

Subject: FITD: Raft Debate, Black History Month Trivia, Alumni Pride, and more!

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From: The Dental College of Georgia

To: Hudson, Stacey

Web Version



Filling in the Details

News for Colleagues, Alumni, and Friends of the DCG

February 24, 2023

Student News

Save the Date for Research and Table Clinic Day 2023



Save the date for 34th annual [Research and Table Clinic Day](#) (RTCD) on Wednesday, March 8. The DCG Office of Research hosts the event annually to showcase scientific research and innovative clinical care with a focus on current practices and projects being conducted at the Dental College of Georgia. This event is sponsored in conjunction with the Georgia Section of the [American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research](#) (GA-AADOCR).

Student attendance at RTCD is mandatory, and includes the 8th Annual David H. Pashley Lecture, featuring [Dr. John O. Burgess](#), Clinical Research Director at Louisiana State University. A prolific researcher, he has authored more than 400 articles, abstracts and books. He has served as a consultant to the American Dental Association's Council on Scientific Affairs and is actively conducting research in

clinical evaluations of ceramic restoratives, low shrinkage posterior composites, self-adhesive restoratives, Bioactive materials and vital pulp therapy materials. Dr. Burgess lectures extensively nationally and internationally and has presented more than 1,000 all-day continuing education courses.

[Visit the RTCD page for more detailed information.](#)



OMFS Will Host Annual Extraction Day



The DCG Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Selective (OMFSS) will hold their annual Extraction Day event on March 11. This event pairs experienced faculty and residents with dental students to reinforce some fundamental techniques for performing extractions and managing potential complications. Another purpose of this event is to raise awareness about the OMFS specialty.

“More extraction practice with these oral surgeons leads to more confidence among students, which ultimately translates to more confident, competent dental professionals,” said **Tyler Day**, Class of 2024.

The club is a student organization for those interested in learning more about OMFS and getting more surgical hands-on practice with dental models, and Extraction Day is one way that the organization provides this practice. In preparation for the event, OMFS members solicited residents as training partners, checked out extraction kits and coordinated with various sponsors so that students could engage in hands-on practice in the third-floor Thomas P. Hinman Simulation Lab.

“It’s a great learning environment, the faculty and residents are very knowledgeable,” Day said. “It’s a great opportunity to get hands on feedback and advice from people who know what they are doing, and they’re always happy to help.”

This is the second Extraction Day that OMFSS has organized. Last year, this event drew about 100 students.

[Click here to enjoy photos from last year's event.](#)



Photo Gallery: SNDA Hosts Black History Month Trivia



In honor of Black History Month, the DCG chapter of the **Student National Dental Association** hosted a Black History Month-themed trivia contest on Feb. 22. Thirty participants competed for gift cards in a Jeopardy-style quiz game, while enjoying pizza and snacks. The event celebrated black culture and history while testing DCG students' knowledge and enlightening observers. The question that stumped most of the participants was: "True or False: The gap between white American and Black American infant mortality rates has only improved slightly in past 50 years?" The surprising answer is: "False. The rate has gotten marginally worse since 1968, and **Black babies are twice as likely to die as white babies**. The only time the health gap between white Americans and Black Americans narrowed in both relative and absolute terms was after the Civil Rights victories of the '60s."

The winners of the trivia contest were: **Akosa Akpom** (Class of 2025), D2 Representative for SNDA; **Kansington Gloster** (Class of 2025); **Dionne Aikhionbare** (Class of 2024), President of SNDA; and **Aliyah Hill** (Class of 2026), D1 Representative for SNDA.

[Click here to enjoy more photos from the event.](#)

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Alumni News

Alum Earns COI Fellowship



Dr. Sayde Souther (DMD, '18) was inducted into the Fellowship of the **International Congress of Oral Implantologists**. She received this honor in New Orleans at one of their meetings. It is awarded to an individual who has placed and restored 20 implant cases which have been in function for at least one year. The candidate must also complete 100 hours of implant training over a five year period. The ICOI recognizes the Augusta University Dental College of Georgia General Practice Residency as one of the best implant training programs in the country and thus awards this honor to our Residents with a letter from **Dr. Michael Pruett**, Assistant Professor in the Department of General Dentistry.



Souther practices in Brunswick, Georgia, at [Dentistry By Dr. Angela Britt](#) (DMD '92).



Alum Named Top Patient-Rated Dentist by Find Local Doctors



[Dr. Maydda Qureshi](#) (DMD, '20), a practicing dentist at [Elegant Smiles](#) in Brookhaven, Georgia, was among those honored by Find Local Doctors as a Top Patient-Rated Dentist. The clinic has earned countless superior reviews and five-star ratings from patients across multiple online sources.

Find Local Doctors is an online directory that requires practitioners to earn a minimum of 15 Google Business reviews with a 4.6 average rating or higher, and at least 30 additional reviews with at least a 4.6 average in one other directory or website, such as Facebook, Yelp or Healthgrades.



Other News

Photo Gallery: DCG Hosted Annual Raft Debate



Dozens of DCG family members attended the second annual DCG Raft Debate on Feb. 16 in the J. Harold Harrison, M.D. Education Commons, hosted by the [AU Office of Philanthropy & Alumni Engagement](#). The entertaining event was sponsored by [Komet USA](#), which is celebrating 100 years of business, and generously provided various snacks and refreshments.

The event pitted [Dr. Cynthia Hipp](#), Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry; [Dr. Ana Carolina Morandini](#), Assistant Professor in the Department of Oral Biology & Diagnostic Sciences; and [Dr. Joshua Jernigan](#),

Resident in the Department of Orthodontics, against one another to argue in favor of being saved from a deserted island based on the worthiness of their speciality. Their arguments were complicated by [Dr. Kevin Frazier](#), DCG Vice Dean, who played Devil's Advocate. [Dr. Regina Messer](#), Associate Dean for Admissions and Interim Associate Dean for Student Affairs, moderated the debate.

The debaters were funny, witty and playful, and the audience was interactive. Panelists dressed up for their parts, in sunglasses, a Santa suit and a tooth fairy costume. Ultimately, the winner of the debate was Dr. Morandini, representing the periodontics specialty. The event was free and open to all AU students, faculty, staff, and residents.

[Click here to enjoy photos from the event.](#)



Have You Taken Our Training Survey?



The DCG is examining training opportunities that we may offer periodically. Your feedback will help us to deliver training in the areas most needed or desired. If you have not already taken our survey, please complete it now. The survey is only 3 questions and is anonymized, so your answers will not be tied to your identity. Please click [this Survey Link](#) and let us know what training or informational sessions are important to you. The survey will be open until March 1. Thank you in advance for your time and feedback. Let's work together to build a great work culture!

If you have any questions or encounter any issues with this survey, please feel free to reach out to Stacey Hudson at 706-721-2832 or smcgowenudson@augusta.edu.

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Photos & Video: Noon Arts Series features DCG Performers



The Oblique Ridge Bluegrass Band, a musical group comprised of rotating members of the DCG family, were among those to perform at the Noon Arts: Live at the Lee talent show on Feb. 14. Members of the band have included students, residents and faculty over the years, and currently includes [Dr. Greg Griffin](#), Assistant Professor in the Department of General Dentistry, on guitar and vocals; [Dr. Van Haywood](#), Professor Emeritus in the Department of Restorative Sciences, on bass; [Missy Hewett](#), Class of 2025, on vocals; [Reese King](#), Class of 2024, on violin/fiddle and vocals; [Min Lim](#), Class of 2025, on flute; and [Dr. Rod Mackert](#), Professor in the Department of Restorative Sciences, on mandolin. The name of the band, Oblique Ridge Bluegrass Band, is a pun combining the tradition of country and bluegrass bands drawing nomenclature from

Appalachian topography, and also referring to a ridge on the chewing surface of an upper molar tooth.

In addition, two DCG family members won prizes at the performance: [Lewis Luke](#), Senior Dental Biomedical Engineering Technician, won a dozen roses; and [Tristen Bennett](#), Class of 2025, won a box of Valentine's Day chocolates. [Dr. Kevin Frazier](#), DCG Vice Dean was the master of ceremonies for this event that is sponsored by the [AU Arts Council](#).

[Click here to enjoy photos from the show.](#)

[Click here to enjoy video of the entire Noon Arts performance.](#)

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Publications

[Hunt, M., Pruetto Jr., R.](#) "[Semi-Precision Root Anchors for Partial Dentures.](#)" Decisions in Dentistry. 2023 Jan 12.

Brackett MG, Wu J, Bachand WR, Brackett WW: Adhesive Class VI Resin Composite Restorations of Worn Mandibular Incisal Edges: A Two-year Case Report. Operative Dentistry. 2023 Jan 1;48(1):6-9.

Boyleston E, Haywood VB, Rodgers R. "Prevent Bleach-Related Tooth Sensitivity". Dimensions of Dental Hygiene. January 2023; 21(1)14-15.

Jennings H, Perez HL, Frazier KB, Haley CM, Sharp H, Vuthiganon J. Supporting Hispanic LGBTQ+ Patients (Apoyando Pacientes Hispanos LGBTQ+). [PDF] J Hispanic Dental Association (JHDA). Vol 5, Winter 2022, 66-75.

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From the Interim Dean



It is impossible to exaggerate the role that stress plays in our lives. Whether it is the demand from classes, the weight of board exams, the pressure of publishing, the anxiety of advancement or the general strain of work-life balance, stress is everywhere.

The DCG is committed to a culture of well-being, where our faculty and staff can lead healthy and fulfilling lives at work and at home. So we encourage you to take advantage of the resources that are available to you.

For students, [Student Counseling & Psychological Services](#) provides mental health services in a safe and inclusive environment. The [Jags Live Well](#) initiative promotes holistic living. [Student Health and Veteran Services](#) offers professional medical and psychiatric services. And [Military and Veteran Services](#) delivers open communication and educational benefit processing.

For employees – residents, staff and faculty – the university offers additional support. [The Employee Assistance Program](#) is a no-cost, confidential University System of Georgia program providing resources and counseling services. When money is a stressor, turn to the free resources offered for [your financial well-being](#). The USG also offers a [series of events](#) centered around employee well-being, and [even nutrition services](#).

But you can use strategies right now and every day to support your happiness and health:

1. [Connect with your loved ones](#). Whether it is virtual or personal, connecting with loved ones is crucial to humans as social animals. Reach out frequently, spend time together when possible. You'll never regret making time for family and friendships.
2. [Set boundaries](#) – for others and for yourself. Turn off the news. Take a break from your screens. Leave work on campus. Seek peace and quiet.
3. [Find ways to move that make you happy](#). Walk the Canal towpath. Bike the FATS trails. Try aerial yoga. Check out a climbing gym. Hit the lake for a swim. From virtual workouts to the great outdoors, engage your muscles and enjoy the benefits.
4. Feed your body and mind. [You've heard it all before](#): Drink plenty of water; eat fruits and vegetables; and consume protein-rich nuts and fish like salmon, mackerel, trout and sardines. Bored? Add a sugar-free flavor to your water. Roast veggies with seasoning. Marinate fish overnight before broiling. Simple culinary pleasures feed our bodies and minds, providing essential nutrients in accessible ways that boost memory and concentration.
5. Remember to breathe deeply. [Deep breathing is an easy, convenient tool](#) to combat anxiety and high blood pressure. Do it often, do it right.

6. Finally, **invest in good sleep**. Be consistent with your bedtime. Sleep in a quiet, dark, cool room. Remove electronics. Avoid large meals, caffeine and alcohol. **Sleep impacts every system** in our body, from mental health to digestion to our immune defenses. Prioritize it.

Carve out time for yourself that contributes to good physical and mental health. Your work and your life will thrive.

On the Horizon

February 19-25

Homecoming Week

March 8

34th Annual Research Table Clinic Day

March 24

DCG Open Doorway

April 26

DCG Spring Fling

April 28-30

Alumni Weekend

April 28

44th Annual Marvin C. Goldstein Lecture Series and Luncheon
Dental College of Georgia Alumni Reception

April 29

Strengthening Our Legacy
President's Brunch
DCG Class of 1973 Dinner
DCG 40th Reunion Emeritus Dinner
DCG Class of 1973 Reunion Dinner

May 8

DCG Senior Picnic

May 10

DCG Senior Awards

May 12

DCG Hooding

June 28

DCG Freshman Picnic

Opportunities. Experience. Research.



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