



## Executive Committee Short Answer Questions – James Bland, Louisville '18

### 1) ***What leadership experiences have equipped you for this national role?***

Leadership experiences that have equipped me for this national role include: Serving as the ASDA chapter secretary for the University of Louisville School of Dentistry, as well as serving as President Elect, and currently serving as the 2016-2017-chapter president. Each of these leadership positions have enriched my leadership style, organization skills, and communication while working with groups- as well as individuals. While presiding over the student body and the governance of the Louisville chapter of the American Student Dental Association, I've served on the University of Louisville School of Dentistry Dean's council, the ULSD Diversity and Inclusion committee, as well as the ULSD Assessment & effectiveness committee. While on these committees, I have been able to promote a culture of assessment and evidence-based decision making at the University of Louisville. I have been able to guide and coordinate university-wide assessment and improvement programs and initiatives, while increasing my communication efforts by collaborating with faculty and staff on special assessment initiatives. In addition to my many roles and responsibilities I have also made great strides while serving as Treasurer of the Student National Dental Association. Over a two-year time-span, numerous fundraisers were added to the academic calendar and over \$7,000 was raised for not only the SNDA chapter, but for local community organizations as well, with a focus on Oral Cancer Awareness.

### 2) ***How do you work with or lead a team?***

I work with, and lead a team by working from a foundation of 4 principles: Establishing my role as a leader, making time to lead, leading by example, and relating to my team. While leading the team, I make it clear that I intend to respect everyone's roles and acknowledge how important and vital each team member is to the team. Making time to lead, not only means keeping frequent and open communication with the team, but it means filling in any gaps, solving any problems, and helping to answer any- and all questions. I make myself available to my team when I am needed. And, while taking time to lead, I always make it a priority to lead by example and treat everyone on my team with equal respect. Once this respect is achieved, being able to relate to my team is successive. Being able to relate to your team is key, and vital to the success of the organization.

### 3) ***Why are you interested in this leadership position and what skills do you possess that would benefit the association?***

I am interested in this position because I have a true passion for the progression and development of the organization. My leadership skills and team leader assets would be a pivotal movement for the association. I look forward to using my top 5 leadership skills to progress the aims and mission of the American Student Dental Association. Trustworthiness, igniting passion, promoting effective communication, being a servant leader, and providing an environment that promotes growth and

progression are my leadership focus areas. While displaying these skills to the organization, I will also encourage each team member to do the same, which will collectively strengthen the association.

**4) *What are 2-3 issues important to dental students and/or the position of president?***

2-3 important issues important to dental students/and the position of the president include advocating on licensure reform, advocating for student debt, and increasing pre-dental activity and initiatives. Each of these issues are important not only to the dental students of today, but the dental students of future years to come. The issues that we currently face as dental students, serve as a foundation and platform for future students to work from. While we are continuing to make strides every day, we still have work to do and must continue the work of past administrations, under the leadership of individuals who are enthusiastic and eager for the progression.