The Dallas County Dental Assistants Society (DCDAS) celebrated with the reading of the DARW proclamation by the mayor of Farmers Branch, Texas, at the March 6 city council meeting. Pictured (left to right): Lori Linger, RDA, DCDAS president; Alyssa Russell, RDA, DCDAS president-elect; Marthann Dafft, DCDAS editor; and Mayor Robert Dye.

Concorde Career Colleges Inc., a network of 16 campuses nationwide focusing on health-care career training, celebrated dental assisting students, connected with alumni, and thanked its employer partners during DARW 2018. Concorde showered students with treats, invited alumni to share their success stories and advice for students on Concorde’s social media pages, and offered educational outreach within its campuses and communities.

The Orlando campus “got punny with some honey buns.” Throughout the week, dental assisting students received pun-laced treats.

Concorde students practice and refine their skills through hands-on training programs.

Grand Prairie, Texas, students used DARW as an opportunity to highlight their profession and teach good oral health to other students on campus.

The Portland group gathered together for a quick picture between their activities. Cohorts are more than just classmates; they become their own little family.

NEWS BRIEFS

Dental Assistants Recognition Week
Dental Assisting students from Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, New York, celebrate each year by presenting a “DARW Certificate of Appreciation” to dental assistants who have guided them during their internship at the affiliation site during the program. Pictured (left to right): Jenah Schnellbaecher, student; Gabriele Hamm, RDA, CDA, CPMDA, dental assisting coordinator; Kaaren O’Brien, dental assistant; and Dr. Jeffery Adams, preceptor.
Dental Assistants Recognition Week

The Fortis Institute celebrated DARW each day at its Scranton, Pennsylvania, campus. On Monday, students were given a break from the conformity of the school uniform with a dress down day. On Tuesday, special guest speaker, Pennsylvania Dental Assistant Association (PDAA) President Dottie O’Keefe visited the school to talk about professionalism and the history of ADAA, as well as the value and importance of membership in ADAA. O’Keefe brought homemade gifts and the PDAA donated pizza for all the students to enjoy for lunch. On Thursday (because the school was closed on Wednesday for snow) was a huge celebration: The Northeast PA Dental Assisting Society (NEPADAS) provided breakfast and dental tic-tac-toe games; a representative from Young Dental Supply gave a presentation on coronal polishing techniques and materials, and fluoride varnish, and served Philly Soft Pretzels; and all 30 EFDA students from all classes gathered to mingle and develop mentor relationships. Raffle tickets were given to all EFDA students who then had the opportunity to win a number of prizes. Students appreciated the recognition and were inspired and enthusiastic about the start of their new careers as dental assistants.

Ultimate Medical Academy celebrated DARW in a big way with daily activities for the Clearwater, Florida, campus. Ultimate Medical celebrated students’ accomplishments and focused on their future careers in health care. A highlight was the Pathway to the Future tile design. Students created their own unique expression of “What does a dental assistant mean to me?” The tiles will be used as a physical pathway on campus to inspire future students as they pursue their dreams. Students also enjoyed guest speakers, breakfast and lunch, and prize giveaways.

Keira Wilson designs her tile for the Pathway to the Future walkway.

Keira Wilson, Naija Norton, and Sadie Pell show off their Pathway to the Future tiles.
Dental Assistant Saamiya Pirbhai acknowledged the role of her former professor Leslie Fehl of Daytona State College, during DARW. “[Fehl] instilled the same love and compassion she harbors in her heart into ours as well,” says Pirbhai. While the DARW celebration was low-key at Pirbhai’s practice, she and her colleagues raised $10 to purchase small tokens of appreciation for each other. That $10 “brought wide smiles to faces and a happier day.”

Santa Fe Community College held a DARW meet and greet in conjunction with the SMILES Club. All participants shared their experiences as dental assistants or DA students. Priscilla Baldonado, the most senior dental assistant in attendance, helped cut the cake. A drawing was held for free prizes.
Dental Assistants Recognition Week

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DAA Vice President Robynn Rixse, AS, CDA, EFDA, FADAA, visited the Lancaster County (PA) Career and Technology Center in honor of DARW. The Lancaster County Dental Assistants Society provided pizza and soda as well as goodies and prizes. Four students signed up to become members of ADAA. Each student received a copy of the Dental Assistants Creed, which their instructor plans to include in their portfolio to be given to them at graduation.

Remembering Carol Lindig, CDA-Emeritus, RDA

Carol Lindig started working in 1955 for Drs. Oscar and Henry Bjorndahl in St. Anthony Park, Minnesota, and then enrolled in the dental assisting program in the University of Minnesota’s Department of Continuing Education under the direction of Dr. Ainsley Thorson. She was certified in 1959 by the Dental Assisting National Board. When the Bjorndahls retired in 1967, Carol joined the University of Minnesota Hospital’s Outpatient Dental Clinic as a dental clinic supervisor (1968-1977) and the School of Dentistry Dental Assisting Program (1977-1981).

I met Carol at the University of Minnesota when I was a resident in pediatric dentistry and also worked in the Hospital Outpatient Dental Clinic. During that time, I was impressed with the professional way Carol approached her job. She was always focused on making sure the equipment was maintained, instruments sterilized properly, and the patients’ needs were being met.

When the University of Minnesota dental assisting program was discontinued in 1981, my practice was fortunate to hire Carol as our clinic coordinator. During her career with our pediatric group, Carol was charged with opening three offices where her duties included everything from hiring/training dental assistants to selecting and maintaining the equipment to managing hazardous waste guidelines and procedures. She was highly effective and motivated in her job and passed on her professional attributes to many dental assistants and dental assistant students.

Carol was an active member of numerous dental assistant organizations. She was president of the Saint Paul Dental Assistants Association in 1963 and served on many committees. In 1968, she was president of the Minnesota Dental Assistants Association and received the Achievement Award. In 2001, Carol received the MDAA Loyalty Award. She served on and was chairman of many committees. She served as the MDAA representative to the MDA Education Committee and was a member of the Minnesota Board of Dentistry Registration test item committee for several years. She was an attendee at the ADAA annual sessions, six times as a delegate and two times as an alternate. She was a member of the ADAA credentials committee three times and presented table clinics at the ADA annual meeting.

She served on advisory committees for the dental assisting programs at Suburban Hennepin County Vocational-Technical Institute, 916 Vocation-Technical Institute, and MN Institute of Medical and Dental Careers. She was a judge for VICA Skill Olympics for 8 years.

She was privileged in 1982 to be part of delegation of dental assistants from Minnesota who were invited by the government of the People’s Republic of China for academic exchanges.

Carol passed away on July 14, 2017, leaving a legacy of professionalism with a caring spirit. We who knew and worked with Carol were blessed to have her as part of our lives.

-Contributed by Kurt King, DDS