



**NU CHAPTER  
SIGMA PHI ALPHA  
DENTAL HYGIENE HONOR SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER  
MARCH 2011 - Twelfth Issue**

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**Congratulations to our 2011 Inductees**



**From left: Kathryn Brown, Patricia Walch, Allison Restauri, Becky Lewis and Anne Gwozdek**

**Kathryn Brown - Senior**

It is my pleasure to introduce Kathryn Brown, as one of our senior inductees into SPA. She had decided at the ripe old age of seven, that she wanted a career in the dental field. She received her bachelor degree at UofD Mercy, where she was a teaching assistant in biology and a resident advisor. Coming to UofM, she has continued to demonstrate involvement in numerous activities beyond her studies. Leadership is one of the characteristics recognized by induction into SPA. During her first year, Kathryn was VP of her class and a team leader for the University Relay for Life. During her junior year she took a very active role in SADHA and was team captain SADHA Relay for Life. This year Kathryn is President of SADHA and last June represented District V at the

ADHA annual session as a student delegate. This past fall during our statewide SADHA day, hosted by UofM, Kathryn was our mistress of ceremony for over 700 attendees. She was fantastic schmoozing with our keynote speaker, Ann Batrell, Executive director of ADHA.

As an inductee to SPA we recognize scholarship, service and leadership - Kathryn truly exemplifies all of these virtues. Congratulations.

*by Wendy Kerschbaum*

Kathryn was born in Toronto. She likes to read, watch movies, figure skate, play the piano and other instruments, listen to music, spend time with friends and sleep as much as possible.

### **Patricia Walch - Senior**

It is a pleasure and honor to introduce to you Patricia Walch - she is an exceptional woman.

I first met Patricia when she came to work with us at Chelsea Family Dentistry as an assistant. Kathy, a long time assistant, recruited Patricia from her current position at Silver Maples retirement Community. Patricia had brought her grandmother in for dental care. Kathy was so impressed with Patricia's care for her grandmother and her interest in learning that she offered her a position on the spot.

I have to share something about working with Patricia in that dental office. I have worked as an assistant, trained assistants, and I have worked with assistants as a dental hygienist, BUT, I have never worked with someone like Patricia. She picked up on every detail so quickly. Her questions were so inquisitive - example - when training her to input for periodontal charting; she wanted to know what the clinical attachment level was, and why we wanted that information.

She quickly anticipated the needs of the hygiene providers and made the flow of patient care comfortable.

Patricia is a kind and gentle personality. She truly cares for others and is willing to serve. She is not quick to judge or blame. I admire her maturity and wisdom.

Her family lives the example of service by volunteering at the St. Louis Center, a home for special needs adolescents and adults. They continue to make time weekly to maintain plant scapes in the lobby of the center.

Patricia has high regard for providing optimal patient care. She has unlimited potential to enhance the

dental hygiene profession. her love of learning and desire to serve will give her a rich foundation for her career path.

Thank you Patricia for your example of excellence. We wish you the very best. *by Dina Korte*

Patricia was born in Flint, MI. She attended Albion College and Washtenaw Community College prior to transferring to UofM. She was on the Dean's list at both colleges. She likes to scrapbook, make jewelry, spend time outdoors and scuba dive when possible.

### **Allison Restauri - Degree Completion**

It is truly a pleasure to introduce Allison Restauri, Degree completion E-Learning Program student, who will be graduating this August with honors. She is a member of the third cohort of this program. Allison lives in Howell, MI and is a 1990 graduate of the Oakland Community College Dental Hygiene Program.

Obtaining her BSDH after being in practice for close to 20 years was a direction she had wanted to take for quite a while, but the timing and the program had to be a good fit. Luckily, for the University of Michigan, she found our E-Learning program to be "the one." Once Allison began her degree completion journey, she wanted to "experience it all." In addition to being successful academically, Allison wanted to explore other professional opportunities.

She applied for, and was chosen, to be alternate student delegate to the ADHA 2010. She represented District V students at the annual session in Las Vegas. She also served as Degree Completion team leader on our SADHA Smile for Life-Relay for Life team last year. She came back last fall to help organize the student program at SADHA Day, hosted by UofM. As a result, Allison remains well connected with both E-Learning and entry-level students and faculty because she has taken the initiative to do so.

All of this is not done in isolation. Allison remains in practice with her husband, Don. She is mother to 6 year old Isabella and grown sons, Rob, TJ, and Nick, plus two dogs, Kita and Roo. Allison's vibrant personality and desire to "experience it all" spills over in many facets of her life. It led her to obtain a builder's license and also to become active in drag racing with her husband. She also loves to garden.

Congratulations Allison, on your induction to the SPA-Nu Chapter Dental Hygiene Honor Society. We

welcome you and celebrate your achievement as "leaders and best!"  
*by Anne Gwozdek*

### **Anne Gwozdek - Faculty**

This is Anne's 2nd induction into SPA. Her first was in her "other life" when she was honored for her contributions to dental hygiene in the arena of service to her profession. She's served as president of MDHAS and editor of Michigan DH journal.

Today she is being inducted as a faculty member, which means now she can do more work for SPA!

Anne graduated from the UofM Dental Hygiene Program in 1973 and began a 32 year career in private practice.

Exploring a new direction, she became a clinical instructor in 2001, and this experience sparked an interest to pursue a graduate degree. In 2007 she received a Master of Arts in Educational Media and technology from Eastern Michigan University. During this time she continued her teaching in dental hygiene but with a focus on developing our E-Learning Degree Completion Program, which is now recognized across campus as a exemplary undergraduate online program. She has presented numerous times at national meetings on the subject of the E-Learning program and has mentored many students in the program.

She is currently a full-time faculty and Director of Degree Completion. She is one of our SADHA advisors and has again mentored many students to numerous awards and national achievements.

In 2008 she participated in the American Dental Education Association's Allied Dental Leadership Development program, and immediately was appointed to an association committee.

In the past, Anne was inducted to SPA-Nu as a honorary member for her service and leadership. Today we induct her as a faculty member for her service, leadership and scholarship. Congratulations.

*by Wendy Kerschbaum*

### **Becky Lewis - Honorary**

Becky came to Michigan from Florida where she graduated from Florida State University with a degree in Special Education.

She has been with Hope Clinic for 15 years. Hope is an interdenominational Christian medical, dental and social service organization. It was founded in 1982 to provide health care to the uninsured. Becky oversaw the development of the dental clinic. She is at the helm whether it be fund raising, dental assisting,

fixing equipment, stretching the budget, or babysitting while parents receive treatment.

Becky has a great husband, Leo. they are antique car buffs and occupy their spare time with two lively grandchildren.

## **Notes from the Secretary/Treasurer**

On March 19, 2011 Nu Chapter met at the Four Points by Sheraton in Ann Arbor, enjoying another wonderful brunch buffet.

The meeting was called to order at 10:17am by President Nicole Love. Past President Laura Roth read the Purpose and History of Sigma Phi Alpha.

Six junior students invited to attend were asked to introduce themselves.

President Love read the qualifications for general, faculty, and honorary membership. Wendy Kerschbaum introduced senior Kathryn Brown, Dina Korte introduced senior Patricia Walch, Anne Gwozdek introduced Degree Completion candidate Allison Restauri, Wendy Kerschbaum introduced faculty candidate Anne Gwozdek and Karen Ridley introduced our Honorary candidate Becky Lewis. New members were inducted.

Becky spoke briefly about the new Hope Clinic and their need for volunteers.

The 2010 meeting minutes as written in the newsletter were approved.

The annual report was read by the Secretary/Treasurer.

ePostcard filed with IRS. Supreme Chapter notified to maintain active status. As of the first of 2011 we had \$858.54 in our account. This balance reflects 2011 dues to Supreme Chapter of \$75, the ordering of six keypins for \$180, and three of our donations: Hope Clinic \$150, Washtenaw Children's Dental Clinic \$150, and Relay for Life \$150. Since the first of January we've made a \$300 donation to Research Day - Hygiene Awards and ordered five certificates for new inductees for \$75.

Invitations/Newsletters were mailed to 56 members - 23 inactive - 3 were also emailed. Invitations - Newsletters were emailed to 93 members. As of Friday the 18th we had received 46 dues paying responses - one from the "missed you" list! We also received enough sponsorship money to pay for 8 and a half brunches.

Cost for mailings = \$90.81, \$3.48 for a package of paper, \$55.30 for ink cartridges, \$2.99 for a box of envelopes, and \$29.04 for stamps. This leaves us with \$1,742.47 in our account prior to paying for brunch.

**Old business:** Sarah Hughes was not present to report on the U-M DH website and linking with Sigma Phi Alpha - Nu Chapter.

The winners of the 2011 Research Day Hygiene Awards was read by Dina Korte. One of the juniors present today, Janet Zalucha, was the recipient of the Audience Award.

Dina Korte passed our scrapbook upkeep to Patricia Walch. Kudos Dina for your work.

Beverly Gainer will continue with the Newsletter.

Suggestions were made to use Facebook for member contact, sending out a Save a Date for our annual meetings, creating an email address book and using Carrie Towns to update and keep us current with addresses for our members.

Anne Gwozdek will continue to be our contact with the *DentalUM*.

**New Business:** The meeting date for 2012 was set for the 10th of March at the Sheraton with the buffet as presented today.

Connie nominated Wallin McMinn DDS for honorary membership. Alaina Robinson elaborated on him. His nomination was approved.

Wendy Kerschbaum suggested we send a sympathy card to honorary member Dean Kotowicz, whose 34 year old son died in a car accident.

Secretary/Treasurer Beverly Gainer asked about adding an additional name to our Credit Union Account. Wendy Kerschbaum was suggested.

Beverly Gainer also spoke about the need to update our by-laws. Hopefully, we can have info together by next meeting to vote on changes.

We voted to add a \$150 donation - to the Christine Klausner scholarship fund. Our other Service projects and amounts will remain the same.

Vice president Cheryl VanBeck will step up to the position of President. Alaina Robinson was nominated for Vice President. She agreed to accept the position and was approved. Beverly Gainer will remain as Secretary/Treasurer. Robinson was sworn into office.

Meeting adjourned at 11:31am. *by Beverly Gainer*

## **WINNERS OF THE RESEARCH DAY HYGIENE AWARDS**

### **FIRST PRIZE**

Anja Hoffstrom, Brandi Johnson, Elizabeth Brown  
(Advisor Anne Gwozdek)

Addressing Hunger and health: Assessment of a Garden Initiative at the Huron Valley Boys and Girls Club

### **SECOND PRIZE**

Miranda Marion, Sabrina Williams, Michele Uekihara  
(Advisors: Susan Taichman, Erin Relich, Carrie Ghaname)

Barriers Preventing Dentists from Volunteering at the WCDC.

### **THIRD PRIZE**

Kate Vinslauski, Stacie Kupka, Corinne Silvernail  
(Advisor Janet Kinney)

**What is the role of a clinical dental hygienist for salivary diagnostics in periodontal disease detection?**

Susan Taichman, DH446 Course Director, comments that it is exciting to see our 1st and 2nd place winners receive awards for the 1st and 3rd place in the Clinical Research/Public Health category as well. This is our third year to place outside of the dental hygiene award category.

The DH446 table clinic/original research presentations were fantastic this year. Every group should be proud of their projects and the presentations given. Faculty, students and vendors commented on the quality of the posters, the interesting topics that were presented and the knowledge of the students on their topics.

A special thank you to the DH446 project advisors! Your expertise and commitment to the students is greatly appreciated.