Department News

Welcome to the friends and alumni of the LSUSD Department of Pediatric Dentistry!

The 2012-2013 school year has been off to a great start! The new residents were warmly welcomed by the full- and part-time faculty with their Welcome Cookout hosted again by Dr. Pamela Shaw at her lovely Metairie home.

In August the residents had an early opportunity to share their enthusiasm for dentistry with a group of young children from Classical Conversations, Metairie Campus. The residents introduced the children to the pediatric dentistry clinic and discussed oral hygiene and diet.

Sedation was the topic of the day in July when the residents attended a two-day lecture series by Dr. Ben Record and pediatric dentist and dental anesthesiologist Dr. Michael Webb. This was a great day to learn and connect with area pediatric dentists and alumni including Dr. Lauren Wallace from Shreveport.

The Dummett Memorial Lecture in September was a great experience for all attendees. Dr. J. Timothy Wright, chair of pediatric dentistry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill treated us all to an exciting look at how genes have very real implications for practicing dentists. The residents and attendees had the opportunity to get hands-on experience with some of the new restorative materials and crowns on the market.
Dr. Patrick Knoell represented the Department of Pediatric Dentistry at Advanced Education Grand Rounds in September. In his presentation, “Fireworks: Not for Oral Use,” he recounted how he rang in the New Year with a unique dental trauma and how it was subsequently managed.

The first quarter was not all work for the residents. **Dr. Don Donaldson** hosted the residents at his camp where they enjoyed outdoor time.

The dental and dental hygiene students have begun their clinical rotations and the D3 class is currently completing their simulation lab procedures under the supervision of **Dr. Rosalyn Crawford-McKendall** with the help of **Dr. Vincent Liberto**. The D3 students have been lucky to have some great guest speakers. Thank you to **Drs. Linda Cao, Richard Olinde, John Hendry, and Claudia Cavallino** for volunteering their time to speak to the class. We are also looking forward to the upcoming lecture by **Dr. Rob Delarosa**.

The Student Chapter of the AAPD worked through the summer to plan an exciting year of events. The first guest speaker of the year was **Dr. Kenneth DuBois II**, who educated students on how dentistry for children can be part of a balanced general practice. Dr. DuBois motivated many to help take care of children in the future.

The pediatric dentistry faculty recently completed a two-part retreat to discuss the predoctoral and post-graduate programs. Thank you to all the part-time and gratis faculty members who participated in this!
• **Dr. Ron Curran** made an appearance on the field at a Minnesota Twins vs. Chicago White Sox game in July!

• **Dr. Claudia Cavallino** was confirmed as president at the September LAPD meeting. **Dr. Nicole Boxberger** was elected president-elect and **Dr. Kellie Axelrad** was elected secretary/treasurer.

• Congratulations to recent alumnus **Dr. Michael Von Gruben** and wife Rachel on the birth of their new daughter Caroline!

• Congratulations to **Dr. Richard Olinde** on the marriage of his youngest daughter, Anna, on October 6. She and her husband Steven will live in Monroe.

The toys in our department prize boxes are donated by alumni and friends who wish to give back to the department. Thank you to the following for donating these valuable gifts for the children:

- Dr. Kellie Axelrad
- Dr. Todd Brasuell
- Dr. Jill Donaldson
- Mrs. Pam Massey
- Dr. Brooke Wood
- Dr. Johnnie Hunt
- Dr. Claudia Cavallino
- Dr. Eric Hyde
- Dr. Tessa Smith
Dr. Amrit Bala comes to us from Fresno, California. For his undergraduate education he moved to Orange County and majored in biology at the University of California, Irvine. From Irvine he moved to the Bay Area and completed his dental education at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Bala currently plans to move back to California after he completes his pediatric dental residency but says things could change between now until 2014, so we’ll see where he goes!

Dr. Katie McClendon grew up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana where she graduated from St. Joseph’s Academy and received a BS in biology from Louisiana State University in 2008. She then moved to New Orleans to attend LSU School of Dentistry and received her DDS in 2012. She is a big fan of all drama and reality television shows, especially “Grey’s Anatomy” and “The Bachelorette.” Like all Louisiana natives, Dr. McClendon bleeds purple and gold and loves cheering on the LSU Tigers. She also enjoys watching movies, shopping, and bringing her cute dog Abby to play dates at the dog park.
Dr. Bijal Naik grew up in Chattanooga, Tennessee. She received her BS in chemistry and sociology from East Tennessee State University in Johnson City in 2003 and then moved to Memphis to continue her education. After receiving her DDS from University of Tennessee College of Dentistry in 2007, she worked as a general dentist in a private practice and served her community through the health department in Chattanooga. Dr. Naik is an avid traveler and has visited over 14 countries and three of the Seven Wonders of the World! She hopes to one day visit all seven. Dr. Naik also loves to shop, cook, watch movies, go to concerts, and go for a nice run!

Save the Date: LSU Pediatric Dentistry Practice Management Seminar Friday, December 7 from 9 am-2:30 pm

Dr. Christine Tran is from Los Angeles, California. In 2007, she received a BS in biochemistry and BA in psychology from the University of California, San Diego. She received her DDS from the University of Southern California this past May. Dr. Tran loves to travel, hike, run, and play catch with her dog, Westley. She looks forward to participating in half marathons every year and welcomes you to join in her next race -- the New Orleans Rock n’ Roll Half Marathon!