers may wish to encourage their more senior staff members to take Medicare Parts A & B and move to a Medicare Supplement plan to obtain lower rates.

Although 01/01/14 remains the implementation date of the Affordable Care Act, don't let the frenzy surrounding Health Care Reform push you to make a decision you might later regret. The decisions you make today regarding your medical coverage could have a significant impact on your future benefits, cost, and access to care, particularly if you have a grandfathered plan. As the sponsored insurance consultant for the LDA, we encourage you to review your current plan and the options available to you, your family and your staff prior to 01/01/2014.

If you have any questions regarding Health Care Reform, your current benefits, or the LDA-sponsored portfolio or simply want a quote, contact **Brown & Brown of Louisiana, LLC dba Robert Ellis & Associates at 1-888-503-5547.**



LDA wealth management

Chad Olivier, CFP®

Wealth Consultant/LPL Branch Manager, The Olivier Group, L.L.C.

What is Your Worth?

How to Value Your Assets into Retirement

What is the value of your life and/or estate? In a typical hectic life, many people do not know the answer to this question. Why is it important to know your worth? Banks seem to put a high importance on your worth when deciding if you or your business can borrow money. More importantly, having a good understanding of your worth allows you to plan for future income sources.

If your family and business is reliant on your income earning ability to provide for the survival of both, then you need to put a value on your life and ability. If anything happens that makes you unable to earn and maintain your business or family lifestyle, then a plan needs to be in place to continue that stream of income.

If we are looking at your ability to provide income for your family, then get a net number after taxes and retirement savings. Take this basic net income and divide it by a reasonable return. For example, say your net income is \$120,000 per year. Divide that by a reasonable rate of return, like 4%, and that equals \$3 million. This is a rough estimate of your value as an income earner to your family.

Keep in mind this is an individual personal worth on earning ability. This is not how you would value a business. There are many other factors that have to be involved when valuing a business. Many doctors believe that they could sell their practice for a significant amount of money, but then are shocked by the reality that another doctor can just move into the same area and start purging the patients without paying the retiring doctor a dime. In that case the value of the doctor's practice may be the value of the assets in the business.

Now let's look at valuing your estate. To value your estate you will need to get a list of all of your assets and the approximate value of each. Keep in mind a true market value is what someone is willing to pay you for the asset at this moment and will most likely be an estimate. First, list your marketable securities such as bonds, stocks, annuities, cash, money markets and cash values of life insurance policies. These investments are considered liquid assets and will have daily values. They can be divested and some of these assets can be available in a 30 day period of time. This may include retirement, individual,


business and joint accounts. Then start listing the values of assets that may not be as liquid. These may include your real estate, land, jewelry, art work, furnishings and vehicles. Total all of these values to determine an overall value for your estate.

Now you have a value for your estate along with a value of you as an income earner. What does this mean? When you are on this journey that will eventually take you into retirement always have a running number of your monetary worth, so you can understand how close you may be to having your assets make money for you. Track this net worth number into retirement. Throughout your life you should be converting assets to income producing assets that can get you closer to the net income you will eventually need in retirement. As you get closer to retirement more and more of your assets should be geared towards paying you income to substitute your earning ability. These assets along with any Social Security benefits can provide your income during retirement. Many people get in trouble by having too many non-appreciating assets with little possibility of being converted to an income earning asset.

Constantly keeping a pulse on the value of your life and estate can help you plan for your financial future and reach your retirement income goals.

The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual. To determine which investment(s) may be appropriate for you, consult your financial advisor prior to investing. No strategy assures success or guarantees against loss. There is no guarantee that a diversified portfolio will enhance overall returns or outperform a non-diversified portfolio. Diversification does not eliminate market risk. 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.

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Caddo Parish Commission is seeking a Dentist to provide service at Caddo Correctional Center, 1101 Forum Drive, Shreveport, LA, flexible hours, 2 chair dental office, all equipment and supplies furnished, commission based salary, dental assistant can be provided or option to hire. For more information contact: Darlene Cooper at (318) 226-6903, ext.1.

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For more information or to place a classified ad, contact *LDA Journal* Managing Editor Annette Droddy at (225) 926-1986 or info@ladental.org.



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AWESOME PRACTICE IN EAST TEXAS: Sherri L. Henderson & Associates, LLC is looking for a qualified associate or new graduate, with an option to buy, that would like the opportunity to immediately transition into a general dentistry practice in this growing town of East Texas. The owner is willing to stay for a negotiated amount of time, if necessary, to ensure a smooth transition. The location of the practice is near the hospital in a beautiful scenic area surrounded by many professional buildings. The staff is excited and ready for a new member and future owner that will allow their current dentist to pursue other opportunities. The office space is 1,500 square feet with four treatment rooms equipped, two private offices, and six highly experienced employees. The new practitioner will lease space from the group dental practice. The group practice occupies a portion of the building complex and is looking to transfer ownership of the patient base and/or equipment within six months. For more information, contact our office at (972) 562-1072 or email sherri@slhdentalsales.com or visit our website at www.slhdentalsales.com, #3050 CB (pictures can be made available).

Dentist Needed: Full-time/4 days per week. \$1,000 day, plus all expenses paid, all equipment provided. Providing mobile dental care to nursing homes in Louisiana (New Orleans and Baton Rouge area). Call 1-877-551-8252.

JUST KIDS DENTAL - a general and specialty practice for kids and adults is offering part-time positions in our New Orleans and Kenner offices. We have state-of-the-art facilities and a great staff. We offer competitive salary, flexible schedule with weekends available and a fun place to put your talents to use. Even though we are primarily a children's practice, we see a lot of adult and college age students too. If interested, please email resume to bhall@justkids-dental.com. Please visit our website for more information: www.justkids-dental.com.

ATTRACTIVE EAST TEXAS DENTAL PRACTICE: SLH Dental Sales is looking for a qualified buyer that would like the opportunity to immediately transition into a general dentist office. This well-established practice has been in its current location since 1993 and is in a beautiful home surrounded by many professional buildings and a stable community. The current dentist is transitioning, and both the practice and building are for sale. This predominantly fee-for-service practice contains 2 dentist operatories and 2 hygienist operatories, along with a welcoming reception area, business and private offices, lab, etc., with room for expansion. For more information, please contact our office at (972) 562-1072, email sherri@slhdentalsales.com or visit our website at www.slhdentalsales.com (video available). #3005.

LOCATED IN LAFAYETTE AREA: This dream practice is for the doctor that likes to do quality dentistry, have an all digital office with up-to-date equipment and come to work everyday to a beautiful facility. This all FFS, 4 op practice produces over \$700k on a 4 1/2 day work week. Great visibility. Expect to make over \$200k after all expenses. This is a bread and butter practice offering quality service. High growth potential for right doctor. Contact Dr. Clyde Dollens at (281) 639-4703.

CENTRAL LOUISIANA: Well-established, \$1.4 million revenue practice. Seven operatories, all digital with PANO and recent, up-to-date equipment. Hygiene collections alone exceed \$300K. Selling doctor willing to remain as associate couple of days a week to assure transition. Large patient base. Expect to make high \$200's after all expenses and debt service. Beautiful facilities. This is a dream practice. Contact Clyde Dollens, AFTCO Practice Transitions, (281) 639-4703.

DENTIST/CONSULTANT: PT (minimum 4 hours per day) for a national claim review company. Work from your home or office. Must have active Louisiana license. Fax resume to (212) 686-4703.

COURSE #	DATE, CITY	COURSE NAME, LOCATION & AGD SUBJECT CODE	FOR	FEES	HOURS
01-14	Jan 17 Lake Charles	LSU Day in Lake Charles: Clinical Topics in Pediatric Dentistry for the GP w/ Dr. Priya Ritwik – at McNeese State University AGD #430	Dentist RDH or DLT Ass't/Other	\$295 ■ \$175 ■ \$95 ■	7L, C
02-14-Fri	Jan 24 New Orleans	Oral Medicine/Treating the Medically Complex Patient/Medical Emergencies – Drs. Michael Glick and Frank Drongowski - at LSU School of Dentistry AGD #730, 754	Dentist RDH or DLT Ass't/Other	\$295 ■ \$175 ■ \$95 ■	7L, C
02-14-3	Jan 24-26 New Orleans	LSU's 37th Annual 3-Day Perio Review Course in New Orleans w/ Dr. Ray Yukna, course director LSU School of Dentistry AGD #490	Dentist	\$1,595	21 L, C
07-14	Jan 31 Friday New Orleans	Maximized Adhesive Dentistry: The Foundational Posterior Course w/ Dr. Bruce LeBlanc - LSU School of Dentistry AGD #253	Dentist	\$695	7 L/P, C
03-14	Feb 7-9 Lafayette	Expanded Duty Dental Assistant (EDDA) – Faculty TBA – at Lafayette General Hospital	Assistant	\$540 ★	24 L/P, C
05-14	Feb 21 Gonzales	Dental Business and Administrative Skills w/ E. Schmidt, CDPMA -- at the Clarion Hotel Conference Center AGD #550	Ofc Mgr/Bus. Ass't/Staff Dentist	\$395 \$495	7L, NC
06-14	Feb 28 New Orleans	Restorative Dentistry Update: 2014 w/ Dr. John Burgess - at LSU School of Dentistry AGD #253	Dentist RDH or DLT Ass't/Other	\$295 ■ \$175 ■ \$95 ■	7 L, C
12-14	Mar 14 New Orleans	A Day of Giving Back – All proceeds benefit pre-clinical labs at LSUSD "Focus on Life & Financial Planning and Investing for Success" – w/ John Portwood, DDS, MS, CFP, CLU, ChFC – at LSU School of Dentistry	Dentist RDH or DLT Ass't/Other	\$295 ■ \$175 ■ \$95 ■	7 L, NC
13-14	Mar 14-16 New Orleans	Expanded Duty Dental Assistant (EDDA) w/ N. Weiss, RDH, EFDA, B.J. Triay, CDA, EDDA, & D. Williams, CDA, EDDA – at LSU School of Dentistry	Assistant	\$540 ★	24 L/P, C
19-14	Apr 11-13 Gonzales	Expanded Duty Dental Assistant (EDDA) w/ E. Schmidt, CDA, EDDA and L. Hernandez, CDA, EDDA – at Cabela's	Assistant	\$540 ★	24 L/P, C
24-14	Jun 6-8 Lafayette	Expanded Duty Dental Assistant (EDDA) – Faculty TBA - at Lafayette General Hospital	Assistant	\$540 ★	24 L/P, C
40-14	June 2014 - April 2015 New Orleans	LSU's Orofacial Pain Continuum: Five Sessions w/ Drs. H. Gremillion, D. Ehrlich, and G. Klasser – at LSU School of Dentistry *Register 2 at 1 time - \$6,360 each; register 3, \$5,565 each!	Dentist	\$7,950*	70 L/P, C
28-14	Jul 25-27 New Orleans	Expanded Duty Dental Assistant (EDDA) w/ N. Weiss, RDH, EFDA, B.J. Triay, CDA, EDDA, & D. Williams, CDA, EDDA – at LSU School of Dentistry	Assistant	\$540 ★	24 L/P, C
34-14	Aug 15-17 Gonzales	Expanded Duty Dental Assistant (EDDA) w/ E. Schmidt, CDA, EDDA and L. Hernandez, CDA, EDDA – at Cabela's	Assistant	\$540 ★	24 L/P, C
36-14	Sept 19 Friday New Orleans	Alumni Day – Speaker/Topic/Fees to be announced	Dentist RDH or DLT Ass't/Other		
38-14	Oct 10-12 Lafayette	Expanded Duty Dental Assistant (EDDA) – Faculty TBA - at Lafayette General Hospital	Assistant	\$540 ★	24 L/P, C
42-14	Nov 14-16 Gonzales	Expanded Duty Dental Assistant (EDDA) – Faculty TBA – at Cabela's	Assistant	\$540 ★	24 L/P, C
45-14	Dec 12-14 New Orleans	Expanded Duty Dental Assistant (EDDA) w/ N. Weiss, RDH, EFDA, B.J. Triay, CDA, EDDA, & D. Williams, CDA, EDDA – at LSU School of Dentistry	Assistant	\$540 ★	24 L/P, C

■ - Register 4 weeks before and SAVE – see website for Early Bird savings and deadlines

★ - Call Jocelyn Wagner, EDDA/RAD Coordinator, at 504-941-8198 to see if you qualify for tuition reimbursement through SBET.

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. Also check our website for the most up-to-date listings, www.ladental.org.

DATE & TIME: January 10, 2014; 8:00 - 1:00 p.m.
EVENT: LDA L.H. Bowden Leadership Development Conference (AGD PACE Recognized Provider)
LOCATION: Hilton Capitol Center, 201 Lafayette Street, Baton Rouge, La. 70801 For hotel reservations call the Hilton Capitol Center at 1(800)955-6962 (deadline 12-12-13) – Mention “LDA” for group room rate of \$129.00 per night.
SPONSORS: (As of 3/18/13) Brown & Brown of LA, LLC dba Robert Ellis & Associates (LDA Events Partner); Louisiana Dental Services, Inc. (LDS)
DESIGNED FOR: LDA leaders
CREDIT HOURS: 4 practice management
REGISTRATION: Contact Sherri Jones, LDA director of conference services, at (225)926-1986 or (800)388-6642 or email to sherri@ladental.org or visit LDA web page at www.ladental.org.

DATE & TIME: January 24, 2014 - *Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. - Meetings at 9:00 a.m.*
COURSE TITLE: “Back to the Basics: Fundamental of Interpretation” – Part I of series
SPEAKER: Donald A. Tyndall, D.D.S., M.S.P.H., PH.D.
PROVIDER: ULM Division of Continuing Education College of Health Sciences Department of Dental Hygiene (AGD PACE Recognized Provider)
LOCATION: ULM, University Conference Center, 7th floor, Monroe, La. 71209
DESIGNED FOR: All
CREDIT HOURS: 7 lecture hours for each course
FEES: **Total Package (3 Seminars)** - Dentists \$925; Hygienists \$475; Staff \$225 / * **EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FEES IF RECEIVED BY 1/7/2014 -Total Package (3 Seminars)** - Dentists *\$875; Hygienists *\$425; Staff *\$200 / **Individual Courses** - Dentists \$390; Hygienists \$210; Staff \$110
REGISTRATION: Register online at www.ce.ulm.edu or call (318)342-1030.

DATE: January 31 – February 1, 2014
EVENT: Louisiana Dental Hygienists’ Association’s 2014 Annual Session
LOCATION: Belle of Baton Rouge Casino & Hotel, 103 France St, Baton Rouge, La.
SPEAKER: Carol A. Jahn, RDH, MS; Thomas Viola, R. Ph., C.C.P.; Richard T Akins, DDS, MD; and, Noel Brandon Kelsch, RDHAP.
DESIGNED FOR: Dental Hygienists
CREDIT HOURS: Up to 10 Clinical
REGISTRATION & FEES: Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ldha-annual-session-2014-tickets-9411396741>
HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Belle of Baton Rouge reservation phone number 1-800-266-2692 - Mention LDHA for special rate of \$99 for a single or double room - reservation deadline for special rate is January 16, 2014.

DATE & TIME: February 7, 2014 - *Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. - Meetings at 9:00 a.m.*
COURSE: “Cosmetic Pearls for the General Practitioner” – Part II of series
SPEAKER: Martin H. Zase, D.M.D., M.A.G.D., A.A.C.D., F.A.C.D.
PROVIDER: ULM Division of Continuing Education College of Health Sciences Department of Dental Hygiene (AGD PACE Recognized Provider)
LOCATION: ULM, University Conference Center, 7th floor, Monroe, La. 71209
DESIGNED FOR: All
CREDIT HOURS: 7 lecture hours for each course
FEE: **Total Package (3 Seminars)** - Dentists \$925; Hygienists \$475; Staff \$225 / * **EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FEES IF RECEIVED BY 1/7/2014 -Total Package (3 Seminars)** - Dentists *\$875; Hygienists *\$425; Staff *\$200 / **Individual Courses** - Dentists \$390; Hygienists \$210; Staff \$110
REGISTRATION: Register online at www.ce.ulm.edu or call (318)342-1030.

DATE & TIME: February 7, 2014 - *Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. - Course 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.*
COURSE TITLE: Insurance Administration and Coding Errors
SPEAKER: Dr. Charles Blair
PROVIDER: ARK LA TEX ACADEMY OF DENTISTRY (AGD PACE Recognized Provider; ADA CERP Recognized Provider)
LOCATION: Clarion Hotel, 1419 E. 70th Street, Shreveport, LA 71105
DESIGNED FOR: All

CREDIT HOURS: 7, Lecture
FEES: Dentist, Staff or Lab Tech - \$245; Staff/Lab Tech of Member Dentist (each) - \$45
REGISTRATION: Contact Dr. Clint Bruyere at (903)753-0337

DATE: March 2 – 4, 2014 (Mardi Gras Week)
EVENT: LDA Winter C.E.
(AGD PACE Recognized Provider)
LOCATION: Coronado Springs, Walt Disney World®, Lake Buena Vista, Fla.
SPONSORS: (As of 10/1/13) Brown & Brown of LA, LLC dba Robert Ellis & Associates (LDA Events Partner); Louisiana Dental Services, Inc. (LDS); Patterson Dental; Ivoclar Vivadent; Bank of America; ADS Transitions-Lovelace and Associates
DESIGNED FOR: All
REGISTRATION: Contact Sherri Jones, LDA director of conference services, at (225)926-1986 or (800)388-6642 or email to sherri@ladental.org or visit LDA web page at www.ladental.org.

DATE: March 7, 2014 - *Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. - Course 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.*
COURSE TITLE: Merging New Materials & Proven Principles
SPEAKER: Dr. James Kessler
PROVIDER: ARK LA TEX ACADEMY OF DENTISTRY (AGD PACE Recognized Provider; ADA CERP Recognized Provider)
LOCATION: Clarion Hotel, 1419 E. 70th Street, Shreveport, LA 71105
DESIGNED FOR: All
CREDIT HOURS: 7, Lecture
FEES: Dentist, Staff or Lab Tech - \$245; Staff/Lab Tech of Member Dentist (each) - \$45
REGISTRATION: Contact Dr. Clint Bruyere at (903)753-0337

DATE & TIME: March 14, 2014 - *Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. - Meetings at 9:00 a.m.*
COURSE TITLE: "The 'Five' Musts for Incorporating Periodontics into your Practice"- Part III of series
SPEAKER: Samuel B. Low, D.D.S., M.S., M. ED.
PROVIDER: ULM Division of Continuing Education College of Health Sciences Department of Dental Hygiene (AGD PACE Recognized Provider)
LOCATION: ULM, University Conference Center, 7th floor, Monroe, La. 71209
DESIGNED FOR: All
CREDIT HOURS: 7 lecture hours for each course
FEES: **Total Package (3 Seminars)** - Dentists \$925; Hygienists \$475; Staff \$225 / * **EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FEES IF RECEIVED BY 1/7/2014 -Total Package (3 Seminars)** - Dentists *\$875; Hygienists *\$425; Staff *\$200 / **Individual Courses** - Dentists \$390; Hygienists \$210; Staff \$110
REGISTRATION: Register online at www.ce.ulm.edu or call (318)342-1030.

DATE: April 3-5, 2014
EVENT: New Orleans Dental Conference and LDA Annual Session
LOCATION: New Orleans, La.
SPONSORS: NODA/LDA (NODA is an ADA CERP Recognized Provider)
DESIGNED FOR: All
REGISTRATION: Registration details will be posted on www.NODC.org as they become available.

DATE: July 30-August 2, 2014
EVENT: LDA Summer Education Conference
LOCATION: Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort, Destin, Fl.
SPONSORS: (As of 11/19/13) Brown & Brown of LA, LLC dba Robert Ellis & Associates (LDA Events Partner); Louisiana Dental Services, Inc. (LDS)
DESIGNED FOR: All
REGISTRATION: Registration details will be posted on www.ladental.org as they become available.

DATE: September 12, 2014 - *Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. - Course 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.*
COURSE: Dental Materials
SPEAKER: Dr. John Burgess
PROVIDER: ARK LA TEX ACADEMY OF DENTISTRY (AGD PACE Recognized Provider; ADA CERP Recognized Provider)
LOCATION: Clarion Hotel, 1419 E. 70th Street, Shreveport, LA 71105
DESIGNED FOR: All
CREDIT HOURS: 7, Lecture
FEES: Dentist, Staff or Lab Tech - \$245; Staff/Lab Tech of Member Dentist (each) - \$45
REGISTRATION: Contact Dr. Clint Bruyere at (903)753-0337
DATE & TIME: October 10, 2014 - *Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. - Course 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.*
COURSE TITLE: Progressive Veneer Techniques for Optimal Esthetics
SPEAKER: Dr. George Priest
PROVIDER: ARK LA TEX ACADEMY OF DENTISTRY (AGD PACE Recognized Provider; ADA CERP Recognized Provider)
LOCATION: Clarion Hotel, 1419 E. 70th Street, Shreveport, LA 71105
DESIGNED FOR: All
CREDIT HOURS: 7, Lecture
FEES: Dentist, Staff or Lab Tech - \$245; Staff/Lab Tech of Member Dentist (each) - \$45
REGISTRATION: Contact Dr. Clint Bruyere at (903)753-0337

David N. Austin



Dentistry Can Be Relative

The holiday season always brings joy and excitement to our house. And also Aunt Martha and Uncle Joe.

Actually, I've always called them my aunt and uncle, but really couldn't tell you how we are related. For all I know, we probably aren't.

These two always show up at my house a few days after Christmas. We never get any advanced notice about their arrival, but nevertheless you can practically set your clock by the knock on my door.

Oh and by the way, that tooth you wanted Aunt Martha to get fixed last year has sure been bothering her and we knew you would want to take care of that while we are here and you were off for the holidays.

My aunt and uncle live in the countryside near Dubach on a small run down farm. They just recently moved there from their original house that was located about 15 miles from this farm. My Uncle Joe had read in the paper that most accidents happen within 10 miles of your home, so they moved.

The only time they ever paid for any dental work was to the local vet to extract a molar tooth on their mule Milly. My uncle complains about that procedure every time he relates the story to me. Seems Milly was a little ticked that he didn't want to pay extra for any anesthesia.

Every Christmas holiday season, I get to work on one of my aunt's remaining 4 teeth. This year it was lucky tooth number 10, her only remaining incisor. Now you know tooth number 10 is a fairly easy tooth to work on, good location and all. But every time I position that chair back, the first thing she does is whip out a pencil and paper and writes a letter to her son Bobby.

She doesn't own a cell phone thankfully, because if she did she would be using it while I worked on her. The other annoying habit she has while writing the letter is that she talks while she writes, as if she is conversing with her son.

While I am diligently working I have to put up with a conversation that goes like this...

"I'm writing this slow because I know you can't read fast. We don't live where we did when you left home and I won't be able to send the address right now either. The last family that lived here took the house numbers with them when they moved so they wouldn't have to change their address."

"About that coat you wanted me to send for Christmas; your Uncle Freddy said it would be too heavy to send in the mail with all those buttons on. So we cut them off. You will find them in the pockets."

"Uncle Freddy's brother Sammy, fell in the whiskey vat week before last. Some men tried to pull him out but he fought them off and drowned. We had him cremated. He burned for three days."

"Your sister had a baby a few days ago, but I haven't found out what it is so I don't know if you are an aunt or an uncle."

"There isn't much more news at this time. Your dentist said you really should try and get those dentures adjusted that I sent to you for your 10th grade graduation a few years ago."

"Much love, your favorite Mom."

You can't always pick your relatives, and it's fun to see them when they arrive and discuss the news about family.....

Sometimes, it's even more fun to see them leave.

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