



ADA News

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BRIEFS

Toll-free number helps find a Give Kids A Smile event in area

The ADA Foundation's toll-free number for its Give Kids A Smile program helps caregivers and volunteers determine whether there is a GKAS event in their community.

Parents and caregivers seeking oral health services for their children, as well as dental team members and others seeking to volunteer for a GKAS program, can call 1-844-490-GKAS (4527) to



ADA Foundation

get contact information for the GKAS event nearest to them.

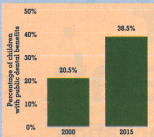
Callers will speak to staff in the ADA Member Service Center, who may provide them with contact information for a GKAS event in their area. Callers can then contact the GKAS program directly to determine availability, what services are offered and the program date. Although many GKAS events take place in early February, others occur throughout the year.

See GKAS, Page 19

JUST THE FACTS

Children with public dental benefits

Between 2000 and 2015, the percentage of children with Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program dental benefits increased by 18 percentage points.



Source: ADA Health Policy Institute, ADA.org/hpi; hpi@ada.org; see 2016

Known internationally as 'T. Bob,' Dr. Davis receives 2018 ADA Humanitarian Award



BY DAVID BURGER

Dallas — In recognition of more than four decades of service, which includes a continuing commitment to Latin America and his community in Texas, the ADA has selected Dr. Thomas Bobby Davis as the

2018 ADA Humanitarian Award recipient.

The name shouldn't ring a bell.

That's because he is best known through the global dental community, as well as to his patients, as simply, "T. Bob."

See HUMANITARIAN, Page 18

ADA: Tax bill will benefit majority of dentists

BY JENNIFER GARVIN

Washington — The House and the Senate on Dec. 20 passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, legislation that revamps the U.S. tax code for the first time in more than 30 years.

The ADA was successful in getting a number of ADA policy priorities included in the final bill, which the Association believes will benefit the majority of dentists.

President Donald J. Trump signed the bill on Dec. 22.

In an email to members, the Association thanked dentists for their significant outreach on this issue.

"Advocacy efforts were instrumental in ensuring that the tax provisions that would benefit dentists were specifically considered in the development of the final tax bill," said Mike Graham, ADA senior vice

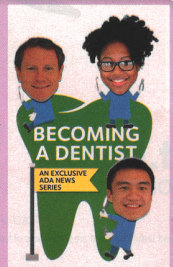
See TAX BILL, Page 6

Dental students prove their mettle with first cadaver

BY JENNIFER GARVIN

Baltimore — The first-year dental students at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry are excited. You can hear it in the hallways and around their lockers. They are excited, yes, but also a little nervous. It's the day before Thanksgiving and a much-needed four-day break awaits. It's also a professional rite of passage of sorts: their first human dissections.

See CADAVER, Page 14



12-HOUR ANTIBACTERIAL PROTECTION

- Teeth
- Tongue
- Cheeks
- Gums



Cadaver

Continued from Page 1

Everyone's on time for this class, Human Anatomy. Although taught by school of dentistry faculty, the class is held in a medical school lab: a 100-yard trek across the street. In the changing room outside the lab, the chatter ranges from what people had for lunch to the wisdom of trying to mask the pervasive smell of formaldehyde with something more pleasing. Eucalyptus, perhaps? Or maybe a dab of Vicks VapoRub?

Prior to today, many, if not all, have never seen a human cadaver. To prepare, they watched a series of videos ranging from scalpel safety and disposal to fundamental dissection skills such as removing skin and cutting bone. They also absorbed clinical tips on suturing and stapling. During all of it, safety precautions such as wearing protective eyewear and taking proper care of the dissection tools were stressed.

But nothing prepares you for the actuality of seeing your first cadaver. The elegance and symmetry of the body's muscles. The up-close look at its nerves and veins and tendons. The mustard-yellow color of fat.

"We are very fortunate to be able to study human anatomy at this level," said LaShonda, who before to today had only completed rat and frog dissections. "They say that no two people are alike, and you really find that is true in anatomy lab."

For this first assignment, school of dentistry Professor Guang Bai, M.D.'s class is tasked with differentiating between the superficial and deep fascia of the neck and upper back. To do this, they will need to cut three flaps of skin on both sides of the neck and back in order to view these muscles: latissimus dorsi, trapezius, deltoid and sternocleidomastoid. All of the cadavers in this particular lab have been cut horizontally at approximately the level of vertebra L1. The abdomen, pelvis and lower limbs are used for other anatomical and teaching procedures.

The students — about 130 total — are assigned to tables in groups of five or six. Each table houses its own cadaver wrapped in red protective plastic casing until the students are given the signal to begin the dissection. Once it's time, they'll remove the casing and turn the body over to reach the back.

In a way, these scientific donations will serve as their very first patients — something the students keep in mind even as they contemplate the generosity shown by those who have donated their bodies to further knowledge and the enormity of the assignment.

Before the class began, Ben wondered how he would handle it. He needn't have worried.



Lecture: Dr. Guang Bai talks to first-year dental students prior to their Dec. 6 human anatomy dissection lab, telling them, "I want you to be the best students in the country."



Gear up: First-year dental students get ready for their dissection lab.

"[I had] so many questions," he said. "From what would it smell like to what I should wear and what to do with my scrubs, gown and shoes afterwards. Would I even make it through the lab without fainting? All those random thoughts and more raced through my head in anticipation. Really, what it all comes down to is that people gave their body to science, so thousands of students could learn and hopefully play a part in bettering health care for everyone. When I think of it like that, as a learning experience, none of those small details matter."

A few students grow woozy, most likely from the fumes. They take refuge outside in the hall or lounge areas before returning to complete the assignment.

"What I found to be really helpful for me personally was just to focus on the lab procedures step by step," said Dan, whose previous dissections were a pig and a frog. "If I am just focused on the task at hand, I don't need to step back and process the whole idea that I am cutting into a body."

It takes about 25 minutes to cut through

the hypodermis to reveal muscle. Methodically working on the upper back, the students take turns cutting through the layers of skin. Skin, it turns out, is tougher than they thought, with the added challenge of not cutting too deep.

"It's like leather," one student observes at table 26, Dan's table.

"Did I cut deep enough?" wonders another. "This would be muscle fiber here," Dr. Bai advises. "It's easier if you are in the correct plane of dissection."

A member of the dental school's neural and pain sciences department, Dr. Bai, along with three additional dental faculty members, stops by each dissection table several times during the assignment.

"This is good," he says during a visit to table 11, Ben's table. "You can see the dorsi muscle."

During dissections, the students aren't graded. Instead, they use the experience to learn how to identify the muscles they will be expected to know during their practicals (clinical exams) at the end of the semester. The cadavers that most easily display examples of specific muscles will be



Lab time: Ben, LaShonda and Dan pose before class.



noted as the best ones to study.

Instructor Diana LaPasha, Ph.D., suggests sharing an online file with the class on which tables to study prior to the exam.

At table 22, LaShonda's table, things are going slowly. Her group has one of the larger cadavers and has to devote precious time cutting through layers of fat, while they try to get to the assigned muscles.

Once the assignment is complete, the final step is cleaning up, which includes preserving the cadaver for the next time and the next. This means closing up the skin flaps to keep the body moist and wrapping up tightly.

"Never leave your cadaver open to air," Dr. Bai said. "Close it back up."

"We didn't lose anyone," remarks Thema Hepburn at table 11.

"Good job, team," Ben said.

"The experience of seeing a human cadaver definitely lived up to the anticipation," Ben said. "Today, I was lucky enough to take a giant leap into becoming a competent medical clinician who specializes in oral health."

"You really can't anticipate how you'll react to seeing a cadaver for the first time," LaShonda said. "I found myself feeling a little sad at certain points of the dissection because while this is our first patient, they're also someone's loved one, and you can't help but be a little curious about their story."

Editor's note: In November, the ADA launched Becoming a Dentist, a new series that follows three dental students at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry — Dan Yang, LaShonda Shepherd and Ben Horn — during their journey of becoming dentists. The first story in that series, which introduced the students, ran in the Nov. 6 ADA News. ■

Addressing a 'critical human need': Community comes together to open dental clinic for uninsured

By MICHELLE MANCHIR

Jacksonville, N.C. — Before the Caring Community Dental Clinic held its grand opening Nov. 16, its director, Dr. Virginia Wilson, had already seen 125 patients who needed care.

To be sure, Onslow County needed a dental clinic for underserved and underinsured people. The need was met last year when the local hospital, a nonprofit agency and a handful of dentists in the community came together to make it happen.

The demand for dental care was clear to Onslow Memorial Hospital before it appeared on the radar of Onslow Community Outreach, a nonprofit based in Jacksonville that oversees the dental clinic, in addition to a shelter, soup kitchen, Christmas program and medical clinic. The hospital "was experiencing a large



Special grand opening: From left, Dr. James Wilson, Dr. Virginia Wilson, director of the Caring Community Clinic, and their son, Hunter Wilson, smile for a photo with a \$25,000 check donated by the North Carolina Dental Society Foundation.

amount of patients coming through the emergency department with dental pain," said Erin Tallman, senior vice president and patient advocacy officer at the hospital. "In reviewing the data, we determined that most of these patients were uninsured and had minimal access to preventative dental care. This meant that not only were the numbers increasing but the acuity level was as well."

Around the same time, Dr. Wilson, retired from her own private practice, started to find that the patients she was seeing as a volunteer at a community dental clinic in a neighboring county were, like her, making a 90-minute drive from their home-

town near Jacksonville.

"I began to be weary of the long commute only to treat patients that lived in the same community I did," she said.

In June 2016, Dr. Wilson had a chance meeting with the Onslow Community Outreach's board director, Don Herring. "The next thing we knew my husband and I were meeting" with Ms. Tallman; Theo McClammy, the founder of Outreach Community Care; the director of the nonprofit's medical clinic; and a local dentist, Dr. Thomas Morgan, who is a trustee the North Carolina Dental Society and the son of another local dentist, Dr. Ken Morgan Sr., whose former dental practice building was up for sale.

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