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NEW ORLEANS DENTAL ASSOCIATION

# NODA News

#### MISSION STATEMENT

To establish and maintain a cohesive organization that serves its membership by promoting the art, science, and professionalism of dentistry, and by communicating the value of oral health to the community.

VOL. 37 DECEMBER '99 NO. 10

## Dr. Burgess on Conservative Restorative Dentistry

BY DR. F. THOMAS GIACONA  
Chairman, Scientific Program Committee

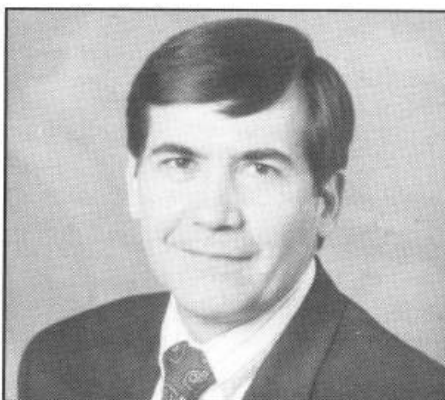
The next NODA general meeting will be on Wednesday, December 8 in LSUSD Auditorium A starting at 7 P.M.

After the business meeting, LSUSD's Dr. John Burgess will give us an update on the current concepts of conservative restorative dentistry.

Dr. Burgess will discuss the different types of preparations and give us detailed information about the different dental materials that can be utilized in this field of restorative dentistry.

This is a great opportunity for NODA members to get an hour of quality clinical continuing education from one of the nation's most sought-after conference speakers!

This is our Christmas meeting, so special libations and finger foods will be available after Dr. Burgess' lecture.



DR. BURGESS

Special thanks to Southeast Dental Laboratory of Slidell for sponsoring this month's meeting. This is their first time at a NODA meeting. Please stop and talk to their representatives before and after the meeting. See you on the 8th!

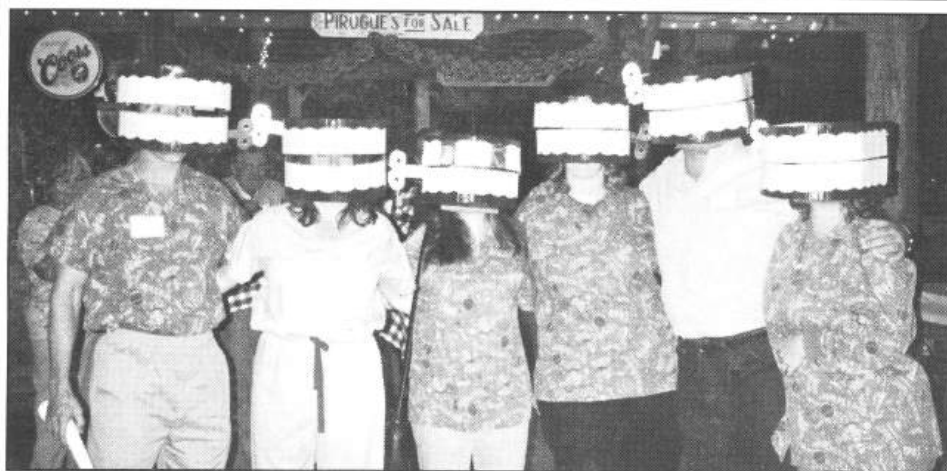
## Y2K Dues News

All members should have received their 2000 dues renewal forms which were mailed in mid-November. Please make sure you call the Central Office at 834-6449 if you did not receive your form. A new form will be faxed or mailed to you immediately. Dues for the year 2000 are due by January 1 and are delinquent, if not paid, by March 31.

There are several options for payment of 2000 dues. You may pay by check, VISA or MasterCard. Please call Mona at the Central Office for further information on payment options.

**PLEASE REMEMBER FEDERAL LAW MANDATES YOU ISSUE A SEPARATE, PERSONAL CHECK, MADE OUT TO PAC FOR ANY CONTRIBUTION TO LADPAC.** Checks to LADPAC may be mailed back to NODA along with your dues check and dues renewal form.

(Continued on page 4)



**A TOOTHsome SEXTET:** The party of Dr. Barry Goodspeed really gets in the Halloween spirit at the recent Staff Appreciation Night at the Bayou Barn. Behind those sparkling choppers are, from left, Dr. Goodspeed, Cissy Johns, Carrie Stecz, Lynn Scarengos, Paul Ramage and Connie Breuhl.

## President's Message

by GUY A. RIBANDO, DDS

### ON DENTISTRY REACHING OUT

Upon pre-registering to attend the ADA convention in Hawaii, I received many advertisements from the exhibitors. One such advertisement from Oral B contained a card that could be presented at registration to receive a paperback book, "Chicken Soup for the Dental Soul" by Canfield, Hansen and Dible. My interest was piqued by the catchy title. My wife and I and a number of my staff and family went to Hawaii and upon registering I received the promised paperback. The book contains stories by the entire dental team: hygienists, dentists, patients, etc.

These stories were about heart-warming experiences involving our profession. As I started reading the book it brought back to me a pledge that I made at the installation dinner.

You see, I had been doing missionary dentistry in Mexico for about 10 years and really got a lot of personal satisfaction from this effort, as well as seeing the great need that was filled. In many ways it changed my outlook on life. In my installation speech I talked about the possibility of NODA finding a way to be involved in this effort. It seems as though the project fell through the cracks in the press of daily tasks to be attended to.

Seven months or so have passed since that speech and I have yet to get this project organized. I hope that I have not been over ambitious in trying to seek a method of assisting this outreach.

After my installation I had a brief conversation with Dr. David Arrington and Dr. James Gaubert. Both men have been very active over the years in doing missionary dentistry in Central America. They both expressed a desire to help me with this project. I think that this would be a great way to help others and at the same time get some positive PR for the profession and NODA. I have decided that the bulk of this work will have to take place after my

term as president is up and I'll be able to give it more time. However, a dream and a goal can begin to take shape in our minds and hearts long before the first concrete step has been taken.

Briefly I would like to see NODA have a standing committee of three dentists who would oversee the project. If possible, ask for volunteers who would like to go to areas in Central America, and also be able to give them financial help in paying for transportation or supplies, perhaps not only monetary, but possibly donation of frequent flyer miles or something similar.

I would also ask for donations of supplies (needles - unused surgery instruments, anesthetics, etc.) to be given to those people who make yearly trips out of the country. There are so many ways we can help these people who do missionary work and at the same time feel good about ourselves.

I will get this project off the ground I promise. Dr. Gaubert, Dr. Arrington and I will make up the initial committee called the "Missionary Dentist Committee". We plan to meet within the next 90 days to formulate some guidelines and objectives that we would like to achieve. There is a great deal of interest among our colleagues who want to help in this type of

endeavor and I would like us to be able to demonstrate to our community that we care about our neighbors to the South and are willing to do something about their lack of dental care. Before my term is up we will have the guidelines for the committee set up including telephone numbers of dentists who are willing to accept donations of dental materials, instruments and money for these projects.

We will also publish articles about these people telling where they went and what they did on their missionary trips. Please feel free to call me if you have any advice that may be helpful to our committee.

There is one other subject I would like to say a few words about. It's about getting involved in our association. Those of us who are presently active in holding office and attending regular meetings should make an effort to get our younger colleagues active in attending regular meetings at LSU and also encourage them to join a committee such as membership, legislative, well-being, children's dental health and so on.

We can check out our actions and attitudes and see if we are making the effort to seek out and invite others to be involved. During my term as president I am constantly asking younger dentists to get involved and they are enthusiastic. Please do the same!

Our president-elect, Dr. Jim Roethele, will need a lot of help next year and this is one way we should be able to provide it. In closing, I wish you all a very Happy Holiday Season!

Guy A. Ribando, DDS  
President

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NODA News is a publication of the New Orleans Dental Assn., 2121 N. Causeway Blvd., Suite 153, Metairie, LA 70001. Phone (504) 834-6449.

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*Hawaii event climaxes amazing journey*

## LSU STUDENT WINS ADA/DENTSPLY NATIONAL TABLE CLINIC COMPETITION

Fourth-year LSU School of Dentistry dental student Phuong Nguyen has won the prestigious 1999 ADA/Dentsply Table Clinic Competition Category I, Clinical Applications and Techniques, in Honolulu, Hawaii at the annual meeting of the American Dental Association.

Nguyen, who won the table clinic competition at LSUSD in April, went to Hawaii where he competed against representatives from dental schools nationwide.

Winning first place is one of the highest honors a dental student in America can achieve. Advisors for his research project, "The Intrusion of Excessively Erupted Teeth," were Drs. Paul Armbruster and John Sheridan of the LSU's department of orthodontics.

"LSU is one of the best schools in the nation, and it is nice that we received this recognition," Nguyen said. "I have close mentors in the school whom I look up to, which is one aspect that makes it second to none."

His trip to Hawaii is another exceptional journey for this 24-year-old first generation Vietnamese American, who at two weeks old, embarked with his family on a harrowing five-day voyage on the South China Sea in his father's small fishing boat crowded with three families fleeing Communists taking over Saigon.

"As soon as we received word the Communist flag was raised in Saigon, we left," he said. Their village, Phuoc-Tinh, is 70 miles southeast of Saigon and therefore had brushes with the war. He relies on memories of his family for details of the trip: his father fished for food; fresh water was scarce.

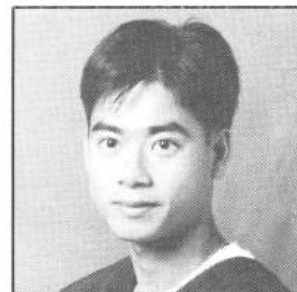
### TELL 'EM YOU SAW IT IN NODA NEWS

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These loyal friends help defray the costs of this monthly publication. ■

Though stories of piracy, drownings, rape, and murder on the high seas emerged from the unauthorized mass emigration undertaken by many who often fled for their lives in hazardous vessels, those on Nguyen's boat escaped these dangers and finally found safety when a U.S. Navy ship plucked them from the sea.

**"I think it's easy for  
those of my generation. I  
can't comprehend what  
our parents had to do."  
PHUONG NGUYEN**



His telling of this sobering tale can overshadow Nguyen's accomplishments at the dental school, where his GPA, which out of modesty he refuses to pinpoint, places him near the top of his class.

"It's important for me to set meaningful goals because a lot of people gave their lives and livelihoods for me to be where I am today, especially the servicemen who gave their lives for our freedom. If I am not productive, their deaths were in vain," he said.

After dental school, he hopes to enter a postdoctoral program in orthodontics and then to teach. He credits his respect for education to his now-deceased father, Chuyen Nguyen, who worked cleaning storm drains for Jefferson Parish because at age 50 when he arrived in New Orleans he was too old for fishing.

"My father was my greatest mentor," Nguyen said. "He did work he didn't care for to provide for us. He'd always tell me, 'Your teachers are your parents at school. If you listen to learn, the journey is half earned.'"

"I think it's easy for those of my generation," Nguyen said. "I can't comprehend what

our parents had to do." His mother, No Nguyen, gardens and often sells her produce at the Versailles Market at inexpensive prices to benefit others. "My parents were poor but made a lot of sacrifices so I could achieve my dreams," he said.

Though raised in New Orleans with his family intact, he experiences the tug many immigrants do. "It's like being adopted," he said. "I feel there's still a tie between me and my homeland." He wishes to visit Vietnam not to vacation but to contribute his services to those whose poverty is so immense that when his father visited family there he gave away everything he'd brought with him except the clothes on his back and his luggage, which was filled with souvenirs from those grateful for his generosity.

Nguyen spent two years in a Catholic seminary in Wisconsin. Though a devout Catholic, he realized his passion was for education, not the priesthood, and returned home to complete high school at Sarah T. Reed in New Orleans.

He attended Xavier University, where he

graduated summa cum laude with a B.S. in biology and, among other honors, the gold medal for a 4.0 GPA in his freshman year. He attends at Mary Queen of Vietnam church a prayer service each April 30, the anniversary of the fall of Saigon and his departure from Vietnam. Many believe they arrived safely because of their prayers to the Virgin Mary and honor her for their delivery.

Because of his father's influence and desire to return what he has received, Nguyen is determined to be a teacher and a researcher in orthodontics. "I want to leave a mark on dentistry," he said. "What better way to leave a mark than on students?"

**NODA NEWS accepts advertisements from a variety of sources, but makes no independent investigation or verification of any claim or statement contained in the advertisements. Inclusion of advertisements should not be interpreted as an endorsement by the New Orleans Dental Association or NODA NEWS.**

## Proper patient records essential in practice

Proper patient records are the cornerstone to a strong defense against legal action, according to an article in the June 1999 *Illinois Dental News*. The article by Dr. Michael Vold outlines critical elements that should be present in dental records to defend against liability claims.

As legal actions can arise years after treatment, strong documentation protects the dentist where memory cannot, Vold notes. He recommends that dental records be kept nearly forever, and that dentists make provisions for access to their old files when they change practices.

Vold writes that any alteration of the record can raise suspicions in a jury, so corrections should be made by drawing a simple line through an erroneous portion – no “white out should be used.”

Critical elements to include in a patient record are:

- **Patient Information**, including name, age, social security number, and emergency contacts.
- **Consent Forms**, specifying that treatment has been discussed, the patient has had opportunity to ask questions, and that the patient wants to proceed.
- **Medical History**, including any systemic diseases, medications, alcohol and tobacco use, family history of systemic disease, blood pressure and pulse.
- **Dental History**, with a statement of the patient's chief complaints, reactions to treatment, and reactions to anesthetic.

- **Clinical Examination**, charting the findings in the mouth, neck, and head areas. Also a complete periodontal exam, cancer screening, and radiographs. The clinical exam can be critical in protecting the dentist at a later time.

- **Diagnosis**, written for the patient based on the information gathered to this point.

- **Treatment Plan**, listing the services to be performed for the patient. It should rationally address the patient's symptoms, problems, and disease, with the goal of achieving the patient's optimal oral health.

- **Chronology Notes**, tracking the patient's progress and response to treatment. All aspects of the case should be noted, including changes in diagnosis and treatment, pre- and postoperative instructions, medications used, telephone conversations, appointments cancelled or failed, and an account of each visit. No abbreviations or cryptic references should be used.

- **Completion Notes**, summarizing the treatment from first visit to last. They should include all instructions on the overall treatment plan, and home care, and the reason for the final visit.

Keeping proper records looks like a lot of unnecessary work, Vold writes, but it far outweighs the disadvantages of being summoned to legal proceedings with inadequate records. Inadequate records are never a defense, he notes.

(From the ADA)

## Plan your NODA year

**NODA GENERAL MEETING**  
Wed., Jan. 19, 2000 – LSUSD – 7:00 pm  
“Update in Aesthetics and Implant Dentistry”  
Dr. Avishai Sadan

**NODA GENERAL ELECTION MEETING  
and NEW MEMBER DINNER**  
Wed., Feb. 16, 2000 – Carlone's Restaurant  
“Dramatic Smile Makeover – Direct Resin  
Veneers”  
Dr. Corky Willhite

**NODA INSTALLATION DINNER**  
Sat., March 18, 2000 – 7:00 pm  
Pontchartrain Center  
Dr. James Roethele

**TABLE CLINIC COMPETITION  
LSUSD ALUMNI DAY**  
Friday, March 31, 2000 – LSUSD  
Table Clinics start at Noon

**NODA CRAWFISH BOIL**  
Fri., April 28, 2000 – 7:00 pm  
American Legion Home  
(RSVP required)

**NODA GENERAL MEETING**  
Wed., May 17, 2000 – LSUSD – 7:00 pm  
“Oral Pathology”  
Dr. Jim Weir

## Y2K DUES NEWS

(Continued from page 1)

A convenient and relatively painless way of paying your dues a year in advance is through NODA's Automatic Bank Draft program. Sign up by January 10 and a monthly installment will be automatically deducted from your specified checking account. Then by the end of December, 2000, your projected dues for the year 2001 will be paid in full!

You can continue “rolling-over” in the program each year by completing an authorizing form through the Central Office. Give it some thought. You'll never have to worry about paying your dues in a lump sum again! Again, call Mona at the Central Office for more details.



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## Cancer Association sponsors oral cancer screenings

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, oral and pharyngeal cancer will be diagnosed in an estimated 30,000 Americans this year, and will cause approximately 8,000 deaths.

On average, only half of those with the disease will survive more than five years. With early detection and timely treatment, deaths from oral cancer can be dramatically reduced.

Because of this fact, the Cancer Association of Greater New Orleans is sponsoring FREE oral cancer screenings through the oral medicine clinic and the oral medicine residency program at the LSU School of Dentistry.

Location: LSU School of Dentistry, 1100 Florida Ave., New Orleans, LA 70119.

Remaining date: Wednesday, December 8, 1-3 p.m.

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### NOTICE

The Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996 repeals IRC Section 415(e) effective for plan limitation years beginning after December 31, 1999.

This change will enable an individual (or corporation) to fund for the maximum benefit in a qualified defined benefit pension plan even though such participant may have in the past contributed the maximum to a profit sharing and or money purchase plan. As a result, beginning January 1st 2000, individuals over age 50 will be able to contribute a much larger amount to a defined benefit plan than to one or more defined contribution plans.

No charge for initial consultation.

## National health web established

Backed by the American Medical Association, the National Guideline Clearinghouse made its debut on the Web in January, at [www.guideline.gov](http://www.guideline.gov).

Billed as a clearinghouse for information on clinical care intended to help health professionals improve quality of care, the Web site is a repository for evidence-based clinical practice guidelines, according to a news release issued January 14 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) developed the clearinghouse in partnership with the AMA and the American Association of Health Plans.

"This new online service gives clinicians free and easy access to the latest health care information from many sources as they make treatment decisions with their patients," said HHS Secretary Donna Shalala.

The news release noted that professional societies, managed care organizations, hospitals, and state and federal agencies, among others, have created "thousands of clinical practice guidelines." But there is no one place to gain access to a full range of guidelines, not to mention guidelines based on evidence.

Source: ADA ONLINE, ADA News Daily, January 15, 1999

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**Continuing Education Corner**

*In an effort to keep you informed about available C.E. opportunities at the LSU School of Dentistry, this area will be devoted to informational updates.*

DATE 1999	COURSE / TITLE		TUITION
Dec. 3-6	"Choosing the Box" w/Drs. Jimmy Eubank & Jeff Morley	25 cr. hrs.	DDS *\$3,950.00 *includes one Auxiliary w/DDS Each add'l Auxiliary \$ 350.00
Dec. 10	"Last Chance Course III: Successful Dental Practices for the 21st Century" w/Drs. Brent Dove, John Burgess, Cliff Dummett, Edward Swift and Kathleen O'Neill Smith, RDH	07 cr. hrs.	DDS \$ 220.00 Auxiliary \$ 145.00
Dec. 10-12	"Expanded Duty Dental Assistant" a/k/a "EDDA" w/Ms. Dottie Austin		Auxiliary \$ 369.00
January 14-16, 2000	February 18-20, 2000	March 17-19, 2000	
	"Cosmetic Dentistry Continuum-Level I" w/Drs. Eubank, Morley, Mopper, Chiche Lemon, Willhite, Burgess, Levin and Mike Bellerino, CDT	76 cr. hrs.	DDS \$5,495.00* Aux. \$ 995.00*
			*covers all three (3) Sessions
January 22	"Radiology for Dental Auxiliaries" w/Drs. Thunthy & Hubar	07 cr. hrs.	Auxiliary \$ 120.00
February 9-13	"23rd Annual Perio Review Course" w/Drs. Yukna, Caudill, et al		5-day \$1,195.00 3-day \$ 895.00
February 13	"Oral Medicine" w/Dr. Michael Glick	06 cr. hrs.	DDS \$ 165.00 Auxiliary \$ 85.00
March 24	"Rational Comprehensive Dentistry" w/Dr. Teri Icyda	07 cr. hrs.	DDS \$ 195.00 Auxiliary \$ 95.00

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**NODA News**

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