

#23

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Page 1

Q1

Select your chapter.

Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine, Boston, MA

Q2

Select your district

District 1

Q3

Your Name

Gabi Raspall

Q4

Chapter Position

President

Q5

Your Email

gabirasp@bu.edu

Page 2

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.)

At Boston University, our members are most engaged when they have a support system for all aspects of dental school. Each school year, BU ASDA facilitates a Big-Little pairing program designed to foster mentorship and connect students not only to upperclassmen but to the BU ASDA community at large. At our ASDA chapter, our dedicated First Year Engagement (FYE) committee is responsible for catalyzing involvement within days of arriving on campus. FYE collects personalized questionnaires from both DMD and Advanced Standing members of the first and second-year classes. After reporting personal interests, hobbies, career goals, and early school experiences, applicants are paired with a corresponding upperclassman with similar or complementary responses. This past cycle yielded 268 responses and 130 pairings, indicating a record number of student participation and the growing value members place on peer mentorship. These successful pairings are connected at our most attended event, the Big-Little Reveal Social, where students can formally meet their match and begin meaningful mentor relationships. By planning this program and social in August, we deliver value during the early stages of dental school, when students are navigating new academic expectations, clinic preparation, and professional identity development. By creating structured, intentional connections, the Big-Little program strengthens student involvement and reinforces ASDA's role as more than just an organization, but a support system throughout school. The success of the pairings highlights how mentorship-driven initiatives directly enhance membership value, build community, and support ASDA's mission of promoting professional growth at every stage of dental education.

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.)

At Boston University, our student members regularly work to support patients of a safety net hospital and guide this population through the socioeconomic barriers to their health. After realizing how many members of our community struggle with adequate nutrition and access to food, we organized a Thanksgiving meal kit preparation event. Striving to make an impact on our local community, we partnered with ABCD (Action for Boston Community Development) to support underserved communities during this especially challenging time. We leveraged our relationships with sponsors within the dental profession to purchase over 100 shelf-stable meals for families in need. Over 20 ASDA members worked for hours to assemble, collect, package, and deliver these meals to local community organizations, including Pine Street Inn and ABCD. Pine Street Inn is the largest homeless services provider in New England, which serves more than 2,400 individuals daily through housing with support, emergency shelter, street outreach, and workforce development programs. Additional meal kits were provided to ABCD, a nonprofit human services organization that impacts over 100,000 residents annually by offering comprehensive resources that help individuals and families transition from poverty to stability and long-term success through employment, education, and crisis support. By directly supporting the local organizations already hard at work in our community, we reduced redundancy and optimized our impact through partnership. This event fostered meaningful connections between dental students and the communities we serve while reinforcing ASDA's commitment to service, compassion, and collective impact beyond the dental school environment.

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.)

At Boston University ASDA, we are intentional about educating our members on relevant dental legislation and advocating for the interests of dental students beyond our campus. In an effort to encourage students to bring their perspectives beyond the dental school and interact with members of our government, we conduct an annual State House tour for ASDA members. The tour provided students with a meaningful opportunity to experience the Massachusetts legislative process firsthand. Being in proximity to the State House allowed students to see firsthand how laws are discussed and passed, highlighting the real impact legislative decisions have on individuals and communities. During the tour, students visited both the House and Senate chambers and observed advocacy in action, including live demonstrations that took place both inside and outside the building. Touring through the historic State House served as a powerful reminder of the state's and nation's journey, shaped by periods of conflict, reform, and progress toward greater equity. Our guide's stories brought this history to life while also providing clear insight into how ideas move through the legislative process and ultimately become law. This opportunity reminds dental students of the power they have when they engage with the legislative process to drive changes meant to benefit not only dental professionals but also the patients we serve. The State House tour was an accessible introduction to civic involvement and advocacy, strengthening students' understanding of how government functions and serving as a valuable foundation for future advocacy efforts, including ADA Lobby Day.

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.)

BU ASDA's most unique and comprehensive health and wellness event took place when we hosted our student-led golf tournament. Members experienced the five dimensions of wellness as we disconnected from the stresses of everyday dental school and turned our attention to time outside, among friends, and focused on the intention and integrity of golf. Split into teams of four, over 60 tournament attendees were able to build connections among dental students, faculty, alumni, friends, and family members. As members played, they encouraged each other and had fun free of judgment, regardless of golf experience or ability. Between shots, they connected with the outdoors, themselves, other players, and expanded their dental network of professionals, employers, and sponsors. Members tapped into their physical and emotional wellness as they played through different holes together as teams, supporting each other with each swing. The mental aspects of the game provided an opportunity to sharpen intellectual wellness, while getting members outside for the day to improve environmental wellness, and take a day away from coursework to prioritize balance and occupational wellness. Additionally, as guests of the course, all ASDA members participated in cleaning up and recycling all eligible items to show respect for our generous hosts and the environment at large. Although the golf tournament is one of our smaller events, it is the event students rave about throughout the year and look forward to as the weather in Boston slowly warms up, truly emphasizing its impact on our members' overall health and wellness.

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.)

At BU ASDA, we prepare members to be dental professionals and lead their future communities, often while supporting students who were once in our shoes. Pre-Dental Day at Boston University provided ASDA members with an opportunity to mentor future dental students, thus bolstering our own leadership experience and capabilities. The event gave 200 pre-dental students from across the country insight into their futures as dental students and connected them with current students. Our Pre-Dental Committee intentionally structured the itinerary to be immersive and reflective of daily dental school life. Student leaders managed check-ins, schedules, meals, and merch sales for this large crowd, demonstrating the competence of our professional team. ASDA members spoke up on our professional panel, where they fielded questions from the pre-dental students, sharing honestly about their academic journeys and experiences in dental school. Members utilized their professionalism skills as they recounted their personal experiences in an open, honest, and ethical fashion, always leading with integrity. Additionally, members participated in a live mock-interview session with our Assistant Dean to demonstrate how to professionally and personably answer challenging questions in a dental school interview, highlighting our focus on respect. Our members continued their leadership as they guided students through tours and CAD/CAM sessions in the Simulated Learning Center, truly demonstrating the progress and personal growth they have experienced as students of BU ASDA. Pre-dental day not only inspired prospective students but also reminded student leaders of the professional and personal responsibility to become the best versions of themselves.

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.)

This year, we launched our connection social media campaign, which held a two-fold approach: 1. Foster connection in our community by sharing personal bios and achievements of board members, and 2. Connect students in person by emphasizing event marketing. This strategy centered on a cohesive flyer series and coordinated social media outreach designed to keep members consistently informed and engaged. For each chapter event and initiative, board members submitted flyer requests to our public relations team, who prioritize clarity, accessibility, and visual consistency in their design process. When you wanted to learn whether pizza or Chick-fil-A was being served at a lunch and learn, you could turn to the accessible, informational digital flyers on our Instagram. When you were curious about the people and efforts behind each committee, you could turn to our member spotlights and read more about like-minded members, their backgrounds, and their favorite spots in Boston. To make sure all of the connection campaign posts were current and timely, our PR team developed a dedicated posting calendar to make sure attention was brought evenly to events and committees. Although we maintained excellent member communication across all platforms, reaching out to students in person and updating our website, our connection campaign on Instagram truly met members where they were at. By tailoring this information and making it accessible while members engaged with their own social media feeds, we made ASDA info a part of daily life and increased our in-person attendance through our digital efforts.

Q12

Respondent skipped this question

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

Q13

Add your communication piece link below.

<https://www.instagram.com/buasdacom/?hl=en>

Page 3

Q14

Submit your chapter's YouTube video link.

<https://youtu.be/PMLtZINISdY>

Q15

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

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XoSCZWth9VrrYYEWJ3kwdoTiDPRxNaOB/view?usp=sharing>
