

National Dental Association



# CENTENNIAL COMPENDIUM

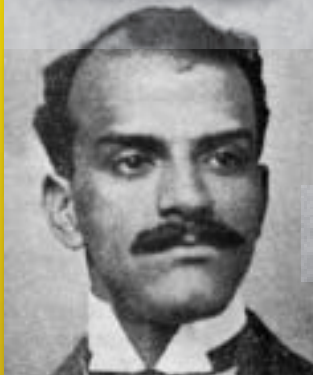
Dr. Robert T. Freeman



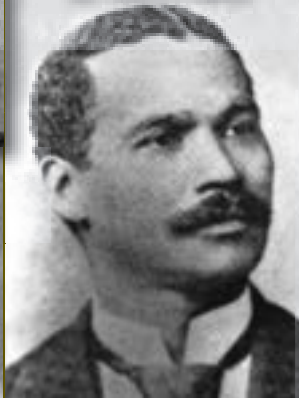
Dr. John Andrew Jackson



Dr. David A. Ferguson



Dr. Robert Fulton



Dr. James Wallace



Dr. Stephen Lewis



*100 Years*



Tri-State Dental Society meeting, Bay Shore Hotel, Buckroe Beach, VA,  
Dr. D. A. Ferguson - seated middle first row, Circa 1915



National Dental Association  
100th Anniversary Convention  
National Harbor, Maryland  
July 2013

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**  
**National Dental Association**  
**CENTENNIAL COMPENDIUM**

The First Hundred Years in Review ..... 2

National Dental Association Presidents ..... 8-10

Accomplishments of NDA Past Presidents ..... 11

*Excerpted* from Robert T. Freeman Dental Society Centennial Book, 2000 ..... 15

Robert T. Freeman ..... 15

Legacy of Leadership, Joseph Henry, DDS ..... 16

Jeanne Craig Sinkford, BS, DDS, MS, PhD ..... 17

WWII Tuskegee Airman, Victor L. Hancock, BS, DDS ..... 18

Howard University College of Dentistry, Past and Present ..... 19

Meharry and the NDA Legacy ..... 20

*Excerpted* from the NDA Journal, VOL 42. No. 1, 1985, The Jacksonian Era ..... 21

History of the NDA Civil Rights Luncheon ..... 24

*Excerpted* from NDA Convention Commemorative Program, 1989,  
 “Gallery of Great Pioneers” ..... 25-28

History of NDA Women’s Health Symposium ..... 29

*Excerpted* from the NDA Presidents Gala Program, 1997  
 “History of the Student National Dental Association” ..... 30-32

History of the Eddie G. Smith Leadership Institute ..... 33

*Excerpted* from the Deamonte Driver Brochure, 2010  
 History of Deamonte Driver Dental Project ..... 34

*Excerpted* from the NDA Convention Program, 2012  
 “History of the Multi-Cultural Oral Health Summit” ..... 35

NDA-HEALTH NOW Project ..... 36

Message from the Centennial Campaign Fund Committee ..... 36

Credits ..... inside back cover

## The First Hundred Years in Review ...

**L**ong before the seeds were planted for the National Dental Association, there were men in America, the ancestors of slaves, who aspired to be the ones who could and would heal those in need. These men dared to be educated, sometimes in the cover of darkness. Some received the support of whites who believed that slavery was despicable and, illiteracy was a shackle. They shared the belief that education was the key to freedom and progress.

**Robert Tanner Freeman**, a native Washingtonian, was the first American Negro to receive a dental degree in 1869. He graduated in the first dental class of Harvard University.

In 1890, Ida B. Gray Nelson became the first Black woman in America to earn a Doctor of Dental Surgery Degree at the University of Michigan.



### 1900's – 1930's

On November 14, 1900, one dozen graduates of Howard University College of Dentistry met in Washington, DC and founded what was then called the Washington Society of Colored Dentists. The eleven men and one woman determined that there was a need for an organized effort in dentistry to address the needs of colored professionals, and planted the seeds for what would later become the National Dental Association. They were denied membership in the existing dental organizations because of their skin color, but despite the barriers of racial discrimination, they were determined to continue their pursuit of excellence, and to gain the confidence of the public, which was not accustomed to seeing colored dentists.

Before the turn of the 19th century, the Negro dentists were members of the Dental Section of the National Medical Association. In fact, in many states back then, and a few even today, the dentists, physicians and pharmacists held joint annual meetings.

In the early years, the strength of the NDA came from the perseverance of men and their families, who were determined to create an organization they would be proud to “call their own.” Holding the organization together was not easy. In those days, the Negroes were not welcome in most hotels and restaurants, so the only places where the dentists could meet were in the Negro schools, churches, and establishments that were black owned. On many occasions, when the group traveled to different cities, they stayed in each others' homes.

In 1913, at the request of a young dentist visionary, **Dr. David A. Ferguson**, 29 dentists from DC, Maryland and Virginia met in Buckroe Beach, VA. at the Bay Shore Hotel, a popular African American summer resort. The “Tri-State Dental Society” was founded and organized by nine members from DC, Maryland and Virginia, who elected Dr. Ferguson as their first President. By 1918, the group had grown to include members from other states, and the organization was reorganized into the “Interstate Dental Association”. Also in that year, Dr. Ferguson became the first dentist to serve as President of the National Medical Association. By 1927, after 13 consecutive years of



holding annual meetings at the Bayshore Hotel, **Dr. George Butcher**, President of the Interstate Dental Association and founding member of the Washington Society of Colored Dentists, made a bold change and relocated the convention to Washington, DC, his hometown. In the years that followed, the expansion stretched across America, and in 1932, the Interstate Dental Association became the National Dental Association at a meeting in Bordertown, NJ. The National Dental Hygienists Association was also established in 1932 by a group of African American Hygienists.



The momentum could not be stopped; and the Negro dentists would not be denied.

During this same era, there was a proliferation of “Negro” organizations across America. Shut out from the white, mainstream groups, they were symbolic of the new generation of educated Blacks who were determined to form cohesive bonds through organizations that reflected similar ideologies and values. This was a period that saw the formation of some of the greatest Black institutions in America, including professional organizations, fraternities, sororities, and churches.

Groups of Negro dentists organized in cities from coast to coast: R.T. Freeman Dental Society (DC), Maryland Dental Society (Baltimore), Norman Lassiter Dental Society (Hampton-Newport News), Lincoln Dental Society (Chicago), Mound City Dental Society (St. Louis), Angel City Dental Society (Los Angeles), Commonwealth Dental Society (NJ), Charles A. George Dental Society (Houston), Gulf State Dental Association (TX), The Wolverine Dental Society (Detroit), Forest City Dental Society (Cleveland), Pelican State Dental Society (LA), The New Era Dental Society (Philadelphia), The Greater Metropolitan New York Dental Society (NY)....

In 1914, the first Secretary-Treasurer of the Tri-State Dental Society was Dr. John Andrew Jackson of Charlottesville, VA. He and his entire family were intensely devoted to the NDA “family”; and were in charge of the mailings throughout the years, and convention planning and registration. When he died in 1957, his sons, both dentists, Dr. George Franklin Jackson and Dr. Ellard N. Jackson, carried on the tradition. The NDA was sustained and operated by the Jackson family in Charlottesville, with Ellard “Punjab” serving as the volunteer Executive Director until 1977. They were all graduates of Howard University College of Dentistry.

Throughout the decades, the concept of “Family” has remained a core value of the NDA.



(l-r) Dr. John Andrew Jackson, Dr. Ellard “Punjab” Jackson, and Dr. George Franklin Jackson

## 1940's – 1960's

Many Blacks enlisted in the US Armed Services and defended their country through the wars of the 1940's. They distinguished themselves as officers of the highest caliber; and some, like **Dr. Victor Hancock**, a Howard graduate, were members of the elite black fighter pilots, the Tuskegee Airmen. And yet, they returned from war as officers and war heroes, still facing the cruelty of racial discrimination and bigotry of the country for which they fought. Many did not receive their rightful recognition from the US until 2007 when the Tuskegee Airmen were collectively awarded a Gold Medal by Congress decades after the war had ended. And still, undaunted, they continued their fight on American soil, for the inclusion, advancement and acknowledgement of Blacks in the mainstream of society and the dental profession.



Despite the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, which made racial discrimination illegal in the US, it took several years, and many law suits to uphold the rights of Black dentists to be admitted into the American Dental Association. Undaunted by these reprehensible occurrences of social injustice, the Black dentists continued their pursuit of equality, and the ranks of membership in the NDA swelled. In the 60's the NDA adopted its first Constitution, and adopted the tri-partite system. Dr. Eddie G. Smith authored the first NDA Constitution, and served as the first Speaker of the House of Delegates. He and other NDA leaders testified in the US Congress for the inclusion of dentistry in Medicaid and Medicare. In the end, despite the brilliant oratory of Dr. Smith before Congress, the well orchestrated and heavily funded lobby of the American Dental Association successfully prevailed. As a result, Congress voted to remove dental care from Medicare legislation.

But the newly legislated Medicaid program, enacted by Congress in 1966 to ensure dental care for indigent children, created a groundswell of interest and increased membership in the NDA.

Black scholars at the nation's two black dental schools fought incessantly to increase the numbers of Blacks admitted to and matriculating at all dental schools in America. At Howard University, Drs. Russell Dixon, Joseph Henry and Jeanne Sinkford, the first female dental school dean, were at the forefront of the struggle. At Meharry, the effort was also to recruit more Black dentists.

## 1970's – 1980's

The 1970's and 80's represented a period of enormous transition and transformation for the organization. The Black Power Revolution, Student movement and women's movement impacted the NDA in ways that brought change, progress, and growth. The organization would never be the same.

The inclusion of the "family of organizations" under the umbrella of the NDA – the National Dental Hygienists' Association (NDHA), the National Dental Assistants' Association (NDAA), and the Auxiliary to the National Dental Association (ANDA) was a feature unique to the NDA. When the Student National Dental Association (SNDA) joined the NDA "family" in 1972, it marked a milestone for the NDA. There were equally strong arguments from each side, proponents and opponents, about the benefit of including "those headstrong revolutionaries"; but in

the end, the proponents won. They maintained that the students were "the life blood" of the organization; and they were right. The SNDA was like an infusion of adrenaline into the veins of the organization. These students were offspring of the Civil Rights movement, but unlike their predecessors, they had an "unbridled revolutionary spirit" that saw no boundaries. The students of the 70's began their rise to leadership positions in the 80's; and they were progressive, visionary, and relentless in their pursuit of equity and equality. Theirs would be the generation to lead the organization into the new Millennium. **Drs. James Holley III** (left - NDA President - 1971) and **Eddie G. Smith**



(right - NDA President - 1972) were staunch and persuasive advocates for the students. They used their political prowess to gain the votes necessary to narrowly defeat the opposition to include the SNDA as a member of the NDA family of organizations

In 1972, under the leadership of **Dr. Harvey Webb, Jr.** the



NDA also published *The Charet*. The book chronicled the plight of African Americans and the disparities in the health status of those who had been disenfranchised by the American health care system. It outlined the issues and provided recommendations, challenging the organization and its members to correct the inequities. The NDA mission was to increase the oral health status of underserved communities and to be the voice of moral authority on all matters related to oral health. The mandate was to speak out on matters of social justice and to promulgate health care as a *right for all*.

In 1976, the time came for the NDA to make a transition from the Charlottesville "home office" to establish a headquarters in Washington, DC with a paid, not volunteer, Executive Director and staff. The change was painful, but necessary. The Jackson family "greeters" at the annual convention that helped to create a "Family Reunion" type of atmosphere were replaced with sophisticated event planners and convention personnel. Many members complained that it "just wasn't the same." And it wasn't. It couldn't be, because the organization needed to grow, expand, and take its rightful place among the other African American organizations whose mission was to protect the well being of the African American communities.

Dr. Harvey Webb (NDA President, 1976-1977) recounted the contributions of the Jackson family and the transition of power.

"At the time, Negro dentists were projected as 'second class' by their white colleagues. I wanted to assure that black dentists were seen as equal to any ADA member, and wanted to bring the NDA into the mainstream of American dentistry. Punjab understood that although his family had been founders and preservers of the NDA, the time for equality and change was at hand. He helped me physically load the moving van and cooperated in explaining the use of every piece of office equipment he kept at his home or in his basement. The Jackson family was the foundation for the ongoing viability of the NDA. Every member of that family served in some capacity. They performed clerical, administrative, financial and motivational services. They coordinated NDA functions throughout the years and every day of their lives. The current existence of the NDA is do in great part to the role the Jacksons played in its daily

operation and perpetuation.

In memory of the contribution made by the Jackson family, I commissioned a painting of the senior Dr. Jackson. I presented it to the NDA membership and their wives, during a general session, with the stipulation that it be placed in a prominent place in the National Dental Association's Washington office; that was done as an honor and in appreciation of the contribution of the Jackson family."

In 1981, the beloved long-time, volunteer NDA Executive Director, Dr. Ellard "Punjab" Jackson, passed away in his hometown, Charlottesville, VA. For more than 60 years, the Jackson family had sustained the growth and viability of the NDA. His ouster in 1977 marked the end of the Jacksonian Era.

After the student group had organized, the formation of other entities and interest groups critical to the growth and relevance of the NDA followed. Dr. James Lassiter, Jr. (NDA President 1978-79) served as the first NDA Foundation (NDAF) Board President in 1982. The NDAF was reactivated in 1976 as a 501 (c)3 non-profit entity organized to pursue charitable, educational and scientific research endeavors. In later years, during the Presidency of Dr. Roosevelt Brown (1985-86), the Foundation was instrumental in establishing the NDAF Building Fund and securing funding for the purchase of the NDA Headquarters building in Washington, DC. NDA members donated to the fund through the NDAF Gold Leaf Society.

Drs. Shirley Bailey and Emily Lee founded the Association of Black Women Dentists in Los Angeles, CA in the early 1980's after requests for the group to become an interest group within the NDA had been denied. The Los Angeles women paved the way for the formation of women's groups in metro Washington, DC and Chicago.

**Dr. John Maupin**, a Meharry graduate, product of the social movement of the 60's, and one of the proponents of the black dental student movement, became NDA President in 1984. His presidency marked the beginning of the first cohort of leaders who were products of the 60's revolution, and beneficiaries of the Civil Rights legislation enacted in 1964.



In 1989, discussions took place with Procter & Gamble and Colgate-Palmolive to foster stronger, more substantial relationships between the two companies and the NDA. P&G rejected the NDA proposal to significantly increase support in scholarships for minority students, research funding at historically Black Colleges and University's dental schools, and revenue for the NDA annual convention. But following the P&G rejection, Colgate's new CEO, Reubin Mark, responding to a racially insensitive marketing campaign by one of the company's Asian affiliates, met with NDA Foundation Board members, led by Past President James Lassiter.

The group forged an unprecedented partnership, paving the way for other NDA corporate endeavors. Dr. Marsha Butler, a graduate of Howard University College of Dentistry and product manager for J&J, was recommended by the NDAF to lead the new Colgate Oral Health Improvement Initiative; and the landmark NDA-Colgate partnership was launched in 1990. It was the beginning of a long-standing relationship that is still in existence today, providing millions of dollars in scholarships to African American dental professional students, and research to the Historically Black dental schools, Howard and Meharry;

and Morehouse School of Medicine, also a historically black school.

During this period there was a proliferation of scholarly pursuits and publications by esteemed NDA academicians and members, most notably Drs. Clifton O. Dummett, Joseph L. Henry, Jeanne C. Sinkford, Elisha Richardson, Foster Kidd, Cecile Rhodes, Claude Driskell, and Reuben Warren, to name a few.

## 1990's – 2000

Throughout the 80's and 90's the organization endeavored to raise its stature among other professional organizations, legislators, and the dental industry. The NDA went through a metamorphosis. There was a new organizational culture; a new secretariat and a new ideology. A new Executive Director, **Robert Johns**, was hired in 1990 to bring stability, fiscal solvency, and leadership to the organization. He was a former corporate executive with the skills, talent and diplomacy required to adapt to the temperament and idiosyncrasies of strong personalities. Little did he know that he was destined to hold the position for over two decades.



Dr. Joe Oliver, a member of one of the SNDA's founding chapters at UCLA, took the helm as President in 1991. When he assumed the position, the NDA was in the midst of one of its most tumultuous periods. Before Robert Johns, there had been a revolving door and exodus of Executive Directors, leaving behind a cloud of distrust and disillusionment. In the beginning, the relationship between the new President and the new Executive Director was tenuous. As they traveled together, repairing damaged relationships and reaching out to local chapters to continue to have faith in the viability and future direction of the organization, they grew to respect each other. By the end of his term in office, the two men were confident that the tide had changed and the trajectory for the success of the organization was back on track.

Other SNDA alumni, a cohort of carefully groomed and mentored leaders, followed Oliver in rapid succession. Indeed history *was* in the making. The vision had come to fruition. The "student revolutionaries" of the 1960's and 1970's, fulfilling their destiny as the lifeblood of the NDA, were rising to the pinnacle of the NDA. They were ready and poised to take the organization to the next level.

In 1991, Dr. Joel Turner, President-elect, was a member of the team that met with P&G to revisit the concept of a stronger relationship between the company and the NDA. Other group members were Past Presidents Drs. John Maupin, Joe Oliver and NDA Executive Director, Robert Johns. The meeting resulted in a new sponsorship agreement that substantially increased P&G's support of the NDA and laid the foundation for a long-term partnership with the company.

That same year, a conference was convened at the University of Michigan by Co-chairs, Drs. Emerson Robinson and Michael Razzoog to develop a road map for Black dental professionals and the Black community. The five day "Black Dentistry in the 21st Century" national workshop/conference took place on June 23-27, 1991 and was attended by 60 participants.

In 1993, buoyed by the influx of women health professionals and new focus on women's health, Dr. Hazel Harper led the movement to officially form the NDA Women's Health Symposium. Also in 1993, the NDA became a major player in the

African American Health Summit, the coalition of Black health organizations formed to address the needs and concerns of African Americans in the new Health Reform legislation proposed by the Clinton administration.

Also during that year, under the leadership of President Dr. Eugene Jordan (1993), a staunch Civil Rights activist and leader from Cleveland, OH, the NDA achieved another milestone. At the direction of the NDA Board, for the first time in history, the NDA hosted the annual convention at a 5-Star resort, the Boca Raton Resort and Spa, in Boca Raton, FL. And for the first time, the Resort welcomed an African American group. Negotiations with the property were led by Johns, aided by Past President, Dr. John Maupin. In the negotiated Agreement, the NDA insisted on the resort hiring a culturally diverse staff, including African Americans and Hispanics in all positions, including the front desk, concierge, bell stand, restaurant waiters and waitresses. Since that time, this policy has remained in effect, and the NDA has hosted two other conventions at Boca, since then.

In 1996, the concept for the formation of the NDA-Corporate Roundtable (NDA-CRT) was approved by the NDA Board. A Steering Committee was formed, and the NDA-CRT was created by President-elect, Dr. Hazel Harper during the administration of NDA President, Dr. Stephen Towns. The NDA-CRT acts as an advisory committee to strengthen the organization's growth and development.



The NDA hosted the first annual Congressional "NDA Day on the Hill" in 1999. NDA Legal Counsel, **Derrick Humphries**, was a key addition to the NDA team, and led the organization to a position of prominence and influence among members of the US Congress and other professional organizations. As he had done for other Black professional organizations,

Humphries laid the framework for the annual "NDA Day on the Hill" an event designed to promote the NDA's position on oral health issues, influence national policy, and shape legislation in matters significant to African Americans and communities of color. Humphries helped elevate the NDA's stature and secure a position of prominence. In years to come, the organization would become the voice of the underserved and be respected as the voice of moral authority not only in health related matters, but also on issues relevant to civil rights and social justice.

He also encouraged the organization to become a member of the Black Congress on Health, Law and Economics, a collective group of African American organizations including several prominent national organizations. On occasion, the groups held simultaneous conventions in the same city to leverage their collective economic impact, increase their visibility in mainstream America, and empower African American communities.

Alliances were also cultivated with the Hispanic Dental Association, the Society of American Indian Dentists, the American Association of Dental Schools (renamed the American Dental Education Association), the American Association of Women Dentists, the Congressional Black Caucus, and the Black Caucus of State Legislators. It became vitally important for the NDA to publicize its' positions and to collaborate with other groups that shared the NDA mission in order to influence policy. Position statements were formulated on Amalgam, Fluoride, Managed Care, Health Care Reform, Medicaid, Tobacco and others. During this period, the NDA was frequently called on to deliver Congressional Testimony on many areas impacting dentistry and

underserved communities.

In 1997, **Dr. Hazel Harper**, a Howard University graduate and one of the SNDA founders, became the first woman President of the NDA. The NDA's glass ceiling was shattered, and the "good-old-boy network" made way for a new wave of women leaders. Concepts that had been "on the table" came to fruition: Strategic Plan document; Leadership Training; web site preparation; and Fiscal Accountability Protocols.



It was a "new day" at the NDA; and there was an explosion of new women members. They quickly rose to positions of leadership on the local and national levels; bringing with them a plethora of talent, skills and innovation. This new cadre of leaders was familiar with the strengths and weaknesses of male domination in the organization. They deftly navigated through the turbulent political waters setting their sights on excellence. Achieving every goal, exceeding every expectation, and undaunted by obstacles from within and outside of the organization, they challenged the status quo and changed the landscape. They strode arm in arm, shoulder to shoulder with their male peers into the new millennium.

## 2000 – 2013

By the new millennium, the NDA had reached unparalleled heights. New technology created solutions to old problems and fostered the growth of new ideologies. Social research placed health disparities under a microscope revealing glaring inequities that continued to plague communities of color and other traditionally disenfranchised groups. The role of the NDA was to "stay the course", and to remain steadfast in its quest to dismantle the barriers standing between African Americans and good health.



The first-ever Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health in America, was released in 2000. It was commissioned by the first African American US Surgeon General, physician, **Dr. David Satcher**. The Report was an astonishing commentary on persistent disparities impacting the health of vulnerable groups in the US

- namely racial minorities, children, the elderly and disabled. The Editor of this landmark report was NDA member and public health leader, Dr. Caswell Evans. It was followed by the Department of Health and Human Services, "Call to Action" challenge, and then the NDA's "Response to the Surgeon General's Report".

Dr. Clifton Dummett's long awaited book, *"NDA II: The Story of the National Dental Association"*, commissioned by Dr. Roosevelt Brown, President the NDA Foundation was published in 2000. A book signing



was held at the Dr. Samuel R. Harris National Museum of Dentistry; and a special ceremony was held at the NDA Convention in 2001, honoring **Dr. Clifton Dummett, Sr. and his wife, Mrs. Lois Doyle Dummett.** In fact, the Dr. Samuel R. Harris National Museum of Dentistry in Baltimore, MD sought the guidance of NDA historian, Dr. Clifton Dummett and other devoted NDA members in developing a new traveling exhibit that would be a tribute to the accomplishments of Blacks in dentistry. The name of the exhibit was *"African Americans in Dentistry. The Future is Now!"* It was completed in 2003 during the administration of President Romell Madison, and launched during the 2004 at NDA Convention in Los Angeles, under the leadership of Dr. Joy Jordan.



The number of local NDA chapters continued to increase. Those that had been in existence since the early and mid 1900's were well organized and engaging in numerous community service projects across the nation. Their longevity was a testament to their durability and resilience. Despite the odds and bitter sting of institutionalized racism, their reputation of integrity, social justice and humanitarianism secured their status and stature in their communities. NDA members were sought after community leaders, board members and advisors in a multiplicity of organizations and businesses.

The focus was on increasing access to dental care, and community health education to promote prevention and wellness in African American Communities. The opportunity presented itself for the organization to form a non-traditional partnership with the Department of Transportation (DOT) in the agency's seatbelt initiative with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The goal was to increase seat-belt usage in the African American community. The NDA submitted a proposal to the DOT and was awarded its' first government grant



in 2002. The project was executed by 14 "super star" NDA chapters and was so successful that the grant was renewed for a second year. As a result, seat belt usage and vehicle safety restraints increased exponentially in African American communities. This successful endeavor set the stage for many subsequent grant awards.

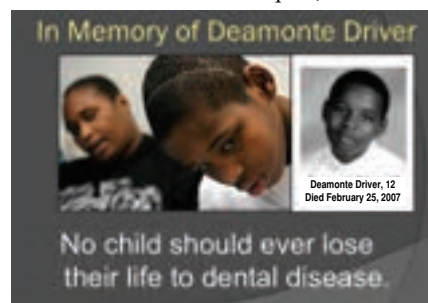
In 2006, under President Dr. Leslie Grant, GlaxoSmithKline awarded a three-year grant for the formation of the NDA-GSK Spokesperson Training Program. Thirty NDA leaders, media spokespersons and clinicians were trained. The results were far reaching with trainees going on to become world-class presenters, adept spokespersons, rapid responders to media requests for interviews, and leaders in other organizations.

The Eddie G. Smith Leadership Institute was formed in 2006 in memory of one of the NDA's most respected and transformational leaders. The purpose of the institute is to provide training for current and future NDA leaders and to ensure leadership succession planning for the organization. Training modules are designed for all of the NDA family of organizations and focus on a wide array of topics supportive of NDA member businesses; community health leadership; public policy; organiza-

tional governance; fiscal accountability; infrastructure development at the local level and many more.

The death of a twelve year-old, Deamonte Driver, in 2007 in Prince George's County, MD galvanized the local NDA chapter and the entire oral health community. The tragedy magnified the national health care crisis and national media exposure brought into clear focus the broken systems of oral health in states across America. Responding to the crisis in their backyard, a group of Black dentists from the Robert T. Freeman Dental Society led the movement to increase access to dental care for the county's most vulnerable children. Simultaneously, NDA's Baltimore-based chapter, the Maryland Dental Society, joined state agencies to recommend policy changes to fix the broken system. Leaders of the effort included: NDA Past Presidents, Drs. Nathan Fletcher and Leslie Grant, and Dr. Winifred Booker, to name a few.

NDA members, Drs. Hazel Harper and Belinda Carver-Taylor co-founded the Deamonte Driver Dental Project (DDDP) with support of members of the NDA local chapter, the Robert T. Freeman Dental Society, under the auspices of the NDA. It was a school based, community mobile health project for children designed to engage the participation of neighborhood dentists to become Medicaid providers and establish "dental homes" for vulnerable children. The project received funding from the state of Maryland and regional organizations, the Governor's Award for Health Innovation, and support from legislators. It became a model of public-private partnerships for the nation. It exemplified the essence of the NDA. The Project illuminated NDA core values and amplified the voice of social justice. The message reverberated across America – **No child should ever die from a preventable disease like tooth decay.**



Still reeling from the death of Deamonte, and determined to put a face to the voices of neglect and despair in African American communities throughout the nation, in 2009, President Michael Battle led the effort to host the Roundtable on Oral Health Disparities in partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services office of Minority Health. The Roundtable resulted in more advocacy for equity in health and placed the NDA in the position of facilitator and convener of like-minded groups, representing some of the nation's most prominent and prestigious organizations in health and oral health. The organization was poised and determined to enlist the support of more and more advocates for health equity for ALL.

In 2010, with support from the State of Maryland, donations from NDA Corporate roundtable members, and guidance from the ADI Mobile Health Kitch family, the NDA's first mobile unit was purchased. The ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Capitol Hill, during the 2010 NDA Annual Day on the Hill. The NDA endeavored to advance the organization's mission and engage membership support through a "Call to Action Tour" launched in 2011. The DDDP mobile unit made stops at the Old Dominion Dental Society in Richmond, VA; the Old North State Dental Society and University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, NC; and the North Georgia Dental Society and

Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, GA. The tour ended in Orlando, FL at the Annual Convention of the American Dental Association. That year, the DDDP mobile unit made appearances at the Eastern Area conference of the Links, Incorporated. Many members toured the unit, and in the same year, private tours were also arranged for members of the NDA Corporate Roundtable. As a result of these efforts and in support of the NDA's mission, supportive organizations became new national partners and advocates for oral health. Among them were: General Electric's African American Forum, the Links, Incorporated, and the US Tennis Association.

An important objective for the NDA was to continue to educate its' members on policy issues critically important to the profession; and to provide factual, evidence-based information relevant to African Americans and communities of color. Howard University in Washington, DC was the site of the 2011 Symposium on "Health Care Reform: The Challenges and Opportunities of Workforce Expansion." It was co-hosted by the DDDP, the NDA and the Howard University College of Dentistry. Attendees were NDA's leaders and spokespersons, and representatives from many other health organizations, public health agencies, and foundations. Dr. Sheila Brown was President at the time.

Civil rights and social justice are hallmarks of the NDA. With the help of Congressman John Conyers, Chairman of the Judicial Committee, and many other organizations who signed on to the effort, the NDA was instrumental in bringing to justice, New Orleans policemen, who in the aftermath of the 2005 Hurricane Katrina killed an unarmed, frightened man. The man was the brother of Dr. Romell Madison (NDA President - 2003). The crusade for justice was led by NDA Legal Counsel, Derrick Humphries. The policemen were indicted and subsequently found guilty in 2013.



(l-r): Drs. Romell Madison, James Lassiter, Jr., Congressman John Conyers, Drs. Hugh McKnight, Robin Daniel (NDA President -2007) and Edward Scott, II (NDA President -2001)

NDA leaders met at the headquarters of CRT founding member Henry Schein, Inc. in February, 2012; and with the assistance of the Schein executive leadership team, developed key messages and a new NDA mission statement: "The National Dental Association promotes oral health equity among people of color by harnessing the collective power of its members, advocating for the needs of and mentoring dental students of color, and raising the profile of the profession in our communities."

Also in 2012, NDA community outreach programs were taken to another level. At the invitation of media giant, Tom Joyner, host of the Tom Joyner Morning Show (America's largest syndicated Black talk show), the NDA was requested to design

and activate a community dental program in Philadelphia for an anticipated 10,000 attendees. NDA's New Era Dental Society, assisted by fifteen community partners, and over 100 volunteers, including physicians from the local chapter of the National Medical Association, the Links, Incorporated, students, health centers executed the plan. The Dental Zone of the "Tom Joyner Take A Loved One To The Doctor Health Festival" was a huge success.



The NDA alliance with the Hispanic Dental Association and the Society of American Indian Dentists culminated in the historic joint convention of all three groups, the "Multi-Cultural Oral Health Summit of 2012." The groups pledged to work together to achieve health equity and improve health in communities of color. The DentaQuest Foundation was the underwriter for the two-day convention's President's Symposium, which focused on issues of concern to all three groups, and resulted in a manifesto for change and future plans for collaboration.



Later in 2012, the NDA-HEALTH NOW project took shape and a planning grant was awarded by the Links Foundation, Inc. The project "NDA - Health. Equity. Access. Literacy. and Hope. National Outreach on Wheels" replicates and takes to scale the Deamonte Driver Dental Project. It expands the project to include children, adults and the elderly; and a mixed-use mobile health unit equipped for dental services medical screenings and immunizations; and vision screening. Pilot programs were started in Chicago and Dallas. Dr. Sheila Brown (NDA President - 2011), is directing the project in Chicago; and past NDA Secretary, Dr. Jocelyn Kidd, is directing the project in Dallas. Other cities targeted are: New York, New Orleans, and San Francisco/Oakland.



In preparation for the NDA's 2013 Centennial Celebration, the \$1 million Centennial Campaign Fund was launched by Past Presidents. The Campaign Chair is Dr. Sheila Brown, and Co-chairs are Drs. Romell Madison and Joseph Gay (NDA President 1998).

NDA President, Dr. Edward H. Chappelle, Jr., a Meharry graduate and member of the Robert T. Freeman Dental Society, presides over the Centennial activities throughout 2013. He leads the organization in the cultivation of new corporate partnerships, strengthening alliances, and developing new relationships with others with whom we he found "common ground" – the Kellogg Foundation and the Pew Charitable Trusts. The NDA looks forward to continuing its "legacy of leadership and tradition of service."

*In the distance, there is a constellation of tiny stars with lights flickering on the horizon. In due time, the tiny stars will rise and the intensity of their light will grow. Those who are now cast in the shadows of today's leaders will beam even more brightly than ever imagined and illuminate a whole new world. Standing on the shoulders of generations of giants who have gone before them, their shoulders bear the promise and gifts of the next generations. These rising stars are preparing the NDA for its next hundred years, and another century of GLORY. ■*

# NATIONAL DENTAL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS



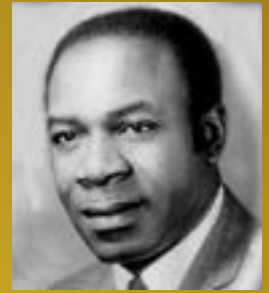
Dr. C.E. Williams - '58-'59



Dr. H.R. Primas - '64-'65



Dr. J. W. Holly - '69-'70



Dr. E. G. Smith - '72-'73



Dr. M.W. Rosemond - '73-'74



Dr. F. L. Shuford - '74-'75



Dr. Charles E. Williams, Jr. - '75-'76



Dr. Harvey Webb, Jr. - '76-'77



Dr. James E. Lassiter, Jr. - '78-'79



Dr. E. R. Richardson - '80-'81



Dr. S.A. Boucree - '82-'83



Dr. John Maupin, Jr. - '83-'84



Dr. Roosevelt Brown - '85-'86



Dr. Hugo Owens - '88-'89



Dr. James Henderson, Sr. - '89



Dr. William Gibson - '90



Dr. Joseph Oliver - '91



Dr. Joel Turner - '92



Dr. Eugene Jordon - '93



Dr. Chester A. Aikens - '94

# NATIONAL DENTAL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS



Dr. Winthrop A. Holder - '95



Dr. Stephen B. Towns - '96



Dr. Hazel J. Harper - '97



Dr. Joseph S. Gay - '98



Dr. Cynthia E. Hodge - '99



Dr. Franklyn Scott - 2000



Dr. Edward R. Scott - '01



Dr. Gregory A. Stoute - '02



Dr. Romell J. Madison - '03



Dr. Joy A. Jordan - '04



Dr. Aljernon J. Bolden - '05



Dr. Leslie E. Grant - '06



Dr. Robin R. Daniel - '07



Dr. Nathan L. Fletcher - '08



Dr. Michael F. Battle - '09



Dr. Walter R. Owens - '10



Dr. Sheila R. Brown - '11



Dr. Roy I. Irons - '12



Dr. Edward H. Chappelle, Jr. - '13

These photos are a partial listing of the 89 NDA presidents available from the NDA photo archive. See a complete listing on the next page.

# NATIONAL DENTAL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS

1913-1918	David A. Ferguson	1969-1970	James W. Holley, III
1918-1920	Charles H. Dunstan	1970-1971	Clyde R. Broadus
1920-1922	Stephen J. Lewis	1971-1972	Robert W. Smith
1922-1923	J. Mercer G. Ramsey	1972-1973	Eddie G. Smith, Jr.
1923-1924	Isaac M. Lawrence	1973-1974	Manning W. Rosemond
1924-1926	William B. Reed	1974-1975	Frank L. Shuford
1926-1928	George H. Butcher	1975-1976	Charles E. Williams, Jr.
1928-1929	A. Otis Reid	1976-1977	Harvey Webb, Jr.
1929-1930	Henry A. McAllister	1977-1978	Walter Tucker
1930-1932	Ellwood D. Downing	1978-1979	James E. Lassiter, Jr.
1932-1933	David A. Ferguson	1979-1980	Walker Moore
1933-1934	Melanethon D. Wiseman	1980-1981	Elisha R. Richardson
1934-1935	Charles W. Dorsey	1981-1982	Wilfred Ralph
1935-1936	William B. Reed	1982-1983	Stanley A. Boucree
1936-1937	Jackson L. Davis	1983-1984	John E. Maupin, Jr.
1937-1938	Reginald E. Beamon	1984-1985	Alvin O. Walker
1938-1939	Simmons C. Hamilton	1985-1986	Roosevelt Brown
1939-1940	Waldo J. Howard	1986-1987	J. Arthur Kelly
1940-1941	J. Leroy Baxter	1988-1989	Hugo A. Owens
1941-1942	Leon A. Reid	1989	James H. Henderson, Sr.
1942-1944	William O. Claytor	1990	William H. Gibson, Jr.
1944-1946	Donley H. Turpin	1991	Joseph J. Oliver, Jr.
1946-1947	Robert H. Thomas	1992	Joel V. Turner
1947-1948	Ernest W. Taggart	1993	Eugene J. Jordan
1948-1949	Russell A. Dixon	1994	Chester A. Aikens
1949-1950	William D. Giles	1995	Winthrop A. Holder
1950-1951	Martin L. Walton	1996	Stephen B. Towns
1951-1952	William M. Springer	1997	Hazel J. Harper
1952-1953	Audley M. Mackel	1998	Joseph S. Gay
1953-1954	Clarence L. Thomas	1999	Cynthia E. Hodge
1954-1955	James E. Carter, Jr.	2000	Franklyn Scott
1955-1956	James E. Bowman	2001	Edward R. Scott, II
1956-1957	Leroy W. R. Gates	2002	Gregory A. Stoute
1957-1958	Harry T. Penn	2003	Romell J. Madison
1958-1959	Charles E. Williams, Sr.	2004	Joy A. Jordan
1959-1960	H. Medley Proffitt	2005	Aljernon J. Bolden
1960-1961	William K. Elliott	2006	Leslie E. Grant
1961-1962	James B. Singleton, Jr.	2007	Robin R. Daniel
1962-1963	Richard Layne, Sr.	2008	Nathan L. Fletcher
1963-1964	Matthew Mitchell	2009	Michael F. Battle
1964-1965	William J. Walker, Sr.	2010	Walter R. Owens
1965-1966	H. Raymond Primas	2011	Sheila R. Brown
1966-1967	James A. Catchings	2012	Roy L. Irons
1967-1968	Frank E. Chowning	2013	Edward H. Chappelle, Jr.
1968-1969	James C. Wallace, Jr.		

## Accomplishments of NDA Past Presidents\*

### **HARVEY WEBB, JR.**

53<sup>rd</sup> President  
1976-1977

- Assisted physically in the relocation when the NDA made a the transition from the Charlottesville “home office” to establish a headquarters in Washington, DC with a paid, not volunteer, Executive Director and staff.
- Commissioned portrait of Dr. John Andrew Jackson and presented it to the Jackson family, to be hung in the new NDA headquarters in recognition of over 60 years of the Jackson family’s stewardship, financing, and contributions to the growth of the organization.

### **JAMES E. LASSITER, JR.**

55<sup>th</sup> President  
1978-1979

- Chaired the Task Force to reorganize the NDA.
- Directed and coordinated the NDA’s National Office relocation from Charlottesville, VA to Washington, DC, first on 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW, and later to Connecticut Avenue NW.
- Principle negotiator and signatory with Reuben Mark, CEO, Colgate-Palmolive Company in the Partnership Agreement between the NDAF and Colgate-Palmolive Company. This Agreement is currently in effect.
- Reorganized the National Dental Association Foundation (NDAF).
- Director, NDA National Office.

### **ELISHA R. RICHARDSON**

57<sup>th</sup> President  
1980-1981

- Presided over a joint meeting of the NDA and ADA Boards of Trustees in the ADA Building in Chicago. The theme was “Achieving Integration Through Excellence in Education.”
- The NDA ultimately achieved financial stability after the move to Washington, DC. The Officers of the NDA worked together.
- The Vice president automatically became President-Elect and President, which gave the leadership of the organization three years of stability.
- We initiated and ultimately finalized (in succeeding terms) a financial and operational relationship with Colgate. Dr. Lassiter was a key player.

### **STANLEY A. BOUCREE**

59<sup>th</sup> President  
1982-1983

- Formation of a new Editorial Board to lead the reorganization and reinstatement of the official publication of the NDA.

- Recruitment of Dr. Hazel Harper to accept the position of Editor.
- Recruitment of young dentist with the talent and energy to move the NDA forward.
- Provided the opportunity for members to be full participants in the health care discussion. “I wanted to continue to promote what our fore bearers and the Jacksons had done, despite the ever present barriers of racial discrimination.”

### **JOHN E. MAUPIN, JR.**

60<sup>th</sup> President  
1983-1984

- Activated the new National Dental Association Journal (NDAJ) to promote the 1984 New Orleans convention. NDAJ had new format and new look from the longtime NDA Quarterly.
- Launched new Flossline Newsletter.
- Engaged the organization’s most pragmatic thinkers and prolific writers to sustain the passion and intensity required to advance the NDA into the mainstream of the dental profession, against all odds.

### **ROOSEVELT BROWN**

62<sup>nd</sup> President  
1985-1986

- The theme for my presidency was “Building Today for Tomorrow’s Future.” To that end I traveled to about fifteen chapter meetings both local and state promoting the NDA, building relationships, promoting NDA growth and participation. A meeting was organized and initiated to bring chapter officers to Washington, DC, to define roles and responsibilities of the NDA and its affiliates. This meeting was sponsored in part by the National Dental Association Foundation. We started a fund drive to raise monies to acquire a building to house the National Dental Association and its housing initiative. In 2013 the future is now, we have the “Roosevelt Brown Building” National Dental Association, Washington, DC.

### **JOSEPH J. OLIVER, JR.**

67<sup>th</sup> President  
1991

- Restored and strengthened the relationships between the chapters and the national organization.
- Established strategic direction and vision for developing and sustaining organizational infrastructure with Executive Director and administrative staff.

**JOEL V. TURNER**

68<sup>th</sup> President  
1992

- Set the stage for the NDA's involvement in Congressman Louis Stokes' Congressional Black Caucus Health Brain-trust and President Bill Clinton's Health Care Reform legislation.
- Endorsed and advocated for the formation of the Women's Health Symposium.
- Initiated the structure of the NDA position on Tobacco issues.

**EUGENE J. JORDAN**

69<sup>th</sup> President  
1993

- Lead the NDA through the Health Care Reform Move-ment.
- Testified before Congress on the NDA's position on Health Care Reform.
- Endorsed NDA as a founding member of the Summit Health Coalition.
- Represented the NDA during the organization's first ap-pearance on CSPAN.
- Cultivated the relationship between his Congressman, Louis Stokes and the Congressional Black Caucus.
- Became the first President to host the convention at a 5 star resort – Boca Raton Resort and Spa.

**CHESTER A. AIKENS**

70<sup>th</sup> President  
1994

- Reestablished the House of Delegates and Board of Trustees as separate independent bodies. The NDA set aside its constitution for several years prior and functioned under a joint House and Board.
- Participated in Summit 93, a coalition made up of several organizations including the National Medical Association, the Congressional Black Caucus, the NAACP, and others, the coalition served as an advocate for improved health-care for all Americans as Congress debated healthcare re-form.
- The NDA-Colgate Palmolive Partnership published the first in a series of Ebony Magazine articles that increased public awareness of the NDA's commitment to improving oral healthcare of all Americans.
- Initiated the search for a permanent NDA Headquarters and identified the present NDA building.

**WINTHROP A. HOLDER**

71<sup>st</sup> President  
1995

- Focused on global outreach in the Caribbean and Africa and forged new relationships with other US dental organi-zation leaders and organizations in third world countries.
- Strengthened the NDA International Committee.

- Promoted NDA meetings in offshore locations and collab-orations with foreign dental organizations.
- Instrumental in procuring 3517 16<sup>th</sup> Street N.W.

**STEPHEN B. TOWNS**

72<sup>nd</sup> President  
1996

- Introduced concept for NDA District Meetings.
- Provided template for Membership and Recruitment Program using the "mentor model".
- Conceptualized the "Featured Speakers Program" and recruited world-class presenters for the NDA scientific program.

**HAZEL J. HARPER**

73<sup>rd</sup> President  
1997

- Established strategic framework for the NDA Corporate Roundtable.
- Drafted Protocols and Guidelines for the BOT.
- Developed NDA-GSK Spokesperson and Media Training Program.
- Designed Strategic Planning Retreat and obtained \$20K funding from Schein to hire facilitator and provide stipends for NDA and SNDA leaders to attend.
- Produced 2 videos: "The NDA Today" and the "SNDA 25th Anniversary Video"; established relationship with Oral Health America.
- Advocated and implemented a staff training program; and introduces concept of periodic leadership training.

**JOSEPH S. GAY**

74<sup>th</sup> President  
1998

- Hosted first Black organization's convention at a Disney owned property (Orlando's Disney World).
- Advanced the strategic plan; strengthens the CRT.
- Promoted NDA constitutional revisions and incorporates Conflict of Interest clause; includes Leadership Training into annual convention.

**CYNTHIA E. HODGE**

75<sup>th</sup> President  
1999

- President's Symposium: "*Mind, Body and Spirit: Promoting Health Beyond Health Care*"; a panel of leaders in the field of optimal health.
- Launched annual "NDA on the Hill."
- Convened national symposia: "Exploring the Relationship Between Oral Health and Systemic Health Within the African American Population." The proceedings are pub-lished in a Special Issue of *Compendium of Continuing Education in Dentistry*, July 2001/Vol. 22, No.3.
- Co-hosted "14<sup>th</sup> Congress of the East/Southern Africa

Division of the I.A.D.R.” and Dental Association of Zimbabwe, in Harare, Zimbabwe.

- Served on the ADA’s Oversight Committee Future of Dentistry, resulted in publication of “*Future of Dentistry – Today’s Vision; Tomorrow’s Reality*”, American Dental Association Health Policy Resources Center, Chicago 2001.

### **FRANKLYN SCOTT**

76<sup>th</sup> President  
2000

- Responds to Surgeon General’s “Call to Action” and ensures NDA’s participation in developing a National Oral Health Plan.
- Oversees the NDA’s grant proposal submission to the Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s \$100,000 grant for Seatbelt safety - the first NDA major grant from a government agency.
- Supported a survey and international presentation by NDA women dentists at the ADEA conference in Sweden: “Women Dentists in the Workforce: Addressing Access, Achieving Parity.”
- Organized a special committee to oversee and manage the new NDA Endowment Fund.

### **EDWARD R. SCOTT, II**

77<sup>th</sup> President  
2001

- Established the first National Dental Association governance workshop in Charlotte, NC.
- Established governance and protocols between the Speaker of the house, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and the President.
- Re-established the Board of Trustees as the body which has the fiduciary responsibility of the organization.
- Provided President’s symposium on the topic of the spiritual aspects of healing.
- Helped both Howard and Meharry Dental Schools in obtaining funding through Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Pipeline Grant.

### **GREGORY A. STOUTE**

78<sup>th</sup> President  
2002

- In the aftermath of 9/11
- Initiated collaborative relationship with NDA, ADA and HDA.
- Provided Congressional testimony regarding Amalgam safety.
- NDA/Temple University Symposium on Sports trauma to TMJ.
- Founding member, representing NDA, of ADA Committee D on Career Guidance and Diversity.

### **ROMELL J. MADISON**

79<sup>th</sup> President  
2003

- Renewal of the Seat Belt Grant for \$100,000.
- Provided oversight of the launch of the Dr. Samuel R. Harris National Museum of Dentistry traveling exhibit, “*The Future is Now! African Americans in Dentistry.*”
- Appointed an Ad Hoc Committee to determine most efficient approach to increasing the use of technology in NDA headquarters.

### **JOY A. JORDAN**

80<sup>th</sup> President  
2004

- Partnership with National Alliance of Black School Educators.
- Partnership with Kappa Alpha Psi mentoring program to encourage African Americans in Dentistry.
- Founding Member Chapter of the National Africa American Drug Policy Coalition.
- Actor Richard Roundtree attended the conference to speak on Breast Cancer in the African American community and the education of males such as his being a breast cancer survivor.

### **ALJERNON J. BOLDEN**

81<sup>st</sup> President  
2005

- Guided the NDA in its response to the Katrina disaster in New Orleans.
- Placed the NDA in the national spotlight when it comes to issues of access to care, health disparities, and oral services to vulnerable populations.

### **LESLIE E. GRANT**

82<sup>nd</sup> President  
2006

- Initiated contact with the ADA regarding dentists with temporary licenses in states they had moved to from Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina. The outcome was a jointly signed letter with my name and the then ADA president’s name with logos of both organization on the letterhead, to all state dental boards requesting extension of these temporary licenses. This was the first time a joint letter with both NDA and ADA logos had been implemented.
- Gave a presentation about the National Dental Association and access to care at the Academy of General Dentistry’s Legislative and Governmental Affairs Council Meeting in Washington, DC.
- Requested that the ADA include an article about Dr. Robert T. Freeman in its February newsletter in recognition of Black History Month. The article was published in February, 2006.

**ROBIN R. DANIEL**83<sup>rd</sup> President

2007

- Adoption and implementation of the Strategic Plan of 2007-2010.
- As the result of the adopted strategic plan, the budget of the NDA was increased for the first time in years, resulting in an increase in income and productivity.
- After the death of 12 year old Deamonte Driver, the NDA took on the charge of increasing awareness of the crisis of access to dental care to Congress ultimately resulting in the Deamonte Driver Project.
- Urged the Attorney General to indict police officers in Louisiana who murdered the brother of Past President Romell Madison on the Danzinger Bridge post Katrina.
- Implemented the *NDA Today* Magazine.
- Launched the Zimmer Hands-On Dental Implant Course.

**NATHAN L. FLETCHER**84<sup>th</sup> President

2008

- Hosted Congressman Conyers at the President's Symposium with 14 national organization Presidents and representatives.
- First NDA President to attend the SAID Convention.
- Called the first meeting of the Presidents of HDA, NDA, and SAID.
- Initiated letter to the ADA demanding an apology for its past exclusionary membership practices.
- Published an article in *Ebony Magazine* on Oral Health.
- Inclusion in the *Ebony Power 150*.
- Served as the NDA National President on the election of the first African American President of the United States, Barack Obama.

**MICHAEL F. BATTLE**85<sup>th</sup> President

2009

- Spearheaded the NDA's leadership during the Diversity Training Sessions held at ADA headquarters, along with members of the Hispanic Dental Association, the Society of American Indian Dentist, and the American Dental Association.
- Served on the Black Caucus Health Care Committee during the debate for the passage of the Affordable Health Care Act. The NDA played a large role in advocating for the inclusion of funding for dentistry of pediatric patients.
- Initiated the Roundtable On Oral Health Disparities, held at the Hubert Humphrey Building in Washington, DC. Collaboration with the US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health, this was the first time the NDA was the lead organization speaking on the Oral Health of all citizens of the country. In attendance was all the leading Dental experts, and organizations.

- Executed Memorandum of Understanding with the Society of American Indian Dentists.

**WALTER R. OWENS**86<sup>th</sup> President

2010

- Author of NDA position paper on Access to Care.
- Negotiated endorsement of NDA position paper on Access to Care & Workforce Issues by AGD & ADA.
- Inaugural member of Diversity Summit Initiative of Quarterly President's conference calls between NDA, ADA, HAD, SAID.
- Gave testimony to US Senate committee on Healthcare Reform.
- Advisory member on strategic planning Task Force on integration of primary care and behavioral health at the Office of Minority Health.

**SHEILA R. BROWN**87<sup>th</sup> President

2011

- Launched the first National Dental Association Public Service Announcement on oral health.
- Initiated the NDA Centennial Fund & Implementation of the NDA First New Dentist Program at the annual meeting.
- Obtained an official apology from the American Dental Association for their participation in the disenfranchisement of the African American dentist in America.
- The NDA led the charge by hosting a historic meeting with the ADA, EPA, Office on Minority Health, in Atlanta to support the community regarding fluoridation in Georgia.
- Development of a research sub-committee of the Minority Faculty Forum.
- NDA, co-hosted the Robert T. Freeman Foundation Symposium on Workforce.
- Cultivation of a relationship with the Links, Incorporated as a community partner.

**ROY L. IRONS**88<sup>th</sup> President

2012

- Overseeing and working with the collaboration of the NDA, HDA and SAID for the historic joint meeting in 2012-Mult-Cultural Oral Health Summit.
- Establishment of town hall meetings with NDA societies to improve on communication.
- Historic meeting with the PEW Foundation on workforce issues.
- The NDA designed the Dental Zone of the "Tom Joyner Take A Loved One To The Doctor Health Festival" in Philadelphia with NDA's New Era Dental Society, and assisted by fifteen community partners, and over 100 volunteers, including physicians from the local chapter of the National Medical Association, members from the Links, Incorporated local chapters, students, and health centers.

\* partial listings

# ROBERT T. FREEMAN

Robert T. Freeman, a native Washingtonian, became interested in Dentistry very early in life. Dr. Noble, a local white practitioner, hired him as an office boy and was soon impressed with the proficiency and knowledge Robert gained merely by watching. Since Freeman showed so much promise, Dr. Noble tutored him privately in the "Arts and Science of the Practice of Dentistry." His interests stimulated to the point of passion, Robert Freeman decided to enter dental school and receive formal training. The civil war and slavery were too recent in the minds of many for young Freeman to be accepted by any of the existing dental schools. However, when Harvard University added its department of dentistry in 1867, this pioneer applied and, perhaps to his surprise but in the fulfillment of his ambition, he was accepted. He entered in 1868 as one of a class of 16 and on March 10, 1869 became the first American Negro to receive the doctorate degree in dentistry. Returning to Washington, he practiced in the building with Dr. Noble. Unfortunately, less than ten years passed before Dr. Robert T. Freeman entered the realm of eternal peace and his career on earth ended. He is survived by his daughter, Mrs. Florence E. Weaver and a grandson, Dr. Robert C. Weaver. The Dental Society is proud to bear the name of Robert T. Freeman.



ROBERT T. FREEMAN

**Dr. FREEMAN'S  
TERMS**  
for  
**Professional Services**

Examination of Teeth	25 cts.
Extraction of Teeth	50 cts.
Extraction of Teeth with Anesthesia	1.00
Extraction of Teeth with Nitrous Oxide	1.50
Extraction of Teeth with Chloroform	2.00
Extraction of Teeth with Ether	2.50
Extraction of Teeth with Chloroform and Ether	3.00
Extraction of Teeth with Chloroform and Ether and Nitrous Oxide	3.50
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**Artificial Teeth**

Upper or Lower Arch in Rubber	25 cts.
Upper or Lower Arch in Wax	50 cts.
Upper or Lower Arch in Gold	1.00
Upper or Lower Arch in Silver	1.50
Upper or Lower Arch in Platinum	2.00
Upper or Lower Arch in Gold and Silver	2.50
Upper or Lower Arch in Gold and Silver and Platinum	3.00
Upper or Lower Arch in Gold and Silver and Platinum and Anesthesia	3.50
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It is better to keep the appointment than to be present for the first time.

Dr. R. T. FREEMAN, D.D.S.  
DENTIST  
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

A copy of Dr. Freeman's professional and appointment card. Note service list and prices on right.  
PAGE SIXTEEN

**MANUAL  
OF  
PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICE**  
BY  
GEO. JEFFREYS  
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NEW YORK  
HARRIS, ASTOR, BATHURST & CO.  
1870

*Robt T. Freeman*  
*Washington D.C.*  
*Aug 21/1870*

An autographed page from the booklet of parliamentary procedure always carried by Dr. Freeman.  
ROBERT T. FREEMAN DENTAL SOCIETY

# *Legacy of Leadership*



## **Joseph L. Henry, D.D.S.**

Joseph L. Henry born on May 2, 1924, in New Orleans, Louisiana, is the third of the six children of Varice S. and Mabel M. Henry. He attended and graduated first in his class from James Weldon Johnson Grammar School and Xavier Prep High School. He attended Xavier University of Louisiana and left in the last semester of his senior year to go to Washington, DC, where he worked for a year in the War Department.

Dr. Henry entered Howard University College of Dentistry in 1943 under the Army Specialized Training Program. He again graduated first in his class in 1946 and was immediately placed on faculty as an Instructor of Oral Medicine. From 1948-1951, he was on leave of absence to do graduate work at the University of Illinois Medical Center. Upon his return in 1951, Dr. Henry served as Associate Professor of Oral Medicine, Director of Clinics, Professor of Oral Medicine, Coordinator of Research, and Dean of the College of Dentistry. In 1975, he moved to Boston to become the first Black professor in the history of the Harvard University School of Dental Medicine (HSDM). At Harvard, he served as Associate Dean, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Oral Diagnosis Sciences from 1993-1994 and Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs from 1994 to the present. Dr. Henry also served as Interim Dean of HSDM from July, 1990 to June 30, 1991. Upon his retirement from HSDM, Dr. Henry was appointed Professor of Oral Diagnosis, Emeritus as of January 1, 1995 and continues as Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs.

Dr. Henry has served as seminarist and lecturer at various local, state, national and international meetings in thirty states, the District of Columbia, twenty-two foreign countries and twenty-one dental schools. He was the first American to lecture at the National Symposium of Dental Public Health for the Finnish Dental Society in Helsinki, Finland and recently was speaker at the Annual Meetings of the National Dental Association, the American Association of Public Health Dentistry and Howard University's PiPi Chapter of the National Dental Honor Society, OKU.

Dr. Henry has received over 100 awards and honors, and is very active in civic organizations, affiliated with several religious organizations, and consultant to over twenty-five programs and projects, including the new Health Center for Saudi Arabia.

Dr. Henry was inducted as an honorary member into the Harvard Dental Alumni Association at its annual banquet on June 6, 1995 and was awarded the Civil Rights Award by the National Dental Association at their Annual Meeting on August 8, 1995 in Philadelphia, PA. He is a past Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Illinois College of Optometry and served four terms as Chairman. He has been appointed to the National Advisory Council on Health Professions Education in the Department of Health and Human Services from 1990 to 1994 and in 1991 was appointed to the Department of Health and Human Services' National Advisory Dental Research Council. In June of 1993, he represented the National Dental Association as a Member of a Minority Audit Panel at the Clinton Health Care Reform Program in Washington, DC. In 1995 he was the first recipient of the Distinguished Service Award given by the American Association of Dental Schools. That same year, the National Dental Association Foundation established the annual Joseph L. Henry Scholar's Award. In December of 1996, Dr. Henry was the recipient of the Carel C. Koch Memorial Medal Award presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Optometry.

At the opening session of the 1997 National Dental Association Meeting and on the 25th Anniversary of the Student National Dental Association (SNDA), Dr. Henry was honored with a special Bronze Medallion in recognition of being the original advisor to and continuing supporter of the SNDA.

In the past five years, Dr. Henry has received special awards for outstanding service and distinguished contributions to dental education from the National Dental Association, American Dental Association, Illinois College of Optometry, Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Massachusetts Dental Society and several minority support groups.



## **Jeanne Craig Sinkford, B.S., D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D., FACD, FICD, D.Sc. (Hon)**

Professor and Dean Emeritus, Howard University College of Dentistry  
Associate Executive Director and Director, Division of Equity and Diversity, American Dental Education Association (formerly American Association of Dental Schools)

Dr. Sinkford is a distinguished dental educator, administrator, researcher, lecturer, and clinician. Dr. Sinkford finished first in the dental class of 1958 at Howard University. She taught Crown and Bridge Prosthodontics for two years before pursuing graduate study at Northwestern University where she received a Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1962 and 1963 respectively. She completed Specialty Training in Pediatric Dentistry at Children's Hospital National Medical Center in 1975. Dr. Sinkford has been awarded honorary degrees from: Georgetown University (1978), University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (1992), and University of Detroit-Mercy (1996).

At Howard University College of Dentistry, Dr. Sinkford was Chairman of the Department of Prosthodontics from 1964 to 1968, a first and only for a female in U.S. dental schools. She was the first female dental associate dean in the United States and served as Research Coordinator from 1967 to 1975. In 1975, Dr. Sinkford became the first and only woman to serve as Dean of a U.S. Dental School. She served in the deanship at Howard University from 1975 to 1991. Dr. Sinkford is currently directing the Division of Equity and Diversity at the American Dental Education Association (formerly American Association of Dental Schools).

She is an educator of international renown, having lectured before major dental groups and other professional organizations, including the American Association of Dental Schools, American Dental Association, Federation Dentaire Internationale, International Association for Dental Research, District of Columbia Dental Society, First District Dental Society (New York), Essex County Dental Society (New Jersey), Baltimore City Dental Society, Maryland Dental Society, American Prosthodontics Society, Jamaica Dental Association, Barbados Dental Society, Trinidadian Dental Association, Caribbean Atlantic Regional Dental Association, Institute of Medicine, and American Society for Geriatric Dentistry.

In addition to more than 80 publications in leading professional journals, Dr. Sinkford has written a Manual for Crown and Bridge Prosthodontics, a curriculum for dental materials and oral physiology, and guidelines for postgraduate study in adolescent dentistry. Her most significant contribution to advanced dental education has been the nationally acclaimed background document for the Graduate Education Workshop, co-sponsored by the American Dental Association and the American Association of Dental Schools.

She has served on numerous committees and advisory councils of national significance including: the Council of the Institute of Medicine; Governing Board of the National Academy of Sciences; The National Advisory Dental Research Council; Directors Advisory Council, National Institutes of Health; Advisory Board for Tri-Agency Study on Aging, National Institute for Dental Research/National Institute of Aging/Veterans Administration; Advisory Board, Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Program; Committee A, Council on Dental Education, ADA; Tuskegee Study Ad-Hoc Advisory Panel; Dental Educational Review Panel, American Fund for Dental Education and the American Dental Association Health Foundation; Special Medical Advisory Group for the Veterans Administration and Executive Board, American Society for Geriatric Dentistry. Dr. Sinkford served as a consultant to the National Board of Dental Examiners; representative to the Talent Bank Task Force Committee, Association of American Women Dentist; chairman, Appeal Board, Commission on Dental Accreditation, American Dental Association; president, Southern Conference of Dental Deans and Dental State Examiners; chairman, Council of Deans, American Association of Dental Schools; consultant to the Dental Devices Classification Panel, Food and Drug Administration. She currently serves on the Boston University School of Dentistry Board of Visitors, the National Advisory Committee for Project 3000 by 2000, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Association of American Medical Colleges and the Advisory Committee for the Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program for Women. Her contributions to minority student recruitment, manpower predications, and dental auxiliary utilization are also noteworthy.

Dr. Sinkford is a Fellow of the American College of Dentists and the International College of Dentists and a member of the American Prosthodontic Society, Federation of Prosthodontic Organizations, International Association for Dental Research, Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences, Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Kappa Upsilon, Sigma XI, and other scientific and professional organizations.

She is listed in Who's Who Among Women, Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the World, Who's Who in the South and South West, and American Men of Science. Dr. Sinkford has received alumni achievement awards from: Northwestern University; Howard University Alumni Federation; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (Citation for Exceptional Professional Achievement); First District Dental Society of New York (Henry Spenadel Award); National Coalition of One Hundred Black Women (Candace Award); District of Columbia Dental Society (Sterling V. Mead Award); United Negro College Fund (Distinguished Leadership Award); Capitol Press Club (Black Pioneers Award); Georgetown University, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, and University of Detroit-Mercy (Honorary Doctorate Degrees); American Dental Association and the National Dental Association (Presidential Citations).

Dr. Sinkford is married to Dr. Stanley M. Sinkford, Pediatric Cardiologist, Professor of Pediatrics, Howard University College of Medicine, and Chairman (retired) of the Department of Pediatrics at DC General Hospital. The Sinkfords have three children: Diane, Janet Lynn and Stanley M. Sinkford III, M.D.



*Victor L. Hancock, 1945*

## **Victor L. Hancock, B.S., D.D.S.**

Dr. Victor L. Hancock is a 1960 graduate of the College of Dentistry, Howard University. He also holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Howard University. Immediately after graduation, Dr. Hancock joined the faculty of the College of Dentistry, Howard University, under the distinguished Dr. Raymond L. Hayes, Chief of the Department of Oral Medicine. Dr. Hancock opened his private office for the practice of dentistry in 1961. He retired after having practiced 35 years. Dr. Hancock is a Life Member of the Robert T. Freeman Dental Society.

Dr. Hancock served in World War II in the Army Air Corps as a B-25 bomber pilot. He is one of the original Tuskegee Airmen graduates, having received his flying training in 1944 and 1945 at Tuskegee Institute and Tuskegee Army Air Field. He was assigned to the 477th Bomber Group. Their mission was to bomb Japan from the island of Okinawa. While they were preparing to depart, President Truman ordered the dropping of the atomic bomb on Japan, resulting in the ending of World War II. Part of the earlier group of Tuskegee Airmen, the 332nd Fighter Group, were already overseas fighting in the air battles over North Africa and Europe where they distinguished themselves for their superior flying abilities. They were labeled and recognized as the “Schwarze Voglemenchen” (Black Birdmen) by the German Luftwaffe (Air Force).

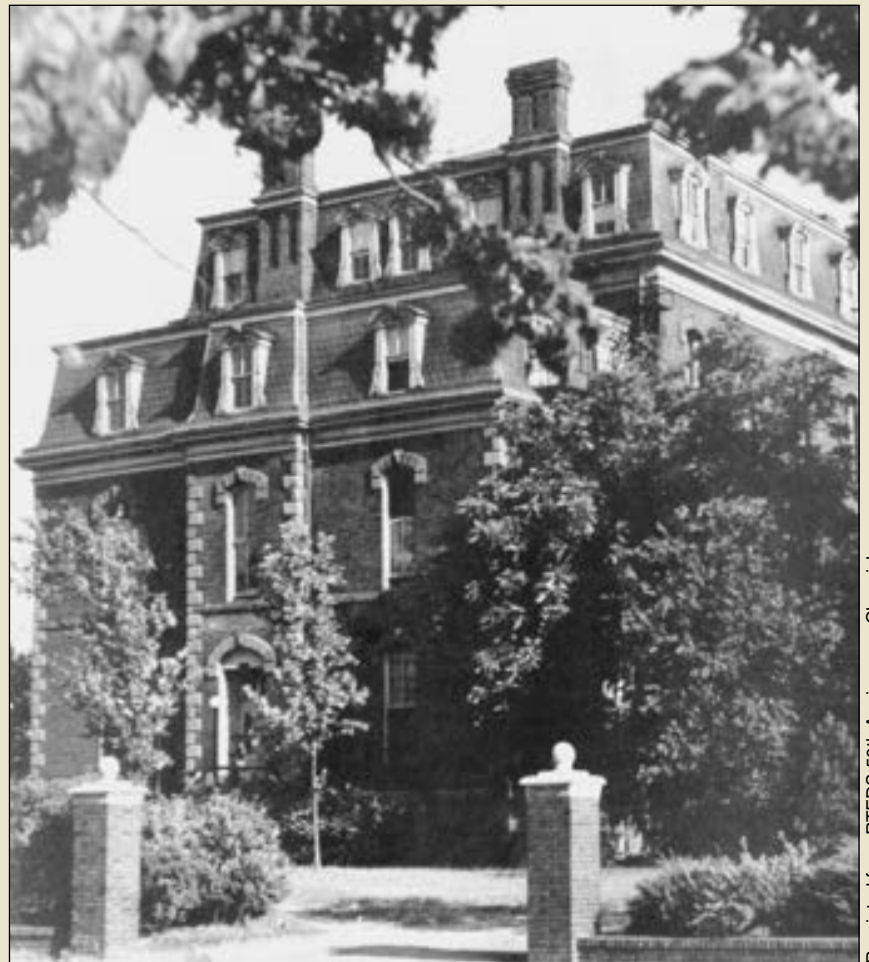
In 1973, Dr. Hancock and many of the remaining original Tuskegee Airmen formed the national organization, the The Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. The organization has a national membership of over 1500 members. The common goal of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. is to motivate, inspire and stimulate young minds to aspire to seek and achieve successful careers in the fields of aerospace and aviation. To this end they devote time, effort and financial resources to capture young minds, to instill the undying will to learn, sacrifice and attain a self-sustaining status with marketable skills. The national organization of Tuskegee Airmen’s Scholarship Fund awards thousands of dollars in scholarships annually to young people across the country.

# *Standards of Excellence*



HOWARD UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY  
**2013**

HOWARD UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY  
**1950**



Reprinted from RTFDS 50th Anniversary Chronicle

## Meharry and the NDA Legacy

Many Meharry Alumni have led the NDA and its predecessor, the Interstate Dental Association. The emergence of organized dentistry was in August 26-28, 1913. This was the time that the National Negro Medical Association of physicians, dentists and pharmacists held its annual session in the Meharry Auditorium at Walden University. In 1913, Dr. John A. Kenney, MD of Tuskegee Institute was president of the National Medical Association and David A. Ferguson, DDS, a Howard graduate of Virginia was the vice-president. At the annual convention in Nashville, the dental section of the association met separately and had a separate program. The program chair was Meharry's Dr. R.H. Voorhees. This was the same year that the Tri-State Dental Association was organized by Dr. David A. Ferguson. This organization was the forerunner to the National Dental Association.

### Meharry alumni who have served as NDA leaders:

- **Dr. Charles Dunston '09:** from Raleigh, NC; President Interstate Dental Association from 1918-20; also first president of the Old North State Dental Society in 1919
- **Dr. J. Mercer G. Ramsey '06:** from Richmond, VA; President Interstate Dental Association from 1922-23; one of a small group of pioneers that established the first Afro-American dental group Tri-State Dental Association. Also, he was one of the founders of the Old Dominion State Dental Society of Virginia.
- **Dr. William Brackette Reed '06:** President Interstate Dental Association from 1924-26 and 1935-36 after the Interstate Dental Association had become the National Dental Association

### Meharry alumni who have served as NDA presidents:

- **Dr. Simmons C. Hamilton '18** – 1938-39
- **Dr. Donley H. Turpin '18** – 1944-46
- **Dr. E. W. Taggart '23** – 1947-48
- **Dr. Martin L. Walton '18** – 1950-51
- **Dr. William M. Springer '26** – 1951-52
- **Dr. Audley M. Mackel '27** – 1952-53
- **Dr. C.L. Thomas '23** – 1953-54
- **Dr. Charles Williams, Sr. '24** – 1958-59
- **Dr. James B. Singleton, Jr. '26** – 1961-62
- **Dr. Richard Layne, Jr. '26** – 1962-63; participated in the historic liaison meeting of officers of the ADA and NDA during the 103rd ADA annual session in Miami Beach, FL in 1962
- **Dr. William J. Walker '18** – 1964-65
- **Dr. James C. Wallace, Jr. '44** – 1968-69
- **Dr. Clyde R. Broadus '49** – 1970-71
- **Dr. Charles E. Williams, Jr. '61** -1975-76
- **Dr. Walter Tucker '55** – 1977-78
- **Dr. Elisha R. Richardson '55** – 1981
- **Dr. John E. Maupin, Jr. '72** – 1984
- **Dr. Jack A. Kelly '55** – 1986
- **Dr. James H. Henderson '53** – 1989
- **Dr. Joel V. Turner '61** – 1992
- **Dr. Romell J. Madison '84** – 2003
- **Dr. Michael F. Battle '83** – 2009
- **Dr. Edward H. Chappelle, Jr., '79** – 2013

Meharrians have been an integral part of the NDA and organized dentistry since the inception. The source of this information is excerpted from *NDA II: The Story of America's Second National Dental Association*, written by Dr. Clifton O. Dummett (a periodontist) and Lois Doyle Dummett, and published by the NDA Foundation. Dr Dummett served as the Dean for Meharry from 1947-49. He also served as the NDA editor and was a participant in the landmark ADA-NDA liaison meeting.



Meharry Medical College, School of Dentistry  
THEN ...



... AND NOW

# The Jacksonian Era – Its Influence on the Evolution of Organized Dentistry

(Reprinted from the National Dental Association Journal Volume 42 No.1, January/April 1985)  
*Reprinted from the Charlottesville Tribune, 1943*

*Hazel J. Harper, D.D.S., M.P.H*  
*Editor, NDAJ*

John Andrew Jackson, D.D.S., began his love affair with organized dentistry in 1914, in Virginia. He helped to orchestrate the evolution of the National Dental Association, from the small group of Negro dentists who made up the Old Dominion Dental Society (in Virginia), The Robert T. Freeman Dental Society, founded in Washington, DC in 1900 to the formation of the Tri-State Dental Association (including D.C., Maryland and Virginia), to the organization that we know today.

He was one of the patriarchs; driven by his desire to bring together the Negro dentists, who were denied membership into the American Dental Association. He felt that these dentists needed a “home”; an organization that they could call their own. He was intent on creating a “family”; and he did. He started with his own family, first. And eventually, all seven of his children became as devoted as he was to his cause. The Jackson family wove the fabric of the NDA. When J. A. Jackson passed on, in 1957, his sons, George Franklin and E. N. (“Punjab”), both dentists, carried on in the tradition their father had started. And until the late 1970’s, the Jackson family, their ideals and their philosophies were entrenched in the organization.

Their determination to preserve the “family” of the NDA was unfaltering. As the organization’s membership rolls swelled to numbers that would have been inconceivable to “J. A.”, the Jackson brothers persevered. With the death of “Punjab”, in 1980, came a hiatus in the influential Jacksonian era. There was an explainable emptiness that affected many, who for so many years, had worked closely with the family to lay the foundation of NDA. Only then, four years after his brother’s death, was G. F. Jackson able to talk about his loneliness; how much he missed his brother; and the real impact that his father had on both of them.

On the day of the interview, G. F. Jackson had returned exhausted from the day of plowing the fields that started at 7:00 a.m. I was relieved that even after a full day devoted to helping one of his Lynchburg neighbors;

he still had the energy to grant me the interview. And he was, as always, gracious and charming.

First, “G. F.” spoke of his brother, the late E. N. “Punjab” Jackson, who had carried the torch of the NDA after their father died.

“Punjab’s passing affected me much more than I could have ever imagined. And now, four years since his death, even more than I did two or three years ago, I realize how very much I miss him. Hardly a day goes by when I don’t think of him. We did so many things together (for the NDA). But since he passed, I just dropped out of it (the NDA)... and I miss it. So much so, that I have made up my mind to get active again. I don’t know whether or not I can make a contribution... I just want to be there. Maybe I’m being a little selfish, but I want it for myself.”

**NDAJ:** How long has it been since the Jackson family has been involved with NDA?

**GFJ:** As long as I can remember! All of my life, the NDA was a way of life. My involvement, even as a child, was something that was expected, never questioned. My father, was for all practical purposes, the very first Secretary-Treasurer of the National Dental Association. He transferred his responsibilities from the Tri-State component (he was Secretary-Treasurer of that group, also) to the national level.

When J. A. became involved in organized dentistry, he was totally involved. And his wife was just as involved as he was. She was always there.

**NDAJ:** Exactly, how was the family involved?

**GFJ:** Whenever there was a convention, there were only certain men (dentists) who would meet in certain places. At that time, meetings were primarily on the east coast, since that was where the NDA originated. My father was always there.

He was an organized dentistry man. He became active with the NDA in Virginia, one year after finishing Howard’s Dental College, in 1914. My father attended all of the NDA meetings. He was just always there. And he would close his office, pack up his family, and travel to wherever the meeting was.

At that time, the conventions were “fam-



ily oriented”; wives and children were always involved. I grew up with other dentists’ children, who looked forward to the annual meetings, because we knew whole families would be there. We’d meet at Buckroe Beach, Hampton, Richmond ...(pause)

My father practiced in Charlottesville, and from the time I can remember, there were always mailings that had to be done. And those mailings were prepared right there at our house. It was just a natural thing for all of us children to help with the mimeographing, folding, stuffing, and mailing of the correspondence.

And, in an effort to enlarge the organization, that is, to involve more people all the time, as soon as we got information about the location of another black dentist, we began sending him information about the NDA. That’s how the parent organization began to expand, and branch out to establish communications with black dentists across the country.

Of course, you understand, our meetings back then were not in the fancy, foxy hotels that we meet in now. We met anywhere we could, in churches, schools, and private homes. That was a job in logistics, within itself! Local components think that they have a hard job now, trying to get bookings in a hotel. Just think how difficult it was, way back then, to place entire families into private homes for accommodations! Yes, sir, those brothers had a job!

**NDAJ:** Why was your father so devoted to the NDA?

**GFJ:** Well, he was a “peoples’ person”. He had an infectious type of personality and just plain enjoyed people. Consequently, the yearly reunions (NDA meetings) were a

source of pleasure for him.

Convention registration, when we were in charge, was like a big family affair. We like to think we were effective, and got a lot of things done; but we did an awful lot of socializing, at the registration desk, too. When people would arrive to register that we hadn't seen for a year or two ... it was like "Old home week"! You can say what you want to... but larger conventions today, can't afford, what I would call, the "luxury" of that kind of thing. In a small group, like we (the NDA) are...we're not the ADA, I think a lot of that (camaraderie) is still very important.

That is one reason, I think, there will always be a need for the NDA. Because, I don't feel that we get the kind of fellowship and friendship from the ADA as we get from the NDA conventions. I know, I don't, when I go to the "other" conventions.

**NDAJ:** What would you say was the "special" element that characterized the NDA conventions when your family was in charge?

**GFJ:** Well, there is no question that my father (and mother) were warm, friendly people. And "Pun-jab" and I inherited some of that. My father had a way of saying the things that you wanted to hear.

I can recall a speech that was made some years ago, at one of the meetings, where the speaker said something to the effect, "All of us have some ego. All of us are a little egocentric, and the way to get along with each other, is to feed each others' egos!" It's true. It doesn't take a lot to say something nice, to make someone feel good. And that was what J.A. was all about.

**NDAJ:** Was your father also motivated by power and prestige?

**GFJ:** No. His mind didn't work that way. His only desire was to bring his people together. He was motivated by the idea of making the NDA family an extension of his own... to reach out to bring all black dentists into the fold of the NDA; and he was driven by his desire to unify our people as a family of professionals. And we needed that desperately... we still do.

**NDAJ:** When you were growing up, did you ever resent the NDA? Did you ever wish your father wasn't so intimately involved?

**GFJ:** Well, you see, my father had a very powerful personality; one that made all of his children derive great satisfaction from

pleasing him. One of his favorite phrases was "have something to show."

For an example, he would gather us together and let us know that there were a thousand packets to prepare for mailing. Then he would leave. We knew we had to have "something to show" when J. A. came back, because when he returned, he would have a reward for us. So, we would "bust our guts" to finish the job to his satisfaction. He was the kind of guy who would say to us after the job was done, "O.K. Come on. Let's go fishin'!" "And he would take the whole crew! -That included all of his children, the Boy Scout troop, and the neighbors' kids, too!

And people would look forward to the next NDA project, because J. A. made it fun. Everyone wanted to "have something to show" for J. A.

**NDAJ:** Did both you and your brother (the late "Punjab"), as the two dentists of the family, share many of your father's personality traits?

**GFJ:** To tell you the truth, I don't think either one of us, or even the two of us combined, could have ever filled his shoes. His imprint was simply too big. He had the kind of drive that allowed him to do almost everything. He thrived on planning the logistics of the conventions as much as he did in participating in the activities. He and my mother were usually the first ones on the dance floor at an NDA dance. They loved all of it.

In contrast, Punjab and I worked behind the scenes at the conventions, making sure everything was in order, and all the families were comfortable; but we didn't get involved in the socials.

My younger sister, Gloria, was the one who was most like both parents. She exemplified more of the person who would get involved on all levels. And for many years, after she was grown and had moved away from home, she would take one week away from her job to volunteer her services at the NDA conventions. Wherever it was, she was, with her family. She used to run the registration desk. She has a lot of my father in her.

But you see, you have to understand, we (the Jacksons) brought generations of "workers" into the NDA. When I got married, my wife came with me to the conventions to help. When we had children, they came, and when they were old enough, they helped. And before long, we had the entire Jackson family-spouses, children, cousins, everybody working at the conventions. And it became sort of a tradition.

Our involvement was perfectly normal. There was no pay... just an awful lot of love.

**NDAJ:** How did your brother, Punjab, happen to succeed your father?

**GFJ:** When J.A. died, Punjab filled his unexpired term, around 1957. At the following convention, "Punjab" was officially elected to the position of Secretary-Treasurer of the NDA, the same position my father had held for nearly 25 years.

The truth is, "Punjab", before deciding to run for the office, came to each of us (his brothers and sisters) to ask if we would support him, like we had supported J. A.; that is, in terms of committing our-selves to helping him carry out the responsibilities of the position, if he won. We told him that we would and when he did win the election: we all followed through with our commitments.

We pitched-in and helped him, just as we had helped our father, before him. At that time, the NDA did not have the money to pay for a full secretarial support staff. We knew that. And we also knew that by sticking together, and continuing to volunteer our time and our home ("Punjab" remained in Charlottesville to oversee the head-quarters operations), we could help the NDA save money to do other things.

Punjab held his position with the NDA for twenty years. So the Jacksons had been in office with the NDA for nearly fifty years...half a century.

**NDAJ:** How would J. A. feel about the NDA today?

**GFJ:** He would feel satisfaction at knowing the Jackson family had upheld the tradition for as long as it did. He would be grateful for it's existence; and for the fact that it is still a vibrant, growing organization. I think he would be greatly impressed by its leaders through out the years.

**NDAJ:** What do you think would be his greatest source of satisfaction; and his biggest disappointment?

**GFJ:** His greatest disappointment would be the thought of ever losing the "spirit". He loved the lively, at times heated, debates of the floor, for they were the signs of complete involvement.

His greatest satisfaction would be the fact that the NDA is still alive, over 70 years since he first began. He would be pleased to see the fruits of his labor, since he gave so much to organized dentistry. ■

## Dr. John Andrew Jackson The Dynamic Center of NDA Activities\* Charlottesville, VA

In its thirty-odd years of history making, the National Dental Association has produced an outstanding list of veterans who stood united and loyal through its darkest days and varying degrees of success until complete organization was accomplished. Outstanding in this group stands the present Secretary-Treasurer, John Andrew Jackson, DDS, better known to all as "JACK."

"Jack" is listed in our "Who's Who" as of the modest retiring type and shuns publicity just for publicity sake. Thus Flashlights has had a job getting him in its direct rays. Once caught, he actually loosened up and are we proud to present him?

We all thought he was a native Virginian, but not so. He was born in New York City, so the records tells us, but at the age of four, his parents moved with this unruly and precocious child to Petersburg, Va. New York was no place for a child of his promise to be shut in. He graduated from Peabody High School in 1906, took to the shoe-making trade for a while then returned to New York City where he opened a restaurant. Thus began that element in his career which to this day makes his home and dining room a sort of mecca for all his friends for Jack still loves to cook and his friends all like to eat his cooking.

While in New York City he attended night school regularly, taking a business course but the sciences attracted most of his attention. He was soon out of the cooking business and then began that trend towards dentistry. Whether working as an electrician or in a shoe store, Jack still stuck to his cooking when the opportunity offered. He never secured a cook's degree but this basic attainment, it is reasonable to assume, attracted the attention of the lady he smiled upon so

graciously, whom he invited on several occasions to partake of the meals he had cooked. This daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Love, of Madison, N.J., sensed that a husband who could cook and liked it, was worthy of high consideration. It thus did not take him long to win her.

Encouraged by his parents, he entered Howard University School of Dentistry in 1910, graduating in 1913. Qualifying before the Virginia State Board, he entered practice at Charlottesville, September 1913, persuading Miss Otelia Love to let him be her cook, the following year. When he purchased his home, it is said that the first installation was a cook stove. All things else, followed in order.

He became a member of the Old Dominion Dental Society in 1914, followed by early association with the old Tri-State Dental Association which later became the Interstate and then the NDA. A record of his is that he has never missed a meeting of any of these organizations since his entering them. Held office as treasurer of the Old Dominion since 1916. Was an officer of the Interstate and in 1933, stepped from the Executive Board of the NDA to its secretary treasurer, which office he at present holds.

"Jack" is truly a citizen of his adopted city. Active in its very progressive phase, including, church, business, its schools and their youth and organized Boy Scout Troop No. 15, which he has built into one of the city's largest and most progressive organizations. He has the only Boy Scout troupe in his vicinity, and this year was awarded a badge of merit for his outstanding work with this national organization.

Among the busiest of our professional men with a most modern office and an

office building which adjoins his home, in which he houses all of Charlottesville's Negro business enterprises, many of which he promoted - he still had time to rear a fine family of five boys and two girls. Corporal John Andrew, Jr., is now with the Army in North Africa. Dr. Ellard N., with two State Boards passed, is interning at Freedmen's Hospital. Both were Lincoln University men. Kathaleen Love, now Mrs. Lloyd M. Wright, the wife of Lieut. Wright, finished Paine College and then graduated as a Hygienist from Howard University, now living with her husband at Fort Benning, Ga. She until marriage, practiced with her father. Gloria Elizabeth, is a senior at Bennett College, Greensboro, N.C. George Franklin is a senior at Lincoln University and has matriculated at Howard Dental College and is a Lieut. in the Dental Reserve Corps. Alden Washington, a junior at Jefferson High, and Ellwood Carson, a sophomore at the same school.

Dr. Jackson operates an office in Lynchburg, VA as well as in Charlottesville, and his hobbies are farming on his own farm, where he and his sons have built a beautiful rustic stone suburban home shoes swimming pool attracts all. Says his chief hobby is raising chickens, but we all know it is cooking and doing for that fine family and splendid wife and helpmate of his. He is an ideal family man and ended our interview with assigning all his success to the support and loyalty of Mrs. Otelia Love Jackson.

*\*Reprinted from the Charlottesville Tribune, 1943*

# SIMPKINS-SMITH COMMEMORATIVE CIVIL RIGHTS LUNCHEON LEGACY

Inaugurated in 1966, the Civil Rights Luncheon is symbolic of the National Dental Association's resolve for continuous service to the fight for full freedom of African-Americans. The brainchild of Dr. C.O. Simpkins, of Shreveport, Louisiana, the luncheon was intended to express the social consciousness of NDA members and provide financial support for a variety of civil rights organizations. The initial luncheon, held in 1965, was organized with the assistance and support of Mr. Edward Muse and Ms. Yvonne Price of the NAACP, and Doctors William Wallace, Raymond Primas, James Catchings, E.N. Jackson, Millard Dean and Frank Shuford of the NDA. It is an effort which the entire organization rallied around and continues to support.

The establishment of the luncheon was an extension of Dr. Simpkins' long-time crusade against racial injustice. He is considered a pioneer in the national Civil Rights Movement in his hometown of Shreveport, Louisiana. During the 1950's and 1960's, Dr. Simpkins led numerous protests to end institutionalized racism, segregation and police brutality. During that era, he was Vice President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and was able to bring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to Shreveport to educate and assist Blacks with voter registration.

In 1962, three years prior to Dr. Simpkins' initiation of the NDA Civil Rights Luncheon, the first of Dr. Simpkins' homes, which was under construction, was bombed. That same year, while he was in Washington, D.C. discussing the Civil Rights movement with Dr. King and Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, a second home was bombed. With policy holders canceling insurance on his home, auto and office, Dr. Simpkins was forced into exile. He left Shreveport for Hollis, New York, where he lived for more than a quarter of a century. In 1989, he returned to Shreveport and re-established his dental practice.

Dr. C. O. Simpkins

Written by the late

Dr. Eddie G. Smith, Jr.

National Dental Association, Past President

## Gallery of Great Pioneers

*NDA Component Society Histories excerpted from "Gallery of Great Pioneers", NDA 1989 Convention Program*

### **The Robert T. Freeman Society Washington, D.C.**

#### **Dr. Robert T. Freeman (1846-1873)**

The Robert T. Freeman Society is a component chapter of the National Dental Association. It was conceived during the turn of the twentieth century when blacks were not admitted to local white dental associations. On November 14, 1990, the Washington Society of Colored Dentists was formed. Toward the end of the first decade of its existence, the named was changed to honor the first Black American to receive a Doctorate Degree in Dentistry, Robert T. Freeman.

Dr. Robert T. Freeman was a native Washingtonian who became interested in Dentistry very early in life. Dr. Nobel, a local white practitioner, hired him as an office aid and was soon impressed with the proficiency and knowledge young Robert gained merely by watching. Since he showed so much promise, Dr. Nobel tutored him privately in the "Arts and Science of the Practice of Dentistry. With his interests in the profession stimulated, Robert Freeman decided to enter dental school and receive formal training. When Harvard University added a Department of Dentistry in 1867, this pioneer applied and was accepted. He entered Harvard in 1869, as one of a class of sixteen and on March 10, 1869 became the first American black to receive a Doctorate Degree in Dentistry. Dr. Robert T. Freeman began practicing dentistry upon immediate return to Washington, D.C. Unfortunately, Dr. Freeman's career was abruptly terminated when he died four years later.

The objectives of the Robert T. Freeman Dental Society were, and still remain, to create fellowship, cultivate the highest degree of excellence in the science and art of dentistry and to provide programs of continuing education for its membership and the community it serves.

Membership in this society is open to all Dentists practicing, teaching and/or residing in the Washington Metropolitan area. The membership roster includes over three hundred dentists representing practitioners of General Dentistry, and all of the dental specialties.

### **The Maryland Dental Society**

The Maryland Dental Society (MDS) was organized in 1911 by several black Baltimore dentists. Charter members of the MDS were: W. R. Avery, R. Baker, B. H. Brown, D. Brown, O. D. Jones, A. O. Reed, and J. Wilkins. All were graduates of Howard University College of Dentistry with one exception, Dr. D. Brown, who graduated from Harvard University School of Dentistry.

During the formative years, monthly meetings were held in the offices or homes of its members. In 1928, clinics and meetings were at Provident Hospital. Today, the MDS continues a tradition by performing volunteer dental services for the citizens of Baltimore city.

When the National Dental Association was organized in 1913, from the Tri-State Dental Association, members of the MDS were among its founders and organizers. In all segments

of the Maryland community, our society had gained, as well as maintained the confidence and respect of its citizens, based upon professional activities, expert advice, and patient service.

### **The Norman Lassiter Dental Society Newport News-Hampton-Williamsburg**

#### **Dr. Norman Lassiter (1879-1929)**

The Norman Lassiter Dental Society is a proud chapter of the Old Dominion Dental Society and the National Dental Association. The organization is made up of minority dentists from Hampton, Newport News, and Williamsburg.

We take pride in having been the host for the founding of the Tri-State Dental Association in 1931, the Interstate Dental Association in 1918, and the Old Dominion Dental Society in 1913. We are especially proud to have been the host for the first eighteen meetings of the Tri-State/Interstate Dental Association and the 1956 N.D.A Convention. Two former NDA presidents have been Norman Lassiter Dental Society members.

Norman Lassiter, DDS, was born September 7, 1879 in Winston, NC to John and Martha Lassiter. Both sides of his family were free blacks long before Emancipation.

At age seven, Lassiter went to Philadelphia to live with his sister and attended public schools. He did his undergraduate work at Lincoln University, and then entered the Pennsylvania Dental College. After graduation Lassiter practiced dentistry in Wilmington, Delaware. In 1909, he passed the Virginia State Dental Boards and became the first black dentist in Newport News, Virginia.

During his lifetime, Lassiter worked as the dentist for Hampton Institute and the Virginia State School for the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind, as well as maintaining a private practice. He holds the distinction of being the founder of the Tri-State Dental Association, the Interstate Dental Association, and the founder and the first president of the Old Dominion Dental Society. Norman Lassiter died on March 25, 1929.

The Norman Lassiter Dental Society strives for excellence in dentistry. The organization makes every effort to keep abreast of new techniques, materials, and concepts in dentistry. We endeavor to provide fellowships as well as serve the community.

### **The Lincoln Dental Society**

On October 28, 1914, the Lincoln Dental Club of Chicago was chartered and incorporated under Illinois state law.

The Club was founded to provide the vehicle for black dentists to participate in organized dentistry, since they were not welcomed into local societies whose membership was predominantly white. Its purpose was to present a united force to confront and combat political, social, and economic forces that controlled the practice of dentistry within the black community.

The Club organization began in the spring of 1913 at the offices of Drs. J. H. Plummer and C. L. Lewis. Charter members were: A. J. Harper, President; W. A. Richardson, Vice-President; A. J. Johnson, Treasurer; N. A. Thorne, Secretary; W. C. Jefferson, S. O. Mercer, F. J. Braxton, C. L. Lewis, J. A. Wright, and W. L. Lewis.

Once organized, C. L. Lewis was sent to Springfield, Illinois to apply for a charter as the Chicago Dentists' Association. That charter was denied since the Chicago Dental Society, formed in

the late 1890's had a similar name. After writing for instructions, he then filed for a charter for the Lincoln Dental Club of Chicago.

The Lincoln Dental Club of Chicago was officially chartered and incorporated as the Lincoln Dental Society on January 19, 1951. Its incorporators and five Board of Directors were Claudius R. Jones, President; Andrew H. Jordan, Vice-President; Fred Johnson, President-Elect; Arthur R. Brown, Secretary; and Andrew H. Smith, Treasurer.

The Society was organized to benefit patients in the black community by instilling higher ideals to the dentists practicing on Chicago's South Side, and educating the public in dental care.

Membership is open to dentists concerned with the dental care of patients in Chicago's black community. 1988-89 officers are Raymond L. Wright, Jr., President; Kyra Barnes Walton, President Elect, Allen-Knox, Vice-President, George Walker, Treasurer; and Elizabeth Pryor, Secretary. The membership roster currently contains over two hundred dentists. Our founding fathers blazed the path that we now travel, and make it possible for us to follow where they led.

### **The Outer District of Columbia Dental Society**

The National Dental Association chartered the Outer District of Columbia Dental Society in November, 1983. It comprises the surrounding counties of the District of Columbia to include Howard County, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County in Maryland; and St. Mary's County in Virginia.

Heretofore, practitioners of these counties associated with the Robert T. Freeman Dental Society. Because the Robert T. Freeman Dental Society has no persuasion over licensing and/or examining authorities in these counties, it became apparent that a need existed to establish a local chapter in these areas.

During formative days of our society, we sustained a great loss by demise of our President-Elect Dr. Mona Mitchell. However, we are now beginning to reorganize for the challenge set before us. At this time we wish to extend congratulations to the National Dental Association on the occasion of this annual session and dedicate this insert in memory of Dr. Mona Mitchell.

### **The Mound City Dental Society**

The origins of the Mound City Dental Society date back to the year 1914, when led by Drs. Thomas A. Curtis and G. M. Anderson, a small group of black dentists in the St. Louis metropolitan area and other parts of Missouri organized. Segregation of the races in all walks of life, including the professional arena, compelled these black dentists to convene for professional fellowship and scientific improvement.

It was the Mound City Dental Society that led the way for the foundation of the other health professional organizations in the area: The Mound City Medical Forum (formed in 1920); and the Mound City Pharmaceutical Association (founded in 1940).

Through the years, Mound City Dental Society members have been pace setters for many black dentists. In, 1922, Dr. S. D. Miller became the first black dental internist at City Hospital; Dr. Ruth Durley Carter became the first black dentist trained in a specialty, Orthodontics, at the St. Louis University School of Dentistry in 1950.

Dr. Edward L. Grant became the first Negro to be placed on the St. Louis Board of Education; and in 1952, Dr. William Gregory became the first black to initiate efforts toward specialty training in oral surgery.

### **The Angel City Dental Society Los Angeles, California**

**Dr. Booker Tucker, President**

### **Los Angeles Dental Study Club (1953-1955)**

In Southern California, black dentistry had its start in the 1920's when a young black graduate from the University of Southern California, Alva C. Garrot, became the first black dentist to pass the California State Board. The other black dentists during that time were a husband and wife team, Drs. John and Vaida Sommerville. They were later joined by H. Claude Hudson, who migrated from Louisiana and gained national prominence when he helped start the first chapter of the NAACP. His contributions to the community continued up to 1988, when he passed away at the age of 101.

During these early years, black dentists could not join organized dentistry because of their race, therefore, in the early 1930's a group of 12 black dentists founded the Alva C. Garrot Dental Study Club to provide an outlet for their professional and social needs. They elected Dr. Clarence Bradford as its first president. He later became the first black dentist admitted to the Los Angeles Dental Society. In addition to those already mentioned, some of the early members were: John Cooper, Thomas Green, William Cockerell, Emmett Wyndam, E.B. Neal, Nate Fearonce, Clarence Hardiman, George Hurd, George McLeod, Robert Branch, Charles Ennis, Harry Johnson, and Wallace Moore.

In 1953, the name was changed to the Los Angeles Dental Study Club. Dr. Booker Tucker was elected as its first president, and was instrumental in changing the meeting locations from member's offices to formal meeting rooms. A few of the dentists who were active during this time were: Roy Andrews, Tom Roger, Mailton Cloud, Harry Thomas, Roy Johnson, Chris Taylor, Charles Moore, Ted Evans, Morris Williams and Herman Askerneese.

Black dentistry increased in numbers and stature, and in 1955, the Los Angeles Dental Study Club's name was changed to the Angel City Dental Society. Under the leadership of its next two presidents: Tom Roger and Ted Forties, it became recognized as the official voice of black dentistry in Southern California. In 1967, the NDA held its first convention on the West Coast, shortly thereafter; ACDS became the first chapter of the NDA on the West Coast.

The Angel City Dental Society had evolved into one of the most active societies in the National Dental Association, and its success is directly due to the efforts of many black dentists listed above, and numerous others who are not listed, but who have earned our sincere gratitude.

### **The Commonwealth Dental Society New Jersey**

The origin of blacks in dentistry in the state of New Jersey dates back to 1849 when Dr. John S. Rook, of Salem, New Jersey received informal dental training under Dr. Hubbard. He later studied medicine at the American Medical College, and upon completion of this course, practiced both medicine and dentistry.

It was not until 1892, the Dr. John D. Ballard became the first Negro dentist of the state to have graduated from an approved dental college, the Philadelphia Dental School of Stomatology, and established his practice in Orange, New Jersey. Howard dental graduates, Drs. W.P.G. Urling, and William H. Sutherland joined the ranks of New Jersey dentists in 1904 and 1905, respectively. On December 6, 1927, Dr. J. L. Baxter invited the 60

registered Negro dentists of the State of New Jersey to meet in his office, in Orange, New Jersey to organize a dental society. (Previously, the Negro dentists were professionally affiliated with the New Jersey Medical Society.) Dr. Baxter served as the first President of this organization, the New Jersey Dental Society.

By 1929, the New Jersey Dental Society focused its efforts on the formation of a National Dental Association chapter in cooperation with the Interstate Dental Association. Two years later, in 1931, a delegation from New Jersey, Drs. G. A. Kyle, J. B. Parks, W. S. Wiley, and R. H. Thompson, was sent to the Interstate annual meeting, to invite that group to hold its 1932 annual meeting at Bordentown, New Jersey for the purpose of forming a national organization. The invitation was accepted, and in 1932, the Interstate Dental Association became the National Dental Association. Dr. Robert H. Thompson, a delegate, was elected the first Secretary-Treasurer of the National Dental Association.

The same year, 1932, the New Jersey Dental Society changed its name to: Commonwealth Dental Society of New Jersey. Since the formation of the National Dental Association at Bordentown, New Jersey, several Commonwealth Dental Society members have served as National Presidents, namely: Dr. J. L. Baxter (Orange, New Jersey, 1940-1941), R. H. Thompson (Westfield, New Jersey, 1947-1947), and James E. Lassiter (Summit, New Jersey, 1978-1979).

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Commonwealth Dental Society was organized in 1940 under the active leadership of Mrs. Olida Bomers, Virginia Savory, Gladys Shirley and Delia Wiley.

Special acknowledgement to the author of the original historical report: The late Robert H. Thompson Sr., DDS, past President of the CDS and NDA. From the files of Robert H. Thompson, Jr., DDS, MPH

### **The Charles A. George Society**

In the year 1922, Houston Colored Dental Society was formed. Ten years later, at the Dallas Spring meeting, the name was changed. Due to the passing away of one of its most outstanding member, Dr. Charles A. George, a man highly respected for his moral, religious, and professional attributes, the Houston group deemed it fitting, proper and worthy to adopt his name as a memorial to his life.

Dr. R. H. Ward, one of the founders of the Charles A. George Dental Society, provided the data for this historical commentary in an interview on April 16, 1986.

### **The Gulf State Dental Association**

The Gulf State Dental Association of Texas was officially named in 1937. The formation of this state organization, however, had begun several years earlier as the result of the effort of a core group of dentist who had already begun functioning as a city chapter in Houston, called the Houston Colored Dental Society.

The Gulf State Dental Association evolved from the Texas State Medical, Dental, and Pharmaceutical Association. The By-Laws of that organization stipulated that a physician serve as the president for 3 years; a dentist serve for 2 years; and a pharmacist serve 1 year. However, the policy was not adhered to as written, and there was no equity regarding clinical programs, scientific papers and the distribution of clerical personnel.

The idea always implied or spoken was 'the tail should not wag the dog.' The situation was discussed by the Houston group, who were not content with only 'growing older,' but also wanted to experience growth in the scientific and clinical arenas. As a result they organized what was called a 'Flying Squadron.' By car, in the late 1920's and early 30's, the Squadron traveled on

Sundays to various cities throughout the vast state of Texas helping to set up dental societies. In Dallas, it was the N.C. Cooper Dental Society; in Ft. Worth, the N.C. Watts Society; and other groups of colored dentists were organized in Tyler, Longview, Nacogdoches, Austin, San Antonio, Waco, Beaumont, Corpus Christi and Galveston. Unanimously these groups decided that progress could only be achieved under their own 'vine and tree.' As a result, they set out to organize their own state dental society. At the spring meeting in Dallas in 1937, the name of the newly formed Gulf State Dental Society was submitted and approved. The first officers were: President, D.N.J. Howard of Houston; Vice-President, Dr. Neal Bledsoe of Crockett; and Secretary, Dr. J. P. Browning of Galveston. Due to an unusual and sudden demise of Dr. Bledsoe, Dr. Howard continued to serve to two terms.

### **The Wolverine Dental Society**

During a period of racial discrimination and a depressed economy, the Wolverine Dental Society was founded in 1934, at a meeting in the basement of the house of Dr. W. O. Terrell. The charter members present at the historic meeting were: Drs. Haley Bell, W. O. Terrell, Thomas Malone, Ira Whitby, James Collins, Graham and Goggins. The name "Wolverine Dental Society" was suggested by Dr. W. O. Terrell. Dr. Haley Bell was elected the first President of the newly organized group.

For the last fifty-five years, the Wolverine Dental Society has occupied a very significant leadership role in the quest for equality for blacks in the dental profession, and within society in general. Our members have served as leaders in the civil rights movement, as well as lending support to this movement through financial and other means of direct support.

The Wolverine Dental Society has continually promoted good oral health for the citizens of our community and has always provided a repository of information for oral health matters to government agencies at all levels. In 1975, the society was cited by the Michigan House of Representatives for outstanding service to our community and citizens of the State of Michigan.

Throughout the last five decades, the society has provided high quality continuing education for its members, given scholarships to minority dental students and has served on admissions committees and as counselors at the two dental schools in the State of Michigan.

The Wolverine Dental Society presently consists of approximately 210 members and is continuing to grow. The group intends to continue the high standards established by our founders and past membership, keeping in mind that working together is the only way to succeed in tutoring today's highly complex society.

### **The Forest City Dental Society Cleveland, OH**

#### **Samuel L. Thorpe, DDS, PhD (1920-1982)**

The Forest City Dental Society has existed as an organized force, influencing the provision of dental care in Northeastern Ohio since the mid 1940's. It's birth occurred when dynamic dentists, such as Samuel Thorpe, fondly referred to as our Founder, Lewis Wright, Abner White, and Marvin Fisk began meeting in various Cleveland offices to discuss new approaches to provide better dental care for our community. Many of Cleveland's senior dentists joined forces with newcomers to the profession and formally created the Forest City Dental Study Club.

The Study Club's mission was threefold: 1. Achieve and maintain excellence in the dental profession; 2. Political Awareness and activism, protecting the rights of all to receive quality dental

care; and 3. Promote camaraderie and cooperation among its members. The study club's first charge was to host the 1964 National Dental Association Annual Session.

In 1979, to meet the multiple political challenges encountered regarding HMO's and PPO's and the insurance movement, the Forest City Dental Study Club became the Forest City Dental Society. Through this new organization, we were able to have a voice in Ohio State dental decisions. We recommended and received the selection of a black dentist to the Ohio State Board of Dental Examiners, and affected the manner in which insurance carriers designed and implemented their plans for the state residents.

Black organized dentistry is at the pinnacle on the North Coast. We have many generations of black dentists working together for a common goal, including two dynamic father-son teams. We have representatives of every dental specialty, providing our members with a comprehensive referral base for their patients. We also have several large group practices, and two full time educators at Case Western Reserve University. And last, but not least, we have over seventeen female dentists among our membership.

The current members of Forest City Dental Society are proud of our accomplishments, and those of the dentists who paved the way for us. We will continue to promote the interests of black organized dentistry and accept the challenge to serve the needs of our patients and students who walk through the doors we opened.

### **The Pelican State Dental Association**

In the summer of 1945 the Louisiana Medical-Dental and Pharmaceutical Association met in Shreveport, Louisiana. At this meeting the Medical group informed the Dental Association that they wanted to go it alone. Each group then formed its own association. We decided that the Pelican State Dental Association would become our official name. The dental group continued its meeting in a one-story frame building, which was the Benevolent Funeral Home. The election of officers and outlining our future plans took up most of this meeting time.

Each year, in the month of May, the Pelican State Dental Association met. The location changed each year, allowing any city in the state to host the meeting. Any group of doctors in a city could host the meeting, or a single doctor could host if he wished. Since hotels were not available, arrangements were made to stay in homes for families in the host city. In recent years the annual meeting has been in the month of June. This was to accommodate spouses and children who might have otherwise been in school. Drs. Dupuy Anderson, Wyndell Williams, and M. Lester have served as state secretary for most of the time. Dr. Carl Douglas invited the National Dental Association to meet in New Orleans, but passed away before he could complete his work. Dr. Guy Gibson stepped in and made the necessary arrangements with the Pelican State Dental Association and the New Orleans Dental Society. The 1984 meeting was a huge success.

Many of our Pelican State members have served the organization for years, being active on both the State and National levels. Dr. James Henderson, our current National President is no exception. He has been a part of every important event in the Pelican State Dental Association, and has been a delegate for our organization, and held many positions at the national level. He has been a plus in every way for us and we all love him. Others who have served on both state and national levels are Drs. Dupuy Anderson, Booker, and A. Davis. We are well-organized unit of the National Dental Association and wish to serve if we can.

### **The New Era Dental Society**

The New Era Dental Society is one of the youngest affiliates of the National Dental Association having been established as a result of the merger of the Odonto-Chirurgical and William A. Jackson Dental Societies in 1971.

The William A. Jackson Dental Society was founded in 1908 and named after the first man of color to practice in Philadelphia. Its active history spanned some sixty-two years, disbanding in 1970 with formation of the New Era Dental Society. Member of the Jackson Society maintained a dental clinic at Mercy Hospital and were very active in the dental program at Mercy Douglass Hospital.

The Odonto-Chirurgical Dental Society was formed in 1927, as an active scientific society with regular bi-monthly meetings. This organization was host to the 1933 National Convention of Negro Dentists. This was the first meeting of the Interstate Dental Association under its new name, the National Dental Association.

Membership in the New Era Dental Society is open to all dentists practicing, teaching and/or residing in the Delaware Valley area.

The objectives of the New Era Dental Society are to foster excellence in the practice of dentistry and to promote fellowship between members of the dental profession.

### **The Greater Metropolitan New York Dental Society**

In the "good ole days," many old timers met at the apartment of Dr. Mary Jane Watkins. The link between the New York areas had formed a local chapter called the Harlem Dental Society. For many years, Mary Jane Watkins was the backbone of the group, opening the doors of her home to fellow dentists eager to build the organization.

In the early 1970's in the wake of the newly legislated Medicaid program, passed by Congress in 1966 to ensure dental care for indigent youth, active participation in the Harlem Dental Society reached new heights. There was so much new interest, that a name change was required to encompass participants from as far as New Jersey, Connecticut, and Long Island. The new name was, the North Harlem Dental Society.

In August 1975, under the leadership of Dr. Maurice Phillips, the local component received its official National Dental Association charter, having been renamed, after much debate, the Greater Metropolitan New York Dental Society. Representing a constituency of nearly 300 black dentists, The "Greater Met," affectionately dubbed by the late NDA president, Dr. Wilfred Ralph, had become one of the largest NDA chapters.

Currently, the "Greater Met," is dedicated to building a support system within the dental community, and the black community at large. It is committed to providing scholarships for minority dental students, and to that end, establish the Dr. Mary Jane Watkins Scholarship Fund. The revered Dr. Watkins passed away in 1977. Scientific programs throughout the year, and fundraising efforts for the human rights movement are priorities of this chapter.

In addition, the objectives of our organization are to create fellowship, to cultivate the highest degree of excellence in the science and art of dentistry, and to provide programs of continuing education for its membership and the community it serves.

Membership in this society is open to all dentists practicing, teaching and/or residing in the metropolitan area. The membership roster includes 300 minority dentists representing practitioners of general dentistry and all the specialties. ■

# History of the Women's Health Symposium



The first National Dental Association Women's Seminar was held in the early 1980's under the direction of Dr. Marie Holliday (Dallas, TX). In 1982, having been denied a request to form a women dentist's interest group under the auspices of the NDA, Drs. Shirley Bailey and Emily Lee (Los Angeles, CA) founded the Association of Black Women Dentists (ABWD). The group was organized to address the needs and concerns of African American female practitioners. Following a successful women dentist's luncheon at the 1989 NDA convention Washington, D.C., the host committee became the founders of the first branch of the ABWD, the Women Dentists of Metropolitan D.C.

The New York NDA Annual Convention in 1992 provided a fertile opportunity to launch the first official Women Dentists Awards Luncheon, chaired by Dr. Erica Bailey. During that convention, Dr. Hazel Harper (Washington, D.C.) presented the concept for a Women's Health Symposium to be incorporated into the NDA annual convention, to the NDA Board of Trustees, and House of Delegates. The concept was approved, and in 1993 the 1st Annual Women's Health Symposium was held in Boca Raton, FL under the leadership of Dr. Hazel Harper, the first National Chairperson. Since the first WHS, Drs. Sheila R. Brown (Chicago, IL) Beverly Murdock (Somerset, NJ) and Angela Jamison Johnson (Atlanta, GA) have also served as National Chairpersons.

Over the years, the WHS has evolved to include an annual community service component and a seminar series of three sessions during the NDA Convention. As we now celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the WHS, we acknowledge the commitment of the past leaders, and pay tribute to the cadre of current women leaders who hold positions of prominence in the National Dental Association at the local, state and national levels. In 1997, we applauded the milestones and achievements made by Dr. Hazel Harper, NDA's first woman president. Others who followed were, Dr. Cynthia Hodge (Nashville, TN, 1999), Dr. Joy Jordan (Cleveland, OH, 2004); Dr. Leslie E. Grant (Glen Arden, MD, 2006) and Dr. Sheila R. Brown, (Chicago, IL, 2011). As our journey continues, we are poised to nurture, support and acknowledge the leaders of tomorrow. We are grateful for the support of our founding sponsors, Colgate Oral Pharmaceuticals and Anheuser Busch who shared our vision. We continue to salute and honor the individuals who were the original advisors; Marsha Butler, Thelma Cook and Christopher Fox. We welcome the support of our new partners, supporters, and friends.

# History of the Student National Dental Association

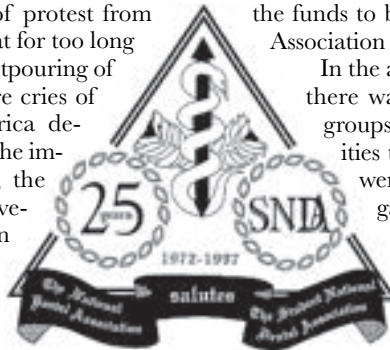
*Excerpted from the National Dental Association 84<sup>th</sup> Annual President's Gala Program, "The NDA Salutes the SNDA for 25 Years of Progress and a New Generation of Leaders", 1997, Scottsdale, Arizona*

In the late sixties, there was an eruption of protest from many groups in the United States. They felt that for too long they had been without a voice. There was an outpouring of frustration, anger, and resentment. There were cries of conflict and turmoil as groups across America demanded to be heard. From their cries emerged the impassioned voices of the women's movement, the black power movement, and the student movement. It was during these years that frustration was symbolic of change. Their voices were raised in a chorus of despair, and everyone knew the times would change.

Each of these groups felt an overwhelming need to recruit others to their cause and to bond together to make their voices heard. It was time to negotiate for change in a society that had ignored them for too long. In Nashville, young African-American dental students from Meharry also felt the need to organize the students at their school so that their voices could also be heard. Rueben Warren and John Maupin led the movement. In 1970, Rueben Warren wrote a letter to Dr. James Holley, III, the President of the National Dental Association (NDA). In his letter he expressed concern for the welfare of African-American dental students who he felt were voiceless and had no support, no guidance, and no connection to anyone. He asked permission to form a student chapter of the NDA at Meharry's Medical College. Meharry was one of two historically black institutions that educated African-American dentists. The other was Howard University. Dr. Holley approved the concept for the formation of a student group at Meharry. However, before Rueben Warren could witness the formation of this student organization, he graduated. But in his mind and in his heart the seed had been planted.

During this same time, seeds were strewn across the country and other student groups were sprouting up everywhere. In fact, there was another group being formed for dental students called the American Student Dental Association (ASDA). The ASDA was organized in 1971 at the American Dental Association headquarters in Chicago. Student representatives from fifty-five (55) dental schools attended a conference for the formation of this new dental student organization. During ASDA's inception, an African-American dental student from the University of Pennsylvania, Lewis Proffitt, was elected Treasurer.

Meanwhile, in another place and at another time, somewhere in between the letter to Dr. Holley and the formation of the ASDA ... another dental student was involved in a movement. Harvard University's Everod Coleman, had been invited to attend a get-acquainted party for the black dental students at Harvard in 1970. This party was hosted by Dr. Alvin Pouissant and all of the black medical and dental students in the Boston area were invited to attend. It was during this function that Everod Coleman learned that a national black health organization for students was being formed that would include all members of the health science profession. He was told that the first meeting of this new organization would take place in St. Louis in 1971. The National Medical Association (NMA) had received a grant in order to help form this organization. At that time, however, the NMA was against the idea of an all-inclusive student alliance, so they used



the funds to bring students to the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) meeting in Detroit instead.

In the aftermath of the student rebellions of the sixties, there was an extremely rapid proliferation of student groups. During 1970 and 1971, there were many activities taking place in various parts of the country that were pointing toward the formation of a black organization for dental students. Revolutionaries with their own cause, students like Rueben Warren in Nashville, Lewis Proffitt in Philadelphia, and Everod Coleman in Boston, who had never laid eyes on each other, were bound together in spirit. They were ONE in the struggle for unity, in search for a better way.

The Black health organization whose concept was first introduced to Everod Coleman in 1970 never really had the full support of the black health students. The concept died.

But in 1972, with grant support from the NMA, the SNMA invited dental students to attend their convention in Detroit. A group of 40 dental students from all over the country met as guests of the SNMA. The dental students from California even chartered a plane to get to Detroit. All of those students met with intense commitment to a common goal. After all, they were children of the revolution ... sons and daughters of the movement. From that group there was an unbridled enthusiasm and an insatiable thirst for change.

Huddled together in a tiny hotel room, immersed in the hope of the future, the students met for hours. Lewis Proffitt, the young man from the University of Pennsylvania, compiled, edited, and presented the first SNDA constitution to the group. A dynamic leader had emerged, and the national organization for minority dental students had finally come to fruition. Proffitt was elected the first president of the SNDA, and the first constitution was ratified. At that time, it was agreed that there should be six basic objectives of the SNDA. These objectives were: 1) to promote and encourage an increase in minority enrollment in all dental schools, 2) to be committed to the improvement of dental health care delivery to all disadvantaged people, 3) to provide time and skill in assisting those programs within the greater community which required some measure of dental expertise, 4) to contribute to the welfare of dental students, 5) to educate and involve its members in the social, moral, and ethical obligations of the profession of dentistry, and 6) to promote a viable academic and social environment that is conducive to the mental health of minority students.

In the beginning, the ten SNDA regions were patterned after those of the SNMA. Although there were roughly half as many dental schools, fifty-six, as there were medical schools in the country at that time, wherever there was a dental school there was a medical school. It was agreed that the Executive Board of the SNDA would consist of six nationally elected officers and ten regionally elected coordinators. The executive board along with the standing committees would constitute the policy making body of the organization. Chapter delegates would be selected from each school to serve as the legislative House of Delegates of the organization. It was also agreed that the annual meeting of the SNDA should be held in conjunction with the NDA. The one obstacle that had to be overcome was the official sanction and en-

dorsement of the SNDA by the NDA.

The NDA would have to provide financial support, professional guidance, and serve as the authority and official parent organization of this new student organization. The student leaders knew that these requests were unprecedented and would create many challenges. So between March and July of 1972, Lewis Profit and the other newly elected officers of the young organization devised a plan they hoped would result in the ultimate approval of several recommendations that the SNDA would make to the NDA. The plan included meeting with several key NDA members before their summer convention.

The deadline was July 29, 1972. The students arrived in New Orleans at the NDA Convention and several were able to participate in the "Charet," a pre convention seminar on the status of dental health in the black community. Some of the students that attended were Alton Henley (Howard), Lewis Profit (University of Pennsylvania), Leroy Sutton (Iowa), and other Howard students including Adrian Wilson, Hazel Harper, Jasper Robinson, Lee Moore, and Ryle Bell. Students from the University of Maryland that attended were Gerald Charles, David Scott, and Benjamin Jenkins. Also in attendance were Fred Coleman from Harvard University, Robert Berryman from New Jersey, and Willie Stevens from the University of California.

Lewis Proffitt requested a meeting with the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and President-Elect of the NDA, Dr. Eddie G. Smith, Jr. He was granted that audience. Dr. Smith was sympathetic to the plight of the minority students and was very encouraging about the formation of the student association. He placed the SNDA on the agenda and arranged for Lewis to make a presentation before the powerful NDA Board of Trustees (BOT). In his speech, Proffitt made three requests of the NDA: 1) a student representative on the BOT, 2) financial as well as moral support from the NDA, and 3) approval of the SNDA's constitution which had been developed in concert with the aims and objectives of the NDA. The BOT accepted all three of the SNDA proposals, but everyone knew the final decision would have to be made by the House of Delegates (HOD).

Although many NDA members were generally supportive, many were not. There was a huge generation gap, made wider by the revolutions of the sixties. Students were viewed as militant, rebellious radicals. Afro hair styles, "dashikis," and beads were offensive to most NDA members, and only tolerable to a few. Their concept of students was loud music, raised fists, miniskirts, and platform shoes.

During the summer of 1972, several NDA members were forced to go to battle for the inclusion of the new student group. They fought long and hard to convince some reluctant members in the HOD that the students would be an *asset* and not a *liability* to the parent group. Their battle song was "the students are the life blood of the NDA." With astonishing eloquence and resounding conviction, the NDA warriors went to the front line. Those who were in on the battlefield were men like Dr. Eddie G. Smith, Jr., the great orator and Chairman of the Board of Trustees as well as President-Elect of the NDA; Dr. Joseph L. Henry, the Dean of Howard University College of Dentistry; Dr. Ellard "Punjab" Jackson, the Executive Director of the NDA; and Dr. James Holley, III, the Immediate Past President of the NDA. These were, to name a few, some of the most vocal proponents. When the votes were cast in the HOD, only two votes separated those in favor from those against the inclusion of the SNDA into the NDA family. The visionaries had prevailed! Dr. Eddie G. Smith, Jr. became affectionately known as the "father" of the SNDA. He treated all of the students like his children guiding them gently, yet firmly, through the rigors of constitutional pro-

cedure and teaching them the culture of the NDA organization.

Dr. Joseph Henry was the first national advisor to the SNDA. Although he was the Dean of the Howard University College of Dentistry at the time, and had an extraordinarily busy schedule, he accepted the advisorship with commitment and dedication. He provided the financial, administrative, and moral support required to launch the SNDA. Between the meeting of 1972 and the first official convention of the SNDA in 1973, he spoke personally to each of the other fifty-five dental school deans to encourage them to support the new group. He challenged them to follow his lead by providing financial support so their minority students could travel to the NDA/SNDA meeting. He asked them to open their doors and their hearts to the mission of the SNDA, and they did. Even schools that had only one African-American student saw to it that the one student had the chance to join the SNDA and the means to travel to the next SNDA meeting in 1973.

For the year 1972 and 1973, Everod Coleman, who was then a senior dental student at Harvard, was appointed as finance chairman for the SNDA and was responsible for trying to raise funds for the first NDA/SNDA convention. It was his responsibility to solicit schools and dental societies to help send the dental students to the next convention. Dr. Hazel Harper was the first SNDA Secretary and had been charged with creating the first mailing roster. Drs. Eddie G. Smith, Jr., Joseph L. Henry, and several other NDA members worked behind the scenes to encourage their colleagues to support the students. Their goal was to identify and recruit more student members from across the country. As a result of their efforts, 47 students attended the convention in 1973. (There were only 14 students at the first meeting in 1972.) It was no small task to convene 47 registered dental students from schools across the country, but one by one students and schools were recruited into the SNDA. Dr. Henry used Howard as the national headquarters and provided many in kind support services. Under the watchful eyes and guiding hands of the NDA mentors, the SNDA began to grow. These were the men who were extremely helpful in promoting the SNDA during those formative years and cultivated an enduring and endearing bond between the NDA and the SNDA.

There were many things that NDA members did and gave to the SNDA during those early years. They gave more than the SNDA asked for ... including the use of their facilities, their offices, and their personnel for mailings, telephone calls, and convention meeting rooms. They even helped with program planning and providing speakers. There were also several dental societies that provided much needed financial support for the students to travel to the SNDA meetings. Across the nation, many schools formed SNDA chapters and implemented programs that would help strengthen the national body. During each convention, the NDA provided a complimentary hospitality suite for the SNDA, reduced room rates, and complimentary tickets to many of the NDA events.

Throughout the seventies, the SNDA continued to flourish. At many of the institutions, however, as African-American students graduated and none followed behind them, in some instances, the SNDA and the concept of the SNDA was lost. In several instances, the local SNDA chapters lost their continuity and there was a lapse in membership because there were no matriculating black dental students or faculty advisors to the SNDA that could serve in any kind of consistent capacity. Even though it was very difficult for some of the majority schools with few or no minority or African-American students to sustain viability and maintain continuity, the national SNDA persevered.

During the decade of the eighties, the true potential and power of the SNDA was unleashed. The membership rolls swelled to

more than 700. It was during this decade that several projects and initiatives were started by the SNDA. The SNDA national table clinic competition was introduced at the NDA convention, the associateship program was implemented to partner senior dental students or recent graduates with established practices in need of dentists, and by 1989, plans were well underway for the formation of the NDA/Colgate partnership. The National Dental Association Foundation/Colgate-Palmolive Scholarship program was established to assist minority dental students. This landmark program awards scholarships for dental assistants, dental hygienists, dental students, and postgraduate dental students. Since its inception, the program has awarded more than \$3 million in scholarships and research grants. The SNDA members have been the beneficiaries of this partnership.

In 1991, the SNDA established a memorial scholarship fund in honor of Darryl Hawkins, a 1989 graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson who died in 1990 while jogging. In 1993-94, the L. Craig Alford Meritorious Service Award was established in memory of the deceased SNDA member.

At the turn of the decade and throughout the nineties, the SNDA was in full stride. SNDA members were Colgate scholars, research interns, table clinicians, national panelists, and community service volunteers. In the mid-1990's the SNDA joined forces with the Summit Health Coalition, a group formed to address the problems of African-Americans during President Clinton's Health Care Reform movement. By 1996, the SNDA had joined the Board of Directors of the Summit Health Coalition (SHC). As a result, the SNDA now sits at the table with some of America's most preeminent and prestigious Black organizations, including the NAACP, the NMA, the National Pharmaceutical Association, Black Nurses Association, the Black Caucus of State Legislators, the Black Caucus Foundation, the Black County Officials, the National Association of Hospital Executives, the National Association of Black Social Workers, the Black Cardiologists Association and many others.

In 1997 there were many "firsts" for the SNDA: 1) dental student representation in the SHC Congressional Speak Out, where for the first time a dental student joined the delegation that made visits to the legislators on Capitol Hill, 2) the inclusion of a student member as a representative on the NDA Corporate Round Table, 3) student participation in the NDA leadership training institute and spokesperson media training program, and 4) representation on the NDA Strategic Planning Committee. These student ambassadors were also a welcome and refreshing addition to the NDA's first overseas meeting – the mid-winter meeting held in Freeport, Bahamas, in February 1997. Nineteen ninety seven (1997) also marked the 25th Anniversary of the SNDA and the First Rites of Passage Ceremony, instituted by SNDA President Davida Hollerman, a University of Kentucky student.

In its first 25 years of existence, the SNDA has demonstrated its vitality and viability. It has a legacy of activism. It has become an integral minority student support system and the bridge between students and minority dental health practitioners. The ultimate goal is to improve the health status of the underserved and to increase the manpower distribution among the minority population. SNDA regional and national meetings are held annually to continue to advance the mission of the SNDA and to refine the collective efforts of the organization.

In the years to come ... the SNDA will continue to grow and SNDA will recommend, and be the recipients of NDA support programs, including mentoring, board preparation, residencies, placement, and loan repayment programs. Theirs will be the generation that improves the quality of life and the quality of health in disadvantaged populations. They will be leaders in their profession – in research, advanced communications, and global technology. They will aspire to ... and achieve goals far beyond expectations. As we approach the new millennium and soar into the next century, the visions and dreams for the SNDA will be limitless. One has only to imagine how far the SNDA will go in the next 25 years. ■

#### SNDA PAST PRESIDENTS 1972-1997

#### 1997 - 2013

**Dr. Lewis E. Proffitt**  
University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine  
1972-73

**Dr. Hazel J. Harper**  
Howard University College of Dentistry  
1973-74

**Dr. Larry Browning**  
Tufts University School of Dental Medicine  
1974-75

**Dr. Andy Cook** (deceased)  
University of California at Los Angeles School of Dentistry  
1975-76

**Dr. Marie A. Holliday**  
Tufts University School of Dental Medicine  
1976-77

**Dr. Paula Livingston-Thomas**  
University of Missouri at Kansas City School of Dentistry  
1977-78

**Dr. Carl James (Jimmy) Gross**  
University of Washington School of Dentistry  
1978-79

**Dr. Angela Mickey**  
1979-80

**Dr. James Hardy**  
University of North Carolina School of Dentistry  
1980-81

**Dr. Alvin Williams**  
Howard University College of Dentistry  
1981-82

**Dr. John T. Daniels**  
Howard University College of Dentistry  
1982-83

**Dr. Craig B. Williams**  
University of Michigan School of Dentistry  
1983-84

**Dr. Butler Redd, III**  
Howard University College of Dentistry  
1984-85

**Dr. Marshall Titus**  
Howard University College of Dentistry  
1985-86

**Dr. Gill I. Gibson**  
Marquette University School of Dentistry  
1986-87

**Dr. Joy A. Jordan**  
Howard University College of Dentistry  
1987-88

**Dr. Keith A. Mays**  
University of Michigan School of Dentistry  
1988-89

**Dr. Martin Jordan**  
Howard University College of Dentistry  
1989-90

**Dr. Brian Buchanan**  
University of Washington School of Dentistry  
1990-91

**Dr. Patrick M. Ralph**  
Boston University Medical Center School of Dental Medicine  
1991-92

**Dr. Yohannes Syoum**  
1992-93

**Dr. Antwan Treadway**  
University of Florida College of Dentistry  
1993-94

**Dr. Anthony T.R. Green**  
Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery  
1994-95

**Dr. Sonia A. Taylor**  
Howard University College of Dentistry  
1995-96

**Dr. Davida Hollerman**  
University of Kentucky College of Dentistry  
1996-97

**Dr. Anissa Broussard** - 1997-1998

**Dr. Dondre Simpson** - 1998-1999

**Dr. Kimberly Edwards** - 1999-2000

**Dr. Rameek McNair** - 2000-2001

**Dr. Cory Newsome-Broughton** - 2001-2002

**Dr. James C. Morrison** - 2002-2003

**Dr. Gustav Horsey** - 2003-2004

**Dr. Kaneshia Scott** - 2004-2005

**Dr. Damon Ross** - 2005-2006

**Dr. Carlos Smith** - 2006-2007

**Dr. Marvin Baptiste** - 2007-2008

**Dr. Steven Myles** - 2008-2009

**Dr. Sarah Kwang** - 2009-2010

**Dr. Adele Newell** - 2010-2011

**Dr. Ngozi Okoh** - 2011-2012

**Dr. Jazmine Daye** - 2012-2013

# History of the Eddie G. Smith Leadership Institute



**EDDIE G. SMITH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**

**Local Leaders Consortium**

## **Eddie G. Smith, Jr. Overview**

The Eddie G. Smith, Jr. Leadership Institute is named in honor of the late Eddie G. Smith, Jr., DDS, FACD, FICD. Dr. Smith was a pillar of the National Dental Association (NDA) whose passion and commitment to the organization spanned over four decades. He authored the first Constitution of the NDA, served as the first Speaker of the House of Delegates (1967-1970), and served as President of the NDA from 1972-1973.

During his tenure of leadership in the organization he lobbied incessantly on behalf of health care for the disadvantaged and testified before the United States Congress for the platform of dental health care as an integral component of Medicaid and Medicare. He was a gifted orator and prolific writer who was appointed to numerous task forces, committees, boards, and consultant positions.

He also fought for the full inclusion of African American dentists in all deliberations and discussions of oral health in America and attempted to bridge the racial divide between the NDA and the American Dental Association by facilitating an unprecedented joint meeting of the Boards of the two organizations. He made civil rights a cornerstone of the NDA by institutionalizing the annual NDA Civil Rights Luncheon.

Dr. Smith was a visionary whose devotion to the NDA and its' ideals compelled him to secure its future by spearheading the movement for the inclusion of the Student NDA in 1971. He believed that the students were the lifeblood of the NDA and that today's students are tomorrow's leaders. In addition to advancing the full inclusion of students into the NDA, Dr. Smith was also a staunch proponent for the advancement of women in leadership positions. And was an avid supporter of the formation of the Women's Health Symposium, which originated in 1993. He made a special effort to mentor women leaders including the NDA's first female President (1997) and first female Speaker of the House of Delegates (1999).

Dr. Smith fervently believed that the future of the NDA would be determined by the strength of its leaders; that the duty and obligation of current leaders is to sufficiently train and mentor future leaders; and that the information, history and knowledge must be preserved and passed on to the next generations. He also believed that those who have the capacity to lead must do so and that in order to carry the mantle of leadership, leaders must devote themselves to becoming students of the leadership process.

Eddie Smith was a leader who saw opportunity where others saw obstacles. His power of persuasion and empowerment were legendary. His intention was to assure that individuals would always stretch to reach the greatest heights, and that they would use his shoulders as a launching pad to soar to higher than he. A man of impeccable and uncompromising standards, he set a standard of excellence with a bar that was constantly rising. He was intolerant of mediocrity and promulgated the philosophy that efficient leadership was a demonstration of authority, confidence, and compassion; and that effective leadership inspired participation and motivated members to commit to the progress, growth and advancement of the organization.

Unceasing in his devotion to cultivating leaders, he mentored many NDA leaders infusing knowledge, inspiring excellence, and instilling confidence for them to aspire to leadership on the state, regional, national and international levels. His belief in high ideals of the National Dental Association and his deep abiding faith in the power of God and the human spirit enabled him to be an architect of the organization's "legacy of leadership and tradition of service."

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Administered by the National Dental Association

# History of the Deamonte Driver Dental Project

## Deamonte Driver Dental Project



### The Robert T. Freeman Dental Society Foundation

*Excerpted from the Deamonte Driver Brochure, 2010*

In February, 2007, 12 year old Deamonte Driver died from a brain infection caused by untreated tooth decay. He was a student at the Foundation School in Prince George's County, Maryland, and his mother was unable to find a dentist to treat her uninsured child. Devastated by the news, Drs. Belinda Carver-Taylor and Hazel Harper launched a crusade to prevent this tragedy from ever happening again. With the support of their colleagues, members from the local component of the National Dental Association (NDA), the Robert T. Freeman Dental Society (RTFDS), serving communities in Washington, DC and Prince George's County, they founded the Deamonte Driver Dental Project. It is a school based, grassroots mobile health initiative that is community based and community-driven.

The project is administered by the RTFDS Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization under the umbrella of the NDA. Services are provided by neighborhood dentist volunteers with existing practices within a 15 minute radius of each elementary school. These "Dentists in Action" (primarily members of the RTFDS) are also supported by the PG County Health Department, the DC Department of Oral Health, the Maryland State Dental Association, Maryland Dental Society and Howard University College of Dentistry.

### Project Overview

The project is a school based mobile health program designed to stamp out the "silent epidemic of tooth decay", the #1 chronic disease in children. Guided by a grassroots community coalition of Advisors, the project seeks to increase access and eliminate disparities through early intervention and prevention promotion. Participating schools are selected based on 1) the oral health needs of the students; 2) commitment and support of the schools' administrators, school nurses, and teachers; and 3) availability and accessibility of neighborhood dentists ("Dentists in Action"). The project relies on community partnerships to achieve its mission, and is continually expanding and strengthening its base of local partners and national program supporters. The goals are to "Save Smiles and Save Lives" by:

- Increasing access to oral health care
- Increasing the number of dental Medicaid providers

- Increasing the number of children connected to a neighborhood "dental home"
- Establishing a "Children's Dental Hotline"
- Establishing school based mobile dental health programs with community providers
- Increasing the number of children enrolled in and utilizing Medicaid
- Educating the community to increase health literacy and increase awareness about the link between oral health and overall health

### Ongoing Programs

- Services to Title I elementary schools in Prince George's County and DC
- Community Health Fairs (churches, civic organizations, fraternities and sororities, etc.)
- Community Health Education (including videos and brochures, hands-on demonstrations, and power point training modules)
- Annual community-wide Oral Health Symposium
- Partnership with selected existing community programs (Headstart, Maternal and Child Health Title V programs, Howard University, University of Maryland, Georgetown University, Morgan State University School of Community Public Health and Public Policy)

### Awards and Honors

- State of MD Governor's Award for Innovations in Oral Health, November, 2008
- Aetna Foundation Regional Grant Award, 2009
- The Dr. Edward B. Shils Entrepreneurial Education Fund Award, May, 2009
- Oral Health America Dr. Marvin Goldstein Award, June, 2009 (presented to Dr. Hazel Harper - Outstanding Volunteer)
- Colgate - National Dental Association Community Service Award, 2009
- The American Dental Association Foundation [Give Kids A Smile Fund] Award, 2009, 2010
- Prince George's County Foundation National Harbor Award, 2010
- Prince George's County Chapter of Jack and Jill, Inc., 2010
- Oral Health America-Trident- Smiles Across America Award, 2010
- Huffington News J., The Children's Defense Fund, "Dentists Remember and Respond to a Child's Preventable Death", Marian Wright Edelman, March, 2009
- The Joe Madison Show (Sirius/XM Radio), May 14, 2009
- Dentistry Today, "DDDP Launches Its First Mobile Clinic", June, 2010

# History of the Multi-Cultural Oral Health Summit



The seeds for the Multi-Cultural Oral Health Summit were planted over two decades ago. For it was then that the leaders of the National Dental Association learned about the formation of the Hispanic Dental Association; ever since that time, the NDA has maintained its commitment to cultivate and fortify strong alliances with other ethnic minority groups who share a common mission and mutual goals. For only a few groups have at the core of their existence, service to those who have been traditionally underserved and disenfranchised.

When some years later the NDA heard about the formation of another group, the Society of American Indian Dentists, NDA leaders once again reached out to embrace and lend support to the new group. Throughout the years, invitations were extended among the groups to attend each association's conferences, and to support their programs. The relationships among the groups grew stronger with each passing year. And gradually, leaders from the organizations began to envision how cordial relationships could blossom into strategic alliances to leverage opportunities for collaboration and change. Throughout the 1990's and first decade of 2000, NDA Presidents made building coalitions a priority for their administrations and they successfully laid the foundation for long-term partnerships that were based on mutual trust and respect for cultural differences. HDA Presidents were equally committed. Each of these visionary leaders realized the difference that could be made and saw dreams that could be achieved by joining hands and working together.

Of paramount importance was weaving together a strong network of dedi-

cated leaders who understood their common destiny - providing leadership, service and hope for the communities that needed them most.

At the turn of the century, during the early 2000's an interest group was formed to formalize the partnership and to promote collective goals. It was called: the Multicultural Oral Health Alliance (MOHA). It was founded by leaders of the three membership organizations and the Children's Dental Health Project, a watchdog group monitoring federal legislative initiatives for children and youth. MOHA continues to explore options that will ensure viability and sustainability.

The seeds for the Multi-Cultural Oral Health Summit were planted in 2008, by then NDA President, Dr. Nathan Fletcher, who was granted permission to convene a meeting during the annual HDA Convention in Carefree, Arizona. Those in attendance at the historic meeting were: Drs. Nathan Fletcher, Sarita Arteaga, President (HDA), and Francisco Ramos-Gomez; HDA President-Elect, members of the HDA Executive Committee; Drs. David Smith, President of SAID, and Tamana Begay, SAID Board member. This meeting represented the culmination of outreach by the NDA to engage both HDA and SAID to further our missions to address the problem of minority dental professionals in the United States. This was the beginning of a formal dialogue to develop joint, national initiatives to improve the oral health of vulnerable populations traditionally served by members of the three organizations. Subsequent to this meeting, several other things occurred:

- In July of 2008 the NDA sent a letter to the American Dental Association (ADA), voicing concern about membership practices of the ADA, based on institutionalized racism that resulted in the systematic exclusion of black dentists from participation in the ADA from 1856 through 1963. This exclusionary practice was unofficially accepted by the ADA for 107 years, and contributed to irreparable harm and adverse health conditions for generations of African Americans, that adversely affected the health care of millions of Americans. This fact was in stark contrast to the ADA's claims to be the voice of dentistry for ALL Americans. The letter insisted on an apology from the ADA as had

been done by the American Medical Association for the National Medical Association. It was divine coincidence that on the same date as the NDA letter that the United States Congress apologized to the nation for the institution of slavery in this country.

- At the time of the meeting, the coalition of the NDA, HDA, and SAID was moving forward with the ADEA Gies Foundation to develop programs that would address issues of access and disparities in their communities. The NDA had been approached earlier in 2008 to initiate a mentoring project under the auspices of the Dental Pipeline National Program with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The goal was to increase the number of underrepresented minorities in the profession, thereby increasing the number of those most likely to provide services to vulnerable multicultural communities — multicultural providers. The Dental Mentorship Council was created, and united the three groups as mentors of the URM students. During that time, a suggestion was made to have ongoing joint projects, such as a joint annual convention.

- In 2009, the ADA hosted a National Summit on Diversity in Dentistry, which included input and participation of the NDA, HDA, and SAID. The Diversity Summit resulted in greater understanding of the cultural differences and related health disparities experienced by each group. This dialogue would be crucial to meaningful efforts to address access to care, dental school admissions processes, licensing, education initiatives, and other economic factors related to the dental profession.

The ADA apology precipitated continued dialogue which resulted in ongoing discussions leading to the culmination of the 2012 Summit.

The dialogue for collaboration was continued in earnest by NDA Presidents Drs. Michael Battle, Walter Owens and Sheila Brown; HDA Presidents, Drs. Sarita Arteaga, Francisco Ramos-Gomez, Victor Rodriguez, and Ms. Margo Melchor; and SAID President, Dr. David Smith. These individuals, with support and input from their respective Board of Directors led to the conceptualization of the 2012 Summit.

# NDA-Health NOW Project

## NATIONAL DENTAL ASSOCIATION NATIONAL COMMUNITY EXPANSION PROGRAM: NDA-HEALTH NOW

### “Health Equity, Access, Literacy, Technology and Hope. National Outreach on Wheels”

#### Program Overview:

The National Dental Association is embarking on a national, community-based, mobile health expansion initiative. It will replicate key features of the Deamonte Driver Dental Project (DDDP), the award winning initiative based in Prince Georges County, MD and the Washington, DC metro area. The expansion project will feature: 1) “mixed-use” mobile health units equipped for medical screening, vision screening, and dental services; 2) target populations: children and senior citizens; 3) inter-disciplinary workforce teams (including physicians, optometrists and nurses); 4) expansion into new states and territories in: New York, Illinois, Texas, Louisiana, Florida, and California; 5) affiliation with FQHCs without dental



clinics; and 6) Full Time program dentist in each underserved/shortage area.

- Key elements will include: 1) establishing referral networks for Medicaid and Medicare patients; 2) compiling resource directories for providers and pharmacies; and 3) developing and disseminating culturally and linguistically appropriate integrated med-dent messages. Partnerships will be cultivated

with other health professional groups, including, but not limited to, the Hispanic Dental and Medical Associations, the National Black Nurses Association, and the National Optometrists Association.

- The goals of the program are to: increase access, eliminate disparities, increase health literacy and promote prevention in underserved and vulnerable populations, primarily: children, the elderly, and racial and ethnic minorities. Services rendered on the mobile health unit will include: health screenings (blood pressure, glucose, and cholesterol), immunizations and flu shots; vision screenings; dental screenings and dental treatment.

## CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN FUND COMMITTEE

Our Centennial Celebration is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us to come together and begin building the foundation for our second century. We are preparing for the future of dentistry, we are ensuring our future as a pertinent organization, and we are paving the way for others to follow. As such, the National Dental Association (NDA) launched a Centennial campaign to raise at least \$1 million for three specific initiatives:

- **NDA-H.E.A.L.T.H. N.O.W. (Health Equity, Access, Literacy, Technology, and Hope. National Outreach on Wheels)** – providing fully equipped mixed-use mobile clinics staffed by volunteer dental, medical and vision care practitioners to provide resources to underserved communities
- **SCHOLARSHIPS** – providing additional funding for students in order to increase the number of under-represented minorities in dentistry
- **OUTREACH** – promoting oral health as an integral part of overall health to patients and public policy makers.

For those who have not had the opportunity, we are reaching out to you and asking you to be part of this special time in our history and giving the NDA Centennial Campaign your most thoughtful consideration. We look forward to you committing to a three-year pledge of \$15,000, \$10,000 or \$5,000. All pledges and donations are welcome and we look forward to proudly placing your name on the donor list for your support of the NDA Centennial Campaign.

*Sheila R. Brown, MEd. DDS*  
Chair, NDA Centennial Fund

*Romell J. Madison, DDS*  
Co-chair, NDA Centennial Fund

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*... and to all of the men and women who were a part of the  
NDA's legacy for the FIRST hundred years.*



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