



**NU CHAPTER
SIGMA PHI ALPHA
DENTAL HYGIENE HONOR SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2021 – Twenty-Second Issue**

Congratulations to our 2021 Inductees

Angelie Baker – Senior



It is my pleasure to introduce Angelie Baker and Fatin Amireh as the DH4B inductees to Sigma Phi Alpha. These young ladies embody enthusiasm and dedication to both education and clinical dental hygiene care.

From day one, Angelie has taken what she has learned and tried to understand it at a greater level. I could always count on Angelie to bring forth thought provoking questions that the whole class could benefit from. Angelie also did an amazing job of applying what she learned in class to clinical care as well.

Fatin Amireh – Senior



Fatin is by far the most dedicated student I have taught in years and she made it look so easy with being able to make 7/11 runs in between classes!! Come rain or shine, or the flu, Fatin was present and engaged in every class and clinic session with a smile on her face!

Both of these wonderful women have also managed to stay at the top of their game while giving of their time and service to the DH4B class and their community as well.

Congratulations Angelie and Fatin, I am so proud of your accomplishments in the dental hygiene program and excited to now call you both my colleagues!

.....*Iwonka Eagle*

Kathleen Reidy – Senior



Kathleen, I have witnessed your dedication to your dental hygiene education. You remained focused during challenging times and persevered through your studies with flying colors. Not only is your academic performance stellar, but your leadership traits were evident as you represented your class all three years as class secretary, keeping everyone on track with the numerous assignments that were due each week. Additionally, your participation on the Give Kid's a Smile Executive Board (although interrupted due to COVID) was very much appreciated. You served as a Dental Hygiene Representative for the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, the first dental hygienist in the school's history, helping to plan community outreach projects which aimed to help educate and better the oral health of children in our local community. On a personal note, I observed first-hand your ability to educate your patients, demonstrate compassion for their care, and critically think through conversations regarding the science of dentistry. You did not memorize my class

course content but understood every concept I presented to you. Your dental hygiene process of care forms were so comprehensive, I almost needed my loupes to read every line. Your commitment to this program was simply outstanding and we welcome you into Sigma Phi Alpha today!

.....*Sheree Duff*

Cheyenne Giles – Senior



Cheyenne, you entered this program with one bachelor's degree already in hand and continued your education with an enthusiasm for learning and thrived in your studies to reach your full potential, as recognized today by your induction into Sigma Phi Alpha. Having served as the social chair of your class for all three years, Class vice president for two years, and continued membership in the student chapter of ADHA, your dedication to this program and your education was evident. Although the program was clearly full time, you additionally worked in a dental office, perfecting your sterilization and patient communication skills. On a personal note, I will never forget your most "challenging" patient in which I had the opportunity to

work with you. Your desire to learn advanced instrumentation techniques, your ability to apply them directly to patient care, were demonstrated with a strong determination to do what was best for your patient. Your chairside manner, empathy, and your ability to educate your patients was evident in all who had the good fortune to work with you. We congratulate you on your induction today as well as your second Bachelor of Science degree!

.....*Sheree Duff*

Janet Wilson – Faculty



I am thrilled to introduce Janet Wilson as our 2021 Faculty member of Sigma Phi Alpha. Graduates, many of you don't know Mrs. Wilson because she's not currently teaching in the clinic. But, she is an integral part of your clinical activities as she is the person behind Canvas who keeps track of all of your patient entries and procedures. Without Mrs. Wilson, numbers, counts, and totals would be a complete mess. Jan joined our division as a clinical instructor and taught on the clinic floor for a number of

years. Her years of clinical practice make her an effective instructor and educator. When it became apparent that the division needed someone to manage our clinical data, Jan volunteered to be that person. Since then, she has been a silent but critical player on our team. We can reach out to Jan at any time asking for data or clarification and she will have it to us in a flash. Jan has previously served as the president of the Michigan Dental Hygienists' Association and since then has been a strong advocate for DH. Jan, thank you for helping to make the division run so smoothly. It's our pleasure to welcome you into Sigma Phi Alpha!

.....*Janet Kinney*

Angela Boruszewski – Degree Completion



It is my pleasure to introduce Angela Boruszewski to you. Angela is currently a senior in our Degree Completion E-Learning program. She joins us today from Saginaw, MI where she lives with her husband, 3 children (ages 21, 12, and 6) and their French mastiff named Royce. Angela received her Associate's Degree in 2006 from Delta College. In addition to being a mom, wife and student, she works in clinical

practice and substitutes for clinical faculty in Delta College's DH program.

Like many of our students, the path that brings Angela to us today has not been straightforward, it has taken twists and turns and pauses along the way. Being a single mom while a student at Delta and in the early years of her career, she put her plans for completing her degree on hold. 11 years later she still felt driven to complete her degree. Encouraged by a special mentor from Delta she applied to the UM DH E-Learning program.

During her time in the E-Learning program, Angela has met each new challenge with her usual enthusiasm and thirst for learning. Entering a fully online program had its own unique challenges and Angela will tell you there were times in the beginning that she felt quite overwhelmed navigating the digital classroom. She showed us her determination to succeed early on and wasn't shy about seeking help from instructors, classmates, and family. Even a pandemic wasn't going to slow Angela down. Despite many community facilities shutting their doors to volunteers last year, she was determined to implement her community oral health education program for a local homeless shelter in person and worked closely with the staff and residents in order to safely deliver her program onsite.

Angela has embraced new passions in her professional work. Honing her teaching skills in her student teaching practicum she learned that teaching isn't about knowing everything, it is about continually seeking better ways to help others succeed. Angela's capstone project is an example of her interest in exploring new professional opportunities for practicing dental hygienists. She is researching orofacial

myofunctional therapy as an additional career option for dental hygienists.

Angela's persistence and commitment to excellence has paid off. Not only is she a top student in the E-Learning program and this year's SPA inductee, she is also a Center for the Education of Women Scholar having received the Robert Bruce Dunlap Scholarship last year. Angela's post-graduation goals include pursuing roles in DH education, public health programming, and possibly in orofacial myofunctional therapy.

Please join me in welcoming Sigma Phi Alpha-Nu Chapter 2021 inductee, Angela Boruszewski.

.....*Jennifer Cullen*

Khulood Aboalsaud – MSDH



I am honored to introduce Khulood Aboalsaud as the MSDH Sigma Phi Alpha inductee for 2021. Khulood has the distinction of being the first international student admitted to the MSDH program.

Khulood, whose name means immortality, moved here from Mecca, Saudi Arabia with her husband Rayyan. She is the oldest child

of 7 and grew up in Riyadh. In 2014, Khulood graduated with honors from King Saud University and married her husband. Ryyan is a civil engineer; he works as a teaching assistant at Umm- AlQura University. He is also currently a student pursuing both a master's and doctoral degree. In 2015, they welcomed their son, Yousef.

It took a lot of courage to travel to a different country, explore a new culture, and advance their education with a child's responsibility. Since arriving in the US, Khulood actively pursued her dream of getting a masters of science in dental hygiene, but the road was not easy. As Khulood herself states, she knew that God always chooses the best for her, and so she didn't give up pursuing her dream. When I first met Khulood, I was impressed by her sincerity, passion for dental hygiene, and her work ethic. Khulood had been diligently taking English and writing classes, working hard towards her goal of admissions. I had no doubt I would be seeing Khulood in our program. It was not an easy journey, but Khulood persevered. She entered the MSDH program in the Fall of 2020, and hasn't looked back! Khulood and I had a chat with the Sorting Hat, and it told me it would have a tough decision if it had to place you in a Hogwarts house. Gryffindor is for the brave, Hufflepuff for hard work and patience, Ravenclaw for intelligence, knowledge and planning. You can see the dilemma, as she strongly displays all of the characteristics.

Khulood has not only excelled academically but has taken her studies beyond the minimum. Just a few examples of Khulood's efforts include contributing an article to the ADEA COSRF newsletter, serving on the student organizing committee for the UM-TMDU international/interprofessional discussion and networking event, and

pursuing other research projects outside of her thesis. To work with Khulood is to know she embodies the values of Sigma Phi Alpha. Her long-term goal is to become a full professor, and anyone who has worked with her on her journey knows she has what it takes, and that she will definitely achieve that goal!

While Khulood is extremely dedicated in her studies, in her free time she likes to bake and travel, exploring new countries and cultures. She plans to visit Holland for the May tulip festival. She plans to have a short trip in the summer to Mackinac Island, hopefully to celebrate defending her thesis! Khulood is also a huge fan of Harry Potter. She finished reading the books then watched the movies in a week! She hopes to visit the wizarding world of Harry Potter at Universal Studios again before returning home. Please join me in congratulating Khulood on her induction into Sigma Phi Alpha!

.....*Danielle Rulli*

Adam Barragato – Honorary



When faculty were asked about who should be the 2021 honorary inductee, it was unanimously agreed upon that Adam was the only choice. I was introduced to Adam one early frantic Wednesday morning when I couldn't get the technology to work properly in one of our lecture halls. Here is

where Adam made his biggest mistake - he gave me his contact information. But what a blessing he became. As the world shut down and slowed down, Adam revved up. Adam's ability to help dental hygiene pivot to a full remote teaching environment was fundamental to the program's success and student's learning. Adam's ceaseless creativity, flexibility, and ingenuity allowed the hygiene instructors to continue to successfully teach in such a foreign environment. No challenge was ever too big for Adam, yet no project was ever too small. Every idea Adam had to enhance teaching and learning in dental hygiene became a reality, and his ability to teach and understand technology needs of faculty and students during this challenging time was invaluable. Adam's always cheery, always positive, and always energetic attitude is contagious and was just what we all needed during the last year. Therefore, because of his endless dedication and his selflessness towards the dental hygiene program we welcome him into Sigma Phi Alpha as our honorary member. Welcome Adam and thank you for everything you did, you do, and will continue to do for us and our profession.

.....*Martha McComas*

On Friday, March 26, 2021 at 1pm the Sigma Phi Alpha - Nu Board of Directors (Immediate Past President - Jen Forgacs, President - Mona Riaz, Vice President - Darlene Jones, Secretary/Treasurer - Beverly Gainer) met via Zoom with the Vice Presidential candidate - Elizabeth Pitts, for our annual meeting.

New members: Seniors - Fatin Amireh, Angelelie Baker, Cheyenne Giles; Degree Completion - Angela Boruszewski, MSDH - Khulood Aboalsaud; Faculty - Janet Wilson; and Honorary - Adam Barragato will be

officially inducted during virtual ceremonies on either April 25th or May 7th.

Mona called for a motion to approve the 2020 minutes as written in the Newsletter. Darlene made the motion which Elizabeth seconded.

Notes from the Secretary/Treasurer

We began 2021 with \$3,270.94 in our business account. I sent in our Supreme Chapter dues of \$100.00 and ordered eight certificates and four key pins for new members at a cost of \$240.00. Our 2020 donations of \$150.00 to the Chris Klausner Scholarship Fund and \$200.00 to VINA were sent plus \$150.00 to our new donation site ISCC. We no longer make donations to Research Day due to their change of policy of not giving monetary awards to the winners. This left us with a balance of \$2,430.94.

The ePostcard was filed with the IRS and accepted. The acceptance letter was sent to Supreme Chapter to maintain our active status.

The 2020 Newsletter and dues statement was sent via email to 113 members, four were sent via snail mail. As of the meeting we have received \$215.00 through Venmo and \$125.00 through checks - \$45.00 was designated for sponsorship.

There will be some mailing expenses to send new members their certificates and key pins plus two 2021 donations need to be sent - Chris Klausner Scholarship Fund (\$150.00), VINA (\$200.00). Prior to the 2022 meeting we'll need to send in our Supreme Chapter dues and order key pins and certificates for new members plus make the Research Day Hygiene Awards donation of \$125.00 if appropriate.

The President moved on to Old Business. All of our members (Lisa, Stefanie, Michelle, Mona and Connie) have agreed to maintain their “jobs” for this coming year. Mona would like to hand the Newsletter over to someone else next year. Please consider this and notify Bev Gainer (bgainer@wowway.com) if you have interest in doing so.

Mona called for a motion to keep our donations as is. Beverly Gainer made the motion, Jen seconded. On site donation TBD. If you know of a place contact Bev.

No further Old Business so we moved on to New Business.

Our 2022 annual meeting - fingers crossed - will be at Weber’s on Saturday, March 26th.

No nominations have been received for 2022 Honorary Membership. If you have someone in mind please submit his/her name to Bev with a brief resume for consideration.

Mona Riaz stepped down as our President (thanks for all you’ve done during such an unprecedented year) and inducted Darlene Jones as our new President. Then Mona inducted Elizabeth Pitts as our new Vice President. Congratulations to our new slate of officers.

Meeting adjourned at 1:56pm.

YOUR 2021 - 2022 OFFICERS



Top Left to Right: President – Darlene Jones and Immediate Past-President – Mona Riaz

Middle Left to Right: Vice President – Elizabeth Pitts and Secretary/Treasurer – Beverly Gainer

Bottom: Past-President - Jennifer Forgacs