The Post & Core

Harvard ASDA Newsletter / Summer ’14

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Estancia is a cluster of communities in a rural, mountainous area in northeastern El Salvador. The local NGO, Campesinos para el Desarrollo Humano (Peasants for Human Development, CDH) works to alleviate health disparities and address unmet health needs for a population of approximately 2500 impoverished people through provision of medical care in their CAIPES (Centro de Atencion Integral, Prevencion y Educacion en Salud, Center for Integrated Attention, Prevention and Education in Health) and other public health projects. Dental care is an unmet health need in this area; there has never been accessible, affordable, appropriate, and sustainable dental care.

From June to August 2012, I worked in Estancia to conduct an oral health needs assessment through dialogue with members of the community about their perception of need, knowledge, attitudes, and practices about oral health in Estancia. My mentor and I created a questionnaire with CDH staff and community health workers, trained them, and conducted face-to-face interviews among a sample of people who entered CAIPES or lived in the nine caserios (communities) served by CDH. Interviews were conducted in CAIPES, during community meetings, and home visits. The questionnaire included information on sociodemographics, oral health practices, access to oral health care, oral health beliefs, and child oral health. My time in El Salvador also involved visits with various oral health stakeholders: the Ministry of Health's area clinic staff, another NGO, ASAPROSAR, which performs successful oral health programs in multiple sites in El Salvador, and two recent dental school graduates. These stakeholders gave insight into the chasm between available resources and administrative guidelines for proper oral health.

The needs assessment will inform CDH in their planning of educational initiatives and integration of dental services in their local clinic. 396 interviews were completed (34% of the total target population), and a preliminary review of the data shows:

- 27.5% of respondents were edentulous, parents reported that they tell their children the importance of oral health
- 39.4% of respondents stated that the main barrier to accessing dental care was cost
- Community members desire dental care in CAIPES.

Topics for an oral health curriculum for the community may include the importance of teeth, dental hygiene, what to do about tooth decay, and dispelling myths about oral health. Although the future oral health initiatives have not yet been developed, I believe the interviewing will impact behavior because it brought up issues of oral health with which individuals are not often presented. Overall, my period in El Salvador was an incredibly enlightening and sobering experience. I traveled on treacherous roads from home to home while taking breaks to rest and soak in the breathtaking landscapes, played soccer in cow pastures nestled in between mountains, and learned about the rich history of the Salvadoran farmers. I am blessed to have worked with such a wonderful staff and to have encountered a wide array of accommodating and kind people all the while edifying my perspective on oral health.
ASDA ANNUAL SESSION

This year’s ASDA Annual Session was held in sunny Anaheim, California. Policies and resolutions were discussed and voted upon. Current HSDM students caught up with HSDM graduate and Immediate Past ASDA President, Colleen Greene, DMD.

From left: Helen Yang ('16), Jane Shin ('14), Colleen Greene ('14), Demyana Azer ('15), Timothy Jaeger ('15).

ASDA ANNUAL SESSION

Do you know which mammal has the largest tooth? The narwhal! Its “tusk” is actually a canine and can grow up to ten feet long. This year’s ASDA Annual Session President’s Gala theme was “LeaderSHIP: We’re on a Boat!”

From left: Helen Yang ('16), Jane Shin ('14), Demyana Azer ('15), Timothy Jaeger ('15).

HARVARD PRE-DENTAL LECTURE SERIES

Aspiring pre-dental students currently gain knowledge of the dental profession by shadowing and assisting. While these activities provide insight into dentistry, they are often focused heavily on one or a few dental practices. Retrospectively, these shadowing experiences represent a limited scope of dentistry rather than the field as a whole. Opportunities such as careers in the different specialties, academics, and even public health may be missed. Unfortunately, this results in students lacking knowledge of many areas of dentistry and may reduce the number of individuals entering these less apparent fields. A formal course highlighting basics of the profession would be a strong first step towards cultivating interest in the breadth of pathways available to pre-dental students.

by Cameron Lee ('16)

While few formal education programs exist for pre-dental students, one that has experienced substantial success is the University of California Los Angeles Basic Dental Principles program. With the guidance of UCLA Dentistry students, our plan is to create our own course for pre-dental students in the Boston area. The course will be taught entirely by HSDM D.M.D. students. As a leader in dental education, HSDM could be amongst the few schools in the nation to offer this unique opportunity to interested pre-dental students.

The specific aims of our program are to provide aspiring pre-dental students with a multifaceted, unique introduction to the field of dentistry, to provide current HSDM students with an opportunity to discover and/or hone their teaching skills, and to gain positive exposure as a school that fosters pre-dental and potential pre-dental students’ interest in dentistry.

For more information about the program and to sign up, please see our website: http://harvardasda.org/events/pre-dent-lecture-series/
**iSCAPE**

Sydnee Chavis (’15)

iSCAPE, the newly founded clinic for patients with developmental disabilities, is a student run and operated clinic hosted by HSDM at Windsor Street Clinic in Cambridge. iSCAPE, which stands for improving Special Care Access and Patient Equality, was founded by Sydnee Chavis, Grace Gianneschi, and Soo Yeon Kwon. The monthly clinic focuses on providing a dental home for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who otherwise do not have access to timely care. The clinic provides exams, prophylaxis, and simple and complex restorative care for patients. Other board members include Gina Gill, Lisa Lian, Elizabeth Ng, and Yuehong Renee Fan.

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**SPECIAL OLYMPICS 2014** (Top left)

The Special Olympics Massachusetts Summer Games were held June 6-8, 2014. HSDM students volunteered at the event and provided mouthguards to over 110 athletes.

**Front row, from left:** Sydnee Chavis (’15), Grace Gianneschi (’15), Soo Yeon Kwon (’15)

**Middle row, from left:** Lisa Lian (’16), Lauren Hum (’16), Jessica Saliba (’16), Sina Hedayatnia (’16), Gina Gill (’16), Elizabeth Ng (’16)

**Back row, from left:** Nickolaos Kallis (’16), Miguel Roque (’16), Daniel Brein (’16)

**KINGDOM CONCERTS** (Top right)

HSDM students volunteer at Kingdom Concerts event in Cambridge, MA. The program is supported by the Pentecostal Tabernacle in Cambridge and delivers food, clothes, and faith-based gospel and hip hop music to the homeless. Cancer screenings were added in 2009 and in the following years, general medicine, podiatry, and dentistry joined the cause.

**From left:** Sydnee Chavis (’15), Grace Gianneschi (’15), Diane Lee (’14), Raghav Khandelwal (’14), Kanika Sharma (’14), Paiyal Popat (’14), Ashley Coulter (’14), Dr. Romesh Nalliah.
PROJECT BRIDGE
LOOKS FORWARD TO A
ANOTHER GREAT YEAR

by Michelle Shapiro ('15) and Caroline Tahk ('15)

Project bridge is a student-run free dental clinic at Bridge Over Troubled Waters (BOTW), a homeless shelter for young adults in downtown Boston. Under the supervision of a volunteer dentist, dental students offer basic dental services such as exams, cleanings, basic restorative needs and oral health counseling. They also offer health education sessions, which are given at the GED courses (offered by BOTW) during the day and also at the residential sites that are associated with BOTW.

The HSDM Class of 2015 has shown incredible participation and excitement to be part of such an important endeavor. Within the past year, more than twenty third year students have volunteered to treat homeless and at risk teenagers at the downtown clinic. The clinic will soon be transitioning into the hands of the Class of 2016 with Kenneth Kufta and Hanna Heck as its coordinators. We look forward to another great year of volunteering!

On June 28-29th, dental students from ASDA District 1 gathered at Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, Connecticut. This weekend marked the first ever ASDA District 1 event with representation from all five schools.

ASDA SPADES AND SPARTANS
GKAS 2014 was a huge success! 75 children between the ages of 13 months and 17 years were seen. Patients were given exams, prophylaxis and topical fluoride. In our education rooms, children had the opportunity to learn about brushing and flossing and to make casts of their thumbs using alginate and stone. Operation Mouthguard was present to give mouthguards to athletes. The event was coordinated by Martin Berger (‘16), George Chen (‘16), and Joseph De Palo (‘17).

Clockwise, from upper left: Demyna Azer (‘15) gives an exam, Chris Goodell (‘15) and his patient, Grace Gianneschi (‘15) with her patient, and Jonathan Foster (‘17) introduces his patient to flossing.
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2014!

Graduate | Program | Location
----------|---------|--------
Allysa Claire Adams | AEGD | Boston Lutheran Medical Center
Sheetal Ramesh Asher | General Practice | Boston, MA
Jin Kyung Jennifer Bai | General Practice | Seoul, Korea
Bernard James Boback III | Orthodontics | UCLA
Naed Ahmed Çajee | Endodontics | HSDM
Anu Camanocha | Orthodontics | University of Connecticut
Alan Gabriele Carlotto | Orthodontics | The Ohio State University
Victor Chiang | Orthodontics | Columbia University
Jungsuk Cho | OMFS | New York Presbyterian Hospital-Weill Cornell
Ashley Rose Coulter | GPR | University of Michigan
Kathryn Grace Coyle | GPR | Massachusetts General Hospital
Kelley M. Dentino | OMFS | Boston Children's Hospital
Adam Peter Fagin | OMFS | Oregon Health and Science University
Lauren Maxime Feldman | Pediatrics | Boston Children's Hospital
Camille Vera Gannam | Pediatrics | The Ohio State University
Tien Mong Ha-Ngoc | Prosthodontics | University of Illinois at Chicago
Derek Joshua Hou | Orthodontics | University of Washington
Christina Bonebreak Jackson | Orthodontics | University of North Carolina
Lauren Catherine Kai | Endodontics | Tufts University
Raghav Khandewal | OMFS | Highland General Hospital
Prithviraj Krishnamoorthi | General Practice | Boston, MA
Diane Subyn Lee | Pediatrics | University of Pennsylvania
Sungha Lee | Orthodontics | UCLA
Esther M. Levine | Pediatrics | Long Island Jewish Medical Center
Jin Lin | Pediatrics | Boston Children's Hospital
Justin Lee Nguyen | OMFS | Case Western Reserve University
Miguel Angel Ortiz | Prosthodontics | University of Illinois at Chicago
Piyali Vipin Popat | Orthodontics | UCSF
Chiara Giannina Rivas-Morello | Pediatrics | Boston Children's Hospital
Samira Salari | AEGD | Boston Lutheran Medical Center
Kanika Bharti Sharma | Endodontics | Tufts University
Jane Hee Shin | Periodontics | Columbia University
Matthew Todd Silver | Orthodontics | HSDM
Lisa Emily Simon | GPR | Cambridge Health Alliance
Lisa York Shan Siu | GPR | New York Hospital Queens
Chelsea Lianne Talaferro | Pediatrics | Baylor College of Dentistry

EXECUTIVE BOARD

First Delegate | Demyana Azer ('15)
Second Delegate | Tim Jaeger ('15)
Legislative Liason | Helen Yang ('16)
Secretary | Adam Patenaude ('17)
Treasurer | Ariel Tsao ('15)

GENERAL BOARD

Class of 2014 President | Tien ha-Ngoc
Class of 2014 Vice President | Lauren Kai
Class of 2015 President | Zachary Freer
Class of 2015 Vice President | Eliezer Brecher
Class of 2016 President | Nickolaos Kallis
Class of 2016 Vice President | Justin Partridge
Class of 2017 President | Patrick Vaughn
Class of 2017 Vice President | Taavish Sharrma
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Social Chairs | Miguel Roque ('16), Stephanie Koo ('17), Sydnee Chavis ('15)
Philanthropy Chairs | Joseph DePalo ('17), Martin Berger ('16), George Chen ('17)
Newsletter Chair | Grace Gianmeschi ('15)
Fundraising Chairs | Arthur Kim ('15), Christine Deek ('15), Naeem Ali ('15), Ricky Garza ('17)
Alumni Chair | Michelle Shapiro ('15)
Post-doc Chair | Nancy Li ('15)
Pre-dental Chairs | Elizabeth Eve ('15), Lauren Kuhn ('17), Cameron Lee ('16)
Advanced Standing Representative | Anitha Abdulkrahiman ('15)
Graduate Council Reps | Sepehr Hashemi ('17)
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**Questions, comments, and submissions? Email:** grace_gianneschi@hsdm.harvard.edu