

Community Service Day: Reaching Out to the Children of New Mexico and Improving Their Oral Health

By *Christine A. Hovliaras Delozier, RDH, BS, MBA*

It was a hot, dry day in Albuquerque, N.M., and several buses of dental hygienists and students from across the country, including dental hygiene students from the University of New Mexico Dental Hygiene Program, were about to begin a busy Wednesday afternoon on June 18.

The American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) worked collaboratively with the New Mexico Dental Hygiene Association (NMDHA) and the University of New Mexico, Division of Dental Hygiene to create this community health event prior to the beginning of ADHA's Center for Lifelong Learning at the 85th Annual Session. There were many dental hygienists and student dental hygienists involved in preparing this wonderful afternoon of preventive care, fun and education for the children from nine Child Development Centers within the city of Albuquerque. The community service hygiene team were as follows: Demetra Logothetis, RDH, MS, professor and director of the UNM dental hygiene program; Christine Nathe, RDH, MS, professor and director of the UNM graduate dental hygiene program; Lisa M. Esparza, RDH, BS, MSDH, NMDHA member who coordinated the program with Melissa (Missy) McDougal-Plese, RDH, MS, assistant professor and advisor to the UNM student chapter of ADHA; and Lisa VanBerg, RDH, BS, NMDHA Member Services Council co-chair.

Approximately 130 children ages 3-12 years arrived at the university campus for an exciting afternoon of preventive care conducted by the UNM class of 2008 and several licensed New Mexico dental hygienists. Services provided included examinations completed by dental residents from UNM Division of Dental Services, prophylaxis, polishing, fluoride therapy including treatment and/or varnish and placement of sealants on the first molars by UNM dental hygiene students and dental hygienists. Each dental hygiene student or New Mexico RDH worked with an ADHA community hygienist volunteer as an assistant. Then the children went to another room where two clowns, Petals and Topsy, painted their faces, and they were able to color and have a lot of fun. After having their faces painted, the children were off to another room for oral health education. They learned how to brush their teeth on the monster molar hand puppets and then they watched oral health videotapes to continue learning about proper brushing and flossing.

Albuquerque local television interviewed 2007-2008 ADHA President-elect, Diann Bomkamp, RDH, BSDH, and Missy Plese, RDH, MS, about the event and the oral health needs that made it necessary. The interview aired later that evening, ending a wonderful day of sharing oral hygiene knowledge and making children feel good about themselves and taking care of their mouths. This was a big event to plan, and it was a hugely successful way for the UNM, NMDHA and ADHA to give back to the children of Albuquerque.

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Greeting the children



Monster-assisted oral hygiene education



Nearly 130 children received oral health care services



A little face paint and voila: a plaque-fighting superhero



2008 student poster session presentation first-place winners are Kindall Fernando (second from left) and Candice Rogers (second from right) from Cypress College for "Topical Anesthetic: Assessing Anesthetics on Puncture Pain." On the far left is Karissa Kerr representing award cosponsor OMNI Preventive Care, a 3M ESPE Company. In the center is President Connor. On the far right is Julie Salerno representing Henry Schein Dental.



2008 student poster session presentation second-place winners are Cynthia Chenault (second from left) and Connie Wilson (second from right) from Texas Woman's University for "A Comparison of Knowledge among Practicing Dental Hygienists in the Use of Oral Whitening Products." On the far left is Ms. Kerr, in the center is President Connor and on the far right is Ms. Salerno.



2008 student poster session presentation third-place winners is Connie Wilson (second from left) from Texas Woman's University for "Small Steps for Big Smiles: A Community Fluoride Varnish Program." On the far left is Ms. Kerr, second from right is President Connor and on the far right is Ms. Salerno.



2008 student poster session presentation fourth-place winner is Tiffany D. Summerlin (second from left) from West Virginia University for "Extraoral Skin Cancer Examination: A Survey of Dental Hygienists in North Central Appalachia." On the far left is Ms. Kerr, second from right is President Connor and on the far right is Ms. Salerno.

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ADHA thanks Discus Dental for being the primary corporate sponsor for this community service event; the University of New Mexico for being the prime location to provide preventive dental hygiene services; all the coordinators, hygienists and student dental hygienists from the UNM class of 2008; and NMDHA. Special thanks to the High Desert Dental Hygienists' Society for the sunglasses, stickers, balloons and identification bracelets for the children, which were greatly appreciated, and to ACC DENT TEMPS for loaning their portable autoclaves.

Interview with Program Coordinators Missy Plese and Lisa Esparza

Access: How did you plan this community service event?

Missy Plese, RDH, MS: We worked with NMDHA and ADHA, and we partnered with the City of Albuquerque Child Development Centers, which included nine programs to recruit the children for this event. We also advertised via the student dental hygienists in order to continue to recruit more children.

Access: What impact did this event provide to the community of Albuquerque?

Plese: We provided free preventive care to these children and distributed information about how to enroll for Medicaid for future oral health care. It provided a wonderful forum for the important and valuable work that dental hygienists provide to the people in the community.

Access: You and 2007-2008 ADHA President-Elect Diann Bomkamp, RDH, BSDH, were interviewed by Channel 7 News. What did you share with the news team in that interview?



2008 student table clinic presentation first-place winners are Kelleen C. Gallagher (second from left) and Sherry Johnson (second from right) from St. Louis Community College at Forest Park for "Spit for the Cure." On the far left is Karissa Kerr representing award cosponsor OMNI Preventive Care, a 3M ESPE Company. In the center is President Connor. On the far right is Julie Salerno representing Henry Schein Dental.



2008 student table clinic presentation second-place winner is Katharina Weeber from West Los Angeles College for "Understanding Celiac Disease." On the far left is Ms. Kerr, second from right is President Connor and on the far right is Ms. Salerno.



2008 student table clinic presentation third-place winners are Shalice Hadley (second from left) and Heather Gerber (second from right) from Cerritos College for "Find the Nidus in Periimplantitis." On the far left is Ms. Kerr, in the center is President Connor and on the far right is Ms. Salerno.



2008 student table clinic presentation fourth-place winners are Stephanie Dickson (second from left), Sherry Jo Crews (third from left) and Monique Vargas (second from right) from Valencia Community College for "Microtechnologies Meets Drug Delivery." On the far left is Ms. Kerr, third from right is President Connor and on the far right is Ms. Salerno.

Pleese: We need to do community service projects within this area to provide preventive dental hygiene care to children who need it. We had 50 appointments open, and they were filled within two days. We had 25 walk-ins today alone. People cannot refuse services that are complimentary and hard to find. It really has helped us show the important role the dental hygienist provides to the public in improving their oral health.

Access: How can we continue to provide this type of care to the public in the future?

Esparza: We need to support the role of the Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner credential and make this happen for the future of dental hygiene. The need for oral health services is there, and we have seen its impact today.



Even the king of the jungle has to brush and floss.



2008 ADHA Procter & Gamble Dental Hygiene Educator of the Year Award winner Mary Jacks, RDH, MS, of University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (right) with President Connor.



2008 ADHA Student Advisor Award winner Kim Johnson, RDH, BS, of the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis (right) with President Connor. This award was sponsored by Waterpik.

House of Delegates Actions

The American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) House of Delegates convened during the Center for Lifelong Learning at the 85th Annual Session June 22-25, 2008, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Among the actions taken was a revision of the ADHA Policy Manual. The revised manual is available online at www.adha.org/downloads/ADHA_Policies.pdf.

The house also resolved to "implement a journal subscription program that would cover the costs of production and distribution of the print version of the *Journal of Dental Hygiene*."



Susanne Kuehl, RDH, represented sponsor Tom's of Maine to congratulate winners of the 2008 ADHA Student Member Community Service Award. On the left, the Palm Beach Community College Student Chapter was represented by their advisor, Judith McCauley, RDH, AAS, BS, MA. On the right, the SUNY Canton Dental Hygiene Program Student Chapter was represented by faculty member Lisa Shaw, RDH, MS. Not pictured is Bluegrass Community and Technical College, also winners this year.



ADHA Student Member Community Service Award

This year's ADHA Student Member Community Service Award, sponsored by Tom's of Maine, was given to three dental hygiene programs: Palm Beach Community College, Bluegrass Community and Technical College, and SUNY Canton Dental Hygiene Program.

The Palm Beach Community College students who submitted the award application were Sara Bibbo and Julie Scahettie, who developed and implemented a dental hygiene education program for mentally and physically challenged high school students. The program consisted of four lessons taught at the high school and a culminating visit to the dental hygiene clinic. All of the student hygienists in Bibbo and Scahettie's class assisted with providing oral health care services for the special needs students. The high school students and the high school staff were very excited about this partnership and could not say enough good things about the student dental hygienists' work.

containing education materials, a toothbrush, toothpaste and floss.

The SUNY Canton Dental Hygiene Program student who submitted the award application was Pam Hartsell. Sophomore students and their program director had developed a partnership with a cerebral palsy center. The hygiene class first participated in an orientation at the center that allowed them to become familiar with the children there. In October, November, December and January, the student hygienists presented oral health care lessons and supervised teeth cleaning. In February, they were joined by a dentist who was able to help with the screenings and referrals. In March, the student hygienists helped the children and young adults at the center to celebrate National Nutrition Month by presenting a lesson on foods that promote good oral health. To conclude in April, they researched all of the medications taken by the children and presented an informational session for parents and care providers.

—Jenny Jeck

Amy Neussl, RDH, BS, Presented with 2008 ADHA/Sigma Phi Alpha Journalism Award

Amy Neussl, RDH, BS, a 2007 graduate of the baccalaureate program at the University of Bridgeport, Fones School of Dental Hygiene, was recently named by the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) as the winner of the 2008 ADHA/Sigma Phi Alpha Journalism Award.

This journalism award program, sponsored by Johnson & Johnson, is intended to honor a student who has written a review or original research paper that contributes to the dental hygiene body of knowledge and is of the quality to be published in the *Journal of Dental Hygiene*, the scientific, peer-reviewed journal of the ADHA. Students enrolled or within six months post-graduation from a baccalaureate, degree completion bachelors, masters, or doctoral-level program were eligible to apply. Candidates submitted their manuscripts for the competition and the papers were sent out for peer review and ranking by a selection committee.

Neussl's winning manuscript, "Mouthguards in the American Hockey League," will be published in the *Journal of Dental Hygiene*. In addition, she will receive a plaque along with a \$1,000 cash award provided through the generosity of Johnson & Johnson. Neussl currently practices in Worcester, Mass., serving MassHealth children.

Honorable mention was extended to Elizabeth Onik, RDH, BSDH, a 2007 graduate of the Master of Higher Education Administration program in the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh, for her manuscript, "Missing Persons: African Americans in Dental Hygiene. Onik is a full time instructor in the School of Dental Medicine, Department of Dental Hygiene, at the University of Pittsburgh.

2008 Faculty Recognition Award Recipients

Educators are students' first glimpse of what it means to be dental hygiene professionals, and it is that impression that stays with them throughout their career. Dental hygiene faculty are the instructors, advisors, mentors and most importantly the role models for the future of dental hygiene. Educators' dedication to their professional association is just one of the many ways students discover professionalism. ADHA recognizes and commends educators' commitment to our future. Please join us in celebrating the following dental hygiene programs with 100% membership of full- and part-time dental hygienist faculty:

District I

Cape Cod Community College, Massachusetts
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences Forsyth School of Dentistry, Massachusetts
Springfield Technical Community College, Massachusetts
Vermont Technical College, Vermont

District II

Tunxis Community College, Connecticut
University of Bridgeport Fones School of Dental Hygiene, Connecticut
Farmingdale State College, New York
New York City College of Technology, New York
Westmoreland County Community College, Pennsylvania

District III

Delaware Technical & Community College, Delaware
University of Maryland, Maryland

District IV

Daytona Beach College, Florida
Palm Beach Community College, Florida
Lanier Technical College, Georgia
Middle Georgia Technical College, Georgia
Wayne Community College, North Carolina
Florence Darlington Technical College, South Carolina

District V

Baker College of Auburn Hills, Michigan
Ferris State University, Michigan
University of Detroit Mercy, Michigan
University of Michigan, Michigan
Cuyahoga Community College, Ohio
Lakeland Community College, Ohio
Rhodes State College, Ohio
Western Kentucky University, Kentucky

District VI

University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Tennessee

District VII

University of Minnesota, Minnesota
North Dakota State College of Science, North Dakota
Chippewa Valley Technical College, Wisconsin

District VIII

Kirkwood Community College, Iowa
University of Missouri-Kansas City, Missouri
Central Community College, Nebraska
University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry, Nebraska

District IX

University of New Mexico, New Mexico
Rose State College, Oklahoma
University of Oklahoma—Ardmore, Oklahoma
Austin Community College, Texas
Collin County Community College, Texas
Del Mar College, Texas
Lamar Institute of Technology, Texas
Tarrant County College, Dental Hygiene Program, Texas
University of Texas at Houston, Texas
University of Texas at San Antonio, Texas

District X

University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine, Colorado
Montana State University - Great Falls College of Technology, Montana
Dixie State College, Utah

District XI

Cerritos College, California
Cypress College, California
Foothill College, California
Loma Linda University, California
Pasadena City College, California
Sacramento City College, California
San Joaquin Valley College-Rancho Cucamonga, California
San Joaquin Valley College-Visalia, California
West Los Angeles College, California
Western Career College - San Jose Campus, California

District XII

Pacific University, Oregon
Columbia Basin College, Washington

See you next year!

