

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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February is recognized as National Children's Dental Health Month!

Give Kids a Smile



Give Kids A Smile returned to the LSU School of Dentistry on February 7, as a strong kick off to National Children's Dental Health Month. The day began with an energetic welcome from the Tooth Fairy, Sparkle the Toothbrush, Toothpaste, and Tooth, who greeted the children as they arrived, while costumed dental hygiene students engaged with them throughout the event. While one group participated in the clinic, others rotated through a series of fun and educational activities designed to keep them engaged and make the most of their time at the school. Interactive games led by hygiene students and faculty taught the kids about tooth-friendly foods and drinks, as well as those that attract "sugar bugs."



Children also participated in face painting, chalk coloring, and various physical activities on the campus athletic field, promoting fitness as part of overall health. The kids also received personalized instruction on proper brushing and flossing techniques, practicing on stuffed animals equipped with full sets of teeth.

Give Kids a Smile Day launched nationally in 2003 as a way for dentists across the country to provide dental services to underserved children at no cost. A child's first visit to the dentist can be memorably exciting, or it can be memorable for other reasons. LSU Health New Orleans School of Dentistry and its partners went all out to make sure this one was memorable for the right reasons.

Getting a Head Start in Dental Education

In February 14, the LSU School of Dentistry had the chance to support the Head Start programs in St. John the Baptist Parish. Head Start helps kids from low-income families get ready for school by providing essential services like education, health care, nutrition, family support, and early intervention. In St. John the Baptist Parish, children receive medical and dental care, nutritious meals, quality learning experiences, and fun recreational activities.

LSUSD dental hygiene students treated 42 kids between the ages of 3 and 6. Shockingly, only 23% had ever been to the dentist before, and more than half had untreated cavities. Despite this, the kids had a great time with the LSUSD students, staying engaged and cooperative while learning about oral health and receiving protective varnish treatments.



Lessons in a Lunch Box

On February 5th, the LSUSD Student National Dental Association traveled to the KIPP Central City Academy to provide children with oral health care education in the form of “Lessons in a Lunchbox”! Lessons in a Lunchbox is an oral health literacy program for elementary school children. Each child was given a “dental health lunchbox” filled with oral health essentials such as toothpaste, floss, a toothbrush, and educational illustrations. The program is designed to teach children and their families about dental care, oral health, and healthy eating habits.



Pre-Dental Day

LSU School of Dentistry held their 15th Annual Pre-Dental Day on Saturday, February 1. The event aims to assist college students in making informed decisions about whether to pursue a career in the dental field. Jointly hosted by the LSU Pre-Dental Society and Dr. Toby Cheramie, LSUSD Director of Admissions, the day included presentations by administrators, faculty members and students. Attendees had the opportunity to participate in a range of activities such as school tours, chalk carving practices, dental waxing, a raffle, and more. The day concluded with a Q&A panel where attendees had the opportunity to questions regarding admissions, the DAT, specialties, student life, and more. Overall, the event provided valuable insights and hands-on experiences that helped attendees gain a better understanding of what pursuing a career in dentistry entails.



Welcoming the new LSUSD Director of Development & Community Affairs

Sarah Petty has assumed the position of Director of Development and Community Affairs for the LSU School of Dentistry. She brings a strong background in development operations, project management, and donor relations from her role at the LSU Health Foundation New Orleans, where she served as Director of Development Operations. Sarah managed a wide range of activities, including budget oversight, strategic planning, board management, and donor cultivation. She has also held key positions in health communications and public affairs, where she developed strategies to enhance visibility and drive engagement across various organizations. With extensive experience in both the nonprofit and healthcare sectors, Sarah excels in fostering community relationships and creating impactful development strategies.



Miles for Smiles 5k Fun Run!

Join LSUSD students, faculty, alumni, and friends this April and run for a cause!

**LSUHSC SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY
ASDA PRESENTS:**

ALL ARE
WELCOME!



CUSTOM
MEDALS &
T-SHIRTS!

AFTERPARTY
& AWARDS!



Scan To Register

SUNDAY APRIL 13TH 2025

JOIN THE RUN/WALK AND HELP US GIVE TO THE
STUDENT VOLUNTEER CLINIC AT OZANAM INN!

\$25

\$25 FOR STUDENTS
\$30 FOR NON STUDENTS

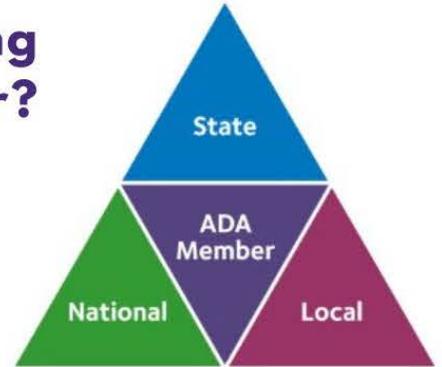
EARLY BIRD PRICING ENDS FEBRUARY 11TH!
SIGN UP AT:
WWW.RACEROSTER.COM/EVENTS/2025/97120/MILES-FOR-SMILES-5K-RUNWALK



Are You Taking Advantage of Everything the ADA Has to Offer?



Annette B. Droddy
Executive Director, Louisiana Dental Association



As a member of organized dentistry, you have a whole team of people behind you working to make sure you are successful. We often talk about the LDA benefits but today, I would like to highlight some of the ADA benefits to make sure you are aware of ALL the opportunities available through the Tripartite. This is a taste of some of the benefits available to you as an ADA member.

Student Loan Refinancing: As an ADA member, you can get personalized, one-on-one guidance and help understanding all your student loan options – including how to qualify for forgiveness – by scheduling your free consultation with a Laurel Road student loan specialist. A student loan consultation can help you:

- Understand your repayment or forgiveness options, such as Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF), Income-Driven Repayment (IDR), or refinancing.
- Get an exclusive 0.30% rate discount on refinancing for LDA/ADA members.
- Develop a personalized plan to manage student loan debt.

Go to laurelroad.com/ada and schedule your 30-minute consultation to get started or call (833) 427-2265.

ADA Credentialing Service/CAQH: The ADA Credentialing Service is a member benefit that helps streamline the credentialing process, allowing you to input, store and update your professional credentials in one centralized location. This service helps eliminate repetitive paperwork for you and your office staff, requiring you to input your credentials only one time. Designed specifically for the dental market, this securely designed service stores your information and makes it available to third party payers, hospitals and employers. [Credentialing | American Dental Association](#)

Federal Advocacy: The ADA has a federal team in DC who work with the states and the contact dentists for the Congressional delegation on third party payer issues and issues impacting dentistry. Governmental changes do not happen over night. Some times these changes take years. When COVID closed dental offices and started on a path to changing dentistry forever, the ADA went to bat for us at the federal level and began a campaign promoting dentists as essential providers. This campaign was transported to the state level as well and, along with our own LDA lobbying, was able to get dental offices in Louisiana back open in about six weeks. Initially, the federal government put dentistry in the top 10 professions spreading the virus. It is important to advocate with one voice regarding dental insurance reform and student loan reform. The ADA also supports efforts that helps your patients to be more healthy. Recent examples include fluoridation efforts ([Fluoridation in Water | American Dental Association](#)) and federal legislation that would allow oral care items to be purchased through FSAs and HSAs ([New bill would allow oral care items to be purchased through FSAs, HSAs | American Dental Association](#)).

As usual, thank you for your trust in the ADA and LDA. We appreciate your support of the Tripartite. *For more information or to view ALL upcoming LDA events, visit www.ladental.org/events.*