



ALABAMA
ACADEMY of
GENERAL DENTISTRY SUMMER 2022

Composite

Dedicated To The Concerns
Of General Dentists In Alabama
Official Publication of the Alabama Academy of General Dentistry





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Editor's Notes

Bill Chesser, DMD, MAGD

DILEMMA

The Gulf Coast Dental Conference convened at the Perdido Resort Hotel June 8-12, 2022. Our dental association has been coming to this facility for our annual meetings since the very first season the hotel opened, back in the early nineties when it was a

Hilton Hotel facility.

Dr. Jim Phillips, ALDA President, and his team are to be congratulated on an exemplary program. There was an abundance of challenging CE, fine food, camaraderie, and of course the House of Delegates.

This was the perfect example of the excellence to which we have grown accustomed as Alabama Dental Association, now hosting as the Gulf Coast Dental Conference, holds its meetings each year. Results of the work done by the staff and working committees can only be determined as worthy of the highest praise.

The bad news, however, is that this venue—which has hosted our gatherings for 25 years—is now in our “Rearview Mirror”! The hotel has determined that the contract for Gulf Coast Dental Conference **will not be renewed** beyond this year!

Due diligence by Alabama Dental Association has resulted in choosing the Sandestin Hilton as the new venue for 2023. The only open date for this meeting turns out to be mid-July, 2023.

Hence, the reason for your Editor's title: **DILEMMA**. This AIDA meeting will only precede our ALAGD annual meeting, the Emerald Coast Review of Dentistry, by about six weeks! *Using the same venue, the Sandestin Hilton.*

Dr. Jim Phillips, AIDA President, acknowledges the problem, and urges support of both meetings. This amiable gesture is very much appreciated, but—as the old adage goes—it is what it is!

Some attendees may have to decide which event to support, as may some of the Exhibitors. Hopefully, most of the Sponsors will support both meetings. The financial success of any meeting is dependent upon endorsements of our Exhibitors and Sponsors.

So, what is the best case scenario? Both conventions must be successful!

Certainly, we want the best for both of our state dental conventions. New AIDA **President Dr. Adolphus Jackson** has been an outstanding leader for Alabama Dentistry during his entire career. **Dr. Mike Robinson**, ALAGD 2023 President, also a lifelong advocate for dentistry, is already hard at work on an outstanding program for the 2023 Emerald Coast Review of Dentistry.

Two great leaders! Two incomparable meetings. This does not need to be a Dilemma after all! **Support both events.**

President's Message

Charles F. Betts, Jr., DMD, FAGD



Greetings, Colleagues!

The long, hot summer is upon us and turns our mind toward more comfortable days. What about, say, the breezes of the Gulf of Mexico? The Emerald Coast AGD Annual Review of Dentistry is calling **your** name.

This year's program of CE includes much to look forward to for both dentists and team members. A sampling of these:

Thought about starting clear aligners? **Dr. Jennifer Derse** will speak on **Clear Aligner Therapy** and **Digital Workflow**.

Want to get into photography in your office? **Dr. Marvin Berlin** is presenting **Digital Dental Photography**.

Need to improve your office operations? **Dr. John Meis** can help with **Effective Dental Teams** and **Getting Patients to "Yes."**

Expanding your esthetic services? **Dr. Gigi**

Meinecke will present **Dermal Fillers** and **Facial Esthetics**.

Our Master Track series continues to provide excellent opportunities for candidates as well as general attendees. This year we have **Dr. Gordon Fraser** speaking on **Periodontics** and **Implants**. We will also have the added feature of **Dr. Toni Neumeier** hosting Master Track candidates presenting **Digital Denture Topics** for any who wish to attend. Hear your colleagues who are exploring this new technology!

Take a look at the complete program in the registration area online at **alagd.com**.

We have a great AGD, and this will be a great time together at the Sandestin Hilton in September. Don't be the one who missed it!

Charles F. Betts, Jr., DMD, FAGD

President, ALAGD

Dr. Betts (center) conducts the Board meeting at the Orange Beach meeting. Also Drs. Gary Myers, Executive Director, (l) and Steve Gardner, Treasurer (R) make their reports



GULF COAST DENTAL CONFERENCE



Dr. Adolphus Jackson of Birmingham was elected President of the Alabama Dental Association by his colleagues on June 11. Dr. Jackson is the first Black president of the state Association. He served as President-Elect in 2021 and Vice President in 2020.

Dr. Jackson was born and raised in Birmingham and received his BS degree in Chemistry and Math from Fisk University in Nashville and his DMD degree from the University of Alabama School of Dentistry in 1981. Upon graduation, Dr. Jackson served in the United States Navy for four years before establishing his practice in Birmingham. He became actively involved in the Birmingham District Dental Society and has served on a number of district committees. Dr. Jackson states, "I appreciate the opportunity to serve as President of ALDA. My experiences as an Alabama Board of Dental Examiners member, ADA Commissioner of Dental Education, ADEX

member, and an ALDA delegate have made me acutely aware of the challenges facing our profession. I look forward to working with the members of ALDA to maintain the high standards of our profession. I have had the opportunity to see the past, present, and future challenges of the dental profession and look forward to maintaining our high standard of patient care for the citizens of Alabama and ensuring the future of the dental profession."



Dr. Jackson's family who were able to attend his installation (L-R) Son-in-Law, Melvin with granddaughter Ilyric, daughter, Jasmine, Dr. Jackson, wife, Dianne, granddaughter Olivia and son Dr. Justin Jackson

*Dr. Jackson Presents-the President's plaque to **Dr. Jim Phillips** and congratulates him for a successful year leading the Alabama Dental Association*





Dr. Mark McIlwain (right) receives the Most Excellent Fellow Award



Delegates to the American Dental Association (L_R) Dr. Deborah Bishop, Guntersville; Dr. Stacy Gardner of Huntsville; Dr. Bill Ingram of Huntsville; Dr. Leigh Kent of Birmingham. Not pictured Dr. Larry Browder of Montgomery



ALDA officers installed June 11 2022 (L_R) Dr. Jim Phillips, Immediate Past President; Dr. Adolphus Jackson, President; Dr. Mary Wallace, President Elect; Dr. Bob Jones, Vice President; Dr. Mark Summerford, Speaker of the House; Dr. Preston Reynolds, Secretary/Treasurer

UAB SOD Senior Dinner

The Senior Class officially celebrated the end of a very long four years of Dental School with a casual dinner at Avondale Brewery on May 5, 2022.

Tradition has been for many years that Seniors held an annual dinner at Birmingham Country Club, hosted by Alabama Dental Association, UAB SOD Alumni Association, and the Alabama Academy of General Dentistry. This gala, however, has not been celebrated since 2019, due to the restrictions of COVID. For various reasons, the BCC venue was not open for our Seniors this year.

As our photos clearly reveal, the event held this Spring was exactly as it should have been: full of fun, good food, and warm fellowship. Guests especially enjoyed learning of our Graduates' future plans. Exciting opportunities await these young people, now entering our proud profession for the first time.



Bill Ingram and Gary Myers use the Senior Dinner as an occasion to also celebrate Cinco De Mayo



Fine music provided by this trio



Seniors and doctors mingling and having a good time!



Dr. George Petznick and wife Kathleen with Dr. Toni Neumeier



Dr. Neumeier congratulates one of her students

Tears of Joy at RAM

As I reflect on all the memories from the first RAM (Remote Area Medical) Event ever held in Alabama, so many stories run through my mind. I will never forget the joy I witnessed in the faces of so many patients. Their “Tears of Joy” brought so many smiles and profound emotions to our RAM volunteers. One patient, a 25 year old college graduate, could not stop crying after Dr. Mary Wallace (Rainbow City, AL) delivered a simple flipper partial that replaced two missing front teeth. She sobbed and mumbled, “I can now apply for a real job”. I remember Dr. Toni Neumeier starting 4 digital dentures and making 2 return trips to Gadsden to deliver them.

I remember our very first RAM patient being a medical patient who started into Labor in the parking lot on Friday night. I will cherish the memories of watching so many selfless Alabama dentists guide and mentor the more than 50 volunteer dental students. Dean Taichman, Dr. Zack Studstill, Dr. Ray Cohlmi (ADA Executive Director) and Dr. Rick Asai (Portland, Oregon) were among our volunteers.

None of us will forget the exhausting effort required to erect the tent enclosures that encircled every dental chair and unit. Eighteen Etowah County churches provided seven meals and snacks for the 450 RAM volunteers who provided free dental, free vision, and free medical for well over 600 patients. All of Alabama Dentistry came together for the weekend of April 22-24, 2022. ALDA, AGD, School of Dentistry students and faculty, AL Board of Dental Examiners, and the UAB SOD Alumni Association were all represented.

Yes, there was a lot of “prep time” ---two years of meetings for the Community Host Group, money to be raised, hotels to reserve, volunteers to recruit, and contracts to develop between RAM and the SOD and the AL Board of Dental Examiners. However, all of these challenging tasks were quickly erased and forgotten by the patient smiles and their “Tears of Joy”.

The Gadsden Community Host Group will gladly “pay it forward” and assist another Community Host Group. Let’s go to Selma, or to southeast Alabama, or to the Auburn-Opelika area, or to Huntsville, or to the Jackson-Monroeville area. The Gadsden volunteers will help you avoid the same errors we made, and we also have a little “seed money” to help you get started.

All of Gadsden and Etowah County want to express our heartfelt thanks for the hundreds of dentists, dental students, faculty, and hygienists who helped make RAM a huge success!

Sincerely, Lew Mitchell, DMD

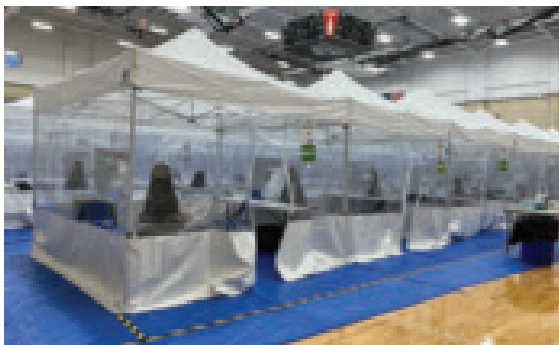
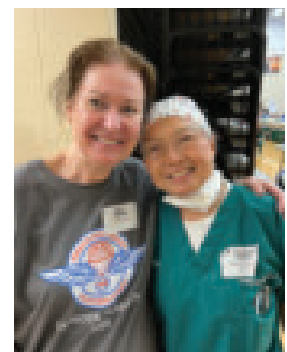


School of Dentistry students were happy to volunteer for the RAM project



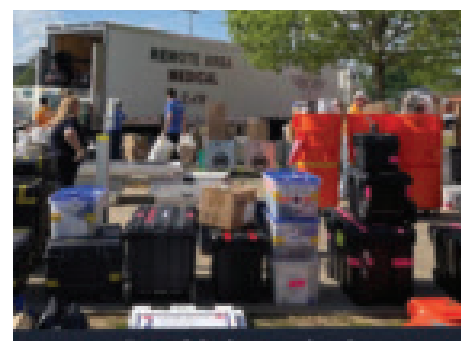
L_R: Dr. Lew Mitchell, Dr. Mary Wallace, Dr. Deborah Bishop with RAM recipients Mitchell and Wallace were clinical directors of the project

Dr. Mary Wallace (Clinic director) and Dr. Toni Neumeier, prosthodontist. Dr. Neumeier provided dentures for some patients



The clinic set-up. It is amazing how the crew accomplishes this task!

The event begins with the awesome job of unloading the truck and getting the equipment set up in the school





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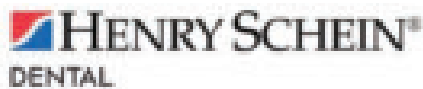
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