

ON THE CUSP

THE AMERICAN STUDENT DENTAL
ASSOCIATION AT WESTERNU
NEWSLETTER

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



ASDA at WesternU has been very busy this semester due to the dedication of our leaders and involvement of our members. We have participated in numerous health fairs (see Chad Colby Gage's article on CareNow L.A. on page 3), allowing members an opportunity to practice dentistry by providing oral examinations, instructing patients on oral hygiene, and helping those patients find healthcare homes for continued treatment. It is a great opportunity for the students to take their knowledge from the classroom and apply it to real world situations. I look forward to getting more first years involved in health fair events. Participation in these events help students develop a better bedside manner while helping their community.

This semester, ASDA at WesternU sent two students to represent WesternU's College of Dental Medicine at the ASDA Western Regional Meeting (see below). This meeting provides networking opportunities with dental students, vendors, and involves members in organized dentistry. Those students bring back experiences and share what they've

learned with their classmates. Our Vice President Michael Drake has been busy working on bringing guest speakers to campus, in order to fulfill our goal of educating our members on dental issues, products, and preparing for life after dental school.

This spring semester will be full of many opportunities for ASDA at WesternU members. We will be starting a monthly lunch guest speaker series with topics ranging from malpractice and disability insurance to investing and starting a practice. In late February we will be sending members to Minneapolis, Minnesota to represent our school at the ASDA Annual Session Meeting. With this representation, we intend to strengthen ASDA at WesternU's voice on dental issues affecting our profession, build members' leadership skills, and network with dental professionals.

ASDA at WesternU is also about having fun. Keep your eyes open this spring for the first annual spring kickball tournament and barbecue between the three classes and faculty. It will be an event you will not want to miss. I wish all of you a happy new year and great spring semester.

—Chris Dudzik, 2013, ASDA at WesternU President

Western Regional Meeting

ASDA at WesternU Hits San Antonio, TX

ASDA at WesternU President, Chris Dudzik, and ASDA District 11 Trustee, Ian Murray, headed to San Antonio, TX for what most likely was the last of ASDA's Regional Meetings... ever. The goal of Regional Meetings are to provide the information and background participants need to improve leadership skills and increase their knowledge to further strengthen their ASDA chapters. The meetings, set in early fall, introduce students to organized dentistry, and provide an opportunity for chapters to exchange ideas and network with other students, vendors, and invited speakers.

See *Western Regional Meeting* on p. 5.

Ethical Dilemma

To Bleach Or Not To Bleach

Sally is a walk in patient and wants to know if you're available today to bleach her teeth even though she has had several bleaching treatments over the past few months and is at the whitest shade that she will be able to obtain. She states, "I want to have bleached white teeth," and offers to pay for the procedure in cash.

Do you provide treatment for her?

See *Ethical Dilemma* on p. 6.



CareNow LA

ASDA members continue WesternU's tradition of caring and humanism.....PAGE 3.



Interview

Departing Dean Monehen
Rosemary Monehen, sits down with ASDA at WesternU reflecting on her tenure during her second to last day of service.....PAGE 2.

Making a Difference

Riverside's Student Run Dental Clinic.....Page 3

INTERVIEW

Departing Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Monehen

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Rosemary Monehen, sits down with Cristian A. Sierra from *On the Cusp* and reflects on her tenure during her second to last day of service.

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO WESTERNU?

I had been in higher education the first 21 years of my career. Then I went to the Commission on Dental Accreditation and I traveled around and I got to visit all the dental schools. Knowing the challenges that dental schools have and their long tradition in making changes I thought it would be a unique opportunity to be on the ground floor of a dental school.

WERE THE CHALLENGES IN LINE WITH WHAT YOU EXPECTED?

I don't think any of us knew exactly what we were getting ourselves into. While it's been very enjoyable and energizing it has been a lot of work and that's just going to continue for the next 3 to 5 years. It has been pretty exciting. No two days are the same.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO BE DOING WHEN YOU GO BACK TO INDIANA?

Right now I'm doing some accreditation consulting for other dental schools and I have a visiting professorship with Southern Illinois University for the next 16 months. It's primarily to help assist in their accreditation. They're going to be site visited in about a year from now, then there will be a follow up. I'll spend one week a month down there. The rest of the time I'll work from home.

WHAT PRECIPITATED THIS MOVE BACK TO INDIANA?

It does come down with being closer to my family. I originally thought the schedule would permit me to go back and visit two or three times a year and I'm lucky if I'm able to go one time a year. It just came to the point where we all agreed that it was time I go home.

I grew up in a town of 1,400 people in Indiana. Now the family has all moved to a town of 10,000 people.

Big city [laughing]! But it's located nicely about 20 minutes from South Bend, where Notre Dame is, so there's lots of activity and it's only a couple hours from Chicago.

WHAT WAS THE MOST CHALLENGING ASPECT OF YOUR WORK AT WESTERNU?

It's a combination of having to do everything all at once so there wasn't a lot of time to concentrate on one thing or another. We had to work on the curriculum. We had to work on accreditation. We had to be involved in the design and equipping of these two buildings [the HEC and PCC]. So everything needed to be done yesterday. It's actually still that way [laughing].

One advantage that [Interim Associate Dean of Academic Affairs] Dr. Andrews has is that I was the third person hired. She was the fourth person hired. So she's been here a good three years. She serves on most of the committees that I chair like the Student Performance Committee and Curriculum Management Committee and a couple others. So she's well aware of the topics that we cover, the issues we've addressed, and the changes we've made. And she has great staff to support her.

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE FUTURE CHALLENGES FOR WESTERNU'S COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE?

Each year adds new challenges. Now we're finalizing the fourth year curriculum, getting the clinic up and running, and adding a class of students. Every time you add a class of students we've discovered that the workload almost doubles--it's not directly proportional. But having all four classes will also help in the clinic because you will have upperclassmen who can mentor and treat more difficult patients.

See *Farewell* on p. 6.



"I don't think any of us knew exactly what we were getting ourselves into...It has been pretty exciting. No two days are the same."

"Some students are intimidated by me and I heard that when I taught years ago...I'm actually pretty funny and I'm shy."

"ASDA chapters across the country can play a big role. They are a bridge for students to organized dentistry."

"I do feel privileged for having held this position and it truly has been an honor."



Chad Colby Gage with patient and registered dental assistant.

CareNow LA

Chad Colby Gage recounts the meaning of continuing WesternU's tradition of humanism.

What does it mean to give unto "every man that which he is due?" This question posed by Plato in his work, The Republic, allows the reader to reflect on their role in society. To paraphrase: what good can my training yield if I do not give back to those in need? WesternU's involvement with CareNow L.A. is the College of Dental Medicine's (CDM's) response—a forward thinking humanistic tradition that has been attracting community-minded caring professionals.

The College of Dental Medicine's inaugural class was in full force at CareNow L.A., a large-scale four-day community service event incorporating an interdisciplinary approach to urgent medical and dental needs. CareNow L.A. targets Los Angeles County's uninsured residents, a number by some estimates reaching well over one million. From October 20th to 23rd, dental volunteers from WesternU's CDM and elsewhere were able to provide 2,384 dental procedures ranging from restorations and cleanings to emergency services.

WesternU was the only dental school invited to participate in CareNow L.A. and thanks to the efforts of faculty and students it was a huge success. Luisa Snyder, 2013, aptly summed the general experience of serving the community saying, "CareNow LA gave me the unique opportunity to use all of my dental and life experience to give back and make a difference."

The most memorable experience I had was removing several impacted teeth from a young man my age. His story was similar to most who arrived at the Los Angeles Sports Arena but that is not what made the encounter a memorable one.

See CareNow LA on p. 5.

Making a Difference

Riverside's Dental Student Run Health Clinic

The Riverside Dental Student Run Health Clinic (SRHC) is a non-profit medical clinic that helps the homeless and underserved. The SRHC has given WesternU's College of Dental Medicine students the opportunity to provide dental services to this population.

Finding funding for the SRHC has been a challenge. Currently, the SRHC receives funding from multiple sources. Significant grants from the Riverside Community Health Foundation and The California Dental Association have allowed the SRHC to purchase mobile dental units as well as instruments and materials from Henry Schein, a distributor of medical and dental supplies.

On a monthly basis, approximately 15 dental students from WesternU along with pre-dental undergraduates from UCR go to downtown Riverside's First Congregational Church and set up a fully mobile clinic in a music room. Four operatories are set up

and contain three high speed and one slow speed handpieces. In addition, a section for radiology and sterilization is set up with a portable Nomad System and rapid sterilizer.

Each monthly clinic session lasts for about 4 hours in which dental services are provided to roughly 13-15 patients on average. Services include diagnosis, treatment planning, restorative care, extractions, and preventative work. In keeping documentation of care provided in Riverside, 80% of the patient-base requires primarily extractions and palliative treatment. If the procedures needed are out of reach due to lack of resources, the patient is then referred to community clinics outside of Riverside's SRHC including Western University's Dental Care Center.

Future plans include expanding services to offer crowns, dentures, and root canals. There are also plans to

increase the number of operatories and resources. As participating student dentists, we have high hopes that this clinic will become a potential rotation site for the College of Dental Medicine (CDM). With support from WesternU's CDM faculty, dental students, and volunteers, this dream is finally being realized.

I am extremely grateful to work with such a compassionate and supportive group of people in serving the Riverside population. This service has afforded dental care for the needy in Riverside, dental experience for WesternU's dental students, and given pre-dental undergraduates at UCR an introductory experience into the dental profession. I hope everyone will find the SRHC to be a rewarding and fulfilling experience.

—Elmer Hilo, 2013, ASDA Riverside Clinic Coordinator



ASDA at WesternU Golf Tournament Fundraiser

On August 5th, 2011, ASDA at WesternU members gathered with faculty at San Dimas Canyon Golf Course. Pictured are members of the 2014 class that gathered to eat, play golf, and be merry. Back row (left to right), Lucas Ebaugh, Christina Freitas, Brian Gradinger, Harpreet Chauhan, Pamela Han. Front row (left to right): Brandon Wisely, Dustin Kim, Cherish Hirano, Maria Bisquera.



WesternU Hosts the District 11 Conference

The three day event was held on October 14-16, 2011 at the WesternU campus and organized by ASDA District 11 Trustee Ian Murray. Pictured are ASDA members at the AAWD table at the Vendor Fair.

2013 members, from left to right (seated): Nathan Snyder, Luisa Snyder, Angie Hastings.

2014 members, from left to right (standing): Pamela Han, Nataliya Knap.

Western Regional Meeting

From page 1

This year 21 dental schools came together, including students from all 6 California schools, to get to know one another and build support for ASDA. On our way to Texas, Chris and I, Ian Murray, met participants from neighboring states and formed bonds that would span the weekend and beyond. I was sitting on the plane in Las Vegas waiting for takeoff when the girls next to me started talking about recent practicals and wax-ups. It was then that I realized I had chosen a seat right in the middle of the UNLV delegation, so the networking started ahead of schedule. At midnight we ran into USC, UCSF, UCLA and ASDOH students in the airport and ended up heading out on the town for a bit.

The actual meeting commenced the following morning with breakfast and interesting and energetic presentations from Dr. Jack Dillenberg, Dean of The Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health, and Dr. Steven Gounardes, ADA District 2 Trustee and Liaison to ASDA. Dr. Dillenberg was tasked with invigorating the present and future ASDA leaders in the audience with his vision of leadership in dentistry and what the future brings. With his diverse years of experience in dentistry and public health he did not disappoint. Dr. Gounardes, in his thick Brooklyn accent, highlighted the power of organized dentistry and the vast resources, experience, and support offered to all dentists through the American Dental Association. As the day progressed we heard from the co-chairs of ADPAC, Dr. Dennis Zent and Dr. Rhett Murray (no relation), and the director of State Government Affairs for the ADA, Mr. Jon Holtzee, regarding the legislative efforts of dentists and the proposals facing states toward alternate workforce models.

Friday evening offered incredible opportunities for networking with vendors and specialty organization at the Exhibit Fair where the grand prize in the drawing was an iPod 2. Following the Exhibit Fair all of the Western Regional Meeting participants were given the opportunity to attend the ADPAC State Pac Conference Networking Reception. Multiple ADA Trustees along with dentists from all over the country were in town to represent their state's Political Action Committees and talk about the issues facing dentistry today. Their enthusiasm and interest in our perspective was amazing. These dentists were fully aware they are laying the groundwork for, us as the next generation of dentists. This was a phenomenal opportunity and many of us had to be asked to leave as our conversations carried on past the allotted time.

See Western Regional Meeting on p. 6.

CareNow LA *From page 3*



2013 students (left to right), Eric Walters, Othman Syllamassi and Randall Sagisi performed several preventative treatments and oral surgeries on day one of patient care.

While I was conversing with him, I found that we had so much in common - from our preferences of college football teams to our own family circumstances. To think that this young man could have been my classmate growing up made me appreciate the comprehensive dental care I have enjoyed since my youth and the favorable circumstance in which I now find myself. I realized then that I wasn't just treating another stranger but that I was treating a friend.

At the start of my education, I knew that I wanted to serve others. The motto at my undergraduate university was "Enter to Learn, Go Forth to Serve." Until now, this motto has been a vague concept, nebulous and a general motivator. However, until CareNow, this concept had not been brought into full fruition.

The statement of my fellow student, Eric Walters, 2013, resonates with me, as I'm sure it does with all who served at CareNow. Walters said, "Getting the privilege to participate in an event of this magnitude has made me truly aware of the dire need for affordable healthcare. CareNow has given me an even greater desire to use my dental training to treat, educate, and reach out to my fellow man." This event showed all of us in a corporeal way just how many residents of Los Angeles are without jobs or medical insurance.

The term giving back is something we hear frequently at Western University of Health Sciences. Being a socially responsible dentist means more than participating in volunteer work; it means contributing to society that which we owe in exchange for the training we have received as true artists of healing.

What is my due that I owe to society? Serving my fellow man with the knowledge I have been granted and the position my education affords to those who need the service, is only a small part of my due. But in giving service and participating in amazing inter-disciplinary outreaches like CareNow L.A., I am in a small way paying off my debt. For the inaugural class of WesternU's CDM, the time has come for the to leave the classroom and go out into the community to serve.

--Chad Colby Gage, 2013

Farewell

From page 2

DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR FUTURE ACADEMIC DEANS?

I do regret that I didn't spend more time around the students. Taking time out of your schedule is important because you could stay at this desk 11 hours a day. I should have taken breaks to wander into the ECD classes or something and been more visible. I think that would be good too because the Academic Dean simply by virtue of the position is seen as someone that goes around and enforces rules.

WHAT IS SOMETHING ABOUT YOU THAT MOST STUDENTS WOULDN'T EXPECT?

I think some students are intimidated by me and I heard that when I taught years ago. One thing is that I'm actually pretty funny and I'm shy. So I think they interpret distance or aloofness for my shyness. Students would always say when they had gotten to know me that I was just this goofball.

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS ASDA'S ROLE IN THE FUTURE?

ASDA chapters across the country can play a big role. They are a bridge for students to organized dentistry. California is very active and ASDA at WesternU can help bring maturity to the class and definitely keep them informed.

PARTING WORDS?

I hope they [the leadership] stick to their original vision of the College. Starting a new school is a unique opportunity to try all those things in dental education that people have wanted to do and that was the original plan [at WesternU]--not to just open another dental school but to open one that has more innovative ideas. When you're developing a curriculum and it is not being done in the traditional way it is more challenging and it would be easy to fall back on the old ways. But knowing what we know, I don't think the school is in any immediate danger of not fulfilling that vision.

I do feel privileged for having held this position and it truly has been an honor to be a part of [WesternU's College of Dental Medicine].

--Interview by Cristian A. Sierra, 2014.

Western Regional Meeting *From page 5*

Saturday and Sunday offered more chances to learn about the issues: midlevel providers, licensure, student debt management, pass/fail NDBEs, advocacy, and getting into residency. A representative from the ADA New Dentist Committee addressed the audience and we took time to highlight individual chapter accomplishments. Saturday culminated with a leadership reception where future leaders had an opportunity to pick the brains of current position holders. The weekend was also peppered with district caucuses designed to give members a better idea of standing rules, the election process at Annual Session, and issues facing our state. The meeting also gave ASDA a chance to reaffirm the parliamentary procedure of the House of Delegates and the resolution writing process.

All of the meetings ASDA puts together are clearly great opportunities to gain experience and knowledge while meeting fellow students living through the trials and tribulations of dental school. As future leaders of our profession, and communities, we owe it to ourselves to stand up and stand out. Our privilege and our duty to Dentistry is to be the best we can be for our patients and ourselves. I hope to see you at the next meeting!

--Ian Murray, 2013, ASDA District 11 Trustee

Ethical Dilemma *From page 1*

A problem dentists face is how to accommodate patients while adequately informing patients' decisions. In this example, some patients may want to continuously whiten teeth, regardless of the effectiveness of the treatment or how aesthetically unnatural the outcome. Patients may be very insistent and willing to pay for whatever it takes to achieve their goals without having realistic expectations.

Patients may even develop a psychosis in the process. According to "Magnificent Obsession: When tooth whitening becomes an addiction," printed by RDH: The National Magazine For Dental Hygiene Professionals (volume 26, issue 9) there may be a growing number of "bleachorexics" who use whitening products self destructively.

Is it the dentist's responsibility to make decisions for their patient or is educating the patient sufficient? Is providing treatment without an explanation of benefits and disadvantages unethical? Dentists make decisions like these everyday. It is our responsibility as students to be prepared.--Ryan McGary, 2014

EDITORS



Content Editor
Cristian A. Sierra, 2014



Design Editor
Pamela Han, 2014

Newsletter Advisor: Marisa Saylor, MFA

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

Letters and articles become property of On The Cusp and are subject to editing. Opinions expressed by writers and readers do not necessarily reflect the views of ASDA at WesternU, WesternU, the College of Dental Medicine, or the editors.