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Q1

University of Florida College of Dentistry Gainesville, FL

Select your chapter.

Q2

District 5

Select your district

Q3

Your Name

Emile Karam

Q4

Chapter Position

Gold Crown Director

Q5

Your Email

emilekaram@ufl.edu

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Q6

Describe one member engagement and value event or chapter member benefit program aimed at increasing member engagement and value. *This excludes the submission of multiple events that are part of a single week-long or month-long challenge e.g., the discussion of various events during a chapter's Fever Week. (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

Our chapter hosts an annual Loupes Fair each fall semester designed to increase member engagement and provide tangible value to students. This recurring event brings several leading dental loupes companies—including Orasoptic, Q-Optics, Surgitel, LumaDent, and Designs for Vision—to our simulation lab, creating a convenient, one-stop opportunity for members to explore magnification options essential to their clinical education and future practice. The fair consistently attracts strong participation, with over 150 registered attendees this past fall, including dental students, residents, and faculty. Representatives from each company are available to answer questions, discuss ergonomic considerations, compare product features, and provide individualized fittings, allowing attendees to make informed decisions based on comfort, clinical needs, and long-term professional health. By hosting the Loupes Fair every fall semester, our chapter reduces barriers to access by bringing vendors directly to campus, saving members time and increasing engagement. This event reinforces the practical benefits of ASDA membership while supporting students' clinical success, professional development, and overall well-being, making it one of our most valuable and anticipated member engagement events.

Q7

Describe one chapter community service event that creates connections with our communities. *This excludes the submission of multiple events that are part of a single week-long or month-long challenge (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

Our chapter created meaningful community connections through a Careers in Dentistry outreach event held at local high schools across the Gainesville area. This community service initiative focused on educating students about the wide range of career opportunities within dentistry and promoting awareness of oral health-related professions. ASDA members visited high school classrooms and career programs to share information about pathways into dentistry, including becoming a general dentist, dental specialist, dental hygienist, and dental assistant. Presentations highlighted educational requirements, day-to-day responsibilities, and the impact these professionals have on patient care and community health. Students were encouraged to ask questions and engage in open discussions, allowing for personal connections and mentorship opportunities. By bringing dental education directly into local schools, our chapter helped increase exposure to healthcare careers for students who may not otherwise have access to this information. This event strengthened relationships between our dental school and the surrounding community while inspiring future generations to consider careers in dentistry and oral health professions.

Q8

Describe one chapter advocacy event that educates and involves members in ASDA's advocacy and legislative priorities. *This excludes the submission of multiple events that are part of a single week-long or month-long challenge (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

Our chapter actively engages members in ASDA's advocacy and legislative priorities through participation in the annual Dentists' Day on the Hill, which took place on March 25. This event provided members with a hands-on opportunity to learn about the legislative process and the critical role advocacy plays in advancing the dental profession. Participants traveled to Tallahassee, where they received education on current state-level legislative issues impacting dentistry, including access to care, student debt, workforce policy, and the importance of organized dentistry. Members learned how ASDA and the ADA advocate on behalf of dental students and the profession, and how legislation directly affects their future careers and patients. The event also allowed students to engage directly with lawmakers and their staff, giving members the opportunity to practice effective advocacy by sharing personal perspectives as dental students. By participating in Dentists' Day on the Hill, members gained firsthand experience in civic engagement, increased their understanding of ASDA's advocacy priorities, and developed confidence to remain involved in legislative efforts throughout their dental careers.

Q9

Describe one chapter wellness event that educates members and involves members in ASDA's Five Dimensions of Wellness. *This excludes the submission of multiple events that are part of a single week-long or month-long challenge (250 word limit. Responses longer than 250 words will be cut.)

Our chapter promotes holistic well-being through our annual Mighty Molar wellness event, a field-day--style gathering designed to actively engage members in ASDA's Five Dimensions of Wellness. This event brings together dental students, residents, and faculty for a day of friendly competition and community building through activities such as tug-of-war, egg toss, and trayless impression challenges. Mighty Molar emphasizes physical wellness through active games, emotional wellness by providing stress relief and fun during a demanding academic year, and social wellness by fostering connection and camaraderie across classes and programs. The event also supports purposeful and financial wellness by serving as a fundraiser for Give Veterans a Smile, allowing participants to contribute to a meaningful cause while learning about ASDA's commitment to service and advocacy. By combining wellness education, engagement, and philanthropy, Mighty Molar creates a balanced and inclusive environment that encourages members to prioritize well-being while strengthening their connection to ASDA and the broader dental community.

Q10

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

Our chapter develops professional and leadership skills through an annual Business Symposium that exposes members to essential nonclinical aspects of dentistry. This event brings together speakers from across the dental industry, including practice owners, associates, financial advisors, practice management consultants, and dental technology representatives. Through interactive presentations and panel discussions, members learn about key topics such as practice ownership versus associateship, contract negotiation, financial planning, student loan management, insurance and coding, and effective team leadership. Speakers share real-world experiences and practical advice, helping students develop the knowledge and confidence needed to make informed career decisions. The symposium also provides leadership development opportunities for chapter officers and volunteers who plan, coordinate, and execute the event, strengthening skills in organization, communication, and teamwork. By hosting this annual Business Symposium, our chapter equips members with professional competencies not traditionally covered in the dental curriculum, reinforces the value of ASDA membership, and prepares students to transition successfully into leadership roles and future dental practice.

Q11

Describe one chapter communication (such as an enewsletter, 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.)

Our chapter maintains a consistent and comprehensive communication strategy through a monthly newsletter called The ASDA Post. This newsletter is distributed to the entire College of Dentistry community, including predoctoral students, faculty, and residents, ensuring broad visibility and engagement with ASDA initiatives. The ASDA Post serves as a central hub for chapter communication and keeps members informed about both local and national ASDA updates. Each issue includes a monthly calendar outlining all upcoming chapter events, meetings, and deadlines, along with reminders and direct sign-up information to encourage participation. The newsletter also features highlights and photos from past events, allowing members to stay connected and recognize the impact of chapter programming even if they were unable to attend. To keep members informed on organized dentistry, we include an ADA news section that shares relevant updates, advocacy efforts, and professional developments. Additionally, a membership benefits section educates students on the value of ASDA and available resources, reinforcing the importance of continued involvement. Each issue concludes with a sponsor recognition section to acknowledge and thank our supporters. Overall, The ASDA Post provides a clear, organized, and engaging platform that keeps our members informed, connected, and actively involved in ASDA.

Q12

Upload the communication piece your chapter described in the communications category as a PDF or link below.

December%202025%20Newsletter%20(1).pdf (7.2MB)

Q13

Respondent skipped this question

Add your communication piece link below.

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Q14

Submit your chapter's YouTube video link.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D_UBltzNMOo&t=3s

Q15

Submit your chapter's Google Drive or DropBox video link.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-VJu2pP_cGPQWBTP8V22yOgh9AFiuywd/view?usp=drive_link
