



# NU CHAPTER SIGMA PHI ALPHA DENTAL HYGIENE HONOR SOCIETY NEWSLETTER MARCH 2013 - Fourteenth Issue

---

## **Congratulations to our 2013 Inductees**



Top Row (L-R): Samantha Reidenbach (2012 Degree Completion), Bridget Beattie (MSDH), Darlene Jones (Faculty)  
Bottom Row (L-R): Seniors: Chelsea Hutson, Emily Fish and Lindsay El Awadi

### **Lindsay El Awadi - Senior**

It is my honor to introduce Lindsay El Awadi, 2013 inductee to our Sigma Phi Alpha-Nu Chapter. Janet Kinney and I had the opportunity to work with Lindsay, her husband Wassim, and fellow classmate Shrada Folga during their combined community Practicum and Scientific Communications project. This research project focused on assessing the effectiveness of the Esther Wilkins International Education Kit during their oral health promotion sessions at Alpha House. Alpha House is a homeless shelter for area families. This project received the 2<sup>nd</sup> place award in the Clinical/Public Health category at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry Research Day.

Lindsay's commitment to health care started before she began her dental hygiene education. In 2007 she began working at the University of Michigan's Kellogg Eye Center as a photographic assistant. Then from 2010-2012 she moved on to become a patient service assistant. It is no wonder that combined with her great academic record; Lindsay set her sights on continuing her education. Lindsay is keenly interested in pursuing advanced education within the health professions. It will be exciting to see where her promising future takes her. Congratulations!

*Anne Gwozdek*

## **Emily Fish - Senior**

Today it is my pleasure to introduce Emily Fish, an outstanding senior dental hygiene student. Emily was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan and attended Rockford High School. Before attending the dental hygiene program at the University of Michigan, Emily earned a Bachelors of Science degree in Biology at the University of Detroit Mercy.

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

Emily has demonstrated Scholastic achievement. She is an exceptional student who demonstrates a strong commitment to all her educational experiences. She is a pleasure to have in the classroom. She often looks for new and different learning opportunities to add to her knowledge of dental hygiene. For example, she is currently a peer teacher in clinic with the sophomore dental hygiene students.

In the clinical setting, providing excellent patient care is important to Emily. She feels a great connection with her patients and strives to be the best health care provider she can be.

Emily has also demonstrated outstanding Leadership qualities. She has participated in numerous activities beyond her studies. She has been an active member of SADHA during her years at Michigan, and is a member of Sigma Alpha Lambda and Golden Key honor societies. She is also currently serving as Vice President of her dental hygiene class.

Emily has demonstrated Service to the community around her. In addition to her academic and leadership responsibilities, Emily feels strongly about giving back to the community and has chosen opportunities to touch the lives of others such as participating in the Relay for Life event during her junior and senior years.

In addition to these exceptional qualities, Emily tries to find time for family and friends. Some of Emily's hobbies include hiking, snowboarding, and wake boarding. She is engaged to be married on September 13, 2013.

Congratulations Emily on your induction into SPA-Nu chapter. ....read for *Susan Taichman* by *Sarah Moeller*

## **Chelsea Hutson - Senior**

It is my pleasure to introduce to you Ms. Chelsea Hutson.

Chelsea grew up in Horton, Michigan, which is a small town located in Jackson County. To show you how small Horton, Michigan is, I couldn't find it on the map. Chelsea has one younger brother who is a "senior" and will be graduating from high school this year.

After graduating from Hanover/Horton High School, Chelsea completed her dental hygiene prerequisite courses at Jackson Community College, where she earned a 4.0 GPA. As you can imagine, the Dental Hygiene Admissions Committee didn't have to deliberate very long before coming to an unanimous decision of accepting Chelsea into the program. Since entering into the U-M Dental Hygiene Program, Chelsea has continued to excel in her academic pursuits and has maintained an exceptional GPA for the past three years.

Chelsea has been a peer teacher for the past year. In the fall she peer taught in Oral Anatomy and now this semester is in the clinic helping to guide the first year dental hygiene students. Chelsea's clinical instructors report that she always has a smile on her face and upbeat, is highly respected by the DH2 students and always demonstrates professionalism. The icing on the cake is that Chelsea is a wiz in MiDent so whenever they run into a glitch she's always there to save the day.

Chelsea is not new to the dental office. While in high school she interned at a private practice office in Jackson and has worked as a dental assistant for a practice in Ypsilanti and also at the dental school in the orthodontic department.

Service has been an integral part of Chelsea's life. For the past two years she has volunteered at Give Kids a Smile Day and this past fall provided dental care at the Free Dental Day event sponsored by the Community Dental Center in Ann Arbor. Chelsea's service back to her community has extended well beyond the dental/dental hygiene areas. She has been a member of the Alpha Phi Omega-Gamma Pi Fraternity which is a service-oriented fraternity at the University of Michigan for the past three years and served as the March of Dimes Committee Chair.

After graduating and obtaining her hygiene license, Chelsea would like to work with private practice in the Jackson-Ann Arbor area.

Please help me in welcoming Chelsea Hutson into SPA-Nu  
*Janet Kinney*

## **Samantha Reidenbach - Degree Completion Student - Inducted 2012**

We welcome Sam here today to formally induct her to Sigma Phi Alpha. She was recognized as a member in 2012 but was unable to attend as her daughter, Natalie Jane, was born just days before last year's brunch.

Samantha Reidenbach is a 2010 graduate of Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC) Dental Hygiene Program. Upon graduation, she immediately enrolled in the University of Michigan's Dental Hygiene Degree Completion E-Learning Program. It became apparent quickly that Sam was an excellent student, but she also quickly stepped up to take on a leadership role within her cohort. Within each E-Learning course there is an area for course questions. Students and faculty both pose and respond

to questions in this area. Sam is often found taking the initiative to respond to her colleagues' questions. Her involvement was especially helpful in the Research/Evidence-Based Decision Making course. Sam was able to help clarify concepts to students in a professional and accurate manner, in a way that was readily understood by fellow students.

It is no surprise then, that Sam has a keen interest in becoming a dental hygiene educator. As a result of her student teaching Practicum, and her stellar academic and professional abilities, Sam was offered a position as an adjunct faculty member at KVCC. She began teaching in fall 2012 is now completing her second semester of teaching four days a week! Congratulations, Sam!  
*Anne Gwozdek*

### **Bridget Beattie - Grad Student**

Bridget is completing her Master of Science in Dental Hygiene this year. Bridget is a little unique in the way she came to our program. We have had many students become interested in dental hygiene because their mothers were hygienists or their fathers were dentists or they co-opted in high school in a dental office. Bridget is a little unique in that her interest in dental hygiene stemmed not from her hygienist mother but her hygienist father, who is one of the very first males to graduate from the dental hygiene program. He went on to dental school and she started working in his office when she was just 14.

While I had seen Bridget in the school, you might say that I first got to know her when I went to watch her compete in the Miss Washtenaw County pageant. Bridget had previously competed in the Miss Monroe County Pageant and while we were waiting for the program to begin, Bridget's mother mentioned that her platform was always oral health. While she was a beautiful young woman competing in the Miss America Preliminaries, it was her poise and presentation of her platform "A Healthy Smile is Always in Style" and her confidence when she talked about the importance of oral health that gave me some insight to Bridget. While she may not have won the contest, she did earn some significant scholarships.

Young women in the Miss America Organization are all very involved in their community. Bridget has continued her community involvement by working closely with the United Way of Monroe County and the Give Kids a Smile Program.

The summer after graduating from the dental hygiene program, Bridget became a counselor for a program at the School of Medicine called the Summer Science Academy. This program works with underrepresented minority high school students preparing for careers in medicine. Bridget introduced the idea of a career in dentistry into this program. Last year, she brought her Dad to help her and she will continue working with the Summer Science Academy this summer.

As a senior dental hygiene student, Bridget was a peer teacher in the clinic. In addition to being a clinical instructor the past two semesters, this past fall Bridget student taught in the oral anatomy course and this

semester she is teaching the DH3 biomaterials course. After she completes her Master's Degree Bridget's goal is to continue teaching at UofM both in the clinic and in the classroom and to maintain her presence in her Dad's practice.

In her spare time, what little she has, Bridget likes to paint and golf. She says these activities are both good stress relievers for her.  
*Karen Ridley*

### **Darlene Jones - Faculty**

It is my pleasure to introduce Darlene Jones for induction into Nu Chapter, Sigma Phi Alpha. Certainly the students and faculty here today are very familiar with her, but for the rest of you I would like to take a few minutes to introduce her.

Darlene began her dental hygiene life in 1972 when she was a student at Lakeland Community College in Ohio. Her journey had her moving several times and she practiced dental hygiene in Ohio, Texas, and Wisconsin before finally landing in Ann Arbor where she is the full-time hygienist at the Community Dental Center. It is in this capacity that I first met her, as she worked directly with the dental hygiene students when they were at the Center.

Darlene began her formal appointment in Dental Hygiene in 2008 when we recruited her to teach the community dentistry course. Her ten years with the Community Dental Center and the associated experiences with "real world" community activities made her an ideal choice. She brings to teaching a compassion for the underserved, a clear passion for student learning, and a creative determination to be the best. At this same time, the dental hygiene program embarked on a significant refocus on integration of all aspects of community in the curriculum and Darlene was instrumental.

Again, in 2011 another opportunity to tap into Darlene's talent emerged when the senior community practicum course had an instructor change. Again, we called upon (offered) Darlene to take on this course and fortunately for us she said yes. She had previously served as an advisor and mentor faculty for student groups who did their practicum at the Community Dentistry Center. This is her 3<sup>rd</sup> year now of teaching the course.

She is actively involved in many other program activities with students, which include coordinating and supervising dental hygiene students at a volunteer day at the Center to provide care to patients, supervising students as they rotate to the Center, mentoring students during their practicum and research experience. Over the years, several awards have been received by dental hygiene students she has mentored. In 2012, two senior students received 2<sup>nd</sup> place from the American Association of Public Health Dentistry Award for Dental Hygiene Student Outstanding Achievement in Community Dentistry. She accompanied these two students to the national meeting where they presented their project and received the award.

Hopefully you can see that Darlene exemplifies the three characteristics symbolized on our SPA pin:

*WendyKerschbaum*

### **Wendy Kerschbaum - Honorary**

It is my distinct pleasure to introduce this year's recipient of honorary membership into Sigma Phi Alpha - Nu, *Mrs. Wendy Kerschbaum*. It's truly difficult to find someone who doesn't know Wendy or hasn't heard of her accomplishments in teaching, research and service as she's touched the lives of so many of us for so many years.

Wendy began her academic career in 1970 as a part-time clinical instructor. From there the sky was the limit. She went on to earn a Master of Arts in Education in 1972 and a Master's in Public Health in 1982. In 1988 Wendy was named the director of dental hygiene and served the department, school, and profession for over 24 years in this role.

The variety of courses Wendy has developed and taught over the years is amazing - she has expertise in multiple areas. She was instrumental in the creation of our Online Degree Completion Program and an integral part of the development of an Online Graduate Dental Hygiene Program. In 2012 Wendy received one of the highest national honors when she was awarded "Educator of the Year" by the American Dental Hygienists' Association.

*The qualifications for Honorary membership to Sigma Phi Alpha are outstanding contribution to the progress and development of the art, science, literature or public understanding of the dental hygiene profession through educational or community service.* I think we all can agree that Wendy has fulfilled each and every one of these criteria. Wendy is a leader, role model and inspiration not only to her students, but also to fellow faculty members.

Please join me in congratulating Wendy for both her well deserved honorary designation in our organization, and on her recent retirement.  
*Janet Kinney*

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

On March 23, 2013 Nu Chapter met at 9:30am at Weber's Inn in Ann Arbor for brunch and our annual meeting and induction of new members.

The meeting was called to order at 10:25am by Vice President Alaina Robinson. Laura Roth read the Purpose and History.

Dina Korte introduced the attending junior students: Maegan Allan, Toni DePetro, Meredith Klett, Luke Shaw, Lauren Strong, and Tracie Yu.

VP Robinson read the qualifications for membership. Anne Gwozdek introduced senior Lindsay El Awadi.

Sarah Moeller (read on behalf of Susan Taichman) introduced senior Emily Fish. Janet Kinney introduced senior Chelsea Hutson. Anne Gwozdek spoke about our 2012 Degree Completion candidate Samantha Reidenbach, who had had a baby and couldn't attend in 2012 but was able to attend this year. Karen Ridley introduced Graduate Student Bridget Beattie. Wendy Kerschbaum introduced our new faulty member Darlene Jones. Janet Kinney on behalf of Nu Chapter bestowed Honorary Membership to Wendy Kerschbaum. New members were inducted.

The 2012 meeting minutes as written in the newsletter were approved.

Annual Report: The required tax information was filed via ePostcard with the IRS. The Supreme Chapter was notified to maintain our active status. As of the first of 2013 we had \$1,198.50 in our account. Our dues of \$75 were sent to Supreme Chapter. Six keypins - \$180.00 and six certificates - \$90 were ordered for our new members. Donations of \$300.00 to UofM Research Day for the dental hygiene awards, a \$150.00 donation to Hope Clinic and another \$150.00 for Washtenaw Children's Clinic were sent in.

Invitations were mailed to six new inductees and six junior guests plus five special guests. Newsletters and invitations were mailed to 25 active members - one non dues paying and 96 Newsletters and invitations were emailed - nine of these were to non dues paying members. As of the 22nd of March 70 dues paying responses and 6 non dues paying responses and \$315.00 in sponsorship money was received.

Three sheets of stamps - \$27.00, ink for the printer - \$29.99 was purchased. Prior to the payment of brunch, and the donation of \$150.00 to the Chris Klausner Scholarship fund our account has \$2,467.50 in it.

### **Old business:**

Lisa Dodge will check into linking our Newsletter and membership list into the UofM DH Website.

Dina Korte spoke about Research Day and the award recipients. She thanked SPA-Nu for the annual donation. Janet Kinney spoke about being contacted by Colgate. They were impressed with the research and wanted to give some funding for future projects.

A new committee to update our chapter by-laws was formed: Dina Korte, Beverly Gainer and Karen Essel.

Patricia Walch will continue to maintain the scrapbook.

Beverly Gainer will continue with the Newsletter and email as many as possible to keep cost in check. This becomes a problem when email providers are changed and we aren't informed. (This can be done by contacting Bev at [spa.nuchapter@gmail.com](mailto:spa.nuchapter@gmail.com) or [bgainer@wowway.com](mailto:bgainer@wowway.com).)

Anne Gwozdek will continue to be our contact with the *DentalUM*.

We decided to keep the \$300 donation to Research Day, \$150 to Hope Clinic, \$150 to Washtenaw Children's Clinic and \$150 to the Chris Klausner Scholarship fund. In addition Wendy Kerschbaum recommended \$150 to the VINA Center in Brighton, a new rotation site for hygiene students. This was approved.

#### **New Business:**

Anne Gwozdek spoke about having a DH exhibit at the Dental School Museum and donating Nu Chapter Programs and photos. Melva Baxter has been working with Shannon O'Dell to keep dental hygiene history alive. The opening is scheduled for October 3.

The meeting date for 2014 was set for March 29th, continuing at Weber's Inn with the same menu.

Anne Gwozdek nominated Emily Springfield for Honorary member. Connie MacKinnon nominated Dr. Michael Britt. Both candidates were approved.

Wendy Kerschbaum spoke about the 100th Anniversary of dental hygiene and a special UofM alum reception in Boston June 21.

Karen Ridley suggested that a reminder of our annual meeting date be sent out early. She also wanted to recognize Kathleen Early-Burke for her wonderful service. Kathleen will be moving to Traverse City.

VP Alaina Robinson stepped up to be President of Nu Chapter and Allison Restauri has agreed and was approved to be Vice President. Both were sworn in by Past President Dina Korte. Beverly Gainer will remain as Secretary/Treasurer.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45am. *Beverly Gainer*

### **WINNERS OF THE SPA - NU CHAPTER RESEARCH AWARDS**

**FIRST PLACE:** Emily Fish, Kelsey Kress  
Advisors: Chris Fenno, Dan Chiego  
*Bacterial Contamination in Dental Operatories*

**SECOND PLACE:** Tiffany Mendryga  
Advisor: Anne Gwozdek

*Assessment of WIC Providers' Perceptions of Oral Health Counseling and Availability of Associated Resources*

**THIRD PLACE:** Kristin Koltuniak, Jenna Wheaton, Morton Taylor  
Advisor: Marita Inglehart

*Do Prolonged Wait Times Prior to a Scheduled Appointment Affect Patient-Provider Relationships?*

Comments from Susan Taichman:

The DH 446 table clinic/original research presentations were fantastic this year. Every group should be proud of their projects and the presentations. Faculty, visiting scholars and Dean Polverini commented on the quality of the posters, the interesting topics and the student's knowledge of their topics.

Congratulations to the dental hygiene student winners for Research Day 2013.

It is truly exciting to have our dental hygiene students place 1st and 2nd in the Clinical Research/Public Health Category too. A special thank you to all the DH446 project advisors! Your expertise and commitment to the students is greatly appreciated

**FIRST PLACE:** Kristin Kelly and Allia Marini;  
Advisor: Darlene Jones  
*Knowledge of Caregivers in Regards to Dental trauma in Children within a Daycare Setting*

**SECOND PLACE:** Lindsay El Awadi, Wassim El Awadi, Shradha Folga; Advisors Anne Gwozdek, Janet Kinney  
*The Use of the Esther Wilkins International Education Program to Educate the Children at Alpha House*

### **Your 2013-2014 Sigma Phi Alpha -Nu Officers**



Left to right: Beverly Gainer, Secretary/Treasurer; Alaina Robinson, President; Allison Restauri, Vice President