

# LSU Health

NEW ORLEANS

## School of Dentistry

# JUNE 2024

This newsletter is published by the LSU Health School of Dentistry's Office of Alumni 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.

## Table of Contents

Commencement Ceremonies 2024 - **Page 2**

Golden Apple Faculty Awards - **Page 3**

An Interprofessional Scholar - **Page 4**

From the LDA - **Page 5 & 6**



# LSUSD Commencement Ceremonies 2024

During the May 16th, 2024 commencement ceremonies, 129 LSUSD students walked across the stage to gather their well-earned diplomas. The conferring of degrees presented by Jimmie M. Woods, Sr., Chair of the LSU Board of Supervisors, marked the successful conclusion of their academic endeavors. They are students no more but LSUSD Alumni.

Many entered the LSU School of Dentistry under the tight grip of the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Janet Southerland, Vice Chair of Academic Affairs and Interim Dean for the dental school described the graduating class during the pre-commencement ceremonies as showing “great dedication, great pride, and great resilience”. Despite the uncertainty, students showed amazing resolve to not only survive, but thrive as they made the most of an unprecedented variation in their LSUSD experience.

LSUSD Alumni Board President, Dr. William Grand, also addressed the graduates during pre-commencement ceremonies with great wisdom as he presented three principles to reflect on post-graduation:

1. The importance of being life-long learners
2. Give back to your community
3. Be an active alumni of LSUSD

At the commencement ceremonies, among the 129 students, 3 students received an Associate of Science Degree in Dental Laboratory Technology, 37 students received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene, and 83 students received a Doctor of Dental Surgery Degree.

We offer our congratulations to all graduates! In case you missed it, you can still view the [Commencement Booklet](#) and [Pre-commencement recording](#) at <https://www.lsuhsd.edu/events/commencement>



Dr. Janet Southerland, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and Interim Dean for LSU School of Dentistry



## Golden Apple Faculty Awards

Each program honors faculty members for excellence in teaching with Golden Apple Awards. During Recognition Ceremony, held on May 15, the following faculty members were recognized:



**DLT:** Edwin Kee, MCDT, TE - Associate Professor of Clinical Prosthodontics, Laboratory Services

**DH:** Catrina Lanza, RDH - Clinical Instructor of Dental Hygiene

**DDS:** Maurice Lonergan, DDS - Assistant Professor of Clinical Comprehensive Dentistry



# An Interprofessional Scholar



Fourth year dental student, Maximilian Bourgogne von Hohenstaufen, recently was awarded Interprofessional Scholar designation. The purpose of the Interprofessional Scholar Program is to broaden the pre-health professional's interprofessional lens and support the development of future champions of interprofessional collaborative practice.

Maximilian, with faculty mentor Dr. Nicholas Mosca, DDS, DrPH by his side, embarked on a journey in which he pursued experiences in each of the four pillars of the Interprofessional Scholar Program: Practice, Education, Leadership, and Scholarship/Research. In doing so, Maximilian served on the TEAM UP Student Committee from 2021-2023, he and a fellow TEAM UP Student Committee member worked to develop a team designed to teach students in healthcare programs about oral cancer screenings, he participated in a panel at the 2024 ADEA Annual Session, and had the opportunity for a clerkship at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and the Naval Postgraduate Dental School resulting in a SWOT analysis of the state of Interprofessional collaborative practice in the US Navy and at WRNMMC/NPDS.

"The skills and experiences I gained through TEAM UP and the Interprofessional Scholars Program have already had a tremendous impact on the care I provide my patients, and I know they will continue to make me a better healthcare professional, dentist, and naval officer throughout my career", Maximilian shares.

Maximilian is the second IP Scholar from the School of Dentistry since the establishment of the designation in 2021. Well done, Maximilian!



(Annette B. Droddy  
Executive Director,  
Louisiana Dental  
Association)

## Report from the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature: Organized Dentistry Successful in Passing DLR Transparency and Reporting Bill

The 2024 regular session of the Louisiana Legislature adjourned sine die on Monday, June 3. Here are a few bills of interest to dentistry:

**SB 138** was the LDA's bill incorporating several items that the LA State Board of Dentistry (LSBD) and the LDA agree are necessary for updating rules related to dentistry. The suggested changes are related to a reserved position for a pediatric dentist on the LSBD; licensing exam acceptance from three to five years; and a clarification that any dentist with a sedation permit can serve as a third-party anesthesia provider. The bill was signed by the Governor and is effective as of 5/28/24. Thank you to Senator Bob Owen for authoring this bill.

**SB 463** is the LDA's other bill that establishes transparency and a reporting requirement on Dental Loss Ratio, or DLR, the portion of revenue from premiums spent on patient care, rather than profits, marketing and administration. This bill will ensure that dental plans are more transparent to the patients they serve. Patients and employers seeking to maximize the value of the coverage they purchase would benefit from knowing how much of the carriers' premiums are invested in the care they receive. Transparency and reporting would give consumers the opportunity to have choices in selecting a quality dental plan. Thank you to Senator Bill Wheat for sponsoring this bill. It was signed by the Governor and is effective 1/1/25. We should be able to start seeing DLR data as early as April 2025.

**HB 716** is the universal licensing bill filed by Rep. Charles Owen and supported by the Governor. After several meetings between our lobbying team and the bill supporters, as well as Dr. Rusty Hickham with the LSBD, the bill author agreed to an amendment on behalf of dentistry adding that: In addition to the requirements already established in the bill, the LSBD may require that an applicant for a dental license has successfully completed an initial clinical licensure examination in a United States jurisdiction that included a hand skills assessment. This bill is waiting for the Governor's signature.

**SB 367** discontinued several of the commissions within the Department of Insurance and gave the DOI commissioner the authority to create advisory boards as needed consisting of representatives of insurers, insurance producers, consumers of insurance products not otherwise connected with the insurance industry, and other appropriate persons such as providers. The bill is effective 8/1/2024.



(Front row, from left) Senator Bill Wheat and Governor Jeff Landry; (back row, from left) House Insurance Chair Rep. Gabe Firment, LDA Executive Director Annette Droddy, LDA President Dr. Lance Savoie, and Pelican Partners Lobbyist Cary Koch

**HB 1**, the State's budget bill, includes an amendment providing \$3.9 million for implementation of a dental managed care quality initiative payment program, which will draw down approximately \$12 million including federal funds. This program is not about production. It is designed to provide incentives to practice owners to provide staff hours necessary to achieve the goals of the program. Through the successful work of our Medicaid Task Force Chair Dr. Don Donaldson, the LDA will be working with the State and CMS to implement this program benefiting Medicaid practices. This bill has not yet been signed by the Governor.

Again, it is through the support of the LDA's contact dentist network, along with the additional financial support from the ADA's State Public Affairs grant, that the LDA was able to successfully support (or oppose or amend, as necessary) bills that would cause a great impact to the profession. It is more important than ever to let the LDA know if you are a friend, relative or dentist of an elected official. We need contact dentists! It makes all the difference during the legislative session when we have contact dentists for each legislator on important committees impacting dentistry such as finance, health and welfare and insurance.

To read the full legislative report from the 2024 Legislative Session, visit [ladental.org/advocacy](http://ladental.org/advocacy). For more information about ALL upcoming events, visit [ladental.org/events](http://ladental.org/events)