



# Certified Press

Issue 40 Volume 3 • Fall 2002

## DANB Certificant-at-Large Candidates Vie for Board Position

The Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) is looking to fill the position of Certificant-At-Large to sit on the DANB Board of Directors. Judy Anoff, CDA, EFDA currently serves in that role. Her second term on DANB's Board will expire at the close of the August 2003 Board meeting.

Many individuals responded to the call for nominations announced in the Early Spring and Spring issues of *Certified Press*. The nominating committee of the DANB Board evaluated an impressive roster of Certified Assistants and determined that a selection of four nominees would be presented for voting. Only current certificants are eligible to vote.

Although only four were selected for the slate of candidates, all nominees were invited to participate with DANB in other areas such as item writing, test construction committees, or special projects where their input and insight can directly affect Certified Assisting.

As a non-profit organization, DANB policy is set by its Board of Directors. The Board of DANB consists of nine voting Directors. Three directors represent the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA), two directors represent the American Dental Association (ADA), and one director represents each of the following: the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), the American Association of Dental Examiners (AADE), DANB Certificants (Certificant-At-Large) and the Public.

To be considered for the position of Certificant-At-Large, the nominee must be DANB certified (CDA, COA, COMSA or CDPMA) and working full or part-time in the field of dental assisting with a minimum of 3 years work experience prior to being nominated. An individual will not be considered if he or she is a current employee or board member of a governing body of any of the dental organizations DANB determines to be in conflict of interest, including ADAA, ADA,

ADEA or AADE (members of committees for or delegates to these organizations will be considered).

DANB sent current DANB Certificants a special ballot/nominee biography mailing in mid-December. The official water-marked ballot is the only acceptable voting method accepted by the DANB Board. January 15, 2003 is the postmark deadline for ballots to be submitted.

As stated in the DANB's By-Laws, after receiving the ballot tally, the Board will elect into service a DANB Certificant, typically the individual who receives the majority vote, as the new DANB Certificant-At-Large.

The elected Certificant will be announced in the Spring 2003 issue of *Certified Press*. The new Certificant-At-Large will serve a 3-year term beginning at the August 2003 meeting (as observer, then Director at the close of the meeting). A director may hold office for a maximum of two terms. ▲



**LaDonna Drury-Klein, CDA, RDA, BS**  
El Dorado Hills, CA

**Certification Date:** August 18, 1993

**Occupation:** Coordinator, CDE Program College of Alameda President/Founder Professional Environments for Dentistry

**Reason for Interest in Board Position:**

I would like to work for all dental assistants on a national level to help promote the profession and empower the individual.

**Biography:**

Ms. Drury-Klein's clinical career began by receiving her RDA license in 1984, followed by her CDA in 1993. She worked in general practice and specialty care (endodontics) for 15 years. During that time, she attended University of California-Berkley and completed her BS in Business Management at the University of Phoenix.

While still chairside, Ms. Drury-Klein founded Professional Environments for Dentistry, an OSHA/ Infection Control, HR consulting company, and taught dental assisting at Mt. Diablo Adult Education Program and City College of San Francisco. In 1997, she became a tenured faculty member at the College of Alameda.

In 2000, the Governor of California appointed Ms. Drury-Klein to the California Dental Board and reappointed her in 2002.

She currently serves on the CDPMA Test Construction Committee, and is a member of the ADAA, California Association of Dental Assisting Teachers, and the Organization for Safety and Asepsis Procedures. Ms. Drury-Klein is a national presenter and published author.



**Sandra Rodier, CDA, RDA, AAS**  
Sweetwater, NJ

**Certification Date:** April 9, 1982

**Occupation:** Coordinator, Dental Assisting Program, Camden County College

**Reason for Interest in Board Position:**

I would endeavor to protect the validity of the DANB credentials and strive to perceive the needs of my fellow Certified Assistants and the Dental Assisting National Board in the 21st Century.

**Biography:**

Ms. Rodier began her dental assisting career in 1973 as an office manager and assistant in a private practice. She became a high school dental assisting office management instructor in 1982. That same year she earned her NJ Dental Radiology License and CDA, with her RDA to follow in 1983.

Ms. Rodier's educator role took her to Camden County College in 1983. She also earned her AAS from Camden and is currently enrolled at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of NJ, studying Allied Health Administration.

Ms. Rodier is very active in her profession. She is a charter member and lecturer for the Delta Dental Endowment Foundation's Prevent Abuse and Neglect Through Dental Awareness (PANDA) program. She has received certificates of appreciation and awards from more than six dental-related organizations.

In addition, Ms. Rodier has served on the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA) Board of Trustees as Secretary and Trustee, and held numerous offices/chairs in the NJ Dental Assistants Association and Southern Dental Assistants Society. Ms. Rodier is a presenter on many dental assisting topics.



**Patricia Sippel, CDA**  
Pittsburgh, PA

**Certification Date:** August 20, 1996

**Occupation:** Chairside Assistant, Office of William Ott, DDS

**Reason for Interest in Board Position:**

Experience coupled with my Certification helps me to promote Certified Assisting as a true profession—even in Pennsylvania where DANB Certification is not required or recognized. Serving on the Board would allow me to do this nationally.

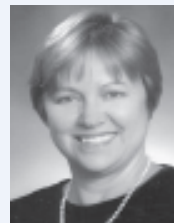
**Biography:**

Ms. Sippel has been a dental assistant for more than 36 years. Her career began with dental assisting through an education program at the University of Pittsburgh. She received her Pennsylvania Radiology Certificate in 1988. In 1996, she challenged and passed the DANB CDA exam.

Ms. Sippel's work in private practice has been her mainstay, working for seven general dentists and one orthodontist since 1966. While chairside for the practices, Ms. Sippel also held the role of substitute instructor for the dental assisting course at the Community College of Allegheny and subsequently became an assistant instructor at the same institution.

She is extremely involved with the profession, having served as President, Pittsburgh Dental Assistants Society in addition to serving as Scholarship-Student Affairs, Co-Chair/Chair, Membership Chair, and Vice-President of the Pennsylvania Dental Assistants Association. Ms. Sippel sat on the ADAA Task Force on Education and Credentialing of Dental Assistants for the 1992-1994 term.

Additionally, Ms. Sippel has been published in several dental journals throughout her career.



**Barbara Traines, CDA, MEd**  
Chandler, AZ

**Certification Date:** July 9, 1976

**Occupation:** Director, Arizona Dental Assistants Programs, Rio Salado College

**Reason for Interest in Board Position:**

My goals are common to many; face the challenges of the future while maintaining DANB's high standards. My background in both traditional dental assisting education and high technology distance education will benefit DANB, and all of us with DANB credentials, in meeting these challenges.

**Biography:**

Ms. Traines began her career in dental assisting through an educational program at the Maricopa Technical Community College in Phoenix, AZ. After receiving her AA and dental assisting certificate, she challenged and passed the DANB CDA in 1976. She received her BA in 1995 and her MEd in 2001, both conferred by Northern Arizona University.

Ms. Traines assisted chairside for several years and in 1994, she founded Chairside Connection offering radiology skills enhancement, OSHA evaluation and other consulting services.

At the same time, Ms. Traines taught didactic and clinical courses at Phoenix College and counseled internship students. Her educator career continued with a move to Rio Salado College in 1997 to develop a dental assisting/hygiene program. Her most recent accomplishment has been the development and implementation of a 23 credit hour distance-based Clinical Dental Assisting certificate program through Rio Salado College which is partnered with 5 state dental associations.

Additionally, Ms. Traines served on the DANB RHS Test Construction Committee, held the office of President, AZ Dental Assistants Association and has been published in several dental publications.

# Congratulations Emeritus Certificants

August 1, 2002–September 30, 2002

Name/State	Certification Date
Cohen, Naomi (NJ)	1/31/83
McCusker, Joyce B. (MD)	10/31/78
Walls, Rose A. (FL)	11/30/76

Emeritus Status is available to a DANB Certified Assistant who

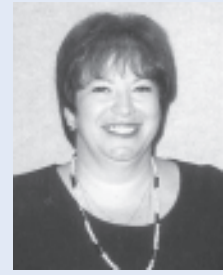
- became totally or permanently disabled and maintained certification five years prior to disability, or
- retired at age 60 or above and maintained certification five years prior to retirement, or
- retired **with 35 years or more of continuous** DANB certification.

No matter how Emeritus Certification is earned, Emeritus certificants must use the Emeritus designation, i.e., Sue Smith, CDA-Emeritus. To regain current Certification status, for example if one wishes to return to work, either the Emeritus Certificant must reinstate (administrative fee, back renewals, and proof of CDE) or re-test depending on the time passed since the Emeritus designation was earned.

There are currently 278 DANB Emeritus Status certificants. For information on earning the Emeritus Status, contact Stephanie Hondras, Executive Assistant, at 1-800-FOR-DANB x111.▲

## A Word from the Chair

Judy E. Anoff, CDA, EFDA  
Chair, DANB Board of Directors



Wow! What an exciting Certificant-at-Large race. I am lucky to have had to ability to view all the resumes and letters of interest. And let me tell you, all the individual nominees are outstanding, have achieved great things, and would represent the DANB Certificant population very well.

I am thrilled professionally and personally about the large number of DANB Certified Assistants interested in actively participating in the governance of their Certification Board.

The Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors had the difficult task of paring down the nominee list to a slate of four (4) candidates for your review and vote. I encourage you to read each candidate's biography, vote and return the ballot (sent separately in mid-December) by the January 15, 2003 deadline.

The Board of Directors also officially welcomes Carla Schneider, CDA, RDA to the Board as one of the three ADA representative. Her experience on the national level of the ADA and enthusiasm for DANB and dental assisting Certification will add to the collegial relationship of the current Directors sitting on the Board.

In other news, the 2003 Recertification Guidelines have been released (see page 5). The only significant change to the Guidelines is the inclusion of hours for DANB-administered state examinations less than 100 questions. For many of you furloughing your dental assisting careers through expanded duties examinations this will be a welcome change as you will now earn four (4) hours for passing those examinations. In addition, DANB has added a policy regarding potential DANB release of Certificant information on the web and to employers and providers of DANB-accepted continuing dental education (see sidebar to 2003 Recertification Guidelines, page 5)

Our feature this issue (page 4) focuses on two of our newly Certified Assistants from Germany. They are the first in their country to earn our CDA credential. Their experience in the US and with DANB was positive and rewarding.

And as Fall turns to Winter, expect the next installment of *Certified Press* that features another in-depth project DANB (through the DANB/ADAA Ad-Hoc Committee to Enhance the Dental Profession) has undertaken to benefit the dental assisting profession.

Until next time...

**PS: Don't forget to vote for Certificant-at-Large!**

## DANB Briefs

### Canadian Dental Assistants Participate In Military Field Exercise

In late spring of this year, the 1st Canadian Field Hospital in Petawawa, Ontario, Canada extended an invitation to the Canadian Dental Assistants Association (CDAA) to tour their facility and witness a field exercise.

CDAA representatives Miriam Echlin and Emily Saunders drove up to the Base and met with Warrent Officer Mark Horodecky, Senior Dental Assistant for the tour. Officer Horodecky guided a walk-through of both the dental and medical sites of the Field Hospital and a tour of Canadian Forces Base Petawawa, which included their medical/dental facility and a 427 tactical helicopter squadron.

During the field exercise, approximately 125 people were involved in various medical scenarios. The 1st Canadian Field Hospitals are designed to function as a third line surgical facility where emergency medical, surgical and dental care would be provided for Canadian soldiers. This facility would be ideally situated 40 km from a battlefield line.

### AGD Says Mercury Bashing Threatens Access For Patients Who Need It Most

The Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) has published a statement saying that the rush of legislative proposals and lawsuits targeting dental

amalgam, or "silver" fillings, has raised concern that dentistry's longest-lived and most affordable restorative material could be on its way out.

The October Issue of *AGD Impact*, the monthly newsmagazine published by AGD, reports that if amalgam is banned, millions of low-income Americans would be stripped of the only restorative material covered by Medicaid and most private insurance programs.

More than a dozen states have proposed legislation to restrict the use of amalgam. "Amalgam has been around for a very long time and has been used in millions and millions of patients and they are all doing fine," says Myron J. Bromberg, DDS and chair of the AGD Council on Dental Care.

The full article, *Amalgam on Trial* is available on the AGD website, [www.agd.org](http://www.agd.org).

### Lack of State Funding Shuts Down Dental Assisting Program

East Central College in Union, Missouri has suspended the Program of Dental Assisting as of July 1, 2002. Due to many circumstances, including the loss of state appropriations to higher education, the College was unable to continue to offer the Dental Assisting Program, nor will they be seeking reaccreditations. Students who had paid a deposit for the program will have the money refunded.

### Request For State Dental Assistants Association Newsletters

DANB currently receives newsletters published by some of the State Dental Assisting Associations. As one of the many resources of information that DANB uses, newsletters are a valuable source for details regarding state activity. DANB holds to the highest standard of professional service to the dental assisting community. As a national board, DANB is committed to receiving and communicating valuable information to support and encourage a high standard in the dental assisting profession.

If your dental assisting organization publishes a newsletter, email communication or has a website you think DANB should know about, please add DANB to your mailing list: DANB Press, 676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1880, Chicago, IL 60611. Email updates or any questions should be sent to [publications@danb.org](mailto:publications@danb.org).

### Duplicate DANB Certificates Available

DANB Certificants can order duplicate copies of any of their certificates for \$25.00 each. DANB Certificants receive a parchment certificate once every five years, with printed seals and wallet cards acknowledging DANB Certification renewals for the years in-between. Certificants who are interested in ordering duplicate copies of their certificate should contact a DANB Client Service Representative at 1-800-FOR-DANB.

### Correction: Certificant Count For WA

The Spring issue of the *Certified Press* inadvertently omitted the current number of DANB Certified Orthodontic Assistants (COAs) in reporting information in the State of the States special section. There are 21 COAs in addition to the 1026 Certified Dental Assistants (CDAs), 16 Certified Oral Maxillofacial Surgery Assistants (COMSAs) and 12 Certified Dental Practice Management Administrators (CDPMAs) committed to excellence in the profession of dental assisting in the state of Washington.

### DANB Certificants Are Real Winners!

Three DANB Certified individuals became winners when their CE number matched with the numbers printed in the *Certified Press' You Could Be Next Contest*. Each issue of the newsletter prints a random selection of CE numbers featured in a special section on the back page.

Corrie A. Morie, CDA from Palmetto, Florida; Tamara Godin Rawls, CDA, RDA from Bartlett, Tennessee and Bobbie Wennerlund, CDA from Brandon, Mississippi each received a \$50 prize.

Be sure to check this issue's numbers to see if *You Could Be Next* to win a prize!

# Research Supports Changes to General Chairside Exam Content Coverage

## Overview

The intention of the General Chairside (GC) portion of the Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) examination is to test candidates on chairside procedures being performed in the field. In order to ensure that the DANB examination reflects actual field practice, it is essential to compare field practice with the content of our examination. This process is called content validation.

## Data and Methods

In Fall 2001 a postcard briefly describing the project was mailed to 2,206 Certified Dental Assistants. The postcard instructed the CDAs to call DANB for further information on the project and to request a content validation packet. The packet included a cover letter, survey and a return envelope. A total of 373 CDAs requested packets, with 315 returning completed surveys to DANB. This sample was sufficient to generalize data to the entire CDA population.

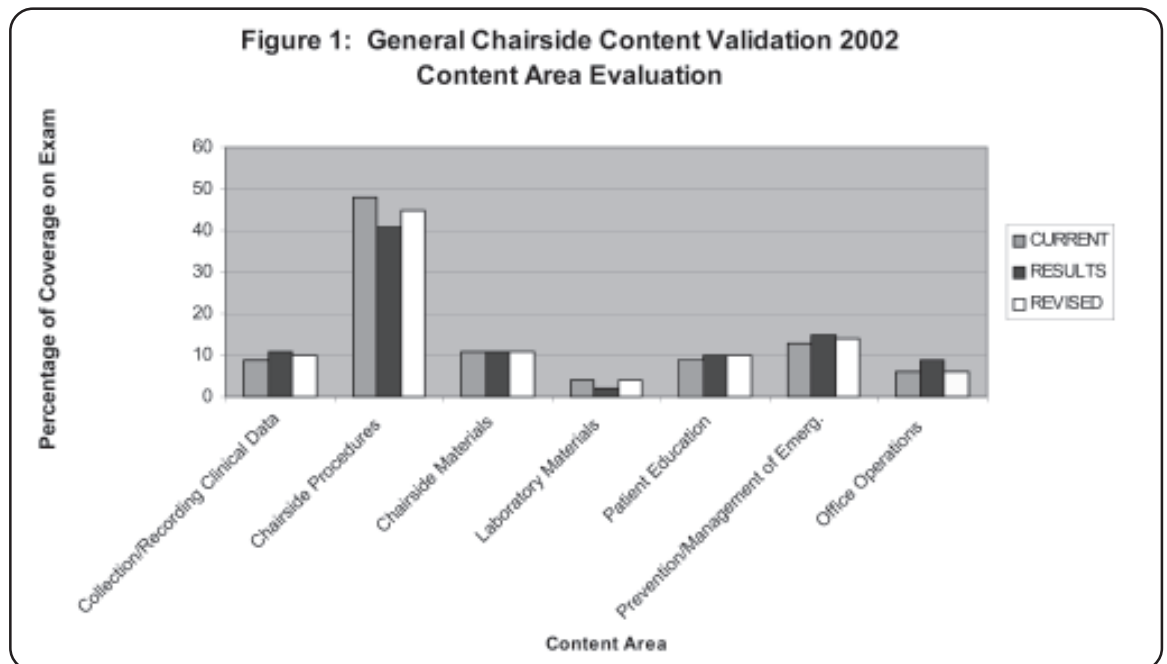
The survey used in the study included 152 tasks. Tasks were developed by the GC Test Construction Committee (TCC) using the content outline for the General Chairside examination as a guide. Final survey tasks/items were approved by DANB's Board. Study participants were asked to indicate the **Importance** of each task relative to all other tasks performed in their current position and to indicate the **Frequency** they perform each task in their current position.

### GC TCC members

- Pam Baldwin, CDA (educator)
  - Ernest DeWald, DDS (clinician)
  - Bunny Miller, CDA (educator)
- conducted the initial review of study results and recommended GC exam content coverage changes to the Board. Also on the TCC at the time was Edward Emanuele, DDS. Current GC TTC members are:
- John T. Iacono, DDS (clinician)
  - Pam Baldwin, CDA (educator)
  - Michelle Anderson-King, CDA (educator)
  - Ernest DeWald, DDS (clinician)
  - Judy E. Anoff, CDA, EFDA (DANB Board Liaison)

## Content Areas

The GC examination (and the GC component of the CDA) includes seven categories of test questions, called content areas. In this project, the coverage that a particular content area receives on the examination is typically determined by the importance of that area in daily dental assisting practice. As there are new techniques, philosophies and equipment used in dentistry, it is natural that the coverage each category receives on the examination may shift over time.



Based on the results and the recommendations of the TCC, the Board voted to revise the GC content area coverage (see Figure 1 above and chart):

Content Area	Change
Collection/Recording of Data	1% increase
Chairside Procedures	3% decrease
Chairside Materials	same
Lab Materials	same
Pt Education	1% increase
Prv & Mgmt of Emerg	1% increase
Office Ops	same

These changes go into effect for the computerized format of the GC/CDA in January 2003 and on the written version in June 2003 following DANB policy. Similarly, content area adjustments will be included in the 2003 Candidate Guide and when future editions of the *Task Analysis, 9th Edition* and *The DANB Review* are published.

## Task Emphasis

In addition to looking at the overall content area coverage, it is important to look at the specific tasks within each content area. The emphasis that specific tasks should receive on an examination varies. For instance a task that is considered critical and is performed often should receive more of an emphasis than a task that is deemed less important and is rarely performed.

As with all of the DANB Certification and component exams, the results from the survey act as a

guide when changes or modifications are discussed. Study results provide practical insight into the day-to-day duties of a Certified Assistant and show areas that the TCC may want to further emphasize or de-emphasize.

## Expert Analysis

The TCC experts combine their knowledge with the respondents' practical experiences, as evidenced by the study, creating a blend of questions that should accurately assess skill and knowledge in general chairside concepts. This type of test construction process results in an exam that is psychometrically sound and represents dental assisting theory and procedures in practice.

A candidate who passes the GC (or GC component of CDA) demonstrates competence, has a thorough understanding of key procedures and topics, and a solid base on which to further build or enhance their career, or achieve the CDA credential.

DANB conducted the chairside survey as standard practice to ensure that the DANB examination reflects actual clinical experience. Periodic content validation is required by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies, the organization that has accredited DANB as a credentialing body. This process is an essential element that supports the integrity and credibility of DANB Certification in the oral healthcare community. ▲

## Evaluation Paves Way For Successful Implementation Of New Testing Centers In January 2003

As reported in the Summer 2002 *Certified Press*, DANB is switching in January 2003 to Pearson Professional Testing Centers (PPCs) to provide computer testing services for DANB exams.

For two weeks in mid-November, DANB set up a "real-life" experiment to confirm the systems of ten of the new testing sites. This investigative process was designed to navigate and test all aspects of the operations to ensure flawless performance and smooth transition in January.

Twenty five individuals chosen by DANB registered and took the DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) exam and the DANB component exams for Infection Control (ICE), Radiation Health & Safety (RHS) and General Chairside (GC) throughout the country.

The PPCs were in full operation for the testing and were not contacted regarding the "test-run" candidates. Actual certification candidates did not participate in the experiment. DANB staff, Board Members and selected educators followed all of the procedures to take the computerized format of the exams.

Several individuals presented common candidate problems, like not having the required identification, to see how the testing center personnel responded based on their DANB training and the manual created by DANB and NCS Pearson.

The improvement with "real-time" flow of information was examined as well as the connectivity of eligibility files from DANB to Pearson headquarters (and subsequently to the local PPC) and the transmission of examination results to DANB for processing.

This testing of the new examination administration system was an opportunity to work out the kinks, if any, and analyze and determine improvements, if needed, before the sites are fully operational January 1, 2003.

For the next several transition months a special insert with PPC locations (and key information) will accompany the test admission notices to assist candidates with scheduling their exam. The complete list of PPC locations can be found in the 2003 Candidate Guide and at [www.danb.org](http://www.danb.org) (in the examination information section).▲

## DANB Dates & Hours To Remember

### New Year's

December 31, 2002 Office closes at 12:00pm CST

January 1, 2003 Office closed

January 2, 2003 Office reopens: regular business hours 8:00am-5:00pm CST

Please feel free to access [www.danb.org](http://www.danb.org) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to obtain applications, state specific information, and DANB news online.

All 2003 applications will be posted online in early January. State applications are scheduled to be available at that time.

New DANB Certificants Listing can be viewed at [www.danb.org](http://www.danb.org)—just click **Recertification**. Listings are posted by quarter.

# German Dental Assistants Earn “Zahnarzhelferin” in United States

Dental assisting is a *worldwide* profession with many different faces. A dental assisting program this side of the Atlantic was reminded of this fact when it hosted six German students for a four week summer program designed to culminate in the DANB Certifying examination. Becoming Certified Dental Assistants is somewhat equivalent to the German *Zahnarzhelferin*.

The German Summer Institute 2002 is a four week summer program sponsored by the College of Health Sciences, Office of Continuing Healthcare Education Center at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. Designed to train students in dental assisting with the goal of taking the DANB Certification exam, this unique program, in its second year, is conducted in cooperation with the Berufliche Schule am Schutzenpark in Kiel, Germany.

The mission of the German Summer Institute 2002 is to enhance both academic and clinical dental assisting education for the visiting students in addition to providing a cultural, social and linguistic environment in order to assist them with taking the DANB CDA examination.

The students were given 21 hours of teaching on infection control and data gathering and 20 hours of instruction using case studies on general chairside assisting. Each week the students got the experience of assisting dentists at two different dental environments, one at the Portsmouth Naval Hospital Dental Center, the other at a free/public health clinic.

The six German students were divided into three health clinics in and around the Norfolk area. The students assigned to the Chesapeake Care Free Dental Clinic received dental assisting experience in various procedures, including the opportunity to assist in a total of 20 extractions, taking radiographs, and performing polishing procedures on children. Some of the students assisted with composite and amalgam restorations at the other clinics.

Cultural and social experience was an integral part of the program. Program Coordinator Sharon Stull, CDA, BSDH, MS arranged for three host families to house two students each for the four weeks. Ms. Stull was able to get participation from families who all lived in the same neighborhood so that the students could mingle, study with each other and even play basketball together in the court near the homes. While it was important for the students to have camaraderie with someone from home, it was equally valuable to experience the American culture.

A welcome reception was given the first evening for the students, two chaperones and their host families. Dr. Cheryl Samuels, the dean from the College of Health Sciences and Dr. John Heyl, Director of International Programs along with four senior dental hygiene students from Old Dominion University who served as student ambassadors for the duration of the program sponsored the reception. Our German friends experienced rollercoasters at Busch Gardens Amusement Park, outdoor Shakespeare, fourth of July fireworks and even found time to experience the American pastime of shopping.

Having studied some English in their home country, the students noticed improvement in their communication skills during their four weeks the U.S., which helped them as they took the DANB Certification examination on their last day. While they noted that they knew the subjects, it was terminology that provided their biggest challenge.

The idea for the program came from Robert Schulze, on faculty to the Breuflische Schule am Schutzenpark in Kiel, Germany. A few years ago, Mr. Schulze was searching on the Internet to partner with a school for his students. He knew that learning about the dental assisting profession was the first step needed for his students. In all of Germany, only a few schools offer education in dental assisting, then only as a part of the training to become a dental hygienist. To add to that



Dental assisting students Janet Lampel and Anika Langmaak are the first dental assistants from Germany to be DANB Certified.

concern, there are only 150 dental hygienists in the whole country.

Typically dentists perform prophylaxis, but lack the opportunity to focus on hygiene in the same way it is done in the United States with the professional standards that are required in our oral healthcare system. Dental hygienists in Germany are specialists who exclusively look after the prevention of caries and periodontal diseases. Other European countries like Switzerland, the Netherlands and Denmark recognized the value of the dental assisting profession long ago, but not Germany.

Enthusiasm ran high among the students who chose to participate in the German Summer Institute. It was their desire to elevate the status of their chosen profession by coming to America to get training and return with DANB Certifications. Of the five students who took the DANB examination, two passed the exam and received the first CDA Certificates ever awarded to German dental assistants.

Anika Langmaak and Janet Lampel were two of the German students who participated in the program and the only two who passed the DANB Certification exam. They are very excited about their new status as CDAs. Upon their return home, they caused quite a stir in their hometown as well as in the oral healthcare community. Janet and Anika were interviewed by the local newspaper and radio station, and treated with much attention by other dental assisting students.

Anika felt that her dental assisting education in America was good at training the students in details and noticed how important it is to know a lot about chemical compositions. Both Janet and Anika expressed that the CDA is a qualification that will improve their opportunities for a better job in Germany. Janet is considering trying to find work in the United States for awhile.

The status of the dental assisting profession in America cast a great impression on all six of the German visitors. One of the students, Katrin Haydt, who chose not to take the exam at the end of the program, has recently contacted Old Dominion and expressed interest in returning at a future date to train again and test for her DANB Certification.

The success of the program will be felt as the ripple-effect of these two dedicated and now DANB Certified Dental Assistants become the new ambassadors for dental assistants across Germany.

A book published a few years ago entitled *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference* by Malcolm Gladwell is a compilation of stories about significant changes that have taken place in the world which began with a small alteration in a way of looking at or doing things. Janet and Anika may be the very tipping point in the profession of dental assisting in Germany that will affect better protection of the public good in oral healthcare in a very significant way.

*Editor's note: Dental assisting instruction at Old Dominion University is offered only as part of its continuing education program. The German Summer Institute will be offered every two years. The next program will be held in 2004. ▲*



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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'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.

## RENEWING YOUR CERTIFICATION

Your initial certificate is valid for one year. Your expiration date is listed on the seal. If you do not renew your certificate, you are no longer certified and may not use the designation or credential. A renewal notice will be mailed approximately 4-6 weeks prior to the expiration date. The certificant will be 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	\$40
Two (2)	18 Hours	\$60
Three (3)	24 Hours	\$80
Four (4)	30 Hours	\$100

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.

A sample timeline is illustrated below for reference only. In this example, Sue Smith's CDA expires January 31, 2003.

Dec. 1, 2002	Jan. 31, 2003	Feb. 15, 2003
1st notice sent.	Signed statement and fee due by this date or Certification expires.	If no response, second notice sent.
	Mar. 1-31, 2003 Grace period continues. Reminder card sent.	Apr. 30, 2003 Grace period ends. You are no longer certified as fee/sign statement have not been received. Call 1-800-FOR-DANB for reinstatement options.

## 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. Note: Except for Home Study Courses, 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 content.
- 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 ½ hours = 1.5 CDE credits, 2 ¾ 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 a 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. 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 at 1-800-FOR-DANB, www.danb.org or danbmail@danb.org.**
- VII. **Emeritus Status:** A Certified Assistant who became totally or permanently disabled and maintained certification five years prior to disability, or retired at age 60 or above and maintained certification five years prior to retirement retired **with 35 years or more of continuous** DANB certification. Please contact the DANB office for full information on the "Emeritus Status." 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 Marketing Coordinator, DANB, 676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1880, Chicago, IL, 60611.

## CONTINUING DENTAL EDUCATION (CDE) REQUIREMENTS

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 6 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.

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

Upon successful completion of the audit, certification will be instated for the full year. Proof of continuing education should be retained for prior 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.**

## DENTAL EDUCATION SOURCES 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.

### 1. MANDATORY CPR CERTIFICATION

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation certification is required for renewal of DANB certification. Certificants may earn a **maximum of four (4) CDE hours annually (hour credit for hour attended)** for successful completion of a CPR certification course that includes both written and hands-on (skills) assessment provided by one of the following organizations:

- **American Red Cross:** CPR for the Professional Rescuer • Adult, Infant and Child CPR • Adult CPR • Infant and Child CPR • Community CPR
- **American Heart Association:** Heartsaver • Heartsaver AED • Heartsaver FACTS • Healthcare Provider • Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) • PBLs Plus (Pediatric Basic Life Support Plus) • PALS (Pediatric Advanced Life Support) • BLS Instructor (Basic Life Support Instructor)
- **National Safety Council (Green Cross):** First Aid CPR • Infant and Child CPR • Adult and Child CPR • Standard CPR • Professional Rescuer CPR
- **American Safety and Health Institute:** CPR Pro
- **Medic First Aid:** Basic Life Support for Professionals
- **Canadian Red Cross:** CPR-Level C • CPR for the Professional Rescuer

Other organizations or courses without both written/skills assessment will not be accepted. Certificants may only count the CDE hours in the year that CPR is earned. **NOTE:** Two-(2) year CPR card holders can only apply the hours to recertification in the year CPR earned. In the second year, CPR hours will not count and the certificant must earn the full number of hours from other categories.

**Accepted Documentation:** Copy of front and back of current CPR card

### 2. CLINICAL COURSES, SEMINARS, TABLE CLINICS AND EXHIBITS

**Hour for hour credit** is awarded for attending any clinical on-site lecture, course, seminar, and table clinic that is **directly related to the clinical practice of dentistry or dental assisting**. **One (1) hour** maximum credit is awarded for a minimum of one hour's time spent reviewing exhibits at dental and dental assisting meetings sponsored by recognized dental groups. Certificants may earn a maximum of **two (2) CDE hours annually** for reviewing exhibits at two different meetings.

**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

### 3. NON-CLINICAL COURSES, SEMINARS AND TABLE CLINICS—Formerly ELECTIVES (inc. PRACTICE MANAGEMENT)

- CDAs, COAs, and COMSAs may earn a **maximum of three (3) CDE hours annually** in this category.
  - 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, 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.

**Accepted Documentation:** Certificate of completion, DANB approval code, Letter of attendance/completion, Meeting badge and program page (table clinics or free on-site lecture), CDE printout from meeting, or other like documentation

### 4. HOME STUDY COURSES: TEXT – AUDIO – VIDEO – INTERNET

All required CDE hours may be earned annually through home study courses. Home study course sponsors must be pre-approved by DANB. A designated number of hours will be awarded after completing a pre-approved home study course. Home study courses can be obtained from the American Dental Assistants Association and other agencies. To avoid non-acceptance of credits, ask course sponsor if the course is DANB-approved. If not, encourage them to call 1-800-FOR-DANB for course approval.

**Accepted Documentation:** Certificate of completion, DANB approval code, Letter of completion, or other like documentation

### 5. VIDEO OR AUDIO TAPES FROM CONVENTION SEMINARS

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.

**Accepted Documentation:** Copy of the 250 word essay (highlighting the meeting and course name)

### 6. READING

Certificants may earn a **maximum of one (1) CDE hour annually by reading** at least six (6) articles published within your renewal period or one (1) 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 text book summary

### 7. DANB EXAMS

**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.

**Accepted Documentation:** Copy of Certificate or Official DANB Score Report

### 8. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Certificants may earn a **maximum of two (2) CDE hours** by participating in 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. Community service must be dental-related, such as international/national mission work, voluntary clinic work or dental health presentations to students or groups. Volunteer time should be at minimum two (2) hours.

**Accepted Documentation:** Certificate of completion, Letter of attendance/participation or similar documentation

### 9. COLLEGE COURSES

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.

**Accepted Documentation:** Grade report, Transcript, Letter of Verification (from instructor on school letterhead)

### 10. SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

Certificants may earn **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  
**Accepted Documentation:** Course outline/catalog or Copy of program brochure
- Author a published article in a recognized dental or dental assisting publication  
**Accepted Documentation:** Copy of published article (name and date of publication)
- Participate in a DANB test construction committee/validity study **or** receive 1 hour for every 2 exam items accepted by DANB.  
**Accepted Documentation:** Letter from DANB

## AGD Installs Executive Board at Annual Meeting

A new executive board of the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) was installed at the annual meeting of the AGD held in Honolulu this past July in conjunction with the annual conference of the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA).

Heading the list as president is Jim Richeson, Jr., DDS, FAGD of Washington DC. Dr. Richeson has served the AGD in many roles, including treasurer, trustee, regional director, member of the Council on Annual Meetings and International Conferences and as a member of the Council on Legislative and Governmental Affairs.

Also elected and installed were:

- President-elect John D. Chandler, DDS, MAGD, Huntsville, TX;
- Vice President Thomas A. Howley, Jr. DDS, MAGD, Perkiomenville, PA;
- Secretary Bruce A. Burton, DMD, MAGD, ABGD, Hood River, OR;
- Treasurer Mark Cohen, DDS, MAGD, Hillsdale, NJ;
- Speaker of the House Robert Roesch, DDS, MAGD, Fremont, NE;
- Editor Roger D. Winland, DDS, MS, MAGD, Athens, Ohio;
- Immediate Past President Howard Zuckerman, DDS, MAGD, Lombard, IL.

The AGD is committed to helping dentists stay up to date with new research, new technologies and new products through lifelong learning. Some of the newly installed executive board members attended the reception hosted by DANB at the ADAA/AGD meeting in Honolulu.▲

## Salary Survey Mailed to Non-DANB Certified Assistants

DANB is in the process of collecting salary data from non-certified dental assistants for Phase II of its "Show Me The Money" Salary Survey. As reported in the Early Spring 2002 issue of *Certified Press*, results from Phase I of DANB's Salary Survey revealed that on average, full-time DANB Certified Assistants earn \$14.98 per hour.

DANB determined that Certified Assistants make \$2.25 more an hour than non-certified dental assistants using data (with adjustments made for inflation) from a Workforce Survey conducted by the ADA in 1999. With a possibility that the gap may be different, DANB is currently sending out a survey to 5,000 randomly-selected non-certified dental assistants, comparable to the one that was sent out to the DANB Certificants in Phase I.

While data from the ADA survey is statistically usable in comparing data with DANB's salary survey of Certified Assistants because adjustments were made for inflation, a more thorough analysis can be done using results from this current survey of non-certified dental assistants.

Earning a DANB Certification demonstrates a dedication on the part of dental assistants to advance their skills and expertise. Results from the DANB Certified Assistants Salary Survey confirmed that employers do compensate DANB Certified Assistants more than those who are not certified; Phase II of the study will more accurately define how much more.▲

## Online Ortho CE Now Available

The American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) has recently unveiled a new Distance Learning Education Program for members and their staffs. Programs are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by logging in to [www.AAOMembers.org](http://www.AAOMembers.org) or may be ordered on CD-ROM or videotape. Each online lecture includes video, audio, and "text" so it feels like you are attending the program "live." For more information or to request a catalog, please contact the AAO at 1-800-424-2841 or email [orders@aaortho.org](mailto:orders@aaortho.org) ▲

## Certificants to Know

This regular *Certified Press* feature is dedicated to CDAs, COAs, COMSAs, and CDPMAs who have excelled in the field of dental assisting and/or furthered their education.

### ARIZONA

Heather Mayo, CDA earned her Bachelor of Arts in Communication from the University of Arizona. Ms. Mayo worked in the field of dental assisting while going through undergraduate school and plans on maintaining her CDA as she continues through graduate school. In December 1997, Ms. Mayo earned her AGS and followed up with earning an AA in May 2000. If that doesn't keep her busy enough, Ms. Mayo served as an intern in the Arizona office of U.S. Senator Jon Kyl this past spring.

### MASSACHUSETTS

Claudia D. Gauthier, CDA recently was awarded the first Dr. Ernest LeClaire Allied Dental Educator of the Year Award by the Massachusetts Dental Society and the Committee on Allied Dental Health Professionals. To be eligible for this award, the dental assistant, dental hygienist or dental laboratory technologist educator must

be a member of their state and national organization and have been involved in education for ten years. A past president of the Massachusetts Dental Assistants Association and life member of the ADAA, Ms. Gauthier has been a Certified Dental Assistant since 1972. She is currently a dental assisting instructor at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School in Fitchburg, MA and a trainer-consultant for Stericycle, Inc.

Donna M. Markarian, CDA earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Vocational Education from Fitchburg State College in Massachusetts. Ms. Markarian is currently the Massachusetts State President of the ADAA and an instructor of Dental Assisting at the Greater New Bedford Regional Technical Vocational High School in New Bedford, MA.

Are you DANB certified and recently honored for excellence in your profession? Earned a degree/major promotion? Earned an award or recognition? Please drop a line to: "HONORS" at [marketing@danb.org](mailto:marketing@danb.org), fax 312/642-3368 or DANB, 676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1880, Chicago, IL 60611. We look forward to hearing from you about your accomplishments! ▲

## Consultant Listing Updates

The Early Spring 2002 issue of *Certified Press* published a list of consultants to the ADA Commission on Dental Accreditation. The following four names were inadvertently left off the list:

Consultant	Teaching Appointment	Date Certified
Linda Hecker, CDA	Mercer County Technical School(NJ)	5/8/97
Linda Olsen-Matheson, CDA	University of Southern Indiana (IN)	7/21/89
Diana Olson, CDA	University of Maine at Augusta (ME)	2/24/71
Donna L. Robinson, CDA	Jefferson Community College (OH)	7/22/68

The following individuals were recommended for appointments at the Commission's 2002 January meeting. Their six-year term began October 1, 2002:

Consultant	Teaching Appointment	Date Certified
Ethel Campbell, CDA	University of North Carolina (NC)	5/30/01
Bonnie Marshall, CDA	Portland Community College (OR)	8/9/85
Rona Carol Staberg, CDA	Del Mar College (TX)	12/31/69

Consultants to the ADA Commission on Dental Accreditation are individuals who conduct site visits, review syllabi, work with program directors, and work to determine whether programs continue to meet ADA accreditation standards.

The Commission uses the following criteria for selection of dental assisting consultants. The individual must:

- 1) be DANB Certified,
- 2) have a full or part-time appointment with an accredited dental assisting program and an equivalent of three years full-time

- 3) dental assisting education experience, have a baccalaureate degree or previous service as a Commission-appointed site visitor,
- 4) have completed course work in educational methodology,
- 5) have a letter or letters of recommendation in support of the nomination, including a letter of recommendation from the administration of the employing institution.

DANB appreciates their commitment to dental assisting education in this role and salutes them for their dedication to long-term DANB Certification. ▲

## Visit DANB at the 2003 Conventions and Meetings

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

Convention	Location	Dates
Rocky Mountain Convention	Denver, CO	January 23-25
Yankee Dental Congress	Boston, MA	January 30-February 3
ABHES Meeting	Las Vegas, NV	February 13-14
Chicago Dental Society Mid-Winter	Chicago, IL	February 27-March 2
American Dental Education Assoc. Meeting	San Antonio, TX	March 8-12
Hinman Dental Meeting	Atlanta, GA	March 20-22
American Association of Orthodontists	Honolulu, HI	May 2-9
ADEA Allied Dental Educators Conference	Myrtle Beach, SC	June 16-17
Department of Defense Symposium	Orlando, FL	July 7-11
AGD/ADAA Annual Meeting	Nashville, TN	July 17-20
Pacific Northwest Dental Conference	Seattle, WA	July 21-26
Pacific Coast Society of Orthodontists Meeting	Vancouver, BC	October 11-14
American Dental Association Annual Meeting	San Francisco, CA	October 25-29
North East Society of Othodontists Meeting	Montreal, ON	November 17-22
Greater New York Dental Meeting	New York, NY	November 30-December 3

# Focus on the Board: Carla Schneider, CDA, RDA

**Carla L. Schneider**, CDA, RDA, is DANB's newest Board member. She became a CDA in 1990 and an RDA through the North Dakota Board of Dental Examiners in 1989. She was elected to the Dental Assisting National Board's (DANB) Board of Directors in August 2002.

Ms. Schneider is currently fulfilling the final year of a three-year term for a previous representative of the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA). She is very proud of her CDA and believes that being DANB Certified provides self-confidence, self-fulfillment, and a greater understanding and knowledge of dentistry. Ms. Schneider is currently studying to earn a bachelor's degree at Dickinson State University, located in Dickinson, North Dakota.

Dr. Mark W. Nelson employs Ms. Schneider as a chairside assistant in Hettinger, North Dakota. She has worked with Dr. Nelson since 1982.

Aside from chairside assisting, her duties also include office manager. She has been a member of the ADAA since 1983 and has served on the North Dakota Dental Assistants Association (NDDAA) in the capacity of Secretary/Treasurer, President-elect, President, and Editor.

On the national level, Ms. Schneider has held the offices of ADAA Seventh District Trustee, Secretary/Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President, President-elect, and President. She currently serves on the following councils of the ADAA: Governance-Resolutions/Policies, Strategic Planning, Education-Course



Carla Schneider, CDA, RDA

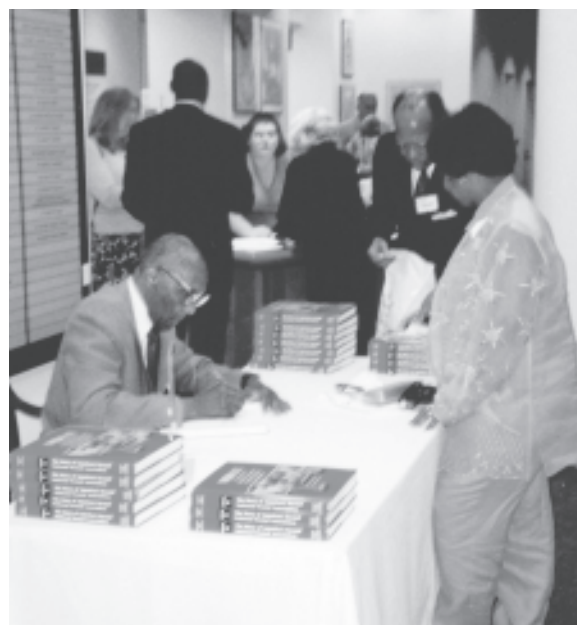
Review, Ad Hoc Committees to Review Fellowship and Joint Legislation/Governance Review; and previously the ADAA/DANB Ad Hoc Committee to Enhance the Dental Assisting Profession.

Since 1998, Ms. Schneider has served as secretary on the Board of Directors of the North Dakota Dental Foundation; since 1999 as coordinator for the directors of the ADAA Foundation's Board of Directors; and since 2000 as Liaison of the NDDAA to the North Dakota Board of Dental Examiners.

Ms. Schneider is a member of the Organization for Safety and Asepsis Procedures. In 1995, she received a Meritorious Service Award from the ND Dental Foundation; and in 1996, she received the ND Dental Assistants Association Recognition Award.▲

## New Exhibit Highlights Contributions Of African Americans in Oral Healthcare

The National Museum of Dentistry unveiled a new exhibit dedicated to the rich heritage of African Americans in dentistry. *The Future is Now! African Americans in Dentistry* opened at the Baltimore, Maryland museum September 27th and will run through August of 2003.



Clifton O. Dummett, DDS, signing his book for Katie Chandler

The opening night crowd included members and officials from such dental groups as the American Academy of the History of Dentistry, The National Dental Association, the NDA Foundation, The Student National Dental Association, Howard University and Meharry Medical College. Guests enjoyed a brief program, reception and book signing.

Several noteworthy speakers at the opening included Dr. Gregory Stoute, president of the National Dental Association, Dr. Roosevelt Brown, chair of the National Dental Association Foundation and Dr. Clifton Dummett, the eminent scholar credited with the research and documentation of African Americans in dental history.

The exhibition highlights individual accomplishments, educational advancements and organizational successes of African Americans since the 1860s. A dramatic presentation is part of the exhibit and reveals a largely untold story of collective struggle, determination and triumph.

The exhibition includes several sections with timeline panels highlighting historical milestones. In the section *On the Trail of Dental History*, the museum visitor learns about the first known reference to an African American dentist, which is found in a 1740 Pennsylvania newspaper.

*Standing on the Shoulders of Giants* showcases many trailblazers in the fields of education, research, professional development and dental specialties.

The timeline also traces the history and social significance of Howard University and Meharry Medical College. In addition to the founding of educational institutions, there is a section entitled *An Uphill Climb* that explores the development of formal dental organizations such as the National Dental Association.

New roles for African American dental professionals are addressed in the section *Conflict, Confrontation and Change*. The exhibit concludes

with a section called *The Future is Now* which celebrates the successes of pioneering professionals and the many significant roles African Americans play in dentistry today.

The National Museum of Dentistry, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, celebrates the great heritage of dentistry, its present and its future. The Museum's historical artifacts, interactive exhibitions and engaging programs expand public awareness of the importance of oral health in overall health.

*The museum is located at 31 South Greene Street in Baltimore, Maryland, only a few blocks north of Oriole Park at Camden Yards and Baltimore's historic Inner Harbor. For additional information, call 410.706.0600 or visit [www.dentalmuseum.org](http://www.dentalmuseum.org).*▲

### Above and Beyond

Angela Samudris, Tandy Yates, and Mary Lee TenEyck sent special thanks to DANB Client Service Representatives Kathleen Danek and Michelle Simmons for going the extra mile and providing excellent customer service and attention to their situations.

Their co-workers know how terrific they are. Now you do, too. Has a DANB staff member has gone above and beyond or provided extra-special service? Let us know by emailing [marketing@danb.org](mailto:marketing@danb.org), faxing 312/642-8507 or mail to DANB Marketing Director, 676 N. St. Clair, Suite 1880 Chicago, IL 60611.

DANB staff is committed to your satisfaction! ▲

## The Forum: Questions/Comments-DANB Answers

**Question:** Why doesn't DANB have input into what duties can or cannot be performed in a particular state?

**DANB Response:** DANB is in regular communication with each of the State Dental Boards across the country to keep account of the rules, procedures and work requirements for dental assistants.

DANB honors and guards its own role of protecting the public good by providing credentialing services to the dental community. As a national organization, DANB is the only certifying board for dental assisting recognized by the American Dental Association (ADA).

Recognizing that DANB's responsibility does not involve setting regulations and legislation, DANB performs in an advisory capacity, to work with state legislators, boards of dentistry and other interested parties to aide in practice

act revisions and provide legislative background and statistical information. DANB cannot override any decisions made by a specific state's board of dentistry.

DANB has created and makes available two documents that provide information from the individual states that is pertinent to dental assistants.

The first document is entitled *Excerpts from State Dental Practice Acts and Administrative Rules for Dental Assistants* which details the duties that can legally be performed by dental assistants in any given state. The document, which is updated as needed, at least annually, includes only the states that regulate dental assistants through their Practice Acts or Administrative Rules.

The second publication, entitled *Fact Sheet on State Expanded Functions and Radiography Requirements* keeps track of the education and credential

requirements needed to expose x-rays and/or perform expanded duties in each state.

Both of these documents are approved by each state dental board before publication, and are available upon request by contacting a DANB Client Service Representative at 1-800-FOR-DANB or visiting [www.danb.org](http://www.danb.org).

Reflecting DANB's commitment to the integrity and professionalism of the dental assisting field, DANB has teamed with the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA) to develop a ranking of core competencies for dental assistants from entry level to the most expanded function level. Phase I of this ground-breaking initiative, designed with the intention of supporting one national set of dental assisting tasks, levels and requirements has just been completed and the details will be published in the Winter 2003 edition of *Certified Press*.▲



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**Executive Director**

Cynthia C. Durlley, MEd, MBA

## DANB Details

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### You Could Be Next!

Match your CE number with one of the computerized 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.

013377	127812
134415	154158
158190	170188

### Employment Opportunities

DANB occasionally has internal employment opportunities available. To be considered, please submit your resume via mail, fax or e-mail for our file.

### DANB National Test Dates

Mark your calendars with these important written exam dates and deadlines.

<u>2003 Exam Dates</u>	<u>Deadlines</u>
Feb. 28-March 1, 2003	January 24, 2003
June 13-14, 2003	May 2, 2003
October 10-11, 2003	August 29, 2003

**Remember: Computerized examinations can be taken year round and do not have deadlines.**

### What's News

Certificant-At-Large Candidates	1
Word from the Chair	2
Emeritus Certificant Listing	2
DANB Briefs	2
Military Field Exercise in Canada	
AGD Comments on Mercury Bashing	
DA Program Shuts Down in MO	
DANB Request for State Newsletters	
Duplicate DANB Certificates Available	
Correction to Spring <i>Certified Press</i>	
DANB <i>You Could Be Next</i> Winners	
Changes to General Chairside Exam	3
DANB Holiday Hours	3
New Computer Centers Tested	3
German Students Earn CDAs	4
2003 Recertification Guidelines	5
AGD Installs Executive Board	6
Salary Survey Sent to Non-DANB DAs	6
Online Ortho CE Now Available	6
Certificants to Know	6
Consultant Listing Update	6
Convention/Meeting Schedule	6
Focus on the Board	7
New Exhibit at Dental Museum	7
The Forum	7
DANB Details	8
You Could Be Next	8
National Test Dates	8