Welcome to the friends and alumni of the LSUSD Department of Pediatric Dentistry! This year has had a busy start for the department.

On January 30 LSU School of Dentistry hosted 99 third and fourth-graders at Give Kids a Smile Day in collaboration with the New Orleans Dental Association and NFL Play 60. This successful event was coordinated by Drs. Kimberly Patterson and Nicole Boxberger and included residents from Pediatric Dentistry, GPR, dental students, dental hygiene students, and faculty and staff from across the school. It was a great day of fun and has also enabled a number of children from the surrounding area to receive comprehensive dental care at the dental school.

On February 7, Dr. Suzanne Fournier, pediatric dental residents, and members of the Student AAPD organization represented the department at the Urban League Kid’s Expo. Dental screenings and oral health information was provided to participants.

In February the department was awarded a one year Healthy Smiles, Healthy Children Access to Care Grant for the amount of $20,000. The purpose of this grant is to establish dental homes for children not being seen by a dentist. Through this grant the department has hired two student workers to follow-up on children encountered through outreach events and help facilitate a dental home. Funds are also available to offset transportation costs when need is demonstrated.

Drs. Patterson, Ritwik, and Townsend attended the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry Exam Workshop in Dallas, TX on February 6 and 7. At this annual workshop pediatric dentists create future exams given by the board.
In late February first year resident **Dr. Kristoffer Norbo** and **Dr. Townsend** volunteered at the Mission of Mercy Event in Baton Rouge, LA. The pediatric portion of this event was organized by alumna **Dr. Johnnie Hunt**. Other LSU alumni and area dentists including **Drs. Brooke Wood, Candice Sullivan, Ric Sanders, Daniel Crawford, and Steven Ripple** volunteered.

This year **Dr. Suzanne Fournier** and residents **Dr. Jennifer Flanagan** and **Mimi Lacour** attended the Memphis Alumni Meeting in late February. They attended a number of courses including lectures by **Drs. Martha Ann Keels, Scott Goodman, Jed Best, and Gerry Sampson**.

**Drs. Patterson** and **Townsend** attended the American Dental Education Association annual session in Boston, MA. At the meeting **Dr. Townsend** graduated from the ADEA Leadership Association. **Dr. Patterson** was elected chair-elect of the Laser Special Interest Group and **Dr. Townsend** was elected chair-elect of the Pediatric Dentistry Section.
Dr. Suzanne Fournier and second year residents Drs. Drew Freeman and Puneet Wadhwa travelled to Washington DC in March to attend the AAPD Public Policy days with LSU with Drs. Robert Delarosa and Claudia Cavallino. The delegation members met with Senators Cassidy and Vitter as well as Congressman Graves.

On March 21 Seth DeJean (D1) and Dr. Townsend volunteered at the Junior League and Children’s Hospital Touch a Truck Event. Children toured the Smile Again Louisiana Truck dental screenings were performed.

In March the department was awarded a technology grant by the school for a new phosphor plate radiology system for the clinic at LSU. This system will allow the department to expose residents and students to multiple radiograph systems.

First year residents Drs. Janelle Lee and Sonam Shah presented a lecture entitled “Managing a Patient with Hemophilia” for the March Grand Rounds.

This quarter the residents have had a wide variety of guest speakers for seminar. Dr. Billy Michal reviewed ectopic canines and first molars, Dr. Jaime Morales reviewed bleeding disorders, Dr. Maria Velez reviewed care for patients with cancer, Dr. Deputy reviewed neurological disorders and Dr. Yves Lacassie reviewed genetics.

News from Alumni and Friends:

- Congratulations to alumna Dr. Erin Maturin and her coauthors on the publication of her article “Resistance to cigarette smoke is increased in periodontal ligament cells by attachment to collagen and fibronectin” in the January Journal of Periodontology. Dr. Tom Lallier mentored this project.
- 2015 has been a great year for alumna Dr. Susan Fallahi! In January she cheered her Buckeyes to victory at the national championship game and on February 25 she and her husband Adam Dennis welcomed their son Shane Cyrus Dennis. Congratulations!
Congratulations to alumna Dr. Bhavini Acharya who was promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry at University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Dentistry.

Congratulations to Dr. Vincent Liberto who was awarded the Dr. John Adriana Award presented by the Italian American Cultural Society. On the same night his son Ignatius Paul Liberto, USMC received the American Veteran Award.

Welcome to Shane Cyrus Dennis born February 25 to alumna Dr. Susan Fallahi and husband Adam Dennis.

Congratulations to alumna Dr. Bhavini Acharya who was promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry at University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Dentistry.

Alumna Dr. Susan Fallahi and husband Adam Dennis cheer on the Ohio State at the national championship game.

Dr. Vincent Liberto accepts the Dr. John Adriana Award with sons Buddy and Paul Liberto.

Alumnus Dr. Patrick Knoell celebrates the opening of his new office in Lawrenceberg, TN.
Dr. Erin Maturin celebrates the official ribbon cutting of her new office Ascension Children’s Dental

Dates to Remember:
- June 19 – Alumni Lecture with Dr. Anita Jeyakumar entitled “Current Concepts in Pediatric Adenotonsillar Disease” and Recognition Dinner at Ralph’s at the Park
- September 11 and 12 – Dummett Memorial Lecture with Dr. Bobby Thikkurissy “RETIRING FROM THE RODEO Troubleshooting for Safe and Effective Procedural Sedation in Children”

Dr. Stuart Bonnin has added a Tooth Ambulance to his practice to promote awareness of dental emergencies.

Congratulations to alumni Drs. Claudia Cavallino and Kellie Axelrad on the opening of their new office for New Orleans Children’s Dental Center in Lakeview

Dr. Bijal Naik takes in a Nets game and gets the chance to meet point guard Jarrett Jack

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