

LSU Health

NEW ORLEANS

School of Dentistry

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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 for more information.

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ADA SmileCon New Orleans 2024

Dental Olympics

This year, at the ADA SmileCon Olympics, Louisiana State University School of Dentistry competed against three other dental schools across the country in several competitive events that tested their skills and put their dentistry knowledge to the test. From dental trivia to obstacle courses, the two-day event engaged students in a healthy dose of competition, each team chasing for dental school supremacy.

Emerging victorious in events such as dental trivia, after a close match, LSUSD placed 2nd overall.



LSUSD Reception

On Thursday, October 17, LSU School of Dentistry alumni and friends gathered at the LSUSD SmileCon reception to reunite and celebrate being back together in the vibrant city of New Orleans. Attendees enjoyed a lively and welcoming atmosphere of conversation, music, and a meal.

Many attendees had the opportunity to meet the school's new Dean, Dr. John Gallo, and also reconnect with classmates, faculty, and colleagues. LSUSD is proud to have such a strong community of alumni and friends.



Holiday Spirit and Costumes in Clinic

October 31 brought an exciting spirit to the LSU School of Dentistry's clinics as fourth-year dental students competed in a costume contest, each bay coordinating their outfits to match their chosen theme. From Dentists to Dalmatians and busy students to busy bees, staff and students all around campus embraced the Halloween spirit, showing off their costumes from the frightful to the fanciful. Parading through the halls of the dental school, in true New Orleans fashion, we love dressing up!



Fourth year students and faculty members dressed in costume for clinic

Student Appreciation Week

From November 11th to the 15th, LSU School of Dentistry Office of Student Affairs celebrated Student Appreciation Week. With an office full of snacks, treats, and coffee, and a raffle to enter for a gift card, students flocked to the office to take part in the festivities and enjoy the treats.

The Office of Student Affairs is dedicated to recognizing the value students bring to the school and works each day to ensure each feels appreciated, motivated, and supported throughout their time at LSU School of Dentistry.

2024 LSUSD Annual Thank-A-Thon

In the season of giving thanks, dozens of LSUSD students attended the school's annual Thank-A-Thon. This event allows students the opportunity to express their appreciation for the school's donors through handwritten letters that will be mailed to each supporter.

Because of philanthropic support from LSU School of Dentistry donors, the school has been able to support scholarships, revitalize impactful programs at the school, send students to conferences, and make essential upgrades to the on-campus facilities.



Students hand-writing thank you letters to LSUSD donors



PJs and Politics

ASDA Advocacy Committee hosted its annual "PJs & Politics" event in November. Students were able to send letters to their local and state congressmen encouraging them to support S. 2172 / H.R. 7814, which would allow full-time faculty members participating in the Dental Faculty Loan Repayment Program to exclude federal loan repayment assistance from their taxable income. Students also indulged in some PJs coffee as part of the event. This is one of many events hosted by ASDA during November's Advocacy Month!





ADA Came to New Orleans and Let the Good Times Roll

SmileCon® and ADA House of Delegates Roll in October

Annette B. Droddy
Executive Director, Louisiana Dental Association

As many of you likely know, the American Dental Association (ADA) hosted its annual SmileCon® and ADA House of Delegates in October in New Orleans. Officer elections were held October 22 during the final day of the House of Delegates.

Dr. Brett Kessler of Denver, Colo., is the newly installed 161st ADA president. Dr. Richard Rosato, a Concord, New Hampshire, oral surgeon was voted ADA president-elect.

Dr. Tamara Berg, a dentist from Yukon, Oklahoma, and a member of the 12th District of which Louisiana is a part of, was voted ADA second vice president. Dr. Cody Graves, a general dentist from Goldthwaite, Texas, was voted ADA treasurer.

House of Delegates members voted affirmatively to keep the ADA dues at the same rate as last year for active members of the association, \$570. Additionally, after moving from strategic planning to strategic forecasting in 2024, the 2025 ADA HOD voted to adopt the inaugural strategic forecast.

Due to the concerns over workforce issues, particularly hygiene workforce issues, there was much discussion on increasing dental allied professionals in the workforce. One important resolution included having the ADA urge the Council on Dental Accreditation (CODA) to revise the standards for each of the allied dental education programs regarding the faculty-student ratios to align with the predoctoral dental education programs. The resolution also urges CODA to adopt other language that would align with predoctoral programs, including having the number, distribution and qualifications of faculty and staff to be sufficient to meet the dental program's stated purpose/mission.

According to the ADA Health Policy Institute, survey data tracks dental team recruitment challenges. In the third quarter of 2024, for instance, 33.9% of dentists nationally indicated they were currently recruiting or had recruited a dental hygienist in the prior three months. Among those dentists, 91.7% indicated recruitment was very challenging or extremely challenging.

This is certainly on the radar of the LDA and LDA president, Dr. Lance Savoie, has created a task force to work on this issue.

Thank you to those delegates and alternate delegates who represent Louisiana in the ADA House of Delegates: Drs. Brian Basinger, Mark Chaney, Sean Owens, Marty Garrett, Vince DiLeo, Stephanie Weaver, Glen Corcoran, Aaron Mangum, Mike Luminais, Steve Morgan, Lance Savoie, King Scott, and Kristi Soileau.



Special thanks to Dr. Glenn Dubroc for serving as the SmileCon® local arrangements chair on behalf of the LDA. As usual, he did an amazing job recruiting volunteers. We had 105 Louisiana volunteers serving at the meeting. We can never thank him enough for his hard work.



LDA delegates, alternate delegates, and staff attending the ADA Annual Session and House of Delegates in New Orleans in October

Upcoming LDA/ADA Events

LDA members save an average of \$150 per C.E. event.

Last Chance Seminar (Baton Rouge, LA) **December 13, 2024**

Bowden Leadership Conference (Baton Rouge, LA) **January 10, 2025**

Winter C.E. at Walt Disney World (Orlando, FL) **March 2-5, 2025**

New Orleans Dental Conference/LDA Annual Session **April 10-11, 2025**

Summer Education Conference (Pensacola, FL) **June 18-21, 2025**

Sip & C.E. (Napa Valley, CA) **September 17-19, 2025**

Winter CE in Big Sky, MT **February 15-17, 2026**

Summer Education Conference **June 17-20, 2026**

For more information about ALL upcoming events, visit ladental.org/events