

Spring 2009

SOUTH TEXAS

HDA Quarterly

GSA★HDA

Greater San Antonio Hispanic Dental Association

GREATER SAN ANTONIO HISPANIC DENTAL ASSOCIATION



GSA★HDA 2009 Annual Gala

Keynote Speaker

JULIÁN CASTRO

Mayoral Candidate

Master of Ceremonies

DAVID MUÑOZ

Saturday, May 2, 2009 • 6:50 pm – 11:00 pm

Norris Conference Center • 4522 Fredericksburg Road

San Antonio, Texas 78201

Sponsorship Levels Available

Cocktails • Dinner • Entertainment • Black Tie Optional

SAVE THE DATE

Pre-Dental Club for High School Students Established

Hello to everyone, saludes a todos! GSA-HDA has embarked in a new and exciting chapter this year. A mentorship program was formulated with several local high schools. With the assistance of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) Dental School, GSA-HDA was able to host a tour of the dental school tour on November 20, 2008. Approximately 60 students from Edison High School and Health Careers High School had a GSA-HDA sponsored lunch while local HSDA members interacted with the students. The current HSDA President, Hayde Garza-McCabe, gave a short presentation on HSDA's role at the dental school and spoke of her experiences. GSA-HDA officers then answered questions from the students about a career in the dental field.



Dr. Roger Campos (Immediate Past President of GSA-HDA) shares his story of his path to dentistry and answers questions from the audience.

Special guest, Dr. David Cappelli, Interim Associate Dean for Student Affairs at UTHSCSA Dental School, explained what the admission board looks for in a candidate, gave advice about the application process, and closed the forum by answering the students questions. The students were then lead on a tour through the dental school and were able to see first

hand the dental student clinic, specialty clinics, dental simulation labs, and student lecture halls.

The students were all then invited to join the GSA-HDA Pre-Dental Club.

The goals of the club are to increase the student interest and awareness about careers in the dental field and expose the students to opportunities that will make them a strong applicant when applying for school in a dental field.

Through the program students

will also be able to shadow professionals in their area of interest and participate in community events. GSA-HDA has a vision to inspire and strengthen minority students into the university and afterwards into their professional programs.

Since the dental school tour, the GSA-HDA Pre-Dental Club has had 2 general meetings, elected officers, and started planning community service events. If you are interested in getting involved with the program or volunteering as a mentor to one of these high school students, please e-mail gshada@hotmail.com.

The next GSA-HDA Pre-Dental Club meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 16, 2009, at 5:00 pm in lab 226 at Health Careers High School. All GSA-HDA members are invited.



Hayde Garza-McCabe (current HSDA President) and Dr. Vidal Balderas (Current President of GSA-HDA) share advice about dental school to the students.

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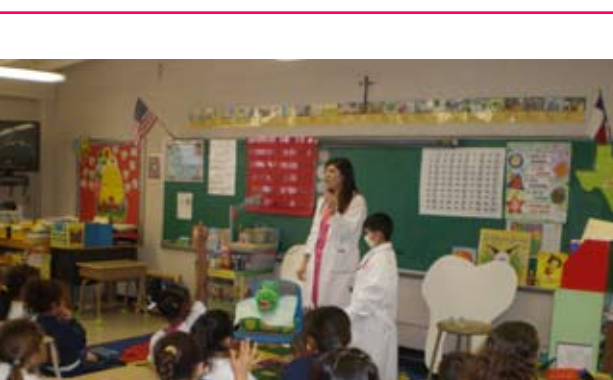
Dental Health Month

GSA-HDA members stayed committed to the local community during February, National Dental Health Month. On February 12th, GSA-HDA officers Dr. Vidal Balderas (President), Dr. Frank Ramos (Vice-President) and Dr. Christina Ramirez (Treasurer) visited the 40 young children at Our Lady of the Lake University – St. Martin Hall Child Development Center.



2008 GSA-HDA officers Frank Ramos D.D.S. (President Elect), Christina Ramirez D.D.S. (Treasurer) and Vidal Balderas D.D.S., M.P.H. (President) interact with the children at St. Martin Hall Child Development Center. The children watch as they are instructed how to brush their teeth.

Many of the children are those of the universities students, faculty, and staff. The dentists reviewed oral hygiene instructions,



Dr. Christina Ramirez dresses up one of the St. Thomas More students as a dentist and has him give Dino the Dinosaur a dental check up. School scholarship program to Dr. Kenneth L. Kalkwarf, D.D.S., M.S., (Dean of the Dental School).

dietary counseling, and distributed dental supplies to the children and staff.

On February 19th, Dr. Ramirez also gave a 30 min dental awareness presentation to 60 students at St. Thomas More School.

The students were a combination of grades kindergarten, first and second.

Not only were all these children exposed to dental awareness, but they were able to interact with dentists in a non-threatening environment. Although the visits to the locations were short, the benefits can affect the children for a lifetime.

Membership: How to become a GSAHDA Member!

If your vision is to help improve oral health among the San Antonio Hispanic and underserved community, please consider joining the association by becoming a member.

WWW.GSAHDA.ORG Or http://www.hdassoc.org/site/epage/8326_351.htm

ANNUAL MEMBER DUES \$150.00
STUDENT MEMBER DUES No Charge

You may also support the ongoing mission of GSA-HDA with a donation.

Viper Day at Texas A&M University-Kingsville

The Natural Toxins Research Center (NTRC) hosted its 10th Annual Viper Day, an outreach program for high school students, on Friday, February 6, 2009, at the Texas A&M University-Kingsville (TAMUK) campus. Seven schools were in attendance, with a total of 427 students, teachers and sponsors attending the event. The NTRC has been hosting this event for a decade now to encourage students to attend college, and to pursue a degree in the sciences. Roger Campos, D.D.S., a former TAMUK student, successful dentist, past president of GSA-HDA and entrepreneur agreed to be this year's keynote speaker.



Roger Campos D.D.S. and Vidal Balderas, D.D.S., M.P.H. speak to students about dentistry and the importance of education.

Dr. Campos emphasized the advantage of attending TAMUK, and used his experiences to illustrate what an alumnus



Dr. John C. Perez receives the scholarship donation from Dr. Roger Campos and Dr. Vidal Balderas for \$2,500.

of TAMUK can achieve. His seminar was motivational and well received by the high teachers and students. The students were also treated to a slide-show presentation by Dr. Vidal Balderas, showing an overview of the Dental School at University of Texas at San Antonio. It detailed some of the opportunities available to those pursuing a career in dentistry.

Also, Dr. Campos donated five-\$500.00 book scholarships totaling \$2,500.00 for Viper Day Scholarships. This money has been donated to the President's Circle for use in scholarships through the NTRC for students attending TAMUK.

–summarized from NTRC newsletter by Christina Ramirez DDS

Dear Dr. Balderas

March 2, 2009

Thank you for traveling from San Antonio to take part in the Natural Toxins Research Center's 10th Annual Viper Day outreach program on Friday, February 6, 2009. The total number of students was 427.

It is nice to see that other educators understand the importance of helping incoming college freshmen see what can be in store for them in their futures. Programs like Viper Day benefit greatly when people such as you take time to give students information showing how their college course work can lead to a fulfilling career in dentistry.

Your presentation about the Dental School at University of Texas at San Antonio was an asset to our Viper Day presentation. The commentary and photos helped communicate the types how a practitioner of dentistry can help people of all walks of life.

The Natural Toxins Research Center feels it is important to encourage students to pursue careers in science fields. I thank you for your contributions towards that goal.

Dr. John C. Pérez
Regents Professor and Director of the NTRC