



A Monthly Newsletter from ADEA Executive Director Richard W. Valachovic, D.M.D., M.P.H.

In this month's letter, Dr. Rick Valachovic, Executive Director of the American Dental Education Association, recaps last month's 84th ADEA Annual Session, "Creating Opportunities," and looks forward to 2008 in Dallas.



What You Missed If You Weren't in New Orleans for the 2007 ADEA Annual Session

Memories are made of this:

- Seeing the Mississippi River roll along beneath your hotel window
- Savoring jambalaya and authentic po' boy sandwiches
- Returning sawdust-covered from an **ADEAassist** volunteer work day with Habitat for Humanity in St. Bernard's Parish
- Sorting and recovering more than 13,000 pounds of items for distribution by Second Harvest of Greater New Orleans
- Hearing our very own "American Idol" Dreamgirl, ADEA Customer Service Representative Ms. Jettie Taylor, sing the U.S. and Canadian national anthems at the Opening Plenary
- Applauding as a very cool Dixieland jazz band escorted Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth L. Kalkwarf (he in zoot suit, she in flapper dress) to the stage at the President's Reception

Speaking of music, you should have been there Sunday night when plenary speaker Dr. Marilyn Hughes Gaston danced her way into the Versailles Ballroom of the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel. The audience at the sold-out Discourse and Dessert event was on its feet, clapping and dancing too. Dr. Gaston is a physician, a former Assistant Surgeon General of the United States, the first African-American woman to direct a Public Health Service bureau, and a major force behind the successful worldwide initiative to save babies and small children with sickle cell disease by giving them prophylactic penicillin. Herself a child of the Cleveland housing projects, Dr. Gaston called for eliminating disparities in health care for vulnerable groups, offered an approach to doing just that, identified prevention as the key to wellness, and counseled her energized audience about what they could do to manage and promote wellness.

We have been getting a lot of positive feedback about the excellence of Dr. Gaston and the other three speakers at this year's plenary sessions.

- Bestselling author Dan Pink, who wrote *A Whole New Mind*, told us that while rational left-brain thinking has made us a rich and abundant nation, empathetic and creative right-brain thinking is now essential to the success and satisfaction of individuals and organizations. Employers in developed Western countries, he said, look for employees who are not only skilled but also able to communicate with and relate to others.
- At the first ADEA Political Spotlight plenary, New York Times columnist David

The strength of the ADEA Annual Session is that it's an experience meaningful to any ADEA member, regardless of age or Special Interest Group or Section or position in the dental education community.

Brooks continued this theme. Many U.S. policy mistakes, he said, result from failing to recognize the impact of human emotion on decision making. He also offered his perspective on the 2008 U.S. presidential campaign process and what to expect in years to come.

- Dr. William Jenkins, President of the Louisiana State University (LSU) system, told the story of the harrowing and inspiring comeback effort in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. With nearly all equipment lost, the LSU School of Dentistry moved to Baton Rouge. A former LSU student arranged for a ferry boat to dock there to house 670 displaced students and faculty members. Laughing at sometimes ludicrous obstacles helped everyone to keep going. And of all the lessons learned, he said, one stands out: Don't put your most important research and equipment in basements in the city of New Orleans!*

All four plenary speakers brought us thought-provoking messages that were meaningful to any ADEA member, regardless of age or Special Interest Group or Section or position in the dental education community. In the same spirit, our incoming President, Dr. Jim Swift, told the ADEA House of Delegates that he wanted ADEA to stand for all aspects of dental education, and he introduced our new "One ADEA" campaign. You'll be hearing more about "One ADEA" over the next year.

In the exhibit hall at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, the One ADEA booth offered information about ADEA products and services, including ADEA membership, ADEA publications, the ADEAGies Foundation, and the ADEA-run ExploreHealthCareers.org website. Application Services staff members showed how new electronic enhancements will help schools keep up with the burgeoning predoctoral application pool through the ADEA AADSAS centralized application service. They also demonstrated the updated ADEA Postdoctoral Application Support Service (PASS). By the way, PASS participation is on a steady upward climb; about 75 percent of advanced dental education programs now use it.

Something that never ceases to amaze me is the sheer productivity of our ADEA Annual Sessions. Women Liaison Officers came together for a 6:30 a.m. breakfast meeting. Predental advisors from 34 southeastern institutions met for a seven-hour workshop before the Annual Session even officially started. We introduced a new look for the ADEA website and an updated logo. The ADEA Commission on Change and Innovation in Dental Education held an Open Forum on the draft document "Competencies for the New General Dentist."

Dr. Charles Bertolami was [elected as President-elect of ADEA](#) by the 2007 ADEA House of Delegates and began his three-year term on the ADEA Board of Directors alongside Dr. Diane C. Hoelscher, the new ADEA Vice President for Faculties; Dr. Ron L. Rupp, the incoming Vice President for the ADEA Corporate Council, and Joe Field, the new ADEA Vice President for Students. While welcoming these new members to the ADEA Board of Directors, we also say goodbye to leaders retiring from the Board (but not from service to ADEA!), Dr. Eric Hovland, Dr. John Killip, Candy B. Ross, and Dr. Chris Arena.

ADEA is lucky to have volunteers like these and all of the officers of ADEA's Councils, Sections, SIGs, Committees, Commissions, and Task Forces. Here is a good point for me to thank the ADEA Annual Session Planning Committee (ASPC), which is actively evaluating the ADEA Annual Session even as I write. Our string of luck continues, as ASPC chair Dr. Marnie Oakley will return to head the committee for another year.

The business of the ADEA House of Delegates brought somewhat revised procedures for the way that a Section of ADEA is created. (It must now first become a SIG.) The House also modified the ADEA Bylaws to allow for extended student membership in ADEA (that is, a student's membership will last as long as he/she is in school without the need to renew). The House also heard from Dr. Kalkwarf as he recapped the accomplishments of his year as ADEA President while at the same time insightfully prescribing areas for future attention. Look for a complete recap of the ADEA House of Delegates in May issue of the ADEA Bulletin of Dental Education Online and for Dr. Kalkwarf's speech (as well as new President Dr. Swift's speech, to which I referred earlier) in the July issue of the ADEA Journal of Dental Education.

Lunch and Learn sessions, 25 of them, brought handfuls of participants together around separate round tables to focus intently on a problem or topic: "Students Teaching Students," "Promotion Based Upon Teaching," "Dealing with Difficult Patients in the Dental School," and more. Members of the first online ADEA Community of Interest, the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, met face to face for the first time in a changing-tables format to pinpoint challenges and negotiate solutions in their choice of three different neighborhoods of the community. The ADEA Section on Dental Informatics coordinated the ADEA TechExpo, kicked off by a symposium, "Educational Technology: Transforming Dental Education." Of the 1,384 members who were in New Orleans, 750 earned continuing education credits.

And that's just a taste of what went on.

Unfortunately, the weather does not respect productive conferences. The weather in New Orleans was perfect the whole time that we were there. Bad weather in the Northeast and the subsequent airline snafus sidelined some of those who planned to attend the Annual Session.

One who didn't make it was Dr. Shelia S. Price of the West Virginia University School of Dentistry. She is Associate Dean for Admissions, Recruitment, and Access and Professor of Dental Diagnostic Sciences.

Not once but twice, Dr. Price made the 75-mile trip from Morgantown, West Virginia, to the Pittsburgh airport. Not once but twice her flight to New Orleans was canceled, and she spent hours standing in line to see an airline agent who was unable to help her. "I was a woman on a mission," Dr. Price recalls, "and I didn't give up until they told me there was no way."

Ever since her first dean encouraged her—20-plus years ago—to take advantage of the rich programming and the opportunity to network with leaders and emerging leaders from across the nation, attending the ADEA Annual Session "has been a keystone of my dental education career. I couldn't imagine my early years in dental education without ADEA. It has been a major source of energy and a catalyst for personal and professional growth." Colleagues are generous about sharing best practices, she says, and the conference is "fertile ground for learning about leading-edge concepts in dental education and cultivating collaborative relationships." In addition to the formal program, "There's an equally enjoyable informal time to connect with colleagues you see once a year, to grab a cup of coffee and communicate across campuses."

If you couldn't make it to New Orleans or even if you did, I am pleased to tell you that as of

April 20, 2007, you will be able to experience or re-experience a broad sampling of 2007 ADEA Annual Session presentations. You can locate this brand-new member service, ADEA's Live Learning Center, at <http://www.softconference.com/ADEA> Here you will find streaming video and audio presentations fully synchronized with their associated PowerPoints, as well as session information, bios, and handouts. This benefit is free, and you have the option to purchase continuing education credits as well, with discounted rates for members.

In addition to Dr. Gaston's Evening Plenary on Gender Issues, "Wellness as a Process: The Power of Prevention," the following eight 2007 ADEA Annual Session offerings are available free from the [ADEA Live Learning Center](#):

- ADEA Symposium: "How Virtual Reality Is Creating Opportunities for Curricula Development of the Future"
- ADEA Symposium (audio only): "Motivational Interviewing and Oral Health Promotion"
- ADEA Faculty Development Workshop #10: "Active Learning Strategies for Millennials and Generation Y Students"
- ADEA Symposium: "Minority Dental Faculty Development: Pilot Programs to Increase Faculty Diversity"
- ADEA Faculty Development Workshop #19: "Career Enhancement Strategies for New Educators: Designing an Orientation Program for New Faculty"
- ADEA Business and Financial Administration and Clinic Administration Section Program (audio only): "The Impact of Globalization on Dental Education—Can You See the Future?"
- ADEA Symposium: "Integration of the 'Perio-Systemic Connection' into Dental and Dental Hygiene Curricula"
- ADEA Council Program: "Ethical Lapses by Students: Opportunities for Instructional Learning"

Meanwhile, Dr. Price already has put the next ADEA Annual Session on her calendar: March 29 to April 2, 2008; Dallas, Texas; "Curricular Change: It's Time." In the spring, she says, "Information blossoms freely at the ADEA Annual Session."

I couldn't possibly say it better. See you next spring in Dallas.



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