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COMPLETE

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Q1 **Florida**

Select your chapter.

Q2 **District 5**

Select your district

Q3

Your Name

Rehana Koilpillai

Q4

Chapter Position

Communications Chair

Q5

Your Email

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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.)

One of our favorite annual events centered on member benefit, engagement, and value is the Loupes Fair. This takes place in the Fall, where we have the most prominent loupes companies set up stations for members to visit. Students have the opportunity to try on pairs of loupes and ask the representatives questions as they try to find the best fit for them. We also provide food for all attendees. This event is included in the chapter membership and is extremely popular among first-year and fourth-year dental students. Due to the fair being a free event for members only, this serves as an effective incentive for membership enrollment and engagement. This year, we had 127 students sign up, which was a significant turn out. We believe that this event demonstrates value for our members by being accessible to all members and serving as a formative experience for first-year students. We aim to provide our members with a streamlined experience to survey the various loupes and find the pair that will help continue to evolve their dental journey. Our new members appreciate this opportunity to advance their dental education and expand their capabilities following the fair. The Loupes Fair also serves to benefit our members by the convenience and advancement of knowledge it provides. This is the only event in our program where information on loupes is concentrated and readily available in one location. Food is also provided, making this an enjoyable and enriching event for chapter members.

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.)

One of our most impactful service events of 2024 was the Careers in Dentistry at Eastside High School in Gainesville, FL. This event occurred in April 2024 near the end of our Spring term. A significant portion of the population in eastern Gainesville experiences high poverty rates, and struggles with housing, school proficiency, and oral health literacy. Our goal was to educate the Medical Studies class about the various career opportunities the field of dentistry has to offer including dental assisting, dental hygiene, dental lab tech and dentist. Students were able to ask how to achieve these positions and what those applications look like. At this service event, we also brought poster boards and interactive items to present to the students. We emphasized the role of oral health in comprehensive physical and emotional health. We also demonstrated how to perform proper oral hygiene, provided hygiene aids, and shared more about the dental profession. We presented to over 100 high school students and had 12 dental students volunteer at this event. Many of the high schoolers expressed gratitude for our visit and were surprised to learn about the significance of oral health. Our members felt they were able to make a direct positive impact on these young students, helping them prioritize their dental health and learn the significance of doing so. We hope these students carry this information with them for the rest of their lives, educate the future generation, and even consider going into the dental field.

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.)

The UF ASDA Chapter is deeply committed to advocacy, exemplified by our robust participation in the annual Florida Dental Association's (FDA) Dentists' Day on the Hill in Tallahassee, FL. Each year, we proudly send 8-10 passionate ASDA members to represent our chapter and actively engage in the legislative process, in which their transportation and lodging are funded by both the FDA and our local chapter's fundraising efforts. This premier advocacy event serves as Florida's equivalent to the ADA's Lobby Day, providing a unique platform for dental students to gain firsthand experience in organized dentistry and policymaking. Dentists' Day on the Hill is a cornerstone of our advocacy initiatives, offering students the opportunity to witness the real-life impact of legislative advocacy and how it shapes the future of our profession. Attendees engage directly with state lawmakers, participate in discussions surrounding key legislative priorities, and gain a deeper understanding of how dental professionals advocate for public health, access to care, and the future of dentistry. This experience is more than an educational opportunity—it is an annual source of inspiration that empowers attendees to recognize their ability to create meaningful change. Our members leave Tallahassee with a renewed commitment to leadership and advocacy, bringing their experiences back to the chapter to inspire and motivate their peers. By participating in this impactful event, the UF ASDA Chapter reinforces the importance of organized dentistry while cultivating the next generation of dental advocates who are prepared to champion the profession.

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.)

Mighty Molar is our annual Fall event centered on the Five Dimensions of Wellness. This event consists of a friendly field-day competition involving dental students, pre-dental students, faculty, staff, and other community supporters. The purpose of this event is not only to promote wellness, but also to raise funds for a cause – this year's being Give Veterans a Smile. Mighty Molar promotes wellness during a day of physical and intellectual activities, with many having a dental twist. These games ranged from dodge ball and tug-of-war to tray-less impressions and egg tosses. Our Continuing Events team also designed merchandise to raise funds for our cause, selling 42 shirts and raising \$550 for the event. We had a great turnout on the day of the event with 32 participants, including 10 pre-dental students. This event was not only a successful fundraising initiative to promote wellness and health for Give Veterans a Smile, but also encouraged interprofessional collaboration, community engagement, and mental and physical wellness with the participants. Participants in this event expressed gratitude for ASDA prioritizing wellness and emphasized how fun and rejuvenating this event was. They also felt more educated about the Give Veterans a Smile initiative and the importance of wellness in holistic health. Pre-dental participants also appreciated the opportunity to connect with the UFCD community and the early exposure to balancing health, wellness, and education.

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.)

The University of Florida ASDA Chapter proudly hosts its highly anticipated annual Business Symposium, a premier event that bridges the gap between dental education and professional excellence. Held on March 2nd, 2024, this year's symposium welcomed an impressive lineup of distinguished speakers and vendors representing diverse sectors of the dental industry. This dynamic 6.5-hour event offered attendees invaluable insights into critical topics such as practice management, acquisitions, wealth management, and more. The majority of the day is indicative of 8 lectures and 2 keynote speakers. Participants engaged in informative, didactic-style lectures led by industry leaders who provided actionable advice on evaluating practices, navigating the path to ownership, and thriving during the pivotal early years of their careers. The afternoon transitioned to a conversational-style meet-and-greet, fostering meaningful connections between dental students, residents, and esteemed professionals, including dental organizations, vendors, and representatives from UF's admissions committee. Past presenters have featured notable organizations such as Aspen Dental, North Tampa Periodontics & Implant Dentistry, The Florida Dental Association, Douglas Law Firm, and many others. This symposium mirrors the essence of ASDA's National Leadership Conference, offering an unparalleled experience for UFCD students and ASDA members to learn, network, and grow—all within the convenience of their local community. It is a testament to our chapter's commitment to preparing future dentists for success in both clinical and business domains.

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 launched a monthly newsletter in the Fall 2024 semester to keep the UFCD community informed about ASDA initiatives. Our intent was to update not only dental students, but also faculty and staff about our successes and future endeavors. The newsletter streamlined information regarding upcoming events, membership benefits, ADA news, and professional development opportunities. We also used this outlet to highlight the successes of the previous month's events and share the impact we made. This newsletter resulted in an unprecedented level of connection with faculty, staff, and students and is sent to over 950 recipients.. With its launch at the beginning of the fall term, the newsletter especially helped with member recruitment and engagement. The first day we sent the newsletter, we received 16 new members and more than 30 RSVPs to our August events. A week later, these numbers increased to more than 40 and 60 respectively. Students have also been able to learn from the linked ADA articles to stay informed about current events. We also received great reception from faculty, expressing their pride and support for our organization. When sharing our takeaways from the National Leadership Conference, our infographic was shared on the UF website with an article about our endeavors. Additionally, upon learning about the District 5 conference through our newsletter, one faculty member enrolled in speaking at the conference. This newsletter has expanded the opportunities UF ASDA provides to students and faculty members, and we feel more connected than ever as a community!

Q12

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

UF%20ASDA%20December%20Newsletter.pdf (2.9MB)

Q13

Add your communication piece link below.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Rwz1Gqd-WIMGaP2qsfl-6uvK8Sed7LGK/view?usp=drive_link

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Q14

Submit your chapter's YouTube video link.

https://youtu.be/m_XQXoSNfUo

Q15

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

https://drive.google.com/file/d/11Es0vRFFtrQFaS5sQPVjtzc9cT5YlVbN/view?usp=drive_link
