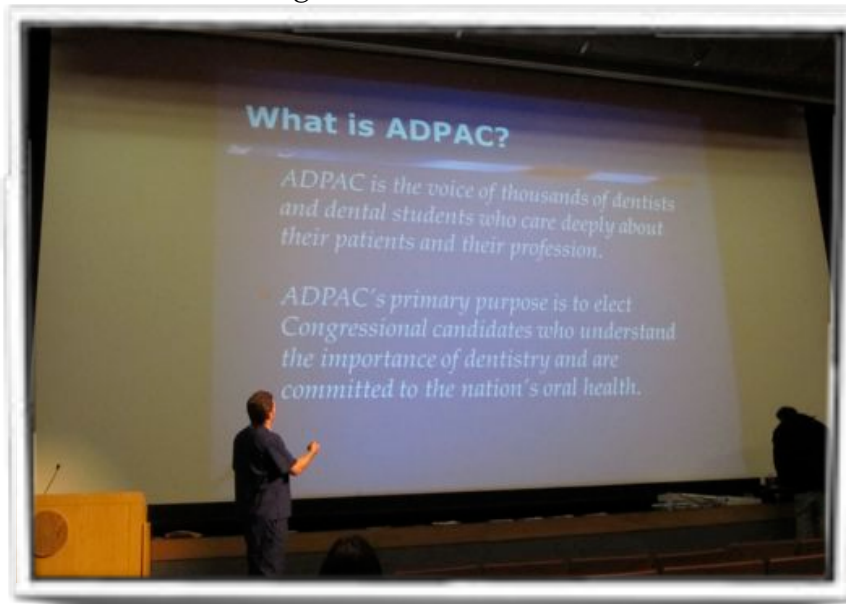


THE COLUMBIA CROWN

Political Action NOW!

Legislative Chart Notes



Legislative Chart Notes
Dustin Bowler

Columbia's ASDA chapter started the New Year and new semester off strong with its annual American Dental Political Action Committee (ADPAC) Lunch and Learn. The ADPAC Lunch and Learn provided an opportunity for students to understand what ADPAC does for Dentists and Dental Students and how they can become active in the legislative process at varying degrees of commitment.

ADPAC is the voice of thousands of dentists and dental students nationwide to national and state lawmakers. ADPAC contributes to campaigns of candidates that have good relationships to dentists in their constituencies, and have a

commitment to oral health issues. These contributions pave the way for ADA lobbyists to share dentistry's collective voice on Capitol Hill, as well as influence legislation being drafted, voted on, and subsequently becoming law.

At the lunch and learn many students were interested to know how they can become involved in legislative matters. Some of the easy and yet profound ways for current students to ensure that dentistry's voice is heard in the legislative halls across the country are by becoming a member of ADPAC, participating in letter writing campaigns, attending state and national lobby days, and probably most importantly—by staying informed on the issues and how they affect us all.

An annual ADPAC membership for students is only \$5.

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If nothing else, it is important to become a member of ADPAC to increase its political power. When ADPAC is in communication with candidates and elected officials their concerns can hold more sway if they represent a larger number of individuals, and a higher percentage of dentists and dental students.

Participating in a letter writing campaign is a difficult task if you don't know where to get started. Lucky for all of us the ADA has streamlined the process. We have the opportunity to register online, and we'll be notified if there is legislation that requires our action. They then compose a form

LEGISLATIVE CONTINUED

letter outlining dentistry's common concerns. We can modify the letter and add our personal message, and e-mail it directly to our congressmen and women. We should all register and take action at <http://capwiz.com/dental>.

Writing letters is a very effective way to let legislators know your opinions, but even more powerful is by visiting in person. ASDA National Dental Student Lobby Day is fast approaching (March 28-29). It is a great opportunity to become familiar with the legislative process and allows lawmakers to associate an actual person with an issue. Lastly, it is important that we stay up to date with the issues that are facing dentistry. There are a plethora of resources out there. ASDA and ADA newsletters are a great resource for dentists and dental students.

Recently, I have come across a website that is packed with information on current dental issues, and has many avenues for the distribution of information. DrBicuspid.com pools relevant information in one location for ease



Students watch Dustin's ADPAC Presentation in Alumni Auditorium.

of access. On their site you can create a user profile and customize your e-mail and newsletter options to compliment your preferences. Drbicuspid.com also has a Twitter account (@DrBicuspid) where links are posted to the most recent headlines and announcements. It is a fantastic way to keep up to date with the current issues.

By being informed and active participants in dental current events and legislation we will be able to ensure that our profession and careers have bright futures.

Dustin mentioned several websites to get you started on your road to politics: www.capwiz.com/dental and DrBicuspid.com (@DrBicuspid on Twitter)

A LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Get your head out of the books! Now more than ever its important to wake up and learn about what's going on in the United States government. This issue is dedicated to getting you up and out of your chair and into health care policy. The world has the ability influence our profession and as leaders in dentistry we must take it upon ourselves to become knowledgeable on the politics, legislation and propositions which affect our futures starting now with student loans. Check out some of the websites Dustin linked to, follow some new blogs, update your twitter feed...become knowledgeable!

We hope you enjoy all that we have to offer!
 Alexandra Malebranche
Editor in Chief

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Co-Community Service

GREG ROSENBERG

Activities

BJORN THORSEN,

MATT JENSEN,

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NIMA ROHANI

Class Representatives

INTERESTED IN PEDIATRICS?

Want to get involved with ASDA? Look at for Bari Schwartz and the Crest Healthy Smiles Program.

Bari Schwartz

Our ASDA chapter has always prided itself in providing oral healthcare information to elementary school students through our Crest Healthy Smiles Presentations. The dental students always enjoy presenting what they know to the students and the kids enjoy learning about maintaining their oral health through these interactive presentations. Ten dental students helped make our

first Crest Healthy Smiles event of the 2010-2011 school year a success. Second and third year dental students visited 100 kindergarten students to provide oral healthcare presentations and interactive teaching stations on how to brush and floss properly. The kindergarten students loved learning about why their teeth are so important and how to keep their mouths and teeth healthy. Our new stuffed animal dinosaurs and dogs with typodont teeth make the learning experience especially enjoyable for the kids as they have

the opportunity to practice their brushing and flossing technique in a really fun way.

We look forward to more successful Crest Healthy Smiles events and to Give Kids a Smile Day on February 4, 2011. All dental students are welcome to participate in these events and we encourage everyone to get involved.

Photos: Third year students Bari Schwartz and Matt Hickin along with Second year student Chelsea Brockway teach oral hygiene to kindergardeners.



MEDICAL PROTECTIVE LUNCH AND LEARN -

Informing students about malpractice insurance.



SMART MOUTH *with Kayleigh Eaves*

Slowly, but Surely – The Changing Tides in Dental Education

In case you haven't noticed, the classical dental curriculum schema is slowly, but surely changing. Here at Columbia, our first and second years are undergoing the changes currently. Rest assured, underclassmen, you are not alone. Students at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry are undergoing a change very similar to that of Columbia. However, Columbia remains one of the few dental schools that are joined at the hip with its medical school, satisfying its ideology that dentists are specialized doctors.

What's Changed?

Classical dental training consisted of two block years of basic sciences added to, but separate from, the preclinical applications and completely outside of the realm of clinical dentistry. The clinic was simply left for third and fourth years. This mentality is shifting. The need for integration of information as well as accommodation of the modern student is becoming more and more important. Think about yourself and your own study habits. Very few of us follow a classical

approach: go to every class, take notes in said class, report to library, and study material from that class. As classes become available as online recordings, fewer students see the need to go to class. "Night owl" students are becoming increasingly more popular: sleep through class, watch lectures online on your time, take notes on your time, and study until 3-4am. To many of us, this simply makes more



sense. Either we don't like to get up in the morning, or we get more out of lectures that can be set to our own tempo or pace of learning from the get-go. Though many schools have gradually accepted this style of learning, the classical schedule prevails despite its flexibility of usage.

technology revolutionize the field of dentistry. This committee has developed new accreditation standards in conjunction with CODA, the Commission on Dental Education, which will potentially change the standards to which dental schools are held in an effort to promote self-change within dental schools.

What's to Come?

The future of dental education is certainly bright, but innovation is becoming more prevalent, and some dental schools are latching tightly to these changes, leaving others to the traditional methodology. As requirements for a post-graduate year one become more pervasive and changes to licensure become more

vocalized, dental education must adapt in order to continue to produce the competent practitioners of the 21st century.



The ADEA Commission on Change and Innovation in Dental Education is an initiative to build a multi-factorial consensus about the education of general dentists as both healthcare and innovative

Kayleigh Eaves is currently studying to obtain a Master's Degree in Education in addition to her Dental degree.

If you would to discuss these issues or suggest a topic please email us at ColumbiaASDA@gmail.com

HUMOR

OVERHEARD in
HAMMER

Amy Kristina Herbert
Conversation #2
Class Character

Med Student: I can't wait to be a grown up

Me: I can't wait to return to being one. I told my friend in an email last night that I missed being a person.

Med Student: huh?

Me: I feel like a robot. They say learn this, I learn it, they say take this test I take it.

Med Student: They say jump...you say how high, and when do I jump?

Me: Maybe...but if you are class of 2012 you say "umm. ok. Hey, class prez, can you ask if we definitely have to jump? We do? Hmm.. Ok, but ..but then after...WOOHOOO!!! LET'S GO OUT!!!!"

Med Student: Oh, really, is that how your school is?

Me: Well we are sometimes. I don't know about 2010, they might just not show up to something.... 2011 might say something like: "oh ok. We'll jump. but we won't be happy about it."

Med Student: What about 2013?

Me: Oh, they say "Jump? Do we have to? Why are WE always the ones that have to jump? You don't even know WHERE you want us to jump, we are the first ones to have to jump like this so it really isn't fair that you are making us jump all the time when no one else ever had to jump before...besides we have ALREADY jumped, I mean, we jumped WAY before YOU ever had to jump..." should I continue?

National Dental Student Lobby Day



If you are interested in attending National Dental Student Lobby Day there is funding available from ASDA!

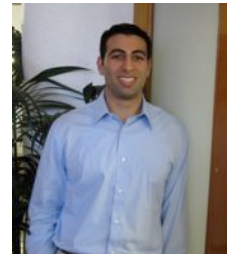
Mini Schedule and Dates:

2011 National Dental Student Lobby Day is scheduled for Monday, March 28 (training day) - Tuesday, March 29 (Capitol Hill day).

Please email Dustin at DustinBowler@gmail.com in order to participate.

CDM,

What an absolutely fantastic year it has been for the ASDA Chapter at Columbia University College of Dental Medicine! By augmenting our board we really were able to increase the amount of great ideas and activities that our chapter was able to pursue. Two new initiatives that National ASDA has added into their plan is Pre-dental and Ethical awareness and involvement. I would like to give special thanks to both Valerie Chin and Scott Bryant for making great strides in those respective categories, as it is not easy to make such an unprecedented splash.



I would also like to thank everyone who has become a member of ADPAC this year. It is extremely important for each and every one of us to stay involved with Organized Dentistry and endorse the politicians who are out to help protect our best interests. The American Student Dental Association is truly a conduit between students and the ADA. The advantages that ASDA provides at our school are really only a microcosm of what the ADA does for practicing dentists across the nation. I hope that everyone has been able to see the time and effort our ASDA chapter has put into giving back and creating opportunities and realize how important Organized Dentistry is. I would also like to encourage the graduating fourth years to keep an eye out for the ADA Conversion drive.

ASDA President,
Justin Ohnigian

**BROADENING YOUR SCOPE:
ORGANIZED DENTISTRY**

**Q&A with Garrick Alex of
ADEA**

As students, our ongoing education is our biggest concern. Dentistry is a dynamic profession, making the streamlining of education with the changing landscape of the profession a challenge; one that faculty, students, research groups and education professionals work together to navigate. The American Dental Education Association (ADEA) has one main mission: "to lead individuals and institutions of the dental education community to address contemporary issues influencing education, research, and the delivery of oral health care for the health of the public", an important and exciting focus!

Let's get to know an ADEA leader - North East Regional Representative and Student ADEA Local Chapter Representative, Garrick Alex

Q: What convinced you that ADEA was an organization you wanted to become active in?

A: What initially drew me in was the opportunity to serve a dual role in the organization, having input in the Curriculum Committee as well as serving the position of student ADEA representative. The curriculum committee was a unique experience for me, since it's role was largely undefined at my time of entry, there was a lot of freedom concerning the role the position would serve.



Having a place to channel student feedback directly to the higher ups about what your experiencing can alter the path of who comes after you - part of the progressive thinking that ADEA is all about.

Q: How can I get involved? Where do I start?

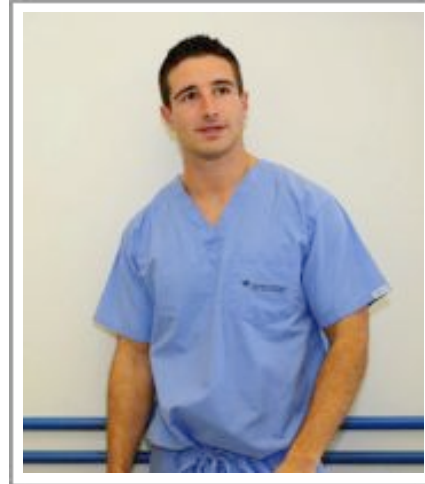
A: To get involved at a local level, the main place to start is student council. Run for the position of ADEA representative for your respective class. There are also new opportunities on the horizon. Locally we are attempting to expand beyond the class representative position to more roles including Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice President - so be on the look out for those developments. A key starting point for national involvement would be to attend ADEA annual session in early March.

Q: What is your favorite part of being a national student leader?

A: My favorite part is the people! You are surrounded by people passionate about what they do. You get to interact and work with a lot of different people, the conferences are huge so you get a little bit of everything- a great way to learn about the dynamics of the profession as a whole. Since conferences are so busy you can pick and choose what you want to focus on, and the most interesting topics to me are the ones that affect us directly as students. Then I can convey these

issues back to my colleagues as a student leader.

I also like how it brings students from all over the country together. You find that students at different schools have the same issues so it really reinforces the idea of working together.



Q: How has your involvement in ADEA enriched your CDM experience?

A: Academic review sessions have been a big part of ADEA's

influence locally, and I really enjoy being a part of that. For the first year class we've had reviews for the Body in Health and Disease course work. I just really enjoy being part of what the upperclassmen did for us in terms of helping us get through the course work. One of the goals of ADEA and other student organizations is getting on the same page about overall goals and political aspects that will effect our careers in the future. Dentistry is about progression in science, education, politics, and more - and ADEA falls in line with that sentiment so it's Imperative to get everyone on board at a student level so we can help keep moving the profession in a positive direction.

Garrick also reminds everyone to "Step up your game" and get involved.

Reach out and get involved! Look out for the next "Broadening Your Scope", if you would like to be featured our have any ideas for future issues please contact your ASDA Newsletter Editors!

COULD I BE MICKEY ROURKE'S DENTIST?

Ethical Inquiries with Meryl Kramer Brown.

There are rumors in the film industry that Mickey Rourke wants to remove his two front teeth in order to play Gareth Thomas, a British rugby player who is missing his central incisors, in an upcoming film. After my amazement over Rourke's dedication to his work subsided, I began to consider what his dentist would be thinking when Mickey Rourke proposed that he or she pull out healthy teeth from his mouth - and teeth that are the most noticeable at that. Even if this story isn't true, I could not help but wonder if there are any dentists who would agree to do such work. A dentist who would do exactly what a patient requests simply because they've requested it and not because the treatment is based on any sound diagnosis. Is this the kind of dentist I could be one day? Does this kind of request fall under patient autonomy? Will Rourke be able to find such a dentist? Once filming is finished, will Rourke restore these teeth? And how?

I'm haunted by these moral questions - about Rourke's case and usually about the dental dilemmas that I hear about. I do not consider myself an especially self-righteous person, but I do find that I am often troubled by some of the more complicated ethical dental dilemmas. While our Ethics course and handbook are irreplaceable sources of information, sometimes I

still find many of these issues still very difficult to grapple with. In these situations, talking about the issues with others is key. Simple discussions with peers or professors can be extremely valuable. Discussing some of these more sensitive topics with non-CDM friends or family members (keeping within HIPAA's regulations, of course) can be of great value as well, in order to get an outsider's opinion. These conversations are often difficult to have but they are of



utmost importance in our dental education.

For example, as often occurs with dental students, the first patient who I treatment planned a crown for asked how many crowns I had done before (real answer: none on a human). I responded the best I could at the time. After discussing the incident with peers, I felt that I was better equipped to deal with similar challenges in the future.

My charge to my fellow students is this - don't be ashamed to discuss ethical issues related to patient care with peers and faculty. These deliberations should be an integral part of our education at this critical stage in our education.

Give Kids a SMILE

Friday, February 4, 2011

All students can be excused from class in order to participate.

Please email ld2240@columbia.edu

to sign up.

If you would like to be a group leader please specify this in your email.

Contributing Editors



ALEX MALEBRANCHE

Alex is a 3rd year dental student from Northern California. She's interested in pursuing a career in Pediatric Dentistry.



ADEOLA ABISOGUN

Adeola (pronounced A-day-lah) is 2nd year dental student currently serving as ASDA's secretary.



MERYL K. BROWN

Meryl is a 3rd year student from the Mid-West. She lives with her amazing husband in the Upper West Side.