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President's Message

Let's Get Down to Business! — Spring 2025 Update

The business we have accomplished over the past several months continues to be a testament to the unwavering dedication of the volunteers of VDHA. From their attendance at countless ZOOM meetings and their continuous behind the scenes updates, our members work tirelessly to ensure Virginia remains ahead of the curve in a rapidly changing healthcare landscape. I remain humbled and grateful to learn and grow alongside each of you.

As we charge into a busy and critical 2025 fall legislative season, we are actively working with lobbyists to prepare our legislative strategies. This proactive collaboration is vital in strengthening our voice on issues that impact our profession and the communities we serve. I hope that you were able to read VDHA's position paper regarding ADAs Resolutions in response to workforce shortages, as well as sign and share our petition, which has now garnered over 500 signatures!





Virginia
DENTAL HYGIENISTS'
ASSOCIATION

President's Message

In addition, we are engaged in ongoing media and press training with ADHA in anticipation of upcoming public-facing campaigns. This is an exciting step forward in raising public awareness and positioning dental hygienists as highly trained, licensed healthcare providers and the need for the public to #lookforthelicense when seeking preventive oral health care. I ask each of you to share social media posts with this hashtag to promote VDHA's reach.

I want to acknowledge a significant organizational update: VDHA has officially terminated its contract with Association Leadership Partners (ALP). In response, an Ad Hoc Committee has been formed to assess and address the future management needs of the Association. This marks an important transitional moment, and we are focused on ensuring a seamless path forward that reflects the evolving needs and values of our members.

Despite the changes, our momentum remains strong. The termination of our contract with ALP brought to light critical challenges, including gaps in communication, signs of member burnout, and a clear need to enhance our organizational effectiveness. We remain committed to streamlining internal operations and expanding micro-volunteer opportunities that support work/life/volunteer balance for our members.

I am energized by the opportunities ahead. We are seeing increases in membership and increased outreach from members to find their place within the Association. I encourage each of you to find a way to engage—whether through a committee, event, or micro-volunteer role. Your voice matters, and your participation strengthens our collective impact.

Thank you for your continued commitment to Dental Hygiene and to VDHA. Let's continue doing business together—and doing it well.

Warmly,

Ryan C. Maphis, BSDH, RDH

President, Virginia Dental Hygienists' Association



Northern Virginia Dental Hygienists' Component



NVDHC is winding down for the year. Betsy DiSilvio, our fearless CE chair, organized another wonderful continuing education course, “Seconds Count: Medical Emergencies in the dental chair.” The speaker was Tiffany Dillon, RDH BSDH EMT.

As mentioned in the previous edition of the Curet, Sherry Basham along with several NOVA students participated in the Potomac Library Fair at Minnieville Elementary Schools’ story time. We have pictures we wanted to share from this. She also participated celebrating Dental Hygiene Day at the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic by screening patients along with Betsy DiSilvio.

The NVDHC celebration for the NVCC graduating Class of 2025 was Thursday, May 1st at the college. The VDHA Leadership Award was presented to Sarah Pham. She has shown leadership in her class and passion for the profession and served as a student delegate at the VDHA HOD 2024.

NVDHC will be having an executive board meeting on Tuesday, May 6th to wrap up the year and plan the fall CE courses.



Greater Richmond
Dental Hygienists'
Component

Emily Comia, RDH – Chair, Secretary, Membership Chair

Hagir Saleh, RDH- Trustee, Legislative Chair

Marlene Rhodes, RDH, CDA- Financial Liaison, Legislative Chair

Melvina Talley, RDH - Continuing Education Chair

LaTasha McLee, RDH- SCADHA Liaison

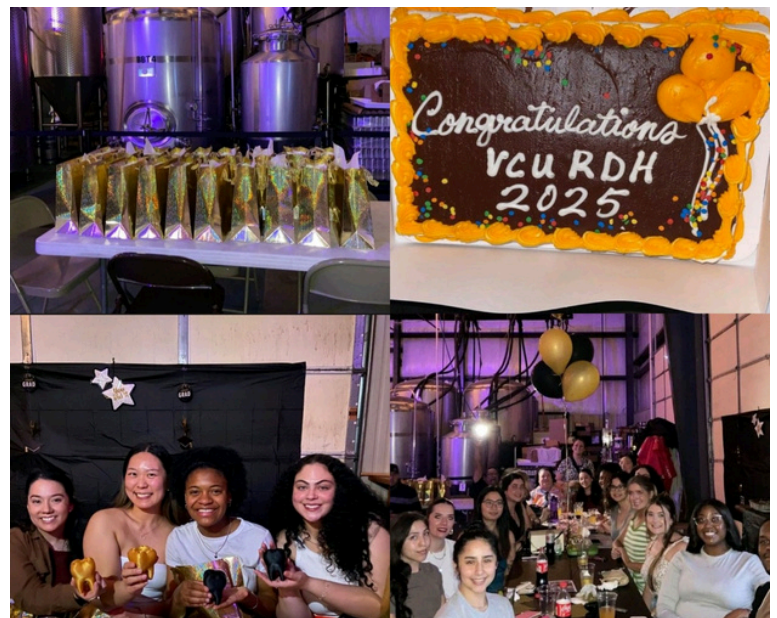
Events: On March 21–22, 2025, active component members participated in the Annual Spring Scientific Session held at the Falls Church Marriott Fairview Park. The event was a success, welcoming 14 new members and celebrating 2 membership renewals.

We held our last meeting on Monday, March 24th, 2025 at the Wegmans in Short Pump. On April 4th, we welcomed VCU seniors to a celebratory happy hour at Midnight Brewery in Rockville, VA, in honor of their graduation and exciting journey into the profession ahead.

Leadership: VDHA and GRDHC has leadership and mentorship opportunities for those who are interested.

Legislative: We've invited all component members to apply to serve as a delegate or alternate for the upcoming VDHA House of Delegates. If interested, please reach out!

Active members and VCU dental hygiene students were encouraged to email their legislators and oppose recent ADA-backed legislation. Members were informed that VDHA plans to pursue professional autonomy in Virginia and were directed to the VDHA website and social media for more details.



Recognition: The VCU Dental Hygiene program was well represented at the Annual Session of the American Dental Education Association in National Harbor, MD. Senior student Natasha Smith received the prestigious Linda DeVore Scholarship; junior student Sania Pullen participated in the ADEA Student Leaders for Social Change program and was selected as the ADHA District III Student Delegate; and senior student Seidy Lainez-Zuniga took part in the Go-Dental Program at ADEA.

Volunteer Opportunities: Attending component meetings and/or following our social media pages are great ways to find resources and volunteer opportunities.

CEs: Upcoming opportunities for continuing education will be sent as soon as scheduled.

Next Meeting: 6:30 PM on July 21st, 2025 on ZOOM (fully virtual)



Tidewater Dental Hygienists' Component

Co-Chairs: Jessica Suedbeck
and Emily Ludwig

Trustee: Kelly Fox

Financial Liaison: Ameerah
Dixon

Media Management: Sam Vest

Membership: Ameerah Dixon

Advocacy Liaison: Adaira
Howell

Greetings from this side of the water, Tidewater!

Hopefully most of you have read about all the activity that is going on within our profession. If you have not already signed the petition that is circulating around social media, please ask one of the ADHA members and we can get you to the right place. Our profession has been on this teeter totter for years about assistants having the ability to scale teeth. Well, recently it has been passed in other states that they can now do so under specific guidelines. We need to protect the patient's wellbeing as well as protecting our profession.

Tidewater recently held our 4th annual Beyond the Classroom event with the Elmer College of Health Science School of Dental Hygiene. This was our biggest turnout yet! The event included presentations by multiple facets of the dental hygiene profession as well as a vendors exhibit hall. ODU's senior and junior classes were in attendance, and it was a well-received event.

Please keep up with TDHA and any events that are coming your way on our social media outlets: Facebook, Instagram, and even TikTok. www.yourvdha.com



If you're interested in a component leadership role, we would love to hear from you! Please email trustee Kelly Fox at flosswithmerdh2015!@gmail.com

Monticello Dental Hygienists Component

Monticello component has been busy planning things for the year. This spring and summer we plan to get together as a group to help with Charlottesville's Fridays After Five events. It is a great opportunity to be with other colleagues and make a little money for various causes in the community. Unfortunately like many other organizations there are only a few active members laying the groundwork and paving the way for others to enjoy the benefits of their labor. They have spent many hours sending letters and emails, attended Board of Dentistry meetings and spoke to legislators on behalf of all licensed hygienists. Thank you to these dedicated individuals. Having said this, we are facing a pivotal time in our profession, facing challenges that could affect the future of dental hygiene. We need to stand together and look to our leadership to guide us through this time. It is our duty to stay informed by being involved. Together we can make it happen!

The Peninsula Component hosted a 1 hr ZOOM CE on Thursday February 27, 2025 at 7 p.m. Periodontal Pathogens: What does that mean? a review of microbiology, the main periodontal pathogens, and touch on salivary testing. Presented by Amanda Woodland.

PDHC members Marge Green and Julie Martin attended ODU's Advisory Board meeting Thursday April 24, 2025 6:30-8 with a tour of the new Health Sciences blg and Hygiene Clinic.

PDHC is searching for Delegates and Alternate Delegates to represent the Peninsula for House of Delegates 2025. The dates are September 12 and 13 in Richmond. Please contact me at Mommaj1333@gmail.com if you would like more information.

We are also looking for volunteers in our components leadership positions. If you have been thinking on how you can help at the Component level please let us know or if you have suggestions for future CE's and speakers. You can email us at pdha07@gmail.com.

We looking for members to help in the following positions; Chair and possible Co-Chair, CE Co-chair, Membership Chair, and Delegates.

We will keep you posted on future CE and social events.

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless"

Sherry Anderson

Peninsula Dental Hygienists' Component

Chair- VACANT

Trustee- Julie A. Martin

Financial Liason- Marge
Green

Membership- VACANT

CE Coordinator- VACANT

Delegates 2- VACANT

Alternate Delegates 2-
VACANT

Northwest Dental Hygienists' Component

We held an excellent CE class on April 12 “Marijuana 101 – Breaking the Stigma – Helping Your Patients Achieve Healthier and Clean Marijuana Experiences.” It was taught by Kimberly Farley, MHSc, RDH. She was both knowledgeable and engaging. If you have a chance to attend a CE by her, we highly recommend it.

Our next CE will be held via ZOOM on May 8 from 8pm – 9pm. It is worth 1CE. “Agents of Change: How Dental Hygienists Can Drive Eco-Friendly Prevention and Early Intervention” with Brittany Cox, MA, RDH.

The next component meeting will be held Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 7pm and will be held at Sal’s Italian Restaurant in Edinburg, VA. After that, we will take a Summer Break until August.

No submission at this time for Southwest Dental Hygienists' Component.



VIRGINIA DENTAL HYGIENISTS' ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION REPORT OF GIFTS
January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025

JEFFERSON CLUB- \$1,000 or more

Northern Virginia Hygienists' Component
In honor of NVDHC members

MADISON CLUB- \$500 to \$999

MONROE CLUB- \$250 to \$499

PATRIOT CLUB- \$100 to \$249

Irene Connolly
In Honor of the
2024 VDHA Foundation Board of Directors
Marge Green
In Appreciation of Trish MacDougall,
VDHA Treasurer

Susan Pharr

Sheila Sheats

Julie Simms

In Honor of Sheila Sheats,
for all her years of dedication

Greater Richmond Dental Hygienists' Component

Monticello Dental Hygienists' Component

Peninsula Dental Hygienists' Component

In Honor of Julie Martin, VDHA Trustee

Southwest Dental Hygienists' Component

Tidewater Dental Hygienists' Component

DONOR CLUB- \$1.00 to \$99

Karen D. Avey

Cathy Berard

Laila Bonner

Susan Daugherty

Emilie Ellis

In Honor of the dental hygiene profession
and all who fight for it

Heather Fonda

Tammy Goswick

Catherine Q. Johnson, RDH

In Memory of my Mother, Rita S. Quinn and

In Memory of my Sister, Marguerite Q. Zappa

Joyce Kwiatkowski-Spieler

In Honor of all the volunteers

Emily Ludwig

Mimi Magyar, RDH

In Honor of Ryan Maphis, VDHA President

Julie A. Martin

Kimberly May

In Honor of my Mom, Linda Mohler and

In Memory of my Dad, Jack Mohler

who have always been my biggest supporters

Lien Phan

Thank you

Merrilyn Prucha

Susan Reid-Carr

Maureen Sawin

Jessica Suedbeck

Derik Sven

Maureen Thompson

In Honor of all dental hygiene colleagues who
actively support our profession

Deanne Watson

Jennifer Zimmerman

Northwest Dental Hygienists' Component

All contributions enable VDHA Foundation to continue to make a significant difference in the lives of many. Thank you to all who have contributed this past year to continue the work of the Virginia Dental Hygienists' Association Foundation. Your tax-exempt donation will be utilized in performing the charitable, educational, research and scientific activities of the association. A financial statement is available upon written request from the Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs. If you would like to make a donation, please send it to: Marge Green, VDHA Foundation Treasurer, 1919 Old York Highway, Yorktown, VA 23692-4143



**Virginia Donors to the ADHA Institute for Oral Health Foundation
July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 (effective 3.17.25)**

Karen D. Avey, RDH, BSDH, MSDH
Sherry Lynne Basham, RDH
Cathy Berard, BSDH, RDH, FADHA
Emilie Bonovitch Ellis, RDH, BSDH
Irene Connolly, RDH, MS
Elizabeth DiSilvio, RDH, MS
Heather Rachelle Fonda, RDH
Margaret Lappan Green, RDH, MS, FADHA
Donna D. Kirley, RDH
Mimi Magyar, RDH
Marion C. Manski, MS, RDH
Julie Anne Martin, RDH
Michelle R. McGregor, RDH, BS, MEd
Carolyn B. Moore, BSDH, RDH
Sheri Ann Moore, RDH, BSHS, FADHA
Kristen Dianne Robbins, RDH, MPH
Sheila B. Sheats, RDH
Julie F. Simms, RDH, BS
Natasha Smith, RDH
Jessica Rae Suedbeck, RDH, MSDH
Christina Tulloch, RDH
Heather Tuthill, RDH, BSDH, MPH





Patron Donors at Scientific Session March 19, 21-22, 2025

Thank you so much to these donors who supported the 2025 Scientific Session as Patrons for the program.

Karen D. Avey
Cathy Berard
Susan Daugherty
Emilie Ellis
Marge Green
Sylvia Grow
Catherine Q. Johnson
Joyce Kwiatkowski-Spieler
Mimi Magyar
Kimberly May
Maureen Sawin
Maureen Thompson
Teresa Vick

VDHA Legislative Fund Donors at Scientific Session March 19, 21-22, 2025

Thank you so much to these donors who supported the 2025 Legislative Fund

Karen D. Avey
Cathy Berard
Susan Daugherty
Emilie Ellis
Catherine Q. Johnson
Joyce Kwiatkowski-Spieler
Mimi Magyar
Julie A. Martin
Kimberly May
Lien Phan
Merrilyn Prucha
Susan Reid- Carr
Maureen Sawin
Maureen Thompson
Deanne Watson

Planning and Development Council

Scientific Session:

A big shoutout to my wonderful and hard-working team, Jessica Flaig, Emily Ludwig, Sheila Sheats, Emilie Ellis, Trish MacDougall and Cate Langley. Without you, SS would have not been a success.

The 2025 Scientific Session was held March 19 on Zoom, and March 21-22, in person, at the Marriott Fairview Park Hotel. Our speakers delivered a wide variety of topics, and they really loved how engaged we were. ADHA President-Elect, Lancette VanGuilder, BS, RDH, PHEDH, CEAS, FADHA and VDHA President-Elect, Derik J. Sven, MBA, MPH, RDH, CDT, FADHA, both delivered powerful messages about RDH's autonomy.

It was great to see many friends in person and I enjoyed the camaraderie. However, despite having nationally known speakers presenting at our conference, only 135 people attended. SS attendance has been declining over the years because there is a lot of competition, including free CEs available online. Hotels have become enormously expensive and because of this, the registration fee has become higher and higher. My council is tasked with changing the Scientific Session (location, format, etc).

I would like to thank the VDHA Foundation for their generosity. The Foundation paid for the speakers' fee, hotel and travel expenses, and the audio-visual equipment rental at the hotel.

2025 HOD

Date: September 12, 11 AM-September 13, 6 PM

Location: Hilton Richmond Hotel and Spa, Short Pump

Registration for HOD will be July 15-Aug. 15, 2025. Please register on time.

Annual reports/HOD reports will be due on July 16.

*Mimi Magyar, RDH
Council Chair*

Member Services Council

New Professional Member

What is New Professional membership?

This is for graduates of an undergrad or grad DH program within the last two years. Currently available for 2023, 2024, and 2025 graduates!

What is special about this category?

Dental hygienists getting started in their career can join their professional association and **SAVE 35%** on national, state AND local dues for two years after graduation! New grads can use all the savings that they can get - yet it's a critical time for building connections, leadership skills and learning the ropes. We created this new option so early career RDH can access the pro benefits of ADHA for less \$ as they get more established in the profession. It's a win-win!

What does this mean for current non-members who graduated in the last two years:

- 2023 graduates can JOIN as a new professional, and enjoy reduced rates through 2025
- 2024 graduates can JOIN as a new professional and be eligible to RENEW for 2026 at the reduced rate.



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GERMANNA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Germanna Community College Dental Programs Connect Highlights Student Engagement and Achievements

Germanna Community College's **Dental Programs Connect** initiative continues to foster a vibrant learning environment rooted in professional growth, collaboration, and service. Through a robust calendar of events and initiatives, the program demonstrates its commitment to producing well-rounded dental professionals prepared to serve their communities.

Club Meetings Foster Connection and Planning

The Dental Programs Connect student club kicked off 2025 with monthly meetings beginning on February 5th, offering students opportunities to connect, plan upcoming events, and discuss leadership opportunities. Subsequent meetings in March, April, and May included recognition celebrations, health-focused activities, and planning sessions for future fundraising efforts and community service projects.

Celebrating the Dental Profession

In March, the program celebrated Dental Assistant Recognition Week, honoring students with thoughtful treats and gestures of appreciation for their dedication to patient care. April followed with a celebration of Dental Hygienist Appreciation Week, where students shared sweets, dental-themed trinkets, and personal stories from their clinical experiences, strengthening interprofessional respect and camaraderie.

Supporting Mental Health and Wellness

During the April club meeting, students participated in a mental health awareness walk around the Locust Grove Campus. The walk encouraged open dialogue about mental wellness while promoting physical activity and peer support—an essential aspect of balancing the demands of dental education.

Outreach at STEAM-H Day

The Dental Programs Connect initiative made a strong impact at Germanna's STEAM-H Day on April 5th, educating both children and adults on oral health. Through engaging hands-on activities like the Sugar Smackdown, Tooth Decay Egg Experiment, and Alginate Impression Molding, students delivered meaningful public health education with creativity and enthusiasm.

Delivering Preventive Care: Oral Cancer Screenings

On April 24th, Dental Programs Connect students participated in Germanna's Employee Benefit Fair by performing oral cancer screenings for employees. This real-world experience enhanced their clinical skills while promoting early detection and preventive care within the community.

Looking Ahead: Service, Celebration, and Professional Development

The remainder of 2025 holds a wealth of opportunities for students:

- **May 7th:** The club will host a baby shower for an expecting member and brainstorm fundraising ideas to support future initiatives.
- **June 2nd:** Students will welcome guest speaker **Heather Fonda**, a dental professional who will share industry insights and career advice.
- **July through October:** Monthly meetings will continue with new discussions and activities TBD.
- **November:** Students will prepare for multiple volunteer opportunities, including a partnership with Moss Free Clinic, and possible participation in a golf or tennis tournament fundraiser.
- **Fall 2025:** Students will engage in the RAM (Remote Area Medical) Project and participate in the Mass Casualty Incident Drill, reinforcing emergency preparedness and interdisciplinary collaboration across Germanna's healthcare programs.
- **December 3rd:** The year will conclude with a Graduation Potluck, sending off graduating students with heartfelt goodbyes and celebration.

Committed to Growth and Service

Through these activities and events, Dental Programs Connect at Germanna Community College demonstrates an unwavering commitment to student leadership, community service, and professional excellence. As the program continues to grow, it remains grounded in its mission to prepare skilled, compassionate dental professionals ready to serve with integrity and impact.

LAUREL RIDGE
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

Happy Spring 2025!

Laurel Ridge Students have many activities to share for this issue of the Curet!

To raise awareness of Oral Health during Children's Dental Health Month, the students participated in the 2025 Valley Health Community Wellness Festival. This was an all-day event where in addition to health screenings, more than 80 exhibitors participated, sharing important health and wellness information. The tooth fairy was present to answer any questions regarding the "tooth under the pillow" process! Toothbrushes, toothpaste and education were shared with approximately 1000 individuals of all ages.



Nataly Hernandez and Skylar Kritzman joined RDHs from around VA by attending the 2025 VDHA Scientific Session. The students participated in Fundraising as well as courses throughout the weekend. They enjoyed networking, meeting and talking with RDHs, speakers and exhibitors. Thank you to all who supported them in their fundraising efforts.

A baby boy is on the way! He is scheduled to arrive in April! Emma Hammond was the recipient of a baby shower hosted by SCADHA in April. He has a diaper motorcycle for the ride home from the hospital!



Laurel Ridge is proud to announce Skylar Kritzman was chosen as the recipient of the VDHA Alice Hinchcliffe Willams Scholarship. Skylar will receive a monetary award of \$1500.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE



The second-year students at NOVA have successfully reached the finish line! As most of us prepare for our national board exams, some classmates have already taken and passed them. Additionally, our class achieved a 100% pass rate for the clinical board exams!

This semester, we implemented a two-semester-long project that involved presenting to a community site to help educate and improve oral health awareness. We also had many volunteering opportunities, one of which was NVDC, a low-fee clinic serving the community, along with several public library events!

Additionally, a few second-year students spent their spring break at Hygiene Blaze, a laser certification program offered by Heartland Dental. We thoroughly enjoyed learning about the various applications of laser technology in dentistry and are very grateful to have been chosen as participants.

As our final week came to an end, our dedicated instructors surprised us with a dinner celebration during which we recited our oaths and received our awards. The Golden Scaler Award was given to Yoonah Lee, the Star Student Award went to Susana Echeverria, the Northern Virginia Dental Hygienists' Component Award of Appreciation was awarded to Shalini Jain, and the Virginia Dental Hygienists' Association Leadership Award was presented to SCADHA President, Sarah Pham.

The second-year students have completed their coursework and are almost ready to join the association as registered dental hygienists, ready to make an impact in our field. Our experiences during this program were like valuable tools being added to our hygiene kit. Our clinic provided us with hands-on experience, the classroom offered us essential knowledge, and our patients taught us to care with compassion. Together, these experiences have enhanced our skill set and equipped us to enter the real world with a complete cassette.

I'm honored to have written the curet for the third time and for every opportunity presented to me by my instructors over the past two years!

Here's to closing this chapter and embracing a new beginning!
Submitted by: Sarah Pham, NVCC SCADHA President, Second-Year Student

We have officially reached the halfway point of what is known as our most challenging semester yet. Our rigorous curriculum consists of the "3 P's" (Pathology, Pharmacology, and Periodontics), along with Medical Emergencies and Dental Hygiene 2, in addition to our clinical experiences.

Transitioning from practicing on our partners to treating real patients with complex medical histories and varied oral health needs has marked a significant milestone in our education. Every clinical encounter brings unique learning opportunities that are nerve-racking and exhilarating. Although the workload feels overwhelming at times, it is incredibly rewarding to see how far we have come since our first day.

The recent IPE/MCI - The Mass Casualty Event held this past April provided invaluable experience as we worked alongside individuals from other healthcare programs. The event emphasized our role as healthcare providers and the importance of making critical decisions in the event of a medical emergency.

We are now preparing for our finals in 2 weeks. Best of luck to all first-year peers!

To our second-year Bigs who are getting ready for board exams: Your success inspires us daily. Good luck on your boards!

Submitted by: Nhu Nguyen - First Year Student



NVCC 2nd year students - public library event



NVCC 1st year student



NVCC 2nd year students
Laser certification



NVCC Children dental reading day



Sarah Pham - Virginia Dental Hygienists' Association Leadership Award

SPRING CURET
2025

adha™

Virginia
DENTAL HYGIENISTS'
ASSOCIATION

OLD DOMINION
UNIVERSITY

Summer is right around the corner! The Old Dominion University School of Dental Hygiene (SODH) Class of 2025 has finished all their course and clinical work, ADEX Clinical Examination and many have taken their National Boards already! Graduation here they come! The Class of 2026 is finishing up exams and working diligently! We are so proud of what the Class of 2025 have accomplished, and their accolades were celebrated their Awards and Pinning Ceremony on May 1st!

The SODH is also very excited for another successful HOPES Clinic patient care day on March 29th. In partnership with Eastern Virginia Medical School's (EVMS) HOPES Esperanza Clinic the SODH Seniors provided prophylaxis and fluoride varnish, bitewing radiographs, panoramic radiographs, Silver Diamine Fluoride, and sealants to the HOPES child patient population equating to about \$9,000 in national average fees!

Congratulations to MSDH students, Gabbi Green and Jocelyn Weinhagen, who successfully defended their master's non-thesis research! Gabbi's non-thesis project is entitled "Medical-Dental Integration: A Comparison of the U.S. and International Programs." Jocelyn's non-thesis is entitled "An Update on Clinical Competency Exams for Dental Hygiene Licensure." Congratulations to both!

Finally, The ODU School of Dental Hygiene was well represented at the 2025 American Dental Educator's Association Annual Session (ADEA) in National Harbor, MD. Ann Bruhn, Chair and Associate Professor; Brenda Bradshaw, Assistant Professor and Entry-Level Program Director; Dr. Denise McKinney, Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director; Emily Ludwig, Assistant Professor and SCADHA Advisor; Dr. Melissa Sullivan, Assistant Professor; Jessica Suedbeck, Assistant Professor and Senior Clinic Coordinator; Amber Hunt, Clinical Assistant Professor and Junior Clinic Coordinator; and Adaira Howell, Lecturer and Community Outreach Coordinator, all attended and served on various committees, presented evidence-based research, and networked!

Way to go SODH! Follow the ODU SODH on Instagram @odu_dentalhygiene and on Facebook @Old Dominion University School of Dental Hygiene to see highlights of our graduating Class of 2025 and stay up to date with all things ODU SODH! We look forward to an amazing summer

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Ludwig, RDH, MSDH, PhD(c), Assistant Professor and SCADHA Advisor



From left to right: Assistant Professor, Emily Ludwig; Jessica Suedbeck; Associate Professor and Chair, Ann Bruhn; Assistant Professor Melissa Sullivan; Associate Professor Denise McKinney (not pictured, Assistant Professor Brenda Bradshaw; Clinical Assistant Professor Amber Hunt; Lecturer Adaira Howell) at the ADEA 2025 Annual Session

VIRGINIA
COMMONWEALTH
UNIVERSITY

Here at Virginia Commonwealth University's SCADHA, we as students pride ourselves on maintaining high academic standards and supporting the community around us. Since the fall, both the Junior and Senior classes have been very active as there is a lot I wish to share!

In February, VCU conducted the "Resilient Smile Project". This was an interprofessional collaboration led by the VCU School of Pharmacy, promoting positive oral health and combating the opioid crisis. Oral hygiene kits were put together to donate to local pharmacies. Senior student Natasha Smith served as the School of Dentistry's representative for this event. Back in March, we had students and faculty attend the 2025 ADEA Annual Session & Exhibition. Students who attended this were able to develop in leadership, network with peers, and build upon their professional and ethical abilities. I would also like to give a shout out to Sania Pullen, DH2026, as she was recently chosen to serve as ADHA District III Student Delegate. We wish to congratulate her and look forward to seeing what she will accomplish. Another event SCADHA was proud to be a part of was sponsoring a blood drive alongside the American Association of Public Health Dentistry, with the American Red Cross. This was presented as a "challenge" amongst the interprofessional health schools on VCU MCV Campus, to see who could get the most representation. Our goal was 22 units, and we ended up having 33 units donated. This will help save 99 lives! SCADHA hopes to have the opportunity to sponsor another event like this in the future. The Senior class just participated in the VCU School of Dentistry's Research Day! There were so many wonderful projects presented by the senior class, ranging from the topics of social media to forensic science, to artificial intelligence. All the seniors worked so hard on these presentations, and we are so proud of the outcome! Recently the VCU SNDA hosted their annual Oral Cancer Walk, as April is Oral Cancer Awareness Month. Students from both the DH3 and DH4 classes attended to spread awareness. The SCADHA Advocacy Committee had a table at this event, featuring a "Spin the Wheel" game, involving trivia about oral cancer.

I am delighted to share that the Junior Class is about to complete our first year! Not long ago, we were jumping right into the clinic after winter break, feeling all sorts of emotions as it was our first time experiencing patient care. I can truly see so much growth from everyone in the Junior class. I can not wait to see how we all will continue to succeed in the future. The DH3 class looks forward to welcoming the incoming class in the fall, providing them mentorship to navigate the wild ride that is dental hygiene school! As the Senior class finishes up their time here, and graduates. SCADHA wishes them the best of luck in all of their endeavors, as they are leaving VCU well-rounded clinicians.

– Kendall Wiles, Virginia Commonwealth University SCADHA President



SPRING CURET
2025



Virginia
DENTAL HYGIENISTS'
ASSOCIATION

VIRGINIA WESTERN
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

Virginia Western Community College is proud to announce that Joanie Bryant, Clinical Instructor in the Dental Hygiene program, has been awarded the prestigious George B. Vaughan Leadership Award for Outstanding Adjunct Faculty. This esteemed recognition celebrates adjunct faculty who exemplify excellence in leadership, teaching, and unwavering dedication to student success — qualities that Dr. Vaughan himself inspired throughout his career.

Award recipients consistently demonstrate superior teaching, a commitment to delivering high-quality instruction, and a deep responsiveness to student needs, interests, and concerns. They also provide exceptional support for individual student development and incorporate relevant, contemporary knowledge from their field into their teaching practices. With nearly 39 years of experience in dentistry, Bryant has devoted her career to patient care, mentorship, and education. A registered dental hygienist and clinical instructor at Virginia Western for the past seven years, she is known for guiding students with the same compassion and commitment that have defined her professional life.

Since joining the college, Bryant has embraced every opportunity to make a meaningful difference in students' lives. She serves as the lead teacher for Radiology Lab, and also teaches Office Practice and Ethics as well as Management of Emergencies to dental hygiene students. Through these roles, she fosters a supportive and engaging learning environment, encouraging both academic excellence and personal growth.

Bryant's dedication continues to have a lasting impact on her students and colleagues alike, making her a deserving recipient of this distinguished award.



No submissions at this time for Wytheville Community College or Danville Community College.

2024-2025

VDHA Officers, Councils, Committees, ADHA Delegates and Foundation Directors

<p>President: Ryan Maphis</p>	<p>Administrative Council: Chair (PE): Derik Sven</p>
<p>President-Elect (PE): Derik Sven</p>	<p>Budget and Finance: Emilie Ellis Treasurer: <u>Trish</u> MacDougall Vice President: Heather Fonda Policy, Bylaws and Resolution Chair: Julie Simms Procedure Manual: Heather Fonda Recording Secretary: Samantha Smith A.H. Williams Fund: vacant—Abby Geiser to serve as mentor Speaker of the House: Sam Vest Alternate Speaker of the House: <u>Jessica</u> Suedbeck Nominations Committee: Kristen Robbins (IPP) Vacant (Past President) Vacant (General Member)</p>
<p>Immediate Past President (IPP): Kristen Robbins</p>	
<p>Vice President: Heather Fonda</p>	
<p>Treasurer: Trish MacDougall</p>	
<p>Recording Secretary: Samantha Smith</p>	<p>Planning and Development Council: Chair: Mimi Magyar</p>
<p>Speaker of the House: Sam Vest</p>	<p>Continuing Education Chair: Emily Ludwig Ways and Means: Co-Chairs Jessica Suedbeck vacant House of Delegates Chair: Mimi Magyar Foundation Director: Chair Kristen Robbins HOD Secretary: Amanda Woodland VDHA Foundation Liaison: Irene Connolly</p>
<p>Alternate Speaker of the House: Jessica Suedbeck</p>	
<p>Trustees:</p>	<p>Public Health, and Professional Affairs: Chair: Cathy Berard</p>
<p>01-Northern Virginia: Julie Simms 02-Greater Richmond: Hagir Saleh 03-Tidewater: Kelly Fox 06-Monticello: Nancy Dragovich 07-Peninsula: Julie Martin 09-Southwest Virginia: Kara Davis 10-Northwest: Meghan Glago</p>	<p>Advocacy and Legislative Co-Chairs: Marlene Rhodes and Tracey Martin Board of Dentistry Liaison: <u>Tyler</u> Craddock and Troy Garrett, LSG Firm Lobbyists: Tyler Craddock and Troy Garrett, LSG Firm Public Health Committee: Brooke Crouch Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority Liaison: Vacant VA Health Catalyst Liaisons: Dr. Denise McKinney Susan Pharr Free Clinic Liaisons: Sherry Basham Head Start Liaisons: Regina Dixon <u>LaTasha</u> McLee VA Rural Health Association Liaison: Dr. Rita Phillips VA Department of Health Liaison: Brooke Crouch Educational Committee: vacant</p>

<p>2024-2025 ADHA Delegates</p> <p>*Emilie Ellis, Head Delegate Kristen Robbins, 1st delegate Ryan Maphis, <u>Pres</u>, 2nd delegate Melvena Talley, 3rd delegate Cathy Berard, 4th delegate Emilie Ellis, 5th Delegate Derik Sven, <u>PF</u>, 1st alternate delegate Heather Fonda, 2nd alternate delegate Kate Hoffman, 3rd alternate delegate Marlene Rhodes, 4th alternate delegate Tracey Martin, 5th alternate delegate</p>	<p>Member Services Council Chair- Julie Martin</p> <p>Membership Committee Chair: Vacant Newsletter Editor: Emilie Ellis Awards: Meghan Glago Historian: Julie Martin Website Manager: Association Leadership Partners (ALP) ADHA IOH Liaison: Cathy Berard Social Media and Website Committee: Derik Sven Mentorship Committee Chair: Emilie Ellis SCADHA Liaisons: Vacant SCADHA Consultant/VDHA Foundation Liaison: <u>Irene</u> Connolly Student Member: Vacant</p>
<p>VDHA Foundation Directors: Chair: Kristen Robbins</p>	<p>Leadership Services Council:-- Business temporarily suspended Chair: Derik Sven</p>
<p>Chair Elect: Ryan Maphis, President Secretary: Cathy Berard Treasurer: Marge Green VDHA Liaison: Irene Connolly Ways and Means: Jessica Suedbeck Continuing Education: Emily Ludwig VDHA Treasurer: Trish MacDougall</p>	<p>Leadership Development Chair: Duties and responsibilities redistributed to CE Chair</p> <p>*** All other committees of this council have been redistributed to other councils.</p>

VDHA 2024 – 2025 Calendar

Spring Scientific Session

2025 March 21-22 Falls Church Marriott Fairview Park, Falls Church, VA

House of Delegates and Professional Development Workshop

2025 September 12-13 Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa/Short Pump, Richmond, VA

2026 October 2-3 Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa/Short Pump, Richmond, VA

Executive Board Meetings

2025 July 16 7pm ZOOM

Ignite VDHA Leadership Workshop

2025 September 13 (With HOD) Hilton Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa/Short Pump, Richmond, VA

Quarterly Reports Submission Deadline: (two weeks prior to Executive Board Meetings)

2025 July 5

2025 September 21

2026 January 3

HOD Reports Year-End Reports Submission Deadline:

2025 July 31

Awards Nominations Deadline

2025 August 24

Curet Article Submission Deadline: (two weeks following Executive Board Meetings)

2025 August 2

2025 October 19

2026 January 31

Council Meetings: Council meetings should take place online, and reports should be submitted two weeks prior to Executive Board meetings.

VDHA Foundation

2025 May 14 ZOOM

ADHA Annual Conference/Business Meeting:

2025 October 4-6 (Conference) Long Beach, CA

ADHA District III Meetings

2025 March 6 7:30-9:00pm via ZOOM D3 Orientation

2025 June 1 9am-4:00pm via ZOOM D3 Reference Committee meetings

ADHA House of Delegates:

2025 June 27-28

ADHA Executive Board Meetings:

ADHA Fall Board of Directors Meeting TBD

ADHA Winter Board of Directors Meeting TBD

Virginia Health Catalyst Summit

2025 Date TBD (projected Fall of 2025)

ADHA Dental Hygiene Leadership Summit

2025 Date- TBD Virtual

Virginia Board of Dentistry-Regular Board Meetings:

2025 June 13 9:00am Richmond, VA
2025 September 12 9:00am Richmond, VA
2025 December 5 9:00am Richmond, VA

2025 MOM Projects: (see VDAF.org for details)

2025 May 15-16 MOM- Dentures only Abingdon, VA
2025 June 14 Special Olympics MOM Richmond, VA
2025 July 18-19 MOM- Wise Wise, VA
2025 September 25-26 MOM- Dentures only Abingdon, VA

VDA Annual Session

2025 Sept 26-27 Hilton Norfolk The Main Norfolk, VA

ADA Annual Session

2025 Oct 23-25 Washington DC, VA

ADEA Annual Session

2026 March 21-24 Montreal, Canada

International Federation of Dental Hygienists / International Symposium on Dental Hygiene (biannual)

2026 July 9-11 Milan, Italy
2028 June 2028 Dubai, United Arab Emirates

RDH Under One Roof

2025 July 18-20 Dallas, TX

Our Mission

The Mission of this Association is to improve the public's total health, and to advance the art and science of dental hygiene.

Our Vision

The Vision of this Association is oral health professionals promoting total health.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Virginia Dental Hygienists' Association is an inclusive organization that continues to encourage diversity within the profession of dental hygiene. We will not discriminate against race, gender, sexual orientation, or religion. We will be courteous, respectful and encourage positive dialogue. We will work towards more equitable access to quality oral health care and increase public awareness of the benefits of prevention, education, and research. We will continue to embrace diversity and an inclusive environment that encourages curiosity, innovation, and accountability.

Thank you to all who contributed information for this issue of the Curet. I appreciate you!

Respectfully, Emilie Ellis, BSDH, RDH

Deadline for submission for the Summer Curet is Saturday, NOON, August 2, 2025