



Community Based Partnerships, Access to Care, and Special Smiles

“One of the most disenfranchised and neglected groups are the developmentally disabled, special needs, and persons with cognitive and physical impairments,” says Dr. Timothy Martinez, Associate Dean of Community Partnerships and Access to Care. By having the WesternU’s College of Dental Medicine participate in the Special Olympics Dr. Martinez is banking on the future. The idea: expose dental students to these patients with special needs now, providing services now for patients that need it and hopefully provide better access to care for these patients in the future.

“The Special Olympics is a way to get our dental students exposed to these patients,” says Dr. Martinez. “Many of these special needs patients are on Medicaid. Medicaid reimbursement rates are low and many of these patients require special attention and more time. So from a financial perspective it is many times not feasible for dentists to treat them.”

In essence, it is a problem with the reimbursement system in managed care plans, says Martinez who has spent time consulting for managed care providers. “Let’s say you took 5000 patients for which the managed care plan paid you \$5 a patient. So for \$25,000 per month you are managing 5000 patients. The incentive is not to get all these patients in there and do a lot of treatment because you’ll go into the red.”

“The incentives for managed care is not to do a lot of treatment because providers are paid at a capitated rate,” says Martinez. “Which is not to say all providers are doing that, but if you look at the behavior patterns of services delivered you see that it is different than in practices that are paid for service.”

The solution is a relatively new concept: community based partnerships. “Dentistry is a conservative profession,” says Martinez. “The beauty of what [WesternU’s College of Dental Medicine is] able to do as a new college is offer some of these experiences in a non traditional school setting, off campus...with the patient populations that need it most.”

--Cristian A. Sierra, 2014



DMD 2014 students pose with Dr. Alarcon (far left) for a candid photo.

EDITORS



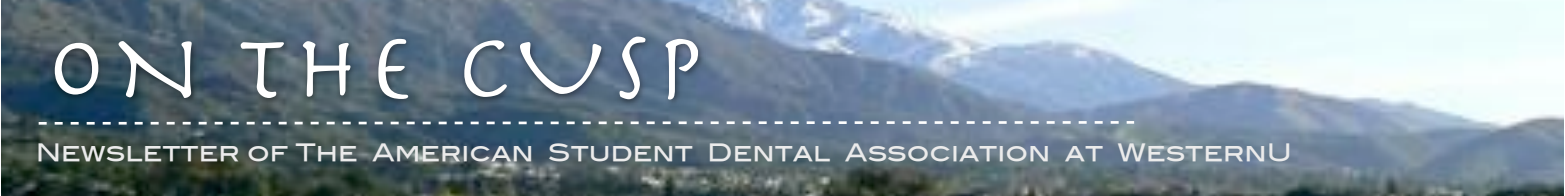
Content Editor  
Cristian A. Sierra



Design Editor  
Pamela Han

Please direct comments and submissions to [asdaonthecusp@gmail.com](mailto:asdaonthecusp@gmail.com). Submissions should be less than 600 words and include pictures whenever possible. We look forward to hearing from you.

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Third Annual Golf Tournament on June 29th

On June 29, 2012, ASDA at WesternU will be hosting its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament and Dinner at the San Dimas Canyon Golf Club. The funds raised during the tournament will help ASDA members, like you, travel to state and national ASDA events and also help with various community outreach opportunities like Give Kids a Smile. Come out and show your support!

This is an exciting time at WesternU. With the continued growth of the College of Dental Medicine, ASDA at WesternU expects this to be the largest golf tournament yet with even more students, faculty, and staff participating. This is a great opportunity. Come out and join us as we golf and mingle with one another, local dentists, and vendors.

Already have a team in mind? Bring your best foursome and come out to win bragging rights! This event is not just for WesternU students, faculty, and

staff, so please feel free to bring your family and friends.

And if you don’t golf? Don’t worry! Come out and socialize during the tri-tip dinner and raffle. This year’s tournament will have even more raffle prizes and more fun on-course-competitions, so golfer or not, you can expect to go home with a lot of great prizes!

The golf tournament will have a scramble format (see “Scramble Format Explained”), so it doesn’t matter if you’re a scratch golfer or it’s your first time out, everyone will have fun. So gather a group of friends, family, or your favorite professor and join us on the course!

We look forward to seeing each and every one of you out there on June 29<sup>th</sup>!

--Lucas Ebaugh, 2014, and Russel Dasalla, 2015



Registration starts at 12:30pm and tee off is at 2:30pm and a casual dinner will follow at 7:30pm. For more information contact your ASDA Fundraising Coordinators, Lucas Ebaugh at [lebaugh@westernu.edu](mailto:lebaugh@westernu.edu) or Russel Dasalla at [rdasalla@westernu.edu](mailto:rdasalla@westernu.edu).

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First Annual Kickball Tournament

This spring ASDA at WesternU will be hosting the First Annual Kickball Tournament! To participate in this inaugural event, all you need to do is create a team of 10 to 12 of your classmates. Significant others are also welcome to play in the tournament.

This fun afternoon will take place on Saturday April 14th at Cabrillo Park in Upland. Immediately following the kickball tournament, ASDA will be providing a BBQ for everyone to enjoy. This will be a great opportunity for everyone to relax and spend time together outside of a school setting.

We look forward to seeing you there!

--Brielle M. Renz, 2013

Good luck to all the teams.  
Let's play ball!





# Dental Van Driven Down the Highway To Oral Health



*Kendall Saffner, 2014 and Antonio Alfonso, 2014, provide quality care in close quarters.*

On Saturday we took to the van...the dental van! In preparation for the Give Kids A Smile event taking place the following week, the second year students utilized a Winnebago transformed into two operatories, complete with radiograph capabilities and a sterilization center in the former kitchen. While it was a tight fit, Kendall Saffner, Tony Alfonso, Matt Burns and I were able to see and treat a number of pediatric patients from the underserved Victorville area.

Many of the patients had never seen a dentist before. Under the supervision of Dr. Timothy Martinez, Associate Dean for Community Partnerships and Access to Care, we screened the patients, took radiographs, and applied sealants and preventative resin restorations on permanent first molars. Patients that required further treatment were scheduled to return for Monday's Give Kids A Smile event, when the third year students provide services during their Clinical Service Learning and Community Dentistry class.

Watching the students interact with the young patients, it was easy to see the importance of these initial visits as the children progress through their treatment. An 8-year-old girl that had never been seen by a dentist before was one of our first patients of the day. She came in with her hands over her mouth, apprehensive of what her appointment would bring. By the end of her visit, she was enthusiastic and excited to see the next steps of her treatment unfold. "It was rewarding to be the face of her first dental experience," said Kendall Saffner, DMD 2014.

The ten-hour day was tiring, but fulfilling, not only because we were able to provide a positive experience for our patients, but because we were able to see the importance of learning to adapt to working in any environment--even one on wheels!

*Give Kids A Smile is supported by funds raised during the ASDA at WesternU Annual Golf Tournament. This year's tournament will be held in June.*

--Allison Baylis, DMD 2014

## Letter from the President

As the spring semester is on its way, so is a new leadership team for ASDA at WesternU. Fundraising Coordinators, Lucas Ebaugh and Russel Dasalla, have been working on the 3rd Annual WesternU Golf Tournament Fundraiser on June 29th (see Third Annual Golf Tournament). Health Fair Coordinator, Allison Baylis, has been busy ensuring that students can enrich their education with clinical experiences and provide care to the less fortunate (see Dental Van Down Hwy To Oral Health). Last, Membership Coordinator, Brielle Renz, is planning the first annual kickball tournament--a day filled with games and barbecue involving all three dental classes and faculty (see First Annual Kickball Tournament).

We have expanded the leadership team by adding Lunch and Learn Coordinator, Ryan McGary, to help with the growing demands of ASDA at WesternU. Also, new Club Advisor, Dr. Robert Stevenson, has taken an active role securing our success.

I am excited to work with all of the individuals who hold leadership positions (see Meet the 2012-2013 ASDA Officers!). We have a good representation from all the classes.

It is very exciting to see ASDA at WesternU continue to grow. This year we were able to send six students to the national ASDA Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota to represent our school and to have a voice at the national level on dental issues (see ASDA Annual Session). These students attended numerous breakout sessions, discussed products with companies at the vendor fair, and networked with students from across the nation.

I am looking forward to working with all of our ASDA at WesternU members to make our chapter a standout chapter across the nation, of which each one of us can be a proud member.

—Chris Dudzik, 2013



Tired of spending your Fridays like this?



Join us Friday, June 29th for the 3rd Annual ASDA Golf Tournament and Dinner



San Dimas Canyon Golf Course. Tee off at 2:30 pm with dinner following at 6:30 pm. On course competitions and raffle prizes. For more info, contact Lucas Ebaugh at lebaugh@westernu.edu or Russel Dasalla at rdasalla@westernu.edu



ASDA ANNUAL SESSION *(continued from page 4)*

It was interesting to see the candidates answer each question on the spot. We learned a lot and definitely had a lot of laughs, too. Brielle asked each candidate to give their best rendition of Beyonce’s “All the Single Ladies”. It was entertaining and informative to say the least.

There was no shortage of fun opportunities to get to know other ASDA members, as well as key networking luncheons and receptions. Eighty vendors participated in the Vendor Fair, a chance to learn more about the newest technology and collect a lot of free goodies!

If that wasn’t enough to get excited about, the District 11 dinner was an eventful evening and I can assure you California dental students are a fun bunch! To top off the “Best Week of the Year”, the annual President’s Dinner Dance was a night to be remembered. The theme was “90’s TV” and the WesternU crew represented as Legends of the Hidden Temple teams. It was a perfect way to conclude a professional yet exciting week getting to know new people, and for me an awesome opportunity to see how well some dental students can dance! Counting down to 2013...see you in Atlanta, ASDA!

--Nikki Ahrendsen, 2013



*The Students from WesternU, Michael Drake, Ian Murray, Brielle Renz, Nikki Ahrendsen, Angie Hasting and Chris Dudzik put their dress apparel aside as they dawn their Legends of the Hidden Temple Outfits for the Saturday Night 90’s TV Show Dinner Dance.*



*Left to Right...Angie Hastings, Brielle Renz, and Nikki Ahrendsen pose outside the welcome ceremonies at the 2012 Annual Session in Minnesota.*



*Golf Etiquette*

Well, if you were wondering how to spell etiquette, there it is (thank you, spell check).

There are very few things that everyone can agree upon, namely: Kobe Bryant is the best player in the NBA, In-N-Out is delicious, and golf is the hardest game EVER. And if the intricacy and timing needed to hit the ball straight wasn’t enough, the rules can almost make your head spin. So for all of those new to the game, and more importantly, seasoned insensitive golfers talking in my backswing, here are a few rules that everyone can easily follow while enjoying the game we love to hate.

- 1) DON’T talk once a player has approached the ball. This is by far the most blatantly disregarded rule in golf, and one of the most frustrating if you’re out playing with a person prone to chit chat.
- 2) Fix your divots. And if you don’t happen to have dirt/sand, pick up that giant piece of turf you uprooted - that probably went further than your ball - and replace it over your crater.
- 3) Do NOT hit into the group ahead of you. And if by chance you happen hit the best 400 yard drive of your life unsuspectingly, make sure to yell FORE!
- 4) Do NOT walk directly on someone else’s putting line. Let’s be honest, a putt is hard enough to read without your friends tap dancing all over it.
- 5) The player that is farthest from the hole goes first.

Although these five rules barely begin to scratch the surface (and will probably not help improve your swing), take them to heart, try not to take the game so seriously, and enjoy your time in the sun.

--Brian Gradinger, 2014

Scramble format ensures that everyone has a good time regardless of skill level at the 3rd Annual Golf Tournament.

At each hole, all four team members tee off. The best shot is determined and the other three team members drop a ball within one club length of the best shot. Play resumes and the best shot is continually used as the drop point for the three other team members. This goes on until the hole is completed. The key to success, just as in healthcare, is teamwork!

**SCRAMBLE  
FORMAT  
EXPLAINED**

-- Russel Dasalla, 2015



*The winning foursome from the 2010 golf tournament, (left to right) Jason Miller, Min Jun, Gagan Kandola, Brady Robles.*



Meet the 2012-2013 ASDA officers!



**Chris Dudzik, President, DMD 2013.** Chris will ensure all leaders work towards the goals ASDA at WesternU has set, have monthly guest speakers present hot dental topics applicable to students, help expand community service opportunities, and create social events for ASDA at WesternU members to enjoy. Chris enjoys playing basketball, golfing, and watching sports--especially football.



**Michael Drake, Vice President, DMD 2014.** Michael will coordinate the 3rd Annual Golf Tournament and looks forward to having the first ever ASDA at WesternU vendor fair. He enjoys listening to electronic music in Sim Lab, doing yoga, playing basketball, and watching the NBA.



**Cherish Hirano, Secretary, DMD 2014.** Cherish will take and disseminate minutes and continue to support the new Health Fair Coordinator as part of the committee. She loves to run (not on a treadmill), cook, read non-science material, and do anything that does not deal with Boards.



**Karen Mei, Treasurer, DMD 2014.** Karen will take on managing the budget, allocating funds for ASDA at WesternU activities, and continue building a strong financial foundation for growth. She loves to go out, eat, laugh, travel and spend time with friends and family.



**Brielle Renz, Membership Coordinator, DMD 2013.** Brielle will communicate relevant membership information with the National ASDA team to ensure WesternU members receive their maximum benefits. Brielle enjoys playing outside, cooking, shopping, and spending time with her husband.



**Allison Baylis, Health Fair Coordinator, DMD 2013.** Allison looks forward to getting everyone involved in health fairs and community service this year. She is an East Coast transplant who loves fashion and is currently the only hockey fan at WesternU. Go Penguins!



**Lucas Ebaugh, Co-fundraising coordinator, DMD 2014.** Lucas will raise as much money as possible to benefit ASDA at WesternU and looks forward to running a very successful 3rd Annual Golf Tournament in June. He enjoys hanging out with his wife and son, especially taking his son on walks or to the park, and playing Xbox.



**Russel Dasalla, Co-fundraising coordinator, DMD 2015.** Russel will coordinate and run a successful 3rd Annual Golf Tournament so as to have plenty of funds to support ASDA at WesternU. His current hobbies are cooking and eating, but whenever he has more free time he enjoy golfing, snowboarding, hiking, tennis, and traveling.



**Ryan McGary, Lunch-and-learn coordinator, DMD 2014.** Ryan will streamline the process of organizing a guest speakers and increase variety. His hobbies include waterskiing, snowboarding, and spending time with his family.



**Dominick Ventresca, Licensure Chair, DMD 2013.** Dominick will support ASDA at WesternU members by lobbying Congress on important issues such as Senate Bill 694. He enjoys skateboarding, tennis, and hiking.



**Samantha Dubin, Legislative Liaison, DMD 2015.** Samantha will inform ASDA at WesternU members about exciting and cutting edge issues applicable to the students as dental professionals at the local, state, and national levels. On her free time, Samantha enjoys running, basketball, and playing with her dog, Doc.



**Chad “Colby” Gage, Ethics Chair, DMD 2013.** Colby will spread awareness of the importance of ethics in dentistry through a series of open forum discussions involving students, faculty, and dentists from the community. Colby enjoys spending time with his two kids and wife, weightlifting, coaching track and field, and enjoying life’s awesomeness.



**Pamela Han, Newsletter Design Editor, DMD 2014.** Pam will continue to provide a dynamic, attractive layout for your interesting stories in ASDA at WesternU’s newsletter, On The Cusp. She enjoys fresh air, trying different types of food, and karaoke.



**Cristian A. Sierra, Newsletter Content Editor, DMD 2014.** Cristian will continue to edit and contribute content to ASDA at WesternU’s newsletter, On The Cusp. He enjoys spending time with his wife, Kerri, their yellow lab, Pearl, slow smoking large cuts of meat over various hardwoods, and occasionally brewing obscure beers.

ASDA ANNUAL SESSION

Shortly after arriving to my first ASDA annual session in Minneapolis, MN--embracing the chilling weather and “don’tcha know” accents, I heard many students using the phrase “Best Week of the Year!” I can assure you this statement is valid and I’m sure my fellow WesternU attendees Angie Hastings, Brielle Renz, Chris Dudzik, Ian Murray, and Mike Drake would agree.

The conference started off with a wonderful opening ceremony consisting of endearing welcome speeches from students and administrators from the hosting university, the University of Minnesota, as well as other key speakers from ASDA, and the ASDA President. The evening concluded with a welcome reception, hors d’oeuvres, and over 400 students representing all 61 dental schools getting to know each other.

The Legislation and House of Delegates meetings were interesting to see firsthand. Two representatives from each school voted on various issues brought to attention by written resolutions. After discussing the resolution, the Speaker of the House

took count of the majority vote to determine whether each motion would be passed or not.

It was a great experience seeing the enthusiasm and issues surrounding organized dentistry and how a group such as ASDA operates in highlighting and resolving these issues. In these large meetings we also heard the opening speeches given by several students running for the 3 Executive Committee (EC) positions and Speaker of the House for the upcoming year.

On a smaller scale, the conference offered breakout sessions throughout the week. Topics ranged from “Integrating Technology into Your Practice” to workshops such as a “How to Guide to Getting into Residency.”

In addition, each of the 11 districts met to go over any updates relevant to the group given by our District Trustee (shout out to our own Ian Murray representing District 11). Here, we also interviewed each previously mentioned candidate running for the EC positions as well as electing a new District Trustee & Secretary. The interviews included some very interesting

questions, ranging from serious topics pertaining to dentistry, to questions such as, “If you could have a super power, what would it be and why?” (continued on page 6)



Chris Dudzik and Nikki Ahrendsen pose on the red carpet after receiving the Auto Enrollment Award at the 2012 ASDA Annual Conference.

WesternU students pose for a photo with two trustees members from The Academy of General Dentistry

