

Guide to the American Student Dental Association Chapter Records 2005-025

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Oregon Health & Science University Historical Collections & Archives
2005
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Summary Information

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| Repository | Oregon Health & Science University Historical Collections & Archives |
| Title | American Student Dental Association Chapter Records |
| Date [inclusive] | 1934-1955 |
| Extent | 0.5 Linear feet |
| Location | Room 440, Old Library, Historical Collections & Archives, Oregon Health & Science University |
| Language | English |
| Summary | Oregon Health & Science University's School of Dentistry Chapter of the American Student Dental Association has donated its reports of activities in the period 2000-2003. |

Preferred Citation

American Student Dental Association Chapter Records, Accession # 2005-025, Historical Collections & Archives, Oregon Health & Science University

Biographical/Historical note

The year was 1969. University students across the country staged demonstrations to protest the Vietnam War, restrictive school policies, dress codes and more. Dental school admission criteria became more selective and the competition for acceptance into dental schools increased. The resulting student profile was a brighter, more socially aware individual with diverse interests and talents.

However, at this time dental school could be likened to boot camp. In fact, many instructors were indeed retired military officers. Students were told how long to wear their hair and sideburns. Some schools even had fingernail inspections. Only a handful of women and minority students could be found in dental school. To make matters worse, no system of due process existed, which meant students could be expelled with no available recourse for help. With a multitude of issues building, the solution presented itself—dental students needed to organize.

The Initial Step

That year the federal government offered the Student American Medical Association (SAMA) a \$1 million grant to coordinate student involvement in the Appalachia Project and the American Indian Health Program. Dentistry was the only health care discipline without its own national student organization. In order to receive the grant for the project, SAMA needed dental students to organize.

The presidents of SAMA (now known as the American Medical Student Association) and the Student American Pharmacy Association both attended the University of California at San Francisco. They approached Dennis Spain, a junior at the university's dental school, to start a national association for dental students.

At a January, 1970 SAMA conference that included professional students of all disciplines, Spain met David Evaskus, a senior dental student at the University of Illinois. Impressed with the scope and depth of the projects in which the other student organizations were involved, Spain and Evaskus returned to their schools and began contacting dental school deans and students across the country.

Students held a meeting in Chicago on Feb. 14-15, 1970, just prior to the midwinter meeting of the Chicago Dental Society. Although records indicate that 45 students from 26 dental schools participated, more dental schools may have been unofficially represented because several students came to the meeting without the approval of their schools' administrations. This assembly represented a new generation of dental students. Active students involved in extracurricular activities were in attendance, rather than the usual assemblage of student body presidents or faculty-recognized students.

This new brand of leaders formed the Student American Dental Association (SADA), a national organization that would recruit students to serve in federal health care projects, function as an information clearinghouse on local student issues, coordinate student lobbying efforts and establish and promote student positions on professional issues. Members elected Dennis Spain, the original organizer, as board president. The newly established SADA planned to hold its first national convention and House of Delegates meeting in New York in October 1970.

ASDA is Born SADA wanted to maintain its independence but was unable to attract enough funding to support its planned national convention. At the same time, the American Dental Association began developing its own plans for student affairs to channel student requests to the appropriate ADA departments. Approved at the 1970 ADA Annual Session, one of the first activities was to help organize a dental student convention, which was later held on Feb. 8-9, 1971.

The culmination of the conference was the formation of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA), a new national student dental organization. Its first president and other key officers were former SADA leaders. While this new organization had the ADA's approval and support, ASDA's guiding principles and leaders descended directly from the original student organization, SADA.

ASDA's Early Years In its first year, ASDA participated in minority student recruitment, migratory worker health programs in several states and Indian Health Service programs. In addition, the association published a monthly newsletter and held regional conferences on issues concerning public health.

One of ASDA's earliest activities was the development of an advocacy program to respond to students' requests for support and assistance. ASDA's Advocacy Program helped students by either directing them to local sources of assistance, forwarding cases to the ADA Commission on Dental Accreditation, or simply shedding light on injustices through ASDA's newsletter.

Also in 1986, ASDA established its Political Education Network, comprised of students who coordinate legislative activities and lobbying efforts at their dental schools. PEN monitored state and national legislative activities and organized political action at the grassroots level, such as letter-writing campaigns and voter registration drives. ASDA initiated its political advocacy network of dental students nearly 10 years before the ADA created its grassroots network for dentists. In the fall of 2000, ASDA changed PEN's name to the Legislative Grassroots Networks to better reflect its purpose and efforts. In 2013, after the continued evolution of the LGN, ASDA changed the name to the Council on Advocacy.

This collection highlights the affairs concerning the local chapter at OHSU in 2000-2003 under the guidance of Dean Sharon Turner and faculty advisor Carl W. Perkins.

Scope and Contents

Material consists of a series of reports with a wide variety of information in various formats. Textual reports, newsletters (like the "Oralgonian" and "ASDA Newsletter"), charts, tables, and color photographic prints are included.

Arrangement

The collection follows a chronologic order.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Oregon Health & Science University Historical Collections & Archives 2005

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to the public.

Conditions Governing Use

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Controlled Access Headings

Occupation(s)

- Dentistry - Oregon

Personal Name(s)

- Perkins, Carl W., D.M.D. -- Archives
- Turner, Sharon P., D.D.S., J.D. -- History

Subject(s)

- Medicine and Health
- Oregon
- Students

General note

Materials here were deconstructed from conference reports of the Oregon Dental Association 2000-2003.

B1 ASDA Chapter Records

Collection Inventory

B1 ASDA Chapter Records 2000-2003

F1 Cover Sheet and Preliminaries 2000-2001

F2 Organization and Leadership 2000-2001

F3 Membership and Communication 2000-2001

F4 Organized Dentistry 2000-2001

F5 Activities 2000-2001

F6 Advocacy 2000-2001

F7 Fundraising 2000-2001

F8 Miscellaneous materials 2000-2001

F9 Cover sheet 2001-2002

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F10 Ideal ASDA Chapter Award application 2001-2002

F11 Membership and Communication support materials 2001-2002

F12 Chapter Organization and Leadership support materials 2001-2002

F13 Organized Dentistry support materials 2001-2002

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F15 Advocacy support materials 2001-2002

F16 Fundraising support materials 2001-2002

F17 Cover sheet 2002-2003

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F20 Chapter Organization and Leadership 2002-2003

F21 Organized Dentistry 2002-2003

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F22 Activities 2002-2003

F23 Advocacy 2002-2003

F24 Fundraising 2002-2003

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Related image- Sharon Turner <http://drl.ohsu.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/hom/id/5089/rec/1> (Historical Image Collection)

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