

LSU Health

NEW ORLEANS

School of Dentistry

MAY 2025

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Ribbon Cutting Celebration for the Special Care Clinic



Dr. Frank Martello and Brooke Haydel (D3) in the Special Care Clinic



Tribute to first patient treated at UCP

On May 9th, the LSU School of Dentistry hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly established Special Care Clinic. The clinic serves to provide treatment to those with condition(s) that complicate receiving care, including those with intellectual and developmental disabilities and complex medical histories. A highly anticipated occasion, the ceremony featured speeches, tours of the clinic, and a special tribute acknowledging the first patient treated by Dr. Frank Martello 40 years ago at United Cerebral Palsy of Greater New Orleans – one of many individuals whose care ultimately contributed to the founding of the LSUSD Special Care Clinic.

LSU School of Dentistry's involvement with special care dentistry began with Dr. Frank Martello, Clinical Associate Professor in Comprehensive Dentistry, who has been volunteering for over 40 years with the United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Greater New Orleans, providing free dental care for individuals with special needs. Dr. Martello loves to share his experiences with lectures, and often extends volunteer opportunities at the UCP to students. After hearing Dr. Martello lecture in the Professional Development course during her first year of dental school, Brooke Haydel (D3) was deeply moved by his work, especially considering her connection with special needs through family. Overwhelmed with inspiration, Brooke made it her mission to help bring special care dentistry services to the school.

It didn't take long for Brooke to become involved with the LSUSD Special Care Dentistry Association (LSUSD SCDA), a student organization composed of 120 students who support the clinic's mission. Brooke currently serves as President, alongside Michelle Koury (D3) as Vice President. The organization is a local chapter of the nationally recognized Special Care Dentistry Association (SCDA), a non-profit membership organization of dental professionals dedicated to the oral health and well-being for people with complex dental needs.

Soon after the creation of the LSUSD SCDA, the planning for the Special Care Clinic began. Brooke and Michelle, with the support of Dr. Martello, coordinated with school faculty and leadership, and eventually received approval to launch the clinic on campus.

After months of logistical planning, including operatory setup, equipment procurement, and patient scheduling, the clinic officially began seeing patients in a soft launch on February 7th. It now operates on Friday afternoons and relies heavily on student volunteers. Although not yet part of a formal clinic rotation, hopes are high that it will become integrated into the curriculum. The clinic now accepts referrals from various organizations and practicing dentists who are unequipped to treat patients with special needs.

The Special Care Clinic is a result of many driving forces, including a \$100,000 donation made in 2020 by the United Cerebral Palsy of Greater New Orleans to support education, patient care, and community outreach at the LSU School of Dentistry, specifically benefiting patients with special needs. The donation was used to establish an endowed fund, which supports teaching best practices in delivering oral health care to patients with special needs. Additionally, the fund has been used to provide direct patient care to uninsured or underinsured adult patients with special needs.

The clinic's approach to patient care is highly individualized. Patients are diverse, ranging from those with complex medical histories to those who face significant intellectual disabilities. The Special Care Clinic focuses on making the experience as comfortable as possible, often adjusting treatment plans to accommodate each patient's unique needs.

“We see a wide range of patients, and each one requires a different approach,” Brooke explained. “Some patients are more independent, while others may be non-verbal or anxious. We take it step by step,

focusing on the experience and comfort of the patient rather than simply completing procedures.”

While the clinic primarily provides general dental care, some cases may require specialized treatment, like root canals or extractions. In those instances, the clinic refers patients to other specialties within the school.

As the clinic continues to grow, there is optimism that its impact will expand further. The clinic has been fully booked since its soft opening, with a waiting list for those seeking care.

“I really hope that as this clinic continues to grow, more people will recognize the importance of this type of care,” Brooke shared. “It’s about providing the time and attention that these patients need, and that’s something that not every dental practice is equipped to do.”

With its commitment to providing quality dental care for patients with special needs and offering dental students a chance to learn in a compassionate, hands-on environment, the Special Care Clinic is making a significant impact in the community and in dental education.



(L-R) Chancellor Steve Nelson, Dr. Frank Martello, Brooke Haydel (D3) and Dean John Gallo cutting the ribbon

A Creative Spin on Dental Education

From molars to masterpieces, first-year dental students competed in the Annual Art Cast Contest, where repurposed dental casts are used to make creative pieces of art.

After completing the Principles of Occlusion course, students repurpose their old impression casts, no longer needed for practice, to create

artistic models and sculptures. These creations are voted on by faculty, staff, students, friends, and family to determine the winners.

This year, Devan Morrison, Calvin Neff, Henry Taylor, Rivers Singley, and Ross Champagne received the most votes for their masterpiece titled “Molar Lisa”. A special thanks to contest sponsors, Shofu Dental, VITA, Nowak Dental Supplies, Renfert, Nobel Biocare, Dentsply Sirona, and Ivoclar Vivadent for providing winning awards.

The LSUSD Art Cast Contest requires students to utilize their creativity with precision, skills that are integrated into dental education. Through fun and engaging methods such as the Art Cast Contest, students are able to build a greater appreciation for detail and innovation.



2nd Place: Occlu-burger



1st Place: Molar Lisa



3rd Place: Game of Stones

Class of 2025 Graduate Reception

On April 24th, the Class of 2025 marked a significant milestone with a celebratory reception held at the Balcony Ballroom in Metairie. The event brought together all LSU School of Dentistry students and residents who graduate this year, along with faculty members, staff, and invited guests. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all of our graduates and wish them continued success in the next chapter of their professional journeys!



DDS, DH, DLT Class of 2025

LSUSD Launches New Residency Program in Orofacial Pain

The LSU School of Dentistry is pleased to announce the launch of its Advanced Education Program in Orofacial Pain, an accredited, two-year residency program set to begin on July 1, 2025.

This new program is designed to address a growing need for specialized care in the field of orofacial pain – a dental specialty officially recognized by the American Dental Association in 2020. It reflects the vision of the late Dr. Henry Gremillion, former Dean of the LSU School of Dentistry, and has been made possible through the continued support of current Dean, Dr. John Gallo.

Each year, the program will welcome two residents for a comprehensive 24-month training experience. Upon completion, graduates will receive a Certificate in Advanced Education in Orofacial Pain and a Master of Science in Dentistry, making them eligible to sit for the American Board of Orofacial Pain examination.

Residents will receive in-depth clinical and academic training in the diagnosis and management of:

- Temporomandibular disorders (TMD)
- Headache disorders and facial pain
- Neuropathic conditions
- Burning mouth syndrome
- Sleep-related breathing disorders
- Other chronic or unexplained oral and facial pain



Orofacial Pain Clinic on third floor of the Annex Building

To support the program, the LSU Orofacial Pain Clinic will expand to a full-time schedule, open Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, starting July 2025. The clinic offers a comprehensive range of services, including counseling, palliative care, oral appliances, trigger point injections, medications, laser pain therapy, physical therapy, oral sleep appliances, joint injections, joint manipulation, behavioral therapy, and lifestyle modification strategies. When advanced procedures such as arthrocentesis, arthroscopy, or joint surgery are required, collaboration with the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and appropriate referrals are made. Patients may also be referred to specialists in neurology, psychiatry, rheumatology, otolaryngology, pulmonology, and other medical fields as needed. Given the complexity of these conditions, care is delivered through a coordinated interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach.

The program will be led by Dr. Rana Almudamgha, a board-certified orofacial pain specialist, alongside an experienced faculty team: Dr. Dale Ehrlich, Dr. Gary Klasser, Dr. Ron Auvenshine, Dr. Michael Shannon, and Dr. Gary Heir (Gratis).

For questions about the residency or to refer a patient to the LSU TMD and Orofacial Pain Clinic, please contact us at 504-841-8900. A referral form can be found at <https://www.lsusd.lsuhsd.edu/fsofp.html>

LSUSD attends LSU Day at the Capitol

On April 23rd, the LSU School of Dentistry took part in LSU Day at the Capitol, an annual event that recognizes LSU for its contributions to the state. LSUSD students and faculty came together at the Capitol to meet with lawmakers and demonstrate its research and accomplishments to legislators and guests.

While in attendance, students were able to perform multiple oral cancer screenings at the Speaker's Health Fair, held in conjunction with LSU Day at the Capitol. A total of 44 oral cancer screenings were performed on individuals, including several legislators, their staff, and LSU President William Tate.

“It was a truly rewarding experience,” shares Hanin Haidar (D3) “I was especially happy to see so many patients for oral cancer screenings and felt honored to represent LSU.”



L-R: Third-year dental student Francesca DeVille, Hanin Haidar, and Julian Meilleur



LSU President William Tate receives an oral cancer screening





The LDA's Distinguished Service Award Recipients for 2025



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



Every year, the LDA presents the Distinguished Service Award to deserving LDA members. The Distinguished Service Award is the highest honor bestowed by the LDA. It is given annually to LDA members who exemplify the highest standards of professional conduct in dentistry and make extraordinary contributions to organized dentistry and their communities. Keep reading to meet this year's award recipients.

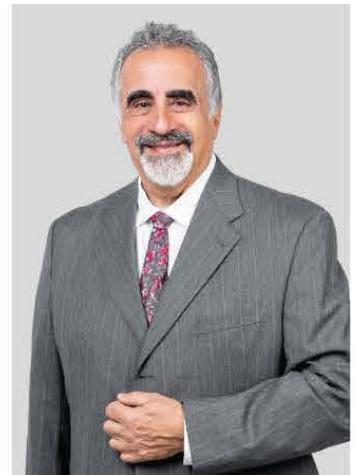
Dr. Vincent DiLeo, Jr.

Dr. Vincent DiLeo has been a tripartite member of the LDA, the American Dental Association and the New Orleans Dental Association for 44 years. Dr. DiLeo's greatest service to the LDA is arguably his term as LDA President in 2023. During his presidency, the LDA hosted a Louisiana Mission of Mercy (LaMOM) event, a volunteer-run project that offers free dental care from licensed dentists to hundreds of Louisiana residents per event. In addition to his volunteerism in the LaMOM event and many before it, he volunteered his time on the Louisiana Dental Association Board of Directors. He now serves as an alternate delegate to the ADA.

In the New Orleans component of the LDA, he has served as a member of the New Orleans Dental Association Board of Directors and as president of the association. He also served as chairman of the New Orleans Dental Conference and LDA Annual Session (NODC/LDAAS), and a member of the NODC/LDAAS Committee and New Orleans Dental Enterprises Committee.

Outside of the LDA and NODA, he is a member of the Academy of General Dentistry and became a Master of the Academy of General Dentistry. In addition, DiLeo earned fellowships in the American and International Colleges of Dentistry.

As a Louisiana State University School of Dentistry student, DiLeo participated in the Advanced Studies Program, Alpha Epsilon Delta, a pre-medical honor society, and the Psi Omega Fraternity, a dental honor society, where he received the Brotherhood Award. DiLeo practiced in Metairie in his private practice from 1982 until his retirement in 2023. He is a long-time active member of the Knights of Columbus.



Dr. Vincent DiLeo, Jr.

Dr. Gizelle Richard

Dr. Gizelle Richard has been a tripartite member of the LDA, the American Dental Association and the New Orleans Dental Association for 40 years. She maintains an unwavering commitment to legislative advocacy. Dr. Richard serves as the chair of the LDA Committee of Government Affairs and donates her time to the LDA Committee of Governmental Affairs and the LADPAC Committee. These groups empower dentists to communicate with legislators, track important bills, and advocate for causes that affect the profession. As

part of an LDA-organized community outreach program, Dr. Richard has worked on the Louisiana Mission of Mercy (LaMOM). In the New Orleans component of the LDA, she is a long-time New Orleans Dental Conference Committee member, where she has served as the general chair, the scientific chair, the speaker host & room monitor chair, the registration chair and an advisory committee member.

Dr. Richard’s involvement in the LDA isn’t her only contribution to dentistry. She has been a member of the Crescent City Study Club (Seattle Study Club) since 2000. Since 2020, she has been a fellow in the American College of Dentists.

A Louisiana State University School of Dentistry graduate and E. Kells Honor society member, Richard has been a licensed, active dentist since 1985. She practices in New Orleans with her daughter, Dr. Gabrielle Richard and her daughter’s husband, Dr. Brent Benoit.



Dr. Gizelle Richard

Dr. Stephanie Weaver

Dr. Stephanie Weaver has been a tripartite member of the American Dental Association, the Southwest District Dental Association, and the Louisiana Dental Association for 26 years. Weaver has supported the LDA’s mission to promote, advocate for, and protect dentistry since she joined the organization. She served six years on the LDA Board of Directors, two years on the LDA Foundation Board, and made history in 2013 when she became the first-ever woman to serve as LDA President.

“When we impress upon young members and future dentists the importance of organized dentistry and how individuals can make their impact felt, she is one of the shining examples we can point to,” remarked Dr. Lance Savoie, LDA Past-President, in his award nomination for Dr. Weaver.

Dr. Weaver’s involvement in the LDA isn’t her only contribution to dentistry; her volunteerism extends from local to national organizations. She is a member of the American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine, the Pierre Fauchard Academy, the Calcasieu Parish Dental Society, and is a fellow in the American and International Colleges of Dentists. She also served on the ADA Council on Communications and has been a delegate to the ADA since 2012.

A Louisiana State University School of Dentistry graduate and a Delta Sigma Delta member, Weaver has been a licensed, active dentist since 1999. She practices in Lake Charles with her husband, Dr. Danny Weaver.



Dr. Stephanie Weaver



Dr. Troy Schmedding

Responsible Dentistry: Advanced Materials and Techniques for the Modern Dental Team

Friday, September 26, 2025

Course Overview

This course is designed for dentists and dental team members seeking to deepen their understanding of both direct and indirect restorative materials in contemporary practice. With rapid advancements in dental materials, treatment planning has evolved to prioritize the conservation of tooth structure and long-term outcomes. Participants will explore how these innovations impact clinical decisions—from diagnosis and material selection to preparation, delivery, and follow-up care. Emphasizing the importance of collaboration, this course highlights the essential role of the entire dental team in ensuring seamless, patient-centered care. Through case discussions and practical strategies, attendees will gain insights into how to optimize workflows and outcomes in a modern restorative setting.

Learning Objectives

- Identify recent advancements in direct and indirect restorative materials and their clinical uses.
- Evaluate the impact of new materials on treatment planning.
- Define each dental team member's role in the restorative workflow.
- Apply evidence-based material selection to optimize function and esthetics.

LSU School of Dentistry
1100 Florida Ave
New Orleans, LA

Sign-in & Breakfast: 7:00am-8:00am
Course: 8:00am - 4:00pm
Alumni Reception: 4:00pm-6:00pm

Dr. Troy Schmedding is a 1993 honors graduate of the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry in San Francisco, California. Troy maintains a private practice in Walnut Creek, CA focusing on aesthetic and functional dentistry. Dr. Schmedding was a Course Director at the University of the Pacific and has published numerous articles on the topics of restorative materials and protocol driven Dentistry. An Accredited member of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, he lectures both nationally and internationally on Aesthetic, Restorative and Adhesive Dentistry. Dr. Schmedding shares his knowledge with numerous dental manufacturers helping to stimulate new product development for our profession.

Register Now!

Dentist / Hygienist, Lab Tech / Assistant, Other

Early Bird	Regular	Late
until 8/15	8/16-9/15	After 9/15
\$310	\$325	\$375
\$185	\$200	\$250
\$110	\$125	\$175

Registration includes a maximum of 5 C.E. Clinical credits (lecture), continental breakfast, box lunch and post event celebration.

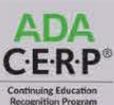


Questions
LSU CDE (504) 941-8193;
CDE@lsuhsc.edu



Post Event Alumni Reception

Join us for a special evening to reconnect and celebrate! Following the day's events, the Alumni Day Evening Reception offers the opportunity to mingle with fellow alumni, faculty, and friends. Enjoy light refreshments, drinks, and great conversation as we honor our shared history at the place where it all started.



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The registration fee is partially refundable (minus an administrative fee) if you cancel your registration thirty (30) days before the start of the course. Any cancellation after this deadline will result in forfeiture of the entire tuition. Written cancellation requests can be submitted by email to CDE@lsuhsc.edu. LSU Health New Orleans Continuing Dental Education (LSU CDE) reserves the right to cancel the course should circumstances warrant such action. Full refunds of registration fees would be made in that event. However, LSU CDE is not responsible for any related costs or expenses, including cancellation/change charges assessed by airlines.