



**NU CHAPTER
SIGMA PHI ALPHA
DENTAL HYGIENE HONOR SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2014 - Fifteenth Issue**

Congratulations to our 2014 Inductees



Top - left to right: Stephanie Marx, Audrey Taylor, Emily Springfield. Bottom – left to right: Maegan Allen and Lauren Strong.

Maegan Allen - Senior

It is my pleasure to introduce to you Ms. Maegan Allen.

Maegan grew up in Alpena, which is the largest town in Northeastern Michigan, affectionately known as the “Sunrise Side”.

Maegan first attended Alpena Community College for two years studying Liberal Arts, and then transferred to Kendall College of Art and Design to pursue Interior Design. It was while at Kendall College, Maegan decided her passion was dental hygiene and soon applied to the University of Michigan. The flexibility and stability of the dental

hygiene field, as well as the ability to form relationships with patients, drew her to this career change.

Since entering the University of Michigan Dental Hygiene Program, Meagan has excelled in her academic pursuits and has maintained an exceptional GPA for the past three years. Meagan has been my peer teacher for the past year. In the fall she peer taught in Oral Anatomy. This semester, Meagan is peer teaching in Biomaterials. She is always organized, energetic and an exceptional role model and instructor to her students.

In clinic, Meagan's instructors state that she is perfect example of a patient-oriented caregiver. She always demonstrates professionalism and cares for her patients. Her attention to detail and thoroughness make her a pleasure to work with in clinic.

When she finds the time to be away from her hygiene responsibilities and studying for boards, Meagan enjoys baking, decorating and crafting. It is no surprise that such artistic abilities are of interest to her and will serve her well as a dental hygienist.

Please help me in welcoming Meagan Allen into Sigma Phi Alpha – Nu.

Bridget Beattie

Lauren Strong - Senior

Today it is my pleasure to introduce Lauren Strong, an outstanding senior dental hygiene student. Lauren was born in Dearborn, Michigan and attended Grosse Ile High School. Before attending the dental hygiene program at the University of Michigan, Lauren earned a Bachelors of Science degree in Biology at Glenville State College, Glenville West Virginia.

As an inductee to Sigma Phi Alpha we recognize scholarship, service and leadership - Lauren exemplifies all of these virtues.

Lauren has demonstrated Scholastic achievement through her grades and GPA. Lauren has overcome adversity during her years here as a dental hygiene student and yet, continues demonstrates commitment and passion for her education and profession. No matter the personal struggles she is going through, she is always exhibiting a positive attitude. She is a pleasure to have in the classroom.

In the clinical setting, providing excellent patient care is important to Lauren. She feels strongly about building personal connections with her patients in order for them to achieve optimal oral health. Lauren strives to be the best health care provider she can be.

Lauren has also demonstrated outstanding Leadership qualities. She has participated in numerous activities beyond her studies. She is the Vice President of her class and an active member of SADHA. She is also a student member of the University of Michigan Dental Hygiene Alumni Association. Not to mention, Lauren has fearlessly taken the name "Queen" of Dairy Queen to a whole new level as she operates and manages her family's business.

Lauren has demonstrated Service to the community around her and states that she "loves helping people whether in clinic or elsewhere". Lauren has chosen opportunities to touch the lives of others through her volunteer service at the Siena Literacy Center, and as a volunteer at Heartland Hospice.

In addition to these exceptional qualities, Lauren finds time for family and friends which are very important to her. Some of Lauren's hobbies include boating, reading, and sports.

Congratulations Lauren on your induction into SPA-Nu chapter.

Martha McComas

Tracie Yu – Senior

It is with great pleasure that I introduce to you Tracie Yu. Tracie was born and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Tracie graduated from East Kentwood High School where she took several AP courses and excelled in her studies. She was a member of Honor Society and the National Honor Society during high school and, as evidenced by the fact that she will be inducted into Nu Chapter today, has maintained a superior academic standing at the university level too.

Tracie entered the University of Michigan as a LS&A undergraduate student and then transferred to the dental hygiene program her sophomore year. While in the dental hygiene program Tracie has embraced several opportunities to serve her class, school and community. She's been class Treasurer for the past three years. In addition, she has also served on the school's Clinical Issues Committee as a sophomore, junior and senior student. Tracie has also been a Student and Honor Council representative and is currently the Vice Chair of our Honor Council. In the fall Tracie was an Anatomy tutor for a group of sophomore students. At the community level, Tracie has participated in Give Kids a Smile Day and the Taft Clinic.

As her Research Day project, Tracie and her classmate presented an interesting table clinic exploring the challenges of social media for healthcare professionals. I quote here the conclusions of their project, "With the majority of

Americans using social media and no standard set of guidelines regarding social media behavior, dental and dental hygiene education programs should consider constructing clear social media policies and training programs. Additionally, it behooves applicants, students and licensed professionals to understand the potential impact on their future, and to conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner on their personal social media accounts.”

When not involved with school, Tracie enjoys athletics, especially golf. After graduation and receipt of her license to practice, Tracie will be heading to Chicago where she will be seeking employment. Tracie has been an exemplary student and role model for her peers. She truly embodies all of the qualities we think about when we say “leaders & best.”

Please help me welcome Tracie Yu into Nu Chapter Sigma Phi Alpha.

Janet Kinney

Audrey Taylor – Degree Completion

It is an honor for me to introduce Audrey Taylor, Degree Completion E-Learning Program student who will be graduating this August with honors. She is a member of the sixth cohort of this program. Audrey lives in East Lansing, MI and is a 2012 graduate of the Lansing Community College Dental Hygiene Program. She didn’t miss a beat as only three months after she graduated from LCC, she began the E-Learning Program.

The fact that Audrey has performed well academically throughout her time at the University of Michigan is only one of the reasons she is being inducted today. Audrey serves as the Dental Clinic Administrator and dental hygienist at Care Free Medical and Dental in Lansing. Care Free, a “health home,” is a non-profit organization that believes every individual, regardless of ability to pay, deserves access to comprehensive and compassionate health care. Services at Care Free focus on primary medical, dental, and behavioral health.

Audrey’s commitment to advocating for the underserved is not limited to her clinic and patient care responsibilities. For the past two years she coordinated spring and fall “Care Free Helping Hands Dental Days” providing care for those in need of urgent dental care. She is currently exploring a partnership with LCC to become involved with this event. In addition during her Community I & II courses, she partnered with the Care Free’s medical staff to offer oral health education classes for those with diabetes.

Audrey has also been a key player in developing a new “Pay Pay-It-Forward” dental access initiative. This initiative, in partnership with the Central District Dental Society, will provide acute dental services for Ingham County adult residents without dental insurance in exchange for patients completing community service hours. The program seeks to decrease Care Free’s 700-person dental waiting list to below 50 by July 2014; provide dental services to 85 percent of county residents in need without dental insurance by December 2016; decrease unreimbursed emergency room visits for dental problems by 80 percent by December 2016; and increase community service hours by 50 percent by December 2016. Funding for this initiative has been obtained from the Michigan Dental Foundation, McLaren Health System, Sparrow Health System, the Delta Dental Foundation, and a number of other groups.

Audrey understands and values the leadership role she has embraced at Care Free. She was looking for opportunities to gain a deeper understanding of the role of the Michigan Department of Community Health’s Oral Health Program. For her capstone project Audrey is partnering with the Oral Health Program to develop a perinatal oral health webinar that will be delivered to nurses serving in public health capacities.

There is no doubt Audrey has a bright and promising future. And with her sincere desire to improve the health of citizens of our state, they will be the true beneficiaries of her leadership and advocacy efforts. Congratulations Audrey, on your induction to the Sigma Phi Alpha-Nu Chapter Dental Hygiene Honor Society. We welcome you and celebrate your achievement as one of the “leaders and best.”

Anne Gwozdek

Stefanie Marx – MSDH

Today it is my pleasure to introduce Stefanie Marx an exceptional graduate dental hygiene student. Stefanie is excellent choice for Sigma Phi Alpha membership due to her academic achievements as well as her commitment to leadership and service.

Stefanie was born in Warren, Michigan, and grew up nearby in Sterling Heights. She has a wonderful younger sister and fabulous parents. Stefanie obtained her baccalaureate in dental hygiene at the University of Michigan in 2007.

Stefanie then practiced clinical dental hygiene in Chicago for 2 years before returning to the University of Michigan to pursue her Master’s degree.

Stefanie is a natural born leader. She has been an active member of the student chapter of the American dental hygiene association during her years at

Michigan, including being a house of delegate representative for the Macomb District DH society in 2013. Stefanie has also been active in the Scholars Program in Dental Leadership (SPDL) here at the University of Michigan. Currently she is working on a project to increase clinical research experiences for baccalaureate level dental hygiene students.

Stefanie has been the recipient of three awards while here at Michigan:

- The University of Michigan Rackham Graduate Student Research Award
- The University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School Harold and Vivian Shapiro/John Malik/Jean Forrest Award . .
- Just last month Stefanie was the recipient of the ADEA/ Crest Oral- B Laboratories Scholarship for Dental Hygiene students pursuing Academic careers.

In addition to her outstanding academic achievements, Stefanie is also an excellent clinician who truly cares about her patients. I am impressed by her curiosity and willingness to face new academic and professional challenges. Stefanie has taken advantage of the many educational and research opportunities at the Michigan School of Dentistry to increase her knowledge and skills related to patient care. She is currently a clinical research examiner for a study of postmenopausal women at the MCOHR as well as providing care in the U of M Graduate Periodontics clinic. She also finds time each month to work in a pediatric practice.

Stefanie also feels a great connection with patients that have bleeding disorders. One of my strongest memories of Stefanie, as an undergraduate student, was during my DH 446 course when she would meet with Karen Ridley at 7am to discuss the research project. I knew then that Stefanie was highly motivated and that this was a topic she was truly passionate about. Stefanie has continued to focus on individuals with bleeding disorders and is currently conducting a multi-site clinical study of women with von Willibrands disease.

In closing I have to mention what positive energy Stephanie brings to everything she does and to those who she interacts with. She is intelligent, kind and very talented.

Stefanie's sense of adventure, positive spirit along with her desire to serve others will enrich the profession of dental hygiene. Congratulations Stefanie on her induction into SPA-Nu chapter!

Emily Springfield - Honorary

It is a privilege for me to introduce Emily Springfield, 2014 Honorary Member of Sigma Phi Alpha Nu Chapter. Emily is an Academic Project Manager at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry. She has worked collaboratively with Dental Hygiene since 2007 in every step of the development of both the E-Learning Degree Completion and Online Master of Science in Dental Hygiene Programs. Not only has she been instrumental in outstanding course and program development, Emily is also heightened dental hygiene's recognition on campus and beyond.

Thanks to Emily's involvement, Dental Hygiene's online programs are held up as the "gold standard" for distance education on campus. Emily's expertise in educational portfolios has resulted in a reflective portfolio that is considered the "ultimate" in metacognitive learning. Dental Hygiene has again risen to a leader in this arena not only campus-wide but also in the national portfolio community. Emily is committed to sharing Dental Hygiene's successes with others and has been involved in educational research/program evaluation of our online initiatives. In March 2013, she was acknowledged by the American Dental Education Association as a junior scholar for the "outstanding paper" published in 2012 in the *Journal of Dental Education, Using Multiple Methods to Assess Learning and Outcomes in an Online Degree Granting Program*. This paper she wrote collaboratively with Dental Hygiene faculty. Emily shares her instructional design time and talents with our on-campus dental hygiene programs as well. Many of you may recall the very successful community garden initiative partnership that was established between the Huron Valley Boys and Girls Club and U-M Dental Hygiene. What you may not know is that Emily, and her past work with a similar initiative with the Kalamazoo Boys & Girls Club, was the inspiration for this project. She provided the initial guidance that got this project started and served as a consultant and cheerleader along the way. We both hope that U-M Dental Hygiene will look at opportunities to re-establish this program that provided a much needed source of food security to the members of our neighboring Boys & Girls Club. Emily's commitment to Dental Hygiene and the education of our students is remarkable. I want to personally thank the members of Nu Chapter for recognizing Emily all she does, and continues to do for Dental Hygiene. Over the years we have worked together, I have often referred to Emily as an "honorary hygienist." Emily...this title is now "official!" Congratulations and thank you for everything.

Anne Gwozdek

NOTES FROM the SECRETARY/TREASURER

On March 29th, 2014 Nu Chapter met at Weber's Inn in Ann Arbor. The meeting was called to order at 10:40am by President Alaina Robinson.

The Purpose and History of Sigma Phi Alpha was read by Vice President Allison Restauri.

Junior students - Nada Djedovic, Tabita Filimun, Rita Numan, Kathryn Kupczyk - invited because of their standing in their class were asked to stand and introduce themselves.

Alaina greeted and introduced Special Guests Jane Halaris from Omega Chapter and Martha McComas from Beta Chapter.

Alaina read the qualifications for membership.

Bridget Beattie introduced Senior Maegan Allen. Martha McComas introduced Senior Lauren Strong. Senior Tracie Yu was not present. Anne Gwozdek introduced Degree Completion student Audrey Taylor. Susan Taichman introduced Graduate Student Stefanie Marx.

Alaina read the qualifications for Honorary membership.

Anne Gwozdek introduced Emily Springfield.

All candidates were inducted, receiving certificates and keypins.

Alaina asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the 2013 meeting as written in the Newsletter. Motion was made and approved.

Beverly Gainer read the Secretary/Treasurers report.

We had \$1,754.62 in our account at the beginning of 2014.

Dues of \$100 (a \$25 increase) was sent to Supreme Chapter. I ordered 6 keypins for \$180, and 6 certificates for \$90 for new inductees.

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

A \$300 donation for hygiene awards on Research Day, \$150 donation to the Chris Klausner Scholarship fund and a \$150 donation to VINA Community Dental Center was sent.

I emailed 91 Newsletters and invitations (15 were to non-dues paying members). Sixty-four responses

have been received so far (11 from non-dues paying members).

I mailed 11 Newsletters and 22 invitations (11 were to non-dues paying members or guests). Eighteen responses have been received so far (11 from non-dues paying members).

There was no cost for the mailings since we had paper, envelopes and stamps leftover from last year.

Fifty Agendas were printed at Kinko's for \$15.37.

Due to the generosity of our members we've received \$400 in sponsorship money.

Prior to paying for the brunch and a \$150 donation to Hope Clinic we have \$2,637.62 in our account.

Moving on to Old Business:

Lisa Dodge spoke about the UofM DH website/SPA link. We're waiting for Michigan Creative's bid to redo the site. We'll add the Purpose and History, list of members and dates of upcoming meetings to the site when ready.

Susan Taichman spoke about the **Winners of the Research Day Awards.**

First Place: Jessica Price, Barbara Preston (Adviser Anne Gwozdek)

Faculty and Student Perceptions of Career Choices as Influenced by Gender Roles

Second Place: Alyssa Bergerman, Samantha Metcalf (Advisers Susan Taichman, Dan Chiego, Chris Fenno)

Bacterial Contamination and MRSA Detection in Academic Dental Clinics

Table Clinic: Renee Berger, Apton McElheney (Adviser Danielle Furgeson, Susan Taichman)

A Comparison of Common Instrumentation Modalities for Dental Calculus Removal

Wendy Kerschbaum suggested one change to the revisions to our By-Laws. A motion to approve the change and the revisions was made and approved. Voting members passed the revisions.

Patricia Walch Lengyel will continue to maintain our scrapbook.

Melva Baxter spoke about Sindecuse Museum and shared with us a 1927 ADHA Journal she found in her belongings. This will be given to the museum. Anne Gwozdek thanked both Patricia and Melva for

their work preserving the history of dental hygiene and SPA-Nu.

Beverly Gainer will continue to do the Newsletter.

Anne Gwozdek will continue to be our link to the DentalUM.

Karen Essel said that Washtenaw Children's Dental Clinic is closed so we need to donate to something else. We decided to add an additional \$75 to our donations to Hope Clinic and VINA Community Dental Center, plus add a \$100 donation to the Community Dental Center. We'll maintain our donations to the Research Day hygiene awards (\$300) and the Chris Klausner Scholarship Fund (\$150). Motions were made to approve changes, voted on and passed.

Moving on to New Business.

We'll meet again at Weber's Inn on March 28th, 2015 for our annual meeting/induction of new members/brunch.

Dr. Michael Britt will be our 2015 Honorary Inductee, as approved at the 2013 meeting. Two other nominations from Anne Gwozdek and Ellen Voss will be placed on hold until the 2015 meeting.

Officers retained. Officers change at the 2015 meeting. Nominations for the office of Vice President are needed. These can be submitted in writing to the VP or presented on the floor at the 2015 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50am.

YOUR 2014 - 2015 OFFICERS



Alaina Robinson – President,
Beverly Gainer – Secretary/Treasurer,
Allison Restauri – Vice President

