

NU CHAPTER SIGMA PHI ALPHA DENTAL HYGIENE HONOR SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023 – Twenty-Fourth Issue

Congratulations to our 2023 Inductees



Left to Right: Haley Harland, Sumaia Al-Suraimi, Marwa Aggour, Darlene Jones (President), Valerie Nieto, and Beth Al-Heleal.

Not pictured: Dr. Margherita Fontana

Marwa Aggour– Senior

It is a privilege to stand before you as we welcome Marwa Aggour into the Sigma Phi Alpha - Nu Chapter, our esteemed dental hygiene honor society. Working with Marwa, both in clinic and community service, has shown me her dedication and eagerness to join our ranks.

Born and raised in Ann Arbor, Marwa's early exposure to different languages (Spanish, Arabic and English), within her family sparked a curiosity and love for communication that she carries into her professional life. Her high school project on dental hygiene and ADHD patients was a turning point that led her to choose this

meaningful career path, with a special focus on prevention and patient education.

Marwa has not only excelled academically, but also stood out as a vice-president, tirelessly supporting her classmates, and ensuring their voices were heard. Her leadership has been characterized by empathy, collaboration, and a drive to make a positive impact on her class's experience.

Her active involvement in the Muslim Student Dental Association and the Student American Dental Hygienists' Association showcases her commitment to connecting with and uplifting her peers, while also embracing the diverse backgrounds that enrich our community. Through these roles, Marwa has demonstrated an exceptional ability to lead, mentor, and advocate for the needs and interests of her fellow students.

As she looks to the future, which may include furthering her education, Marwa's aspirations are as inspiring as her involvement in our school's life has been.

Please join me in congratulating Marwa Aggour on her induction. Marwa, we're honored to have you with us and can't wait to see how you continue to flourish in your career. Welcome aboard!

...Said Al-Jazaeri

Sumaia Al-Suraimi – Senior

My name is Sheree Duff, and it is my distinct honor today to introduce Sumaia Al – Suraimi into our national dental hygiene honor society. I have had the privilege of instructing Sumaia in the classroom, as well as the laboratory and clinical setting. I am thrilled to have her join the Nu Chapter.

She moved to the United States 6 years ago from Saudi Arabia with her family. Moving to the United States, a country that speaks English as their native language, she knew

she had to work hard to navigate her new life in a new country. English is her second language, learning some basic grammar and speaking skills growing up, when she also lived in the United Kingdom for two years during kindergarten and when she attended an international school the last 3 years of her time living in Saudi Arabia. She is originally from Yemen, a beautiful country in the Middle East, but unfortunately Sumaia states it is known to have limited health resources and access, and a high percentage of illiterate people. She tells me she now has the resources and knowledge, that the majority of her relatives back home don't have, and feels it is her obligation as well as a long-term goal of hers, to give back, by being a part of an outreach team that can travel to third-world countries and provide dental care. As she looks beyond graduation, she is also considering additional education in public health focusing on access and policy. She states, “I want to make small differences, slowly but surely.”

Through the rigors of this academic DH program, Sumaia has continued to work part - time in the periodontal graduate clinic as a patient service associate. She also manages her dental hygiene social media page that she started in May 2021 throughout here time as a student. She posts photos of her experiences in the program, a time she is most proud of.

Sumaia has been active at the School of Dentistry, where she currently serves on The Taft Clinic Executive Team as the Dental Hygiene Representative. Additionally, she is a Muslim Student Dental Association Dental Hygiene Representative, is the Outreach Chair for the Muslim Student Dental Association, and the Treasure and Dental Hygiene Representative for the Student American Dental Hygienist Association group on campus. Her willingness to volunteer her time is witnessed by these activities and has been a big part of her

professional and personal journey in the dental hygiene program.

When speaking with Sumaia, you can tell that she is immensely proud of her background and is extremely grateful to her parents for all their hard work to make sure they paved the way for her, and her siblings, to excel in the United States. And, Sumaia has most definitely excelled! In my courses, she always was a student who you could count on to have comprehensive answers to all my study guides, excellent grades on all my assessments, and a student who asked exceptional critical thinking questions. It has truly been a pleasure to have been one of your faculty members and on a personal note, I will never forget your compassion for your patients in clinic, your dedication to your studies and the appreciation you demonstrated to me personally as one of your faculty members. Please welcome Sumai Al- Surami into the University of Michigan, Nu Chapter component.

...*Sheree Duff*

Haley Harland – Senior

It's my pleasure to introduce you to Haley Harland. Haley grew up in Manistee, Michigan and has an older sister and a younger brother. However, it's a house divided. Haley's sister graduated from MSU, Haley will graduate from U-M. However, Haley's little brother was not going to get into any school rivalries and headed up north, way up north, and is attending Michigan Tech.

When asked what lead her to dental hygiene, Haley shared that there were two key influences. The first was that in worked as a dental assistant for Dr. Boyer who is a U-M alumni. While working in the office she was able to learn what the dental hygienist does and could "see" herself in that role. The second motivating factor happened in 2019 when she came to the dental school for a

tour. Lisa made her feel so comfortable and welcomed that Haley realized that the U-M dental hygiene program was for her.

While in the program, Haley has taken on leadership roles. Last year she was class secretary and this year she is class president. In addition, she is a student member of the American Dental Hygienists' Association.

After graduation Haley plans to attend Eastern Michigan University where she will finish taking the dental pre-requisite courses. After that her goal is to apply for and be accepted into dental school. In her free time, Haley enjoys painting and cooking. She tells me that she makes knockout hash browns. Please help me welcome Haley Harland into Nu Chapter Sigma Phi Alpha.

...*Janet Kinney*

Beth Al-Heleal – Degree Completion

It is my pleasure to introduce Beth Al-Heleal to you today. Beth is currently a senior in our Degree Completion E-Learning program. She joins us today from Ypsilanti, MI where she has worked with Dr. Kim Rice since 1997 and is mom to 6 kids ages 33-16 years old and 3 fur-babies.

Beth completed her associate degree in Dental Hygiene at Lansing Community College in 1987. After 30+ years in practice and with much encouragement and support from her kids, Beth took on the challenge of balancing her demanding personal and professional life with an academic life in order to pursue her educational goals.

Beth's persistence and dedication have been visible from the first day I met her. Entering a fully online program has its own unique challenges and Beth will tell you there have been times that she felt overwhelmed navigating the digital classroom. She has shown us repeatedly her determination to succeed and isn't shy about seeking help

from instructors, classmates, and family to make sure she stays on track.

During her time in the E-Learning program, Beth has embraced opportunities that stretch her thinking and skill sets. Her community project last year created customized educational materials for nurse aides and med techs in a dementia care facility in Ypsilanti. She just completed her student teaching practicum in the U-M Dental School clinics. Her capstone project this spring will focus on creating a CE manuscript for dental providers on the use of laser-assisted NSPT. Beth is a consummate life-long learner. Please join me in welcoming Sigma Phi Alpha-Nu Chapter 2023 inductee, Beth Al-Heleal.

...Jennifer Cullen

Valerie Nieto – Faculty

I would like to introduce to you my friend, our faculty inductee, Valerie Nieto. Valerie started her professional journey in 2005 as a Certified Phlebotomist. She went on to get an associate degree, a certificate in Dental Hygiene, finally arriving at U of M and the degree completion program in 2017. After earning her BSDH, she began her Masters program as the first Master of Science in Dental Hygiene Teaching and Clinical Research Fellow.

After graduation in 2019, she became a fulltime Dental Hygiene faculty member at U of M. She has taught entry level and graduate level courses and has served as Clinic Coordinator for the DH3s and DH4s.

Valerie has research interests in salivary diagnostics, Veterans access to oral health care, OSCE's, and bi-directional relationship between Gastroparesis and oral health.

Valerie has been very involved with MDHA and has served as Trustee and well as Treasurer for the State Organization.

My interactions with Valerie have been as co-advisor for SADHA at U of M. She loves dental hygiene and is committed to our students.

When she is not working, she loves to garden. I am so happy to support the membership of Valerie Nieto into Nu Chapter, Sigma Phi Alpha.

...Karen Essell

Dr. Margherita Fontana – Honorary Member

Margherita Fontana, DDS, PhD, is the Clifford Nelson Endowed Professor of Dentistry in the Department of Cariology, Restorative Sciences and Endodontics at University of Michigan School of Dentistry (U-M). She is Director of the Global Initiatives Program in Oral and Craniofacial Health at the School of Dentistry. She is currently co-director of Cariology courses, and cariology discipline co-coordinator at U-M. As a principal investigator, she has received research grants associated with cariology from the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, the American Association of Pediatric Dentistry, the Delta Dental Fund, DentaQuest, and private industry amongst others. She has over 160 papers published in peer reviewed journals, such as Journal of Dental Research, Caries Research, Journal of Dental Education, Pediatric Dentistry, Advances in Dental Research, Journal of Public Health Dentistry, Journal of the American Dental Association, British Dental Journal, etc. She was the 2007-2008 President of the Cariology Group of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR), the 2010-2011 Chair of the Cariology Section of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), and the 2016-2020 President of the American Academy of Cariology. She served as the 2021-2023 Vice-President of the European Organization for Caries Research (ORCA),

and has been Co-Chair of the Alliance for Cavity Free Future (ACFF) Canada-US Chapter since 2015. In 2012 she received the USA Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) for her work on caries risk assessment in children. She was the 2009 winner of the IADR Cariology Research Group Basil G. Bibby Award in Cariology, and in 2016 winner of the IADR Burrows Memorial Award.

Through her dedication of service through public health research and encouraging the utilization of dental hygienist to improve oral health outcomes, Dr. Fontana has been named the Sigma Phi Alpha Honorary Member for 2023!

...*Elizabeth Pitts*

Annual report:

On Saturday, March 18th, 2023 at 8am thirty of us gathered in the West Ballroom of Weber's Inn in Ann Arbor for the annual Nu Chapter meeting and initiation of new members. After enjoying a wonderful brunch President Darlene Jones greeted guests and called the meeting to order at 9:15am.

The Purpose & History of Sigma Phi Alpha was read by Vice President Elizabeth Pitts. President Jones read the qualifications for induction by program.

Sheree Duff introduced Senior Sumaia Al-Suraimi. Said Al-Jazaeri introduced Senior Marwa Aggour. Janet Kinney introduced Senior Haley Harland. Jennifer Cullen introduced Degree Completion Candidate Beth Al-Heleal. President Jones read the qualifications for faculty induction. Karen Essell introduced Valerie Nieto. President Jones read the qualifications for honorary induction. Elizabeth Pitts introduced Dr. Margherita Fontana, who was unavailable to join us. All were given key pins, certificates and officially inducted by President Jones.

(Read their introductions in separate articles.)

Approval of the 2022 minutes as printed in the Newsletter was motioned for by President Jones. Martha McComas - 1st and Janet Kinney - 2nd - minutes approved.

Secretary/Treasurer Beverly Gainer was asked by President Jones to read the annual report.

“Good morning. Congratulations and welcome to our new members.

We began 2023 with \$3,908.30 in our account. This figure represents dues received after the 2022 brunch - \$270 and costs incurred at that meeting - Brunch \$730.25, Agenda printing \$23.04, table arrangements \$61.35, plus donations made to: ISCC \$125, VINA \$200, CDC \$125, Composite Fund \$100 and \$150 to the Chris Klausner Scholarship Fund.

Special shout out to members Ellen Voss and Patricia Piejak for generously donating “Twinkles”, the puppet, who has traveled all over Michigan teaching toothbrushing to preschool and kindergarten classes during oral health educational programs by dental hygiene students.

Supreme Chapter 2023 dues (\$100) plus the 2023 Research Day (\$300) donation and 2023 Chris Klausner Scholarship Fund (\$150) donation were sent in. Key pins and certificates (\$270) were ordered from Supreme Chapter.

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

On January 31st at 7pm the officers met via Zoom to discuss this year's meeting. Immediate Past President Mona Riaz was unavailable to join. However, Jennifer Cullen (candidate for Vice President) and

Heather Morse (candidate for Secretary/Treasurer) did attend.

Inclusion of a CE at our meeting and what would be needed from the venue for this and possible cost involved plus a gathering time change were discussed. Weber's to be contacted. Table centerpieces were decided upon. Decision to email invitations to new inductees was made. Discussion of changes in donations - CDC closing, possibly adding Hope Clinic back in - amounts given. Zoom meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Invitations to 120 were sent, 20 non dues paying. Four of these invitations were sent by regular mail per member request - one sent back undeliverable. As of March 17th 76 responses received.

Prior to today's expenses and donations we have \$5,610.30 in our account - \$200 of that amount designated as donations. Thank you".

UPDATE: Weber's brunch cost \$1,104.72 which included a \$125 rental charge for the projector needed for the CE presentation, \$21.98 for Agenda printing, \$68.77 for Shamrock centerpieces, and \$52.99 for flowers presented to Beverly Gainer. Donations: ISCC \$150, VINA \$150, Hope \$150, and Senior Class Composite Fund \$175 (\$25 from a member donation earmarked for this fund).

Moving on to OLD BUSINESS

Lisa Dodge will continue to maintain the U-M DH Website/SPA Link. Thank you Lisa. Stefanie VanDuine has agreed to maintain the scrapbooks and with Mona Riaz's guidance to take over the Newsletter. Thank you, Stefanie. Also, major thanks to Michelle Spencer for her excellent work on the scrapbooks and Mona for hers on the Newsletter.

Janet Kinney offered to take over from Connie MacKinnon the SPA link with Dental/UM. Thanks to both.

Stefanie VanDuine spoke about the **Research Day Award** winners.

First Place Schoolwide: Marwa Aggour, Zeinab Aladily, Sumaia Al-Suraimi, Hafsa Parker (Advisors: Dr. Dani Rulli and Stefanie VanDuine)

Interprofessional Integration of Oral Health in the Nurse Practitioner Curriculum

First Place Dental Hygiene: Haley Harland, Shams Albadry, Alisson Castro-Garcia (Advisors: Sheree Duff and Stefanie VanDuine)

Stress Management Techniques for Dental Hygiene Students

Second Place Dental Hygiene: Daelyn Merillat, Rachel Norko, Keegan Thursby (Advisors: Saba Jahanbin and Stefanie VanDuine)

The Influence Social Media has on Dental Hygiene Products and Use in Young Adults

Third Place Dental Hygiene: Julia Dalimonte, Jami Jones (Advisors: Iwonka Eagle and Stefanie VanDuine)

Knowledge of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) and Oral Health in Young Adults

President Jones spoke about our present donations and CDC closing with hygiene students returning to Hope Clinic.

Moving onto NEW BUSINESS

President Jones spoke about having onsite donations again. Different locations were mentioned and possibly helping refugees. All were in agreement that next year we will bring items for Hope Clinic which does work with refugees. Karen Essell offered to transport what we gather to them.

President Jones thought it might be easier to have our donations all be the same monetary amount - \$125-\$150. Much discussion followed about what our donations do. Stefanie reminded us what the cost for students is for their research projects. Beverly Gainer suggested we keep the Research Day donation at \$300 and give \$150 to each of our other places. We were already giving \$150 to the C. Klausner fund and ISCC. VINA was getting \$200 so if we took \$50 from that we could increase CDC (which is closing so now to go to Hope) from \$125 to \$150 and give the other \$25 to the Student Composite Fund which would only increase our donation amounts by \$25 if we were to also give them \$150. Ellen Voss motioned that we do as Beverly suggested. Motion was 1st and seconded - approved.

The venue for 2024 will remain Weber's with the same brunch menu and added waffle station.

The CE class was successful (Honorary member, Christine Farrell, and our chapter Vice President, Elizabeth Pitts, presented a 1 credit CE, "Impact of Dental Public Health on Dental Hygiene: Michigan Oral Health Programs") so hopefully one will be included again, depending on that decision will determine which room we will be in.

Going forward Weber's will require a deposit. - depending on room either \$325 or \$425. Date for 2024 annual meeting set for Saturday, March 9th, time to be determined.

Nominations for honorary membership. Said Al-Jazaeri suggested Dr. Sandra Stuhr. Sheree Duff suggested Dr. Suncica Travan. Karen Ridley suggested we consider a graduate hygiene student who wasn't selected for membership in Sigma Phi Alpha - Nu, but has gone on to promote and improve hygiene. Sheree Duff made a motion to nominate Rachel Mundus. Motion was 1st by Martha McComas and seconded by Juana Gissendanner. Membership

approved Rachel as our 2024 Honorary Inductee.

Officers changed this year. Darlene becoming Immediate Past President and Vice President Elizabeth Pitts stepping up to be President. Elizabeth nominated Jennifer Cullen as our new VP - approved. Beverly Gainer nominated Heather Morse to become the new Secretary/Treasurer - approved. Darlene Jones inducted the new officers.

Beverly Gainer will be removed from the UMCU business account and Heather Morse will be added to the UMCU account. Janet Kinney will remain as an additional signer on the account.

Outgoing Secretary/Treasurer Beverly Gainer was presented with a bouquet of flowers for her 23 years of service and received a standing ovation.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45am.

...Beverly Gainer

YOUR 2023 - 2024 OFFICERS



Left to Right: Immediate Past President - Darlene Jones, President - Elizabeth Pitts, Vice President - Jennifer Cullen, and Secretary/Treasurer - Heather Morse