



NU CHAPTER SIGMA PHI ALPHA DENTAL HYGIENE HONOR SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2020 – Twenty-First Issue

Congratulations to our 2020 Inductees



Top Left to Right: Said Al-Jazaeri, Brianna Brown, Allison Carron, Alexis Jones
Bottom Left to Right: Allison Bittner, Shani Hohneck, Iwonka Eagle, Dr. William V. Giannobile

Said Al-Jazaeri – Senior

It is my pleasure to introduce Said Al Jazaeri to Sigma Phi Alpha - Nu Honor Society. Said will be a most valuable member of our Chapter.

Said has more than 66 lines of a table filled with his different activities and interests, showing that he has worked very hard during his time at Michigan.

There are so many I cannot read the entire list, but here are just a few notable accomplishments; Student Chapter Vice President and member of ADHA, historian of

ADHA, student ambassador of the dental hygiene program, class historian and pod representative.

Said went to Kenya with the Global Health Initiative serving school age children with preventative services. He has performed free DH preventative services in Ypsilanti International elementary school, Benton Harbor, Give Kids a Smile and Taft clinic. He is the Ida Gray Award Recipient for 2020. The list goes on and on...

Said is the most wonderful representative of the University of Michigan Dental Hygiene program.

On a personal note, Said was born in Florida, USA but was raised in Syria. He attended school in Syria as far as some university classes in civil engineering. As his country became war-torn and opportunities limited, Said came to the U.S. to make a new start. Said knew he was a people person and needed to change his educational direction. He enrolled in Washtenaw Community Colleges' Dental Assisting program. Upon graduation, he was accepted to the UofM Dental Hygiene program.

His future plans included working and taking additional classes and applying for dental school. Thank you Said for all of your effort, participation and what you have done for the DH program.

.....*Mary Grace Ash*

Brianna Brown – Senior

Hello, my name is Alice Ou and I am the clinical research coordinator and dental hygienist in the Graduate Periodontics department.

I graduated from the University of Michigan Dental Hygiene program two years ago. This is bittersweet for me since this class is the last class I peer taught while I was a dental hygiene student myself. It has been a pleasure watching all of you develop from learning how to explore that first tooth to the graduating seniors that you are today. Therefore, it is my honor to introduce our next Sigma Phi Alpha - Nu inductee.

This dental hygiene candidate hails from Monroe, less than an hour away on the southeast edge of Michigan. During her three years at the University of Michigan, she has been intensely involved in activities and committees throughout the School of Dentistry as well as

outside the School. She has served as the Student Council Hygiene Representative, Secretary of the UM Chapter of the Student ADHA, Vice President of her class, and a peer teacher, as well as volunteered her time at the Taft Clinic, a homeless shelter, and a women's clinic. She is furthermore a very active member of Alpha Epsilon Delta, a pre-health honor society, and worked part-time in the Graduate Periodontics clinic as a dental assistant. On top of all of these activities, she has also been extremely dedicated to completing her dental school pre-requisites yet still managed to have one of the very top grade point averages of her entire class.

It is unfortunate that the coronavirus pandemic should occur during such a significant time in these students' lives. However, this student has managed to remain positive during the shelter in place order by exercising and focusing on her nutrition, painting, lots and lots of spring cleaning, and studying for her board exams. She also enjoys woodworking and restoring furniture.

During the next two years, she plans on working as a dental hygienist in the States and possibly abroad while completing the rest of her prerequisites and taking the Dental Admissions Test.

Even falling down the stairs at Panera with her chicken soup hasn't slowed her down! Congratulations, Brianna Brown!

.....*Alice Ou*

Allison Carron – Senior

Hello. My name is Sheree Duff and it is my distinct honor to present to you the recipient of the Sigma Phi Alpha National Dental Hygiene award, Allison Carron. Allison entered the School of Dentistry already having completed her first bachelor's degree at the University in Fine Arts. During her time in the dental hygiene

program, she was awarded numerous scholarships based not only on her academic achievements, but also her leadership and character. These include: the Welke Scholarship, the Kelly Scholarship, and the West Michigan Foundation Scholarship. Additionally, while at the University, the Margaret Dow Towsley, the Wheeler Merit, and the AT&T Foundation scholarships were earned. Her most recent recognition, the Pauline Steele Leadership award, further defines the outstanding qualities of this new graduate. Her academic accolades are evident, having been on the University's Dean's List for 7 semesters.

On a personal note, it has been my privilege to be one of Allison's faculty members, in the lab and clinic settings, as well as in the classroom. I have witnessed her caring and compassionate chairside manner and skill with her patients. Her ability to critically think through comprehensive care for the healthy and challenging patients was only enhanced during her time working beside periodontal residents in the graduate clinics over the last two years.

In class, she wanted to learn more than I had time to teach her. It is Allison's determination and drive to be her best that has propelled her to this moment, her senior award ceremony, albeit virtual. She has dreamed big and will be pursuing her master's degree this fall at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in dental hygiene education. I know Allison will continue to touch the lives of those she encounters, as she has touched mine, and no doubt, all her future and fortunate students! With appreciation for all she has accomplished, best wishes Allison, and congratulations.

.....*Sheree Duff*

Alexis Jones – Senior

Today it is my pleasure to introduce Lexi Jones, an outstanding senior dental hygiene student. Lexi was born in Wayne, Michigan and attended

Wayne Memorial High School. Before attending the dental hygiene program at the University of Michigan, Lexi earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Biology from Michigan State University.

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

Lexi has demonstrated Scholastic Achievement through her exemplary grades and GPA. Lexi has proven that she can overcome adversity and says that "Throughout her education, she was influenced by her teachers to overcome her socioeconomic barriers. Her teachers encouraged her to seek higher education because of their belief in her". Now, Lexi wants to project the same belief on her patients concerning their oral health. Growing up in a poverty-stricken area has inspired her to be part of a solution for change. These life experiences are what inspired her to become a dental hygienist.

In the clinical setting, providing excellent patient care is important to Lexi. Her goal when it comes to treating patients is to make sure she is providing them the best care and making sure they are being properly educated on how to care for their oral hygiene. She told me that "When a patient sits in my chair, my goal is to tailor the care that I provide to their individual needs". Lexi strives to be the best health care provider she can be. According to her classmates she is a visualization and the real life-version of the dental hygiene oath. Ethics, patients, and their care come first.

While a student in the dental hygiene program Lexi has demonstrated outstanding Leadership qualities. She has participated in numerous activities beyond her studies. She is the treasurer of the class of 2020 and an active member of ADHA student chapter where is also sits on the board as the Treasurer. In this role she actively

orchestrated lunch and learn events for students and faculty, organized student fund-raising events, and served as a student delegate to the ADHA. She says she will continue to hold a membership and leadership roles in the ADHA community and says “it will be an honor to uphold the integrity of the profession through advocacy and serving communities. I feel proud to join this community of professionals and look forward to sharing my positive energy!” – and what positive energy she has!

Lexi has demonstrated Service to the community around her and states that she “her overarching goal is to change the world one smile at a time, beginning with my community.” Lexi has chosen opportunities to touch the lives of others through her volunteer service at Pop-up Safety Town, Taft Clinic, Give Kids a Smile Day, and Providing for Paws.

In addition to these exceptional qualities, Lexi finds time for family and friends which are very important to her. Some of Lexi’s hobbies include playing and watching both hockey, golf with her family and fiancé.

Before we Congratulate Lexi on her induction into Sigma Phi Alpha - Nu Chapter -- let me leave you with this quote from her, “I decided to become a dental hygienist, not for my own personal benefit, but to change my patients’ lives one smile at a time. As a future dental hygienist, I will promote oral health and advocate for my profession by immersing myself in my community and influencing my patients lives daily.” Lexi, welcome to Nu Chapter, we look forward to all your positive energy you will bring into this community --- Congratulations.

.....*Martha Mccomes*

Allison Brittner – Degree Completion

It is my pleasure to introduce Allison Bittner to you today. Allison joins us from her home in

Kalamazoo where she lives close to her immediate family. Allison also resides there with “Mr. Watson,” a 90lb, 4-legged rescued fur-baby who keeps her strength in check. Allison once described Mr. Watson as 10% fur and 90% excitement. Together Allison and Mr. Watson enjoy spending time exploring the many trails around Kalamazoo. With the recent increase in her spare time due to COVID shutdowns, Allison has enjoyed writing to 2 very special pen pals; Madison age 14 and Mathew age 10 whom she nannied for nearly 10 years ago. Even though they are connected electronically, they thought it would be more fun to write and mail paper letters.

It has been my pleasure to watch Allison grow personally and professionally. While in the E-Learning program Allison has excelled academically while also eagerly embracing the many roles of the dental hygienist. Her experiences in community, student teaching, and recently in research and interprofessional collaboration have reinforced her sense of professional responsibility.

Allison enrolled in the E-Learning program directly after completing her dental hygiene associate’s program and will continue her education uninterrupted this fall when she joins the U-M online graduate dental hygiene program. We are very excited that Allison will be continuing the next phase of her educational journey with us and have no doubt that her path will lead to many more great accomplishments.

Please join me in congratulating Sigma Phi Alpha - Nu Chapter 2020 inductee, Allison Bittner.

.....*Jennifer Cullen*

Shani Hohneck – MSDH

I am so pleased to introduce Shani Hohneck as the MSDH Sigma Phi Alpha - Nu inductee. Shani hails from Pennsylvania Dutch country

and in that language, her name means “pretty”. Shani earned an Associate of Applied Science degree from Northampton Community College in Pennsylvania in 2014, and her Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene from Pennsylvania College of Technology in 2016. Two short years after that, Shani took a chance and began our online MSDH program where she has excelled. Shani chose Michigan because she wanted to attend a Big 10 school, and Michigan would fulfill her career goals. For her thesis, Shani partnered with the American Dental Hygienists’ Association on a national survey of dental hygienists and dental hygiene students entitled Career Choice in Dental Hygiene and Influences of ADHA Membership on Professional Identity.

Since starting the MSDH program, Shani became a full-time assistant professor at North Hampton Community College where she teaches a variety of classes, including histology, nutrition, pathology, biomaterials and clinic. Her long-term goal is to become a full professor. She has continued to practice clinical dental hygiene on the weekends and in the summer when her students are not in class and clinic.

In her spare time, Shani likes to attend professional ice hockey and baseball games. She lives about an hour from Philadelphia, so her favorite teams are the Philadelphia Flyers and Phillies. Please join me in congratulating Shani on her induction into Sigma Phi Alpha - Nu!

.....*Danielle Rulli*

Iwonka Eagle – Faculty

It is with great pleasure and honor that I introduce Iwonka Eagle as the 2020 Sigma Phi Alpha - Nu Faculty Inductee. Iwonka earned a bachelor’s degree from Michigan State University in 2000, then graduated in 2004 from University of Michigan Dental Hygiene program. She worked full time in a private practice for 9 years before obtaining her

master’s at Michigan in 2014. Iwonka joined UM School of Dentistry as an adjunct faculty member one year later and became Clinical Assistant Professor in 2017. Iwonka has been married to Josh for 12 years and has 2 boys, Alex (7) and Max (9). During her spare time, she loves to socialize with friends at happy hour, read books and work out. Iwonka cherishes family time where she loves to take bike rides and spend time at the beach. Additionally, she is the treasurer of St. Pat’s Mothers Club where her boys attend school. I have had the opportunity to work with Iwonka in Oral Anatomy and have seen first-hand her dedication and zeal with her students. She is nothing less than a mentor to them and an encouragement for their success. While she is always bombarded by her students with a barrage of questions after every class, she always carves out time for each of them to answer until they feel comfortable with their understanding.

Through her leadership qualities she has contributed to the School of Dentistry in many ways. She is a faculty advisor, teaches several on-line courses, and is co-chair on the Dental Hygiene Curriculum Committee. She is an active member of multiple organizations and serves as a delegate of MDHA House of Delegates and on the Education Council Chair. This spring Iwonka was voted for the second-floor hygiene faculty award, being described as an enthusiastic advocate for Dental Hygiene with her energy in the clinic as she engages the student’s minds to find the answers for themselves. Her accomplishments and awards are admirable and have been clearly achieved, moreover, her ability and desire to sync with her students is exceptional. Knowledge and awards without application is worthless, but Iwonka has demonstrated that she can do them all and that is priceless in the learning community. When asked what her greatest success was, she responded, having both a career and a family. She said she has worked hard her whole life and

earned where she is. She continues to push herself outside her comfort zone in research and that she just ‘flat out cares’ about her students. Iwonka, we are grateful to have you as a colleague, friend and a member of Sigma Phi Alpha!

.....Gina Giuliani

Dr. William V. Giannobile – Honorary

It is my honor and privilege to introduce Dr. William V. Giannobile as our 2020 Sigma Phi Alpha honorary member.

There are some challenges in life which seem bigger and more daunting than others and introducing Dr. Giannobile is one of those tasks. I know that we are supposed to keep our introductions short and sweet but trying to condense Dr. Giannobile’s CV into a few words is next to impossible.

I think you all know that Dr. Giannobile is a renowned researcher and scientist who has traveled around the world presenting his work in the areas of oral and periodontal regenerative medicine, tissue engineering and personalized medicine. He has over 200 publications in peer reviewed journals, not including the books he has authored or book chapters he has written.

Perhaps you know him as the former Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Dental Research, past-president of the American Academy of Periodontology Foundation or Associate Editor of the 2020 U.S. Surgeon General’s Report on Oral Health.

For sure you know Dr. Giannobile as our department chair and soon to be Dean of Harvard School of Dental Medicine.

You may know him as the exceptional teacher, clinician, or mentor to hundreds of students, myself one of them.

But what you might not know about Dr. Giannobile is his deep-rooted support of dental hygiene. He served on the task force which supported the passage of legislation in our state for dental hygienists to administer local anesthesia and nitrous oxide.

Within the School of Dentistry, Dr. Giannobile is not hesitant to voice his support of our division and take on initiatives which many of his colleagues would view as too controversial to touch.

Most recently, the true test of his love for dental hygiene came when his office moved to the Faculty Commons and he was instantly surrounded by dental hygiene faculty. He literally could not get away from us no matter where he turned. If anyone should be happy about having to work from home these days, I’m sure it is Will. Despite this, he continues to be an advocate and supporter.

And finally, the Dr. Giannobile I want you to meet is the one I have come to know over the past 16 years. The family man and devoted husband and father who despite his super star status always puts his faith and family top on the list.

Being inducted into Sigma Phi Alpha - Nu will add one more award to his long list of achievements and recognitions, but I think it’ll be one which he will cherish for years to come. Congratulations Dr. Giannobile!

.....Janet Kinney

Notes from the Secretary/Treasurer

Who would have dreamed as we ushered in 2020 that three months into the year we would be facing a worldwide pandemic - wearing face masks, social distancing, washing and sanitizing our hands until the skin cracked, remote learning/working and ultimately quarantining?

With a group gathering and the uncertainty of the virus transmission at the time, we felt that it was in the best interest of the health of our members to cancel our annual meeting scheduled for Saturday, March 21st, 2020 at Weber's Inn. The seniors were inducted in a virtual ceremony on April 20th, 2020. The Degree Completion, MSDH, Faculty and Honorary candidates in a separate virtual ceremony on May 8th, 2020.

My sincere welcome and congratulations to them all.

Weber's would have allowed us to reschedule our meeting for another date in 2020 without penalty. We decided this wouldn't be feasible and had to pay a \$300.00 fee for cancelling. Thanks to the generosity of those members who had paid to attend the brunch/meeting and then donating that money, we did not have to dip into our account funds.

We began 2020 with \$2,655.87 in our business account. The annual dues to Supreme Chapter (\$100.00) was paid. I ordered six key pins (\$180.00) and eight certificates (\$120.00) for new members and sent in our \$125.00 donation for Dental Hygiene Awards given out on Research Day. The printing of the meeting Agenda was \$11.93. The \$200.00 donation to Hope Clinic was sent in and a \$25.00 brunch refund issued. For those keeping track the UofM Credit Union charges us a \$1.00 monthly paper statement fee. Mailing expenses were covered by stock on hand or by President Mona Riaz and me.

Dues and support money collected and deposited \$1,690.00 - giving us an account balance of \$3,271.94.

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

Thank you and stay healthy. Bev

Update

On Friday, January 15th, 2021 your Board of Directors (President Mona Riaz, Vice President Darlene Jones, Secretary/Treasurer Beverly Gainer and Immediate Past President Jennifer Forgacs) with Director of Hygiene Janet Kinney met for a Zoom meeting to discuss the 2021 annual meeting scheduled for Saturday, March 27th. With the best interest of the health of our members we decided to again cancel our in-person meeting and continue as last year with virtual ceremonies.

It was brought to our attention by Janet through Stefanie VanDuine that the School of Dentistry was not making a financial donation this year to dental students for awards given out on Research Day. We felt it appropriate to follow that lead and not give our donation (\$125.00) for hygiene awards.

Janet also told us that there has been a change in management at Hope Clinic and the hygiene students no longer have rotations there. We decided to discontinue the \$200.00 donation there.

Janet suggested we consider making a donation to a newly formed clinic at UofM - The Delta Dental Integrated Special Care Clinic (ISCC). According to Darlene this clinic is designed for patients over the age of 16, who have developmental or intellectual disabilities, progressive neurological conditions, complex medical problems, or physical disabilities that limit mobility, vision or hearing. Senior dental hygiene students work with the staff hygienist offering oral hygiene instructions, completing x-rays and making treatment documentation. When giving home care instructions, dental hygiene students are suggesting dental aids and modifying care for each individual patient. With a donation special aids - like specialty or large

handled toothbrushes or soft bite sticks - could be purchased for these patients and their care givers. The board approved and voted to make a \$150.00 donation for 2021.

Janet wondered if we were inducting an honorary member this year. No nominations had been submitted. Janet nominated Adam Barragato. (Per Janet Kinney - Adam Barragato was an instructional designer at the School of Dentistry when the Covid-19 pandemic hit. When faculty had to make a pivot to remote (online) learning, Adam was there to assist. In particular, the dental hygiene entry-level program had to develop a way for our first-year students to complete their pre-clinic course in order to progress in the program and graduate on time. Adam was instrumental in assisting the program to develop a unique online learning platform for students to engage in weekly instrumentation practice sessions and formative assessments. Adam's creativity, positive attitude, and willingness to help will always be remembered and greatly appreciated.) The Board felt it appropriate to induct him this year and approved his nomination.

This year the slate of officers changes; President Mona Riaz will be stepping down and Vice President Darlene Jones will be stepping up to be President. Elizabeth Pitts expressed interest in filling the Vice President position. No other nominations had been received. The Board approved her.

All decisions made at this special meeting were unanimously approved by the Board and in accordance with our by-laws.

After the meeting the liaison at Weber's was contacted to cancel our meeting. Since didactic classes are being held remotely until April 20th, we were able to cancel without paying a penalty.

WINNERS OF THE DENTAL HYGIENE RESEARCH DAY AWARDS

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.

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

In the category of Table Clinic, Taylor Dolan, Ayah Hammoud and Ayesha Khan won for their work entitled "*The Effects of Saliva Substitutes in increasing Xerostomia Relief: A systematic Review*"

Faculty mentor: Valerie Nieto

In the category of Original Research, the 1st place award went to Kaitlin Halstead, Lexi Jones and Amanda Kimlin for their project entitled "*Michigan Dental Hygiene Students' Utilization of Dental Loupes and Confidence in Clinical Skills: A Statewide Survey*"

Faculty mentor: Valerie Nieto

Second place went to Said Al-Jazaeri, Fatima Noor and Muhammad Salman for their project entitled "*Dental Hygiene Faculty' Considerations of Gender Inequity in Dental Hygiene Programs: A National Survey.*"

Faculty mentor: Marita Inglehart

Finally, Lacy Jones won 3rd place in the schoolwide Basic Science/Translational Research award for her project entitled "*Effectiveness of Dental Hygiene Student Led Instruction on Oral Cancer Screenings for Nursing Students.*"

Faculty mentor: Stefanie VanDuine

Please join me in congratulating these senior dental hygiene students!

YOUR 2020 - 2021 OFFICERS



Right to Left: President – Mona Riaz
Vice President – Darlene Jones
Secretary/Treasurer - Beverly Gainer (not pictured)