

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.



Making a Difference Beyond the Finish Line



Shoulder-to-shoulder, over 200 runners laced up their shoes and raced on the trails of the Bucktown Lakefront in support of the LSUSD ASDA Miles for Smiles 5K Run/Walk on April 13th. This inaugural event raised funds for the Ozanam Inn, a clinic where students provide oral examinations and extractions to the underserved in New Orleans.

For twelve years, LSUSD students and faculty have volunteered their Saturday mornings to provide free dental care at the Ozanam Inn. Under faculty supervision, students treat approximately 500 individuals a year. LSUSD supplies materials and instruments for the care of these patients, and students from all dental classes utilize their education and training to manage the dental needs of this vulnerable population.

Funds raised from the event will be used to upgrade the clinic's needs. These improvements are essential to maintaining a clean, efficient, and professional environment for both volunteers and patients.

As the starting gun fired, runners surged forward; participants of all ages and skill levels took part in the event. Along the trail, blue skies met the blue waters of Lake Pontchartrain, bringing with it a cooling, coastal breeze and ideal conditions for the participants. Spirits were high, as families, alumni, students, faculty, and friends all joined in to support the cause.

Race day activities included an awards ceremony and a post-race party with sponsors providing food, drinks, and giveaways. This year's sponsors included Louisiana Dental Center, MCNA Dental, Grand Family Dentistry, PDS Health, the LSUSD Alumni Association, SGA Dental Partners, and the New Orleans Dental Association.

The success of the event increases the confidence of race student organizer and LSUSD ASDA Secretary-Elect, Joanne Kim (D2), in establishing the Miles for Smiles 5K Run/Walk as a tradition at the LSU School of Dentistry. Dates for 2026 and 2027 are already being considered.

“With the funds raised, the student-run dental clinic at the Ozanam Inn will continue its important work, providing dental care to hundreds of individuals in need each year”, Kim shares, “We are overjoyed with the turnout and success we saw this weekend and hope to make this an annual event.”

For those who were unable to attend the Miles for Smiles 5K Run/Walk, and would like to support LSUSD ASDA in their pursuit of serving those in need at the Ozanam Inn, please visit <https://give.lsuhealthfoundation.org/Dentistry> or call the LSU Health Foundation at 504-568-3712.



Runners complete the race



Race Organizer, Joanne Kim, with award recipient



Post-race party

NODC Alumni Reception Recap

On April 10th, an LSUSD Alumni reception was held at Bourbon House in New Orleans following the first day of the New Orleans Dental Conference. Seventy-two alumni and friends were brought together making for an event well attended! Attendees engaged in a delightful evening of socialization, dinner, and drinks after a busy day of C.E. courses and conference events.



Be sure to check for emails from Alumni Affairs to join us at future events with our amazing alumni!



L-R: Dr. John Gallo, Annette Droddy, and Dr. Nelson Daly

ASDA Vendor Fair

The LSU chapter of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) hosted their 13th Annual Vendor Fair on April 3rd. This event is aimed at exposing LSUSD students, residents, and faculty to products and information relevant to practice. LSU ASDA President, Harli Jacob (D3), along with other ASDA leaders, planned this year's successful event.



Harli Jacob (D3) and Emily Eberts (D2)

Thank you to our sponsors:

SGA Dental Partners	Louisiana Dental Association
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Students of Service

Easter Baskets for the Covenant House



Tradition continues as the LSU Student Chapter of the American Dental Hygienists' Association (LSU SADHA) partners with the Covenant House of New Orleans to assemble and provide Easter baskets to young people in need. The Covenant House of New Orleans is a local non-profit that provides food, shelter, and other resources to more than 650 youth & children ages 22 and under each year.

The project this year was led by Alexia Junot, a first-year dental hygiene student. With the generous support and sponsorship of Campus Federal, paired with donations from LSUSD faculty, staff and students, LSU SADHA was able to assemble 61 baskets. Baskets contained items such as coloring books, crayons, stuffed animals, toothbrushes and toothpaste, pacifiers, teething rings, scrunchies, cosmetics, deodorant, water bottles, socks, nail polish, and much more!

"We have done this project for many years now and we continue to do it because it seems to bring so much joy to the residents of the Covenant House," Alexia shares. "Many people around our school really enjoy donating to this project and the dental hygiene students who make the baskets love to donate their time to this project. We think this project holds a special place in many people's hearts."



Dental Hygiene students drop off Easter Baskets
L-R: Charlotte Harvey, Alexia Junot, Erin Boyer, and Haley Madere.



L-R: Mahkayla Lamy, Alexia Junot, Trinh Bui, Jennifer Nguyen, and Bailey Gaudet

Grace at the Green Light Clothing Drive

The D3 Service Chairs, Catherine Raggio, Davis Mitchell, and Hunter Kortum, kicked off a school-wide initiative to support Grace at the Green Light, a nonprofit organization serving the unhoused population of New Orleans. From March 27th to April 8th, students, residents, faculty, and staff donated gently used clothing for those in need.



**GRACE AT THE
GREEN LIGHT**

To promote participation, a friendly rivalry ensued as classes competed to collect the most clothing. Boxes overflowed with donated items, attributing to the success of the project. Congratulations to the third-year dental class for their win!

Dash into Dentistry

On March 18th, the LSU School of Dentistry hosted 29 students from central Louisiana and Baton Rouge on campus for the Dash into Dentistry program. This program encourages high school students to consider careers as oral health professionals. It is designed to show them how to prepare and apply to attend programs at LSUSD. The program is supported by the Central Louisiana Area Health Education Center (CLAHEC).



Program Participant Group Photo

The program itinerary was comprised of hands-on experiences, seminars, and Q&A sessions. The participants enjoyed the hands-on experiences the most, which included chalk carving, application of dental sealants on extracted teeth, digital 3-dimensional imaging, and prosthesis fabrication. Dr. Toby Cheramie, Associate Dean of Admissions, Student Services and Alumni, described the processes and criteria used to prepare and submit applications. He also discussed how LSUSD assesses students for acceptance. Later in the day, Orlando Arevalo (DLT2), Cindi Bollat (DH2), Ashton Sweat (D2), and Henry Taylor (D1) answered participant questions, explained why they chose their path, and offered advice to improve applications.

Post-program evaluations assessed the participant's knowledge gain and interest in choosing a dental career. Before attending the program, 24% of the participants indicated they were very or extremely knowledgeable about dental careers.

After attending the program, that percentage increased to 86%. When asked about their interest, 33% said they were "very interested" in applying to the dental program, 26% to dental laboratory technology program, and 22% to the dental hygiene program. Dr. Nicholas Mosca, Associate Professor of Clinical Diagnostic Sciences, said he hopes the LSU School of Dentistry will expand current partnerships with the AHECs and other community-based organizations to reach rural high school students statewide.



LSUSD Student Panel L-R: Orlando Arevalo, Cindi Bollat, Ashton Sweat, and Henry Taylor

Baton Rouge Dentist Receives LDA New Dentist Award



Rebecca Bordelon
 Director of Communications and
 Public Affairs,
 Louisiana Dental Association

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA – Dr. Bryant Bourgeois received the New Dentist Award during the 144th House of Delegates of the Louisiana Dental Association on April 12, 2025.

The New Dentist Award is presented annually to one LDA member who has practiced dentistry for less than 10 years and has distinguished themselves by giving their time and talents for the betterment of the dental industry. Such contributions include civic involvement, public service and unselfish devotion to the dental profession. Bourgeois has been a tripartite member of the LDA, the American Dental Association and the Greater Baton Rouge Dental Association for 5 years.



Dr. Bryant Bourgeois receives his LDA New Dentist Award from Dr. Stephen Sherman, Jr.

Dr. Bourgeois is a native of Plaquemine, La. He graduated from St. Amant High School in Prairieville, La, before earning his Bachelor of Science degree from Louisiana State University (LSU). He then completed his dental studies at the LSU School of Dentistry, where he earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) degree. After graduating, Bourgeois served the Gonzales community for several years, gaining valuable experience in providing exceptional dental care. In August 2023, Bourgeois took a significant step in his career by becoming a partner in an established dental practice with Drs. Chad Lacour and Griff Lewis. The practice has since been renamed Red Stick Dentistry, with a focus on creating lasting relationships with patients and providing comprehensive, top-tier dental care.

Outside of his dental career, Bourgeois is deeply committed to philanthropy. He serves as an executive board member for Swollfest, a nonprofit fishing rodeo that raises funds for Our Lady of the Lake Children's Hospital (LOL) and other worthy causes. His dedication to community service has earned him recognition as a young professional, including being named a Fork Cancer Honoree and one of Capital City's Finest.

An avid LSU sports fan, Bourgeois enjoys spending his free time with his wife, Kaelah, and their two children, Benson and Charlie. His commitment to both his professional practice and his community highlights his values of care, service and dedication.