



Reward Your Excellence



CDA[®] COA[®] CDPMA[®] COMSA[®]

Dental Assistants Recognition Week
March 2-8, 2008

Congratulations to Emeritus Certificants

November 15, 2007 - Feb 1, 2008

Name/State	Certification Date
Glennis Waltman, UT	7/21/1989
Crystal Williams, VA	7/20/1995
Barbara Amirault, NH	9/29/1967
Sandra Shaffer Carver, TN	10/8/1984
Ruth De Hollander, SC	10/21/1987
Catherine Ziegler, CA	11/6/1959
Katharina Derra, MO	11/21/1989
Janet Patterson, TX	11/28/1972
Golden Hymon, NJ	3/22/1967
Diane Pravettoni, WI	12/7/1992

For DANB's policy regarding Emeritus Status Certificants, see the DANB Recertification Requirements on page 4 of this issue. There are currently 932 DANB Emeritus Status Certificants. For information on earning Emeritus Status, contact Vickie Spears, Assistant Director, Recertification, at 1-800-FOR-DANB x445.

DANB Briefs

Careerbuilder Reports that Demand For Dental Assistants is on the Rise

Careerbuilder, a national job search provider, reported that careers in the health care industry are on the rise. In fact dental assistants ranked #6 on list of the top 10 professions for 2008. Jobs are projected to increase 29%-43%, an average of 20,000 jobs per year, in the coming years.

The US Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, 2008-09 edition lists several contributing factors to this growing field. Population growth, greater retention of natural teeth by middle-aged and older adults, as well as the increased focus on preventive dental care for younger generations will fuel demand for dental services. Dentists are expected to hire more dental assistants to perform routine tasks so that the dentists may devote their own time to more complex procedures. As a result, national DANB Certification will be a valuable asset for dental assistants.

DANB Accepts CDE Courses or Sponsors Approved by ADA CERP or AGD PACE

DANB Certificants who attend or participate in Continuing Dental Education (CDE) courses sponsored by the American Dental Association Continuing Education Recognition Program (ADA CERP) and/or the Academy of General Dentistry Program Approval for Continuing Education (AGD PACE)-approved continuing education providers, can use these courses to renew their DANB Certification. It is the responsibility of the Certificant to ensure that the CDE hours are reported in the appropriate DANB CDE categories, as described in DANB's Recertification Requirements shown on pages 4-5 of this issue and on the DANB website at www.danb.org.

ADA Begins Public Awareness Campaign to Promote Early Detection of Oral Cancer

The American Dental Association (ADA), in collaboration with OralCdx Laboratories, has begun a three-year public service campaign to increase public awareness about oral cancer and the benefits of early detection. Of an estimated 34,000 people diagnosed with oral cancer, 7,500 of them die from it per year. Only half of all patients diagnosed with oral cancer survive more than five years. Oral cancer is also a growing problem in non-smokers. It is crucial that dental

Word from the Chair

Carla Schneider, CDA, RDA
Chair, DANB Board of Directors



Leap year gives us another day every four years and yet somehow with all we have to do, it seems like there is never enough time. We have been busy at DANB preparing for the mid-year Board of Directors meeting and I know this one will be packed with a great review of accomplishments as well as discussing new opportunities to better serve the dental assisting profession through national DANB Certification. As always, I am energized by the commitment I witness in both my fellow Directors and DANB's staff, to the Certificants and the promotion of excellence in the field of oral healthcare.

It also seems like Dental Assistants Recognition Week came upon us quickly (March 2-8), but I am hoping that your place of employment had enough time to make it a special week for you. We at DANB are very proud of our Certificants and stand behind you to recognize and encourage the professionalism you bring to the dental team. It is always important to remember that being Certified carries its own recognition and should be a source of pride for those who have earned it. I feel strongly about the many benefits to earning and then maintaining DANB Certification.

It will be 18 years this August when I made the decision to earn my DANB CDA and I want to share with you why I think it is important to recertify every year. I know that my contribution to providing quality oral healthcare is appreciated by my dentist and peers. It has always been important to me to demonstrate to my colleagues/my employer that I take my work seriously and have pride in the work I do. By holding a *Mark of Dental Assisting Excellence™* I show that I am committed to lifelong learning, and proud to be among this elite and growing group!

The amazing thing about DANB Certification is that the benefits are not isolated to the dental assistant alone. The benefits carry over to others, such as employers, patients, dental assisting educators and regulators of this profession (state dental boards, state departments of public health, and the like). Read the story on page 3 of this issue and be encouraged about the many benefits you have earned and continue to maintain in your profession.

As DANB Chair, and as a past President of the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA), I encourage you to join me during Dental Assistants Recognition Week in celebrating your accomplishments as a dental assistant. Post the cover of this issue of *Certified Press* in a prominent place, to remind you, your co-workers and employer that dental assistants are a vital component of the oral health care team. Celebrate the efforts of all dental assistants, who, like you, take pride in their work! At DANB, we are especially proud of our Certificants and the work they do to promote excellence in their profession.


Until next time....

assistants spread the message of prevention, and assist dentists in performing early detection methods for all patients.

Norway Decides to Ban Use of Amalgam

Although dental amalgam is generally considered a safe, affordable and durable material used for tooth restoration, the debate about the overall safety of amalgam continues. Norway recently banned the use of amalgam restorations in an effort to restrict the use of mercury and to protect the environment. This ban is not expected to have an economical impact on the country because of Norway's national health care system, which covers everyone. A similar ban could strongly impact the privatized health care systems of

the United States, by increasing dental care costs across the board. The American Dental Association (ADA) strongly recommends recycling amalgam as a safe alternative to a nationwide ban. Mercury recovered from recycled amalgam can then be reused in other products.▲



DANB is a member of the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA). The National Commission For Certifying Agencies (NCCA), a NOCA Commission with responsibility for evaluating credentialing programs, has accredited DANB national certification exam programs, (CDA, and COA), including DANB component exams (RHS, ICE, GC, and OA) and found DANB programs meet NCCA's highest standards, thus helping to assure validity, reliability, and objectivity in the testing process.

New Industry Publications Targeted to Dental Assistants

There is news of two new publications dedicated to reaching the dental assistants with industry news and CDE opportunities. The first is from PennWell, which previously published *The Dental Office*. This past year, PennWell made the decision to reach the reader directly with *Dental Assisting Digest*, a monthly e-newsletter, with interactive features. Designed exclusively for front- and back-office dental assistants, every issue will feature articles that will help dental assistants personally and professionally. The editorial staff of *Dental Assisting Digest* held roundtable discussions around the country to hear from the dental assistants about what matters to them. Input from this feedback will help the editors deliver the content dental assistants will find relevant and useful to help in their delivery of quality oral healthcare.



PennWell is committed to the dental assistants, who are vital contributors to the dental team. The goal of *Dental Assisting Digest* is to make the

assistant even more valuable in his/her job, by providing a focused publication that is delivered directly to the reader through email. For a free subscription to *Dental Assisting Digest*, go to www.dentalassistingdigest.com.

In addition, Aegis Communications has purchased Ascend Dental Media's publications, including *Contemporary Dental Assisting*. The mission of this new publication is to promote excellence in the field of dental assisting through building community, furthering education, and facilitating teamwork. Their new publication, *Inside Dental Assisting* will feature FREE continuing education (CDE). It will be published quarterly in March, June, September, and November/December each year. There also will be a strong online presence with fresh content updated monthly, as well as additional continuing education opportunities throughout the year. At this time *Contemporary Dental Assisting* will no longer be published. Current subscribers have been contacted and informed of the launch of *Inside Dental Assisting*.

March 2-8 Marks Dental Assistants Recognition Week

Designated by the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA), along with the American Dental Association (ADA), the US Army Dental Command, the Canadian Dental Assistants Association (CDAA), and the Canadian Dental Association (CDA), this year's Dental Assistants Recognition Week is March 2-8. Each March, a special week is set aside to acknowledge the unique talents of dental assistants.

According to a study by the ADA Council on Dental Practice, dental auxiliaries consistently report that appreciation for staff efforts is key to professional satisfaction. Employees want feedback, they want to feel appreciated, and they want opportunities for professional development.

The Dental Assisting National Board, Inc. (DANB) recognizes the significant role of the dental assistant to the dental team and salutes the community of DANB Certificants who elevate the quality of the delivery of oral healthcare through their dedication and commitment to Certification and the dental profession.

We at DANB hope that you enjoy your week of recognition and that it will give you an opportunity to inspire your peers by sharing your commitment to excellence with them. Congratulations, and have a great week!

Recognizing and Sharing Your Dental Recognition Week (DARW) Activities

How will you and your dental team celebrate DARW? Will you attend a party in your honor or receive public recognition in your community? Perhaps you will spend a day participating in educational or charity events promoting the dental assisting profession.

DANB would like to hear how Certificants receive recognition and encouragements from their colleagues, employers, and/or patients. Please send a letter (and photo, if available) to *Certified Press*, DANB, 444 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 900, Chicago, IL 60611 or email marketing@danb.org.

Also, the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA) offers a DARW kit to help promote the work you do. You can go to the ADAA website at www.dentalassistant.org to request a kit.



The ADAA is also asking for stories and photos to learn what dentists, dental assisting associations, schools, and other organizations did to honor their dental assistants during DARW. They will feature a special section in their bimonthly journal, *The Dental Assistant*.

Please send your materials for ADAA publication to: The American Dental Assistants Association, 35 East Wacker Drive, Suite 1730, Chicago, IL 60601-2211.



The Benefits of DANB Certification Reach Many Stakeholder Groups

Dental assistants are valuable members of the oral healthcare team, and play a key role in increasing the efficiency and quality of care in the dental office. Earning a DANB Certification is a tangible way to demonstrate that a dental assistant has met or exceeded the criteria established to measure baseline knowledge and national competency standards in the profession. DANB Certificants reflect a professional commitment while enhancing the dental team's reputation and credibility.

Being DANB Certified is important to:

- **dental assistants** who earn DANB Certification, the Mark of Dental Assisting Excellence™, and
- **educators** who teach those dental assistants who attend a formal program to precede or to supplement their on-the-job training, and
- **employers** who staff their facilities or offices with skilled and experienced dental assistants, and
- **patients** whose care is provided by DANB Certified Assistants, and
- **regulators and legislators** who view public well-being as paramount to meeting their professional objectives.

The advantages of placing tested and knowledgeable DANB Certificants in the oral healthcare field are many and are relevant to each in his/her role in the community.

Benefits to the Dental Assistant

Certification is a mechanism used to reflect the professional skills of the dental assistant. Dental assistants who earn DANB Certification obtain a mark of professional achievement. This achievement leads to increased self-esteem and self-confidence. The American Dental Association (ADA) recognizes DANB as the national certification organization for dental assistants. The ADA is the world's largest and oldest national dental association; it is the oral health authority committed to the public and dental profession. DANB Certificants are a part of this larger dental community.

In addition to increased self-confidence, DANB Certification may also lead to professional advancement. This distinction may, in many states and within some dental offices, open the door to new career ladder opportunities and often-increased earning potential. DANB studies show this differential can be as much as \$2 more per hour as compared to their non-DANB certified colleagues. Because a DANB Credential serves as a mark of distinction nationwide, job relocation can be easier.

DANB Certification enhances professional career ladder mobility. In states that recognize or require DANB

Certification to perform expanded functions, earning this national credential is one way, or often the only way, to qualify to perform more duties on the job. As of the winter of 2008, 37 states recognize or require successful performance on a national DANB exam for dental assistants to meet state dental practice regulations or as a prerequisite to performing expanded functions. Earning DANB Certification is accepted in these states as evidence of a professional knowledge base and approach to the discipline of dental assisting and the requirements of the role of this important oral healthcare team member.

Because there is no nationally accepted set of guidelines that govern the practice of dental assisting, each of the 50 states varies in its legislation pertaining to this member of the dental team. Because DANB Certification is a national credential, the movement from state-to-state can be much easier. The ability to transfer one's recognized credentials assists not only the assistant, but the dentists/employers who are looking for qualified professionals to join their team.

As a bi-product of the credential, DANB Certificants have personal pride and confidence that may be communicated in new situations and can often be helpful in job interviews. Confidence translates into improved hire-ability and long-term job satisfaction.

In 2001, DANB conducted its first national *Show Me The Money Salary Survey* to confirm that DANB Certified Dental Assistants (CDAs) earn more than those who are not DANB Certified. Since 2004, DANB conducts a salary survey biannually. DANB's 2006 salary survey revealed that nationally, DANB CDAs make a median hourly wage of \$16.50, \$1.76 more per hour than non-DANB Certified assistants. The gap between dental assistants who are DANB Certified and those who are not grew since the initial DANB salary survey in 2001. (see page 7 for article on DANB's 2008 *Show Me The Money Salary Survey*.) So, this mark of personal achievement also translates into an additional level of self-confidence and earnings potential.

Attainment of DANB Certification is confirmation of a professional commitment to high standards in the practice of dental assisting. DANB Certificants have the ability to contribute to the success of the dental practice and to the positive experience of the patients. The DANB Certified has potential for a more professional career position offering a clear path of earned recognition from colleagues, peers, and patients. Earning DANB Certification increases credibility of a dental assistant among colleagues, patients, employers, and the community.

As a critical member of the dental team, a DANB Certified can have significant impact on professionalism and the working environment in the dental office. Members of the team can perceive the additional confidence the dental assistant has gained through DANB Certification. The pride is contagious and permeates the office and the practice. In some states DANB Certification allows dental assistants to perform expanded duties, which enhances the whole team's effectiveness and satisfaction. Increased job satisfaction leads to increased job retention.

Deciding to earn a DANB Certification is a good indication of a dental assistant's commitment to growth and life-long learning. DANB Certification must be maintained on an annual basis, by taking continuing dental education (CDE) courses, paying a fee, and staying current in CPR certification. This makes her/him a role model for others in the career and in their sphere of influence – colleagues, family members, and friends. Earning and maintaining the DANB Certification distinguishes Certificants from others in the profession.

The elite nature of DANB Certification is a source of professional pride. Not all dental assistants are eligible to take DANB Certification exams, and only those who meet or exceed the national criterion established in the practice of dental assisting, orthodontic assisting, and dental office management earn a DANB Certification.

To date, there are more than 32,000 DANB Certificants across the United States, in addition to many who practice worldwide. Certificants are a part of a special community. DANB Certificants receive regular communications through *Certified Press*, the quarterly DANB newsletter. The newsletter keeps DANB Certificants informed of critical events and changes in the industry. Other communication vehicles are the DANB website (www.danb.org), the DANB e-mail address (danbmail@danb.org), and of course the toll free DANB phone number: 800-FOR-DANB (800-367-3262).

The benefits of DANB Certification that rise to the top of the list are individual to the Certificant. Each DANB Certificant experiences the benefits differently based on his/her situation and priorities. These benefits have real meaning for those who choose to earn DANB Certification.

Benefits to Dental Assisting Educators

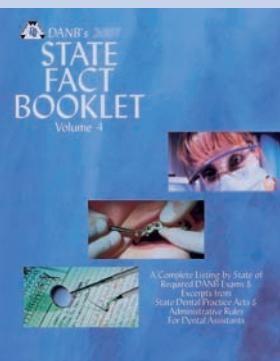
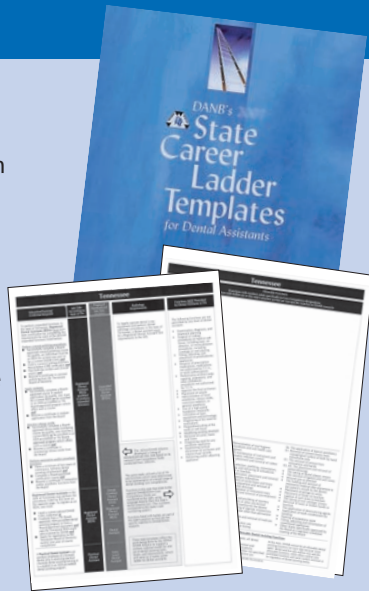
In addition to being a mechanism to check the profes-

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DANB's 2008 State Publications Are Now Available

DANB's 2008 State Career Ladder Templates for Dental Assistants

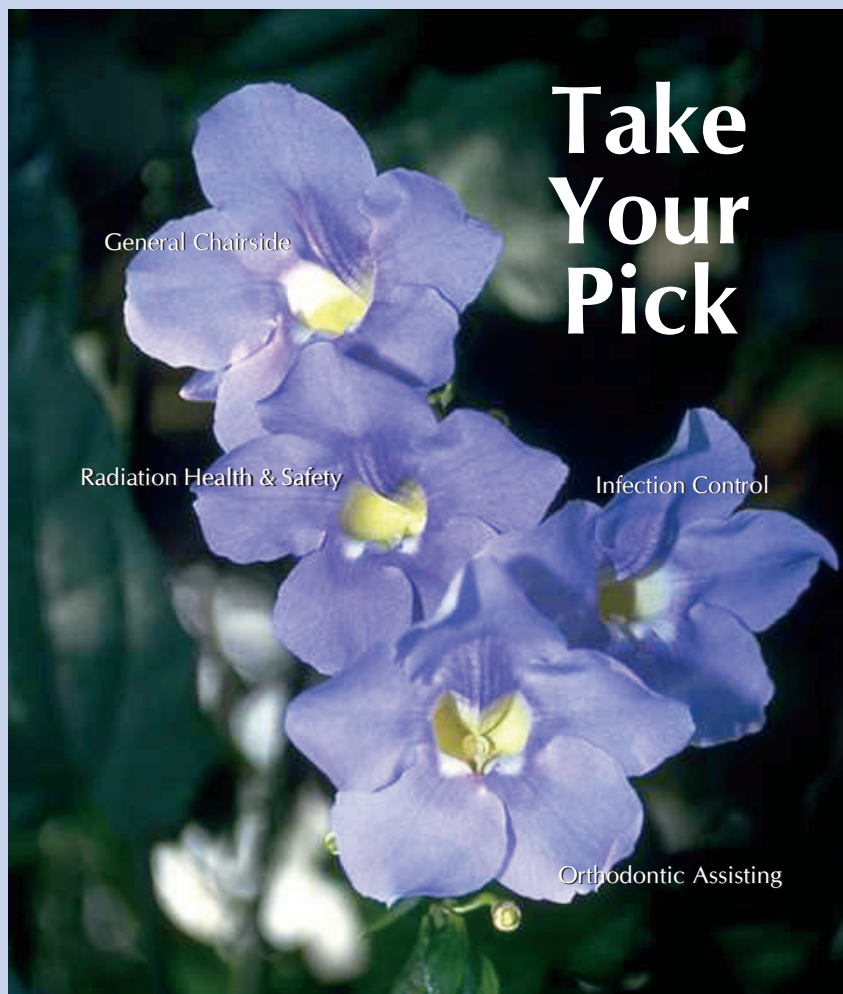
This valuable resource contains information drawn from state dental practice acts, arranged in an easy-to-use, reader-friendly format. Readers can follow each state's chart to understand the different dental assisting job designations and the education required for each level. The templates also contain lists of which functions are/are not permitted by law. The layout makes it simple to compare state laws and requirements to each other. This book is available for purchase in its entirety or individual templates are available on the DANB website at www.danb.org at no charge.



DANB's 2008 State Fact Booklet: A Complete Listing by State of Required DANB Examinations and Excerpts from State Practice Acts is updated every year. The new volume offers essential information pertinent to the dental assisting profession. This volume contains the most up-to-date state dental practice acts, rules, and regulations for the radiology and expanded functions duties specific to each state. It also contains a listing of DANB exams that are accepted in each state, State Board of Dentistry contact information, and updated ADA CODA-accredited school listings.

Similar publications highlighting dental auxiliary rules and regulations related to monitoring dental patients under conscious sedation will be available later this year. Look for more information in the next issue of *Certified Press*.

To order DANB's State Career Ladder Templates or DANB's State Fact Booklet, call 1-800-FOR-DANB to request an order form or download the order form at www.danb.org.



DANB's Professional Development Examination Program (PDEP) now has four modules!

Joining the General Chairside (GC), Infection Control (ICE) and Radiation Health & Safety (RHS) PDEP modules, Orthodontic Assisting (OA) has just been released to now offer you *four different options* to choose from to earn the annual CDE hours required for your DANB Certification renewal.

This convenient, in-home testing program, available only to current or former DANB Certificants (if used to reinstate your credential), challenges you to advance your professional knowledge using pertinent content materials researched and selected by DANB's Exam Programs Committees of the Board.

PDEP allows you to control your own testing pace within a six-month period and offers scoring by DANB on a monthly schedule. This allows you to apply your 12 CDE hours to your annual Certification renewal requirement, under Category 7 (DANB exams) of the DANB Recertification Guidelines. PDEP hours only apply to your renewal requirements *after* passing PDEP.

For more information, call 1-800-FOR-DANB and speak to a Client Service Representative or visit www.danb.org.



RENEWING YOUR CERTIFICATION

Your initial certificate is valid for one year. The expiration date is listed on the certificate. If you do not renew, you are no longer certified and may not use the designation or credential. A renewal notice will be mailed approximately six weeks prior to the expiration date. Certificants are asked to sign a statement attesting that CDE and CPR requirements have been met, and to return the statement with the appropriate renewal fee to DANB. **Renewal fees are not refundable.**

Credentials	CDE Hours (including CPR)	Renewal Fee*
One (1)	12 Hours	\$55
Two (2)	18 Hours	\$80
Three (3)	24 Hours	\$100
Four (4)	30 Hours	\$125

*A late fee of \$10 will be assessed after the Certificate expiration date, but within the three-month grace period.

If DANB does not receive a response to renewal statement(s) within three (3) months of your expiration date, you are no longer certified and cannot use the CDA, COA, COMSA, or CDPMA acronym. To protect against misuse of the DANB credential, DANB sends reports of lapsed DANB Certificants to the state regulatory agencies on a regular basis.

A sample timeline illustrates the DANB Certification renewal process. In this example, the individual's CDA expires January 15, 2008.

December 1, 2007	A renewal notice is sent to Certificant.
January 15, 2008	Signed statement and fee are due by this date or DANB Certification expires.
January 16, 2008	Grace period begins. \$10 late fee assessed. If fee not received, second notice sent.
March 15, 2008	Grace period continues. If fee not received, Final Notice (Drop Back In postcard) sent
April 16, 2008	Fees and signed statement are not received. Grace period ends. Individual is no longer DANB Certified. Call 1-800-FOR-DANB for reinstatement options.

Please note that due to feedback from DANB Certificants, the number of renewal notices being sent before the renewal deadline has been reduced from three (3) to one (1).

DANB RECERTIFICATION POLICY

- I. **All continuing dental education must directly relate to the practice of dentistry or dental assisting to maintain or improve dental assisting knowledge or skill.** CDE does **not** need to be pre-approved by DANB in order to be accepted as meeting DANB Recertification Requirements. Call DANB prior to participation in education if you have questions about acceptance.
- II. Programs must be at least 45 minutes in length in order to qualify for one (1) CDE credit. Credit for a CDE course will be calculated in 15-minute increments (i.e., 1 1/2 hours = 1.5 CDE credits; 2 3/4 hours = 2.75 CDE credits).
- III. Education dated prior to initial certification date cannot be used to meet DANB CDE requirements. Certificants must earn appropriate number of CDE hours during the first year of certification to maintain certification.
- IV. Education has a two- (2) year lifespan. Certificants who carry over credits into the next renewal year must retain proof of 24 hours of CDE over a two-year period.
- V. **Multiple Certification:** It is possible to be certified in each of four areas: CDA, COA, COMSA, and CDPMA. Renewal requirements are set at approximately 50% increase over basic requirements for each additional credential maintained.
- VI. **Renewal Timing and Expiration:** A three-month grace period is granted if the required CDE hours are not accumulated and appropriate fee is not received by the expiration date. An individual is considered certified during this three-month grace period; however, a late fee of \$10 will be assessed. If DANB does not receive a response to renewal statement(s) within three (3) months of your expiration date, you are no longer certified and cannot use the CDA, COA, COMSA, or CDPMA acronym. **Misuse of any DANB credential is grounds for discipline under DANB's Discipline Policies and Procedures (contact DANB for a copy). For reinstatement of a credential, contact DANB by phone at 1-800-FOR-DANB, ext. 445 or by email at recert@danb.org.**
- VII. **Emeritus Status:** DANB Certified Assistants may apply for Emeritus status if they have maintained continuous current Certification for four (4) of the five (5) years immediately preceding application and have: become totally and permanently disabled, **or** retired from the field of dentistry/dental assisting at age 60 years or older, **or** retired from the field of dentistry/dental assisting with 35 years of continuous (without any breaks) DANB Certification. Please visit DANB's website (at www.danb.org/recert/recertrecognition.asp) to view the complete DANB Policy on "Emeritus Status" or contact DANB at 1-800-FOR-DANB, extension 445. Once Emeritus Status is earned, Certificants must use this designation; i.e., Sue Smith, CDA-Emeritus.

DANB verifies your certification status by mail or phone to anyone upon request, since the fact that you have or have not been certified and the effective date(s) of your certification(s) are a matter of public record and may be disclosed.

In addition, unless you choose not to allow it, from time to time, DANB will provide the names and addresses of certificants to dentists interested in hiring a DANB Certificant (CDA, COA, CDPMA, COMSA) or someone who has passed the Radiation Health and Safety or Infection Control examination from their area, and to providers of continuing education opportunities. DANB may also post current certificant status (certificant name, certification[s] earned, state in which certificant resides, and date of certification) on DANB's website.

If you do NOT wish to receive non-DANB mailings at your home address (i.e., current job opportunities, continuing education offerings, etc.), or you do NOT agree to allow DANB to publish your certification status (your name, certification(s) earned, state in which you reside, and date of your certification) on DANB's website, **you must** send a written request to have this information *omitted* from release or publication to: DANB, Attn: Director of Marketing and Communications, 444 N. Michigan Ave., Ste. 900, Chicago, IL, 60611.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

DANB recognizes the dynamic and emerging roles of Certified Assistants in providing quality care to patients in a dental setting. DANB assists Certified Dental Assistants (CDAs), Certified Orthodontic Assistants (COAs), Certified Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Assistants (COMSAs), and Certified Dental Practice Management Administrators (CDPMAs) in meeting these ever-changing roles by requiring Continuing Dental Education (CDE) hours. DANB requires a minimum of twelve (12) CDE hours annually, which is in line with states

that have mandatory CDE requirements for dental assistants. The yearly CDE requirement enhances the continued competence of Certified Assistants. Requiring yearly CDE hours emphasizes the importance of lifelong professional learning and development. DANB's credentials are known in the dental community as a Mark of Dental Assisting Excellence. This measure of excellence can be maintained only if each Certificant is able to demonstrate competence.

CONTINUING DENTAL EDUCATION (CDE) REQUIREMENTS / AUDIT PROCEDURES

To renew a certificate, the Certificant must earn and retain proof of twelve (12) hours of acceptable CDE by the expiration date. A recertification notice will be mailed approximately eight weeks prior to the expiration date. The Certificant will be asked to sign a statement attesting that CDE requirements have been met, and to return the statement to DANB with the appropriate renewal fee. Renewal fees are not refundable.

and CPR. Those selected for verification (audit) will be considered certified during the time that they are providing proof of their continuing education. Specific instructions will be sent to those audited.

Some DANB Certificants will be randomly selected for verification (audit) of their CDE hours

Upon successful completion of the audit, certification will be instated for the full year. Proof of continuing education should be retained for two years, in case of subsequent audit. Certificants not selected for audit will have their certification renewed for a full year.

DO NOT SEND DOCUMENTATION UNLESS REQUESTED. MATERIALS WILL NOT BE RETURNED OR RETAINED BY DANB.

2008 DENTAL EDUCATION SOURCES/CATEGORIES FOR CDE HOURS

Recertification can be earned through accumulating the required number of CDE hours and paying the appropriate renewal fee. It is the responsibility of the certificant to obtain and retain documentation that verifies participation in all CDE activities that will be used for renewal credit. All documentation must indicate name, CE number, name of sponsor, date of course, number of CDE hours, subject matter, program title, and program presenter.

MANDATORY CPR CERTIFICATION

- CDE Hours: Maximum 4 hours**
Accepted Documentation: Copy of front and back of a current CPR card. The card must be dated and signed or imprinted with the instructor's name and have the Certificant's name or signature on the card.

NOTE: Two-(2) year CPR card holders can only apply the hours to recertification in the year CPR is earned. In the second year, CPR hours will not count and the Certificant must earn the full number of hours from other categories.

Current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation is required for annual renewal of DANB certification. Certificants may earn a maximum of four (4) CDE hours annually (hour credit may be less for refresher courses; credit depends on the length of the course) for successful completion of a CPR certification course that includes both written and hands-on (skills) assessment provided by: American Red Cross: ●Adult, Infant and Child CPR* ●Community CPR* ●CPR for the Professional Rescuer* ●Military Training Network American Heart Association: ●BLS for Healthcare Provider (Basic Life Support) ●BLS Instructor National Safety Council (Green Cross): ●Adult and Pediatric CPR and AED* ●Standard First Aid, CPR and AED* ●Professional Rescuer CPR & AED ●Basic Life Support: Healthcare and Professional Rescuers* Emergency Care and Safety Institute: ●CPR and AED* ●First Aid, CPR and AED Standard* ●Professional Rescuer CPR* Emergency First Response: ●Primary Care (CPR) Emergency Medical Training Associates: ●Adult One Rescuer with Barrier and Infant/Child CPR, Pediatric Emergencies American Safety and Health Institute: ●ACLS (Advanced Cardiac Life Support) ●Advanced Instructor ●Basic Instructor ●CPR Pro Medic First Aid: ●Basic Life Support for Professionals American Environmental Health and Safety: ●Advanced/Healthcare CPR ●Health and Safety Instructor Canadian Red Cross: See American Red Cross (same CPR cards accepted) Saudi Heart Association

Courses from organizations other than those approved by DANB or course offerings from approved organizations without both written/skills assessment will not be accepted. Certificants may only count the CDE hours in the year that CPR is earned.

*The instructor card will also be accepted.

CLINICAL COURSES, SEMINARS, TABLE CLINICS & EXHIBITS

- CDE Hours: Hour for Hour (no maximum)**
Exhibit Hours: Maximum 2 hours (1 hour per meeting)
Accepted Documentation: Certificate of completion, DANB approval code, Letter of attendance/completion, Meeting badge (exhibits), Meeting badge/program page (table clinics or free on-site lecture), CDE printout from meeting, or similar documentation

Clinical courses are those on-site lectures, courses, seminars, and/or table clinics that are **directly related to the clinical practice of dentistry or dental assisting**. This category includes, but is not limited to attendance at, or participation in **clinical** professional development courses that are **directly related to skills, knowledge, and duties that would be chairside**: dental materials, four-handed dentistry, infection control, radiology, expanded functions, non-humna dentistry (i.e., canine and feline dentistry) and others. See Category 3 for non-clinical practice management information.

For each hour that you attend and/or participate in one of these sessions you will receive one (1) CDE credit. Additionally, a maximum of one (1) hour may be earned for reviewing exhibits at dental and/or dental assisting meetings sponsored by recognized dental groups. This can be done a maximum of twice each year at two (2) different meetings. All CDE credits can be clinical in nature.

NON-CLINICAL COURSES, SEMINARS & TABLE CLINICS Formerly called ELECTIVES (including PRACTICE MANAGEMENT)

- CDE Hours: Maximum 3 hours for CDAs, COAs, & COMSAs**
Maximum 6 hours for CDPMAs
Accepted Documentation: Certificate of completion, DANB approval code, Letter of attendance/completion, Meeting badge, Program page (table clinics or free on-site lecture), CDE printout from meeting, or other like documentation

- CDAs, COAs, and COMSAs may earn a maximum of three (3) CDE hours annually.
- CDPMAs can earn a maximum of six (6) CDE hours annually (as practice management is the focus of CDPMA certification).

This category includes but is not limited to attendance at or participation in **non-clinical** professional development courses that are **directly related to dental practice management/practice communication services**: practice management, HIPAA, stress management, patient and staff motivation, computer courses (college class, software training, etc.), insurance, claims/billing, foreign language studies, American Sign Language, and non-scientific related college courses. This category also includes courses and seminars covering dental practice acts and trends in dental assisting. These courses must be directly related to allowable duties for dental assistants.

HOME STUDY COURSES: TEXT-AUDIO-VIDEO-INTERNET

- CDE Hours: Clinical Home Study Courses: Hour for Hour (no maximum)**
Non-Clinical Home Study Courses (for CDAs, COAs and COMSAs): Maximum of 3 hours
Non-Clinical Home Study Courses (for CDPMAs): Maximum of 6 hours
Accepted Documentation: Certificate of completion, DANB approval code, Letter of completion, or other like documentation

This category includes completion of any Internet-based text, audio or video courses completed at home. Home study courses can be obtained from the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA), The National Association of Dental Assistants (NADA) and other agencies. All required CDA hours can be earned through home study courses. CDAs, COAs, and COMSAs may take a maximum of three (3) non-clinical CDE hours or a maximum of twelve (12) clinical CDE hours. CDPMAs may take a maximum of six non-clinical course hours or a maximum of 12 clinical CDE hours.

VIDEO OR AUDIO TAPES FROM CONVENTION SEMINARS

- CDE Hours: Maximum 3 hours**
Accepted Documentation: Copy of the 250-word essay (highlighting the meeting & course name)

Certificants may earn a maximum of three (3) CDE hours annually by viewing or listening to a taped CDE course presented at a local, state, regional, or national dental meeting and writing a minimum 250-word summary of that course presentation.

READING

- CDE Hours: Maximum 2 hours**
Accepted Documentation: Written log of articles and copy of each 50-word article summary or 250-word textbook summary. Educators may submit a copy of the completed publisher's evaluation form for any materials evaluated for adoption (see below)

Certificants may earn a maximum of one (1) CDE hour annually by reading at least six (6) technical/dental articles published within your renewal period or one (1) dental textbook, published within the past five (5) years. Community libraries, dental offices, and the Internet are convenient sources of books and journals. To record reading activity, a log must be maintained that includes title of book or article, name of journal, author, and date of publication. This written log earns the certificant one (1) CDE hour. Certificants may earn an additional one (1) CDE hour annually for writing at least a 50-word summary of each article or at least a 250-word summary of the textbook, highlighting the relevance of the information to the dental assisting profession. (Accepted documentation: written log of articles and copy of each 50-word article summary or 250-word textbook summary)

Dental assisting educators teaching at least half-time may earn a maximum of three (3) CDE credit hours annually by reviewing new reference materials (textbooks, CD ROMs, audiovisuals, etc.) for possible adoption into their curriculum. (Accepted documentation: copy of the completed publisher's evaluation form for any materials evaluated for adoption)

DANB EXAMS

- CDE Hours: Maximum 12 hours**
Accepted Documentation: Copy of Certificate or Official DANB Score Report

Twelve (12) CDE hours are awarded for each DANB-administered examination successfully completed, excluding the first time a certification exam is passed. These examinations include any DANB national examination, DANB Professional Development Examination Program (PDEP), or any DANB state or agency-contracted examination that consists of at least 100 items. Four (4) CDE hours are awarded for each DANB-administered state or agency-contracted examination that is less than 100 items. Successful completion of non-DANB-developed dental-related professionally proctored exams (consisting of at least 100 questions) will be awarded hour for hour credit, for the amount of time designated for the completion of the exam. If no time is specified, one hour will be allowed for every 100 questions.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

- CDE Hours: Maximum 3 hours**
Accepted Documentation: Certificate of completion, Letter of attendance/participation, or similar documentation

Certificants may earn a maximum of two (2) CDE hours by participating in dental-related community service and an additional one (1) CDE hour for writing at least a 250-word essay on how the volunteer service benefited the certificant's professional growth. Examples include: international/national mission work, voluntary clinic work, or dental health presentations to students or groups. Community participation does not include activities such as serving on a dental assisting program advisory committee or as an officer and/or committee chair for a national, state, or local dental assisting organization. Volunteer time should be at minimum two (2) hours. DANB will publicly recognize Certificants who complete and provide proof of mission work.

COLLEGE COURSES

- CDE Hours: No Maximum**
Accepted Documentation: Grade report, Transcript, Letter of Verification (from instructor on school letterhead)

CDE hours are awarded for each scientific-oriented college credit/unit successfully completed at the following levels:

- Three (3) College Credits/Units = Twelve (12) CDE hours
- Two (2) College Credits/Units = Six (6) CDE hours
- One (1) College Credit/Unit = Three (3) CDE hours

Courses must directly relate to the practice of dentistry or dental assisting (i.e., dentistry, dental assisting, dental hygiene, anatomy/physiology, all biology, all chemistry, nutrition). To avoid non-acceptance of credits, call DANB to ascertain whether a course is acceptable and at what CDE hour level.

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

- CDE Hours: Maximum 3 hours**
Accepted Documentation: Course outline/catalog, copy of program brochure listing the Certificant as Instructor, copy of published article (including name and date of publication), letter from DANB, document from college registrar's office indicating currently enrolled status (see below)

Certificants may earn a maximum of three (3) CDE hours annually for each of the following scholarly activities:

- Teach a professional course directly related to dentistry or dental assisting or present a continuing dental education program, either of which are outside of the Certificant's normal employment teaching responsibilities. (Accepted documentation: course outline/catalog, copy of program brochure listing the Certificant as Instructor)
- Author a published article in a recognized dental or dental assisting journal. (Accepted documentation: copy of published article, including name and date of publication)
- Participate in a DANB Exam Committee/validity study/PDEP development (Note: PDEP development participants cannot use PDEP to renew) or receive one (1) CDE hour for every two (2) exam items accepted by DANB. (Accepted documentation: letter from DANB)
- Certificants may earn all twelve (12) CDE hours required annually by DANB if they are currently enrolled in a college program to earn an advanced degree, but this option can be used for no more than five consecutive years. Twelve (12) CDE hours per year may be earned if enrolled at least half-time (earning 3 or more college credits/units) in a BA, BS, MA, or other recognized degree program. (Accepted documentation: Document from college registrar's office indicating currently enrolled status.)

Many CDE courses that dental assistants attend or participate in are sponsored by ADA CERP and/or AGD PACE approved continuing education providers. These courses can be used to renew your DANB Certification(s). It is your responsibility to ensure you are earning CDE hours in the appropriate DANB CDE categories, as described in DANB's Recertification Requirements (above).

Benefits of DANB Certification

Continued from page 3

sional skills of the dental assistant, DANB Certification is a tool to verify the quality of the dental assisting education programs. If a program consistently graduates a percentage of dental assisting students who fail the DANB exam(s), this alerts the national or state agency that accredits or approves the educator to a possible problem with the program or the school. It may also indicate a possible problem and highlight a need to re-evaluate the accreditation previously awarded. If this were to happen, the curriculum would be reviewed and possibly re-assessed, with requirements communicated for needed changes in order to re-instate the accreditation.

DANB mails periodic Program Performance Reports to Program Directors of dental assisting programs accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), and voc-tech dental assisting programs, and to those state dental boards that approve state-specific Expanded Function Dental Assisting (EFDA) educational programs. These reports assist the Program Directors/educators and regulators in comparing their aggregate student performance in three areas: 1) from year-to-year within the program, 2) current year against national and on-the-job-trained dental assisting performance, and 3) from year-to-year against national and on-the-job-trained dental assisting performance.

Evaluating the annual performance of their own students, aggregate results on DANB exams also provides the educators with information on which content areas of the exams their students found most difficult, which could highlight a need for a review session or a strengthening of the curriculum in that area, especially if low scores in one or more exam content areas trend in that direction over time.

Benefits to Dentists

The presence of DANB Certificants in the dental practice elevates the professionalism of the office. The oral healthcare team is favorably affected by the recognized abilities, the confidence and pride exhibited by a dental assistant who has earned national DANB Certification. This Mark of Dental Assisting Excellence™ signifies that the dental assistant, as a team member, has met or exceeded the national criterion established in dental assisting. The team is stronger as each individual becomes stronger.

Not only is the dental assistant more confident in his/her abilities, the dentist can be more confident in the dental assistant; in the knowledge of professional vocabulary and practice standards, and in the performance of his/her responsibilities. Looking for the national DANB CDA, COA and CDMPA credentials is one way that an employer can reduce subjectivity in dental office hiring decisions. Supervisory needs may also be reduced, as allowed by state law—offering the dentist and the dental assistant more autonomy and more freedom, increasing practice efficiency. A dental assistant who is DANB Certified has been tested and has demonstrated knowledge, skills, and professional abilities. In some states, DANB Certification allows the dental assistant to perform expanded duties, thus increasing effectiveness of the dental office.

Dentists have many state practice rules and regulations to follow. In those states that require or recognize DANB exams, DANB Certification assists the dentist in complying with state regulations. Beyond compliance, dental assistants who are DANB Certified provide a level of professionalism that can positively affect the practice's bottom line. DANB Certificants demonstrate substantially less job turnover. Turnover can be expensive to a practice, and certainly can be disruptive to the dental team and the patients.

From the 2006 *DANB Show Me the Money Survey*, DANB CDAs, on average, stay with the same employer 9.3 years, up from the 8.6 reported in the 2004 survey. In addition, the amount of time a DANB CDA is employed as a practicing dental assistant has risen to 15.9 years on average, up from 14.4 years reported in 2004. Based on the American Dental Association's 2004 Survey of Dental Practice: Employment of Dental Practice Personnel, dental assistants stay in the profession for an average of 12.1 years, and stay with the same practice for an average of 6.8 years. This means that DANB Certificants stay in the field and with the same employer about a third longer than the popula-

tion of all dental assistants.

In addition to the clear financial impact of less turnover, the relative stability of DANB Certificants helps create a stronger team orientation in the office. In the practice setting, dentists benefit from patients seeing the same personnel from visit to visit. This elevates the feelings of comfort and confidence in the practice and may reduce patient attrition as well.

Benefits to Patients and the Patients' Families

Patients benefit from a stable dental office environment. The comfort and confidence they experience is paramount when they come in for their dental services. A dental office with DANB Certificants is likely to be a stable environment and thus a happier experience and a confidence-builder for the patient and the patient's family.

Beyond being a more stable environment, patients and their families benefit by having the enhanced professionalism a DANB Certificant offers. Professionals, who have achieved an acknowledged recognition, approach their positions with commitment to life-long learning and a professional pride. This pride comes from achieving the significant professional milestone of DANB certification. Patients receive services from those who have tested as meeting or exceeding the national criterion for their professional discipline. When observing posted credentials and certificates, patients can see tangible evidence of the professionalism of the dental team.

Patients benefit from working with a dentist who manages his/her practice in a professional manner. A dentist who values professional certification for members of his/her team is one who likely demands the highest standards of service for his/her patients. Superior service and superior experiences are the plausible outcomes from such a commitment to excellence.

Benefits to State Regulatory Bodies and Legislators

DANB Credentials are a tool used in determining professional competency in 37 states. This metric is used by state regulatory administrators in the promotion of public health and safety. The need for additional legislation and certificates of competency increases as the complexity of care options or higher profile oral healthcare problems increase. DANB Certificants are aware of the existence of state regulations related to the oral healthcare profession. DANB Certificants meet or exceed the national criterion established to measure knowledge and experience in dental assisting and are thus less likely to practice or assist in a way that would deviate from a state's dental practice act and related administrative rules.

The silent epidemic of deficiencies in access to oral healthcare affects all ages and communities, with special emphasis on minorities and the impoverished. The declining dentist-to-population ratio in some areas places a greater burden on the public health infrastructure. Now, more than ever, employers need a dental team with proven professional skills. DANB Certificants can be relied upon to increase a dental office's quality of care and efficiencies. Efficiencies translate to the ability to see more patients. Optimizing the number of patients seen can extend the reach of dental professionals at each level of the professional spectrum.

The role of the auxiliary dental staff has the potential of serving those in greatest need. DANB Certificants are professionals who, without exception, meet or exceed the national criterion established to measure knowledge and experience in dental assisting. DANB Certificants can help alleviate some of the pressure in underserved areas if the states in question recognize or require DANB Certification in order to delegate expanded duties, therefore expanding the population of individuals qualified to provide or assist with the provision of oral healthcare services. Employing and extending the reach of skilled and dedicated individuals in the oral healthcare field benefits not only the dental team but also the care of society as a whole.

How to Retain Benefits of DANB Certification

The benefits of DANB Certification mentioned in this article are attained by all those who earn DANB Certification. However, they are only retained if the Certificant renews his or her DANB credential. Only those who meet DANB Recertification Requirements (which include holding current DANB-accepted



Some of the Benefits of DANB Certification

Impact

Positive impact on patient care and the dental office environment.

Achievement

Source of personal achievement that sets Certified Assistants apart from non-DANB Certified peers.

Mobility and Earning Potential

Enhanced career mobility. Identification of the most qualified candidates for employment, often resulting in higher pay.

Commitment

Evidence of commitment to high standards of practice in the profession, and to self-improvement and professionalism in the field.

Recognition

Formal recognition, visibility, and credibility of advanced knowledge and ability. Increased respect from colleagues, patients, and community.

Professional Pride

Personal satisfaction in achieving a significant professional milestone. Tangible increase in self-confidence.

Community

Belonging to, and communicating with, a group of like-minded professionals.

Growth

Demonstration of a commitment to life-long learning and knowledge—being a role model for colleagues, friends, and family.

healthcare provider-level CPR certification, completing at least 12 hours of continuing dental education annually and paying a modest renewal fee) are eligible to continue to use the credential and to refer to themselves as CDA, COA, CDPMA, or COMSA. If a DANB Certificant allows the certification to lapse, then he or she is no longer a CDA, COA, CDPMA, or COMSA. See pages 4-5 of this issue for DANB's Recertification Requirements.▲

DANB to Mail 2008 Salary Surveys to DANB Certificants in April

DANB will begin mailing salary surveys this April to 5,000 randomly selected DANB Certificants. The results of *DANB's Show Me The Money Salary Survey* are anticipated by many in the oral healthcare profession because the data provide a window into the pay scales of this valuable member of the dental team, in addition to presenting an overview of the range of years most Certificants worked in the profession, and the type of practice DANB Certificants are supporting.

In 2001, DANB conducted its first national *Show Me The Money Salary Survey* to confirm that DANB Certified Dental Assistants (CDAs) earn more than those who are not DANB Certified. Since 2004, DANB conducts a salary survey biannually. The last survey was conducted in 2006 and reported in the Winter 2007 issue of *Certified Press*. The results of the 2008 salary survey will appear in the Winter 2009 edition.

DANB's 2006 salary survey revealed that nationally, DANB CDAs make a median hourly wage of \$16.50, \$1.76 more per hour than non-DANB Certified assistants. (The amount for non-Certified assistants was determined by taking the national median hourly wage for non-Certified assistants last reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2002 and adjusting at 3% per year for inflation.) The gap between dental assistants who are DANB Certified and those who are not increased since the initial DANB salary survey in 2001.

Each of the last three salary surveys DANB has conducted provide encouraging information for DANB CDAs, as well as those who employ them. The gap between dental assistants who are DANB Certified and those who are not in 2006 was wider than the last DANB salary survey conducted in 2004. In 2006, DANB Certified Assistants made an average of \$1.76 more an hour than non-DANB Certified assistants. That difference between

the two groups was \$1.58 only two years earlier. This CDA wage differential is increasing faster than the rate of inflation.

Results from the 2006 DANB salary survey indicated that employers also benefit from having DANB CDAs on their dental teams. Keeping in mind that recruitment and retention are major issues in the oral healthcare community, the survey showed that CDAs, on average, stay with the same employer 9.3 years, up from the 8.6 reported two years ago. In addition, the amount of time a DANB CDA is employed as a practicing dental assistant rose to 15.9 years on average, up from 14.4 years reported in 2004. According to the American Dental Association's *2004 Survey of Dental Practice: Employment of Dental Practice Personnel*, dental assistants stay in the profession for an average of 12.1 years, and stay with the same practice for an average of 6.8 years. Therefore, the survey showed that DANB Certificants stay in the field and with the same employer about a third longer than the pool of all dental assistants, both Certified and non-Certified.

Conducting the salary survey and publishing the results are part of the ongoing commitment DANB has with its stakeholders to be a resource of dental assisting information. With access-to-care issues looming over many areas of the country, it is important to look at the role of the dental assistant in expanding care provided by qualified auxiliaries under appropriate dentist supervision. Publication of *DANB's State Fact Booklet* and *DANB's Career Ladder Templates for Dental Assistants*, in addition to the State-Specific section on DANB's website supports this effort by helping the dental assistants understand the career ladder opportunities in the state in which they practice and what functions are allowable by law to perform. Awareness of a career ladder in the dental assisting field attracts and retains individuals in the profession.

DANB's 2008 Show Me The Money Salary Survey will include new questions to gather information on the use of digital radiography in the office. DANB Exam Committees meet annually to review the content of each of the national Certification and component exams. DANB's Radiation Health & Safety (RHS) exam will be affected as the changes in the industry unfold.

Currently, DANB sees that approximately 30% of the dental offices use some or all digital radiography. When that number moves closer to 60%, DANB will begin to reduce the number of conventional film radiography items on the RHS exam and replace them with the pre-tested items on digital format radiography. The Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) that sit on DANB's RHS Exam Committee expect the changes to show up in approximately the next 5-10 years. DANB makes every effort to stay in front of changes in the profession by taking the responsibility of continually tracking areas of dental assisting practice to secure the relevancy and integrity of the national DANB credentials; credentials that you have earned and will be earned by future DANB candidates.▲

Improving Your Office's Professional Phone Etiquette

Dental assistants who work in the front office are often the first members of the dental team to come into contact with patients. These valuable workers spend a great deal of time on the telephone, making, taking, and returning the many calls that a practice receives each day. During each call, their professional demeanor should set a positive tone for the patient's visit. Here are some tips to improve patient satisfaction during the telephone process:

- **Introduce yourself.** Make sure patients know to whom they are speaking. If a patient needs to call back later, it may be most efficient for him/her to ask for the person who is already familiar with the case.
- **Use the patient's name.** Addressing patients as "Mr./Ms. (last name)" is a gesture of respect that will emphasize your professionalism and make the patients feel valued.
- **Speak slowly and distinctly.** Information about your office may be routine to you, but a patient hearing it for the first time may get confused. Taking your time on the phone will help to prevent misunderstandings.

- **Respect the patient's time.** When you need to find the answer to a question, offer the patient a choice between remaining on hold and receiving a call back. If a patient chooses the latter, give a specific time when he/she can expect your call.
- **Be friendly.** Smile during the phone conversation. Although the patient can't see your face, the tone of your voice will be more pleasant. Thank each patient for calling and say that you are looking forward to seeing him/her at the next appointment.
- **Help to resolve problems.** Listen carefully to any complaints and inform the patient of the specific steps that you will take towards fixing the situation.

Many people are nervous about visiting the dentist, but their jitters may be lessened if they know that they will encounter warm, personable staff members who genuinely care about their well-being. By following the above suggestions, you will demonstrate that your office is a welcoming place to be!



Notable DANB Dates for 2008

Be sure to visit the DANB booth at upcoming conventions and meetings listed below. Bring your current DANB wallet card and receive your credential ribbon and a special gift.

Convention/Host	Location/Contact Info	Dates
Hinman Dental Meeting DANB Forum—March 13, 2008*	Atlanta, GA www.hinman.org	March 13-15
American Dental Education Assn. Annual Session	Dallas, TX www.adea.org	March 29-April 2
Professional Dental Assisting Conference	Norfolk, VA www.professionaldentalassisting.com	April 24-26
American Assn. of Orthodontists Annual Session	Denver, CO www.aortho.org	May 16-20

DANB Office will be closed May 26 for the Memorial Day Holiday and July 4th for Independence Day

Academy of General Dentistry	Orlando, FL www.agd.org	June 27-July 1
Pacific Northwest Dental Conference	Seattle, WA www.wsda.org	July 13-14

*Please check individual meeting/conference agenda for time & room location

A listing of New DANB Certificants can be viewed at www.danb.org in the Recertification Section.

"You Could Be Next" Winners!

Congratulations to Sandra Helms, CDA from Monroe, NC and Lisa Moyer, CDA CDPMA from Snow Hill, MD who are winners in the "You Could Be Next" contest that was published in the Winter 2008 issue of *DANB's quarterly Certified Press*.

Both ladies recognized their CE numbers and won \$50. Remember to check for your number from those listed in "You Could Be Next" box on the back page of this issue for your chance to win!



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Please note that it is DANB's policy to
return calls within two business days.*

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You Could Be Next!

Match your CE number with one of the randomly selected numbers listed below. Notify the DANB Marketing Department within 30 days of this newsletter's mailing to claim your \$50 prize. Be sure to include your name, address, and CE number.

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| 106298 | 134077 |
| 158215 | 176035 |
| 193042 | 199442 |

The DANB Mission

DANB's mission is to promote the public good by providing credentialing services to the dental community. DANB accomplishes and measures the success of this mission through:

- valid dental assisting exams;
- dental assisting recertification process integrity;
- visible, valuable and accessible DANB credentials;
- testing services for groups within the oral healthcare community;
- information services for the oral healthcare community related to dental assisting credentialing and recertification; and
- a properly governed, financially secure, administratively sound organization.

DANB National Test Dates

Mark your calendars for these written exam administration dates and deadlines for 2008.

2008 Written Exam Date	Application Deadline
June 13 or 14	May 2, 2008
October 10 or 11	August 29, 2008

Remember: Computerized exams can be taken year-round and do not have deadlines.

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