

UCLA SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

THE *Diastema*

BRIDGING THE GAP

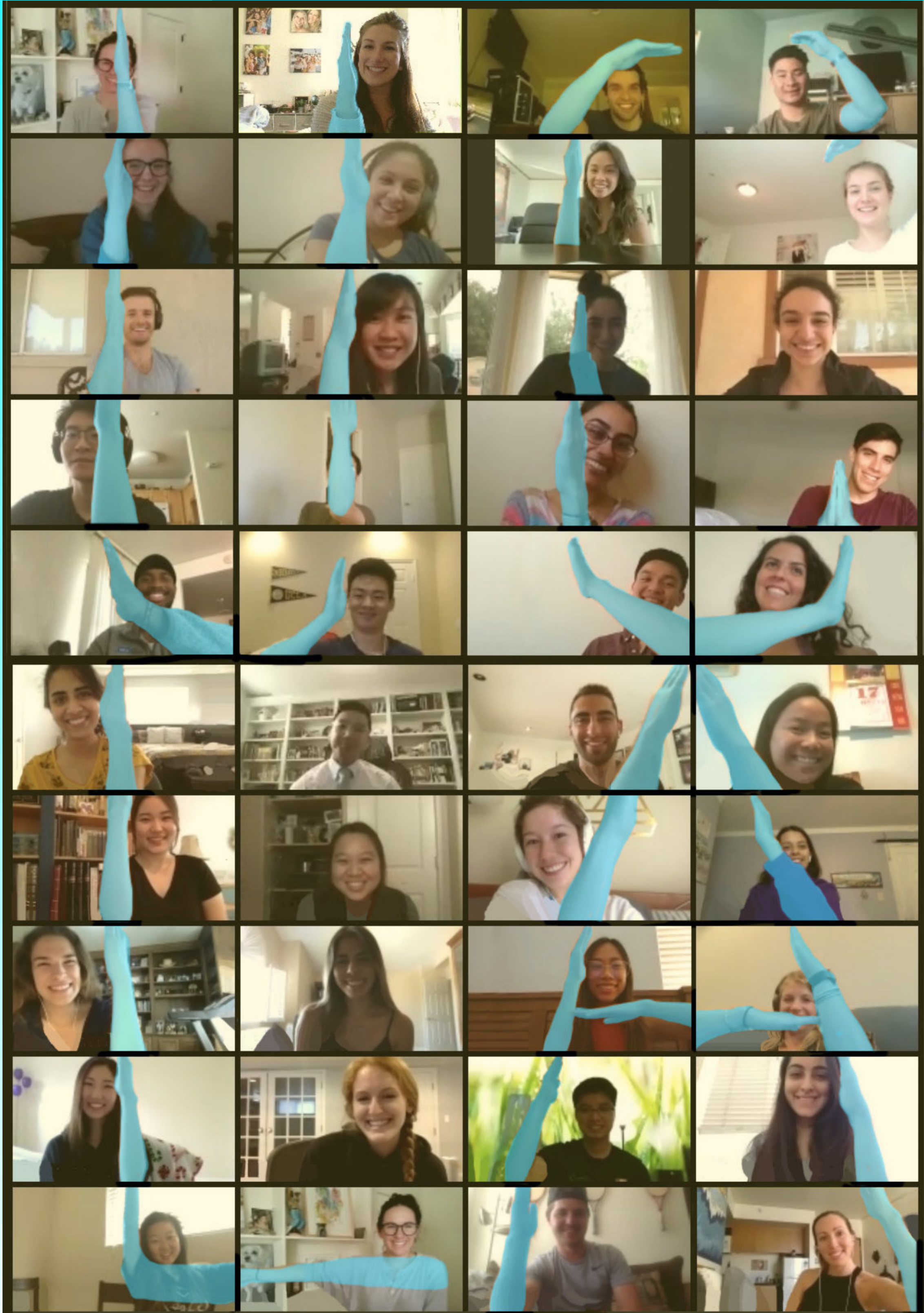


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A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Readers,

Welcome back Bruins, we hope you had a restful break! Our names are Guiselle Murillo and Stephanie Peacock and we would like to introduce ourselves as the new 2020-2021 Editors-in-Chief of The Diastema. After a short hiatus, we are more excited than ever to bring our award-winning newsletter back to life. We hope this issue acts as a way to tie everyone back together and allows everyone to, in a way, catch up after a quarter of being apart. There are many interesting, uplifting, and enjoyable articles in store for you.

In this issue, we introduce our new ASDA cabinet, feature several of our noteworthy faculty members, give you a sneak peak into the magic of ASDA conferences, demonstrate how our school relentlessly strove through the COVID-19 crisis in Spring, highlight the successes of some of our ASDA committees and rising clubs, spotlight our artistically talented peers, and detail the evolution of dental licensure.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the help of our dedicated Diastema team. We would like to thank you all for your hard work and commitment to collaboratively create a newsletter that serves as a voice for our dental school community.

We hope you enjoy reading and if you have any questions or would like to contribute to our next newsletter, please feel free to email us at bruindiastema@gmail.com. It is our pleasure to serve as your editors this year and we are looking forward to a great year!

Guiselle Murillo and Stephanie Peacock

Guiselle Murillo Stephanie Peacock

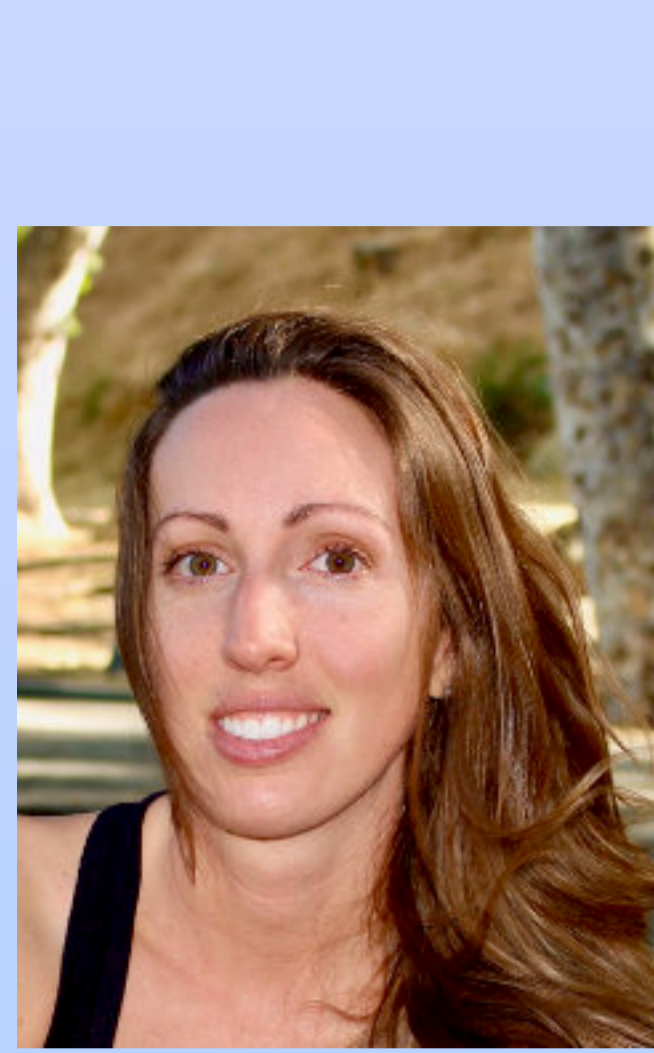
ASDA Newsletter Committee Chairs

MEET THE ASDA CABINET

MAYA GIANNETTI, PRESIDENT

Raised in Davis, CA but my heart can be found back in Boulder Colorado. In my off time, you can find me at the local pool hall, the beach, or in my kitchen whipping up new recipes!

ASDA has, in all honesty, been the backbone of my dental school career thus far. I remember being a D1, being overwhelmed by whatever "ASDA" was. I found out what ASDA was at my first conference: Advocacy and Public Health Academy. Standing alongside our president at the time, I was offered an inside look at what ASDA really means and was able to meet prominent leaders in the organization that I now call my friends.



KELSEY LOMEN, VICE PRESIDENT

I am from LA, I've been riding horses and motorcycles for as long as I can remember, and in 2010 I was the youngest female pilot in the nation for a time. I love the outdoors and my backpacking equipment calls my name on what feels like a daily basis.

I wasn't one of those that was particularly involved in ASDA right from the beginning, however, a huge turning point hit when I decided to go to my first ASDA conference. I finally experienced the ASDA magic everyone was always talking about. I have learned more about myself than I ever thought possible. It's difficult to explain, but trust me, "ASDA Fever" is an expression for a reason!!

KEVIN MAEDA, VICE PRESIDENT

If you're interested in my hobbies and passions continue reading: gym, Jesus, and anime ;)

My favorite ASDA memory is easily District 11 Conference's San Francisco Bay Boat Cruise. That conference allowed me to spend an unbelievable night with some of my best friends underneath the beautiful San Francisco night sky and crisp air. I remember standing with my dear friends near the boat's edge appreciating San Francisco's astonishing architecture and appreciating each other's presence. Those are memories that I hope to never let go.



KRISTEN HORSTMANN, TREASURER

I like to believe that I run and cook in my free time, but usually I end up watching Netflix with my cat Sneezzy-- and yes, she sneezes a lot. My absolute favorite thing to do is make people smile (but with my bad jokes, not in an impressive dentistry way).

Upon entering UCLA, I was so excited to get involved in ASDA! My close family friend/mentor was incredibly involved with ASDA at her school and totally passed down the ASDA fever. Right off the bat, I became involved in Fundraising and the Peds and Teens committees, where I was able to give back in a tangible way. As Fundraising Chair, I quickly learned how to juggle the moving parts of our main fundraising events, which will serve me well as Treasurer for the upcoming year.

ALYSSA NOWLEN, SECRETARY

I'm from a tiny town called Morgan Hill in Northern California, pursuing pediatrics and public health. When I am not on my laptop drafting emails and going through PowerPoints, I love to cook, take and instruct Zumba classes, and grace the entire 9th floor of Paseo with my singing voice.

Some of my favorite ASDA events include the Welcome BBQ, Pre-Dental Core Build-Up Day, Charity Auction, Vendor Fair and the Golf Tournament (maybe I'm a little biased on the last three as the former Co-Fundraising Chair and Golf Chair ;).



ARIANA MOTAVALLI, LEGISLATIVE LIAISON

In 2019, I graduated from UC Irvine in Chemistry and Biological Sciences. My hobbies include playing tennis, poker, reading, hiking, and watching NHL (Go Sharks!).

In the future, I hope I can get UCLA students further involved in ASDA to help them see all the things it entails. For example: leadership, advocacy, networking, organized dentistry...the list goes on and on! Through ASDA, I found my new passion for policy. By attending ASDA conferences (NLC and Annual Session), I saw the real purpose of ASDA and all it has to offer.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Unity. Community. Leadership. Advocacy. Amidst Zoom calls, pre-recorded lectures, online finals, and anticipation of the unknown future, these four principles have guided our ASDA leaders towards growth and innovation during tumultuous times. Beginning a new term as an ASDA chapter in the middle of a pandemic is a challenge I never expected to encounter when dreaming about my future as ASDA President, but despite the difficulties, I have grown in more ways than I ever thought possible. In the face of adversity, the executive cabinet of 2020-2021 has put their whole heart into revamping and organizing our chapter to facilitate leadership trainings and solidified an upward trajectory for ASDA UCLA. Many late nights of brainstorming, writing, editing, and proofreading occurred behind the scenes and I am forever inspired by the amazing individuals that support our chapter. In times like these I recognize the true importance of organized dentistry. Individually, we are driven and hard-working, but together as a team we create an unstoppable force ready to revitalize and grow our community and profession.

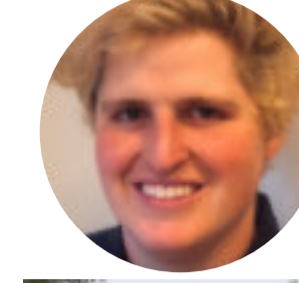
To the class of 2020, congrats! Good luck in your future endeavors whether it be residency or joining the dental workforce. We cannot wait to see what our alumni have to offer the community and I hope you continue to pursue leadership and advocacy efforts throughout your career. Make sure to join the ADA, your state and local dental societies, give back, and challenge the status quo.

To the incoming class of 2024 and PPID class of 2022, you are entering your education in a time of uncertainty. It is important that you support each other throughout this journey and be ready to advocate for yourselves and your education. ASDA UCLA is here for you whenever you need a support system or a helping hand. We look forward to integrating you into our family.

Let us make this ASDA year one to remember.

Maya Giannetti, ASDA President 2020-2021

COMING FULL CIRCLE: Dr. Preston's Path to Teaching at UCLA



by Ryan Needle



A scenic photo of Seattle, WA captured by Dr. Preston, which she describes as being "a magical place."

"She incorporates Zoom polls into her lecture to engage topic-driven learners and dance routines to teach kinesthetic learners the orders of orthodontic tooth movement."



Dr. Preston proudly displaying the many awards she won as a pre-doctoral student at UCLA's School of Dentistry awards ceremony.



A familiar face to this school, alumna Dr. Kathryn Preston returned to the UCLA School of Dentistry in February as a full-time faculty member in the Section of Orthodontics. Most recently, she became

the new Pre-Doctoral Program Director after her many adventures across the United States. Third-year dental student, Ryan Needle, sat down with Dr. Preston to learn a little more about her and how she has spent her time at UCLA since her return.

Dr. Preston, originally from South Florida, began her pursuit of higher education at the University of Kentucky, where she studied Spanish. An enthusiast of many hobbies, she also enrolled in a few courses in fashion school. After attaining her undergraduate degree, where she enjoyed the breadth of her liberal arts education, Dr. Preston enrolled at the UCLA School of Dentistry. Her time at UCLA cemented her interest in Orthodontics, and she chose to pursue a 3-year Orthodontics specialty certificate program in Dallas with a simultaneous masters in Oral Biology. A year or two after residency, she decided to pursue a 1-year Craniofacial Orthodontics fellowship in Seattle. She describes her fellowship as her "favorite year of training," due to it allowing her to completely immerse herself in a subspecialty she wholeheartedly loves. Dr. Preston saw her journey come full circle when her love for teaching brought her back to UCLA, where she now works to help reshape the dental school curriculum and modernize orthodontic education.

Students who have had the pleasure of being taught by Dr. Preston have experienced her contagious enthusiasm. Morning classes in Dr. Preston's second-year Orthodontic Techniques course begin with upbeat, nostalgic music like The Beatles. In virtual classes, fun Zoom backgrounds are used to keep the mood light. She displays a collage made of encouraging

messages she collects from students to share with each other. Dr. Preston explained her philosophy behind making a concerted effort to engage students, recognizing that, "everyone learns a little differently." She incorporates Zoom polls into her lectures to engage topic-driven learners and utilizes dance routines to teach kinesthetic learners the orders of orthodontic tooth movement. In addition to her innovative teaching methods which have augmented the way students learn, Dr. Preston has galvanized students beyond the classroom.

While in quarantine due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Preston worked with various student-led organizations to host virtual "lunch-n-learns." At a time when member-engagement of various clubs dropped due to the abrupt cancellation of planned events and suspension of in-person interactions, she offered to host virtual seminars, sometimes giving more than two presentations a week for different clubs. She led events where she provided advice on applying to orthodontic residencies, considerations in unique ways to use your orthodontic education, insight into how orthodontists use appliances to help treat patients with cleft palates, presented ethical dilemmas within the field of orthodontics, and more. "I'm really happy to be the Pre-Doc Program Director," she expressed, "I vividly recall being a dental student seemingly at the starting gates of a specialty career path, and I am glad that I can use my experience from after dental school to help students pursue certain opportunities that they may not have thought of." After hearing Dr. Preston describe how she treasures her experiences in education, her perspective on developing one's own professional pathway is certainly a welcome one.

Dr. Preston ended the interview by sharing fond memories of her time in the Pacific Northwest during her fellowship at Seattle Children's Hospital. She describes it as a "magical place" with a "canvas of evergreen trees." She humorously recalled the abundance of happy hour pricing on salmon in bars and restaurants, which she admittedly misses. "Apparently I'm super emotive when I talk about it," she notes. It's those types of uniquely fulfilling experiences that she inspires her students to pursue.

2020 ASDA Conference Magic



by Kelsey Lomen

Looking animated and rather stylish, UCLA's troop of twelve proudly breezed into the enormous conference hall, just in time for the opening ceremony of the American Student Dental Association's (ASDA's) Annual Session. The excitement is palpable as the voices of a myriad of dental students from all across the country fill the room in a cheerful commotion. The Union Station Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri welcomes ASDA this year, offering a picturesque atmosphere to accommodate one of the most significant student-run national conferences in organized dentistry. To some, this is the third or even the fourth Annual Session that they've been to. So, what is it that keeps dental students coming back, year after year?

Organized dentistry is a word we hear often while in dental school, but many of us haven't yet had the chance to experience firsthand the opportunities it offers. As we become involved, it exposes us to the world outside of our own clinic and classroom where we gain invaluable wisdom about our profession, patients, and ourselves. As dental students, ASDA is our very own portal into the world of organized dentistry. Being a part of ASDA means choosing to have a voice and being heard, as well as taking it upon ourselves to become informed leaders in our workplace and outstanding role models within our communities. Amid the energizing atmosphere found at these conferences, we feel a connection to so many ASDA members around the country who share a feeling of responsibility to continue upholding the integrity of our beloved profession.



In a way, Annual Session is the manifestation of the heart and soul of ASDA.

The House of Delegates meetings serve as our opportunity to review and debate resolutions and policies, which can then be voted on in order to best represent the values of our members. The voices of all attendees are valued and we are encouraged to participate whenever possible. We quickly caught on to the systematic and streamlined nature of the process, which provided a fascinating peek into the essence of ASDA's governance. In just a few short sessions, we have become intimately familiar with the inner workings of one of our nation's most fundamental branches of organized dentistry.

This year's conference featured keynote speaker Chris Norton, whose powerful life story reminded us to continue to persevere through our most challenging obstacles, something that resonated heavily within auditorium filled with dental students. Chris closed by encouraging us to reach for the highest of heights, and we adjourned for one of our many coffee social breaks before jumping right into Annual Session's election excitement. The leadership of ASDA is almost entirely made up of dental students, and caucus meetings allow members to get to know their candidates before casting their votes. The opportunity to run for a national or district position is open to all, and the vast number of roles available each year offer the experience of a lifetime to hold a consequential role in an immensely influential organization. This year at Annual Session, two of our own, Maya Giannetti (c/o '22) and Chris Martinez ('23) were each elected into the District 11 cabinet as our Secretary and Legislative Liaison representing the state of California.



As we sipped our coffee while waiting for the next House of Delegates meeting to start, Lauren Kim reflected on her experience so far, stating, "It's easy to get weighed down by all the responsibilities of school, but coming to this conference has really put things into perspective and helped me to realize the pride I have in the profession that I am pursuing. It's nice to know that there is a nationwide community out there made up of people that are going through the exact same things as you." Ariana Motavalli, another of our D1 representatives, agrees that going to a national conference is an enlightening experience, showcasing the realization that ASDA truly is something much bigger than what we see every day at school.

Two of our students in the Professional Program for International Dentists (PPID) attended Annual Session this year. Daniel Kruk-Leahy and Prasida Mandapati took full advantage of the week, networking with some of the most influential leaders in dentistry and forging ties with dental students from all over the country. They clearly thrived in the conference setting, empowering their peers to do the same. Nevertheless, Prasida admits that she nearly decided not to come to the conference, concerned that, as an international student, she wouldn't fit in. "Coming from a different country, it's been a challenge for me to speak up and express myself so that people understand who I am. But coming to this conference has opened my eyes to so many other possibilities. It's not just about speaking, there are



so many other ways to have a voice. When it comes to seemingly little things like skills for organizing an event or finding confidence in yourself and your own abilities, there really are just endless possibilities for what you can get out of something like this." Prasida and Daniel would like to encourage everyone to come to an ASDA conference at some point during dental school.

Regardless of whether you are a PPID or a D1 dental student, Annual Session is not the only way to experience the ASDA conference magic for yourself. The fall season brings the ASDA National Leadership Conference, as well as California's own District 11 Meeting, both of which offer their own set of incredible opportunities for personal growth and connections. Our UCLA chapter will typically help subsidize the conference registration fees (which, depending on the conference, can be upwards of \$700 per person) for a handful of members, you just have to apply!

As tremendously fun as these conferences are, there is something much bigger happening in the midst of all the meetings, break-out sessions, coffee breaks, and even the vivacious socials each night. Many don't realize it, but we have the power to shape the outlook of our profession. The bonds that strengthen a nationwide unification among our nation's healthcare providers are established and tempered through national gatherings like Annual Session and the National Leadership Conference. Ideas are exchanged, ambitions are ignited, and potentials are realized at these very events. The American Student Dental Association receives its extraordinary influence through the collective passion of its eclectic membership, therefore it is astonishingly apparent that we must continue to uphold and promote the opportunities ASDA provides its members.

UCLA ASDA COMMUNITY SERVICE

A Review of 2019-2020



by Lewis Luo

Each year, UCLA's ASDA Community Service Committee organizes outstanding events across the Greater Los Angeles area aiming to better the community one event at a time. This year was another successful year as co-chairs Tyler Brennan (D2) and Delaney Islip (D2) worked tirelessly to host a series of events, both dental and non-dental related. These events ranged from providing oral hygiene instruction at local health fairs to hosting the largest UCLA Dental School Blood Drive yet.

However, their goal to create more service opportunities for the UCLA ASDA chapter was made possible with the help of their large committee involving D1 and D2 dental students. Each sub-committee was responsible for planning and implementing 1 community service event for the year. Through their collaborative efforts, one group planned a beach cleanup with "Heal the Bay", an organization that works to keep California shores clean. Another group organized a holiday card-making event and delivered the cards to children in local hospitals. "Overall, we just wanted our committee to create opportunities wherever they felt inspired," said Tyler Brennan, D2.

“...this year's committee took it to a new level by hosting the blood drive at the Center of Health Sciences...”

The Community Service Committee also sought to provide oral health instruction at a local community health fair. The participation of the students varied from 6 to 15 students per session and the number of patients seen sometimes reached as high as 100! These health fairs provided greatly needed preventative services such as fluoride varnish and intraoral screenings, helping to reduce communal healthcare disparities and improve oral health outcomes.

It is without a doubt that one of the committee's greatest highlights are the quarterly UCLA School of Dentistry Blood Drives. Kevin Maeda (D2), successfully introduced this event as a committee member himself during his D1 year, but this year's committee took it to a new level by hosting the blood drive at the Center of Health Sciences, making it a quick 3-

minute walk from the dental school as opposed to the 20-minute walk to the Blood and Platelet Center in Ackerman Union. Tyler says the trick for achieving large turnouts was scheduling during opportune times when school demands were low and pairing email communications about the drives with face-to-face invites and encouragement to sign up in lab, lecture, the school halls, etc. "It's way easier to say no to an email versus going to people on a one-on-one basis to ask for their help," he adds. While the representative from the Blood and Platelet Center worried that they never had much success hosting blood drives at the Center of Health Sciences, the committee remained determined to make it a successful event. In order to do so, they engaged the medical students to participate, sent out flyers early and often, and offered \$25 Amazon gift cards. The results were outstanding with over 50 participants from the dental school alone in a single event!

The committee remained resilient and dedicated to reach out to the community despite the restrictions the COVID-19 pandemic posed on their events. They decided to host a virtual blood drive to help combat the dire need of blood at local blood banks during this time when many blood drives are canceled.

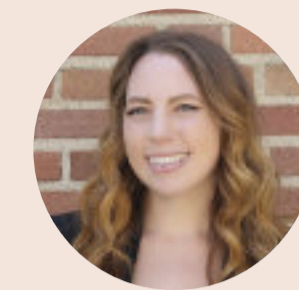
As Tyler reflects on their community service efforts, he states, "Overall, I think we had a successful year. It was personally rewarding for me because I learned firsthand how willing my fellow students at UCLA are to help others in their communities. It inspired me to be better and constantly look for small ways to serve the people around me."

“The results were outstanding with over 50 participants from the dental school alone in a single event!”



Pre-Dental events from previous quarters this year include a waxing tutorial (left). Pre-dentals enjoy a tour of the school led by Elizabeth Le, including having fun with Giant Microbe plushes in the student store (right).

A SHIFT IN FOCUS: CONNECTING WITH PRE-DENTAL STUDENTS DURING COVID-19



by Alyssa Janssen



UCLA ASDA's Pre-Dental Outreach Committee has always been an active force on campus, and this year's committee co-chairs are not letting that change despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Elizabeth Le and Alexa Williamson, both D2s, are excited to follow in the lead of last year's co-chairs, Kevin Maeda and Donghyun (Don) Kim, and continue to inspire pre-dentals.

The Pre-Dental Outreach Committee has long been known to hold in-person events, such as inviting undergraduate students from various institutions to learn about UCLA at Shadow Days, to building a big/little mentorship program with UCLA's Pre-Dental Student Outreach Program (PDSOP), and hosting the largest pre-dental day of the year: Core Build-Up Day. In light of COVID-19 and the need to cancel some of their impactful in-person events, the Pre-Dental Outreach Committee sought to create opportunities that would still serve pre-dentals profoundly, but through other means, such as virtual sessions. This led to the creation of a free online lecture series that spanned over 5 weeks, covering a multitude of topics such as "Application Do's and Don'ts", "Destroying the DAT", "Writing a Stellar Personal Statement", "Acing the Interviews", "Letters of Rec", "Extracurricular Activities", "Choosing the Right Dental School", and "Hot Topics in Dentistry". Each lecture was presented by co-chairs and committee chairs, followed by a Q&A. Students that could not attend the live lecture sessions could watch the recorded versions via their YouTube channel: UCLA Pre-Dental Outreach.

This series turned out to be more successful than they anticipated, with over 540 sign-ups and more than 100 students per lecture.

Don and Kevin also recognized the significant loss of Core Build-Up Day's great interviewing and personal statement services, so they created an online tutoring program through Zoom, which included over 60 dental student volunteers and over 130 pre-dental students. Through this tutoring program, current UCLA dental students were matched with a pre-dental and were asked to arrange 1-2 Zoom sessions to revise personal statement drafts and host at least one mock interview. Outstandingly, Don and Kevin were able to fundraise over \$1,600 for ASDA's Pre-Dental Outreach Committee by only charging the pre-dentals a mere \$10-15. This exceeded the committee's efforts last year by \$400. The shift to online tutoring has allowed the pre-dental committee to reach more undergraduate students than previous years when many of these events were held in person. They plan to continue holding this service through the Summer quarter and dental school application cycle.

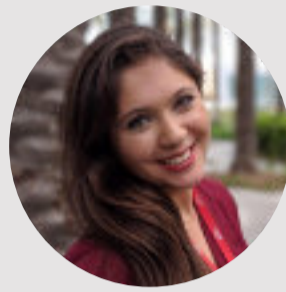
The committee is passionate about maintaining their strong connections with undergraduate schools, thus they plan to replace Shadow Days with either live or pre-recorded videos. These videos will include all the same features that made this event a highlight for both UCLA students and pre-dentals: sitting in on a dental morphology course, a school tour, Q&A with current dental students, and an informational panel with Dr. Margolis, our Associate Dean of Student Services. Despite needing to rearrange many of the events in light of current circumstances, the committee is more dedicated than ever to connecting with pre-dental students and helping them achieve their dreams.

Check out more of what the UCLA ASDA Pre-dental Outreach Committee is up to on Instagram



@ucla_asda_predental

DENTAL STUDENT EXPERIENCE DURING QUARANTINE



by Fernanda Silva Celaya

Monday, March 16th, 2020 was not only the first day of finals week of the Winter Quarter; it also marked the first day of quarantine for many Dental Bruins. This presented a new type of stress where what was taken for granted before was now being threatened by the uncertainty of the coronavirus. During spring break, many students traveled anywhere from a couple of miles to across the sea to see their families and many stayed there with them. As a rising D3, it is unbelievable to think it has only been one quarter since we started taking double the didactic course load and doing clinical rotations through Zoom. One thing is certain: this pandemic has shown incredible resiliency, creativity, and dedication by both faculty and students of UCLA School of Dentistry.

The challenges of quarantine invited our students to become creative in discovering the new types of joy that exist hidden in this quarantine life, and endeavored to keep mental health and morale high. American Student Dental Association (ASDA) collaborated with the Healthy Dentist Initiative (HDI) Club to encourage students to share how they keep healthy during this quarantine through social media. HDI club also hosted virtual fitness classes through Zoom, such as Zoom-ba led by D2 student, Alyssa Nowlen, HIIT workout classes, and yoga. Similarly, students and faculty are part of a running team called ASDA (S)miles Club through the Strava app to share their fitness routines and keep each other accountable.

Aside from keeping fit, students satisfied their hunger for knowledge through Zoom. The lunch “treat” of normal lunch-n-learns was replaced with Zoom sessions. Some clubs took the opportunity to host speakers who usually cannot be physically present at UCLA. The Dental Practice Management Club invited successful, Instagram-famous dentists to share their tips and tricks, while the Oral Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS) Track started a series of case-based discussions. ASDA Ethics Committee continued with thought-provoking discussions about ethics within each specialty. A new selective was created to teach the psychology behind dentistry. On top of these lunch-n-learns, students took advantage of free CE courses and attended virtual conferences.



While the opportunity to learn remained widely available during this quarantine, language barriers were also intensely fought with education. In addition to the Chinese Selective Track, students were now given the opportunity to learn Farsi, Korean, and Spanish dental terminology through new selectives offered by each ethnic club. This was made possible by using the time we couldn't spend in the clinic or lab. While the volunteer-led translation program hosted by Hispanic Dental Student Association (HSDA) for clinic was on hold, multilingual pre-dentals and dental students were still able to volunteer their abilities by translating oral health documents and research transcripts requested by several clubs and research labs.

While inclusivity of language was advocated, all the classes kept in contact through happy hours and zoom calls to celebrate each other's birthdays, watch movies, and dance together to online music concerts. The class of 2023 continued to learn about each other through a game of “Guess Who” where classmates tried to match anonymous descriptions or fun facts to one another. Personally, I got to experience the different activities hosted by the class of 2022, including a cooking class, yoga session, mixology class trivia night, and many spirit days. A \$10-dollar reward was given to the student that best represented the theme of each spirit day, and in light of the current situation, students ended up donating their winnings to charity to help spread more positivity. Out of \$110 dollars in prizes, \$50 dollars went towards The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Aside from keeping strong bonds between students, a strong support for the rights of the Black community arose among students. With the help of Google, Indian Dental Student Association (IDSA) tripled student donations made to a Student National Dental Association (SNDA) drive and donated \$4,392 dollars to Black Lives Matter non-profit organizations. Besides monetary contributions, student clubs and individual students promoted this movement to end racism across the United States through peaceful protesting in person and online. When the George Floyd protests started, all faculty made sure to communicate that they were there for whoever needed support and let students speak out their standpoint during portions of their classes. Dr. Hewlett took it one step above by creating a talking circle zoom meeting for students. This zoom session was an emotive and informative 7-hour conversation where more than 200 faculty and students spoke out against racism. This meeting was initially meant to be 1 hour and a half but faculty and students stayed until everyone was able to speak their truth.

While the rights of black communities were advocated, advocacy efforts for vulnerable communities were also continued through innovative ways. Special Patient Care Club took this initiative to a whole new level to advocate for patients with developmental disabilities. Besides having lectures to educate about how to treat this community, a few of their members got the opportunity to be speech coaches for one week as part of the Best Buddies Program. They also solved the problem of not being able to educate about the importance of

oral health at health fairs and schools by creating the *Quarantine Guide to Great Oral Health* website, which has educational videos, articles, and fun activities in both English and Spanish (courtesy of HSDA volunteer translators). This website has been integrated into the summer curriculum of multiple California schools. However, it is available to patients of all ages.

In addition to advocating for the special needs community, the pre-dental community was extensively aided during these uncertain times. ASDA's Pre-Dental Outreach Committee extended their efforts nationally by virtually mentoring about 132 pre-dental students and educating 547 pre-dental students through its new lecture series regarding the application process. Essential health care workers also inspired dental students to take action. UCLA dental students collaborated with the medical students to assemble face shield masks and testing kits. ASDA Community Service Committee continued their advocacy efforts to donate blood at blood banks since many blood drives do not meet the physical distancing measures. In addition, UCLA Hospital-based Dentistry Study Club created a video expressing admiration and thanking essential health care workers for their dedication in treating patients during this pandemic.

A part of why dental students are thriving in this story is due to faculty. Aside from transitioning two quarters worth of curriculum into virtual means in just one week, faculty have gone above and beyond to make sure their students are well during this pandemic. Dr. Hayashi created a brand-new series of lectures by faculty and practicing dentists to keep D2, D3, and D4 students up to date in these times where clinical exposure is reserved for emergencies. Dr. Preston welcomed her students with upbeat songs, had spirit days, and compiled kind messages students submitted about each other. On top of that, she organized countless club meetings to get to know, check on, and give advice to her students on how to apply successfully to residencies and specialties. Various teachers joined students by using Zoom backgrounds to lighten the mood of classes, including Dr. Yu and Dr. Morgan. Knowing some lab experience was going to be limited during this quarter, Dr. Yu and Dr. Morgan worked with the Educational Media Club to create videos for students, so they get exposed to these procedures prior to their return to lab and clinic. Dr. Hayashi and Dr. Bibb celebrated the graduating class of 2020 by hosting an Animal Crossing style graduation. This was done online through the game “Animal Crossing: New Horizons” for Nintendo Switch. These actions show that there are no horizons to what faculty are willing to do for their students.

Although Dental Bruins were scattered nationally and internationally, they found ways to stay united and join forces to provide help for each other and others during this pandemic. As the time to come back to clinic and lab is forthcoming, much uncertainty lies within students and faculty, but resilience and flexibility will without a doubt be the strengths that each dental bruin will display to thrive in this new normal routine.

DIASTEM-ART GALLERY



by Ksenia Bubukina

a. AVA ZABOLIE, CO 2023: I don't recall how painting became my hobby! I've been enjoying to paint since I was four. Painting is probably my first and the most favorite hobby of all time. I painted [this piece] and sent it to my grandparents in Iran.

b. BERTA TAVERDI, CO 2021: My father is a carpenter. Having no siblings, I would often find myself in his wood-shop in Tahrán, Iran since a very young age. I was too young to handle woodworking tools, but he would let me draw on pieces of leftover wood. Any dexterous skills were highly praised in my family and this is how I got into it!

c. KSENIA BUBUKINA, CO 2022: Pencil drawing of a diastema. When I lived in Moscow, I enjoyed attending art lectures at Pushkinsky Museum where I learned about different art styles, movements, and the history of art. When I moved to San Francisco, I decided to learn how to draw myself and after a busy day at the dental office, I took a train to Fort Mason where I learned how to work with pencil and charcoal.

d. MIKE CAI, CO 2022: I started taking drawing classes in 5th grade as a way to have fun initially. As I was always into classical art, visiting places like Versailles and the Louvre to see all the masterpieces there was such an eye-opening experience for me. After studying art history, I became fascinated with all the artistic styles of each period and the significance behind each painting. All this inspired me to start replicating oil paintings as a hobby.

e. DON KIM, CO 2022: I only recently got interested in dental photography, and it was mostly inspired by seeing so many beautiful dental works on Instagram by high-level dentists. I think creative dental photography expands the artistic nature of dentistry, and it makes the profession a lot more enjoyable for me.

f. KISHEN GODHIA, CO 2021: From a very young age, I was always drawn to more creative ways to play. Whenever I got a new toy, I would be more interested in what I could make out of the cardboard box than the actual toy itself. I would cut and fold and paint the cardboard to innovate my own toys, and I realized that most of my fun came from the creation process. From here I learned to draw and paint and still enjoying creating art to this day!

g. LILI PHAM, CO 2020: I started my hobby when my great aunt gifted me several mini cross stitching kits that were around 4"x4" when I was around 8. I finished those and then totally forgot about the hobby until around the beginning of last year. I was looking for something to do in my spare time that I could multi-task with and cross stitching suddenly popped into my head. Since then, I haven't stopped!

h. EON HYE GRACE JI, CO 2022: I started to enjoy painting since I was 6 years old. My mom was an artist, and we used to paint together. I love to work with my hands. I was amazed when I saw my mom, and other artists, mix colors to create unique variations, which ultimately represented their individuality.

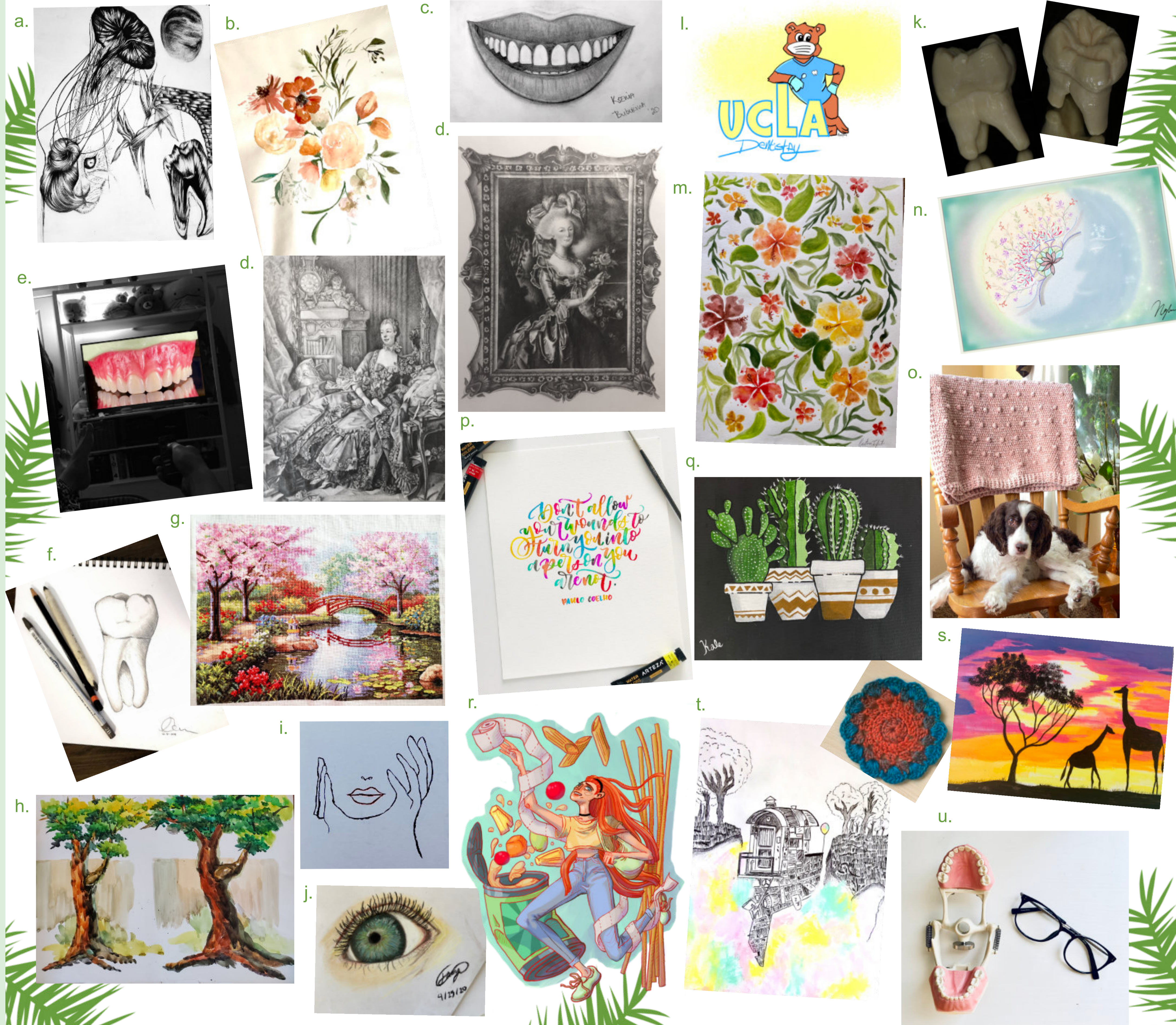
i. GENTILE JAVIDZAD, CO 2023: I've always loved painting. When I was younger I would take art classes and I always looked forward to them! As I got older, I used painting to be a way to de-stress and it always works! During quarantine, I decided to try out minimalist line art for the first time. This was my first attempt at it!

j. TANYA TABIBIAN, CO 2023: During a summer in undergrad, my roommate at the time was really into drawing, and I started drawing with her! I realized I like the calming feeling it gives you, and it's also great seeing the end result - from going from a blank paper to something that's there.

I would like to welcome you all to the Diastem-Art Gallery!

I have been dreaming about this project since my first year of dental school! With the help of our incredibly talented students, who made their art for your enjoyment and have brightened up our newsletter, we have been spoiled with so many quality entries.

Please take a quick break from reading and enjoy our art!



k. AIRTON SOARES, CO 2021: Sculpting, painting, woodworking, etc. has been a part of my life since I can remember. My passion for dentistry is very much an extension of my passion for art. As for soap carving, I've never tried it before but I've seen it all over social media. I figured I would give it a shot.

l. LUIS ALVARENGA, CO 2021: Colorful digital art of the UCLA Bruin Bear.

m. CRISTY INFANTE, CO 2022: I have painted in oil before but I wanted to experiment with a more loose medium. I took up watercolor as my new years resolution/hobby and have been having a lot of fun playing with colors and painting mostly plants. I like being able to have some me time where I am not trying to accomplish anything other than have fun and slap some color on a blank paper.

n. NAGHAM ADEEB, CO 2023: Most dentists will tell you that dentistry is a combination of science and art. When UCLA transitioned to an online platform, I found myself missing the creative outlet dental school allowed me to have. One day, I started playing around with different digital tools and ended up painting this piece six hours later!

o. KATIE FUSCO, CO 2020: I started crocheting after I graduated college during the summer before dental school. One of my best friends had been crocheting blankets and I wanted to learn, so we spent a night of her teaching me different stitches and I became hooked instantly. Since then, I have made multiple blankets, scarves and beanies for my friends and family. It is very rewarding to cuddle up in a nice cozy blanket knowing I created that just from a few balls of yarn.

p. ANDRE CATALUNA, CO 2020: During my gap year before dental school I decided to get back into art since I had the time. I saw some watercolor and acrylic techniques on Instagram that I really liked and decided to give them a try, and it just took off from there.

q. KELSEY CHRISTENSEN, CO 2022: I haven't painted since I took an art class in high school, but my mom and I wanted to have a paint night so I decided to try taking up painting/drawing. My favorite part is analyzing colors and what combinations will make your perfect color.

r. STEPHANIE PEACOCK, CO 2022: My dad was an art major in college, so I was always interested in art because I've always looked up to my dad. To me, art is honestly a lot of work unless you're just messing around! Casual art is fun BUT when you want to turn that doodle into a polished piece of art, it now becomes a project of making something that reflects what you're envisioning in a way that you're satisfied with. When you are finally finished, it's such a relief. It feels like when you complete a huge pile of laundry.

s. UPASANA ACHARYA, CO 2021: All my interest started as a hobby as I grew up seeing my mom paint and knit. As I painted, crocheted and knitted more and more, I felt that it gave me a sense of achievement with every single project and helped me focus.

t. MICHELLE LUONG, CO 2023: When small things that used to symbolize freedom and happiness suddenly felt like obstacles to overcome, I decided to reflect - through drawing - on who I had become

u. ANGELA PALACIOS, CO 2023: Photography is my way of preserving memories. Each photo also tells a story that can be shared with others; it's a way of expressing what I am doing and how I'm feeling.



by Stephanie Peacock

GIVING Special Needs Populations A VOICE

“I think, sometimes, people forget that the special needs population exists,” says Jona Capino (D2), founder and president of Special Patient Care Club (SPCC), as she recounts an occasion where a woman yelled at her special needs sister after accidentally bumping into her in the grocery store.



Jona's passion to start SPCC stemmed from her personal experience having two older siblings with autism. When she volunteered at her siblings' school, she saw their classmates were lacking proper dental care because of two principles: the fear of judgment from the relatives of special needs kids and, perhaps more dismaying, the discomfort of the dentist. She believes SPCC grants us a win-win scenario, offering dental students education and exposure to a special needs community, which can help familiarize future dentists to a more diverse patient population while also giving that population a voice to be heard.

The Special Patient Care Club has engaged with the special needs community in various ways since its inception, including gathering dental students to teach OHI at a Special Needs School, creating an English and Spanish web page containing original videos and other oral health resources for Special Needs Schools, and hosting several lunch and learns covering different special needs-focused topics. One particularly compelling lunch and learn by Dr. Linda Demer MD Ph.D, cardiologist and faculty at UCLA Geffen School of Medicine, reviewed the issue of informed consent in special needs populations.

As dental students and dentists-to-be, we must obtain informed consent. How does this consent look for patients who the law might deem unfit to make decisions? Where is their voice?

Two main ways the law handles the rights of individuals (including incapacitated persons, the elderly, and special needs people) who may need help making decisions for themselves are power of attorney and guardianship/conservatorship.

The major difference between the two is that power of attorney allows the individual to choose a person or several they trust to make specifically outlined decisions on their behalf while guardianship is a restrictive court intervention that deems a person “incapacitated” and appoints a guardian who makes all decisions for that individual. Dr. Demer elaborates:

“What it does is it strips that individual of all their human rights. It gives their rights to the court system and to the attorneys. Most parents think that it gives the power to them and that because they love their child, there's no harm in taking all their rights.”

In reality, it exposes them to predatory people. Once declared incompetent, the person can no longer make any decisions for themselves; they've been invalidated. The appointed guardian now decides where they live, what medical procedures they can have done, if they're allowed any visitors (including family), and where all their finances go, even if it's to the guardian.

Even worse, the guardianship is almost impossible to reverse unless the family has exorbitant resources. It's akin to a ransom-hostage situation. Several documentaries chronicle this practice, including Season 2, Episode 5 of “Dirty Money.”

Traditionally, these abusive guardians' main source of income has been the estates of the elderly. Dr. Demer reveals that the new target of these entities, however, are young adults with developmental disabilities. This is because while the estates of the elderly run out after a few years, the young targets have many decades ahead of them with trusts and funds carefully gathered by their family for the taking.

So how can we help these patients?

An abusive guardianship might be suspected if the guardian of the patient seems resistant to accept treatment plans you suggest because they fear expensive treatments will impact their payoff. In California, regional centers can help if abuse of a developmentally disabled individual is suspected. To help empower our special needs patients, the less formal process of “Supported Decision Making” should be employed, where a trusted friend or family member accompanies the patient and relays treatment information from the doctor to the patient in a way they can understand. Then, the patient can have autonomy over the final decision and achieve a more liberating path of ethical consent. We can help give special patients a voice, a theme that resonates throughout SPCC's many events.

As UCLA's American Student Dental Association (ASDA) welcomes a new leadership, there have been some changes made, including renaming our Special Needs/Geriatrics committee to Special Populations and Oral Health Committee. This was a committee Jona co-chaired last year and one that remains close to her heart. She sees ASDA as a liaison to partner with to introduce new students to the local clubs UCLA offers and as an opportunity to continue the legacy she started in SPCC by sharing the many passions covered by each committee. When asked about the new name, she commented “I adore the new name! It's inclusive to everyone that is categorized as a ‘special patient,’ whether that be people who are elderly, who have cerebral palsy, who have autism, etc.!” Indeed, we should think of our special populations as people we find in everyday life that deserve a voice and protection: our parents who age, our classmates with medical conditions, and our friends with differing abilities.



FROM APRIL 2004 TO APRIL 2020:

The Evolution of Dental Licensure



by Berta Tarverdi

Every student dentist from all over the United States envisions the moment they find out they have passed the clinical dental examination! However, with all the recent changes in the world, due to COVID-19, this vision has been distorted and the future of licensure examination is a valid concern for every student dentist. To discuss this future, let us look at the evolution of the licensure examination. Only then, we may see the light at the end of this licensure tunnel.

What was April of 2004 like?

April 2004, the ADA Council on Dental Education and Licensure (CDEL) suggested that every dental student should be able to take a single clinical examination that is nationally accepted upon successful graduation from an accredited dental school. This would solve the issue of portability, a problem dentists face when they try to move and practice in a new state with different licensure exams. Soon after, in June 2004, the American Association of Dental Examiners (AADE) called for the development of a uniform dental clinical examination that would be accepted nationally, however, this national test was never accepted by every state. Many state and regional testing agencies continued to offer their own exams and abandoned the effort!

What was April of 2019 like?

In April 2019, I found myself volunteering to assist a fellow student during their Western Regional Examining Board (WREB) Examination, one of the exam options accepted in California. This was their moment to shine and their eyes sparkled from behind their loupes as they got the chance to showcase the clinical skills they had obtained after four long years of sleepless nights in dental school! The exam consisted of a three-hour computer based Comprehensive Treatment Planning (CTP) simulation, a clinical operative section of up to two Class II restorative procedures on patients, and an endodontic simulation procedure on a typodont in addition to scaling and root planing to fulfill the periodontics requirement of the examination. While the clinical exam is nothing new to California licensure paths, it is a component that has come under scrutiny because of the ethical considerations of entry-level examinations on live patients that may not be of record at the school and that may have other more severe dental needs not addressed in the exam. Nonetheless, I witnessed the effort, hard work, and enthusiasm every dental student put into their exam. Upon finishing the last procedure on the day of their final scheduled exam date, students were given their test results.

"I passed it!" "Call me Doctor!" "Guess who just passed their WREB," and "I did it," were tweets we all saw on social media last year around this time. As we pressed the "like" button, we perhaps envisioned ourselves in their shoes passing the same style WREB a few years down the line!



What was April of 2020 like?

In April 2020, ADA announced a new clinical dental licensure examination set to launch on June 10th, 2020. The Dental Licensure Objective Structured Clinical Examination, or DLOSCE, is inspired by Canada's OSCE, a dental licensure exam offered in Canada and 3 US states. This exam was designed with the idea of public protection in mind during this time of great need. It is an alternative, but reliable path to licensure that assesses candidates' clinical judgment, skills, and ability to execute safe practices using sophisticated 3D models, eliminating the ethical issues of using live patients. The American Student Dental Association (ASDA) has been an advocate to make this exam available nationally and to make the material consistent across all states to address the problem of portability. "The DLOSCE arrives for use by dental boards at an opportune time, when its use is greatly needed...These calls [for reliable pathway to licensure] are coming from across the country," said Dr. Cataldo Leone, Joint Commission chair. Due to the current circumstances, it has been fast-tracked to be released in June, 10 months ahead of schedule and California has, recently, approved this examination for the graduating class of 2020!

From its beginning as a mere hope for a national exam in April 2004, to the development of a new sophisticated 3D dental licensure examination launch in June, the licensure process has grown a lot.

However, what has not changed throughout all these years is that at the end of every licensure examination, student dentists are ready and eager to move to the next step in the world of dentistry!

A Name Synonymous with Implants

An Interview with Dr. Joan Pi-Anfruns



by Ausama Gargoum

UCLA has always been known to have great influencers and leaders in the field of Dentistry from all walks of life and from different parts of the world. Many who presently walk our very own hallways have unique journeys that brought them to UCLA. We often oversee this due to the fact that we are mostly preoccupied with our busy schedules. However, if you do take the time, you can certainly appreciate the influential stories that arise from our own Dental Faculty. Frequently, we hear the cliché “this person was born to do Dentistry” but it is not everyday you meet someone who embodies the true meaning of that phrase. Take Dr. Joan Pi-Anfruns for instance, or as most know him: Dr. Pi.

Dr. Pi grew up in Spain, where he was able to see firsthand the growth and impact that osseointegration and dental implants were beginning to have in the dental profession. His father, Dr. Joan Pi Urgell, a founding member and former president of the European Association for Osseointegration, is a prominent figure of osseointegration and worked with the late Dr. Per Ingvar Branemark, father of osseointegration and modern day dental implants! Dr. Pi's influence impacted dentistry worldwide and I personally know from studying dentistry overseas that the name Dr. Pi and dental implants go hand in hand. So, I can say I was definitely star struck when I first saw him walking past me in the hallway and learned that he works full time at the Straumann Surgical Dental Implant Center in our very own dental school! I was fortunate to have the opportunity to interview one of the gems of our school and learn a bit more about his upbringing. He generously donated his time for an interview and the following outlines my sit down with Dr. Pi.

With Dr. Joan Pi Urgell as your father, would you say you were you destined to pursue Dentistry?

“Absolutely! He was and continues to be my biggest influence. For as long as I can remember, since I was a little kid I knew that I wanted to follow in his footsteps. I never considered doing anything else, and I'm glad I chose that path.”

What's Dentistry like in Spain, how does it differ from here?

“Dentistry in Spain is going through a really rough patch right now, especially since the last economic recession. We have a big problem because there are too many dentists graduating every year and not enough jobs. There is no cap on how many dentists can graduate. Then you have cities like Madrid for example that have 6 or 7 dental schools. One of them taking close to a thousand people the first year. So as you can imagine that creates a huge problem, there is no regulation whatsoever and you find recent graduates that are not able to find a job. I know a few that are working part-time in retail or jobs not related to dentistry just to survive. Because we are still dragging the effects of the recession, patients are looking for cheapest options for them. So it's tough right now, especially for young professionals. A lot of recent graduates are forced to leave the country and look for jobs elsewhere in Europe. On the bright side, we have great schools and post-graduate training programs and this has allowed some really talented young professionals to rise in the lecture circuit.”

How do the advances of osseointegration between Europe and North America compare?

“The phenomenon of osseointegration began in Sweden in the 60's through the work of P.I Branemark, but it wasn't until the early 80's that it was introduced to North America. So they had 20+ years of advantage before it was introduced here. In my opinion, Europe has always been ahead of the curve. There has always been a lot of cutting-edge research taking place in Europe. Something that many of you may not know is that aside from dental implants, Professor Branemark was also studying other applications for osseointegration. One of those was to restore limbs in amputees victims of the Spanish terrorist group ETA in the late 80's and 90's. My father and professor Branemark worked together with some of those patients and I was lucky enough to witness it.”



Your passion in dental implants brought you to further your studies, what was that like?

“Well, I knew early on that I wanted to focus on dental implants. The path to surgical Implant Dentistry can vary. You can get to it through Oral Surgery, Periodontics or combined programs, which is what I did. After completing dental school in Spain I spent 2 years at NYU in a combined Perio-Restorative Implant Program with Dr. Dennis Tarnow. After that, I had the opportunity to join UCLA and completed a Surgical Implant Fellowship with Dr. Peter Moy.

So I chose to do programs that trained me in both periodontal, oral surgery, and restorative aspects to be able to provide a very complete scope of practice in implant dentistry. My focus has always been Implant Dentistry, but unfortunately it is not a recognized specialty. Hopefully we will see that change in the near future.”

What current research studies are you involved in?

“There are a couple of things that we have been focusing on in the last 2-3 years that I am particularly interested in. One of them is utilizing zirconia implants, which is alternative to the traditional titanium. There is a big movement towards [using] more biocompatible materials, such as Zirconia. We have now 5 year follow-ups on Zirconia implants and we are starting to investigate the behavior of the soft tissue around Zirconia with some laboratory analysis of cell attachment and spread on Zirconia disks. The other focus of research right now is on the use of autologous concentrates like platelet rich fibrin (PRF). We have certainly seen a benefit in its use, both for soft and hard tissue augmentation.”

Any advice to future aspiring dental students looking to pursue research?

“Sure. If you know or you think that you have an interest in research, I would advise you to get involved as quickly as possible. There are a number of people here at UCLA School of Dentistry that are conducting some pretty amazing research, both clinical and preclinical. We always have projects going on at the implant center and we always welcome help. My recommendation would be to ask around and get involved.”

What are your plans for the future?

“Well, one thing that I learned is to try not to make too many plans for the future, because when I first came to the US, my plan was to complete my postgraduate training and go back home and practice with my father. But here I am 10 years later, a full-time faculty at a public university. What [is] the future going to bring? I don't know. Right now I only see myself continuing here at UCLA. It's one of the best places to be in the world.”

What do you like to do outside of Dentistry?

“More dentistry (lol). I'm joking. I have a family, so the time that I am not here I spend it with them. My wife and I have a 3-year old that is very active, and we are expecting another child in March so that is going to be even more entertaining. And after that, the other little time that I have is usually divided between playing soccer or riding motorcycles. I've been riding since I was a kid and I enjoy going up the canyons. I have a small collection of vintage BMW motorcycles, one dating back to 1938.”

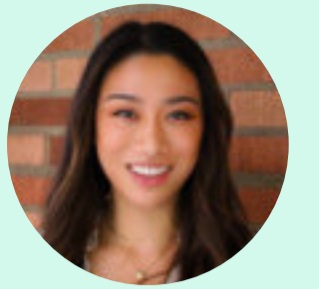
Looking forward to the soccer starting back up?

“Life without football has been tough but there is no question Barcelona is going to win, that shouldn't even be a question!”

Q
AND
ADriving Progress Through
Organized Dentistry

An Interview with Dr. Felsenfeld

by Youngshin Lee



UCLA's Dr. Alan Felsenfeld served as a professor of clinical dentistry in the department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery from 1995 to 2019. He graduated from UCLA School of Dentistry with his DDS in 1974 and completed his oral surgery training at Cook County

Hospital. His professional service includes positions as Speaker of the House of the California Dental Association (CDA), Trustee of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS), and Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of the California Dental Association (JCDA). He currently serves on the Dental Board of California.

How did you initially get involved in organized dentistry?

"I guess I've always been kind of a radical- I organized my first picket and strike in high school, and after that found myself involved at almost every step of my education. After I started in private practice, a long-time friend of mine suggested I join a hospital dental committee and I agreed. Now this itself wasn't organized dentistry, but it sparked my interest in joining the local dental society. And when you hang out long enough, someone says 'Hey, why don't you run for something?'. And that's what happened."

What drove to you to pursue leadership roles?

"There is an expression that goes 'life is run by those who show up.' I guess what got me up the ranks was that, 1. I was good at what I was doing, 2. that it was fun to get things done, and 3. I might have just been willing and eager. Obviously one has to be capable, but sometimes you start one thing, and almost like a vacuum this sucks you in and up, and eventually to leadership roles such as what I was doing at the CDA and AAOMS. Early on, while I was president of my local dental society in San Gabriel, I became involved at the state level through the recommendation of Dr. Mito. From there worked my way through a couple of roles including delegate of the House of Delegates then Editor in Chief of the journal, culminating in Speaker of the House. I must have showed leadership potential, because after my first term I ran unopposed for 5 more. Everything builds on what you have behind you and I've always

told my kids the same- to try to put in the effort at the bottom of your pyramid because then you don't have to make excuses while making the climb- it's much easier."

Can you elaborate on your most meaningful positions thus far?

"Serving as the Speaker of the house of the CDA was the hardest thing I have ever done, but I truly enjoyed that assignment. I would be doing that even today if there wasn't a term limit of 6 years. It was like herding cats, difficult, but I guess I pulled it off based on the praise garnered from my colleagues, and did so with a sense of humor. At that point I considered it the crowning achievement of my organizational career. Now I'm looking forward to the next 6 or so years on the Dental Board. It took me a long time to get here. The governor has to appoint you, you know!"

So my last question to you is, why should young dentists starting out in their careers seek to be involved in organized dentistry?

"Let me put it to you this way. We have over 30,000 dentists in this state, and although only about 27,000 are members, that still represents over 70% of the practitioners in California. On the other hand, only about 20% or 30% of physicians are members of the AMA. So when we go to legislature with bills, they understand our cohesiveness, our strength. The membership proportion we maintain is what lends us that strength, and is bolstered by the altruistic and scientific way we approach these issues. For example, the medical insurance industry already has laws regulating medical loss ratios, the term for the percentage of insurance premiums actually dispersed as patient care versus the percentage spent as internal expenses. We are working on that for dentistry as well. Although you might think this is self-serving for us as dentists, we don't actually make any more based on this bill- If a dentist charges \$100 for a procedure, he or she will receive that amount whether \$70 from the patient and \$30 from the insurance company, or vice versa. In the former, however, the patient is the beneficiary, and this allows more access to care. Isn't that what we as dentists all want? Our cohesiveness has been instrumental in the recent passage of this bill and others like it, and we are currently crunching the numbers to push it to implementation. That's what organized dentistry is capable of: driving progress in our profession, and yes, for dentists, but even more so for our patients, and dental health as a whole."

*"life is run by those
who show up"*