

Q6

Describe one member engagement and value event or chapter member benefit program aimed at increasing member engagement and value. (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

UT Houston ASDA has held many fun events this year to promote member engagement and enhance the value of being involved with ASDA. The event that exhibited the highest value and attendance for members was our Casino Night event. Casino Night has been a well-established tradition at UTSD in previous years. After a long period of COVID-19 limitations, we were able to host Casino Night again in 2022. Casino Night this year was the first time a large school-wide in person event was hosted. The social committee created the casino floor environment, including casino games, dealers, and décor. Instead of cash, tickets that could be used in a raffle for prizes were given out. The games and the motivation of prizes provided an interactive space for members to engage among different classes for the first time in 2 years. In addition to the casino games, Casino Night was a black-tie affair which was fun to see everyone dress up and show off their individual style. The attention to detail in food, prizes, and music elevated the event and set it apart from the other schools during the year. This feature not only increased attendance, but it reestablished a sense of tradition, and reminded us all of the significance of camaraderie and fellowship at UTSD.

Q7

Describe one chapter community service event that creates connections with our communities. (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

COVID restrictions on in-person volunteering events were a challenge we faced for the past few years, but with the lifting of these restrictions this year, ASDA Community Service was able to take on new volunteering initiatives within our community. During ASDA Week of Service, we planned multiple different events, including a canned food drive for Houston Food Bank, a blood donation drive with MD Anderson, an event to write letters to nursing home residents, and a park clean up at a local park. Twice over the past year we partnered with Baylor College of Medicine to volunteer at their health fair at HOMES clinic, a free health clinic for the homeless communities of Houston. At our dental booth, we provided dental resources and care packages that included oral hygiene supplies, toiletries, socks, and snacks. One of the most popular events we hosted this past year was volunteering at Ronald McDonald Charity House in the Texas Medical Center to cook a meal for 70 residents. Not only were we able to provide a hot, freshly prepared meal for families undergoing difficult times, but we were also able to interact with the kids through a Halloween-themed pumpkin painting and crafts table we set up. In addition to volunteering within Houston, we were able to make an impact outside the Houston metroplex when we organized a group of dental students to volunteer at the Texas Mission of Mercy mobile dental clinic in San Antonio to provide free dental care.

Q8

Describe one chapter advocacy event that educates and involves members in ASDA's advocacy and legislative priorities. (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

This year we had several new advocacy initiatives. We started the year with "Dinner with The Doctors". Our members were able to meet and chat with our mentor doctors: Dr. Armstrong (Candidate for ADA president), Dr. Ho (Current TDA president), and Dr. Harrison (TDA past president). We followed that event with a "Candy Action" event where we drove student participation and action alert sign up with a free bag of candy with a QR code to register attached. "Coffee with The Committee" was a new initiative for the committee to meet with our mentor doctors in a small setting and discuss current advocacy issues and plan for the year. Possibly our most notable event this year, in conjunction with SmileCon and the TDA, was the "TDA & ADA Networking Event". The TDA sponsored food and beverages and Houston ASDA invited students in attendance from all of the dental programs in Texas. Students and past and current officers from the TDA and ADA spoke about their involvement and why students should be engaged. Students had the opportunity to get to meet peers from other programs and to network with established dentists. Our next major event was with TDA lobbyist, Jess Calvert. He was invited to the school and we served lunch. A group of 12 students met with him and asked questions and learned more about the process of initiative introduction to legal change. The calendar year was wrapped up with a celebrity photoshoot with Molar Bear.

Q9

Describe one chapter wellness event that educates members and involves members in ASDA's Five Dimensions of Wellness. (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

This year I've had the pleasure of being the wellness committee chair for the Houston chapter of ASDA. I really wanted to make the wellness committee a prominent and well-developed committee. In the past, our chapter's wellness committee had done a great job at creating events during ASDA's Wellness Month in September. However, I wanted to do more with the committee. The first thing we changed was doing monthly events instead of just Wellness Month. These events included meeting for a yoga class at a local studio, playing sand volleyball, having presentations for mental and financial health, hosting a movie night and many more. Our goal for these events is to help students relax and relieve the stresses of dental school. As wellness committee becomes a more prominent committee in our ASDA chapter, I hope that we can encourage students to balance their health and studies, and that they will learn to take time for themselves during this busy season in our lives. - Brooke Rebenschied (DS3)

Q10

Describe one chapter communication (such as an newsletter, the chapter website, or chapter social media campaign) that keeps members informed about ASDA. (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

As the Member Communications team for the Houston chapter of the American Student Dental Association (ASDA), we are committed to engaging and connecting with the local dental and predental community. To accomplish this, we have implemented several strategies and initiatives. First, we regularly post trivia and other fun content on our social media channels to spark conversation and engagement among our members. This not only helps to facilitate interaction among the community, but it also keeps our members informed and entertained. In addition to our social media efforts, we also make a point to highlight our members and member events on our website and other channels. This helps to build connections and foster a sense of belonging among our members, especially when it may be difficult for them to connect in person. Finally, we use attention-grabbing announcements to promote ASDA events and initiatives to our members and the broader dental community. This helps to ensure that our members are aware of the events and opportunities available to them and allows us to reach out to potential new members. Overall, our focus on engagement and connection has helped to build a strong and vibrant community within the Houston dental and predental community. The Member Communication team looks forward to supporting and connecting with our members in the future. - Vuong Ho (DS3) and Mariagrazia Arata (DS3)

Q11

Describe one chapter event that develops professional and leadership skills of chapter members. (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

The Leadership Committee is extremely proud of the progress we have made during the 2022-2023 school year. The first event we hosted was in July which was sponsored by Aspen Dental. We had a leadership dinner in which leaders in the chapter gathered together to discuss goals, communication, and future events. In addition, we were able to socialize with each other before the school year officially began. Our committee hosted our annual leadership retreat for new and old officers. At the retreat we had a keynote speaker, breakout sessions, bonding activities, and planning sessions. Our new officers were able to gain insight about their next few years in their positions and receive mentorship from previous officers. Lastly, all of the officers in attending were able to further develop their leadership skills and increase their love for ASDA. - Dominique Angibeau (Leadership Committee Chair - DS4)
