



# NU CHAPTER SIGMA PHI ALPHA DENTAL HYGIENE HONOR SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2018 – Nineteenth Issue

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## Congratulations to our 2018 Inductees



Top Left to Right: Tristen Clark, Denise Guadiana, Alice Ou and Patricia Piejak  
Bottom Left to Right: Christy Weidmayer, and Brandy Zantello

### **Tristan Clark – Senior**

I'd like to introduce a person many of you have seen frequently around the School of Dentistry, Tristan Clark, to the Sigma Phi Alpha-Nu Chapter Dental Hygiene Honor Society. The reason you see Tristan so frequently is because she is so active and involved at the school. She has been the class president for the last two years, ADHA Chapter Secretary for two years, is the acting dental hygiene liaison for Taft Clinic and Give Kids a Smile day, is involved with research projects about IPE, active in CHAPS, has volunteered at health fairs,

preschools, and Mission of Mercy, all this while keeping her grades up! Tristan can accomplish all this and more because she is so organized and efficient. I remember her as a new clinician; all her instruments had to be lined up on the tray, each ½ inch apart! The future plans for Tristan include practicing dental hygiene in a pediatric office, and she is also considering dental school. I am sure she will accomplish much more. But for now, let's welcome a very deserving Tristan Clark to the Sigma Phi Alpha-Nu Chapter Dental Hygiene Honor Society.

.....*Darlene Jones*

## **Christy Weidmayer – Senior**

I would like to introduce you to one of our new inductees, Christy Weidmayer. Christy is from the Manchester/Pleasant Lake area. She grew up on a 300-acre farm that raised dairy cows. Her dad ran the farm and worked on other farms in the area harvesting animal feed. She grew up with animals - chickens, ducks, pigs, horses as well as cows, and loved driving trucks and having lawn mower races on the farm.

She graduated from Manchester High School, attended EMU for two years and came to UofM, that is when she really got started. She has been a member of AAPHD (Public Health), SPDL (Scholars Program in Dental Leadership), SCDA (Special Care Dentistry), and ADHA student chapter where she has been Class Rep, Vice President as well as President. She attended MDHA as a student representative in her DH3 year. Christy has also participated in Special Olympics Days to provide Oral Hygiene instruction for the athletes. In her DH3 years she was awarded the Wendy Kershbaum Emerging Leader Award. At Research Day this year she and her team were awarded 1st Place in original research in Dental Hygiene with a project entitled “Surveying Nurses Knowledge and Confidence of Discussing Oral Health with Patients with Bleeding Disorders”. In her “spare time” she works in Grad Periodontics as a Dental Assistant about 10-12 hours/week. Her hobby is sports and she has joined almost every intermural sport that there is since she has been in college. She also loves game shows like Price is Right and Family Feud.

As advisor of ADHA, this is where I have learned to know her best. Christy is always prepared, knowledgeable and energetic. She always has a smile on her face and a spirit of enthusiasm. This past year for our Kick-Off events she organized special editions of Dental Hygiene Price is Right and Family Feud. She enjoyed the games so much that

even though other students might not have been too interested, they joined in because she was having so much fun.

After graduation, Christy plans to move to Elizabeth, New Jersey to be with Matt, her boyfriend. Eventually she hopes to work in an FQHC and get her Masters. Hopefully she will also be moving back to Michigan to bring her energy and enthusiasm to dental hygiene in Michigan. Please welcome Christy.

..... *Karen Essell*

## **Alice Ou – Senior**

It is my privilege to introduce Mrs. Alice Ou. Alice came to the University of Michigan having previously earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Pennsylvania State University and a Master of Science in Physiology and Biophysics from Georgetown University. She moved to Ann Arbor when she followed her husband. Alice applied to the dental hygiene program just a few days before the deadline, not knowing about the program until she moved to Ann Arbor. She had had a strong interest in the field of dentistry for quite some time.

Her graduation this year will be her third and perhaps final academic degree! However, one never really knows with Alice as she always sets her goals high, and to date has accomplished so much at a young age. Alice’s family is from Taiwan. She is the baby in her family.

During Alice’s time at Michigan, she took advantage of the multitude of volunteer events available to students including the Taft Clinic, Give Kids a Smile Day, volunteer days at Hope Clinic, Donated days at the Community Dental Center, and the Diabetes Health Education Fairs and Seminars.

She demonstrated her leadership qualities as a Class Representative of the student chapter

of the American Dental Hygienists' Association, as well as being nominated as a representative onto the Honor Council in her junior year. Additionally, she has been a member of several college committees, including the University's Multicultural Affairs Committee. Her most recent adventure was traveling to Guatemala this past month, to participate in the Oral and Craniofacial Health Program to educate underserved families on dental care. And if all this did not keep her busy enough, she even found the time to work as a dental assistant over the last two years.

Due to Alice's technological expertise, she was also her class Podcast representative and assisted me greatly when I returned to the University two years ago, in learning the lecture room setup. She made certain my presentation was up and running every week. I also had the privilege of being her co-advisor on her senior research project, where I was able to see up close her dedication to her studies and commitment to excellence.

When I asked Alice where she ultimately wanted to end up following this graduation, she stated "somewhere in an educational setting, whereby I can help people with their overall health, using technology and the arts."

Sigma Phi Alpha welcomes a graduating student with the outstanding characteristics that Alice possesses, and we cannot wait for her to be a part of our dental hygiene profession, utilizing her energy and drive, along with her compassion and caring of others. Welcome, Alice Ou.

..... *Sheree Duff*

### **Brandy Zantello – Degree Completion**

It is my pleasure to introduce Brandy Zantello to you today. Brandy is currently a

senior in our Degree Completion E-Learning program.

Brandy joins us today from Bangor, MI (west of Kalamazoo) where she lives with her husband, Doug, and their four beautiful girls; Zoie (10yo), Taylor (7yo), Paige (4yo), and Avery (2yo). If you do the math, you'll realize that their youngest was born just months before Brandy started the degree completion program!

Brandy completed her Associate's Degree in 2006 at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, graduating with top academic honors. As a result of a few years of setbacks with her husband's health, on top of family and financial commitments, Brandy's plans to advance her education were delayed. However, she remained determined to reach her professional and academic goals someday. In 2016 she was able to return to school to begin completing her bachelor's degree.

Brandy's persistence has paid off. Not only is Brandy a top student in the E-Learning program, she is also a Center for the Education of Women Scholar having received the Jane and Bill Bloom Scholarship last year. She was also invited to the School of Dentistry last fall to present her innovative community education program which addressed the needs of pregnant and parenting teens. Brandy is a member of ADHA, ADEA, and the U-M's honor society, Phi Kappa Phi.

Brandy is especially passionate about dental hygiene education and currently works as clinical faculty at KVCC. Working one on one with students, she learned that teaching could empower not only her students, but her profession as well. Brandy's goals after graduation include pursuing a Master's degree and continuing to mentor and inspire her dental hygiene students to become the future leaders of the dental hygiene profession.

Please join me in welcoming Sigma Phi Alpha-Nu Chapter 2018 inductee, Brandy Zantello.

..... *Jennifer Cullen*

### **Denise Guadiana – MSDH**

It is my pleasure to introduce to you Denise Guadiana. Denise is a graduate of University of Detroit Mercy. She continues to work part time as a clinician in a very busy office in Southwest Detroit, where she enjoys giving back to her community by utilizing her Spanish language skills to treat the large Hispanic population seen in the office. In her free time, which we know there is currently not much of, she enjoys reading, going to the movies, traveling, and going to concerts.

Denise chose dental hygiene because as a child she had braces for a very long time and spent a lot of time at the dentist. She always enjoyed her hygiene visits, so when she looked into dental hygiene, she loved that it was a profession that focused on prevention. Denise chose to pursue the MSDH program because she was inspired by her dental hygiene faculty, and how the profession requires a commitment to lifelong learning. She knew after graduating that she needed to go back to school and pursue a master's, because there was so much more to learn.

The saying still waters run deep, is a very appropriate description of Denise. She is very quiet and is the last person to draw any attention to herself. Yet those who have had the pleasure of being her faculty know how deep her passion for dental hygiene is, and how impressive her depth of thought and ability to critically analyze are. I could go on but know that it sufficient to say that she is truly well-deserving of induction into Sigma Phi Alpha - Nu.

..... *Danielle Furgeson*

### **Gina Guiliani – Faculty**

It is such a pleasure to introduce Gina Guiliani, who unfortunately could not be with us today. If you haven't met her, she is a firecracker, and a blast to be around. She loves life and is a generous and caring person. Gina started teaching in the UMDH program in 2010, and is very well-liked and respected by her students, and is fully dedicated to our program.

I'll share a bit about Gina to help you know her a little bit better.

After graduating from UM, she worked in Switzerland for 2 years as a DH. She had the BEST experiences ever! She traveled all over Europe meeting people from all walks of life. She still keeps in touch with the other 7 American dental hygienists who worked in the same village. They are planning a reunion in Switzerland late this summer.

Gina has 3 children, and a very supportive husband, Matt, of almost 20 years. They love to travel and spend time as a family. In the summer they are always in northern MI on their boat; from the Great Lakes to the Sand Dunes and all the other beautiful lakes MI has to offer.

Gina has 3 brothers, so they are always doing some big family adventure either at her parents' cottage or just Sunday pasta dinners at their mom's.

In the winter months they venture out to ski in the mountains of CO or Whistler BC, which is why she was unable to be at this honoring ceremony.

Gina's daughter, who is junior in HS, has just begun her journey as a pilot, she is in the Aviation program outside of school 2 days a week in both ground school and in the air...Gina said, "it works out kind of nice as we obviously love to travel".

Gina is deeply rooted in her religion and loves to volunteer and give back! Her career goal is to venture on a mission trip with the Dental Community in underserved areas.

She works 2 days at a private practice in Brighton for an awesome, easy going doc. She has been at UM for about 7 years and has loved every bit of it! She began in the VICS clinic, taught at HOPE, in the Oral Anatomy Lab, and recently in the Biomaterial Labs. She also has taught at VINA for 4 years now. She says, "I love it! It is very gratifying".

She thoroughly enjoys being challenged by each student who presents with such different needs and learning styles. She has learned a tremendous amount from them as well, mainly that they are truly eager to learn and grow, and spending time with them, building up their confidence, and giving clinical advice is so crucial.

It is for these reasons that we nominated Gina Guiliani as Faculty Inductee into the Nu Chapter of Sigma Phi Alpha.

.....*Dina Korte*

### **Patricia Piejak – Honorary**

Patti Piejak is a remarkable woman of great character and a credit to the dental profession. She has been practicing as a dental assistant for over 25 years. After completing the certification course for Dental Assisting at the University of Detroit School of Dentistry, she worked for 6 years in Pediatric Dentistry at Henry Ford Hospital. She then joined the new practice of Marc. L Dwoskin and served there for 44 years being a major contributor to the building of his practice. Though contemplating retirement, when Dr. Dwoskin passed away unexpectedly, she remained on the staff to aid in the transition to his associate of 12 years Dr. Scott Owens. Frequently, she continues to substitute there as needed.

Patti has been a Registered Certified Dental Assistant for more than 44 years and has also been a member of the American Dental Assistant Association for that time. She was also awarded a Dental Assistant Fellowship by the ADAA. She has always eagerly pursued continuing dental education, even taking class and clinic hours beyond those that are required for certification.

Her abilities are unparalleled at chairside, and she has cross trained herself to be a jack of all trades, able to help in any facet of the practice including administrative work as needed. Her attendance is remarkable especially considering her 45-minute one-way drive to the practice even in the worst possible weather. As the practice grew, she became a dedicated hygiene assistant, helping that department to flourish.

More significant to the practice and profession, Patti developed an amazing program called "Super Saturday". The program uses 9 operatories, with 4 regular staff hygienists and 3 regular Saturday hygienists plus 2 dedicated assistants for an 8am to 1pm day. One dentist performs all the exams and one works on patients. This program is greatly appreciated by the staff for making it possible to work only one Saturday per month. Patients love it as many can bring their entire family in in one day for an hour. Other practices have observed and now use such programs as their facilities permit.

Patti is self-motivated and will find some way she can be helpful when she has a minute after performing all of the many tasks expected of an assistant. She also organizes mailings and advertising materials and helps with inventory and ordering. For me, I love that she has never been known to "roll her eyes" when asked for help.

Through it all, Patti has maintained the highest clinical and ethical standards and is much beloved by the staff and patients she serves so beautifully. She is a master at

dispensing TLC. She was humbly honored to be selected by Sigma Phi Alpha - Nu.

Please welcome Patti Piejak.

.....*Ellen Voss*

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

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 forty-three of us gathered at Weber's Inn in Ann Arbor for the annual meeting, initiation of new members, and brunch.

President Jennifer Forgacs called the meeting to order at 10:20am. She greeted and thanked everyone for bringing donations for Hope Clinic.

Darlene Jones thanked everyone for their donations to provide her with the fluoride carts she needed.

Elizabeth Pitts read the Purpose and History of Sigma Phi Alpha - Nu.

Stefanie VanDuine introduced the junior students in attendance:

“Good morning everyone! It is my privilege to be able to introduce you to our special guests this morning. As you know, every year we invite the top students from the DH3 class to attend our meeting. I have worked alongside the DH3s for the last three semesters and they really are an outstanding group of students. Please welcome: Carley Ames, Ranna El-Khatib, Noor Khan, Michael Korleski, Riitta Niemela, and Anne Marie Wang.”

President Forgacs read the qualifications for student induction.

Darlene Jones introduced Senior Tristan Clark, Sheree Duff introduced Senior Alice Ou, Karen Essell introduced Senior Christy Weidmayer, Jennifer Cullen introduced Degree Completion Inductee Brandy

Zantello and Danielle Furgeson introduced MSDH Inductee Denise Guadiana.

President Forgacs inducted and congratulated the new members of SPA-Nu, giving each inductee their certificate and key pin.

Next President Forgacs read the qualifications for faculty membership.

Dina Korte introduced Gina Giuliani, who could not attend.

The President then read the qualifications for Honorary Membership.

Ellen Voss introduced Patricia Piejak.

President Forgacs inducted her, gave her her certificate and key pin and offered congratulations.

President Forgacs told the new members they are inducted prior to the business meeting so they can vote. She reminded Honorary members that they can't vote unless they hold dual membership.

President Forgacs asked for a motion to approve the 2017 minutes that were provided by email to each attendee. The motion was made, seconded and approved.

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

### **Annual report:**

As you might remember we passed the hat at our last meeting and raised enough money to buy Darlene Jones all the carts she needed for fluoride delivery as she has already thanked you. We also were able to add \$105.00 to our business account which allowed us to make all the 2017 donations at the original agreed upon amount.

2018 began with an account balance of \$997.30. Supreme Chapter dues of \$100.00

were sent in. I ordered 7 key pins for \$210 and 7 certificates for \$105 for the new members. I also made the Research day donation of \$125. Fifty agendas were printed at a cost of \$20.92. All totalling \$560.92.

Invitations with stamped, self-addressed reply envelopes were mailed to seven new inductees and six junior student guests. I also mailed out seven invitations to members who have requested their invitations not be sent via email. I purchased two sheets of stamps and bought a small box of envelopes. These last two items are my contribution to SPA-Nu this year.

I emailed out 100 invitations, between both forms of mailing, as of yesterday, I've received 79 responses. Two mailings were returned undeliverable. We received \$284 in sponsorship money.

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

Prior to the cost of today's brunch we have \$2,860.30 in our account.

### **Moving on to Old Business**

Lisa Dodge has agreed to maintain the U-M DH Website/SPA link. Bev Gainer will supply her with an updated Membership list.

Stefanie VanDuine read the award winners for Research Day 2018.

Michelle Spencer volunteered to take over the scrapbook upkeep from Patricia Lengyel. Patricia was thanked for her wonderful job in keeping them to this point. Michelle will look into making a digital scrapbook and spoke about us having a Facebook page.

Vice President Mona Riaz has agreed to take over the Newsletter from Beverly Gainer.

Connie MacKinnon will continue to provide DentalUM with SPA-Nu info. Patricia/Michelle will provide her with photos of new members.

Many of our younger members have asked about an electronic form of dues payment. Venmo was one avenue for us to explore. Jen Forgacs and Bev Gainer will look into this for next year.

With the help of Krista and VP Mona Riaz we now have a spreadsheet of members by induction year with the most current contact information available to us.

There was discussion of dividing the duties of Secretary/Treasurer into two positions. Special meetings were held after the annual meeting. There has been no clear-cut way to do this. The position will remain as is. Bev's load was lightened by Mona agreeing to take over the Newsletter and making a spreadsheet for us.

Our Service project donations and amounts have changed for now. It was decided at the annual meeting that the officers would make an executive decision regarding the amounts.

Since CDC is under new management and no longer affiliated with UofM, it was motioned, seconded and approved to remove them from our donation list.

It was also motioned and approved that the donation to the Chris Klausner Scholarship fund be made in honor of Melva Baxter.

Donation amounts will be re-evaluated at a later time.

### **Continuing on to New Business**

It was decided that the annual meeting for 2019 will be March 23<sup>rd</sup> and remain at Weber's. Everyone was happy with the brunch menu.

Anne Gwozdek and Janet Kinney had nominated Dr. Adrienne Lapidos for Honorary membership. Anne spoke about her qualifications. A motion was made, seconded and approved to induct her at our 2019 meeting.

Karen Ridley thought we needed to submit the CV for the honorary member to the Supreme Chapter for approval. Secretary/Treasurer Beverly Gainer said she had checked previously and didn't find that to be necessary but would check again. (Per the Supreme Chapter President, it's up to the individual chapter to approve the nominee using the qualifications outlined in the chapter's by-laws)

Motion made to adjourn, seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:30.

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

Stefanie VanDuine announced the Research Day winners:

“Each year Sigma Phi Alpha donates toward the student research day awards. This has been such a great gesture to be able to provide our hard-working students with a monetary award. I do not find it surprising that all three DH4 students that were inducted into Sigma Phi Alpha today all received Research Day awards! We know that they are hard workers and excellent students”.

The **Dental Hygiene Awards** are divided into two categories - Table Clinic and Original Research.

In the category of Table Clinic, Laura Borges, Alyssa Carrillo and Colleen Doran won 1<sup>st</sup> Place for their work entitled, *“Public Views of Dentists and Dental Hygienists”*

Faculty mentor: Mary Grace Ash

In the category of Original Research, the 1<sup>st</sup> place award went to Tristan Clark, Elizabeth Sciriha and Christy Weidmayer for their project entitled, *“Surveying Nurses’ Knowledge and Confidence of Discussing Oral Health with Patients with Bleeding Disorders”* They will travel to the ADHA Annual Meeting this year to present their research.

Faculty mentor: Stefanie VanDuine.

Second place went to Meredith McEachern and Alice Ou for their project entitled, *“To Assess Dental and Dental Hygiene Students’ Knowledge Regarding the Link Between Pregnancy and Periodontal Disease.”*

Faculty mentor: Sheree Duff and Connie MacKinnon

Please join me in congratulating our three senior students here for all receiving awards! If anyone is interested in looking at the Research Day booklet to get more information about these award-winning projects or other projects that were conducted, please do so!

### **YOUR 2018 - 2019 OFFICERS**



Left to Right: President – Jennifer Forgacs  
Secretary/Treasurer - Beverly Gainer  
Vice President – Mona Riaz