NDA 100th Anniversary 1913-2013

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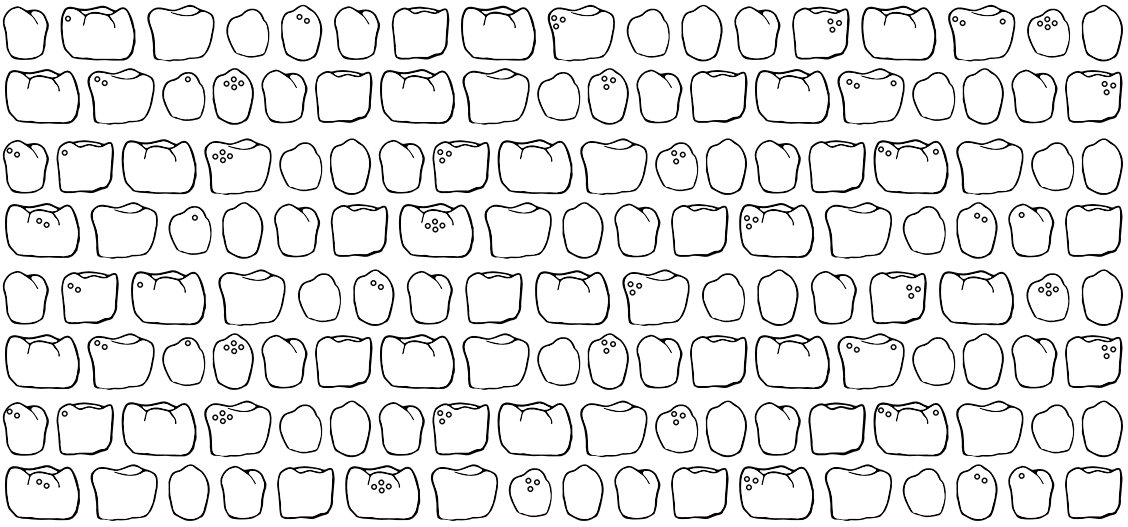

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*18-35 year olds[1]

References: 1. Bartlett DW *et al.* J Dent 2013; doi.org/10.1016/j.dent.2013.08.018. [Epub ahead of print]. 2. Bartlett DW *et al.* Clin Oral Invest 2008; 12(Suppl 1): S65-S68.

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FOREWORD

In 2013, the National Dental Association (NDA) celebrated its 100th Anniversary. Since 1913, the NDA has overcome insurmountable odds to rise to a position of prominence. Its many members systematically dismantled barriers of racism that were erected to deny them access to the same professional privileges afforded to white dentists.

The nation's two Black dental schools — Howard University in Washington, D.C., and Meharry Medical College in Nashville — played a major role in training Black dentists for leadership, excellence, and commitment to their communities. Out of a total of 88 NDA presidents from 1913-2013, 40 were graduates of Howard and 23 were graduates of Meharry.

Moving forward, the NDA will ascribe to the tenets of Past President Dr. Eddie G. Smith Jr., who believed "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 NDA information, history, and knowledge must be preserved and passed on to the next generations."

The NDA's "Legacy of Leadership and Tradition of Service" will continue. It will stand firm to its core values: leadership, service, lifelong learning, innovation, and family. Health equity for *all* is the Civil Rights issue of this century. The National Dental Association is poised to lead the movement for an equitable, integrated health system that includes oral health as a standard of care, as well as including African American health providers as essential to the health infrastructure of the nation.

— Hazel J. Harper, DDS, MPH

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References: 1. Collins LMC, Dawes C. *J Dent Res.* 1987;66:1300-1302. **2.** Xu T, Deshmukh M, Barnes VM, et al. *Compend Contin Educ Dent.* 2004;25(Suppl 1):46-53. **3.** Fine DH, Sreenivasan PK, McKiernan M, et al. *J Clin Periodontol.* 2012;39:1056-1064. **4.** Amornchat C, Kraivaphan P, Triratana T. *Mahidol Dent J.* 2004;24:103-111. **5.** Davies RM, Ellwood RP, Davies GM. *J Clin Periodontol.* 2004;31:1029-1033.

THE BEGINNINGS

FIRST BLACK DENTISTS BAND TOGETHER FOR PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING

Long 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.

Dr. Robert Tanner Freeman

1900s-1930s

On November 14, 1900, 12 graduates of Howard University College of Dentistry met in Washington, D.C., and founded what was then called the Washington Society of Colored Dentists. The 11 men and one woman determined there was a need for an organized effort in dentistry to address the needs of colored professionals. They 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. 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, 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, Negroes were not welcome in most hotels and restaurants, so the only places where the dentists could meet were in schools, churches, and establishments that were Black-owned. On many occasions, when the group traveled to different cities, they stayed in each other's homes.

> *Of course, you understand, our meetings back then were not [held] 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 they have a 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!"* (Interview with G.F. Jackson, DDS, NDAJ, Vol.42, Jan/Apr1985)

Dr. David Ferguson

In 1913, at the request of a young dentist visionary named Dr. David A. Ferguson, 29 dentists from Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia met in Buckroe Beach, Va., at the Bay Shore Hotel, a popular African American summer resort. There the Tri-State Dental Society was founded and organized by nine members from the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. They 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

Dr. George Butcher

change. He relocated the convention to Washington, D.C., his hometown. In the years that followed, the expansion stretched across America. In 1932, the Interstate Dental Association became the National Dental Association at a meeting in Bordertown, N.J. 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 white, mainstream groups, they were symbolic of the new generation of educated Blacks who were determined to form cohesive bonds through organizations of individuals sharing 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, including the R.T. Freeman Dental Society (Washington, D.C.), Maryland Dental Society (Baltimore), Norman Lassiter Dental Society (Hampton-Newport News, Va.), Lincoln Dental Society (Chicago), Mound City Dental Society (St. Louis), Angel City Dental Society (Los Angeles), Commonwealth Dental Society (New Jersey), Charles A. George Dental Society (Houston), Gulf State Dental Association (Texas), Wolverine Dental Society (Detroit), Forest City Dental Society (Cleveland), Pelican State Dental Society (Louisiana), New Era Dental Society (Philadelphia), and Greater Metropolitan New York Dental Society.

In 1914, the first secretary-treasurer of the Tri-State Dental Society was Dr. John "J.A." Andrew Jackson of Charlottesville, Va. He and his entire family were intensely devoted to the NDA "family" and were in charge of the mailings, convention planning, and registration throughout the years. In the words of his son George:

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 practiced in Charlottesville, Virginia, and 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 all the correspondence…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. (NDAJ, Jan/Apr 1985)

When J.A. died in 1957, his sons, both dentists, George Franklin Jackson and Ellard N. Jackson, carried on the tradition. The NDA was sustained and operated by the Jackson family in Charlottesville, with Ellard "Punjab" Jackson serving as the volunteer executive director until 1972. 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.

The Jackson family of dentists in Charlottesville

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 OTHER'S HOMES.

THE WAR AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

ALL IN FIGHTING FOR COUNTRY AND FREEDOM

1940s-1960s

Many Blacks enlisted in the U.S. Armed Services and defended their country in World War II. They distinguished themselves as officers of the highest caliber. Some, like Dr. Victor Hancock, a Howard graduate, were members of the elite Black fighter pilots, the Tuskegee Airmen. And yet, although they returned from war as officers and heroes, they still faced bigotry and the cruelty of racial discrimination in the country for which they fought. Many did not receive their rightful recognition from the U.S. until decades after the wars ended. Still, they courageously continued their fight on American soil for the inclusion, advancement, and acknowledgement of Blacks in mainstream society and the dental profession.

Despite the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, which made racial discrimination illegal in the U.S., it took several years and many lawsuits 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 1960s, the NDA adopted its first constitution and a tripartite system. Dr. Eddie G. Smith Jr. authored the first NDA Constitution and served as the first speaker of the house of delegates. He and other NDA leaders testified in the U.S. 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 the Medicare legislation.

Dr. Victor Hancock, member of the Tuskegee Airmen

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 and matriculating to 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 preeminent Black institution in Nashville, the effort was also initiated to recruit more Black dentists.

Inaugurated by Dr. C.O. Simpkins in 1966, the NDA's annual Civil Rights Luncheon became symbolic of the NDA's resolve for continuous service to the fight for full freedom of African Americans. The establishment of the luncheon was an extension of Dr. Simpkins's long-time crusade against racial injustice. He is considered a pioneer in the national Civil Rights Movement in his hometown of Shreveport, La. During the 1950s and 1960s, Dr. Simpkins led numerous protests to end institutionalized racism, segregation, and police brutality. In 1962, three years prior to Dr. Simpkins's initiation of the NDA Civil Rights Luncheon, the first of Dr. Simpkins's homes, which was under construction, was bombed. That same year, while he was in Washington, D.C., discussing the Civil Rights Movement with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, a second home was bombed. With policyholders canceling insurance on his home, auto, and office, Dr. Simpkins was forced into exile. He left Shreveport for Hollis, N.Y., where he lived for more than a quarter of a century. (In 1989, he would return to Shreveport and re-establish his dental practice.)

Congratulations

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A SPIRIT OF NO BOUNDARIES

THE AFTERMATH OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT LEADS TO DRAMATIC CHANGES

1970s – 1980s

The 1970s and 1980s represented a period of enormous transition and transformation for the organization. The Civil Rights Movement, the Black Power Movement, student movements, and women's movements 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 Assistant Association, the National Dental Hygienists' Association, and the Auxiliary to the NDA — was a unique feature.

When the Student National Dental Association (SNDA) (incorporated in 1972) joined the NDA "family," 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 lifeblood" 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.

Drs. James Holley III and Eddie G. Smith Jr.

The students of the 1970s began their rise to leadership positions in the 1980s, 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 (NDA president, 1971) and Eddie G. Smith Jr. (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.

The following excerpts are from the 84th annual NDA President's Gala, held in 1997 in Scottsdale, Az. They appeared in the program under the title, "History of the Student National Dental Association: The NDA salutes the SNDA for 25 years of progress and a new generation of leaders."

In the aftermath of the student rebellion 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 at Meharry in Nashville, Lewis Proffitt at U of Penn in Philadelphia, and Everod Coleman at Harvard 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 one obstacle that had to be overcome was the official sanction and endorsement 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…they devised a plan that included meeting with several key NDA members before their summer convention (in 1972). SNDA's first President, Lewis Proffitt, requested a meeting with the Chairman of the Board 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…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, Lewis 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…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.

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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 hairstyles, "dashikis", and beads were offensive to most NDA members, and only tolerable to a few. Their concept of students was loud music, raised fists, mini-skirts, 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. Those who were on the battle front were men like Dr. Eddie G. Smith, Jr., Dr. Joseph Henry, Dr. Ellard "Punjab" Jackson, and Dr. James Holley, III…

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. Joseph L. Henry, dean at the Howard University College of Dentistry, was the SNDA's first national advisor. He provided financial, administrative, and moral support. He made personal phone calls to all of the 55 dental school deans, challenging them to follow his lead by providing financial support to their minority students to be able to travel to attend the NDA/SNDA meeting. He asked them to open their hearts to the mission of the SNDA, and they did. Dr. Henry was highly respected among his peers, and as a result of his efforts, SNDA chapters were formed at every school where Black students were enrolled. In 1972, 14 students attended the first SNDA meeting with the NDA; in 1973, 47 students attended the first SNDA Convention; and during the 1980s, the SNDA membership rolls swelled to more than 700.

Dr. Joseph Henry

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

Dr. Harvey Webb

SNDA PAST PRESIDENTS 1972-2013

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
University of Alabama
1997-1998

Dr. Dondre Simpson
Howard University College of Dentistry
1998-1999

Dr. Kimberly Edwards
Medical College of Georgia
1999-2000

Dr. Rameek McNair
University of California San Francisco
2000-2001

Dr. Cory Newsome-Broughton
University of Tennessee
2001-2002

Dr. James C. Morrison
University of Pennsylvania
2002-2003

Dr. Gustav Horsey
UNC at Chapel Hill
2003-2004

Dr. Kanesha Scott
Meharry Medical College
2004-2005

Dr. Damon Ross
UNC Chapel Hill
2005-2006

Dr. Carlos Smith
University of Michigan
2006-2007

Dr. Marvin Baptiste
Columbia University
2007-2008

Dr. Steven Myles
Howard University College of Dentistry
2008-2009

Dr. Sarah Kwang
University of Detroit Mercy
2009-2010

Dr. Adele Newell
Columbia University
2010-2011

Dr. Ngozi Okoh
University of Pennsylvania
2011-2012

Dr. Jazmine Daye
University of Illinois - Chicago
2012-2013

Dr. David Carter
University of Mississippi
2013-2014 (current president)

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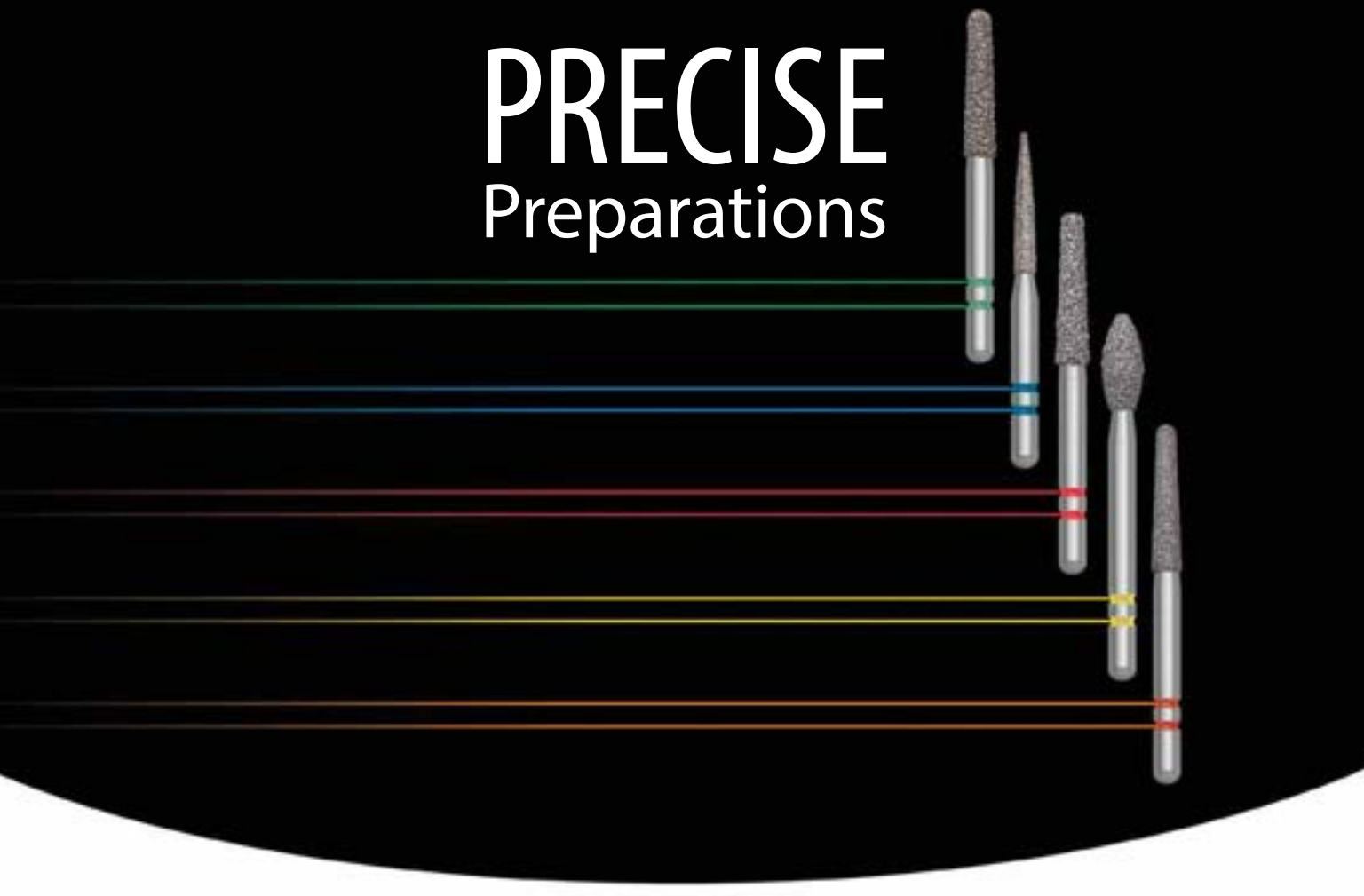
Preparations



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After the student group had organized, the formation of other entities and interest groups critical to the growth and relevance of the NDA followed. NDA Past President Dr. James Lassiter served as the first NDA Foundation (NDAF) president, and 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, the foundation was instrumental in establishing the NDAF Building Fund and securing funding for the purchase of the NDA headquarters building in Washington, D.C. NDA members donated to the fund through the NDAF Gold Leaf Society. Dr. Roosevelt Brown served as long-time president of the NDAF and led the effort.

Dr. James Lassiter

Dr. Roosevelt Brown

In 1976, the time came for the NDA to make a transition from the Charlottesville "home office" to establish a headquarters in Washington, D.C., with a paid, non-volunteer executive director and staff.

The change was painful, but necessary. The Jackson family "greeters" at the annual convention who helped to create a "family reunion" 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 African American communities.

Dr. Harvey Webb (NDA President, 1976-77) 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 ensure 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 due in great part by 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, and volunteer NDA executive director Dr. Ellard "Punjab" Jackson passed away in his hometown of Charlottesville. For over 60 years, the Jackson family had sustained the growth and viability of the NDA. His successor in 1977 marked the end of the Jacksonian Era. Recollecting his family's devotion to the NDA, Dr. George Jackson said,

> *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.* [Actual time was 43 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 ourselves 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 headquarters' operations), we could help the NDA save money to do other things.*
>
> *Punjab held his position with the NDA for 20 years. So, the Jacksons had been in office with the NDA for nearly fifty years…half a century.* [Actual time was 63 years.] (NDAJ, Jan/Apr 1985)

NDA women dentists Drs. Shirley Bailey and Emily Lee founded the Association of Black Women Dentists in Los Angeles in 1982 after requests for the formation of a womens dentist interest group within the NDA were denied. They were preceded in their efforts by Dr. Marie Holliday in Dallas, who organized the first NDA Women's Seminar in 1980. At the time, NDA leaders felt there was no need for the women to organize, and that a women's group within the NDA would be divisive and detrimental. The Los Angeles women paved the way for the formation of women's groups in metro Washington, D.C., and Chicago.

Dr. John Maupin – a Meharry graduate, a product of the social movement of the 1960s, and a proponent 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 1960s revolution and beneficiaries of the civil rights legislation enacted in 1964.

Dr. John Maupin

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 universities' 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 NDA was boycotting Colgate because of the offensive packaging and Mr. Mark was determined to repair the damaged relationship.

That year, Colgate and the NDA forged an unprecedented partnership, paving the way for other NDA corporate endeavors. Dr. Marsha Butler, a graduate of the Howard University College of Dentistry and product manager for Johnson & Johnson, 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-term 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 at Howard and Meharry, as well as Morehouse School of Medicine, a historically Black school. Dr. Butler was the creator of Colgate's award-winning Bright Smiles/Bright Futures mobile oral health education program for inner city children. The program's first volunteer partners were NDA members in Philadelphia and Oakland.

Dr. Marsha Butler

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, and Reuben Warren.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY
College of Dentistry

67th ANNUAL CLASS REUNION & COMMENCEMENT WEEK ACTIVITIES
AND
THE VICTOR L. HANCOCK, DDS SYMPOSIUM

May 8-10, 2014

FORGING LEADERSHIP FOR THE FUTURE

KEY ADDITIONS TO ORGANIZATIONAL STAFF LEAD TO COHESIVE VOICE

1990s – 2000

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, the NDA endeavored to raise its stature among other professional organizations, legislators, and the dental industry.

Executive Director Robert Johns was hired in 1990 to bring stability, fiscal solvency, and leadership to the organization. As a former corporate executive, he had 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.

Before Robert Johns, there had been a revolving door at the position of executive director, leaving an atmosphere of distrust and disillusionment. Johns worked diligently to change this.

Executive Director Robert Johns Executive Director

Another key leadership change occurred during this time. Dr. Joe Oliver, a member of one of the SNDA's founding chapters at UCLA, was elected president in 1991. When he took the position, the NDA was in the midst of one of its most tumultuous periods.

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 have faith in the viability and future of the organization, they grew to respect one other. By the end of Dr. Oliver's term, the two men were confident that the tide had turned and the organization was back on track.

Dr. Joseph Oliver

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 1960s and 1970s, fulfilling their destiny as the lifeblood of the NDA, were rising to the pinnacle of the organization. They were ready and poised to take the organization to the next level.

In 1991, Dr. Joel Turner was a member of the team that met with Procter & Gamble to revisit the concept of a stronger relationship with the NDA. Other group members were Dr. John Maupin, Dr. 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 held at the University of Michigan by Co-chairs Drs. Emerson Robinson and Michael Razzoog to develop a roadmap for Black dental professionals and the Black community. The Black Dentistry in the 21st Century National Workshop and Conference took place June 23-27, 1991, and was attended by 60 participants.

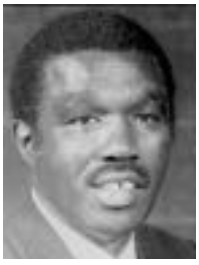
In 1993, buoyed by the influx of women health professionals and role models like Drs. Jeanne Sinkford (Howard University), Julianne Bluitt (Northwestern University), and Eugenia Mobley (Meharry University), and riding the crest of the new wave and focus on women's health, Dr. Hazel Harper led the movement to officially form the NDA Women's Health Symposium and the annual Women Dentists Awards Luncheon.

Dr. Jeanne Sinkford

Also in 1993, the NDA became a major player in the African American Health Summit, a coalition of Black health organizations formed to address the needs and concerns of African Americans in the new health-care reform legislation proposed by the Clinton administration. The NDA and the ADA once again disagreed on the issue of health-care reform and the inclusion of dental care. The NDA's commitment to access to care formed the basis for the organization's advocacy for total health reform.

Also during that year, under the leadership of President Dr. Eugene Jordan, a staunch civil rights activist and leader from

Cleveland, Ohio, 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 five-star resort, the Boca Raton Resort and Spa in Boca Raton, Fla.



Dr. Eugene Jordan

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, and restaurant waitstaff. Since that time, this policy has remained in effect and the NDA has hosted two other conventions in Boca Raton.

In 1996, the concept for the formation of the NDA-Corporate Roundtable (NDA-CRT) was approved by the NDA board. The first steering committee meeting was hosted by Director of the American Dental Trade Association Nick Petrovic. The NDA-CRT was created by President-elect Dr. Hazel Harper during the administration of NDA President Dr. Stephen Towns. The NDA-CRT acted as an advisory committee to strengthen the organization's growth and development. The CRT founding members were Aetna, Colgate, P&G, Dental Trade Alliance (formerly the American Dental Trade Association), Dentsply International, Inc., GlaxoSmithKline (formerly Block Drug), Henry Schein Dental, Quality Plan Administrators, and 1-800 DENTIST.

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: a strategic plan document, leadership training, website preparation, and fiscal accountability protocols.

Dr. Hazel Harper

It was a new day at the NDA. 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 trajectory of the organization.

Derrick Humphries, Esq.

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 he led the organization to a position of prominence and influence among members of the U.S. 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. He 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.

Humphries 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.

Throughout the 1990s and first decade of 2000, NDA presidents made coalition-building a priority and successfully laid the foundation for long-term partnerships based on mutual trust and respect for cultural differences. Alliances were 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 Health Braintrust, 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 other issues. During this period, the NDA was frequently called upon to deliver Congressional testimony on many topics impacting dentistry and underserved communities.

CURRENT EVENTS

AFRICAN AMERICAN DENTAL PROFESSIONALS PREPARE FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

2000-2013

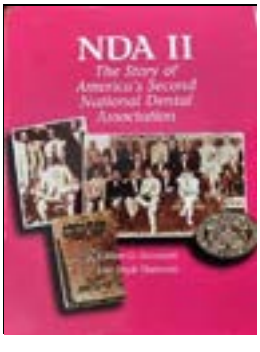
By the new millennium, the NDA had reached unparalleled heights. New technology created solutions to old problems and fostered the growth of new ideologies. Social research placed health disparities under a microscope, revealing glaring inequities that continued to plague communities of color and other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

Dr. David Satcher

The first-ever Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health in America was released in 2000. It was commissioned by the first African American U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher. The report was an astonishing commentary on persistent disparities impacting the health of vulnerable groups in the U.S., namely racial minorities, children, the elderly, and the disabled. The editor of this landmark report was NDA member and public health ethicist Dr. Caswell Evans. It was followed by the Department of Health and Human Services Call to Action Challenge and the NDA's Response to the Surgeon General's Report.

Dr. Caswell Evans

Dr. Clifton Dummett's long-awaited book, *NDA II: The Story of the National Dental Association*, commissioned by Dr. Roosevelt Brown, was published in 2000. A book signing was held at the new Dr. Samuel R. Harris National Museum of Dentistry, and a special ceremony was held at the NDA Convention in 2001



The cover of *NDAII: The Story of the National Dental Association*

Dr. Clifton Dummett Sr. and Lois Doyle Dummett

honoring Dr. Clifton Dummett Sr. and his wife, Mrs. Lois Doyle Dummett.

The National Museum of Dentistry in Baltimore sought the guidance of NDA historian Dr. Dummett and other devoted members in developing a new traveling exhibit that would be a tribute to the accomplishments of Blacks in dentistry. The name of the exhibition 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 NDA Convention in Los Angeles, held 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-1900s 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 advisers 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. 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 "superstar" NDA

Untraditional partnership promoted seat-belt safety

chapters and was so successful that the grant was renewed for a second year. As a result, seatbelt 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.

Dr. Leslie Grant

The Eddie G. Smith Jr. Leadership Institute was named in memory of one of the NDA's most respected and transformational leaders. Dr. Smith fervently believed that the future of the NDA would be determined by the strength of its leaders. He also believed the duty and obligation of current leaders is to sufficiently train and mentor future leaders, and that information, history, and knowledge must be preserved and passed on to the next generations.

Dr. Eddie G. Smith Jr.

Dr. Smith felt 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. Unceasing in his devotion to cultivating leaders, he mentored many NDA leaders, infusing knowledge, inspiring excellence, and instilling confidence in them to aspire to leadership on all levels.

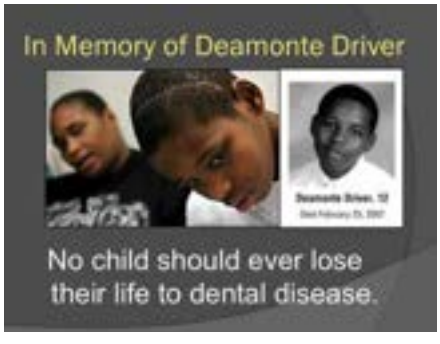
The purpose of the institute is to provide training for current and future NDA leaders and to ensure planning of leadership succession for the organization. Training modules are designed for all of the NDA family of organizations and focus on a wide array of topics supportive of NDA-member businesses, community health leadership, public policy, organizational governance, fiscal accountability, and infrastructure development.

In February 2007, 12-year old Deamonte Driver died from a brain infection caused by untreated tooth decay. He was a student in Prince George's County, Md., and his mother was unable to find a dentist to treat her uninsured child. Devastated by the news, NDA members Drs. Hazel Harper and Belinda Carver-Taylor launched a crusade to prevent this tragedy from ever happening again.

With the support of colleagues, friends, and patients, they founded the Deamonte Driver Dental Project. The tragedy magnified the national health-care crisis, and national media exposure brought into clear focus the broken health systems in states across America.

Responding to the crisis in their backyard, a group of Black dentists from the NDA's Washington, D.C., and Maryland-based 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 Founder and CEO of the Children's Oral Health Institute Dr. Winifred Booker.

The program was a school-based, grassroots, 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, regional organizations, and the Governor's Award for Health Innovation, as well as 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*.



Public health message promotes access to care

In July 2008, during the presidency of Dr. Nathan Fletcher, the NDA sent a letter to the American Dental Association (ADA) about the organization's practice of racial discrimination 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. This fact was in stark contrast to the ADA's claims to be the voice of dentistry for all Americans. The NDA letter insisted on an apology from the ADA as had been done by the American Medical Association for the National Medical Association. The ADA response, however, did not materialize until several years later.

NATIONAL DENTAL ASSOCIATION

July 29, 2008

Dr. Mark Feldman, President
American Dental Association
211 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611-2678

Dear Dr. Feldman,

Over the last few years, the American Dental Association (ADA) has made efforts on the local, state, and national levels to facilitate dialogue between the National Dental Association (NDA) and the ADA on issues that are of importance to each of our organizations. These efforts are commendable and appreciated. However, the leadership of the National Dental Association seeks to address and attempt to rectify a major longstanding issue that is sustaining what is perceived to be an inescapable and significant divide between our two groups.

The systematic and institutional exclusion of black dentists from participation in the ADA from 1856 through 1963 adversely affected the health care of millions of Americans. Since the origins of the ADA in 1856 throughout the process of the name change (from the National Dental Association to the American Dental Association in 1922) through the passage of the Civil Rights Act, until 1963, ADA constituent and component societies denied membership to African American dentists against the dictates of the ADA Bylaws.

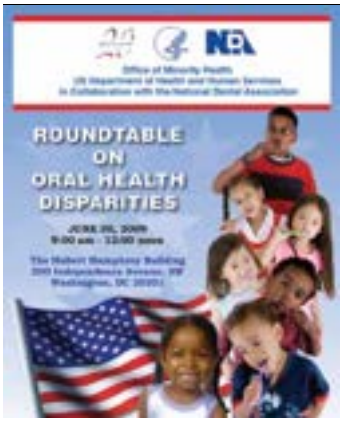
That is 107 years that the ADA accepted this practice officially. These acts of racial discrimination contributed to irreparable harm and adverse health conditions for generations of African Americans for over 150 years. This fact is in stark contrast to the ADA's claims to be the voice of dentistry for ALL Americans.

The National Dental Association deems it appropriate and necessary to insist on an apology from the American Dental Association for allowing these practices to continue as long as they did. The National Dental Association will continue to be the oldest and most effective voice of the underrepresented and the minority dental professionals in this nation. We await your response and trust you will see the immediate benefit and value that a public apology will serve. Your action will begin the reconciliation process and serve to address the many national health care concerns of ALL Americans.

Sincerely,

Nathan Fletcher, DDS
President

Dr. Nathan Fletcher requests apology from the American Dental Association



NDA roundtable reviews disparities in oral health care

Later that year, in November 2008, Barack H. Obama was elected president of the United States, and millions around the world celebrated his historic victory. His campaign message called for "Change" and "Hope," and those who never thought they would live to see the day a Black man was elected president rejoiced with delirious optimism. At last, America, as a nation, could begin to put the atrocities of racism and hate behind itself and live out the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

It was also during this time that seeds were planted for a joint convention of the three dental minority groups: the NDA, the Hispanic Dental Association (HDA), and the Society for American Indian Dentists (SAID).

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 groups' cultural differences and related health disparities experienced by each group.

Also during this year, still reeling from the death of Deamonte, and determined to put a face to the voices of neglect and despair in African American communities, NDA 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 focused on glaring inequities in health among vulnerable populations. It placed the NDA in the position of facilitator and convener of like-minded groups, which represented 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 the NDA, health equity had become the civil rights issue of the century.

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 project was activated and the first mobile unit was purchased for the Deamonte Driver Dental Project. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Capitol Hill during the 2010 NDA Annual Day on the Hill. The project's major supporters and benefactors were honored at an awards program immediately following the ceremony: Senator Ben Cardin, Congressman Elijah Cummings, Governor Martin O'Malley, Stanley Bergman (president and CEO of Henry Schein, Inc.) and Jim Kitch (ADI-Mobile).

The American Dental Association issued an apology letter to the NDA in 2011. NDA President Sheila R. Brown and the ADA's first African American president, Dr. Raymond Gist, had formed an amicable and supportive relationship during their overlapping terms in office. Both presidents knew that some would not under-

Ribbon-cutting for first mobile dental unit

The American Dental Association apologizes to African American dentists

stand why the apology was warranted, and others would feel it was "too little too late," but the gesture symbolized the ADA's acknowledgment of past racial discrimination and the organization's desire to move forward.

The NDA endeavored to advance the organization's mission and engage more membership support. The Call to Action Tour, which showcased the Deamonte Driver Dental Project (DDDP), was launched in 2011. The DDDP mobile unit made stops at the Old Dominion Dental Society in Richmond, Va., the Old North State Dental Society in N.C., the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the North Georgia Dental Society, and Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta. The tour ended in Orlando at the Annual Convention of the American Dental Association.

That year, the DDDP mobile unit also made appearances at the Eastern Area Conference of the Links Inc. The Links Inc. is an organization of 12,000 African American professional women, with 274 chapters across the U.S. Many members at the conference toured the unit, and in the same year, private tours were also arranged for members of the NDA Corporate Roundtable. As a result of this effort and in support of the NDA's mission, supportive

ADA American Dental Association®
America's leading advocate for oral health

Raymond F. Gist, D.D.S.
President

September 28, 2011

National Dental Association
3517 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20010

Dear National Dental Association Members and All African American Dentists:

This letter is in response to the National Dental Association's request for a clear expression of apology by ADA for past membership discrimination. As we have previously expressed, the ADA regrets the discrimination demonstrated by a number of its state societies and local societies in the years before 1965. The ADA recognizes that all African American dentists' lives have been affected by our nation's discrimination history. In order to build a stronger, collaborative platform for our future accomplishments, the American Dental Association acknowledges its past mistakes and apologizes to the members of the National Dental Association and to all African American dentists.

We cannot and must not forget the past, yet commit to move forward collaboratively to ensure the strength of our profession for those currently practicing and for those who will come after us. The ADA's goal is to be a welcoming, member-led association representing the richness of a truly diverse profession, well positioned to serve the needs of all of our communities now and in the future.

We appreciate that the NDA has pioneered important programs to provide better access to dental careers for African Americans and to reduce oral health disparities that have plagued our nation along racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic lines. The ADA is proud of its own initiatives, created with NDA input, such as the Institute for Diversity in Leadership. ADA was also proud to join with the NDA, the Hispanic Dental Association and the Society of American Indian Dentists in producing the National Summit on Diversity in Dentistry.

Doors have been opened, and yet more can be done. Working together, the ADA and the NDA can bring more talented young people to careers in dentistry, more treatment to people in need and a more united profession to advance the oral health of all Americans.

We must stand together in order to advocate on behalf of dentists and the patients we serve. First and foremost we are dentists—doctors of oral health—uniquely qualified to diagnose and treat oral diseases. As a profession, we have the hands of a surgeon and the heart of a healer. I am proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with you to advance the profession and the oral health of the public.

Sincerely,

Raymond F. Gist, D.D.S.
President

RFG:jm

cc: Officers and Members of the Board of Trustees
Dr. Kathleen O'Loughlin, executive director

American Dental Education Association

ADEA Resources and Opportunities Available at Your Fingertips

ADEA/AAL Faculty of Color Tuition Scholarships for Professional Development
Faculty of Color Tuition Scholarships foster the development of faculty of color in academic dental careers. **www.adea.org/FacultyofColorScholarships**

Summer Medical and Dental Education Program (SMDEP)
The SMDEP program provides scholars with academic enrichment programs in basic sciences and math, clinical experiences and career development.
www.smdep.org

ADEA GoDental®
ADEA GoDental is the official resource for those on the path to dentistry and other oral health careers.
www.GoDental.org

2014 ADEA Dental Student Virtual Fair
February 22, 2014 | Noon – 5:00 p.m.
The 2014 ADEA Dental Student Virtual Fair allows current dental students and recent alumni to network with peers and chat live with dental associations.
www.adea.org/dentalstudentvirtualfair

2014 ADEA Predental Student Virtual Fair
April 29–30, 2014 | Noon – 6:00 p.m.
The 2014 ADEA Predental Student Virtual Fair is a free, online event where prospective students can visit multiple dental school booths without travel.
www.adea.org/predentalvirtualfair

Explore Health Careers
ExploreHealthCareers.org is a multi-disciplinary, interactive health careers website that explains the array of health professions and provides information to students about health careers.
www.explorehealthcareers.org

ADEA congratulates the National Dental Association on 100 years of progress in oral health equity. Wishing the NDA continued success in the years to come.

www.adea.org

ADEA THE VOICE OF DENTAL EDUCATION

organizations became new national partners and advocates for oral health. Among them were General Electric's African American Forum, the Links, Inc., and the U.S. Tennis Association.

Another important objective for the NDA was to continue to educate its members on policy issues critically important to the profession and NDA members in particular. The goal was to provide accurate, factual, evidence-based information about emerging workforce models relevant to African Americans and underserved communities.

Howard University in Washington, D.C., was the site of the 2011 symposium, *Health Care Reform: The Challenges and Opportunities of Workforce Expansion.* It was co-hosted by the Deamonte Driver Dental Project, the NDA, and Howard University College of Dentistry. Attendees were NDA leaders and spokespersons, representatives from other health organizations, public health agencies, and foundations. The purpose of the symposium was to diffuse the inflammatory rhetoric propagated by some other major dental organizations. Consistent with the NDA's mission, the organization would continue to be the voice of moral authority.

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 Hurricane Katrina, killed an unarmed, frightened man. The man was the brother of NDA Past President Dr. Romell Madison.

NDA assists in prosecution of New Orleans policemen after Hurricane Katrina

The crusade for justice was led by NDA Legal Counsel Derrick Humphries. Finally, seven years after the Hurricane Katrina disaster, the policemen were indicted and subsequently found guilty in a 2012 court ruling.

In February 2012, NDA leaders met at the headquarters of Henry Schein, Inc., one of the CRT's founding members. With the assistance of the Schein executive leadership team, they 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 improved. 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 15 community partners and over 100 volunteers, including physicians from the local chapter of the National Medical Association, the Links, students, and health centers, executed the plan. Sponsored by Crest and Oral-B, The Dental Zone of the Tom Joyner Take A Loved One To The Doctor Health Festival was a huge success.

NDA participates in Tom Joyner's "Take a Loved One to the Doctor" festival

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 in Boca Raton, Fla. The theme was "Collectively Meeting the Needs of a Diverse Population to Improve Oral Health." 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. It resulted in a manifesto for change and future plans for collaboration. Since the initial joint meeting, board members from each of the three groups, joined by the American Association of Women Dentists and the ADA, have agreed to continue to meet annually to pursue a common agenda.

The NDA $1 million Centennial Campaign Fund was launched at the 2011 convention. Co-chaired by Past Presidents Drs. Sheila R. Brown and Romell Madison, and funds are being raised to support three major initiatives: NDA-HEALTH NOW, scholarships, and outreach. Sinclair, Townes & Company was hired to help lead the campaign.

The year 2013 was monumental for the NDA. In February and April, NDA-HEALTH NOW (Health Equity. Access. Literacy. Technology. Hope. National Outreach on Wheels.) was launched in Chicago and Dallas with the support of a planning grant awarded by the Links Foundation, Inc. The project replicates and takes to scale the award-winning Deamonte Driver Dental Project. It expands the project to include children, adults, and the elderly, and is designed for implementation with or without a mobile unit. In the future, the NDA will purchase mixed-use mobile health units equipped for dental services, medical screenings, immunizations, and vision screenings.

Past President Dr. Sheila R. Brown (Chicago) and Past Secretary Dr. Jocelyn Kidd (Dallas) are directing the new projects in their respective cities. The other pilot region is the San Francisco/Oakland/Sacramento area. A grant award from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation will support the project's expansion into New York and New Orleans in 2014. Requests for additional projects have also been made for Durham, N.C., Houston, and Cincinnati. Dr. Hazel Harper is the program's creator and founding director.

Author Maya Angelou delivered the keynote presentation at the 2013 NDA convention

NDA President Dr. Edward Chappelle, member of the Robert T. Freeman Dental Society, presided over the Centennial Convention in July 2013. Highlights of the historic convention included the opening session keynote by Maya Angelou and the President's Symposium. The theme of the

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symposium was "Preparing for the NDA's Next Century." The symposium was underwritten by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and panelists included Dr. Louis Sullivan, Dr. Caswell Evans, Dr. Christian Stohler and Ms. Betty Hardy Hines. The moderator was Dr. Gail Christopher, vice president of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

During the year, the organization continued its focus on the cultivation of new corporate partnerships, developing and strengthening relationships with others with whom they found common ground – the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Pew Charitable Trusts, Links Foundation, and Aetna Foundation.

NDA-Pew leaders made congressional visits during the September 2013 Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference Week to educate policy makers about challenges of providing care to underserved and vulnerable populations. They stressed the need for increased support to eliminate disparities, promote health equity, and sustain businesses in disadvantaged communities. NDA members will continue to work with congressional leaders and state legislators to improve the health status of every American.

Dr. Alison Riddle-Fletcher

Dr. Alison Riddle-Fletcher (president, 2014) leads the NDA into its "second century." The NDA will continue to promote oral health equity as the voice of the underserved, formulating strategies for increasing access, promoting prevention, preparing members for the changing landscape, addressing challenges and opportunities presented by the Affordable Care Act, and the influx of new dental consumers. Interprofessional teams, integrated technology, and developing a highly skilled and expanded workforce are being discussed for unmet oral health needs.

The NDA of the future will have a greater influence on policy and legislation that directly impact its members, students, and the communities it serves. It will continue to recruit, mentor, and support minority oral health professionals. It will reinforce and connect links in the safety net, and continue its legacy of leadership and tradition of service through its signature program, NDA-HEALTH NOW. The NDA's voice will be amplified by media partners and a communications plan designed to reach millions. It will advance oral health as one of the primary care disciplines.

The NDA will reaffirm its position as a credible, trusted resource and positive agent for change. Standing on the shoulders of generations of giants, the NDA's rising stars of today are preparing for the next hundred years…and another century of glory.

NDA-PEW leaders visit Congress in 2013

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

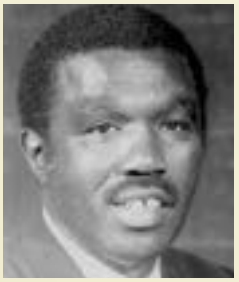
Dr. Hugo Owens - '88-'89

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 PAST 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. Jordon - '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

THIS PHOTO GALLERY REPRESENTS A PARTIAL DISPLAY OF PAST PRESIDENTS FROM THE NDA ARCHIVES, 1913-2013

THE DISTRICTS
OF THE NATIONAL DENTAL ASSOCIATION

DISTRICT I

Massachusetts
Bay State Dental Society
New Jersey
Commonwealth Dental Society
New York
Greater Metro NY Dental Society
Pennsylvania
New Era Dental Society

DISTRICT II

Illinois
Lincoln Dental Society
Indiana
Indiana Dental Society
Indianapolis Component of NDA
Kentucky
Kentucky Dental Society
Michigan
Wolverine Dental Society
Ohio
Columbus Association of Dentists
Forest City Dental Society
Gem City Med, Dent & Pharm Society

DISTRICT III

District of Columbia
Robert T. Freeman Dental Society
Maryland
Maryland Dental Society
North Carolina
Old North State Dental Society
South Carolina
Palmetto Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association
Virginia
Old Dominion Dental Society

DISTRICT IV

Alabama
Alabama Dental Society
Florida
Dade County Dental Society
Sunshine State Dental Association
Georgia
Georgia Dental Society
North Georgia Dental Society
Kansas
Heart of America Dental Society
Louisiana
Capitol City Dental Association
New Orleans Dental Society
Pelican State Dental Association
Mississippi
Mississippi Dental Society
Tennessee
Pan Tennessee Dental Association

DISTRICT V

Arkansas
Arkansas Med, Dent & Pharm Society
Missouri
Mound City Dental Society
Texas
Charles A. George Dental Society
Gulf State Dental Association

DISTRICT VI

California
Angel City Dental Society
Greater Bay Area Dental Society
Sacramento Chapter of the NDA
Nevada
City of Lights Dental Society

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

AND THE NATIONAL DENTAL ASSOCIATION

From its inception in 1881, Howard University College of Dentistry (HUCD) has never drawn a color line. It did, however, accept a large share of responsibility for providing Negro dentists for a segregated people who were, in many instances, without means of receiving competent dental care. Until 1886, Howard alone had to provide Negro professionals to meet the urgently acute need of Negro people.

On November 14, 1900, the first dental society for African Americans was formed by 12 Howard alumni in Washington, D.C. — the Washington Society of Colored Dentists. It planted the seeds for the National Dental Association (NDA) and was the precursor to the Robert T. Freeman Dental Society, the NDA's first chapter. Among the founders was the only female and HUCD's first dental alumna, Dr. Marie Immogene Williams. Other members of the group were Drs. A.J. Gwathney, T.A. Campbell, C.C. Fry, Walter Over, Sumner Wormley, Clarence Gray (holder of two degrees, MD in 1886 and DDS in 1900), W.J. Hamilton, D.W. Onley, H.G.Walker, Samuel W. Naylor, and W.S. Lofton. (It should be noted that in the early years, it was not uncommon to obtain both MD and DDS degrees.)

Throughout the years, the guiding philosophy of HUCD has been that teaching, research, and public service are inseparable parameters of modern dental education. In addition to emphasis on the inter-relationship between dental and systemic health, a major objective of the curriculum was to "inculcate in our graduates the highest standards of ethical and moral responsibility to the profession and to the communities which they will serve." *(From the Dean's Archives, The College of Dentistry 1881-1981)*

Howard remains deeply rooted in its mission to recruit, train and sensitize under-represented minorities to practice in underserved communities, standing solidly on its standard of academic excellence and continued commitment to research and public health. Today, Howard has become a local, national and international resource dedicated to the development and provision of leadership for the nation and the world.

Preliminary research reveals 40 of the NDA's 88 presidents are Howard alumni.

NDA PAST PRESIDENTS WHO ARE HOWARD ALUMNI

1913-1918	David A. Ferguson, Class of 1899
1920-1922	Stephen J. Lewis, Class of 1909
1926-1928	George H. Butcher, Class of 1903
1928-1929	A. Otis Reid
1929-1930	Henry A. McAllister
1930-1932	Ellwood D. Downing, Class of 1913
1932-1933	David A. Ferguson, Class of 1899
1933-1934	Melanethon D. Wiseman, Class of 1918
1934-1935	Charles W. Dorsey, Class of 1911
1936-1937	Jackson L. Davis, Class of 1923
1937-1938	Reginald E. Beamon, Class of 1916
1942-1944	William O. Claytor, Class of 1916
1946-1947	Robert H. Thompson, Class of 1920
1949-1950	William D. Giles
1957-1958	Harry T. Penn, Class of 1931
1959-1960	H. Medley Proffitt, Class of 1924
1960-1961	William K. Elliott, Class of 1923
1963-1964	Matthew Mitchell, Class of 1945
1966-1967	James A. Catchings, Class of 1944
1969-1970	James W. Holley III, Class of 1955
1972-1973	Eddie G. Smith Jr., Class of 1959
1974-1975	Frank L. Shuford Jr., Class of1953
1976-1977	Harvey Webb Jr., Class of 1960
1978-1979	James E. Lassiter Jr., Class of 1963
1979-1980	Walker Moore Jr., Class of 1968
1982-1983	Stanley A. Boucree Sr., Class of 1964
1984-1985	Alvin O. Walker
1985-1986	Roosevelt Brown, Class of 1968
1988-1989	Hugo A. Owens
1990	William H. Gibson Jr.
1993	Eugene J. Jordan, Class of 1969
1994	Chester A. Aikens, Class of 1977
1995	Winthrop A. Holder, Class of1978
1997	Hazel J. Harper, Class of 1975
1998	Joseph S. Gay, Class of 1973
2000	Franklyn Scott, Class of 1979
2004	Joy A. Jordan, Class of 1988
2007	Robin R. Daniel, Class of 1981
2008	Nathan L. Fletcher, Class of 1987
2010	Walter R. Owens, Class of 1975

MEHARRY AND THE NDA LEGACY

Many Meharry alumni have led the NDA and its predecessor, the Interstate Dental Association. The emergence of organized dentistry began 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, N.C.; resident 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, the 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, Fla., 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 NDA OF THE FUTURE WILL HAVE A GREATER INFLUENCE ON POLICY AND LEGISLATION THAT DIRECTLY IMPACTS ITS MEMBERS, STUDENTS, AND COMMUNITIES IT SERVES.

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REFERENCES:

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Leo E. Rouse, DDS
Janet H. Southerland, DDS, MPH, PhD
Cornel G. Taylor

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

Congratulations

to the National Dental Association on

100 years

of history and success.

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"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."

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