

# **LSU Health**

## **NEW ORLEANS**

### **School of Dentistry**

# **NOVEMBER 2025**

This newsletter is published by the LSU Health School of Dentistry's Office of Alumni and Community Affairs. If you have an event or article you'd like published, please email [ds-alumni@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:ds-alumni@lsuhsc.edu) for more information.

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# A Message from the Director of Development and Community Affairs

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Since joining the dental school in February, I've had the pleasure of experiencing firsthand the warmth, pride, and dedication that define our alumni community. It's been a joy meeting many of you—whether at receptions, during Alumni Day, or when you've stopped by to visit the school. Each interaction has deepened my appreciation for the legacy you've helped build here.



As we look ahead, we're excited to launch an alumni survey in early December. This will be an opportunity to share how you'd like to stay connected and engaged with the school—through events, mentorship, volunteering, or other opportunities. Your input will help shape the future of our alumni programming, and we truly value your voice.

My door is always open. If you have ideas, want to get more involved, or simply want to reconnect, I'd love to hear from you. You can reach me anytime at [spett3@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:spett3@lsuhsc.edu) or 504-941-8120.

I look forward to continuing this journey with you and building even stronger ties between our alumni and the school.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Petty". The script is cursive and fluid.

**Sarah Petty**  
**Director of Development and Community Affairs**

## 2025 Chancellor's LSU Health Excellence Awards

***Congratulations to our LSUSD faculty and staff honored as recipients of the 2025 Chancellor's LSU Health Excellence Awards!***

***Your dedication, service, and commitment to our university and community inspire us every day.***

### FACULTY

**Paul Armbruster, DDS** • Orthodontics  
**A.C. Liles, DDS** • Comprehensive Dentistry

### STAFF

**Shemeka Braddy** • Diagnostic Sciences  
**Timothy Cousin** • Dental Equipment  
**Demetra Martin** • Periodontics  
**Jennifer Tulko** • Comprehensive Dentistry

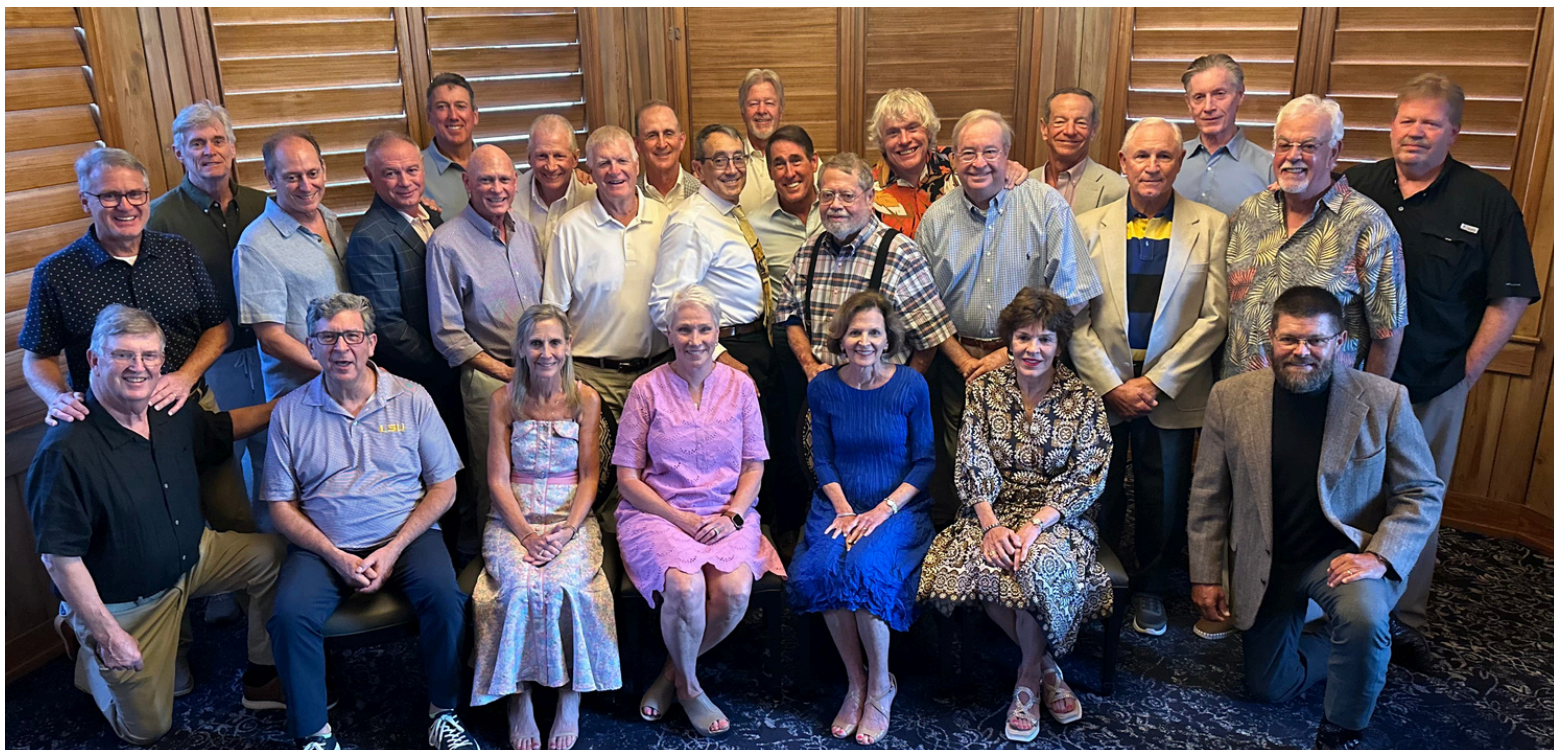




# LSUSD Class of 1985 Gathers for 40-Year Reunion

The Doctor of Dental Surgery Class of 1985 gathered in September to celebrate their 40-year reunion at the Marriott Grand Hotel in Fairhope, Alabama. The event was well attended and filled with laughter, memories, and meaningful reconnections.

Festivities began Thursday evening with a bonfire on the beach, complete with s'mores and storytelling. On Friday, the festivities continued with some classmates lounging by the pool and reminiscing while others shopped and explored the town. That evening, the group enjoyed a dinner at The Wash House.



Reunion attendees shown above are Drs. John Little, Lige Dunaway, Peggy Walsh Moffat, Bobbie Morris, Gizelle Richard, Jan Bagwell Johnson, Kevin Harmon, Hank Matthews, Samuel "Bubby" Miano, Lionel Richard, Don Bennett, John McConnell, CJ Ardoin, John Mahoney, Glenn Schmidt, Wynn Russo, Jimmy Pearce, Rocky St. Pierre, Ken Pearson, Tim Raborn, Ed Hood, John Moffatt, David Trahan, Bob Skinner, Bob Bunn, Frank Stich, and Art Hickham.

Saturday's fun included fishing charters, golf outings, and more catching up. The evening featured a special dinner at the Marriott with a nostalgic slideshow of old photos and caricatures drawn years ago by Peggy Touchstone. The group shared more stories—some hilariously embellished—from their dental school days.

As the weekend wrapped up on Sunday, conversations turned to ideas for the next reunion. The event was organized by Drs. Gizelle Richard, Tim Raborn, Bobbie Morris, and David Trahan, whose efforts made the celebration truly unforgettable.



# LSUSD Teams up with TeamSmile and the New Orleans Saints to Bring Smiles to Local Children

The LSU School of Dentistry recently partnered with TeamSmile and the New Orleans Saints to deliver a day of free dental care and education to children in the community. The event took place at Club XLIV inside the Caesars Superdome, creating an unforgettable experience where oral health met the excitement of professional football.

For many of these children, access to dental care is not guaranteed. Throughout the day, LSUSD faculty, residents, students, and volunteers worked alongside TeamSmile professionals to provide comprehensive care. Every child received a screening and oral health education, and many benefited from preventive treatments such as sealants and fluoride applications. Others required restorative care, including fillings, crowns, and extractions. In total, 234 children were treated, and the value of services provided reached an impressive \$74,891.



From left are LSUSD faculty members Claudia Rivera, Catrina Lanza, Ashley Million, Meghan Dombourian, Shannon McCann, and Diedra Brewer-Hohensee.



Dr. John Gallo, Dean, LSU School of Dentistry, (left) and Kami Thomas, Program Director, TeamSmile.

The event was made possible by an incredible team of 123 volunteers, including dentists, dental hygienists, faculty, residents, dental hygiene students, dental students, and volunteers. Their dedication ensured that each child left with a healthier smile.

Partnering with the Saints added a unique dimension to the day. Children not only received dental care but also enjoyed the thrill of being in a space connected to their favorite team—a reminder that health and happiness go hand in hand.

As the event concluded, the impact was clear: LSUSD, TeamSmile, and the New Orleans Saints came together to make a difference, proving that when community partners unite, the results are powerful and lasting.



LSUSD faculty and students shown from left are Julia Lanne (D4), Grant Johnson (D4), Dr. Nicholas Mosca, Dr. Stephen Brisco, Dr. John Gallo, Lelia Langham, Justin Nguyen, and Diedra Brewer-Hohensee.



From left are LSUSD faculty members Ashley Million, Jennifer Hew, and Meghan Dombourian.

# LSUSD Celebrates National Dental Hygiene Month

In recognition of National Dental Hygiene Month in October, the LSU School of Dentistry embraced the opportunity to educate the community, connect with prospective students, and show appreciation for the dedicated students and faculty in the program in dental hygiene.

**Hitting the Airwaves:** On October 8, Angie Reech, RDH, Assistant Professor of Clinical Comprehensive Dentistry, joined Anchor Kelsey Davis on Fox 8 News Morning Edition to represent the school and discuss the importance of dental hygiene. The segment spotlighted LSUSD's expertise and commitment to educating the public about oral health.

**Finding Nevi:** Dental hygiene students and faculty held the annual "Mascot Hide and Seek" challenge—a fun and friendly competition where faculty hide the program's mascot, Nevi, an adorable stuffed scaler, for students to find each week and win prizes. Congratulations to this year's winners!



Kelsey Davis (left) and Angie Reech



Week 1: Alexia Junot (DH2)



Week 2: Valerie Dang (DH1)



Week 3: Victoria Maenza (DH2)



Week 4: Macey Wendt (DH2)

**Inspiring Future Dental Hygienists:** On October 15, LSUSD participated in the Fall Forum Leadership Conference hosted by Louisiana Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) at LSU Health's downtown campus. The event welcomed 282 students eager to explore programs across all LSU Health schools. LSUSD also presented to pre-dental hygiene students at the University of New Orleans, highlighting National Dental Hygiene Month and providing details about the LSUSD admissions process.

**Celebrating Dental Hygiene Heroes:** All dental hygienists and dental hygiene students at both the New Orleans and Alexandria programs were treated to lunch in recognition of National Dental Hygiene Month.



Dental hygiene students are pictured from Alexandria (above) and New Orleans (left).





# LSUSD Students Attend National SPEA Annual Session in Washington, D.C.



Four third-year LSUSD DDS students attended this year's Student Professionalism and Ethics Association (SPEA) Annual Session in Washington, D.C. The conference brought together dental students from across the United States and Canada to engage in professional development, leadership training, and discussions on ethical standards within the dental profession.

Throughout the session, students attended presentations from notable guest lecturers and learned about topics ranging from business, case studies, residency insights, dental market trends, and personal finances. Students also took part in breakout sessions where they discussed individual chapter growth and sustainability, conflict resolution, and creating a culture of professionalism and ethics in the workplace.

LSU's SPEA chapter is a growing organization, and the student leaders who attended the conference are eager to bring back valuable insights and ideas shared by other successful chapters across the country. Their participation reflects the chapter's commitment to building a strong foundation of ethical leadership and collaboration at the LSUSD.



Third-year LSUSD DDS students who attended the 2025 SPEA Annual Session are shown from left: Marie-Josée Hymel, Andrew Gottsegen, Emily Eberts, and Lauren Schafer. Eberts and Schafer were elected to the SPEA National Board.

Third-year dental students Emily Eberts and Lauren Schafer were elected to serve on the SPEA National Board as Regent 6 and Chief Information Officer, respectively. Both are honored and excited to step into these national leadership roles, where they aim to support the growth and success of SPEA chapters across the country while continuing to strengthen the organization at LSUSD.

Through their involvement, Eberts and Schafer hope to inspire other students to uphold the highest standards of ethics and professionalism in dentistry.

LSUSD's SPEA advisors are Drs. Margaret Nuttli, Nicholas Mosca, and Kristi Soileau.



## KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US!

Moved recently? Got a new email or phone number?

We'd love to stay in touch!

Send your updated info to Sarah at [spett3@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:spett3@lsuhsc.edu).

## ASDA's Pie Toss Supports Smile Train Surgeries

In October, the Philanthropy Committee of LSUSD's American Student Dental Association (ASDA) chapter organized a fundraiser that brought together students and faculty for a great cause: the Pie the Professor event, held in conjunction with World Smile Day and the Student Government Association's monthly TGIF social gathering.

Students purchased tickets to enter a raffle for the chance to pie a participating faculty member, with a last-minute donation option on the day of the event to guarantee their spot as a "pie-thrower."

"It was so, so funny! It was a success, and the students and professors had fun," said Olivia Black (D3), ASDA Philanthropy Committee chair. The ASDA met its goal of raising \$1,200 for the international non-profit Smile Train, which will fund cleft lip and palate surgeries for five children.

The ASDA Philanthropy Committee is proving that dental school isn't just about clinical skills—it's also about compassion, teamwork, and service. The committee's calendar stays full year-round with events like the Adopt an Angel program in December, Philanthropy Month in January, a campus blood drive in March, a 5K in April, and food bank volunteer days.



From left, Drs. Jorge Palavicini, Eugene Antenucci, Thomas Lallier, James Burns, and John Dagate proudly took pies to the face in support of Smile Train.

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## LSUSD Welcomes New Community Affairs Coordinator



Leslie Salinero is a lifelong resident of the New Orleans area with over 20 years of experience in communications, marketing, and public relations.

Before assuming her new role as Community Affairs Coordinator, she worked at Delgado Community College on the Communications, Marketing, and Public Relations team, where she honed her skills in content creation across both print and digital platforms. She brings a strong background in writing, editing, and graphic design to her work.

Salinero holds a Master of Arts in English and a Bachelor of Arts in Education from the University of New Orleans. She lives in Metairie with her husband, Christian, and their cat, Jasper. In her free time, she enjoys reading, spending time with family and friends, and serving as the organist at First English Lutheran Church.



## **LDA Dues Statements Should Hit Those Mailboxes Soon; Renew Today!**

The 2026 LDA dues statements should be delivered any day! If you would like to go ahead and renew your membership online now, feel free to visit <https://tinyurl.com/4bme75ua>.

From your first day of dental school, the LDA offers resources for every stage of your dental career. In fact, 3 out of 4 Louisiana dentists are LDA members, which is extremely helpful when we are lobbying legislators for bills that impact dentistry.

We are the largest, most active membership organization advocating for dental professionals in Louisiana. As a reminder, LDA members receive great product discounts by shopping with any of the 30+ companies endorsed by Louisiana Dental Services, the LDA's for-profit arm. These discounts apply to office brands like The Dentists Supply Company (TDSC), Office Depot, and BestCard, as well as other brands like G.E., Lenovo, UPS (and many more).



**Annette Droddy**  
*Executive Director*  
*Louisiana Dental Association*

The LDA also offers nearly 10 opportunities for discounted continuing education for our members, both online and in-person locally and with travel C.E. (such as Napa, ski, Disney and beach trips). We also jointly host the New Orleans Dental Conference/LDA Annual Session with the New Orleans Dental Association.

As YOUR association, we are hard at work on behalf of the profession as a whole and have passed numerous pieces of legislation just over the last few years to protect you, your patients, your time, and your financial bottom line. This legislation includes laws that prevent downcoding and the denial of patients with pre-existing conditions, as well as laws that provide protections for network leasing.

We were successful in lobbying for a dental loss ratio transparency law and are reviewing the first set of data now from the Department of Insurance. Insurers are mandated to turn in this data each year to the department of insurance so that we can see the amount of premium dollars spent on patient care versus administration. The LDA also created a coalition of dental related groups and people to successfully stop a fluoride ban for the state of Louisiana in 2025. The LDA is also currently working with the American Dental Association on the Waiving Applicable Interference for Viable ERISA Reform (WAIVER) Act. If passed, Louisiana could apply for waivers of ERISA preemptions for specific laws already passed in Louisiana, giving the state empowerment to enforce important patient protections.

The support of our members empowers us to promote, advocate, and protect the dental profession. To our current members, thank you for placing your trust in the LDA. To new dentists or those who are not currently members, we would really like to see you as part of the team! If you have any questions, please contact the LDA office at (225) 926-1986. If you are not a member but want to join, you can either call us or you can visit <https://ladental.org/join>.